

on Sunday



SIT files chargesheet in M.M. Kalburgi case, names six persons
page 8



SC sets up panel to go into ecological aspects of Char Dham project
page 9



Rival groups hold rallies as Hong Kong's divisions deepen
page 12



Deepa Malik recommended for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna
page 17

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NEARBY



Yamuna flowing near warning level

NEW DELHI
With the Yamuna flowing near the warning level in Delhi, different agencies are closely monitoring the situation to deal with any possible flooding, an official said on Saturday. At 4 p.m. on Saturday, the Yamuna's water level reached 203.27 metres, slightly below the warning level of 204.5 metres.

CITY PAGE 5

Woman chided for fourth child dies in labour

GHAZIABAD
A pregnant woman who was chided by the Shahjahanpur District Magistrate for conceiving a fourth child died during labour on Saturday. In a video that went viral on Friday, Rekha, is seen complaining to DM Indra Vikram Singh against the government hospital administration for not admitting her.

NATION PAGE 9

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MAGAZINE 32 PAGES (TABLOID)
CLASSIFIEDS PAGES 4 & 5

India, Bhutan ink 10 MoUs, vow to strengthen ties

PM Modi holds talks with Premier Tshering

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIMPHU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering held wide-ranging talks on Saturday and discussed steps to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors.

The two countries also signed 10 MoUs to infuse new energy in their ties.

"We had a comprehensive meeting, where we deliberated on the relations between India and Bhutan. There is great scope to further improve economic and cultural ties between our nations," Mr. Modi said.

Earlier, Mr. Modi, who is here on his second visit to Bhutan, inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant and also launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation.

The two countries signed MoUs in the fields of space research, aviation, IT, power and education.

A traditional Chhidrel procession and welcome ceremony was held at the Tashichhodzong Palace here for Prime Minister Modi before his audience with the



Strong bonds: PM Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering in Thimphu on Saturday. •PTI

Bhutanese King and his wife Queen Jetsun Pema. The ceremony symbolises the purification of path along which the guests are led.

Mr. Modi also launched the RuPay Card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, built in 1629 by Shabdrung Namgyal, which functions as a monastic and administrative centre.

Digital payments

"I am very happy that today we have launched RuPay card in Bhutan. This will further enhance our relationship in digital payments, and trade and tourism," he said.

On increasing the currency swap limit for Bhutan under the SAARC currency swap framework, Mr. Modi said India's approach is

"positive". He said an additional \$100 million would be available to Bhutan under a standby swap arrangement to meet the foreign exchange requirement.

The two leaders also unveiled an e-plaque on the interconnection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education Network.

The two leaders jointly inaugurated the Ground Earth Station and SATCOM network, developed with assistance from ISRO for utilisation of South Asia Satellite in Bhutan. Mr. Modi said India is committed to facilitating Bhutan's development through the use of space technology.

BENGALURU STAMP PAGE 10

Restrictions relaxed in a third of Kashmir Valley: police chief

People are cooperating with forces, only few indulging in violence: Dilbagh Singh

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said on Saturday that restrictions were relaxed in one-third of the Kashmir Valley, and people were cooperating with the authorities.

He told *The Hindu* that if one or two mischievous elements were throwing stones and engaging with the security forces, it was not a "big issue".

Imposition of Section 144 of the Cr.P.C. is still in place, though it was relaxed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the jurisdiction of 35 police stations in the Valley, Mr. Singh said.

The Valley has been under lockdown since August 5 after Home Minister Amit Shah moved two Bills in the Rajya Sabha to annul Article 370 in the State and bifurcate the State into two Union Territories.

"What concerns me is that one-third of the Kashmir Valley was open today. People were cooperative and traffic was as normal as ever. The entire Valley was peaceful. Some mischievous elements throwing stones is not a huge concern," Mr. Singh added. He said the total number of politicians or political workers



On road to normalcy: Vehicles plying on a road in Srinagar on Saturday. •NISSAR AHMAD

taken into "preventive detention" was not centrally available as the decisions were taken at the local level.

There are 15 zones in Kashmir police zone, which includes Kargil and Leh. Excluding Kargil and Leh, there are around 100 police stations in districts of Anantnag, Awantipora, Baramulla, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Handwara, Kulgam, Kupwara, Pulwama, Srinagar, Shopian and Sopore.

District Magistrate of Srinagar Shahid Choudhary said restrictions were relaxed in four out of five police stations in the city. "In

two zones, restrictions were lifted in one go. Some of the areas where restrictions were relaxed are Panthachowk, Jawahar Nagar, Ram Munshi Bagh, Rajbagh and Sadar," he said.

An AFP report, published in *The Hindu*, said on Friday "hundreds of protesters in Srinagar clashed with police on August 16, who responded with tear gas shells and pellet-firing shotguns." The clashes broke out after several thousand people rallied in Srinagar, the report said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
IN FITS AND STARTS PAGE 11

Soldier killed in Pak. firing

An Indian soldier was killed during a ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control in the Nowshera sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday morning, the Army said. Lance Naik Sandeep Thapa, 35, from Rajawala village in Sahaspur, Uttarakhand's Dehradun, sustained fatal injuries in the firing by Pakistan's troops. "The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly," an Army spokesperson said. •PAGE 10

Jaitley put on life support, says AIIMS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who has been admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the national capital since August 9, has been put on life support, AIIMS officials confirmed on Saturday.

President Ram Nath Kovind and Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Mr. Jaitley on Friday as did Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. Mr. Jaitley has been undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit after he was admitted to AIIMS with complaints of uneasiness, weakness and breathlessness.

Dr. Vardhan said on Friday: "Doctors at AIIMS are doing the best they can."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

A new year



Parsis in India celebrated New Year or Navroz on Saturday. Members of the community visited the Kappawala Agiary, or the fire temple, in Mumbai. In Iran, Zoroastrians celebrated the New Year on the Spring Equinox, March 21. •EMMANUEL YOGINI

The ears and eyes of railway safety

It takes specially trained staff on the Northeast Frontier Railway to detect a train's 'flat tyre'

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

When Hitendra Baishya and Vikram Mishra stand across each other on the two platforms of the Changsari railway station, about 25 km north of Guwahati, their ears begin filtering out ambient sounds to concentrate on an approaching train.

As their eyes follow the train zooming past at 60-100 kmph, their ears "look out" for a hammering sound that appears indiscernible from the clackety-clack of steel wheels on iron track and the screech of the locomotive horn. "No flat tyre," Mr. Baishya, the station master, says after the blinking red tail lamps of the train fade into the horizon. Mr. Mishra, the pointsman, has a similar

'aural report'. Their informal visual reports are in agreement too; the Delhi-bound North East Express had no hanging parts.

"The wheels of a running train make a rhythmic sound that may be off-tune if any wheel has a flat tyre. One needs to have highly developed senses to detect this amid the sounds that a train makes," says principal chief safety officer of Northeast Frontier Railway M.K. Agarwal.

The sense is developed through practical training for 20-30 days. A passenger coach has eight wheels and a locomotive 12. One or more of the wheels may develop flatness due to friction. The Railways allows up to 50 mm of flatness.



Special sense: Two gangmen checking the tracks on a railway bridge. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"If the flatness is within 50 mm, the wheel gets back the circular shape because of friction. If the flatness is more, the wheel makes a hammering sound. A train is then stopped and its bogie or locomotive detached for replacing the defective

wheel," says Mr. Agarwal. Mr. Baishya and Mr. Mishra, along with other staff, scan an average of 40 pairs of passengers and mail express trains that pass through Changsari every day. The drill to detect unusual sounds towards preventing

accidents is the same at other stations and level crossings along the route.

"A train gets scanned, with naked eyes or gadgets, every 10 km by a team of more than 600 people in the zone. It includes section engineers and gangmen, who ensure no screw or bolt is out of place," says Mr. Agarwal.

Some railwaymen have learnt to sniff 'potential disaster' too. S. Ray and Mohammed G. Ali, gatemen at a level crossing on the western edge of Guwahati, have developed their olfactory senses to smell elephants from afar. The level crossing is on a track that runs between the Rani Reserve Forest and Deepor Beel, a major wetland designated as a Ramsar Site.

Trump asks Imran Khan to resolve Kashmir issue bilaterally

Phone call made before UNSC held closed consultations

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. President Donald Trump asked Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to resolve the Kashmir issue with India bilaterally during a phone call on Friday.

The call took place before the UN Security Council held closed consultations on the fallout of India's abrogation of Article 370 (special status for Jammu & Kashmir), a PTI report said.

Regional developments

"Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan to discuss regional developments and to follow up on the Prime Minister's successful visit to Washington, D.C., last month. The



President conveyed the importance of India and Pakistan reducing tensions through bilateral dialogue on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. DONALD TRUMP, U.S. President

I welcome the UNSC meeting... It is for the first time in 50 yrs that the world's highest diplomatic forum has taken up this issue. IMRAN KHAN, Pakistan PM

Last month, Mr. Trump started a diplomatic kerfuffle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Eleven lose sight after cataract surgery in M.P.

Govt. revokes Indore hospital's licence

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government on Saturday revoked the licence of a private hospital in Indore where 11 elderly patients, who underwent cataract surgeries on August 8, suffered significant impairment of vision due to infection.

"As a result of the loss of eyesight of 11 patients who underwent cataract surgeries at your hospital on August 8, this is to inform you of the cancellation of your licence under Section 6(1) of the Madhya Pradesh Upcharyagriha Tatha Rujopchar Samabandi Sthapnaye (Registrikaran Tatha Anugyan) Adhiniyam, 1973," District Chief Medical and

Health Officer Pravin Jadia wrote in a letter to the Director of Indore Eye Hospital.

Infection after surgery

District Collector Lokesh Kumar Jatav, however, told *The Hindu* that the patients had not lost their sight completely but were suffering from "blurry vision" due to infection after the surgeries. "The 11 patients have been shifted to the best eye hospital in the city and will undergo corrective surgeries. A team from Sankara Nethralaya from Chennai will perform the procedure. At this stage, we don't know what caused the infection," said Mr. Jatav.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Major fire at AIIMS teaching block

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A major fire broke out in the teaching block of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday that destroyed samples and medical reports, and forced the evacuation of several patients.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

Delhi Fire Service Chief Atul Garg said that a call was received at 4.50 p.m. regarding a fire on the second floor in a non-patient area of AIIMS. Thirty-four fire tenders were pressed into service.

The blaze was brought under control by 6.30 p.m. but was not doused completely till 11.30 p.m.

DETAILS ON PAGE 2

DELHI ☀️ Timings		
SUNDAY, AUG. 18		
RISE	05:52	SET 18:58
RISE	20:51	SET 08:02
MONDAY, AUG. 19		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:57
RISE	21:22	SET 08:54
TUESDAY, AUG. 20		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:56
RISE	21:53	SET 09:46

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	29	25
Safdarjang	29	25
Palam	29	25

Delhi Palam Today
32°C Light to moderate rains will continue in afternoon and decrease thereafter.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34°C One or two spells of light rains are likely. A cloudy sky is likely to occur at a few places.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	49	Gurgaon	66
Ghaziabad	48	Faridabad	-
Noida	30	Greater Noida	40
Good	0-50	Satisfactory	51-100
Moderate	101-200	Very poor	301-400
Poor	201-300	Severe	>401

Travel agency told to pay over ₹1 lakh to client

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A district consumer disputes redressal forum here has directed travel agency Thomas Cook to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹1 lakh after it was alleged that the agency charged an extra amount for rescheduling a trip. Observing that the additional amount of ₹1.34 lakh charged by the agency was “uncalled for”, the consumer panel observed, “The travel agency has not placed any document to show that the booking of hotel premises and other tour facility abroad in the name of the complainant had been arranged.”

“Further, the travel agency has not placed on record the itinerary and the air tickets and onus to prove the same was on the agency,” the Bench added.

The directions came when the panel was hearing a complaint moved by a city resident who stated that despite paying ₹3.17 lakh for a trip to Europe, the agency demanded an extra charge following delay in the issuance of visa.

DELHI TODAY

Music: “Raag Sandhya”, a classical vocal concert by Pandit Madhup Mudgal, as part of the ongoing birth centenary celebrations of the poet, theatre critic and editor Nemi Chandra Jain at Triveni Auditorium, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 6.30 p.m.

Exhibition: “Pursuit of Vibrancy”, a painting exhibition of recent works by Sanjay Punekar and Sakshi Talwar at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Screening: As part of the ongoing Goan Film Festival, “Miranda House”, directed by Rajendra Talak will be screened at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, 11 a.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityed@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

Patients evacuated as major fire breaks out at AIIMS

No injuries reported; virology unit gutted; 34 fire tenders pressed into service

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A major fire broke out in the teaching block of All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday forcing evacuation of some patients and destroying samples and medical reports. No injuries were reported in the incident.

Delhi Fire Service Chief Atul Garg said that the call was made at 4.50 p.m. regarding fire on the second floor in a non-patient area after which 34 fire tenders were pressed into service.

“At least 32 patients were evacuated from gastroenterology wing which was close to the affected areas. The virology unit of the microbiology department was gutted,” said an official.

The fire was brought under control by 6.30 p.m. but had not been doused completely till 11.30 p.m. Cooling off operation continued for the next few hours. The fire department said that the cause of fire is yet to be ascertained, however, a short circuit is suspected to be the reason. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Parvinder Singh said that local police, DDMA teams and one contingent of NDRF was present at the spot to control the situation.

The fire department said that the blaze started from the microbiology department on the second floor and spread across five floors, triggering panic among the patients, attendants and staff, and affecting emergency services.

They said it was suspected that a large number of samples and patient records were destroyed as the virology unit was completely gut-



(Above) Fire tenders try to contain the blaze; after evacuation, patients take refuge in another room at AIIMS in New Delhi on Saturday. •R.V. MOORTHY

ted. The surgery and urology offices on the fifth floor of the building were also affected due to the fire. A few faculty rooms and offices were also affected.

“AIIMS has put contingency measures in place. Emergency services are being run in a restricted manner and no new patients are being admitted. They are being referred to Safdarjung Hospital. Routine admission has

been withheld till Sunday,” a hospital source said.

In a statement, AIIMS said that the fire was controlled but the agencies were still on the job. “There has been no loss or damage to life. As a precautionary measure, the patient’s admitted in adjoining AB Wing have been shifted out to the other wings of the hospital temporarily,” said Aarti Vij, chairperson of Media and Protocol Division

adding that information regarding patients admitted in the AB Wing, can be obtained from control room – 011-26593308.

Special fire audit

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, who was closely monitoring the situation, discussed the need to conduct a special fire audit.

“AIIMS regularly does this exercise, however, a more comprehensive special audit will be conducted,” he said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, “I appeal to everyone to maintain calm and allow the Fire Services personnel to do their work.”

(With PTI inputs)

BJP team meets L-G over illegal colonies

‘AAP trying to stall regularisation process’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A BJP delegation on Saturday called on Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and alleged that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was “creating hindrances” in the regularisation of unauthorised colonies.

Led by Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, the delegation consisted of Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, Delhi BJP general secretaries Kuljeet Singh Chahal, Ravinder Gupta, Rajesh Bhatia and media head Ashok Goel Devraha.

They sought to get information on the process of regularisation of unauthorised colonies.

“Following the historic decision of the Central government to give ownership

rights to people living in unauthorised colonies by regularising them and getting the plots registered, we requested information about the progress in this regard,” said Mr. Tiwari after the meeting.

“The summary of our meeting with the L-G basically posits that there is progress in the process of regularising the unauthorised colonies – private or public land,” Mr. Tiwari said further.

Taking credit

According to Mr. Tiwari, care was being taken to ensure that the process in this regard did not encounter problems in the future even as he accused AAP of seeking to take credit and create hindrance in the development of Delhi.

‘Submit report on illegal construction in Aravalis’

NGT orders Haryana Chief Secretary

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging illegal construction of a police training centre in the Aravalis in Gurugram, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Haryana Chief Secretary to furnish an action-taken report within one month.

No approval

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel took note of a report dated May 23, submitted by Haryana Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and observed, “The report confirms that the construction was in violation of law for which necessary action under the provisions of Forest [Conservation] Act, 1980,

needs to be taken...”

The report had stated, “The forest department has not granted any permission to the IRB [Indian Reserve Battalion] for felling of trees. Building and roads have been constructed in the centre without prior approval of the government of India...”

While stating that the IRB had earlier sought approvals, the report further added, “...The IRB, Bhondsi, has been seeking approval of the GoI for use of land notified [under relevant sections]...however, the approval is yet to be accorded and construction activities have been undertaken within the IRB, Bhondsi are without approval under the FC [Forest Conservation] Act.”

Rebel AAP leader Kapil Mishra, women wing chief join BJP

Richa Pandey Mishra accuses Kejriwal of being ‘anti-women’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Former Minister and disqualified Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Kapil Mishra and party women’s wing chief Richa Pandey Mishra formally joined the BJP on Saturday.

Freedom of expression

While Mr. Mishra, who represented the Karawal Nagar Assembly constituency till his recent disqualification from the Delhi Assembly, said he decided to join the BJP so that he could “openly raise slogans like Bharat Mata ki Jai”, Ms. Mishra claimed there was “no freedom of expression” in AAP. She also accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of being “anti-women”.

“I am joining the BJP because Kejriwal is like a dacoit; now I can openly raise slogans Bharat Mata Ki Jai, claim Kashmir to be our ter-

ritory, fight against corruption, speak against the tukde-tukde gang and fight against negative politics in Delhi,” Mr. Mishra said.

Expressing his gratitude to the BJP’s leadership for welcoming him in the party, Mr. Mishra said, “I was fighting against corruption for the last two years...I have no regrets of losing my MLA seat as I have joined the BJP... corrupt Kejriwal has been exposed and the people will teach him a lesson in the forthcoming Assembly elections.”

Ms. Mishra, on her part, termed the AAP national convener “anti-women” and said that she had joined politics six years ago “to serve Mother India” but did not find “the commitment to serve the country in the Aam Aadmi Party”.

“There is no freedom of expression in this party, but today I feel that I have found

the alternative politics for which I joined politics...in the BJP. The fight against corruption in which we were busy is really being fought by the BJP...We will seriously work for the formation of a BJP government in Delhi,” she said.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said Mr. Mishra could now “compensate for his being a part of the anti-people elements” by “dislodging the anti-people party occupying seat of power in Delhi”.

‘Anti-people policies’

“The purpose for which AAP was formed is no more valid and hence, the people working for it are feeling suffocated. Due to the despotic attitude and anti-people policies of Kejriwal, not only the people of Delhi are suffering but the members of his party are also deserting it,” Mr. Tiwari alleged.



Former AAP leaders Kapil Mishra (second from right) and Richa Pandey Mishra with BJP leaders in New Delhi on Saturday. •PTI

AAP ‘surprised’ at Richa’s exit, was planning to give her ticket

Women wing chief was likely to be fielded from Vishwas Nagar

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

As Aam Aadmi Party’s women’s wing head Richa Pandey Mishra joined the BJP on Saturday, AAP leaders said that they didn’t see it coming and were surprised.

“We didn’t expect that Richa would leave the party. We were planning to give her the ticket from Vishwas Nagar and she also knew it,” an AAP Minister told *The Hindu*. Delhi Assembly election is due in February next year and currently, O.P. Sharma from the BJP is the MLA from Vishwas Nagar.

Another AAP leader said that she has been working in Vishwas Nagar for more than a year now. “She was given the charge to look after Vishwas Nagar. But the local volunteers were not accepting her and our survey did not show good review about her. So she might have felt that she would not get a ticket

and that might be why she left the party,” the leader said. But Ms. Mishra denied the claim and said that she has been working in Vishwas Nagar for the past one-and-a-half-years and she will continue doing it. “I have not discussed about ticket or any post with the BJP,” she said.

‘Egos of small men’

Ms. Mishra told *The Hindu* that she decided to leave the party after the Lok Sabha election in Delhi. “An AAP candidate insulted Anil Bajpai [then AAP Gandhi Nagar MLA] at a public function. You cannot insult a party leader just because you have the confidence of a Minister. You cannot be that arrogant,” she said.

Atishi was the AAP candidate from East Delhi, of which Gandhi Nagar is a part. “The pamphlet incident shocked us, it was dirty politics [by the AAP]. I don’t

want to comment on it, but everyone knows who did it,” she said.

On May 9, AAP had accused the BJP’s East Delhi candidate Gautam Gambhir of distributing pamphlets slandering his AAP rival Atishi in Krishna Nagar, Vishwas Nagar and other areas of the constituency. “The workers were against bringing the tukde-tukde gang to campaign for the party,” she said referring to Prakash Raj and Jignesh Mewani campaigning for AAP. “Prakash Raj even slapped a party worker,” she claimed.

In a statement released online, Ms. Mishra said, “A brilliant mandate was trampled by the egos of small men.” “In AAP, now even a disagreement is considered a sin, the party is captured and is run by a small coterie, who will never let any voice to be heard except of those which suits them.”

Enjoying the nectar of life

Sunder Nursery was abuzz with activity as honey lovers celebrated World Honey Bee Day

MADHUR TANKHA
NEW DELHI

On the occasion of World Honey Bee Day on Saturday, scores of people attended an engrossing and educative workshop at Sunder Nursery to learn about honey and the insects that make it.

The nearly two-hour workshop was organised by the Sunder Nursery Management Trust and Golden Hive Foundation with support of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

Rakesh Gupta, chief adviser of Golden Hive Foundation, explained to participants how bees

can be kept and managed inside wooden boxes.

“The intent behind this event was to create awareness about the amazing role that bees play in the growth of our crops [as pollinators] and their significance as indicators of a healthy ecosystem,” Mr. Gupta said, adding that he hoped to convince people to become urban bee-keepers.

The Asiatic bee

The workshop was a platform for enthusiasts to enhance their knowledge about bees and learn how to extract honey in a scientific manner, he said.



Mr. Gupta also informed participants about Apis cerana, the Asiatic bee.

“This species of stingless bee is in need of conservation support. Normally, people in our country are ignoring Asiatic bees. A lot of

bees are being killed as people are indifferent and greedy for honey. They do not realise that they are killing entire generation of

Participants at the honey tasting session to mark World Honey Bee Day at Sunder Nursery in New Delhi on Saturday. •SANDEEP SAXENA

bees which will have severe implication on our planet,” said Mr. Gupta.

The characteristics of European bees, introduced to India in the 1950s, were also explained.

Taking a cue from Sunder Nursery, a 16th Century heritage park complex, Mr. Gupta said that the bees are also part of our heritage. “Sunder Nursery is all set to become a sanctuary for bees. We need to sustain and multiply Asiatic bees. As the nursery is visited by so many people, awareness about bees would be created far and wide,” said Mr. Gupta, who got into bee conservation around 19 years ago.

Ratish Nanda, who heads the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, said: “Sunder Nursery is Delhi’s historical park, which people use like New York’s Central Park. We all know that bees are a valuable species... if they disappear then there would be no food and it

The intent behind this event was to create awareness about the amazing role that bees play in the growth of our crops [as pollinators] and their significance as indicators of a healthy ecosystem

RAKESH GUPTA
Chief adviser of Golden Hive Foundation

would be the end of humans. Even the government has said that steps need to be taken to preserve the Asiatic bee. Historically, all Mughal gardens had plants as well as bees. We will be installing multiple beehives at open green spaces across the nursery.”

A honey tasting session was also conducted where participants, including children, got to taste different variants.

Anna Zimmer, a teacher at Ambedkar University, said that Mr. Gupta had shared his knowledge about the bees in a relatable manner with stories about his personal experience, instead of just imparting textbook knowledge.

IN BRIEF

Man held for smuggling arms, ammunition

NEW DELHI
A 46-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly smuggling arms and ammunition, the police said on Saturday. Harveer from Aligarh was carrying a reward of ₹50,000 on his head, they said. The police claimed to have recovered 110 cartridges from his possession.

NMRC to inaugurate Aqua, Blue Line walkway

NEW DELHI
The Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) will inaugurate the walkway connecting the Aqua and Blue Lines on Sunday, the officials said on Saturday. The walkway, connecting the Noida Sector 51 metro station on the Aqua Line and the Noida Sector 52 metro station on the Delhi Metro's Blue Line is already in use. However, officials said following completion of the remaining work, the walkway will be inaugurated by Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Man makes hoax bomb call to IGIA to stop wife from flying abroad, held

Accused often fought with her as she wanted to go out of country and earn money

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

A 28-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly making a hoax bomb call to IGI Airport a week before Independence Day, the police said on Saturday.

He allegedly told that police that he wanted to stop his wife from leaving the country for work, they said.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said Nasrudeen from Bihar's Sitamarhi and a resident of Chennai was arrested from Bawana Industrial area. On August 8, at 9 p.m., a call was received at Delhi International Airport Limited's call centre in Gurugram. The caller said he was speaking from Chennai and that one Zabina, who has reached the Delhi airport, could cause an explosion in a Dubai or Saudi Arabia-bound



Nasrudeen.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

flight. "The call was forwarded to airport security officials, police stations, IGI Airport and other agencies, including the Special Cell. The Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC) contacted the caller who confirmed that Zabina, who has reached Delhi, was planning to leave for abroad. He also shared her contact number," Mr. Yadav said.

The police then called the woman who confirmed that she was in Delhi and was planning to leave the country. However, after further questioning, it was found out that the bomb threat was a hoax, the police said.

Tracing the caller

A case was registered at Gurugram's Udyog Vihar police station and teams started tracing the caller. On Independence Day, the police claimed to have received a tip-off that the caller, Nasrudeen, was in Bawana. The mobile phone along with the SIM, used in making the call, was recovered from him, they said.

During interrogation, Nasrudeen said he moved to Chennai in 2008 and started stitching bags for a living. He fell in love with one of his em-

ployees, Zabina, a mother of two who had separated from her husband.

"Nasrudeen married Zabina in 2017 but the two fought frequently over financial issues. In July this year, Nasrudeen left for Bihar when Zabina planned to go abroad to earn money," Mr. Yadav said.

The police said Nasrudeen was on his way back to Chennai on August 8 when he got a call from Zabina who told him that she was leaving for Delhi from where she would depart to a Gulf country for work. He tried to stop her but she didn't agree. "When Nasrudeen reached Chennai, he went to Zabina's maternal house and was informed that she had left for Delhi. He then planned to make the hoax call to stop her. He googled IGI's number," the officer added.

DCP death: Inspector was mounting pressure on officer to influence probe

Accused had threatened to implicate Vikram Kapoor

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD**

The Haryana Police Inspector, arrested in connection with the suicide of IPS officer Vikram Kapoor earlier this week, was allegedly mounting pressure on the officer to influence investigation in two separate cases.

The accused had threatened to implicate him in connivance with a female friend, the police said on Saturday.

Scribe on the run

Inspector Abdul Sahid, Station House Officer at Bhupani Police Station, Faridabad, was arrested on August 15 on charges of abetment to suicide under the Indian Penal Code. His accomplice, Satish Malik, a journalist, is on the run.

Kapoor was found dead

at his official residence in Sector 30 here last Wednesday. He was posted as Deputy Commissioner of Police, NIT, Faridabad.

Kapoor had accused Abdul of blackmailing him in the note recovered by police.

The two cases

Abdul purportedly told the police during interrogation that his nephew was an accused in an attempt to murder case registered at Muesar police station and he was constantly putting pressure on Kapoor to clear his name during probe.

In another case, Abdul's female friend had lodged a complaint against her father-in-law over a property dispute and the Inspector wanted the IPS officer to favour her. Abdul had allegedly threatened to implicate

the IPS officer in connivance with his female friend if he did not acquiesce to his demands. He also threatened to defame him by getting false reports published in the local newspapers with the help of Satish and force him to take the extreme step.

Abdul and Satish were allegedly putting pressure on the DCP for the past three months and would often visit his official residence. Abdul again visited the IPS officer a day before the incident and threatened him in the presence of his wife, the police said.

A special investigation team headed by ACP Anil Kumar is probing the case.

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

Court convicts man of killing 10-year-old boy

Crime committed in north Delhi in 2007

**NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI**

A court here has held a man guilty of killing a 10-year-old boy after kidnapping him from a residential complex and taking a ransom of ₹33 lakh in north Delhi in 2007.

According to the prosecution, the accused had initially demanded ₹1.5 crore ransom.

However, finally, it was settled at ₹33 lakh. The police had recovered the ransom money from him.

Feared identification

The man had killed the boy after receiving the money as he feared the victim

would identify him as his family knew him.

Additional Sessions Judge Jitendra Kumar Mishra said: "The prosecution has successfully proved in the light of the testimony of the witnesses that both families were at visiting terms and the victim, Vipul Kansal, was known to the accused. After the kidnapping, the accused killed the child so that his identification is not revealed," the Judge said.

"Prosecution has also been able to prove the charge under 364A (kidnapping of a minor) Indian Penal Code framed against accused," the Judge added.

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- AUG 21** 11:30am AN APPROACH TO INDIAN POLITY **Ajay Srivastava**
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Battle against malnutrition
STATE WIDE PROGRAMME
From Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2019)

- Pilot project already started from Bastar, where anganwari centers are providing nutritious meals
- On 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, "Suposhan Abhiyan" to start across the state
- Free nutritious meals to be provided every day as per the identified beneficiary by each of the gram panchayat
- Inculcated DMF to provide fruits, milk, eggs, soya chunks etc., as per preference
- Participation of government - non-government-charitable organisations
- PDS strengthened to provide rice, sugar, salt, grams and kerosene
- Initiated to provide per month 2-kg jaggery in Bastar

An initiative to take health services to all Scheduled Tribe Areas
CHIEF MINISTER HAAT-BAAZAR YOJANA

- Weekly camps at Haat-Bazaar to provide health facilities
- Mobile health teams to provide pathology, portable x-ray facility
- Check-up for diseases as well as treatment and free medicines
- Health units to be upgraded under the Universal Health scheme
- Neo-natal intensive care units started at Narayanpur, Sukma and Kondagaon districts
- Free testing and treatment of several diseases

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

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Saurashtra

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu

Tulu

Urdu

Advocate

Business

Defence

Doctor

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Finance/ Banking

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IAS/ Allied Services

Information Technology

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Yamuna flowing near warning level

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
With the Yamuna flowing near the warning level, agencies concerned are closely monitoring the situation to deal with any possible flooding, an official said on Saturday.
At 4 p.m. on Saturday, the Yamuna's water level reached 203.27 metres, slightly below the warning level of 204.5 metres, the official said, adding: "At 10 a.m., over 21,000 cusecs water was released from Hathani Kund Barrage in Haryana. Besides, around 17,000 cusecs water was also released from the barrage."

'Flood-like situation'
"We have been closely monitoring the water level of Yamuna. Preparation are being made to deal with the flood-like situation," the official said. In July last, traffic movement on Old Yamuna Bridge in Delhi had been closed for a few days after the water level breached the danger mark. Last year, Yamuna's water level had reached 205.5 metres.

'A good sign': Yamuna fills 15 acres of reservoir

Pilot project to store floodwaters to be completed by August-end

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI
Yamuna floodwaters filled about 15 acres of a 25-acre reservoir, which is being built as a pilot project to store water from the river along the floodplains, said officials.
"This is the first time that the reservoir has been filled with water from the Yamuna and it is a good sign," an official privy to the development said.



The water level was high and flowed over a piece of land between the reservoir and Yamuna, said officials.

*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Water overflowing from the Yamuna during monsoon will be stored in the 25-acre reservoir between Palla and Wazirabad and it will help recharge the groundwater, which is depleting in the city. The reservoir, which will have 1.5-metre to 2-metre depth, is being constructed on a 40-acre piece of land.

"Water will flow into the shallow reservoir through the inlets at the river when the water level is above 207.5 metres at Sungherpur. On Friday, it filled about 15 acres of the reservoir," the official said.

Most of the water in the reservoir percolated and on Saturday, water was there only in about five acres of the reservoir.

Inlets yet to be built
"We are yet to build the inlets from the river to the reservoir but since the water level was high, it flowed over the piece of land between the reservoir and Yamuna," the official said.

The Irrigation and Flood Control Department is also

in the process of installing around 12 piezometers to measure the water table before and after percolation. This will be used to assess the success of the project.

On August 9, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had inaugurated the work on the reservoir. The official said the working is happening round the clock and the reservoir is set to be completed by August 20.

Three men found dead in separate incidents

In one case, a head constable took the extreme step due to 'family dispute'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Three persons, including a head constable, were found dead in three separate incidents, the police said on Saturday.

A senior officer said, on Friday evening, a PCR call was made in Tilak Nagar police station at 6 p.m. in which the caller said her husband died by hanging.

On reaching the spot, the deceased was identified as head constable from Tilak Nagar, who was posted in south district's Control

Room.
His body was shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where his post-mortem. Following this, the body was handed over to his family, the police added.

Door locked from inside
"The wife stated that he had been drinking since afternoon and when she knocked in the evening, he didn't open after which the door was broken open. It has been revealed that there was family dispute," the officer said, adding: "No note has

been recovered."
In another incident, a 27-year-old man was found dead at Tagore Garden metro station on Friday night, the police said on Saturday.
The deceased was a resident of Najafgarh, the police said.

Body at metro station
"At 11 p.m., the police received a call that a person was found dead at Tagore Garden metro station after which his body shifted to Deen Dyal Upadhyay Hospital," said an officer.

No note has been recovered.

In the third such incident reported from south-east Delhi's Govindpuri, a 31-year-old man from Madhya Pradesh was found dead in Tughlakabad Extension. The deceased was a tailor. "He was reportedly upset due to poor financial condition. No foul play has been suspected," an officer added.

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

School for underprivileged children inaugurated

Initiative to provide computer training

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Noida Metro Rail Corporation in collaboration with the Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) inaugurated a special school for underprivileged children under the Pari Chowk metro station on Saturday.
The school, called "BIMTECH Vidya Kendra" will provide education and life skills training to children belonging to the economically weaker sections. The school will especially concentrate on providing education to

children of migrant labourers, An NMRCC spokesperson added.

Help earn livelihood
"The initiative will also provide training in computer skills to young girls who have completed schooling or college and belong to poor families. The training will help in providing them necessary skills required to earn their livelihood," the NMRCC official added.

The officials also added that the students will not be charged any fee to attend the school, or for books.

Man dupes women on matrimonial sites, held

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 46-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly cheating women on matrimonial websites by honeytrapping them, the police said on Saturday.

DCP (Special Cell Cyber Crime Unit) Anshu Roy said Gaurav Dhamija from Nihal Vihar duped at least 20 women. He is a spare parts dealer who was arrested from Meerut, Mr. Roy added.

A complaint was received in which a woman alleged that she was defrauded by a man who allured her to deposit money after she showed interest in his profile

on a matrimonial site, the police said. "He trapped her through a volley of emotional tricks such as calling the victim 'Mrs. Dhamija' and promising to buy her expensive gifts. He then started asking for money on various pretexts such as parents' treatment, business investment among others," Mr. Roy said, adding that he started with small amounts and escalated the demand later. The accused also threatened with dire consequences when the complainant asked for money back.

He also promised the victims jobs in schools and other places, the officer added.

Man held for stabbing two youth

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A man has been arrested for allegedly stabbing two youth in Sangam Vihar on Friday after they asked him to stop troubling their sister, the police said on Saturday.

Anoop Rathore has been arrested in connection with the case, they said. The victims have been identified as Nitesh and Mahesh.

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Punjab on alert after release of excess water from Bhakra dam

People living near the Sutlej river, low-lying areas have been advised to be vigilant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

An alert has been sounded in several districts of Punjab following the release of excess water from Bhakra dam through the spill gates after heavy rain in its catchment area on Saturday.

The Bhakra Beas Management Board authorities discharged 17,000 cusecs of excess water of the total release of 53,000 cusecs through the spill gates, an official said.

The remaining 36,000 cusecs was released after its use for power generation, he added.

The official said that the situation was being monitored closely.

Bhakra dam on Saturday recorded a water level of 1,674.75 feet, around 60 feet more than the corresponding period last year. The maximum filling capacity of



Deputy Commissioners to stay vigilant in view of the met department's prediction and ensure the safety and security of the people

AMARINDER SINGH,
Chief Minister

the reservoir is 1,680 feet.

The water inflow in Bhakra dam has been recorded at 59,000 cusecs, the official said.

Partnering States

Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are the partnering States which meet their requirement for different purposes, including irrigation, from Bhakra and Pong dams. Both these dams were to be filled up to the level of 1,680 feet and 1,390 feet respectively by September.

On Saturday, rain lashed several places in Punjab, including Ludhiana, Amritsar, Mohali, Chandigarh.

An alert has already been sounded in several districts, including Rupnagar, Ludhiana, Ferozepur and downstream areas in the wake of release of excess water from Bhakra dam, the official said.

People living near the Sutlej river and low-lying areas have been advised to be vigilant and take precautions to safeguard themselves.

There are reports of crops

getting submerged in water in some villages adjoining the Sutlej river in Anandpur Sahib of Rupnagar district due to the release of excess water and rainfall.

"An advisory has already been issued to the people living near the Sutlej river. The district authority is fully geared up to deal with any situation," Rupnagar Deputy Commissioner Sumeet Jarrangal said.

Heavy rain forecast

The Punjab government had on Friday also issued an alert in the State after a forecast of heavy rain in the next 48 to 72 hours.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had directed the Deputy Commissioners across the State to stay vigilant in view of the met department's prediction and ensure the safety and security of the people.

Six stuck in Himachal flash floods rescued

Red warning issued for Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA

All educational institutions in Kangra district have been asked to remain closed on Saturday due to incessant rain, an official said.

Six persons stranded near Palampur following flash floods were rescued while several roads in Kangra and Chamba districts were blocked following landslides, the official added.

Kangra Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Prajapati issued the directive on Saturday morning following heavy rain in most parts of the district since Friday evening.

"Keeping in view the ongoing heavy rain and extreme climatic conditions across the district, I declare holiday for schools and educational institutions for today (Saturday)," he said.

On Friday, the met department had issued an

orange warning for heavy rain across the State and a red warning for extremely heavy rain in several districts, including Kangra, on Saturday and Sunday.

Heavy downpour occurred in and around Palampur sub division since Friday midnight which triggered massive flood in Neugal Khad and its tributaries and all other streams, Mr. Prajapati added. As a result, six persons were trapped near Om Hydro Power Project on Neugal Khad. A team of the State police and Home Guard rescued them, he added.

Landslides reported

Landslides were reported at Mehra village in Hadal panchayat which posed risk to three houses, an official said, adding that the three families were shifted to safer places. Several roads have been blocked due to landslides.

Dalit family stages dharna, seeks compensation

Ratiram Jatav had allegedly ended his life over his son's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALWAR (RAJASTHAN)

The family of a Dalit man, who allegedly ended his life after his son was beaten to death in Rajasthan's Alwar district last month, refused to hand over his body for post-mortem and staged a dharna on Saturday demanding compensation and job for a member.

Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, who joined Ratiram Jatav's family members in the protest at a health centre in Tapukada area, demanded action against the police personnel for their alleged inaction in the investigation into the killing of the 60-year-old's son.

Jatav's 28-year-old son Harish had sustained serious head injuries after he was thrashed by a mob

when his motorcycle hit a woman at Phalsa village in Tijara area on July 16. He passed away at a Delhi hospital two days later.

Alwar MP Mahant Balaknath met the family members of Jatav, who ended his life on Thursday after consuming a poisonous substance.

'Remove Addl. SP, CO'

"The Additional SP and Circle Officer should be removed from their present posting. The crime is increasing in Alwar, but the government is not serious," he said.

Former BJP MLA Maman Singh said the post-mortem would be allowed to be conducted only after the demands of the family were met. He said markets in Tapukada would also remain closed as a mark of protest.

Jaipur Inspector General S. Sengathir said the post-mortem could not be conducted and the efforts were on to pacify the family members.

Punjab govt. has failed to check stray cattle menace: Akali Dal

'It has withdrawn all concrete steps taken by SAD-BJP gov't'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Amid the increasing stray cattle menace in the State, the Shiromani Akali Dal has hit out at the Congress government, accusing it of failing to address the issue.

SAD leader and former Minister Bikram Singh Majithia on Saturday said the State government had failed to find a solution to stray animals, which are not just destroying crops but have also been the cause of several deaths in the State.



SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia. ■ FILE PHOTO

animals were on the rise in the State in the last few months.

'Farmers affected'

"Farmers are also at the receiving end with their fields being laid to waste across the State. Towns and cities are facing an acute crisis with the cattle roaming free and spoiling green belts, besides causing traffic hazards on the State highways," he said.

Asking the Congress government to wake up from its slumber, the Akali leader demanded development of stray cattle pounds, free power to *gaushalas* on the pattern of the previous SAD-BJP government and judicious use of 'cow cess' to tackle the problem.

previous SAD-BJP government to create and maintain *gaushalas* and cattle pounds have been withdrawn by this government," he alleged.

Mr. Majithia said that incidents of deaths due to stray

"Cow cess" "The government collects 'cow cess' and other taxes in the name of taking care of stray animals, but the problem continues to grow. All concrete steps taken by the

Rainy day



People enjoying their day out at the historic Jantar Mantar in Jaipur on Saturday. ■ ROHIT JAIN PARAS

Nitish flags off 'publicity rath'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday flagged off a vehicle to be used for creating awareness about the State government's water resources schemes and steps to save and conserve water.

The vehicle, which is being called a 'publicity rath', will create awareness on the *Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali* (water-life-greenery) campaign via the audio-visual medium, an official release said here.

The publicity rath will also make people aware of the fact that groundwater is the only source of water in the event of less rainfall and people will have to go for rainwater harvesting to conserve water, the release said. Mr. Kumar had on August 9 launched the *Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali* campaign in Patna.

THE HINDU

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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Information & Public Relations (C) Department
Thiruvananthapuram Dated 15/08/2019
No. C2/204/2019/I&PR
Republic Day Parade 2020 - Tableau - Creative Consultant - Applications invited

Applications are invited from experienced individuals/agencies for assigning as creative consultant for providing ideas to the State tableau to be presented before the Expert Committee of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India for selection to the Republic Day Parade 2020.

- Any important episode from the history of state
- Festivals celebrated
- Cultural/architectural heritage including any aspect of the life of the people
- Any important social and economic development scheme, project or achievement of outstanding nature which merits a display in the national parade
- Environment
- Vision for the future; are the themes under consideration for preparation of tableau.

* on the basis of the above, the themes Flood & Rebuild Kerala, Muziris Heritage Project, Snake Boat race, Women Empowerment - Kudumbasree will be given priority.

The guidelines given by the Ministry of Defence regarding the preparation of design for tableaux can be seen at the official website of Information and Public Relations Department (www.prd.kerala.gov.in)

Applications should reach the following address on or before 26.08.2019
Address: The Director of Public Relations, Information and Public Relations (C) Department, South Block, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram-1.
For more details 0471 2518447, 0471 2518013, 9496003239.
(F4/214/2019/I&PR) (Sd/-) U.V. JOSE, IAS
Director

CAPEX
KERALA STATE CASHEW WORKERS APEX INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.
P.B No. 262, Industrial Development Plot, H & C Compound, Mundakkal West, Kollam 691001, Reg. No. IND (ST)12, Phone: 0474-2742499, 2765644, Fax: 0474-2747153, email: cashewcapex@rediffmail.com, Website: www.cashewcapex.com

NOTICE INVITING SHORT E-TENDERS (6 NOS) FOR SALE OF EXPORT GRADE CASHEW KERNELS

Invited e-tender IDs 2019-CAPEX 293812-1, 293919, 293925, 293934, 293945, 293954 for sale of export grades - closing at 6 pm 22.08.19. Log on to etenders.kerala.gov.in and submit tenders online. Contact Capex HO, website and 9447838404 for further details.
17/08/2019 Sd/- Managing Director

TRIPURA HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION BOARD
(Constituted under Tripura Act-2 of 1979)
Agartala, Tripura (West)
Press NleRFP No: 29/DEO (PD-II)/THCB/2019-20 dated: 16-08-2019

Notice Inviting e-Request for proposal

Subject: Construction of Ownership flat at New Capital Complex (near new Secretariat Complex), Agartala, Tripura / Construction of (G+14) storied apartment tower, accommodating tentatively 140 (one hundred forty) no's, 56 nos 3 BHK flats and 84 nos 2 BHK flats, on Design & Build Basis.

- Tripura Housing and Construction Board invites e-Request for proposal (RFP) from experienced EPC firms / construction organizations who have adequate experience in preparing Detailed Architectural Drawings, Detailed Structural Drawings using latest software's, simultaneously holding requisite credentials for construction of high rise buildings, following all relevant BIS Codes on Design & Build Basis.
- The details of RFP can be seen in: <http://www.tripura.nic.in>, <http://www.tenders.gov.in>, <http://www.tripurainfo.com> & the Interested bidder can participate & bid in the only website <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

SD/-
Chief Executive Officer
Tripura Housing and Construction Board

INSTITUTE OF BIORESOURCES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IBSD)
Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
6th Mile, Upper Shillong, Meghalaya-793009
Website: www.ibsd.gov.in | Email id: ibsd.meghalaya@gmail.com

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Advertisement No.05/2019

Sealed applications are invited for the contractual posts of Program Officer (1 no.) Technical Assistant / Field Assistant / Supervisor (2 nos.) and Field Assistant / Filed Workers/ Helpers (5 nos.) under the project entitled "Setting up of Rural Bioresource Complex at Ri Bhoi- an Aspirational District of Meghalaya. The last date for submission is 9th September 2019 and should reach the Director, IBSD, 6th Mile, Upper Shillong, Meghalaya. Details can be obtained from the Office of IBSD, 6th Mile, Upper Shillong, Meghalaya-793009, India, Tele. No. 0364-2561600 on any working days. The details can also be downloaded from the website: <http://www.ibsd.gov.in>.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
e-tender Notice No- 34 of 2019-20 (Open)-Engg./MGS.
Online (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg./MGS for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.
Tender No.-13-MGS-Sr.DEN-III-19-20, (1) Name of Work with its location: Supply of portion and other consumables materials for maintenance under ADEN(I)/MGS & ADEN(JAPLA of Mughalsarai Division. (2) Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 32013062.75 (3) Earnest Money : ₹ 310100.00 (4) Date & time for submission of e-tender : 03.09.2019, Up-to 12.00 Hrs. (5) Website particulars of e-tendering: www.i-reps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager, Mughalsarai PR/1013/MGS/Engg./T/19-20/32

Punjab names five sportspersons as members of PIS governing council

The names have been approved by CM Amarinder Singh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government on Saturday approved the names of five eminent sportspersons as members of the governing council of the Punjab Institute of Sports.

An official spokesperson said the names have been approved by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

The sportspersons, to be

part of the governing council are renowned hockey player and Arjuna Awardee Brig. Harcharan Singh, eminent athlete and Arjuna Awardee Gurmeet Kaur, noted Kabaddi player and Arjuna Awardee Hardeep Singh, cricketer and Arjuna Awardee Harbhajan Singh and internationally acclaimed shooter and Rajeev Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee Abhinav

Bindra. PIS is the principal policy formulating body of sports in Punjab.

The institute has been mandated to create a sizeable pool of high-potential sportspersons, to be groomed as medal prospects for the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and other national and international competitions.

Tech-based unit to improve quality of education

The centre will give academic, administrative support to education officers in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A virtual field support centre, launched as a tech-based unit at Shiksha Sankul here earlier this week, is set to promote the use of technology for extending the academic and administrative support to over 1,000 education officers in Rajasthan. The initiative will help impart education to children as per their needs and inclination.

Minister of State for Education Govind Singh Dotasara, who inaugurated the centre, said it would strengthen the education system and create new opportunities for improving the quality, making new experiments

and promoting leadership among the stakeholders. The centre has been launched in collaboration with the Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership.

Mr. Dotasara said the data of the Education department's work would be stored at the centre for the use of teachers and students. The data will also be utilised for devising strategies to meet new challenges in the academic and administrative fields.

Rajasthan Council of School Education's Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Borad said the State government would also obtain Piramal Foundation's support for improving the quality of education in the rural areas. Piramal Foundation's Manmohan Singh said the centre would provide assistance to education officers in the implementation of various programmes and campaigns through telephone calls.

Yogi, U.P. Guv. meet triggers reshuffle speculation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Fuelling fresh speculation of a Cabinet reshuffle in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met Governor Anandiben Patel here on Saturday.

"Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met Governor Anandiben Patel at the Raj Bhavan on Saturday. The one-on-one meeting lasted for around 30 minutes," an official said. He declined to elaborate further.

The appointment of OBC leader and U.P. Minister Swatantra Dev Singh as the BJP State unit's new chief has put the spotlight on a possible reshuffle of the Cabinet.

'One person-one post'

According to the BJP's 'one person-one post' principle, Mr. Singh cannot simultaneously hold the positions of a Minister and the State party chief. He is currently the MoS (independent charge) for transport and protocol.

"The possibility of a reshuffle increases with Mr. Singh's appointment as the new Uttar Pradesh BJP chief," a senior party leader said, requesting anonymity.

He pointed out that three State Ministers were elected to Parliament in the Lok Sabha poll held in April-May, while one was sacked. "Reshuffling of the Cabinet is the Chief Minister's prerogative," the BJP leader said.

Uttar Pradesh has a total of 43 Ministers, including the Chief Minister.

Rain batters Kolkata, cripples normal life

Road, rail and air traffic affected; waterlogging reported on key thoroughfares across the city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Life was thrown out of gear in most parts of Kolkata on Saturday following torrential rain that led to waterlogging in low-lying areas. The city received 186.1 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours till around noon, the Regional Meteorological Centre said.

Commuters were seen wading through knee-deep waters on key thoroughfares, including Central Avenue, College Street, Shakespeare Sarani and Behala.

Vehicular traffic was disrupted in central, south and north Kolkata, resulting in traffic snarls. Flight operations were also affected at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport. Eastern Railway CPRO Nikhil K Chakraborty said circular railway services were cancelled from 10.40 a.m. onwards due to waterlogging.

Train movement in Sealdah and Howrah sections of the Eastern Railway was slow, but there has been no cancellation so far, he added.

More rain has been forecast on Sunday.



Commuters wade through a waterlogged road in Kolkata on Saturday. *RAJEEV BHATT

Manoj Mitra resigns from W.B. Natya Akademi

Theatre personality cites health reasons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Veteran theatre personality Manoj Mitra has resigned from the post of president of the Paschim Banga Natya Akademi citing health reasons.

The Akademi, a wing of the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs of the government of West Bengal, promotes theatre activities in the State.

"I sent my resignation letter to department on Friday, expressing my inability to continue as president due to health reasons," said 80-year-old Mr. Mitra.

The department is tight-lipped about whether or not Mr. Mitra's resignation will be accepted.

Mr. Mitra, who has for several years been at the helm of the Akademi had offered to resign in 2015 also but was persuaded by the government to continue.

"This time my decision is final," he said.

New committee

Mr. Mitra had been retained as the president of a committee that runs the Akademi's affairs in a reshuffle earlier this month.

Several prominent theatre personalities such as Usha Ganguly and Harimadhab Mukhopadhyay, who had been in the panel earlier, were missing in the re-constituted 44-member body. On this, Mr. Mitra said, "The names of some of my friends and colleagues have been dropped and that has saddened me."

The name of West Bengal Minister and theatre personality Bratya Basu figures in the new list.

Luxury car runs over two foreign nationals in downtown Kolkata

Deceased were from Bangladesh; accused driver arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Two foreign nationals were killed and one person was injured when a speeding luxury car hit them in downtown Kolkata on Saturday. The luxury car hit the three victims after being rammied by another car, said the police.

The luxury car also damaged a traffic signal outpost.

The incident happened around 1.50 a.m. near the crossing of the Shakespeare Sarani and Loudon Street, said a Kolkata Police official.

One injured

The car hit three pedestrians, including two Bangladeshis: Kazi Mohammed Mainul Alam (36) and Farhana Islam Tania (30).

Kazi and Farhana were

The luxury car hit the victims after being rammied by another vehicle... The incident happened around 1.50 a.m. near the crossing at Shakespeare Sarani

KOLKATA POLICE OFFICIAL

declared brought dead by the State-run SSKM Hospital while the injured person is undergoing treatment, said the police.

The occupants of the car that hit the victims also received minor injuries.

The person driving the other car fled after the mishap but was later arrested, an official said. "Both the vehicles have been impounded. We are checking

CCTV footage," he said.

The arrested accused is the son of the owner of a city-based restaurant chain, he added.

Other incidents

Eight persons were injured in two other road accidents on Saturday in different parts of the city, which is being lashed by heavy monsoon rain.

A motorcyclist and a person riding pillion were injured when the two-wheeler skidded on Eastern Metropolitan bypass near Captain Fishery at around 1.40 a.m., said the police.

Six occupants of a four-wheeler were injured when the vehicle's driver lost control while crossing the Maa flyover and it fell on its side around 5.45 a.m.

NIT assistant professor and wife found dead on Rourkela campus

Neighbours say they had not seen the couple since August 14

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

An assistant professor of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Rourkela and his wife were found dead at their residence on the institute campus on Saturday.

The bodies of 37-year-old R. Jayabalan, an assistant professor in the Life Science Department, and his wife Malavi Kesavan (35) were recovered after the police broke open the door of their flat. The couple belonged to Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

They left behind a four-

page note written in Tamil and English. According to neighbours, the couple had not been seen since August 14. They informed the police after coming across foul smell.

Rourkela police said relatives of both the deceased will be arriving on Sunday.

Married for nine years

The couple were married for nine years and did not have any children.

The woman was found on the bed while the husband was in the bathroom. "Prima facie, it looks like a case of

suicide. We are yet to ascertain the exact reason. An investigation is in progress," Rourkela Superintendent of Police Sarthak Sarangi said.

Forensic and scientific experts have examined the site and the bodies have been sent for post-mortem, said the police.

Registrar of NIT Rourkela P.K. Das said: "They were a wonderful couple and very friendly. Jayabalan was liked by the students and his colleagues. He would involve himself in all the activities of the department. He was also very good at his subject."

Odisha rejects officer's premature retirement

Govt. appoints him as OFDC chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Saturday appointed senior IAS officer Gagan Kumar Dhal as the chairman of the Odisha Forest Development Corporation after rejecting his application for premature retirement from service, an official said.

Mr. Dhal, a 1985-batch IAS officer, had on August 6 submitted a letter to the State government seeking premature retirement on personal ground. However, the State government rejected his application for premature retirement and named him as the chairman of the Odisha Forest Development Corporation, the official said.

The post of chairman of OFDC is declared equivalent in status and responsibility to the post of Chief Secretary provided in the IAS cadre of the State, a notification issued by the General Administration Department said.

Reshuffle of posts

Though the State government had named Asit Kumar Tripathy as the Chief Secretary on August 15, an official notification was issued only on Saturday.

Mr. Tripathy, a 1986-batch IAS officer has also been al-

lowed to officiate as the chairperson of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board and the Odisha Space Application Centre.

Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, a 1986-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as Development Commissioner and given the additional charge of working chairperson of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration.

Director General of the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA), Bhubaneswar, Sudershan Pal Thakur, has been given additional charge of Chief Administrator of KBK.

Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra of 1988-batch IAS, has been appointed as Agriculture Production Commissioner in place of G.K. Dhal. He will also hold additional charge of Additional Chief Secretary, School and Mass Education Department.

Principal Secretary of Rural Development Mona Sharma will hold additional charge of the Department of Forest and Environment.

Industries Secretary Sanjeev Chopra has been given additional charge of Home Department. He is now officiating as the chairman of the State-owned Odisha Mining Corporation.

No place for old-timers in TMC: Sovan Chatterjee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Sovan Chatterjee, who has switched over to the BJP from Trinamool Congress, criticised the TMC on Saturday for no longer being a party of old-timers and for deviating from the principles of parliamentary democracy.

Mr. Chatterjee, who was once the trusted aide of TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, said that since joining the BJP he has been afraid about his security.

Reacting to his allegations, TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said Mr. Chatterjee is trying to give "lame excuses".

Mr. Chatterjee along with his friend Baishaki Banerjee, who was a leader of TMC's education cell, had joined the BJP in Delhi on August 14. The TMC is yet to officially expel him.

"We all had worked together to take TMC to the place where it is now, while fighting against the Left misrule. But now things have changed, the old-timers are being humiliated. If you raise your voice against misdeeds of the party then you are either sidelined or shunted out," Mr. Chatterjee said.

Emergency evacuation exercise conducted in 3,300 Assam schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Students of 3,300 schools across Assam on Saturday received a lesson on evacuation drills in case of fire or earthquakes, official sources said.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), along with other agencies, conducted 'The

Great Assam School Shake-out Programme', which covered 100 schools in each of the 33 districts of the State, the sources said.

Through the mock drill exercise, students and teachers were sensitised on safety measures required during incidents of fire or earthquake during school hours.

The programme has been organised to commemorate the Great Assam Earthquake of 1950, that caused massive loss of life and property, they said. Besides the ASDMA, the Education Department, fire and emergency services, the National Disaster Response Force and civil defence took part in the programme.

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI - 834010. (CIN-185100H2013SGC001276), E-mail-jhmidpc2014@gmail.com

Tender Notice No: JMC/NIT-19/PFT/20 Date: 16.08.2019
SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement System)
Supply of Pulmonary Function Test

The Managing Director, Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Ltd. (JMHDPC) hereby invites separate Technical and Commercial Bids (Two Cover System) through e-tender from Manufacturers/their Authorized Dealer for **Supply of Pulmonary Function Test**.

The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should be submitted through e-procurement system only.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Supply of Pulmonary Function Test and consumables
1	Name of Work	Supply of Pulmonary Function Test and consumables
2	Time of Completion	As specified.
3	Date of Publication of Tenders on website	16.08.2019
4	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time	23-08-2019 at 1 PM in Office of JMHDPC, GVI Campus, Tata Road, Namkum, Ranchi-834010
5	Date / time for receipt of bids	24-08-2019 to 31-08-2019 up to 3 P.M
6	Date of Technical Bid opening	01-09-2019 at 3 P.M
7	Tender fee (Non-refundable) & EMD	Rs 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand only) and Rs 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) respectively should be submitted in original before the opening of the technical bid to the office of the tendering authority.
8	Contact no. of procurement person	7004871564, 9771500075, 9431929775

Note: The above dates may change due to abrupt declaration of holidays. Detailed tender document can be seen and applied through website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Hard copies of Technical bid & Price bid will not be entertained except Tender fee & EMD.

Sd/-
Managing Director, JMHDPC, Govt. of Jharkhand, Namkum, Ranchi
PR 214576 (Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society) 19-2019

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office - JUSNL Building, Kusai Colony Doranda Ranchi
(E-mail - gmfinance@jusnl.in)

e-RFP NOTICE
E-RFP No. - 120/PR/JUSNL/2019-20
RFP in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part - II) is invited from the reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound consultancy firm (CA/ CMA) for the following works:

Name of Work	Appointment of Tax consultant and GST Auditor for Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd. (JUSNL)
Period of Contract	24 Month. Further extendable up to 1(One) years
Minimum average annual turnover during last three year.	Rs. 50 lacs per annum
e-RFP fee	Rs. 5,000.00+18% GST= Rs. 5,900.00
Start Date & Time of Download Load the Tender Documents	22th August 2019 at 17:00 Hrs
Date of Pre-bid meeting	29 th August 2019 at 11:30 Hrs
Start Date and time of upload of BID	15 th September 2019 from 11:30 Hrs
End date and time of upload of BID	19 th September 2019 till 17:00 Hrs
BID Opening date for technical part	20 th September 2019 at 17:30 Hrs
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE) JUSNL, JUSNL Building Kusai Colony Doranda Ranchi - 834 001
Contact Nos.	95342-18638, 79034-34554

1. e-RFP document and BOQ including terms & conditions. Scope of work can be downloaded from website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

व्यहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया अपनी शिकयता को 18003456570 (कॉल सेंटर) पर दर्ज करावें।
Sd/-
GM (Finance) JUSNL, Ranchi
PR 214564 (Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd) 19-20'D

गुमशुदा की तलाश

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है। लता देवी पुत्री श्री पप्पु निवासी गांव लखनपुर डा0 व थाना पटियाली जिला कांसगंज उत्तरप्रदेश, वर्तमान पता गांव पुआड डा0 बीडबगेहडा तह0 व थाना सुजानपुर जिला हमीरपुर (हि0प्र0) उम्र 20 वर्ष दिनांक 07 मार्च 2016 को घर से लापता हो गई है। जिस का हुलिया निम्न है:- उम्र 20 वर्ष कद 5 फुट 1 इंच लगभग . रंग गंधुआ, चेहरा गोल, हिन्दी बोलती है, बाएं हाथ पर तिल का निशान है। संपर्क दूरभाष-कार्यालय पुलिस अधीक्षक हमीरपुर -01972-224358, 01972-222053 (FAX) पुलिस थाना सुजानपुर-01972-272021
HP/0267/2019-2020

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE TALAB TILLO JAMMU
www.diragrjmu.nic.in

e-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders are invited under Dual Cover System (Technical & Financial Bid) by the Member Secretary, State Level Purchase Committee, (SLPC), Agriculture Production Department, J&K, from the Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers for Supply of Bee Colonies/Equipments required for Agriculture Development Scheme, Jammu and finalising the Rate Contract for the year 2019-20. The detailed specifications of the required items to be supplied in reference to this e-NIT are mentioned in Annexure-A.

The Terms and Conditions to be followed shall be as under:

- Tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 16/08/2019 to 29/08/2019 upto 4:30 PM.
- Technical Bids, complete in all respect shall have to be deposited in hard copy under sealed cover at Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu and in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 21/08/2019 to 30/08/2019 up to 4:30 PM. Price bids complete in all respect shall have to be deposited only in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 21/08/2019 to 30/08/2019 upto 4:30 PM.
- The Technical bids uploaded on the website will be opened on 31/08/2019 at 1:00 PM or any subsequent working day in the Office chamber of Chairman, State Level Purchase Committee, Agriculture Department, J&K, Jammu, (Director Agriculture, Jammu) in the presence of bidders who wish to be present.
- The Original Documents pertaining to the Technical bids will be received at the Directorate of Agriculture, Talab Tillo, Jammu during Office hours, in sealed envelopes, on prescribed format addressed to the Member Secretary, State Level Purchase Committee, Agriculture Department, Talab Tillo, Jammu. The e-NIT number should be super-scribed clearly on the envelopes. Tenderers who wish to submit documents by post may mail them on any date but before the due date. However, the documents must reach by or before i.e. 30/08/2019 up to 04:30 PM. The SLPC does not own any responsibility for delay, loss or non-receipt of tender documents sent by post.
- Tenders received after the last date and time shall not be accepted. In case, the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be a holiday, the same shall be received on the next working date up to 04:30 PM.
- The tender fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) shall be applicable and for registered SSI Units it shall be as per the J&K Industrial Policy 2016 and Operational Guidelines made there under. The tender documents along with Terms & Conditions will be available on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending tenderers who download the complete set of tender documents along with Terms & Conditions from website will have to pay the prescribed fee before submission of tenders by Demand Draft in the name of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, payable at Jammu. Tenders without Tender fee shall be rejected.
- Earnest Money in the Shape of CDR/FR of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) shall be applicable and for registered SSI Units it shall be Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) as per the J&K Industrial Policy 2016 and Operational Guidelines made there Under will be applicable.
- The State Level Purchase Committee, Agriculture Department, J&K reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or any part of tender without assigning any reason therefor.
- The Price Preference on the rates will be given to the SSI Units of the J&K State only as per the J&K Industrial Policy and Operational guidelines made there under.
- No conditional tender will be accepted/entertained.
- 11.Rates offered by the successful tenderer and acceptance of which is communicated to them, will under no circumstances be revised at any stage during contract.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary, SLPC, Directorate of Agriculture
DIP/J- 2135-P

HIMACHAL PRADESH IRRIGATION & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer IPH Division No-1 Kasumpti Shimla-9 (HP) on behalf of Governor Himachal Pradesh in electronic system in two covers for the under mentioned work from Contractors/Firms of appropriate class enlisted with HP&PH Department

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money.	Time of form	Mode of submission of Earnest money/ cost of form	
1.	C/O FIS in various Gram Panchayat under I&PH Sub Division Koti Tehsil & Distt Shimla HP (SH-C/O Head weir, intake cum filter box, manifold distributor RCC chamber with locking arrangement, Runoff, spillover channel, Rain water harvesting structure site development, square wire mesh fencing, rain water harvesting tank of 570000 ltr, 655000 ltrs, 660000 ltrs & 1122000 ltrs cap in G.P. Dharbhog)	Rs. 88,98,782/-	Rs. 1251000/-	1 Year	800	On line
2.	C/O FIS in various Gram Panchayat under I&PH Sub Division Koti Tehsil & Distt Shimla HP (SH-C/O Head weir, intake cum filter box, manifold distributor RCC chamber with locking arrangement, Runoff, spillover channel, Rain water harvesting structure site development, square wire mesh fencing, rain water harvesting tank of 898000 ltr, 3196000 ltrs cap in G.P. Bharech and 490000 ltrs cap at Janedghat)	Rs. 99,03,765/-	Rs. 1315500/-	1 Year	800	On line
3.	Prov LIS to vill Khalag Jhakhari Khairi etc group of villages in G.P. Dhoomon Tehsil & Distt Shimla HP (SH-Supply and erection of pumping machinery with allied accessories & prov laying and jointing of rising main 250mm dia in trenches complete)	Rs. 71,27,817/-	Rs. 1037780/-	1 Year	800	Physically

Key Dates:-

Sr.	Date of online publication	17.08.2019 at 5:00 PM
II.	Downloading of e-tender Document	From 17.08.2019 at 5:00 PM Up to 31.08.2019 at 11:00 AM
III.	Date of submission of e-tendering	From 17.08.2019 at 5:00 PM Up to 31.08.2019 at 11:00 AM
IV.	Online submission of EMD and cost of tender documents as per NIT/ Form PWA 6	From 17.08.2019 at 5:00 PM Up to 31.08.2019 at 11:00 AM
V.	Date of opening of technical bid	31.08.2019 at 11:30 AM
	Date of opening of financial bid	Shall be intimated Separately

AVAILABILITY OF FORMS:-

- Tenders are to be submitted only on PWD forms/BOQ as prescribed and can be downloaded from <https://jktenders.gov.in>. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and DSC (Digital Signature Certificate). The bidders are advice to obtained DSC from suitable vendor and for any authorized agency at the earliest.
- Tender documents consisting of the detailed plans, specifications, schedule of quantities of various items of work, and the set of conditions of to be complied with can be download or viewed online from the portal <https://jktenders.gov.in> on the date(s) & time given above by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

For any clarification please contact the O/o Executive Engineer, I&PH Division No-1, Kasumpti Shimla-171009.
Executive Engineer, Irrig. & PH Division No-1, Kasumpti Shimla-171009. (HP) Phone Off: 0177 - 2620591 E-mail.kasumptidivision@gmail.com
HP/1502/19-20

IN BRIEF



Sudheer Nambodiri is Sabarimala Melsanthi

PATHANAMTHITTA
A.K. Sudheer Nambodiri of Areekara Mana at Tirunavaya in Malappuram will be the Melsanthi (head priest) of the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple for the next one year beginning November 17. The selection was done through a draw of lots on Saturday.

'Best constable' caught taking bribe in Telangana

HYDERABAD
Barely a day after he received an award on Independence Day for being the best constable in the district, P. Thirupathi Reddy was caught red-handed while taking a bribe. The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Friday arrested him for taking ₹17,000 from a sand dealer in Telangana's Mahabubnagar district. **IANS**

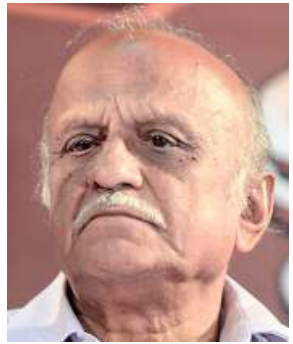
SIT chargesheets Amol Kale, five others in Kalburgi case

Members of right-wing outfit are also accused in the murder of Gauri Lankesh

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

Four years after scholar M.M. Kalburgi was assassinated at his house in Dharwad, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday filed a chargesheet in the case against six persons, all of whom are accused in the murder of journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh as well.

The six, including alleged kingpin Amol Kale, were members of the unnamed right-wing organisation that targeted rationalists. The other accused are gunman Ganesh Miskin, 27, Praveen Prakash Chatur, 26, Vasudev Bhagwan Suryavamshi, 29, Sharad Kalaskar, 25, and Amit Ramachandra Baddi, 27. The SIT filed the chargesheet on Saturday at the special court in Dharwad.



The modus operandi in M.M. Kalburgi's murder, left, was similar to that of Gauri Lankesh.



The modus operandi and the way the operation was carried out – from recesses of Kalburgi's house to arms training – was similar to the planning and killing of Gauri Lankesh.

In the Kalburgi case too, the men followed the instructions of Kale, who has

been named the prime accused. "The accused were in constant touch with one another and took active measures to hide their identities," said the SIT in a three-page press release.

According to the police, they followed the guidelines and principles of 'Khastra

Dharma Sadhana', a book published by the Goa-based right-wing Hindutva organisation, Sanatan Sanstha. Members of the unnamed organisation called their targets as 'durjans', or Hindus who are anti-Hindu.

They had identified Kalburgi as a 'durjan' based on a speech where he referenced a passage from a book, which they felt went against their doctrine. Kalburgi was killed in Dharwad allegedly by Ganesh Miskin on August 30, 2015.

The SIT filed chargesheets against all the six accused under Sections 120 (b) (criminal conspiracy), 302 (murder), 449 (house trespass), 201 (causing evidence to disappear) of the IPC and also under various sections of the Indian Arms Act.

Sr. Lucy moves Vatican against decision to expel her

Congregation writes to nun's mother to take her back home

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THRISSUR**

Sr. Lucy Kalappura, who was dismissed from the Franciscan Clarist congregation for alleged non-compliance of its guidelines, has filed an appeal before the Vatican against the decision to expel her.

She had filed an email appeal to the Vatican as well as their representatives in New Delhi on Friday. She also sent an appeal by post on Saturday.

The congregation had stuck to its stance and issued a letter to her mother on August 10 to take the nun back home. In a letter to her mother, the congregation said Sr. Lucy had breached its rules and the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, many times since 2015.



Sr. Lucy Kalappura

"She refused to take the transfer in 2015. She published a book without permission of the congregation. She bought a car against rules. She travelled without permission and allowed an outsider to stay in her room," the letter to her mother alleged.

However, Sr. Lucy said legally the congregation could not ask her to leave the convent since she has filed the appeal challenging its deci-

sion. Sr. Lucy was in news ever since she participated in the protest against Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar diocese in connection with a rape case of a nun.

She had dismissed the 14 charges levelled against her by the congregation, saying many of them were a "deliberate attempt" to paint her in "bad light."

Sr. Lucy said the congregation cannot just throw her away as she, a high school teacher, had served the congregation for more than 33 years. She sought proper rehabilitation.

But in the letter to her mother, the congregation said that since she has a job and has been keeping her salary since 2017, it does not have any liability to pay her anything more.

(With inputs from PTI)

Pet dogs save goat herd amid Kerala floods

**ABDULL LATHEEF NAHA
MALAPPURAM**

Country dogs they might be, but five pet dogs in Kerala could have won awards at any prestigious sheepdog trials as they guarded and guided a herd of 47 goats and a brood hens for four days amid torrential rain and floods. When Janaki Amma and her family were forced to evacuate their home in Nedumkayam tribal colony, near Nilambur in central Kerala last week due to floods, there was little they could do for their livestock and pet dogs. But Janaki Amma left the cages open hoping the animals would survive nature's fury.

And when she returned from the relief camp after four days, she found her



Tending to the flock: Janaki Amma, left, and Sally Varma feeding the dogs and goats on Saturday. **• SAKAER HUSSAIN**

herd hungry but safe. When the floodwaters rose in the colony, the dogs had guided the goats to higher ground, even carrying four goat kids to safety.

"All of them were very hungry, almost on the verge

of collapse. Yet, they took care of each other," said Sally Varma, Humane Society International (HSI) outreach coordinator, who examined the animals and provided 100 kg goat feed and 50 kg dog food. Janaki Amma's son

Kalesh said his family had faith in their dogs that they would not only desist from causing any harm to the goats but also protect them from the floodwaters.

"It was an amazing sight of coexistence we ought to learn from them. When I brought them food, all three groups were seen eating voraciously from the same container," said Ms. Varma.

The HSI reached out to the tribal family with animal food at a time when no dog food or goat feed was available in the markets around, most of which have been hit by the floods. "When we offered help, Janaki Amma accepted the food for the animals alone. She refused to accept anything for her family," said Ms Varma.

185 tmcft let out from Prakasam barrage

Inflows into reservoirs on the Krishna falling but Godavari flooding on the rise

**THARUN BODA
VIJAYAWADA**

With Krishna river receiving heavy inflows for the past six days, over 185 tmcft of water was discharged into the sea from Prakasam Barrage, whose storage capacity is 3.07 tmcft, as of Saturday.

The discharge, which began at 25,000 cusecs on Tuesday, reached 8.06 lakh cusecs on Saturday, the highest since 2009 (10.94 lakh cusecs) and the second-highest since 1998 (9.31 lakh cusecs), due to heavy inflow into the Srisailem reservoir from Alamatti in Karnataka.

"So far, the surplus discharged to the sea from Prakasam Barrage is 185 tmcft. The outflow will gradually



Safety move: A child being rescued in Krishnalanka area of Vijayawada on Saturday. **• V. RAJU**

come down as inflow into reservoirs upstream is reducing," Krishna Delta System chief engineer R. Satish Kumar told *The Hindu*.

Meanwhile, water levels

in Godavari increased and the inflow to Dowleswaram went up to 7 lakh cusecs during the early hours bringing back flood woes in several villages.

Naidu, 38 others asked to move to safer places

VIJAYAWADA
Former A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and 38 others in Undavalli and Thulluru villages were served flood alert notices by the authorities on Saturday in the wake of the rising water levels in Guntur district upstream of the Prakasam Barrage. "As a precautionary measure, they were asked to move to a safer place," said Guntur District Collector I. Samuel Anand Kumar.

The inflow and outflow came down to 6.35 lakh cusecs at Dowleswaram by evening and the same amount of water was released into the sea.

CPI(M) revokes Kerala worker's suspension

He is alleged to have 'collected' money

**STAFF REPORTER
ALAPPUZHA**

The CPI(M) on Saturday revoked the suspension of party's Kuruppankulangara local committee member N.S. Omanakuttan.

The CPI(M) district committee had on Friday suspended him pending inquiry, after a video of him collecting money from the residents of a relief camp at Cherthala South grama panchayat had surfaced. He allegedly collected money in the name of meeting day-to-day expenses of the camp.

The party's decision came after party district secretary R. Nazar visited the camp and found the allegations baseless.

CPI(M) sources said Mr. Omanakuttan had collected an amount of ₹70 from residents in the camp for paying vehicle bill, which brought food materials to the camp.

The residents bought the materials on their own after the authorities concerned failed to provide necessary items to the camp.

Meanwhile, the Revenue Department also withdrew a police complaint filed against him. Earlier, the camp inmates had written to the Chief Minister to drop the charges against him.

Venu V., Principal Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management, apologised to Mr. Omanakuttan in a Facebook post.

Public Works Minister G. Sudhakaran welcomed the decision to withdraw action. He said the authorities had failed to discharge their duty. "No individual is authorised to look after a relief camp. But what he did was for the welfare of the residents of the camp. We approve of his actions," the Minister said.

All are welcome



In view of the 73rd I-Day celebrations, the Karnataka Raj Bhavan has been thrown open to the public from Saturday. People can visit it till August 30. Visitors will be taken around from the Glass House to the Banquet Hall. **• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

Karnataka Cabinet expansion on Tuesday

16 to 18 Ministers to be inducted

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is all set to expand his Cabinet on Tuesday. He made the announcement on Saturday after holding discussions with BJP national president Amit Shah, who is learnt to have approved a list of legislators to be given ministerial berths.

A BJP Legislature Party meeting will be held at the Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday. Post noon on the same day, anywhere between a dozen and 18 legislators are expected to be sworn in as Ministers at the Raj Bhavan.

Posts for rebels too?

Mr. Yediyurappa camped in New Delhi on Friday and Saturday and obtained clearance for the Cabinet expansion. Indications are that the party will keep a few posts



B.S. Yediyurappa with Amit Shah in New Delhi. **• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

vacant to accommodate the Congress and the JD(S) rebels, now disqualified, later.

The party is expected to do a balancing act by giving representation to dominant communities, regional aspirations, experienced legislators and some young faces.

Though Mr. Yediyurappa took oath as Chief Minister on July 26, he has remained a one-man Cabinet for over 20 days. The Congress and the JD(S) have constantly taunted him over this.

Complete Yadadri work in February, says KCR

Telangana CM unhappy with the pace

**STAFF REPORTER
YADAGIRIGUTTA**

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu has asked Yadadri Temple Development Authority (YTDA) officials to complete the rebuilding of the temple complex in time to facilitate conduct of Maha Sudarshana yagam in February. Mr. Rao, who was here on Saturday to inspect the ongoing works, spent most of the time conducting review, and, reportedly, he was unhappy with the pace of works.

A release quoting Mr. Rao said about 3,000 rithviks, vedic scholars and assistants would participate in the yagam at 1,048 sacred fire spots. Vedic scholars

and priests from 45 countries, Chief Ministers, Governors, VIPs of the Union government and lakhs of devotees would turn up everyday during the yagam.

According to an official, Mr. Rao reportedly rebuked officials and temple sathapathis and said: "The state of work shows you are not serious with anything."

Elaborate and department-wise reviews were conducted and it was decided to appoint a Chief Engineer rank official of the R&B department with immediate effect.

YTDA officials said they had submitted proposals for ₹473 crore, to which Mr. Rao instructed officials to sanction ₹50 crore immediately.

A.P. invites reverse tenders for Polavaram project

Govt. to start online bidding tomorrow

**STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA**

Disregarding the advice of R.K. Jain, CEO of the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), to abandon the idea of pre-closure and re-tendering, or keep it in abeyance till the Central government takes a considered view of the matter, the Andhra Pradesh government issued a notification inviting reverse tenders for the construction of the Polavaram power house and head works, estimated to cost ₹4,988 crore.

Online bidding will start on August 19 and close in 30 days, and the bidders may visit <https://tender.apecprocurement.gov.in> for the purpose.



The Andhra Pradesh government has estimated the cost of the Polavaram project at ₹4,988 crore. **• FILE PHOTO**

The invitation for reverse tenders follows the expert committee's report that irregularities in the project implementation had caused a loss of nearly ₹3,200 crore to the exchequer as the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) clause was blatantly violated.

The YSRCP government,

led by Jagan Mohan Reddy, recently cancelled the contract awarded to Navayuga Engineering Company Limited (NECL) and had since resolved to go in for reverse tendering.

'Less than base price'

Talking to the media during a visit to flood-affected areas

here, Water Resources Minister P. Anil Kumar said the tender documents were being uploaded and the price the government expected to realise through reverse tendering would be less than the base price, and the process was like that of any regular tender. He alleged that the previous government had given work costing approximately ₹10,000 crore on nomination basis to a contractor, and the reverse tender was intended to bring down the cost.

'Uncertainty looms'

Commenting on the PPA's observation that reverse tendering would delay the project, Mr. Anil Kumar reiterated the government's resolve to resume the work on November 1 once the flood receded and complete the entire project in two years.

Meanwhile, in the letter to Special Chief Secretary (Water Resources), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Aditya Nath Das, dated August 16, the Polavaram Project Authority CEO stated that there was neither enough ground nor any necessity for pre-closing the tenders and going for re-tenders, and such a step would result in unforeseen consequences and plunge the project into uncertainty.

The project was likely to get delayed, and re-tendering would have an adverse socio-economic impact due to the delay in the realisation of benefits from the project, apart from a likely increase in its cost, Mr. Jain observed, suggesting that while the PPA was finalising its report, the State government should give up the idea of re-tendering.

Maoist leader, two others surrender

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM**

Senior Maoist leader Boda Anjaya alias Bhaskar alias Naveen, 30, surrendered before the Deputy Inspector General, Visakhapatnam range, L.K.V. Ranga Rao and Superintendent of Police Attada Babujee here on Saturday.

Naveen surrendered along with two other leaders Sindri Kandi alias Jeevani Jyothi, 22, and Korra Venkata Rao, 29.

Naveen was recently expelled by the CPI (Maoist) party for allegedly having an extra-marital affair with Jeevani.

Naveen had joined the movement when he was 14. He carried a cash reward of ₹6 lakh on his head.

FROM PAGE ONE

Curbs lifted in a third of Kashmir Valley: DGP

Responding to the report, Mr. Singh said, "People had gone for Friday *namaz* to a mosque in Soura. While they were returning one or two mischievous elements threw stones. There were around hundred of them, but not all of them were throwing stones."

Primary schools will open from Monday and go-

vernment offices will also start functioning the same day, the official said.

Mr. Singh said reports of policemen being stripped off their service weapons was "false and irresponsible." He said the J&K police was leading from the front and all such reports floating on social media were baseless.

Trump asks Imran to resolve issue bilaterally

Friday's call between Mr. Trump and Mr. Khan also discussed the strained U.S.-Pakistan relationship, which Mr. Khan's July visit to Washington sought to reset. The U.S. sees Pakistan as a crucial player in its attempt to reach a peace deal with the Taliban and pullout from Afghanistan.

"The two leaders further discussed how they will continue to build on the growing relationship between the United States and Pakistan and the momentum created during their recent meeting at the White House," Mr. Gidley said.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Mr. Khan and Mr. Trump had discussed the situation in Kashmir and India's ac-

tions, and the Afghanistan situation. India played down the significance of the informal consultations held by the UNSC, with India's UN envoy Syed Akbaruddin saying the abrogation of Article 370 was entirely an internal matter of India.

On Saturday, Mr. Khan tweeted highlighting the UNSC consultation: "I welcome the UNSC meeting to discuss the serious situation in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. It is for the first time in over 50 yrs that the world's highest diplomatic forum has taken up this issue. There are 11 UNSC resolutions reiterating the Kashmiris right to self determination. And the UNSC meet was a reaffirmation of these resolutions."

Arun Jaitley put on life support, says AIIMS

AIIMS officials have noted that Mr. Jaitley was now stable and recovering. The 67-year-old leader is under the care of a team of endocrinologists, nephrologists and cardiologists.

Mr. Jaitley has been put on ECMO (Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation), al-

so known as extracorporeal life support. This is an extracorporeal technique of providing prolonged cardiac and respiratory support to persons whose heart and lungs are unable to provide an adequate amount of gas exchange or perfusion to sustain life.

Eleven lose sight after cataract surgery in M.P.

Under the Union Health Ministry's National Programme for Control of Blindness, 14 persons aged between 45 and 85, 10 from Dhar district and four from Indore, underwent the surgeries on the day. Later, 11 of them complained of blurry vision. They have been shifted to Choithram Hospital and Research Centre in the city.

The private hospital had conducted 386 cataract surgeries under the programme from April to August 8. A three-member team comprising the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) and two government ophthalmologists had been constituted to inquire into

the case, said Mr. Jatav.

A district health official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "Private hospitals get paid on the basis of the number of successful surgeries."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Kamal Nath announced a compensation of ₹50,000 for each of the affected persons.

"Our priority is to save their vision at this point," Jitu Patwari, Higher Education Minister, told reporters. "The operation theatre has been sealed. Those responsible for negligence will be punished. Even the doctor who underestimated the extent of the infection will be punished," he said.

'Health a key challenge in India's development'

Kovind says Centre committed to tackle it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WARDHA

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said health remains a key challenge in India's development, and the Centre was committed to tackle it through its various programmes.

He said lack of access to health services, malnutrition and neglected tropical diseases put severe constraints on the country.

Mr. Kovind was addressing a gathering on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebrations of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences here.

"As a country with 18% of world population, we carry 20% of global diseases. We are challenged by the triple burden of communicable, non-communicable and new and emerging diseases," the



President Ram Nath Kovind with his wife Savita at Babu Kuti in Wardha. •PTI

President said. "Our government remains committed to tackle these through the flagship Ayushman Bharat programme and other health missions," he said.

Mr. Kovind said MGIMS has in the last 50 years made a stellar contribution to the nation's progress, earning immense respect for its academic excellence as much for its service to people.

The Thimpu space link has a Bengaluru stamp

The satellite earth station inaugurated by Modi has been built and manned by Alpha Design Technologies

MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU

There is a Bengaluru stamp on the satellite earth station that Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated in Bhutan's capital Thimpu on Saturday.

The earth station that will help drive various social services of the South Asia Satellite (SAS or GSAT-9) has been built and set up by the city-based Alpha Design Technologies Ltd.

In a major gesture of regional diplomacy, the Indian government in 2014 offered the services of a dedicated communications satellite to its smaller neighbours Afghanistan, Bangla-

desh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the multi-use communications satellite in May 2017.

Multiple tasks

The SAS is meant to promote tele-education, tele-medicine, television broadcasting, weather forecasting, disaster monitoring and mapping of natural resources, besides aiding with banking services and governance among the South Asian countries. It also aims to strengthen cooperation among the people of the seven countries.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspecting a guard of honour at the Paro International Airport in Bhutan on Saturday. •PTI

"A centralised hub along with radio frequency systems is essential to drive the applications of a satellite,"

said ADTL's founder and chairman and managing Director Colonel (retd.) H.S. Shankar.

Col. Shankar told *The Hindu* that the company won contracts in April 2018 to execute Ku-band SAS earth stations in all the six participating countries and New Delhi.

More to follow

"We completed the ground hub station on the DITT campus in Thimpu in nine months. The earth station in the Maldives has been executed. The Nepal one should be ready around December, we have set up trial sites there. We then take up Afghanistan and the others," he said.

The Thimpu station started working in January after

ISRO approved its performance.

Col. Shankar said the network was being used for broadcast applications on a 24x7 basis as well as for meeting the social and administrative requirements of Bhutan as planned.

Three employees of Alpha Design would remain in Thimpu to operate the station for two years. Over the next three years, Alpha must train local personnel and maintain the infrastructure. The network includes remote VSAT terminals put up at 110 locations across Bhutan and receiver terminals at 50 locations besides five portable terminals.

NGO alleges trade in NRC legacy data, seeks CBI probe

'Those who entered Assam illegally from Bangladesh have made it to the register'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An Assam-based non-governmental organisation, whose plea the Home Ministry used to seek re-verification of the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the Supreme Court, has claimed that legacy data pertaining to more than 3,000 persons were traded, thus helping undocumented migrants from Bangladesh to be included in the NRC.

In a memorandum submitted to Home Minister Amit Shah, the Sachetan Nagarik Mancha, Axom (SNM) has demanded a CBI inquiry, and accused NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela of "using illegal Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh for the job of data entry". About 100 members from the NGO staged a sit-in at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Saturday seeking an "error-free NRC".

The documents, namely the 1951 NRC and the electoral rolls up to midnight of March 24, 1971, are collectively called legacy data.

Appeal rejected

In the past fortnight, the Supreme Court has twice rejected pleas by the State government and the Union Home Ministry seeking re-verification of the documents of a section of the 3.29



Identity concerns: People from Assam staging a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday demanding an error-free National Register of Citizens. •SANDEEP SAXENA

crore applicants. The court has been monitoring the NRC update exercise since 2013 and has directed the NRC Coordinator to publish the citizens' list by August 31.

"We have evidence that 3,204 [sets of] legacy data has been traded," said SNM president Chandan Bhattacharjya. "The Supreme Court is being misguided by Prateek Hajela. Noted freedom fighter Puran Bahadur Chetry and his family have been excluded from the NRC, but 98.6% people in border areas have been in-

cluded. How is this possible," Mr. Bhattacharjya asked.

Several people at the protest alleged that Bangladeshis were included in the NRC but they could not provide specific details. Jyotishka Podar, a resident of Karimganj in Assam, said, "People who entered Assam illegally from Bangladesh two years ago have got the documents and are included in the NRC." When asked if he could name anyone, he was unable to elaborate further.

About 41 lakh people have

been excluded from the draft NRC lists published in July 2018 and June this year. About 36 lakh persons have filed claims against their exclusion and objections have been filed against two lakh inclusions. The hearings on these are going on.

First published in Assam in 1951, the NRC is being updated as per the directions of the Supreme Court to segregate Indian citizens living in Assam from those who illegally entered the State from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971.

Petition filed in SC against UAPA Act

'State can label anyone a terrorist'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government's decision to give itself discretionary powers to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and declare anyone a terrorist has been questioned in the Supreme Court.

A petition, moved by Delhi resident Sajal Awasthi on Saturday, said the amended law allowed the state to encroach upon the fundamental rights of dignity, free speech, dissent and reputation. It argued that the UAPA Amendment Act, 2019, conferred upon the Centre "discretionary, unfettered and unbound powers" to declare a person a terrorist. The law could be used by the state to bring disrepute to a person, and even worse, rob him or her of liberty. The heavy burden to prove the state machinery wrong rested with the person, it said.

"The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019, seeks to substantially modify Chapter VI of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and Sections 35 and 36 therein. The new Section 35 empowers the Central government to categorise any individual as a 'terrorist' and add the

The right to reputation is an intrinsic part of the fundamental right to life with dignity

SAJAL AWASTHI
Petitioner

name of such a person to Schedule 4 of the Act," Mr. Awasthi said.

Against free speech

The petition said the right to reputation is an intrinsic part of the fundamental right to life with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution, and tagging an individual as a "terrorist" even before the commencement of trial or application of judicial mind does not amount to compliance with the "procedure established by law".

"The right of dissent is a part and parcel of the fundamental right to free speech and expression and, therefore, cannot be abridged under any circumstances except for [those] mentioned in Article 19 (2). The UAPA, 2019, empowers the government, under the garb of curbing terrorism, to impose an indirect restriction on the right of dissent, which is detrimental to our developing democratic society," the petition said.

Panel to review defence procurement procedure

It will remove bottlenecks & hasten purchase of equipment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has constituted a committee chaired by the Director-General (Acquisition) to review the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), 2016 and the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM), 2009.

"The committee will review and align the procedures to ensure seamless flow from asset acquisition to lifecycle support," the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The committee has been given six months to submit its recommendations.

The Ministry said the DPP 2016 and the DPM 2009 had been due for revision and aligning the procedures "will ensure seamless flow from asset acquisition to lifecycle support and strengthen the 'Make in India' initiative of the government". Apart from DG (Acquisition), 11 members, not below the rank of Joint Secretary/Ma-

ment. The committee has been given six months to submit its recommendations.

The Ministry said the DPP 2016 and the DPM 2009 had been due for revision and aligning the procedures "will ensure seamless flow from asset acquisition to lifecycle support and strengthen the 'Make in India' initiative of the government". Apart from DG (Acquisition), 11 members, not below the rank of Joint Secretary/Ma-

ior General equivalent, are part of this committee.

Terms of reference

The terms of reference include revising the procedures to remove procedural bottlenecks and hasten acquisition; align and standardise the provisions to optimise lifecycle support for equipment; simplify policy and procedures to facilitate greater participation of the industry; and develop robust defence industrial base.

'Why is a law graduate's natural choice not the legal profession?'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has said there is a need to look at the role and functioning of lawyers and understand why a law graduate's natural choice is not the legal profession in spite of great attractions and opportunities.

The CJ, who was speaking at the seventh annual convocation of National Law University in New Delhi on Saturday, said the purpose of law schools was to bring out lawyers who would



Ranjan Gogoi

serve the country as prospective leaders of the bar, adjudicators on the Bench and educators and teachers.

He said it was time to

analyse whether the five-year law course, a combined degree in law and arts, had met its objectives. The course was aimed at developing socially conscious lawyers who serve society by developing skills in the field of advocacy, legal aid, legislation or reforms, he said.

CJI Gogoi also spoke about the hefty fee structures in law schools and said "if the existing fee structure acts as economical barrier to education, then in a country like ours, it is nothing short of a tragedy".



Lance Naik Sandeep Thapa

Jawan killed in Pakistan firing along LoC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A soldier was killed during a ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control in the Nowshera sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, the Army said.

"About 0630 hours, Pakistan initiated a ceasefire violation by firing small arms and shelling with mortars in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri district. The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly," an Army spokesperson said.

Lance Naik Sandeep Thapa, 35, from Rajawala village in Sahaspur, Dehradun, sustained fatal injuries, the Army said. He is survived by his wife, Nisha Thapa.

"The Indian Army responded strongly and effectively. Heavy damage has been inflicted by our troops on Pakistan Army posts and casualties on Pakistan soldiers," the Army said.

Ready to face any challenge: Pak. Army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD

Upping the ante, Pakistan said on Saturday that its Army was "fully prepared" to face any challenge posed by India.

At a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi following a meeting of the top brass on Kashmir, Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor said it was possible India could launch an attack to divert the world's attention from Kashmir.

"We have apprehension that India can launch attack to divert attention but we are fully prepared to deal with any misadventure," he said.

He said enough reinforcement had been provided along the Line of Control to deal with any situation.

Warning of the possibility of an unintended war, he said, "Kashmir issue is a nuclear flashpoint".

Mr. Qureshi said the meeting had decided to set up a Kashmir Cell in the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

"The focal persons on Kashmir would be appointed at all embassies," he said.

On the UN Security Council, the Minister said the Kashmir issue was raised at the highest level which was a big success. The meeting discussed if the Kashmir issue should be taken to the International Court of Justice.

Normalcy returning in fits and starts

Curbs reimposed in the old city in Srinagar after eight people were injured in clashes and protests

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Eight protesters were injured in sporadic incidents of stone throwing in the Kashmir Valley on Saturday, even as the government started easing security restrictions and began releasing communications lines, blocked since August 5, in a phased manner.

Twelve out of 22 districts of J&K are functioning normally, with some night-time restrictions in five, officials said.

Curbs were reimposed in the old city in Srinagar following clashes and protests. "Around seven incidents of disturbances were reported mainly from the areas where the restrictions were not lifted in the Kashmir Valley," said J&K Principal Secretary and spokesman Rohit Kansal. "Eight injuries were reported in these incidents. All injured are reportedly stable."

The Internet, however, continues to remain suspended "for security reasons". Residents, however, complained that the phone lines were working in an erratic manner. "My neighbour's phone is running but many others are down in the same vicinity. My phone is also dysfunctional," said Suhail Ahmad of Rajbagh.

Meanwhile, the government plans to reopen educational institutions up to the primary level in the Kashmir Valley from Monday.

Unlike the Kashmir Valley, the government has restored communications lines in the entire Jammu region, comprising the Pir Panchal Valley and the Chenab Valley. "Mobile services were restored in five districts in Jammu region," Mr. Kansal said. In contrast to Jammu, 17 telephone exchanges were made functional and the restrictions were relaxed in 35 police stations in the Kashmir Valley, with five of them in Srinagar.



Making contact: A man making a call in Srinagar on Saturday as landline connections were restored in the Kashmir Valley after 13 days. • NISSAR AHMAD

"It resulted in people coming out on roads. There was free movement of men and material. Relaxation will continue for tomorrow too in these areas," Mr. Kansal added.

The Internet, however, continues to remain suspended "for security reasons".

Residents, however, complained that the phone lines were working in an erratic manner. "My neighbour's phone is running but many others are down in the same vicinity. My phone is also dysfunctional," said Suhail Ahmad of Rajbagh.

Meanwhile, the government plans to reopen educational institutions up to the primary level in the Kashmir Valley from Monday.

"Most of these schools are located within the localities," Mr. Kansal said.

Srinagar's Deputy Commissioner Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said 190 schools would reopen on Monday in various zones of Srinagar.

The first day of restrictions being lifted also saw locals in the old city hitting the streets and staging demonstrations. All interior roads were blocked by protesters, bringing traffic to a grinding halt. A Station House Officer (SHO) at Hawal told *The Hindu* that the police had reimposed Section 144 in Hawal after some youths blocked roads and "were preparing to galvanise street protests". Demonstrations and stone throwing were also reported and strict restrictions imple-

mented in Srinagar's No-whatta, Soura, Safakadal, Khanyar, Rainawari, Natipora, Barzulla and Nowgam areas.

"The administration is calibrating the situation and in this regard easing is done in a gradual manner," said Inspector-General of Police (IGP) S.P. Pani.

Thin attendance

The J&K government is up against a major task to restore normalcy in government offices by Monday, as J&K Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam on Friday visited Srinagar's Civil Secretariat to find that just about 350 out of 5,000 employees were attending office regularly. An official, who attended

the meeting, told *The Hindu* that a majority of employees were either absent or had shifted to Jammu, fearing a major law and order situation due to the amendments to Article 370 and the change in J&K's status into a Union Territory (UT).

Another official said about 1,500 employees in the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar were non-locals and Kashmiri Pandits. About 90% of these employees had left the Kashmir Valley before August 5, as the Centre and the State government had issued advisories asking tourists and pilgrims to leave, officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

With the situation showing signs of normalcy with very low-intensity protests reported so far, Mr. Subrahmanyam has directed officials to provide transportation to employees and ensure their attendance. It is likely to set the process of restoring normalcy back on track.

Officials said the Chief Secretary had asked the Education Department to open schools up to the primary level in areas declared "safe zones", followed by "sensitive" and "highly sensitive" zones. High schools, however, may not be reopened in the current phase, they said.

Schools and colleges have opened in many districts of Jammu. Tensions remain palpable in the Chenab Valley. The Pir Panchal valley is showing signs of normalcy.

It's 1990s redux in the Valley: petitioner

'Local journalists are not being heard'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The present restrictions and clampdown on the media in Kashmir are comparable to those in the early 1990s, Anuradha Bhasin, executive editor of *Kashmir Times*, said here on Saturday.

The Supreme Court, on Friday, refrained from giving any ruling on her plea challenging the restrictions imposed on journalists in Jammu and Kashmir, and recommended a "wait-and-watch" policy.

Ms. Bhasin was speaking at a press interaction at the Indian Women's Press Corps on Saturday.

She said Kashmir had seen human rights violations and a partial or complete ban on Internet and mobile connectivity, but this was the first time since the early 1990s that landline phones too had stopped working and mobility of journalists had been completely affected. "This is the first time in 30 years that I have no information of what is happening in the Valley or parts of Jammu directly from our reporters. We are relying on the information being published in Delhi papers or the international press," Ms. Bhasin said.

Ms. Bhasin said that while

I am hopeful and I have faith in the Constitution. I don't think the courts will let us down

ANURADHA BHASIN Journalist

journalists from Delhi were able to report from the Valley, the local journalists were not allowed to move around. They were further hamstrung by the limited budgets under which they worked. The newspapers printed in Kashmir had reduced the number of copies, to save on newsprint. Just the usual process of printing a newspaper every day was a challenge having to navigate innumerable barricades. There are close to 150 publications in Jammu and Kashmir. "We have a huge media presence in the Valley but their voices are not being heard," Ms. Bhasin added.

The only difference between the 1990s and today, Ms. Bhasin said, was that then the reporters and newspaper owners were physically intimidated by both militants and the government. "I am hopeful and I have faith in the Indian Constitution. I don't think the courts will let us down," she said.

New plea in SC against changes to Article 370

'They do not have people's consent'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A petition filed in the Supreme Court by a group of eminent citizens who had served in Jammu and Kashmir in high bureaucratic and military positions, has challenged the amendment made to Article 370 of the Constitution and the reorganisation of the State into two Union Territories.

The petition filed on Saturday described the amendments as striking at the heart of the principles on which the State of J&K integrated with India, especially as they had no affirmation or sanction from the people of J&K.

The petition said the consent of the people before amending Article 370 was a constitutional imperative.

Activists and officials

The petition has been filed by Radha Kumar, a former member of the Home Ministry's Group of Interlocutors for Jammu and Kashmir (2010-11), as well as an aca-

demic and policy analyst who has worked on conflicts and peacemaking in South Asia, Europe and Africa for over 20 years.

The next petitioner is Hindal Haidar Tyabji, a former Chief Secretary of the State of Jammu, followed by Air Vice-Marshal (retired) Kapil Kak, who is a permanent resident of Jammu and Kashmir and decorated officer of the Indian Air Force.

The other petitioners are Major General (retd.) Ashok Kumar Mehta, who has held postings in the Uri Sector and fought in the 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan wars; and Amitabha Pande, a former Secretary of the Inter State Council of the Government of India.

And finally, Gopal Pillai, a former Union Home Secretary who has dealt with the State in both peacetime and turmoil.

The petition was drafted by advocates Arjun Krishnan, Kaustubh Singh and Rajlakshmi Singh.

Apple carts



A bite of normalcy: Vendors returned to the streets of Srinagar after restrictions were eased on Saturday. • PTI

Article 370 had become shield for terrorists: Law Minister

Centre will strive for protection of people, says Prasad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NAGPUR

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Saturday that Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, had become a platform to "shield" terrorists and their patrons.

"The government's decision on Article 370 was taken in the interest of the nation as well as the common people of Jammu and Kashmir," Mr. Prasad told presspersons on the sidelines of the inauguration of the 17th all-India meet of the State legal services authorities in Nagpur.

"We should understand that it was a temporary provision and removed in the interest of the country," Mr. Prasad said. "We always strive for protection of the country and for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We



We should understand that it was removed in the interest of the country

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD Law Minister

want Jammu and Kashmir to progress."

"Article 370 had become a platform to shield terrorists and their patrons, but we finished this. It is for the development of Kashmir," Mr. Prasad said.

Detention of Mir illegal: Chidambaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi described the house arrest of the party's Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir and another party leader in Jammu as "madness", former Union Minister P. Chidambaram on Saturday called it a violation of his fundamental right and urged courts to take note.

"Ghulam Ahmad Mir, PCC President, J&K is under house arrest in Jammu since Friday. There was no written order of detention. Outrageously illegal. The State has no right to deprive a citizen of his liberty for even one moment without authority of law. That is Article 21 of the Constitution," Mr. Chidambaram said.

"I hope the courts will act and secure the liberty of citizens," he added.

"The Prevention of Corruption Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and law to stop manual scavenging were not applicable there. Which Kashmir was this," the Minister asked.

He said the administration in the State would take a call on further measures after taking into account the situation. On a query over Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's statement that India was preparing for a Balakot-like strike in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Mr. Prasad said: "We don't have to take notice of what they are saying." "But a strong reply will be given if any action is taken by Pakistan. Under the leadership of [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi, India is alert about its protection and appropriate reply will be given to any terror activities."

KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT
NEYYAR-PEPPARA FOREST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Construction of Office and Residential buildings together with water supply arrangements in the Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottor (KIFB FUNDED PROJECT).
No. NPFDA/ERC (Phase II)/T-3/2019 Dated 07-08-2019
The Project Director, PMU-Neyyar Peppara Forest Development Agency for and on behalf of the Governor of Kerala invites online bids in two cover system from A class contractors for the above work. Due date of submission: 26-08-2019 up to 05.00 PM. Tender documents and tender schedule may be downloaded from the e-GP website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in For details: 9447979082, 9447979001.
(Sd/-) Chief Executive Officer (F3/727/2019/I&PR)

KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT
THRISSUR FOREST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Selection of Consultant for Preparing DPR for Landscaping and Horticultural works in Thrissur Zoological Park at Puthur in Thrissur District. (KIFB FUNDED PROJECT).
No. SPV-273/2019 Dated 02-08-2019
The Chief Executive Officer, SPV for Thrissur Zoological Park invites online bids in two cover system from eligible Consultants for the above work. EMD: Rs 50,000/-. Due date of submission: 22-08-2019 up to 05.00 PM. Tender documents and tender schedule may be downloaded from the e-GP website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in For details: 9447979150, 9447979001.
(Sd/-) Chief Executive Officer (F3/727/2019/I&PR)

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tel: 0471-2945646, 2945600 Fax: 2945647
Website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, email: etenders_sps@kmscl.kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/836/2019 Dated : 17.08.2019

e-TENDER NOTICE

Notice inviting e-tender for the supply and installation of Various Equipments and Other items for Strengthening Trauma Care Services as part of Safe Corridor Demonstration Project (SCDP) under the World Bank assisted KSTP - II

Govt. of Kerala is undertaking the KSTP - II Road Safety Capacity Building and Program Management Project supported by the World Bank to improve the state's road safety performance.

In this context it is proposed to strengthen and designate three major and two minor hospitals in geographical proximity to the demonstration corridor as resourced trauma care facility.

Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited (KMSCL), the central procurement agency of Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Kerala is entrusted with the task of procurement of various equipments/ other items for these Trauma Care facilities on behalf of Project Management Team, KSTP, Public Works Department.

Online bids under single cover system are invited for the supply and installation of various items as follows;

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Pre-Bid Meeting at KMSCL Head Office	Last date of Online submission
1.	T 334/2019	High End Medical Equipments	26.08.19 11.00 a.m.	16.10.19 11.00 a.m.
		Other Medical Equipment / Furniture / Surgical Instruments	27.08.19 11.00 a.m.	

The eligible bidders shall submit bids before the last date of online submission mentioned above. The bid document is available and downloaded from the e-procurement portal and bids are to be submitted online through the same e-procurement portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in only. Bids submitted in any other manner will not be accepted. The detailed terms and conditions are provided in the bid document.

The pre-bid meeting will be held at KMSCL Head Office, Thiruvananthapuram. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following address; "Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited, Thycaud P. O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014, Kerala."

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has termed "irresponsible" and "unfortunate" Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remarks that India has always adhered to its "no first use" policy on nuclear weapons but what happens in the future will depend on circumstances.

Mr. Singh's remarks came after he visited Pokhran where India carried out the nuclear tests in 1998 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister.

"The substance and timing of the Indian Defence Minister is highly unfortunate and shows India's irresponsible and belligerent behaviour," Mr. Qureshi said.

"Pakistan will continue to maintain minimum credible deterrence," he said. The statement showed his "folly", he said.

Mr. Qureshi's remarks



Shah Mahmood Qureshi

came amid tensions after New Delhi revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The UN Security Council took up the issue of Kashmir in informal consultations. Pakistan has claimed it as big success.

Mr. Qureshi said the UNSC meeting showed that the people of Kashmir were not alone.

He also rejected the idea of any conversation with his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar.

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Office of the Superintending Engineer (IT)
3rd Floor, New Data Center Building, Old Power House
Bani Park, Jaipur - 302006
Website : energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvnl email ID: seit@jvnl.org

TENDER INVITING NOTICE
FOR INSTALL AND OPERATE FEEDER DATA MONITORING SYSTEM ON SERVICE MODEL against TN-81, UBN-VVN19205LO800226. All the details regarding tender are available on website www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvnl, www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in and <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> In future, corrigendum/extension, if any, shall be published only on above websites.
Raj.Samwad/C/2019-20/2033 JPR 2490 (2019) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (IT)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

Bread, bloodshed, revolution

The ruling military council of Sudan has signed a power-sharing deal with the civilian opposition, charting a path to elections and an eventual rule by civilians

Dec. 19, 2018: Protests erupt against a government decision to triple bread prices, taking the form of weekly demonstrations and morphing into calls for long-time President Omar al-Bashir to quit

April 6, 2019: Thousands gather outside the Army headquarters in Khartoum

April 11: Military authorities announce Bashir's removal from power and say that a transitional military council

will govern for two years

June 3: Armed men in military fatigues move in on the protest camps and begin crackdown lasting several days, which leads to the death of 127 people

June 9: Protest leaders launch a nationwide campaign of civil disobedience

July 5: After two days of negotiations, the two sides agree in principle to the transition accord

August 4: The military and protest leaders sign a declaration

August 15: Veteran economist Abdalla Hamdok is nominated as Prime Minister of the future transition government

8 months of protests

More than 250 deaths

More than 800 arrests

Protesters in Khartoum celebrating the transition to civilian rule. • AFP

Parties involved

The Transitional Military Council, which includes top military figures, assumed power after Bashir's resignation

Opposition

The Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) coalition is led by Sudanese Professionals Association, a collaboration of doctors, health workers and lawyers



A mural in Khartoum in April on the protests. • AFP

KEY POINTS IN THE AGREEMENT

39 months

The civilian-military alliance will last for 39 months, leading to elections

Centres of power will be vested in three bodies:

a) Sovereign council
11 members - 5 from the opposition, five from military and one civilian chosen by consensus
▪ A General, the head of the armed forces, will head it for 21 months and a civilian for the remaining 18

b) Cabinet: A Prime Minister, nominated by the Opposition, is heading the Cabinet

c) Legislative body

The sovereign council will oversee its creation. It will be an independent body, with a maximum of

300 members

At least 40% of the seats reserved for women

The FFC will appoint 67% of its members

▪ While military appointees will hold the positions of Defence and Interior Ministers, other posts will be taken by opposition nominees

Sudanese military, civilians sign transition deal

Declaration formalises the creation of an interim administration with 11 members — 6 civilians and 5 military figures

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KHARTOUM

Rapturous crowds filled the streets of Khartoum on Saturday as Sudan's generals and protest leaders signed a historic deal paving the way to civilian rule.

Thousands of cheering people gathered around the Friendship Hall next to the Nile, where the documents that will govern Sudan's 39-month transition were signed.

"This is the biggest celebration I have ever seen in my country. We have a new Sudan," said Saba Mohammed, 37.

Minutes earlier, the deal was signed by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, deputy chief of the military council, and Ahmed al-Rabie, representing the Alliance for Freedom and Change protest umbrella. Heads of state, Prime Ministers and dignitaries from several countries — including

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Egypt's Premier Mustafa Madbuli — attended the ceremony.

The constitutional declaration formalises the creation of a transition administration that will be guided by an 11-member sovereign council, comprised of six civilians and five military figures.

End to upheaval

The agreement brought an end to nearly eight months of upheaval that saw masses mobilise against President Omar al-Bashir, who was ousted in April after 30 years in power.

Thousands of people arrived on trains from Sudan's provinces to take part in the celebrations, which will include a huge gathering in Khartoum's main gardens.

The composition of the civilian-majority transition ruling council is to be an-



Jubilant in the streets: Sudanese people celebrating in Khartoum following the signing of a power-sharing deal between the military and the opposition on Saturday. • AFP

nounced on Sunday.

That follows the naming on Thursday of former senior UN official Abdalla Hamdok, a veteran economist, as transitional Prime Minister. He is expected to focus on stabilising Sudan's economy, which went into a tailspin

when the oil-rich south seceded in 2011. Economic woes were the trigger that sparked the initial protests.

At Khartoum's central market early on Saturday, shoppers and stallholders interviewed by AFP all said they hoped a civilian govern-

ment would help them put food on the table.

"Everybody is happy now," said Ali Yusef, a 19-year-old university student who works in the market to get by.

While it remains to be seen how the transition will change people's daily lives, residents old and young were eager to exercise their new-found freedom of expression.

"I'm 72 and for 30 years under Bashir, I had nothing to feel good about. Now, thanks to God, I am starting to breathe," said Ali Issa Abdel Momen, sitting in front of his modest selection of vegetables at the market.

Little leverage

But many Sudanese are already questioning the ability of the transitional institutions to rein in the military elite's powers during the three-year period leading to

planned elections. The Interior and Defence Ministers are to be chosen by military members of the transition council.

Observers have warned that the transitional government will have little leverage to counter any attempt by the military to roll back the uprising's achievements and seize back power.

One of the most immediate diplomatic consequences of the compromise reached this month could be Sudan's return to the African Union (AU), which suspended the country's membership in June.

Mr. Bashir, who took power in a 1989 coup and is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide in the Darfur region, had been slated to appear in court on Saturday on corruption charges. But his trial has been postponed to an as yet undetermined date.

Rival groups hold rallies as Hong Kong's divisions deepen

Pro-govt. supporters take out a rally with Chinese flags

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HONG KONG

Hong Kong democracy activists kicked off a weekend of fresh rallies on Saturday in a major test for the movement following criticism over an airport protest earlier this week — and as concerns mount over Beijing's next move.

The new marches came as thousands of pro-government supporters — many waving Chinese flags — gathered in a park to condemn their opponents and support the police, a stark illustration of the polarisation now coursing through the city. Ten weeks of demonstrations have plunged the inter-



A rally in central London in support of the Hong Kong protests. • AFP

national finance hub into crisis, with communist-ruled mainland China taking

an increasingly hard-line tone, including labelling the more violent protester actions "terrorist-like".

On Saturday afternoon thousands also marched through Hung Hom and To Kwa Wan, two harbourside districts popular with mainland tourists.

But across the harbour at the pro-Beijing rally, where a giant screen showed recent clashes with police, 60-year-old retiree Irene Man had a very different take as she rounded on democracy protesters. "Their acts are not human, they have all become monsters. They are rioters, with no reason, no thinking," she said.

'Kim oversaw launch of new weapon'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un once again supervised a "new weapon" launch, state media said on Saturday, complicating efforts at denuclearisation ahead of next week's visit to Seoul by the U.S. envoy to Pyongyang.

Friday's launch was the North's sixth test in recent weeks as it protests the annual U.S.-South Korea military exercises.

Defence officials in Seoul said Pyongyang fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles on Friday, which flew some 230 km before splashing down in the sea between the Korean peninsula and Japan.

U.S. President briefed on Afghan talks

Just completed a very good meeting, tweets Trump

REUTERS

BRIDGEWATER/WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump was briefed on Friday by top advisers on the status of negotiations with the Taliban on a U.S. troop pull-out from Afghanistan and the potential for a political settlement between the warring sides.

There was no indication that any conclusions were reached at the session, which took place in a secure conference room at Mr. Trump's golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey. "Just completed a very good meeting on Afghanistan. Many on the opposite side of this 19-year war, and us, are looking to make a deal — if possible!" Mr. Trump said in a tweet after the session.

A U.S. defense official said significant differences re-

mained between the United States and the Taliban after an eighth round of talks ended in Qatar on Monday.

Some 14,000 U.S. troops remain engaged in America's longest war, training and advising Afghan security forces and conducting counterinsurgency operations against militant groups such as al-Qaeda and Islamic State's local affiliate.

'Meeting went well'

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement issued after the meeting that the United States remains committed "achieving a comprehensive peace agreement, including a reduction in violence and a ceasefire" in Afghanistan.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Pompeo were joined for the talks

by Vice-President Mike Pence, National Security Adviser John Bolton, Defense Secretary Mike Esper, Joint Chiefs chairman General Joseph Dunford and CIA Director Gina Haspel. "The meeting went very well, and negotiations are proceeding," the White House said in a statement.

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally, said any deal should allow the U.S. to maintain a military presence in Afghanistan to pursue terrorist groups. "Any peace agreement which denies the U.S. a robust counterterrorism capability in Afghanistan is not a peace deal," he said. "Instead, it is paving the way for another attack on the American homeland and attacks against American interests..."

ELSEWHERE



Italy to allow minors to disembark from ship

ROME
Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said on Saturday that he would allow minors to disembark from a migrant rescue ship with 134 people aboard, after being at sea for two weeks. • AP

Nine killed as fire breaks out in Ukraine's Odessa

KIEV
Nine people were killed in a hotel fire in Ukraine's port city of Odessa on Saturday, leading authorities to launch a country-wide inspection of safety regulations in holiday resorts and hotels. The fire broke out at 1.34 a.m. in the southern city's Tokyo Star hotel. • AFP

SUDOKU

6		4			5	3	1	
	9				2	4		
5	3				1		2	
						5		2
				8				
3	7							
	3		5			8		9
		5	7				4	
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	1	5	6	2	3	9	4
9	3	5	8	4	7	2	6	1
4	2	6	9	3	1	8	5	7
6	1	3	4	9	8	7	2	5
2	7	9	1	5	6	4	3	8
8	5	4	2	7	3	6	1	9
5	4	2	6	8	9	1	7	3
1	9	7	3	2	4	5	8	6
3	6	8	7	1	5	9	4	2

Epstein committed suicide, rules autopsy

His body was found in a jail cell

REUTERS

NEW YORK

New York City's Chief Medical Examiner determined on Friday that suicide by hanging was the cause of death for financier Jeffrey Epstein, whose body was found six days ago in a Manhattan jail cell while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. The sparsely worded official announcement detailing the autopsy conclusions rebutted a host of conspiracy theories that had circulated on social media about the death of the well-connected former money manager.

Lawyers 'not satisfied'

Epstein's lawyers said they were "not satisfied" with the medical examiner's conclusions and planned to carry out their own investigation, seeking prison videos taken around the time of his death.

Epstein, 66, was found



Jeffrey Epstein. • AP

unresponsive on Saturday in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), triggering investigations into the circumstances of his death.

Chief Medical Examiner Barbara Sampson said her determination of the cause of death came after a "careful review of all investigative information, including complete autopsy findings."

"Cause: Hanging. Manner: Suicide," the statement said, without providing supporting details for Ms. Sampson's findings.

May God ruin Trump: Tlaib's grandmother

Muftia reacts to President's tweet on Congresswoman's rejection of Israeli offer

REUTERS

BEIT UR AL-FAUQA

Sitting under an olive tree in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Muftia Tlaib, 90, scoffs at the attention she has recently received from the President of the United States. "May God ruin him," she says.

Ms. Muftia is the grandmother of U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, at the centre of an episode that has drawn Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu together against U.S. Democrats.

On Thursday, bowing to pressure from Mr. Trump, Israel barred a visit by Rashida Tlaib and fellow Democrat Ilhan Omar that it had initially said it would allow.

The next day, Israel said it would let Ms. Rashida Tlaib visit her family in the West Bank on humanitarian grounds — but she rejected the offer, saying that Israel had imposed restrictions meant to humiliate her. On Friday night, Mr.



Still hopeful: Muftia, the grandmother of U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, outside her house in the village of Beit Ur Al-Fauqa, West Bank, on Friday. • REUTERS

Trump tweeted: "Rep. Tlaib wrote a letter to Israeli officials desperately wanting to visit her grandmother. Permission was quickly granted, whereupon Tlaib obnoxiously turned the approval down, a complete setup. The only real winner here is Tlaib's grandmother. She doesn't have to see her now!"

Ms. Muftia, sitting in her garden in the village of Beit Ur Al-Fauqa, was not impressed. "Trump tells me I

should be happy Rashida is not coming," she said. "May God ruin him."

'Second mother'

Her son, Rashida's uncle Bassam Tlaib, said the women had not seen each other since 2006. "Rashida sees her granny as a second mother, she has always supported her. Rashida says she owes her success to her grandmother," he said.

Ms. Tlaib did not outline what the conditions im-

posed on her visit were. Israeli media reported that she had agreed not to promote boycotts against Israel as part of her request to Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Ms. Tlaib, like Ms. Omar, has voiced support for the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, which opposes the occupation and Israel's policies toward Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. BDS backers can be denied entry to Israel by law.

The pair are the first two Muslim women to be elected to Congress, and Detroit-born Ms. Tlaib is the first Palestinian-American Congresswoman.

"Trump has told Rashida and Ilhan to go back to their home countries. What a contradiction, yesterday he asked them to leave and today he asks that they aren't let in," said Bassam Tlaib.

Still, the grandmother is hopeful: "My heart tells me that she will come," said Ms. Muftia.

U.S. issues warrant to seize Iran tanker

Gibraltar court had ordered its release

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

GIBRALTAR

A last-minute U.S. warrant to seize an Iranian tanker preparing to leave Gibraltar after weeks of detention cast doubt over its departure on Saturday, prolonging a diplomatic spat between Tehran, London and Washington.

The U.S. Justice Department alleged the ship was part of a scheme "to unlawfully access the U.S. financial system to support illicit shipments to Syria from Iran by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps", which Washington has designated a foreign terrorist organisation.

There was no comment from Britain or Gibraltar, its overseas territory, over whether they would act on the warrant.

Gibraltar seized the ship on July 4 on suspicion it was transporting oil to Syria in breach of European sanctions, triggering a sharp deterioration in relations between Tehran and London. Iran has repeatedly denied this. On Thursday, Gibraltar's Supreme Court ordered the tanker released after the British overseas territory said it had received assurances from Iran that the Grace 1 would not head to any country subject to EU sanctions.

South Yemeni separatists quit some Aden posts

But retain camps to control port

REUTERS

ADEN/DUBAI

Southern Yemeni separatists withdrew on Saturday from some government buildings in Aden that they seized last week but held on to military camps that give them control over the southern port, interim seat of Yemen's ousted Saudi-backed government.

The separatists' takeover of Aden has strained a Saudi-led military coalition formed to confront the Iranian-aligned Houthis, who bombed a Saudi oil facility on Saturday.

A Houthi spokesman said 10 drones launched towards oil installations at Shaybah in eastern Saudi Arabia constituted the "biggest attack in the depths" of the kingdom. The state oil company

Saudi Aramco said the attack had caused a "limited fire" at a gas plant which had been contained and had not affected production.

Houthi leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi said events in Aden showed the coalition was in crisis and that Mr. Hadi was powerless. "Those who supported the aggressors... have no authority or freedom, but are subservient to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates," the group's Al Masirah TV quoted him as saying.

He said the strike on Saudi oil assets near the border with the United Arab Emirates was also a warning to the UAE, which has scaled down its military presence in the coalition but continued to fund and arm the southern separatists.

U.S. spares a few Chinese items from tax

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration is sparing some Chinese-made household furniture, baby items and Internet modems and routers from its next round of 10% tariffs.

The U.S. Trade Representative's office released a complete list of the items that were removed from \$300 billion in tariffs scheduled to go into effect on September 1 and December 15, some of which had already been hit with 25% tariffs. The new list of 44 categories of spared imports also includes some chemical compounds used in the manufacture of plastics.

The bulk of the items removed from the tariff list were furniture products, and those made of plastics.

Consumer durables, services segments drag loan growth

Housing loans, however, grow 18.9% year-on-year, marking an exception

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Growth in bank credit moderated during the first quarter of the current financial year following a slowdown in the services sector while loans for consumer durables contracted significantly.

According to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the sector-wise deployment of bank loans, there was a 71.5% year-on-year contraction in the consumer durables category till June 21, compared with the 17.3% growth in the year-ago period.

Consumer loans are under the personal loan category where growth slowed down to 16.6% from 17.9%.

Outstanding bank credit



No more king: Growth in consumer loans slowed down to 16.6% this year till June 21, from 17.9% a year earlier. ■ V. RAJU

to the consumer loan segment fell sharply to ₹5,800 crore from ₹20,300 crore.

Vehicle loans, another segment of retail finance, had also seen a sharp decline in credit growth. According to the data, vehicle loan growth had fallen to 5.1%

from 11.1% recorded a year ago. The RBI had recently reduced the risk weight on products like personal loans to encourage banks to lend to these segments. Lower risk weight would mean banks have to set aside lesser capital while extending

these loans. Loans against shares and bonds also contracted with year-on-year growth at a negative 5.4% compared with 8.3% a year ago.

Loan growth to the services sector slowed to 13% year-on-year from 23.3% from a year ago. After recording 13.2% year-on-year growth in 2018-19, bank credit moderated to 12.2% year-on-year till August 2.

One marked exception is in home loans, which is still holding steady. Housing loans have grown 18.9% year-on-year on top of the 15.8% growth a year ago.

While there is a demand slowdown, RBI has cut interest rates by 110 basis points in 2019 to boost loan growth.

Ujjivan to raise ₹1,200 cr. via public offer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB) has filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India for an initial public offer to raise ₹1,200 crore.

According to the DRHP, the lender may consider a pre-issue placement up to ₹300 crore.

If the pre-IPO placement is undertaken, the amount raised from the issue, subject to the minimum issue size constituting at least 10% of the post-issue paid-up equity share capital of Ujjivan SFB.

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, IIFL Securities Limited and JM Financial Limited are the book running lead managers for the issue.



The exercise is aimed at creating a road map for the future of the bank, says ED P. Ramana Murthy.

Central Bank holds consultative meet

Move follows FM's exhortation

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Central Bank of India is holding a two-day bottom-level consultative meet across 4,665 of its branches in the country in response to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent call for introspection and action among PSU banks.

Executive director P. Ramana Murthy said the takeaways from this exercise would be discussed and debated at a State-level interaction scheduled between August 22 and August 23, and the final outcome would be presented to the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister.

"There is a visible slowdown in the economy. Segments such as automotive and real estate are already not doing well. The government feels that people at branch level can do better in terms of lending to priority sectors such as agriculture, MSME, education, retail and infrastructure. Banks play a crucial role in creating buoyancy in the market and thereby boosting economic growth," he said.

The key performance indicators identified by the bank include: push for digitalisation, its exposures to

MSME, Mudra loan scheme, education, agriculture and other priority sectors, NPA management, alignment with local priorities, corporate governance and financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs.

"We have achieved all targets and sub-targets for the priority sector and we are also at a vantage position with 65% of our branches being in the rural markets."

16 key parameters

Five-year data, gathered from each branch of the bank, will be analysed and studied based on 16 key performance parameters identified by the bank.

"We are doing a peer to peer, intra- and inter-bank performance comparison study to gauge what makes a branch tick or why it does not grow, as also to identify additional revenue streams for branches. The exercise is aimed at creating a road map for the future of the bank, in line with national priorities of accelerated economic growth," he added. After posting losses for 14 straight quarters, the lender has reported a net profit of ₹118 crore in Q1 of FY20, versus a net loss of ₹1,522 crore a year earlier.

RIL's restructuring, stake sale intent points to succession plan

One of India's largest conglomerates may become a holding firm with three large subsidiaries, oil to chemicals, retail and Jio

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries (RIL) chairman Mukesh Ambani decision to carve out oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business into a separate entity and induct strategic partners for consumer-facing businesses of retail and telecommunications before listing is seen a precursor of RIL's long-term succession plans.

During the company's annual general meeting (AGM), a shareholder asked RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani to make throw light on succession planning at the conglomerate.

"This is in regard to succession planning. From Akash, Isha and Anant, who

will be leading which business? How is the succession going to take place?" asked the shareholder.

However, Mr. Ambani did not give a direct reply. He said, "I deeply appreciate the suggestions given by shareholders. Any individual query or specifics will be answered by our company secretary."

"We take every suggestion very seriously. Some of the best suggestions come from all of you. The board has noted your expectations and we will try to meet your expectations."

Mr. Ambani (62) knows well the pitfalls of not having a clear succession plan and hence, has already started



Family silver: Interestingly Mr. Ambani did not give a direct reply to a shareholder's query on succession. ■ VIJAY BATE

taking baby steps towards succession planning.

"I don't think [Mr.] Mukesh Ambani will commit the same mistake his father Dhi-

rubhai did. The carving out of three big businesses hints at a possible succession plan in the making, given that he has three children," said a

We have to wait and watch to see who gets what

SANJIV BHASIN
Executive VP, IIFL Securities

Mumbai-based analyst.

In fact, Mr. Ambani may have started thinking of succession planning in 2014 itself, when his son Akash and daughter Isha joined the boards of Reliance Jio and Reliance Retail as directors.

Size does matter

Since then, both Reliance Retail and Reliance Jio had grown to become India's largest retailer and largest telecom company, respectively. Both Akash and Isha are very hands-on when it comes to

retail and telecom, sources said.

"They also address shareholders every year and introduce new products and services. There is no doubt that they are going to take hold of the reins of the companies in the coming years," said an RIL shareholder.

"I still think Mr. Ambani has a long way to go. He is imaginative and far-sighted. It's very wise on his part that he is trying to place all three [in the business] given that there has been a problem historically."

"[However] we have to wait and watch to see who gets what," Sanjiv Bhasin, executive vice-president, IIFL Securities, told *The Hindu*.

'Coffee Day debt to drop to ₹1,000 cr.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The debt position of the Coffee Day Group post repayment of debt out of proceeds from the sale of Global Village to private equity major Blackstone is expected to come down to ₹1,000 crore in the next 45 days, Coffee Day Enterprises (CDEL) said in a regulatory filing.

This would exclude the debt on the books of its logistics arm Sical and Mag-nasoft. It added that its debt as on July 31, 2019 was ₹4,970 crore.

The company expects to have a 'comfortable position' to 'service the reduced debt obligations. Sical has been working on divestment of certain assets. The proceeds from the divestment is expected to significantly reduce the debt in Sical, it added.

Elaborating, the company said it had decided to divest Global Village, held by its subsidiary Tanglin Developments Ltd., for an aggregate consideration of ₹2,600 to ₹3,000 crore. On receipt of the consideration, after payment of required statutory payments, the debt position of Coffee Day Group will reduce around by ₹2,400 crore.

As per the stock market declaration, the debt position of its subsidiaries are: Tanglin Developments, ₹1,622 crore, Coffee Day Global ₹1,097 crore, Sical Logistics ₹1,488 crore, Coffee Day Enterprises ₹480 crore and Way2Wealth Securities ₹121 crore.

Coffee Day Enterprises will announce its first quarter results for the current fiscal after the completion of scrutiny of its accounts and financials by recently appointed consulting firm, EY. The letter written by Mr. Siddhartha will remain 'purported' until the forensic study on it is completed to verify veracity, said a top executive in the company.

INTERVIEW | RAHIL ANSARI

'Credit crunch situation must change'

You need to reduce tax to make us invest more in products, says Audi India head

LALATENDU MISHRA

German luxury automobile maker Audi is facing an uphill task in India with reduced sales volume. **Rahil Ansari, head, Audi India, discusses various issues and how petrol and electric cars will be the future. Excerpts:**

What has gone wrong with Audi India? You were number one once and now, gone to number three among luxury carmakers.

■ Nothing has gone wrong. When we came to this market, we were the last one to come. From number three, we went to number two and then to number one. Then, we went to number two and now, we are back to number three.

The luxury segment is very product life-cyclic business and more the products you launch, the more cars you sell. We had a couple of firsts in getting to number one, which was namely the A3 and the Q3 volume models.

If you look at past years, we didn't have as many launches as all of our competitors, which is one of the reasons why you don't sell the volumes that you were selling earlier.

Last year, we had an unforeseen closure in the NCR which was one of our largest dealerships and then, the change from the emission life cycle in Europe and the WLTP which led to our coming out with some of the other models a little later than expected.

I do still believe that the volume segment, overall, is not doing as great as it could be in India. The cake is not really getting bigger, which is mainly on account of credit crunch and it's on account of taxes. The taxes are very high, it's not really favourable.

So, it will go both ways. Now, when it

comes to the products, of course, it's the year of the 8s. We will launch the A8, the Q8, the R8, this will all come in the second half of the year, most likely [by the] end of quarter three, beginning of quarter four.

We are working on a few more models for this year.

We don't have the final confirmation yet, so unfortunately, I cannot disclose anything at this stage but there may be one or the other model this year. For sure, there is something more planned for next year.

You sold 6,463 units in 2018; was this a conscious decision to sell less?

■ It was not a conscious decision. There are things like product life cycle. But I do believe that being too aggressive doesn't make sense, because if you look at the entire product portfolio, we have a lot of products. But for the size of 40,000 units (market in India), it doesn't do justice to have a much larger product portfolio.



When will you manufacture electric cars

So, yes we need more models. And, we will come up with models which will have higher volume impact. I do believe that in order to launch more cars and a much larger model variety, you need to have crucial changes in the entire tax system.

The cake is not really getting bigger, which is mainly due to credit crunch and on account of taxes

Are you BS VI ready?
■ We will be ready on the first of April 2020.

When will Audi roll out its first electric car in India?
■ We have done a lot of development on this.

Our employees are fully trained on high voltage batteries and we have certified technicians from Audi India. We are ready with our concepts to roll out the E-tron. I hope the E-tron will come out by 2020.

But we are trying to make it a little earlier. It is a fantastic car, I do believe that electric mobility is the right step.

I do think that electric vehicles will do well in India and of course, the question is how the government is going to push the infrastructure roll-out.

While there have been developments in a positive manner with GST implementation with lower taxes for electric vehicles, and some pilots running on infrastructure, of course, [they] have to be further pushed.

We are hopeful that once this is done, we can also bring out the car.

ChPT to create common-user empty container yard

Port to address export-import container traffic disparity

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Chennai Port Trust (ChPT) will create a common-user empty container yard to address the disparity between import and export container traffic in the region.

ChPT receives more import containers than export containers. As a result, a large number of empty containers are generated after import cargo is destuffed, said P. Raveendran, chairman, Chennai Port Trust.

Therefore, there was a need for the container operator to reposition the containers for other ports of the region.

This issue would be addressed by the creation of a common-user empty container yard, which would re-



To boost auto exports, the port had developed 11.32 hectares of concrete yard.

ceive and stack empty containers within the port area at a minimum cost to the trade, he said.

Container survey

The port also plans to take up container survey, cleaning and minor repairs.

This would help container lines to feed empty containers to the required vessels with minimum delay and cost.

On car exports, he said that from January to July 2019, the port handled 57,462 cars through 15 vessels compared with 39,920 cars through nine vessels in the corresponding period last year.

To encourage automobile exports through Chennai, the port had developed 11.32 hectares of concrete yard.

Besides, the port had also rationalised vessel-based land allotment process.

The security deposit requirement had been reduced to one month against three months in the earlier scheme.

TVS Motor arm invests \$3.2 mn in Predictronics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

TVS Motor Company said its Singapore arm had invested \$3.2 million in the U.S.-based Predictronics Corporation which specialises in providing end-to-end predictive maintenance analytics solutions.

TVS Motor (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. has signed definitive pacts with Predictronics Corporation, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, the company said. CEO of TVS Motor (Singapore) Rajesh Narasimhan said: "We are happy to invest in and strategically partner with Predictronics as they continue to deliver business improvements for Fortune 500 companies while leveraging them for our businesses."

Sun Pharma arm signs pact with China's CMS

Grants partner licence to sell 7 drugs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. has granted an exclusive licence to a subsidiary of China Medical System Holdings Ltd. (CMS) to develop and commercialise seven generic products in mainland China.

The collaboration with CMS now covers eight generic products including the seven products referred above. The total addressable market size for all these eight products is about \$1 billion in mainland China.

The initial term of the agreement shall be 20 years from the first commercial sale of the respective products in Mainland China and may be extended for three years as per mutual agreement of the two par-



Dilip Shanghvi

ties. "This collaboration gives us entry into the Chinese generic pharmaceutical market. We see lot of potential in China for both our generics and specialty portfolio. With more than 65% generics penetration, China represents a significant opportunity for generic pharmaceutical companies," said Dilip Shanghvi, MD, Sun Pharma.



A crisis of legitimacy

Is P.S. Goyal eligible to hold office as Chief Minister of Sikkim?

K. VENKATARAMANAN

The story so far: The Supreme Court is hearing a writ petition challenging the appointment of P.S. Goyal alias Prem Singh Tamang as Chief Minister of Sikkim. The matter last came up on July 30 and was adjourned for three weeks. The crux of the issue is that the 51-year-old leader of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) could not have been appointed Chief Minister, as he is under a subsisting disqualification. Mr. Goyal did not contest the Assembly election held this year, as he is barred from electoral contests after being convicted for corruption in 2016. He completed his prison term only in August 2018. The petitioner, Bimal Dawari Sharma of the Sikkim Democratic Front party, argues that in view of his disqualification from elections for six years from the date of release, Mr. Goyal could not have been appointed Chief Minister.

What was the case against Mr. Goyal?

It goes back to his tenure as Minister for Animal Husbandry in 1996. He was held guilty under the Prevention of Corruption Act of misappropriating ₹9.50 lakh, in the purchase of milch cows for distribution. He was sentenced to a one-year prison term. After his conviction was upheld by the Sikkim High Court, he served out a one-year sentence in prison. He was released on August 10, 2018.

What does his conviction for corruption entail?

A person convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act is not eligible to contest an election for six years from the date of release. This is under Section 8(1)(m) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. As Mr. Goyal's sentence came to an end in August 2018, he is barred from contesting polls until 2024.

Was he eligible to be appointed Chief Minister?

Going by the law laid down by the Supreme Court in *B.R. Kapoor vs State Of Tamil Nadu* (2001), Mr. Goyal could not have been appointed Chief Minister. This was the judgment that unseated Jayalithaa after she was controversially appointed to the office by the Governor. Jayalithaa's nomination papers in four constituencies had been rejected then, with three returning officers citing her disqualification arising from conviction for corruption. In Mr. Goyal's case, he chose not to contest the election. Both of them were elected leaders of their respective legislature parties, which won the elections.

What was the principle behind the court's ruling?

Jayalithaa's lawyers had argued that qualification to be a legislator was not a prescribed eligibility norm for appointment as Chief Minister. The Governor was bound to appoint the person elected by the party that enjoyed majority in the House, and that for at least six months, a non-member could continue until the question of being eligible to contest an election arises. The Supreme Court had rejected this argument. "That non-legislator must be one who, when he is appointed, is not debarred from obtaining membership of the legislature: he must be one who is qualified to stand for the legislature and is not disqualified to do so."

The Sikkim Chief Minister has approached the Election Commission of India for a waiver. Section 11 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 says the Election Commission is empowered to remove any disqualification or reduce its duration

How does the party, the SKM, view this legal bar? The Sikkim party, the SKM, has come up with an unusual argument in support of his appointment as Chief Minister. It has claimed that the RP (Amendment) Act, 2002, under which the clause related to disqualification for conviction under the Prevention of Corruption Act was introduced, had been 'repealed' by the Repealing and Amending Act, 2015.

It seems unlikely that this argument will be accepted. Even though the Repealing and Amending Act mentions the 2002 Amendment Act as one of the laws that are being repealed, it is quite obvious that it was only being done to get rid of redundant laws from the statute book. The relevant clause in the repealing Act is clear that provisions that were incorporated through the amendment and have become part of the parent law will continue to be in force.

The 'savings' clause says: "The repeal by this Act of any enactment shall not affect any Act in which such enactment has been applied, incorporated or referred to." In other words, the clause relating to disqualification for a corruption conviction is now part of the RPA, 1951, and the 2002 amending law was repealed only because it was no more needed.

Does Mr. Goyal have any other option?

The Sikkim Chief Minister has approached the Election Commission of India (ECI) for a waiver of the remaining period of his disqualification. Section 11 of the RPA says the ECI is empowered to remove any disqualification or reduce its duration for "reasons to be recorded".

Why is the auto industry facing trouble?

The automobile sector is in the news as it is experiencing prolonged negative growth. What are the reasons? Why are jobs being lost? And how can the government help?

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

The story so far: In July, the sale of vehicles across categories in the country slumped 18.71% to about 18.25 lakh units, down from about 22.45 lakh units, a year ago in the same month. This has been the steepest fall in nearly 19 years. This data, by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), gives out wholesale figures – i.e. the number of vehicles despatched to dealers by vehicle manufacturers. The passenger vehicle segment, which comprises cars, utility vehicles and vans, has been one of the worst performing segments, registering its highest drop in sales since December 2000: almost 31%, to a little over two lakh units from nearly 2.91 lakh units in July 2018. This was also the ninth straight drop in monthly passenger vehicle sales. In fact, barring a low single digit uptick in October 2018, segment sales have been falling for the past year. With the industry failing to arrest the downturn that started almost a year ago, despite deep discounts and new model launches, it has been forced to undertake production cuts. This has also led to the trimming of over 2.15 lakh jobs in the sector.

What has happened to the automobile sector?

The industry started off 2018-19 on a good note with vehicle sales across categories growing 18% to nearly 70 lakh units in the first quarter (April-June 2018). During the quarter, passenger vehicle sales were up nearly 20%, commercial vehicles sales were up 51.55%, and that of two-wheelers grew 16%.

However, domestic passenger vehicle sales declined for the first time after nine months in July 2018. In July 2017, vehicle sales spiked due to the benefits extended by the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). However, demand failed to pick up in August and September, after the floods in Kerala and heavy rainfall in several other States.

Why did inventory pile up?

In the ensuing months, consumer sentiment remained subdued as the total cost of vehicle ownership went up largely due to an increase in fuel prices, higher interest rates and a hike in vehicle insurance costs. In such an environment, the festive season too failed to boost demand, leading to a huge inventory pile-up with dealers. To add to this, the IL&FS crisis late last year led to a severe liquidity crunch, almost drying up credit for dealers and customers. Nearly half the vehicles sold in rural markets – a segment that has been witnessing a higher growth rate in comparison to urban markets – are financed by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Being stuck with higher inventory due to a lacklustre festive season, dealers too needed more working capital.

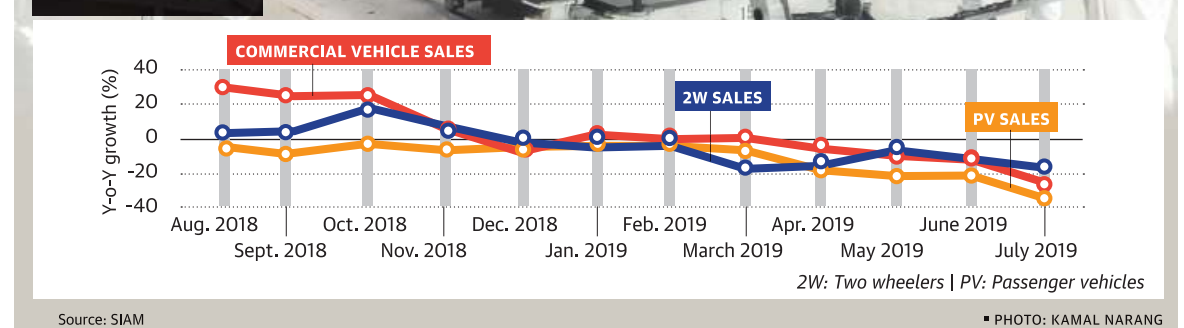
As a result of all these factors, all vehicle categories, including commercial vehicles and two wheelers, began experiencing negative growth beginning December setting alarm bells ringing. The industry found some solace in the fact that historically, vehicle sales decline in the months preceding elections, and expressed the hope that demand following the elections would pick up. However, this did not happen.

Are people holding off on purchases?

There is also a possibility that some customers are

Reverse gear

The slump in India's auto sector continues, with plunging domestic sales of passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and two-wheelers. The chart shows the year-on-year growth rate of vehicles in various segments



Source: SIAM

PHOTO: KAMAL NARANG

waiting to buy the latest Bharat Stage (BS)-VI emission standard compliant vehicles or are waiting for more incentives from vehicle makers who will be looking to sell off their BS-IV compliant stocks before the April 1, 2020 deadline. Many industry players have also expressed concern that too much focus on electric vehicles (EVs) by the government may also be encouraging buyers to postpone the purchase of petrol and diesel vehicles.

How many jobs have been lost?

The automobile sector is one of the largest employers in the country, employing about 37 million people, directly and indirectly. The prolonged demand slowdown has triggered production as well as job cuts in the sector.

According to the latest figures that are available, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have removed about 15,000 temporary workers in the past two to three months. A lack of working capital amid tepid demand has led to closure of nearly 300 dealerships across the country. This has led to over two lakh people losing their jobs, according to the Federation of Automobile

Dealers Associations (FADA), the apex national body of automobile retail industry engaged in the sale, service and spares of two- and three-wheelers, passenger cars, utility vehicles, commercial vehicles (including buses and trucks) and tractors. Separately, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) warned in July that 10 lakh jobs were at risk and urgent action was needed to bring the industry back on track.

Why is the current slowdown different?

Edelweiss Research has pointed out that the current slowdown in the sector is very different from the ones that the industry has gone through earlier. First, the

slowdown is driven by domestic factors, including the NBFC crisis, while the earlier ones were triggered by global events. It also pointed out that over FY19-21, vehicle prices are estimated to jump 13-30% due to safety, insurance and emission-related compliance costs. For end consumers, such a steep price hike can prove a hurdle in growth recovery. Meanwhile, growing competition from the pre-owned cars market is also pulling down sales of new vehicles. For example, in the passenger vehicles segment, while the new vehicles market grew 2% in FY19, the pre-owned market saw double-digit growth.

What does the auto industry want?

The auto industry has been unable to arrest plunging sales in spite of new launches and offers and has been demanding immediate government intervention. Pointing out that the industry's turnover is close to half of the manufacturing GDP, accounting for about 11% of the entire GST revenues of the country, the auto sector is hoping that the government will come out with a revival package ahead of the festive season to yield benefits.

The industry's demands include a reduction in GST to 18% from the current rate of 28%, which will help in an immediate price reduction. It could kick-start demand in the short term, particularly ahead of the coming festive season. Besides, it has sought measures to handle the NBFC crisis to infuse liquidity into the system, and clarity on policy for electric vehicles and introduction of vehicle scrappage policy, which will also boost demand for new vehicles. These demands were also placed before the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, during a recent meeting.

How long will the slowdown last?

That is anyone's guess. With BS-VI variants to be rolled out April 2020 onward, the prices of vehicles will go up. While the increase for petrol vehicles is likely to be in the range of ₹20,000-₹50,000, in the case of diesel vehicles it could well be between ₹1 lakh and ₹1.5 lakh. The transition could also trigger some demand for BS-IV compliant vehicles in the remaining part of the year, given the price difference.

What is the UN's stand on Kashmir?

What are UN Security Council members urging India and Pakistan to do to resolve the issue?

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

The story so far: On Friday, August 16, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) held a "closed consultation" meeting on the situation in Kashmir. On August 5, India had ended the special status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 and Article 35A, carving it into two Union Territories: J&K and Ladakh. The Valley was put on lockdown, and mainstream political leaders were taken into custody. Both India and Pakistan were kept out of the UNSC meeting on Friday. The last time "The India-Pakistan Question" was taken up by the UNSC was in December 1971 when India and Pakistan fought a war leading to the creation of Bangladesh. It had been discussed during the 1965 war too when Indian and Pakistani forces clashed in Kashmir and the western borders. After the abrogation of Article 370 last Monday, Pakistan wrote to the UNSC. China, a permanent member of the UNSC, and an ally of Pakistan, sought a meeting of the UNSC to discuss the developments in Kashmir.

What did the UNSC discussion throw up?

The UNSC has not yet put out a statement, but after the meeting India insisted that issues around Article 370 and special status to J&K were an internal matter. The Indian Ambassador to the UN, Syed Akbaruddin, accused Pakistan and China of attempting to impart greater significance to the meeting than was warranted. One question that has been raised is about the situation in the Kashmir Valley now. Is the ground reality in the formerly undivided princely State of J&K similar to that of the late 1940s when key UN resolutions, including the UNSC Resolution 47 recommending plebiscite, were passed?

When did the UNSC first discuss J&K?

The Kashmir issue at the UN debuted on January 1, 1948 as India urged the UNSC to discuss the conflict that had erupted three months earlier when Pakistan sent irregulars, tribals and camouflaged soldiers into Kashmir prompting the Maharaja of the princely Indian State to accede to India. The submission of India detailing the violence unleashed by the irregulars on the local population and infrastructure became the foundation upon which the "Jammu and Kashmir Question" was created at the UNSC. The title was changed on January 22, 1948 to "The India-Pakistan Question". From its origin till 1971, the topic featured prominently at the UNSC especially when both countries clashed.

Under Resolution 39 on January 20, 1948, the UNSC set up a three-member UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP). Disagreement between India and Pakistan led to the first failure as the commission failed to materialise. The commission was finally reconstituted with five members on April 21, 1948 and it was mandated to plan a mechanism to ensure a plebiscite in the State. (This was part of the UNSC Resolution 47). The UNSC



THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

Resolution 47 passed on this date urged India and Pakistan to hold a plebiscite after restoration of law and order. The UNCIP passed a resolution on January 5, 1949 that provided the mechanism for holding a "free and impartial plebiscite" in Kashmir.

At this juncture Pakistan managed to get an upper hand as the UNSC, under the influence of the United Kingdom, agreed to a ceasefire proposal without first ensuring Pakistan's withdrawal from the area that it had gained during the early tribal raid in Kashmir. This allowed Pakistan to hold on to territory that would ultimately contribute to undermining the terms of the plebiscite itself.

Why did the plebiscite plan fall through?

The 1947-48 India-Pakistan war ended in a ceasefire but the Kashmir solution remained elusive. A key condition for the plebiscite was withdrawal of Pakistan from the areas under its control and India withdrawing individuals who were not residents of the State. However, neither of this happened. Instead both sides firmed up their presence in the areas under their control. India took the Kashmir issue to the UN for "prompt and effective action" but as pointed out by scholars, the big powers ensured that the issue lingered on and became a part of the global concern on conflicts.

What is the relevance of the Simla Agreement to the Kashmir issue?

Under the Simla Agreement of July 2, 1972, India gained Pakistan's commitment that the Kashmir conflict would be resolved bilaterally. Pakistan, however, kept the issue alive by hosting the Islamic Summit of 1974 where Pakistan began courting the Islamic world for its major foreign policy goals. After the Simla Agreement, Pakistan

proceeded to further entrench territorial status quo as Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on November 7, 1973 ruled out an independent status for Azad Kashmir.

The Northern Areas and Azad Kashmir were territories of the princely Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir that were awaiting plebiscite but the case for "accession" ruined the chance of Pakistan acting in accordance with the conditions of plebiscite, writes Aman M. Hingorani in *Unravelling the Kashmir Knot*. Under these circumstances, Kashmir as a legal problem appears far more daunting than

Kashmir as a political problem that can be addressed by two powers of South Asia.

What have the members of the UNSC said?

Several of them have urged India and Pakistan to resolve the issue bilaterally – as India too has argued. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had gone to the UN with China's support but the heightened military tension on the Line of Control and the ground situation on both sides show that the conditions in which the UNSC had passed its early resolutions on Kashmir do not exist any longer. Discussing the issue under UN auspices will be difficult for several reasons. First, the two parties (India and Pakistan) have continued the process of assimilation of territories under respective control into their union of states. Second, both sides had agreed to deal with it bilaterally.

CAPSULE



Gravity stretches light
General relativity, unlike Newtonian theory of gravity, predicts that when light passes close to a strong gravitational field it will undergo a shift towards longer wavelengths. This gravitational red-shift was observed when the star SO-2 passed close to Sagittarius A*, the massive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way. This is a reinforcement of the general theory of relativity.



Combating fossil fuels
Scientists from Rutgers University have figured out how diatoms, small algae that produce 20% of the world's oxygen, harness solar energy. The discovery could lead to the development of algae-based biofuels and relief from fossil fuels. The algae store energy in the form of oils. Further understanding this process can release a lot of this oil which can be used as biofuel to drive vehicles.



Diamond trail
An article in *Science* studies helium isotopes in diamonds that were formed deep within the Earth but were thrown out in eruptions, avoiding near-surface contamination. Helium isotopes, which hold clues about the oldest parts of the earth, are not easy to find. The researchers have found evidence for deep primordial rock source mixing with sediments of subducting plates.



Brighter than the Sun
When seen in the light of gamma rays, the Moon would appear brighter than the Sun, as imaged by NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope. Gamma rays are a part of the electromagnetic spectrum having short wavelengths and are highly energetic. Fermi's Large Area Telescope detects gamma rays from Moon, which appears blurred with a prominent glow at its centre.

Brain-computer interface enhanced for active rehabilitation of stroke patients

A trained neural network was used to develop a system that could effectively benefit stroke patients

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

The use of cybernetics to carry out rehabilitation therapies for stroke patients is a fast-developing field of research. Within this, the brain-computer interface is an important area being studied. IIT Palakkad researchers have found a way to improve the functioning of the brain-computer interface when used by stroke patients.

Stroke patients who suffer from paralysis of limbs now have a different route to follow as far as rehabilitation therapy and eventual recovery of use of their limbs are concerned. This is by using a brain-computer interface. The interface provides a two-way communication between a person's brain and an external device, such as an electroencephalograph.

Optimisation problem
This is effected by electrodes placed on the person's head close to specific brain regions. Communication certainly improves as the number of channels - electrodes attached to the brain region - is increased. But the downside is that increasing the channels makes computation more complex, increases preparation time and is inconvenient for the person. Thus, it would be preferable if there



Fewer channels: We achieved improved motor imagery classification accuracy when the data dimension was almost reduced to half compared to the state-of-art method, says Vinod Prasad (second from right).

was a way to filter out and retain only the most useful and informative channels. Thus, there is an optimisation problem at hand.

New method
The IIT Palakkad researchers have used a trained neural network, with inputs from neuroscience, to develop a new channel-selection method that makes the process more efficient and effective. The research is to be presented at the 2019 IEEE International Conference On Systems Man, and Cybernetics, to be held in October in Italy.

In the experiment, the subject sits on a chair and imagines clenching his or her right or left hand in accordance with a cue that is flashed on a screen. Then he or she is given a cue to imagine relaxing his or her hand. Electrodes placed on the person's head near the appropriate brain area convey this to an electroencephalograph (EEG), which decodes their thought. Each of the 10 persons was asked to respond to 100 random cues to imagine clenching either left or right hand and the signal was observed. Close to 75% accuracy

was observed in the way the participants classified the cues. "We achieved improved motor imagery classification accuracy when the dimension of the data was almost reduced by half compared to the state-of-art method. The average classification accuracy obtained for 10 subjects is 74.3 with only 13 encoded channels (reduced from the initial 32 channels)," says A. Vinod Prasad, who led the study, in an email to *The Hindu*. The group has developed an artificial neural network that actually makes this system work, by selecting the

most informative channels and omitting the unnecessary ones. "There are two major research challenges in motor imagery classification. The first challenge is the variability of brain signal features between different individuals," says Prof Vinod Prasad. "The second is the variation of signal features of an individual person over a period of time. Robust signal processing algorithms and machine learning techniques are needed to address these two challenges. We contributed in this direction," he adds.

Uses in therapy
At present, stroke patients undergo a passive rehabilitation therapy - the patient plays a passive role while the physiotherapist actively helps by moving the patient's paralysed limb. Development of the motor imagery brain-computer interface can help develop an active rehabilitation therapy where the patient can move his limb according to his own movement intention (motor imagery). "Stroke recovery significantly enhances with such an active rehabilitation based on motor imagery because it assists in building new neuronal interconnections that take over the functionality of affected brain regions [brain plasticity]," says Prof. Vinod Prasad.



Source of hope: Pretomanid is only the third anti-TB drug approved for use by the FDA in more than 40 years. *AP

Why the new TB drug shows promise

R. PRASAD

Treating drug-resistant tuberculosis - multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) - got a shot in the arm on August 14 when the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new drug Pretomanid. Pretomanid is only the third anti-TB drug approved for use by the FDA in more than 40 years.

The drug was developed and tested in clinical trials by the New York-based non-profit organisation TB Alliance. TB Alliance has granted a licence to Pennsylvania-based Mylan to manufacture and commercialise the drug.

Pretomanid drug is expected to become available in the U.S. by the end of this year.

What makes the new drug so promising?

The duration of treatment for drug-resistant TB can be drastically cut from 18-24 months to just six months when pretomanid drug is used along with two already approved drugs - bedaquiline and linezolid. The all-oral, three-drug regimen achieved nearly 91% treatment success rate and so can potentially reduce the number of deaths due to better adherence to treatment.

According to the WHO, the treatment success in MDR-TB patients is about 54%, while it is just 30% in the case of XDR-TB patients. Most drugs are ineffective in people with XDR-TB, and so a combination of eight drugs for more than a year is need for XDR-TB treatment.

Drugs used for treating MDR-TB and XDR-TB can cause serious adverse effects such as deafness. The drugs are highly toxic thus reducing adherence to treatment.

How widespread is MDR-TB and XDR-TB?

People with TB who do not respond to at least isoniazid and rifampicin, which are first-line TB drugs, are said to have MDR-TB. People who are resistant to isoniazid and rifampin, plus any fluoroquinolone and at least one of three injectable second-line drugs (amikacin, kanamycin or capreomycin) are said to have XDR-TB.

As per the World Health Organisation's Global Tuberculosis Report 2018, an estimated 4.5 lakh people across the world have MDR-TB and nearly 37,500 people have XDR-TB. India has 24% of MDR-TB cases in the world. By the end of 2017, XDR-TB had been reported from 127 countries, including India.

Which category of drug-resistant TB patients will benefit from this new drug?

Pretomanid drug along with bedaquiline and linezolid is meant for treating adults with XDR-TB. In the case of MDR-TB, the three-drug regimen containing pretomanid can be used only in those patients who cannot tolerate the MDR-TB treatment or do not respond to standard MDR-TB treatment regimen.

The three-drug regimen is meant only for treating pulmonary TB and should not be used for treating extra-pulmonary TB, drug-sensitive or latent TB.

How effective is the drug in treating XDR-TB and MDR-TB?

The three-drug regimen consisting of bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid - collectively referred to as the BPaL regimen - was studied in the pivotal Nix-TB trial across three sites in South Africa. The trial enrolled 109 people with XDR-TB as well as treatment-intolerant or non-responsive MDR-TB.

According to TB Alliance, 95 of the first 107 XDR-TB patients as well as those who are treatment-intolerant or non-responsive MDR-TB were successfully treated with a six-month regimen. There was successful outcome in two other patients when the treatment duration was extended to nine months. The overall treatment success rate was nearly 90%.

How safe is pretomanid for clinical use?

Besides the Nix-TB trial, the safety and efficacy of the drug has been evaluated either alone or as part of the combination therapy in 19 clinical trials conducted in 14 countries involving 1,168 patients.

The FDA has approved the drug based on limited clinical safety and efficacy data, and so the drug should be restricted to specific population of patients. Safety and effectiveness of the drug has been studied and established only when used in combination with bedaquiline and linezolid.

The three-drug combination should not be used in patients for whom bedaquiline and/or linezolid drug is not recommended (contraindicated).

The safety and effectiveness of the drug has not been tested in pregnant women and children.

What are the adverse drug reactions caused by the drug?

In the Nix-trial, the three-drug regimen was reported to have caused serious adverse reactions including liver toxicity (hepatotoxicity), suppression of bone marrow activity leading to reduced production of red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets (myelosuppression), as well as damage to peripheral and optic nerves (neuropathy).

Pretomanid drug was found to cause a reduction in the size of the testes and probably even the function (testicular atrophy).

The drug can cause lactate accumulation in the body leading to sharp reduction in the pH of the blood (lactic acidosis).

Prolongation of the QT interval of ECG (due to changes in the electrical activity of the heart) was reported when the three-drug regimen was used. The QT prolongation can lead to an abnormal and potentially fatal heart rhythm. The QT prolongation is caused by bedaquiline.

Other common adverse reactions seen were peripheral neuropathy, anaemia, indigestion (dyspepsia), lower respiratory tract infection, visual impairment, hypoglycaemia, abnormal loss of weight and diarrhoea, to name a few.

App uses AI to detect banana pest, diseases

An App using this tool can diagnose the disease and give treatment options

ASWATHI PACHA

Identifying diseases and pests on banana crops will now be just a click away. Researchers have developed a new artificial intelligence system (AI) which can look at photographs and tell what disease the plant has and also give recommendations and treatment options to the farmers. The results showed that the model was over 90% accuracy.

Training the network
The neural network was given about 20,000 images showing diseased and healthy plants. "Just like teaching a kid to tell an elephant from a horse, we taught the AI to identify leaf, root, fruit diseases and pests. Pictures from Uganda, Colombia, Congo and India were fed into the system for the training," says Dr. Sivalingam Elayabalan from the Department of Biotechnology, Imayam Institute of Agriculture and Technology (IIAT), Trichy, Tamil Nadu. He is one of the authors of the study published in *Plant Methods*.

The tool is now incorporated into an App called Tumaini, meaning



Versatile: The App can detect symptoms on any part of the crop and is trained to read even images of lower quality. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

hope in Swahili, and being tested.

Expansion of scope

The team is planning to add more diseases based on regions and also make the App available in local languages. "When users take the photo, it gets uploaded to a global sys-

tem for large-scale monitoring. Also, it is automatically GPS-tagged so we know what and where the problem is. We are also planning to incorporate high-resolution satellite monitoring to check the health of large fields," explains Dr. Michael Gomez Selvaraj, from the International Cen-

ter for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Colombia in an email to *The Hindu*. Dr. Selvaraj is the senior author of the paper. The App can detect symptoms on any part of the crop, and is even trained to read images of lower quality.

Major Indian diseases

The app is now being tested across many countries and when the confidence of 100% is reached it will be available for free download. "Yellow leaf spot and Fusarium wilt are the major fungal diseases in India and farmers spend a lot of money on fungicides. Apart from the fungal disease, the viral disease such as Banana Bunchy top virus is a big problem in hilly areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Northeast region. The App can tell the farmers in advance bringing down the treatment costs," says Dr. Elayabalan. "We are now testing the App in Tamil, and it will soon be available in Hindi and Malayalam. The National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have shown interest in the App."

NII unravels how diet restriction delays ageing, increases lifespan

Worms exposed to moderate stress early in life are able to handle chronic stress that comes with ageing

R. PRASAD

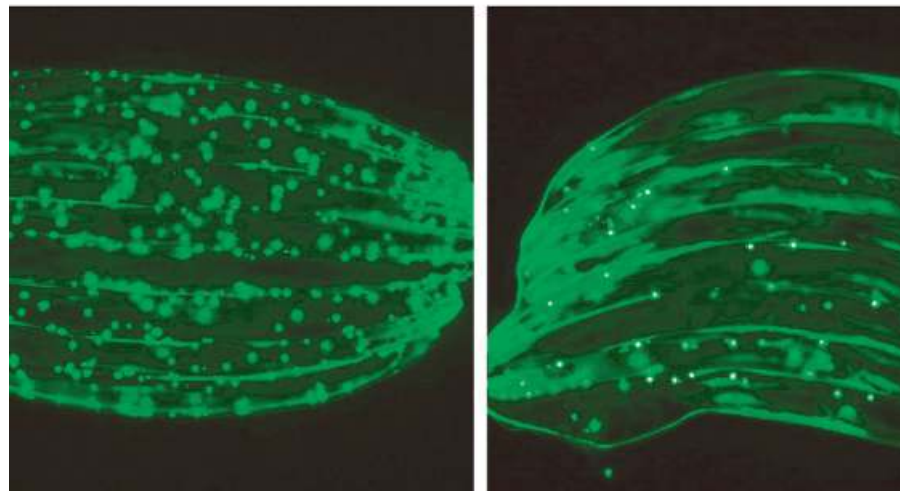
The role of dietary restriction in delaying ageing and increasing longevity across organisms starting from worms to primates is well known. Now, a multi-institutional team from India has unravelled one of the mechanisms by which worms (*C. elegans*) exposed to an early-life moderate stress in the form of dietary restriction are able to handle chronic stress that comes with ageing.

Role of stress
The team led by Dr. Arnab Mukhopadhyay from the National Institute of Immunology (NII), Delhi also showed that certain organelles in the cells (endoplasmic reticulum) if stressed early through diet restriction can do its job more efficiently later in life thus delaying ageing and increasing longevity. Moderate stress early in life essentially primes the endoplasmic reticulum to cope with age-related stress later in life. It also delays the onset of age-related diseases such as Huntington's and Alzheimer's.

In lieu of diet restriction, the researchers used a small molecule early in life in small doses for 24 hours to produce the same kind of stress in *C. elegans*. They were able to delay ageing and increase longevity.

Protein folding

The endoplasmic reticulum is responsible for much of the cellular protein-folding requirements and destruction of terminally



Early priming: The worms subjected to diet restriction early in life showed 30-40% increased longevity compared with controls. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

misfolded proteins. Normally, the ability of the endoplasmic reticulum to fold proteins and destroy misfolded proteins gets compromised with ageing. "The priming helps in delaying the deterioration of endoplasmic reticulum in folding the proteins," says Dr. Latika Matai from NII and co-first author of a paper published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*.

"The worms subjected to diet restriction early in life showed 30-40% increased longevity compared with *C. elegans* that were not diet restricted," says Dr. Mukhopadhyay.

"We can bypass diet restriction to induce stress by using a small molecule." A small dose of the molecule, which is a form of glucose that cannot be used by the cells, given for 24 hours early in life was found to prime the endoplasmic reticulum and improve the protein-folding capacity and degradation of aggregated proteins in adults.

Endoplasmic reticulum requires glucose for folding proteins optimally. So, when the small molecule is used, the glucose availability is restricted and the organelle is stressed by the load of misfolded proteins. The de-

fence mechanism to combat stress gets up-regulated and tries to fold the proteins correctly or degrade them.

The priming helps the endoplasmic reticulum to handle stress as the worm ages. "We observed about 20% increase in worm lifespan when the small molecule was only used," says Dr. Matai.

"By using the small molecule, we were able to mimic the stress in mouse cell lines. We then induced the cells to produce protein aggregates and we could see the cells suppressing and degrading the aggregates better than the controls. As a result, the cells survived better," says Dr. Mukhopadhyay.

Delaying disease onset

Besides delaying ageing and increasing the lifespan, priming the endoplasmic reticulum with small stress helps delay certain age-onset diseases such as Huntington's and Alzheimer's.

With ageing, the protein folding mechanism generally gets impaired and so protein tends to get misfolded and aggregates tend to form. Protein aggregates cause Huntington's and Alzheimer's. "In *C. elegans* subjected to stress, we could observe a delay in protein aggregation as well as a reduction in aggregate numbers. The delay in aggregation was more prominent (50%) than what was seen in the controls," says Dr. Matai.

It is now important to test it on mouse models for Huntington's and Alzheimer's," says Dr. Mukhopadhyay.

The sins of the fathers

VEER RAJ VEER

On August 16 last year, a friend visited me in Delhi. He was touring the national capital for the first time and was excited. "Let us go to India Gate and Jantar Mantar. Delhi has got a vibe," he ended with a millennial phrase.

We both belong to a generation that had grown up obsessively patriotic watching films such as *Border* and *Rang De Basanti*. Singing the national anthem was routine in the school assembly every day, and we stood with our heads held high. Independence Day and Republic Day parades instilled in us patriotism, so much so that we longed to grow up and be of use to the nation.

But in the rat race to get into a good course and college, we became ignorant of the happenings in the country. When we became eligible for voting, we had no idea what the political scenario was and who to vote for. Nor did we feel the responsibility that came with the right to vote, for which millions had fought for hundreds of years. Our ignorance of the political scene did not, however, stop us from voting.

Two years later, I was fortunate enough to realise the mistake and feel the responsibility bestowed on us by the right to vote when I stumbled upon Orwell's *1984* in a book store. I read it in a day. A part of me died that day, and a new seed of consciousness was sown. It was like coming

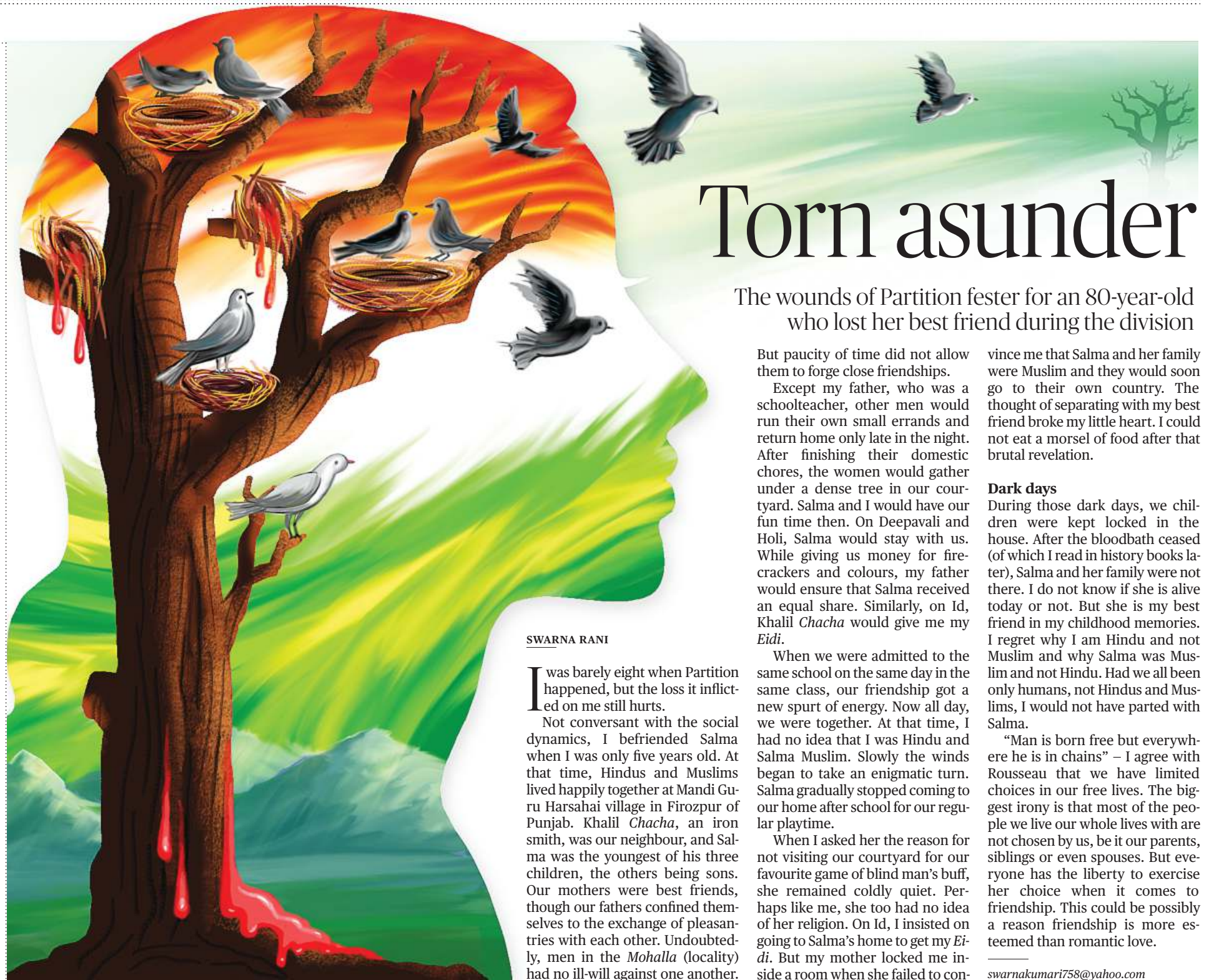
out of a veil of darkness.

I gave the book to my friend. After he read it, we discussed the nexus between religion and politics, what constitutes a "nation", growing polarity between majority and minority communities, and the saffron-and-green-themed debates on television news channels. We were two young men trying to clear the vagueness now that we were out of the darkness. "We will have to read more and articulate better," was the conclusion reached by midnight. Read more and articulate better!

We slept, dreaming of driving on the Raj Path and saluting the India Gate as DJ (Aamir Khan) and friends did in *Rang De Basanti*. The next day, we went to the India Gate and saw the government buildings around. The sky was cloudy all day, and while roaming on the streets, our conversation still maintained the patriotic-political character. "Religion in politics is a problem that our fathers gave us. If we give it to our sons, it will be our fault," my friend's comment had stayed with me ever since.

One might think that dreams are not what politics is made of, but who knows maybe that is the problem. Anyhow, it would be abnormal for me in my early twenties not to be a dreamer. A song that another friend of mine loves comes to my mind, "You may say I am a dreamer/But I'm not the only one."

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Torn asunder

The wounds of Partition fester for an 80-year-old who lost her best friend during the division

But paucity of time did not allow them to forge close friendships.

Except my father, who was a schoolteacher, other men would run their own small errands and return home only late in the night. After finishing their domestic chores, the women would gather under a dense tree in our courtyard. Salma and I would have our fun time then. On Deepavali and Holi, Salma would stay with us. While giving us money for firecrackers and colours, my father would ensure that Salma received an equal share. Similarly, on Id, Khalil Chacha would give me my *Eidi*.

When we were admitted to the same school on the same day in the same class, our friendship got a new spurt of energy. Now all day, we were together. At that time, I had no idea that I was Hindu and Salma Muslim. Slowly the winds began to take an enigmatic turn. Salma gradually stopped coming to our home after school for our regular playtime.

When I asked her the reason for not visiting our courtyard for our favourite game of blind man's buff, she remained coldly quiet. Perhaps like me, she too had no idea of her religion. On Id, I insisted on going to Salma's home to get my *Eidi*. But my mother locked me inside a room when she failed to con-

vince me that Salma and her family were Muslim and they would soon go to their own country. The thought of separating with my best friend broke my little heart. I could not eat a morsel of food after that brutal revelation.

Dark days

During those dark days, we children were kept locked in the house. After the bloodbath ceased (of which I read in history books later), Salma and her family were not there. I do not know if she is alive today or not. But she is my best friend in my childhood memories. I regret why I am Hindu and not Muslim and why Salma was Muslim and not Hindu. Had we all been only humans, not Hindus and Muslims, I would not have parted with Salma.

"Man is born free but everywhere he is in chains" — I agree with Rousseau that we have limited choices in our free lives. The biggest irony is that most of the people we live our whole lives with are not chosen by us, be it our parents, siblings or even spouses. But everyone has the liberty to exercise her choice when it comes to friendship. This could be possibly a reason friendship is more esteemed than romantic love.

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SWARNA RANI

I was barely eight when Partition happened, but the loss it inflicted on me still hurts.

Not conversant with the social dynamics, I befriended Salma when I was only five years old. At that time, Hindus and Muslims lived happily together at Mandi Guru Harsahi village in Firozpur of Punjab. Khalil Chacha, an iron smith, was our neighbour, and Salma was the youngest of his three children, the others being sons. Our mothers were best friends, though our fathers confined themselves to the exchange of pleasantries with each other. Undoubtedly, men in the *Mohalla* (locality) had no ill-will against one another.

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Sound and fury

When cacophony turns the world into a living hell

N. SADASIVAN PILLAI

I will be the happiest man on the planet if someone turns the world to the mute mode, at least for a few hours. I fear, of late, that I suffer from misophonia, a disorder in which certain sounds trigger emotional or psychological responses that some may perceive as unreasonable, given the circumstances.

Nearly a decade-and-a-half ago, as a section controller in the Railways, I would be peeved by the sounds and noise that sneaked into the omnibus communication network. The extraneous decibel disturbances often made the work chaotic. The "cross-talk" and the "line fault", as they were called in our argot, triggered my immediate intervention for correctives, sometimes even putting off colleagues.

My intent to avoid interfering noises or sounds grew with me, so to say, in all walks of life: functional and domestic arenas, restaurants, transport vehicles...

Some auto drivers play



film songs at uncomfortable sound levels during travel. If asked to stop it, some of them cast a strange glance at me, for they seldom encounter such a request. If a driver ignores my request, I choose to get down, embarrassing those travelling with me. On trains and buses, I used to endure acrimonious talks, raillery and other acoustic assaults.

Drivers indiscriminately blare high-decibel horns, giving scant respect to the restrictions of the zones they traverse. Some of them are patently ignorant of the road rules. Yet another

group derives a sort of bliss by riding motorbikes with modified silencers that let out high, rasping noise.

In my home, I am hypersensitive to the clatter of vessels and the noise of kitchen equipment such as mixers, air-coolers and ceiling fans.

Yet another source of noise are the reckless processions and roadshows. I am at a loss to know if sound sensitivity drives other elderly people too crazy. In my case, I like a serene, noise-free ambience to live in.

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Of wonder-filled childhood

How a starry-eyed youngster sees the world differently

AKHIL V. MOORTHY

There is a small white flower in my garden blooming at 4 in the evening and hence called the 4 o' clock flower. Many evenings of my childhood, I had spend looking at the flower to see the blooming. I tried everything from not closing my eyes to shielding the flower from the breeze, but I couldn't see what I wanted.

So I formed a postulate that it is a secret known only to the flower. As the flower knows that I am looking at it, the breeze is helping it make small movements and bloom.

Nature has always fascinated me, and the stars were my favourite subject. My father told me that the stars were uncountable. I thought if I could count them, I would become a scientist. That was the age when I didn't even know to count to more than 100. Yes! Counting the stars was stupid. But I enjoyed it.

I thought the moon belonged to me. Wherever I went, it followed me. And



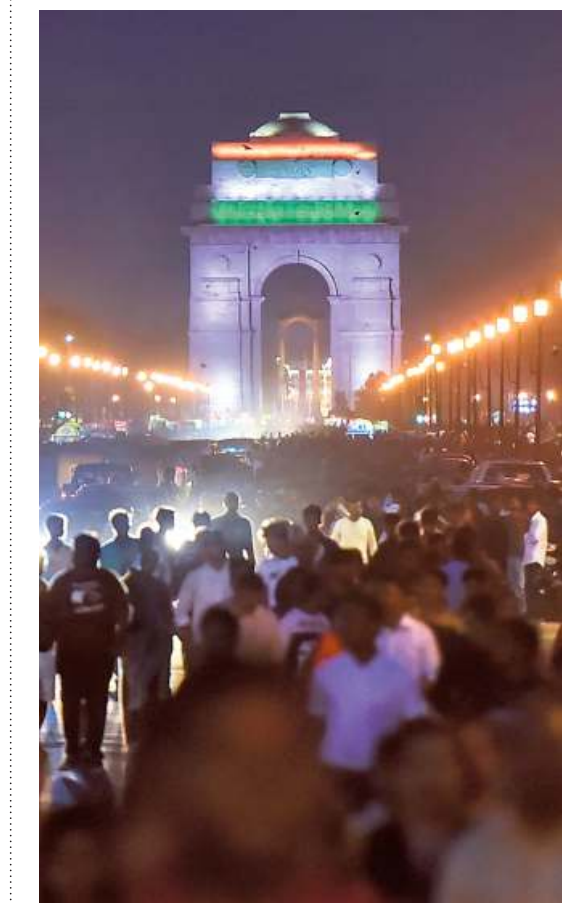
mer ready. Thank God, I didn't do that.

I wonder what the children of the younger generation must be thinking in this age of technology. I have a friend who talks to her sister's daughters through video call. Are these children thinking that their aunt is stuck inside the phone? Hope they are not planning to break the phone.

My childhood was filled with sea, breeze, stars, plants and flowers. The first 1,000 days are the foundation of the development of a child's emotional, cognitive and motor skills. Home is their first school and parents are their first teachers. What you show them are what they become.

Make sure that your children know the beauty of nature. Teach them how to plant a tree. Let them play in the mud. Let them run. Let them fall. Let them get up by their own. Let them wipe off the dust and run again. And that is how children learn their first lesson of not giving up.

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A flood of compassion when the levees broke in Kerala

A doctor's account of how pride and communal divisions melted away during the floods in Kerala in August 2018

ABRAHAM ITTYACHEN M.

After several dull days, there was a sudden surge of patients in my outpatient clinic. It was expected; the water level had receded after the devastating floods in Kerala in August 2018, and the road to Muvatpuzha was open. I was expecting some "flood cases". And sure there were.

There was this middle-aged woman from Neriamangalam, on the way to Idukki. She never expected the water to rise to such levels. Still there was a tinge of relief in her voice: "We got time to remove all our important documents." Loss of household articles did not seem to bother her much.

Then there was this woman from Ooramana, a small village near Kolenchery. She was worried that her medi-

cines had run out. There were other patients too. And I realised that human priorities can be myriad even in the face of calamity.

But what struck a chord in me was this elderly woman from Mamalassery, another village not a long way from Kolenchery. Everyone called her *Ammachy* (mother). She has been living on the banks of the Muvatpuzha for 42 years. Her husband died a few years ago, and their only son, who runs a bakery, is living with her. The husband was also my patient. In her long life, the rains had come and gone and she had seen the water rise on multiple occasions, but not to this level. She has several ailments and is a breast cancer survivor.

As the water level rose, volunteers from a neighbouring temple came to her house. The ancient temple

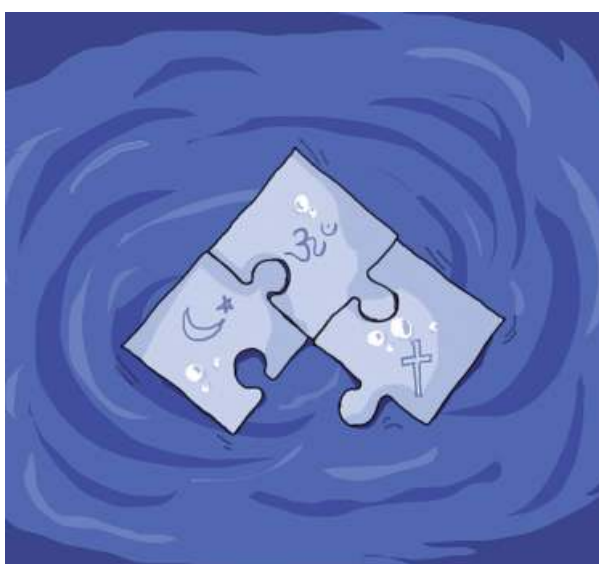


ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

had a big *ootupura* (dining hall), and they were willing to accommodate there anyone who wanted refuge. The volunteers took *Amma-*

chy on a chair, and the family followed. Water was at the waist level and climbing. It was a Hindu-majority area, and hers was one of the few

Christian families there.

The temple authorities provided her a makeshift cot, while the rest of the people lay on the floor. A man came forward to take her to his house, but she decided to stay on in the hall along with 80 families.

If a calamity can bring out the best in most persons, it can also sometimes bring out the worst in a few. There were some people who refused the accommodation provided in a temple. Flood or not, they were staying put in their homes.

But the temple authorities were clear: "The doors of our *ootupura* will never be shut."

But vanity finally had to bow before mighty nature. As the water level rose, that mighty pride simply melted away in the churning waters of the Muvatpuzha, and all

made their way to the temple. As it was the Ramayana month, the temple had enough stocks of food.

Volunteers from outside came daily. The local MLA paid a visit. Our *Ammachy* stayed there for about four days and was well taken care of.

I saw the spirit of Kerala in that small village. And I realised that all was not lost. For centuries, our ancestors have lived this way. Humanity came first. The poison of communalism and the seeds of deprivation have not polarised communities in the State.

My clinic closed around 8 p.m. I left for home with a strange feeling of satisfaction that I had discovered a new meaning for what they call "Gods Own Country".

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thehindu.com/opinion/open-page



Developing age-appropriate content

Young, impressionable minds are being bombarded with TV, radio and Internet videos without any filter

RICHA DANG

Achieving occupational balance

A mechanical lifestyle is meant not for humans but robots

SAMIN AFFROZE

Keeping memories fresh

The friendships forged over countless hours do not disappear just because you're not face-to-face

MALAVIKA SELVARAJ

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Shastri wants to leave a lasting legacy

Says it should be such that other teams going down decades would look to try and emulate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

The reappointed Team India head coach Ravi Shastri says his primary endeavour will be facilitating a smooth transition by the time he leaves the scene. There will also be room for experimentation, he said, as the side looks to leave a lasting legacy.

Shastri, 57, was on Friday, selected for the post for a second term. As per BCCI's constitution, the national team's head coach has to be below 60 years, the age Shastri will be approaching by the time his current tenure ends. The 2023 World Cup is still a long way and winning the 2021 World T20 is the realistic goal for the team.



Looking ahead: Ravi Shastri has set his sights on an Indian team that keeps lifting its standard constantly. • FILE PHOTO: AFP

Smooth transition

"Next two years is to see that smooth transition happens because you will get a lot of youngsters coming, especially into the white-ball setup. There will be youngsters coming into the Test match setup as well," Shastri told BCCI TV.

"You will need to identify another three-four bowlers to add to the pool, those are the challenges. At the end of our tenure, in 26 months, my endeavour would be to leave the team in a happier place. So that they can leave a legacy for the time to come," the former India allrounder said. "I have the belief that this

team could leave a legacy very few teams have left behind in years to come, not just for the moment they are playing but at the end of it all... the kind of legacy other teams going down decades will want to try and emulate.

On track

"That is the desire, we are on track. There is always room for improvement. And with youth coming in through the ranks, I think it's very exciting time. When you strive for excellence and you strive to raise the bar day in, day out, then you got to pay attention

to that detail. When you do mess up, you have an off day, don't let that day go by, in fact, make sure that you are focusing and concentrating on how you can get over that barrier," he said.

Among all the candidates, Shastri's record was unmatched as the team reached the No. 1 ranking in Test matches under his guidance and won a series in Australia for the first time in 71 years, besides decent success in the limited overs format.

"It's been superbly consistent if you look at the performance over the last two-

three years. But like I said that is the bar they have set and now it's up to them to raise the bar," Shastri assessed the team's performance in the last two years.

"There is no other way, they have to. Unless you make those efforts, even at the cost of certain results, you will not know what your best setup is."

Shastri stressed on the improvements the current setup has made in fielding.

"On thing that is most important is that over the last four-five years, the biggest improvement is fielding and

the endeavour is to make this the best fielding side in the world.

He thanked the three-member committee led by Kapil Dev along with Shanta Rangaswamy and Aunshuman Gaekwad for showing faith in him for another term.

It's been superbly consistent if you look at the performance over the last two-three years. But that is the bar they have set and now it's up to them to raise it

Smith's gutsy show to the fore

THE ASHES

REUTERS
LONDON

England battled to 96 for four in their second innings by the end of a dramatic fourth day at Lord's to lead Australia by 104 runs and leave the second Ashes Test on a knife-edge on Saturday.

England had bowled out Australia for 250, Steve Smith making 92 after retiring hurt when he was struck on the neck by a venomous Jofra Archer bouncer.

Smith left the field for treatment and returned 40 minutes later, adding 12 runs before he was trapped lbw by Chris Woakes.

England, 1-0 down in the series, led by eight runs on first innings but it quickly

slumped to nine for two on a gloomy evening as Pat Cummins dismissed Jason Roy and Joe Root in successive deliveries.

Rory Burns and Joe Denly

scrambled 55 runs for the third wicket, Denly making 26.

Burns' battling knock of 29 ended when he edged a lifting delivery from Siddle.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 258.

Australia — 1st innings: Cameron Bancroft lbw b Archer 13, David Warner b Broad 3, Usman Khawaja c Bairstow b Woakes 36, Steve Smith lbw b Woakes 92, Travis Head lbw b Broad 7, Matthew Wade c Burns b Broad 6, Tim Paine c Buttler b Archer 23, Pat Cummins c Bairstow b Broad 20, Peter Siddle c Bairstow b Woakes 9, Nathan Lyon lbw b Leach 6, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 3; Extras (b-17, lb-12, nb-1, w-2): 32; Total (in 94.3 overs): 250.

England — 2nd innings: Rory Burns c Paine b Siddle 29, Jason Roy c & b Cummins 2, Joe Root c Paine b Cummins 0, Joe Denly c & b Siddle 26, Ben Stokes (batting) 16, Jos Buttler (batting) 10; Extras (b-4, lb-8, nb-1): 13; Total (for four wkts. in 32.2 overs): 96.

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-64, 4-71.

Australia bowling: Cummins 8.2-2-16-2, Hazlewood 7-1-15-0, Siddle 8-2-19-2, Lyon 9-2-34-0.



Ouch, that hurts! Steve Smith was felled by a Jofra Archer delivery. • AFP

Pujara, Rohit come good

IAN S
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

India went to tea at 219 for four in 62 overs on the opening day against West Indies-A in the three-day warm-up match ahead of the Test series, here on Saturday.

Cheteshwar Pujara was the mainstay of the innings as he was batting on 89 and had Hanuma Vihari (9) for company at the break.

Rohit Sharma, playing at No. 5, made a fluent 68 before falling to Akim Frazer.

Opener K.L. Rahul made 36, while Mayank Agarwal (12) and Ajinkya Rahane (1) were dismissed cheaply.

Earlier, India began well with the Rahul and Mayank putting on 36 runs for the first wicket before the latter lost his wicket to Jonathan Carter. Then Rahul got out, caught off the bowling of Koen Harding. Carter was again in the act, nailing Rahane.

The scores: India 219 for four in 62 overs at tea (K.L. Rahul 36, Rohit Sharma 68, Cheteshwar Pujara 89 batting) vs West Indies-A. Toss: India.

Deepa Malik also recommended for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

Gaurav Gill and Ravindra Jadeja among 19 chosen for Arjuna Awards

SPORTS AWARDS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Para athlete Deepa Malik was fourth time lucky after being recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna for the year 2019 on Saturday, becoming the joint recipient with wrestler Bajrang Punia for the highest sporting honour.

Having won silver at the 2016 Rio paralympics, Deepa had been ignored for the award for the past three years, leading her to question and criticise the decision. Punia too had questioned being ignored last year despite his achievements but both have finally been recognised by the 12-member selection committee after a marathon two-day meeting here.

Six Dronacharyas

The annual sports awards for 2019 across various disciplines and achievements saw the final list including some interesting names and a few

firsts. Unlike in the past, the Sports Ministry had formed a single committee for evaluating and deciding on all the awards — both performance and coaching — and the final recommendations include a massive 19-member list for Arjuna Awards and six for Dronacharya Award for coaching — three each in regular and lifetime categories.

While motorsports would finally be satisfied with being considered a sport by the government with ace racer Gaurav Gill becoming the first-ever from the category to be named for the Arjuna — something even the likes of Narain Karthikeyan could not manage — eyebrows would definitely be raised at the committee recommending S. Bhaskaran for the same for bodybuilding.

Chennai's Bhaskaran would be the fourth body-builder to get the award and the first in 31 years, since T.V. Pauly in 1988, in an event that is not considered sport by many and has constantly raised the spectre of doping across the world.



Deepa Malik...another feather in the cap.

• FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Also being recognised for his achievements at the Asian Games last year was rider Fouaad Mirza, getting an award for equestrian for the first time since 2004. Mirza also becomes the first civilian to get the honour in a sport that has been dominated by service personnel for long.

Indian football goalkeeper Gurpreet Sandhu also got third-time lucky after being ignored twice earlier.

In fact, while several of the medalists at the Asian

Games were recognised in 2018 itself, India's achievements in the continental event saw athletics continue to be the most awarded this year also with Md. Anas Yahiya, Swapna Barman and Tejinderpal Singh Toor being recommended for Arjuna with as many as 14 sports receiving representation.

While women's hockey would feel hard done by with only one name in the men's section despite faring better in the past year, it would be

The recommendations

RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA: Bajrang Punia (wrestling), Deepa Malik (para athletics)

ARJUNA AWARD: Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Md. Anas Yahiya, Swapna Barman (athletics), Ravindra Jadeja, Poonam Yadav (cricket), Sonia Lather (boxing), S. Bhaskaran (body building), Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (hockey), Ajay Thakur (kabaddi), Gaurav Gill (motorsports), Anjum Moudgil (shooting), Harmeet Desai (table tennis), Pooja Dhanda (wrestling), Fouaad Mirza (equestrian), Gurpreet Sandhu (football), Simran Shergill (polo), B. Sai Praneth (badminton), Sundar Singh Gurjar (para athletics), Pramod Bhagat (para badminton)

DHYAN CHAND AWARD: Manuel Fredricks (hockey), Arup Basak (table tennis), Manoj Kumar (wrestling), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis), C. Lalremasanga (archery)

DRONACHARYA AWARD: Regular: Vimal Kumar (badminton), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis), Mohinder Singh Dhillion (athletics)

Lifetime: Merzban Patel (hockey), Rambir Singh Khokhar (kabaddi), Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket)

RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR: Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation, Go Sports, Rayalseema Development Trust

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD TROPHY: Panjab University (Chandigarh)

current junior National coach who is credited with nurturing the next generation of Indian shooters, including the likes of Manu Bhaker and Sourabh Chaudhary, was widely criticised.

But sources said that the main reason was multiple recommendations from sportspersons leading to confusion & the committee deciding not to consider any of the recommendation to avoid any controversy.

Interestingly, even Mary Kom, one of the committee members, had recommended two names.

The 12-member committee was headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Mukundakam Sharma and included the likes of Mary Kom, Bhaichung Bhutia, Anjum Chopra, Anju Bobby George and Kamlesh Mehta besides representatives from Sports Authority of India and the sports ministry.

The awards are presented every year on August 29, Major Dhyyan Chand's birthday, observed as the National Sports Day.

Dabang-Warriors match ends in stalemate

Bengaluru Bulls prove too good for Tamil Thalaivas

PKL

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

Dabang Delhi tied with Bengal Warriors 30-30 on day one of the Chennai leg in the ongoing season of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) at the Nehru indoor stadium here on Saturday.

The match was decided on a review. With Warriors leading 30-29, it reviewed Prapanjan's raid, the last of the match. While Prapanjan said he had touched Saeid Ghaffari, the defender denied it.

After the first referee announced that the review was successful, which meant a Bengal win (31-29), the second referee discussed with the first and it was announced that the review was unsuccessful.

Earlier, Bengaluru Bulls beat Tamil Thalaivas 32-21 in the first match of the day. Thalaivas' first raid point came in around the eighth minute, when its star raider Rahul Chaudhari, who brought out the loudest cheers from the crowd, put out Rohit Kumar. Thalaivas trailed 3-10 then.



Gotcha! Bengaluru Bulls' Amit Sheron and Saurabh Mandal effect a super tackle on Thalaivas' captain Ajay Thakur. • M. VEDHAN

Bulls' Banty put out Manjeet Chhillar for a successful raid, Rahul made an empty one, Bulls' Pawan Kumar Sehrawat removed Ajeet and Thalaivas' Ajay Thakur in his raid put out Ankit, following which Bulls led 12-4.

Personal milestones

There were personal milestones for some Thalaivas players in the PKL. Manjeet played his 100th match, Ajay crossed 1600 raids and Ran Singh notched up 200 successful tackles.

Bulls, which led 17-10 at the break, saw Amit Sheron and Saurabh Mandal pull off a fine super tackle on Thalaivas' Thakur in the second half. The move helped Bulls

extend the lead to 21-17 even as Thalaivas had closed in at 17-19 before the tackle.

The result: Bengaluru Bulls 32 (Pawan Kumar Sehrawat 11) bt

Tamil Thalaivas 21 (Ajay Thakur 4, Ran Singh 4); Bengal Warriors 30 (K. Prapanjan 10) tied with Dabang Delhi 30 (Naveen Kumar 11).

Ajay Thakur thrilled

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Asked about winning the Arjuna Award, Ajay Thakur's initial reaction was that of surprise.

"Really? I had no idea at all. I was checking my phone till 4 p.m. to know whether the names had been announced, but there was nothing

regarding it. Awards like the Arjuna push us sportspersons further because every athlete dreams of winning it from the very beginning.

"I have been playing for India for the last 15 years and kept yearning for the Arjuna. I still cannot believe my ears. What a news!"

VAR denies City against Tottenham again

Encouraging start to Arsenal's season; Nightmare start to Barca's title defence

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

VAR denied Manchester City against Tottenham for the second time in four months as the visitors secured a 2-2 draw at the Etihad on Saturday despite being largely out-classed by the Premier League champions.

Spurs won a thrilling Champions League quarterfinal tie between the sides last season when Raheem Sterling had an injury-time goal ruled out by VAR and City were denied once more when Gabriel Jesus saw a stoppage-time winner disallowed on review for a handball by Aymeric Laporte.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was Arsenal's match-winner again as the Gabon forward sealed a 2-1 win against Burnley to extend his side's perfect start to the season.

Aubameyang had netted the only goal last weekend at Newcastle and he emulated that crucial contribution with another decisive strike at the Emirates Stadium. Alexandre Lacazette's first



Spectacular: Aritz Aduriz's final season began with a sensational late volley. • REUTERS

goal of the season had given Arsenal the lead before Ashley Barnes equalised for Burnley just before half-time.

Reality check for Barca Barcelona made a nightmare start to the defence of its La Liga title on Friday by losing Luis Suarez to injury and then losing 1-0 to Athletic Bilbao, after a sensational late volley from substitute Aritz Aduriz.

Suarez hobbled off in the 37th minute with what looked like a calf injury before Aduriz came on in the 88th, the 38-year-old striker who has announced he will retire at the end of the

season. **The results: La Liga:** Celta Vigo 1 (Losada 90+1) lost to Real Madrid 3 (Benzema 12, Kroos 61, Lucas Vazquez 80). **On Friday:** Athletic Bilbao 1 (Aduriz 89) bt Barcelona 0.

Premier League: Manchester City 2 (Sterling 20, Aguero 35) drew with Tottenham Hotspur 2 (Lamela 23, Moura 56). Arsenal 2 (Lacazette 13, Aubameyang 64) bt Burnley 1 (Barnes 43); Aston Villa 1 (Douglas Luiz 71) losLamela 1 to Bournemouth 2 (King 2-pen, Wilson 12); Brighton 1 (Trossard 65) drew with West Ham 1 (Hernandez 61); Everton 1 (Bernard 10) bt Watford 0; Norwich 3 (Pukki 32, 63, 75) bt Newcastle 1 (Shelvey 90+3); Southampton 1 (Ings 83)

lost to Liverpool 2 (Mane 45+1, Firmino 71).

Bundesliga: Borussia Moenchengladbach 0 drew with Schalke 0. Werder Bremen 1 (Eggstein 47) lost to Fortuna Dusseldorf 3 (Hennings 36, Karaman 52, Ayhan 64); Freiburg 3 (Hoeler 82, Schmid 84, Waldschmidt 87-pen) bt Mainz 0; Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Bailey 10, Havertz 19, Volland 69) bt Paderborn 2 (Michel 15, Mamba 25); Borussia Dortmund 5 (Alcacer 3, 59, Sancho 51, Reus 57, Brandt 82) bt Augsburg 1 (Niederlechner 1); Wolfsburg 2 (Arnold 16, Weghorst 60) bt Cologne 1 (Terroder 90+1).

On Friday: Bayern Munich 2 (Lewandowski 24, 60-pen) drew with Hertha Berlin 2 (Lukabakio 36, Grujic 39).

IN BRIEF



China launches rocket for commercial use

BEIJING
A Chinese government space agency successfully launched on Saturday its first rocket meant for commercial use, state television CCTV reported, as firms in the country compete to join a satellite boom. Smart Dragon-1 rocket, which weighs 23 tonnes, put three satellites into orbit. REUTERS



Beloved baby dugong dies in Thailand

BANGKOK
A sick baby dugong whose fight for recovery won hearts in Thailand and cast a spotlight on ocean conservation has died from an infection exacerbated by bits of plastic lining her stomach, officials said on Saturday. AFP



Court rejects girl's bid to join German boys choir

BERLIN
A court in Germany has rejected a 9-year-old girl's bid to join a centuries-old Berlin boys choir. On Friday, the Berlin administrative court said the choir's right to choose its singers outweighed the principle of gender equality. The choir was founded in 1465. AP



Elvis Presley animated spy series in the works

LOS ANGELES
Streaming platform Netflix has ordered an Elvis Presley animated action comedy series Agent King. Netflix announced the project on August 16, which marked the 42nd anniversary of the music icon's death. PTI

30 years on, an ultra-marathon to remember Berlin Wall victims

Memorials along the 160-km-route tell the personal stories of many of the 130 people killed while trying to cross the Cold War relic

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Where guard towers and barbed wire once stood, runners pounded the 160 km path along the former Berlin Wall on Saturday.

Around 500 runners, started the 8th edition of the Berlin Wall Race, ahead of the 30th anniversary of the Wall's demise this November.

With weary legs, most runners will jog through Saturday night, aiming to reach the city centre stadium which doubles as both start and finish, in the early hours of Sunday.

The race is part ultra-marathon, part tribute to those who died trying to cross the Wall, which the East German communist regime hastily erected in 1961 and stood for 28 years.

Precious little of the original concrete structure remains, most of it hurriedly



Memory lane: A runner rests by a portion of the Berlin Wall while another, right, crosses a former watchtower. •AFP

torn down when East Germany collapsed in late 1989.

The longest single section is the kilometre-long East Side Gallery, where the former symbol of oppression is now covered in art, a popular backdrop for tourists posing for selfies.

What was once a heavily-fortified border strip that encircled West Berlin and patrolled by guards under

shoot-to-kill orders, was in 2006 turned into the 'Mauerweg' or Berlin Wall path.

Historic landmarks

It passes iconic landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie as well as leafy suburbs, farmland and forests.

Along the route, memorials tell the personal stories of many of the around 130



people killed along the Wall.

"When you move around Berlin now, you hardly see any of the Wall left, but when you run the path and see its scale, you have a better understanding of the divide it caused," said race organiser Olaf Ilk, who was born in East Germany and was 24 when the Wall fell.

The mammoth race is not for the faint-hearted: it is ef-

fectively four marathons back-to-back.

"You know you are going to feel pain, you have to accept it and think 'I can do one step more'," said Patrik Gullerstrom, from Stockholm, who hopes to finish in under 17 hours and has run the race four times previously.

The course record, set by Briton Mark Perkins in 2014,

stands at a mind-blowing 13 hours, 6 minutes.

Russian-born Israeli Tom Shenbrun, 50, whose grandfather was part of the Red Army which invaded Berlin in 1945, was inspired to run the race by the Wall's history.

Divided nation

"As a Jew, it's something very special. You feel the history all along the course, you see the guard towers and you can understand how it divided a nation, families, friends," he said.

The East German authorities "were prepared to shoot people on the basis of ideology. History is something we must learn from and must not be repeated," he added.

The Wall's history is entwined in the race's DNA.

Registration for the following year's race always opens at 18:57 local time (16:57 GMT) on November 9 -

marking the exact moment in 1989 when East Germany lifted its travel ban.

Each year, one Wall victim features on start numbers and finisher medals, while a ceremony is held at the spot where they died.

For the first race in 2011, Chris Gueffroy, the last person shot dead on the Berlin Wall, was honoured.

He was killed in February 1989, nine months before the Wall fell, and on Sunday, Gueffroy's mother Karin will present medals at the finishers' ceremony.

Last year, the Wall's youngest victim, Joerg Hartmann, a 10-year-old boy shot dead by East German border guards in 1966 while trying to visit his father in the west, was honoured.

Having each been asked to carry a gift for him, last year's runners piled cuddly toys at the spot where he was killed.

Hollywood actor Peter Fonda, of Easy Rider fame, dies at 79

He earned an Oscar nomination for his role in Ulee's Gold

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES

U.S. actor Peter Fonda, the star of the classic 1969 road movie Easy Rider, died on Friday, aged 79, from respiratory failure due to lung cancer, his family said.

Fonda passed away peacefully at his home in Los Angeles surrounded by relatives, a statement said.

"While we mourn the loss of this sweet and gracious man, we also wish for all to celebrate his indomitable spirit and love of life," it said.

Fonda was the brother of U.S. activist and actor Jane Fonda, and the son of actor Henry Fonda.

In a statement, Jane Fonda said, "I have had beautiful alone time with him these last days. He went out laughing."

He co-wrote and produced Easy Rider, in which he appeared alongside its director Dennis Hopper and a young Jack Nicholson.

The wildly successful film became an anti-establish-



Peter Fonda

I have had beautiful alone time with him these last days. He went out laughing

JANE FONDA
Actor and Peter's sister

ment cult classic, and earned Fonda an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay.

The movie is credited with ushering in an era of counter-culture, independent film-making.

"EASY RIDER depicted the rise of hippie culture, condemned the establishment, and celebrated freedom. Peter Fonda embodied those values and instilled

them in a generation," wrote Goodfellas actor Illeana Douglas on Twitter. "Independent cinema begins with EASY RIDER."

Fonda had been planning a 50th anniversary screening and concert of Easy Rider in New York next month. He played a biker in the film - an anti-hero role he would take up many times in his career.

He was nominated for an Oscar again almost three decades later, in the best actor category, for Ulee's Gold (1997), but lost out to Nicholson.

Fonda began his career as a stage actor on Broadway in his native New York.

He was also a keen environmentalist, co-producing the 2012 film The Big Fix, which centred on the explosion of the BP oil rig Deepwater Horizon, the ensuing spill and its consequences.

Fonda married three times, and leaves behind two children, including actor Bridget Fonda.

New species of freshwater fish found

Both have morphological features that are suited to thriving in hill streams

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India have discovered two new species of freshwater fish from the north-eastern and northern parts of the country.

While Glyptothorax gopii, a new species of catfish was found in Mizoram's Kaladan river, Garra simbalbaraensis was found in Himachal Pradesh's Simbalbara river. Both fish, measuring less than seven centimetres, are hill stream fauna and are equipped with special morphological features to suit rapid water flow.

Glyptothorax gopii (measuring 63 mm standard length without caudal fin) is dark brown on its dorsal surface, and its ventral surface is of a yellowish-light brown. Garra simbalbaraensis (measuring 69 mm standard length without caudal fin) has a yellowish-grey colour fading ventrally.

The details of the two discoveries were published in Zootaxa earlier this month. While Glyptothorax gopii has been named to celebrate



Aquatic wonders: Garra simbalbaraensis and, below, Glyptothorax gopii. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the contribution of taxonomist K.C. Gopi, Garra simbalbaraensis takes its name from the Simbalbara river.

In remote streams

"Both these species were discovered from remote areas, for instance, Glyptothorax gopii was discovered from Champai district in Mizoram near the India-Myanmar border. Garra simbalbaraensis has been found from Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh," said L. Kosygin Singh, one of the scientists

behind the discoveries.

Mr. Singh said that Glyptothorax gopii has an axe-shaped anterior nuchal plate (bone below dorsal fin), which makes it distinct from other species of the genus Glyptothorax.

The elliptical thoracic adhesive apparatus and plicae (folds of tissue) present on the ventral surfaces of the pectoral-fin spine help the fish cling to rocks.

Garra simbalbaraensis has a prominent unilobed and rounded proboscis with

tubercles that help the fish in manoeuvrability. The scientist, who heads the freshwater fish section of ZSI, has earlier discovered four species of Gara (which has an evolved disc to attach to rocky surfaces).

The discoveries include Garra compressa in the year 1998, G. elongata (2000), G. tamangi (2016), and G. chindwinensis (2018).

Among catfish (characterised by whiskers), the scientist earlier discovered Myersglanis jayarami (1999), Glyptothorax senapatiensis (2015), and Olya parviocula (2018), all from north-eastern India.

Experts suggest that the origin or evolution of the fishes in the Himalayas and north-eastern parts of India must have been the consequence or after-effects of orogenic events (geological movement) at various stages in the Himalayas' uplift.

Detailed surveys can provide valuable information about the evolutionary trends and many rare groups of fishes can be discovered, Mr. Singh said.

AI is learning from humans. Many humans

Tech executives rarely discuss the labour-intensive process, a key part of creating artificial intelligence

CADE METZ
BHUBANESWAR

Namita Pradhan sat at a desk in Bhubaneswar staring at a video recorded in a hospital on the other side of the world.

The video showed the inside of someone's colon. Ms. Pradhan was looking for polyps, small growths in the large intestine that could lead to cancer. When she found one - they look a bit like a slimy, angry pimple - she marked it with her computer mouse and keyboard, drawing a digital circle around the tiny bulge.

She was not trained as a doctor, but she was helping to teach an artificial intelligence system that could eventually do the work of a doctor.

Ms. Pradhan was one of dozens of young Indian women and men lined up at desks on the fourth floor of a small office building. They were trained to annotate all kinds of digital images, pinpointing everything from stop signs and pedestrians in street scenes to factories and oil tankers in satellite photos.

AI is the future of their industry, and it is improving fast thanks to something called machine learning. But tech executives rarely discuss the labour-intensive process that goes into its creation. AI is learning from humans. Lots and lots of humans.

Before an AI system can learn, someone has to label the data supplied to it. Hu-



Rinse, repeat: Employees at iMerit's technology centre in Kolkata. •REBECCA CONWAY/NYT

mans, for example, must pinpoint the polyps. The work is vital to the creation of artificial intelligence like self-driving cars, surveillance systems and automated health care.

Tech companies keep quiet about this work. And they face growing concerns from privacy activists over the large amounts of personal data they are storing and sharing with outside businesses.

Earlier this year, I negotiated a look behind the curtain that Silicon Valley's wizards rarely grant. I made a meandering trip across India and stopped at a facility across the street from the Superdome in downtown New Orleans. In all, I visited five offices where people are doing the endlessly repetitive work needed to teach AI systems, all run by a company

called iMerit. There were intestine surveyors like Pradhan and specialists in telling a good cough from a bad cough. There were language specialists and street scene identifiers. What is a pedestrian? Is that a double yellow line or a dotted white line? One day, a robotic car will need to know the difference.

In facilities like the one I visited in Bhubaneswar and in other cities in India, China, Nepal, the Philippines, East Africa and the United States, tens of thousands of office workers are punching a clock while they teach the machines.

Tens of thousands more workers, independent contractors usually working in their homes, also annotate data through crowdsourcing services like Amazon Mechanical Turk, which lets anyone distribute digital

tasks to independent workers in the United States and other countries. The workers earn a few pennies for each label.

Labelling service

Based in India, iMerit labels data for many of the biggest names in the technology and automobile industries. It declined to name these clients publicly, citing confidentiality agreements. But it recently revealed that its more than 2,000 workers in nine offices around the world are contributing to an online relabelling service from Amazon called SageMaker Ground Truth. Previously, it listed Microsoft as a client.

One day, who knows when, artificial intelligence could hollow out the job market. But for now, it is generating relatively low-paying

jobs. The market for data labelling passed \$500 million in 2018 and it will reach \$1.2 billion by 2023, according to the research firm Cognilytica. This kind of work, the study showed, accounted for 80% of the time spent building AI technology.

Is the work exploitative? It depends on where you live and what you're working on. In India, it is a ticket to the middle class. In New Orleans, it's a decent enough job. For someone working as an independent contractor, it is often a dead end.

There are skills that must be learned - like spotting signs of a disease in a video or medical scan or keeping a steady hand when drawing a digital lasso around the image of a car or a tree. In some cases, when the task involves medical videos, pornography or violent images, the work turns grisly.

"When you first see these things, it is deeply disturbing. You don't want to go back to the work. You might not go back to the work," said Kristy Milland, who spent years doing data-labelling work on Amazon Mechanical Turk and has become a labour activist on behalf of workers on the service. "But for those of us who cannot afford to not go back to the work, you just do it," Ms. Milland said.

AI researchers hope they can build systems that can learn from smaller amounts of data. But for the foreseeable future, human labour is essential. NY TIMES

Planet 10 times Earth's mass may have smacked Jupiter long ago

Collision may have had lasting effects on the Jovian core

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Jupiter, the solar system's largest planet, may have been smacked head-on by an embryonic planet 10 times Earth's mass not long after being formed, a monumental crash with apparent lasting effects on the Jovian core, scientists have said.

The violent collision, hypothesized by astronomers to explain data collected by NASA's Juno spacecraft, may have occurred just several million years after the birth of the sun roughly 4.5 billion years ago following the dispersal of the primordial disk of dust and gas that gave rise to the solar system.

"We believe that impacts, and in particular giant impacts, might have been rather common during the infancy of the solar system. For example, we believe that our moon formed after such an event. However, the impact that we postulate for Jupiter is a real monster," astronomer Andrea Isella of Rice University in Houston said.

Consumed by Jupiter

Under this scenario, the still-forming planet plunged into and was consumed by Jupiter.

Jupiter, a gas giant planet covered in thick red, brown, yellow and white clouds, boasts a diameter of about 1,43,000 km. Interior models based on Juno data indicated Jupiter has a large "di-



An artist's conception of the collision between a young Jupiter and a massive protoplanet. •KYOSUKE SUDA AND YUKI AKIMOTO/MABUCHI DESIGN OFFICE, ASTROBIOLOGY CENTER, JAPAN

luted" core representing about 5% to 15% of the planet's mass comprised of rocky and icy material unexpectedly mixed with light elements like hydrogen and helium. "Juno measures Jupiter's gravity field to an extraordinary precision. Scientists use that information to infer Jupiter's composition and interior structures," said Shang-Fei Liu, associate professor of astronomy at Sun

Yat-sen University in Zhuhai, China, and lead author of the research published in the journal Nature.

Computer models indicated that a head-on collision with a protoplanet - a planet in its formative stages - of roughly 10 Earth masses would have broken apart Jupiter's dense core and mixed light and heavy elements, explaining Juno's findings, the researchers said.