FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu

THE HINDU

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
20 pages • ₹10.00

No harmful chemicals in PET bottles, CSIR study finds
page 9

Wrestler Babita Phogat joins BJP along with father Mahavir Phogat
page 12

Taliban say latest talks on U.S. pullout from Afghanistan have ended
page 14

Aishwarya becomes first Indian woman rider to win FIM World Cup
page 20

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

In Manasarovar, Chinese lend a helping hand to Indian pilgrims

Well-equipped reception centres greet yatris on the arduous trek in Tibet

RADHIKA SANTHANAM
TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION

For Indian pilgrims on the difficult trek to the high altitude Kailash Manasarovar, the Hindu holy site in Tibet, things might have just got easier from this year.

Accommodation facilities, called reception centres, have been built at various points of the pilgrimage, thanks to an initiative by the Chinese government to improve the material comforts of the pilgrims undertaking the arduous journey.

The reception centres, each with about 150 beds, have rooms with charging points, a common kitchen and a common washroom, and provide food for the *yatris*. According to Awang Chering, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ali Prefecture, all the four new reception centres have similar facilities.

"The Chinese government has spent 36.8 million RMBs ($5.21 million) on building these centres," he said. While two are open this year, the other two will be open to *yatris* from 2020.

Jitendra Singh Rautala, 43, a pilgrim from Uttarakhand who has been on the yatra several times, said the new facilities are "great".

"They have ensured that a difficult trek has been made easier and comfortable," he said.

A private tour operator, who did not wish to be named, credited both the Indian and Chinese governments with this change. "Earlier, yatris used to stay in tents; now they stay in buildings with attached bathrooms," he said. "Even those aged 70 can now go on the *yatra*," he said.

Besides the facilities that have already been made available, Mr. Awang said the government is planning to set up oxygen bars along the high altitude route. However, several pilgrims complained that the toilet facilities continue to be very poor. Vandana Neelkumar from Mumbai said inadequate toilet facilities inconvenienced women particularly.

On Monday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is visiting Beijing, said after meeting his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that both countries are considering expanding the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.

"Some suggestions were made by the Chinese side to expand Kailash Manasarovar Yatra and we are deeply appreciative of these initiatives," Mr. Jaishankar said. Mr. Wang said the pilgrimage has "increasingly become a pathway of friendship".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Ease of visiting: Chinese officials checking the papers of pilgrims. ▪ RADHIKA SANTHANAM

NEARBY

Six killed in H.P. landslides

DEHRADUN/GOPESHWAR

Six persons, including a woman and her nine-month-old daughter, were buried alive as landslides triggered by heavy rain hit three different villages in the Ghat area of Chamoli district on Monday. Erosion caused by swirling waters of the flooded Chuflagad river also washed away two buildings.

NORTH ▸ PAGE 5

Foreigner 'gang-raped' by three men in Vasant Kunj

NEW DELHI

A 31-year-old Uzbekistan national was allegedly gang-raped by three men in south-west Delhi's Vasant Kunj on August 10, the police said on Monday. An officer said the victim had come to India two months ago. The woman alleged that she was also beaten up by the accused whom she has identified.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

Learn INDIAN POLITY With Makarand Adkar Sir (Practicing Advocate in Supreme Court of India) session Open to ALL
An Open session for Modern History By D K Bhalla Sir (Ex-IAS 1986)
17th & 18th August 11 AM Onwards
Chanakya Mandal Pariwar, ORN, New Delhi.
Registration : 8308837038, 8308837032

Army man's widow gets ₹1.17 cr. in accident case

NEW DELHI

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has awarded ₹1.17 crore compensation to the wife of a rifleman in the Army who was knocked down by a DTC bus near the Udhyog Bhavan bus stand in Lutyens' zone in 2016. The offending vehicle had jumped the red light and hit the Army personnel when he was crossing over from the Sena Bhavan side. He was posted at the Army headquarters.

CITY ▸ PAGE 4

Kashmir Valley kept under lockdown during Id festival

Main mosques in Srinagar remain out of bounds; stone-pelting in some areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Kashmir Valley remained under lockdown on the occasion of Id on Monday as severe restrictions on the movement of people and traffic continued.

Shaswati Das, a journalist with a business newspaper who returned from Srinagar on Monday evening, said all main mosques remained out of bounds, and heavy stone-pelting was reported in some areas.

Anti-India slogans

Reuters said hundreds of people shouting anti-India slogans spilled on to the streets following prayers in the neighborhood of Soura, the site of a big demonstration on Friday, but authorities largely sealed off the area and kept the protest localised.

A television journalist said on the condition of anonymity that a group of boys snatched their cameras and heckled the team.

"They were agitated and complained that TV news channels were not giving the true picture. They accused us of giving one-sided news. The city was under a heavy security blanket and we faced issues while moving around. We were careful enough to not take out our cameras everywhere," said the TV journalist.

IGP S.P. Pani told a press conference in Srinagar that the festivities passed off peacefully barring a "couple of minor localised incidents of law and order which have been handled very professionally."

"In these incidents, there have been a couple of injuries which have been reported. Otherwise the entire Valley is peaceful. I strongly deny any incident of firing anywhere in the Kashmir Valley," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Peace in the air: Kashmiris offering Id prayers at a mosque in Srinagar on Monday. ▪ REUTERS

No sweets along border this time

The customary exchange of sweets between soldiers of the BSF and the Pakistan Rangers along the border did not take place on Monday on the occasion of Id. The Pakistani side refused to attend the ceremony after the BSF sent across communication to exchange sweets. ▸ PAGE 13

CENTRE ASKS TWITTER TO BLOCK SOME ACCOUNTS ▸ PAGE 13

Decision on Kashmir doesn't affect LAC, Delhi tells Beijing

Measures aimed at better governance, says Jaishankar

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday reassured China that New Delhi's decision to exercise greater administrative control over Ladakh would have no implications for India's external boundaries or the Line of Actual Control with China.

"The legislative measures were aimed at better governance and socio-economic development," he told his Chinese interlocutors, referring to India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and making Ladakh, which borders China, a Union Territory.

'No territorial claims'

"There was no implication for the external boundaries of India or the Line of Actual Control with China. India was not raising any additional territorial claims. The Chinese concerns in this regard were misplaced," he said.

Mr. Jaishankar's remarks follow the Chinese Foreign Ministry's earlier response that India had "continued to damage China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally modifying the form of domestic law." The Chinese Foreign Office had also said that this practice was "unacceptable" and it would not have any effect.

Speaking to the Indian media, Mr. Jaishankar said he had pointed out that regarding the boundary question, the two sides had agreed to a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement based on the 2005 Political Parameters and Guiding Principles.

'INTERNAL MATTER' ▸ PAGE 13

Cordial meeting: Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar with Chinese Vice-President Wang Qishang on Monday. ▪ REUTERS

Hong Kong protesters shut airport

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

All passenger flights in and out of Hong Kong were cancelled on Monday after thousands of pro-democracy protesters flooded the city's airport to denounce police violence.

Authorities said they were working to reopen it by 6 a.m. on Tuesday, but hundreds of protesters remained in the arrivals hall well into the night.

Over 5,000 protesters descended on the airport on Monday, carrying placards and raising slogans.

CHINA'S WARNING ▸ PAGE 14

Mukesh Ambani unveils Jio Fiber service for fixed broadband

Customers to get free calls, LED TVs

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

After disrupting the mobile telephony market and becoming India's largest profitable telco, Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio plans to disrupt the fixed broadband market with the launch of Jio Fiber on September 5.

Jio Fiber will offer free voice calls for life from landline phones, high-speed broadband of a minimum speed of 100 mbps, and a free high-definition TV and dish with monthly plans starting from ₹700 and going up to ₹10,000.

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani at the AGM on Monday. ▪ VIVEK BENDRE

RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani made the announcement at the 42nd annual general meeting of the company on Monday. "In India, even the most basic Jio Fiber plan starts with 100 Mbps speed and we have plans all the way up to 1 Gbps or 1000 Mbps. We are pricing our plans at less than one-tenth the global rates, to make it accessible for all," Mr. Ambani told shareholders.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Saudi Aramco to buy 20% stake

The world's largest oil producer, Saudi Aramco, has agreed to pick up a 20% stake in RIL's oil to chemicals (O2C) business at an enterprise value of $75 billion in one of the largest foreign investments. ▸ PAGE 15

Delhi-Lahore bus service discontinued

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on Monday said it would "not be able" to continue the Delhi-Lahore bus service as Pakistan had decided to discontinue it due to the withdrawal of the special status to J&K.

The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) on Saturday conveyed to the DTC its government's decision to suspend the service in addition to the two services to Amritsar.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 3

ForumIAS
India's leading Institute for Civil Services Preparation
3rd SEPT. 5 PM

The *only* Current Affairs Classes you will ever need for Prelims & Mains 2020

What is the key to the right Current Affairs coverage for Prelims & Mains? *One*, knowing what is important and what is *not* so that you set your focus right. *Two*, differentiated content for Mains Answers. What is needed is not an ocean of information, but crisp, to the point content. Those who clear this exam know that *less* is *more*. *Three*, conceptual clarity so that you can answer *applied questions* in Prelims, as has been the recent requirement.

It is this approach that has helped our students Pratham (AIR 5, '17, 501 Marks in GS), Abhishek (AIR 10, '17), Varun (AIR 7, '18), Varnit (AIR 13, '18) and Minal (AIR 35, '18) add the three magic letters - I.A.S to their names.

ForumIAS Current Affairs Classes (Prelims + Mains) are conducted bi-weekly. Before the Prelims & Mains Examination, consolidated revision classes are held at one go. The Current Affairs Classes by ForumIAS along with the Mains Guidance Program (MGP) provide a complete package for those looking for a minimalistic coaching assistance in their preparation.

To enrol, visit http://academy.forumias.com or walk into our Offline Centre.

All India ForumIAS Open Simulator Tests (Mains) 2019 | September 7, 2019

Those of us who have written Mains before know *two* things about the exam. *One*, completing the paper is the biggest challenge on that day. *Two*, we are slowest in the first paper and speed increases after writing every paper. But by the time our writing speed increases, the Mains exam is over.

We invite you to write your *last*, but *best* Mains Mock Test with us. Join ForumIAS for a five day Simulated Civil Services Mains Test experience covering Essay, GS 1, 2, 3, 4 and Optionals* starting September 7th.

Write your last mock in Simulated exam environment, such that the actual Mains examination is no more a surprise for you.

In these five days, rehearse and acquire actual time management skills, good handwriting, speed optimisation, and the grit of writing exams back to back before the actual exam. Writing the Simulators 10 days before the actual exam, without evaluation, helps you peak your performance on the actual exam day.

*For a complete list of cities & registration, visit go.forumias.com/simulatorX

ForumIAS Offline Guidance Center
2nd Floor, IAPL House, 19 Pusa Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 95-96, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005
9821711605 | 9319398339, 8800631116 admissions@forumias.academy | https://academy.forumias.com

Assam villagers feed elephants to keep them at bay

They grow paddy and grass for jumbos that venture close to human habitations

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A cluster of villages in central Assam's Nagaon district has found a way of keeping crop-raiding elephants off their crops – by setting aside land to create a meal zone for them.

Most farmers of 12 villages in the Ronghang-Hatikhuli area of central Assam's Nagaon district do not have enough land to sustain their families. But they donated 203 *bighas* (roughly 33 hectares) of community land and took turns to plant paddy exclusively for the elephants that often come down the hills of the adjoining Karbi Anglong district.

The "jumbo *kheti*" (cropland) has been envisaged as the last line of mealy defence against some 350-400 elephants that have often paid for venturing too close to human habitations. Five of them were electrocuted by illegal electric fences in the last 16 months, while half-a-dozen, injured by spears and arrows, died in the jungles up the hills.

About 10 km from the paddy field, toward the hills, is an 8-hectare plantation of Napier grass that 35 reformed hunters have grown for the elephants.

This plantation is on land belonging to a tea estate. The locals have also planted saplings of 2,000 *outenga* (elephant apple), 1,500 jackfruit and 25,000 banana trees on barren land between the paddy field and the grass plantation.

The three-step plantation has a common thread – environmentalist Binod Dulu Bora and the NGO 'Hatibondhu', meaning 'friends of elephants', he is associated with. "Growing paddy for elephants was the idea of Pradip Kumar Bhuyan, the director of our NGO. We had several meetings with the villagers and convinced them that they would be setting an example for the world to follow towards reducing man-animal conflicts," Mr. Bora told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Drawing the line: The locals have planted 2,000 elephant apple, 1,500 jackfruit and 25,000 banana saplings.

IN BRIEF

Men snatch luxury car from driver at gunpoint

NEW DELHI

A high-end car was on August 9 snatched allegedly at gunpoint by two unidentified men in south Delhi's R.K. Puram, the police said on Monday. A car hit the vehicle from behind after which the driver came out to inspect the damage. Two men came out of the offending vehicle and threatened him at gunpoint. While one of them drove away with the luxury car, the other fled with the offending vehicle .

Biker killed in road accident in east Delhi

NEW DELHI

A man, in his 30s, was killed after his bike was hit by a bus in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar on Monday. The police said they were informed about the accident around 8.30 p.m. When they reached the spot, the man was found dead. The body was shifted for post-mortem.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	57	Gurugram	54
Ghaziabad	138	Faridabad	48
Noida	58	Greater Noida	110

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

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

DELHI TODAY

Dance: "Saare Jahan Se Accha 2019: Khud Mein Kabir, Kabir Mein Hum", a creative dance drama based on the life and literary works of Kabir, choreographed by Guru Ranjana Gauhar at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Japa", a solo painting exhibition by Rahim Mirza at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Fontwala: Stone to mobile, what remains?" by Rajeev Prakash Khare and Shubhra Prakash. The show surveys the development of Devnagri letter form from it's earliest stone engravings to its digital adaptations at Digital Art Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Rainbow", a group exhibition by artists belonging to the army family at All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a,m. - 7 p.m.

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

Id-ul-Zuha at Jantar Mantar: poem, biryani and a long wait

Kashmiris in city come together, express anguish over not being able to call family

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Every year on Id-ul-Zuha, Faiq Faizan says he gets hundreds of messages on his phone from his relatives back home in Srinagar, including one from his grandmother. This year, Faiq has been trying their numbers but is unable to reach them.

"My uncle [cousin grandfather] used to send WhatsApp message daily wishing me good morning and some random forwards. I used to get irritated at that but now, I realise the importance of those texts. It has been eight days and I have not received a single message from him," he said.

Hundreds of people, including students from across colleges in Delhi, gathered at Jantar Mantar on Id-ul-Zuha. They said they wanted to be with each other but not celebrate. "There is no celebration without our loved ones but we are here in Delhi for each other," said Faiq, a 24-year-old postgraduate from Jamia Millia Islamia, while handing over a pot of biryani to his friend to be kept for distribution.

Youth at a gathering at Jantar Mantar on Id-ul-Zuha on Monday. ▪SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

During the festivities, many of them brought biryani, sheermal, samosas and sweets to the venue, to feel at home, away from home.

A UPSC aspirant Zubair Rashid said he had come to Delhi only four months ago. "During the festival celebration back home, we would wake up early morning and spend the whole day visiting relatives," he said recalling last year. But this time, he has tried contacting his mother for over a "hundred times since morning but could not connect". The last time he spoke to her was six days ago, he said.

His father, a police officer in Kashmir, is managing law and order 100 km away from where he is posted. His father called him for 56 seconds from a satellite phone on Sunday night. "I told him not to worry about mom and siblings even though I have no idea how they are. I don't even feel like it's Id-ul-Zuha," he said.

On Monday, Zubair wrote a poem and brought the crowd to tears. He recited, "In the broad daylight... in the midst of lakhs of people... roads are painted with sorrow... and bewildered my people lie!" Showing the Constitution, a book he always carries in his bag, he said, "The people are being ripped off their right to life, liberty and security".

Nineteen-year-old Javed Ahmed came to the Capital from Srinagar about 15 days ago when he got admission in a Delhi University college and had plans to go home before the festival. "There are security officers everywhere. I don't know if my family is celebrating or not. But every year, we would go to Nishat Bagh and Chashme Shahi to celebrate. This year..." he stopped mid-way only to try the landline back home again.

'No normalcy in J&K'

Elbee, a 21-year-old from Jammu, said this year, she had come to the city with her parents but her relatives and friends back home said normalcy in Kashmir was "fake news". "Normal is the last thing the state of the place would be," she said.

Standing next to her was Fiza, a Class XI student, who said her parents sent her to Delhi from Srinagar on Sunday fearing her "safety". "Imagine, they sent me here a day before the festival for my safety and so that I could concentrate on my exams due in October," she sobbed.

In solidarity, were author Arundhati Roy, activists Harsh Mander, Shabnam Hashmi, Sanjay Kam among others.

A get-together for those who missed festivities at home

People from J&K stand united over common grief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Not "very happy" with the turn of events over the past one week leading to suspension of all means of communication in Jammu and Kashmir following the amendment to Article 370, Sunita *(name changed)*, a Kashmiri Pandit schoolteacher in Faridabad, made it a point to be the part of a get-together in Gurugram to celebrate Id-ul-Zuha with the Muslims who could not return homes on the festive day.

The 28-year-old stumbled upon the invite for the event organised at Wembley Estate in Sector 50 here by some Kashmiri Pandits on Instagram and traveled all the way to the Millennium City to take part. Sunita said she perturbed over the manner the things had unfolded. She had shifted to Delhi with her family more than two decades ago.

Saqib, a young lawyer in Mumbai, came over to meet his brother in Gurugram on the occasion and decided to be the part of the celebration. He said he planned to visit his parents in Srinagar this time too like every year, but was told that it was not safe there. "We expected the government to ease the restrictions in the State before the festival. But it did not happen. I was able to speak to my mother for just two minutes which was three days back with the help of a police officer friend," he said.

A few Kashmiris at the event organised at Wembley Estate in Sector 50, Gurugram. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Saqib said the government had "backstabbed and betrayed" the people of Kashmir by taking away the special status and expressed apprehension that "normalcy might never return to Kashmir". He, however, added that events such as these sent across the message of "oneness" and spread religious harmony.

Aqib, an engineer, said Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims were "Kashmiris first" and culturally one. "When we meet we speak to interact in the local language. No law can separate us," he added.

Pankaj Dhar, one of the organisers, said the objective behind the get-together was to stand with our own people in this hour of crisis. He regretted that irresponsible remarks and messages on social media about Kashmiri girls and buying property in the State were not doing any good to the situation which seemed volatile.

He appealed for responsible behaviour and the need to show the restraint.

Sanjay Bhat from Sector 39, one of the organisers, said: "We don't usually celebrate Id-ul-Zuha but decided to organise this event so that our Muslim brothers from the State don't feel left out."

Inspector-General of Police, Law and Order, Haryana, Hanif Qureshi was the chief guest on the occasion. The organisers claimed that 70-odd people took part in the celebrations.

Haryana board told to evolve mechanism to recover penalty from polluting units

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal directed the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) to evolve a mechanism for ascertaining the environment compensation to be recovered from polluting industries by reviewing its current one. A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said compensation should be levied promptly and there should be no delay.

"Let HSPCB review its mechanism and evolve a new one where the calculation is made as soon as pollution is detected. If for final compensation time is taken, interim compensation may be filed promptly," it said.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by the Bandhua Mukti Morcha that sought action against pollution caused by ready mix concrete plant, ceramic plant and extraction of groundwater in Faridabad.

Public service

Grooming lounge: A barber at work behind the Union Public Service Commission building in New Delhi. ▪V.V. KRISHNAN

'Find formula to ease burden of hiked fee'

Manish Sisodia says govt. may consider having its own board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday said he has directed the Education Department to work out a formula so that the students do not have to bear the burden of paying a hiked fee.

This comes a day after the Central Board of Secondary Education increased the fees of Class X and XII board examinations. Noting that the Delhi government is the biggest stakeholder of the CBSE, Mr. Sisodia said if things continue like this, the government may consider having its own board.

First hike in 5 years

CBSE on Sunday increased the fees by up to ₹1,150, the first hike in the last five years.

The fees for general category students for both the Classes were doubled from ₹750 to ₹1,500 for five subjects.

The SC and ST students, who were paying ₹350 earlier, will now pay ₹1,200 for five subjects, the CBSE said.

"Our officials had a meeting with CBSE officials and urged them not to hike the examination fee as it will burden the students. Delhi is the biggest stakeholder of CBSE and our opinion should be valued. This way, we might be forced to consider having our own board," Mr. Sisodia said, adding that the Directorate of Education has been asked to work out the formula on how to ease the burden.

'Queen Victoria rakhis are hit this year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

From featuring British Queen Victoria to the fictional character 'Chhota Bheem', a market in south Delhi is selling unconventional rakhis that are attracting buyers ahead of Rakshabandhan.

A shopkeeper in Lajpat Nagar's Central Market said rakhis featuring Queen Victoria are in high demand. "One 'Queen Victoria' rakhi costs ₹50," he said. Each 'Queen Victoria' rakhi has an embellished round dial like the face of an old British-era coin with the relief image of the legendary empress wearing a crown embossed on both sides and a red-and-saffron thread holding it.

He said other designs like rakhis with 'Chhota Bheem' pictures are also doing good in the market. Apart from traditional designs with conventional rakhis, this market also has a number of unconventional designs, the shopkeepers said. "I had no idea about a rakhi featuring 'Queen Victoria'. I have an interest in history and want to surprise my brothers. So bought a couple of them," said Priyanka Sethi, who works in the private sector.

Delhi airport receives hoax bomb threat

Flight operations affected for 70 minutes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Security agencies at Delhi international airport went into a tizzy after a hoax bomb call was received on Monday, three days ahead of Independence Day, affecting flight operations at Terminal 2 for around 70 minutes, officials said.

"A bomb threat call for Terminal 2 was received by Delhi Police at 8.49 p.m. on Monday," they said.

The departure area of the IGI Airport Terminal 2 was immediately evacuated and all passengers were moved at Gate no 4 at the departure level, while arriving passengers were on hold inside aircraft, officials also said.

"After a detailed search operation for about an hour by the Bomb Disposal Squad and the Central Industrial Security Force, it was found to be a hoax," they said.

DCP (Airport) Sanjay Bhatia said all the stakeholders were immediately informed and alerted.

"Terminal 2 was checked thoroughly. A comprehensive search operation was done and nothing suspicious was found. The caller has been identified and he has denied making any such calls. The call has been declared as non-specific," he said. A case under relevant sections has been registered and investigation is underway, said Mr. Bhatia.

Officials said that operational normalcy was restored in departure as well as the arrival area of Terminal 2 at 10 p.m.

CISF officials also said a mock exercise of the bomb threat was conducted at all IGI terminals between 9 p.m. and 10.10 pm.

Forum directs developer to pay ₹6 lakh compensation

Accused failed to deliver the project

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A district consumer disputes redressal forum here directed a private developer to compensate a set of complainants by paying over ₹6 lakh each for failing to complete a project for which the complainants had already deposited money.

The developers – U-Turn Housing Pvt. Ltd. – was directed to compensate after at least six complainants approached the consumer panel alleging deficiency in services.

'Never completed project'

"From the unrebutted testimony of the complainant and documents placed on record, we are convinced that the story put forth by the complainant is true...The developer never completed the project, so, non-refunding the money till date, amounts to deficiency in service," the Bench observed.

> **The developer needs to pay a compensation of ₹15,000 each towards harassment and mental agony**
>
> DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL FORUM

The directions came when the consumer panel was hearing a series of complaints against the developers. It was alleged that while the complainants paid over ₹6 lakh each towards booking of the residential plots, the developers failed to complete the project.

A compensation of ₹15,000 each towards harassment and mental agony was also directed by the consumer panel.

Foreign national alleges gang rape

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 31-year-old Uzbekistan national was allegedly gang-raped by three men in south-west Delhi's Vasant Kunj on August 10, the police said on Monday.

A senior police officer said that the victim, a resident of south Delhi, had come to India two months ago.

The woman went to Vasant Kunj police station on Sunday and alleged that she was gang-raped by three men inside an SUV car on August 10 night. She alleged that she was also beaten up by the accused whom she has identified, the police said.

She went to AIIMS along with her friends after the incident. A case under IPC Section 376D (gang rape) has been registered based on the victim's complaint, the police added.

DTC 'unable' to send bus to Lahore as Pak. suspends service

Pakistan took the decision following withdrawal of special status to J&K

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on Monday said it would not be able to continue the Delhi-Lahore bus service as Pakistan had decided to discontinue the service from its end due to the withdrawal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir by India.

The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) had on Saturday conveyed to the public transporter the decision taken by the country's government to suspend the service in addition to two similar bus services between Pakistan and Amritsar.

A DTC bus was scheduled to leave for Lahore at 6 a.m. on Monday, but it did not due to Pakistan's decision to suspend the bus service, a senior government official said.

The Lahore-Delhi bus service is operated from Ambedkar Stadium Terminal near Delhi Gate. ▪FILE PHOTO

"Consequent to Pakistan's decision to suspend the bus service, the DTC is not able to send bus [from Delhi to Lahore] from August 12," the DTC said in a statement.

The last bus

The last bus for Lahore left Delhi on Saturday morning carrying two passengers while the bus from the other side reached the Indian capital with 19 passengers aboard on the evening of the same day. The bus service was not operational on Sunday.

The bus service between Lahore and Amritsar, in addition to the one between Nankana Sahib and Amritsar, was also suspended, stated a Government of Pakistan Ministry of Communication statement.

According to sources, the PTDC had conveyed its decision to suspend the service from its end to the DTC telephonically over the weekend besides informing the authorities concerned at the public transporter about a formal, written communication in this regard which it could expect later in the day on Saturday.

The Lahore-Delhi bus service is operated from Ambedkar Stadium Terminal near Delhi Gate.

While DTC buses ply to Lahore every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, PTDC buses ply every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from Delhi to Lahore.

For the return trip, DTC buses leave Lahore every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday whereas the PTDC buses are available every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Block access to websites such as tamilrockers: HC

'Sites stream films without permission'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed Internet service providers to block access to websites such as tamilrockers, eztv, katmovies and limetorrents which are unauthorisedly streaming movies and television series.

Justice Sanjeev Narula, in an interim order, directed the Internet service providers to block access to all the URLs and IP addresses of these websites.

Plea by Warner Bros.

The court's directions came on a plea of U.S.-based entertainment company Warner Bros. claiming that these sites were hosting, streaming and making available to the public its original content, as well as that of others like UTV, Star, Paramount, Universal and Netflix, without any authorisation.

It said a prima facie case was made out that if an interim order was not passed, irreparable harm or injury would be caused to the company.

The High Court issued directions to the Department of Telecommunications and the Ministry of Information Technology to suspend the domain name registration of the websites infringing on the copyright of production houses.

It also restrained the websites from "hosting, streaming, reproducing, distributing, making available to the public and/or communicating to the public, or facilitating the same, in any manner, on their websites, through the Internet any cinematograph work/ content/programme/ show in relation to which plaintiff [Warner Bros.] has copyright".

7 arrested for killing driver near toll plaza

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Seven contractual staff of Kalindi Kunj toll plaza were arrested for allegedly killing a commercial truck driver after he refused to pay ₹14,000 demanded by them, the police said on Monday.

They have been identified as Manroop, Dharmpal, Amit Kumar, Chetan Prakash, Mohammad Sirajuddin, Manoj and Krishna Kumar.

The driver was on his way from Noida Sector 59 to Ghitorni in Delhi on August 9. "Vimal Kumar Tiwari [truck driver] paid a tax of ₹1,400 at the toll booth for passage, but his vehicle was chased and stopped. The staff asked him to pay a fine of ₹14,000 and issued a fake 'challan'. When he refused, he was thrashed by seven staff and dumped near a drain," SSP (Gautam Buddh Nagar) Vaibhav Krishna said.

Man held for firing in air after video goes viral on social media

Accused wanted to celebrate his birthday in a 'different' way

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly firing in the air while he was celebrating his birthday on the night of August 10 in central Delhi's Chandni Mahal, the police said on Monday.

The man then shared the video on a video-sharing application which went viral and caught police's attention.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa said that a video caught their attention after it went viral on social media on Saturday night. In the video, he said, a person was seen firing in the air with a weapon in his hand. The video was first shared on TikTok app. "The police scanned the video and found that it was shot in a street in Suiwalan, Chandni Mahal," Mr. Randhawa said.

During investigation, with the help of human intelligence, the police identified the man as Faizan, a resident of Chandni Mahal, who was celebrating his birthday on Saturday. "The man had uploaded the video on TikTok and after it went viral, he disappeared to evade arrest. He was, however, arrested from Akhade Wali Gali after the police received a tip-off. A countrymade pistol was seized from his possession," the DCP said.

During interrogation, the accused said he had planned to celebrate his birthday in a "different" way. He had taken the pistol from someone and recorded the video and shared the same to make himself popular on the social media.

Two women found dead in separate incidents in the Capital

Families of both allege dowry harassment, suspect foul play

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old woman was found dead at her residence in north-west Delhi's Keshav Puram on Sunday night, the police said on Monday. No note has been recovered so far, they said.

Four-month pregnant

A senior police officer said that the woman had got married in December 2018 and was four-month pregnant. The deceased's father has alleged that her husband and his family used to torture her and demand money. The family suspects foul play.

The police have registered a case under Sections 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), 304B (dowry death) and 34 of the Indian Penal Code and an investigation is under way.

The woman's body has been preserved at Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital for postmortem, the police also said.

In another incident, a 26-year-old woman was found dead at her residence in Shahdara's Jwala Nagar on Sunday afternoon.

The police have initiated inquest proceedings in the matter.

A police officer said that the woman's family has alleged that she was tortured and harassed for dowry and that she has been killed.

A post-mortem has been conducted and the body was handed over to the family. Further probe in the matter is under way, the police said.

Man arrested for instant triple talaq to wife

Woman alleges physical assault

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly divorcing his wife through triple talaq in central Delhi's Kamla Market, the police said on Monday.

A senior police officer said that the accused has been identified as Tauseef, who divorced 22-year-old Asma on Friday. "The woman approached the police stating that she had gone to see her husband at his office on Swami Shradhanand Marg to ask him for money for their children, but he refused and physically assaulted her," the officer said. The husband then allegedly uttered "talaq" thrice before threatening to kill her.

Based on her complaint, a case under Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act was filed and Tauseef was arrested.

Last week, a 38-year-old man was arrested in north Delhi's Azad Market after his wife alleged that he had divorced her through triple talaq after more than six years of marriage due to "non-fulfilment of demand for dowry".

City wakes up to rain, witnesses dip in mercury

Met forecasts light to moderate rain between Tuesday and Thursday

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

It was a pleasant start to the week with Delhiites waking up to light rainfall that lasted till noon in several parts of the city.

Although the humidity hovered between 85% and 69% making the weather sultry, the maximum temperature settled at 34.8 degrees Celsius which was two degrees cooler than the previous day.

While the Safdarjung observatory recorded 2.2 mm rainfall, Lodhi Road received 10.8 mm. The weather station at Palam received much less at 0.6 mm.

The Met department has forecast a generally cloudy sky for Tuesday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover between 35 and 28 degrees Celsius respectively. The Met department has also forecast light to moderate rain/thundershowers between Tuesday and Thursday and strong surface winds during the day on Friday.

A waterlogged road in Punjabi Bagh on Monday. ▪SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Monitoring committee on sealing should be dissolved'

CAIT urges Puri to approach apex court

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Monday sent a memorandum to the Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri, urging him to ask the Supreme Court through the Attorney General to dissolve the monitoring committee set up by it on sealing.

Secretary General, CAIT, Praveen Khandelwal said: "Now that the Supreme Court has already constituted a Special Task Force headed by the Vice-Chairman of the DDA, there is no longer any justification to continue with the monitoring committee and hence the 13-year-old committee should be abolished by the Supreme Court. The government is working to improve the future of Delhi and should immediately bring an amnesty scheme."

He alleged that the monitoring committee was working as an independent government department without any legal provision and were giving direct orders to all the government departments like the civic bodies, DDA, Delhi police etc. "They never followed the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957, in the last 13 years and has taken arbitrary decisions and conducted various sealing drives which may not be legally valid and as a result has greatly affected Delhi's business and industry," he added.

CAIT's Delhi state president Vipin Abuja and state general secretary Devraj Baweja said the traders' body was seeking advice from its lawyers on this serious issue and would approach the Supreme Court for dissolving the committee. They also pointed out that the members of the committee have crossed the retirement age.

Stop selling fake Vistara products, HC to portal

Pilot 18 directed to pay ₹2 lakh cost

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered a web portal to stop offering counterfeit 'Vistara' branded products, on a plea by Tata SIA Airlines Ltd.

The court said Pilot 18 Aviation Book Store, which operates the web portal www.pilot18.com, was not just selling products bearing the mark 'Vistara' but also products of various other airlines including Jet Airways, SpiceJet and Air India, and this posed a serious security threat.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh directed Pilot 18 to pay ₹2 lakh as costs to the operator of Vistara Airlines within a month.

Tata SIA Airlines, which operates Vistara, had claimed that the portal was using its trademarks and selling badges, name tags and other accessories, including mugs and baggage tags, bearing the mark 'Vistara' with an identical device mark/logo form.

Tata SIA Airlines said that it came to know in February about 'Vistara' branded products on the website as also on various e-commerce portals such as Amazon and Snapdeal.

The High Court said, "The mark Vistara is quite popular in India and has acquired a unique status. It is a distinctive mark that enjoys enormous goodwill and reputation in the airline, travel and tourism industry."

The portal, however, claimed that it had not used the trademark 'Vistara'. After perusing the report by the local commissioner, the court said the portal was making a false claim.

The court said that on the next date, September 12, it will consider if any further action is required to be taken.

DDA demolished Ravidas temple, took away idol: AAP

Party writes to PM urging him to ask DDA to rebuild structure

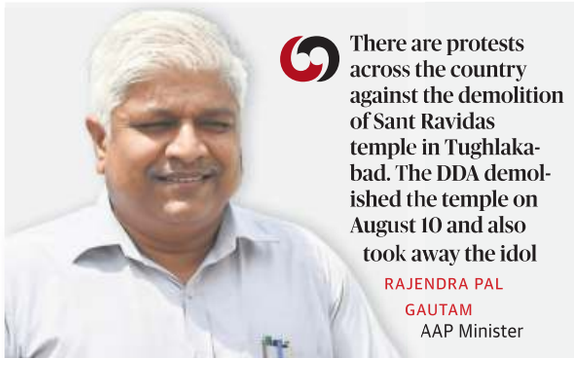
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

AAP Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Monday alleged that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) demolished a temple of Sant Guru Ravidas in Tughlakabad. He said they have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to direct the DDA to rebuild the temple at the same location.

On the other hand, the urban body said the demolition was carried out following the Supreme Court orders on August 9.

Addressing a press conference at AAP headquarters, Mr. Gautam said, "There are protests across the country against the demolition of the Sant Ravidas temple in Tughlakabad. The DDA demolished the temple on August 10 and also took away the idol."

"In many places, there are protests against the demolition. In several districts in Punjab, traffic has been affected due to the protests. The news about the demolition is spreading across the country very fast," the letter to the Prime Minister read.



There are protests across the country against the demolition of Sant Ravidas temple in Tughlakabad. The DDA demolished the temple on August 10 and also took away the idol

RAJENDRA PAL GAUTAM
AAP Minister

AAP takes a jibe at BJP

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said the BJP leaders are silent on the issue. "DDA is distributing land to everyone, but today, it has become difficult for the body to give land for the temple. We want to ask the BJP leaders and the Centre why they don't even have 100 *gaj* land for Sant Ravidas *ji*?" Mr. Bharadwaj said. He added that the DDA had earlier filed an FIR against the temple.

"In compliance with the Supreme Court order, senior officials of police, government and DDA were present along with members of the Guru Ravi Das Jayanti Samaroh Samiti on the site...The standing semi-permanent structure was dismantled peacefully without any resistance or use of force, in the presence of samiti members," DDA officials said.

They added, "It is also clarified that the suit was filed by Guru Ravi Das Jayanti Samaroh Samiti and not by the DDA."

Army man's widow gets ₹1.17 cr. in accident case

Bus jumped red light, hit victim in 2016

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has awarded ₹1.17 crore compensation to the wife of a rifleman in the Army who was knocked down by a DTC bus near the Udhyog Bhavan bus stand in Lutyens' zone in 2016.

The offending vehicle had jumped the red light and hit the Army personnel when he was crossing over from the Sena Bhavan side. He was posted at the Army headquarters.

In reply to the claim petition, the driver of the offending vehicle and the DTC submitted that the vehicle had been falsely implicated in the accident. The insurance company which had insured the bus offered ₹ 15.47 lakh as full and final settlement but the petitioners rejected it.

Testimony of eyewitness

Delhi Traffic Police ASI Narender Pal Singh was an eyewitness to the accident. Testifying before the tribunal, he said that the bus overtook the vehicles, jumped the red light and drove into a wrong lane after crossing the yellow divider line and hit the victim who was crossing the road on the zebra marks.

"This testimony clearly establishes that the accident took place only due to rash and negligent driving of the said bus by its driver. Though the issue of contributory negligence on the part of deceased has also been raised by counsel for the respondents but there is no material on record to substantiate it," Presiding Officer of the tribunal M.K. Nagpal said.

The victim was at that time 34-year-old and drawing a monthly salary of ₹41,545.

"Ordering the award in favour of the petitioners, Mr. Nagpal said: "The petitioners are thus awarded a sum of ₹1.17 crore, which includes interest at 9% per annum from the date of filing of detailed accident report till deposit within 30 days from today or till notice of deposit is given to the petitioners, whichever is earlier."

DDA to install separate STPs to provide treated water to 10 parks

Move comes after technical issues surfaced during supply

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is in the process of installing sewage treatment plants across the national capital that will provide treated water to be used in parks.

Earlier this year, the urban body, along with the Delhi Jal Board, had started supplying treated water to various parks in Dwarka and south Delhi. However, following technical issues that surfaced, the DDA is now installing sewage treatment plants in 10 parks to facilitate direct supply of treated water.

"In the first phase, pipelines were placed and DJB was supplying the treated water which was being supplied to the parks. However, in some areas it turned out to be a hassle. As a result, the DDA has decided to have its own STPs so that the untreated water from DJB can be treated by the urban body itself," said a senior DDA official.

Work in progress

While one STP at the children's park in Dilshad Garden is already functional, work on five other STPs at Satpullah lake, Shalimar Bagh, Harsh Vihar, Jahangirpuri and Jhandewalan is under progress, officials said.

"For five other STPs the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) is under progress. This is for parks at Manak Vihar, Gokal Pur I-Pocket, Dilshad Garden, LSR GK-1 and Pocket A-10 Kalkaji," the official added.

Expressing concern over the depleting ground water, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) last year had directed the Delhi Jal Board to convene a meeting on the supply of treated water to parks in South Delhi.

The green panel had also directed the State government to provide a detailed report on the laying of pipeline dedicated for the supply of treated water.

Steps taken to avert water crisis: Kejriwal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said his government has taken a number of steps to ensure that the water situation in the national capital does not reach an alarming level.

Referring to the Niti Aayog report on water crisis in major cities, the CM said that in coming years, water would be a major concern but the document is creating "more alarm".

The *Sangathan Parv-Sadasyata Abhiyan* was organised by the Delhi BJP e-library cell. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Professionals from various fields join BJP during drive

'Most of them have family roots in J&K'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Professionals from various fields, including those with family roots in Jammu and Kashmir, took up the membership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at its State headquarters here on Monday.

The *Sangathan Parv-Sadasyata Abhiyan was* organised by the Delhi BJP e-library cell.

"A large number of people from Jammu and Kashmir, professionals, engineers, doctors, advocates, university professors, bank officials, CEOs of multinational companies and human right activists have joined the BJP today. This will prove to be an inspiration for us," Delhi BJP chief ManojTiwari said.

"Article 370 of the Constitution had become a demon for our country and no party had the will power to abolish it but our Prime Minister Narendra Modi...the presence of large numbers of Kashmiris here is proof of...how people are happy [about the withdrawal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir]," Mr. Tiwari added.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said, the removal of special status to J&K had brought the "trust of crores of people" leading to their decision to join the BJP in "record numbers."

E-library cell convener Shobha Vijender said, "We welcome their decision to connect with the party after being influenced by nationalism. It is a rare occasion when intellectuals have assembled here in such large numbers and the organisational capacity of the BJP and the leadership of Mr. Modi... has inspired them to serve the country with new energy."

DUSU raises pitch to name its office after Veer Savarkar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Students' Union on Monday raised a demand to name the DUSU office after freedom fighter Veer Savarkar.

DUSU president Shakti Singh announced this decision during the staging of a play 'Hey Mrituanjay', which is based on the time Savarkar spent in jail in the Andaman islands. The play was organised by the students' union.

Mr. Singh said, "Veer Savarkar is a true inspiration for all the students. Successive Congress governments have done hard work to malign Savarkar's name. Even today in Rajasthan, the State government is working to pollute the history."

The students' union president added that the ABVP would ensure that the DUSU office would be named after the freedom fighter.

Government of Jharkhand
Urban Development And Housing Department
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad

e-Procurement Tender Notice No. DMC/37/2019-20

Reference No. : DMC/37/2019-20 Date : 09.08.2019

क्रम सं0	Tender Reference Number	वार्ड सं0	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति का अवधि
1	DMC/37/01/2019-20	46	घनवाडीह चटूकोरी जोरिया हरिजन टोला होते हुए घनुवाडीह शिव मंदिर तक, कुजामा रेलवे फाटक से रामदुलार भुरिया के घर से फारूक मियां के घर तक, पाण्डेबेरा पुल से महेन्द्र निषाद के घर से सरयू मल्लाह के घर तक, गोलकडीह पिन्टु रवानी के घर से तिसरा थाना तक, गोलकडीह सत्येन्द्र सिंह के घर से पंकज निषाद के घर होते हुए गोलकडीह जग धौड़ा तक, दोबारी खाद राजबाड़ी बस्ती से लेकर नया कलाली भूईयां पट्टी तक, दुर्गापुर कुष्ठ कालोनी से बृजमोहन लोहार तक, पाण्डेबेरा बब्लू मंडल के घर से कालाचन्द राय के घर होते हुए बिसू मलहोरी के घर तक एवं विभिन्न जगहो पर पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	3140500.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
2	DMC/37/02/2019-20	47	लोदना हांड़ी पट्टी सामुदायिक भवन के पास, लोदना हाई स्कूल के पास, लोदना श्रमिक कल्याण में रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	259500.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
3	DMC/37/03/2019-20	47	मधुबन सलाई में मनोज साव के घर से राजकुमार पासवान के घर तक, भोला पासवान के घर से चाला तक, महेन्द्र भुईयां के दुकान से अर्जुन पासवान के घर तक, राजेन्द्र भुईयां के घर से पी0सी0सी0 तक, परसीद राम के घर से चालीस धौड़ा कुंआ तक, राजेश गुप्ता के घर से श्रवण चौहान के घर तक, केसो बेलदार के घर से बबलू चौहान के घर तक, सलीम मियां के घर से विजय पासवान के घर तक, बैद्यनाथ चटर्जी के घर से आंगनबांड़ी केन्द्र तक, डिस्को नगर में कुजामा लाल पट्टी में पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	2974200.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
4	DMC/37/04/2019-20	48	बागडीगी कोलयरी स्व0 सीताराम के घर से मनिष कुमार के घर तक गली, पण्डो पासवान के घर से मधेश्वर के घर तक, कालीथाना भुईयां पट्टी से दिलीप पासवान के घर से सुरेश पासवान के घर तक, भुलन बरारी ओम क्लब से विमलेश सिंह के घर और कुन्दन मोदी के घर तक, भुलन नया धौड़ा शंकर पासवान के घर से राम नोनिया के घर तक, बरारी एक नं0, ब्राहमण बरारी काली मंदिर से बाउरी पट्टी पीपल पेड़ तक, भूलन 6 नं0, बाजार धौड़ा, बागडीगी बस्ती, डूमरिया टांड़, भुलन बरारी, जयरामपुर 2 नं0 पेवर ब्लॉक का कार्य।	2898700.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
5	DMC/37/05/2019-20	48	बागडीगी बस्ती पंचायत भवन में, यादव पट्टी सामुदायिक भवन में रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	174000.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
6	DMC/37/06/2019-20	48	बागडीगी बस्ती दुर्गा मंदिर के पास शेड निर्माण।	988800.00	2 % of BOQ	5000.00	दो माह
7	DMC/37/07/2019-20	49	नुनूडीह आंगनबाड़ी में, नुनुडीह भरत गोराई के घर के पास, नुनूडीह स्कूल के पास, पारबाद काली मंदिर के पास, पारबाद वासुदेव कोलयरी में काली मंदिर के पास, जोगन कोचा ईश्वर मांझी के घर के सामने, डंगाल धौड़ा राय साहब के कार्यालय के पास, डंगाल धौड़ा यादव के घर के पास एम0पी0आई0 कविता दास के घर के पास, विजय गड़ महावीर हांड़ी के घर के पास, महेन्द्र सिंह के घर के पास, नुनूडीह कल्ब के सामने रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	264600.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
8	DMC/37/08/2019-20	49	पारबाद माणीक बनर्जी के घर से सुजीत बनर्जी के घर तक, कुल टांड़ बस्ती में मेन रोड से दुर्योधन महतो के घर तक, चासनाला टीना धौड़ा सूरज पाण्डे के घर से शंकर शर्मा के घर तक, विपिन पाण्डे के घर से धनजी यादव के घर तक, भातडीह में कन्हैया के दुकान से बालेश्वर मास्टर के घर तक, चन्द्रमोहन के घर से राजेश मल्लिक के घर तक, डंगाल धौड़ा में, नुनूडीह में, एन0बी0सी0सी0 पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य	3077200.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
9	DMC/37/09/2019-20	49	नुनूडीह पंचायत भवन के पास, पारबाद शिव मंदिर के पास सामुदायिक भवन के पास रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	173600.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
10	DMC/37/10/2019-20	50	गौरखुंटी प्राथमीक विद्यालय के बगल गली में, लालचंद महतो के घर से साधु आश्रम तक, गौरखुंटी बजरंगबली मोड़ पीपल बबूतरा से रतन मिश्रा के घर तक, मोहलबनी गणेश महतो के घर से आगे तक, ईस्ट भौरा रोड, अंधा बस्ती आदर्श कालोनी में, सावरडीह उमेश सिंह के घर से चायना जी के घर तक, गौरखुंटी मोड़ शहीद शक्ति नाथ मोड़ से गली तक, लोडो बाजार स्कूल के बगल में, गौरखुंटी दुर्गा मंदिर के पास तक, पारबाद तालाब किनारे काली मंदिर के बगल में, इमामबाड़ा मुण्डा पट्टी में पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	3047500.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
11	DMC/37/11/2019-20	50	मोहलबनी बिरसा पुल के पास सामुदायिक भवन, पाथरडीह सामुदायिक भवन, परचाबाद पंचायत भवन में रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	258900.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
12	DMC/37/12/2019-20	50	मोहलबनी आंगनबाड़ी केन्द्र, मल्लिक टोला, त्रिलोक नाथ मध्य विद्यालय, सावरडीह चायना जी के घर के पास, परचाबाद बस्ती मल्लीक टोला विश्वनाथ महतो के घर के पास, मोहलबनी काली मंदिर के सामने चापानल के पास, डिगवाडीह महतो बस्ती, लोको बाजार पार्षद कार्यालय महेन्द्र प्रसाद के घर के पास रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	264600.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
13	DMC/37/13/2019-20	51	संतोष रवानी के घर से शिव मंदिर तक जय राम दुकान के आगे में, न्यू मार्केट सुदामडीह शापींग सेंटर से मेन रोड तक, साउथ कालोनी बाउरी धौड़ा में, अरूण रवानी के घर के पीछे, सुमष पासवान के घर से गरीब दास के घर तक, अजमेरा दुर्गा मंदिर के पास, मलय सुपकार के घर से मेन रोड तक न्यू माइन्स तक, मनोज सुपकार के दुकान से बैजू रवानी के घर तक, टोपा दास के घर से अमन सुपकार के घर तक एवं बापी सुपकार के घर से लालू सुपकार के घर तक पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	3437300.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
14	DMC/37/14/2019-20	52	सुदामडीह रिभर साईड भिकू पंडित के घर से प्रदीप हरिजन के घर तक नाला निर्माण, चासनाला बड़ा मोड़ गोपाल पासवान के घर से दीपक महतो के दुकान तक, साउथ कालोनी में सुदामडी रिभर साईड में कपील देव भगत के घर से हरिहर राम के घर तक, गूरूचरण सिंह के घर के पीछे एवं किडज ऐजल स्कूल से लेकर मस्जिद तक नाली निर्माण।	6397400.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
15	DMC/37/15/2019-20	52	चासनाला नं0 2 सरस्वती मंदिर से लेकर राजेन्द्र बाउरी के घर तक एवं चाय दुकान तक, रामु बाउरी के घर से लेकर पीपल का पेड तक, चासनाला विवेक महतो के घर से आदर्श बाउरी के घर तक, प्रदीप महतो के घर से गौतम महतो के घर तक, एवं मुकेश ओझा के घर तक, आजाद नगर चासनाला मद्रासी पट्टी में गोपाल पासवान के घर से सड़क तक, संजू के घर से नाली तक, न्यू माईन्स मोती नगर में पिंकी कुमारी के घर से शंकर दास के घर तक, निमाई ओझा के घर से केदार के घर तक, शंकर के घर से सदानंद के घर तक, सोमार दास के घर से भरत दास के घर तक, राम बिलास के घर से रामलाल के घर तक, राज कुमार दास के घर से मनीष दास के घर तक पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	3226200.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
16	DMC/37/16/2019-20	53	मनोहर टांड़ में मध्य विद्यालय के पास, राकेश महतो के घर के पास, निर्माई मल्लिक के घर के पास, दीपक बाउरी के घर के पास, बनरास प्रसाद के घर के पास, मनोहर टांड़ सिंह टोला बाबू मणी के घर के पास, मनोहर टांड़ टेंकी बस्ती नादू मुण्डा के घर के पास रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	152600.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
17	DMC/37/17/2019-20	53	झरिया सिन्दरी मुख्य पथ से नीचे काण्ड्रा पुल तक पथ निर्माण।	4499800.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
18	DMC/37/18/2019-20	53	मनोहर टांड़ मध्य विद्यालय से पी0सी0सी0 पथ तक, मनोहर टांड़ हीरक रोड दीपक साव के घर से पी0सी0सी0 पथ तक, मुक्ती हाजरा के घर से तालाब तक, सिंह बस्ती हिरक रोड से अनिल सिंह के घर तक, गौशाला पुराना किरासन तेल डिपों से धवड़ा होते हुए सोन्धी मोड़ रोड़ तक, चूड़ी पटटी मस्जिद से गली तक, तासरा सिंह बस्ती में मनोज सिंह के घर से अनील सिंह के घर तक, गौशाला शंभु प्रसाद के घर से दीपक महतो के घर तक, तासरा बस्ती हरीजन टोला उमेश सिंह के घर से पी0सी0सी0 पथ तक, कोलबोर्ड कोलानी से ग्राम थाना तक, सर्वेश्वर महतो के घर से पी0सी0सी0 पथ तक, काण्डरा मेन रोड से टिंकू महतो के घर तक, मनोहर टांड़ आदिवासी टोला सोम टुडू के घर शोभा हांसदा के घर तक, मनोहर टांड़ बनरास प्रसाद के घर से देवरिया टोला रोड तक पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	3331200.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह
19	DMC/37/19/2019-20	54	राहा के घर से हरीमंदिर तक, काशी मल्लिक के घर से मंदिर की ओर, लखण रजवार के घर से दिलीप मल्लिक के घर होते हुए काली मंदिर तक, कालीचरण रजवार के घर से हीरालाल के घर तक, गौतम दत्ता के घर से बंकर की ओर, अनील मंडल के घर से गली, शांति मंडल क घर से राजमुनी के घर तक, सभी सिन्दरी बस्ती, साउथ हॉस्टल टाउन से काली मंदिर तक, बी0बी0जी कैम्प धीरन के घर से पी0सी0सी0 तक, डोमगढ़ आनंद के दुकान से तारा मंदिर की ओर, के0डी0 कालोनी पार्थीक भट्टाचार्य के घर तक, आर0एल0 कालोनी से मनसा मंदिर की ओर पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	2252300.00	2 % of BOQ	5000.00	दो माह
20	DMC/37/20/2019-20	54	छोटा डोमगढ़ आदिवासी टोला में सुरेश मांझी के घर से इंडस्ट्रीज एरिया तक, डोमगढ़ पी0डब्लू0डी0 पथ से पोस्ट ऑफिस तक, मेन रोड से सुन्दर नगर तक पथ निर्माण।	990400.00	2 % of BOQ	5000.00	दो माह
21	DMC/37/21/2019-20	54	डोमगढ़ हटिया के पास, बी0बी0जी0 कैम्प बस्ती में, सिन्दरी बस्ती स्कूल के पास, छोटा डोमगढ़ सुनिल के घर के पास, दास टोला उमेश के घर के पास, डोमगढ़ बैजू दुकान के पीछे रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	87600.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
22	DMC/37/22/2019-20	54	सिन्दरी बस्ती मल्लिक टोला के सामुदायिक भवन में रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	170600.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
23	DMC/37/23/2019-20	55	जहीर मोड़ बिरसा समिति के सामुदायिक भवन में दो जगह पर रेन वाटर हार्वेस्टिंग पीट का कार्य।	170600.00	2 % of BOQ	1000.00	दो माह
24	DMC/37/24/2019-20	55	के0के0 स्कुल रंगामाटी में मो0 मजहर हुसैन के घर से मुखर्जी हाउस से अनील बर्मन के घर तक, पुराना आरा मार्शेन में मो0 कादीर के घर से सैता रजक के घर तक, पार्क में नित्यानंद ठाकुर के घर से रामलाल चौधरी के घर तक, लंगड़ा पुल अर्जुन महतो के घर से बादल घिघर के घर तक, एल टाईप में अप्पू कुमार बर्मन के घर से राहुल सिंह के घर तक, आर0एम0 4 आजाद नगर राजू यादव के घर से मुन्ना अंसारी के घर तक, आर0एम0के 4 शिव मंदिर से श्री भगवान के घर तक, आर0एम0के0 4 राज किशोर सिंह के घर से सन्नू मुखर्जी के घर तक, एम0 टाईप में प्रमोद कुमार के घर से मनोज मिश्रा के घर तक, ए0सी0सी0 जामाडोबा बस्ती में राजेश चौधरी के घर से प्राथमिक विद्यालय तक पेवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	3296300.00	2 % of BOQ	10000.00	तीन माह

Date of Publication of Tender on website :- **18.08.2019 At 03.00 PM**
Online Last Date / Time for receiving of bids :- **30.08.2019 (Online) till 05:00 PM**
Date of Receiving Hard Copy of Earnest Money & Cost of Tender Upto **31.08.2019, 03:00 PM** Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, LUBY Circular Road, MADA Building, Dhanbad
Date of Bid Opening :- **03.09.2019 at 09:00 AM** (Online)
NOTE:- (i) Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Further details can be seen on website
(ii) Contractor should be registered in appropriate class as per NIT
(iii) Estimated Cost / Quantity May Vary

S/d-
Executive Engineer,
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad

PR 214236 Urban Development (19-20)_D
बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (JUIDCO) LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
Ph no.-0651-2243203, E-Mail Id- juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,

NIT No: -JUIDCO Ltd/DPR-PMC/RMG-Sew/19/250
Tender ID: - 2019_UDD_39456_1
PR No: 209491

CORRIGENDUM-05

All bidders are hereby announced that corrigendum 05 is released for tender of NIT Ref No:**-JUIDCO Ltd/DPR-PMC/RMG-Sew/19/250** and Tender ID: **2019_UDD_39456_1** for **"Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Development of Sewerage Treatment Plant(s), Interception and Diversion Works, Sewerage Network, Pumping Stations etc. for Ramgarh Nagar Parishad, Jharkhand ".** The bidders are advised to take in to account the same before submission of their bids against the tender.
NOTE: Corrigendum-5 (including date extension) and all other information can be referred from the e-tender site of Govt. of Jharkhand i.e. **(http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)**

PR 214257 (Urban Development)19-20#D

Sd/-
Project Director (T)

जिसे अब तक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 98203 50726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL
PH: 98110 06590
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

कार्यालय :– असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

फोन नं0– 06582 259859 **E-Mail–cswestsinghbhum@gmail.com**

विज्ञापन सं0–02/2019

नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञापन की सूचना

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन अन्तर्गत जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति, प0सिहभूम, चाईबासा द्वारा विभिन्न चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी/विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी के निम्नलिखित पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु विहित प्रपत्र में निबंधित डाक/स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा आवेदन पत्र मुहरबंद लिफाफे में आमंत्रित किया जाता है। साधारण डाक से प्राप्त आवेदन पत्रों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। आवेदन पत्र असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, प0सिंहभूम, चाईबासा के कार्यालय में निबंधित डाक/स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा दिनांक 20.08.2019 के संध्या 05:00 बजे तक प्राप्त किया जायेगा। निर्धारित तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। नियुक्ति हेतु चयन प्रकिया सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित मापदण्ड के आधार पर होगा।

क0सं0	पद का नाम	रिक्त पदों की संख्या			
		अनारक्षित	अ0ज0जा0	अ0जा0	कुल
1	**ENT Surgeon**	01	00	00	01
2	**Ophthalmologist**	01	00	00	01
3	**Radiologist**	01	00	00	01
4	**Orthopaedics**	01	00	00	01
5	**Psychiatrist**	01	00	00	01
6	**Dermatologist**	01	00	00	01
7	**Medical Officer(Part Time)(NUHM)**	01	01	00	02
8	**Physician/Consultant Medicine(NCD Specialist)**	01	01	00	02

इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी उपर्युक्त पद के लिए आवेदन का विहित प्रपत्र एवं विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए जिले के वेबसाईट– WWW.chaibasa.nic.in पर देख सकते है।

सिविल सर्जन सह सचिव,
जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

PR 214232 West Singhbhum(19-20)D

उपायुक्त सह अध्यक्ष,
जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

THE HINDU
LET US KNOW YOU BETTER
Your feedback is valuable to us.
Please scan the QR code or visit
www.thehindu.com/feedback
You may call us at toll free
1800 3000 1878
or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

ऊर्जा विभाग
झारखण्ड सरकार, विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, इंजीनियरिंग हॉस्टल नं0–2, धुर्वा, राँची

अति अल्पकालीन ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना

ई–निविदा प्रसंग सं0– Energy/EWD/Ranchi/22/2019-20 दिनांक– 10/08/2019

1.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	अग्रधन की राशि	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
I	ए0 जी0 मोड डोरण्डा, राँची स्थित राज्य प्रिंटिंग प्रेस में 125 के0 वी0 ए0 ध्वनि रहित जनित्र के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	14,84,620.00	2500.00	30,000.00	छः सप्ताह
II	चाईबासा स्थित कमिशनर कार्यालय में पाथ लाईट, बगीचास लाईट एवं फल्ड लाईट के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	10,23,019.00	2500.00	22,000.00	छः सप्ताह
III	सर्किट हाउस सिमडेगा में बगीचा लाईट, पाथ लाईट, सर्विस कनेक्शन एवं सुरक्षा लाईट के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	20,76,393.00	5000.00	42,000.00	छः सप्ताह
IV	समाहरणालय, सिमडेगा में में बगीचा लाईट एवं सुरक्षा लाईट के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	18,71,627.00	5000.00	36,000.00	छः सप्ताह
V	ए0 जी0 मोड डोरण्डा, राँची स्थित झालसा भवन में 30 के0 वी0 ए0 ऑन लाईन यू0 पी0 एस0 के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	17,09,166.00	5000.00	35,000.00	छः सप्ताह
VI	विधान सभा, धुर्वा राँची के ऑडिटोरियम में 40 के0 वी0 ए0 ऑन लाईन यू0 पी0 एस0 के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	17,72,301.00	5000.00	36,000.00	छः सप्ताह
VII	धुर्वा राँची स्थित ज्यूडिशियल एकेडमी के विभिन्न भवनों में एल0 ई0 डी0 सुरक्षा लाईट एवं फल्ड लाईट के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	10,45,826.00	2500.00	22,000.00	छः सप्ताह
VIII	मान्नीय झारखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय, डोरण्डा राँची में 250 के0वी0ए0 ध्वनि रहित जनित्र ए0 एम0एफ0 पैनल, सेड सहित के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	33,12,716.00	5000.00	67,000.00	छः सप्ताह
IX	मान्नीय झारखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय, डोरण्डा राँची में 250 के0 वी0 ए0 जनित्र से पैनल तक भूमिगत केबल का कार्य एवं ए0 सी0, कम्प्युटर बोर्ड का वायरिंग एवं कोर्ट रूम में पी0 ए0 सेक्षन में एल0ई0डी0 लाईट के अधिष्ठापन कार्य।	12,61,285.00	2500.00	26,000.00	छः सप्ताह
X	धुर्वा राँची स्थित एन0 आई0 सी0 कार्यालय (क्वार्टर नं0 305/306) में 62.5 के0वी0ए0 ध्वनि रहित जनित्र के अधिष्ठापन का कार्य।	10,95,997.00	2500.00	22,000.00	छः सप्ताह
2.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	20.08.2019			
3.	निविदा जमा करने की तिथि	21.08.2019 के 10.30 बजे से 27.08.2019 के 2.00 बजे तक			
4.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	28.08.2019 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न में			
5.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची।			
6.	निविदा खोलने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची।			
7.	ई प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रकोष्ट का फोन नं0	0651–2400712, 0651–2490069			

नोट :– निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in मे देखा जा सकता है।

विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची

PR 214252 Energy (19-20)_D
बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

उत्पाद एवं मद्य निषेध विभाग, झारखंड, राँची।

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्पाद एवं मद्य निषेध विभाग के नव निर्मित उत्पाद भवन में प्रस्तावित उत्पाद रसायन प्रयोगशाला के संचालन एवं क्रियान्वयन के निमित्त उत्पाद रसायन प्रयोगशाला से संबंधित सामग्रियों के साथ–साथ उपकरणों के अधिष्ठापन आवश्यक प्रशिक्षण, मरम्मति, संचालन सहयोग एवं प्रशिक्षित तथा अनुभव कर्मी की आपूर्त्ति हेतु योग्य एवं सक्षम एजेन्सी का चयन करने हेतु मुहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसके जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं स्थान निम्नवत है –

तिथि	विवरणी
02.09.2019 04:00 बजे अपराह्न	मुहरबंद निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
04.09.2019 11:00 बजे पूर्वाहन	निविदा खोलने की तिथि
निविदा खोलने का स्थान	स्थान– मंथन कक्ष, कमरा संख्या– 304, तृतीय तल्ला, नया उत्पाद भवन, पुलिस लाईन रोड, कांके, राँची

निविदा संबंधी नियम, दस्तावेज आदि की पूर्ण जानकारी http://jharkhandutpad.nic.in/excise पर उपलब्ध है।

ह0/–
(मनोज कुमार)
अवर सचिव, उत्पाद एवं मद्य निषेध विभाग,
झारखंड, राँची।

PR214244 Excise(19-20)D
बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

DELHI Timings

TUESDAY, AUG. 13			
RISE	05:49	SET	19:03
RISE	17:43	SET	03:37
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14			
RISE	05:50	SET	19:02
RISE	18:31	SET	04:30
THURSDAY, AUG. 15			
RISE	05:50	SET	19:01
RISE	19:10	SET	05:24

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	28
Safdarjang	35	28
Palam	36	27

Delhi Palam Today
36°C Few spell of moderate with isolated heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds affect many parts of the area.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34°C Light spells of rain and thundershower will prevail. Humid weatherwith cloudy sky expected.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

Violence, protest disrupt Id, Sawan festivities in 2 U.P. cities

Stones hurled at kanwariyas in Budaun; group protests namaz on road in Agra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Despite the Uttar Pradesh police taking stringent measures to ensure peace on Id-ul-Zuha that fell on the last Monday of Sawan month of the Hindu calendar, two incidents of violence and protest were reported from Budaun and Agra in western Uttar Pradesh.

In Budaun, stones were hurled at a kanwariya procession when it was crossing the Islamnagar area on Monday morning. Many kanwariyas were injured in the incident and admitted to a nearby hospital.

Police sources said the kanwariyas were playing religious music on loudspeakers when the Muslim residents were preparing to offer Id namaz. They objected to the music and it led to commotion and stone pelting. The kanwariyas fled the area but returned to protest and blocked Bisuali Road.

Id festivities passed off peacefully in Aligarh on Monday. ▪PTI

Tight security

Senior officials of Budaun and Sambhal rushed to the spot and controlled the situation. "Extra police force has been deployed in the area to prevent any backlash," said Superintendent of Police (rural) Surendra Singh.

"An FIR has been lodged by the kanwariyas of nearby Siddhpur village against unknown people for rioting and hurting religious sentiments. We are investigating the charges and counter-charges levelled by both sides. No arrest has been made so far," Mr. Singh said.

In Agra, members of the Bajrang Dal protested against Muslims offering Id namaz on road in the Khandauli area. A group of 70 Bajrang Dal members from Aligarh was returning from Ayodhya. They were stopped by the police in Khandauli as the residents were offering namaz on the road. The members of the right-wing group protested and threatened to recite Hanuman Chalisa on the road. Zonal coordinator of Bajrang Dal Ram Kumar Arya said namaz was not allowed to be offered on road meant for public transport.

Senior police officers rushed to the spot and ensured that the bus was allowed to pass through.

Six killed in H.P. landslides

Swirling waters wash away two buildings in Chamoli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN/GOPESHWAR

Six persons, including a woman and her nine-month-old daughter, were buried alive as landslides triggered by heavy rains hit three different villages in Ghat area of Chamoli district on Monday morning, officials said.

Erosion caused by swirling waters of the flooded Chuflagad River also washed away two buildings standing close to it.

The State emergency operation centre in Dehradun said the debris of landslides fell over three houses in Banjabgad, Aligaon and Lankhi villages in Ghat area of the district early on Monday, trapping the occupants.

Water gushes down after a cloudburst in Chamoli district on Monday. ▪PTI

Suffocated to death

All of them suffocated to death, it said, adding all the deceased except one were women.

While Rupa Devi and her daughter Chanda were killed in Banjbagad village, 21-year-old Naurati Devi was killed in Aligaon and three others in Lankhi village, it said.

Those killed in Lankhi village were identified as Kumari Arti, Kumari Anjali and Ajay, it said.

Three houses in these villages were totally damaged in the heavy rains which also claimed the lives of half a dozen livestock. .

Damage to buildings was also reported from Ghat market close to Chuflagad, a tributary of Nandakini river, which was in spate.

Erosion caused by the swirling waters of the flooded river washed away two buildings standing close to it.

However, there was no casualty in the incident as the buildings had been vacated by their occupants in apprehension, District Disaster Management Officer N.K. Joshi said. People living in the area are being evacuated to safer locations, he said.

SIT to probe H.P. exam impersonation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA

A special investigation team has been formed to probe impersonation during the written examination for the recruitment of constables in Himachal Pradesh, a police spokesperson said.

The exam was conducted on Sunday but the State government cancelled it after the arrest of people posing as candidates.

Over 39,000 candidates had appeared for the examination in all 12 districts of the State.

A new date would be announced soon, the spokesperson said.

He said 13 persons were arrested, of which three were from Himachal Pradesh, seven from Haryana, two from Uttar Pradesh and one from Rajasthan.

The accused were produced before a Kangra court, which sent them to four-day police custody till August 16, he added.

A case was registered against the accused under Sections 419 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Bhawarna police station in Kangra district.

Chandigarh's Elante Mall evacuated after bomb hoax

We are close to identifying the caller, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh's Elante Mall was on Monday evacuated after the city police received a phone call about a bomb being placed on the premises. However, no bomb was found, the police said.

The police swung into action after the call was received at the control room and an extensive search operation was carried out in and around the mall by evacuating all those inside the premises.

"It is now confirmed that there is no bomb or any other threat in Elante Mall. Search operation has finished and the mall is open to the public," said Nilambari Jagadale, Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh.

> **There is no bomb or any other threat in Elante Mall. Search operation has finished and Mall is open to the public**
>
> NILAMBARI JAGADALE
> SSP, Chandigarh

"A case under relevant sections of law has been registered against the caller and we are close to identifying him," she added.

She said a call was received at the police control room that a bomb has been placed in Elante Mall. "The caller refused to identify himself. He used Internet protocol to make the call," she said.

The mall was evacuated and a bomb disposal team, anti-sabotage teams, operation cell teams, crime branch teams and local police teams carried out intensive search of the area.

Authorities have been on high alert across the country ahead of Independence Day and in view of developments related to Jammu and Kashmir.

'Mock drill'

"Initially, I thought it was a drill by security personnel as Independence Day is near, but soon I realised that something serious had happened. I along with my family members, who had come to watch a movie, rushed out in panic," said Ajay Kumar, a local resident.

Senior police officials reached the site and appealed to people to stay calm.

With PTI inputs

In search of greener pastures

A cowherd leads his animals along a dried rivulet near Haridwar on Monday. ▪SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Stampede near Bihar temple leaves one dead

Devotees had gathered for darshan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAKHISARAI

A stampede broke out near a temple here on Monday, leaving one person dead and at least eight injured, police said.

The incident took place at the Ashok Dham temple here, situated in Town police station area of the district, where a huge throng of devotees had turned up to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva on the last Monday of the auspicious month of 'Shravan'.

At one point of time, the crowd grew restless and many people began to jostle, leading to a stampede-like situation. The situation was, however, soon brought under control, SHO of Town police station Sanjay Kumar Singh said.

> **Victim appears to have suffered a heart attack**
>
> SANJAY KUMAR SINGH
> SHO, Town police station

A 60-year-old unidentified person collapsed on the spot. There were no injury marks on his body, which has been brought to the Sadar hospital for post-mortem. He appears to have suffered a massive heart attack, the SHO said.

He also asserted that those said to be injured had actually fallen sick, on account of the extreme humidity and suffocation caused by overcrowded surroundings.

They were being treated at the hospital and their condition was out of danger, he said.

Drug racket busted in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATIALA

A major drug racket was busted by the police on Monday with the arrest of two women.

Around 850 grams of heroin and cash worth ₹5 lakh was seized from the Manjit Kaur alias Bitto and Amarjeet Kaur alias Kalo, they said.

The operation was carried out by two police teams in Rajgarh village on the Patiala-Sangrur road on Monday evening

The duo peddled drugs for a Dhuri-based dealer Navjot Singh but after his arrest from Sangrur last year, they became major players and began dealing with some Delhi-based African nationals who supplied them drugs which they sold in Punjab.

Protests continue against temple demolition

Punjab Congress chief extends his party's support to Ravidas community

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Protests continued at many places in Punjab on Monday by Dalits over the demolition of a temple dedicated to Guru Ravidas in New Delhi's Tughlakabad on the directions of the apex court.

Protest marches were taken out by Dalits in Nawanshahr, where shops remained shut.

Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar, too, on Monday extended his party's support to the Ravidas community, but appealed to them to ensure that the common people were not adversely impacted as a result of their protests.

Reallocation of land

In a statement issued here on Monday, Mr. Jakhar said the party stood by the community and would help in every possible way to pursue the case for the reallocation of the historic site and the reconstruction of the temple.

Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar

However, in the interest of people, he urged the Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samaroh Samiti, which is spearheading the protests, not to block roads and highways as that was causing hardships to commuters.

Earlier, protesters at Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Phagwara, Gurdaspur and Amritsar had blocked several State highways, causing hardships to commuters.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Hoshiarpur MP Som Parkash described the demolition of the temple unfortunate.

He said he would meet the Lt Governor of Delhi and, if required, the Prime Minister, for resolving the matter.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in Phagwara on Monday before leaving for New Delhi, Som Parkash said the demolition of the structure had hurt religious sentiments of all sections of society, not just Dalits.

"Religious places and monuments of historic importance should not be tempered with," the BJP leader said, adding that they were "seized of the matter" and "doing their best" to find a way out.

"I had written to the Delhi Lt Governor on July 17, bringing to his notice the representation by Sant Kulwant Ram, president, Shri Guru Ravidas Sadhu Sampardai Society, pleading against the demolition of the structure," the Minister added.

Lt. Governor's reply

He further said the Lt. Governor in his reply on July 30 had informed him that the vice-chairman of the Delhi Development Authority had been asked to look into the matter and take appropriate action.

The Minister said a lapse had occurred at the level of the local committee of the temple as it had not informed them in time.

Six women escape from shelter home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Six women inmates, one of them five months pregnant, fled from a government-run shelter home here, an official said on Monday.

The district probation officer of Lucknow, Sudhakar Pandey, said the six women fled from the Rajkiya Mahila Sharnalaya on Prag Narain Road on Saturday at around 2.30 a.m.

He said three of them were from Lakhimpur, two from Hardoi and one from Lucknow.

The CCTV footage of the incident shows that "the women climbed on empty drums with the help of a water supply pipe and reached the roof of a bathroom on the campus," Mr. Pandey said.

Woman set on fire after rape attempt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
PILIBHIT (U.P.)

A 25-year-old man here has been booked for setting a woman on fire after failed rape attempt.

The police lodged a case on Sunday against the man, a resident of Harkishnapur village, on charges of attempt to murder his elder brother's wife.

The incident took place on June 11. But as the woman was unable to record her statement due to severe burn injuries.

From Assam to Chhattisgarh, a maiden 1,500-km journey for wild buffaloes

Five females to be translocated to Raipur to revive the waning population of the endangered species in central India

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Around the end of monsoon in October, five female wild buffaloes will travel more than 1,500 km crossing five States – the longest such translocation in the country ever – from Assam to the Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary in Raipur district, to help revive the waning population of Chhattisgarh's State animal and expand its territory across States.

With just nine buffaloes, including three females, left in the sanctuary, their revival across central India,a historical habitat, rests on hassle-free translocation, successful breeding and subsequent restocking of other habitats in the region.

Survival hazard

The survival hazard of inbreeding, continuing lineage and increasing male population have necessitated the translocation. "Scientists and government officials met earlier this year to finalise a translocation protocol. We are also assessing the viability of other historical habitats across the region to populate them later," said Samir Kumar Sinha, Deputy Director and Head of Species Recovery Division, Wildlife Trust of India, Chhattisgarh.

Stating that 20-25 buffaloes of Indravati National Park in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, also frequently travel to neighbouring Kolamarka Conservation Reserve in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, he said, "Over time, we'll have to release their progenies in other areas. Keeping them in one place won't be sustainable. There needs to be a landscape approach across the States as corridors cut across them."

On the translocation of the buffaloes, which are heavy and grow horns more than a metre long,

Regional head of WTI Rajendra Prasad Mishra said it will be a challenge. "We have readied plans for both rail and road methods. It will be finalised a few days before the translocation. We'll try to bring subadults as they don't have long horns. It'll be easier to translocate them."

Chief Wildlife Warden of Chhattisgarh Atul Shukla said the female buffaloes would most likely be brought from Manas National Park in Assam, kept under observation here for a few days and later released into the wild. "While the government will provide the infrastructure, the WTI will provide technical support," he said.

Endangered species

The estimated population of the wild buffaloes (*Bubalus arnee*) in the Northeast is around 3,000-4,000, the largest in the country and accounting for 92% of the world population. It is listed under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and classified as endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, according to the WTI.

When the translocation plan was mooted, several conservationists initially questioned whether the buffaloes found in central India would be similar to the ones in the Northeast and be compatible. The government sent genetic samples to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, and got the approval.

"There will be only a bit of difference in the habitat. Even in central India there are waterbodies and grasslands for them to survive," said Mr. Sinha.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 9 • No. 192

Heavy rain warning issued in Odisha

Landslide reported near Harishankar Temple in Balangir district; no one injured

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Heavy rain triggered a major landslide near Harishankar Temple, a major religious place situated on the slopes of the Gandhamardhan Hills in western Odisha, on Monday.

Hundreds of devotees, gathered at the temple on the last Monday of Shravan month, experienced frightening moments as boulders and mud slurry flowed down from the hilltop.

According to the Balangir district administration, no injuries were reported as the devotees were asked to keep a safe distance from the stream.

The Special Relief Commissioner put all the District Collectors on high alert after weather authorities warned of heavy downpour, especially in the northern region.

> **Fishermen are advised not to venture into sea along during the next 48 hours**
> WEATHER BULLETIN

"Under the influence of the cyclonic circulation over north-east and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood between 3.1 km and 5.8 km above mean sea level, a low pressure area has formed over north-west Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts," said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre on Monday.

It predicted that the atmospheric system would become more marked during the next 48 hours

Orange warning

Orange warning has been issued for Mayurbhanj, Subarnapur, Keonjhar, Balangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Nayagarh and Puri districts. These districts are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rain. Extreme rain may occur in Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts. Incessant rain is likely to continue on Wednesday.

"Under the influence of the above system, squally weather with wind speed exceeding 45 kmph is expected and the sea condition is likely to be from rough to very rough along the Odisha coast and north-west and west-central Bay of Bengal," a weather bulletin said.

It warns "fishermen to not venture into sea along and off the Odisha coast and north-west Bay of Bengal and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours".

The SRC has directed the District Collectors to pre-position dry food, drinking water and health and sanitation facilities in the wake of the possibilities of flash flood at different places. Officers of line departments have been asked to stay prepared to move to affected areas in the event of submergence of roads and bridges.

'Odisha would get floods due to Polavaram dam'

Approach Supreme Court with detailed survey report, say anti-project leaders

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Recent waterlogging and slow drainage of floodwaters in Motu tehsil of Odisha's Malkangiri district hints at the vagaries this region would face after completion of the Polavaram project in adjoining Andhra Pradesh, alleged anti-Polavaram organisations and leaders of Odisha.

According to Malkangiri district residents, this year the Saveri river overflowed and flooded large areas of Motu and Kalimela tehsils. The region was similarly flooded in 1986 and 2006. However, then the floodwaters had receded in a day or two after the rain stopped. But this year the water has not receded even after a week. The CPI(M)'s Odisha unit, peasants' organisation All India Kisan Mazdoor Sabha and the People's Forum Against Polavaram have blamed the flood on the Polavaram project. CPI(M) Odisha secretary Ali Kishor Patnaik demanded that the State government take note of the recent flood situation and on the basis of a detailed survey approach the Supreme Court on the issue.

AIKMS national secretary Bhalachandra Shadangi said, "What was feared in Malkangiri district has happened, but the State government has not come up with any detailed report on the possible losses in Odisha."

Chhattisgarh too hit

According to AIKMS, the State Water Resources Department had in July 2018 conducted a survey in the areas to be affected, but the report has not been made public yet. PFAP added that Konta tehsil in Chhattisgarh has also suffered floods this year due to the Polavaram project.

World Elephant Day

Forest officials and visitors feeding elephants at the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar on Monday. • PTI

Four killed in lightning strike in West Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CANNING (W.B.)

Four persons, including a minor girl, were killed in lightning strike in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Monday, the police said.

A 52-year-old man and his son, 27, were killed in lightning strike at Shantigachhi in the Gosaba police station area.

Lightning also killed another 27-year-old man who was working in a field at Parasmani locality in the Gosaba area.

The police said a 12-year-old girl died the same way at Dhablat under the Sagar police station limits while she was returning home after playing with friends.

A. Shankar Rao is new DGP of Sikkim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GANGTOK

Senior IPS officer A. Shankar Rao has been appointed as Sikkim's new Director General of Police, a government notification has said.

Mr. Rao, a 1987-batch IPS officer of the Sikkim cadre, replaced S.D. Negi, who has been transferred to the Labour Department as Principal Secretary, it said.

Mr. Rao is at present posted as the Officer on Special Duty at the State Tourism and Civil Aviation Department office in New Delhi.

A. Shankar Rao will be the new DGP of Sikkim with immediate effect, the notification issued by Tenzing Gelek, Principal Secretary to the State government, said.

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

VIJETHA IAS ACADEMY
www.vijethaiasacademy.com
ACE thru ANTHROPOLOGY
VIJETHAs ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAMME:
UPSC Syllabus precisely lectured
Quality Interactive & Constructive discussions
Daily learning thru Answer writing
Weekly evaluation thru Consistent Tests
Complemented with:
40 Practice Tests*
Study Material & Reference Sources
Mains 2020 Test Series*
*Can be availed after course completion
4 Months
New Batch 16th August
#An Optional chosen by any background stream students
Add.: 7/50, IIIrd Floor, Near Roop Vatika, Shankar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60
011-42473555, 7678508541 9650852636

Under Personal Guidance of
Vikash Ranjan
SOCIOLOGY
FOUNDATION 2020-21 WITH DAILY ANSWER WRITING
(Preparation for 1000+ Marks Optional+Essay + Society-GS)
BATCH STARTS 14th Oct.
ADMISSION OPEN
LIMITED SEATS
TOP SCORES IN SOCIOLOGY
Namrata Jain, IAS-2018 MARKS IN SOCIO 301
GR Raghvendra, IPS-2018 MARKS IN SOCIO 318
Gauravjeet Singh, IRS-2018 MARKS IN SOCIO 309
Pradeep Singh, IAS-2018 MARKS IN SOCIO 307
Deepanshu Khurana, IFS-2017 MARKS IN SOCIO 303
Triumph IAS
Innovating Knowledge, Inspiring Success
7840888102
7678628820

दीक्षांत Education Centre
एक ईमानदार प्रयास
An Honest Effort
सामान्य अध्ययन
FREE COACHING
& SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME
भारत सरकार एवं गैर-सरकारी संगठनों द्वारा वित्तपोषित
एथिक्स खंड से
नये फाउंडेशन बैच हेतु
निःशुल्क कार्यशाला
के साथ कक्षा प्रारंभ
20 AUG 3 PM
289, Dhaka Johar, Near Dushahara Ground, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09
011-27608204, 9312511015, 8851301204
Visit us: dikshantias.com 9312511015 8851301204 facebook.com/dikshant.ias.7 youtube.com/dikshantias twitter.com/dikshantias instagram.com/dikshantias t.me/dikshantias

EDUCATIONAL

STOPRY with S. BALIYAN
OPT.
MORNING BATCH
EVENING BATCH
BEST SCORING & SAFEST OPTIONAL
NEW BATCHES COMMENCE 26 AUG.
INSIGHT
73, OLD RAJINDER NAGAR
011-45090051, 9818333201

EDUCATIONAL

PAVAN KUMAR'S IAS
(An Academy of General Studies & Public Administration)
ECONOMY
Starts: 26th Aug.
Offline www.pavankumarias.com Online
8447412868, 8447532310, 9911366520
18/4, First Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, Opp. Aggarwal Sweets, New Delhi-110060
Results prove over unparallel supremacy and leadership in Philosophy & Ethics
IAS Join No. 1 पतंजलि PCS
विश्वसनीय संस्थान, प्रमाणिक टीम, बेहतरीन रिजल्ट्स
Excellent Results in Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2018-19
निबंध
द्वारा धर्मेन्द्र सर
आज 11:30AM
मुखर्जी नगर (पोस्ट ऑफिस के ऊपर)
9810172345, 9811583851

IAS (Mains) 2020-21
COMMERCE
Our stars of Civil Services Exam 2018
Himanshu Nagpal AIR 26
Ritika AIR 88
+ 15 More Ranks
Nitesh kumar Jain AIR 96
New Batches:
* 26th August,
* 7th October &
* 8th November
Details at:
www.rankersclasses.in

M. PURI
ONLINE
GS PAPER 2
UPDATED WITH LATEST ISSUES IN NEWS
A course without which your GS Paper 2 preparation is incomplete
ADMISSION OPEN
www.stellariasacademy.online
CALL: 99152-14599
Stellar IAS ACADEMY
Your Ambition Our Guidance

EDUCATIONAL

GUIDANCE IAS
MORE THAN A COACHING
नवीन परिक्षार्थियों के लिए आवश्यक एवं लाभदायक।
Shivansh Awasthi AIR-77
AIR-3 व AIR-77 के साथ परिचर्चा।
18th AUG. 12:00 pm
Junaid Ahmad AIR- 3
मुखर्जी (वैकल्पिक) कक्षा कार्यक्रम
by HIMANSHU SIR
289, Dhaka Johar, Near Dushahara Ground, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9
011-40539024, 8750778855

EDUCATIONAL

ENGLISH By Mrs. Annie
For UPSC, PCS, SSC, JUDICIARY, PO etc.
DICTION ENGLISH INSTITUTE
202, A-40/41, Ansal Building, (near UCO bank) Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, ND Ph: 011-27654594

SITUATION VACANT
GENERAL

URGENTLY REQUIRED
Job Codes
J94 CONTENT WRITERS
J95 EXPERT MENTORS
J96 COPY APPRAISERS
QUALIFICATION
MINIMUM CRITERIA TO APPLY:
2 CSE MAINS APPEARANCE
1 CSE INTERVIEW APPEARANCE
Mail Resume (with Job Code) to
innovationforias@gmail.com
Note: Attach Latest DAF with Resume.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH
SAD DEMISE
Shri K Rangachari (A) Thambu
Aged 89 years
IRSE Retd Chief Engineer Indian Railways
Attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on 12th August.
Cremation on 13th August 11 am, at Besant Nagar
Deeply mourned by family & friends.
Ph. 044 24918314

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
New Delhi : 011- 43579797
Rate for New Delhi:
(Minimum Rs. 290/- 2 Lines
Extra Line - Rs. 145/-)
(B/W Display): Rs.50/Per Sq.cm
(Clr Display) : Rs.60/Per Sq.cm
Log on to
www.thehinduads.com
For Placing Advertisements Online

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL CUM X ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE OF TIRUAPTI
M.V.O.P.NO. 114 OF 2015
Bet.: K.Krishnaiah & another ...Petitioners
Vs.
ACE Logistics and others ...Respondents
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT NO.3
R3) Sunil Bhagath, S/o. Bhagath, R/at Khariya Bhasti, Dimna Road, M.G.M., East Sighbum District, Jharkhand State,
Please take notice that the petitioner filed the petition for compensation under section 166 (1)of M.V.Act against you and two others and the Hon'ble court was pleased to order notice to you, to appear before this Hon'ble court on 26-08-2019 at 10-30A.M. through the counsel or in person and file your objection if any, failing which the petition will be decided ex-parte.
Hg:26-08-2019
By order of the court.
B.PADMANABHAM
Advocate for Petitioners
Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that my client Ms. Muskan Sawhney D/o Mr. Harmeet Singh Sawhney presently R/o Flat No 263, Tower-M, 26th Floor, DLF Capital Greens, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015 is the co-owner ground floor of property No. I-16/476, Bapa Nagar, Military Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. My client has not authorized any one to deal in the aforesaid property. Everyone is hereby cautioned not to deal in the aforesaid property with anyone on behalf of my client in any manner whatsoever. In case anyone has dealt or still deals shall do so at his own risk and cost and my client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever.
HARI KISHAN (Advocate)
Metro Complex, 4-5, IInd Floor, Veer Savarkar Block, Madhuban Road, Shakarpur, Delhi

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

B.SC. DEGREE Marksheets from JNU for year passing 1996 belonging to Sharad Dominic Gaur have been lost. If found please contact 9741562200.

A GREETING TO REMEMBER
Be it a birthday, an anniversary, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on
THE HINDU CLASSIFIEDS
For more details, email: classifiedscustomercare@thehindu.co.in
Contact Toll Free Number: 180030700404
For Placing Advertisements Online, Log on to www.thehinduads.com

IN BRIEF

Mettur dam in Tamil Nadu to be opened today

SALEM/DHARMAPURI

In view of the heavy rain in the catchments of the Cauvery, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami will open the gates of the Mettur dam for irrigation on August 13. The dam now holds 62 tmc ft of water.

Water tank collapses in Gujarat, kills 3

AHMEDABAD

Three persons died while six were injured when a water tank in Ahmedabad's Bopal area collapsed on Monday morning. The injured were taken to hospital for treatment. The overhead tank collapsed due to a cave-in and it's debris fell on a nearby canteen, where labourers were sitting.

Man slaps Haryana BJP MLA at public meeting

AMBALA

A woman legislator of the ruling BJP in Haryana was slapped by a man when she was meeting people after addressing a public meeting in a village in Ambala district on Monday, police said. PTI

Case against Munnar school students, officials

IDUKKI

The police have charged cases against the senior students and the hostel authorities of Model Residential School, Munnar for ragging junior students. The students of Class 1X students lodged a complaint after they faced various forms of harassment.

Five held for raping woman in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

Five people have been arrested on Monday for allegedly abducting and raping a 20-year-old woman after thrashing her boyfriend in Rajasthan's Banswara district last month, police said. The incident had occurred on July 13, after which the victim's boyfriend had allegedly committed suicide, they said. PTI

CBSE cites resource crunch for hiking fee for Class X, XII exams

Other competitive tests are now conducted by the National Testing Agency

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s decision last week to double examination fees for Class 10 and 12 students, stems in part from its the loss of revenue from other all-India entrance tests for professional courses, which are now conducted by the newly created National Testing Agency (NTA).

Parents and students across the country got a shock when they were asked to pay ₹1500 to register for the board examinations, as opposed to the ₹750 paid by last year's batch.

The hike was even steeper for government school students from SC/ST communities in Delhi who had been paying just ₹50, with the state government paying another ₹300 per student to the CBSE on their behalf. These students will now have to pay ₹1200 to CBSE, and the State government has not indicated whether it will reimburse the amount.

"We have not increased the fees in the last five years, but all our costs have gone up many fold in that time," said the Board's Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj.

Extra burden: A file photo of students of Class 12 Central Board of Secondary Education leaving a centre after writing their annual examination.

Cross-subsidies

"Earlier, we used to conduct competitive examinations such as NEET and JEE-Main, as well as the NET exam, and save money from that which could then be siphoned to subsidise the school examinations. But that is now impossible. We faced losses of ₹100 crore from last year's school exams alone." CBSE authorities were not able to quantify the losses specifically caused by the removal of competitive examinations.

A senior official at the National Testing Agency told *The Hindu* it had processed 60 to 70 lakh candidates this year, most of whom appeared for examinations earlier conducted by CBSE.

The Board is an autonomous institution, which receives no funding from the government, but functions under the supervision of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

"CBSE is a self-financed body, and the Board works on no profit-no loss basis," said an official statement.

Currently, its main sources of revenue are the affiliation fee paid by almost 21,500 schools and the examination fee paid by Class 10 and 12 students.

As with NIOS

The statement pointed out that the hike makes CBSE's rates comparable to the other central board, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), which charges between ₹1200 and ₹ 2000 per student.

"The cost of paper and printing has shot up," added Mr. Bhardwaj..

Former CBSE chairperson Ashok Ganguly said the Board should look at other options to manage its finances.

"Losing revenue from professional entrance examinations would certainly affect finances, but that does not mean CBSE has to raise money from students," he said.

Headgear made mandatory for children above four years

Safety measures for children travelling on motorcycles

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a significant move, protective headgear of prescribed standards has been made mandatory for children above four years while travelling on a motorcycle.

The safety measures for the children travelling on motorcycles have been included in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019 that is passed by Parliament.

With the President of India giving assent to the Act, that has amended the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, on August 9, the Union Ministry of Law and Justice has notified the Act in the Gazette of India.

To make the protective headgear mandatory for children, Section 129 of the principal Act has been replaced in the Act as "Every person, above four years of age, driving or riding or being carried on a motorcycle of any class or description shall, while in public place wear protective headgear conforming to such standards as may be prescribed by the Central government".

Exemption

Only Sikhs wearing turban have been exempted from the provision of Section 129 that makes helmets mandatory for all riders of motorcycles above four years of age.

The Act says the Central government may by rules provide for measures for the safety of the children below four years of age riding or being carried on a motorcycle.

▪ ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R.KUMAR

With this amendment, children from the Kindergarten classes will have to wear the protective headgear if they have to travel on motorcycles.

At present, only protective headgear for children riding cycles are available in the market across the country. The decision of the Union government will see the markets flooded with protective headgear for children. For the parents, carrying headgear of children is another issue.

Road safety expert and former director of the National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (Natpac) T. Elangovan has called for providing a breathing space till the markets get ready with the protective headgear of prescribed standards. The parents should be made aware of the need of protective gear for children.

"Pillion riders, including children, are more prone to the injuries than the rider of the motorcycle in case the vehicle collides. Helmets of prescribed standards fastened to the head by straps or other fastenings can avoid head injuries," Mr. Elangovan told *The Hindu*.

The former Natpac director says law enforcers should enforce rules to restrict travellers to two on a motorcycle. "Often, the children hold on to the rider and the chances of thrown off are high. If at all children are allowed as a pillion riders, they should be of 13 years and above."

Congress demands rollback of fee hike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday demanded that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) immediately roll back the hike in examination fees for Class X and Class XII students, and called it "an assault on India's future generations bys the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government".

"Once again an insensitive Modi government has attacked the future generation by increasing the CBSE exam fee for Class X and Class XII students," said Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala in a statement.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala. ▪ FILE PHOTO

"Now, students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) will have have to pay 250% more. Instead of ₹350, they will have to pay ₹1,200. And general [category] students will have pay double, from ₹750 to ₹1,500," he added.

Cutting scholarships

The Congress alleged that the Centre has been consistently cutting down on scholarships that are meant to be given to SC students after passing the Class X exams.

In the latest Union Budget, the Congress claimed, the government has allocated ₹2,926 crore to disburse as scholarship for SC students, as against ₹6,000 crore given in the revised estimates of 2018-19 Union Budget.

Similary, scholarships for SC students pursuing Ph.D. courses have also been cut from ₹602 in 2014-15 to ₹283 crore in 2019-20.

"If the government doesn't rollback the hike in fees, then it will be proven that the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) wants to counter Babasaheb Ambedkar's call to the Dalits to educate and organise themselves," said the Congress spokesperson.

'Read Mahabharata properly'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

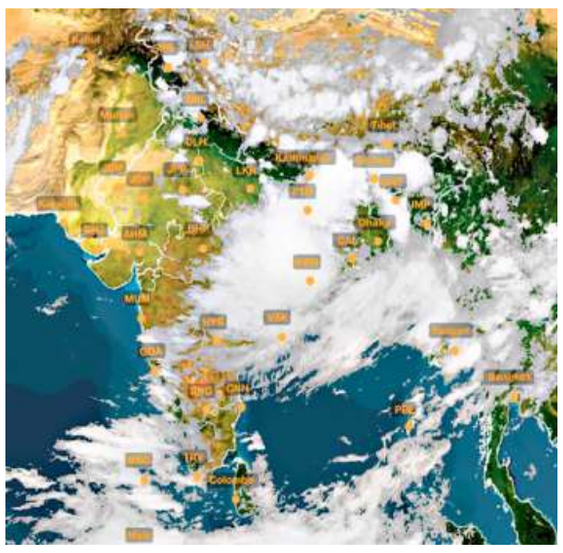
A day after actor Rajinikanth equated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to Lord Krishna and Arjuna, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president K.S. Alagiri on Monday urged him to read the Mahabharata properly and understand it.

"Rajinikanth is a good man. He does not think of anything bad against anyone. He has an interest in spirituality. Hence, it is very surprising that he made the comparison," Mr. Alagiri said in a statement.

"How can those who snatched away the rights of crores of people be Krishna and Arjuna? Dear Rajinikanth, kindly read the Mahabharata again. Read it properly," Mr. Alagiri said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Odisha, Telangana, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	21.6	36.6	25.3	Kozhikode	9.4	30.0	24.4
Ahmedabad	6.8	32.8	25.0	Kurnool	–	33.8	25.4
Aizawl	–	33.3	22.4	Lucknow	20.6	35.6	27.6
Allahabad	8.6	35.4	27.9	Madurai	–	39.6	26.5
Bengaluru	–	27.6	20.2	Mangaluru	0.3	29.4	23.0
Bhopal	11.2	27.7	23.2	Mumbai	5.6	31.2	24.8
Bhubaneswar	1.2	33.4	26.5	Mysuru	–	–	20.0
Chandigarh	4.0	34.8	27.2	New Delhi	0.2	34.8	28.0
Chennai	–	36.9	29.4	Patna	9.8	36.6	28.2
Coimbatore	–	31.2	22.4	Port Blair	52.5	29.4	24.2
Dehradun	126.6	30.5	24.3	Puducherry	–	37.8	27.2
Gangtok	2.3	27.5	18.6	Pune	1.6	28.3	21.8
Goa	9.6	31.0	24.3	Raipur	–	31.0	26.4
Guwahati	0.6	39.1	28.4	Ranchi	16.8	29.6	22.5
Hubballi	–	27.0	21.0	Shillong	–	29.5	19.0
Hyderabad	–	31.4	23.7	Shimla	9.4	22.9	17.7
Imphal	2.4	29.5	20.7	Srinagar	–	–	–
Jaipur	–	30.0	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	5.2	30.9	23.6
Kochi	25.6	28.0	22.6	Tiruchi	–	38.4	26.6
Kohima	–	31.6	19.6	Vijayawada	–	35.3	28.2
Kolkata	0.5	32.0	27.7	Visakhapatnam	10.0	31.6	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	57	.44	.55	82	.129	Moderate
Bengaluru	01	.51	.70	31	60	Good
Chennai	06	.18	.56	18	–	Good
Delhi	–	.43	105	49	79	Moderate
Hyderabad	66	.53	.16	60	.107	Moderate
Kolkata	22	.38	.15	87	87	Good
Lucknow	01	.26	103	35	–	Moderate
Mumbai	11	.16	103	22	39	Good
Pune	74	.08	.67	45	45	Good
Visakhapatnam	17	.50	.59	68	98	Good

In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Guwahati, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 345 indicating a dangerous level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

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

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

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

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

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

'No toxic chemicals in PET bottles'

CSIR study concludes that metals and chemicals 'were below' detection limits

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

PET bottles are safe, a comprehensive evaluation by the CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore has determined.

For years there's been a swirling debate internationally on whether PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles, which are the mainstay of plastic bottles and disposable food containers, leach harmful chemicals when exposed to high temperatures.

The CFTRI analysis, commissioned by an industry body, concluded that antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, mercury, selenium and zinc "were below" their detection limits (BDL) of 0.001 mg/kg.

Safe to use: The analysis found that no chemicals breached the EU-specified norms. ▪ VIPIN CHANDRAN

Bisphenol-A was below its detection limit of 0.02 mg/kg.

For their analysis, the researchers collected four different kinds of PET containers and exposed them to different stimuli such as ethanol of varying concentrations, acetic acid and vegetable oil.

These were supposed to simulate the kind of chemicals contained in packaged food and drink that could trigger the leakage of metals or other secondary chemicals.

They tested these bottles when they were subject to 40C and 60C temperature as well as when test-chemicals were stored in them for 10 days. Along with metals, the scientists also measured terephthalic acid, Isophthalic acid, Ethylene Glycol, BPA (bis-phenol A) and phthalates. BPA is a synthetic organic compound and used in the manufacture of PET bottles but is now phased out after research found a link between the presence of BPA and the disruption of hormone regulation, as well as breast cancer.

They were also below the EU regulation norms of the "specific migration limit".

3-year moratorium on opening law colleges

BCI wants all teacher posts filled

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bar Council of India on Monday imposed a moratorium on opening law colleges for a period of three years. The restriction, however, will not apply to National Law University, if proposed by a government in a State where there is no such varsity.

Besides, the BCI can open any model institution of Legal Education, like the National Law School of India University it opened in Bengaluru, a statement signed by its chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra said.

The Council requested State governments and universities to stop unfair means and ensure that vacancies of law teachers in all the colleges are filled within four months. "At present, there are enough Institutions in all parts of the country to feed the law courts and to serve the people. There is no dearth of advocates and the existing institutions are sufficient to produce the required number of law graduates annually," the statement said.

Mushrooming of law colleges without proper infrastructure was raised by BCI member from Delhi, Bed Parakash Sharma. The issue was raised in Parliament too. The Council resolved that it would consider pending proposals only. No fresh application would be entertained for any new institution.

The Council said there were about 1,500 law colleges. Among the problems that plague these institutions are lack of infrastructure and chronic teaching vacancies.

PM's health insurance scheme will cover cancer treatment also, say officials

'Govt. has realised that cancer care costs are causing massive financial crisis'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

If all goes as planned, cancer treatments will soon be covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), which is the Central Government's health insurance scheme that aims to give medical cover to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families of approximately 50 crore beneficiaries, providing coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

So far, 16,000 hospitals have been empanelled, nearly 34 lakh beneficiaries have been admitted, and 9 crore e-cards have been issued, according to senior health officials.

The Ayushman Bharat Scheme provides coverage of upto ₹5 lakh per family per year. ▪ FILE PHOTO

According to the World Health Organisation, the rate of mortality due to cancer in India is high, with cancer the second-most common disease in India, responsible for maximum mortality, with about 0.3 million deaths per year.

Government figures note that the estimated number of people living with the disease stands at around 2.25 million, with over 11 lakh new cancer patients registered each year.

"In India, the risk of developing cancer before the age of 75 years for males stands at 9.81% and females at 9.42%. Total deaths due to cancer in 2018 was 7,84,821 (Men: 4,13,519; Women: 3,71,302). The risk of dying from cancer before the age of 75 years stood at 7.34% in males and 6.28% in females.

Lung cancer is the most common type of cancer in India, followed by breast cancer and oral cancers.

The need for including cancer treatment into the healthcare package came from the fact that "the government realised that cancer care costs were causing massive financial crisis among people and many had to go without treatment. The Ayushman Bharat Yojana is now planning to include all types of cancers and their treatment under its healthcare packages. Talks are on and we should have a road map within the next three months. The healthcare packages for cancer treatment are not very comprehensive and we feel that improvements can be made," said a senior health official.

Jana Sangh founder's bust vandalised

JAIPUR

A bust of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee has been found vandalised in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district, police said on Monday. A case has been registered, they said. PTI

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

AAI invites E-Tender (Tender ID No. **2019_AAI_30197_1**) for **"Concession to parking management system; collection of parking fees and lane management" at Madurai Airport.** Last date for downloading of E-Tenders and submission of tender document is **21.08.2019 at 15.00 hrs.**

For further details refer NIC-CPPP E-Tender Portal **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** and AAI web site **www.aai.aero**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION
(DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT)
KAVARATTI – 682 555

F.No. 7/4/2009-TD -TD — Date: 08.08.2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Department of Tourism invites competitive E-Tender from the registered marine contractors/agents for repair and maintenance of 2 boats of Department of Tourism, U.T of Lakshadweep (Sting Ray & Manta Ray). Bidders willing to participate in the tender shall visit the e-tender website www.tenderwizard.com/UTL for participation. The Last date and time for submission of bids is 1.00 PM on 10.09.2019. Tender Document containing detailed terms & conditions and goods required can be downloaded from the website **www.lakshadweep.gov.in.**

For any help/ query, please contact representative of the Department through email **adtourism.lk@gmail.com, td-dir-lak@gov.in** or Telephone 04896 262250 and for any help in processing of e-tender please contact E-Tender helpdesk of **www.tenderwizard.com/UTL**

Sd/- DIRECTOR (Tourism)

Crisis as opportunity

The Nehru-Gandhi dynasty must withdraw without leaving a vacuum in the Congress

Sonia Gandhi's return as the Congress party president – an interim measure, apparently – ends the leadership vacuum since the party's massive defeat in the 17th Lok Sabha election, but only superficially. When Rahul Gandhi succeeded her in 2017, Ms. Gandhi had held the post for 19 years, the longest tenure for anyone in the party's 134-year history. Despite a spirited poll campaign, Mr. Gandhi could not reverse the fortunes of the party that had already been in a free-fall. In what some of his party leaders thought was an impetuous decision, he resigned as the party president, after the Lok Sabha defeat, pushing the organisation into a tailspin. While the collapse of the party was on his watch, its vitals had been corroded in the years before he took over. While holding that post for nearly two decades was unwise, the cardinal failure of Ms. Gandhi's leadership was in not preparing the ground for a transition, even if it were to be within the family. Mr. Gandhi who was to take over as party president, did not join the government, undermining his credibility as a Prime Ministerial aspirant. While Ms. Gandhi allowed politics to be reduced to intrigues in her durbar, Mr. Gandhi spent his time on misjudged priorities such as revamping the student and youth wings of the party.

In her second coming as party chief, Ms. Gandhi must use her authority to not only pave the way for a smooth transition of leadership but also ensure that the role of the family in the party is reimagined. It is true that in the absence of any coherent unifying thought – as evidenced in the squabble among its leaders over the Centre's decision to unilaterally change the constitutional status of J&K – the family has been the glue that held the Congress together. However, what used to be the best solution for all crises in the Congress – the surname – is itself a crisis for the party, in the current political climate. The focused attack on the Nehru-Gandhi legacy by the advancing Hindutva troops has contributed to the diminishing influence of the family, but the fact is also that an increasing number of people abhor dynasty politics and the privileges associated with it. Ms. Gandhi has an opportunity, nay a responsibility, to proactively help the old guard and the younger generation within the Congress to reconcile their differences and devise a common purpose of existence. At the helm of the party yet again, Ms. Gandhi must now focus on ending the centrality of the family in Congress, in a thoughtful manner.

Strongman candidate

Gotabaya nomination may strengthen view that Rajapaksas are pursuing family interests

In naming his brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa as his party's presidential candidate, former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa has apparently gone by his instinctive understanding that the people may favour a strong leader who prioritises internal security. Mr. Gotabaya, a former defence secretary credited with being the brain behind the crushing military defeat inflicted on the Liberation Tigers in 2009, is the candidate of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP). The party was launched in 2016 by Mahinda Rajapaksa loyalists, but he has taken over its leadership only now. Sri Lanka is set to have a presidential election before the year is out, one that would be a virtual referendum on the performance of a power-sharing arrangement between political rivals from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the United National Party (UNP). The alliance of Maithripala Sirisena and Ranil Wickremesinghe came to power in 2015 on the promise of 'good governance', and a democratic departure from nearly a decade of authoritarian rule, majoritarian triumphalism and denudation of democratic institutions under Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa. The Sirisena-Wickremesinghe combination does not seem to have done enough to revive the economy or introduce political and economic reforms. Their alliance collapsed last year due to persistent differences, and in October 2018, Mr. Sirisena sought to replace Mr. Wickremesinghe with Mr. Rajapaksa. The courts stalled the move and restored the UNP leader's office. Earlier this year, the Easter Sunday bomb blasts in churches and hotels, may have brought back popular apprehensions about national security and accentuated differences in the multi-ethnic country. In this backdrop, the candidature of Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa is no surprise.

However, Mr. Gotabaya's presence in the fray comes with its own controversies. His strongman image evokes fear among minorities. His name is linked with war crimes, murder, corruption cases as well as with the infamous 'white van abductions' that led to many disappearances. That he holds dual citizenship is another controversy, but it is now claimed he has renounced his U.S. citizenship and obtained a new Sri Lankan passport. With Mr. Mahinda likely to aim for the PM's position in a Gotabaya presidency, the candidacy may reinforce their detractors' view that the Rajapaksas are keen on securing their family's interests. His brother Basil Rajapaksa recently said in support of Mr. Gotabaya that elimination of corruption in Sri Lanka "needs a terminator", but the appellation only evoked sarcastic approbation for its deadly and destructive import. He will most likely have the support of President Sirisena's SLFP. However, the UNP is yet to decide on its candidate. It will have to choose from among its leader, Mr. Wickremesinghe, deputy leader Sajith Premadasa, and Parliament Speaker Karu Jayasuriya. A larger question now is whether Sri Lanka still believes in the platform of reform and progress that decided the 2015 elections, or would not mind a reversion to the Rajapaksa era.

An abrogation of democratic principles

The Kashmir move affects the robust nature of Indian democracy in addressing internal conflicts and alienation

NAVNITA CHADHA BEHERA

The recent abrogation of Article 370 ending the special status of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in the Indian Constitution along with the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, bifurcating the State into two Union Territories (J&K and Ladakh), have delivered a knock-out blow to the long-drawn-out peace process in Kashmir.

These moves also herald a paradigm shift in the fundamental premises and parameters of India's approach towards the Kashmir issue, with long-term implications for its political strategy of tackling such internal conflicts. There are three cardinal principles which successive political regimes have hitherto followed in addressing internal conflicts and seeking political reconciliation with alienated segments of the populace. These in turn have bolstered the robust and resilient nature of Indian democracy. The future, however, appears much more uncertain. Here is why.

Accommodative parameters

The first principle entails adhering to the letter and spirit of the Indian Constitution. Its far-sighted and malleable nature has stood the test of time. Since 1947, India has faced a wide-ranging nature of political demands ranging from secession, to the creation of a separate State for Jammu, Union Territory status for Ladakh and others seeking affirmative discrimination for the Dogri language, Scheduled Tribe status for Gujjars and Paharis and so on.

In response, the central leadership has tried finding ways and means within the overarching parameters of the Indian Constitution and have rarely been disappointed. In view of the difficult circumstances under which the Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh had acceded to India, Article 370 itself offered an excellent example as to how the special needs and political aspirations of the people of J&K could be politically and constitutionally accommodated by India's Constitution makers.

Decades later, when Ladakhi Buddhists launched an agitation in 1989, demanding Union Territory status, the Indian Constitution once again made space for political experimentation by introducing intermediate state structures – the creation of two autonomous hill councils for Leh and Kargil.

Weakening federalism

Against this backdrop, it is for the first time in independent India's history that the Bharatiya Janata Party government has used constitutional provisions for opposite ends: to undermine and weaken India's federal character by downgrading a State and territorially dividing it into two Union Territories without the consent of the people of J&K.

The method adopted to execute this decision is of special concern because by equating or replacing the Constituent Assembly of J&K (which was dissolved in 1957) with the Legislative Assembly of J&K, and Parliament appropriating the latter's powers since the State is under President's rule, the Central government has acted unilaterally to reorganise the State of J&K.

This rests not only on legally shaky ground but also flies in the face of constitutional norms and propriety. If this passes judicial scrutiny, it can then be done to any State in India, with drastic implications for its federal character.

The second principle pertains to the maxim of 'inclusivity', that is, a political demand being made must be inclusive in terms of representing the interests of all those in whose name it is made. This supported bridge building

AFP

and coalition-making among different communities certainly helped in shaping the peace process, in turn bolstering India's deeply diverse and plural character.

In J&K's context too, it has also proven to be a critical common factor helping to explain the failures and successes of various political demands. The Kashmiri idea of self-determination in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual society, for instance, was to call for a plebiscite as mandated by the UN resolutions of 1949 or seek an independent and sovereign State of J&K, but this was not the approach taken by other communities such as the Dogras, Kashmiri Pandits, Gujjars, Bakkarwals, and Ladakhi Buddhists. In the 1950s, as indeed in the 1990s, the demand by Kashmiri Muslims for a right to self-determination or azadi was politically checkmated by these communities as their political choices were very different; time and again, an exclusively Valley-focussed approach has doomed the prospects of the peace process.

Demographic impact

The BJP government's move has, however, not only completely swung the pendulum but is also antithetical to the very idea of inclusivity. By turning J&K, especially the Valley, into a virtually open air prison, with a full clampdown and information blackout, the message is clear: that New Delhi alone will decide the political future of the people of J&K with no room for any consultative process and no space for dissent.

The decision to divide the State is particularly fraught with the risk of deepening regional and communal fault lines. While Ladakhi Buddhists, for instance, are now celebrating the fulfilment of their long pending demand for Union Territory's status, the voices of Kargilis who are still under a strict curfew are yet to be heard. They may not support this decision because 'a Union Territory without a legislature' not only negates the idea of decentralisation of power to the grassroots (the undergirding principle of the autonomous hill council) but could well lead to a shifting of the loci of power to Leh, resulting in losing whatever gains they have assiduously made over the years.

The celebrations by Kashmiri Pandits are anticipated because of the gross injustice and displacement they have suffered since their forced exodus from the Valley in the early 1990s. It remains to be seen whether the abrogation of Article 370 by itself, would facilitate their return to the Valley without the support of local Kashmiri Muslims and rising violence.

Instead of making all communities equal stakeholders in the peace process, the BJP government's decision may well end up pitching one community against the other. A deepening of societal fissures and communal fault lines do not go hand in hand with the agenda of peace-making.

The third principle refers to a promise and the practices of holding a dialogue process and sharing political power with opponents of all hues. In Kashmir, successive Central governments have until now never shut the door of dialogue in the face of political opponents who have ranged from the Sheikh Abdullah-led Plebiscite Front in the 1960s to the Muslim United Front in the 1980s to the Hurriyat leadership since the 1990s. This also holds true for militant groups.

While the bottomline of Congress governments has been a commitment by their opponents to abjure the path of violence and abide by the Indian Constitution, the erstwhile Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime was even more generous in offering the broad framework of 'insaniyat, jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat'.

Political fallout

In a significant point of departure, the present government is pursuing a hard, top-down approach. The Home Minister has categorically ruled out any dialogue with militants and the Hurriyat, and has even castigated the mainstream regional political leadership of the National Conference and Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party for being corrupt, promoting family rule and fomenting separatism and violence. This move has nullified the very idea of a process of dialogue and runs the risk of discrediting the mainstream politicians and obliterating the middle ground between the militants and mainstream politicians.

The Prime Minister in his recent address to the nation, expressed hope that new leadership in Kashmir would emerge from grassroots politics. It is important to note that in 1,407 out of 2,135 halqas or village clusters, there was no voting at all in the panchayat elections that were held in 2018. This does not lend credence to youth being optimistic about joining mainstream politics especially after the abrogation of Article 370, a move which is only likely to deepen the alienation. The Modi government faces an uphill task in identifying credible local partners in ushering in peace to the Valley, which may well end up in facing yet another impasse.

Navnita Chadha Behera is the author of 'Demystifying Kashmir' and 'State, Identity and Violence: Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh'

Countering the Right's hegemony

In a fightback, only a deep fostering of intra-subaltern solidarity using culture can help

AJAY GUDAVARTHY

India has witnessed the rise of the Hindu Right as not just a political but also a cultural force like never before. The has been made possible by a series of tactical moves which has allowed for a consolidation of power with the traditional castes and classes.

The Right has managed to do this by exploiting and magnifying micro-level social conflicts that lie dormant in order to create a meta-level hierarchy and reinforce the hold of traditional power. It has led to a weakening of the resistance of lower end social groups by fragmenting them and allowing intra-caste, intra-religious and intra-regional differences to articulate themselves in order to de-legitimise the resistance and mobility of vulnerable social groups that have so far benefited and accrued some social power. The Right negates the power of such groups in the name of justice and power to those even weaker and further neglected.

In terms of caste, it is now well known that the Right has made significant advances in terms of breaking up Dalit sub-castes and fully exploiting intra-sub caste tensions and mutual prejudices.

Everyday prejudices

Similarly, it is making advances in mobilising lesser mobilised Other Backward Classes (OBC) groups against dominant OBC groups such as Yadavs and Kurmis. It is further sharpening the conflict between OBCs and Dalits. Added to all this is allowing the dominant Rajput caste to vent its angst against the mobility Dalits have accrued so far: by allowing street violence and mob lynching of Dalits. It is reinforcing social power of dominant castes at one end and fragmenting this through a mobilisation of lesser mobilised sub-castes of subaltern castes. It is sharpening dormant prejudices that have existed for a long time between subaltern castes, caste and religion, and religion and region.

Similarly, the relation between Dalits and OBCs has been fraught with mutual suspicion and dislike, in spite of four decades of 'Bahujan' identity having been mobilised, mostly in the north. In fact, B.R. Ambedkar himself identified the OBCs as 'savarnas' and sometimes equates them with Aryans. This again collates in complex ways with regional dynamics between the north and the south. What the location of the OBCs is in this complex matrix is not very

GETTY IMAGES

clear historically; politically the kind of mobility they have got after the implementation of the Mandal Commission has only sharpened the differences. Violent attacks against Dalits by the OBCs are a continuous, if less discussed aspect of Indian politics. The Khairlanji incident was the most recent attack against Dalits by the Kunbis who are listed as OBCs in Maharashtra.

Within the minority religion too, which includes Muslims, there are castes, sects and other differentiations. For instance, in Kashmir, there are differences between Sunnis and Shias, between Sunnis of the Valley and those in the border areas of Poonch and Rajouri, and those living in Ladakh. They neither inter-marry nor do they enjoy amicable relations. Class and regional prejudices overlap with that of sect and caste.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-led hegemony is not a top-down machination even if there is fear, intimidation, control of media and destabilisation of institutions. The current dispensation is bringing into the open all the cultural contradictions that existed historically. While the Congress's inclusive nationalism attempted to accommodate social groups politically without overcoming social prejudices, the BJP's muscular nationalism lies in including them politically but dividing them socially. The divisions existed; the Right is only widening them.

A new multitude

The fight against the Right is only focusing on critiquing its strategies and exposing it without offering a positive fight to construct an intra-subaltern solidarity. There needs to be a robust cultural programme of fighting prejudices, encouraging inter-dining and inter-marriages. Not mere tolerance but positive celebration of cultural differences is required. Whether or not the Right can be made to retreat depends on this deep cultural programme. We are not clear how one should go about it. This may have to happen as more of a cultural than a political fight. It has to be about humanity, not power; it has to be more about everyday realities than about a programmatic idea of justice.

Every move towards solidarity is also perceived as lowering the status of groups that are higher-up in the ladder-like structure even if they are simultaneously victimised by dominant groups. Sub-division of Dalits is viewed as a pulling down of the relatively well-to-do castes within Dalits; a sub-division of OBCs is seen as a mode of allowing for the domination of traditional caste Hindus. Gandhi attempted 'change without conflict'; he failed to usher in faster change but offered a semblance of burying conflict. Today, we are witnessing conflict and change itself is suspended between mobility and reinforcing traditional hierarchies. Mere critiquing and electoral defeat of the Right is not going to work.

Castes, religious groups and regional identities should fight it upfront by overcoming the prejudice within. To truly fight the Right, relatively dominant social groups must be prepared to lose a bit of social power they wield, however small it may be. It would also mean being critical of one's own social location, however oppressed it may be. Is this realistic at the current historical juncture? The Right compulsively requires fear, anxiety and insecurity to block the process. What are the cultural resources on the other side of the political divide?

Ajay Gudavarthy is Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU

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.

Putting back the hood

The situation in Kashmir is not normal (Page 1, "Restrictions return to Valley", August 12). The whole of Kashmir is under arrest. If things were fine, why are the communications systems still blocked? If the people of Kashmir really appreciate the "bold decisions" made by the Central government, there should have been widespread jubilation with the tricolour hoisted on all buildings.
You cannot force someone to tag your line, at gunpoint. India and Pakistan cannot redraw the map of Kashmir using ink or bloodshed. Kashmiris have to express a oneness in their hearts and minds. One is also in agreement with Jeremy Corbyn, the Leader of the U.K.'s Opposition Labour Party, that the Kashmir issue should be resolved through UN resolutions.

T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

■ The abrogation of Article 370 was hailed as a masterstroke by the Central government especially as it was seen to be the long-coveted weapon to combat terrorism. But the possibility that prayers may not be permitted at Jamia Masjid, one of the largest mosques, may hurt religious sentiments. It is one thing to say that law and order will be maintained and quite another to deny citizens the basic right to offer prayers, especially on an auspicious occasion. Extra deployment of paramilitary forces in places of congregation would have been a better option than imposing a blanket ban. At some stage or the other, the security arrangements will need to be relaxed.

V. LAKSHMANAN,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

■ Gagging the fourth estate is akin to derailing democracy. How long is the Central government planning to gag the media and correspondingly the voices of Kashmiris? One can redraw land boundaries but hearts have to be won. There is clearly a fear of mass gatherings and processions, which is the only way to explain why restrictions of all kinds are being reimposed. The words attributed to Abraham Lincoln come to mind: "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time".

TILAK SUBRAMANIAN V.,
Kunjibettu, Udupi, Karnataka

Water revolution

The sudden burst in monsoon activity has exposed the deep faultlines in India's water management policies. While Chennai remains parched, large parts of east and south India are reeling under floods. The erratic nature of the monsoon rains, overexploitation of groundwater and cropping patterns of agriculture should lead to a radical change in India's water management methods. There has to be a water revolution which lays stress on reuse of waste water, setting up farmponds and making scientifically done rainwater harvesting mandatory. Adapting water conservation techniques such as drip irrigation technology from Israel can also help make India water secure.

V.S. SINDHURI,
Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the "From the Archives" column (OpEd page, Aug. 12, 2019), the entry corresponding to a hundred years ago should have said August 12, *1919*.

In "The forms of federalism in India" (FAQ page, Aug. 11, 2019), a sentence that read "Despite being a single administrative unit, the Union Territory is 'non-contiguous'. That is, its territory *is limited to one extent of land*" should be amended to say *not limited* to one extent of land.

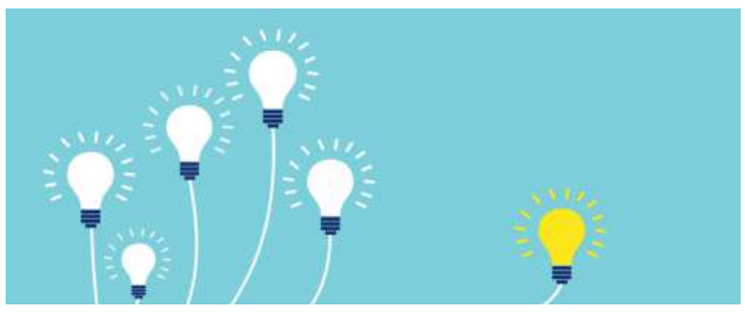
In the Sunday Magazine piece "Nemat Sadat: Gay, Muslim, Afghan, immigrant" (In conversation, Literary Review, Aug. 4, 2019) the reference to Nemat Sadat's growing up in South *Carolina* should be corrected to read as *southern California*. Elsewhere in the same piece, a quote attributed to him as saying that he had *to prove himself as a Muslim* should be corrected to read as an *ex-Muslim*.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

The perilous state of academic freedom

The present wave of anti-intellectualism, where informed opinions are ridiculed, poses a serious threat

RAJEEV BHARGAVA



To express opinions is the fundamental right of every Indian; so also to claim that her opinions are true. But whether in fact they are true isn't in the hands of the person who expresses them. Their truth, validity and even plausibility are determined through contestation and scrutiny by others.

More importantly, some types of scrutiny are more scrupulous, thorough and rigorous than others. They uncover indefensible, baseless or unsustainable opinions. They demonstrate that other opinions are less-biased, withstand the test of time, and have a greater openness in accepting their fallibility. In doing so, these inquiries produce a better, clearer understanding of the world, providing a deeper insight into the complexities of the human condition. Therefore, they are of a different qualitative worth than others, more deserving of being called 'knowledge'. Knowledge-production begins with opinions but does not end with them.

Academic freedom protects such spaces of contestation and scrutiny through which knowledge is produced. It refers to the freedom of scholars to conduct critical enquiry, and the freedom of teachers and students to collectively deliberate on any idea without fear of sanction, censure or illegitimate interference. To sift knowledge from mere opinion requires a sound training in research and an awareness of professional standards of scholarship, norms of peer engagement and time-tested, disciplined ways of knowing (methodologies). This is true of all practices involving standards of excellence. For instance, it is not my subjective opinion that Viv Richards was a great batsman. This fact is established by the collective judgment of the greats of international cricket.

Patiently acquired skills

In short, academic freedom protects the patiently acquired skills and practices of all such knowledge-producing and knowledge-transmitting agents (teachers, researchers and students). Since academic practices are sustained within institutions, academic freedom includes the autonomy of institutions where teaching and scholarly research is conducted.

My intellectual interest in academic freedom was provoked when, in 1999, I was asked to contribute a short essay on the state of academic freedom in India to *Academe*, a journal of the American Association of University Professors. In that article, I claimed that the freedom of scholars and autonomy of academic institutions is usually threatened by internal as well as external factors.

Internal threats appear when academic institutions are weakened from within, as when academics themselves lose sight of the standards of excellence internal to the practice of research and teaching. External threats develop, on the other hand, when academic institutions are undermined by oppressive communities, the coercive apparatus of the state or unbridled market forces. I had then argued that Indian academia was severely threatened by oppressive communities and self-imposed impediments by academics, but less so by the market or the state.

I took my own community to task for having succumbed to what I called the over-ideologisation of the mind. Many academics, in a hurry to bridge the gap between theory and practice, seemed to me to have replaced patient, open-ended deliberation with dogma and prefabricated, lazy solutions. Other internal threats to academic freedom flowed from wider societal malaise. For instance, merit-based institutions were being converted to little fiefdoms run by academic tin gods doling out petty patronage to loyal supporters and creating suffocating tyrannies for others. In such contexts, ideas were applauded or condemned not for their intrinsic worth but with an eye on who articulated them – one of 'us' or one of 'them', A person's caste, creed or political proclivity mattered more than the evidence or argument provided. Such habits of the mind were hardly conducive to the growth of a tradition of scholarly work.

A more serious danger to academic freedom in India came, I believed, from illiberal communities. I illustrated my point by pointing to the fate of the late historian Mushirul Hasan, who was victimised by extremist fellow-Muslims for a rather innocuous remark on the ban on Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*.

Interestingly, barring the brief period of Emergency, academic freedom in post-Independence India, I claimed, was not throttled by the state. I did not remember instances of seminars being monitored, academic books being banned, or the imprisonment of academics for their views. However, covert and overt pressures on academic institutions by democratically elected governments were commonplace. As it began to lose its dominance, an edgy and insecure Congress Party had started becoming increasingly unprincipled and randomly interventionist. In West Bengal and Kerela, the Communists could never resist illegitimately interfering in college and university appointments.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition, in power at the Centre then, had harmed the institutional integrity of the prestigious Institute of Advanced Study, Simla. Its governing body was packed with handpicked supporters.

What is the state of academic freedom today, twenty years after that article was written? I fear that more and more academics in positions of power appear to be not just over-ideologised but politically indoctrinated. A deepening societal intolerance has only intensified attacks on academic freedom. The exclusion of several important books from university syllabi, entirely on non-academic grounds, exemplifies this. State interference has increased, sacrificing critical pedagogical practices in the name of the government's idea of national interest. The continuing victimisation of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), one of the premier academic institutions of the country by the current government's own reckoning, illustrates this.

Knowledge a 'commodity'

Alarmingly, new threats to academic freedom have emerged. One comes from the corporatisation of academia, by which I mean the modelling of universities on business corporations. This has naturalised the viewing of administration as management, faculty as paid personnel, and students as consumers who have a right to demand what should be taught, as if knowledge can be purchased as a commodity according to one's taste! When corporate power exercises control over faculty and curricula, vice chancellors and college principals can hire, fire, and change faculty assignments with as much whim as any corporate CEO.

But the most serious threat to the world of knowledge comes from 'anti-intellectualism' that finds the very idea of thought reprehensible. Thinking, reasoning, questioning and critique are deemed dangerous, to be treated with utter disdain. The distinction between knowledge and opinion is entirely blurred; ideas of informed authority, professional academic standards and academic expertise are ridiculed. The very idea that the task of education is to transform students into critical agents, who actively question the common sense of a society, is severely undermined.

If these trends continue, the university as a site of autonomous scholarship, independent thought, and uncorrupted inquiry will be disassembled. Our best young minds will emigrate and the very future of our country imperilled by another 'brain drain'. India may not easily recover from this blow.

Rajeev Bhargava is a political theorist with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

Rooting AI in ethics

A technology should be evaluated both on the basis of its utility and the intention of its creator

N. DAYASINDHU

We can intuitively recognise whether an action is ethical or not. Let us look at the theoretical basis of understanding ethics with an example. A cigarette company wants to decide on launching a new product, whose primary feature is reduced tar. It plans to tell customers that the lower tar content is a 'healthier' option. This is only half true. In reality, a smoker may have to inhale more frequently from a cigarette with lower tar to get the flavour of a regular cigarette.

Let us analyse this from three dominant ethical perspectives:

First, the egoistic perspective states that we take actions that result in the greatest good for oneself. The cigarette company is likely to sell more cigarettes, assuming that the new product wins over more new customers. From an egoistic perspective, hence, the company should launch the new cigarette. Second, the utilitarian perspective states that we take actions that result in the greatest good for all. Launching the new cigarette is good for the company. The new brand of cigarette also provides a 'healthier' choice for smokers. And more choice is good for customers. Hence, the company should launch the product.

The egoistic and utilitarian perspectives together form the 'teleological perspective', where the focus is on the results that achieve the greatest good.

Third, the 'deontological perspective', on the other hand, focusses more on the intention of the maker than the results. The company deceives the customer when it says that the new cigarette is 'healthier'. Knowingly endangering the health of humans is not an ethical intention. So, the company should not launch this cigarette.

The flawed facial recognition system

In the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI), my hypothesis is that most commercially available AI systems are optimised using the teleological perspectives and not the deontological perspective. Let us analyse a facial recognition system, a showcase for AI's success. An AI system introduced in 2015 with much fanfare in the U.S. failed to recognise faces of African Americans with the same accuracy as those of Caucasian Americans. Google, the creator of this AI system, quickly took remedial action. However, from a teleological perspective, this flawed AI system gets a go ahead. According to the 2010 census, Caucasian Americans constitute 72.4% of the country's population. So an AI system that identifies Caucasian American faces better is useful for a majority of Internet users in the U.S., and to Google.

Going by intention

However, from a deontological perspective, the system should have been rejected as its intention probably was not to identify people from all races, which would have been the most ethical aim to have. In fact, the question that comes to mind is – shouldn't digital platform companies, whose markets span many countries, aim to identify faces of all races with an equal accuracy?

Social media is not the only context where AI facial recognition systems are used today. These systems are increasingly being used for law enforcement. Imagine the implications of being labelled a threat to public safety just because limited data based on one's skin colour was used to train the AI system. Americans are taking note. Recent news reports suggest that San Francisco has banned use of facial recognition by law enforcement.

The ethical basis of AI, for the most part, rests outside the algorithm. The bias is in the data used to train the algorithm. It stems from our own flawed historical and cultural perspectives – sometimes unconscious – that contaminate the data. It is also in the way we frame the social and economic problems that the AI algorithm tries to solve.

With the proliferation of AI, it is important for us to know the ethical basis of every AI system that we use or is used on us. An ethical basis resting on both teleological and deontological perspectives gives us more faith in a system. Sometimes, even an inclusive intention may need careful scrutiny. For instance, Polaroid's ID-2 camera, introduced in the 1960s, provided quality photographs of people with darker skin. However, later, reports emerged that the company developed this for use in *dompas*, an identification document black South Africans were forced to carry during apartheid.

Understanding and discussing the ethical basis of AI is important for India. Reports suggest that the NITI Aayog is ready with a ₹7,500 crore plan to invest in building a national capability and infrastructure. The transformative capability of AI in India is huge, and must be rooted in an egalitarian ethical basis. Any institutional framework for AI should have a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach, and have an explicit focus on the ethical basis.

N. Dayasindhu is the co-founder and CEO of Itihaasa Research and Digital. Views are personal

A mixed bag at film awards

The recently announced National Awards ignored some of the best Malayalam and Tamil films

KUNAL RAY

The recent announcement of the National Film Awards (NFA) produced mixed reactions, as indeed it has in every previous year. One wonders whether these awards are still reflective of the various quality benchmarks, and the public's expectations from them too seem to have consistently nosedived.

On the positive side, it is gratifying that recognition was bestowed upon a film such as *Badhaai Ho*, which, though made in the format of a mainstream Hindi film, touched upon issues that are usually never discussed. Most often, mother and father characters in Hindi films barely play supporting roles, as if they are nothing beyond their parent identities. They are either benevolent or the opposite, obsessing about their child's private life and matrimony.

But who are these parents as people? Hindi cinema doesn't concern itself with characters beyond a certain age but *Badhaai Ho* is different in its exploration of love and desire in the life of a couple whose eldest son is making his own marriage plans. The father character still recites love poems to his wife, they have an active sex life and the mother is soon pregnant. Have we seen this in Hindi cinema before?

A versatile actor

The film also underscores the versatility and talent of Ayushmann Khurrana, a leading mainstream film actor who has experimented with an array of unconventional characters. From his debut in *Vicky Donor* to his last outing as an honest cop in *Article 15*, here is an actor who has defied Hindi cinema leading norms. Very few of his contemporaries have risked the choices that he has made.

But having praised these films for having got what they deserve, were these really the finest produced in 2018?

Beyond the ambit of the NFA, some of the most daring Indian films of 2018 were made in Tamil and Malayalam. Zakariya Mohammed's *Sudani from Nigeria*, a film centred on Kerala's love for football, including the whirlwind of events that engulf a footballer from Nigeria who arrives in a small hamlet in Kerala, was awarded the best Malayalam film. But it deserved a wider recognition.

Devoid of nationalism

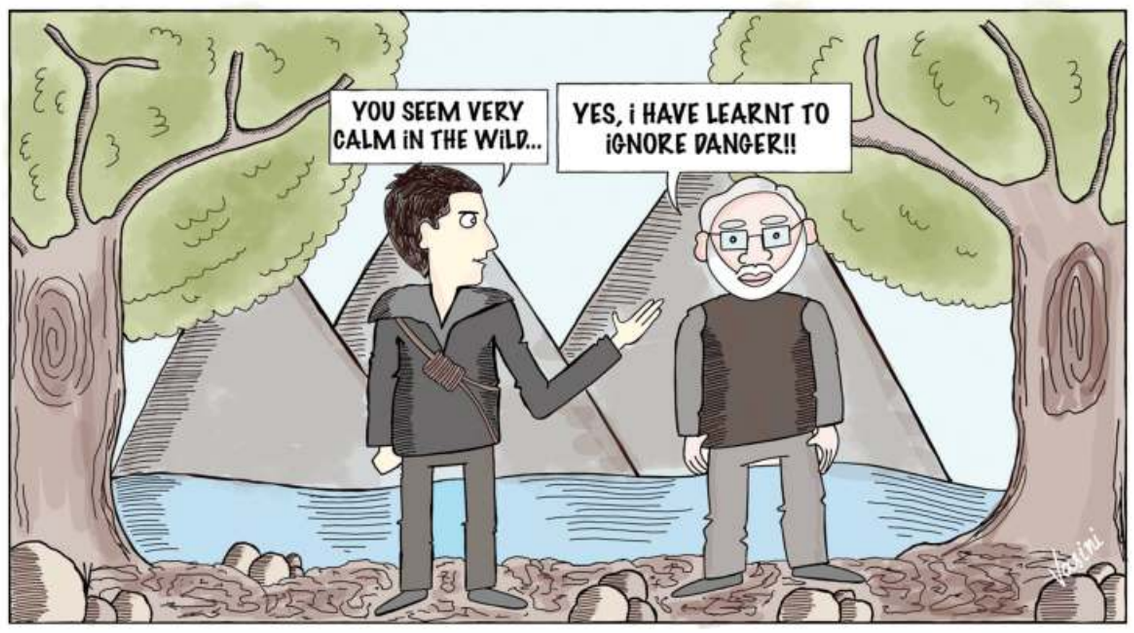
Sports films in India are prone to overtones of nationalism. Every rendition soon descends into a rags to riches story or transforms into a tale of survival of the fittest. *Sudani from Nigeria* (in picture) departs from convention in every way imaginable by locating the game amongst its people and eschewing all winner-loser narratives. It also breaks stereotypes in the representation of Muslim characters. Besides that film, there were many others like Lijo Jose Pellissery's quirky *Ee. Ma. Yau*; Amal Neerad's *Varathan* and B. Ajith Kumar's *Eeda*, an adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* set in conflict-prone Kannur. These films were replete with new stories, captivating performances and fresh possibilities for film language; their exclusion was rather unfortunate.

From Tamil cinema, Mari Selvaraj's *Pariyerum Perumal* and Vetrimaaran's *Vada Chennai* found no mention in the awards. Pa. Ranjith's *Kaala* and Lenin Bharathi's *Merku Thodarchi Malai*, a film that deals with the lives of landless labours, were also ignored.

Overall, there appears to be a trend in terms of films that have been omitted by major industry awards – they have all been movies whose narratives diverge from the mainstream political view. *Uri* and *Padmavat* were rewarded for their hyper-nationalism, and perhaps that is not surprising.

But should directors make films only for awards? Films are not remembered for awards but the stories they tell. Some of the films mentioned here will be remembered and seen across time purely for reasons of cinematic merit and the conviction of their craft. Award or no award, our films ought to chronicle different stories and voices because in diversity lie our deepest strength.

The writer teaches literary and cultural studies at FLAME University, Pune



DATA POINT

On the dot

India has received an average rainfall of 558 mm in the 2019 monsoon season till Monday. This is neither below nor above the Long Period Average (LPA); in other words, the deviation from normal rainfall is exactly 0%. Considering that the rainfall was 33% deficient at the end of June, the monsoon has intensified rapidly. But, inter-State variations exist. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

Inter-district variations

Table shows the % of districts in each State across rainfall categories. For instance, 10% districts in Punjab had "large excess" (LE) rainfall while 40% had "deficient" (D) rainfall

LD: Largely deficient (-60% to -99% of Long Period Average rainfall)

D: Deficient (-20% to -59% of LPA)

N: Normal rainfall (-19% to +19% of LPA)

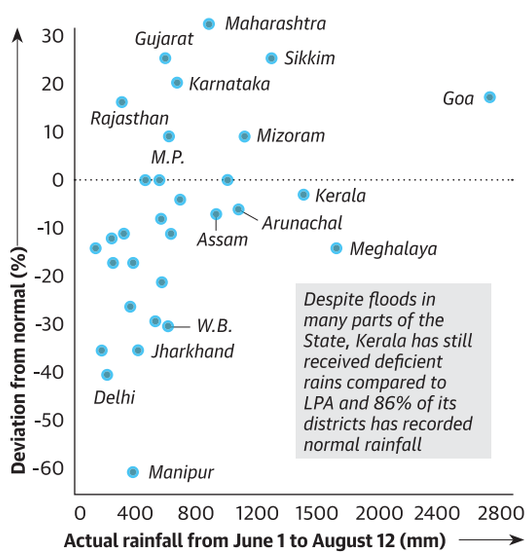
E: Excess (+20% +59% of LPA)

LE: Large excess (>59% of LPA)

State	LE	E	N	D	LD
Maharashtra	22	22	33	22	0
Karnataka	17	27	37	20	0
Meghalaya	14	29	0	57	0
M.P.	14	25	45	16	0
Mizoram	13	0	50	25	0
Punjab	10	5	45	40	0
Tamil Nadu	9	6	19	44	22
Gujarat	9	45	42	3	0
Rajasthan	9	39	30	21	0
Chhattisgarh	7	15	22	56	0
Arunachal	6	6	50	38	0
J&K	5	18	41	23	5
Assam	4	19	44	30	4
U.P.	1	7	37	51	4
Sikkim	0	25	50	25	0
Telangana	0	13	65	23	0
Bihar	0	11	39	50	0
Nagaland	0	9	18	64	9
A.P.	0	8	62	31	0
Uttarakhand	0	8	15	77	0
Kerala	0	7	86	7	0
Odisha	0	3	53	43	0
Tripura	0	0	100	0	0
Goa	0	0	100	0	0
Himachal	0	0	42	42	17
Jharkhand	0	0	21	75	4
Haryana	0	0	19	71	10
West Bengal	0	0	16	79	5
Manipur	0	0	11	33	56
Delhi	0	0	0	56	11

Inter-State variations

Scatterplot charts **actual rainfall** against **% deviation from LPA** across States as of Monday. States above the horizontal zero line received more rainfall than usual – the higher they are the more the deviation from normal (LPA). The States below the line received lesser rainfall than usual



Source: IMD

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1969

T.N. Chief Minister's demand

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has addressed a letter to the Prime Minister pleading for representation to the State Government on the boards of management of the nationalised banks of a regional character and on the regional advisory boards of all-India banks. In his letter, Mr. Karunanidhi has also urged that the States should have representation on the National Credit Council. Mrs. Gandhi's decision to nationalise 14 scheduled banks, Mr. Karunanidhi said, was a "bold and timely step – perhaps the most significant in the last 20 years of the history of independent India." He hoped it would mark the "real beginning of a new era" in which the Government, on behalf of society, would take command of the resources and use them for the uplift of the common man. He offered to Mrs. Gandhi, on behalf of the Government and the people of Tamil Nadu, "our solid and unflinching support" in implementing this measure and any further socialist steps she might undertake to bring light into the life of the common man. In the course of his letter, Mr. Karunanidhi referred to the fear in some political circles that there might not be much advantage to the interests of this State as a result of bank nationalisation.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1919

The Madras Council.

The first meeting of the Madras Legislative Council during Lord Willingdon's regime as also after its reconstitution under the recent elections and nominations of members, was held yesterday [August 12]. It must be admitted that the proceedings of the Legislative Council have of late lost much of their interest in the public mind, both on account of the futility of the popular voice in the discussions under its present constitution, and of the short period that divides the existence of the present Council from what is going to take its place under the Reform Bill, which is engrossing so much of the public attention at the present time. In the course of his opening speech His Excellency said that by a deliberate decision of the Government, the number of nominated officials has been reduced, and that of non-officials has been increased. The public must feel grateful for the adoption of this principle, which is a sound constitutional measure. It must be said, however, that in the opinion of the public, the nominations of non-official members have been, with notable exceptions, of a character such as not to diminish the support to the Government side, nor to increase the weight of the popular vote.

FROM PAGE ONE

Kashmir Valley under lockdown during Id

District Magistrate Shahid Choudhary told *The Hindu* that in the past one week, only eight persons with pellet injuries were admitted and treated at government hospitals in Srinagar.

When *The Hindu* visited the SMHS hospital in Srinagar on August 8, there were at least 20 patients who were hit by pellets.

Mr. Choudhury said many choppers flew from Tangdhar and Gurez in border areas to ferry patients.

Aerial survey

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval who is camping in Srinagar for the past one week undertook an aerial survey.

A senior official said Internet services will remain suspended in the Kashmir Valley but the landline phone services could be operationalised after August 15.

Lockdown since Aug. 5

The Valley has been placed under a lockdown since August 5, the day two Bills in the Rajya Sabha were moved to annul Article 370 that gave special status to the State and to split it into two Union Territories.

A Home Ministry spokesperson said on Twitter: "In Srinagar, keeping in view the possibility of terrorists & mischievous elements trying to disturb public order&peace, reasonable restrictions were imposed on large gatherings in sensitive areas. People offered prayers in large numbers at local mosques."

Chinese lend a helping hand to Indian pilgrims

Divine path: Prayer flags against the backdrop of Mount Kailash. ▪ RADHIKA SANTHANAM

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is important for Tibet, said Deputy General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Tibet Autonomous Region Sun Xiabo.

"We all understand the significance of providing better service for Indians, who undertake the pilgrimage in Tibet," Mr. Sun said

"We will maintain this policy and do what we can to make Indians visiting Tibet feel at home," he added.

Important role

Tibet can play an important role in promoting relations between China and India, Mr. Sun added. "China's relationship with India is on the priority of Chinese diplomacy and Tibet has a very long history of exchanges with India in terms of culture and religion," he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Ali prefecture Ge Qingmin said while the Chinese government is committed to improving facilities for the *yatris*, there were some expectations from India too.

When in Tibet

"We hope the *yatris* are always adequately prepared for the drastic climate conditions in Tibet. Two, we hope the Indian side can improve road conditions near Lipulekh Pass.And three, we hope that the *yatris* always abide by the laws of the People's Republic of China when they're in Tibet," he said.

(With inputs from Atul Aneja in Beijing)

(The writer is in Tibet on the invitation of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China)

Mukesh Ambani unveils Jio Fiber for broadband

After receiving over 15 million registrations from nearly 1,600 towns for Jio Fiber, the company plans to reach 20 million residences and 15 million business establishments.

HD TV

Under the Jio Fiber welcome offer, the company will offer free high definition (HD) LED TV and a set top box free for customers opting for Jio's annual plans called as Jio-Forever plans.

"The experience of Jio Fiber and Jio Set Top Box really comes to life when combined with an LED television. So, Jio Fiber customers who opt for our annual plans, will get an HD OR 4K LED television and a 4K Set Top Box absolutely free. We are calling this the Jio Fiber Welcome Offer," said Mr. Ambani.

The digital set top box will offer ultra high definition entertainment, virtual reality content, multi-party video conferencing, voice enabled virtual assistants, interactive gaming, home security and many smart-home solutions.

> **Premium Jio Fiber customers will be able to watch movies in their living rooms the day these movies are released in theatres**
>
> MUKESH AMBANI
> RIL Chairman

Jio Fiber premium customers will also be able to watch movies in their living rooms the same day these movies are released in theatres with the Jio First-Day-First-Show offer starting from the middle of 2020.

OTT applications

"Jio Fiber plans will come bundled with subscriptions to most leading premium OTT applications. Also, for the first time in India, we are introducing a disruptive concept for watching new movies. Premium Jio Fiber customers will be able to watch movies in their living rooms the day these movies are released in theatres," said Mr. Ambani.

Prosecution nod for 80 officials pending

They have been charged under Prevention of Corruption Act, and files are with various departments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Sanction for the prosecution of over 80 public servants, including four IAS officials, under the Prevention of Corruption Act is awaited from various government departments for the past over four months. Two cases are pending since 2013.

According to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), 47 such requests were pending for more than four months as on June 30. The highest of seven requests were with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), while five were with the Uttar Pradesh government. In one case, the request for sanction to prosecute the then Secretary of Health, B.L. Agarwal, was made to the DoPT in February 2013.

The same month, another request was moved against the then Joint Director Parmod Singh and two others of the Chhattisgarh government, in connection with a case registered in 2010.

According to the recently released CVC's annual report, sanction for prosecution in 108 cases was given by the government departments last year. The Commission has superintendence over function of the Central Bureau of Investigation. In 2018, as per its annual report, the CBI had registered 765 cases and 134 preliminary enquiries, compared to 939 cases and 137 enquiries in 2017.

Report card, 2018

- **33,645** complaints before Central Vigilance Commission
- **30,575** disposed of
- **42** cases advised for criminal proceedings after CBI inquiry
- **19** sent for major penalty proceedings and 4 for minor penalty proceedings
- **489** cases recommended for major penalty
- **147** cases recommended for minor penalty
- **45** departmental cases against Group A officers, and 29 against Group B and C officials of the CBI are pending

Prone status

Investigation was finalised in 611 cases and 109 inquiries, while 1,541 cases and inquiries were still under probe. In all, 898 cases were pending investigation for more than a year as on December 31, 2018. Courts gave judgment in 850 under-trial cases and in 544 of them, the CBI secured convictions.

"The conviction rate during the year was 68% against 66.9% in 2017. At the end of the year 2018, 9,255 cases were pending in various courts," said the Commission. As part of its functioning, the Commission tendered advices in 3,162 cases during the period.

It included recommendation for major penalty proceedings in 508 cases and minor penalty proceedings in 151 cases as its first-stage advice. The CVC advised major penalty for 101 cases and minor penalty for 76 cases as second-stage advice.

Sonia Gandhi wishes all on occasion of Id

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, in her first message after assuming charge as the interim President of the party, greeted citizens on the occasion of Eid al-Adha and wished peace, good health and happiness to all.

"May this auspicious occasion bring peace, good health and happiness to all," she said in her message.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi, who is in Wayanad to take stock of the flood situation, also conveyed his Id greetings

Raise voice for idea of India: Manmohan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Expressing concern about the ongoing crisis in Kashmir following the nullification of Article 370, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that it was essential to "raise your voice" to ensure that the idea of India prevailed in the long run.

Speaking for the first time since Parliament changed the status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that it was important that all voices were heard.

"The outcome of this is not to the liking of many people of our country. It's important that the voices of all these people are heard. It's only by raising our voice that we can assure in the long run, the idea of India, which is something very sacred to us, can prevail," Mr. Singh said.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a memorial meet for former Union Minister S. Jaipal Reddy.

Deep crisis

Earlier, during his address at the meet, Mr. Singh said, "India is passing through a deep crisis and it requires cooperation of all right-thinking people to challenge the dark forces."

Former Union Ministers Mani Shankar Aiyar and Subodh Kant Sahay, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and his CPI counterpart D. Raja were present.

New Dangal: Babita Phogat and Mahavir Singh Phogat joining the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Kiren Rijiju at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Wrestler Babita Phogat and father Mahavir join the BJP

She is likely to be given party ticket in Haryana election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Babita Phogat, international-level wrestler, and her father, Mahavir Phogat, on Tuesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Ms. Phogat is likely to be considered for party ticket for the Haryana Assembly election to be held later this year.

The struggle of the Phogat sisters – Geeta, Vinesh, Priyanka, Ritu, Sangita and Babita – to compete as wrestlers had inspired the hit 2016 Hindi film *Dangal*.

The father and daughter joined the party in the presence of Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, the BJP's Haryana general secretary Anil Jain, and State unit chief Subhash Barala.

Ms. Phogat praised Prime Minister Modi at her induction for "writing history" by doing away with the special status for Jammu & Kashmir, and said she was a "big fan" of his.

'Youth icon'

Mr. Rijiju called Ms. Phogat a "youth icon" for the country, having brought it glory by winning several medals in wrestling internationally. Mr. Phogat, who has coached his three daughters, also came in for praise from Mr. Rijiju.

Ms. Phogat also defended Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, after he courted controversy on his "brides from Kashmir" remarks.

"Manohar Lal Khattar*ji* has not made any such statement that portrays women wrongly and I urge the media not to distort his statement," she said.

'Lived the ideals'

BJP media head Anil Baluni said Mahavir Phogat had lived the ideals of the Central government's scheme *Beti bachao, beti padhao*, by coaching his daughters as wrestlers against societal pressure of that time. Babita Phogat is a Commonwealth Games gold medallist.

BJP to screen defectors in Bengal

Several new entrants have raised row

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Monday said the party had put up a screening mechanism in place through which representatives of other parties willing to join it would have to go through.

Ever since the party's upbeat performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the party has been grappling with the issue of induction of leaders from other parties in its fold.

"The party will be there and people from different sections will continue to join it. There has been a controversy recently over a few people. The manner in which a large number of people are joining the party requires the presence of a screening mechanism," Mr. Ghosh said. Since the issue involved the "image of the party", discussions were held on this in the recently concluded *Chintan Baithak* and in Delhi.

"There is a screening committee in every district, which will look into the issue if any important person from the district joins the party. Similarly, at the State-level there is a similar arrangement," Mr. Ghosh said.

The remarks come a day after two groups of workers of the BJP clashed in the Durgapur area of Pashchim Bardhaman district over representatives from other parties joining the party.

Even during the day, some retired bureaucrats and officials joined the party in the presence of Mr. Ghosh at the State BJP headquarters.

Dilip Ghosh

Commenting on the Trinamool Congress roping in I-PAC and poll strategist Prashant Kishor, Mr. Ghosh said there were reports of representatives of I-PAC interfering in the affairs of the government.

"The administration is being handed over to Prashant Kishor. The Chief Minister has lost her confidence and has leased out the administration," he alleged.

The BJP leader, who was elected MP from Medinipur, also responded to the Trinamool Congress's allegations that the BJP-led government at the Centre was harassing Durga Puja committees by issuing notices from the Income Tax department.

The BJP had nothing against Durga Puja and across the country, community pujas were being held in the BJP-ruled States, he said.

Army plans to raise age of retirement of skilled staff

Proposal aims to retain experts and reduce pension costs

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Army has conducted a new study on "age enhancement for retirement" of personnel in specialised areas to retain skilled manpower, Army sources said.

"We don't want to lose skilled manpower. We have identified specialists in various disciplines and looking if we can raise their retirement age to between 55 and 58," a senior Army source told *The Hindu*.

These include areas such as medical assistants, radiologists and electronics and mechanical engineers posted at Corps Headquarters and base workshops.

In the armed forces, personnel of Other Ranks (ORs) start retiring in the 35-37 age group and officers at 54 unless they get promoted to higher ranks.

Though these limits have been set due to the rigours of military service, there has been huge technological advancement over the decades and also not all personnel go through the same stress or serve in extreme situations, the source said.

"So why can't they serve till 55-58," he asked.

Extension of retirement age would offer a dual benefit of retaining expertise which saves the cost of replacing them and also reduces the mounting pension burden on the Army.

Not all personnel go through severe stress and need to be retired early. ▪ AP

The personnel continue in active service for longer duration and do not have to search for alternative employment.

The "age enhancement for retirement" study has been completed and the draft report has to be approved by the Defence Ministry, sources said.

This study is in addition to the four major thrust areas of force restructuring and transformation ordered by the Chief of the Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat, and is in various stages of completion and implementation.

Currently, restructuring for Army headquarters, force restructuring, cadre review of officers and review of terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) and ORs are taking place.

For lower ranks also

As part of reviewing the terms and conditions of the ORs, the Army is considering increasing the pensionable service of jawans and lance naiks by two years from the current 15 years and further up to 20 years in a phased manner.

The officer cadre management study was ordered last year to enhance functional efficiency, correct structural ratio and meet legitimate career expectations of officer cadre, the source said. "The review will be completed by the year-end and then implemented."

Under this, a proposal is under consideration is to ensure that 50% of all officers become Major Generals. At present, officers are commissioned as Lieutenants and proceed to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in a time-bound manner.

On Id, Twitter war rages over animal sacrifice and rights

Many call for eco-friendly festival, ban on slaughter

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
SIDHARTH YADAV
NEW DELHI

#EidMubarak was one of the most popular Twitter hashtags on Monday, as wishes for the festival of Id al-Azha, or Bakrid, resounded across social media. In India, however, a counterpoint was provided by other trending hashtags such as #EcoFriendlyEid, #BloodlessEid and #Stop_Killing_Animals.

Twitter analytics estimated that #EidMubarak received more than 63,000 mentions on the site in India by Monday evening, while #BloodlessEid had 28,000 mentions and #EcoFriendlyEid almost 15,000.

One widely shared graphic created by the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti cited demands for an eco-friendly Deepavali and Ganesh Chathurthi, and asked why there was no similar demand for an eco-friendly Id with a ban on animal slaughter.

Patanjali founder and yoga guru Swami Ramdev tweeted his wishes to Muslim brothers and sisters. He said Hindus and Muslims had common ancestors, and asked Muslims to give up animal sacrifice, adding the #EcoFriendlyEid hashtag.

#Stop_Killing_Animals and #BloodlessEid ruled Twitter.

Followers of the self-styled godman Rampal, who is currently serving a life sentence in the Hisar Central Jail for murder, tweeted memes and videos produced by his Satlok Ashram featuring teary-eyed goats and weeping Muslim children.

Twitter user Ashutosh Vashishth, who is also followed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, tweeted: "Celebrating #EcoFriendlyEid will have many benefits like no bloodshed and we can also save tons of water..."

More than 1,68,000 people viewed a video shared by the Indian chapter of the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals showing animals at Mumbai's Deonar slaughterhouse on the eve of Id.

Other Twitter users pointed out that animals were slaughtered every day. "Gentle reminder: Animals are slaughtered daily in India and not just on Id. Would be great if you keep your animal love to yourself on our festival day," tweeted Mumbai-based fashion blogger Amena Azeez.

Mythologist and author Devdutt Pattanaik tweeted an image of deforestation and chopped trees, saying, "Killing plants is non-violence because I eat plants and use their dead body as wood. Killing rats and termites and ants is non-violence because pests eat my food and damage my house. Killing animals is violent because I don't eat animals but my enemies do... Those who cry hoarse at the killing of animals in the name of religion are perfectly fine at the killing of trees in the name of development. Some lives matter more than others."

CRPF's distress helpline is back in action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Srinagar-based Central Reserve Police Force helpline 14411 has been reactivated, officials said on Monday.

The standard landline number of the *madadgaar* helpline went offline due to the communication clampdown in the Kashmir Valley.

"14411 Restored: #Kashmiri students and general public residing in Kashmir or outside can contact #CRPF Madadgaar on 24x7 tollfree number 14411 for speedy assistance," the CRPF said in a tweet on Monday.

The helpline was launched in June 2017 to help any Valley resident, based anywhere in the country, in distress.

About whereabouts

Over 500 calls have been received on the number since Sunday, the CRPF's official handle tweeted. The callers wanted to know about the situation in the State and the situation of their families.

The helpline earlier posted a message on Twitter, saying people could call on its mobile number 9469 793260 "for any assistance or updates" as the five-digit number was not working.

The mobile number tweeted on Monday has been diverted to the landline number. It said that any assistance can be sought over its official handle @CRPFmadadgaar.

The CRPF has a permanent deployment of about 65 battalions for security and counter-terrorist duties in Jammu and Kashmir, while it has sent in about 120 fresh companies to the region in order to strengthen the internal security grid post the revoking of the provisions of Article 370.

While a CRPF battalion has a operational strength of about 1,000 personnel, there are about 100 troops in a company.

Centre asks Twitter to block accounts 'spreading falsehood'

'Many are posting objectionable content on J&K'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday asked microblogging website Twitter to take down several accounts on its platform posting "objectionable and malicious" content, particularly relating to Kashmir.

"We have asked Twitter to take down some 7-8 accounts that are spreading false information about what is happening in Kashmir... ," a senior government official said, seeking anonymity.

The government official said the reports and information posted on these handles were related to violence in Kashmir. "They are fake, aimed at presenting a wrong picture [of the Kashmir situation] to the world." Most of these were unverified accounts and the government may also try to locate the origin/location of these accounts.

Separately, the Jammu and Kashmir police has sought action against the handle @WajSKan, "strongly rebutting" claims of rift emerging among security forces deployed in Kashmir.

The claim made by this account was also refuted by CRPF India in a tweet: "The malicious content of this tweet is absolutely baseless and untrue. As always, all the security forces of India are working with coordination and bonhomie.

"Patriotism and our tricolour lie at the core of our hearts and existence, even when the color of our uniforms may differ."

On alert: The Centre says there is a malicious campaign alleging violence in Kashmir. ▪AP

Police view

Meanwhile, speaking at a press conference later in the day, IGP, Kashmir, S.P. Pani said there was a malicious campaign on social media platform. "We request citizens not to pay attention to any kind of malicious campaign being carried out by mischievous people... We have taken up the matter with service providers to take action as per the law."

Chidambaram's remarks very provocative, says BJP

'Congress giving communal angle to decision on Article 370'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday termed "very irresponsible and provocative" Congress leader P. Chidambaram's comment that the Union government had revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status because it was a Muslim-majority State and it would not have done so if Hindus were in a majority there.

While Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad accused the former Home Minister of making a very irresponsible and provocative statement, BJP leaders Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, also a Union Minister, and Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Congress was giving the issue a communal angle.

At a public event in Chennai on Sunday, Mr. Chidambaram slammed the BJP-led NDA government's decision.

P.Chidambaram

"If J&K is a Hindu-dominated State, the BJP would not have done this. They did it only because the region is dominated by Muslims," he alleged.

Defending the decision to revoke Article 370, Mr. Naqvi said the government had rectified a big mistake made decades ago by the Congress.

"What he has said is an attempt to give communal colour, though the decision is in national interest," he said.

Mr. Chouhan, a former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, said it was the Congress's "narrow- mindedness" that it was looking at the issue through a "Hindu-Muslim" prism.

Mr. Prasad said the decision was in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Hitting out at the Congress, he asked if it was not true that over 42,000, mostly Muslims, had died in the Valley during decades of violence.

Jammu police urge vigilance for Aug. 15

People asked to cooperate with police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

The Jammu police have sought the cooperation of citizens and the civil society to ensure that Independence Day is celebrated safely, and urged them to report all suspicious people or objects.

They have been advised not to carry arms and ammunition, sharp-edged weapons, handbags, polythene bags, transistors, fire extinguishers, stopwatch, any kind of powder, cigarettes, inflammable material such as match boxes and lighters, cameras and other objectionable items, an advisory issued by the Senior Superintendent of Police (Security), Jammu, said.

The people have been advised to cooperate with security personnel in case of checks, and not hesitate to disclose their identity if requested by the security personnel.

The district administrations have been reviewing the security situation since the Central government withdrew Jammu and Kashmir's special status and split it into two Union Territories on August 5.

Internet and telecommunication lines had been completely suspended immediately after the government's move.

These restrictions are being gradually lifted after reviews by senior officials.

The government has asserted that the removal of provisions of Article 370, which gave Jammu and Kashmir special powers, was necessary to put an end to terrorism in the region.

Residents, however, have expressed angst over the difficulties they are facing due to the restrictions. The situation has largely remained peaceful in the past week.

Notes of dissent

Voicing protest: Kashmiris shouting slogans during a protest after Id prayers in Srinagar on Monday after authorities eased the curfew-like restrictions, keeping in mind the festival. ▪AP

Doval makes aerial survey of Valley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Monday undertook an aerial survey of the situation in the city and south Kashmir as the Valley celebrated Id amid the restrictions imposed after the Centre divested Jammu and Kashmir of its special status.

Officials said Director-General of Police Dilbag Singh and Army commanders also undertook aerial visits. Id prayers were peaceful across Jammu and Kashmir, they said in a statement. In Srinagar, reasonable restrictions were imposed on large gatherings in sensitive areas to foil any bid by militants to disturb the peace.

People gathered in large numbers at local mosques to offer prayers, the administration said in a statement. However, minor protests occurred at a few places, the statement said.

Amarinder hosts Kashmiri students on Id

Punjab Chief Minister is hopeful that they will get to meet their families back in the Valley soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday hosted 125 Kashmiri students on Id and said he was confident that situation would improve in the Valley soon.

The students belonged to various universities in Punjab. With curfew-like restrictions in place across the Valley, it was an Id away from home for the students.

Life in the Valley has been hit following heavy security deployment and restrictions on the movement of people, besides the suspension of telecommunication services after Parliament revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution.

The invitation from the Chief Minister for lunch at the Punjab Bhavan here made it an occasion to cherish and feel at home, said many students.

Providing succour: J&K students studying in Punjab giving a memento to Capt. Amarinder Singh on Monday.

Assuring them of their safety in Punjab, the Chief Minister said, "We cannot replace your families. But I hope you consider us as your family too."

Capt. Amarinder told the students that though he had not been to Kashmir in a long time due to his busy political schedule, he considered the Valley his second home. He said it was his heartfelt desire to share the happiness of this festival with the students.

The Chief Minister said he was confident their families back home were safe and they would be able to meet them soon, an official statement said.

Safe in Punjab

Reciprocating the Chief Minister's sentiments, the students said they too considered Punjab their second home, where they have always felt safe, even after the Pulwama terror attack.

"We have seen that Punjabis have a big heart," said Faiq Salem, a student, while another thanked the Chief Minister for listening to them. "Coming here today reminds us of our families," said Farzana Hafeez, admitting that till they received the invitation, they had been feeling lonely at the thought of not being at home for Id celebrations.

As a memento, the students presented the Chief Minister with a portrait made by Abdul Azad, a fine arts student from Chandigarh University. Another student gifted him a Kashmiri samovar.

Capt. Amarinder gave sweets to the students to celebrate the occasion.

Punjab Ministers Brahm Mohindra and Balbir Singh Sidhu, Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh and the Chief Minister's Media Adviser Raveen Thukral were present.

In the aftermath of the revocation of the special status for Jammu and Kashmir by Parliament, the Punjab government has ordered an increase in security arrangements for around 8,000 Kashmiri students in the State and directed the Superintendents of Police and Deputy Commissioners to meet them personally. The Chief Minister had ordered the scaling up of security in the districts bordering Kashmir.

Ending J&K's special status an internal matter, China told

China had raised the issue of Aksai Chin in the meeting

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told the Indian media on Monday that in his talks, China had raised the question of Aksai Chin – a territory claimed by India, but under Chinese control.

Regarding India's decision to withdraw special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Jaishankar said that he had told his hosts that "this was an internal matter for India." "The issue related to changes in a temporary provision of the Constitution of India and was the sole prerogative of the country."

He said his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, had also referred to rising tensions between India and Pakistan as a result of these changes. In his response, Mr. Jaishankar said he had emphasised that "these changes had no bearing on Pakistan as it was an internal matter."

"It did not impact the Line of Control (LoC). Where India-Pakistan relations are concerned, the Chinese side should base its assessment on realities," he had told Mr. Wang.

"India as a responsible power had shown restraint in the face of provocative Pakistani rhetoric and actions. India has always stood for normalisation of the ties in an atmosphere free of terror," he noted. Asked if he had objected to China's reference to the UN charter and UN Security Council resolutions to resolve the Kashmir issue following Mr. Wang's talks with visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday, Mr. Jaishankar said: "I am not here to have an argument with something they (the Chinese) did with Pakistan or some other country. I am here to represent my position and have a conversation with my counterpart. My counterpart raised certain issues related to legislative changes in India. I replied to that."

Mr. Jaishankar said the situation in Afghanistan was also discussed. "The Chinese Foreign Minister shared his assessment because they have been talking to various parties. He gave his assessment. We had a fairly detailed conversation." There was also a dialogue on the Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor, he added.

SC to hear plea against Kashmir clampdown, arrest of leaders

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court will hear on Tuesday (August 13) for the first time a petition highlighting certain "regressive measures" adopted by the government before the abrogation of Article 370, by which special rights and privileges accorded to the people of Jammu and Kashmir were scrapped through a Presidential Order on August 5.

The government, within hours of announcing the notification of the Presidential Order on August 5, tabled the Bill to reorganise the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The Bill was successfully passed in Parliament.

Bottom line

The Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra will hear the petition filed by activist Tehseen Poonawalla, who has not expressed an opinion on the amendment to Article 370 but objects to measures adopted by the government, including the snapping of communication and restrictions imposed on media Jammu and Kashmir.

He has sought the setting up of a judicial commission to enquire into the government action and also the release of leaders including former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti.

"The inhabitants of J&K are suffering on account of unwarranted imposition of curfew and/or restrictions under Section 144," he said.

BSF, Pakistan Rangers don't exchange festival sweets

Event did not take place anywhere on the border as the Pakistani side refused to attend the ceremony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The customary exchange of sweets between the BSF and the Pakistan Rangers along the International Border did not take place on Monday on the occasion of Id al-Azha, officials said.

The unilateral downgrading of diplomatic ties by Pakistan in the wake of the Modi government's decision to revoke provisions of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, is being seen as the reason.

A file photo of the flag ceremony on the Wagah border. ▪AP

They said the Pakistani side refused to attend the ceremony after the Border Security Force (BSF) sent across official communication to exchange sweets and greetings along the IB running through Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

"The customary event did not take place at any location along the India-Pakistan border on the occasion of Id-ul-Azha on Monday," a senior official of the BSF said on Monday.

Festive ritual

The two forces deployed along over 3,000 km of the border exchange sweets on major festivals such as Id, Holi, Deepavali and their respective national days.

However, a similar exchange of sweets between BSF personnel and their Bangladeshi counterparts, Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB), took place at designated locations along the 4,096-km frontier shared by the two countries.

Senior commanders of the two forces from India and Bangladesh exchanged best wishes and presented sweets to each other as part of the existing friendly protocol along the Bangladesh border, officials of the BSF said on Monday.

ELSEWHERE

Macri defeated in key Argentina primaries

BUENOS AIRES

President Mauricio Macri suffered a crushing defeat from Center-left nominee Alberto Fernandez as Argentines voted in party primaries on Sunday ahead of October's general election. Given that all of major parties have already chosen their presidential candidates, the primaries effectively served as a nationwide pre-election opinion poll. AFP

Paris terror suspect booked for Brussels blast

BRUSSELS

Salah Abdeslam, the sole surviving suspect in the November 2015 Paris attacks, has been formally charged in connection with the Brussels suicide bombings months later. He was charged for his alleged role in the suicide bombings at Brussels airport and a metro station on March 22, 2016. AFP

South Korea tightens export controls on Japan

SEOUL

South Korea on Monday put Japan into its own new export category, intensifying a trade war between the two neighbours and U.S. allies. The move came after Seoul announced earlier this month it would remove Tokyo from its list of trusted trading partners, reciprocating an identical move by Japan. AFP

Italy recalls Senate as no-confidence vote looms

ROME

Italy is to recall the Senate on Tuesday to vote on a timetable to manage the crisis sparked by far-right leader Matteo Salvini pulling the plug on the ruling coalition. Mr. Salvini, who withdrew his party's support to the coalition government last week, is pressing for a no-confidence vote. AFP

'Hong Kong showing sprouts of terrorism'

Protesters are using dangerous tools to attack the police and to commit serious crimes, warns China

REUTERS
HONG KONG

China on Monday said the anti-government protests in Hong Kong, which shut down the city airport, had begun to show "sprouts of terrorism".

The airport authority said it was working with airlines to resume flights from 6 a.m. on Tuesday, but the developments raise the stakes after a weekend of skirmishes during which both activists and police toughened their stances.

Some Hong Kong legal experts say official descriptions of some protesters' actions as terrorism could lead to the use of extensive anti-terror laws and powers against them.

China's People's Armed Police also assembled in the neighbouring city of Shenzhen for exercises, the State-backed *Global Times* newspaper said.

Sea of black: Demonstrators gather inside the Hong Kong international airport to protest against the police action on Monday. ▪ AFP

More protests

People in the Asian financial hub responded by taking to the streets again, picketing a police station and returning in their hundreds to a metro station where police had hit activists with batons, to protest against the heavy-handed tactics.

The increasingly violent demonstrations have plunged the Chinese-ruled territory into its most serious crisis in decades, presenting Chinese leader Xi Jinping with one of his biggest popular challenges since he came to power in 2012.

"Hong Kong has come to a critical juncture," said Hong Kong and Macau Affairs office spokesman Yang Guang in Beijing.

"Protesters have been frequently using extremely dangerous tools to attack the police in recent days, constituting serious crimes with sprouts of terrorism emerging."

The protests began in opposition to a Bill allowing extradition to the mainland but have widened to highlight other grievances, winning broad support. The precise trigger for the airport's closure was not clear, since protesters occupying the arrivals hall for four days have been peaceful.

"This is about our freedom," said a 24-year-old wearing a mask, who gave his name only as Yu. "Why should we leave?"

Two systems

Hong Kong is the world's busiest air cargo port and the 8th busiest by passenger traffic, says the Airports Council International (ACI), a global association. It has been filled with anti-government protesters for four days.

The mostly young black-clad protesters have chanted slogans such as "No rioters, only tyranny!" and "Liberate Hong Kong!" while approaching travellers with flyers describing their demands and explaining the unrest.

Demonstrators say they are fighting the erosion of the "one country, two systems" arrangement enshrining some autonomy for Hong Kong when China took it back from Britain in 1997.

Police declined to say if they would move to clear the demonstrators.

Cathay Pacific warns staff

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific warned its staff on Monday that they could be fired for supporting "illegal protests", as the firm comes under pressure from Beijing over pro-democracy demonstrations.

The carrier's stock plunged nearly 5% in Hong Kong trade on Monday after Beijing imposed new rules banning airline staff involved in the protests from flights to or over the mainland. The airline was also forced to cancel dozens of flights on Monday.

U.S. tightens rule for green card seekers

People on welfare could be denied visa

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration unveiled a rule that could deny green cards to immigrants who use public assistance such as Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers, in what is considered one of its most aggressive moves to restrict legal immigration.

Federal law already requires those seeking green cards and legal status to prove they will not be a burden to the U.S., or what's called a "public charge," but the new rules, made public on Monday, detail a broader range of programmes that could disqualify them.

The rule targets people who entered the U.S. legally and are seeking permanent status. It's part of a push to move the U.S. to a system that focuses on immigrants' skills instead of emphasising the reunification of families, as it has done.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officers will now weigh public assistance along with other factors such as education, household income and health to determine whether to grant legal status.

Effective mid-October

The rules will take effect in mid-October. They don't apply to U.S. citizens, even if the U.S. citizen is related to an immigrant who is subject to them.

The acting director of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Ken Cuccinelli, said the rule change fits with the Republican President's message. "We want to see people coming to this country who are self-sufficient," Mr. Cuccinelli said.

"That's a core principle of the American Dream. It's deeply embedded in our history, and particularly our history related to legal immigration."

The rule targets people who entered the U.S. legally. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Immigrants make up a small percentage of those who get public benefits. In fact, many are ineligible for public benefits because of their immigration status.

But advocates worry the rules will scare immigrants into not asking for help.

On average, 5,44,000 people apply annually for green cards, with about 3,82,000 falling into categories that would be subject to this review, according to the government.

Public charge

Guidelines in use since 1999 referred to a public charge as someone primarily dependent on cash assistance, income maintenance or government support for long-term institutionalisation.

Under the new rules, the Department of Homeland Security has redefined a public charge as someone who is "more likely than not" to receive public benefits for more than 12 months within a 36-month period. If someone has two benefits, that is counted as two months. And the definition has been broadened to include Medicaid, housing assistance and food assistance.

Yemen militants are ready for talks after Aden 'coup'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ADEN

The head of Yemen's separatist movement said he was ready to take part in Saudi-brokered peace talks after clashes with pro-government forces killed dozens in temporary capital Aden.

The fighting in Yemen's southern port city pitted Saudi-backed government forces against the UAE-trained Security Belt Force, both of which have been fighting Houthi rebels who seized the capital Sanaa in 2014.

While the two sides are technically supported by a Saudi and Emirati-dominated military coalition, the Security Belt is largely made up of fighters who oppose President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi and seek an independent south Yemen.

Last week, the separatists seized army bases and a presidential palace in temporary capital Aden, prompting the government to accuse the UAE of backing a "coup".

The chief of the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC), which is backed by the bulk of Security Belt fighters, said late on Sunday he was committed to a ceasefire in Aden.

Aidarus al-Zubaidi said last week's violence had been provoked by Hadi's forces, who planned to assassinate the movement's leaders then "provoke our people and liquidate our presence".

That left separatist fighters with "only two options: either self-defence, or surrender and accepting the liquidation of our just cause," Mr. Zubaidi said, according to his televised speech.

Talks on U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan have ended: Taliban

'Both sides will consult their leadership on the next steps'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

The latest round of talks between the Taliban and the U.S. on a deal to withdraw thousands of U.S. troops from Afghanistan has ended and now both sides will consult with their leadership on the next steps, a Taliban spokesman said on Monday.

The eighth round of talks in the Gulf Arab nation of Qatar concluded after midnight and was "long and useful," Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement.

Last week, another Taliban spokesman had said that a deal was expected to follow this round as both sides seek an end to the nearly 18-year war, America's longest conflict.

'No base for militants'

An agreement if reached is expected to include Taliban guarantees that Afghanistan would not be a base for other extremist groups in the future. However, both the Islamic State group's affiliate and al-Qaida remain active in the country. The Taliban stages near-daily attacks across Afghanistan, mainly targeting Afghan forces and government officials but also killing many civilians.

The deal also could include a ceasefire and stipulate that the Taliban would negotiate with Afghan representatives, though the insurgent group has so far refused to negotiate with Kabul representatives.

There was no immediate comment on Monday from U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who on Sunday tweeted that "I hope this is the last Id where... Afghanistan is at war."

Mr. Khalilzad later added that "Many scholars believe that the deeper meaning of Eid al-Hadha is to sacrifice one's ego. Leaders on all sides of the war in Afghanistan must take this to heart as we strive for peace."

The Taliban control roughly half of Afghanistan since the U.S.-led invasion.

'Irregularities' at jail where Epstein died

REUTERS
NEW YORK

U.S. Attorney General William Barr said on Monday there were "serious irregularities" at the federal prison in New York City where Jeffrey Epstein died in an apparent suicide, adding that the investigation into the disgraced money manager's sex crimes would continue.

"Any co-conspirators should not rest easy," Mr. Barr said.

Epstein was found dead on Saturday, having apparently hanged himself in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in lower Manhattan, where he was being held on new sex-trafficking charges.

Sajith Premadasa could be a good match to Gotabaya in polls: Minister

T.K. ROHIT
CHENNAI

A Sri Lankan Minister on Monday said the United National Party's deputy leader, Sajith Premadasa, is likely to be a good match to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the former Defence Secretary who will be fielded in the presidential election on behalf of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) headed by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Mr. Premadasa has the support of the people on the ground and would be a good match against Mr. Gotabaya, said V. Radhakrishnan, Sri Lanka's Minister for Special Areas Development.

"Ground level support is there for Sajith Premadasa. But ultimately, [UNP leader and Prime Minister] Ranil (Wickremasinghe) has to decide. If he comes to a decision and makes a good choice both (Mr. Gotabaya and Mr. Premadasa) will be equal candidates. It will be a tough fight," Mr. Radhakrishnan told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Radhakrishnan, who was in the city, said Tamils and upcountry people would like the candidature of Mr. Premadasa, should he be chosen. "His father [late president] Ranasinghe Premadasa, in 1989, gave citizenship to us. So, people still have an affinity to him," he said.

Mr. Radhakrishnan is part of the Tamil Progressive Alliance (TPA). It was only after the UNP announces its candidate that the TPA would be able to decide on who to support. "Whoever has the capability to work for our community, uplift of our community, we will support him. Till then we can't decide whom to support, because this is a Presidential election," he said.

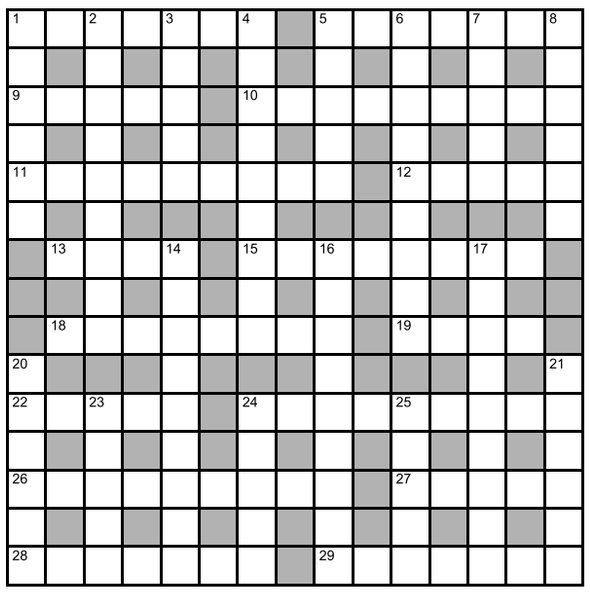
Sajith Premadasa

The Minister said Tamils were going to look at what Mr. Gotabaya is going to offer. "All the governments are cheating the Tamils from 1948. Everyone expected President Sirisena and PM Ranil to bring about a change. That too has not happened," he said.

"Their (Tamils') demand is for self-ruling opportunities. They want autonomy. They don't have a problem with the Sinhalese, Muslims," he said, adding the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, which provided for devolution of power to the provinces, was not being implemented properly.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12703

(set by Arden)



ACROSS

1 Pal, say breaks apart, he accompanies bride (7)
5 Children – half are against outside baseball team (7)
9 Initially after gaining lustre, one will be shining (5)
10 Telerecording cows on range (9)
11 Players scolded and emasculated (9)
12 Harvest from land, lose a yard and gain a foot (5)
13 Urge state department take lead (4)
15 Lad carrying weapon in English town (8)
18 It could be as silken as fur (8)
19 Wrong to leave a pancake half-eaten (4)
22 Some reviews are possible for entertainment (5)
24 Doctors insure, not that they are detected rarely (9)
26 Short movie on Royal denouncement (9)
27 Subdue two females in the family (5)
28 One learns to play in a team (7)
29 Horses bearing packing material (7)

DOWN

1 He is known for constant forays into wood (6)
2 Complaint, by the way everyone's gone out (9)
3 Fan left out of framework (5)
4 Talk about entry – not even for oxen on either side (6-3)
5 Crazy to take on a single unit (5)
6 US spy goes walking, to beat around the bush (9)
7 Girl assumes it's alright to arouse (5)
8 Changing dates – unknown or well known date? (6)
14 Boy gets up at one, man's outside with dog (9)
16 Abandoned cat in Harrow (9)
17 Natural, at random find an eight footer (9)
20 Pope at the centre in Madrid, greeting in excitement (6)
21 To be in Paris, climb twice and fly (6)
23 Breaking records, essentially nice stories (5)
24 Discontented native on China as a nation (5)
25 Writing by a learned man, it's noble in a way (5)

SUDOKU

5		3	6					1
					1	7		
7		4		5				
			5		4		7	
	9			1			2	
	8		9		3			
				9		4		8
		1	3					
3					8	2		5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS4444 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to puzzle 12702

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	7	4	1	8	3	5	6
6	5	8	9	3	7	2	1	4
4	1	3	2	6	5	8	9	7
3	4	2	5	9	6	1	7	8
5	9	1	7	8	3	6	4	2
7	8	6	1	2	4	9	3	5
1	7	9	8	4	2	5	6	3
2	6	5	3	7	1	4	8	9
8	3	4	6	5	9	7	2	1

FAITH

References to Ramanuja

While Andal's Thiruppavai is an offering to Lord Krishna, the verses in this work were taken to be references to Ramanuja, by Vaishnavite scholar Prativadhibhayankaram Annangarachar swami. Basing her lecture on his interpretations, G. Satyabhama said that the malai (hill) referred to by Andal signifies the Vedas. The tip of this hill is dharma tattva. Interpreting the word malai (hill) as a reference to the Vedas is justified, because of the story of Sage Bharadvaja. He studied the Vedas, and could not understand their depth, and kept asking for an extension in his life so that he could study them thoroughly.

But despite living for hundreds of years, he still could not grasp the entire meaning of the Vedas. Indra then pointed to three hills, and said that Bharadvaja's knowledge was like some sand from those hills, meaning to say, that the Vedas could never be fully understood. Seeriya singam (ferocious lion) again is a reference to Ramanuja. This lion subsists by reading the works of Thirumangai Azhvar, says Ramanuja Nootrandadi, a work in praise of Ramanuja. Ramanuja realised the purpose of his birth. He realised that he was on this earth to save people from samsaric bonds and to guide them to moksha. This pasuram of Andal is about Narasimha, and so she talks about the hairs on Narasimha's mane standing up. Is there a Ramanuja connection here? Yes, for Ramanuja had a lovely tuft of hair, and when he went forth to argue with his opponents, his lustre frightened them off. Andal speaks of a simhasana in her pasuram.

This can be taken to mean the three Vedas, which served as the basis for Ramanuja's arguments. It also refers to Ramanuja using all srutis – bheda, abheda and ghataka srutis in his works and in establishing validity of Visishtadvaita.

MASTER PLAN

₹2,88,243 cr. The outstanding debt that Reliance Industries had as on June 30, 2019

₹1,31,710 cr. The cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities held by RIL, the firm with the highest debt in India

₹5.7 lakh cr. The revenue that RIL's O2C business recorded last fiscal, while achieving exports of ₹2.2 lakh crore

5,00,000 The number of barrels per day in crude that Aramco will supply to the JV

50% The contribution of RIL's consumer facing businesses to overall Ebitda in time, from 32% now

Reliance Industries moves to restructure its balance sheet

Saudi Aramco to pick up 20% in a to-be-carved out oil-to-chemicals business for $15 billion; funds to help write down debt to zero in two years' time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The world's largest oil producer, Saudi Aramco, has agreed to pick up 20% stake in Reliance Industries Limited's (RIL) oil to chemicals (O2C) business at an enterprise value of $75 billion in one of the largest foreign investments in India.

Both companies have signed a non-binding Letter of Intent (LoI) regarding a proposed investment in the O2C division, comprising the refining, petrochemicals and fuels marketing businesses of RIL.

"RIL's Oil to Chemicals (O2C) division will be carved out of the company, in which Saudi Aramco will hold 20% stake for $15 billion on a zero-debt basis and it will operate as a joint venture. The value of the deal will change if the JV assumes debt.

"Aramco has the option to increase its stake in JV and will get a board seat, once the deal is done. Both RIL and Aramco will decide to list the JV in coming years," said a person in the know of the development.

At the company's 42nd AGM, Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director, RIL, told shareholders, "Since its inception, our Jamnagar refinery has been processing Saudi oil every single day for 20 years. Now, we have transformed our long-standing relationship of two decades into a partnership [that has] growth potential, for many more years."

This comes at a time when RIL's consumer facing businesses – Reliance Jio and Reliance Retail – are now contributing to over 32% of the company's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), compared with just 2% five years ago. The contribution from the consumer facing businesses are likely to exceed 50% of RIL's EBITDA in the coming years.

RIL's O2C business had revenue of ₹5.7 lakh crore and EBITDA of ₹52,041 crore last fiscal

As part of the deal, Saudi Aramco will also provide 5 lakh barrels per day (bpd) of crude supply to RIL's twin refineries in Jamnagar on a long-term basis. The deal will also include RIL's fuel retailing business in which British oil major BP has bought 49% stake for ₹7,000 crore.

"This partnership will cover all of RIL's refining and petrochemicals assets, including 51% of the petroleum retail JV," Mr. Ambani said.

The investment by Saudi Aramco is subject to due diligence, definitive agreements, regulatory and other customary approvals. The move will help the Indian firm, which has the highest debt outstanding in the country, to deleverage considerably. RIL's outstanding debt as on June 30 stood at ₹288,243 crore compared to cash and cash equivalents of ₹131,710 crore.

'May improve sentiment'

"Market is going to heartily welcome the seminal announcement by India's largest company. This is India's largest-ever FDI inflow and would help dissipate the gloomy sentiment currently pervading in the economy and stock markets," said Ajay Bodke CEO, PMS, Prabhudas Lilladher.

RIL's O2C business posted revenue of ₹5.7 lakh crore, recorded exports of ₹2.2 lakh crore and saw EBITDA of ₹52,041 crore in the last fiscal. The company processed 68.3 million tonnes of crude that year with gross refining margins of $9.2 per barrel.

All in the family: RIL CMD Mukesh Ambani with wife Nita Ambani and mother Kokilaben at the company's annual general meeting in Mumbai on Monday. • VIVEK BENDRE

'Zero net debt by March 2021'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) – which has an outstanding debt of ₹288,243 crore ($41.8 billion) as on June 30, 2019 – plans to turn the firm into a 'zero debt' company in the next 18 months as the capital expenditure cycle for Reliance Jio and the petrochemicals expansion project comes to an end.

The company, with the highest debt in India, has cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities of ₹131,710 crore ($19.1 billion) as on June 30, 2019, taking the net debt to ₹156,533 crore. Last fiscal, RIL transferred its telecom infrastructure assets to two separate infrastructure trusts for a consideration of ₹1.25 lakh crore with the intention of raising this money from large global institutional investors.

"We have received strong interest and commitments from reputed global investors and are confident that these transactions will be completed by the end of this financial year. Post this, we ended last year with net debt of ₹154,478 crore," Mr. Ambani told shareholders during the company's 42nd AGM.

Explaining the roadmap to becoming a zero net debt company by March 31, 2021, he said, "We expect to complete our transactions with Saudi Aramco and BP within this financial year. The commitments from these two transactions are about ₹1.1 lakh crore."

RIL is planning to hive off significant minority stakes in its consumer-facing businesses of Reliance Jio and Reliance Retail to mop up funds before listing both the businesses individually on the stock exchanges.

"We have received strong interest from strategic and financial investors in Jio and Reliance Retail. We will induct leading global partners in these businesses in the next few quarters, and move towards listing of both these companies within the next five years. We will also evaluate value unlocking options for our real estate and financial investments," he said.

"I have no doubt that your company will have one of the strongest balance sheets in the world. As we achieve our zero net-debt target, I assure you, my dear shareholders, that we will reward you abundantly through higher dividends, periodic bonus issues and other means, and at a more accelerated pace than any time in our history," Mr. Ambani said.

RIL may sell minority stakes in consumer arms, over time

Firm to look at value-unlocking in real estate, investments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mukesh Ambani is trying to hit two birds with one stone through the value-unlocking exercise across RIL's businesses, in which he had invested over ₹5.4 lakh crore in the last five years, of which ₹3.5 lakh crore has been invested in Reliance Jio alone.

The company will also evaluate value-unlocking options for its real estate and financial investments.

In the coming years, RIL will be selling a significant minority stakes in its consumer-facing businesses on the lines of the Aramco deal to deleverage its balance sheet, which is a concern among the investors. India's richest man also announced the most-awaited launch of Jio Fiber on September 5, offering customers free calls for life, LED TV, set-top box and 'first-day-first show' movies in their living rooms.

In his speech titled 'New Reliance for a New India,' Mr. Ambani said, "On the strength of our existing and new growth engines, I am confident that we can grow this by 15% annually over the next five years."

"Responding to the honourable PM's appeal, we stand committed to support the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in all their developmental needs."

Rewarding shareholders

On becoming a net zero-debt company, Mr. Ambani assured that he would reward shareholders through higher dividends, periodic bonus issues and other means, and at a more accelerated pace.

Reliance Jio partners Microsoft

Jio data centres to be powered by the Azure cloud platform

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Reliance Jio has entered into a long-term alliance with Microsoft to accelerate digital transformation with the launch of new cloud data centres.

Reliance Jio will set up a network of 'large, world-class data centres' across India powered by Microsoft's Azure cloud platform.

As part of a 10-year commitment the companies will offer solutions around connectivity, computing and storage solutions and other services essentials for Indian businesses and will span the broad Reliance Industries ecosystem, said Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) in a statement.

The offerings will include solutions in connectivity, computing and storage

Tech-led GDP growth

"[Reliance] Jio and Microsoft have entered into a globally unique, long-term alliance to accelerate the digital transformation of our country," said Mukesh Ambani while addressing RIL's annual general meeting.

According to the statement, the companies would aim to enhance the adoption of leading technologies such as data analytics, AI, cognitive services, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT) and Edge-computing among small and medium enterprises to make them ready to compete and grow, while helping accelerate technology-led GDP growth in India and driving the adoption of next generation technology solutions at scale.

IN BRIEF

Hyundai rolls out Grand i10 NIOS hatchback

CHENNAI

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. on Monday rolled-out the first Grand i10 NIOS from its Sriperumbudur plant. "Today, we are rolling out the third-generation Grand i10 NIOS, which will set new benchmarks in the hatchback segment," said S.S. Kim, MD and CEO, Hyundai Motor India. The Grand i10 NIOS is scheduled for global launch on August 20. It offers more value, features, space and excitement, the firm said.

Sundaram Home Finance cuts prime lending rate

CHENNAI

Sundaram Home Finance has announced a 10-basis-point reduction in its prime lending rate (PLR) on housing and non-housing loans. It is applicable to all customers on variable rates of interest and comes into effect from August 13. "The reduction in lending rates is in line with the current interest rate in the market," Srinivas Acharya, managing director, Sundaram Home Finance, said.

Wheels India first quarter profit dips 35%

CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 2019 dipped by 35.48% to ₹11.62 crore, due to a slump in the automobile sector. During the period under review, total revenue dropped to ₹713 crore from ₹749 crore. While there was a dip in raw material costs by ₹62 crore, there was a marginal increase in its finance costs, said the company in a regulatory filing.

As cup brims with losses, Centre to hold meeting with tea sector chiefs

More than 80% of the Indian Tea Association members incurred losses in 2018-19

INDRANI DUTTA
KOLKATA

Days after the Indian Tea Association (ITA) sent a distress signal through newspaper advertisements, the Centre has called for a meeting of all stakeholders to discuss issues pertaining to the sector.

The ITA, the apex industry association – accounting for a majority of the tea produced in the organised sector – had inserted an advertisement, highlighting the crisis and seeking government intervention.

More than 80% of the ITA members, with estates in Assam and West Bengal, had incurred losses in 2018-19 and were preparing for losses during the first quarter of this fiscal.

"Most of our members (nearly 251) are in losses," a senior ITA official told *The Hindu*.

A reading of the published results of the listed companies shows that in most cases the losses had widened since 2017-18. These firms belong to industry houses such as Williamson Magor, a heritage company, the Birlas, Bangurs, the Goenkas, Tata Group and another heritage organisation in the public sector, The Andrew Yule Group.

The long list includes McLeod Rusell, Warren Tea, Andrew Yule, Jay Shree Tea, Associated Plantations Pvt. Ltd. and Joonktollee Tea & Industries to name a few.

Many of these companies have also suffered rating downgrades.

The red streak runs across the country's tea-growing regions in the north and the south. The main reason cited by the managements of these companies as also the industry captains has been the stagnation in the average selling price of tea.

While the costs have ballooned to almost ₹200 per kg, the average selling prices have remained flat at about ₹160 per kg between 2013-14 and 2018-19,

The industry also feels that production needs to be regulated in order to boost prices. "The unhealthy demand-supply situation is one of the main reasons for stagnating prices," said Vinay Goenka chairman, ITA and executive chairman, Warren Tea.

However, sector experts felt a section of the industry, too, had failed. "One major reason is that this industry failed to reinvent itself and continued with the same old cultural practices and selling procedures similar to what was being done 100 years ago," said N. Laxmanan, a senior Nilgiris tea planter.

Not interested in Jet bid, says Anil Agarwal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

In the second major setback to the lenders bid to revive the grounded Jet Airways by selling it out, billionaire businessman Anil Agarwal, a day after announcing interest in the airline, said on Monday he was no longer interested to pursue the deal.

On Sunday, Volcan Investments, Mr. Agarwal's investment company, said it had submitted the expression of interest on Saturday-the last day of the extended bidding process.

"The expression of interest submitted for Jet Airways by Volcan was exploratory in nature. On further evaluation and considering other priorities, we intend to not pursue this further," the mining baron said.

'Taxes making capital market unattractive'

'India only nation to tax equity trading'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

As part of their attempts to lower the trading costs in the Indian stock markets, which is among the highest globally, the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) yet again urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw long-term capital gains tax and also taxation of dividends in the hands of the investors.

Representatives of the broking body, who met the Finance Minister last week, told the policymakers that while India was the only country to levy a tax on equity trading in the form of securities transaction tax (STT), dividends were currently taxed thrice in the form of corporate tax, dividend distribution tax and finally at the investor level.

The capital market participants highlighted the fact that while a tax was levied on all equity market transactions, India also taxed business income and the capital gains on securities, which, combined with the triple taxation on dividends, made the Indian capital market quite unattractive globally.

Incidentally, the broking body requested the government to take 'urgent steps to boost investor sentiment' given the overall weak sentiment in the investor community, especially foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

"Long-term capital gains tax and taxation on dividends in the hands of Indian investors should be withdrawn," ANMI said in a memorandum.

Expect NBFC customers to shift home loans to our bank: Syndicate Bank MD

Anticipation arises after the public sector lender dropped rate to 8.3%, one of the lowest in the industry, after linking it with RBI's repo rate

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

Public sector lender Syndicate Bank is hoping that home loan customers of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) will switch over to the bank.

The expectation comes after the bank had linked its home loan rate to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) repo rate, leading to a drop in the interest rate to 8.3%, one of the lowest in the industry. "We are hoping that a good chunk of the current performing housing loans from NBFCs will migrate to us. Their home loan rates are much higher," Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, MD & CEO of the bank, told *The Hindu* in an interaction.

Till now, only three lenders have linked their home loan rates to the external benchmark, that is the repo rate. While the State Bank of India (SBI) had linked home loans to the repo rate with effect from July 1, Syndicate Bank and Bank of Baroda have decided to take the same route now.

Syndicate Bank's home loan starts from 8.3%, while for Bank of Baroda, it is 8.35%. At present, SBI's repo-linked home loan rate starts from 8.4% which will come down to 8.05% from September when the latest cut in repo rate will be factored in. At HDFC, one of the country's largest mortgage lenders, home loan rates start from 8.60% (8.55% for women borrowers).

Cheaper homes: The public sector lender expects to end the financial year with a 20-24% growth in home loans.

Mr. Mahapatra said the trigger for such a move was the last week's 35 bps repo rate cut by the RBI and the central bank's emphasis on monetary transmission.

Syndicate Bank has also linked the deposit rates (for deposits over ₹25 lakh) to the repo rate

Rate transmission

"[The] RBI was expressing concern over why the interest rates were not getting transmitted. So, we were doing our internal calculations. The immediacy of the step came after the 35 bps rate cut [by the RBI]. During the speech, the RBI Governor mentioned that the transmission must happen. Also, right now, the economy needs a boost," he said.

The bank now expects home loan growth to improve with lower rates. Till the first quarter, growth in home loans for the bank was about 8% year-on-year and now, it expects to end the financial year with 20-24% growth.

Mr. Mahaptra said they were also asking builders to offer discounts to boost sales. "Festive season, unsold inventory could boost demand. We are asking builders to give some discounts rather than holding on to stocks," he said.

Apart from home loan rates, Syndicate Bank had also linked the deposit rates (for deposits over ₹25 lakh) to the repo rate. Mr. Mahapatra said this was to maintain some parity in deposit and lending rates.

"The market wants the deposit [rates] to remain high and transmission to happen only in lending rates. But that is unsustainable. So, we decided to bring about some amount of parity in the movements of deposit rates and lending rates," he added.

Voice of the Valley

Former *Indian Idol* finalist Aabha Hanjura, popular for her Kashmiri folk numbers, is ready to release her album

RANJANI GOVIND

Inseparable Folk singer Aabha Hanjura says her music will do the talking
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rubab, Tumbaknari (goblet drum) santoor, guitar... percussion and strings come together in pulsating tunes for popular Kashmiri folk singer, Aabha Hanjura's tracks. With hands in the air and fingers tapping to the beat, her interpretation of the Kashmiri folk song 'Hukus Bukus' has a touch of the French Chanson blended with operatic flourishes.

"I love Bengaluru where I am based, but I yearn to live in my native Srinagar," says the singer, who is getting ready to release her six-track album, *Aabha Hanjura and the Sound of Kashmir*.

Aabha moved out of Srinagar and into Jammu as a three-year-old in the early 1990s. The singer is happy that she is able to connect with the Valley through melody, giving people a taste of its cultural richness.

After attending school in Jammu, she moved to Bengaluru with her family in 2005. As an award-winning singer, song-writer and composer, she is popular for her singles released over the last two years.

Her songs, 'Roshewalla' and 'Hukus Bukus' have gone viral. "All of them speak of my pining for Kashmir. If I can express myself through my melodies in ways that people appreciate, it is more than rewarding," she says. The 31-year-old singer, a commerce graduate from Jain College in Bengaluru, revived her interest in music in 2013 while she was working for a company.

"Music has always been in me. When I was working, I visited Kashmir once and was deeply disturbed at the loss of our identity, language and culture." The conflict and pain was an inspiration for Aabha to make music.

"My songs mirrored my thoughts of Kashmir. I recorded the six songs in a couple of years," she says. Ask her if her latest album is an homage to her memories of childhood and school life and she says, "All my music reverberates with one resounding echo of Kashmir."

Last week, Aabha released *Dilbaro Yuier Valo* and *Chalo Chinaro Ke Gharon*, in Kashmiri and Hindi, a two-part video series for her album, for the track *Roshewalla*. Her music is has a folksy feel with generous strains of rock for energy, with Aabha's voice balancing the stringed portions with full-bodied resonance.

"I have brought children into the video. They represent optimism for Kashmir, and puppetry to represent reality and fantasy. Even though they speak of a refugee's restlessness, my tracks are still songs of hope," she says.

> All my music reverberates with the sound of Kashmir. It is rewarding to express myself through melodies
>
> AABHA HANJURA

Recalling her initiation into music, she says, "My mother was a pillar of support. She taught me old Hindi songs with classical base. I later learnt Hindustani classical from Pt. Shivkumar Sharma in Jammu, and in Bengaluru I broadened my horizons with classes from Neecia Majolly for Western classical."

After all this, Aabha realised that she had to retain some of her authentic raw style from the Valley. Calling her music "eclectic folk-pop," Aabha's songs now reflect her non-conformist identity.

Aabha also reached the finals of *Indian Idol* in 2012 with her range and dexterity, and her popularity skyrocketed. "My brother, Abhay Hanjura, pushed me into this. As a child, I was lost in my own world and I would ignore my surroundings. Similarly, all the attention for *Indian Idol* passed me by. Fame that chases you, will leave you sooner or later. I will however, strive to be the voice of Kashmir," she says with a smile.

CELEBRATE

Sprouting relationships

Can't get your brother to see the point of plants? Get him a rakhi with an embedded seed

Clay plan
Crafted from clay and handpainted, the base of the rakhi dissolves when planted.The embedded seeds can grow into a plant. The rakhis come in designs inspired by the four elements of nature, with messages written on them.

Available at beabhika.com, ₹299

Flower power
A paper origami red flower with a 'seed bomb' containing Tulsi seeds forms this rakhi. There are specific instructions to plant the seed.

Available at bookywooky.in, ₹150 upward

Fresh first
Flowers like rose and orchids are arranged in different designs and crafted into rakhis. They also do seed rakhis that sprout periwinkle. The package comes with soil and a basket.

Available at fnp.com; ₹499 for the floral, ₹749 for the seed

Weaver threads
The yarn for these rakhis has been hand-spun on the charkha by women at Gram Sewa Mandal, Wardha (Maharashtra), making them environment-friendly and socially responsible. The yarn is dyed using extracts of natural elements. Each rakhi is unique and the bands contain seeds of edible plants like basil, brinjal, tomato.

Available at gramartproject.org, ₹55 upward

Preeksha Malhotra and Sanskriti Falor

PRODUCT

Bag tag

To commemorate India's 73rd Independence Day, Nicobar is releasing a limited run of 73 tote bags which will be available in-store and online, beginning August 14. Inspired by journeys across the Indian Ocean, these bags are made of khadi sourced from Khadi Gram Udyog. There is a touch of silver zari work too. The bag has a pocket and a striped lining in charcoal and grey. A unique numbered stamp bears one of three illustrated artworks: the tiger, the peacock feather and the banyan tree.

Available in stores in Delhi and National Capital Region –The Chanakya, Khan Market, Select Citywalk, Saket, Ambience Mall, Gurugram, and on nicobar.com, ₹3,600

Contact us at *delhimetro@thehindu.co.in*

#DELHIMOVES

The lone runner

This Independence Day, race minus the crowds, especially if what you enjoy most is a solo run

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

Showing the way (Clockwise from above) Anju Pathak Yadav who participates in virtual runs; last month's participants
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Entering a race no longer means getting jostled around at the start line or braving the queue or the stench of Porta Potties. Technology has now enabled us to sign up for a virtual run, to race at a convenient time and location. The only drawbacks: you won't have the pleasure of leaving slower runners behind, nor the adrenaline-kick that comes from the cheering crowds. And yes, you'll miss out on runners who shout words of encouragement as they pass you by.

The convenience of time minus the pressure of "looking like a runner" persuaded Anju Pathak Yadav, a 42-year-old yoga instructor in Gurugram, to take to it. "I've been hooked to virtual races since March last year. I no longer have to wait for a major marathon. I love the monthly challenges. It also keeps me committed to running," she says.

A virtual run, like the One Run, scheduled on Independence Day, is a boon for runners who want to compete for PBs (personal best) but are handicapped for time or bound to a location that lacks 'a running culture'. To participate, simply sign up online to compete in 5 km, 10 km, 15 km, 21 km, 42 km categories.

Irrespective of where you are on the globe, you can take part, as long as you use a running app: STRAVA, Runkeeper, Runtastic, Nike+Run CLub, Endomondo, Map My Run, Garmin, Tomtom, Samsung Health, MI fit band, and Amazefit watch. You can run anywhere and anytime on August 15th. Do remember to submit race data by August 24th by registering on *Indianrunners.in*. Medals are scheduled for dispatch on the 27th, and results will be posted online a day later.

Other events are the Save Water Virtual Run, slated for September 1st and the Wheels and Pedals Century Cycling Challenge on December 18th. If you like powering through solo, a virtual race is a platform to pull on your shoes and get outdoors.

Booking is open until slots fill up; townscript.com; ₹199 upward; there's a free category if you sign up before August 14th

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE

LECTURE

Heritage
Nilabh Sinha, Principal Director, Art & Material Heritage Division of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, will deliver a lecture titled *Restoration of Flora Fountain in Mumbai*. The talk will cover the stage-wise progression of the restoration process, and how the work was carried out without causing any damage.
VENUE: Multipurpose Hall, INTACH
TIME: 4:30 p.m.

GIFT

Rakhi hampers
Honey & Dough, a bakery chain, has gift hampers for Rakshabandhan. The hampers offer a wide range of goodies like cheese straws, dark chocolate popcorn, soya sticks, chocochip cookies, Danish butter cookies, French hearts, blueberry teacakes, peri-peri foxnuts, all packed in wooden jars and platters.
VENUE: Honey & Dough, all NCR outlets
TIME: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

EXHIBITION

Mixed-media
Fifteen artists have come together to showcase their exhibits titled, *Panorama-15*, based on an eclectic mix of themes. Curated by Priyanka Banerjee, the exhibition shows myriad artworks, on various contemporary issues of social relevance, drawn in varied lines, shapes, curves and colours.
VENUE: Open Palm Court, IHC
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

GIG

Bhakti and Anchit live
The Piano Man Jazz Club is hosting Bhakti and Anchit live tonight. Delhi-based singer Bhakti Kalidhar is interested in soul, classic rock, jazz, blues, R&B and funk and takes inspiration from artists like Norah Jones and John Mayer. Noida-based singer and guitarist Anchit Magee is currently focusing on recording his EP.
VENUE: B 6-7/22 Safdarjung Enclave Market
TIME: 9 p.m. 11:55 p.m.

TALK

Academic
IHC is conducting a panel discussion called *The Shaping of the Indian Identity* that examines the key forces that have helped shape the modern Indian thought, outlook, and behaviour. Panellists include writer Urvashi Butalia discussing women's identity. Other experts will speak on the role of mass media and politics.
VENUE: Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.

When one year lapses into 30 seconds...

TikTok just turned one, and though many consider the app infantile for reasons other than age, there's a huge power play on this diverse platform for creators

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Five years ago, if we told our friends that we could be famous for making short and stylised videos and become internationally famous, our friends would probably question our mindsets and priorities. Well, TikTok having just turned a year old is the culmination of various short-video movements (remember Vine?) and its creators are saying the platform won't suffer the same curses its counterparts have.

But such a platform doesn't come without its glitches – and we aren't talking about the ones of a software nature. The Internet is great at fuelling offline battles as well. TikTok was no different; the platform was the centre of a November 2018 fight between two groups in Malappuram, Kerala, resulting in eight people being injured over the then-viral Nillu Nillu Challenge. The following months until April saw netizens misusing the platform, often losing their lives. Even worries around child pornography were raised and the Madras High Court stepped in to order a ban on the app across the country. On April 17, the Supreme Court's order on the ban took effect and the app was removed from Apple and Android app stores. But barely a week later, the ban is revoked on the conditions of strict community guidelines. Talk about a bounce-back.

Perspective matters

Like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, those under 13 years of age aren't permitted to use the app (we don't see much of this rule being actively followed across these sites) and the platform has a strict censor as "not being a place for graphic, violent, shocking, or sensational content."

Fun time Within a year of its launch in India, TikTok has become a rage
▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CHALLENGES GALORE

Here are some of the prominent trends on TikTok

#CLEANINDIA: Launched in partnership with Bhumi, a campaign that promotes the government mission of Swachh Bharat and encourages users to post before and after pictures of their contribution to a cleaner India.

#SKILLSINDIA: Launched in partnership with NSDC, a campaign that invites youth to share their skills and talent on TikTok.

#EDUTOK: One of the most popular campaigns, that encourages users to create content around various themes, with a focus on education, motivation, health and wellness.

How are these strict guidelines implemented, you ask? Sachin Sharma, director of sales and partnerships at TikTok India, says, "TikTok has put in place protective measures by combining content moderation technology with a robust human moderation team. This team, which is based in over 20 countries and regions, now covers 36 languages, an increase of 400% in terms of language support from one year ago. In India, the moderation team covers 15 major Indian languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Gujarati and more."

"We have a robust localisation strategy to encourage users to create content relevant to their local cultures. Some of our top creators are the ones sharing content and skills that help add value to a user's life," Sachin points out, "Be it Sangeeta Jain, known as Geet on TikTok, who teaches English and gives relationship advice, or Tamil TechGuruji who shares tech advice in Tamil in short videos on TikTok. There are many more such examples of creators who are leveraging the platform for the larger good of the society."

So what do the creators say? Motivational speaker Awal TsMadaan teaches English through TikTok and has approximately five million followers on the platform. He is also well-known on YouTube with over 7.6 million subscribers. "There is an interesting concept of sales," he points out, "and it is considered to be a good thing for extroverts. But social media's digital economy empowers all the introverts to come forward too as well. That is when brands offer partnerships and a new form of storytelling emerges." He adds TikTok has appealed to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities on a scale which other short-video platforms couldn't do before; there's no requirement for a high-end smartphone with a fantastic camera or a full-on setup with lights and multiple camera angles.

Awal is one of many who consider TikTok to be 'revolutionary', but like any digital space, the action of trolling is ubiquitous. Sachin lays out, "In India, TikTok partnered with the Cyber Peace Foundation, an award-winning NGO and global think-tank of cyber-security and policy experts, to promote online safety. As a part of this campaign, they launched 11 posters that illustrated and educated internet users on various aspects of online safety."

But Awal, as a creator, does see there is a responsibility across creators, followers and TikTok itself. As with any democratic space, it is a combination of self-regulation and intervention from the platform to keep things afloat... after all, as mentioned before, TikTok is still under a watchful eye. During the lockdown earlier this year, Awal recalled the controversies across all platforms. "Every platform has its own phases of evolution, and a platform is considered a great platform when it proactively takes action," he observes. "My gut feeling was that it would subside soon, because I'd seen that proactiveness over time," he states.

As TikTok blows out this candle, it looks like they've done what some of their creators feel is needed to keep things moving. But the shelf-life is still young.

TYPING EMOTIONS

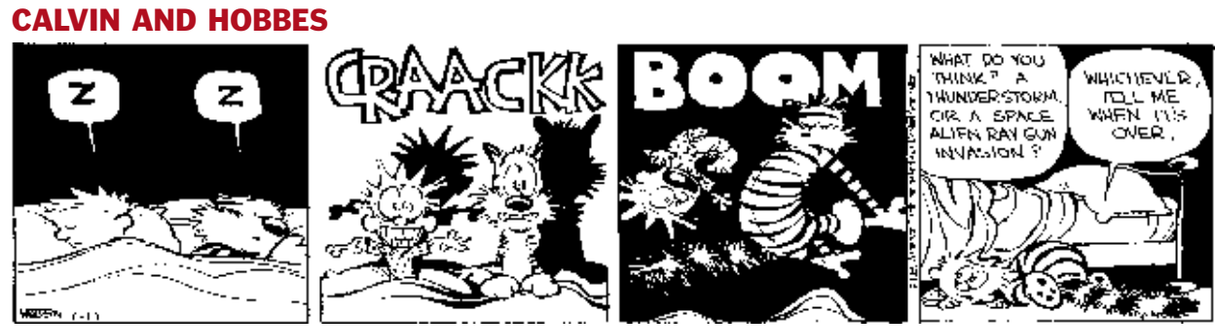
The first emoji was created in 1999 by Japanese artist Shigetaka Kurita. There are over 2600 of them now.

POOCH CAFE

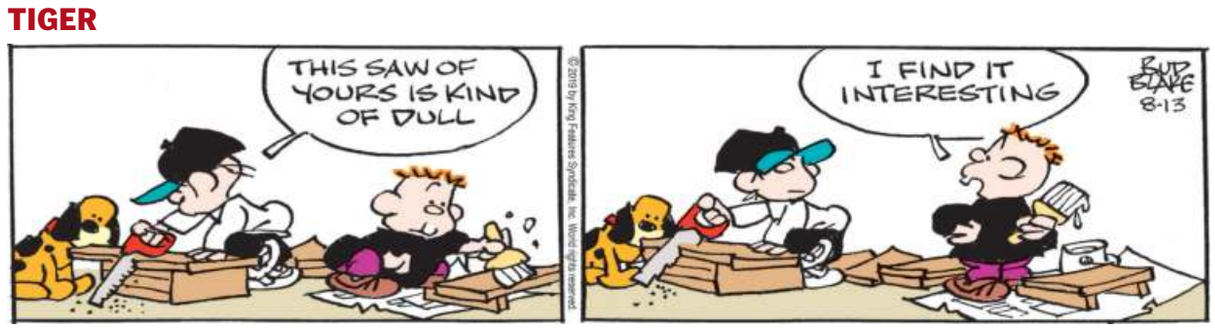
PEANUTS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

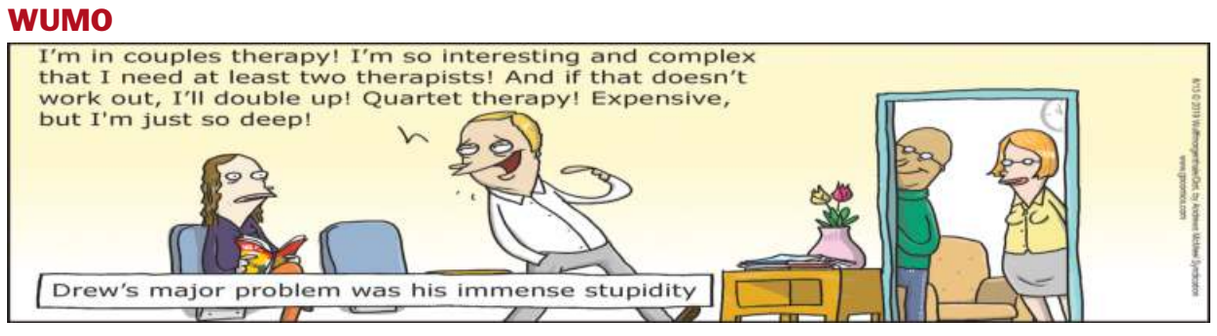
CALVIN AND HOBBES



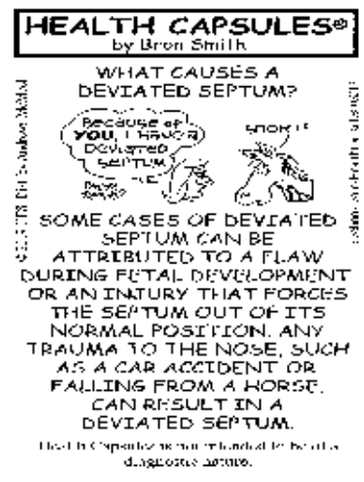
TIGER



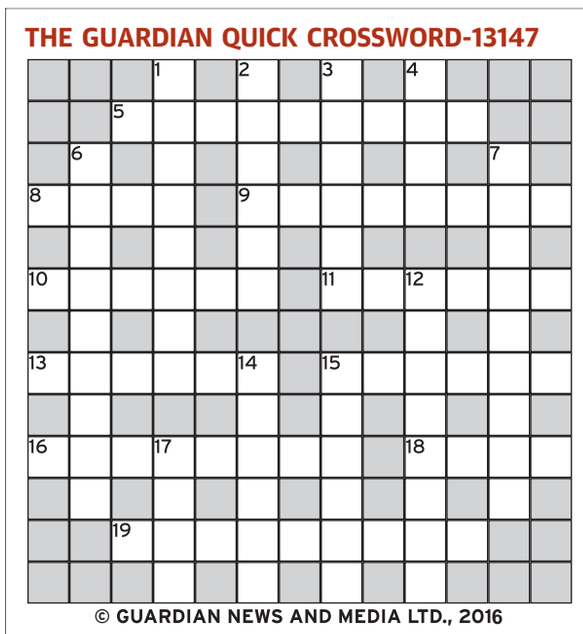
WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13147



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

Across
5 Military training exercise (9)
8 Fastener (4)
9 Diving apparatus (8)
10 Go back to a former practice (6)
11 Followed (6)
13 State of health (6)
15 Perplex (6)
16 Pimp (8)
18 Is in session (4)
19 Portrayal (9)

Down
1 Most spiteful (8)
2 Lauren Bacall's first actor husband, d. 1957 (6)
3 Majestic – month (6)
4 Viva (4)
6 Become disillusioned (4,5)
7 As a matter of fact (2,7)
12 Brew (8)
14 Eavesdrop (informal) (6)
15 Scold (6)
17 Masticate (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 14, 2019.

Solution No. 13146

Overthrow rule to be reviewed in September

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

The throw from the deep that ricocheted off Ben Stokes' bat to the boundary during the Cricket World Cup final will be reviewed in September, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodians of the game's laws, said on Monday.

"The WCC (World Cricket Committee) discussed Law 19.8 in relation to overthrows, in the context of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Final. WCC felt that the Law was clear but the matter will be reviewed by the Laws sub-committee in September 2019," the MCC said in a statement.

Chaired by former England captain Mike Gatting, the MCC World Cricket Committee met at the Lord's on Sunday and Monday, but former India captain Sourav Ganguly, who is also part of the panel, skipped the meeting due to personal reasons.

Aishwarya wins FIM Bajas Cup

Becomes the first Indian rider to triumph in the women's category

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS BUREAU
VARPALOTA (HUNGARY)

In a milestone moment for Indian motorsport, Aishwarya Pissay annexed the FIM World Cup in the Women's category at the end of the final round of the championship here.

The 23-year-old also finished second in the FIM Junior category.

In the Hungarian Baja, the final round, the Team Sherco TVS rider finished fourth and added 13 points to her tally.

At the end of the four rounds, Aishwarya finished with 65 points, ahead of Portugal's Rita Vieira (61 points), Sara Alvarez (56 pts), Rosa Romero (50 pts) and Margot Farre (13 pts).

Doing India proud: Aishwarya ended with 65 points to finish on top. ▪ COURTESY TWITTER

Advantage

Aishwarya had an advantage over her rivals, as she was the only one among the five riders in her category to compete in all four rounds.

A thrilled Aishwarya said, "It's absolutely overwhelming. I am out of words. After what happened last year in my first international season, when I crashed in Spain Baja and suffered career-threatening injuries, to come out and win the championship is a great feeling.

> **Without a doubt, the Hungarian Baja was one of my best races, even though I didn't win. It wasn't an easy race. Given the nature of the terrain, it was more of endurance than just pace.**

"Without a doubt, the Hungarian Baja was one of my best races, even though I didn't win.

"It wasn't an easy race. Given the nature of the terrain, it was more of endurance than just pace.

"I was riding a smaller bike (250cc) as against the 450cc bikes the other girls were on.

Difference

"So, there was always a difference of 20-25 minutes between me and the other riders."

Cricket likely in 2028 Olympics, says Gatting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Cricket could be part of the 2028 Olympics as the ICC is working towards getting the sport included in the roster for the Los Angeles Games, MCC World Cricket Committee chairman Mike Gatting said.

The BCCI, recently coming under the ambit of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), an affiliate of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), could be key to the final outcome as it is mandatory for all sporting federations' doping policy to be overseen by the premier body.

Former England batsman Gatting said ICC's new chief executive Manu Sawhney told the MCC's Cricket Committee that progress had been made to ensure the game's inclusion in the world's biggest sporting event. "He was very hopeful we can get cricket into the 2028 Olympics," Gatting was quoted by *ESPNcricinfo*.

Bengaluru Challenger moved to early 2020

Decision made purely from a scheduling standpoint

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

The $150,000 ATP Bengaluru Open will not be held this year. Asia's biggest Challenger, held for the past two years in November, is now slated for early 2020 as a lead-up to the Tata Open Maharashtra in Pune.

The Pune Open, India's lone ATP Tour event, was for long the season opener, but has now been pushed by a month (February 3-8), with the brand new 24-nation ATP Cup taking up the early January slot.

Helping Indian players

"We made the decision to club our Challenger with Pune so that participation rates are higher and it can help Indian players," confirmed Sunil Yajaman, the Tournament Director. "Since the Pune tournament has moved, it wouldn't be possible to hold one Challenger in November and then another before the ATP [event]."

> ▪ The Pune Open, India's lone ATP Tour event, was for long the season opener, but has now been pushed by a month (February 3-8), with the brand new 24-nation ATP Cup taking up the early January slot

Yajaman stated that the decision was made purely from a scheduling standpoint and that there were no sponsorship issues. "We will soon start raising the necessary funds. We are confident that it will remain a $150,000 event," he said.

However, the $50,000 Pune Challenger, usually conducted a week before or after the Bengaluru event, will retain its original place and is set to be organised for the sixth consecutive time later this year.

India eases past Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

India defeated Pakistan by eight wickets in the concluding round-robin league match to emerge the No. 1 team at the T20 physical disability world cricket series in England, organised by the ECB. The tournament also has England, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe in the fray.

India, chasing 151 for victory, romped home in the 18th over.

The scores: Pakistan 150 for seven in 20 overs (H. Hameed 30; Vikrant Keni two for 15) lost to India 151 for two in 17.1 overs (K. Phanase 55 n.o., W. Khan 69, M. Shahbaz two for 31).

10 Indians in fray at chess World Cup

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Ten Indians will compete at the chess World Cup, to be held in Khanty-Mansiysk (Russia) from September 4.

It could have been 11, but Viswanathan Anand has pulled out, preferring to play instead in the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament, which too is a qualifying event for the Candidates.

The winner of the Candidates tourney will earn the right to challenge champion Magnus Carlsen for the World title next year. From the World Cup, the two finalists will qualify for the Candidates. There will be 128 players in the fray for the World Cup, a knock-out event, unlike most tournaments in chess.

P. Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi, B. Adhiban, S.S. Ganguly, S.P. Sethuraman, Karthikeyan Murali, Aravindh Chithambaram, Nihal Sarin, S.L. Narayanan and Abhijeet Gupta are the Indian qualifiers and Harikrishna is the highest seed, at No. 17. The tournament will be played over seven rounds. The first six will have two classical games, while the final will have four. Tie will be broken by rapid, blitz or sudden-death games.

Dhanush — a shooting star on the ascendant

The ace 10m air rifle talent has not let a hearing impairment affect his performance

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

He may not be able to hear the gunshots around him or even communicate properly. But, 16-year-old Dhanush Srikanth, who has a hearing problem, makes challengers stand up and take note thanks to his ever-improving skills in the 10m air rifle category.

The gifted shooter had stunned critics with an incredible score of 252.5 in the under-21 final of the Kumar Surendra Singh memorial shooting championship in Delhi some weeks back which was better than the World best of Russian Alexander Dryagin's 251.2 in seniors and the 252.2 of Yuefeng Wang in the junior category.

Dhanush scripted another memorable feat in the Telangana State meet at SATS ranges here last weekend when he scored a perfect 400 to become the first shooter from the State to achieve the record in that event.

An achievement which would have made his guru-cum-mentor and London Olympics bronze medallist Gagan Narang proud.

Dhanush's mother Asha Srikanth reminds that her son owes everything in shooting to the all-out support of Gagan under the Project Leap Programme of Gun For Glory set up by the ace shooter and to coach Neha Chavan at Pune.

Gagan's fulsome praise

For someone who started serious shooting only three years ago, Dhanush is already tipped by Gagan as the one to watch out.

"He has abundance of talent, great focus, which should be his biggest asset, grit and determination," says Gagan.

Dhanush had also won gold in the Khelo India Games in the 10m air rifle (under-21) category early this year.

Dhanush's mother says he is keen to replicate this consistency at the National and international level and his next big assignment will be the National-level selection trials next month.

Dhanush, who goes to a normal school and moves around on his own, is clearly enjoying the success and, with his father quitting the teaching profession to take care of him, he has every reason to carve a niche for himself in the world of shooting.

A star-in-waiting to emulate his guru? Only time will tell.

Dhanush... incredible talent. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Archer takes aim at Australian batsmen

Will not offer any easy pickings on Test debut, says the England pacer

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

England pace bowler Jofra Archer warned Australian batsmen on Monday that he was not just a one-day cricketer and that he would try to "work miracles" if he faced them at Lord's in the Ashes this week.

The 24-year-old Barbados-born seamer, who starred for his adopted country in its World Cup triumph, missed the first Test defeat at Edgbaston because of a side strain.

But, with James Anderson ruled out with a calf injury, Archer is now in line to play the second Test which starts at Lord's on Wednesday.

Happy hunting

Archer proved his fitness playing for Sussex in a second XI match against Gloucestershire, taking six for 27 in the first innings and scoring 108.

He said the Australians would be fooling themselves if they thought he would offer easy pickings on his Test debut. "I've played a lot more red-ball cricket and it's my preferred format," Archer said at a press conference on Monday.

Raring to go: Jofra Archer is likely to get a tilt at Australia in the Lord's Test beginning on Wednesday. ▪ GETTY IMAGES

"If you don't have a good 10 overs (in white-ball cricket) that's it. You've got to wait for the next game, but you've ample chances in Test cricket. I'm more ready than I've ever been.

"I bowled 50 overs in one game for Sussex and am the one usually bowling at the end. Test cricket is pretty much the same as First Class. Know what your strengths are and stick to them," he said.

Archer, whose father Frank is British, became eligible to play for England under the three-year residency rule earlier this year.

Miracle worker

He said Lord's brought back happy memories of England's victory over New Zealand in a thrilling World Cup final in July during which Archer was entrusted with bowling the Super Over which clinched the trophy.

"The first one (appearance) is always special, and (to be) at Lord's where we had recent success will be comforting as well," said Archer. "It's a good ground to come back to, and hopefully keep our winning ways here. I'll try and work miracles but I can only give my best."

Australia coach Justin Langer said his batsmen would hopefully be able to weather the storm from his first spell and then score freely in his later sessions.

Up to individuals

"Hopefully our guys have got the answers whatever he (Archer) dishes up for us," Langer said at his press conference. Most of our guys have seen him in white-ball cricket. It's up to the individuals, not so much our game plan against him.

"Our batters will be organised in their minds how they are going to face him, and the rest of England's attack. It's the same for everyone in Test cricket, get them into their second, third and fourth spells," he said.

AITA puts the ball in ITF's court

Requests the international federation to have a final check

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has left it to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to confirm the security arrangements for the conduct of the Asia-Oceania Davis Cup tie in Islamabad on September 14 and 15.

In a communication to the ITF on Monday, the secretary general of AITA, Hironmoy Chatterjee, has requested the ITF to have a final check on the security measures and advice the AITA accordingly.

Full responsibility

"Government of India has asked us to follow the Olympic Charter. It has, however, been clearly stated by AITA to the Government and to the players that the ITF has taken full responsibility for safety and security of the players and the stakeholders. We are aware that you had done a safety check before the diplomatic ties have been downgraded. ITF may find it appropriate to do another check to its own satisfaction to ensure the safety of all the stakeholders connected with the tie,'' wrote the AITA secretary general.

Having put the ball in the ITF court, the AITA has sought a response on the matter concerned so that it can proceed with the procedures to play the tie.

Awaiting response

"AITA is, therefore, waiting for your final certificate confirming the safety of all the stakeholders and the details of the security plan prepared from the arrival of the team to its departure so that we can start applying for visas for travel to Pakistan and to make necessary travel arrangements," the communication said.

Taking the subject further, the AITA has also left it to the ITF to decide on a fresh course of action, if required, in case it was not satisfied with the security situation.

"In case, ITF in consultation with PTF (Pakistan Tennis Federation) is not 100% sure about the safety of the stakeholders, ITF may advise us the future course of action and AITA will respectfully follow the decision of the ITF," read the letter.

'Full confidence'

The communication put to rest the projection that India was seeking a neutral venue for the tie.

"The AITA expressed "full confidence" in ITF and PTF for organising an excellent Davis Cup tie.

The Indian team had expressed its willingness to travel to Islamabad for the tie, after ITF had done a "security and logistic check'' and had recommended that the tie can be safely conducted in Islamabad.

It was important to take into account the changed scenario, and thus AITA has written to the ITF to look into the situation afresh and advise appropriately.

Jonathan — breaking the stereotype

'If you are good at what you do, no one can stop you'

Rongsen Jonathan. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CRICKET

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Rongsen Jonathan says his home State of Nagaland is "obsessed with football". Jonathan, however, took a liking for cricket from a young age. Going off the beaten track has posed some challenges, but it has led to considerable success as well. The journey began when his father moved to Bengaluru in 1997 to pursue a PhD, when Jonathan was 12.

"I played cricket from a young age, but we didn't have best of facilities back home in Nagaland. All that changed when I came to Bangalore and joined St. Joseph's Boys' HS," Jonathan says.

"I was lucky to have players like Robin Uthappa in the school team, and to play in big tournaments like the Cottonian Shield and Parle G Cup. I won the best batsman award in the Cottonian Shield, and then got picked for the Karnataka under-16 team.

In the Karnataka under-16 team, I was not nearly as good as guys like Robin, Gaurav Dhiman and Ryan Ninan, but I worked hard to catch up with them."

Jonathan found it tough off the field as well. His parents had moved back to Dimapur, while he stayed back in Bengaluru in a paying guest accommodation to pursue his dreams of becoming a professional cricketer.

Jonathan refused to give up, and his perseverance eventually paid off.

He rose through the ranks to represent Karnataka, Railways and Nagaland on the senior domestic circuit. Most recently, the batsman was picked up by Bengaluru Blasters for ₹6 lakh in the Karnataka Premier League auction.

The 32-year-old explains that it was tough to break some stereotypes associated with people from the northeast. "Being a northeast cricketer was difficult, as most people view us as footballers. There were people who made it tough for me, but I feel that if you are good at what you do, no one can stop you," Jonathan, the Bengaluru Bulls captain, says.

A blessing

It was a blessing when First Class cricket was introduced in the northeast, as Jonathan got the chance to play for Nagaland. "As a kid, I never imagined that the Ranji Trophy would come to my State. This is the biggest reward for us," he says.

Grand show

Scaling new heights: India put up an impressive display in the Asian men's u-23 volleyball championship in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, where it reached the final. The team's maiden entry into the quarterfinal ensured its berth for the next edition. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT