

Congress Working Committee to take up leadership issue today



Venkaiah Naidu urges parties to have code of conduct for MPs



Carrie Lam. Hong Kong out concessions

BCCI comes under the ambit of National **Anti-Doping Agency** page 20



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chief executive, rules

National honours

The 66th National Film Awards were

announced on Friday with Bollywood

stars winning across many categories.

Ayushman Khurana & Vicky

Award for Andhadhun and

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

are extremely heavy rains,

they are nowhere close to re-

cord rainfall that these

States have witnessed in the

past," M. Mohapatra, Direc-

tor-General, IMD, told The

Extremely heavy rain bat-

tered the western coastal

States and many parts of the

Western Ghats on Thursday

night, killing 28 persons in

central and northern dis-

tricts of Kerala and prompt-

NEW DELHI

Friday.

Hindu.

Uri: The Surgical Strike

Best Director:

Aditya Dhar, Uri:

The Surgical Strike

Kaushal jointly won Best Actor

film: Hellaro,

(Gujarati)

Best Male Playback

Singer: Arijit Singh, for " Binte Dil

bagged Best Actress for

Misriya mein..



Best Female

Playback Singer:

Bindhu Malini

for " Maayavi

Nathicharami (Kannada)

Conservation:

(Marathi)

Best Film on Social Issues:

Best Screenplay (original):

Best Music Direction: Sanjay

Padman, (Hindi)

Rahul Ravindran for

Chi La Sow (Telugu)

NEARBY



Arun Jaitley admitted to AIIMS, stable

NEW DELH Senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley was admitted to the AIIMS here on Friday. He is under the care of the Cardiothoracic and Neurosciences Centre of the hospital. According to a hospital release, Mr. Jaitley is hemodynamically stable. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders, including Amit Shah and Harsh Vardhan, visited Mr. Jaitley at the hospital.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12



BJP plans grand I-Day celebrations in J&K

50,000 flags to be distributed to party workers, motorcycle rallies also planned

DAMINI NATH

Ramping up its Independence Day celebration plans after the Centre revoked Jammu & Kashmir's special status on Monday, the Bharatiya Janata Party's State unit intends to distribute 50,000 Indian flags to its workers to hoist on August

"People should know that it's a jashn [celebration]," BIP I&K unit president Ravinder Raina told party workers, who had gathered at the office here on Friday as he distributed flags to

As Mr. Raina and the BJP made preparations for motorcycle rallies and programmes on August 15, large parts of Jammu and Kashmir remained under curfewlike conditions for the fifth

For the BJP, however, it was time to celebrate. "This time, Independence Day is *jashn-e-azaadi* for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



Festival of flags: BJP president Ravinder Raina distributing flags at the party office in Jammu on Friday. • DAMINI NATH

This is the first time that we are out of the shackles of slavery," said Mr. Raina.

With the government revoking provisions under Article 370 of the Constitution, Jammu & Kashmir's constitution and flag have been scrapped. "We will hoist the tricolour in every panchayat and ward," he said.

Flags were being flown in from Delhi to Jammu, Srinagar and Leh.

While interacting with a group of sarpanchs and handing over flags to them of its special status.

led those who had gathered through chants of Jahaan hue balidaan Mookerjee, voh Kashmir hamara hai (Where Syama Prasad Mookerjee laid down his life, that Kashmir is ours). Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder S.P. Mookerjee, who had opposed Article 370, had died a detainee of the Sheikh Abdullah government in Kash-

at the party office, Mr. Raina

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12 **SHOCK IN VALLEY** PAGE 13

mir in 1953.

Friday prayers are peaceful

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Most Friday congregations in Srinagar passed off peacefully, barring a major procession at Soura against the Centre's decision to divest Jammu and Kashmir

An official said stonethrowing started at Soura. Nowshera, Rambagh, Barzalla and Rainawari after the prayers.

At the end of the procession from Soura to Ali Jan Road, 4,000 people clashed with security men for hours. Several mosques in Pulwama passed resolutions against the dilution of Article 370.

The Army had warned mosques in Kulgam against political sermons. A policeman, Nasir Ahmed, was beaten up by a mob in

Amid lockdown, locals queue up for a phone call

Srinagar residents wait for hours at a government office to talk to kin outside State on a mobile phone

VIJAITA SINGH SRINAGAR

There were tears of both anger and relief at a government office in the heart of Srinagar, where people had come to make a solitary phone call to their loved ones living outside the State.

As the Kashmir Valley remained under a lockdown for the fifth day, the administration made some arrangements for residents to make calls. Three personal mobile phones of officials working at the Tankipora office were turned into helplines. Residents swarmed the office, with some waiting for more than six hours for their turn. The administration had shared the three numbers on local cable channels.

A plastic chair and a table had been placed on the lawn at the administrative complex where people queued up to register the numbers



Cherished hellos: People waiting to make a call to their loved ones in Srinagar on Friday. • VIJAITA SINGE

they wanted to call. Paper slips were handed out as tokens. "There are more than 200 people who have registered since 9 a.m. and only 23 have been able to speak as of now, it's already 12 p.m. You can calculate how long we have to wait here now,"

said Feroze Ansari, a local shopkeeper.

C.L. Vishen had had a death in the family and needed to speak to relatives in New Delhi. "I have come here so that I

can ask when are the rituals planned," said Prof. Vishen,

TV channels turn town criers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With communication lines shut for five days now, people in Kashmir are using local TV channels to announce deaths and other news.

The 24X7 Chinar Gold music cable channel had a scroll running on top: "Nazeer Ahmad Akhoon of Srinagar's Pather Masjid is no more. All relatives watching this are intimated about it."

A close relative of the de-

a Kashmiri Pandit living in

Rashida Eijaz burst into

tears at the prospect of a

chance to speak to her

daughter. "She is in Delhi to

pursue a course for two

months. My only worry is

what if she runs out of mo-

Srinagar.

ceased told The Hindu that just eight people attended the burial, only after pleading for permission before the security forces on the evening of August 6. The local channels have

become the main communication source to announce cancellations of weddings. "Attention: we regret that

all invitations of my son Jibran Javed Buch's wedding at Hazratbal area stand cancelled," one scroll read.

ney," said Ms. Eijaz, who had

been waiting for over three

hours. Sadiq Bhatt, an offi-

cial at the DC's office man-

ning one of the lines, said the

numbers had been shared on

social media on Thursday

night and that calls hadn't

stopped coming since then.

Rescue under way

65,000 people.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday that at Kavalappara, near Nilambur in Malappuram district, rescue workers were struggling to trace at least 40 people



feared trapped in a massive landslip. "Three bodies have ter a review meeting.

Many States reel under

monsoon fury, 70 dead

28 killed in Kerala, seven die in Karnataka's Kodagu

The bodies of nine people were recovered from Meppadi, Wayanad district, the site of a second landslip. "It is not yet clear how many people were affected... Rescue operations using excavators are in progress. Eleven deaths have been reported in Wayanad district so far,"

As of Friday, 64,103 peo ple had been shifted to 738 camps in the flood-hit districts. Thirteen dams - seven maintained by the Kerala State Electricity Board and six by the Water Resources Department – were opened. Twelve teams of the NDRF were deployed and Army units rushed to Idukki

and Malappuram, he said. The IMD has issued red

been recovered," he said af-

Mr. Vijayan said.

alerts in seven districts - Ernakulam, Idukki, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Kannur – for – Saturday.

In Karnataka, mudslides and flash floods in Kodagu district resulted in seven deaths in 24 hours, and eight people were reported missing. There was one rain-related death in Mysuru district. Rain intensified in the southern districts on Friday but abated in the north Karnataka districts.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12 **SEVEN KILLED, 35,000 RESCUED** IN KODAGU ▶ PAGE 8 AT LEAST 40 FEARED TRAPPED IN MALAPPURAM ▶ PAGE 8 NAVY RESCUES 12 STRANDED NEAR POLAVARAM DAM > PAGE 8

Court frames charges against Sengar, co-accused

MLA will also be tried under POCSO Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday framed charges against expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar for allegedly raping a minor girl in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao in June 2017. He will also be tried under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Charges were also framed against another accused, Shashi Singh, for allegedly kidnapping the girl, who is currently undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here.

Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 363 (kidnapping), 366 (kidnapping or inducing a woman to compel for marriage) and 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code have also been invoked.

Accident case

The rape survivor was seriously injured along with her lawyer, and her two aunts were killed, when an "overspeeding" truck collided with their car in Raebareli last month.

The Central Bureau of Investigation will also probe the case, which was



Kuldeep Singh Sengar

initially registered by the local police.

Mr. Sengar and the coaccused have denied their involvement in the rape case. During the court proceedings, the CBI had on Thursday submitted that the victim's father was framed in an Arms Act case in conspiracy with three U.P. police officers and five others.

The alleged incident took place on April 3 last year when the victim's father was taken to a police station following an altercation and an FIR was registered against him for allegedly possessing a country-made firearm and four live cartridges. He was arrested and sent to judicial custody, during which he died, on April 9, 2018.

Supreme Court upholds law empowering homebuyers

They can start bankruptcy proceedings against errant builders, rules three-member Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld a central law which empowered harassed homebuyers to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against errant real estate builders.

The judgment gains significance as many real estate builders have been under fire for incomplete projects leaving homebuyers in dire

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman confirmed the constitutional validity of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Act of August 2018, which gave homebuyers the status of "financial creditors" with power to vote in the Committee of Creditors.

On par with banks The Act had brought the homebuyers on par with the creditor banks of the property builder. Prior to the law, the homebuyers were

often left in the lurch. With

their dreams of owning a home shattered, they were made to wait blindly for a solution to come up, either in the form of a completed apartment or a refund.

Before the Amendment Act of 2018 came into existence, the assets of the bankrupt builder were divided among his employees, creditor banks and other operational creditors. Homebuyers had hardly figured, though their hard-earned savings may have provided a major chunk of the housing project. The Amendment Act al-

lowed homebuvers, as financial creditors, to trigger bankruptcy proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of 2016 and have their "rightful place" on the Committee of Creditors (CoC). The CoC, by voting, makes important decisions on the future of the bankrupt builder. These calls include what to do with his assets and who should finish the pending housing

The builders had challenged the Amendment Act. They said making homebuyers financial creditors was like "forcibly inserting a

square peg in a round hole." The builders argued that homebuyers were already armed with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA), another piece of legislation which protected the interests of the individual investor in real estate projects.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Man arrested from Mumbai for threat mails to Kejriwal

The 28-year-old zeroed in on Delhi Chief Minister to draw attention, say police

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man from Mumbai has been arrested for allegedly sending death threat emails to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the police said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell, Special Cell) Anyesh Roy said that the accused has been identified as Abhishek Tiwari, who works as a delivery man with a furniture distributor. Hailing from Unnao in Uttar Pradesh, Tiwari is a resident of Mumbai's Nala Sopara. The police said that they

had received a complaint last month from Mr. Kejriwal's office stating that two emails were received at the CM's official email address on July 25 and July 30 respectively with 'Kill...kill' written in the subject line. Based on the complaint, a case under relevant sections was registered and investigation taken up. "With deep analysis of

technical inputs, his location

was traced to Nala Sopara,

Mumbai, a densely populat-

Arvind Kejriwal

ed, low-lying area. The team in Mumbai

searched through hundreds

Attention-seeker During interrogation, Tiwari

of chawls till the accused was

finally nabbed," Mr. Roy said.

allegedly told the police that he is a school dropout and was not satisfied with his job and his life. "He wanted to do something big to draw the attention of people. He came up with the idea of sending threat emails to political leaders in July," the officer said. The first email sent by the accused, the police said,

was to a local municipal of-

fice-bearer of a political party in Mumbai but disappointed with the "lukewarm response", he decided to send threat emails to political heavyweights.

"First, he sent the emails to the CM and then he sent another one about an impending bomb blast at the headquarters of a national political party," Mr. Roy said.

The police claimed to have recovered the mobile phone which was used to send the threat mails; it has been sent for cyber forensic analysis.

DMK bags Vellore by a slender margin

T. RAMAKRISHNAN T. MADHAVAN In an absorbing contest

that saw a dramatic change of fortunes even as counting of votes was on, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Friday bagged the Vellore Lok Sabha constituency, polling for which was deferred in April, taking its tally in the Lok Sabha to 24. The party's nominee,

D.M. Kathir Anand, who is the son of former Minister and DMK treasurer Durai Murugan, defeated his nearest rival and AIADMK candidate A.C. Shanmugam by a slender margin of 8,141 votes. Of a total of 10,26,055

votes polled, the DMK candidate secured 4,85,340 votes (47.3%) and the AIADMK nominee 4,77,199 votes (46.51%). The voter turnout was 71.51%. The polling in the Vel-

lore constituency was held on Monday (August 5) after the Election Commission of India rescinded it in April following seizure of cash from associates of the candidate. A ND-NDE

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by Maneesh Singh



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First ecotoxicology diagnostic centre at AIIMS

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Friday inaugurated the country's first clinical ecotoxicology diagnostic and research facility. This will look at the increasing number of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food and air. All body fluids can be tested at the facility to screen for toxic exposure.

CORRIGENDUM Name of De-part-ment Old NIT No. works shown at Sr. No.1 to 35 except tender at Sr. No. 13,30,33 & 34 fixed for 10.08.2019 at 15:00 Hrs., date of receipt of physical document upto 14:00 Hrs on 07.08.2019 and the same will be opened on dated 13.08.2019 at 15:00 Hours. Tender at Sr. No. 13,30,33 & 34 are hereby postponed till further order 13,30,33 & 34 are nereby postponed till furmer order due to administrative reasons. 70% payment will be made against supply of each item on pro-rata basis, 20% payment after erection and balance 10% payment after commissioning instead of 70% after receipt of complete material

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A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet WAZIRPUR (Opp. Shalimar Bagh) B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543. Adj. Umang Palace JANAKPURI Nirula's Sec-2, C-135, NOIDA

> **HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

e-Procurement Notice **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD, Dhami on behalf of Governor of H.P invite the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in two Cover System for the under

mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWI

km. 0/0 to 7/00 (SH:- Removal of formation 2,53,47,368/- 2,90,000/- 5,000/- deficiency including R/Walls, B/Walls, Cross

Estimated

10,73,845/-

10,34,649/-

9,11,511/-

12,23,773/-

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The Bid document is available online and

 $bid \ should \ be \ submitted \ in \ online \ mode \ on \ website \ \underline{https://hptenders.gov.in}. \ \ Bidder \ would \ be \ required \ bid \ should \ should \ bid \ should \ should \ bid \ should \ should \ bid \ should \ should \ should \ bid \ should \ should$ to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have

Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring

bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWE

may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to

participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized

22.000/-

22,000/-

19,000/-

24,500/-

28-08-2019 18:00 HRS 28-08-2019 18:30 HRS upto

06-09-2019 17:00 HRS

06-09-2019 17:00 HRS

07-09-2019 10:30 HRS

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28-08-2019 18:30 HRS upto

500/-

500/-

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drainage works, M/T works, road side drain essential

2. | Construction of National Law University at Ghandal | Rs.

16 miles) Teshil and District Shimla H.P (SH:- P/L

WBM Grade I.II.III and M/T by bituminous macadam

Bituminous concrete in approach road of Girls

Restoration of rain damages on Tara Devi Malog

Zalgi road km. 0/00 to 2/500 (SH:- Construction of

Construction of Chouri Ki Ghatti to Yan via Bhad

road km. 0/00 to 8/500 (SH:- P/L M/T and V shape

drain in between km. 3/00 to 4/00) under SCCP

Construction of Link road from Chanwag to Dawaroo km. 0/00 to 1/720 (SH:- C/o R/wall in

between km. 0/225 to 0/245, 0/420 to 0/470 and

Construction of Veterinary Dispensary Building at Navi Tehsil Sunni District Shimla (HP) (SH:- C/o

building portion, WS and SI Septic Tank, Rain

harvesting Tank, Site Development and Boundary

0/00 to 7/00) Under NABARD RIDF-XXV.

Hostel Block-B and Block-C.

R/wall at RD. 0/070 to 0/100)

1/375 to 1/385) Under SCCP

CAs can use the same in this tender.

Date of Online Publication

Document Download Start and End Date

Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender

Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid

TENDER DETAILS: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in two cover:

(i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility

(ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each

 $\underline{\textbf{SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:}} \ \ \text{The bidders are required to submit (a) original demands}$ draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and

other Technical Documents to the authorised official of Executive Engineer. Shimla Rural Division

HPPWD Dhami H.P in the O/O Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle HPPWD Shimla-3 H.P. as

specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared nor

BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 07-09-2019 at 11.00 HRS by the authorised

official of Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD Dhami H.P. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle HPPWD Shimla-3. In their interest the tenderers are advised to be

present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be

closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day

The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable

for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notif

the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to th

Eligibility Criteria:-The bidders must have successfully completed similar nature of work not less

than 40 % of estimated cost during the last five years (without Liquidated damages or compensation)

Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of

Bid Submission Start and End Date

Key Dates:-

Department

Leopard strays into house on Sohna Road

Rescued without using tranquillisers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A three-year-old male leopard was rescued from a salon on the Gurugram-Alwar Highway, also known as Sohna Road, just a few hundred metres from the busy Vatika Chowk intersection connecting Golf Course Extension Road and the Southern Peripheral Road.

Teams of the Forest Department and the police managed to rescue the feline without using tranquillisers or causing serious injuries to the big cat.

The leopard was first spotted in the afternoon in the basement of a house located along the highway by construction workers who alerted the owner, Sanjay.

The big cat, however, jumped the boundary of the house and entered the adjoining residence belonging to Sanjay's uncle Rajender Yadav.

"It [the leopard] hid behind a bush in our backvard. My wife mistook it for a monkey and tried to shoo it away before Sanjay alerted her," said Mr. Yadav, a retired excise and taxation official.

As news spread of a leopard on the prowl in the city, over 2,000 people gathered at the spot.

'Maintained calm'

Mr. Yadav said that he did not allow anyone inside his house and told them to keep calm. "We locked ourselves in a room and called up the police and the Forest Department," he added.

Eligible

class of

contracto

Class-C

Class-D

Class-D

Class-D

Class-D

Tender



The leopard following a rescue operation on the Gurugram-Alwar Highway on Friday. • MANOJ KUMAR

But before the Forest Department team could come and begin rescue operations, the feline climbed a tree to reach the terrace of the building. The animal attacked Mr. Yadav's nephew Rajesh while trying to escape. It then entered a near-

Acting quickly, Sajid, the hair dresser, and his two customers rushed out of the shop and pulled down the shutter behind them, trapping the feline inside.

"The leopard was hiding in a cardboard box. A cage was put at the entrance of the salon and the feline sneaked into it. The leopard was rescued without the help of tranquillisers. It is under observation and will soon be released into the wild," said Vinod Kumar, Gurugram Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest.

Start-up develops slip-resistant crutches

STAFF REPORTER

An IIT-Delhi-incubated start-up Flexmo on Friday launched slip-resistant crutches that can be used in all types of terrain. "It is a self-standing axillary crutch that re-

compared to traditional crutches as it improves the surface adaptability of traditional crutches," the developers said. They added that with these crutches, users

duces jarring forces while walking and im-

proves the user performance by 10%-20% as

are able to walk confidently on wet surfaces, mud, sand, and snow without the fear of slip ping and consequently falling and injuring

The product was developed by IIT-Delhi students Arvind S.A. Adepu Srinivas and Girish Yadav. They were assisted by AIIMS and trials were conducted on over 150 users, the institute said. Apart from persons with disabilities, the product is recommended for patients in rehabilitation post spinal cord injury, fracture and arthroplasty of knee and hips joints.

DCW, police rescue woman from brothel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) and the city police rescued a Kolkata woman from a brothel in GB Road red light area here, the women's panel said on Friday.

The 27-year-old woman, working with a leading company in Kolkata, had come here after a man assured her of better job opportunities, the DCW said. Her family had lodged a missing complaint in Kolkata. The woman's brother informed the commission that she had come to Delhi on June 8. However, she did not call them after reaching the city and her phone went unreachable, the DCW said. The brother had received a call from an unidentified man informing him about his sister's whereabouts.

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, GANGA JAL PROJECT UNIT, U.P. JAI NIGAM, PRATAP VIHAR, GAZIABAD

Notice No:. 1821/Nivida/188

E-TENDER NOTICE U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on basis of two bid system

for "Supply of 300 MT Liquified Chlorine in Tonners including loading and unloading etc, complete at 120 MLD Water Treatment Plant Pratap Vihar and 245 MLD Water Treatment Plant Siddhartha Vihar, Gaziabad under O&M of 50 Cusec and 100 Cusec Ganga Jal Project" from the independent contractors contracting firms having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tende document shall be available at e procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in latest by 16.08.2019 at 06.00 PM. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filed online latest by 30.08.2019 upto 03.00 PM. Technical/pre Qualification part of which shall be opened on 30.08.2019 at 03.30 PM onwards.

A ND-NDE

HIM SUCHNA

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Cuttack lawyers boycott courts over SAT closure

CORRESPONDENT CUTTACK

Lawyers of all lower courts, tribunals and the Orissa High Court here in the city abstained from their respective courts on Friday in protest against the recent abolishment of the Odisha State Administrative Tribunal (SAT). Following a proposal from the Odisha government, the Union government earlier this week abolished the Tribunal in the State.

Expressing gratitude for their solidarity, SAT Bar Association secretary P.K. Rout said their token protest on the day against the abolishment of all Benches of the SAT across the State was a "success". "We will decide our next course of action next week seeking cooperation from other Bar Associations of the State," Mr. Rout said.

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Illegal gutka, pan masala units unearthed in Odisha; one held

Raids part of ongoing operations against manufacturers: police

STAFF REPORTER BERHAMPUR

A series of recent police raids has revealed that Berhampur is a major centre for manufacture and trading of illegal gutka and pan masala in Odisha.

On Friday, the Berhampur Sadar police station personnel raided an illegal manufacturing unit of gutka and pan masala at Baunsiapalli and seized machinery and raw materials used for its production.

48 bags seized

Forty-eight bags of illegally manufactured gutka were seized while it was being transported in a passenger bus from the Berhampur bus stand. One person involved in its transportation was arrested.

On Thursday night, an illegal manufacturing unit of gutka at Panigrahipentha Street was raided.

According to Berhampur Additional Superintendent of Police Pravat Routray, these raids are part of continuing operations against illegal manufacturers and traders of gutka and pan masala.

On August 3, two illegal manufacturing units of gutka and pan masala at Bhutapalli and Borigaon under the Berhampur Sadar police station were raided and two persons arrested.

On the same day, another unit was unearthed at Sarguna Street under the Badabazar police station of Berhampur. Four persons were arrested.

On August 6, three persons were arrested when the

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police raided and sealed an illegal gutka manufacturing unit operating in the Bhairabi Nagar area of Berhampur Sadar police station.

Small units

All these were using small packing units in houses on different streets to manufacture fake versions of popular gutka and pan masala brands. It is suspected that a large portion of their produce was being sent to other parts of the State.

In January this year, around 50 sacks of illegal gutka were seized from an Odisha State Road Transport Corporation bus in Bhubaneswar.

Investigation had revealed that the seized product had been sent from Berhampur.

THE HINDU

'Centre will not touch Article 371F'

Sikkim CM cites Union Home Minister's assurance on State's special status

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Even as he welcomed the amendment of Article 370 pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, better known as P.S. Golay, assured the people that the Centre will not interfere with Article 371F which provides special status to the State.

"The decision of the Union government to amend Article 370 is in the interest of the nation and we support it, but as far as Article 371F and other similar provisions are concerned, we heard in Parliament that Union Home Minister Amit Shah said these provisions will continue," Mr. Golay told journalists.

P.S. Golay. • FILE PHOTO

Mr. Golay's remarks came as the Opposition parties in the State sought an assurance about the fate of Article 371F.

"Article 371F is a special feature for Sikkim and its people and there can be no question of its modification," he said.

Mr. Golay also rejected

any possibility of merger of Sikkim and Darjeeling hills, and said that Sikkim is protected by Article 371F of the Constitution, which is the result of the agreement in 1975 between the Union of India, the king of Sikkim

'No merger'

parties.

"Those demanding Gorkhaland for Darjeeling hills are doing so as per their constitutional right. It is for the Centre to decide on whether to agree with it or not. However, there is no question of its merger with Sikkim," he said.

and the State's political

After the reorganisation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the political parties in Darjeeling hills have

been demanding the status of a Union Territory.

A press statement by Sikkim's Information and Public Relations Department on August 8 said that Mr. Golay, during his recent visit to New Delhi, had requested the political leaders at the Union level to protect Article 371F.

"More than the legal provisions in Article 371F, it is a very emotive issue and every political party in the State, including the national parties, stress upon how important the Article is," said Pema Wangchuk, senior journalist and consulting editor of Summit TIMES.

He said that Article 371F is one of the key terms of the merger of Sikkim with India

University teachers' body condemns MU action

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Manipur University had 'arbitrarily' terminated services of a guest faculty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Central Universities' Teachers' Associations (FEDCUTA) has condemned the "arbitrary termination" of the service of Ningombam Bupenda Meitei as a guest faculty at Manipur University.

Mr. Meitei was on June 26 appointed in the Philosophy Department for six months but his services were termi-

EDUCATIONAL

nated after less than two months.

"Throwing all academic freedom to the wind, Mr. Meitei was asked to clarify whether he was a member of a political party. Subsequently on the grounds of being a member of a political party, he was thrown out of his job. Such actions spring out of attempts to impose

the Central Civil Services

Rules in universities which

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Jeography

IAS (Mains) 2020-21

By: Neetu Singh

Himanshu Nagpal

AIR 26

Nitesh kumar Jain

AIR 96

are contrary to building a free and fair academic atmosphere in a university," FEDCUTA president Rajib Ray and secretary Atul Sood said in a statement issued on

Thursday night. "In the past and currently, even full-time teachers in the universities have exercised this freedom and even contested elections on the tickets of various political parties. Academic freedom has

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meant the freedom to carry through one's beliefs and convictions in the political arena," they said.

"The FEDCUTA believes that this termination of services of Mr. Meitei, who belongs to a different political party and ideology, comes out of the authoritarian imposition of the ideology of the ruling BJP government in Manipur on Manipur University," the federation said.

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general public on the Revised Building Plans. For this purpose, the "earlier approved building plans", "revised building plans"and the deviation plans showing proposed changes between earlier approved plans and revised building plans have been made available fo perusal / reference of the general public on:-(a) the Company's website; (b) in the office o the undersigned at 100, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase – III, New Delhi - 110020, India;(c) at the project Subhash Chowk site office in Sector-33, Gurugram, Haryana&(d) in the office of Senior Town Planner, Town & Country Planning Department, Haryana, HSVP Complex

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skip court hearing

A court hearing a criminal defamation case against Rahul Gandhi over his statement against Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday allowed the Congress leader to remain absent for the day. However, the judge ordered Gandhi to remain present on October 11. PTI

Pilot project for ration card portability launched

Migrants between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, as well as between Maharashtra and Guiarat, will be the first to get access to portable ration cards, which can be used at ration shops in their destination States and not just their home States.

Ram Rahim's plea for parole rejected

CHANDIGARH Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh's request for parole was rejected on Friday. Singh, who is serving life imprisonment at Sunaria iail following his conviction in two cases had applied for parole to attend to his unwell mother.

Farmer pension scheme open for registrations

NEW DELHI The Centre has opened registrations for its new pension scheme aimed at small and marginal farmers owning less than two hectares of land. By noon on Friday, 418 farmers had registered for the scheme, according to Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh

Azam Khan's university under ED scanner

LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

The ED has initiated a money laundering probe against Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan following allegations that a university he runs in U.P. has been built over a piece of land taken in violation of the enemy property law, sources said. PTI

Chidambaram, son get protection from arrest

A Delhi court on Friday extended the interim protection from arrest granted to former Union Minister P. Chidambaram and his son Karti in Aircel-Maxis cases. The court extended the relief, which was to end on Friday, till August 23. PTI

Three doctors granted bail in Payal Tadvi case

Three doctors arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of 26-year-old Payal Tadvi on BYL Nair Hospital premises were granted bail by the Bombay High Court. While granting bail, the court said, "Let them remain in public domain with this stigma and this order". It directed them to pay ₹2 lakh each.

U.P. STF foils plot to kill BJP MLA; 3 arrested

The Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force on Friday arrested a notorious sharpshooter, who was allegedly planning to kill BJP MLA Sushil Singh, after a brief encounter in Varanasi, an official statement said. Shiv Prakash Tiwari alias Dhoni Tiwari was carrying a cash reward of ₹1 lakh on his head, it said, PTI

Over 2 lakh evacuated in Sangli, Kolhapur

There have been 29 flood-related or rain-related deaths in five flood-hit districts in Maharashtra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With the intensity of the rains decreasing and floodwaters marginally receding on Friday, rescue operations proceeded at full throttle in flood-ravaged Sangli and Kolhapur on Friday. Local rescue teams, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Army jawans pulled out stranded persons in backwater villages in the two districts.

Thus far, 2.85 lakh persons across the five flood-hit districts of Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara, Pune and Solapur in western Maharashtra have been moved to shelters in safer zones, said Pune Divisional Commissioner Deepak Mhaisekar. Of these, 2.35 lakh persons have been evacuated from around 450 villages in Sangli (1.34 lakh) and Kolhapur (1.11 lakh) alone.

Dr. Mhaisekar said there had been 29 flood-related or



Sigh of relief: Villagers stranded in flood waters at Rajapur, around 43km from Kolhapur, for almost four days being rescued by the Coast Guard on Friday. • ABHIJEET GURJAR

rain-related deaths so far in the five districts, including the nine casualties in Sangli boat accident of Thursday. Eleven people were still missing. "We have been able to recover only nine bodies in that accident so far," he said.

"In order to compensate people for their possessions lost in the floods, ₹15,000 would be given to each family in the urban areas and ₹10,000 to each family in the rural areas. The State government has entrusted us with an *ad hoc* fund of ₹76 crore and we have already

begun distributing this

amount at the district level,"

said Dr. Mhaisekar.

480 relief centres were presently operational in the five flood-hit districts in western Maharashtra. The Divisional Commissioner said Air Force and Navy helicopters were being deployed from Friday to drop supplies in flood-afflicted zones.

Meanwhile, under fire for failing to lend support with their presence in deluge-hit regions, senior BJP leaders including State Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan and the Guardian Ministers of Kolhapur and Sangli Chandrakant Patil and Subhash Deshmukh finally made their way to Kolhapur on Thursday.

As they entered Sangli, Mr. Mahajan and Mr. Deshmukh faced the wrath of the hapless locals, who surrounded the Ministers and angrily questioning their absence for nearly five days since the deluge, and the administration's alleged tardiness in dealing with the crisis. "The people's anger is perfectly understandable and justified...regrettably, this is a natural calamity which is far more serious than the 2005 deluge," said Mr. Mahajan, speaking in

nancy, was adjudged the

best popular film and vete-

ran actor Surekha Sikri

bagged the Best Supporting

The Best Film on Social Is-

sues went to Akshay Kumar

starrer Padman. It was in-

spired by the life of Aruna-

chalam Muruganantham, a

social activist from Tamil Na-

du who introduced low-cost

Padmaavat walked away

with the Best Choreography

for Ghoomerand the Best

Music Director award for

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's

Actress award.

sanitary napkins.

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Saurashtra, Kutch, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Karnataka, Konkan, Goa, Gujarat, Lakshadweep, Karnataka, central Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

ITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
gartala	13.8	34.5	26.2	Kozhikode	. 137.6	29.0	.23.6
hmedabad	19.6	27.3	25.3	Kurnool		35.0	.25.5
izawl		31.3	23.1	Lucknow		32.8	.27.0
llahabad	0.6	33.0	27.0	Madurai	1.3	34.8	.26.2
engaluru	0.5	25.3	20.4	Mangaluru	24.2	29.1	.23.0
hopal				Mumbai	4.0	28.8	.26.0
hubaneswar				Mysuru	39.4	23.7	.19.3
handigarh				New Delhi			
hennai				Patna			
oimbatore	106.4	25.4	21.0	Port Blair	6.8	29.3	.25.1
ehradun	23.0	33.2	23.2	Puducherry		36.0	.25.3
angtok	1.4	20.1	17.6	Pune			
oa	76.8	29.5	24.1	Raipur	1.0	29.2	.23.0
uwahati	8.0	35.4	26.8	Ranchi	10.6	30.2	.22.2
ubballi		24.0	21.0	Shillong	19.6	24.7	.18.9
yderabad	0.4	30.6	23.8	Shimla	25.4	24.3	.16.0
nphal		32.1	21.9	Srinagar		–	–
aipur		–	–	Thiruvananthapuram.			
ochi	126.0	26.8	22.0	Tiruchi	5.7	32.7	.23.2
ohima	52.6	28.6	18.8	Vijayawada			
olkata	28.9	33.1	26.5	Visakhapatnam			

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Gujarati film Hellaro bags best feature award

Modi-inspired *Chalo Jeete Hain* gets prize in non-feature category in National Film Awards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Gujarati Hellaro bagged the national award for the Best Feature Film and the Best Actor Award was shared between Ayushmann Khurana for Andhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for Uri-The Surgical Strike at the 66th National Film Awards announced on Keerthy Suresh won the

best actress award for her portrayal of yesteryear star Savitri in Telugu film Mahanati.

A 32-minute film called Chalo Jeete Hain, a hagiographical depiction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Fri-

day refused to be diverted

from its own order to hear

the Ayodhya title appeals on

a day to day basis, which in-

cludes hearing the case

from Monday to Friday ev-

Chief Justice of India (CJI)

Ranjan Gogoi was reacting

to objections raised by se-

nior advocate Rajeev Dha-

van, representing the Mus-

lim parties, against the

holding of the Ayodhya case

Usually, Mondays and Fri-

days are two days kept aside

by the court to hear PIL (pu-

blic interest litigation) and

fresh cases. Regular or long

haul cases like the Ayodhya

are heard on Tuesday, Wed-

nesday and Thursday -

which are called non-mis-

cellaneous days in court

Gogoi has broken the tradi-

tion and in his role as mas-

ter of roster decided to hear

The vigour with which

the Ayodhya

through the week.

appeals

However, Chief Justice

parlance - in a given week.

on all the weekdays.

erv week till it is over.

'Ayodhya case will be

heard five days a week'

Two days are usually allotted to PILs



Winners all: Padmaavat won three awards, including Best Music Director for Sanjay Leela Bhansali, and Akshay Kumar's Padman won the award for the Best Film on Social Issues.

early life was voted the Best Film on Family Values in the non-feature category. It is directed by Mangesh Hadawale

The Bench will have to

by November.

pronounce the judgement

the Bench has scheduled

the case and the day to day

hearing of the appeals may

owe to the fact that Chief

Justice Gogoi is retiring in

mid-November. The Bench

would have to complete the

hearing and pronounce the

saw senior advocate K. Pa-

rasaran, for the Ayodhya

deity, ask how Ramjanmab-

humi, 'where the spirit of

Lord Ram pervades', could

Raghuvansh dynasty still

around" Justice Bobde

asked at one point in the

"Is there anyone from the

The hearing on Friday

iudgment by then.

be split into three.

and produced by Mahaveer Iain and Bhushan Kumar.

Badhaai Ho, about a fami-Uri-The Surgical Strike, a dramatised version of the

the attack on an Army camp in 2016, won four awards. The lead actor Vicky Kaushal was voted the Best Actor, sharing the award with Ayushman Khurana for And*hadhun*. The director of the film, Aditya Dhar, bagged the Best Director Award. It also got an award for the Best Music Direction for its background score by Shashwat Sachdev. The Best Audiography Award went to its sound designer Bishwadeep Dipak Chatterjee. He shared this award with three others.

first cross-border strike by

Indian forces in retaliation to

ly dealing with a late preg-

Bhansali. Its song Binte Dil got Arijit Singh the best male playback singer recognition.

NDTV founder Prannoy Roy stopped from flying abroad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NDTV founders Radhika and Prannoy Roy were on Friday stopped at Mumbai airport by the authorities and prefrom travelling abroad. In a statement, the Roys said this amounted to with interest ahead of sche-

denial of their basic rights. "They have been stopped

on the basis of a fake and wholly unsubstantiated corruption case filed by the CBI about an ICICI loan that was taken by their company KKPK which was fully repaid dule," said NDTV in a The media house claimed

that both of them have been cooperating in the case and have travelled abroad as and when required. The Roys were to return on August 15. "The authorities did not in- It termed Friday's action

form the court, where the matter is sub judice, or the Roys, about today's action," NDTV said.

In view of similar foreign travel by the Roys in the past, Friday's action was "ludicrous", said the TV channel.

against the Roys as a warning to the media from the authorities "to fall in line." The Central Bureau of In-

formation Confirmed that the Roys were detained on the basis of a look-out circular issued by



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ministry to conduct common counselling of NEET Super Speciality courses for 2019. Further, The ministry has agreed in principle to couduct a common counselling for DNB Super Speciality and NEET Super Speciality courses (D.M./M.Ch.) Hence, All Directors/Nodal officers/Program Coordinators of NBE accredited institutions running NEET Super

Speciality DNB program, who have been given permission by NBE to run DNB Super Speciality courses are requested to contribute their DNB Super Speciality seats, which have been Accredited by NBE for your institution on intra MCC Portal (i.e. www.intramcc.nic.in). User ID and Password for the same will be dispatched shortly. Candidates are advised to read the FAQs and are informed that the counselling will be $conducted \ as \ per \ the \ rules \ and \ regulations \ of \ MCC \ counselling. \ There \ will \ be \ registration \ fee \ (non-refundable)$ and Security Deposit fee (refundable) to be deposited by the candidates at the time of registration. Candidates are advised to visit website (www.mcc.nic.in) for counselling schedule and latest update FAQs and Scheme of counselling is available on MCC website i.e. www.mcc.nic.in You may also contact on adgme@nic.in, Tel. No. 0120-4073500 and Helpline 1800-102-7637

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विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/ VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

अधिसूचना-पेंशन - अदालत/ NOTIFICATION - PENSION ADALAT

विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (वीएसएससी), तिरुवनंतपुरम, दिनांक 23/08/2019 को 10.00 बजे से बहु-उद्देश्य कक्ष, एटीएफ में एक पेंशन अदालत आयोजित कर रहा हैf Iवीएसएससी तथा आइआइएसयू, तिरुवनंतपुरम के पेंशनभोगी/परिवार पेंशनभोगी, जिन्हें कोई शिकायत हो, वीएसएससी के पेंशनभोगी पोर्टल में प्रकाशित निर्धारित प्रारूप में अपने अभ्यावेदनों को प्रशासन अधिकारी, पेंशन अनुभाग, वीएसएससी को भेजें जो दिनांक 20/08/2019 तक हमारे पास पहुंच जाने चाहिए। डीपी एवं पीडब्ल्यू का. ज्ञा. सं. 44013/2/2010 -कोओर्ड दिनांक 25/03/2011 के अनुसार, पूर्णतया कानूनी बातों से युक्त मामले, उदाः उत्तराधिकार आदि तथा नीति संबंधी मामले अदालत में नहीं लिए जाएंगे। शिकायत ई-मेल द्वारा ao estt pension@vssc.gov.in. पर भी भेजी जाए।

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram is organising a Pension Adalat at Multi Purpose Hall, ATF on 23/08/2019 at 10.00 hours. The Pensioners/Family Pensioners of VSSC and IISU, Thiruvananthapuram having any grievance may send their representations to the Administrative Officer, Pension Section, VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram in the prescribed proforma published in the Pensioners' Portal of VSSC so as to reach on or before 20/08/2019. In terms of DP&PW OM No. 44013/2/2010-Coord. dated 25/03/2011, cases involving purely legal points e.g. succession etc. and policy matters will not be taken up in Adalat. Grievance may also be sent by e-mail to: ao_estt_pension@vssc.gov.in.

Police ask Muslims not to encroach on roads to pray

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Police in western Uttar Pradesh's Meerut have asked Muslims in the city to ensure that they don't encroach upon the road while holding their weekly Friday prayers to avoid traffic jams.

After holding discussions among themselves and with the administration, Muslim clerics said they would abide by the instructions of the administration and co-operate.

SSP Meerut Ajay Sahni said top Muslim clerics like the Nayab Shehar Qazi assured them that Friday

prayers, during which the city mosques witness large congregations, would be held within the compounds of the mosques.

"We held talks with them. They also said that traffic gets affected (when those attending the namaz encroach on the road)," Mr. Sahni said.

Zainus Rashideen, Nayab shehar qazi, said the Muslims would abide by the administration's advisory to ensure there is no impact on traffic. He said if the mosques fill up, the faithful would be asked to line up on the terrace of the mosques.



GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka undertaking) E-mail: aopgescomglb@gmail.com

No:GESCOM/GM/AO(P)/2019-20/28634

Dated:09.08.2019 **RE-NOTIFICATION FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF**

The Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM) a Company wholly owned by the Government of Karnataka incorporated in the year 2002 is carrying Operation and Maintenance of Electricity Distribution system in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. GESCOM is reinviting the application for the recruitment of Company Secretary post on full time basis.

COMPANY SECRETARY POST

In this connection interested candidates may visit the gescom website www.gescom.in for more details and apply on or after 10.08.2019. the last date for submission of applications is 23.08.2019.

General Manager (A&HRD), GESCOM, Gulbarga

For Electricity Complaints CALL No.1912

State of the Union

Early elections and full statehood are essential to the total integration of J&K with India

rime Minister Narenda Modi's address to the nation on Thursday may not have reached its primary audience in Jammu and Kashmir which was in blackout. But he did well by speaking out on his decision to revoke its special status, and divide it into two Union Territories. Considering the secrecy and disinformation that preceded the decision that he rightly characterised as historic, and the triumphalism among his supporters that followed, the address was reassuring. The promises he made will be checked against delivery in the coming months, not only by the people of J&K but also by the rest of India and other countries. In his 37-minute address, Mr. Modi promised restoration of statehood to J&K once normalcy returned, a participatory election, and growth in employment, commerce and opportunities in general for them. The PM urged industrialists to set up shop, and film-makers to shoot in the Valley, and asked people there to integrate with the global community. He even offered a catalogue of products and services that could make the State attractive in the global market. While these are desirable objectives, the PM could start with what is exclusively within his powers to effect – to call for fresh election and restore statehood at the earliest. While an elected government itself will be a sign of improvement in the situation, it will also make normalcy more organic. Revocation of statehood was unjustified in the first place, and its restoration must be immediate.

What actually triggered separatism and terrorism in J&K – whether the special status and autonomy it was granted by the Constitution, or the gradual erosion of these concepts over decades – is a difficult question, but the BJP has always claimed to have known the answer. The PM reiterated that position, stating that Articles 370 and 35A gave only "separatism, nepotism and corruption to the people of J&K". Additionally, he also said these were hurdles in the region's development; and now that these are removed, an era of development and progress could be ushered in. While the charges of corruption and nepotism are true to an extent, there is no reason to suggest that J&K has been any worse than other States in this respect. The implied reductionism in the address that political aspirations may be a price worth paying for material progress may not be a democratic path to progress. No other formation in India is more vociferous than the BJP on questions of culture, heritage and faith. National integration is essential for peace, stability and progress, and uniform development across regions, but this is not synonymous with an enforced cultural homogeneity. J&K needs a representative government and full statehood urgently for normalcy and integration with the Indian Union.

Taking on the mob

Rajasthan's laws on lynching, 'honour killing' are inevitable responses to rising hate crimes

Tt is possible to argue that there is no need to creat new criminal offences for 'lynching' and 'honour Likilling' because they remain plain murders. These are already punishable with death or life imprisonment. Yet, mob lynching and murderous attacks on young couples in the name of preserving family or community honour have emerged as preponderant social evils. It is but inevitable that societies come up with new ways of combating such hate crimes. Rajasthan has made bold to grapple with these two crimes by passing special penal laws. Vigilante mobs have unleashed a wave of crimes in the name of cow protection and preventing the sale of beef or transport of cattle; the spread of rumour and attempts to establish sectarian dominance have also contributed to this disturbing phenomenon. The Supreme Court zeroed in on the nub of the trend when it spoke of "rising intolerance and growing polarisation" in a judgment last year. It also mooted a special law to criminalise it and "instil a sense of fear" among those too quick to form a lynch mob. The passage of the Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019, makes Rajasthan the second State, after Manipur, to implement the suggestion. A positive feature is that it closely resembles the Manipur law in the way "lynching" is defined. It covers any act of violence, whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation or ethnicity. And two persons are enough to constitute a 'mob'.

According to the State's Parliamentary Affairs Minister, 86% of mob lynching incidents reported in India after 2014 were in Rajasthan. The Bill says that when a mob attack ends in death, it is punishable with life imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹5 lakh. There are lesser terms for causing injuries. As directed by the Supreme Court, the Bill provides for appointment of a nodal officer to prevent lynching and for district police chiefs to act as coordinators. It ensures compensation to victims and rehabilitation measures for those displaced. The opposition BJP, on expected lines, contended that the Bill was being brought in a hurry to please a community. However, it is a fact that Muslims have been prime targets of lynch mobs. The party's fulmination against the other Bill that prohibits interference in the "freedom of matrimonial alliances in the name of honour and tradition" was equally bereft of substance, as it cited societal norms and cultural practice to oppose the progressive law. In effect, it was batting for khap panchayats that seek to interdict inter-caste marriages. The Bill provides for both death and life imprisonment for killing in the name of honour, but it is doubtful if courts will look at all such murders as among the 'rarest of rare cases' that warrant the resort to the death penalty.

Incisive interventions that blunt the RTI's edge

With the kernel of the Information Act under threat, the independence of the information commission is in peril



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

Then we describe India as a democracy what do we really mean? Are we referring merely to a system of popular sovereignty founded in universal adult franchise? Or are we suggesting something more - perhaps an assurance, grounded in the Constitution, of a set of rights, of the rights, among others, to a freedom of expression, life and personal liberty, and equal oppor-

tunity and status? These are questions, as Astra Taylor argues in her remarkable new book, Democracy May Not Exist, But We'll Miss It When It's Gone, that we must perpetually ask ourselves. If nothing else to remind oneself that while there can be reasonable disagreements over how a republic ought to be structured, seeing democracy as purely an enforcement of majoritarian will, where the only end in mind is the selection of a representative government, leads to self-rule "becoming not a promise but a curse". Evidence throughout history has shown us that just results do not necessarily follow from a simple guarantee of equal status enshrined in a right to vote. The wealthy and the dominant classes find uncanny ways to ensure concentration of power. Democracy, therefore, has to percolate beyond the bare promises of formal political equality

It is to this end that India's Constitution provides a framework for governance by pledging to people a set of inviolable guarantees. But

realising the full value of those guarantees at times requires a parley with the state. It was one such long battle, fought over nearly two decades, driven by the unstinting efforts of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, that resulted in the enactment in 2005 of the Right to Information Act (RTI Act). By any account, the law proved transformative to India's democracy; it revolutionised the citizen's ability to engage with the state, arming people with a mechanism to ferret out some of the truth from the government's otherwise secretive opera-

Deep-reaching amendments

Today, though, the kernel of the RTI Act is under threat. New amendments have been passed without subjecting the draft law to scrutiny by a parliamentary committee. A feature common to every law enacted by Parliament in its present session, this portends the reduction of governance to a form of democracy by crude acclamation. The changes made include an alteration to the term in office of the information commissioners (ICs) and to the manner of determination of their salaries. In place of the existing five-year term accorded to the Central Information Commissioner (CIC) and the various ICs the law grants to the Union government the power to notify their terms through executive regulations. What is more, the amendment deletes the RTI Act's mandate that the salary paid to the CIC and the ICs ought to be equivalent to that paid respectively to the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners (ECs). Now, the salary, allowances, and terms and conditions of service of the CIC and the ICs will be determined by executive guide-

On its face, a reading of these amendments might not strike us as being especially harmful. The changes may appear to be nothing more than matters of legislative niceties. But the RTI Act is not an ordinary statute. It is a law that enlivens and animates the basic right to freedom of information. Although such a right is not enumerated in the Constitution, the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed its position as intrinsic to the right to freedom of expression (for example, in PUCL v. Union of

India, 2004). It might be difficult to see the merit in this finding if we take democracy to mean governance by the many and nothing more. But as the courts have wisely recognised, information often acts as a great leveller; it helps anchor democratic action. Therefore, for democracy to be valuable, citizens must possess a right to freely express themselves. It ought to follow then that it is only when citizens have a right to know what the state is up to, where governance is transparent, can their speech have genuine meaning; only then can they constructively participate in the veritable marketplace of ideas.

It was with a view to giving effect to these constitutional promises that the RTI Act was formulated. Parliament and within parliamentary committees before it was decided that public authorities ought to be mandated by law to making a series of voluntary disclosures on their structure, their functioning, and their financial management. Besides this basic directive, citizens are also empowered under the RTI Act to seek and obtain any information from public authorities, barring a few exempted categories such as information which might affect the sovereignty of the country or private information which might have a bearing on a person's right to privacy.

Ferreting out the truth

This freedom to secure information that the law provides has, in many ways, redesigned the structure of India's democratic governance. It has helped open the government up to greater scrutiny. For example, it was through a response to a request made under the RTI Act that it was discovered that between 2006 and 2010 more than ₹700 crore had been diverted from Delhi's special component plan, intended for the development of Scheduled Caste communities, to projects related to the Commonwealth Games. More recently, an exposé by Rohini Mohan into the horrifying processes of the "Foreigners Tribunal" in Assam was made on the back of securing information through the RTI Act. Even there, as Ms. Mohan has pointed out, only five out of the 100 functioning tribunals replied to requests for copies of the orders delivered.

It is when a plea for information goes unheeded that the CIC and the ICs play an especially vital role. Should the initial request for information made to a public information officer, designated by titioner is entitled to lodge an appeal to an authority within the department concerned. Should that entreaty fail too – and it often does since this is a virtually illusory remedy – a further appeal can be made to the office of the CIC or the State Information Commission.

Until now, the RTI Act granted an acceptable level of independence to ICs. By placing their terms of service on a par with those of the ECs the law insulated the ICs from political influence. This protection was not dissimilar to the autonomy accorded to members of the higher judiciary. The basic idea remained the same: security in office is imperative if members must intervene without fear or favour to ensure that the law's mandate is met.

It could well be argued that the RTI Act, in its original form, was far from flawless, especially in that it did not do enough to open up public authorities to complete scrutiny. But the present amendments, far from strengthening the existing regime, subvert the independence of the information commission. The delegation of the power to fix the tenure and the salaries of the CIC and the ICs to the political executive places the information commission's autonomy in a state of peril. With the withering of that independence, the right to freedom of information also begins to lose its thrust. Ultimately, therefore, the new amendments represent a classic piece of totalitarian legerdemain. Democracy, to borrow the American philosopher Cornel West's conception, demands a "leap of faith". If the new amendments are allowed to stand, making that leap becomes

Suhrith Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

Not the final word from Islamabad and Delhi

There are already signs that the Kulbhushan Jadhav case between Pakistan and India might return to the ICJ



VANSHAJ RAVI JAIN

The publication of the International Court of Justice's award in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case on July 17, 2019 was heralded by both India and Pakistan as a victory to their side; the between. The award vindicated India's claims on merit, concurring that Pakistan was guilty of multiple violations of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR): by failing to inform Mr. Jadhav of his rights under Article 36 of the treaty, by neglecting to notify India of his arrest without delay, and by denying him consular access. Nonetheless, the ICJ rejected India's claims on two crucial grounds: fair trial rights and

The bedrock Much of India's case hinged on Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which guarantees individuals the right to a fair trial. By convicting Mr. Jadhav through a military tribunal, using video evidence of a confession obtained under coercive circumstances, and by denying Indian consular officers the opportunity to arrange for his legal representation, India ar-

gued that the Pakistani state had employed an unjust procedure in his trial. Predictably, however, the ICJ chose to hinge its jurisdiction § in this case on Article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the VCCR, which grants the ICJ compulsory jurisdiction only over disputes arising out of the application or interpretation of the Consular Convention. The unfortunate consequence of this choice was that disputes pertaining to violations of other international law norms, such as the human rights obligations under side the remit of the ICJ's jurisdiction. India's attempts to have the ICCPR piggyback on the VCCR, by claiming that the latter was also, in essence, a human rights treaty and by asserting that the inclusion of the ICCPR was necessary for an effective remedy, were rejected out of hand.

Issue of remedies

The more troubling aspect of the ICJ's award, from the Indian perspective, concerns the ICJ's decision on remedies. It denied India's prayer to set aside Mr. Jadhav's conviction by the military tribunal, and for his release. Instead, it ruled that the appropriate remedy would be for Pakistan to carry out an "effective review and reconsideration" of the tribunal's conviction and sentence. What this means, in simpler terms, is that Pakistan will have to provide Mr. Jadhav a judicial mechanism to assess the prejudice caused to him by a denial of consular access, and

to reconsider (and possibly alter) his sentence and conviction based

While not entirely unforeseeaseveral reasons. First, this remedy carries a fraught history: it has only ever been used before by the ICJ in LaGrand and Avena, which involved an identical denial of consular access to nationals of Germany and Mexico, respectively, by the United States. Crucially, the unsatisfactory implementation of this remedy and the weak review mechanisms provided by the U.S. in response to the ICJ's decision in both cases have been widely noted in academic literature. Second, the remedy does little to account for the violation of Mr. Jadhav's fair trial rights. This means that the review procedure Pakistan opts for might well be one carried out by a military tribunal, and also one that continues to rely on the allegedly-forced video confession. But perhaps the most troubling aspect of this remedy, and the one that makes it most ripe for further litigation, is that it is intrinsically ambiguous.

Apart from asserting that the re-

view and reconsideration of Mr. Jadhav's conviction "must be effective", the ICJ has offered little guidance on how it must be carried out. It is known, from the Avena judgment, that providing Mr. Jadhav access to a clemency petition (as Pakistani law does) is an insufficient form of review, since it does not entail the use of a judicial mechanism. The Pakistani Supreme Court, in Said Zaman Khan v. Federation of Pakistan, ruled that the state's civilian courts grounds of coram non judice (i.e., an absence of jurisdiction) or mala fides (bad faith). It is unlikely that Mr. Jadhav's denial of VCCR rights falls under either category. However, the decision in Said Zaman Khan is under review, following the Peshawar High Court's attempts to widen it in 2018, in the Abdur Rashid case.

Heading back to The Hague? The outcome of the latter case may well portend the use of a civilian review mechanism for Mr. Jadhav's case. Even if the Rashid case fails, Pakistan could potentially be required to alter their laws to provide a more effective review mechanism for decisions of military tribunals: a fact alluded to by the ICI, which stated that "Pakistan shall take all measures to provide for effective review and reconsideration, including, if necessary, by enacting appropriate legislation" [emphasis added].

Ultimately, though neither state

will admit it, the Jadhav decision will be a bitter pill to swallow for both India and Pakistan. For Pakistan, making a significant alteration to its legal system would amount to an admission that the ICJ's judgement was a public admonition of Pakistan's judicial review mechanism: a prospect Pakistan is unlikely to welcome. For India, any review mechanism that fails to acquit Mr. Iadhay will be seen as procedurally unsound, and an attempt by Pakistan to further shirk could only review the decision of a its international legal responsibilicountries have dug themselves into holes by thoroughly politicising the ICJ's verdict.

The likely consequence is that, irrespective of what review mechanism Pakistan implements, both nations will be soon be back, knocking on the door of the International Court: the ICJ's Statute allows parties to approach the court again, asking it to interpret its judgment. Signs of this outcome can already be witnessed, with Pakistan refusing India unimpeded access to Mr. Jadhav through a note verbale issued mere weeks after the ICJ's decision. India's counsel, Harish Salve, has publicly stated that the state will not hesitate to return to the ICJ if Pakistan's conduct proves to be unsatisfactory. It is increasingly likely that we haven't heard the last of the Jadhav litigation. For now, however, the ball remains in Pakistan's court.

Vanshaj Ravi Jain is a DPhil candidate and Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford

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

Pakistan's stance

Strange as it might seem. the reverberations over the Central government's decision to abrogate Articles 35A and 370 and re-designate Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory appear to be felt more in neighbouring Pakistan than in the Kashmir Valley itself (Editorial, "Knee-jerk", August 9). A flurry of activity has been witnessed in Pakistan – expulsion of the Indian envoy, bilateral trade coming to a halt, and even a refusal to grant consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav. What is even more of an oddity is Pakistan which has absolutely no locus standi as far as Kashmiri affairs are concerned also threatening to take the matter to the **United Nations Security**

Council. India has to thwart all efforts by Pakistan to meddle in our internal

C.V. ARAVIND,

■ Before it rushed ahead with snapping trade ties with India, debt-ridden Pakistan should have understood that trade is a basic need for employment and income generation for its people. Also reorganising its own State is India's internal matter. Even on the diplomatic front, the rest of the subcontinent has recognised this as fact. Pakistan must shun its policy of state-sponsored terrorism as it is already on the grey list of international donor agencies for terror-financing. It should continue to engage in talks with India at the bilateral level and resolve all

pending issues. HARVINDER SINGH CHUGH. Jalandhar City, Punjab

Bank nationalisation None can dispute the

beneficial impact of bank nationalisation on the Indian economy but let us not forget that everything is transient in its time and place (Editorial page, "Economic milestone and a poignant anniversary", August 9). There are obvious unwanted consequences and developments that call for change now. The recommendations of the Narasimham Committees on banking sector reforms in the 1990s deserve a closer look. The point of nonperforming assets, the inherent deficiency of public sector banking in many areas and new issues require a holistic look. Other issues include mergers of banks,

the structure of non-banking financial companies and small- and medium enterprises, holistic consolidation in banking and industrial structures. Change is of the essence. K.U. MADA,

■ The fact that much of the growth of agricultural credit since 2001 has been cornered by "big agribusiness farms and corporate houses located in urban and metropolitan centres" goes against the basic credo of nationalisation. Other points in the article highlight the need to expand the rural banking network and instructional credit. That privatisation of nationalised banks is a panacea for all the

ills of the banking sector

would spell disaster for the

rural economy. It would be far more prudent to correct systemic faults that have crept in the sector in the course of the last 50 years than reversing a policy measure that has made financial inclusion a reality. Even merger to create a few leviathans may prove to be counter productive. Kosaraju Chandramouli,

Green ambassador

Striking a balance between environmental concerns and development is no doubt difficult, but the photograph of a nine-year-old girl in Manipur crying over felled trees as a result of a road widening project in that State is anguish and distress that anyone who is environmentally conscious can understand ('Life' page, "Girl who cried over felled

trees is Manipur's green ambassador", August 9). However, the gesture of the Manipur government in making her a green ambassador, offering 20 saplings to her and extending her other concessions, will go a long way in not only assuaging her distraught feelings but also making it clear that there exists a government that cares for its citizens. That the Chief Minister himself intervened in the matter is gratifying. The incident needs to be highlighted in all educational institutions so that the younger generation is encouraged to do its bit in the protection of the environment. V. SUBRAMANIAN,

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:

In Beed, a harvest of crushed hopes

Maharashtra's drought-stricken district of Beed hit the headlines recently when reports emerged of an unusually high rate of hysterectomies among its women, especially those who migrate to nearby districts to cut sugar cane. **Jyoti Shelar** pieces together their story as the State administration carries out an investigation

t 34, Sangeeta Kale from Maharashtra's Beed district is a mother ✓ Lof two college-going sons, aged 19 and 17. Married off to a sugar-cane cutter at the age of 13 even before she had hit puberty, Kale had little inkling of the hard life ahead. Kale, who had her first child when she was just 16, worked through her pregnancy with husband Sadashiv in the fields of western Maharashtra, sometimes spending up to 16 hours cutting and loading the cane crop into trucks during the harvesting months - October to March. Her life remained the same after her first and second deliveries and subsequent years.

However, she found the routine backbreaking work daunting on days her menstrual cycle set in, as the fields had no toilets. She couldn't take leave for fear of being heavily penalised. Finally, fed up with these troubles and other recurrent gynaecological issues ranging from white discharge to pain, Kale underwent hysterectomy – uterus-removal surgery – last July.

Just like Kale, many women, some of whom are just in their 20s, in Beed have undergone this life-altering procedure, which is otherwise prescribed only for a handful of medical conditions and often performed as a last resort.

What is even more shocking is that Kale was the seventh woman in her extended family, living in Beed's Umrad Jahagir village, to have undergone the operation. "Frustrated with period pain, white discharges and foul smell, when I approached a doctor, I was told my uterus was damaged and hysterectomy was the way out," says Kale.

The drought-stricken Beed district in Maharashtra's Marathwada region came under the scanner this May after reports came to light about the unusually high rate of hysterectomies among its women, especially among those who migrate to neighbouring districts to work as sugar-cane cutters.

State figures say that in three years (2016-2019), as many as 4,605 women have had their uterus removed in Maharashtra. Civil rights organisations allege that the hysterectomy rate in Beed is 14 times more than that for the State or the country. In Umrad Jahagir village where the Kales reside, the number of 'wombless women' now stands at 50.

Pushed into debt

- Sitting on the floor of her tin-roofed shanty, Kale, slightly under five-feet tall, points towards her back and knees. "The uterus-removal surgery has no doubt relieved me from the menstrual cramps and vaginal discharge, but it has brought along back and joint pain. On many days, the pain is unbearable. It's like I have aged at a greater speed," she says.

"The doctor assured me that removing the uterus was the best option. Though I was taking medication, my infections were recurring. I had already undergone a sterilisation surgery, so there was anyway no scope of having more children. Hysterectomy seemed like the right thing to do. But later, the after-effects started," rues Kale, who missed out on the last sugar-cane cutting season as she was bedridden for three months after the procedure. Her decision to undergo the procedure has brought not just health issues but severe economic distress to the already impoverished household.

Her husband holds her responsible for the debt of ₹2 lakh that has piled on them. At first, he blamed her one-off leaves from work. Then, he pointed fingers at her for the ₹30,000 that they had to borrow for the hysterectomy. The taunts have gotten worse since they missed out on the last season of sugar-cane

cutting.

Kale relied on the testimonies of her four sisters-in-law and two of their mothers-in law, who had all been through the procedure, when she got admitted to the Veer Hospital located on the Beed-Jalna road for the surgery. "None of us has ever been to school. But the doctor is educated. His word was as-

suring for us," she says.

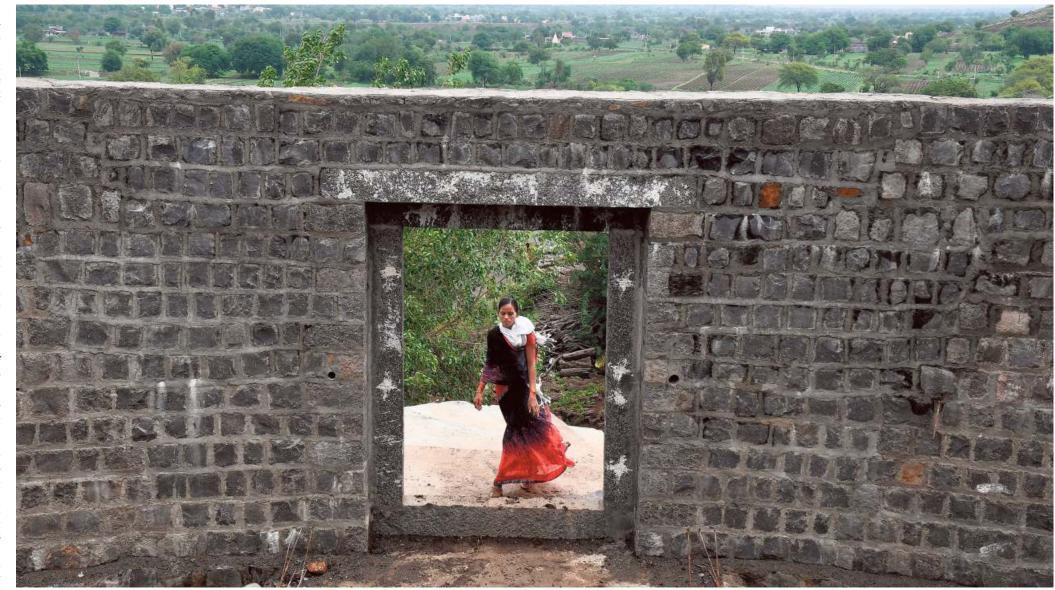
Kale's sister-in-law Vaishali, 33, was also advised a hysterectomy when she sought medical help after grappling with vaginal discharge and recurrent infections for years. "I was told my uterus was damaged and getting it removed was best. I had two sons, so we thought the most important job of the womb was done," says Vaishali.

Scores of women in Beed offer a similar narrative. Shockingly, most don't have medical reports or any papers to show the history of their treatment.

Their individual stories all follow a pattern. Women would commonly consult their doctors for health issues lasting up to a year, but then complain of recurrent infections. Sooner or later, hysterectomy would be recommended to them as a permanent solution.

However, they were never told how the surgery could lead to hormonal imbalance, calcium deficiency and con-

stant body ache, among other things. In Beed, open defecation remains a ground reality. Many households do have built toilet blocks built under the



Sarika Chandrasen Kurlekar, 32, among the 56 women in Vanjarwadi village who have undergone hysterectomy. • ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

government's Swachh Bharat scheme but their members still defecate in the open due to lack of water. For the women in the district, it is a vicious cycle as they have no sanitary facilities either at their workplace or at their homes. And the nature of work in a sugar-cane field has only worsened their situation.

An estimated 5-6 lakh people, including pregnant and lactating women, migrate from Beed to other parts of Maharashtra, and border areas of Karnataka, to work as sugar-cane cutters. Hailing from a region that is perennially under a spell of drought and not having many avenues of employment, Beed residents continue to live in abject poverty and have to rely on sugar-cane cutting to make a living. Traditionally, a couple is hired by a mukadam (contractor) as a single 'unit', known as ek koyta (one sickle). The contractor pays them *uchal* (a lump sum) in advance, ranging from ₹80,000 to ₹1.2 lakh, for a period of four Deepavali every year.

While a typical workday starts at around 6 a.m. for the couple, the woman gets up earlier, at 4 a.m., and cooks food for the entire family before she sets out. Children are left behind in temporary shanties near the sugar-cane farms as their parents toil under the sun.

Two-and-a-half tonnes a day

Laxmi Chauhan, 44, from Beed's Vanjarwadi village and her husband Nanabhau, 45, have been migrating for sugarcane cutting for the past 25 years. "We manage to cut about two-and-a-half tonnes of sugar-cane in a day. A tonne of sugar-cane earns us anywhere between ₹350 to ₹400 depending on the seasonal rate," says Nanabhau, a father of two sons, both in their twenties.

Soon after the birth of their children, Chauhan began experiencing pain in the abdomen, which resulted in her frequent absences from work and low productivity. "Working during the menstrual cycle was anyway difficult," says Chauhan, adding that she had to make multiple strikes with the sickle to cut a single cane, a process which made her feel further weak and unwell. It also meant lower earnings for the couple.

"We earned less than the *uchal* and had to repay the remaining amount to the *mukadam*. Also, when one failed to report to work, the *mukadam* demanded a fine of ₹500, which had to be paid in cash and was distributed among other workers who took the extra workload," says Chauhan.

Troubled by her own dwindling productivity and the couple's mounting debt, Chauhan finally decided to see a doctor at the Veer Hospital in 2014. Following a sonography, she was told that her uterus had got swollen and this could lead to cancer. Within the next few days, the couple hurriedly collected ₹25,000 and Chauhan got her uterus removed, as advised by the doctor. She was hospitalised for seven days.

"Since then, my body has begun swelling and I am in pain every day. But

The surgery has no doubt relieved me from the menstrual cramps and vaginal discharge, but it has brought along back and joint pain

SANGEETA KALE Beed resident



I feel better than before," she says. Weight gain, which Chauhan has experienced, is another inevitable side effect of hysterectomy. When asked if the uterus removal was at the suggestion of a *mukadam*, the couple deny it. "We trusted the doctor's word," says Nanabhau, adding that they had sought help with the intention of getting medical treatment and not surgery. "When the doctor told us about the risk of cancer, we did not want to take any chances," he says.

Coaxed by contractors?Following reports on the high number

of hysterectomies performed in Beed, the Maharashtra administration launched an investigation on June 18. Among the many aspects that the authorities are probing, one is whether the *mukadams* push women to undergo the procedure to ensure better returns. "There could be a nexus between profit driven doctors and the *mukadams*. This definitely needs to be investigated, among other things," says Neelam Gorhe, who is heading the seven-member investigation committee that will submit its report to the Chief Minister and Health Minister this month.

A *mukadam* is a well-connected villager who reaches out to prospective labourers from the nearby areas. With frequent droughts and failing crops, many couples prefer to migrate for income generation, even if they have acres of farmland back home.

"The poverty is so ingrained that the advance taken by couples is exhausted very quickly. When they fail to cut sugar-cane worth the advance paid to them, we are left with no choice but to pursue them to return the remaining money," says Bappa Kotwade, 42, a *mu-kadam* from Beed's Irla Dubba village. Having been a *mukadam* for the past 15 years, he supplies up to 200 *koyatas* (couples) to sugar-cane factories every season.

While some labourers are *gadiwale* (couples with a pair of bullocks and a rented cart), some work as *toliwale* (groups that transport harvested sugar cane in trucks or tractors).

"Some men are alcoholics and reco-

vering money from them becomes a task. Some couples disappear midway. There are some who never pay back. We have to be taskmasters to deal with this," says Kotwade, adding that they forge long-standing relationships with the labourers and keep paying them small amounts for food and health expenses to ensure that they come back every season.

But it is not always hunky-down for

But it is not always hunky-dory for the labourers, some of whom have been beaten up and even illegally detained in factories when they failed to cough up the money. "There have been murders too," says Kotwade, citing a story of a *mukadam* who had a scuffle with a labourer while demanding the money. "The labourer died due to serious injuries and the *mukadam* landed in jail."

Kotwade, however, rubbishes the allegation that *mukadams* suggest hysterectomies to women. "It is a vicious cycle of hard manual labour, grinding poverty and bad living conditions. Uterus or no uterus, they have to work to earn. Why should we tell them anything?" he says, adding that women have been undergoing hysterectomies for years in Beed.

Let down by doctors?

A muddy pathway through a farm in Vanjarwadi leads to the house of Sarika Chandrasen Kurlekar, a frail 32-year-old. In the village, where 56 women have undergone uterus removal procedures, Kurlekar is the youngest to have been operated. She has never migrated for cane cutting but, like all other women, had been complaining of continuous white discharge that caused fatigue. Her medical record from Matoshri Hos-

Early marriages and child birth, fear of cancer and the loss of wages during menstruation have all culminated in the high rate of hysterectomies

ABHIJIT MORE Health activist

pital cites "bulky cervix and persistent demand by patient" as the reason for the hysterectomy.

Ashok Anand, head of gynaecology at the state-run J.J. Hospital in Mumbai, is amused at the reasons cited. "Neither a bulky cervix nor persistent demands by a patient warrant a hysterectomy. Her symptoms were more likely due to cervicitis, which could be treated through conservative medication," says Anand.

Since news on the hysterectomies in Beed came to light, questions have been raised on the possible role of the medical fraternity in making women undergo the procedure. State data showed that 99 private hospitals in Beed district have carried out 4,605 hysterectomies since April 2016. Eleven of these hospitals have carried out more than 100 hysterectomies in the three-year period.

'Gross exploitation'

The top five in the list are: Pratibha Nursing Home (277); Tidke Hospital (196); Shree Bhagwan Hospital (193); Gholve Hospital (186); and Veer Hospital (179). In comparison, 2,000-odd hysterectomies have been performed in the public sector in the same period in Beed. "Instead of getting rational treatment in public health-care facilities, the women are pushed towards irrational treatments in the private sector," says Abhay Shukla, national co-convenor of the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan. "It's nothing but gross exploitation of vulnerabilities of women and a failure of the state," he says. Activists also rue that the official count could be under-reported as the state banks on these same hospitals to furnish the figures.

Local doctors, however, feel the criticism is uncalled for and insist that for most of the women who underwent the surgery, their health warranted it. Gy-

naecologist Madhav Sanap, who has run the Shree Bhagwan Hospital since 1998, is prompt to assert that there may be doctors who conduct unindicated procedures, but he is not one of them. "Of the 193 surgeries that I have carried out, only four were of women under 35. I can provide history for each and every case," he says, while arguing that the hype around hysterectomies in Beed requires an in-depth analysis. "It will prove that the district has rates comparable to other parts of the State," he says.

Poor hygiene

Sanjay Veer, a gynaecologist and owner of Veer Hospital, says no one goes under the knife unless there is real suffering. "These women live in conditions of extremely poor hygiene. They don't have access to toilets. They can't afford sanitary pads. Open defecation is rampant in their villages as near the sugar-cane farms where they work," he says.

"The core issues are poverty, illiteracy, lack of sanitation and access to water. Doctors are being made scapegoats in this issue, which is largely a socioeconomic one and requires a larger solution," he adds.

The National Family Health Survey data show that the rate of hysterectomies in Maharashtra is 2.6%, while the national average is 3.2%. But when it comes to Beed, a 2018 survey of 200 women by Maharashtra State Commission for Women revealed the extent of the problem as around 36% were found to have had undergone hysterectomies.

According to Beed's civil surgeon Ashok Thorat, there is an absence of enough data to carry out comparisons with other districts in Maharashtra. "Our primary investigations have shown that the prevalence of hysterectomies is 17 per 1,000 women in Beed. In some parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and other States, the prevalence is about 50 to 60 per 1,000 women," says Thorat, adding that a detailed survey is under way to get to the root cause.

In fact, a circular dated April 16, has made it compulsory for private gynae-cologists in Beed to seek permission from a civil surgeon for every hysterectomy procedure barring emergency procedures, which have to be reported within a span of 24 hours. The circular warns doctors against portraying all kinds of tumours, growths and swelling on uterus as cancers.

"The number of hysterectomies has gone down by 50% since we implemented the SOP [Standard Operating Procedure]," Beed's collector Astik Kumar Pandey tells *The Hindu*. "Right now, all the hospitals are under our scanner. All hysterectomies in the past, especially of women who are under 35, are being scrutinised," he says.

Activists say that the menace of unwarranted hysterectomies affects not just sugar-cane cutters but women in general. "Early marriages and child birth, fear of cancer and the loss of wages during menstruation have all culminated in the high rate of hysterectomies. The government has no clue about the ground reality as it has never maintained any data," says health activist Abhijit More who terms Beed's situation as a blatant violation of rights of women living in the district, who are uneducated and therefore ill-equipped to make the right health choices.



Six out of the seven women from the extended Kale family in Umrad have undergone hysterectomies. • ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

FROM PAGE ONE

Many States reel under monsoon fury

with potential to bring rain

to North India, particularly

Uttar Pradesh and Himachal

"So far, 83 National Disaster

Response Force teams have

been positioned in vulnera-

ble areas of flood-affected

States along with all neces-

sary equipment. These are

in addition to the 173 teams

of Army, Navy, Air Force and

Coast Guard. Control rooms

in the Ministry of Home Af-

fairs, NDRF, IMD, and Cen-

tral Water Commission are

keeping a close watch. They

have evacuated over 82,000

people to safer places and

rescued 2,325 people," a

statement from the Press In-

formation Bureau said. This

followed a review meeting

chaired by the Minister of

State for Home Affairs, Ni-

The Sardar Sarovar Nar-

mada dam continued to fill

up fast but acted to main-

tain the water level at 131.18

metres, the limit allowed by

Narmada Control Authority.

ed the downstream districts

of Narmada, Bharuch and

Vadodara about potential

flooding. Several bridges

have been closed as the Nar-

mada is flowing at danger le-

vel.Chief Minister Vijay Ru-

pani and Sardar Sarovar

Narmada Nigam MD Rajiv

Kumar Gupta visited Sardar

Sarovar dam. Dr. Gupta

tweeted that the 1,200 MW

power house was operated

on Thursday after a gap of

On Friday, Gujarat conti-

nued to receive medium to

heavy rainfall. More than

3,000 people were shifted

The Gujarat government

said 168 taluks received rain

during the last 24 hours,

and 14 dams and reservoirs

were overflowing. But total

monsoon rainfall in the

State stood at 66.41% in the

Nadu's elevated ranges in

the Western Ghats disrupt-

ed life in the plains, with the Noyyal, Bhavani and Moyar

rivers swelling up to the

brim. Valparai, the tea and

coffee-growing part of the

mountains was lashed by torrential rain, sending co-

pious inflows to reservoirs

in the Parambikulam-Aliyar

The record for the high-

est rain volume in the State,

held by Cuddalore since

1943, was broken for two

consecutive days in Ava-

lanche in the Nilgiris, with

820 mm on Thursday, and

911 mm on Friday.

Massive rainfall in Tamil

to safer locations.

two years.

season.

The administration alert-

tvanand Rai.

Pradesh.

83 NDRF teams

Across Karnataka, there were 1.74 lakh people in relief camps, about 35,000 of them rescued since Thursday night. About 64,300 hectares of agricultural land was inundated, taking the total area affected to 2.56 lakh hectares. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa put the preliminary estimate of flood losses at ₹5,000 crore, and Union Minister of Paliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi said that the Centre had released ₹200 crore for flood relief.

Houses buried

In the worst-hit Kodagu district, five members belonging to two families were buried alive after their houses located next to each other collapsed in a landslip at Korangala village near Bhagamandala. Local residents rescued three persons.

In five districts of Western Maharashtra, the death toll in the last fortnight has touched 29, while 2.35 lakh people have been evacuated from Sangli and Kolhapur, besides 50,000 in Satara, Pune and Solapur.

Pune Divisional Commissioner Dr. Deepak Mhaisekar said the casualties include nine people who died in the Sangli boat accident on Thursday, and 11 people were missing, nine of them from the boat incident.

Deficit wiped out

Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district recorded a staggering 91 cm of rain at Avalanche for a 24hour period until Friday morning.

Six people have died in rain-related incidents in the Nilgiris in the week-long showers. The deaths were caused by collapsing buildings, flood waters and landslips. Three women and an 8-year-old child are among

In Gujarat, 26 out of 30 gates of the Sardar Sarovar Narmada dam were opened for the first time in two years to maintain water level at the 131.18-metre limit.

While the rain has had a devastating impact, it has nearly wiped out the monsoon deficit. The IMD on Friday said the monsoon deficit was down from 10.5% on July 31 to 0.6% as of August

The IMD forecast was a 4% below normal season from June-September. Mr. Mohapatra said such spells were typical for August, but not reason enough to assume yet that it would be a 'normal' monsoon.

A new rain-bearing system was seen forming in the Bay of Bengal by August 12

celebrations in J&K

BJP plans grand I-Day

Asked whether the BJP workers would be allowed to carry out their plans on Independence Day, given the potential for law and order issues, a senior police official said that would be "decided later."

Meanwhile, the flag of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which has been split into two Union Territories of Iammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, would be removed from government offices, an official said. At one government office in Jammu, two flags – one of India and the other of J&K – were in place on Wednesday. On Thursday, however, the J&K flag had been replaced with the

Schools and colleges in Jammu will reopen on Saturday, five days after they were shut in the wake of the government's announcement revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories.

This was announced by Jammu Deputy Commissioner Sushma Chauhan on Friday. She said Section 144. which imposes restrictions on assembly and movement, had been lifted in Jammu. While some shops opened on Friday and there was vehicular movement, things were not yet back to

Supreme Court upholds law empowering homebuyers

Adding the Amendment Act buyers was like using a sledbuilders argued. Justice Nariman dismissed these contentions. The judge reaspheres and can be used harmoniously for the interest of home buyers. The IBC

CWC to take up leadership issue today

Ajoy Kumar resigns as Jharkhand Congress chief, accuses senior leaders of sabotaging party's interests

NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest executive body, will start the formal process of finding a replacement for outgoing president Rahul Gandhi, but a final decision will take a few more days.

At a meeting of the Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) chiefs, convened to discuss the political fallout of the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 and split Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) into union territories, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress position on J&K was reflected in the CWC resolution that called the decision "unilateral, brazen and totally undemocratic".

Mr. Gandhi made it clear that though regional parties such as the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Aam Aadmi Party backed the government on the J&K decision,



Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi at a Congress Working Committee meeting held on August 6. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

those like the Trinamool walked out. Only the Congress stood for the truth of Article 370. He, however, acknowledged that individuals may have different opinions.

Against this backdrop on Article 370, senior leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and P. Chidambaram explained to the State Congress chiefs the historical and legal aspect of Constitutional provisions.

The research department of the Congress has also prepared an 11-page document to counter the government's charge that former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru mishandled Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India.

To take forward the process of choosing the next party president, the PCCs have been called for a meeting on Saturday.

Joint consultation

PCC chiefs along with MPs will form small groups (fivemembers) consultations.

A senior leader quoted Mr. Gandhi as telling party colleagues at the meeting, "It will be done in three or four days." His response came after several State leaders pointed out that the party workers were demoralised and were deserting the Congress after the Lok Sabha

On Friday, Ajoy Kumar added to the sense of crisis as he resigned from the post of party president of Jharkhand – a State where elections are due in about three months. In his resignation letter, he blamed senior leaders of sabotaging party interests.

"Rahulji told us that there is nothing to fear. In the past 15 years, he said he was not scared even by a bullet," said a leader quoting the outgoing chief. "He also said that some leaders will leave the party but majority will fight."

Mr. Gandhi told his party colleagues that though he would not hold the president's post, he would continue to fight the government and the RSS.

Public speculation on possible contenders for the president's post included the names of Mukul Wasnik, Mallikarjun Kharge, Sachin Pilot and Jyotiraditya Scindia. As per the party's constitution, the senior most general secretary is made the provisional Congress president before organisational elections are held.

President gives assent to UAPA Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to legislation under which individuals can be declared terrorists and their properties seized.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 also provides for putting a travel ban on such individuals once they are declared terrorists.

The President gave his assent to the legislation late on Thursday night, a Home Ministry official said. The Lok Sabha passed the amendment Bill on July 24 and the Rajya Sabha on Au-

Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar are likely to be the first two to be designated as terrorists under the legislation, the Ministry offi-

BJP names key persons for polls

Assembly elections are due in Delhi, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP on Friday kicked off poll preparations for Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana and Delhi where Assembly elections are due in the coming months.

Party president Amit Shah

appointed Union Ministers Prakash Javadekar and Narendra Singh Tomar and party general secretary Bhupendra Yadav as the election in-charge for Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra, respec-

The party appointed party vice-president O. P. Mathur as poll in-charge for Jharkhand, it said in a statement.

The Assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand are slated for later this year, while Delhi is due to go to the polls in early



Bigger role: Prakash Javadekar will be in charge of Delhi and Narendra Singh Tomar of Haryana. ■ FILE РНОТО

2020. The party also appointed Union Ministers Nitvanand Rai and Hardeep Singh Puri to assist Mr. Javadekar in Delhi, where the BJP managed to win only three of the 70 seats in the previous Assembly election. Mr. Javadekar, who was earlier in charge of the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Rajasthan, said he would discharge the new responsibility with dedication and would prepare plans for the Delhi polls after consulting the party president and other leaders.

More appointments

The BJP has appointed co-incharge for Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana too.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and OBC leader Keshav Prasad Maurya, along with Karnataka leader Laxman Sevadi, would be the co-in-charge for Maharashtra.

Mr. Tomar would be assisted by Bhupendra Singh, a Jat leader from Haryana, in handling election-related affairs in the State. Jats have a sizeable population in Ha-

Nand Kishore Yadav, a Bihar Minister, would assist Mr. Mathur in Jharkhand.

Manjhi says party will go it alone in 2020 election

'NDA and grand alliance cheated us'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Bihar Chief Minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) president Jitan Ram Manjhi said here on Friday that the party would contest the next Assembly election on its own. Mr. Manjhi alleged that the NDA and the grand alliance had let down his party during the previous elections.

The next Assembly election in Bihar is due in November 2020.

"Both the NDA and the grand alliance had cheated us in elections... so my party men have suggested that we contest the next Assembly polls in the State on our own," Mr. Manjhi told presspersons soon after launching the party's membership

drive in Patna. "Whatever seats we win would be our own and on our strength," he said.

Out of the State's 40 Lok Sabha seats, Mr. Manjhi's party contested three - as a member of the Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) and drawn a blank.

"My party was given three seats in last parliamentary elections but only I, from Gaya (reserved) seat, was contesting as our party candidate as the other two seats had Congress and RJD candidates," Mr. Manjhi said. "This decision had angered my party leaders and workers." "Now, they [party leaders and workers] have suggested to contest the Assembly poll in 2020 on our

Uncertainty over Thar Express's Jodhpur departure

Pak says midnight train to Karachi on Friday will be the last

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Uncertainty loomed large over the Thar Express weekly train to Karachi – scheduled to depart from Jodhpur's Bhagat Ki Kothi station late Friday night – following the Pakistan Railway Minister's announcement that the service was being halted.

The announcement was made in Islamabad on Friday, a day after Pakistan stopped the Samjhauta Express as part of its moves to downgrade bilateral ties following India's revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The train leaves Bhagat Ki Kothi station for Munabao in Barmer district every Friday night.

Officials at the North-West Railway divisional office in Jodhpur said Friday's train had not been cancelled and



relatives as the Thar Express

was scheduled to depart after midnight. A total of 143 passengers had booked their seats till Friday evening and the booking was open till 10 p.m., about three hours before the train's departure.

"From midnight tonight, we will stop the Thar Express," Pakistan Railway Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said at a press conference in Islamabad. "We don't have the resources to take responsibility for the security of Indian passengers in Mirpurkhas," he added.

'Finished now'

"So in order to avoid any untoward incident, we will send off the 200 passengers to Zero Line with a bottle of water at 11.55 p.m. tonight. This is finished now. No more," he said.

Thar Express's operations had remained unaffected following the Balakot airstrike in February, when the Samjhauta Express was briefly suspended. According to an estimate, more than 4 lakh passengers both Indians and Pakistanis have travelled by the train during the last 13 years.

(With inputs from Mehmal Sarfraz in Lahore)

'Parties should have a code of conduct for MPs'

This is to monitor their behaviour, says Venkaiah Naidu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu said on Friday that political parties should have a code of conduct for their MPs in Parliament to monitor their behaviour, and parties should include such a code in their election manifestos.

"I suggest that political parties should have a code of conduct for their MPs to monitor their behaviour," Mr. Naidu told presspersons at a get-together at the end of the Parliament session. Such a code of conduct should include stipulations that the members would not enter the Well of the House, nor resort to sloganeering and disruptions or any other unruly behaviour such as tearing papers and throwing them in the House.



M. Venkaiah Naidu

In an indirect response to the Trinamool Congress's allegation that one out of every four legislation passed in this session were anti-federal, Mr. Naidu said a key component of federalism was also to ensure the smooth functioning of Parliament.

"Federalism flows from constitutional scheme of

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

According to a hospital

"Hemodynamics refers to

release, Mr. Jaitley is hemo-

Jaitley admitted to AIIMS;

Modi and Shah visit him

things and Parliament is also a constitutional entity," he

Changing perception

While expressing satisfaction over the successful session of Parliament in terms of the number of key Bills passed, Mr. Naidu said it had helped in changing the perception of the people re-

garding the political class. He hoped that both the Treasury benches and the Opposition would maintain the "positive momentum" of the just concluded session.

Pointing out that political parties were only rivals and not enemies, he was of the firm opinion that the ruling and the Opposition parties should interact more frequently to ensure the smooth conduct of both Parliament and legislatures.

Every child to get Rotavirus vaccine

Health Minister plans to provide it across all States and UTs by this September

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

"The Health Ministry has drawn an ambitious plan under the 100 days agenda of the newly elected government, wherein it has been decided to provide Rotavirus vaccine to every child across all States and Union Territories by September, 2019," Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Friday.

He said diarrhoea was one of the biggest killers in children and Rotavirus was one of the most common causes of severe diarrhoea in children less than 2 years of age. "Rotavirus vaccine along



the Minister said. . In India, every year, 37 out a long way in reducing the mortality and morbidity due to diarrhoea in children,"

causes of diarrhoea, Rotavirus is a leading cause of diarrhoea in children less than 5 years of age. It is estimated that Rotavi-

rus cause 8,72,000 hospitalisations; 32,70,000 outpatient visits and estimated 78,000 deaths annually in

rhoeal deaths. Out of all the

dynamically stable. Rotavirus diarrhoea can be prevented through vaccithe forces the heart has to nation. The vaccine was indevelop to maintain blood troduced in 2016 in a phased flow through the cavities of manner, beginning with 4 the heart and all the blood States initially and later expanded to 7 more States. It is vessels. Stable blood flow provides a steady supply of now available in 28 States/ oxygen to all tissues and or-Union Territories



Arun Jaitley

gans in the body," said a doctor here. The former Finance Mi-

nister was admitted with complaints of uneasiness. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and other BJP leaders including Amit Shah, Harsh Vardhan visited Mr. Jaitley at the hospital.

to the armoury of the home gehammer to kill a gnat, the soned that the IBC and the RERA operate in different deals with the replacement of the bankrupt builder from the helm of affairs and hitting upon a resolution plan to benefit all the stakeholders. The RERA's purpose is to protect individual homebuyers by requiring the promoter to strictly adhere to the purchase deal and complete the project within a stated period.



with proper sanitation, hand washing practices, ORS and zinc supplementation will go

of every 1,000 children born are unable to celebrate their 5th birthday, and one of the major reasons for this is diar-

Long way home for migrant workers

They are returning to Bihar, unsure of ever coming back to collect unpaid wages

Leaving Srinagar under pressure from security forces, landlords and employers, a group of migrant workers from Bihar found themselves outside the Jammu railway station on Thursday with the prospect of an uncertain two-day journey back home.

Ahead of announcing the revoking of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the government had begun moving out tourists, pilgrims and outstation workers. With large parts of Jammu and Kashmir under curfew-like conditions since Monday, the group of 30 men from West Champaran district of Bihar said they were unsure of ever returning to collect their unpaid dues.

Lal Babu Shah went to Srinagar for the first time about a month ago, hoping to stay for four or five months work-



Jammu on Friday. • DAMINI NATH

ing in construction.

Evicted at night

"I used to sell vegetables back home, but this time the crops failed; so business was down. I thought I would be able to make some money by working in Srinagar for a few months. I was working in a mosque, laying tiles," he

At 3 a.m. the previous

to leave their accommodation. They then made their way to the bus stand in Srinagar, where long lines for tickets awaited them.

"The bus tickets were being sold in black by government officials for higher amounts. The private cab operators were demanding ₹2,000 a person for a trip to Jammu that usually costs ₹700. Our employers did not even clear our dues because

they said the work was incomplete. We were able to scrounge enough for bus tickets. Now, we don't know how we will buy tickets to Bihar," Lalji Kumar said.

The government has announced special trains for the workers. Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Shahid Iqbal Choudhary tweeted on Thursday that special trains and coaches had been arranged from Udhampur and Jammu "in view of large number of workers including those going home on Eid". Spending six months a year in Srinagar taking up construction jobs, Mr. Kumar said he was able to make ₹60,000 to ₹70,000 a season, the highest rate anywhere in North India. Now he was leaving with ₹3,000 in

Having gone through a harrowing few days, both men, however, said they supported Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisions on Jammu and Kashmir. "In two years, the way life is in Jammu, that is how we will be able to live in Srinagar," said Mr. Kumar, adding he was not sure if he would return.

For Mohammad Arif, who has been going to work in Srinagar for the past 10 years, this time was different. During the violence and curfew after the killing of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen "commander" Burhan Wani in 2016, he said, the situation for migrant workers was not as bad as now. "They used to hurl insults

at us then, but now they are telling Biharis to leave. We heard that some people beat up a Bihari worker in Soura," he said.

Another member of the group, Bhola, said locals would taunt him saying "come back with a passport".

Shock over Centre's move keeps Valley streets silent

Residents await release of mainstream, separatist leaders

PEERZADA ASHIQ

A sense of shock and disbelief keeps the streets of Kashmir Valley unusually silent in reaction to the abrogation of Article 370, bifurcation and stripping of statehood, even as curfew-like restrictions and communication blockade continued for the fifth day on Friday.

A senior police officer, monitoring the situation since August 5, told The Hindu that street agitation compared to the 2008 Amarnath land row, the 2009 alleged rape-and-murder of two women in Shopian, the hanging of Afzal Guru in 2013 and the killing of militant 'commander' Burhan Wani 2016 "is far far less with just one casualty, due to drowning at Safa Kadal reported during a protest, in the first four

"It is disconcerting as much as heartening to see the streets silent in Kashmir. We witnessed an over 20day shutdown and street protests in 2018 on mere rumours of Article 35A being heard by the Supreme Court (SC)," a senior police officer told The Hindu.

Nazir Ahmad, an arts graduate from Khanyar, said, "We are angry about what has been done to J&K. However, this is no more an issue to be settled with just stones or street agitation. We have reached a pass where political solution to J&K has to be now or never."

Many locals are awaiting the release of leaders, both mainstream and separatists. "Let (National Conference

vice-president) Omar Abdullah be released from jail. We want our leadership to take a final call on this. It is the second time New Delhi has backstabbed the NC, the first time in 1953," said Ghulam Nabi, an NC worker.

250 arrested

Around 250 leaders, including top brass of the Peoples Democratic Party and the NC, have been arrested.

Curfew-like restrictions have made life difficult in the Valley. Only movement for emergencies is allowed, ATMs are running dry and eatables are scarce.

"I was surrounded by policemen in the old city and forced to delete all videos of protests," Shafat Ahmad, a stringer of the BBC, told *The*

Law and order steps are temporary, says Ministry

Situation will gradually return to normal, assures official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Law and order measures in Kashmir were taken as precaution and there is already a sense of calm and normalcy, the External Affairs Ministry said on Friday.

Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said the measures taken by Pakistan after India ended the special status for Kashmir were unilateral.

"Certain precautionary measures have been taken by concerned authorities to maintain law and order. Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi in his address yesterday [Thursday] mentioned that the situation will gra-



Raveesh Kumar

dually return to normal and the inconvenience experienced by people in Jammu and Kashmir is very temporary in nature. We already see a sense of calm and normalcy," said Mr. Kumar, emphasising that food supply, opernewspaper circulation remains undisturbed in the state. The statement of the Indian government came after the human rights organisation Amnesty International had expressed concern over additional deployment of forces and an unprececommunication blockade that cut off Kashmir from the rest of India.

This was accompanied by the statement from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres who urged both countries for restraint. The spokesperson noted that Pakistan had begun an international campaign on Kashmir and accused it of trying to

Yechury, Raja turned away at airport

The place has been completely taken over by security forces, say the Left leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and his CPI counterpart D. Raja were detained at the Srinagar airport and sent back by the security forces on Friday. The leaders questioned

the government's claim that the situation in Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir was normal. "If all is well as the Central government is claiming, why were we stopped?" Mr. Yechury asked at a press conference upon returning to New Delhi. He said the Narendra Modi government had forgotten the principles proposed by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of 'Insaniyat, Jamhuriyat, Kashmiriyat', which meant protecting humanity, peace,



Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D. Raja at a press conference in New Delhi on Friday. ■PTI

and Kashmiri ethos.

Mr. Raja said Kashmir was tense and an atmosphere of fear prevailed there. "The situation was far from normal. The political parties or the people were not taken

into confidence by the government before revoking Article 370. There is a great amount of uncertainty in the minds of people about the future," he noted.

The leaders were at the

airport for four hours.

Mr. Yechury said, "It is our democratic right to meet our own comrade, who has been keeping unwell. The Central government wants everyone to believe that there is no curfew in Kashmir and everything is normal. But our experience today shows that the place has been completely taken over by security forces. The repression is palpable and visible to everyone."

The State has been completely taken over by the Central government, he alleged.

Mr. Raja said, "India doesn't belong to the BJP alone. It belongs to us. We should be allowed to go to any part of the country to meet people."

Animals unavailable for Id sacrifice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

The customary sacrificial animal for Id is unavailable at all major traditional grounds in the Valley.

The main market of sheep and goat at Eidgah here is empty and walled security vehicles.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Khan, said the administration was facilitating mobile delivery of essentials on Id. "Bazaars of mutton, vegetables will be set up. Medicine will be made available from Friday," he said.

He said sub-district magistrate and tehsildars have been provided with transportation to shift medical cases to hospitals.

China opposes unilateral action in J&K

ATUL ANEJA

China on Friday backed the who had arrived on an "urresolution of the Kashmir is- gent" visit to Beijing in the sue on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions as well bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan – a veiled reference to the Shimla accord of 1972.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, following talks with his

airlifts 20 more

'troublemakers'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Jammu and Kashmir

authorities airlifted a fresh

batch of 20 "potential troublemakers" from Srinagar

to Agra, officials said here

history of being involved in

separatist activities, were

taken out of Kashmir Valley

in a special Indian Air

active members of separa-

tist groups in Kashmir Val-

ley. They were taken in a

special IAF plane to Uttar

Pradesh and lodged in Agra

The authorities had air-

lifted 25 people, including

president of Kashmir High

Court Bar Association Mian

Qayoom, on Thursday as a

They are alleged to be

Force plane, they said.

The people, who have a

J&K govt.

to Agra

on Friday.

Central Jail.

counterpart from Pakistan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, wake of change of status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, said that "China will stand up for justice on the

Mr. Wang said that China is "seriously concerned" about the recent escalation of tensions in Kashmir.

Coal India Limited

A Maharatna Company

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Coal India Limited, world's larges

coal producing company, intends to acquire Coking Coal Asset(s)

abroad. Owner(s) of Coking Coal Asset(s) who wish to sell their equity stakes or their

representatives may send their response along with a brief of the

asset(s) to the address given

Coal Videsh & International

Cooperation, Coal India

Limited, Coal Bhawan, Premises No.-04 MAR, Plot

No.-AF-III, Action Area-1A,

Newtown, Rajarhat, Kolkata-

700156, India.

General Manager

Kashmir issue.

dispute left from colonial history. It should be properken." Mr. Qureshi's unschely and peacefully resolved duled arrival in Beijing, prebased on the UN charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements," he said.

Veiled criticism

But in a veiled criticism of India, Mr. Wang said that "China believes that unilateral ac-

"The Kashmir issue is a tions that will complicate the situation should not be tacedes the visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who arrives in the Chinese capital on August 11 to prepare for an informal summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ANDHRA PRADESI TADEPALLIGUDEM - 534101, A.P. INDIA

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR SUPPLY OF Sealed tenders are invited from reputed firms / agencies for the supply of the following item A. Supply & Installation of Furniture for NIT-AP Hotels B. Supply & Installation of Kitchen Equipment's at NIT-AP

All the details can be obtained from the institute website:

Advt. No. NITAP/CS-02/2019-20



AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION **Drainage Project**

Tender Notice

Name of Work :- Development of kharicut canal Between D/S of Narol-Naroda Road To Railway Line in S.Z. of A.M.C. (Rs.15,20,93,972.00)

Date: - 20/08/2019 At: 16:00 Hrs. Prebid Meeting Date:- 03/09/2019 upto 18:00 Hrs Online Submission Upto Physical Submission Date:- 05/09/2019 upto 18:00 Hrs Technical Bid Opening Date:- 05/09/2019 upto 18:05 Hrs Detail and Tender Available on www.nprocure.com 'DIAL: 155303 FOR COMPLAINTS REGARDING MUNICIPAL SERVICES'

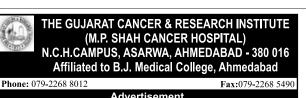


SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE (Through e-procurement portal) BESCOM invites following tenders for the Annual Maintenance Contract (2nd call) of DAS

Rivio's elected under DAS Project in Bengaluru,									
SI. No.	Enquiry No.	Dated		Amount put to tender in lakhs					
1	BESCOM/GM(DAS)/19-20/ AMC/10		345	108.00	1.08				
	BESCOM/GM(DAS)/19-20/ AMC/11		200	83.00	0.83				
3	BESCOM/GM(DAS)/19-20/ AMC/12	09.08.2019	250	131.00	1.31				
4	BESCOM/GM(DAS)/19-20/ AMC/13		195	115.00	1.15				
5	BESCOM/GM(DAS)/19-20/ AMC/14		600	217.00	2.17				

Permanent EMD holders (if any) with BESCOM are Not Exempted from furnishing the Bid security. PEMD holders should also furnish Bid security. Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of Bid documents in e-Procurement portal: 13.08.2019 from 16:00 Hrs onwards. (2) Last Date 8 time for receipt of tender: 05.09.2019 upto 16:00 Hrs. (3) Date & time for opening of Technica Bid: 07.09.2019 16:00 Hrs onwards. The bidders can obtain the tender documents from website free of cost. The prospective bidders are advised to register their user ID, password and company ID from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Any clarification regarding the scope of work and technical features of the project can be had from the undersigned during office hours. Any clarification about e-payment contact e-procurement helpdesk: 080-25501216/25501227 or e-mail to hphelpdesk.blr@gmail.com for any issue. For Electricity related complaints call: 1912 Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

General Manager (DAS&SG) BESCOM, Bengaluru



The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute invites applications for the following posts <u>leaching Post: (1)</u> Associate Professor in Radiotherapy / Surgical Oncology Gynaec Oncology (2) Assistant Professor in Palliative Medicine / Radiotherapy Surgical Oncology/Gynaec Oncology/Medical Oncology/Nuclear Medicine Qualification and Experience: As per the norms of M.C.I. / Government of

For Siddhpur Cancer Care Center:(1) Specialist Palliative Medicine Surgical Oncology / Gyneac Oncology / Radiation Oncology (2) Radiation Oncologist (3) Medical Physicist.

For Saurashtra Cancer Care Center & Research Institute, Rajkot: (1) Specialist Palliative Medicine / Surgical Oncology / Gyneac Oncology $Radiation\,Oncology/\,Medical\,Oncology.$

Applications are invited for above positions: Interested candidates may apply upto 19-08-2019, Monday during office hours in the application form which can be downloaded from our website. For further details please visit our website: www.gcriindia.org. No TA/DA will be admissible for attending interview.



NMDC Limited

Hyderabad-500 028. Telephone:0091-40-23536740 23538713 to 23538721 Ext:228/535/270/230 Fax:23538781 Email:ksmurthy@nmdc.co.in; sansari@nmdc.co.in. CIN: L13100TG1958 GOI001674.

Tender No.: HQMM/3027-18/33XN11/282 GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE Through E- Procurement Mode

Description	Pre Bid Meeting	Display & Sale of Tender Documents Period		Fee Rs/	
Procurement of 1 no. WD XRF Spectrometer for Chemical Laboratory	20-08-2019 at 11 AM	DRAFT 10-08-2019 to 20-08-2019 FINAL 01-09-2019 to 17-09-2019	(IST)		Rs. 2,00,000/- OR US \$ 3000

Prospective bidders may visit our website www.nmdc.co.in; CPP Porta http://eprocure.gov.in; https://mstcecommerce.com and may download the tender documents and also corrigendum if any. Kindly note that an corrigendum to the above tender notice will not be published and uploade inly on NMDC and MSTC website.

Jt. General Manager (Material)

NTPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Sale of NTPC Badarpur Plant Through E-auction NTPC Ltd. is disposing off Plant & Machineries including Plant Bulldings of its 705 MW capacity Badarpur Thermal Power Station, New Delhi through e-auction conducted by M/s MSTC Ltd on its website www.mstcecommerce.com E-auction no. 9807 to be held on 30.08.2019

Inspection period - 09-08-2019 to 29-08-2019

For participation in this e-auction, interested buyers are required to register or www.mstcecommerce.com and submit pre-bid EMD of Rs.8 Crore. For any query, please contact D.G.M. (C&M) NTPC Badarpur Ph. no. 9650996870 or MSTC, Delhi Ph.No.011-23220388. For details please visit www.mstcecommerce.com.

If any claim of any agency remaining with NTPC, Badarpur, they may submit their claim with supporting documents latest by 29/08/2019 beyond which no claim of any of the agencies will be entertained. For Surplus items, may please visit http://ntpctender.com/SurplusStores.asp
Registered Office: NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road,

New Delhi - 110003. CIN: L40101DL1975GOI007960

Leading the Power Sector

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

E-TENDER NOTICE

EOI No.: DVC/EOI/Head Quarter/EM&PC/CMM/DFA/01. Description of work: "Exploring potential buyers to disburse dry fly ash from RTPS, BTPS. CTPS". Documents downloading period & time 14.08.2019; 11:00 hrs. (System Server Time) to 12.09.2019; 12:00 hrs. (System server time). [Applications to be submitted in manual mode only]. For further details please visit on : www.dvc.gov.in Contact No. 9836839595/8210952321. (Inf./08(B)/Misc/19-20)

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)

Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583 Kollam, Kerala, India. Phone: 0476-2686722 to 2686733 (12 Lines), E-mail: contact@kmml.com **TENDER NOTICE**

please visit the E-Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in o www.kmml.com

1 2019_KMML_291606_1 For excavating the Iron Oxide from IIIrd pond to settling Pond I in KMML 'as is where is condition 2 2019 KMML 289982 1 For the supply of 11088 Kg of Stretch wrapping film 3 2019_KMML_291848_1 For Design, Engineering, procurement, manufacturing, supply, Erection, Testing & commissioning and handing over of a 150 TR Brine chilling compressor & Allied

4 2019_KMML_290104_1 For the supply of 7000 MT of Synthetic

5 2019_KMML_290277_1 For the supply of 20000 MT of Raw 6 2019_KMML_292248_1 Civil works for the 14 TPH packaged Boiler in KMML

7 | 2019_KMML_292263_1 | Providing foundation for FRP acid storage HOU (TP/HR) For the Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Spong



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR ender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-3624/01/2019/ 13777, Date: 07.08.201

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL **COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

:- Construction of RCC/ SFRC Pre-cas

Compound wall. Rest Shed of Security Personnel, Approach Road around Shamuka Beach Project, Puri, Odisha

2. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 590.22 Lakhs (apprx.). 3. Period of completion :- 04 (Four) Calendar Months.

4. Other details Availability of Tender Officer Identification No hief General Manage Bid ID. No 14.08.2019 at |04.09.2019 up to

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in e-procuremen oortal www.tenderorissa.gov.in and www.idco.in.

PC/EST/E-19/

2019-20

(P&C), IDCO, IDCO

owers, Bhubaneswai

Chief General Manager (P&C), I/C

16.00 Hrs.

police.



precautionary measure in the wake of constitutional changes made by the government. Besides Qayoom, Mubin Shah, an office-bearer of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce, was also part of the

Mr. Qayoom is a noted lawyer and has been representing many cases in which separatist leaders have been booked by the

Hong Kong leader rules out concessions

Carrie Lam asks protesters to end violence and chaos, warns of lasting economic troubles

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam warned on Friday that two months of pro-democracy demonstrations were causing economic chaos in the city but ruled out making concessions to "silence the violent protesters".

The embattled leader met with business leaders as thousands of pro-democracy activists staged a sit-in at Hong Kong airport, hoping to win international support for their movement.

Ms. Lam, whose support for a Bill to allow extradition to mainland China sparked the crisis, warned that the economic impact of the unrest threatened to be worse than the 2003 SARS outbreak in the financial hub.

"Compared to the economic downturn caused by SARS that we handled previously, which caused an economic storm, the situation this time is more severe," she said at an abruptly organised press conference. "In other words, the economic recovery will take a very long time."



Demonstrators at the arrival hall of the Hong Kong International Airport on Friday. • REUTERS

The private sector and the tourism industry in particular have raised concerns about the economic impact of the ongoing protests on the city, with travel agencies reporting drops of up to 50% in group tour bookings and the tourism board warning of double-digit declines in visitor arrivals in the second

Hong Kong carrier Cathav Pacific has also warned that inbound bookings are down.

Protesters have continued to stage almost daily rallies which have seen increasingly violent confrontations with police, prompting several countries to issue Hong Kong travel warnings for their

Extradition Bill

The protests began two months ago over the controversial extradition Bill but have morphed into a broader movement demanding democratic reforms.

Ms. Lam has refused to cave in to the demands. which include a call for the direct election of the city's Chief Executive, currently chosen by Beijing.

"As far as political solution is concerned, I don't think we should just sort of make concessions in order to silence the violent protesters,"

"We should do what is right for Hong Kong. And at this moment, what is right for Hong Kong... is to stop the violence, and to say no to the chaotic situation that Hong Kong has experienced in the last few weeks, so that

a sit-in at Hong Kong airport's arrivals hall and held up signs in Chinese and English condemning police violence. "No rioters, only tyranny," the demonstrators

chanted as they began a

On Friday, activists staged

we can move on."

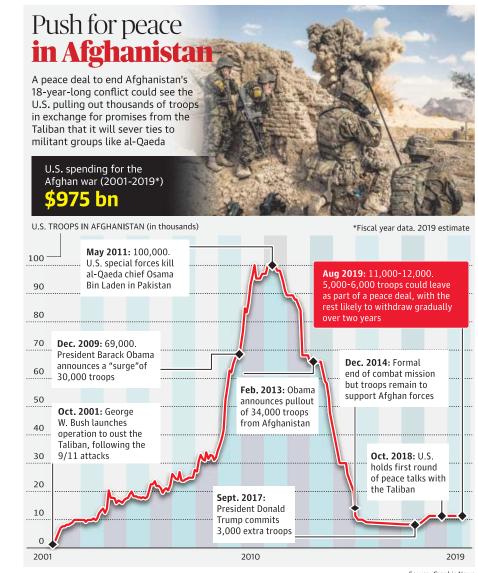
three-day action. "Save Hong Kong from tyranny and police brutality!" read one sign. Protesters have staged increasingly inventive rallies across Hong Kong, and brought out supporters ranging from families to lawyers

backing for their demands. But the demonstrations have also increasingly descended into violence, with police firing tear gas and rubber bullets and protesters hurling bricks and bottles.

in a bid to show the broad

The airport sit-in is the second time the demonstrators have brought their message to the busy travel hub. hoping to garner support from international arrivals.

"Ask me about Hong Kong" read signs in different languages attached to the sleeves of some of the protesters.



China orders Cathay Pacific to suspend staff backing protests

China's aviation regulator on Friday demanded that Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific Airways suspend personnel who have engaged in illegal protests in the city from staffing flights into its airspace from August 10.

Hong Kong has been embroiled in increasingly violent anti-government street protests for the past two months, which a top Chinese official described this week as the greatest crisis since its return from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

Last week, a Cathay pilot was among over 40 people charged with rioting for allegedly taking part in violent clashes with the police near Beijing's main representative office in the city.

On Friday night, the Civil Aviation Administration of

China said the Cathay crew who engaged in the protests pose a threat to aviation safety in mainland China, according to a statement on its

The aviation authority ordered Cathay to provide identification information for its crew on mainlandbound flights. Crew members without the authority's approval will not be allowed

37 dead in ethnic clashes in Chad

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

At least 37 people have been killed in fighting this week between rival ethnic groups in Chad, President Idriss Deby said on Friday.

"The intercommunal conflict has become a national concern," Mr. Deby said. He said that in just three days, 37 people were killed in Ouaddie, a strategic area bordering Sudan.

Trump reassures NRA on gun control

President says group's views 'can be fully represented and respected'

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said on Friday that he has reassured the National Rifle Association that its views about the right to bear arms won't be ignored in Washington's response to recent mass shootings.

Mr. Trump said he is talking with the NRA and others to make sure that their "very strong views can be fully represented and respected".

"I am the biggest Second Amendment person there is, but we all must work together for the good and safety of our Country," Mr. Trump tweeted. "Common sense things

can be done that are good for everyone!" The NRA, however, is un-

compromising when it comes to gun control. Asso-Chief Executive

Wayne LaPierre said in a rare public statement on Thursday that some federal gun control proposals "would make millions of law-abiding Americans less safe and less able to defend themselves

Mr. Trump did not say specifically how the NRA's position could be reconciled with the push for new gun control measures.

and their loved ones".

On Thursday, Senate Ma-

jority Leader Mitch McConnell said he now wants to consider background checks and other action.

At the same time, Mr. Trump said he has a "greater influence now over the Senate and the House", which can be used to rally Republicans around stronger federal background check laws as Congress and the White House work on a response to the mass shootings in U.S.

ELSEWHERE



intelligence director

President Donald Trump on Thursday named Joseph Maguire, the nation's top counterterrorism official, as acting National Intelligence Director, part of a shake-up at the agency that oversees 17 U.S. spy agencies. He is set to replace Sue Gordon. AP

U.S. sends Hezbollah financier to prison

A Lebanese businessman designated by U.S. as a financial supporter of Hezbollah was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to forfeit \$50 million. Kassim Tajideen, 63, pleaded guilty in December last to one count. AFP

Brexit turmoil drives Britain towards recession

GDP falls 0.2% in the April-June period

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Britain's economy unexpectedly shrank in the second quarter of the year on Brexit turmoil, official data showed on Friday, placing the country on the verge of recession.

Gross domestic product fell 0.2% in the April-June period, the first time the economy has contracted in almost seven years, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

The data, which was worse than market expectations for zero growth and also reflects global economic strains, sent the pound sliding against the euro and dollar.

Another contraction in the current third quarter

would put Britain in official recession, ahead of the nation's expected withdrawal from the EU at the end of October. "The latest data reveal an economy in decline and skirting with recession as headwinds from slower global economic growth are exacerbated by Brexit-related paralysis," said IHS Mareconomist Chris

Williamson. The government's official forecaster last month warned that Britain would slide into a year-long recession should it leave the EU without a deal.

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney recently warned that a no-deal Brexit could undermine sectors of the economy such as the car industry and farming.

Chechnya sends former IS members to schools, not jails

They share their experiences about the perils of extremism

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Zalina Gabibulaveva. mother of five, says she was "tricked" into joining the jihadists in Syria five years ago. Now, repentant and repatriated to Russia's Chechnya, she goes to schools to teach others of the dangers of extremism. Countries around the

world are grappling with the question of how to treat citizens who went to the Islamic State "caliphate" and have since decided to return.

That problem is felt particularly keenly in Russia, which has seen thousands of people leave to fight alongside jihadists in Syria, according to President Vladi-



mir Putin.

While some Western nations have stripped IS recruits of citizenship or banned them from coming back, Russia has repatriated women and children.

Most of Russia's IS recruits came from Muslimmajority Caucasus republics, such as Chechnya.

The republic, however. has welcomed in women like Ms. Gabibulayeva – with the expectation that some will go to work to prevent young Muslims from becoming radicalised. "It's very difficult for (the women) to talk about their experience but we get them to understand it's a way to show they repent," says Kheda Saratova, who sits on the rights council of Chechnya's leader Ramzan Kadyrov.

Ms. Saratova hopes Russian authorities will remove their ban on repatriating women from Syria and Iraq. The activist says around 200 women and children have already been brought back.

Huawei unveils 'Harmony' as a rival to Android

First version to launch later this year

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Chinese telecom giant Huawei unveiled its own operating system on Friday, as it faces the threat of losing access to Google's Android platform, amid escalating U.S.-China trade tensions.

The highly anticipated operating system is considered crucial for the tech titan's survival as it confronts a looming White House ban on U.S. companies selling technology products to Huawei, which could remove its access to Android.

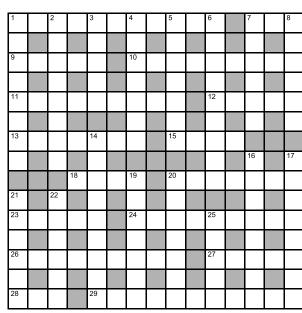
Richard Yu, the head of Huawei's consumer business, revealed HarmonyOS – HongMeng in Chinese – at a press conference in Dongguan. He said the first version would launch later this

year in its smart screen products, before expanding across a range of smart devices, including wearable technology, over the next three years. "If you're asking when will we apply this to the smartphone, we can do it at any time," he said.

"If we cannot use it (Android) in the future, we can immediately switch to the HarmonyOS." But Mr. Yu said Huawei had no plan to "launch a smartphone with HarmonyOS" while noting that "our backup plan is always ready"

Mr. Yu said HarmonyOS was "future oriented" and designed to be "more smooth and secure", which he said was "completely different" from Android and

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12701



CM YK

ACROSS

- 1 With complaining wife everyone comes here to pray
- 7 Decline, it's not the full story
- 9 Talk of heads that are free (5) 10 Account of how one hurried

- 11 Unrelated, perhaps remains the same (9) **12** Good score – in short keen to
- get fifty (5) 13 Sorrowful trend, maybe
- decelerating (7)
- 15 Period to review issue (4) 18 Back a back (4)
- 20 Associated with anonymous business opening (7)
- 24 Arranged loan, Spain gets capital (9)

23 My private breed (5)

- 26 It's a big comedown from a
- height in a curtain (9)
- 27 Reading every compass (5) 28 Feel sorry in a way, while in
- 29 Prefer two boys facing each other, it will give one a jolt
- DOWN

Paris (3)

- 1 Aquatic creatures in half the country (part of Great Britain excluded) (8)
- 2 Devotee says work can wait (8) back with some food (9)

(set by Arden)

- 3 In record time becomes clumsy
- 4 Comprehensive information on the boy (7) **5** A game – make it short (7)
- 6 Raising and going away, regularly seen inside (9)
- 7 Booze partly lost in godowns 8 Criminals crossing English
- 14 Overlap India and China, allow an economic union (9)
- 16 Follow people to the water outlet (8)
- 17 Cheers erupt from mid-level for an astronomer (8) 19 Part that puts husband in a

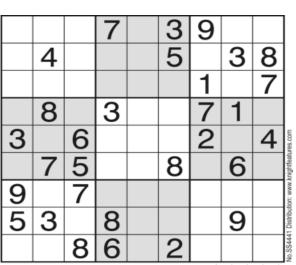
daze (7)

- 20 Agreement as soon as there is TV coverage (7)
- 21 Excels at regular intervals, the song is sweet (6)
- esoteric? (6) 25 For example, Tata's average is

22 Cooler inside, are they

picking up (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12700 Solution to vesterday's Sudoki

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

30	Solution to puzzle 12700										,	oll	itio		ye	sie	ıua	уэ	Juc	IUK				
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R		S		т		S		ш		Τ		z		Ρ	ı	8	3	5	1	6	2	9	4	71
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FAITH

Ignorance is evil

The understanding of the real and the unreal continues to be muddled in people since days of yore. This is because they are influenced by the prevailing varied opinions of people on spiritual and philosophical matters that are mostly based on their personal predilections.

For instance, the Charuvakas, who are well versed in the Vedas, are strong opponents of Vedic knowledge. Guided by the materialistic outlook, their orientation is towards to whatever is worldly. They believe in the reality of what is seen and experienced and hence feel the body mind complex in an individual is more real than the self within which exists and functions in a subtle manner. By firmly establishing the presence of the atma in every living being as the only enduring reality, Adi Sankara paves the way for people to get rid of their ignorant perspective on life and values of human existence, pointed out Nannilam Sri Rajagopala Ganapadigal in a discourse. Even among non-believers, some would say that the body alone is real, and some the life force is real; while some others would argue that the senses, intellect, mind etc as real.

The acharya has endeavoured to interpret Vedic truths with regard to the self and the material world to enable people to analyse the validity of the various perspectives. He affirms that ignorance that deludes is the greatest enemy for man. This is dispelled only by the grace of the Guru who as Dakshinamurthy is source of this knowledge. When one possesses true knowledge, there is no room for ignorance to prevail just as in the presence of light darkness automatically cannot exist. Teachers of spiritual knowledge are hence honoured for they impart the most valuable knowledge, Self knowledge that liberates one from the bonds of samsara.

Public sector banks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

will

Four lenders - Bank of

India, Syndicate Bank, Alla-

habad Bank and Union Bank

- have said they have either

linked the lending rate to re-

po rate or are in the process

Bank of India (BoI),

which reduced its lending

rate with effect from Saturday, said it had decided to

offer repo rate-linked lend-

ing rate to select customer

segments, including perso-

repo rate.

automatically.

of doing so.

nal loans.

rates

link lending, repo rates

MARKET WATCH

	09-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,582	0.68
US Dollar	70.78	-0.12
Gold	38,330	-0.36
Brent oil	58 56	1 75

NIFTY 50		
		CHANG
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank	660.80	0.70
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv	7504.00	213.55
Bajaj Finance	3419.70	85.00
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind	2588.15	10.5
Cipla	484.50	18.5
Coal India	207.60.	-4.2
Dr Reddys Lab	2573.45.	1.50
Eicher Motors		
GAIL (India)	123.85	1.90
Grasim Ind	746.50	9.0
HCL Tech		
HDFC	2211.65	29.3
HDFC Bank	2282.00	48.8
Hero MotoCorp	2622.25	34.3
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
Indiabulls HFL		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank	1413.40	-0.6
Bharti Infratel	252.05	1.80
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank	1532.10	29.3
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
State Bank		
Sun Pharma		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
UltraTech Cement		
UPL		
Vedanta		
Wipro		
YES Bank		
Zee Entertainment	328.10	3.3

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 09								
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL						
US Dollar	70.60	70.92						
Euro	79.05	79.40						
British Pound	85.16	85.58						
Japanese Yen (100).	66.72	67.02						
Chinese Yuan	10.00	10.05						
Swiss Franc	72.53	72.87						
Singapore Dollar	51.07	51.30						
Committee Deller	E2 42	F2 C7						

Malaysian Ringitt

Retail Silver (1g). 47.5....(47.6)

'FPI tax issues put divestment at risk'

Players meet FM, say Centre may take steps to revive overseas investor interest in capital markets

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

The government could risk missing its record ₹1.05 lakh crore divestment target that has been set for the current financial year as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) could stay away from such share sales if the ongoing tax concerns are not resolved soon, according to capital market participants.

The participants, who met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday, also urged her to address the liquidity concerns of nonbanking finance companies (NBFCs) – especially those focussed on consumer spending – before the festive season begins, to spur overall consumption growth in the country.

According to persons fa-



Growth drivers: Between February and June, FPIs bought shares worth nearly ₹83,000 crore. • GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

miliar with the deliberations, the government has taken the suggestions 'positively' and has hinted that it would take all possible steps to revive overseas investor interest in the Indian capital markets.

"The Finance Minister was quite receptive and said that the government would take all necessary steps to allay the concerns of foreign investors," said a person, who was part of the meeting. "Even the PMO [Prime Minister's Office] is involved and is keen to address the tax concerns, which are impacting the capital markets. There was unanimity that the tax surcharge could discourage FPIs from participating in the divestment offerings in the coming months and hence need to be urgently reviewed," he added on

Capital market

players urge FM to

concerns of NBFCs

before the festive

season begins

address liquidity

In the Union Budget 2019-20, the Finance Minister introduced a surcharge for individuals earning more than ₹2 crore. However, FPIs became the collateral damage

durables which reflects a

broad-based consumption

slowdown." The capital

goods sector contracted by

condition of anonymity.

of the proposal as bulk of such investors structure themselves as trusts or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) that are not recognised as a corporate entity by the Income Tax Act and hence are taxed as per the individual tax slabs based on their earnings.

Selling spree

FPIs, often looked upon as prime drivers of any bull run in the Indian stock market, ended July as net sellers at ₹12,419 crore. This was the first time since January 2019 when foreign investors ended a month as net sellers.

Between February and June, FPIs bought shares worth nearly ₹83,000 crore. In the current month till date, FPIs have net sold shares worth ₹11,135 crore.

M&M, Tata Motors to cut production

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) are suspending automobile manufacturing in order to adjust production with demand.

M&M on Friday said it will be suspending production for 8-14 days in the ongoing quarter while Tata Motors confirmed taking steps to align manufacturing with tapering demand.

When contacted, a Tata Motors spokesperson said, "as indicated earlier, external environment remains challenging, leading to demand contraction.

"We have aligned our production to actual demand and adjusted the number of shifts and contractual manpower."



The RBI had reduced the repo rate by 35 bps on

ginal cost of fund based lending rate – days after the Reserve Bank of India reduced the repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) on

Bank of India reduced its one-year MCLR - to which 80% loans are linked – by 25 bps, to 8.35% effective Saturday.

"We are working out the necessary modalities in this regard so as to launch such products during the current

month," BoI said. Syndicate Bank has also decided to link both deposit and lending rates. Home loans by the bank will hence start from 8.3%, which is repo rate plus 2.9 percentage points. "The bank will be exploring development of products of both assets and liabilities linked with external benchmark to transmit the benefits of rate cut to our customers shortly," Allahabad Bank's MD and CEO

S.S.Mallikarjuna Rao said. Union Bank of India said it was planning to link its housing and vehicle loan portfolio to the repo rate.

MCLR cut

These lenders have also reduced their benchmark loan pricing rate - the marWednesday. ■ REUTERS Wednesday.

"We have similar guidance for the coming months as well, when we will endeavour to pass on the benefits of rate cuts," the lender said in a statement.

Bengaluru-based Syndicate Bank also reduced the one-year MCLR by 25 bps to 8.35%. Allahabad Bank's one year MCLR was reduced by 15 bps to 8.4% effective August 14. The Kolkatabased lender also reduced deposits rates on various tenures by 10 bps. The new rate for deposits of 1 year to less than 2 years will be

Indian Overseas Bank also lowered its interest rate on loans by 15 bps in oneyear-and-above tenors and 10 bps in the below-oneyear tenors effective Saturday. Union Bank said, in the current scenario, it expected MCLR to further soften by up to 15 bps.

SpiceJet posts ₹262 cr. profit in June quarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Turning profitable, Spice-Jet on Friday reported its highest-ever quarterly profit of ₹261.7 crore in the three months ended June, even as grounding of Boeing 737 MAX planes impacted the no-frills airline.

The airline plans to induct 5-10 Boeing 737 NG aircraft and three Q400 aircraft during October 2019.

The carrier had a net loss of ₹38.1 crore in the 2018 June quarter.

In the latest June quarter, the airline posted a total income of ₹3,145.3 crore compared with ₹2,253.3 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, according to a statement from the airline.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Import of textile machinery

and accessories in 2018-

2019 grew 24% compared to

the previous year, Jugal

Kishore Pansari, president

of Indian Textile Accessories

and Machinery Manufactur-

ers' Association, said here

Total import of textile

machinery and accessories

last financial year was worth

\$1,165 million. The highest

imports were of digital

(\$430.20 million), account-

ing for 37% of the total im-

ports. Weaving machines

worth \$135.58 million and

spinning machinery and ac-

cessories worth \$96.12 mil-

lion were imported last fis-

cal. Import of spinning

products and machinery

machinery

on Friday.

printing

grew 41.85%.

Textile machinery

imports rise 24% in FY19

Digital printing gear contribute most

IIP growth slips to 4-month low

Manufacturing slows; consumer durables, capital goods shrink

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Growth in industrial production slowed to a four-month low of 1.96% in June 2019, due in large part to a slowdown in the manufacturing sector and a dramatic contraction in the capital goods and consumer durables Growth in the Index of In-

dustrial Production (IIP) stood at 4.55% in May 2019, and at 6.53% in July of last year. Within the index, growth in the manufacturing sector slowed to 1.17% in June 2019 from 4.46% in the previous month. Growth in the mining sector also slowed to 1.62% from 2.42% over the same period.

"This confirms ongoing slowdown focussed in the industrial sector and also in

"Digital printing is a hap-

pening segment in textiles.

The new machines are ver-

satile and fast and save on

water. Hence, the demand is

high for these. Several tex-

tile engineering multina-

tional companies have start-

ed operations in India and

they import parts and acces-

The data shows the po-

tential available for the In-

dian textile engineering sec-

tor. There is an opportunity

for the machinery and

spares manufacturers to

meet the domestic needs,

engineering industry is op-

erating at about 70% capaci-

ty utilisation, serving 65% of

the textile sector's de-

mand," he said. The indus-

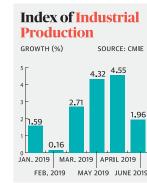
try should improve on the

technology front, he added.

"Today, the Indian textile

he added.

sories," Mr. Pansari said.



the capital goods sector," said D.K. Srivastava, chief policy adviser, EY India.

'Unutilised capacity' "Capital goods contraction

shows the existence of unutilised capacity. New investments are not happening. The relatively serious news is the fall in consumer

6.48% in June, compared with a contraction of 1.41% in the previous month. The consumer durables sector also contracted in June by 5.5%, compared with a growth of 0.3% in May 2019. Construction also slipped

in June, contracting 1.83% compared with a growth of 1.78% in May. Electricity was the only one out of the major IIP groups that saw an acceleration in growth, at 8.19% in June compared with 7.41% in May. "This looks like a trend that will continue until the end of the monsoon because the government's capital expenditure was stalled first because of elections and then the rains," he added.

Hindalco net falls 27.9% on slowdown

Lower commodity prices also prove a drag on the company's profit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

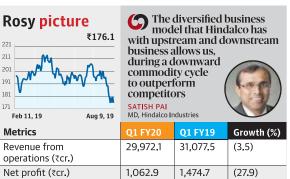
Hindalco Industries Ltd. has reported a 27.9% fall in its first quarter consolidated net profit to \$1,063 crore due to the global downturn and lower commodity prices.

The fall in profits were reported on a 3.6% dip in revenue to ₹29,972 crore and a 13% fall in (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) to ₹3,769 crore.

About 79% of Hindalco's consolidated EBITDA is non-LME linked.

The metals flagship firm of the Aditya Birla Group reported a consolidated profit before tax (and before exceptional items) of ₹1,578 crore during the quarter, compared to ₹2,275 crore in the year earlier period.

"The diversified business model that Hindalco has with upstream and down-



stream business allows the company, in times of a downward commodity cycle, to outperform competitors... The Indian aluminium business was down as the prices of aluminium were down during the quarter," Satish Pai, managing director, Hindalco Industries, told The Hindu.

EPS (₹)

"The organic expansion projects for Novelis in U.S.,

than anticipated." **Funding capex** 1,474.7 (27.9)

gressing on time and on budget. Digital transformation at Novelis is underway to further drive world-class manufacturing operations across regions," the company said in a statement, adding that all regulatory approvals for the Aleris acquisition were expected to close in Q3

On the delay in getting ap-

China and Brazil are pro-

proval for the \$2.1 billion Aleris acquisition, Mr. Pai said, "They are regulatory, dealing with various countries. It's taking a bit more time. EU has taken a bit longei

The company has a total outstanding debt of ₹39,800 crore, with ₹15,545 crore on the books of Hindalco Industries and \$3.5 billion on the books of Novelis, with consolidated net debt to EBITDA at 2.69x as on June 30, 2019.

On deleveraging debts, Mr. Pai said, "Long-term loans remained unchanged from end-FY19. Most of Novelis debt is in the form of bonds. With lower LME prices, we expect to use cash from Hindalco to fund our capex of ₹2,200 crore this fiscal. We are going [into the] downturn with a very strong balance sheet."

rises 2.98%

MRF Q1 net

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tyre maker MRF Ltd. has posted a 2.98% increase in standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 2019 to ₹268.52 crore on increased business volume. During the period under review, revenue from operations grew to ₹4,410 crore from ₹3,836 crore.

Other income increased by ₹34 crore. Raw material costs grew by ₹284 crore and other expenses by ₹133 crore, MRF said in a filing.

Operating profit stood at ₹412 crore (₹397 crore).

MRF said its listed secured redeemable nonconvertible debentures aggregating to ₹340 crore were secured by way of legal mortgage of its land in Gujarat and hypothecation of first charge on plant and machinery at its plants in Perambalur, equivalent to the outstanding amount.

CSCs target one lakh EV charging stations

With village-level entrepreneurs' participation, we will be larger than IOC, says CEO

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

Common Service Centres (CSCs), which come under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, plan to open one lakh charging stations for electric vehicles across the country in the next few years, as the country plans to transition to such vehicles from the current combustion engine-powered automobiles.

"The entire country is talking about electric vehicles. We want to open one lakh charging stations in the country by the time at least 30% of vehicles in the country are electric... Our VLEs (village level entrepreneurs) are very excited about the idea... With one lakh outlets we will be even bigger than IOC," CSC e-Governance



Dual power: Initially, there will be facility to charge both lead acid batteries as well as lithium-ion ones. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

Chief Executive Officer Dinesh Tyagi told *The*

CSC has already started a pilot project in Delhi [near Delhi Hatt]. Mr. Tyagi said in about a month, a couple of charging stations should be up and running. "To start with, these would have

facility to charge both lead acid battery as well as lithium-ion ones... as transition will take time."

Tie-up with Siemens For the charging infrastructure, CSC has tied up with technology giant Siemens as "we don't want

to compromise on quality," Mr. Tyagi said, adding that the price of each charging station would be in the range of ₹70,000-₹3 lakh. "Depending on the

demand and consumer behaviour, we will build business models. We can also provide a battery swapping model," he said, adding that the CSCs could also help people switch from lead acid to lithium-ion batteries. CSC e-Governance Services India is a Special Purpose Vehicle set up by MeitY to oversee implementation of the CSC scheme to enable access to information technology in

rural areas. The CSCs, run by these entrepreneurs, offer egovernance services, such as bill payments, filling up and submission of forms.

Britannia to raise prices, says MD

'It will take six months to a year for demand to pick up'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Food major Britannia Industries Ltd. (BIL) will increase the prices of select product portfolios by up to 4% while guarding against any adverse impact on consumer demand, said MD Varun Berry said.

Addressing the media, he said that it will take between six months to a year for the consumer demand to pick up. "It is important that demand comes back and there are many steps required for corporates and the government towards this end." He, however, did not elaborate.

Rising costs

He said while BIL's Q1 sales had grown by over 1% to ₹2,767.8 crore despite the slowdown, profit had been impacted by rising impact costs (especially milk).

"Many have pulled back



Varun Berry

on their advertisement and promotional expense... but we continue to spend on promotion," he pointed out.

BIL's standalone net profit was ₹250.2 crore against ₹246.2 crore in the year-earlier period. Consolidated net profit, however, dropped to ₹248.6 crore from ₹258.1 crores in the year-earlier period.

Having embarked on a journey to become a total foods company from a biscuit firm, BIL has marked its

footprint in milk, salted snacks and 'adjacencies' like croissants, cream wafers, cakes and premium cookies. Its ₹1,500-crore investment in a mega food park in Ranjangaon in Maharashtra will be followed by capital

Mr. Berry said it will invest in a facility in West Bengal's Kharagpur, once demand picks up. Earlier, addressing shareholders at the AGM, BIL chairman Nusli Wadia said that firming up plans here will depend on "the facilities Bengal gives

expenditure of ₹200-crore

for future innovation.

To a question on regional players, who command around 27% of the ₹30,000crore organised biscuit market, Mr. Berry said that they were "struggling somewhat at this juncture" allowing the bigger ones to increase their shares.

A ND-NDE

its standalone net profit to ₹14.61 crore for the first quarter ended June 2019. The firm had posted a loss of ₹55 lakh in the same quarter of the previous year Revenue dropped to ₹554 crore from ₹575 crore. "Even though revenues have seen a marginal downturn, I am confident that the sales will pick up in the ensuing quarters," said Ashwin Muthiah, chairman, SPIC.





The shares closed at 82.10 This round of equity capital raising will lead to 10% dilution, Motilal Oswal, JM Financial, CLSA, among others, were the investment banks that handled the QIP. Indian Bank, Chola MS

Yes Bank shares

tank 8% after QIP

8% on Friday after its

qualified institutional

Yes Bank shares fell close to

placement, through which

the lender was planning to

raise ₹2,000 crore. The QIF

Thursday, post market hours,

was fully subscribed. On

the lender had set the QIP

floor price at ₹87.9 apiece.

ally for bancassurance

Indian Bank has entered into a corporate agency pact with

Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co. Ltd. (Chola MS)

for distribution of the latter's insurance products to Indian

Bank customers. Chola MS insurance products - ranging

from motor, home, health,

travel insurance, SME, fire,

insurance - will be offered

engineering and marine

through traditional and

digital platforms to the

bank's customers, the

SPIC Q1 net rises 27

times to ₹14.61 crore

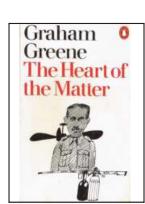
Southern Petrochemicals

Industries Corp. Ltd. (SPIC)

has posted a 27-time rise in

company said in a

statement.



The film adaptation of The Zova Factor releases next month, two other books of hers have been picked up by

heavyweights (Anil

Kapoor and YRF, if

and there's a Hotstar

bout 13 years ago, advertising ex-

ecutive Anuja Chauhan found her-

self on an ad shoot for Pepsi with Shah Rukh Khan, Saif Ali Khan, R Mad-

havan and Surya. The plan was to shoot

a multi-lingual commercial with the

stars over a span of four days. "We had

an insane number of shots to be done in

one day, and were compromising a lot. I

felt so helpless and out of control, be-

cause I had written something and we

were shooting something completely

different," she remembers. On her way

back to the hotel, she decided to write a

book because "no one could mess it

Thus was born the love story bet-

ween Zoya Singh Solanki, a young ad-

vertising executive, and the dashing

captain of the Indian Cricket team, Nik-

hil Khoda. Chauhan, after 17 years at

the ad agency JWT India - having creat-

ed memorable slogans like Pepsi's Yeh

Dil Maange More and Darr ke Aage Jeet

Hai – decided to pivot to a full-time lit-

erary career in 2010. In the years since,

she's written four more bestsellers -

Battle for Bittora, Those Pricey Thakur

Girls, The House That BJ Built and Baaz

(the story of a fighter pilot who falls in

love with a colleague's sister).

you must know),

series coming up

KARISHMA UPADHYAY

Last book that made you laugh? The Bartimaeus Trilogy by Jonathan Stroud. He's so funny,

What are you reading now? Graham Greene's The Heart of the Matter. It's so depressing; I have no idea why I picked it up. Literary character you love? Yossarian, from



And web series... your pick?

Fleabag. I loved the first season of Stranger Things but subsequent seasons had me scratching my head. Among Indian shows, I love The Viral Fever's Kota Factory. I also enjoyed Made in Heaven but kept wishing it had a smidgen of romance somewhere.



Anuja Chauhan:

READY FOR



This September, Chauhan, 48, is all set to make another career jump. The Zoya Factor has been adapted for screen with Sonam Kapoor and Dulquer Salmaan in the lead and director

Abhishek Sharma at the helm. The author is credited with 'Additional Dialogues' for the film. "While I haven't met Dulquer, I've interacted with Sonam often. The first time I met her, she

pulled out all my books which looked old and well-read. She asked me to sign all her copies," recalls Chauhan, who is working on two original web series that are 'all hush-hush for now'.

But that's not all. Battle for Bittora has been optioned by Anil Kapoor Films while YashRaj Films recently picked up Baaz and Hotstar has announced a series based on Those Pricey Thakur Girls.

It began with Shah Rukh

The Zoya Factor's journey from book to screen has been a long one. Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment had first optioned the book. "On that Pepsi shoot, when Shah Rukh had gotten to know that I [was] writing a book, he'd said 'I'll make the film'. He had called dibs on it even before I had finished it. They were excited but eventually nothing happened. The book was languishing when Pooja and Aarti Shetty (of WalkWater Media) got in touch, saying they wanted to make it," says the author who relocated to Bengaluru from Mumbai five years ago.

Chauhan credits her time in advertising for having honed a writing style that seems tailor-made for screen adaptions. "When you write ads, you're visualising things and have to put the audio and the video together when you're creating it. Once you have a style, it stays," Chauhan explains, quickly adding, "But it's not easy because you have to trim the fat for a film and my books have so many layers and characters. This is why I was so happy that for The Zoya Factor I was brought in only after someone else had already chopped it. All I had to do was put a neat bow on it."





No lotus-eater

Laughing over the romantic notion most people have about a writer's life and process, she says, "Writing is a job and it's as unromantic as any other sort of work. When my kids were younger, I'd start when they left home at 7 am and keep writing until they returned at 4 pm. I am not so regimented now that I am working on a web series, but I write a regular magazine column just to keep that deadline muscle toned; you don't want to become some flakey, lotus-eating type." Five years ago, her move from Gurugram to the Garden City has also helped. "I get so much respect now when I go to Mumbai because people think living in a 'jungle' must mean that I am wise," she says laughing, adding that she is "happy to live in a 'jungle' with my animals, many gardens and great weather. It's a lovely township...And you have just enough space to not feel crowded".

Of weird gurus and reality

Chauhan was initially adamant that she didn't want to be involved with the adaption of this book. "I was so manically possessive about every little detail... I was also a little sick of it. At the time, I had spent one year writing the book and I wanted to be done with it. Also, I had started writing Battle for Bittora so, in my head, I had moved on. And I still had a full-time job." Perhaps the delay in getting the film green-lit helped, for she was excited about revisiting her first novel. Once Dulquer was cast to play Nikhil, there was some talk about tweaking the character to suit the Southern star. They ultimately didn't. "We thought that his character could be from Kerala but when I heard him speaking Hindi, I realised that we didn't need to do that. His Hindi is perfect."

The cricket team that Nikhil leads is one that's desperate to win the World Cup. After all, the book was written before Team India lifted the World Cup in 2011 but apart from this little detail

Chauhan believes that The Zoya Factor is more relevant now than it was then. "It's quite weird because of the state of the nation today, with the kind of superstitions, blind faith and the worshipping of Godmen and all these weird gurus. The idea that superstition makes Zoya the mascot for the team seems less far-fetched now."

Working on the dialogues for the film gave Chauhan a taste of what it would be like to collaborate with others once again. When she quit advertising, she imagined herself being a 'nightie-person' who spent her days writing books that she had complete control over. But the very safe, creative and constructive atmosphere with Pooja, Aarti and Abhishek for this film has readied her for collaborations with others and a new medium.

"I am currently working on the Thakur Girls adaption. It's all very exciting. Maybe if OTT platforms were around in 2006, I might not have written any of my books," muses Chauhan.

Waves and poetry with Ditty

Back in Delhi soon after the release of her debut album, singer-singwriter Ditty talks about poetry creating an experience through her album

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

The calming sounds of waves wash over you when you press play on Ditty's debut album Poetry Ceylon. Then, lilting, rhythmic music builds into poetry. Ditty is talking to us, telling us of coming back home to her roommate, after a particularly tough trip to the grocery store, where she's had many little memories with her former partner.

This recollection is not entirely melancholy - she thinks back fondly to the conversation, how her roommate comforted her, "collecting the pieces of her sadness." But the tone changes soon, as early as the second track, when her words take to tune; the ambient sounds are present but



Talking music Ditty will soon perform in the city RONIT SARKAR, GORKEY PATWAL

not as prominent, only coming back when they're needed. This well-thought-out execution of an artistic expression is of 30-year-old urban ecologist Aditi Veena's (aka Ditty) time in Sri Lanka. She has has broken the path of complacence towards which Indian "indie" seemed to be heading. The truncated word for independent artists, has quickly taken on a "vibe" of its own, denoting a whole genre by itself.

"For me, song-writing is essentially having a conversation with myself...I just let things come. I don't necessarily think about what's going to work or not," says Ditty, whose spokenword makes us feel like we've stolen a few pages off her journal; the ambient sounds transport us to exactly where she 'd want us to be.

Ahead of her performance in Delhi, at the monthly musical series Untures the Hindustani singer from Mumbai Nirali Kartik), Goa-based Ditty talks about how her day job inspires her work, and the art of performing such delicate, themed albums live. Edited excerpts.

It's been four years since your EP, Mumblings. How do you think your music and writing have evolved?

I feel like I can write better songs now. I know myself more. Mumblings was my first attempt at songwriting. This time I was writing a whole record.

You started work on Poetry Ceylon in October 2017. What's the process been like?

I suppose I was thinking of the whole album as one piece – like an experience, as a journey for people to float in and out of through poetry and music. That's how I like to perform it as well, especially when I'm playing with a band.

Has your work in urban ecology ever influenced your music?

Yes. Meeting permaculturist Raya

Cole of Living Ecology, and working on a permaculture farm, for instance, inspired Under the Sun [the final track in Poetry Ceylon].

How big a part of the conceptualizing of Poetry Ceylon were its ambient sounds?

Most of the album was first recorded in my bedroom by Shantanu Pandit [Delhi-based musician]. But I recorded Under the Sun myself, in my garden. The birds sounded so beautiful, and I decided to make that the last track. And then came in more ambient sounds [for the rest of the tracks on the album].

There's a sense that the spokenword must be experienced at a personal level, rather than at a gig. Do you agree? How do you recalibrate when you perform these tracks for a live audience?

A lot of people have reached out to me to tell me that they've been touched by the spoken-word pieces. I got more confident about putting the songs on the album after performing them to audiences who loved them. It's been lovely performing in live spaces. I have consciously chosen to do curated shows and not play in bars or restaurants because they give me a chance to connect with the audience in front of me.

Under The Banyan Tree; 7 p.m. onwards at 1AQ, Opposite Qutub Minar, Mehrauli; tickets ₹1,500 upward, on friendsofmusic.in

PRODUCTS

Rainforest seating

Transport yourself to Malaysia's Borneo rainforest with this ode to a mushroom. Built to lend your living room an earthy feel, the Oyster Lounge is intricately handcrafted out of refurbished teak wood. The circular seat also sports a tel pani polish finish, blending seamlessly into almost

any kind of decor. Details on artisera.com;

Dog's day



Legend has it that at a board meeting, David Brown, owner of Aston Martin, walked in with his dog, plonked him on the table, and demanded, "Build me something for him to sit in." Thus was born the Aston Martin DB5 Shooting Brake. The 1965 vintage had a limited-edition run of a dozen cars. It's up for auction by RM Sotheby's at the Monterey Car Week (August 15-17, and is expected to go for between USD \$1 million and \$1.4 million.

Details on rmsothebys.com

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



Noted musician and writer Vidya Shah teams up with the popular radio personality Sayema Rahman for a musical evening, Aaj Jaane ki Zid Na Karo, Romancing the Ghazal. The show features some of the most romantic, celebrated ghazals of all time with interesting anecdotes, trivia and stories about them and the artists. **VENUE:** Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre TIME: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



Rakhi making

This Sunday, The Earth Collective, a group of organic food-lovers and farmers, is conducting a workshop on rakhi-making. Organised by Yatan, an NGO, this workshop will educate the participants on adding seeds as decoration on the rakhis, so that it can grow into trees when the day is done.

VENUE: Sunder Nursery, Nizamuddin TIME: 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.



Arangetram

The Bharathanatyam arangetram of Shreeya Srikanth, a student of Guru Kanaka Srinivasan, an exponent of the Vazhuvoor School of Bharatanatyam, will be held this evening. Shreeya has been learning this ancient art for the past 11 years and has been part of various dance productions under her Guru's tutelage. **VENUE:** The Delhi Tamil Sangam, RK Puram TIME: 6:30 p.m.



Khadi way

Good Earth, a home décor chain of stores, has launched, The Khadi Way by 11.11/eleven eleven, a unique hand spun collection. An ode to Mahatma Gandhi, this collection celebrates Gandhiji's legacy of hand spun and handwoven textiles made from desi cotton on the wheels of Gandhi Charkha and Amber Charkha. **VENUE:** Good Earth Store, Khan Market **TIME:** 12 noon - 8 p.m.



The Unknown

Divyansh Vyas, an aspiring writer, whose poems have been aired on AIR, has now penned a play titled The Unknown that will be staged this Sunday. The play deals with the idea of an artist's unchecked ego to satiate his desires and the extreme importance he gives to himself for producing art.

Venue: Akshara Theatre, Baba Kharak Singh Marg

FILM REVIEWS



A journey through horror that sees some changes in the characters • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

There will be blood

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark makes you momentarily recoil at the gruesome and the hideous

NAMRATA JOSHI

If one were to talk of Scarv Stories to Tell in the Dark in Indian terms then, instead of bhava (fear), it evokes quite another rasa – veebhatsa or that of revulsion; here the macabre disgusts. Instead of becoming the stuff of your worst and most abiding nightmares, this scary movie makes you momentarily recoil at the gruesome and the hideous. It doesn't quite manage to mess with your head and heart enough to haunt you long after it's over.

An adaptation of Alvin Schwartz's popular tales, Andre Ovredal's Scary Stories... it feels like a mix of the The Twilight Zone and Urban Legend. But a bland one despite some good acting and atmospherics. It is set in 1968, during the 'season of the witch', in the American small town of Mill Valley. These are the times of the Vietnam War's horrors, of the cult horror film Night of the Living Dead, of Nixon on the eve of the presidential elections and also of openly racist bullying. However, beyond the incipient uneasiness, uncertainty and a sense of the sinister, there is a bigger evil looming large, at a specific address: the haunted house of the Bellows, the site of a tortured childhood. A group

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

DIRECTOR: Andre Ovredal

STARRING: Zoe Colletti, Michael Garza, Gabriel Rush, Austin Zajur, Natalie Ganzhorn, Austin Abrams RUN TIME: 107.29 minutes STORYLINE: A group of youngsters in small town America of 1968 visits a haunted house, returns home with a book of stories only to find newer, malevolent ones getting written on its blank pages

youngsters visits it for a short while, returns home with a book of stories belonging to its now dead resident – young Sarah – only to find it transcending time with newer, malevolent ones getting written on its blank pages with blood. "You don't read the book, the book

reads you", they are warned. Scary Stories... ticks a bunch of requisite boxes when it comes to what is needed in a typical horror film. There is a restless spirit, bent on settling scores for the wrongs done unto her. There are a handful of cool monsters – Harold the Scarecrow; the Jangly Man the dismembered one who drops down the chimney and reassembles his body parts into a disgusting whole

Painfully preachy

A stellar supporting cast cannot uplift Jabariya Jodi, a lacklustre romcom disguised as a social message

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

Robin Hood stole from the rich and gave to the poor. In Jabariya Jodi, Abhay Singh (Sidharth Malhotra) kidnaps men who demand dowries and forces them to marry voung women at a fraction of the cost. Both are some form of social work, right? At least that's what director Prashant Singh had in mind when making his debut with Jabariya Jodi. The film is yet another half-hearted attempt to cash in on the hinterland milieu that's popular with Bollywood these days. What Singh envisioned is a romcom that would capture life in contemporary Patna, while simultaneously imparting a message on abol-

dom to marry. Unfortunately, the execution fails at the get go with the casting of Malhotra. The actor, try as he might, cannot embody the disposition or essence of a Patna lad.

ishing dowry and the free-

Jabariya Jodi

DIRECTOR: Prashant Singh cast: Sidharth Malhotra, Parineeti Chopra, Javed Jaffrey, Sanjay Mishra, Aparshakti Khurana, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Neeraj Sood. Sheeba Chaddha STORYLINE: Abhay Singh who kidnaps grooms for a living, ends up in a similar

Like someone forced, pun intended, to messy up, Malhotra stands out sorely, as he mouths dialogue in a dialect he's clearly uncomfortable with. That coupled with the zero chemistry he has with the feisty Babli Yadav (Parineeti Chopra), makes for a terrible combination. When Abhay isn't being incorrigible – like poking holes in condoms so the eventual baby compels a forced-couple to stay married - he's painfully preachy, whether he's wishing for a daughter or waxing eloquent on the ill-effects of *jabariya pyaar* and shaadi (forced relationships and weddings).

Babli, for all the 'freedom', comes across as less independent and more deranged. In spite of Jabariya Jodi being a romcom that requires two people, the film's entire focus is on its male protagonist. Babli is just an accessory to Abhay's redemption arc. And even as Sanjeev K Jha's screenplay unfurls without an ounce of unpredictability, the crux of the film, its love story, takes infuriatingly long to progress. Then there's the fact that the film's director thinks women in Bihar roam about in mid-riff-baring crop-tops. Even worse are the film's product placements - a blood pressure machine, Manyavar and Gas-O-Fast antacid – that will induce eye

rolls galore. The redemption then, for Jabariya Jodi is fleeting and in spurts. Thanks to a cracking supporting cast, the film isn't entirely an oppressive watch. Sanjay Mishra, as Babli's patient and benevolent father, shines in every moment he's on screen. Javed Jaffrey as Abhay's father, is equal parts the menacing wannabe Bihari politiciancum-thug as well as sassy joker. Some of the best deliciously cheesy lines are devoted to his camaraderie with subordinate goons. Aparshakti Khurana as Babli's pal Santo is hilarious in spite of the injustice meted out to his character. It's as if every single actor, with the exception of the lead duo, have done their best for Jabariya Jodi. Unfortunately,



The connection between the lead pair is simply not there • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Fun family adventure

and a talking monkey to find

them ahead of evil, mercen-

With thrills, humour and life lessons, it is happy times at the movies with *Dora* and the Lost City of Gold

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

This live-action adaptation of the Nickelodeon and Nick Jr. show, Dora the Explorer finds a 16-year-old Dora leaving the jungle to tackle the scariest place on earth, high school, in Dora and the Lost City of Gold.

When her explorer parents drop off the grid while searching for the mystical lost city of the Incas, it is up

Simple fare for those who love nostalgia

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to Dora, her cousin Diego, ary treasure hunters. the school dork and dorkess,

The film, directed by James Bobin, (Alice through

the Looking Glass) is ener-

getic and good humoured. The CGI does not work, but that too is a relief after the photo-realistic Simba and gang in Lion King, which is

Dora and the Lost City of Gold

DIRECTOR: James Bobin CAST: Isabela Moner, Eugenio Derbez, Michael Peña, Eva Longoria, Danny Trejo STORYLINE: A teenage Dora and her group of friends. have to save her parents and find a lost Incan city RUN TIME: 102 minutes

it's just not enough.

still raking in much moolah.

Isabela Moner as Dora is sweet and committed, while Eugenio Derbez as Aleiandro, the mandatory inept adult in children's adventures, is competent enough. Michael Peña and Eva Longoria play Dora's parents Cole and Elena. Peña's impromptu rave session was quite funny. Voice work by Danny Trejo (Boots the monkey) and Benicio del Toro (annoying Swip-

Dora and the Lost City of Gold though not explicitly stating the time it's set in, has a nostalgic feeling of adventure of the movies one watched as a child, when everything was simpler. Without gross mind flavers. the film offers an escape for a little window of time, in a now complex world.

er the Fox) makes the cut.

POOCH CAFE







and, of course, the pale,

smiling lady who embraces

only to consume you. Then

there is the gruesome Toe

monster found in the bowl of

stew and a disgusting, un-

controllable zit, the red spot

which has spiders run amok.

It's these grisly beings that

The monsters could have

had more meaning than

meets the eye. When it

comes to Guillermo de Toro

(one of the producers and

screenplay writers), mon-

sters are often mirror images of the marginalised, and

hence, a conduit for persua-

sive social commentary.

They don't quite plumb the philosophical depths here.

However, the journey

through horror does make

the young protagonists con-

front their worst of fears.

Stories hurt, they heal and

often they turn real to make

people face up to who they

are. It makes Ramon (Mi-

chael Garza) find a direction

in life and has Stella (excel-

lent Zoe Colletti) realise that

she isn't quite accountable

for the guilt she had been

needlessly harbouring for

long. It also makes her take

the responsibility of telling

the real story of another girl

who has been wronged all

along. A film that comes a

wholesome full circle even

while dealing with spooky

uncertainties.

make the film come alive.











THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13145



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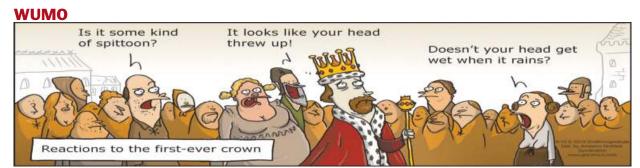
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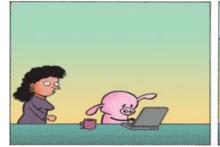
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TIGER





PEARLS BEFORE SWINE





GRAFFITI The world has takers and THE TAKERS EAT BETTER GIVERS

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HEALTH CAPSULES®

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TO HEALTH? THE USE OF HONEY IS LINKED TO A HEALTHY ELIFESTYLE, THOSE WHO REGULARLY EAT HONEY ARE 2 MORE LIKELY TO WATCH THEIR SODIUM, SUGAR AND CALORIE INTAKE, THEY ARE

LESS LIKELY TO BECOME OVERWEIGHT OR SUPPER FROM HIGH CHOLESTEROL OR DIABELES, HONEYBEES POLLINATE 2 MILLION FLOWERS TO MAKE ONE POUND OF HONEY. Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic for our © GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

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2 Attendant – wed star



Arsenal snaps up

Brazilian defender David Luiz was signed by Arsenal on Thursday on a permanent transfer from Chelsea. The 32-year-old centre-back has a wealth of experience and has made 524 club appearances in a career spanning over 13 seasons. He has completed a shock move from Chelsea to Arsenal in an £8 million

number 23 jersey. ANI



of Lord's Hundred team

Legendary Australian legspinner Shane Warne has been appointed coach of Lord's-based London team for next year's Hundred competition. Warne was captain-cum-coach when Rajasthan Royals famously won the first-ever Indian Premier League title. Former Australia women's coach Lisa Keightley will coach the women's Lord's-based team. The Hundred is a 100-ball format that is set to be launched in July next year with the men's and women's concurrently over a five-week period. IANS



A Brazilian judge on Friday Neymar vehemently denied allegations he raped a Brazilian woman in a Paris

Delhi Half Marathon registrations open

Procam International, the pioneers of distance running movement in India, announced that the registrations for the 15th edition of Airtel Delhi Half Marathon scheduled for October 20 are now open The start line of this IAAF attract 35,000 athletes across five categories — Half Marathon (21.097km), Great Delhi Run (5km), Open 10K, Senior Citizens' Run (3.2km) and Champions with Disability (3.2km). Bharti Airtel CEO, Delhi & NCR, Vani Venkatesh said, "The Delhi Half Marathon is a landmark event and the most prestigious half marathon in the world. It is simply amazing to see so many participants from across the world and India come together to celebrate the human spirit and run for a

Pranesh bags junior title

ABU DHABI Twelve-year-old M. Pranesh clinched the junior title, with eight points, in the Abu Dhabi International chess festival here on Friday. In fact, all the top four places were won by Indians.

Other Indians (top four): 2. Kushagra Mohan (7.5), 3. L.R. Srihari (7.5), Aaryan Varshney

Serena takes on Osaka in quarterfinals

Another Federer landmark falls to Nadal

ROGERS CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Serena Williams and Japan's Naomi Osaka booked a rematch of last year's US Open final in the Rogers Cup Toronto quarterfinals after straight-set triumphs on Thursday.

Reigning US and Australian Open champion Osaka broke at love in the final game to defeat Polish teen Iga Swiatek 7-6(4), 6-4 in one hour and 51 minutes.

World No. 10 Williams was broken twice and dropped the first three games in 10 minutes then battled back to defeat Russia's 48th-ranked Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-5, 6-4 in 91 minutes.

That set the stage for 37year-old Williams to face

"I've been actually looking forward to playing her for a while," Williams said. "She has had a great year early in the season and she's still doing pretty good."

It will be their first match since the controversial finish to their Grand Slam showdown last year in New York.

"I guess I'll treat it like a regular quarterfinal, but I ha-

Focused: Naomi Osaka says she is super grateful to get the chance to play Serena Williams. • AFP

ven't been in a quarterfinal in a while," Osaka said.

"I'm just really excited. I grew up watching her, so whenever I get the opportunity to play her, it's something I feel is a once-in-alifetime opportunity.

"And it feels more like I'm showcasing my skills to her, like, 'Look what I can do?' You know what I mean? So I go into the matches with that mentality. And just super

grateful to get the chance to play her."

Pliskova chases No. 1 ranking

Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova kept the pressure on Osaka in the battle to take the World No. 1 ranking by alreaching quarterfinals.

Pliskova eliminated Estonia's Anett Kontaveit 6-3, 7-5 to set up a last-eight clash

with rising Canadian star Bianca Andreescu, who outlasted fifth-seeded Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens 6-1, 6-7(7), 6-4. Pliskova, 27, must reach the final to have any chance of taking the top spot next week for the first time since

Rolling on Meanwhile in Montreal, Rafael Nadal stepped closer to a

claim the No. 1 berth.

record 35th Masters title dispatching Argentina's Guido Pella 6-3, 6-4.

The Spanish World No. 2 has now notched up the most wins in the elite series, with his 379th Masters victory surpassing Roger Federer by one.

Nadalcould add another Masters footnote to his epic resume if he successfully defends his Canadian crown for the all-time trophy mark.

The results (third round): At Montreal: Daniil Medvedev bt Christian Garțn 6-3, 6-3; Dominic Thiem bt Marin Cilic 7-6 (7), 6-4; Karen Khachanov bt Fşlix Auger-Aliassime 6-7 (7). 7-5, 6-3; Alexander Zverev bt Nikoloz Basilashvili 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (5); Rafael Nadal bt Guido Pella 6-3, 6-4; Fabio Fognini bt Adrian Mannarino 6-2, 7-5: Gael Monfils bt Hubert Hurkacz 6-4 6-0; Roberto Bautista Agut bt Richard Gasquet 7-5, 7-5.

At Toronto: Sofia Kenin bt Davana Yastremska 6-2, 6-2: Elina Svitolina bt Belinda Bencic (6-2, 6-4; Karolina Pliskova bt Anett Kontaveit 6-3, 7-5; Bianca Andreescu bt Kiki Bertens 6-1, 6-7(7), 6-4; Simona Halep bt Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-1; Marie Bouzkova bt Jelena Ostapenko 6-2, 6-2; Serena Williams bt Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-5, 6-4; Naomi Osaka

Aishwarya set for Hungarian challenge

MOTORSPORTS

VARPALOTA (HUNGARY)

India's Aishwarya Pissay will seek to win the FIM World Cup as she begins her campaign in the Hungarian Baja – the fourth and final round of the championship – on Saturday.

The 23-year-old is leading the women's category by seven points, after having won in Dubai, finishing third in Portugal and fifth in Spain.

Looking ahead to the event, Aishwarya said: "Going into the Hungarian Baja, I am hopeful of performing better than in the previous round since the World Cup is at stake.

Not easy

"It will not be easy as I have to negotiate nearly 590 kms of special stages, but I am up for the challenge. After the last round in Spain, I stayed back to train.

"So, I have done pretty much all I can in terms of preparations. My focus here will be on performing well and the results will follow."



Aishwarya Pissay. FILE PHOTO: M. PERIASAM

has 52 points, followed by Portugal's Rita Vieira (45) and Spaniard Sara Garcia Alvarez (36).

The trio, along with two other women riders, will be going head-to-head in what promises to be an exciting battle.

Five special stages

The Hungarian Baja comprises five special stages totalling 588.26 kms besides 205.66 of liaison section.

The competitors will be flagged-off late on Friday night for SS-1 (7.18 kms) near to this former mining town before heading out to complete the remainder of the course over the weekend.

Nadal and Federer join hands

Make joint decision to enter ATP Player Council

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MONTREAL

World No. 2 Rafael Nadal said that he and long-time rival Roger Federer made a joint decision to stand for the ATP Player Council.

The 33-year-old Spaniard, an 18-time Grand Slam singles winner, confirmed the choice by the pair of icons at the ATP Montreal Masters.

Federer, a 20-time Slam

singles champion, and Nadal were elected by fellow players to fill two of the vacancies caused by the resignations of Robin Haase, Jamie Murray and Sergiy Stakhovsky prior Wimbledon.

"We decided to be together out there," Nadal said. "I will not be alone there. He will not be alone there. Both of us can (combine to) be a good power, good help for the sport in some way hopefully in a better way.

"We are here to help and to know a little bit better what's going on. Last year there were some ups and downs in a lot of things."

Controversy has arisen over the past months concerning various issues, with ATP Council president Novak Djokovic often on the opposite side of discussions from Nadal and Federer.



Comrades in arms: Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer will work together for the betterment of the sport. • AFF

Shiva wins Team of Four Bronze title

BRIDGE

NEW DELHI

Shiva defeated Apanjan 116-85 to clinch the title in the Team of Four Bronze event of the 17th HCL International bridge championship at the Aerocity.

In the semifinals of the Team of Four Gold contest, K1 Plus led 65.5-33 against Don Julio, while Russia was 56.3-50 against South Sweden, at the halfway stage.

In the Team of Four Silver contest, Pradeep led 79-22 against I-Doctors, at the halfway stage of the semifinals. Hope N Pray led 69-53 against ICSA Group in the other semifinal.

In the Open Match Point Pairs event, 52 pairs qualified to the third elimination round from 132. They were joined by 20 pairs from the losing quarterfinalist teams. The 72 pairs play four sessions of nine tables each.

The top 26 teams will play Match Point Pairs Gold final. The teams ranked 27-52 will play the Match Point pairs Silver final and the rest of the 20 will play the IMP Pairs final.

Ghnsyam Pal and Abhuit Datta emerged the champion from the Match Point Pairs Strata-2, from among 228 pairs.

The IMP Pairs events began on Friday with 258 teams. It will lead to 84 qualifiers for the IMP Pairs final to be played on Saturday. The non-qualifiers will play IMP Pairs Strata-2 event.

Other results: Team of Four Gold (quarterfinals): K1 Plus bt Formidables 122-104; South Sweden bt FII 150-109; Russia bt Hansa Narasimhan 134-63; Don Julio bt Hemant Jalan 113-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD

the twelve home matches.

Coach Manpreet Singh expressed confidence in getting the crowd support and outwit its opponents here. The Giants, led by Sunil Kumar, have so far won the first three on the trot and lost the next two.

time. Everyone is raring to go. We have an excellent record here and will try and repeat the show in all four matches," said Manpreet.

The third home match will be against the Bengal Warriors and the fourth and

Talking about the Giants' defeats, Manpreet said: "There were a few miscalculations and some mistakes which caused our downfall. Going for advance tackles

"I firmly believe that we

rors and reworked our strategies after analysing the videos." The Giants coach also ex-

pressed full confidence that out-of-form lead raider Sachin Tanwar will get into the thick of things.

"It is a long season and players need time to settle. It is just a matter of time. Sachin will certainly turn the tables with his super-10s. Giants' fans are going to witness something special in the home leg."

The Giants, with 16 points, are placed fifth in the 12-team table ahead of the Thalaivas which has 15

Bopanna-Shapovalov pair in quarterfinals

MONTREAL

Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov of Canada

In the quarterfinals, the Indo-Canadian pair will play Benoit Paire of France and Wawrinka Stan

pair of Shintaro Imai and

sie partner Scott Puodziunas in the quarterfinals.

In the \$25,000 ITF women's event in Britain, second seed Ankita Raina was beaten in three sets by the eighth seed Samantha Murray of Britain.

Kenya, two-time National champion and Khelo India Youth Games champion Mahak Jain reached the semifinals outplaying fifth seed Tiffany William of Britain 6-2, 6-2. She will play Dutch-

woman Lexie Stevens. results: \$6,338,885 ATP-1000, Montreal: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna bt Kyle Edmund (GBR) &

Taylor Fritz (US) 6-3, 6-4. \$54,160 Challenger, Yokkaichi, Japan: Quarterfinals: Tatsuma Ito (Jpn) bt Saketh Myneni 7-6(5), 6-1. **Doubles:** Quarterfinals: Shintaro Imai & Yusuke Takahashi (Jpn) bt Harry Bourchier (Aus) & Saketh Myneni 6-4, 6-4

€46,600 Challenger, Augsburg: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Sriram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan bt Scott Puodziunas (Aus) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 3-6, 6-4,

\$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta: Quarterfinals: Vladyslav Orlov (Ukr) bt Manish Sureshkumar 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, Doubles: Semifinals: Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Rhett Purcell (Nzl) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev & Niki Poonacha 6-0, 0-6. [10-6].

\$15,000 ITF men, Wetzlar, Germany: Pre-quarterfinals: Kai Wehnelt (Ger) bt Adil Kalyanpur 6-3, 6-1; First round: Kalyanpur bt Matthew Dellavedova (Aus) 6-4, 6-3. Doubles: Quarterfinals: Dominik Recek (Cze) & Adil Kalyanpur w/o Andrea Bolla & Luca Bolla (Ita); Pre-quarterfinals: Dominik Recek & Adil Kalyapur bt Matthew Dellavedova (Aus) & Adrian Oetzbach (Ger) 7-5, 6-2: Jan Soeren Hain & Mark Steiner (Ger) bt Leopold Zima (Ger) &

Arjun Mahadevan 6-1, 6-2. \$25,000 ITF women, Chiswick: Quarterfinals: Samantha Murray (GBR) bt Ankita Raina 6-2, 5-7, 6-4. **\$15,000 ITF wo**men, Nairobi: Quarterfinals: Mahak Jain bt Tiffany William 6-2, 6-2. Doubles: Semifinals: Paulina Jastrzebska (Pol) & Tiffany William (GBR) bt Sathwika Sama & Saumya Vig 7-6(2), 6-2.

George Telegraph

CFL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Justice Morgan struck late in the injury-time to help George Telegraph accomplish a giant killing act by downing 39-time champion Quess East Bengal by a solitary goal, in a premier division group 'A' match of the Calcutta Football League on Friday.

Poor start

Playing at home in front of packed galleries, East Bengal's campaign thus got off to a poor start as it failed to convert numerous chances and went down against an unfancied opponent conceding a late goal.

Opting to rotate the

Durand Cup, East Bengal's Spanish coach Alejandro Menendez found his attackers unable to provide the desired finish despite his side dominating the action for the greater part of the

squad after two rounds in

ulation 90 minutes, Morgan found the net off a solo effort as Geroge Telegraph mounted a successful counter-attack in the injury

secutive win for George Telegraph which remained on top of the table with nine

The result: East Bengal O lost to George Telegraph 1 (Justice Morgan 90+3).

for Tamil Thalaivas

optimistic of returning to winning ways as it gird up its loins for its first match against Tamil Thalaivas in the Vivo ProKabaddi League Season 7 at the Eka Arena by TransStadia here on Satur-

"When we play at home

of the Giants' fans give boosts their confidence le-

The first two matches will be played back-to-back; against

last against the Jaipur Pink

points from five matches.

ter City winger Leroy Sane. Ahead of Bayern's trip to fourth-tier side Energie Cottbus on Monday, the heat is already on perennially under-fire coach Kovac.

as the club chases Manches-

Nagelsmann's RB Leipzig travels to Osnabrueck on Sunday after Wagner's Schalke visits Drochtersen/ Assel on Saturday.

Crisis stricken

Former Huddersfield Town manager Wagner is hoping to breathe new life into crisis-stricken Schalke, but his preparations have been overshadowed by a racism scandal involving club chairman Clemens Toennies.

Toennies, 63, stepped down for three months on Tuesday following widespread outrage over comments he made about Africa during a speech last week.

German club to have been hit by a racism scandal recently. On Monday, third-tier side Chemnitzer sacked firstteam captain Daniel Frahn over his alleged association with far-right fan groups.

Controversy

Frahn's dismissal was the latest episode in a long-running controversy over neo-Nazis in the Chemnitzer fanbase, and according to Bild newspaper, police fear that farright fans may stage protests during Sunday's cup clash





David Luiz

(\$10m) deal and will wear the



Warne appointed coach



Neymar rape case

dismissed the rape case against footballer Nevman citing insufficient evidence, a court spokesman said. The decision – the final episode in the rape case hanging over the Brazilian international superstar for months — comes on the recommendation of prosecutors just over a month after police dropped the case citing lack of evidence.

hotel in May. AFP

Gold Label race is expected to

shocks East Bengal

With the scoreline remaining barren for the reg-

This was the third con-

Gujarat Fortunegiants gear up

Gujarat Fortunegiants are

In the previous two seasons, the Giants won nine of

Coach confident

the cheering and chanting did us in.

"It is not different this

Back-to-back matches

Panthers.

Thalaivas and the Telugu Titans on Sunday.

were in a position to beat U Mumba and Puneri Paltan as well, but the mistakes "We have rectified the er-

Bayern launches cup defence amid scandals

Challenges ahead: RB Leipzig's new head coach Julian

Nagelsmann with his players during a training session. • AFP

Racism and alleged identity fraud overshadow proceedings

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Niko Kovac's Bayern Munich launches its 2019/20 season as German Cup title holder in the first round this weekend, but the traditional season curtain-raiser will be overshadowed this year by a string of scandals rocking football in Germany.

vid Wagner make their dugout debuts for RB Leipzig and Schalke respectively, other clubs such as Chemnitzer and Hamburg are reeling from scandals involving neo-Nazis and alleged identity fraud. Borussia Dortmund kicks off proceedings with a visit to

World Cup winner and form-

Uerdingen.

While coaching prodigies

Julian Nagelsmann and Da-

Kevin Grosskreutz with his old club while providing coach Lucien Favre with another opportunity to test new signings Mats Hummels, third-division side KFC Nico Schulz and Thorgan Hazard. The match reunites 2014 Favre's spruced-up squad

er Dortmund fan favourite

beat Bayern Munich 2-0 in

cup winner.

striker Robert Lewandowski

the German Supercup last

weekend to pile the pressure

on last season's league and

tive than Dortmund in the

transfer market, and the lack

of high-profile new signings

prompted criticism from star

Bayern has been less ac-

2017. Otherwise, Osaka will bt Iga Swiatek 7-6(4), 6-4.

After four rounds of the FIM World Cup, Aishwarya

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

cruised into the doubles quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Kyle Edmund and Taylor Fritz in the \$6,338.885 ATP-1000 tennis tournament here

Switzerland. In the Challenger in Japan, Saketh Myneni was beaten 7-6(5), 6-1 in the quarterfinals by third seed Tatsuma Ito. In the doubles quarterfinals, Saketh and Harry Bourchier of Australia were beaten by the Japanese

Yusuke Takahashi. In the Challenger in Germany, second seeds Sriram Balaji and Vishnu Vardhan prevailed 10-4 in the super tie-break against Vijay Sundar Prashanth and his Aus-

In the \$15,000 event in

Schalke is not the only

with Hamburg. Second-division Hamburg

is itself engulfed in a media scandal after doubts were raised over the identity of its Gambian midfielder Bakery Jatta. A ND-NDE