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18 killed in Himachal Pradesh rain, landslips; hundreds stranded



Abrogation of Article 370 is right, Congress has lost its way: Hooda



Memos warn of food,

Archer on the prowl again, but Australia survives in Lord's Test



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drug shortages if U.K. leaves EU without deal page 14

page 18

NEARBY

4 employees of IT firm killed in accident

NOIDA (U.P.) Four employees of an IT company were killed after their SUV skidded off the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida and fell into a 30-foot ditch on Sunday. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

Now and Then

Our earnings were cups and trophies, former table tennis star Manjit Dua tells The Hindu. His only regret is not getting the Padma Shri. > PAGE 5



EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ 4 PAGES

Curbs on movement back in Kashmir following clashes

Internet, mobile access suspended in Jammu

REUTERS SRINAGAR

Authorities reimposed restrictions on movement in major parts of Srinagar on Sunday after violent overnight clashes between residents and the police left dozens injured, two senior officials and eyewitnesses

The decision to allow Internet and mobile phone use in parts of the Jammu region was also reversed, said one official, amid concerns about the spread of rumours. In the past 24 hours,



Stones thrown by protesters lying scattered on a road at Habba Kadal. ■ GETTY IMAGES

there has been a series of protests against the abrogation of Article 370 following the easing of restrictions on movement and phone use on Saturday morning.

The State government

4,000 detained in Kashmir

At least 4,000 people have been detained in Kashmir over fears of unrest since New Delhi divested the region of its autonomy, sources told AFP. They were held under the Public Safety Act, under which a person can be jailed for two years without trial. ▶ PAGE 13

said it has not imposed a curfew in the past two weeks, but on Sunday people were being turned back at multiple roadblocks in the city.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

'Any talks with Pak. only on PoK'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh says no other issue remains for dialogue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARE Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said any future talks with Pakistan would focus only on the status of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Mr. Singh, who was addressing the BJP's 'Jan Aashirwad Yatra' in Haryana's Kalka, said Pakistan wanted to destabilise India through terrorism, and there would be no talks with the country unless it acted against terrorists and stopped supporting terror activities.

"...People from Pakistan say there should be talks between India and Pakistan. About what should we talk? What's the issue on which



Unyielding stand: Rajnath Singh flagging off a rally from Kalka to Rohtak in Haryana on Sunday. •PTI

there should be talks? Why should there be talks? If there are to be any talks with Pakistan, they will happen only when Pakistan stops supporting terror from its

soil. Until then, there's no reason for any talks," he

said. "Also, in future, if talks are held with Pakistan, they will be on the issue of Pakistanwere killed in it," he said. **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12

occupied Kashmir and no

other issue," Mr. Singh said.

Khan had recently acknow-

ledged the killing of terro-

rists in the IAF's Balakot air

strike after denying it earlier,

Mr. Singh said. "Pakistan's

Prime Minister a few days

ago said in PoK that India is

planning an air strike even

bigger than the Balakot one.

This means that Pakistan's

Prime Minister has accepted

the fact India conducted an

air strike in Balakot and a

large number of terrorists

Prime Minister Imran

DAY BEFORE SCHOOLS REOPEN. PARENTS WARY ▶ PAGE 13 **UNCLEAR DOCTRINE** ▶ EDITORIAL

'India, Bhutan are natural partners'

They understand each other well, says PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

No two countries in the world understand each other so well or share so much as India and Bhutan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, as he emphasised that New Delhi and Thimphu are such "natural partners" in bringing prosperity to their peoples.

Addressing students of



PM Modi with King Jigme Khesar Wangchuck, left, and former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck on Sunday. • ANI

the prestigious Royal University of Bhutan here, Mr. Modi said it is natural that the people of Bhutan and India experience great attachment to each other.

"India is fortunate to be the land where Prince Siddhartha became Gautam Buddha. And from where the light of his spiritual message, the light of Buddhism, spread all over the world. Generations of monks, spiritual leaders, scholars and seekers have burnt that flame bright in Bhutan," the Prime Minister said in the Buddhist majority country.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12 PM STRIKES A CHORD WITH STUDENTS ▶ PAGE 12

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CM YK

63 killed in blast at Kabul wedding; IS claims responsibility



Grief-stricken: Men mourning at the funeral of their relatives killed in the blast in Kabul on Sunday. • REUTERS

Many women and children were among victims, 180 injured REUTERS

The Islamic State (IS) on Sunday claimed responsibility for the suicide blast at a wedding reception in Afghanis-

The late night attack came as the Taliban and the U.S. negotiate an agreement on the withdrawal of U.S. forces in exchange for a Taliban commitment on security and peace talks with Afghanis-

tan's U.S.-backed govern-

tan that killed 63 people late

ment. IS fighters, who first appeared in Afghanistan in 2014, are not involved in the talks. The group has attacked Afghan government and U.S.-led international forces

as well as the Taliban. In a statement on the messaging website Telegram, the IS claimed responsibility for the attack at a west Kabul wedding hall, in a minority Shia neighbourhood, saying its bomber had infiltrated the reception and detonated his explosives in the crowd

of "infidels".

The Taliban had earlier denied responsibility for the attack and condemned it.

More than 180 people were wounded, with many women and children among the casualties, Interior Ministry spokesperson Nasrat Rahimi said on Sunday, as families thronged to Kabul's crowded cemeteries.

JOY TURNS INTO MOURNING FOR GROOM ▶ PAGE 14 **FEARS OVER BAD DEAL** ▶ PAGE 14

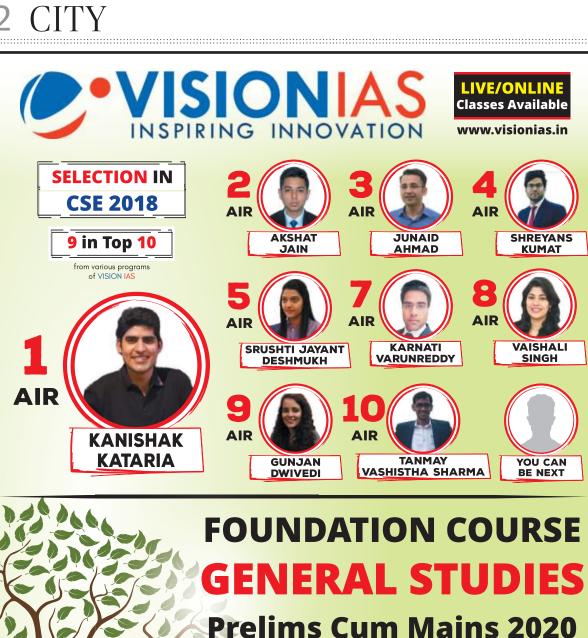


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IN BRIEF

Walkway connects Blue. **Aqua Line metro stations**

In a major ease for Blue Line. PTI

Air quality of Delhi-NCR Gurugram 35 Faridabad -■ Satisfactory ■ Moderate Very poor 201-300 301-400

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: "In Search of the Celestial", an exhibition of sculptures by Sandip Chakraborty at Triveni Gal-lery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Master Strokes 2019", a group exhibition by various artists at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m

(Mail your listings for this column

commuters, a 300-metre walkway connecting the interchange metro stations on the Blue and Aqua Lines was inaugurated on Sunday, officials said. The walkway has been built between the Sector 51 station on Agua Line and Sector 52 station on

stocks. He would take interested

Book market shut since July, vendors try to clear stock

Daryaganj hawkers not ready to shift to alternative sites

SIDHARTH RAVI NEW DELHI

With the Sunday book market at Daryaganj remaining shut for the fifth consecutive week, several vendors have taken to soliciting passers-by on the streets to clear their

Holding two large registers in his hands, Rajendra Kumar shouted "Want to buy books?", every time someone passed by, as if he was dealing in contraband.

customers to his warehouse nearby to browse through his selection. "What can we do? The

market has been ordered shut. We have not bought any new stock. I am just trying to sell off whatever is left now," said Mr. Kumar. Street vendors in the area.

who would set up shop on Netaji Subhas Marg and the adjacent Asaf Ali Road have not been doing so ever since a High Court order vacated a stay on the area as a nonWe are hopeful that the market would be opened again. It would be good if we get to stay here

vending zone.

The order came following a submission by the police that the market disrupted traffic and was an impediment to pedestrians.

While the court order dealt only with Netaji Subhas Marg, vendors have not been setting up shops on the adjacent Asaf Ali Road either, effectively rendering the entire market shut, barring the brick and mortar stores.

Arif, who has been selling books here for the last 20 vears, has set up his goods on a narrow stairway with a board reading 'mobile repair shop' in the front. "We are hopeful that the market will be opened again. This place is known for its book market.

It would be good if we get to stay here," he said.

Civic body officials have proposed three areas for relocation: Ramlila Maidan; near Hanuman Mandir; or near Chandni Chowk, said the president of the market

associaton, Kamar Saeed. The vendors do not want to shift as it would make the market untenable, he said, adding that a proposal to accommodate the vendors on Asaf Ali Road was also rejected as officials had told them that the stretch was a nohawking zone.

The closing down of the market has also affected other shop owners in the area.

Retail store owner Ajay said that footfall to the area had fallen and his sales had taken a hit ever since the book market closed.

Market association members are now preparing to challenge the High Court order but are yet to reach a consensus among themselves on how to move forward

Hans Raj Hans suggests renaming JNU after Modi

Remark by BJP MP draws sharp reaction from students, social media users

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Speaking at an event organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad at Jawaharlal Nehru University on Saturday, North-West Delhi MP Hans Raj Hans said that the university should be renamed after Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Hans was performing at the musical event 'Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke *Naam*', when he spoke about the abrogation of Article 370 and said that Kashmir would now become paradise. The

MP said he "prays that there is peace in the Valley".

'We are facing the brunt of mistakes committed by our elders," he said while clarifying that it was Jawaharlal Nehru who committed "mistakes" in the past and that those were now being corrected by Mr. Modi.

'Positive change in JNU' For Mr. Modi's contribution, Jawaharlal Nehru University should be renamed as 'MNU', he added.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, speaking at the function, said there was a positive change in JNU.

He said, although some people had raised anti-India slogans in the past, the university had grown and changed with time.

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI), meanwhile, reacted strongly to Mr. Hans' suggestion related to the renaming of the university and said that JNU was a place where students and professors question the government on the deterioration of India's political conditions and that the BJP wanted

it to be closed to get these voices suppressed forever.

"Our country needs 1,500 more universities by 2020. If the BJP really wants to get universities named after their leaders, they can open 1,500 universities and get children enrolled," the students' union said.

Several people mocked Mr. Hans on social media, saying he did not know what the full form of JNU was and wondered how he could suggest changing its name in his first visit to the university.

Four DU depts. told to submit revised syllabi

The deadline for submission is Oct. 31

STAFF REPORTER

The four departments of Delhi University that have been mired in controversy over undergraduate svllabi. following objections raised by a section of teachers and students' groups, have been asked to submit revised curriculums to the oversight committee by October 31.

While the first-semester syllabus of English, History, Sociology and Political Science was approved by the committee, in a letter dated August 14, the departments were asked to undertake revisions and upload the rest of the syllabus on the university's website after "wider consultations".

The departments have also been instructed to ensure that the UGC regulation of 30% cap on alterations of core papers as of 2015-16 be followed and no changes be made to the structure and sequence of papers.

Apart from this, in the letter to the History department, the panel has recommended inclusion of three books published by Aryan Books International in its list of additional readings dealing with Indian History.

The English department has been instructed to replace a sub-heading in the topics for student presentation, titled 'Indian People's Theatre Association' with 'Indian Theatre Movements' and delete another subheading titled 'Radical' and replace it with 'Post Independence Indian Theatre'.

The Political Science department has been asked to include a sub-heading of 'Business' in the paper on Understanding Political Theory. Academic Council member Rasal Singh welcomed the move.

released for DUSU polls

Model code of conduct

Election dates yet to be announced

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi University has released a notification for the model code of conduct to be followed by candidates for elections to the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) that includes guidelines for canvassing, prohibited activities and expenditure.

Dates for the elections, however, are yet to be announced.

As in previous years, candidates, who must be bona fide regular students of the university will be allowed to spend ₹5,000 on the elections. Among academic regulations for eligibility, only candidates who have a minimum attendance of 75%, those without any arrears or pending papers and ones who have not failed in the preceding academic year will be allowed to contest. With regard to campaigning,

candidates are only allowed to be accompanied by four other students while can vassing the college or university. Apart from this, following guidelines of the National Green Tribunal, the use of printed posters and pamphlets is no more allowed. Instead, only handmade posters may be put up at spots designated by the university.

In case of defacement of university property, including websites or social media pages, all candidates will be held "jointly and severally liable", the guidelines said. In their campaigning, candidates have been told not to indulge in anything which causes mutual hatred or tension between different

castes and communities. Certain "corrupt" practices, such as bribing of voters, intimidation, impersonationamong others are also

'Justice must reach remotest corners of country'

CJI spoke at conclusion of 17th all-India meet of State legal services authorities

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Justice must reach the remotest corners of the country and to the last person, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said on Sunday at the conclusion of 17th all-India meet of State legal services authorities in Nagpur.

Chief Justice Gogoi also stressed upon requirement of legal education in schools bevond rudimentary awareness. He outlined that the legal services authorities must now move from awareness to engagement.

Addressing the conference, he called for engagement of students and tapping their potential as ambassadors of the mission of access to justice.

The annual conclave, which is held primarily to



deliberate upon key issues across the nation. in legal aid services in India, was inaugurated on Saturday by Minister of Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology Ra-He added that the system vi Shankar Prasad.

Supreme Court judge, Justice S.A. Bobde, summed up the two-day proceedings as a launchpad for next phase of reforms in the State legal service authorities

Justice Bobde highlighted the introduction of Legal Aid Defence Counsel System on pilot basis in selected States from each zone.

would not only aid in assured availability of legal aid to people, but would also ensure representation of cases of the poor and marginalised by seasoned lawyers, enhanced accountability and responsiveness to the client.

The conclave deliberated on the need to focus on the quality of legal aid being delivered and identified the role of panel layers. It decided that there would be focus on engagement criteria of panel lawyers along with their sensitisation, periodic review of their performance among others to ensure the most dedicated and deserving professionals are on board.

The conference is an annual feature where State Legal Authorities congregate and discuss modalities, challenges and deliberate on important issues. The conference was attended by all 36 State Legal Service Authority representatives.

A ND-NDE

Woman set on fire by in-laws

Victim's parents say accused wanted her to leave home after husband's death

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old woman was set ablaze allegedly by her late husband's family in south-east Delhi's Nizamuddin, the police said on Sunday.

Over 80% burns

Yasmin Alavi suffered over 80% burns and is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung Hospital, they said.

No arrests have been made so far in the case.

The incident happened on Friday evening when the victim's three brothers-inlaw and their wives set her on fire. The parents of the victim alleged that the accused wanted her to leave the house and not ask for any share in the property.

Ms. Alavi's nine-year-old

I came home from tuition class and heard my mother screaming. I rushed inside and saw her on fire. I immediately poured water on

the police VICTIM'S NINE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER

her and then called

daughter said she was at her tuition class along with her two sisters at the time.

"I came home at 6.30 p.m. and heard my mother screaming. I rushed inside and saw my mother on fire. I immediately poured water on her. Then I called the police and my maternal grandparents," she said in her police complaint. She said her mother informed

her that the uncles and aunts had poured kerosene

"My daughter got married to Amir about 10 years ago and he passed away five years back," said the victim's mother, Munazri.

Property share

Ever since then, Amir's family has been asking my daughter to leave the house with her daughters, she said, adding: "She had been telling them that she cannot leave as she has to raise her daughters. She told them to give her daughters' share in the family property but they objected to it."

The victim's mother further claimed that the accused used to thrash her

"Two years ago, we had

submitted a written complaint at Nizamuddin police station regarding the matter but no action was taken," the mother alleged.

The accused also threatened Alavi a week ago, the mother further claimed.

"About a week ago, Alavi's youngest daughter was unwell and I had gone to see her. Her brother-in-law threatened me and asked me to make Alavi understand that she needs to leave the house and that she must stop asking for a share in the property. He also warned of dire consequences if this was not done," Ms. Munazri alleged.

A case has been registered under Section 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

Man beaten to death; 4 arrested

the accused.

"The accused thrashed Netram

and one of them brought him to a

hospital and then fled from the

spot. They informed his father in

Alwar that it was an accident," he

said. While the accused tried to

stage it as an accident, an inquiry

revealed that Netram had been

killed. The police then zeroed in on

During interrogation, Ambika

said his married sister, who used to

live in Ambedkar Nagar, went mis-

sing about 10 months ago and that

she was living in a rented accom-

modation in Alwar with Netram.

The accused brought her back to

close relative that the sister was in

a relationship with Netram. They

were angry at him for not inform-

ing them while still working for

The police added that a murder

"The accused was informed by a

Recently, they got to know that

they had reported that as well.

Delhi a few days ago.

them," Mr. Sagar said.

'Victim was in relationship with married woman'

STAFF REPORTER

Four men have been arrested for allegedly killing a 21-year-old man in outer Delhi's Ranhola, the police said on Sunday.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Rajendra Singh Sagar said Netram, from Rajasthan's Alwar and a resident of Ranhola, was killed on Friday for allegedly having a relationship with the sister of one of the accused.

After a tip-off, the police nabbed Ambika Prasad (38), his brother Ranjit and their associates Anil and Deshraj from Vasant Vihar on Sunday early morning.

Three on the run

The police said a manhunt has been launched to nab three others, who were involved in the crime.

Ambika has over 20 cases registered against him under the Excise and Arms Act and runs a liquor trade, they added.

Netram used to work under him.

Four dead, five hurt after car skids off Yamuna e-way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Four employees of an IT company died on Sunday after their SUV skidded off the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida and fell into a 30-foot ditch, the police said.

The incident took place at 10 a.m. near Zero Point in Greater Noida. "The speeding car was taking a U-turn near Pari Chowk when the accident took place," Circle Officer, Greater Noida-1, Tanu Upadhyay said.

There were nine people in the car. "Three people died on the spot and six others were rushed to a hospital. One of them later succumbed to injuries," she said.

A survivor told the police that the group had gone out to celebrate in the "new car" purchased by one of the seniors.





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Leaks in govt.'s water supply pledge?

Spot checks at two unauthorised colonies — Gautampuri and Sanjay Colony — reveal that the promise made by CM Arvind Kejriwal has not been completely fulfilled

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

quatting on the floor of her one-room house in Gautampuri, Majjo, 50, was washing kitchen utensils with water stored in a small white

To her left, a yellow plastic pipe jutting out of the wall was blocked at the mouth with a crumpled piece of paper.

"We haven't received a single drop of water yet. If there was water, we would have put a tap instead of the paper," said Majjo, who had taken the water connection a week ago.

Interestingly, on June 19, a Delhi government official statement claimed that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had "fulfilled his promise" by "supplying Ganga water" to households in "Badarpur Assembly constituency", the area where Majjo lives.

It's not just her who is waiting for the pipe to bring home some good news but several others in Gautampuri who have taken the connection in the hope of piped water supply.

A spot check at Gautampuri and Sanjay Colony, both unauthorised colonies, where the government said it had started supplying water to houses via pipelines, showed that the assertion was far from accurate.

While the residents of Gau-



Majjo cleans utensils next to a yellow plastic pipe, which has paper blocking its mouth. "We haven't received a single drop of water yet. If there was water, we would have put a tap instead of the paper," she says.

tampuri were yet to receive water supply, at Sanjay Colony, people were dependent on tankers for drinking water as the Delhi Jal Board water supply barely lasted 15 minutes a day, that too in "community taps".

Mr. Kejriwal, during a visit to Tughlakabad on June 2, had promised that "residents of the area will start getting drinking water

We get borewell water [supplied by the DJB] for

7.30 p.m., potable water comes only for about 15

minutes a day, that too at very low pressure

POOJA MEHTA, A resident of C Block, Sanjay Colony

about an hour a day, but we can't drink it. Around

in their taps in a week". Sanjay Colony is a part of Tughlakabad.

When contacted, DIB vicechairman Dinesh Mohaniya did not comment on the matter. **Poll promise**

Reducing water bills was one of the planks on which the Aam Aadmi Party fought and won the Delhi Assembly elections in 2013. It had announced 20 kilolitres of free water to all households every month.

According to the DJB, headed by Mr. Kejriwal, the daily water production in the city since 2015 has increased from 835 million gallons per day (MGD) to 935 MGD. "In just four and a half years, the number of colonies with piped water supply has increased from 58% to 88%," Mr. Kejriwal had said while addressing a gathering in June.

But a senior DJB official said that the number of hours for which the colonies get water supply varies. "The colonies which are at the tail end of the supply line get less water," the official added.

The DJB said water supply network has been extended to 372 unauthorised colonies in the last four years and most of them are now getting piped drinking water. People living in unauthor-

'Community taps'



Some houses in Sanjay Colony have drilled holes into the Delhi Jal Board pipeline to get access to water. When there is no supply, the hole is covered up with plastic or stones. Once the supply begins, the residents shove a hose inside the pipe and are able to extract the water into buckets - if there is sufficient water pressure. When there is no pressure at all, some residents attach a motor to the hose to get the water out of the pipe.

hole into the large pipe to fix a smaller pipe connected to Mr. Khan's house

'The pipeline is dry. There is no water," the worker said.

"Water has not been released to the area. It will be done only after a considerable number of people take the connection," said a contractor who was overseeing the work. "Why should we take the connection then?" Khan's wife, Parveen, 40, asked the contractor.

At Sanjay Colony, where the CM had promised water supply within a week, the rush to get tanker water is still on.

Around 9 a.m., Krishan Kumar, 13, pulled a yellow hose out of a blue DJB tanker and climbed down the vehicle as it started to move. Many children and women were seen waiting in queues to collect water from tankers. Many of them sought solace in the fact that the number of tankers had "increased under the AAP government".

"We get borewell water [supplied by the DJB] for about an hour a day, but we can't drink it. Around 7.30 p.m., potable water comes only for about 15 minutes a day, that too at very low pressure," said Pooja Mehta, 24, a resident of C Block, Sanjay Colony.

The supply of borewell water by the DJB was started after Mr. Kejriwal's visit in June, said the residents.

People have drilled holes into the main DJB pipeline passing through the lane in the hope of bringing the supply closer home. Water cans lining the narrow lanes of the unauthorised colony is proof that the residents are waiting for the CM's promise to come true.

+ A day after massive fire, normalcy returns to AIIMS

Hospital says evacuated patients shifted back to wards, emergency dept. and labs fully functional

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

It was business as usual at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Sunday, a day after a major fire broke out in the teaching block of the hospital.

"Today [Sunday], emergency department, laboratories are fully functional and the patients who were evacuated as a precautionary measure were shifted back to their respective wards," said a doctor.

A release issued by AIIMS on Sunday stated that all outpatient departments and emergency services continued to run normally and all scheduled surgeries were performed.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan reviewed the situation along with senior AIIMS officials and faculty members.

Inquiry initiated

Thirty-four fire tenders were pressed into service to contain the blaze suspected to have started in the microbiology laboratory on the se-



A day after a fire broke out at the teaching block of AIIMS on Saturday. • v. v. KRISHNAN

cond floor on Saturday. No causalities were reported.

"The AIIMS administration has initiated an internal inquiry to look into the cause of the fire. The hospital area has not been affected by the fire," read the release.

It added that the hospital has a fire-prevention system in place. "There are fire personnel deployed round-theclock with firefighting safety systems being regularly test-

STAFF REPORTER

the year so far.

Rain received

on

breathed the cleanest air of

Pollution Control Board, the

According to the Central

NEW DELHI

Delhiites

ed, including clearance of fire exits and corridors. Awareness of fire fighting systems among staff is conducted regularly," the statement added.

Meanwhile, AIIMS officials also held a meeting with all heads of departments and administrative staff to assess the situation for full restoration of lab services as soon as possible so that patient care does not suffer. "Despite being a holiday, several doctors and other medical staff opted to work on Sunday to ensure that patients were not inconvenienced and normalcy is restored as soon as possible. On Saturday too, our medical staff worked with the rescue staff to ensure that there was no break in healthcare services," said an AIIMS Resident Doctors' Association member.

Chief Minister Arvind Kej-

City breathes cleanest air of the year so far

Delhi records AQI of 47; several spells of heavy rain help bring down temperature

probe cause of fire Additional Deputy

FIR lodged, police to

Commissioner of Police (South) under Sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 436 (mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house) of the IPC has been lodged and a probe into the cause of the fire has been initiated. A senior officer said that a forensic team visited the site for inspection on Sunday.

riwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia also visited AIIMS.

Counselling dates

AIIMS has rescheduled the counselling dates for MBBS programme from August 20-21 to August 26-27.

issued by the hospital read.

Online registrations for counselling started on Sunday and can be done till 5 p.m. on August 21, a notice

not appreciate the matter The SFIO and the MCA was sub judice before a trial

STAFF REPORTER

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

The AAP alleged that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), which directly reports to the Central governdemolished the temple on August 10 triggering protests in the country and abroad.

Letter to PM Modi

Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam said, "The temple of Guru Ravidas must be re-established at the same place. The BJP has deliberately demolished the symbol of faith of over 40 crore Dalits. The community will never for-

be reinstalled. However, there was no response from the PM. "This reflects the anti-Dalit mindset of the BJP. The DDA works under the direct control of Union Minister Hardeep Puri. The temple of

written a letter to Prime Mi-

nister Narendra Modi and

demanded that the temple

Sant Ravidasji was demolished with the consent and permission of Mr. Puri," the Minister alleged. Workers from the SC/ST wing of the party said that the BJP has appointed Mr. Puri as the election in-

charge for Delhi. "The Dalit community will give a befitting reply to the BJP," they

EDMC councillor and president of the AAP SC-ST wing Kuldeep Kumar said, "If the site for Ram Mandir is not being changed, then why should the site for Ravidas Mandir be changed?".

Man held for providing fake visas to people

STAFF REPORTER

A 35-year-old man was arrested for allegedly cheating people on the pretext of providing them work visas, the police said on

Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Sanjay Bhatia said that the accused, identified as Santosh Bhagwan Behera, was apprehended by immigration staff of Mumbai airport on August 2. He managed to escape from custody but was finally arrested on Friday, Mr. Bha-

tia said. The police said that a passenger Shamu was arrested in January for travelling on a fake visa to Poland. During interrogation, he allegedly told the police that he was provided with the visa by the accused and two of his accomplices. Shamu said that the accused took a total of ₹10 lakh from his group of six.

IN BRIEF Man stabbed to death

in Rajouri Garden NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old man was stabbed to death by unidentified men in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden on Friday night, the police said on Sunday. The police suspect personal enmity to be the motive behind the killing. The victim, identified as Ujale, used to work in a restaurant at Punjabi Bagh.

Biker killed in collision with car in Noida

A 50-year-old man died after his bike collided with a car driven by a 20-year-old student here on Sunday, the police said. The deceased, identified as Raunaq Ali, was from Amroha district in western U.P. The driver has been arrested and a case has been registered. PTI

Air Quality Index was recorded at 47, which falls in the 'good' category.

Sunday

The Capital received several spells of rainfall over the weekend with the Safdarjung Observatory recording 45.7 mm of rain in a 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday; and then receiving 2 mm of rain during the day. The rain helped bring down the maximum temperature to 29.7 degrees Celsius, four degrees below the average for this time of the year. The minimum tempera-

ture was 24.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees below the season's average. Weather stations at Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge and Ayanagar received 11.4 mm, 49.9 mm, 65.8 mm and 20.8 mm respectively over a 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m.

Light rain expected The weatherman has fore-

cast a generally cloudy sky with chance of very light rain or thundershowers on Monday. The maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 32 degrees Celsius and 26 degrees Celsius, said the Met Department.

mark today, warns govt. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Yamuna may cross danger

The Delhi government on

Sunday sounded a flood alert for the city and asked people living in low-lying areas to move to safer places as the water level in the Yamuna river is expected to cross the danger mark The Yamuna was flowing

at 203.37 metres on Sunday evening and its water level is expected to rise to 207 metres on Monday as 8.28 lakh cusecs of water was released from Haryana's Hath-

ini Kund barrage at 6 p.m., an official said. The danger mark is 205.33 metres.

"Water level is rising due to heavy rain as well as release of water from Hathini Kund barrage. Water level may rise up to 207 metres by 10 a.m. on Monday, putting at risk to public life and property," East Delhi district said in its order.

All Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been directed to evacuate people from lowlying areas by 9 a.m. on Monday.

HC seeks reply from ex-auditor of _ Daewoo Motors on SFIO petition

Investigating agency and MCA want quashing of CIC order

lik's application seeking in-

proceedings against the

company in 2000-2001,

when he was the statutory

have contended in their plea

that the details sought under

the Right to Information

(RTI) Act of 2005 pertains to

years when the offences al-

leged against the company

were committed and for

which the trial was going on.

The petition said the CIC did

Matter sub judice

The SFIO and the Ministry

auditor of Daewoo Motors.

formation

have sought quashing of the court here and the informa-

CIC's November 8, 2018 or-tion pertained to evidence in

der which came on Mr. Ma-several cases against the

company

According to the petition,

the Ministry of Finance on

October 14, 2003, had or-

dered an investigation into

the affairs of Daewoo Motors

India Ltd. by the SFIO which

had given a detailed investi-

gation report on February

16, 2014, stating that charges

for various offences under

the Companies Act, 1956,

and the Indian Penal Code,

Subsequently, the MCA by

a letter dated July 21, 2015,

had directed the SFIO to file

complaint and initiate prose-

cution against the offenders,

1860, were made out.

the petition said.

STAFF REPORTER

"My daughter-in-law is preg-

"As we did not have the mo-

that that they spent around

The mother of four said that

they get water from a nearby bo-

rewell thrice a day, but it causes health problems. "The borewell

water is hard and unfit for con-

sumption. I was diagnosed with

kidney stones twice, but I did

not undergo a surgery. I was

saved by the desi dawai [local

medicine]," she said with a

Outside Mukheem Khan's house

in another part of Gautampuri, a

worker was drilling a hole into a

pipeline meant to supply DJB

water to the area. He marked a

spot with a driller and then with

a chisel and hammer made a

Dry pipelines

₹6,500 to get the connection.

The Delhi High Court has sought response from former auditor of Daewoo Motor on Serious Fraud Investigation Office's (SFIO) plea to set aside an order of Central Information Commission (CIC) directing it to make public details of criminal proceedings against the now defunct automobile company.

Justice V.K. Rao issued notice to the auditor, Vipin Malik, and sought his response on the petition by SFIO which functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). The High Court listed the matter for further hearing on December 3.

AAP urges Centre to rebuild Ravidas temple

Party holds march to BJP headquarters

NEW DELHI

on Sunday organised a protest march to the BJP headquarters demanding that the demolished Guru Ravidas temple be re-established in the same location.

give the BJP.'

He said that the party had





RAKESH RAO

e worked at the State Bank of India and played at the Reserve Bank of India. For Manjit Dua, former table tennis player, a peep into the past is a pleasant journey into time when his world revolved around table tennis and nothing else.

"After the RBI office was shut to the public at 5 p.m., we would bring out the tables and play table tennis. The RBI would host its 'A' division matches at the majestic building. That kind of access is unthinkable today," Dua says.

He knows, because he continues his 52-year association with the game, as the National coach and also the secretary general of the Delhi Table Tennis Association.

Coaching camp

"After retirement (from SBI), I have had a lot of time," he says, adding that he takes care of his wife, Harvinder (Pompy to him), a sketch artist, who is often unwell. But he does have many things to do as a coach. He is a scout and coach for Khelo India and says, "For a player, getting the right gui-

dance at the right time is the key. Unlike in the past, the players of today are fortunate to train and compete with quality infrastructure, play with world-class equipment and travel abroad for tournaments without hurdles.

He remembers his days, when they'd play tournaments (six to eight in a year) in cramped spaces with no fans, often small halls in schools. "Our 'earnings' were cups and trophies. A couple of prize money

NEW DELHI

two States

muna Nagar.

the standby.

house collapsed.

Heavy rain remained un-

abated in Haryana and Pun-

jab on Sunday causing floods

in some parts, while authori-

ties sounded high alert in the

In the Yamuna river, water

In view of heavy water dis-

charge in the rivers in Harya-

na, the State government has

requested the Armyto be on

Following heavy rains in

Aol village of Punjab, three

members of a family were

killed when the roof of their

four women, have been res-

cued after they got stuck

when the overflowing water

of the Beas flooded their vil-

lage in Punjab's Gurdaspur

In Uttarakhand, three pe-

'No request

for reshuffle'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Uttar Pradesh Raj Bha-

van on Sunday night clari-

fied that "no request" has

been received from the

State government for the

reshuffling of Yogi Aditya-

Eleven people, including

level rose dangerously at the

Hathni Kund barrage in Ya-

tournaments used to be great attractions. I feel happy today when Manika (Batra, Commonwealth Games champion) gets endorsements."

Dua, the first Indian to play as a professional in Germany, in the Bundesliga, in 1980, says one of the reasons for India's improved results is the introduction of Ultimate Table Tennis, the professional league.

Man hours

Dua's first job was at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (he joined in 1977). "BHEL had formed a table tennis team. Two years later, I got the offer to join SBI. Mr. Ajit Wadekar (former India cricket captain) saw me playing and asked if I was interested in shifting to SBI. I grabbed the chance (in 1981). I have worked in various departments of the bank, from handling cash to clearing cheques.'

Table tennis players in the '70s and '80s had limited international exposure and correspondingly meagre success abroad. It was less about glory and more about the joy of the game and "having fun", during an era when hockey players - not cricketers - enjoyed iconic status.

> There were other concerns: "Most Asians were playing with the pen-hold grip. So we had diffe-

Heavy rain batters Haryana, Punjab

SDRF men help a pilgrim cross a damaged path on the Kailash

man was also washed away

in Dehradun district when

her car fell into a seasonal

Uttarkashi District Magis-

trate Ashish Chauhan is

monitoring the situation

while senior administrative

and police officials have left

Char Dham Yatra routes

are also blocked by debris of

landslides at various points

9mm pistol on railway por-

ter Ashok Ram and his fami-

ly at their house near Barka-

Lilawati Devi (52) and preg-

nant daughter Meena Devi

(27), died on the spot while

another daughter Suman

Devi (25) and son Chintu

Ram (20) were injured, the

the railway barrack quarters

The family of Ram lives at

SP said.

Ashok Ram (55), his wife

kana railway junction.

for the rain-hit villages.

Opens fire at them near a railway station in Jharkhand

river, they said.

Mansarovar Yatra route in Pithoragarh on Sunday. • PTI

Operations

district

ople were killed and around

22 went missing as heavy

rain lashed the State on Sun-

day, razing houses to ground

and uprooting trees, State

Cloudbursts in Mori block

wreaked havoc in several vil-

lages, damaging several

houses in Arakot, Makuri

and Tikochi villages. A wo-

Emergency

Centre (SEOC) said.

Uttarkashi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Three members of a family

were shot dead and two in-

jured when a Railway Pro-

tection Force jawan alleged-

ly opened fire at them in

Jharkhand's Ramgarh dis-

trict, police said on Sunday.

of Police Prabhat Kumar said

RPF jawan Pawan Kumar

Singh on Saturday night al-

legedly opened fire from his

Ramgarh Superintendent

Three killed in Uttarakhand, Char Dham Yatra route blocked by landslides

'Our earnings were cups and trophies'

The unassuming table tennis player Manjit Dua, on picking and coaching talent, a successful personal and professional journey, and how his only regret is not getting the Padma Shri

rent training methods. We had to practise differently when preparing for the Asian championships as compared to, say when competing in European tournaments. Dealing with players using different grips was not always easy. But we still got some results."

Die-hard sports lovers from that era

affecting the yatra partially,

The Rishikesh-Badrinath

National Highway was

blocked at Lambagad and

Tangri, the Kedarnath high-

way at Banswada and Jamu

Nursery, Gangotri National

Highway at Harshil, Badeti

and Helgugad and Yamuno-

tri Highway at Dabarkot,

Landslide on the Kailash-

Mansarovar route has also af-

fected the pilgrimage with

devotees being moved to saf-

In Rajasthan, water has start-

ed receding and there was

State government official

said forty-nine people have

died in rain-related incidents

in the State since June 15 and

500 people have been evac-

uated from the rain-affected

in Barkakana police station

area while the jawan is post-

ed at Barkakana junction of

the East Central Railway, Mr.

of Police (North Chhotanag-

pur Division) Pankaj Kam-

boj, along with other senior

police officers, visited the

spot. The RPF jawan, a resi-

dent of Karath village in Bi-

har's Bhojpur district, is ab-

sconding, police said.

Deputy Inspector General

Kumar said

situation

flood-like

anywhere in the State.

er places, the SEOC said.

Water receding

the SEOC said

they said.

will remember this left-hander from Delhi who came into the limelight after he helped India beat Japan in Kathmandu during an invitation series, in 1974. That year, at the Triple 'A' tournament involving 70 nations from the Asian, African and Australian continents, Dua played a stellar role in taking India to the fifth spot at Beijing.

Until the early 1970s, the country had seen champions only from western and southern India. Dua became a household name, featuring on the cover of Illustrated Weekly and in a Sportstar poster.

Turn table

Table tennis was not the first choice for this soft-spoken man. "I pursued competitive badminton for six months before following in the footsteps of my elder brother (Rajinder)." He remem-

bers buying his first racket from Jain Sports, in Karol Bagh, at ₹15, expensive "It was called Sunder racket. Just wood and no rubber on it. It would create a sweet sound when it came in contact with the ball. During long rallies, it was music literally - tik-tok, tik-

ere," smiles the man who says he has never lost his temper on or off court. He's lived all his life in Delhi, in Karol Bagh, and remembers zipping off on his Yezdi to Hindu College. "The place has such a buzz. If you get bored at home, a walk in the market is a great timepass. Till today we eat kulche-

> tiful." But he'll still do the drive to Pandara Road for family dinners. He's happy with his journey, both

chhole at Standard and ice cream and

kulfi at Roshan Di Kulfi. Life was beau-

tok. I still have that racket somewh-

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, THE HINDU ARCHIVES, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA personal and professional. Dua's daughter Nishita works in the aviation sector in Gurugram and son Tejan is in Chandigarh working for Infosys. He now advises young players to give it all, with support form all quarters. "These days, results are getting noticed and rewards follow."

Dua concedes, "During our time, our approach was not professional. We thought differently compared to the current lot of players. I feel that the difference between the top Indian players and the best in the world could have been narrower only if we were guided properly."

His only regret: not being considered for Padma Shri. "I deserved it all along. I find it strange to apply for awards because I grew up believing that awards are something you are given, not something you apply for."



CAREER SPAN: 1967 to 1992

HONOURS: Arjuna Awardee (1980)

KNOWN FOR: Being the first national champion from north India

FOR THE RECORD: At 18, he was the youngest national champion. He won three national singles titles and till date, remains the only male player to win four titles in a single edition of the national championship: men's singles, doubles, mixed doubles and team. Dua won (with Vilas Menon as partner) a rare men's doubles bronze

at the 1976 Asian Championship in Pyongyang

ADG-led cell to monitor heinous crimes in Rajasthan, says Gehlot

'Appeal will be filed in High Court in Pehlu Khan case'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said a cell will be set up for the monitoring of heinous crimes such as lynchings in the State.

The cell would be led by the Additional Director General of Police (Crime) and include an IGP-rank officer, a DIG and two SPs besides two legal officers, Mr. Gehlot told reporters at a press confe-

rence here. "The cell will monitor the case even when it is in the court. Investigation of heinous crimes like the lynching of Pehlu Khan will now be done at the State-level as well as the range-level. A law officer will monitor the case after the challan is presented



CM Ashok Gehlot

in the court," he said.

Responding to a question on lapses in the Pehlu Khan case investigation, Mr. Gehlot said action would be taken against guilty officers on the basis of the report of the SIT set up to investigate all aspects of the case.

He said the State government had now constituted an SIT in the matter and an appeal would be filed against the acquittal of the accused in the High Court.

(Clockwise from above) Manjit Dua with his family; in action in Bengaluru in 1985;

at the UTT league in New Delhi; a picture of concentration

'Don't provoke people'

On the BJP's allegation of adopting a different criteria in the case of the alleged suicide of Rati Ram Jatav, whose son Harish Jatav had died during treatment after being thrashed by a group of people in Alwar district, Mr. Gehlot said he would be happy if anyone raised issues concerning the public but it was not good to provoke people and give a political an-

gle to any issue. He said, "For us, whether it is Hindu, Muslim or any other religion, the law should be the same for eve-

hits pilgrims, three killed

Speeding car

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A speeding car ran over seven pilgrims en route to the Ramdevra Temple in Raiasthan's Pali district. killing three women on the spot, police said on Sunday. The devotees were walking on the Beawar-Ahmedabad national highway on Saturday when the accident occurred, SHO Sendra police station Prema-

ram said. The victims were identified as Sugri Mehrat (40), Puja Rawat (18) and Patashi Mehrat (58).

Driver arrested

The bodies were handed over to their family members after post-mortem, the SHO said. Car driver Dev Karan has been arrest-

Photojournalist, brother shot dead in U.P. RPF jawan kills three of a family

SP, Congress slam the Yogi Adityanath govt. over law and order situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A photojournalist with a prominent Hindi daily and his brother were shot dead in Saharanpur district on Sunday morning following an altercation over disposal of cow dung, the police said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each for the kin of the deceased. However, the Samajwadi Party and the Congress slammed the ruling BJP over the alleged collapse of law and order and failure

provide compensation.

Ashish (23), a photographer with Dainik Jagran newspaper, and his brother Ashutosh (19) were killed by their neighbour Mahipal Saini and his sons, Senior Superintendent of Police (Saharanpur) Dinesh Kumar P.

"In the midst of an argument, Mahipal and his sons entered the house of Ashish and Ashutosh and shot them. Locals rushed the duo to a nearby hospital, where the

declared them doctors brought dead," the SSP said.

Three teams have been formed to nab the culprits who are absconding, he added.

"The Chief Minister has taken cognisance of the Saharanpur incident wherein the journalist of Dainik Jagran and his brother were shot dead by the assailants," a statement issued here by a senior Uttar Pradesh government official said.

"SSP Saharanpur has been directed to initiate the strongest action. The State government stands by the bereaved family," the statement added.

Reacting to the incident, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav expressed grief over the deaths. "During the regime of the SP government, the kin of the deceased used to get ₹20 lakh as immediate financial assistance. The BJP government should do at least this much," he said.

Ajay Kumar, Leader of the Congress in the U.P. Assembly, demanded the CM's resignation.

ceived from the U.P. government for expansion of the Cabinet," Anjum Naqvi, Assistant Director Information at Raj Bhavan, said.



12-day police remand for restaurateur's son

His luxury car rammed another one which hit a police kiosk and killed 2 persons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA

A city court on Sunday sent Arsalan Parwez, the son of a restaurant chain owner, to 12 days' police remand in connection with a car crash that led to the death of two Bangladeshi nationals.

Rejecting his bail plea, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (in-charge) Alakananda Roy remanded the 21-yearold in police custody till August 29.

A luxury car, allegedly being driven by Parwez, had on Saturday rammed another luxury car, which then hurtled towards a police kiosk and dashed into it, killing two bystanders and injuring one, all three Bangladeshi nationals.

Seeking his police remand, the prosecution claimed that Parwez, who was driving at a high speed in inclement weather, had jumped the red signal at the Loudon Street-Shakespeare Sarani intersection in south Kolkata. The public prosecutors said the investigation was at a very early stage and Parwez's custodial interrogation was necessary to establish the chain of events. He has been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, attempt to commit culpable homicide, rash driving, mischief and damage to public property.

Case registered against SP for assaulting pregnant woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ROURKELA

A case has been registered against the Superintendent of Police of Odisha's Sundargarh district for allegedly assaulting a pregnant woman last month which lead to her miscarriage, a police officer said on Sunday.

The case was registered against SP Saumya Mishra

on August 14 as per the Sundergarh Sub-divisional Judicial Magistrate order, he added. The directive came following a complaint by Priya Dey of Kanika village on August 5 this year. The woman claimed that she had a miscarriage following

the police action last month. Efforts to contact the SP for comments failed.

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE No.10/2019

Date: 16-08-2019

Turnout sleepers 1 in 16 were uploaded i

For details of the same please visit IREPS

Website: www.ireps.gov.in. Please check

the website till the opening date of the

tender for details of any corrigendum.

Odisha to conserve two of its largest lakes

The plan for Chilika, Ansupa will cost ₹180 cr.

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Wetland Authority has approved implementation of an integrated management plan for Chilika, country's largest brackish water lagoon, and Ansu-State's largest freshwater lake, at an estimated investment of ₹180 crore.

The five-year management of lakes is intended at strengthening livelihood of thousands of fishermen relying on the two water-bodies. Besides, tourism promotion and conservation of ecology will be taken up.

Promoting tourism

During past two years, the Chilika Development Authority has managed to make 172 sq km free from encroachment which resulted in increase in fish catch by

Chilika is spread over 1,100 sq km. Lakhs of tourists visit the lake to watch

EDUCATIONAL

endangered Irrawaddy dolphins and migratory birds during winter. About 151 villages carry out fishing, the principal livelihood for two lakh traditional fishermen. The government would spend ₹158 crore for the lake's development.

Ansupa spread over almost 2 sq km is also the wintering ground for 32 species of migratory birds. Its calmness, scenic beauty and forest coverage behold the visitors. As many as 250 fishermen of two villages around the lake would be benefited by an investment of ₹21.23 crore.

Ansupa is famous for its sweet water fish, especially labeo bata locally known as pohala. According to the CDA, the situation has changed drastically. "The lake was sustaining from the freshwater supply during the rainy season from the Mahanadi river. With reduced inflow over the years, the lake's hydrology has undergone serious and visible changes. The water spread area has reduced and fishery resource is almost non-existent."

Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun. Dated: 14 Aug,2019

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA(PMGSY)

rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Raods under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Bageshwar for 02 number of Package and District of Uttarkashi for 01 number of package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 37.24 Crore. including their maintenance for Two years for Stage-I and Five Year for Stage-II from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 14.08.2019.

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2nd defendant viz Manonmani @janak 2" defendant viz Manonmani @janak Menon, Wo Late N.N. Menon (EC Burms Shell) No: 10, Dolova Street, Burhampur Gunjam, District, Orissa State in above mentioned court failing which the case will be decided exparte. Dated this the 10th day of July 2019 **NEW BATCH STARTS**

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OXXI R 22 Refore the Hon ble Munsiff's Court Pathanamthitta

0.S. 462/2001 in EP.No. 17/2014

Decree Holders: Decree Holders:

1. Varughese Koshy (died) Edayilemuriy
House, Konni Thazham P.O., Iravo
Village, Konni Taluk, Pathanamthitt
District., 2. Marthakutty, -do, do-, 3. A.K
Shaji -do, do-, 4. Shibu - do, do-

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Mr.S.Chinnasamy - Petitioner

Mr.laivir I akhmi Ram & anothe - Respondents

Mr.Jaivir Lakhmi Ram H.No.202, Vill-Atela Kalan The-CH-Dadri-127030, Bhiwani

claim petition stands posted before IV Judge, Small Causes Court, at Chennai on 17.09.2019 at 10.30A.M. for your appearance If you fail to appear before the said ourt on 17.09.2019 at 10.30 A.M., please take note that you will be set exparte and the matter wil e decided in your absence.

Counsel for petitioner.

Before the IV Judge, Small Causes Court at Chennai

O.P.NO.3621 of 2017 Mrs.A.Thilagavathy - Petitioner

 Respondents Mr.Jaivir Lakhmi Ram H.No.202, Vill-Atela Kalan

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Sd/- Mr.V.Mohan Choudary, Counsel for petitioner.

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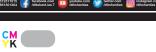
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VBA to hold interviews for ticket aspirants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

With the State Assembly polls nearing, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) will conduct interviews of aspiring candidates next week, the party said in a statement on Saturday.

The interviews will be held between August 19 and 21 for aspirants from Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. The VBA's parliamentary committee members Annarao Patil, Ashok Sonone, Rekha Thakur and Kisan Chavan will interview the aspirants, the statement said.

Polls to the 288-member Assembly are due soon. Aspirants from Mumbai will be interviewed on August 19, followed by those from Thane on August 20, and the rest on August 21 in Dadar's Ambedkar Bhavan.

In a first, Pune Metro to get aluminium-bodied coaches

They are lighter, energy efficient and have better aesthetics than steel coaches

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

In what is touted as a game changer for Indian Metro rail projects, the Pune Metro is set to get ultra-modern, state-of-the-art aluminiumbodied coaches.

Thus far, Metros in the country have used stainless steel-bodied coaches.

A consortium formed by Kolkata-based wagon manufacturer Titagarh Wagons with its wholly-owned subsidiary Titagarh Firema SPA recently won the international bid to supply 102 aluminium coaches to the Pune Metro project. The Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (Maha Metro) had issued a tender for "design, manufacture, supply, testing, commissioning of passenger rolling stock (electrical multiple units) and training of personnel".

This will be the first time aluminium-bodied coaches, which are said to be lighter in weight, more energy efficient and have better aesthetics, will be manufactured in India, Dr. Brijesh Dixit, managing director of Maha Metro, said.

"The company will manufacture 25% of the coaches at their plant in Italy and 75% will be produced and commissioned at the Maha Metro coach manufacturing plant in Nagpur," Dr. Dixit said. He said the Pune Metro project had crossed "another important milestone" with this order for coach procurement.

Officials from the Pune Metro project said that initially, the trains will consist of three coaches, which will subsequently be converted into six as per requirement.



State-of-the-art: The coaches will be fully air-conditioned with humidity control, and have digital route and station display and international standard interiors. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



They said these coaches would be fully air-conditioned with humidity control, provided with digital route and station display and international standard interiors.

"The coaches will have 100% CCTV camera coverage. [Passengers with disabilities] will be able to travel seamlessly to/from the station entry to the train with specially earmarked places for wheelchairs. Mobile and laptop charging facility will also be provided on board," a spokesperson with the project said.

The coaches are to be ergonomically and aerodynamically designed, with the coach exterior reflecting the history and cultural heritage of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad. They will have a maximum speed of 95 kmph and the capacity to accommomore than date passengers.

"They are energy efficient and will be equipped with a

regenerative braking system. They will also be capable of operating in driverless mode," Dr. Dixit said.

Pune Metro will begin operating with coaches being used by Maha Metro in Nagpur, and will be augmented as and when the new coaches join the fleet.

The ₹11,420 crore- Pune Metro rail system has been projected by Centre and the State government as a panacea to Pune's traffic woes. In December 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone for the project, just ahead of the elections to the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal corporations.

An especially vital section in the project – comprising three lines with a total length of 54.58 km - is the elevated 23.3-km Line 3, which will bridge the city's bustling Information Technology quarter in Hinjewadi with Shivajinagar.

Doctors' federation pushes to check hysterectomy rates

To sensitise members to treatments other than surgery

JYOTI SHELAR

The high rate of hysterectomies in Beed district has put the medical fraternity in a spot for carrying out unwanted procedures. The Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), a body of over 40,000 doctors from across the country, has now decided to sensitise its members and reach out to the community and the government.

Through its 'save the uterus' campaign, FOGSI is reaching out to all members and talking about how a hysterectomy can be avoided. "There are so many new medical treatments and other surgeries that can be opted for instead of a hysterectomy. We are reaching out to the doctors and sensitising them about these procedures and treatments," Dr. Kalyan Barmade, head of FOGSI's public awareness committee, said.

"Problems like abnormal

We have also extended our campaign to other parts like Haryana, Rajasthan, U.P. and Gujarat

DR. KALYAN BARMADE Head of FOGSI's public awareness

bleeding are extremely common and there are many ways to treat it. We are simply spreading awareness about what alternate treatments can be offered,"

The Beed district in drought-stricken Marathwada came into focus in May after media reports highlighted that a large number of women, especially those who migrated for sugarcanecutting work, have had their uterus removed. Data collected by the government showed that 4,605 hysterectomies were carried out in Beed in a span of three years in 99 private hospitals.

Activists have alleged that

the rate of hysterectomies in Beed is 14 times higher than other parts of the State or the country.

A seven-member committee appointed by the government is currently investigate ing the matter and will submit a report this month. Of the 99 hospitals, 11 hospitals have carried out most of the procedures.

According to Dr. Barmade, more than six seminars have been conducted in Beed, Osmanabad, Latur, Ambejogai and other areas over the last few months. "We have also extended our campaign to other parts of the country like Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat where the rate of hysterectomies are said to be high," he said.

The first step is to sensitise the doctors and then reach out to the community members, he said. "Lastly, we will submit a memorandum to the government because it plays a key role as well."

Sena leader booked for abetting Dalit woman's rape by his brothers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AHMEDNAGAR

Shiv Sena leader and former Ahmednagar mayor Bhagvan Phulsundar has been booked for allegedly abetting the rape of a Dalit woman by two of his brothers over a land dispute, the police said on Sunday.

While Mr. Phulsundar (55) and his brother Arun allegedly abetted the crime, their brothers Ganesh (30) and Mahesh (34) allegedly committed the act, inspector Vikas Wagh, Kotwali police station in charge, said.

No arrest has been made so far. An FIR was registered against the four on Saturday night on a complaint lodged by the woman, who belongs to a Scheduled Caste community, he said. According to the complainant, the brothers had accused her of encroaching on their land. "She said she was raped by Ganesh and Mahesh Phulsundar on August 12, while

Bhagvan and Arun helped

them," Mr. Wagh said. The alleged incident oc-

curred at the Phulsundars' farm on Burudgao Road. A case has been registered under sections of the Indian Penal Code and under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Local NCP MLA Sangram Jagtap has written to district police superintendent demanding verification of facts in the allegations, suspecting "political vendetta".

+ BJP poaching leaders groomed by us: Patil

State NCP chief questions ruling party's credibility as it inducts leaders from Cong.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

State Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Jayant Patil on Sunday hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) poaching leaders groomed by his party and the Congress, likening it to buying ready-made clothes.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a State-level NCP meeting attended by several senior leaders, amid speculation that some of those absent may be on their way to the BJP or Shiv Sena. "Leaders groomed by us are now picked up by the BJP ahead of the Assembly elections. It is the Congressification of the BJP," Mr. Patil said.

He said the BJP should give a chance to its party workers rather than inducting workers from his party, and asked if the BJP had lost credibility and was thus inducting leaders from the Congress and NCP. "It is more important to have people who can stitch than ones



Jayant Patil

who simply buy ready-made clothes. The leaders have switched loyalties, but what about their followers and party workers?" he asked.

Barshi MLA Dileep Sopal, who was among those who skipped Sunday's meeting, instead organised a meet for party workers in his constituency, with posters on the stage having no images of NCP leaders. "My meeting is about planning for Assembly polls and has nothing to do with switching over to any other party," he said.

State Council chairman on way to BJP?

Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Ramraie Nimbalkar, may follow in the footsteps of his erstwhile counterpart in the Assembly, Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil of Congress, in joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the

Assembly polls. A close aide said on Sunday that Mr. Nimbalkar's feud with Satara NCP MP and Maratha royal Udayanraje Bhosale could be the trigger if he were to jump ship. Mr. Nimbalkar comes from a

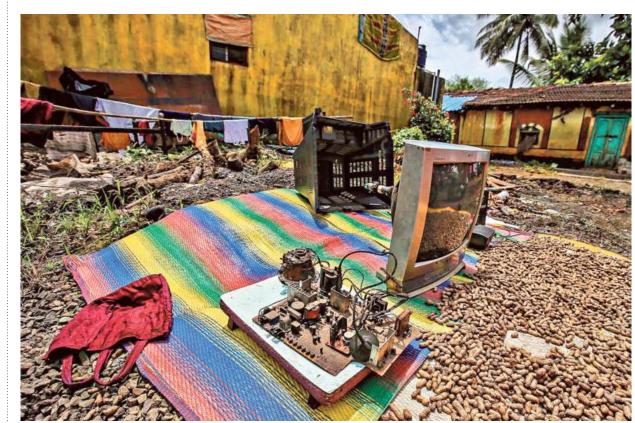
royal family in Phaltan taluka in Satara, while Mr. Bhosale is a descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharai.

It is expected that Mr. Nimbalkar might continue to serve as the chairman of the Council. Mr. Bhosale's vounger

brother, Shivendraraje, has already joined the BJP and speculation is that he might get a ticket to contest from Jawli Assembly constituency in western Maharashtra.

Despite NCP chief Sharad Pawar's attempts to broker peace, Mr. Nimbalkar and Mr. Bhosale have been criticising each other on public forums.

On dry land



Salvage efforts: Villagers dry their belongings — clothes, electronincs and food items — which were drenched in the floodwater, at Holondi village in Kolhapur on Sunday. • ABHIJEET GURJAR

World-class zoo to come up near Statue of Unity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A world-class zoo will come up near the Statue of Unity in Narmada district of Gujarat before the end of October next year, a senior official said on Sunday.

Rajiv Gupta, additional secretary and managing director of the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, said the zoo as well as river rafting facilities are part of a plan to make Kevadiya, where the statue is situated, a major tourist attraction.

"Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated a river rafting sport facility at Khalvani near the Statue of Unity on Saturday," Mr. Gupta said.

The zoo will be developed across 1,300 acres over seven levels and will have lions, tigers, leopards, 12 types of deer and antelopes, giraffes, zebras, rhinos, bisons, and other exotic animals. "Setting up the Sardar Patel Zoological Park is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wish to develop this region as a major tourism hub. He had expressed this while inaugurating the Statue of Unity last year," Mr. Gupta said. The official said the Cen-

tral Zoo Authority had given in-principle approval to the plan. He said 19 lakh tourists have visited the statue since it was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on October 31 last year.

State's plantation drive mere eyewash: actor

An active participant in the campaign, Sayaji Shinde says sapling survival a worry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Veteran actor and environment enthusiast Sayaji Shinde on Sunday said the Maharashtra government's drive to plant 33 crore saplings was merely an

He said despite carrying out large-scale plantation and spending crores of rupees on the drive, the government is not taking enough steps to ensure survival of the saplings plant-

Mr. Shinde had been an active participant in the plantation drive since the beginning of the project, launched under the leadership of State Forests Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar. "I have



Sayaji Shinde

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serious doubts about the actual results of this drive going on every year even as the number of saplings (being planted) is swelling. I had warned Mr. Mungantiwar in the very first year that his ambitious project should not end up with plantation of new saplings in the same ditch every year," he said.

"There might have been large-scale plantation, but the survival rate must have been minimal... The drive is an eyewash," he said. Mr. Shinde, who began his

career as a Marathi actor and went on to act in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada films as well, hails from Man tehsil in Satara district. He has been planting saplings in government-recognised areas. "I have even appointed people and paid them to take care of the saplings. I am not sure the government has taken so much effort," he said.

He said there should be a proper audit of this project

as the government is spending crores on it without any substantial outcome. "Government employees undertake plantation as a duty and not as a mission. I found that none of them were ever interested in protecting and growing the plants. They simply planted it because the government ordered them to do so," the actor said.

The saplings supplied by the Social Forestry Department are also not in a good condition, he alleged.

"Most of the saplings are just three to six months old. They should be at least nine months old, which will increase the chances of their survival in the new environment once they are planted," Mr. Shinde said.



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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT



Airfares to Gulf countries go through the roof

THIRUVANANTHAPURAN Airlines have hiked fares by 300% to 500% from the four international airports in Kerala to almost all destinations in West Asia to cash in on the demand from the non-resident Keralites returning after summer vacation of educational institutions in the Gulf. The fares are usually in the range of ₹4.500 to ₹13.000 in the West Asia-Kerala sector, At present, the lowest fare is ₹19,025 in the Thiruvananthapuram-Sharjah sector.

Don't split Waltair railway division: MP

YSRCP Rajya Sabha member V. Vijaya Sai Reddy, in a letter to Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, sought continuation of the Waltair railway division with its headquarters in Visakhapatnam. The Centre's proposal is to split the division and merge one part with the Rayagada division in Odisha. The other part will be with the Vijayawada division in A.P. "This will cause administrative problems, general secretary of National Federation of Indian Railwaymen M. Raghavaiah said.

Fire accident victim shifted to Mumbai

VISAKHAPATNAM

Following instructions from Visakhapatnam District Collector V. Vinay Chand, 24-year-old Jivang Joshi, one of victims of a fire accident on the offshore supply vessel Coastal Jaguar on August 12, was airlifted to Mumbai for treatment on Saturday. It may be recalled that 27 crew members were rescued by personnel of the Coast Guard and the Visakhapatnam Port Trust after they jumped into the sea from the burning vessel. One crew member was killed and one is still missing.

CBI will probe phone-tapping charges, says Karnataka CM

JD(S)-Congress regime was accused of tapping phones of all rebel MLAs

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Sunday announced that the probe into allegations of phonetapping during the Janata Dal (S)-Congress government would be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The decision on the probe by the Central agency, which is often accused by the Opposition of being misused by the BJP, into a politically sensitive case seems to have set the cat among the pigeons. This is because the JD (S) and the Congress have expressed concerns over "political vendetta" though they have welcomed such an investigation.

Discussions in Delhi

Sources said the issue figured during the Chief Minister's talks with the party leadership in New Delhi over the past two days.

"Congress leader Siddaramaiah and several other



leaders have sought a highlevel probe into the scandal. So, I have ordered a CBI probe into it," Mr. Yediyurappa said here on Sunday.

However, the terms of reference that the State government will give the CBI will be critical, according to sources. While a preliminary probe by the Bengaluru police confined itself to just one call intercept, widespread allegations of tapping phones of several politicians and their associates during the political crisis in June-July



H.D. Kumaraswamy

that eventually triggered the collapse of the JD(S)-Congress coalition government have surfaced. Alok Kumar, the then Bengaluru Police Commissioner, who was said to be close to the then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, is at the centre of these

allegations. An audio recording of a telephonic conversation between one Faraz Ahmed and Bengaluru Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao, where the latter was heard lobbying for the Commissioner's post,

was leaked to the media days after Mr. Rao took charge earlier this month.

Sandeep Patil, Joint Commissioner (Crime - Bengaluru), submitted an interim report on the issue wherein he recommended a high-level probe into the issue. While the State police chief recommended an inquiry by the Criminal Investigation Department, the Chief Minister chose a CBI probe.

The issue soon took a political turn when former Minister and JD(S) leader A.H. Vishwanath alleged that the phones of all rebel MLAs, including himself, tapped and that Mr. Kumaraswamy had "blackmailed" them with the release of audio tapes if they did not withdraw their resignations.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said the move for a CBI probe was a conspiracy against him. "How much ever they may try, they cannot point the finger at me as I have done no wrong," he said.

5 electrocuted in Karnataka hostel

Flagpole touches power line in Koppal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a heart-wrenching incident, five high school students of a government-run hostel here in Karnataka were electrocuted when they came into contact with a power line while removing a flagpole from the terrace of their hostel building on Sunday morning.

The flagpole had been put up at the governmentrun Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Hostel for the Independence Day celebrations.

Two of the students first came into contact with the 11 kV overhead live wire as they were removing the flagpole and got electrocuted. The other three died when they rushed to help their friends. The victims are Mallikarjun Obalabandi, 16, Basavarai Ielli, 16, Devarai Hadapad,14, Ganesh Kuri, 14, and Kumar Lamani, 14.

Warden arrested

Later in the day, a case was registered against hostel warden Basavaraj Belawat,



P. Sunil Kumar inspecting the site of the tragedy.

building owner Basanagouda Herevenkanagoudra and the Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (Gescom) under Section 304 (a) of the IPC (causing death by negligence). Mr. Belawat was subsequently suspended pending inquiry and arrested by the police. Gescom section officer Nagaratna was also

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said the government would give a compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased.

IAS officer case: police shift blame for delayed tests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police on Saturday defended the delay in putting IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman through a blood alcohol concentration test after the vehicle he drove was involved in an accident that claimed the life of journalist K.M. Basheer of Siraj newspaper early on August 3.

In a court filing, the police said the "reluctance" of the de-facto complainant, Saifudeen Haji, unit chief of Siraj, to file a first information statement had slowed the process.

Mr. Saifudeen slammed the report filed by Dy.SP Sheen Tharayil and termed it part of a conspiracy to protect the local

His counsel S. Chandrasekharan Nair told The Hindu that the police were obliged to register a case on their own in the event of a fatal accident. Ideally, the police should have ensured that the medical officer who examined Mr. Venkitaraman initially at the General Hospital took a sample to gauge the suspect's level of inebriation. Instead, the police had taken his blood sample nine hours after the accident. The High Court has condemned the "lack of professionalism."

Mr. Nair said his client doubted the integrity of the blood sample sent to the Chief Chemical Examiner for analysis.

Saifudeen moved the court seeking the prosecution of the IAS officer on the charges of having conspired with the police to dodge the test and destroy evidence that would have rendered him vulnerable to prosecution for culpable homicide.

Radar fails in search attempt at landslip site in Kerala



A team scouring the landslip site at Kavalappara in Malappuram with a ground penetrating radar. • SAKEER HUSSAIN

By digging out six more bodies in Kavalappara, firemen make some headway

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA

Human experience and dedication won where the machine failed. The men of the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services retrieved six more bodies from the landslip-ravaged Kavalappara, near Nilambur in Malappuram, on Sunday.

The ground penetrating radar (GPR) equipment brought by a team from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, failed to detect any

bodies buried under the massive debris.

13 more missing

Personnel of the State's Fire and Rescue Services, who continued operations with 13 heavy-duty excavators, concrete cutters and saws, have so far unearthed 46 bodies from Kavalappara, which saw one of the most disastrous landslips ever in the State on August 8.

According to official figures, 13 people are still mis-

from NGRI led by Anand Kumar Pandev could not make any headway with the GPR machine as the signals proved ineffective in the mud. A team member said GPR, which uses radar signals to image the subsurface area of the earth, would be effective in solid earth. Ho-

wever, the situation at Kava-

lappara was different with

mud and slime having covered a vast area measuring over 20 hectares. Water was widely present in the lower

The six-member team area of the site through which a stream was flowing. It also rained heavily at Kavalappara and neighbouring areas on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Pandey's team will leave for Wayanad on Monday. The mudslide site in

puram.

GPR technology to trace missing persons there. District authorities on Sunday confirmed 58 deaths, including 46 at Kavalappara, in the recent rains in Malap-

Wayanad has dried up, and

the team is hopeful of using

⁺ A.P. police bust human trafficking racket

Victims were promised jobs in Gulf

RAIULAPUDI SRINIVAS

Busting an inter-country human trafficking racket, the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (CID), in association with the district police, has rescued women who had been sent to Dubai with job promises by agents in West Godavari, Kurnool and Krishna districts but were forced into the flesh trade.

The police responded to video clips posted by some of the victims, seeking help from Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy and the police.

Embassy help

"We registered four cases in three districts and located a few women trapped in Dubai. Police contacted the In-

dian Embassy in UAE and brought back a few women and the remaining were kept under the safe custody of the Embassy," said Director General of Police (DGP) D. Gautam Sawang. Based on a complaint

lodged by the victims, the police in West Godavari, Kurnool and Krishna district registered cases against the fake agents. The kingpin of the racket A. Jyothi, of Palakol in West Godavari, is operating from Dubai, Mr. Sawang said. West Godavari district SP Navdeep Singh Grewal said an agent, B. Venkata Subbarao, alias Chinna Babu who had sent a woman to Dubai had been arrested on Sunday.

The DGP said would issue a Red notice to get Jyothi deported.



Hoof power: A cattle race in progress on a paddy field at Kanjikode in Palakkad district of Kerala on Saturday. • к. к. мизтаған

Guinness honour for Chrysostum film

Thiruvalla to host event in celebration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A function will be held here on Monday to celebrate the Guinness Book of World Records entry of 100 Years of Chrysostum, a biographical documentary on Metropolitan Emeritus of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, Philipose Mar Chrysostum.

The documentary on the 102-year-old Metropolitan was scripted and directed by filmmaker Blessy. Actor Mohanlal who has done the voice-over for the documentary will be the guest of honour. The head of Mar Thoma Church, Joseph Mar Thoma, will deliver the benedictory speech.

The work has entered the Guinness Book as the longest documentary. Mr. Bles-



Philipose Mar Chrysostum

sy said the 48-hour and 8 minutes documentary has broken the record of the 21hour Saudi Arabian documentary World of Snakes.

M. Jayachandran who scored the music of the documentary; K.S. Chitra, singer; Benyamin, novelist; K.R. Meera, writer: Stephen Devassy, musician; will address the event at 5.30 p.m. at SC Seminary School grounds in Thiruvalla.

A.P. villagers turn wildlife-friendly

Man-animal conflict has ended in Satyavedu range in Chittoor, says forest officer

K. UMASHANKER

Hopes for the survival of deer, bears and monitor lizards in the sparse jungles of the Satyavedu range in Chittoor on the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border have risen. with the growth of a wildlife-friendly ambience in the villages fringing the for-

The hillocks from Narayanavanam to Satyavedu hold considerable vegetation to support spotted deer. However their presence is limited to a few pockets close to the Telugu Ganga canal on the eastern side from Srikalahasti to Varadaiahpalem, and in Kambakam forest, and in the small patches of forests surrounding the Sri City zone at the intersection of the two States.

In the last couple of years,



rescuing it from stray dogs at Santhavelur hamlet in Chittoor district.

villagers of KVB Puram, BN Kandriga, Pichatur, Nagalapuram and Satyavedu mandals have come across deer sprinting close to their habitations, only to be attacked by stray dogs. With timely intervention of the villagers, mostly youths, several deer have escaped death and sprinted back to their habi-

Whenever the villagers are woken up late in the night on the barking of dogs, they rush to the trouble spots, and shoo away the dogs, allowing the beleaguered deer to escape. So much so, that in some hamlets, the dogs are no more hostile to their prey.

On August 15, villagers of Santhavelur village in BN Kandriga mandal rescued a fawn from dogs in a threehour operation. After it was fed with milk and grass, it was handed over to forest officials, who later released it into the thickets.

Forest Range Officer (Sa-

tyavedu) J. Prasada Rao told The Hindu that the department's efforts to create wildlife awareness had yielded results in the last two years. "Incidence of villagers

killing pythons and several reptile species has almost ended in our area. Several youths, who used to venture into the reserve forests in search of monitor lizards (known as udumu), have now stopped such activity. By staying away from the reserve forest zones and limiting cattle grazing to the fringe areas, the villagers have provided a safer environment for forest animals like bears. This has also averted man-animal conflict," he said. Also, the Sri City industrial zone has sought permission to catch snakes on its premises and release them into the forests.

Flood in Krishna river recedes

Inflows gradually fall at all reservoirs but several residential areas waterlogged

THARUN BODA

The flood in the Krishna River has been coming down gradually with inflows to Almatti in Karnataka and other reservoirs downstream registering a downward trend.

As of Sunday evening, Almatti was discharging only two lakh cusecs and Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh was handling an inflow and outflow of 5.69 lakh cusecs. As per flood forecast, the inflows were gradually falling at all the reservoirs.

Nagarjuna Sagar

The Nagarjuna Sagar Project too was handling 4.22 lakh cusecs of inflow and outflow. The inflow at the Pulichintala project was 5.16 lakh cusecs. Over 5.50 lakh cusecs was being released while maintaining a flood cushion



Andhra Pradesh, has come down considerably. • U. SUBRAMANYAM

of 9.31 tmcft. As a result, the er mandals, agriculture inflows to Prakasam Barrage fields in Krishna and Guntur also came down to 5.48 lakh districts were still under a cusecs from 6.43 lakh cusecs sheet of water. Water Resources departon Saturday evening.

The outflow from the barment officials estimate that it rage was 6.23 lakh cusecs. would take a day for the inflow and outflow to come However, several residential areas in Vijayawada and othdown by one lakh cusecs.

ita, who inspected a relief camp in Guntur district, said the government was able to avoid loss of life with effective flood relief management. Two persons died in Guntur and Krishna districts. She promised all help to farmers and people until normalcy returns.

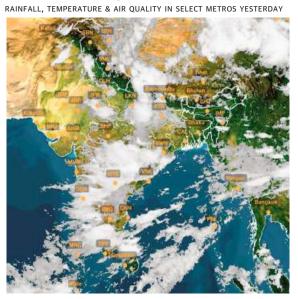
Home Minister M. Suchar-

Crops damaged

She said 34 villages of 18 mandals in Krishna and 53 villages of 14 mandals in Guntur were affected and thousands of acres of crops were damaged.

As per the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority's preliminary report, 4,235 houses in Krishna and 537 houses in Guntur were submerged and over 20,000 people were lodged in relief camps.

WEATHER WATCH



Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MII		
Agartala		34.4	25.6	Kozhikode	1.2	29.8	24.4		
Ahmedabad	5.2	32.6	25.3	Kurnool		34.6	25.		
Aizawl	10.0	28.2	21.3	Lucknow		33.2	26.0		
Allahabad	0.9	33.8	26.6	Madurai	25.2	34.0	24.0		
Bengaluru	24.1	24.8	20.6	Mangaluru	0.5	29.1	23.0		
Bhopal	2.0	30.0	23.5	Mumbai	3.7	31.6	25.0		
Bhubaneswar	28.0	31.8	23.4	Mysuru	1.8	25.9	20.		
Chandigarh	91.0	29.5	24.0	New Delhi	45.7	29.0	24.8		
Chennai	–	31.2	24.3	Patna	22.6	30.6	27.0		
Coimbatore	0.7	30.0	23.2	Port Blair	8.2	26.3	24.		
Dehradun	36.2	31.3	22.9	Puducherry	50.8	27.9	23.		
Gangtok	7.4	22.7	18.7	Pune	0.2	28.4	21.		
Goa	1.2	28.6	25.0	Raipur		33.4	26.		
Guwahati	–	35.1	26.4	Ranchi	63.2	27.0	24.		
Hubballi		27.0	21.0	Shillong	4.7	24.2	17.0		
Hyderabad		29.4	25.8	Shimla	1.0	19.7	15.		
Imphal		30.3	22.6	Srinagar	0.9	21.9	13.		
Jaipur		32.6	22.2	Thiruvananthapuram	1.1	31.2	24.		
Kochi		29.6	25.0	Tiruchi	11.5	31.7	24.0		
Kohima	2.2	25.2	18.0	Vijayawada		34.6	26.0		
Kolkata	61.5	29.5	25.4	Visakhapatnam		32.6	28.		
(Rainfall data in mm: temperature in Celsius)									

Pollutants in the air you are breathing											
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	co	PM2.5	PM10	CODE					
Ahmedabad	45	.91	.62	74	.120						
Bengaluru	02	.58	.85	45	74						
Chennai	11	.15	.27	32	34						
Delhi		.05	107	26	17						
Hyderabad	03	.74	.28	54	.106						
Kolkata	03	.25	.13	45	37						
Lucknow	06	.22	.63	40							
Mumbai		.08	103	20	45						
Pune	74	.08	.66	56	56						
Visakhapatnam	12	.17	.50	90	.101						

dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system,

In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an

particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters. CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause

making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air

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

18 die as incessant rain lashes Himachal Pradesh

Many roads were damaged due to landslips

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The incessant rain lashing Himachal Pradesh has caused the death of at least 18 people in the past 24 hours. Landslips left hundreds stranded as several roads, including national highways, were damaged hitting vehicular movement.

Three more deaths were reported in the State, but official confirmation was yet to be made by the authorities.

Landslips hit a spot near the RTO office here, leaving three dead. One person suffered injuries in the incident, police said.

In Narkand area of Shimla district, two Nepalese died and three were injured after a tree fell on their house. In another incident, a labourer was killed and six were injured as the wall of a house collapsed in the Lower Cemetery area following heavy rainfall early on Sunday.

In another incident, a man was killed after a landslp hit his truck on the national highway near Hatkoti Kenchi in Shimla's Rohru subdivision. A 70-year-old man and a 7-year-old child were killed in a house collapse at Lona in Mehla subdivision in Chamba district, SP Monica Bhutunguru said.

In Kullu, a man was washed away in Sujwad Nullah even as the locals were trying to save him. A tourist died when a landslip hit Balarga between Manikaran and Barsheni, Kullu Deputy Commissioner Richa Verma said. At Manakpura in Baddi tehsil of Solan district, two persons were killed in a building collapse.

CM orders vigil

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Sunday that all Deputy Commissioners had been directed to keep a close

Hanging on: A large portion of a road, above, capsized following heavy rainfall in Shimla on Sunday while, right, many vehicles were damaged due to a landslip. • ANI & PTI

vigil on the situation and ensure safety of tourists and locals. "Tourists have been advised to stay away from river beds as there is always the possibility of sudden rise in water levels due to flash floods," he said.

The State had suffered a loss of about ₹490 crore in this monsoon season, Mr. Thakur said. "Lahaul and Spiti witnessed untimely snow, due to which there has been heavy damage to crops," he said.

Chief Secretary B.K. Agarwal said the Chandigarh-Manali and Shimla-Kinnaur National Highways had been blocked due to landslips.

He said 50-60 people from Uttarakhand were stranded on the border, near Rohru. "We have sent teams to rescue them after a request was received from the Uttarakhand government."



Suspended bureaucrat held for graft in Assam

Govt. had suspended him on July 19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Assam police on Sunday arrested a bureaucrat for his alleged involvement in a land scam associated with a Central government

Pradip Kumar Talukdar, an Assam Civil Service officer, was taken to southern Assam's Karimganj district after the police arrested him from his Guwahati residence.

He was the Deputy Commissioner of Karimganj district when the alleged incident of graft took place.

20 cases filed

Mr. Talukdar was facing 20 cases for allegedly siphoning off the money that was meant to compensate local people whose lands were acquired by the Land Ports Authority of India for a border trade project at Sutarkandi.

The bureaucrat was transferred to the Cooperative Department where he was serving as a secretary. The government had suspended him on July 19.

Bihar MLA Anant Singh goes missing from his Patna house

Three-time member from Mokama was charged under UAPA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Independent Bihar MLA Anant Singh, who on Saturday was charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act after an AK-47 rifle, 22 cartridges and two bombs were recovered from his ancestral home, was found missing from his Patna residence during a police raid late on Saturday.

"The MLA was missing from his residence, though his mobile phone was reco-



Anant Singh

vered from there," a senior police officer later told The

On Friday, a police team in Barh, Patna district, led by Superintendent of Police (Rural) Kantesh Kumar Mishra, conducted a raid at the MLA's ancestral home in Ladma and recovered the

The three-time MLA from Mokama was booked under the UAPA and Arms and Explosive Acts.

'No provision of bail' Mr. Mishra said the offences registered against Mr. Singh

do not have the provision of

an anticipatory bail."

The former Chief Minister told newspersons on Saturday attacked former Rajya Sabha member Bhubaneswar Kalita and former State Minister Gautam Roy, insisting they changed party colours to save their

Scam-tainted leaders leaving

Cong.: Gogoi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Assam Chief Minis-

ter Tarun Gogoi said that

scam-tainted Congress

leaders were joining the

Bharatiya Janata Party in

the State to escape investi-

gation and

punishment.



Sovan Chatterjee seeks police protection

Former Kolkata Mayor and Trinamool MLA Sovan Chatterjee, who recently joined the BJP, on Sunday sought police protection, claiming that the security provided to him was "suddenly withdrawn" after he switched over to the saffron fold. The Trinamool leadership declined to comment on the matter. PTI

128 heads of cattle seized in Bengal

Border Security Force (BSF) personnel seized 128 heads of cattle, being smuggled across to Bangladesh, and arrested 13 people in raids in various border areas in West Bengal early on Sunday, said a BSF official. Troopers from the Sovapur outpost in Malda seized 32 heads of cattle and arrested six smugglers, including three Bangladeshi nationals. IANS

8 killed as mini-lorry plunges into well

Eight people, including four women and three minors, died and nine were injured when a mini-goods carrier transporting them plunged into a well by a village road at Thirumanur, here in Tamil Nadu on Sunday. The incident occurred around 2 p.m. when 17 persons from Perur, were going to S.N. Pudur. The driver lost control of the vehicle and plunged into the

Bihar Education Department site hacked

The official website of the Bihar Education Department was hacked on Sunday, with hackers uploading messages in praise of Pakistan on the webpage. "RootAyyildiz Turkish Hacker' claimed responsibility for hacking the website and posted messages

'We believed the doctors blindly'

11 elderly persons lost vision due to infection after cataract surgery in Indore

SIDHARTH YADAV

A cloudy vision that Kali Bai developed eight months ago made it increasingly difficult for her to carry out work as a domestic help, washing vessels and sweeping floors. As she slowed down due to the vision impairment, three households terminated her services. And she lost out on ₹3,000 of the meagre ₹5,000 she made every month.

It was the promise of cataract treatment free of cost under the Union Health Ministry's National Programme for Control of Blindness that brought her and 14 other elderly persons from Dhar and Indore districts to the privately-run Indore Eye Hospital on August 8. But as a result of post-operative infection, she has lost all vision in the operated eye.

"We believed the doctor blindly. Vo toh bhagwan ka roop hote hai (They are an incarnation of God)," says Ms. Kali Bai now, squinting at light, as a tear rolls down her right eye.

Under the Centre's Blindness Control Programme, the Indore Eye Hospital had conducted 400 cataract surgeries between April and August, says District Chief Medical and Health Officer Pravin Jadia. "For each surgery, the government pays ₹2,000," he said.



Painful phase: Victims of botched eye surgeries waiting for a check up at the Choithram Netralaya in Indore, Madhya Pradesh • A.M. FARUQUI

As doctors at the hospital noticed oozing pus and infection in the operated patients on August 9, District Blindness Control Society coordinator T.S. Vohra was informed. "We found pseudomonas of gram negative bacteria multiplying in the eyes," he said.

To arrest the multiplying bacteria, most patients were taken back to the operation theatre – some up to six times - and administered antibiotics. Three of them were operated upon again,

confirmed a doctor now tending to the patients. All to no avail.

Hospital sealed

In 2010, the same hospital was in the dock as 18 patients lost their vision after similar cataract surgery. While the victims say they have not received any compensation, the hospital was allowed to resume surgeries after a

brief six month suspension. The hospital was sealed on Saturday and the patients referred to the Choitram

Hospital, also privately run, for further treatment.

On Saturday, along with 11 other affected patients, Ms. Kali Bai waited impatiently with her daughter, Chanda, at the Choithram Hospital to be examined by a specialist being flown in from the Sankara Nethralaya in Chennai by the Madhya Pradesh government.

"We don't know whether to blame the doctor or the medicines," said Ms. Chanda Bai, who's been with her mother since August 7.

Zomato calls for truce with restaurant owners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amid an escalating face-off between restaurants and aggregators, online food ordering platform Zomato has said it is open to rectifying its "mistakes" and appealed to restaurant owners to stop their logging out campaign.

As many as 1,200 restaurants in several major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Goa, Pune, Gurgaon and Vadodara have

reportedly delisted themselves from the dine-in programmes of online platover "unsustainable" deep discounting offered by the aggregators, saying the table reservation services were hurting their business models. Zomato has lost 65 restaurants, which is 1% of the restaurant partner base of programme.

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

F.No. 29/01/2019-TD -

Date: 16.08.2019

QUOTATION NOTICE Department of Tourism invites sealed quotations in two cover system of quotations from the reputed and experienced uniform suppliers for design, stitching and supply of uniform for SPORTS (Lakshadweep Tourism). The quotations in a sealed cover superscribed "quotation for design, stitching and supply of uniform for SPORTS (Lakshadweep Tourism), U.T of Lakshadweep" should reach the Managing Director (SPORTS), Lakshadweep Administrative Office, Indira Gandhi Road, Willingdon Island, Kochi on or before 11:30 hrs on 16.09.2019

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Sd/- DIRECTOR (Tourism)

Parts of IAF aircraft recovered 51 years after crash in Himachal

It went missing over the Rohtang Pass, killing all 102 on board

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

An expedition by the Dogra Scouts has recovered parts of an Indian Air Force AN-12 transport aircraft that crashed in the icy mountains of Himachal Pradesh 51 years ago, killing all 102 people on board, the Army said on Sunday.

The Western Command launched an operation on July 26 to recover the mortal remains of over 90 missing

which went missing over the Rohtang Pass in Kullu district on February 7, 1968.

After 13 days of rigorous search and recovery operation in the Dhaka Glacier at an altitude of 5,240 m, the team recovered parts of the aircraft like the aero engine, fuselage, electric circuits, propeller, fuel tank unit, air brake assembly and a cockpit door, it said in a state-

soldiers, who were on board ment. Personal belongings the AN-12 BL-534 aircraft of the passengers were also recovered.

> The search area, including the location of recoveries, has been mapped for future reference, the Army

The expedition was joined by a team of the Indian Air Force on August 6 to augment the operation.

The aircraft went missing on its way back to the Chandigarh Air Force base.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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On or towards the North:	Land belonging to Ayur Herbals Limited							
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Kanga & Company, Ms. Preeti Mehta, Partner Advocates and Solicitors

Dated this 16th day of August, 2019

in praise of Pakistan and

Islam. Soon after, the website was not accessible and has not been restored yet. ANI

Unclear doctrine

No-first-use is integral to India's nuclear doctrine and leaves no space for ambiguity

efence Minister Rajnath Singh has been somewhat careful in speaking of envisioning a change in India's nuclear deterrence posture. In place for 16 years, since January 4, 2003, when the doctrine was adopted formally, New Delhi has said consistently that India's nuclear weapons were based on staggering and punitive retaliation, in case deterrence failed. The retaliation to a nuclear strike, any nuclear strike, whether by tactical or theatre weapons or something bigger, would be crushing enough to deter the possible use of nuclear weapons by an adversary. So the theory goes. On the first death anniversary of former Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee, and in the nuclear proving ground in Pokhran, the Minister said two things: that the nofirst-use has served India well so far, and that what happens in future depends on circumstances. There ought to be no scope for confusion here. Security is, after all, a dynamic concept. It was the security environment in the neighbourhood coupled with the pressure brought by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty that forced India out of the nuclear closet and, at the same time, to adopt the no-first-use posture. The structures associated with the doctrine, the command and control that can survive a nuclear strike, the redundancies that are in-built, the secure communications, have all been developed keeping in view the posture perspective.

But there is a danger that the minister's remark could spark off a nuclear arms race, given the strategic paranoias that have been at work in this part of the world for over half a century. In the elections of 2014, the BJP's manifesto had references to an intention to update and revise the nuclear doctrine, but that went nowhere. It is conceivable that nuclear weapons could fall into the hands of non-state actors in Pakistan, but even in such scenarios that warrant pre-emptive action, a nuclear strike cannot be a viable option. It would have been much better if Mr. Singh had elaborated on his thoughts so that a debate could have taken place, and not kept his remarks enigmatic. In a nuclear circumstance it is much better to convey the overwhelming nature of the deterrence than to keep the potential adversary guessing. In this respect it is a good idea for the government to make public any periodic review in its strategic posture. The no-first-use policy comes with being a confident nuclear power. For him to state the future is open is to say nothing and at once imply everything. In matters of nuclear doctrine, it is important to be clear above all else. Nothing must be left to interpretation.

Taking on TB

Keeping the prices of the new drug low is essential for increased treatment uptake

The anti-tuberculosis drug pretomanid recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will be a game changer for treating people with extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) and those who do not tolerate or respond to now available multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) drugs. That pretomanid is only the third drug in the last 40 years to get FDA approval highlights the scarcity of new drugs to treat TB bacteria that are rapidly developing resistance against most available drugs. The all-oral, three-drug regimen of bedaquiline, pretomanid, and linezolid (BPaL) had a 90% cure rate in a phase III trial in South Africa involving 109 participants. In contrast, the current treatment success rate for XDR-TB and MDR-TB is about 34% and 55%, respectively. Importantly, the regimen was found to be safe and effective in curing TB in people living with HIV. The safety and efficacy were tested in 1,168 patients in 19 clinical trials in 14 countries. Unlike 18-24 months needed to treat highly-resistant TB using nearly 20 drugs, the BPaL regimen took just six months, was better tolerated and more potent in clearing the bacteria. The shorter duration is more likely to increase adherence to therapy and improve treatment outcomes. According to the World Health Organisation, in 2017, there were an estimated 4.5 lakh people across the world with MDR-TB, of which India accounted for 24%, and about 37,500 with XDR-TB. With only a low percentage of MDR-TB cases being treated, the actual number of people who do not tolerate or respond to available MDR-TB drugs and so will be eligible to receive the BPaL regimen is unknown. Though the total number of people who will require the new drug may not be high, these are people who have very little alternative treatment options that are safe and efficacious. Also, the number of those who would need a pretomanid-based

While the availability of a potent drug is welcome news, it remains to be seen if it would be made affordable, particularly in the developing countries where the burden of XDR-TB and MDR-TB is the highest. TB Alliance, a New York-based international NGO, which developed and tested the drug, has already signed an exclusive licensing agreement with a generic-drug manufacturer for high-income markets. Unlike in the case of bedaquiline, where its prohibitive cost has severely restricted access especially in the developing countries, pretomanid might become affordable. In line with the TB Alliance's commitment to affordability and sustainable access, the drug will be licensed to multiple manufacturers in about 140 low- and middle-income countries, including India. Making the drug affordable to those with extreme form of drug resistance will be highly commendable and a desperately needed model to be followed. After all, there is a compulsion to keep the prices low and increase treatment uptake to stop the spread of highly drug-resistant TB bacteria. Studies have shown an increase in the number of new patients who are directly infected with drug-resistant bacteria.

regimen is increasing due to rising drug resistance.

'The Idea of India' is failing

The middle class that led India's nation-building project has now embraced a nationalism that has no place for diversity



C. RAMMANOHAR REDDY

The "Idea of India" has always been grander in promise than in fulfilment. At Independence, the dream was that the people of a country of so much diversity – in language, religion, and tradition - would enjoy constitutionally guaranteed rights and through democratic means, build a just society. A cornerstone of this dream was respect for diversity that was written into the Constitution. It has been a mixed record, with as many failures as achievements. The events of the past two weeks, however, signal to us that the "Idea of India" is in danger of collapsing. We may soon have to accept the "New India" which places no value on pluralism, fraternity and autonomy.

Everything about why and how the constitutional arrangements of Iammu and Kashmir (I&K) have been so radically changed violates the "Idea of India".

A worrisome move

The processes used to modify the "Holy Book" that is the Constitution are as important as the content of the amendments. Yet, as many lawyers and constitutional experts have already pointed out, the manner in which the Narendra Modi government has withdrawn the rights J&K enjoyed under Article 370 can only be described as abusing the spirit of the Constitution. Now that the Government has tasted success, it should be confident about using the same kind of skulduggery to aggressive-

ly alter the Constitution to further its agenda. Only the courts stand in the way and there the Government of India must be feeling that its own actions will pass muster.

We also have the disappearance of J&K as a State. It is hard to think of anything more insulting to a people than to inform them one morning that their State has been turned into two Union Territories. effectively ruled from New Delhi. This is real "tukde tukde" work.

Since the early 1950s, States have been periodically divided and new ones created. Consultation of some form or the other has always been an integral part of the process. Nothing like the sudden disappearance of the State of J&K has happened before. In a supposedly federal system, the Centre has been able to ram through the necessary legislative changes while keeping 8 million people cut off from the rest of the world and without allowing them to express their views. In the past five years, we have undoubtedly had the most centralised government since the time of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Should we or shouldn't we be worried about what more is in store for us? Was it short-sightedness or fear that made all the regional parties - the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam being the only major exception - endorse the break up of J&K into two Union Territories?

Spirit behind special rights

There are legitimate reasons why in our diverse society, the Constitution has ordained special rights, for instance, for Dalits and Adivasis; for Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim (under Article 371); and so too for J&K until now under Article 370. A uniformity of rights across the nation and all classes does not necessarily make a series of presidential notifica-

for a cohesive society. In fact, the opposite is the case in a country of vast diversity. Special rights for specific communities and regions enable them to feel a "oneness" in a large country that has so many kinds of differences. Here, the guarantees promised to J&K were especially important because of the circumstances surrounding the State's accession to India.

The autonomy offered by Article 370 has been contentious for two reasons. One, it was enjoyed by a State that remained divided between India and Pakistan. Two, the constitutional provision applied to India's only Muslim majority State. These two features should have made it all the more important to preserve the guarantees contained in Article 370. However, for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Jan Sangh/Bharatiya Janata Party, for whom uniformity has always come first, abolition of Article 370

has been a core demand. Contentious Article 370 always was, but it was never adhered to in any measure. In this, there have been no saints in either New Delhi or Srinagar. If one systematically emptied the promise of autonomy right from the 1950s onwards with tions, the other used it as a bargaining chip to feather its nest. Though emptied of content, Article 370 has retained an important symbolic value for the people of J&K as recognition of its unique character.

It has been argued that whatever the merits of the Modi government's actions, the "Kashmir situation" of the old was no longer sustainable. But we must remember that the iron glove of this government has only made matters worse since 2014: every year since then has seen an increase in violence – of incidents of terrorism, security personnel killed and innocents murdered. When the lockdown in J&K is finally lifted, New Delhi will find that it will be dealing with a sullen population that feels its land has been occupied. We must fear a surge in violence for months and perhaps years, with or without a spurt in terrorism from across the border.

Dismissing pluralism

The middle and upper classes in the rest of India have welcomed the decisions of early August. This is not surprising. The long-running violence in J&K first made them weary, and then indifferent. So they now endorse "firm" actions that will put Kashmiris in their place. We talk about Kashmir not being integrated with the rest of India, when, truth be told, the rest of India has never integrated itself with Kashmir. Before the violence, Kashmir was only a place of natural beauty that was worth a brief holiday or one where film stars pranced on hillsides. We never saw Kashmiris as fellow citizens with the same dreams as all of us. We only saw them as residents of a State that Pakistan coveted, a people whose allegiance to the nation we thought was suspect and a

State that was the cause of so much armed conflict and terrorism.

The same middle class that seeded the freedom movement, which gave the ideas for a modern Constitution and then led the nation-building project around "The Idea of India", has now embraced an aggressive nationalism that dismisses the pluralism of India. We now do not seem to care one bit about what the people of Kashmir feel. We have been the least concerned the past fortnight about the lockdown they have been placed under. We openly talk about the possibility of buying up land in Kashmir. Lawmakers speak without being reprimanded about men from the rest of the country marrying "fair" Kashmiri women. And we look forward to effecting a demographic transformation in the Valley. How far we have travelled from when India drew up its Constitution.

There have been three days in the Republic's history on which "The Idea of India" has been shaken to its roots. The first was June 25, 1975 when an Emergency was declared and many of our Fundamental Rights were suspended. The people's vote rescued India at the time. The next was December 6, 1992 when the Babri Masjid was destroyed. We managed to limp away, though with neither atonement nor punishment. Now we have August 5, 2019, when the Constitution was subverted in spirit if not in letter, when federalism was shoved aside and the rights of the people of a member of the Union were stamped on.

It is difficult to see "The Idea of India" recovering from this latest body blow.

C. Rammanohar Reddy is Editor of 'The

An intervention that leads to more questions

Revoking NFU does not necessarily mean giving up restraint, but it leaves India's nuclear doctrine more ambiguous



PRIYANJALI MALIK

olicymaking by tweet may have arrived in India, for the Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, appears to have altered a key pillar of India's nuclear doctrine when he tweeted that India's future' commitment to a posture of No First Use of nuclear weapons 'depends on the circumstances'. Using the commemoration of the first death anniversary of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee as the setting for this declaration, Mr. Singh's announcement marks a significant revision of India's nuclear stance, seemingly without any prior structured deliberation or consultation. Of course nuclear doctrine, like any directive guiding national security, needs to be a dynamic concept that responds to changing circumstances. However, this raises the question of what has changed in India's strategic outlook that requires a revision of one of the two foundational pillars

of its nuclear doctrine. India is one of two countries -China being the other - that adheres to a doctrine of No First Use (NFU). Our knowledge of India's nuclear doctrine is based largely on a statement circulated on January 4, 2003 by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), which said that it had 'reviewed progress in operationalising India's nuclear

doctrine', and was making public the relevant details as appropriate (summarised in seven points). The first said that India would maintain 'a credible minimum deterrent' and the second point avowed '[a] posture of "No First Use": nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation....' The remaining five points flow mainly from these two points mentioned. India has maintained that it will not strike first with nuclear weapons but reserves the right to retaliate to any nuclear first strike against it (or any 'major' use of weapons of mass destruction against Indian forces anywhere) with a nuclear strike 'that will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage'. This is not a statement by the faint-hearted – with two nuclear neighbours, the NFU simply raises the nuclear threshold in order to bring stability into a volatile environment.

A rewind

It is almost exactly 20 years to the day since since any of this was first mentioned officially. On August 17, 1999, the then caretaker Bharatiya Janata Party government released a draft Nuclear Doctrine in order to generate discussion and debate on India's nuclear posture. There was much discussion and criticism of the doctrine, as indeed of the timing of the release of the draft. coming as it did just weeks before a national election. It was known that the first National Security Advisory Board, a group of 27 individuals convened by K. Subrahmanyam, and comprising strategic analysts, academics, and retired

military and civil servants, had completed their draft some months earlier; however, their report was only released a couple of weeks before polling September 5, 1999.

It has ever been thus. Following criticism of the draft doctrine, the

government appeared to move away from it. It was never discussed in Parliament and its status remained unclear for three and a half years until it was abruptly adopted by the CCS with minor modifications in 2003. The draft's emphasis on NFU, however, remained unchanged. The adoption of the nuclear doctrine came soon after Operation Parakram (2001-02), when the threat of a nuclear exchange on the subcontinent had figured prominently in international capitals, if not in New Delhi and Islamabad. The public adoption of the doctrine was in part an attempt by New Delhi to restate its commitment to restraint and to being a responsible nuclear pow-

Restraint as a pivotal point

Restraint has served India well. India used the strategic space offered by its repeated proclamations of restraint to repulse the intruders in Kargil 20 years ago and regain occupied land despite the nuclear shadow created by India and Pakistan's nuclear tests of 1998. Raising the nuclear threshold gave India the space for conventional operations and gained it sympathy in foreign capitals despite the fears of nuclear miscalculation that were widespread from Washington DC to London to Tokyo. India's self-proclaimed restraint has formed the basis for its claims to belong to the nuclear mainstream – from the initial application for the waiver in 2008 from the Nuclear Suppliers Group in order to carry out nuclear commerce with the grouping, to its membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group and its ongoing attempts to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

While revoking the commitment to NFU does not necessarily equate with abandoning restraint, it does leave India's doctrine more ambiguous. Ambiguity, in turn, can lead to miscalculations, as India found out with Kargil (1999), where it would appear that Rawalpindi misread India's resolve to carve out space for conventional military operations despite the new nuclear overhang. Neither does adhering to the NFU symbolise weakness, for India is committed to a devastating response to nuclear first use – a stance which underscores India's understanding of nuclear weapons as meant primarily to deter.

Of course, NFU has had its critics among those who advocate a Bomb'

more muscular nuclear policy for India. Indeed, Bharat Karnad, a member of the first National Security Advisory Board that drafted the basis of this current nuclear doctrine, made it known at the time that he considered NFU 'a fraud' which would be 'the first casualty' if war were to break out. However, consensus among the remaining members of the board clearly coalesced around an understanding of nuclear weapons not as war-fighting armaments but as weapons of last resort, meant to deter the threat and use of nuclear weapons. It was this understanding that was then used to bring India into the nuclear mainstream. It is also this understanding that has formed the basis of India's nuclear posture, from force structure to numbers to its overall nuclear di-

All of these points are up for revision with the announcement at Pokhran, which is where the BJP chose to remember Atal Behari Vajpayee on his first death anniversary. At a time when there are multiple queries regarding the state of India's economy, the road map to normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, the strength of India's federalism, to name a few, we can now add questions about what has changed in India's security environment to warrant a review of its nuclear doctrine. India's neighbours will be as interested in the answers as this country's citizens.

Priyanjali Malik is an independent researcher and the author of India's Nuclear Debate: Exceptionalism and the

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

Kashmir's special status The honourable Vice

President of India begins his article (Editorial page, "A considered step that opens up new vistas", August 17) with the words, "The general perception is that a vast majority of people in the country feel that the abrogation is a welcome step" and sums it with the line, "In conclusion, it should be noted that the abrogation of Article 370 is a national issue involving our country's safety, security, unity and equitable prosperity. It is a step in the right direction that the Indian Parliament has taken with an overwhelming majority." Nowhere in the article have I come across a single line

about the wishes, the ascertainment of those wishes, or even the need for considering the wishes of the people directly and most affected by the action – I mean the people of the Kashmir Valley. Am I missing something? SUSHIL PRASAD,

■ The Constitution that India adopted in 1950 was a statement on how we will do things in the future. It is, above all, an ethical document that defines our values and guiding principles. We adopted democracy, a system where everyone's voice is heard and decisions are made by consensus. But the recent chain of events in Jammu and Kashmir have gone

against this basic principle. Democracy has been redefined as the rule of the majority, where even direct stakeholders have been sidelined. The principle that ends justify means can be found in many philosophical writings but it finds no place in the Constitution or Constitutional values. Any community is bound to be hurt by such humiliation and forced suppression. It seems the recent decisions have the potential to stoke the flames of instability in Jammu and Kashmir.

PRAKASH MATTHEW,

■ The Vice President is right in pointing out that Article 370 was only a temporary, transitional arrangement. In the same vein, the provision of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was also meant to be a temporary measure. But even after more than 70 years of Independence, reservations continue with evidence of misuse. Will the Vice President use his good offices and see that the government addresses this issue also? R. JAGADEESWARA RAO,

A note on CSR

In mandating a corporate social responsibility spend under the Companies Act, we in India have followed a widely accepted global trend. But a prescriptive approach does not gel with a progressive nation. By its very concept, the CSR stands placed above mundane

finance; treating it as a tax is to degrade it. The annual CSR awards for companies should promote inclination and incentive to improving the social milleu. Instead of pedantic clauses, riders and ham-handed penalties, the government ought to facilitate and mould the groundswell. Contributions to the Prime Minister's relief fund are the most unimaginative route to CSR. Originality counts most as CSR is but a part of the tapestry of social empowerment R. NARAYANAN,

Special bond

Two reports from Kerala, "Pet dogs save goat herd amid Kerala floods" (August 18) and "Lone sentinel of

Kavalappara rescued" (August 17), once again prove that among the kinds of friendships in this world, some of the best happen to be those between people and animals. We are all creatures of this world and in heartwrenching moments, animals end up showing us that love – especially unconditional love - really knows no bounds. Sometimes we even find more comfort in animals than we do with fellow humans because animals never seem to disappoint. This has been proven in various stories one reads about all creatures great and small.

SARADA NAIR, Kochi

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:

A lose-lose scenario

The Centre's actions and plans for Jammu and Kashmir suffer from inherent infirmities



V. SUDARSHAN

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar tweeted on August 2 that he had conveyed "in clear terms" to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that "any discussion on Kashmir, if at all warranted, will only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally." Kashmir has been bilaterally enshrined as a legitimate topic of discussion between India and Pakistan and to that extent it is certainly warranted. There is nothing iffy about it. Pakistan has worked in many ways to obtain a better grip on Kashmir, including by getting nuclear bombs. Now that India has given Pakistan a fait accompli, will Pakistan roll over and play dead? And how does New Delhi hope to pull it

The road ahead

There is a haphazard shape to the beast, sensing its hour coming around, that slouches its way towards Kashmir to be born. The rough contours: The government will later rather than sooner have to pull additional troops out to give the situation in Jammu and Kashmir a gloss of normalcy. There is no saying how many troops are out there in Jammu and Kashmir. It could be surmised that there are about 80,000 deployed in the northern part of Kashmir, along the Line of Control. This is not counting those in counter-insurgency operations in the southern parts of the erstwhile State. This is not counting local police, the BSF and the CRPF. Obviously the additional troops numbering some 40,000 have been brought in to manage the new situation. There could be more.

The trick is how, with little or no bloodshed, this massive deployment, unparalleled in any democracy, will squelch what waits to emerge out of the Pandora's Box without a lose-lose scenario dominating the national consciousness. It is a tough

Moves are afoot to hold an election, probably in March or April. The new political leadership, carefully nurtured, will no doubt be from



"The trick is how, with little or no bloodshed, this massive deployment of troops will squelch what waits to emerge out of the Pandora's Box without a lose-lose scenario dominating the national consciousness." Security personnel stand guard at a check point in Srinagar on August 18. • PTI

among the throw-ups in the panchayat elections. It is a good time to wager if former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah, Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti can ever contest another election. It is a foregone conclusion that these leaders of regional mainstream political parties, which the government says is a discredited lot, will have to be suitably dis-incentivised from contesting the polls, and this means having them under some form of detention for the foreseeable future. From the new perspective, they have identified themselves too much with separatist impulses. Certainly, third-rung or fourth-rung leaders from these parties may already have been identified and may be being primed to give solidity to the new deal that awaits the Kashmiris. Together they are the new quislings of Kashmir's perennial uprising.

In order to present that green shoots of industry and economy are going to grow out of Kashmir's hitherto separatist soil, the CII has already planned a summit in October, and big money is being readied to throw at the region, as has been done before. Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance, Mukesh Ambani, who has signed on to the government's vision, soon promises to unveil plans for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The government may not risk a repeat of bringing heavy industries to Kashmir now but it will certainly press ahead with the smaller initiatives pertaining to local handicrafts and the like. It will try to set an example by proving that removal of Article 35A, which has prevented people from the rest of the country from buying property in Jammu and Kashmir, will have a real impact. Just like the elections, this will be a managed outcome. It is a challenge: Even though people from Jammu could always have bought land in Kashmir, they never dared. In May 2008, land

was allocated to the Amarnath shrine

to set up temporary shelters for the

pilgrims leading to sustained and

massive protests and a reversal of the

government stance months later.

Yet this could be an extremely optimistic picture. Having removed the separatists of various hues from the equation on the ground and supplanted them with Delhi-controlled ventriloquism, the Centre cannot hold. It will be laying itself directly open to blame on a variety of counts. With the police, paramilitary and administrative machinery totally under New Delhi's control, the Centre cannot possibly have either the same level of engagement or the same level of deniability of the mess that mishandling of the situation could create, not least the human rights

abuses accusations that are bound to pile up once the troops cede the ground to grimmer realities that have lurked for seven decades. At the end of it, diplomat Paul Bremer, whom the Americans sent to Baghdad to clean up after Saddam Hussein, could begin to look like Florence Nightingale.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is hardly likely to launch a charm offensive. Prime Minister Imran Khan has already predicted the possibility of lone-wolf disruptions of the dreaded Pulwama type. The spiral upward that could follow will end more messily than we have hitherto known. So far, Muslims in the rest of the country have not been drawn into the Kashmir quagmire. There have been some instances but not enough to cause serious alarm. Seeds are perhaps being sown for that to change now. Kashmir's theatre of war is readying to spill outwards. As pressures pile up, communalisation could result. Jammu, after all, is one-third Muslim. Will the presumed positives of abrogation of Article 370 and an old development card that has been repeatedly and tiredly played with less than encouraging results far outweigh the inherent infirmities of the move?

Statecraft then and now

The question finally arises: could statecraft have been handled differently? Painstaking back-channel work had narrowed the outstanding differences between India and Pakistan during the time of Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, and the congruence on critical issues had survived changes in Pakistan involving President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Mumbai attacks. There had been agreement on, among other things, a freeze on the Line of Control as the border in exchange of end to violence and terrorism, leading to thinning of troops on either side and blossoming of local bilateral trade as critical steps towards normalisation. The presumption was that once the momentum was there the rest would follow. It could have been taken forward. Time alone will tell if that was the less risky, more gentle, more inclusive way forward, or this, which right now appears to be a comedy of terrors.

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FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Journalism counters manufactured ignorance

Speaking truth to power is a valuable democratic duty



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

The disinformation industry is growing at an alarming speed and undermining democracy in an incremental manner. As part of this endeavour, there is a conscious attempt to remove the lustre from some defining terms. For instance, words such as pluralism, inclusiveness, fraternity, equality, and affirmative action are seen as terms defining the politics of a bygone era. The echo chamber of social media further distorts the truth.

Sometimes, readers send me WhatsApp forwards asking why the newspaper did not carry a particular story. They use social media trivia to prove a point that journalism is inherently against the ruling elites. In the present climate where conspiracy theories abound and forced false equivalences reign, readers must know that a news ombudsman has a framework to evaluate complaints and compliments. As the Readers' Editor, I am committed to rectify any journalistic flaws through a process called 'visible mending'. I evaluate news and investigative reports based on facts but rarely entertain complaints based on perceptions.

Commitment to inform

Readers must realise that the cyberspace consists of both knowledge and ignorance. However, today its commitment to inform is nearly outweighed by the voices of the apologists for the regime. Credible and trustworthy journalism is often pitted against blatant propagandist drivel. What is happening now is a clash of ideas between one set of professionals committed to knowledge production for public good and another set of partisan groups involved in ignorance production for political longevity. And this is the difference between sensitive journalism and the puffery of propaganda.

Philosophically, the idea of knowledge production has been explored in a systematic manner and the discipline is called epistemology. It would be helpful for the readers to know about a nascent discipline that is gaining ground among academia. It is called 'agnotology', which means the study of ignorance. Two professors of history of science at Stanford University, Robert N. Proctor and Londa Schiebinger, edited an anthology of

essays titled Agnotology: The Making and Unmaking of Ignorance, which looked at the theme of what keeps ignorance alive and what allows it to be used as a political instrument. Scholars of the essays explained how ignorance is produced or maintained in diverse settings, through mechanisms such as deliberate or inadvertent neglect; secrecy and suppression; document destruction; unquestioned tradition; and myriad forms of inherent or avoidable culturo-political selectivity. Agnotology is "the study of ignorance making, the lost and forgotten".

In his introductory chapter, 'A missing term to describe the cultural production of ignorance and its study', Mr. Proctor argued: 'Ignorance has many interesting surrogates and overlaps in myriad ways with - as it is generated by - secrecy, stupidity, apathy, censorship, disinformation, faith, and forgetfulness, all of which are science-twitched. Ignorance hides in the shadows of philosophy and is frowned upon in sociology, but it also pops up in a great deal of popular rhetoric: it's no excuse, it's what can't hurt you, it's bliss." In a forceful manner, he explained how technologies cause the proliferation of ignorance: "The public seems to be awakening to the fact that in the midst of the 'information' explosion, there has been an 'ignorance' explosion as well."

In 1984, Thomas Pynchon, in his introduction to his collection of novellas Slow Learner, wrote: "Ignorance is not just a blank space on a person's mental map. It has contours and coherence, and for all I know, rules of operation as well." We need to know the contours of the ignorance that flows from prime-time noise. The ignorance-generating mechanism has a sense of coherence, creates its own set of tortured data, politically vacuous vocabulary, and eliminates the distinction between justice and revenge. It stands testimony to George Orwell's observation: "The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them".

A cursory reading of the responses to critical voices in the comment section of this newspaper proves that there is an explosion of ignorance. In the short-term, journalists who retain their analytical and interrogative spirit may pay a price for speaking truth to power. But they are performing an irreducible and inalienable democratic duty: confronting a system that produces ignorance.

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The Man Prindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 19, 1969

'Congress has split beyond repair'

Mr. S.K. Patil, Member of Parliament and

Treasurer of the All India Congress Commit-

tee, said in a statement here [Bombay] to-

day [August 18] that whatever might be the

result of the Presidential election, there was

no denying the fact that the Indian National

Congress had split, perhaps "beyond re-

pair." "Nobody likes to say these things, but

the logic of events is inexorable," he said and

added, "for the last few days, many Con-

gressmen were literally praying that someth-

ing would happen even on the eve of the election to avert the dreadful consequences

of an open split. That did not happen." As re-

gards the demand for a free vote, Mr. Patil

said the free vote was nothing but a vote for

Mr. Giri who was basically a Communist can-

didate and perhaps for that reason a favou-

rite candidate of the Prime Minister. "It

would be less than honest for the Prime Mi-

nister to deny that she had in ever so many

ways encouraged the candidature of Mr. Gi-

ri. On a closer examination a free vote be-

comes a ludicrous farce when every other

political party had issued a whip for its can-

A law for those who testify

The Centre is yet to act on a Supreme Court directive to legislate on witness protection

M.P. NATHANAEL

The recent accident in Rae Bareli in which a rape survivor's two aunts died, and which left her and her lawyer in a critical condition, has drawn much media attention. The rape accused, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, was arrested in April last year after the survivor attempted to immolate herself in front of the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's residence while demanding justice. Consequent to the death of the two individuals, one of whom was also a witness in the case, charges pertaining to attempt to murder were added to those already present against Sengar.

On June 2 this year, Assistant Sub Inspector Suresh Pal, assigned to protect murder witness Rambir, was accidentally killed when the assailants missed their aim while attempt-

ing to kill the witness. In 2017, in the Asaram Bapu case concerning the rape of some women devotees, three witnesses were killed and as many as 10 attacked in an attempt to weaken the case. In fact, it was the killing of the three, followed by a Public Inter-

est Litigation, which prompted the apex court to issue directions to the Centre and the States to frame laws for protection of witnesses.

Maharashtra's law

Following this, Maharashtra came out with the Maharashtra Witness and Protection and Security Act 2017, which was notified in January 2018. However, the Centre, and most other States, are yet to act on the directive.

Meanwhile, the apex court gave its assent last year to the Witness Protection Scheme, which was drafted by the Centre in consultation with the Bureau of Police Research and Development and the National Legal Services Authority. The Centre was to implement the scheme after circulating it among all States and Union Territories and obtaining their comments. However, the scheme was meant to be a measure in force only till the government brought out its

own law on the issue. Though the Centre is scheduled to bring an Act on the subject by the end of this year, it has not made much progress.

Lax implementation

As regards the existing measure, though its objective is to ensure the safety of witnesses, so that they are able to give a true account of the crime without any fear of violence or criminal recrimination, its implementation on the ground leaves much to be desired. The Unnao matter would have been hushed up but for the fact that the survivor attempted to immolate herself in front of the Chief Minister's residence.

Further, though the scheme provides for police personnel to be deployed to protect the witness on the basis of threat perception, it is silent on the punishment to be given to those policemen who, while being

charged with providing security, themselves threaten the witnesses. Why were the policemen tasked with protecting the Unnao survivor not with her when she travelled to Rae Bareli? Were they aware that a sinister plan had probably been hatched

to eliminate her relatives? Above all, what emboldens the criminals the most is the support they get from the police. The shadowy politician-police nexus is so strong that no policeman, at the mercy of political leaders for his career progression, dares take any action against his 'master'. As long as this nexus continues, the delivery of criminal justice in India will remain a

The Witness Protection Scheme calls for more elaborate and stricter laws to be incorporated so that criminals find no loopholes that can be exploited to their advantage. The sooner the Centre comes up with a legislation codifying the protection to be given to witnesses, the better it is for India's criminal justice system.

M.P. Nathanael is a retired Inspector General of Police, CRPF



DATA POINT

Globally, digital consumers spent nearly 2.5 hours every day on social networks and **Socially** messaging in 2019. In India, rising usage can largely be attributed to the falling cost of networked data usage. About three out of five Indian social media users felt that the usage of social media has made it easier to manipulate people with fake news. By Varun B. Krishnan

High time

The graph looks at how select countries have been spending time on social media. While usage has increased rapidly in the Philippines and Brazil, growth has been relatively sluggish in India and China

NO 3 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Likes and dislikes

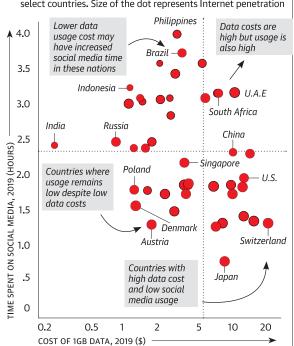
In 2018, 65% of Indian consumers thought that social media kept people informed on current events, while nearly half

hought it made people more divided in their political opinions							
Access to phones, Internet & social media has made people (answered in 2018)	%						
More informed on current events	65						
Easier to manipulate with false information & rumours	60						
More divided in their political opinions	46						
More willing to engage in political debates	46						
More accepting of people with different views	38						

Source: Global Web Index report (2.78 lakh respondents, 15K from India); Pew Research Centre, Cable.co.uk

Cost vs usage

The graph plots the average time spent on social media per day in 2019 against the average cost of 1 GB data in US\$ across select countries. Size of the dot represents Internet penetration



A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 19, 1919.

Indian Labour in Ceylon. (From an Editorial)

didate."

The part played by the Government of Madras in the negotiations that took place early last month in respect of the question of Indian labour in Ceylon has not yet transpired despite the public protest made against the secrecy of the transaction. The report of the Committee appointed by the Ceylon Government has now been issued and the text of the draft ordinance which it has recommended should be published elsewhere. We are absolutely in the dark as to the extent to which the local Government have approved of the proposals made in the report and it is very regrettable that, at a time when His Excellency was publicly expressing his desire to establish an agency for interpreting the actions of Government to the people, the details of the important question should have been debated upon, and perhaps decided in secret conclave. The Ceylon Committee have proposed a few remedial measures of first rate importance; but all of them have proceeded from the point of the view of one who is anxious to be no more bothered by the difficulty of labour scarcity which would spell ruin to Ceylon agriculture.

FROM PAGE ONE

'Any talks with Pak. only on PoK'

Mr. Singh said Articles 370 and 35A have been revoked from Jammu and Kashmir, which would remove all obstacles in the path of holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"On the Kashmir issue, Pakistan has been knocking on the doors of various countries but it has been asked to convene talks with India," he said.

Assembly elections

With an eye on the upcoming Assembly polls in Harya-

na, due later this year, the ruling BJP has raised the pitch of its campaign as it flagged off the 'Ian Aashirwad Yatra', which will be carried out in all the 90 Assembly constituencies of the

The 'yatra' will conclude in Rohtak on September 8.

Mr. Singh urged people to re-elect the BJP as the party under the leadership of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had successfully given a transparent government in the past five years.

Curbs on movement back in Kashmir

Security forces at some roadblocks have told residents there is a curfew.

Two senior government officials told Reuters that at least two dozen people were admitted to hospitals with pellet injuries after violent clashes broke out in the old city on Saturday night.

Representatives in the Jammu and Kashmir government in Srinagar and New Delhi did not immediately return calls asking about the latest clampdown or seeking an assessment of the number of injuries and

One of the official sources said people threw stones at security forces in around two dozen places across Srinagar. He said the intensity of the stone throwing protests has increased over past few days.

The heavy overnight clashes took place mostly in Rainawari, Nowhetta and Gojwara areas of the old city where security forces fired tear gas, chilly grenades and pellets to disperse protesters, eyewitnesses and officials said.

Chilly grenades contain very spicy chili pepper, and produce a major eye and skin irritant, as well as a pungent smell, when they are unleashed.

The officials, who declined to be identified, said clashes also took place in other parts of the city.

Internet and cell phones remain blocked in Kashmir.

'India, Bhutan are natural partners'

"As a result, our shared values have shaped a common world-view," Mr. Modi said, in the presence of Bhutan Minister Lotay

"And as people, we are fortunate to be the living vehicle of this great legacy," he said.

Anyone visiting Bhutan is struck as much by its natural beauty as by the warmth, compassion and simplicity

"During this visit, I have had the opportunity to interact closely with the present leadership of Bhutan, I once again received their guidance for the India-Bhutan relationship, which has always benefited from their close and personal attention," said Mr. Modi.

The two countries inked 10 MoUs in the fields of space research, aviation, IT, power and education to infuse new energy in their

PM strikes a chord with Bhutan students

Modi tells them that India was keen on cooperating on new frontiers from schools to space

THIMPHU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday gave a pep talk to students in Bhutan, saying they had the power and potential to do extraordinary things, which will influence future generations.

Addressing the students of the Royal University of Bhutan here, Mr. Modi encouraged the "brightest" Bhutanese youth to work hard and take the Himalayan nation to great heights.

Noting that there are several challenges ahead, the Prime Minister said, "For every challenge, we have young minds to find innovative solutions to overcome them. Let no limitation constrain you."

"I want to tell you all there is no better time to be young than now. The world today offers more opportunities than ever before. You have the power and potential to do extra-ordinary things, which will impact generations to come. Find your real calling and pursue



Warm welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received at the Royal University of Bhutan in Thimphu on Sunday. • PTI

it with full passion," Mr. Modi told the students in the presence of Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering.

"As Bhutan soars high in its endeavours, your 1.3 billion Indian friends will not just look on and cheer you with pride and happiness. They will partner you, share with you and learn from you," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi said India was keen on cooperating extensively on new frontiers, from schools to space, digital payments to disaster management. "Our cooperation in all these sectors will have a direct impact on young friends like you," he said, cit-

ing cooperation between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk-REN as an some example.

"It will provide secure and fast connectivity between our universities, research institutions, libraries, healthcare and agricultural institutions. I urge you all to make full use of this facility," he

Referring to India's space programmes and the Chandrayaan-2 mission, Mr. Modi said Bhutan is also on its way to having its own satellite.

"It is even a matter of great happiness that young Bhutanese scientists will travel to India to work on designing and launching Bhutan's own small satellite. I hope that someday soon, many of you will be scientists, engineers and innovators," he told the students.

He said India-Bhutan cooperation in hydro-power and energy is exemplary. "But the real source of power and energy of this relationship are our people," the

Modi heads home after Bhutan trip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday left for home after concluding his two-day State visit to Bhutan, during which he held talks with the country's leaders to further deepen bilateral ties.

"Thank you Bhutan! It was a memorable visit. The affection I have received from the people of this wonderful nation can never be forgotten. There were many programmes which I had the honour of taking part in. The outcomes of the visit will enhance bilateral ties," Mr. Modi said just before his departure from

Mr. Modi arrived in Bhutan on Saturday. This was his second visit to the country and the first since his re-election in May this

During his stay in Thimphu, Mr. Modi held wideranging talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay

Congress remains silent on Hooda's statement

Rift over stand on Article 370

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress, at an official press conference on Sunday, refused to directly respond to former Haryana Chief Minister and party strongman Bhupinder Singh Hooda's statement that he will soon decide his future course of action and his backing of the Centre's decision on Article 370.

"I am not commenting on his [Mr. Hooda's] comment but I can speak in terms of our general approach and principle. I don't think a true Congress soldier will step out of line on this [on Congress position on Article 370] but there can be a difference on an individual level in terms of emphasis," said party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

Other senior leaders told The Hindu that interim Congress president Sonia Gandhi should immediately intervene and make Mr. Hooda

the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president to prevent him from leaving the party.

Serious differences

The former two-term Haryana Chief Minister has had serious differences with incumbent Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar, a Dalit leader, who was earlier appointed by Rahul Gandhi, and wanted him replaced. Senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is the party incharge for Haryana, has been in touch with Mr. Hooda but there is no word vet on Mr. Tanwar's replace-

With the BJP focussing on non-Jat voters, the Congress seems to be hesitant about asking Mr. Hooda, a powerful Jat leader, to head the party. "If Mr. Hooda leaves then it could set off a chain reaction among other regional leaders," said a senior

Hooda keeps everyone guessing

The former Chief Minister announces panel to decide future course

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ROHTAK

Amid speculation that former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda could part ways with the Congress over the State leadership issue at a rally in Rohtak on Sunday, he announced the formation of a 25-member committee to decide on the issue ahead of the Assembly election in Haryana due later this year.

Keeping his fellow party leaders and supporters guessing, Mr. Hooda, addressing the Parivartan Maharally at the Mela Ground here, said it was an important decision and he did not want to decide in haste. "It's not just me, but the

future of my supporters is also linked with it. I, therefore, will form a committee of 25 members, including the 13 MLAs supporting me, to deliberate on it. I would go by their advice," Mr. Hooda announced amid loud cheers.

He. however, said the



supporters at Rohtak in Haryana on Sunday. • AKHILESH KUMAR

party as it was earlier and had lost its way.

Last opportunity

Earlier, Palwal MLA Karan Dalal had suggested that Mr. Hooda give one last opportunity to the high command to decide on his long-pending demand for a change in State leadership before quitting the party.

Both Mr. Hooda and his son Deepender Singh, former Rohtak Lok Sabha mem-Congress was not the same ber, reiterated their stand

supporting the abrogation of Article 370 on the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

na lay their lives in Jammu and Kashmir, so I supported the scrapping of Article 370, though many friends in Congress opposed it. There can be no compromise on national interest and self-respect," said Mr. Hooda. He added that BJP could not hide behind Article 370 and the party would have to give its

In the run-up to the rally, Congress leaders belonging to the Hooda camp had been speaking to the media hinting that the former Chief Minister could quit the party to float his own outfit or join other political parties in the Following the rally, sourc-

es in the party said Mr. Hooda felt that he was best placed to fight the BJP while being in the Congress and was unlikely to quit. He, however, has kept his options open by announcing to form

If voted to power, Mr.

'No change in Jaitley's condition'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

"The team of doctors looking after Arun Jaitley is doing the best they can. He is under round-the-clock observation, and as of now, there is no major change in his health condition," a senior official of the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

Mr. Jaitley, 66, was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on August 9 after he complained of breathlessness and uneasiness. Doctors said the condi-

tion of Mr. Jaitley, who has been on life support system, had neither improved significantly nor deterio-

Leaders visit hospital

On Sunday, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Union Ministers Smriti Irani and Ram Vilas Paswan and former Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh visited the AIIMS to inquire about the health of the BIP leader.

Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Kejriwal said: "I met Mr. Jaitley's family members and I pray to God for his good health and fast recovery."

Mr. Jaitley underwent a renal transplant on May 14 last year at the AIIMS. In January 2019, he was diagnosed with a rare form of soft-tissue sarcoma and underwent treatment in New

PSBs told to align with national priorities

Centre asks them to prepare roadmap

MANOJIT SAHA

A recent communication from the Finance Ministry will make public sector banks (PSB) burn the midnight oil over this weekend and the next as well. The Finance Ministry's

align themselves with the national priorities, seek feedback on several issues such as the rise in bad loans and slow credit growth in the past five years, and prepare a roadmap for the coming years. They have been asked to involve all their approximately one branches in the exercise.

with the media.

"It's even more relevant today in the context of the relative slowdown in the economy that we have seen in the past few months," he

Various sectors

Some of the national priorities to which banks need to align include doubling farm income, Jal Shakti Mission, housing for all, education loans, ease of living, corporate social responsibility and financial inclusion.

sought this weekend from



note has asked banks to

"This is part of an initiative taken by the government to find out ways in which we can align ourselves with its national objectives," Arijit Basu, Managing Director, State Bank of India, said in an interaction

While feedback has been



all the branches, the issues will be discussed at the State-level Bankers' Committee next weekend.

This will be followed by a

national-level interaction in

September, with Finance Ministry officials also expected to be present. "The SBI collectively identified many implementable and innovative suggestions that can help improve

the bank's performance and

establish a future roadmap,"

a statement from the SBI The Union Bank of India said specific areas of discussion during the meeting included doubling farmers' income, enhancing credit to small businesses and empowering women and Sche-

entrepreneurs. The exercise, termed a "bottom-up consultative process" for PSBs, is the first comprehensive review of the PSBs after Nirmala Sitharaman took charge of the Finance Ministry in May.

dule Caste/Scheduled Tribe

Controversy in West Bengal over PIB report on Netaji

Political parties refuse to accept his 'death' in a plane crash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A controversy broke out on Sunday in connection with statements related to the "disappearance" of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as on August 18, 1945, when a plane, with Bose allegedly on board, crashed near Taihoku (now in Taiwan).

West Bengal's political parties, unanimously, refuse to accept Bose's death on this day, and condemned a social media statement by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) indicating that he died on this day.

Many BJP and Congress

leaders at the national level also indicated that Bose died on this day fuelling the controversy.

First to react was Chief Minister and Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee. "On this day, in 1945, Netaji went on a flight from Taihoku Airport in Taiwan, only to disappear forever. We still do not know what happened to him. People have a right to know about the great son of the soil," tweeted Ms. Baner-

Bengal BJP leader and one of the grand nephews of Netaji, Chandra Kumar Bose, tweeted in line with what

the Trinamool chief said.

"18 August-on this day in 1945 #Netaji disappeared from Taihoku. Official version of the Govt [Government]-Netaji perished in an aircrash. However many inconsistencies were found. It [is] imperative for the Govt. to disclose the truth to stop spreading untruth," noted Mr. Bose. The All India Forward Bloc (AIFB), founded by Bose, issued a statement seeking an apology from PIB. AIFB general secretary Debabarata Biswas called it "a covert" attempt to establish Netaji's death on this

In open letter, NCP MLA tells Rahul Gandhi to 'hold the fort'

Humility is appreciated but so is a fighting spirit, he says

ALOK DESHPANDE

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar's trusted aide and party MLA Jitendra Awhad on Sunday created flutter with an open letter addressing former Congress President Rahul Gandhi requesting him to not call it quits and lead the party from the front. The letter comes at a time

when the NCP itself is facing

a serious crisis with many

leaders quitting the party to join the saffron parties in Maharashtra. A month ago, the political circles were abuzz with the possibility of the merger of the Congress and the NCP before the upcoming Assembly polls. "You need to hold the fort

in such a difficult time and pass the real test of leadership. Yes, morality, modesty and humility are appreciated, but so does the fighting spirit! In fact, it is revered,"

said the letter.

Dr. Awhad's emphasis on the ideological battle against the ruling party have also indicated that the letter is aimed at several bigwigs within his own party who have quit the NCP to join hands with the BJP.

"Please lead the party from the front because Mahatma Gandhi's India has never forgotten the people who fought out adversity," he said.

a committee on the issue. "Our soldiers from Harya-

Hooda promised to increase + the old-age pension to ₹5,000 per month, implement the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations, allow free rides for women on Haryana roadways, give free power to farmers with up to two-acre land holdings and pay government employees at par with their report card for the past five Punjab counterparts.

'Financial crisis-like situation in country'

Govt. diverting attention: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress on Sunday accused the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government of using "virtual issues" to divert attention from real issues and compared the economic situation in the country to a "financial emergency".

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi listed out 10 broad areas - from the serious crisis in the automobile industry to the Indian rupee being considered the weakest currency – where the economy was facing turbulence.

"You can call it financial emergency and, as somebody said, an inefficient government will replace issues with virtual ones. To divert attention from its failures, the BJP has created a barrage of virtual issues," Mr. Singhvi said.

Other issues raised by the Congress include the revised higher fiscal deficit as examined by the Comptroll-



er and Auditor General (CAG), lower GDP estimates, the shrinking labour force, recession in the real estate sector, the continuous depreciation of the rupee and falling foreign direct invest-

He also raised the issue of the stock markets crashing and alleged that over ₹13 lakh crore of the investors' wealth had been wiped out.

"By suppressing data, taking resignations of officials or hiding growth and unemployment figures, can you erase the reality?" Mr. Singhvi asked.

APPEAL



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UAE to give Modi highest civilian award

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the UAE on August 23 and 24 where he will receive the Order of Zayed, the highest civilian award of the country. An External Affairs Ministry statement on Sunday said Mr. Modi would pay a state visit to Bahrain on August 24 and 25 where he would launch the renovation of a temple of Shreenathji.

"The order in the name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father awarded to Prime Minister

The visit acquires imstatus of Kashmir.

Shah flays appeasement politics | Army looking to tweak

Minister says Congress allowed triple talaq because of its hunger for power

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday blamed the "politics of appeasement" for the "evil practice" of triple talaq till this year.

He was speaking at a public lecture on "Abolition of triple talaq: correcting a historic wrong" at an event organised by the Syama Prasad Mookeriee Research Foundation in New Delhi.

Mr. Shah defended the law criminalising triple talaq, saying it was going to benefit Muslims, and not other communities.

The Home Minister said it took several decades to end this practice because of the Congress.

Referring to the Rajiv Gandhi government's decision to bring a law to overturn the Supreme Court judgment in the Shah Bano case, he said it would be considered a "black day" in the history of Parliament.



Making a point: Home Minister Amit Shah speaking on the triple talaq Bill in New Delhi on Sunday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"When some people are hungry for power, they resort to the politics of appeasement. They are not concerned about Muslim women but concerned only about vote-bank," he said.

"The election of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014 was the beginning of the end of the politics of appeasement and the 2019 mandate is to end it forever,"

"This evil practice of triple talaq was going on for long and the Modi government has abolished it forever and given the Muslim women the right to live in dignity and equality," he said.

Mr. Shah also addressed the issue of penal provisions in a civil matter.

"In case of child marriage, there is a provision for two years' jail. Similarly, dowry is a civil matter. In a dowry

case, if just a demand is made, there is a provision for two years' imprisonment," he said.

Triple talaq has been criminalised, he said, to create fear among some people that "if you do this, you will be punished".

"Earlier, the triple talaq law had no provision for maintenance for women. Now, we have made provision for maintenance," he said.

The Home Minister said he wanted forgiveness from Muslim women as they had to suffer for long. "I wish you a bright future ahead and want to assure you that I would leave no stone unturned to ensure your social security," he said.

The triple talaq Act makes declaration of talaq-e-biddat or pronouncing talaq three times in spoken, written or through SMS or WhatsApp or any other electronic chat

disability pension criteria

Services putting together suggestions for Defence Ministry

DINAKAR PERI

The three services are putting together recommendations on the issue of taxing disability pension to be submitted to the Defence Ministry very soon.

The Army is mulling over several options to streamline the existing system for grant of disability pension and the manner of calculation, defence sources said.

The Army has written to the other two Services and put forward some suggestions which were discussed by the Chiefs of Staff Committee comprising the three Chiefs on July 31.

"The Army has put forward several points for discussion. These include disability pension to be calculated on the pension



We will make sure this facility is not misused

pay drawn which will reduce the disability pension by 50% and percentage of disability to be increased from 20% to 30% to be eligible for disability pension," a defence source told The Hindu on condition of anonymity.

Further the Army has suggested that no income tax benefit be given on service pension to disability pensioners and also that there should be no rounding off or broad banding of the disability element.

However, it has been learnt that the Navy and Air Force Chiefs were not in full agreement with the Army.

Last week, Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat said that Services were looking into the whole issue and would give their recommendations to the Defence Ministry very soon on how it should go.

In a notification dated June 24, the Central Board of Direct Taxes said "such tax exemption will be available only to armed forces personnel who have been invalidated from service on account of bodily disability attributable to or aggravated by such service and not to personnel retired on superannuation

4.000 held in Kashmir over fear of unrest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Thousands of people have

A magistrate said on der the Public Safety Act authorities to imprison so-

"Most of them were orities.

Pandits meet on Article 370

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

partment, Chauthaiwale.

lowing the recent transformational changes.

Day before schools reopen, parents wary

J&K Governor's adviser, however, says the demand was made by the people themselves

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Parents of Musaika Qadri, 10, a Class 5 student of Srinagar's Presentation Convent, are worried about sending her to school, like many others, on Monday, as the Jammu and Kashmir administration plans a phased reopening of schools after a 14-day lockdown.

A resident of Khanyar in the old city, Ms. Qadri's father S.M. Qadri, a government employee, said he was "unwilling to send her anytime

The Khanyar area falls in the jurisdiction of one of the

Life goes on



Charting the course: Government spokesperson Rohit Kansal at a press conference in Srinagar on Sunday. • PTI

six volatile police stations in the old city where restrictions on the movement of vehicles and its residents re-

main since August 5. "I have decided against taking any risk to send my daughter immediately," Mr. Qadri said. At least 190 schools, out of around 900, in Srinagar are to be opened in the first phase.

Many government schools fall in peripheries like Theed and Dhara near Srinagar's Harwan area, where very few incidents of street protests were reported in the past two weeks, besides it hosts a mixed population of Kashmiri Gojri-speaking.

"We look forward with optimism and hope towards the coming week, as schools start functioning again," said Jammu and Kashmir government spokesman Rohit Kansal.

However, several government teachers said they were clueless how to reach these schools in the absence of any public transport in the State.

K. Vijay Kumar, adviser to the Governor, said the administrators were concerned about the safety of students. "It was not that we wanted to open the schools. The demand came from the ground, spontaneously from the parents," he told a television channel

"Two persons were injured [in street protests] and both are stable. Against 35 police stations where restrictions were eased on Saturday, it was expanded to 50 on Sunday," Mr. Kansal said.

NPP seeks domicile law for J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The National Panthers Party (NPP) on Sunday sought the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the enactment of a domicile law for Jammu and Kashmir to protect the interests of poor farmers and landowners, besides the educated unemployed youth. The demand was made in a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister and submitted by NPP chairman and former Minister Harsh Dev Singh at his Lok Kalyan Marg residence in Delhi, a party re-

"A domicile law needs to be enacted so that outsiders could be barred from participating in selections for government jobs and from buying land and other properties of poor through distress sales," the

lease said here.

RSS chief calls for dialogue on quota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

There should be conversation in a harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday.

He was speaking at the concluding session of Gyan Utsav, a programme on competitive exams.

He said those who favoured reservation should speak keeping in mind the interests of those who were against it, and similarly those who opposed it should do the vice versa.

Earlier, he had advocated a review of the reservation policy, drawing sharp reactions from many parties.

Jaishankar to visit Dhaka today

He will firm up Hasina's visit to Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The entire gamut of bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh will be discussed when External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visits Dhaka between August 19 and 21, a diplomatic source said on Sunday.

"This is the first visit by the senior Minister, so the expectation on both sides is that he will review the status of all the issues and projects between two sides," said a source familiar with the plans. The visit was announced by Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen in July.

It was learnt that the External Affairs Minister is expected to firm up the schedule of the October visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Delhi.

Dr. Jaishankar's visit will be the second high ministerial interaction between the two sides in less than a

7-8 visit, Asaduzzaman Khan, Dhaka's Minister of Interior, met Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. The meeting, however, did not yield a joint statement, triggering speculation of diffe-

NRC in Assam

The meetings between the senior Ministers are being viewed as important due to the upcoming publication of the National Register of Citizens in Assam. Diplomatic sources, however, said Bangladesh considers NRC to be an internal issue of India and therefore it is unlikely to raise the issue with Dr. Jaishankar.

Ms. Hasina is expected to take up the Rohingya issue that she discussed with Beijing during her July visit to China, Dhaka wants India to exert more pressure on the Government of Myanmar which is an emerging strategic partner of India in the

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Principal Chief Engineer/ICF Chennai-600038, invites e-tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the Tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online Tenders will be accepted. The cost of the Tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of Multiple Banks, Net-Banking, Debit Card and Credit Card.

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SI. No.	Tender Value	EMD	Cost of Tender schedule	Period of Completion	Date and Time o 14:30hrs and op tender at 15.00	ening of						
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)							

1 3,13,450/- 6,300/- 1,000/- 30 days 09.09.19

Notice Inviting Tender

Punjab State Grains Procurement Corporation Limited (PUNGRAIN) Anaaj Bhawan Building, Sector39-C, Chandigarh-160036

Online bids under two bid system i.e Technical Bid and Financial Bid, are invited from interested eligible bidders for cluster-wise

engagement of service provider(s) for carrying out the operations of Preservation, Maintenance and Security(PMS) of food grains stored in Private Entrepreneur Guarantee(PEG) Godowns in the State of Punjab as specified in Annexure-I of the tender document, as per schedule given below:-

19-08-2019 at 11:00AM to 05-Submission of online bids 09-2019 at 05:00PM Opening of technical bids 06-09-2019 at 10:00AM

The technical bids will be opened in the Committee Room, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39- C, Chandigarh in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, who may wish to be present. The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified online to technically eligible bidders.

The tender form along with detailed notice inviting tender(NIT) and terms & conditions can be dowonloaded from e-tendering portal of Government of Punjab i.e. https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The bids can be submitted on payment of non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand only) per tender form.

PUNGRAIN reserves the right to reject or modify the tender enquiry at any stage without assigning any reason and also reserves the right to reject any or all the bids in whole or part prior to signing of the contract, without assigning any reasons PUNGRAIN will not be liable for any costs and consequences incurred by such intending entrepreneur.

Note: The tenders will be accepted through e-tendeirng website only. Any further communication will be done through e-tendering website in the form of addendum/corrigendum only

> Managing Director **PUNGRAIN**

> > A ND-NDE

of the UAE, acquires special significance as it is Modi in the year of the birth centenary of Sheikh Zayed," the statement said.

portance as it would be the first by Mr. Modi to a leading member of the Organisation of Islamic Countries after India had changed the

been detained in Kashmir over fears of unrest since New Delhi stripped the region of its autonomy two weeks ago, government sources told AFP.

condition of anonymity that at least 4,000 people were arrested and held un-(PSA), a law that allows meone for up to two years without charge or trial.

flown out of Kashmir because prisons here have run out of capacity," the magistrate said, adding that he had used a satellite phone allocated to him to collate the figures from colleagues across the territory amid a communications blackout imposed by auth-

in Houston

Celebrating the abrogation of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, the Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora organised a meeting of the community members in Houston with the head of the BJP's foreign affairs de-

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Chauthaiwale said he could feel the joy, positive vibrations and excitement in the community fol-

Fresh picks: People buying vegetables on the banks of the Dal Lake as curbs were eased in Srinagar on Sunday. • NISSAR AHMAD

through third parties: ED ₹2,270 cr. given to 14 entities unpaid

IL&FS arm routed loans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Enforcement Directorate has identified 14 entities to which the IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN) had extended loans of ₹2,270 crore that remained unpaid.

The funds were allegedly routed to the IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd. (ITNL) and its subsidiaries as loans at higher interest

Based on the documents seized, the agency believes these entities, called third parties, were told to transfer the loans either to the ITNL or its Special Purpose Vehicles. "By this modus operandi,

ITNL and its SPVs received huge loans and ₹2,270 crore (as per Grand and Thorton Report) remained outstanding against those parties to IFIN who in turn funded to ITNL or its SPVs," says the chargesheet filed by the ED.

The ED also alleged that the IFIN had sanctioned loans to these third parties or contractors without proper collateral securities, following which they had entered into agreements with the ITNL or its SPVs. "The rate of lending was

1.5% to 2% higher than the rate of borrowing and thus, there was a profit to those third parties/contractors and being non-NBFC, they were not entitled for the same. Investigations also indicate that the illegal profit thus earned probably was shared with the ITNL officials and arrangers."

CBI searches premises of MBIL directors in fraud case

FIR registered for allegedly cheating banks of ₹354.51 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI The CBI on Sunday searched the premises of Moser Baer India Ltd. (MBIL) and its former and present directors in connection with an alleged bank loan fraud case involving ₹354.51 crore.

The searches were carried out after registering an FIR against MBIL, its managing director Deepak Puri, whole-time director Nita Puri, the then executive director and their son Ratul Puri, other two directors Sanjay Jain and Vineet Sharma, besides unknown public servants.

The Puris are relatives of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath.



As alleged by the CBI, those named in the case cheated the Central Bank of India of ₹354.51 crore. MBIL had approached the

bank in June 2009 seeking credit facilities. Accordingly, a mediumterm loan of ₹100 crore and

a letter of comfort for about

the bank cleared working capital limit of ₹50 crore and non-fund based limit of ₹50 crore. Then, a short-term loan of ₹100 crore was also given. In March 2012, the bank sanctioned letter of credit for ₹50 crore on the under-

On the company's re-

quest, in September 2010,

₹49 crore was granted.

taking that MBIL would repay the earlier short-term loan of ₹40 crore and also pay off overdue interests on other loans. The bank, in its complaint, said the company

had availed itself of credit facilities under multiple-institution arrangement from 14 public sector banks.

an attack on a packed wedding reception in the Afghan capital, the deadli est incident there in recent months. Graphic lists some major attacks in Kabul in

the recent past

December 6, 2011 An attack in Kabul targeting the Shia minority on the holy day of Ashura kills 80 people. Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claims responsibility

July 23, 2016 Twin explosions rip through crowds of Shia Hazaras in Kabul. killing at least 84 people. It marks the first major IS assault on the capital

IS, gunmen disguised as doctors storm Afghanistan's largest military hospital in a six-hour attack. More than 100 are feared to have died May 31, 2017 More than

claimed by

March 8, 2017 In an attack

150 are killed and 400 wounded when a massive truck bomb rips through Kabul's diplomatic quarter

prayers at a Kabul Shia

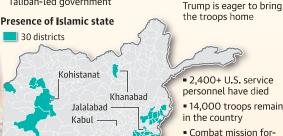
legislative elections Nov. 20, 2018 A suicide bomber blows himself up among religious October 20 A suicide atscholars inside a Kabul tack during Friday evening wedding hall, killing at

amid preparations for

Taliban vis-a-vis IS mosque sees 56 people killed. The IS claims The two are sharply divided over April 22, 2018 An IS bomber kills 57 ittacks on government targets and people, all civilians, Afghan and international security outside a voter registration centre

While the U.S. and the Taliban say they following talks that have excluded the Afghan government, the growing prominence of a local IS affiliate is complicating efforts at peace

1) United States It is more than 18 years since the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in the wake of the 9/11 attacks to topple the Taliban-led government



2) Taliban The Taliban now controls roughly half of Afghanistan and is at its strongest since its

Govt. control Contested

TALIBAN CONTROL IN AFGHANISTAN

3) Afghan government President Ashraf Ghani is openly frustrated at his government's exclusion from the

U.S.-Taliban talks, and he insists that next month's presidential election in which he is seeking a second term is crucial for giving the government a strong

37,04,229

1,34,85,811

Taliban control Unconfirmed

4) IS affiliate

Population

- 2,500-4,000 members-strong as per a recent UN report
- Present in around 30 districts (13% of
- the country) ■ The IS appeared in the country shortly

after sweeping across vast regions of Iraq and Syria in 2014

SOURCE: AFP, AP, LONG WAR JOURNAL, GRAPHIC NEWS

Joy turns into mourning for groom who lost kin, friends

Sunni extremist bomber targeted Shia wedding when the bride and groom were exchanging vows

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Joy and celebration turned into horror and carnage when an Islamic State suicide bomber targeted a packed Afghan wedding hall, killing at least 63 people in the deadliest attack to rock Kabul in months.

The massive blast, which took place late Saturday in west Kabul, came as Washington and the Taliban try to negotiate a deal to reduce the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan and hopefully build a roadmap to a ceasefire.

The groom recalled greeting smiling guests in the afternoon, before seeing their



Scene of carnage: Workers looking at the damage caused by the explosion at a wedding hall in Kabul on Sunday. • REUTERS

bodies being carried out hours later.

young man, who gave his name as Mirwais, told local

The attack "changed my happiness to sorrow", the

TV station Tolo News.

"My family, my bride are

adding that two engineering

teams had been flown to

in shock, they cannot even speak. My bride keeps fainting... I lost my brother, friends, relatives. I will never see happiness in my life again," he said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said a suicide bomber carried out the attack, with at least 63 people killed and 182 injured. "Among the wounded are women and children," Mr. Rahimi said

"The wedding guests were dancing and celebrating the party when the blast happened," recounted Munir Ahmad, 23, who was seriously injured and whose cousin was among the dead.

"Following the explosion,

there was total chaos. Everyone was screaming and crying for their loved ones," he said from his bed in a hospital, where he was being treated for shrapnel wounds.

65% of the

country's districts

52% of its popu-

lation, are either in

Taliban control or

Districts

President Donald

mally ended in 2014

The wedding was largely a gathering of Shia Muslims, who are frequently targeted in Sunni-majority Afghanistan, particularly by IS.

Sunni extremist group's Afghan affiliate claimed responsibility for the blast, saying the bomber targeted the wedding because it was Shia.

Wedding guest Hameed Quresh said the young bride and groom were exchanging vows when the bomb went

Fears in U.S. of bad peace deal with the Taliban

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

An Afghanistan peace agreement that the U.S. seems close to reaching with the Taliban has prompted worries that President Donald Trump's desire to quickly withdraw U.S. troops could further plunge the country into civil war.

Mr. Trump said on Friday he was pleased with talks on ending the 18-year-long war.

The U.S. negotiator, Zalmay Khalilzad, will return to the region soon to further talks with the rebel force.

"Under no circumstances should the Trump administration repeat the mistake its predecessor [under Barack Obama] made in Iraq and agree to a total withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan," retired general David Petraeus warned in a piece for The Wall Street Journal. A lot "will depend on the

details," said Laurel Miller, former senior U.S. State Department official. For instance, it seems the Taliban are prepared to call a ceasefire with U.S. troops but not with the Afghan army.

Thousands march in Hong Kong

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A sea of democracy activists flooded the streets of Hong Kong on Sunday in a show of defiance to the city's leaders that their movement still pulls wide public support, despite mounting violence and increasingly stark warnings from Beijing.

Hundreds of thousands of protesters carrying umbrellas poured across the heart of Hong Kong island, defying torrential rain and a police order not to march from a park where they had gathered earlier for a

The political crisis was triggered by an Extradition Bill that allowed extraditions of criminal suspects in Hong Kong to the Chinese mainland.

Weeks of demonstrations have plunged the financial hub into crisis, with images of masked black-clad protesters engulfed by tear gas during street battles against riot police stunning a city once renowned for its stability.

Sunday's action, which organisers the Civil Human Rights Front said drew more than 1.7 million in the largest rally in weeks, was billed as a return to the "peaceful" origins of the leaderless protest movement.

"It's been a long day and we're very tired, but to see so many people out in the rain marching for Hong Kong gives strength to everyone," said Danny Tam, 28, a graphic designer.

Late in the evening, hundreds of masked protesters milled outside the government headquarters shouting "Reclaim Hong Kong, revolution of our times.'

ELSEWHERE



fire razes Dhaka slum

At least 10,000 people were left homeless after a massive fire swept through a crowded slum in Bangladesh's capital and destroyed thousands of shanties. The fire broke out at Dhaka's Mirpur neighbourhood late on Friday and razed around 2,000

U.K. strips 'Jihadi Jack' of British citizenship: report

A former Islamic State recruit, referred to as Jihadi Jack, has been stripped of his U.K. nationality, U.K. media reported. Jack Letts, 24, travelled to Syria in 2014 and fought with the IS before leaving the group later. PTI

Gibraltar rejects request to seize Iranian tanker

Iran renames ship, raises its flag

GIBRALTAR

flag ahead of its expected territory.

seized the tanker in Gibraltar in July on suspicion that it was carrying oil to Syria, a close ally of Iran, in violation of European Union sanctions. That triggered a series of events that have heightened tensions on shipping routes via the Gulf.

Gibraltar refused on Sunday a U.S. request to seize the Iranian tanker caught in a stand-off between Tehran and the West, as the stationary vessel raised an Iranian departure from the British

Gibraltar said on Sunday

British Royal Marines a statement.

leave tonight," Iran's Ambassador to the U.K. Hamid Baeidinejad said on Twitter,

Gibraltar. The Grace 1's detention ended last week, but on Friday a federal court in Washington issued a warrant for the seizure of the tanker, the oil it carries and nearly \$1

it could not comply with that request because it was bound by EU law. "The EU sanctions regime against Iran which is applicable in Gibraltar - is much narrower than that applicable in the US," the government said in

Tehran said it was ready to dispatch its naval fleet to The vessel is expected to escort the tanker – now renamed the 'Adrian Darya-1' if required.

JVP announces Dissanayake as presidential candidate

The leftist party offers a third alternative to Sri Lankan voters

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lanka's leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (IVP) or the People's Liberation Front on Sunday said it would field party leader Anura Kumara Dissanavake as presidential candidate, effectively offering a third option to Sri Lankan voters in the polls scheduled later this year.

announcement comes a week after the Rajapaksa camp named former defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa its candidate contesting from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Front). Amid much tension among different factions within, the in-



Anura Kumara Dissanayake

cumbent United National Party (UNP)-led alliance is

yet to name its candidate. Mr. Dissanayake enters the fray through the JVP-led 'National People's Power' alliance, challenging two mainstream political camps, and promising an alterna-

tive. While the JVP has not electorally threatened mainstream parties – the UNP, Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and SLPP - in recent national or local elections, it has remained a significant voice of dissent in the legislature, frequently taking on the big parties on allegations of corruption and nepotism.

During the nearly twomonth political crisis last year, the six JVP MPs proved a crucial block in the Parliament. Along with the Tamil National Alliance legislators, they resisted the illegal power grab by the Rajapaksas. Mr. Dissanayake's speeches, hailed by many as powerful and persuasive, drew wide attention at that time.

Memos warn of food shortages in Brexit chaos +

Grim outlook if U.K. leaves EU sans deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secret British government documents have warned of serious disruptions across the country in the event that the U.K. leaves the European Union without a trade deal on October 31, according to a report.

The Sunday Times newspaper published what it said was what the British government expects in the case of a sudden, "no-deal" Brexit. Among the most serious are disruptions to the supply of drugs and medicine, fresh food. Water shortages can be expected due to interruptions of imported water treatment chemicals.

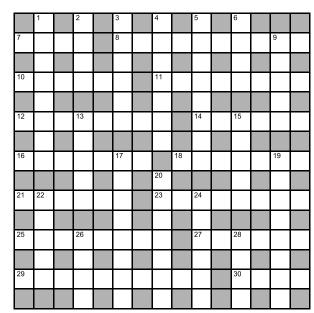
Although the grim scenarios reportedly outlined in the government documents



have long been floated by academics and economists, they've been repeatedly dismissed as scaremongering by Brexit proponents.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he is ready to leave the EU regardless of whether he is able to renegotiate the Brexit deal struck with Brussels by his predecessor, Theresa

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12708



CM YK

ACROSS

- 7 Feel absence of young lady (4) 8 Crossed old port (6,4)
- 10 Composing, O great poet? (6) 11 Grow where batsmen stand?
- 12 Succeed endlessly at court, giving hope (8)
- 14 Snake curled around general is dozing (6)

16 Engineers' cryptic clues for hermit (7)

- 18 Stains flower parts (7)
- 23 Cynthia's at sea with girl, doing this (8)

25 Tell fib, "German loses right to

21 Young lady's assorted medals

27 Admits: "Snowstorm's

increasing" (4,2)

spouse (6,4)

large animal (4)

- 29 Naval officer's additional
- 30 Oregon's tailless feline is a

DOWN

- 1 Composed sea dirge? Don't think so (8)
- 2 Capital invested in Waldo's lodge (4)
- 3 Ball's special at this place (6) 4 Helps Charlie sit awkwardly at

beginning of show (7)

(set by Incognito)

- 5 Trader's sea song (8)
- 6 Northern European's stick (4) **9** Follow nurse and take to court
- 13 Disposes of small lengths (5)
- 17 Fed meals prepared and achieved success by own efforts (4-4)

15 Sunny is not heavy (5)

- 19 State publicly: "A wild cat's going around centre of Munnar" (8)
- 20 Many violently spoil Burma (7)

European's not yet dead (5)

22 Starting to ail by 54,

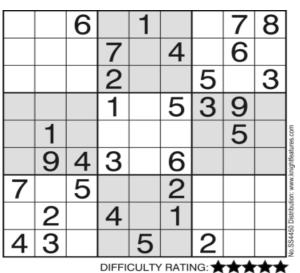
24 Near model storage facility

26 Where returning convict may

consume eqq (4)

28 It's middle of the day, anyway

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku Solution to puzzle 12707

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S	Р	Α	S	Z		Р	R	Α	Υ	Ε	R	М	Α	Т		0	0	-	0	-	_	0	_
I		L		Ε		ı		В		R		Α			2	5	9	4	8	6	7	3	1
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FAITH

Association with the pious

Most people's lives are governed by worldly parameters,

that is, they are preoccupied with matters such as one's personal and professional life, physical well being, etc, though they are aware that sastras talk of the atma. But is this something that gives contentment or peace? How long can one these sustain people? Is it possible to escape disease or old age? Can one's possessions give happiness? The jnana that all these are temporary factors and that whatever is material and physical does not belong to us and that only the atma is enduring is what has to be aspired for. All what we think we gain in life will have to be renounced at some point of time. The only way to rethink and internalise these truths is by seeking the association with realised souls who are oriented towards the spiritual rather than the laukika way of life, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse. This is the greatest challenge for an individual and as stated in yoga sastras and in the Gita it demands patient practice and vairagya towards worldly pulls. Since the deeper transcendental awareness of the atma is present at all times in the pious, their company can influence the spiritual aspirant. Krishna calls those who always perceive the truth with perfect clarity and remain in that state as 'Tatva darsinaha,' the 'seers' of Tatva. Ramana Maharishi has inspired many towards atma tatva vichara by his very presence. His way of life reflects the truth that spiritual journey is an inward process in each being and that atma jnana is the goal. In fact, his silence itself has proved to be more eloquent and effective than rhetoric and argument to instill this enquiry. The Gita reiterates the Upanishads' views in this regard and states that atma jnana is to be gained through modest seeking, determined effort, and through serving realised souls.

N. SREE KANTH

Q. I sold a flat for ₹40 lakh in February 2019. I had bought the property in my name in September 2001 for ₹12 lakh. Now, I want to use this entire money to rebuild an old house which is in the name of my wife. My wife, a homemaker, is not paying I-T/

filing income tax returns. However, I am paying I-T on rental value received. The entire sale value is deposited in a bank FD.

Please guide me as to whether I can use this money over two financial years (FYs) for the said purpose and still claim tax exemption on long term capital gains (LTCG). If yes, how can I establish it in I-T returns? RAO V.B

A. To utilise the proceeds to rebuild (construct) another house property, the house should be in your name. Joint ownership of the house property can also be considered.

In order to avail LTCG exemption by utilising the proceeds from the sale of house property over a period of more than one financial year, the capital gain is to be deposited in a Capital Gains Deposits Scheme (CGDS), which is available in all nationalised banks, before filing of returns for assessment year 2019-20 or before the due date for filing of the return.

Also, for construction of the house, utilise the amount lying in CGDS from time to time within three years of the sale of the original

Further, you are eligible for indexation while calculating the capital gains for the sale of the old property.



Q. I am 78 years plus. I am writing this on my behalf and my three colleagues (all of us worked together in Defence) of almost the same age. We have between ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh worth shares in paper form, purchased eight to 12 years ago. On enquiries with Kotak Securities Ltd., we

were told that there were no transactions taking place on the BSE and the NSE and therefore, we cannot sell these shares. We have other shares purchased last year and this year, which are dematted. We have sold them during this financial year. The sale value we received is between ₹3-3.5 lakh. The profit we have got now varies from ₹2 to ₹2.5 lakh.

How can we show this income\profit? Should we get any statement from Kotak Securities? K.V. ANANTHANARAYANAN

A. Selling of securities falls under the head 'Income from Capital Gains.' Equity shares are considered capital assets as per the Income Tax Act, 1961 and selling the same within one year amounts to short-term capital gains and beyond a year, it is a long-term gain. In your case, as the holding period is more than a

For computation of long-term capital gain or loss, the market value of the equity shares that were sold by you as on January 31, 2018 (closing) is to be ascertained.

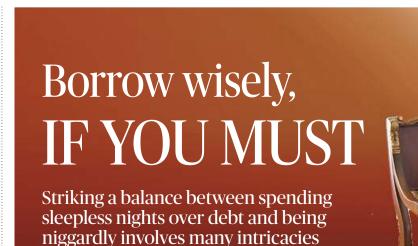
Sale value less the market value as on January 31, 2018 is the gain. This process is to be repeated for all the equity shares sold.

If the total of such long term gains exceeds ₹100,000 in a financial year, then the excess is taxed at 10% as capital gains

It is to be noted that this is the only procedure of computation of capital gains as laid out by the act and only transfer expenses are allowed to be reduced from the sale proceeds. A copy of the statement from Kotak Mahindra should be obtained.

(N. Sree Kanth is partner, GSS & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

 $Readers\ can\ send\ in\ queries\ on\ personal\ finance\ and$ $investing\ to\ {\it moneywise} @ \textit{thehindu.co.in}.\ Our$ experts who write on personal finance will answer these aueries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.



AARATI KRISHNAN

Financial experts often advise us to live within our means. Yet, given our urge to improve lifestyles, staying off borrowings is difficult. Borrowings also make sense in an inflationary economy where money rapidly loses value over time. But how can you strike that balance between spending sleepless nights over debt and being a Scrooge who lives in squalor?

Borrow less than you can afford: In India, lenders typically allow you to take on EMIs (equated monthly instalments) of up to 50% of your disposable monthly income after deducting your fixed outgo. For example, if Madhu earns ₹1 lakh a month in take-home pay and already pays EMIs of ₹10,000 a month on a car loan, the lender will allow her to take on an additional EMI of slightly less than ₹40,000 a month. If she's seeking a 15-year home loan at 9%, this translates into an eligibility of about ₹40 lakh.

But remember, lenders

have a business interest in stretching your loan eligibility. When you take on EMIs that eat up 50% of income, it severely impairs your ability to save towards other future goals (such as retirement), forces you to defer other purchases and robs you of the flexibility to sail through the ups and downs in your income or career.

Therefore, it is better for you to do your own calculation on loan afforda-

bility instead of maxing out your eligibility. Deduct your living expenses, current EMIs and compulsory savings of 15-20% from your income, to arrive at an EMI that you can comfortably manage.

Borrow to invest in **appreciating assets:** For leverage to make financial sense, the return you earn on the leveraged asset should be higher than vour borrowing costs. Given the high interest rates for retail borrowers in India, it is often very hard to find assets that can earn you a higher return than the interest rate you're paying on the loan.

However, you can control the damage that borrowings inflict on your net worth by using them to invest in appreciating, rather than depreciating

Property, pieces of land or added educational qualifications, for instance, are appreciating assets that are likely to earn you capital appreciation or higher income over time. Vehicles, doubledoor fridges, smartphones or home theatre systems are depreciating assets that lose value the moment you buy them.

Borrowing to fund consumption or experiences like holidays is even worse because there's no asset to show for the liability vou've taken on. Therefore, if you're keen to spend on big-ticket consumption or experiences, you should postpone the spending until you've saved and invested

enough towards the goal.

Don't bet on big increments: We Indians are used to high income increases from year to year. When taking on loans, this makes it tempting to stretch ourselves to sign up for higher EMIs than we can afford, as we believe income growth will reduce the burden over time.

The calculation made sense when inflation was running at 7-8% and annual increments at 10-12%; both are no longer true. With salary increases across many sectors moderating to the 5-6% range, don't expect the burden of a large EMI to reduce materially over time. With variable compensation leading to fewer guarantees about your future pay and

pink slips becoming more prevalent in India, there's all the more reason to take on loans that you can comfortably afford with your

current earnings. Opt for higher EMIs: When evaluating loans, we often over-focus on the size of the EMI we're taking on. But this can blindside you to the size of the total liability. One way in which lenders often make EMIs more 'affordable' for you is by tempting you with a longer tenure. But longer tenures benefit lenders rather than borrowers, because the interest payments compound over a longer period.

Take the case of a ₹50 lakh home loan at 9% interest. For a 15-year tenure, the monthly EMI works out to ₹50.713 and

you end up repaying the bank a total of ₹91.28 lakh (including principal and interest) at the end of 15 years. Stretch the tenure to 20 years, and while your EMI falls to ₹44,986 the total amount you end up repaying the lender is ₹1.07 crore. With a 20-year loan, you've ended up paying the lender an interest of ₹57.9 lakh, compared with ₹41.2 lakh in the 15year loan.

MONEYWISE

This is also a good argument to always negotiate with your lender to increase your EMIs (and not tenure) when interest rates rise, and to prepay your loan as soon as you

Shop for better rates: Once we've taken on EMIs, we often put the loan on autopilot, paying up the monthly EMI without ever re-evaluating if there are better deals available in the market. But Indian banks today offer a range of floating rate options to borrowers linked to different benchmarks - be it the base rate, MCLR or the RBI's repo rate.

Often, lenders woo new borrowers with their best rates while older loan-takers continue to pay through their nose. This makes it important for you to closely track the rates across different benchmarks and lenders, and jump ship promptly when you see a big saving.

REPO RATE-LINKED HOME LOAN

What you need to know about this new kid on the block

Transmission to borrowers of interest rate changes by the RBI will be immediate but note that it can cut both ways

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

The new repo rate-linked home loans being offered by banks such as the State Bank of India could be cheaper for homebuyers and more transparent, but loan advisers warn that they also carry the downside risks of the monthly instalments increasing in size in the event of a sustained increase in the repo rate.

India's largest lender, the State Bank of India, launched repo-rate linked home loans that came into the market on July 1. This was swiftly followed by several other public sector banks, such as Syndicate Bank, Bank of India, Union Bank and Allahabad Bank, who each announced home loan products that would be directly linked to the central bank's repo rate.

MCLR-based loans

The interest rate for normal home loans given by banks are calculated based on the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR), which is an inter-

nal reference rate set by banks. This rate is nominally based on the RBI's repo rate – which itself is the rate of interest the central bank charges banks but in practice the calculation of the MCLR by each bank is opaque and complex.

'The MCLR could be different for different banks, and be influenced by various factors such as the risk assigned to the loan taker and other factors,"



and could mean changes in instalment amount. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Roopali Prabhu, head of Investment Products, Sanctum Management, ex-Wealth "Because of that, the plained. transmission [to the borrower] was not happening."

"There was a constant complaint from customers that even under the MCLR regime and before that the base rate regime, the benefits of the cuts of the policy rate were not getting transmitted to the end consumer," Gaurav Gupta, CEO of Myloancare said. "But, whenever there was an increase in interest rates by the regulator, the banks were very quick to pass

The RBI has, over four actions, cut the repo rate by 110 basis points, whereas, according to some estimates, banks have transmitted only a 29 basis point cut to the consumers. A repo rate-linked home loan is one way to speed up this process of transmission so that the end user can benefit from the RBI action.

The interest on the repo rate linked loans is not the repo rate itself, but is simply based on it. For example, the SBI repolinked lending rate (RLLR) will have a base spread of 2.25 percentage points over the repo rate. The repo rate at the time of launching the product was 5.75%, which meant the effective RLLR would have been 8%.

On top of this, the bank will add a risk-based spread of 40-55 basis points, depending on the risk assigned to the borrower. Taking this into account, the

effective interest rate on the loans would have been 8.4-8.55% at a time when home loans based on the MCLR were anywhere between 8.55% to 9.10%. The RBI has most recently cut the repo rate by 35 basis points, meaning the RLLR will be further lowered.

'Pro-investor move'

"With the repo-linked rate, there is a lot more transparency being brought in," Ms. Prabhu added. "As a home-loan borrower, you know what the rate is, what the spread is, and if you know what the reset date is, you also know what the rate will be following an RBI action and when it will come into etfect. It is a very good move and from a transparency point of view, it is a pro-investor move."

However, some consumers have the misapprehension that a repo rate-linked product will mean that the effective interest rate of the loan would change as constantly as the repo rate itself does, thereby making it more difficult for the loan taker to systematically make the payments. This, however, is a risk most borrowers already take when they opt for floating rate loans rather than fixed rate ones. "The decision first is whether you want a fixed rate or a floating rate," Ms. Prabhu said. "Most go for a floating rate anyway. A lot of institutions encourage this. If you are going for a floating rate, you anyway

Unravelling repo rate

- Repo rate is the rate of interest the RBI charges banks
- The interest that banks normally charge clients is based on their cost of funds
- The RBI has, over four actions, cut the repo rate by 110 basis points in 2019
- Rates based on banks' cost of funds have rarely changed in tune with repo rates

have the vagaries of the rate going down or hardening. But this way [with repo rate-linked loans], at least you have

transparency

That said, there are some risks the borrower undertakes when opting for the repo ratelinked home loans, such as the eventuality of the central bank raising the repo rate. This could not only increase the interest rate of the loan, but could also eventually impact the size of the instalments themselves.

"The customer must also understand that in the case of the repo rate linked loans, the changes in the interest rate can be more frequent and it could result in changes in the instalment amount itself, which was not the case in the MCLR regime," Mr. Gupta explained.

"What used to happen is that in case there was an increase in the interest rate, the banks used to increase the tenure of the loan, and only in very rare cases where this was extended too much, would they adjust the instalment amount itself," he added. "In the case of the repo rate loan, it's not the same. There is a higher chance, if the repo rate is increased significantly over a short time, that the instalment amount itself could be increased."

Sample calculation An example will be illustrative

to show how the loan can be affected if the repo rate is changed after a certain period of time. Say a borrower takes a loan of ₹50 lakh for a period of 10 years at the current reporate of 5.4%. Her effective interest rate will be 8.05% (5.4 + 2.25 + 0.4) and the monthly instalment will be ₹60,796. Three months down the line, the RBI raises the repo rate by 25 basis points, which means the effective interest rate is now 8.3%.

If the loan tenure is kept unchanged, this will mean that the instalment will increase in size to ₹61,445. Similarly, if the RBI cuts the repo rate by 25 basis points from 5.4% to 5.15%, then the instalment will shrink to ₹60,151.

In a scenario where the monthly instalment increases due to RBI's actions, borrowers will have to make sure that the higher amount is available in their bank accounts since the increase will take place automatically on the reset date.

Loan Amount (₹)

Upto 30 lakh Above 30 lakh & Above 75 lakh

8.80-11.55 8.80-11.55 8.80-11.55

LOOSE CHANGE



"The phone doesn't work; but I always carry it. I'm worried I might be taken as carrying cash otherwise!"

Bank fixed deposit rates

	Interest Rates (%)						
ank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure			
SMALL FI	NANCE	RANKS					
day Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.35	8.75	8.25			
s Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.00	8.30	7.00			
mall Finance Bank	8.50	8.50	7.30	7.30			
Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.50	8.50	8.00			
re Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.00			
Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.50	7.00	8.00			
Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.10	7.50	7.00			
East Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.00	7.25	6.75			
all Finance Bank	8.10	7.01	8.10	7.77			
Small Finance Bank	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.35			
PUBLIC S	ECTOP E	NINC					
ank	6.90	6.75	6.75	6.90			
te Bank	6.70	6.50	6.50	6.50			
Maharashta	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.50			
Bank of India	6.80	6.80	6.60	6.50			
ı Bank	6.80	6.80	6.75	6.75			
ra Bank	6.50	6.50	6.40	6.40			
f India	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50			
Bank of India	6.75	6.75	6.40	6.45			
Overseas Bank	6.80	6.60	6.80	6.80			
ration Bank	7.00	6.80	6.50	6.50			
ibad Bank	6.70	6.70	6.45	6.45			
lank	7.10	7.10	6.85	6.85			
al Bank of India	6.60	6.60	6.45	6.45			
d Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.00			
of Baroda	6.60	6.45	6.45	6.45			

year 5-year 6.75 6.50 6.40 6.40 7.00 7.30 7.25 7.00 7.00 7.00 6.75 7.00 7.00 6.85 6.85 6.50 6.50 7.25 7.25 7.10 7.00 7.30 6.50 7.25 6.25 7.50 7.50 8.00 7.75 7.50 7.65 7.65 6.50 6.50 7.35 7.35 6.90 6.90 6.00 12.41-13.33 12.41-13.33 12.41-13.33

8.00

5.00

7.00

Axis Bank

Kotak Mahindra Bank

Home loan interest rates

		Loan Amount (3)									
Name of Lender	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh								
			(In %)								
PUBL	IC SECTOR	BANKS									
State Bank of India	8.35-8.75	8.60-9.05	8.70-9.20								
Bank of Maharashtra	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.25								
Canara Bank	8.50-8.60	8.50-8.70	8.50-8.75								
Bank of Baroda	8.45-9.45	8.45-9.45	8.45-9.70								
Punjab National Bank	8.50-8.70	8.50-8.70	8.55-8.75								
UCO Bank	8.50	8.50-8.60	8.65-8.75								
Indian Overseas Bank	8.50	8.60	8.75								
Oriental Bank of Comm.	8.55-8.65	8.55-8.65	8.55								
United Bank of India	8.40-8.55	8.40-8.55	8.40-8.55								
Andhra Bank	8.50-8.55	8.50-8.55	8.60-8.65								
Punjab & Sind Bank	8.70	8.70	8.95								
Syndicate Bank	8.35	8.35	8.35								
Union Bank of India	8.60-8.95	8.60-8.95	8.65-9.25								
Bank of India	8.45-9.35	8.45-9.35	8.45-9.35								
Corporation Bank	8.60-8.80	8.60-8.80	8.60-9.05								
Indian Bank	8.70-8.80	8.80-8.90	8.95-9.05								
Central Bank of India	8.50	8.50	8.50-8.75								
IDBI Bank	8.60-9.20	8.60-9.20	8.90-9.20								
Allahabad Bank	8.40-9.40	8.40-9.40	8.45-9.40								
PRIVA	TE SECTO	R BANKS									
ICICI Bank	8.70-9.10	8.70-9.20	9.20-9.30								

8.90-10.60

9.85-13.00

8.75-9.10

9.05-9.55

8.75-9.10

9.85-13.00 9.85-12.50

9.10-9.55

Karur Vysya Bank

Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.90-12.90	9.90-12.90	9.90-12.90
HSBC Bank	8.85-9.15	8.85-9.15	8.85-9.15
IDFC First Bank	<=12.30	<=12.30	<=12.30
Standard Chartered	>=9.41	>=9.41	>=9.41
Lakshmi Vilas Bank	10.05	10.05	10.05
Citi Bank	9.35-10.35	9.35-10.35	9.35-10.35
DBS Bank	<=9.50	<=9.50	<=9.50
Tamilnad Mercantile	8.95-9.20	8.95-9.20	8.95-9.20
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	8.75	8.75	8.75-9.10
RBL Bank	10.15-12.00	11.50-12.00	11.50-12.00
City Union Bank	10.25-13.25	10.75-13.25	11.25-13.25
HOUSING FI			,
		•	
HDFC Ltd.	8.40-8.95	8.75-9.30	8.80-9.35
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin.	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance Hero Housing Finance	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.80-9.05 >=9.75	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.95-9.15 >=9.75	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 9.05-9.15 >=9.75
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance Hero Housing Finance Piramal Capital & Housg.	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.80-9.05 >=9.75 >=9.00	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.95-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 9.05-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance Hero Housing Finance Piramal Capital & Housg. IIFL	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.80-9.05 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.95-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 9.05-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance Hero Housing Finance Piramal Capital & Housg. IIFL Bajaj Finserv	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.80-9.05 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 8.80-11.15	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.95-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 9.05-11.15	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 9.05-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance Hero Housing Finance Piramal Capital & Housg. IIFL Bajaj Finserv	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.80-9.05 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.95-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 9.05-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance Hero Housing Finance Piramal Capital & Housg. IIFL Bajaj Finserv Reliance Home Finance	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.80-9.05 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 8.80-11.15	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.95-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 9.05-11.15	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 9.05-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 9.05-11.15
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance Hero Housing Finance Piramal Capital & Housg. IIFL Bajaj Finserv Reliance Home Finance Aditya Birla Capital GIC Housing Finance	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.80-9.05 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 8.80-11.15 9.75-13.00 9.00-12.50 9.10-12.50	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.95-9.15 >=9.00 >=10.25 9.05-11.15 9.75-13.00 9.00-12.50 9.10-12.50	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.56 8.80-12.00 9.05-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >10.25 9.05-11.15 9.75-11.00
HDFC Ltd. PNB Housing Finance Indiabulls Housing Fin. LIC Housing Finance Hero Housing Finance Piramal Capital & Housg. IIFL Bajaj Finserv Reliance Home Finance Aditya Birla Capital	8.40-8.95 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.80-9.05 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 8.80-11.15 9.75-13.00 9.00-12.50	8.75-9.30 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 8.95-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 9.05-11.15 9.75-13.00 9.00-12.50	8.80-9.35 9.25-11.50 8.80-12.00 9.05-9.15 >=9.75 >=9.00 >=10.25 9.05-11.15 9.75-11.00

For years, as a regular visitor to Myanmar, I had resisted going to Bagan. It had seemed too touristy. When I began writing my book, *Myanmar in the World:* Journeys through a Changing Burma, I had to finally brace myself for a visit. Bamar rose as a fortified city after the Nanzhao raids of the ninth century, which established Burmese speakers as the dominant population in the Irrawaddy River Valley, and expanded for 200 years. To it goes the credit of creating a centre around which kingdoms and governorships around the country could arrange themselves; it is the basis of Myanmar as we know it today. It is to Myanmar what Angkor Wat is to Cambodia, Borobudur to Indonesia, and Ayutthaya to Thailand. As an archaeological site, it is among the richest in the world.

When I finally arrive in Bagan, by road, from Mandalay, it is too hot to do anything. From about 5.30 am to about 8 am, it is pleasant to sit by the river, drink my coffee and read the Glass Palace Chronicle, the legends and stories of kings, among them those that built Bagan up to the greatest capital of the Burmese people. Two days later, a cyclonic storm moving from the eastern coast of India, across the Bay of Bengal, cools things down. I venture into the Bagan Archaeological Zone.





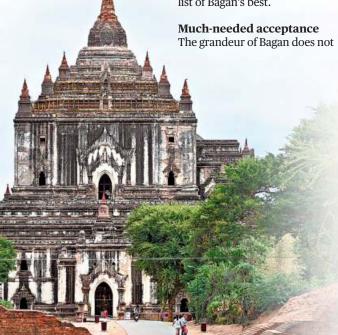


One hopes the UNESCO World Heritage recognition of Myanmar's temple city will also ensure its preservation

sense one is left with is of pride. I am from Kolkata, so I am no stranger to people living in the past. Yet, perhaps because Myanmar is what it is today, the pride you encounter - on the fresh faces of the young men and women who have found employment as tour guides, although they studied for a degree in law or geology; in the expectant staff at the hotel who take your arrival as endorsement not only of their TripAdvisor ranking but of their history; and among the general populace who look at you looking at their temples and think that

their country is contemporary again - feels fragile. Among Bagan's 3,800-odd

structures that remain are works that are simply marvellous. The murals inside the early 12th century Gubyaukgyi temple, and at the more famous Ananda Pahto, under restoration by the Archaeological Survey of India, are exquisite, reminiscent of the wondrous Mogao caves in Dunhuang, China. The stone carving at the diminutive Nan Phaya, King Manuha's prison-home, is effortlessly graceful, as are the carvings in stucco at the Htilominlo. There are countless examples, and everyone who visits has their own list of Bagan's best.



Also on the list...

lie inside a single monument -

it is the whole of it, so iconised

in the panorama shots of flat

plains strewn with the sil-

houette of stupas rising darkly,

like long gone creatures. It is

when looking out on to this

view, from atop Shwesandaw or

Shwegugyi, at sunrise or sunset,

that one can fully grasp the sig-

nificance of Bagan, and its hold

on the psyche of the Burmese

people. It is the idea of continui-

ty, of a landscape, of societal va-

lues, of the Buddha's place in

the world, and of the bloodlines

Anawrahta is the most famous.

He was the first to unify central Burma with the Mon territories

in the South and bring back an

'original copy' of the Tipit aka

the Buddhist canon, to his capi-

tal, along with the Mon king,

Manuha, as his prisoner. An ear-

ly 11th century temple dedicat-

ed to Manuha, where he is said

to have been placed under

house arrest, is among the high-

He was the one who esta-

lights of Bagan's temple tour.

Bagan had many rulers, but

of rulers.

Twenty eight other sites were added to the World Heritage List at the annual meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, this year, bringing the total up to 1,121 culturally significant sites. England's Jodrell Bank Observatory, which houses some of the world's leading radio astronomy telescopes, is an exciting addition. Other interesting landmarks include natural sites such as Iceland's Vatnajökull National Park, cultural sites like the historic city of Sheki in Azerbaijan, and the archaeological ruins of Liangzhu City in southeast China. The list has only one mixed site (cultural and biodiversity hotspot): the Paraty and Ilha Grande in Brazil. Our pink city, Jaipur, has also made it to the list.



blished Buddhism as a state religion, institutionalising the monastic order and initiating the system of monk-monarch patronage. His successors would build on these foundations to simultaneously expand and control territory, while creating a larger co-dependency with the monkhood, the 'Sangha'. Understanding that relationship is fundamental to understanding the meaning of Bagan.

Faith's living monuments

The outside world, specifically that which sits in judgement and decides what is heritage and what is not, has never fully accepted this aspect of Bagan. Until this July, when, finally, after decades of giving it the cold shoulder, UNESCO inscribed it on its World Heritage List, placing it among sites such as Babylon, Rome, and Jaipur.

In 1996, UNESCO had turned away Bagan's bid to qualify on the grounds that the then military government had used controversial methods of conservation: steel-tied bars to reinforce

centuries-old columns, whitewash on antique murals, new finials on top of pagodas.

Conservation and what it constitutes has been a constant source of tension between Burmese and international experts. The popular perspective in Myanmar is that pagodas are living monuments meant for daily worship, which means people must be allowed to repair them, renovate them, re-gild them, not leaving it to be as it was previously, an ossified temple unconnected from the belief system which gives it life. UNESCO officials themselves have acknowledged that, to Burmese Buddhists, 'restoring a temple doesn't mean so much restoring it to how it originally looked as enabling it to become a place of worship again'.

Despite these philosophical divergences, what has never been in dispute is Bagan's universal value as a cultural site. It was, and remains, a place where significant chunks of Southeast Asian history proceeded and can still be obSome of the temples at Bagan; (above) devotees lighting candles at the Sulamani Temple: and (below) the Thatbyinnyu temple • GETTY IMAGES

served. The UNESCO's decision to recognise it now also signals the present government's willingness for more traditional conservation practices, including taking a harder stance on the reckless commercialisation that has marked the site. It should pave the way for more international collaborations, greater support for improving institutional capacity, and better funding.

I am certain that the next time I visit Bagan, the pride would have grown more confident. I only hope that it will be a pride that is rooted not only in history but also in the role the current generation of Myanmar citizens will play in preserving this precious history.

The writer is the author of Myanmar in the World: Journeys through a Changing Burma (₹799, Aleph Book Company, 2018)

+ down memory lane

The charm of oral history

The Old Delhi of the past, where history and storytelling are intertwined



R.V. SMITH

The State Government's Oral History Programme of Delhi Archives, launched in collaboration with Ambedkar University, is a laudable venture, because far away from the learned tomes of historians, there is a charm in what's often dismissed as gossip.

Old Delhi tales

I realized this during the years I spent living in the Walled City (where one of my sons was born) between 1962 and 1971. I spent some time at Azad Hind Hotel, once known as Urdu Manzil, where the marble tiles were inscribed with the words, "Ghar, Ghar Urdu". It was there that a few Urdu poets would gather sometimes to hold impromptu mushairas.

The assembly at the hotel would discuss the mystery of the locked house in Matia Mahal where a bride was found murdered in bed on her wed-

ding night. Also, the sensational pre-Partition varn of the kebab seller. This man's kebabs had cured a patient who had been told by a hakim that he had no hope of a recovery unless he ate human flesh. When the hakim was informed by the patient of his recovery, the Unani doctor asked the police to keep a watch on the kebab seller. One evening, when a labourer was carrying his heavy utensils, someone cut off his head with a sword. Believe it or not, it was the labourer's flesh that would have gone into the making of the next day's kebabs. The murderer and the kababiya were arrested and sentenced to death.

Folklore fellas

There were characters those days, like Karim Panwallah. at whose shop was displayed the engraved couplet, "Paan kehta hai ke sukh kar mar jaunga mein/ Ai labh yaar gar mooh na lagaya tu ne" (the paan says I will dry up and die, if my friend, you do not put me in between your lips).

While sitting at Bhure Mian's shrine, near the Red Fort, munching Karim's paan, I often conversed with the caretaker, Pir Yasin Beg. He used to distribute tabiz (amulets) to a crowd of burga-clad women with children in their arms. A man not entirely devoid of rational thinking, he would sometimes advise an old woman that her daughter-in-law was not possessed by Jinns but had symptoms of TB which could only be cured by medical treatment. To another he would say, "Nobody is drinking your Bahu's blood, she is anaemic and needs a doctor's

care and good nourishment". When he was free, he would talk to me and relate the story of Bhure Mian, who was a 'fiery' (jalali) saint. Even if a bird flew over his Takia (saintly abode) it would get burnt. Once Aurangzeb tried to test him by sending korma made of dog's meat, garnished with dry fruits through his spiritual adviser, Mullah Jeevan, who asked what he thought of it. Bhure Mian replied, "Haram ha ya halal, tu jane, kuttey ka hai ya bakre ka tu jane" (Whether it is forbidden or permitted meat you know best, or whether it is made of dog's flesh or goat's you know best). He did not eat the stuff.

Listening to qawwalis at

A feel of the bazar A scene at Old Delhi SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

Hazrat Kalimullah Sahib's dargah until late at night, barrister Nuruddin Ahmed, thrice Mayor of Delhi, would offer fateha (memorial prayers) at his wife's grave. In Urdu Bazar, Mir Mushtaq Ahmed (first Chief Executive Councillor of Delhi) usually stood in his balcony waiting for a masseur to massage him down at night.

Meeting-greeting

At Haji Hotel a group of old men would sit, discussing the events of the 1857 Revolt as though it happened just yesterday. Among them was a plain speaking Master Sahib, ex-wrestler; Ustad Zahooro Qazi Sahib, who had the facial features of Aurangzeb; and Mushtaq Bhai, the jarrah or herbal doctor much in demand for circumcisions.

In old Delhi, I sometimes met the eunuchs Sona and Chandi who ruled over the hearts of young men in the Turkman Gate area. At the house of Hajjan Bua in Chitli Qabar there were fanciful tales, about the two sons of Emperor Akbar, Hassan and Hussain, who died because of the evil influence of Jinns. The comet (Jharoodar Tara) that appeared over Delhi during the time of First War of Independence, and the sheet of blood seen in the sky at Agra before the Ghaddar (mutiny) was also part of the narrative.

Accho Bi was the raconteur of Gali Kababiya. Haji Zahooruddin and the shoe merchant, Mohammed Mian Akbar, used to talk of the shoe-sellers' riot during Mohammed Shah's reign in 1729, when the emperor's favourite concubine, Nur Bai, lost a tooth. They were chroniclers of tales not found in books.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of



Sachin Bahmba, the person behind Astroports and Astro-tourism, talks about his journey

RHEA MEHROTRA AND SAKSHAM BAKSHI

Sachin Bahmba, the founder of Science Popularisation Association of Communicators & Educators (SPACE) Foundation, wants nothing more than to see people take astronomy and space science seriously. He's the person behind the science clubs in about 250 schools across the country. "When I was in school I asked questions about everything. We were taught about microscopes and telescopes in the same class and it struck me that hands-on experience was only given only on microscopes and not telescopes." His teacher told him that the school was not equipped with one. So he made his own.

In Delhi University, from 1991 to 1996, he had a similar experience, when he was studying physics and astrophysics, with the observatory not equipped. Here, he talks about what his journey.

Who inspired you to initiate the SPACE group?

After my M.Sc., I worked under the late Dr. Nirupma Raghavan (Director of Nehru Planetarium), who is my mentor and inspiration. She made learning easy, both science and maths. My friend and I, started

Scientific temper (right) Sachin Bahmba; a view of the night sky ■ M. SATHYAMOORTHY

built our confidence. We also went to various places with her to gain some practical knowledge. One such place was Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, where we went to the see solar eclipse. To explain and to see the 52second eclipse, Dr. Raghavan put me in-charge of showing it to the local people. They were so curious, and I realised how badly we need exposure to space sciences. This is when I thought of starting an NGO (in 2001),

working under her, which really

What is astro tourism and how do you promote it?

Skies put up wonderful shows for us. Some of these can be watched from anywhere in the world and for others you have to travel. We need to travel because of light pollution. So we go to locations where we can see the night sky clearly. We coined the word with the term As-

> troports, because a port transports you to another

place. Astro-tourism has great potential to provide jobs to lakhs of people. Currently, there are six Astro-India: Sariska, ports in Ranthambore, Jaipur, in Rajasthan; Kanha in Madhya Pradesh, Sagar (near Jog Falls) in Karnataka; and Corbett, Uttarakhand. My primary mission is launching a number of Astro-tourism concepts in our country. We provide NASA trips to our school and college students.

What is the best time to visit an astroport?

This depends on what you want to see. If you want to see deep-sky objects, come at a time when the moon is not overly bright (avoid three days before and after the full moon). Between September and March is an overall good time.

What do you plan to do over the next couple of years?

The primary mission and vision of our company is to build 30 Astroports across the country away from urban cities and pollution. Through in-house training, we aim to generate more and more employment opportunities in the niche sector of astro-tourism.

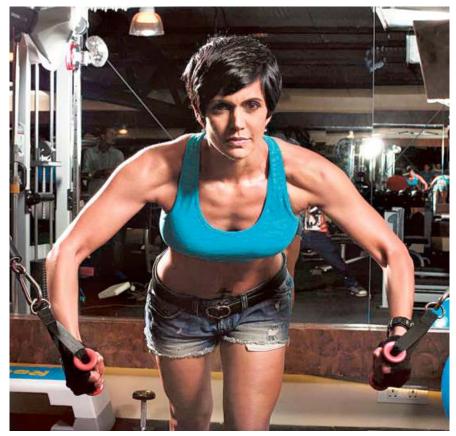
Programmes offered

■ An educational programme that targets school and college students, turning textbook knowledge into practical observation.

- Corporate sector programmes, to enhance problem-solving abilities and leadership skills through the various activities
- Parent collaborative learning, for families, where children and parents experience new concepts together.







'Fitness is my lifestyle decision'

Mandira Bedi's #100daychallenge on Instagram is garnering thousands of views

SOMA BASU

Through an Instagram post on August 11, Mandira Bedi called out everybody to a #100daychallenge. Those who opted in were to do 45 minutes of daily exercise or take at least 10,000 steps. She uploads sequences of her daily workouts with information on getting and staying fit. It's not surprising that many of her 937K followers have come on board spontaneously, considering that at 47, Mandira looks the way she does (she's 50 kilograms), and that Reebok has promised hampers to a few who post pictures and hashtag appro-

While Mandira has always been running and gym-ing (she was out on the road within two months after her son's birth, running in the rain), she says she is not out to become an influencer: "I have adopted the health regimen for my own benefit. I do not know to what extent I can influence others. If it encourages people to join in, I am more than happy to spread the feelgood and body positivity." She says the idea is to keep people motivated. "When you put it up there in public, it keeps you honest. It's a big commitment," she says, over a phone conversation from Mumbai.

Barely two months ago, she worked hard on her #40daychallenge and earned social-media praise for a toned body, a sharper jaw line and sculpted muscles. So why another one so soon? "May-June was one of my busiest periods with a film each in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on the floor, besides other engagements. Yet I managed to lend myself to an effective exercise programme. So on a beautiful Sunday, I randomly thought of raising the bar. After all, it feels good to feel good after exercise."

This time around, Mandira is focusing on mindful eating as well. "I will soon be uploading pages from my recently-started food diary and it will include stories about my cheat days too," she says, and goes on to share how three days ago she celebrated her husband's birthday binging. "There is nothing wrong in having a day of bad eating, but it's more important to rein yourself in. When you put it in writing, it clearly reminds you where you are going," says the actor and TV host, who gained 22 kilograms after pregnancy and a C-section.

She says there is perhaps no diet that she has not tried, from low to no carbs, and keto, but did not find them sustainable. "I missed the basic usual healthy stuff we grew up eating at home, and as a rou-

When you put it up there in public, it keeps you honest. It's a big commitment

tine have now returned to my mornings with fruits; lunch with dal, roti, and subzi; and dinner with salads."

One of the benefits of being a parent who cares about fitness is that her child ends up participating too. Mandira and her eight-year-old son run the 2km Durathon in Mumbai and Delhi every year. "When I was his age, I could hardly run this distance."

With time, the cardio and weight training has become a stress-buster. "That is the time I say my prayers. It clears my mind and puts me at peace and in the happiest space," she says, also emphasising that workouts should be pain-free.





WORKING OUT WITH MANDIRA

Day 4

15 reps cable fly

15 reps (each side) side bends with kettle bell

15 reps sit-ups with weighted

15 reps (each side) curtsy

lunges

150 jumping jacks

Day 5

30 minutes cross trainer

Five minutes step squats left

Five mins step squats right side

Five mins calf raises

Ten mins cross trainer

Five mins ab crunches

Source: @mandirabedi on Instagram



Q&A

I am approaching 50. How best can I monitor my eye health?



Many age-related diseases like cataract, glaucoma, age-related retinal degeneration and diabetic retinopathy are often asymptomatic in the early stages and are common in the sixth and seventh decades of our life. If you have a family history of glaucoma, diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol or blindness, you may go for annual eye evaluation preferably by an eye specialist. If there are no such risk factors, you can have an eye examination done once in two years. A diet rich in antioxidants and lifestyle modifications such as regular aerobic exercises often significantly reduce the risk of blindness from most eye

I use the non-prescribed reading glasses available at optical shops. Are they good for the eyes in the long run?

Most such reading glasses are recommended based on one's age and the related reduction in the reserve of accommodative capability of the eye, which gradually reduces after the age of 40. Although nonprescribed reading glasses do no harm, they may not accurately compensate for the refractive power of the eye, which may have individual variations. Inappropriate correction occasionally causes fatigue and suboptimal vision. Your optometrist can accurately determine the glass correction you require, and customise it based on your work and other visual needs.

My nine-year-old daughter has droopy eyelids. Can it be corrected now?

■ Most droopy eyelids, except in exceptional cases, can be corrected by a simple surgery. One, however, needs to exclude neural causes of droopy lids, especially if the droopy eyelids are showing any diurnal variations. A simple evaluation by a paediatric ophthalmologytrained eye doctor can provide you appropriate suggestions and

Dr R Krishnadas has been with the Aravind Eye Hospitals in various capacities for the past 25 years. Currently, he is serving as Senior Medical Consultant in Glauco Services at the Aravind Eye Care System in Madurai

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

POOCH CAFE









PEANUTS YOU'RE LAZY,







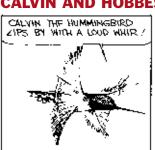
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE







CALVIN AND HOBBES





Across

fail (2-6)

plant (4)

for example (3)

9 Female singing voice

10 People expected to

11 Seed of a leguminous

13 Pub (slang) (6)

16 Shed excess weight

14 Tail bone (6)





sexual urges – Rio's a

handicap (anag) (13)

3 Lived in (8)

4 Glad rags (6)

5 Visit various websites (4) 6 Fairground ride

13 Informal restaurants (7) 15 Discoverer's triumphant cry (6) 18 Oxygen's atomic

number (5) 19 Greek cheese (4)

7 Legendary bird -Arizona city (7) 12 Mexican pancake

(6.7)

TIGER

WUMO







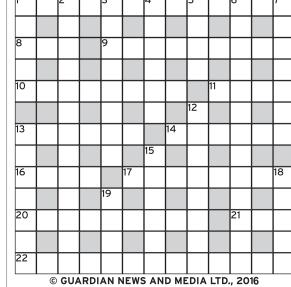


HEALTH CAPSULES®

WHAT IS "BRĄĮN ON FIRE"? SEATH ON FIRE IS THE POPULAR NAME OF A RARE NEUROLOGICAL CONDITION AND AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE KNOWN AS "ANTI-NMDA" RECEPTOR ENCEPHALTITS." THE CONDITION IS CAUSED BY THE IMMUNE SYSTEM CREATING

ANTIBODIES THAT ATTACK BRAIN CHUS PRODUCING SYMPTOMS SUCH AS ANXIETY CATATONIA, PSYCHOSIS, EXHAUSTION AND SLUGGISHNESS.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13152



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strongest possible terms (5.4)21 Unit of measurement of thermal insulation in duvets, coats etc (3)

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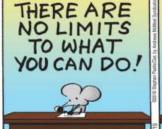
Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 20, 2019. Solution No. 13151

C A R D I O L O G I S T
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A ND-NDE

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE





The reason they stopped using quick-drying

cement on Hollywood Boulevard







Lord's Test drawn after absorbing final day

Labuschagne and Head stand firm as Australia wards off an incisive spell from Archer & Co.

THE ASHES

REUTERS

The second Ashes Test was drawn as Australia, chasing 267 to beat England, ended on 154 for six after an absorbing final day at Lord's on Sunday.

Ben Stokes made a brilliant century and England declared on 258 for five before Jofra Archer claimed two early wickets to give the host the sniff of an unlikely

But Marnus Labuschagne, replacing Steve Smith as Test cricket's first substitute, made 59 and Travis Head an unbeaten 42 to lead the Australians to safety and keep them 1-0 up in the series.

Smith was ruled out of the final day suffering from concussion symptoms after being struck on the neck by an Archer bouncer on Saturday and Labuschagne was hit on

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Australia's Steve Smith

was ruled out of the last

day of the second Ashes

on the field as 12th man

when play resumed on

Sunday, hence became

substitute' in Test history

after Australia's request

was approved by match

the first 'concussion

Marnus Labuschagne,

Test with concussion.



Knocked over: Marnus Labuschagne, who made history as Test cricket's first concussion substitute, goes down after being hit by a Jofra Archer bouncer. • AFF

the first being played

concussion substitute

regulations, which allow

head or neck injuries to

be replaced fully by a

Labuschagne was

Smith's place, unlike

traditional substitutes

who were restricted to

eligible to bat or bowl in

substitute.

fielding.

players who have suffered

under ICC's new

the helmet by the second ball he faced from the Barbados-born fast bowler.

Courage and composure The 25-vear-old right-hander was able to continue batting,

referee Ranjan Madugalle.

Smith was felled by a

"Steve has been closely

Jofra Archer bouncer on

monitored by medical

staff overnight and this

morning reported that

after sleeping well, he

headache and a feeling of

spokesman. The series is

woke with 'a bit of a

grogginess," said an

Australian team

Labuschagne is first

'concussion' substitute

Saturday.

however, showing courage and composure under intense pressure to reach his second Test fifty in his sixth

Earlier, Stokes scored 115 not out, hitting three sixes

and 11 fours, as the host added 162 runs to its overnight score to give itself a chance of levelling the series.

After resuming on 96 for four following another rain delay, Stokes and Jos Buttler

Concussion rule

The 'concussion substitution' rule allows a side to replace a concussed player in the playing XI

A team can have a 'likefor-like' replacement in case of a concussion to any player during a match

 Labuschagne became the first player to be subbed under this rule, replacing

The match referees will determine who the concussion substitute is

dug in to take England to 157 for four at lunch.

Buttler fell for 31 but Stokes went on the attack and brought up his seventh Test century, adding a quickfire 97 with Jonny Bairstow who finished unbeaten on

Australia will head to Leeds for the third Test starting on Thursday with Smith's fitness being a matter of serious concern.

England - 1st innings: 258. Australia - 1st innings: 250.

SCOREBOARD

England - 2nd innings: R. Burns c Paine b Siddle 29, J. Roy c & b Cummins 2, J. Root c Paine b Cummins O, J. Denly c & b Siddle 26, B. Stokes (not out) 115, J. Buttler c Hazlewood b Cummins 31, J. Bairstow (not out) 30; Extras (b-5, lb-19, nb-1): 25; Total (for five wkts. decl. in 71 overs): 258.

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-64, 4-71, 5-161.

Australia bowling: Cummins 17-6-35-3, Hazlewood 13-1-43-0, Siddle 15-4-54-2, 26-3-102-0

Australia - 2nd innings: C. Bancroft lbw b Leach 16, D. Warner c Burns b Archer 5, U. Khawaja c

Bairstow b Archer 2, M. Labuschagne c Root b Leach 59, T. Head (not out) 42, M. Wade c Buttler b Leach 1. T. Paine c Denly b Archer 4, P. Cummins (not out) 1; Extras (b-4, lb-18, nb-1, w-1): 24; Total (for six wkts. in 47.3 overs): 154.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-19, 3-47, 4-132, 5-138, 6-149.

England bowling: Broad 7-0-29-0, Archer 15-2-32-3, Woakes 3-0-11-0, Leach 16.3-5-37-3, Stokes 3-1-16-0, Root 1-0-7-0, Denly 2-2-0-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Stokes.

Match drawn, Australia leads five-Test series 1-0.

Third Test: August 22 to 26,

Pujara comes to India's rescue

Ishant, Umesh and Kuldeep bundle out West Indies-A



A hoax!

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The BCCI on Sunday

security threat to the

"hoax", but the Indian

High Commission here

"We have informed

the security agencies

and it has been found

a BCCI official said.

that it was a hoax mail,"

national team was a

has intimated the

about the

developments.

Antigua government

confirmed that the

COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

Cheteshwar Pujara struck form with a fine century, while Rohit Sharma hit 68 as India shrugged off an initial wobble to declare at 297 for five against West Indies-A in the three-day warm-up game here on Saturday. In reply, the hosts were skittled out for 181 at tea on day two.

Ishant Sharma (three for 21 off eight overs), Umesh Yaday (three for 19 in 10 overs) and Kuldeep Yadav (three for 35 off 9.1 overs) ran through the West Indies-A line-up. Only Kavem Hodge (51) offered some resistance.

Solid stand

On day one, Pujara and Rohit stitched a 132-run partnership for the fourth wicket to rescue India after it was

reduced to 89. Test specialist Pujara got going in his first competitive match of the West Indies tour and retired after making 100 off 187 balls

with eight fours and a six.

Rohit fell after making 68 off 115 balls, hitting eight 4s and a six.

Pant, Vihari come good

After Pujara retired in the final session, Rishabh Pant and Hanuma Vihari further pushed the Indian total. Stumps were drawn just after Pant was out for a 53-ball 33 which he made with the help of four 4s and a 6.

For West Indies-A, pacer Jonathan Carter took three for 39 from his 13.5 overs. and Keon Harding and Akim Frazer took one wicket each. The scores: India 297 for five decl. in 88.5 overs (C. Pujara 100 retd., Rohit Sharma 68, Rishabh Pant 33, Hanuma Vihari 37 n.o., Jonathan Carter three for 39) vs West Indies 181 in 56.1 overs at tea (Kavem Hodge 51, Ishant Sharma three for 21, Umesh Yadav three for 19, Kuldeep Yadav three for 35).

Rain plays spoilsport

DULEEP TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL

Play was abandoned without a ball being bowled on the second day of the Duleep Trophy match between India Green and India Blue, at Just Cricket ground here on Sunday.

The first session was lost due to a wet outfield caused by overnight rain.

Shortly after Lunch, it began to drizzle, putting an end to all hopes of witnessing some on-field action. India Blue remain on 112

NADA tests from next Duleep game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) will start testing the players during the next Duleep Trophy game in Bengaluru from August 23, having agreed to BCCI's demands for qualified medical practitioners as Lead Dope Control Officers (LDCO)

"The Duleep Trophy has already started and they will probably be coming for the later matches. They haven't specified whether they are planning target-

testing or random-testing. NEW DELHI There will be a few tests on match days (incompetition)," said Dr. Abhijit Salvi, head of the anti-doping unit.

> The BCCI carried out around 275 tests last season with the International Doping Tests and Management of Sweden (IDTM) for sample collection, and it remains to be seen how many tests NADA will carry out this season, considering that only 11 months are left for the Tokyo Olympics.

Klaasen for Second

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JOHANNESBURG

Wicketkeeper Rudi Second has been ruled out of South Africa's Test tour of India in October due to an injury and Heinrich Klaasen will take his place in the squad, Cricket South Africa has

CSA said Second, one of the new caps in the Proteas squad to play three Tests in India in October, suffered an injury while practising with the South Africa-A side. He will require surgery and has consequently been ruled out. Second's place with be taken by wicketkeeper-batsman

Karunaratne takes Sri Lanka to victory

Involved in record stand with Thirimanne

KIWIS IN LANKA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne scored 122 as Sri Lanka chased down 268 for the loss of four wickets to win the first Test against New Zealand on Sunday and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match

Karunaratne posted his ninth Test century and a record-equalling opening partnership of 161 with Lahiru Thirimanne, who made 64, as Sri Lanka collected its



Karunaratne. • GETTY IMAGES

first points of the World Test Championship. ratne faced 245 balls and hit six fours and a six.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand - 1st innings:

Sri Lanka - 1st innings: 267. New Zealand - 2nd innings: 285.

Sri Lanka - 2nd innings: D. Southee 122, L. Thirimanne lbw b Somerville 64, K. Mendis c Raval b Ajaz 10, A. Mathews (not out) 28, K. Perera c Santner b Boult 23, D. de Silva (not out) 14: Extras (b-6. lb-1): 7. Total (for four wkts. in 86.1 overs): 268

Fall of wickets: 1-161, 2-174, 3-218. 4-250.

New Zealand bowling: Boult 9.1-1-34-1, Southee 12-2-33-1, Somerville 31-6-73-1, Ajaz 18-0-74-1, Santner 13-2-38-0, Williamson 3-0-9-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Karunar-

Anand posts win

SPORTS BUREAU SAINT LOUIS

Viswanathan Anand emerged as the lone winner on the opening day of the prestigious Sinquefield Cup chess tournament after conquering Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in 77 moves here.

Other results (first round): Magnus Carlsen (Nor) drew with Anish Giri (Ned): Hikaru Fabiano Caruana (USA); Ding Liren (Chn) drew with Wesley So (USA); Sergey Karjakin (Rus) drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze); Levon Aronian (Arm) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

Lampard's first home match ends in a draw

Lundstram wins it for Sheffield United



Happy times: Sheffield United's John Lundstram celebrates with George Baldock. • REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS MANCHESTER

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard had to settle for a 1-1 draw against Leicester City in his first home match in charge on Sunday as a second-half header by Wilfred Ndidi cancelled out Mason Mount's early goal on his

home debut. Chelsea raced into a quick lead when the 20 year-old Mountstole the ball from a dallying Ndidi and left Kasper Schmeichel with no chance with his shot in the seventh minute.

But Leicester grew into the game and equalised in the 67th minute when Ndidi atoned for his first-half error by heading home a James Maddison corner.

In another match, John Lundstram's second-half goal gave Sheffield United a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace on Sunday.

The results: Premier League: Sheffield United 1 (Lundstram 47) bt Crystal Palace O; Chelsea 1 (Mount 7) drew with Leicester 1 (Ndidi 67).

Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Hinteregger 1) bt Hoffenheim O; Union Berlin O RB Leipzig 4 (Halstenberg 16, Sabitzer 31, Werner 42, Nkunku

Saturday: La Liga: Valencia 1 (Gameiro 58) drew with Real Sociedad 1 (Oiarzabal 90+11pen). Villarreal 4 (Cazorla 35pen, Moises 53, Gerard 65, Chukwueze 73) drew with Granada 4 (Fede Vico 45+6-pen, Peũa 62-og, Soldado 75, Puer-

Titans put on a towering performance

Thalaivas bounce back to hold Paltan to a tie

PKL

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN

Siddharth Desai top-scored with 18 points as Telugu Titans posted an emphatic 40-29 win over Haryana Steelers in the ProKabaddi League here on Sunday.

The first half belonged to Titans as the tall Siddharth secured eight points from nine raids. A bonus point in a do-or-die attempt in the third minute helped him achieve 50 raid bonus points in the

Siddharth put out two of the three defenders – Dharmaraj Cheralathan and Vinay – in the 15th minute to help

inflicted an all out, holding the lone raider Naveen.

Fine tackle

In the Titans' defence, Suraj Desai and Arun pulled off a particularly fine tackle on Prashanth Kumar Rai in the seventh minute.

On its part, Steelers came up with good tackle in the 10th minute on Suraj, as Cheralathan and Vikas Kale pinned the raider after he had kicked Vikas Kandola seemingly hard and tried to return home for a point. Steelers had trailed 8-9 then.

This was after Kandola made a kick touch on Amit Kumar in the far right corner, for Steelers to reach 7-9 in the ninth minute. Kandola was

for Steelers with nine points. Steelers, which trailed Titans 13-21 at the break, managed to score 16 points against Ti-

tans' 19 in the second half.

In the second match, Tamil Thalaivas pulled off a thrilling 31-31 tie with Puneri Paltan. The key moment, a singular piece of play, was V. Ajith Kumar's super raid. As the lone raider, he put

out three defenders, who tried to prevent him from touching the midline, to help Thalaivas draw level 29-29 from 25-29 with only three minutes left.

The results: Thalaivas 31 (V. Ajith Kumar 8, Rahul Chaudhari 8) tied with Paltan 31 (Surjeet Singh 7, Pankaj Mohite 7); Titans 40 (Siddharth Desai 18) bt Steelers 29 (Vikas Kandola 9).



Made it! Thalaivas' Ajith Kumar pulls off a super raid, in spite of three Paltan players trying to stall him, in the exciting second match on Sunday. • M. VEDHAN

Sri Lanka won by six wickets. 'Indian crop strongest in the world'

Six youngsters to train with Vladimir Kramnik

CHESS

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

In the chess world, India's teen talent has been making waves. The current crop, led by R. Praggnanandhaa, is clearly the most promising bunch seen in a long time. And what more, the endorsement of this fact has come from none other than former World champion Vladimir Kramnik.

"I think the current Indian chess crop is the strongest generation in the world now, maybe the strongest ever in one country." This observation from the now-retired Russian wizard only reinforces the growing belief in the global chess fraternity.

Impressed by available Indian talent, Kramnik agreed to hold a training session for six youngsters. The group includes Grandmasters, Praggnanandhaa (born in 2005) D. Gukesh (2006), P. Iniyan (2002), Prithu Gupta (2004) and International Masters Ranuak Sadhwani (2005) and Leon Mendonca (2006). They are training at Chens Sur Leman, France, close to Geneva, where Kramnik

Intially, GMs Nihal Sarin and Arjun Ergaisi were part of the six-player list. However, Nihal pulled out due to prior commitments and Arjun had to undergo an knee-



The lucky ones: Vladimir Kramnik poses with Leon Mendonca, Prithu Gupta, R. Praggnanandhaa, D. Gukesh, P. Iniyan and Raunak Sadhwani. • courtesy: chessbase india

dent. Sharing the details of Kramnik-Microsense Chess India Program, scheduled from August 14 to 25, Kramnik said, "The idea of training the young talented Indian kids came during my conversation with Frederic Friedel, my good friend from ChessBase. One of the young Indian talents was at Frederic's home and I shared my high opinion about Indian youngsters. India's got some really very talented kids with a potential of being top players, maybe even World Champions in

surgery following an acci-

Talking about the blueprint for the camp, Kramnik said, "In the first session I would like to get to know the players personally, to talk to them, to answer the questions that they have on their

mind. We will be touching upon all the aspects of the game including opening, middle-game and the endgame. I am going to prepare very seriously for the camp. I will give my insights of how I prepare psychologically and professionally for chess tournaments and I would share with them my views on many issues of professional chess. "I will also be sharing se-

at the highest level. I will also prepare some specific lectures for the camp and allow the kids to play with each other and then later analyse these games in detail. "I am pretty sure that this

crets which only top players

are aware of because of their

experience of playing chess

camp will be very useful for the young talents," said Kramnik.

Kotla stand

after Kohli

to be named

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After spin legend Bishan Singh Bedi and Mohinder

Amarnath, Virat Kohli will become the third cricketer

to have a stand named af-

ter him at the Ferozeshah

Cricket Association orga-

nising committee's deci-

sion on Sunday will make

the India captain, who

made his international de-

but on this very day in

2008, the youngest active

cricketer to be bestowed

"Virat Kohli's outstand-

ing contribution to world

cricket has done DDCA

proud. We are happy to ho-

nour him for achieving cer-

tain milestones and un-

beatable captaincy record.

Ferozeshah Kotla would be

equally proud because Vi-

rat played here as a teenag-

er before joining the other

legends in the Hall of

Fame," DDCA president

The formal naming will

be done at a felicitation

function for the Indian

team on September 12, be-

fore India's home series

The function will be

held at the Weightlifting

auditorium, Jawaharlal

Nehru Stadium, with

Home Minister Amit Shah

as chief guest and Sports

Minister Kiren Rijiju as

"I am sure the Virat Koh-

li Stand will be a source of

inspiration for Delhi's

young cricketers and there

cannot be a better tribute

that India is not only led by

a Delhi player but also has

an opening batsman (Shik-

har Dhawan), a wicket-

keeper (Rishabh Pant) and

a lead bowler (Ishant Shar-

DDCA to felicitate the team

The Bedi and Amarnath

stands were inaugurated in

November 2017 while the

DDCA was under adminis-

trative control of Justice

(retd) Vikramjit Sen, along

with a gate named after

former India women's cap-

and coach Ravi Shastri,"

"It's a matter of pride for

ma) in its ranks.

Sharma added.

"We are also delighted

to his achievements.

guest of honour.

against South Africa.

Rajat Sharma said.

The Delhi and Districts

Kotla stadium.

the honour.

TV PICKS

KPL: Star Sports 3, 3 p.m. PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

AITA on a sticky wicket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

India's tennis federation will look to convince world body ITF into changing the venue of its Davis Cup tie against Pakistan in Islamabad with team captain Mahesh Bhupathi likely to play a key role in the teleconsultation on Monday.

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has a tough job at hand to convince the ITF to provide a neutral venue since the World Governing body still feels that current circumstances does not demand a change in venue.

ITF though has agreed to address AITA's concern and will ensure that its security consultants speak with them. Bhupathi will also be part of the tele-conference, scheduled for Monday.

New Delhi to host Indian GP on Sept. 5

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) will organise the Indian Grand Prix-VI in the National capital on September 5 to give its track and field athletes one last chance to qualify for the World Championships.

The men will compete in 400m hurdles, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, shot put, javelin and 4x400m relay. For women, the events will be 100m, 200m, 400m and long jump.

The AFI also invited foreign athletes to take part in the event.

The World Championships are scheduled to be held in Doha from September 28-October 6.

Marcus 'tricks for Gokulam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Gokulam Kerala FC rode on Marcus Joseph's hattrick to record an emphatic 4-1 win over TRAU FC to finish its Group D engagements with a maximum of nine points in the Durand Cup football tournament at the Howrah Stadium on Sunday.

Following a barren first half, Gokulam scored all its goals in the action-packed second period. Andre Ettienne was the other scorer for the Kerala team. M. Roger scored the consolation goal for TRAU.

Chennaivin FC held Indian Air Force to a goalless

The results: Group C: Chennai City 2 (Mashoor Shereef 42, S.M. Eugene 66) bt Army Green 1 (Lallawmkima 10). Group D: Chennaivin FC 0 drew with Indian Air Force O: Gokulam Kerala FC 4 (Marcus Joseph 58, 64-pen, 83, Andre Ettienne 73) bt TRAU FC 1 (M. Roger 87).



Giving it his all: Daniil Medvedev made it to his second Masters final in eight days. • AP

Medvedev stuns Djokovic

Veteran Kuznetsova spoils Barty's party, takes on Keys

CINCINNATI MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE CINCINNATI

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic wilted under pressure from Daniil Medvedev, falling 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to the ninth-seeded Russian in the Cincinnati Masters semifinals here on Saturday.

Medvedev's upset win sent him into a title showdown with another unexpected finalist, 16th-seeded Belgian David Goffin, who defeated France's Richard Gasquet 6-3, 6-4 to reach his first ATP Masters 1000 final.

A fuming Djokovic, who looked to have control of the contest, was caught out when Medvedev stepped things up in the second set.

Crowd support

"I had a momentum chance in the second set and the crowd gave me energy," added the Russian, who will be playing his second Masters

final in eight days, after falling to Rafael Nadal in Montreal last Sunday.

Medvedev also beat Diokovic in their last meeting, on clay at Monte Carlo in April.

Medvedev won 12 of the last 14 points in the second set to square the match, then ran up a 3-1 lead in the third on the way to victory on his first match-point.

He's 1-1 against Goffin, with both matches played this season – at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

There was an upset in the women's draw as well, as Russian veteran Svetlana Kuznetsova defeated topseeded Australian Ashleigh Barty 6-2, 6-4.

Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam champion who has been hindered lately by injury, will be in search of her 19th WTA title – and her first in more than a year when she takes on American

Keys, the 2017 US Open runner-up, defeated compatriot Sofia Kenin 7-5, 6-4.

Kuznetsova denied Barty a chance to reclaim the World No. 1 ranking, which the Australian would have done by reaching the final. Instead, Kuznetsova's win leaves injured Naomi Osaka atop the rankings.

Off the boil

Barty, who had rallied from a set down in each of her previous two matches, was off the boil against Kuznetsova, who is back in form after several seasons of injuries, including a wrist problem.

Keys booked her final spot winning an all-American match littered with 12 breaks of serve.

The results (semifinals): Men: Daniil Medvedev bt Novak Djokovic 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; David Goffin bt 6-3, 6-4.

Women: Svetlana Kuznetsova bt Ashleigh Barty 6-2, 6-4; Madison Keys bt Sofia Kenin 7-5,

Arjun Balu completes a double

MRF F1600 race abandoned after a pile-up

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

On a day that began in heavy showers and ended in bright sunshine, Coimbatore veteran Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) completed a grand double in the Indian Touring Cars class to head the leaderboard as the fourth round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National car racing championship, concluded at the MMRT, here on Sunday.

Also achieving a double was Bengaluru's Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) in the Super Stock category.

The MRF F1600 race was abandoned after a 10-car pile-up barely 300 metres from the start. Pole-sitter Yash Aradhya lost grip and spun when he landed in a puddle. The cars behind him crashed into one another. None of the drivers though suffered serious injuries. But with 10 cars badly damaged, it was decided to cancel the scheduled three races and run them in the next round

in September. "The next round in September, will thus have seven races in MRF F1600 catego-

"It was an unfortunate incident with Yash running into a puddle and spinning.



Good show: Arjun Balu, centre, flanked by Aditya Patel, left and Dhruv Shivaji Mohite on the podium of the Indian Touring Cars category.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With so many cars badly damaged, we decided to put off three races and have them in the next round," said chairman of the meet Vicky Chandhok.

The results (provisional):

Indian Touring Cars (Race-1, 6 laps): 1. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) (12mins, 49.794secs); 2. Aditya Patel (Rayo Racing) (12:50.491); 3. Dhruv Shivaji Mohite (Rayo Racing) (12:58.907). Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Dhruv Shivaii Mohite (Ravo Racing) (21:19.565); 2. Aditya Patel (Ravo Racing) (21:20.682); 3. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) (21:28.378). Race-3 (8 laps): 1. Arjun Balu (15:11.978); 2. Aditya Patel (15:17.508); 3. Ishaan Dodhiwa-(Team Rayo Racing)

(15:28.324). Super Stock (Race-1, 6 laps): 1. Sudanand Daniel (Race Concepts) (14:15.475); 2. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) (14:15.787): 3. R Raiashekar (Race Concepts) (14:45.952). Race 2 (10 laps): 1. RP Rajarajan (Performance Racing)

(22:15.115): 2. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) (22:27.432); 3. Sudanand Daniel (Race Concepts) (22:28.759). Race 3 (8 laps): 1. Rithvik Thomas (16:15.162); 2. Sudanand Daniel (16:15.951); 3. RP Rajarajan (16:40.747).

Volkswagen Ameo Class (Race-2, 8 laps): 1. Jeet Jhabakh (Hyderabad) (20:09.577); 2. Aiman Sadat (Bangladesh) (20:12.811); 3. Siddharth Mehdiratta (Lucknow) (20:13.363). Race-3 (8 laps): 1. Prateek Sonawane (Pune) (16:00.024): 2. Sidharth Mehdiratta (Lucknow) (16:01.383); 3. Shobhomoy Ball (Bengaluru) (16:06.481).

CCFC ties up with uhlsport

Partnership plans to develop grassroots football

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

I-League champion Chennai City FC on Sunday announced a strategic partnership with German sports goods supplier uhlsport to develop grassroots football in Tamil Nadu and across

The German company, established in 1948, sells football products under the uhlsport brand and handball products under the Kempa brand, and is the official supplier of the Bundesliga teams 1. FC Koln and Fortuna Dusseldorf.

In France, uhlsport is the official supplier and official ball sponsor of the top division Ligue 1, where teams such as Paris Saint Germain, Monaco, Marseille and others play, and the second division Ligue 2.

"We're delighted to announce the new cooperation with Chennai City to support a sustainable growth of football education in India. With our well-developed relationship with this prospering sport Kickstarting in India: uhlsport Gmbh's managing director

Dominik Solleder and head of international sales Bjorn Straub. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

club, we are keen to enter the Indian market and have them experience our good quality sporting goods," said uhlsport GmbH managing director Dominik Solleder.

"Uhlsport also wants to associate with other sporting organisations and tap into the growing sporting market in the country," he added

Chennai City owner and director Rohit Ramesh said: "We are delighted to have such an esteemed brand on board with us. We believe that this partnership will work wonders for the development of grassroots football in the state of Tamil Na-

"We will be focusing on

using the equipment exclusively for all the grassroots festivals and programs con-

Indian women hold Australia

Men lose 2-1 to New Zealand

OLYMPIC TEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian women's hockey team came back twice to hold World No. 2 Australia 2-2 in a round-robin league match of the Olympic test event here on Sunday.

Vandana Katariya (36th) and Gurjit Kaur (59th) cancelled out strikes by Kaitlin Nobbs (14th) and Grace Stewart (43rd). India had beaten host Japan 2-1 on Saturday. In the 14th minute, Australia was awarded a penalty stroke and Nobbs made no mistake.

Australia dominated the second quarter completely. But India's defence held firm and goalkeeper Savita made a couple of great saves.

India struck on the break as Vandana finished off a superb move to equalise in the 36th minute. But the lead did not last long.

that Australia found its second goal through some ex- struck a sweet blow into the

good chance in the Xisca Plate (1,800m), the main event of the

races to be held here on Monday

SUBRAMANYA BHARATI PLATE

1 (2,000m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1-55 p.m.: 1. Hud

Hud (ex: Trojan King) (1) Rohit Ku-

mar 60, 2. Halo's Princess (2) P.

Mair 60, 2. Haio's Princess (2) P.
Sai Kumar 59.5, 3. Mossad (3)
Afroz Khan 59.5, 4. Dippy Dip (5)
Ajeeth Kumar 59, 5. Lion Heart (4)
R.S. Jodha 57.5 and 6. Turf Em-

NISCA PLATE (1,800m), 3-y-o

& over (Cat. II), (Terms), 2-25: 1. Reunion (1) Akshay Kumar 62,

2. Be Sure (3) Nakhat Singh 58.5,

3. Golden Fortune (6) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 4. Magical Skill (5) B.R. Kumar 58, 5. Air Strike (2) Aneel

55 and 6. Raajneeti (4) Ashhad As-

 $\begin{array}{cccc} \textbf{CAPE} & \textbf{KNIGHT} & \textbf{PLATE} \\ \textbf{(1,600m)}, & \textbf{maiden 3-y-o only} \\ \textbf{(Cat. II)}, & \textbf{(Terms)}, & \textbf{3-00: 1. Dillon} \end{array}$

(3) Deepak Singh 56, 2. Explosive

(2) R. Ajinkya 56, 3. Red Snaper (1)

Kuldeep Singh 56, 4. Ruleth-eworld (4) Surya Prakash 56, 5.

Miss Marvellous (5) Umesh 54.5, and 6. Red River (6) Nakhat Singh

KNIGHT PLATE

r (6) Umesh 53.5.

1. HALO'S PRINCESS,

2. TURF EMPEROR

1. REUNION.

CAPE

2. BE SURE

(August 19).



holding World No. 2 to a draw. • COURTESY TWITTER

quisite team work, which saw Stewart registering her name on the score-sheet.

With moves breaking down, and chances going waste, it looked like Australia would hold onto the 2-1 lead, but with just a couple of minutes remaining, India won a penalty corner.

2. RULETHEWORLD

Akshav Kumar 53.

2. CONSIGLIORI,

3. DUNKIRK

dam 51.

2. SMARTY.

1. HOLY HEALER,

3. AMAZING SCRIPT

I. VICTORY PARADE,

P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL P.M. BOKDAWALA MEMORIAL PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3-30: 1.

Semper Fidelis (2) Kuldeen Singh

60, 2. Hailstorm (8) Gopal Singh

58. 3. Sea Castle (1) Aneel 57, 4.

Your Grace (5) A.A. Vikrant 55.5,

5. Consigliori (7) Surva Prakash

53.5, 7. Honest Hunter (6) B.R. Ku

mar 53.5 and 8. Victory Parade (4)

BYERLY BRIGADE PLATE (DIV. 5 II), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4-00: 1. Max (6) Afroc

Khan 60, 2. Amazing Script (5) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 3. Mahira (10)

Aneel 57, 4. Southern Meteor (9) Ajit Singh 56.5, 5. Holy Healer (3)

Kiran Naidu 56, 6. Snow Castle (2) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 7. City Of Ay-

aansh (7) Rohit Kumar 54.5, 8

Promiseofhappiness (1) Rafique

Sk. 52.5, 9. Smarty (8) Akshay Ku-

mar 52 and 10. Super Act (4) Gad-

CHARMINAR

6 (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4-30: 1. Durango

(1) Suraj Narredu 60, 2. Treasure

Corfe Castle obliges in Governor's Cup

TROPHY

54.5, 6. Dunkirk (3) Nakhat Singh

And, prolific drag-flicker It was in the 43rd minute Gurjit Kaur stepped up and

Reunion for Xisca Plate

back of the net to earn India a well-deserved draw. Meanwhile, the Indian

men squandered an early lead to lose 2-1 to New Zealand.

Harmanpreet Singh converted a penalty corner to put India ahead in the second minute, but New Zealand struck back in the last quarter through Jacob Smith

(47th) and Sam Lane (60th).

Striker (4) Umesh 59, 3, N R I

Power (2) Kuldeep Singh 58.5, 4. King Maker (3) Nakhat Singh 58,

Nayadeep (7) Rohit Kumar 56.5,

Siyabonga (10) Akshay Kumar 55.5, 7. Lockhart (9) Ajeeth Kumar 55, 8. Wings Of Eagles (5) B.R. Ku-

mar 54.5, 9. Rutilant (8) Gaddam 52.5 and 10. On My Way (6) G.

7 BYERLY BRIGADE PLATE (DIV. 1), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over,

rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5-05: 1.

Evon Von Brando (2) Surva

Prakash 60, 2. Southern State (4)

B. Nikhil 59, 3, Delphina (9) Ak-

shay Kumar 58, 4. Shiloh (7) Zervan 56.5, 5. Khan Sahib (3) Gad-

dam 55, 6. Magic Street (5) Rohit Kumar 55, 7. Supurinto (10)

Gaurav Singh 53.5, 8. Loch Stella

(1) C.P. Bopanna 52.5, 9. Tammana (8) G. Naresh 51.5, 10. Escal-

ating Striker (6) Umesh 50.5 and

11. N R I Fame (11) Kunal Bunde

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 &

1. SIYABONGA,

3. DURANGO

1. DELPHINA,

- SIYABONGA

3. SHILOH

2. MAGIC STREET,

Day's best: REUNION

Double: VICTORY PARADE

7; Tr (i); 2, 3 & 4; (ii): 5, 6 & 7.

2. WINGS OF EAGLES.

tain Anjum Chopra. Before that, the DDCA had named one of the bowling ends after Ashish Nehra for his farewell game alone.

Virender Sehwag was the first Delhi cricketer to be honoured thus with the DDCA naming a gate after him. Ferozeshah Kotla also has an MAK Pataudi Hall of Fame featuring all the top cricketers from Delhi to have played for India.

Hima, Anas win gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Top Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won a gold each in women's and men's 300m races respectively at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic.

Anas, on the other hand, won the men's 300m race in 32.41 seconds.

Double joy for shuttler Aditi Bhatt

Maisnam Meiraba takes the boys' crown in the Krishna Khaitan tournament

SPORTS BUREAU

Sixth-seeded Aditi Bhatt of Uttarakhand beat top seed Unnati Bisht 22-20, 13-21, 22-20 in the girls' under-19 final of the Yonex-Sunrise Krishna Khaitan all-India junior ranking badminton tournament at the Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium on Sunday.

It was a double crown for Aditi as she partnered Tanisha Crasto to win the doubles title from the brink of defeat against Khushi Gupta and Drithi Yatheesh 17-21, 21-19, 21-17.

The boys' title was bagged **BADMINTON** by top seed Maisnam Meiraba of Manipur who eased past second seed Sathish Ku-PANCHKULA mar of Tamil Nadu Under-19 results (finals): Boys:

> Dingku Sing Konthoujam 21-12, Girls: Aditi Bhatt bt Unnati Bisht 22-20, 13-21, 22-20. Doubles: Aditi Bhatt & Tanisha Crasto bt Khushi Gupta & Drithi

Maisnam Meiraba bt Sathish

Kumar 21-12, 21-11. Doubles:

Yash Raikwar & Iman Sonowal

bt Manjit Singh Khwairakpam &

Yatheesh 17-21, 21-19, 21-17. Mixed doubles: Ishaan Bhatnagar & Tanisha Crasto bt Dhruv Rawat & Trisha Hegde 20-22, 21-16, 21-13.



triumph. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HYDERABAD: M/s. M. Ramakrishna Reddy, Tinder Singh Ahluwalia & M/s. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Zavareh S. Poonawalla & Ms. Simone Zavareh Poonawalla's Corfe Castle (Akshay Kumar astride) won the Governor's Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Sunday (August 18). L. D'Silva trains the winner. Jockey Akshav Kumar and trainer Laxman Singh scored a treble each.

DECCAN QUEEN PLATE (1,200m), maiden fillies 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): FLAMINGO FAME (Akshay Kumar) 1, Alliston (Umesh) 2, Ayur Shakti (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Wah Ms Zara (R Aiinkva) 4, 3/4, 1-1/4 and 1-3/4, 1m. 67, FP: 150, Q: 131, Tla: 836. Favour ite: Flamingo Fame. Owner and trainer: Mr. S. Prasad Raju.

C.R. BHOOPAL MEMORIAL PLATE C.R. BHOOPAL MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): MOZAMBI-QUE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Arc Of History (Gaurav Singh) 2, Warrior Su-preme (Zervan) 3 and Royal Dynamite (Rohit Kumar) 4. 4, 2-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 12.57s. ₹8 (w), 6, 9 and 7 (p), SHP: 23, FP: 38, Q: 30, Tla: 101. Favourite: Mozambique. Owners: M/s. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr & Mrs. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy and Mr. Berjis Minoo Desai. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

C.R. BHOOPAL MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): NEWS O' STAR (Gauray Singh) 1, Marina Del Rey (Umesh), Gorgeous Lady (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Yanga (B.R. Kumar) 4. Not run: New State. Hd, 1 and 1-3/4. 1m, 13.61s. ₹43 (w), 11, 6 and 26 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 161, Q: 58, Tla: 2,553. Favourite: Marina Del Rey. Owner: Mr. Sarasam Madhusudan Reddy. Trainer: Ravinder Singh

MANCHIRYALA ∴ (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): FREEDOM FIRE

(Rohit Kumar) 1, Diesis Dream (Umesh) 2, Rhine (Aneel) 3 and Just Like That (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 4, shd and 1-3/4. 1m, 14.65s. ₹12 (w), 7, 7 and 8 (p), SHP: 19, FP: 53, Q: 32, Tla: 174. Favourite: Freedom Fire. Owners: M/s. Chitturi Krishna Kan-naiah & Thimmaraja Yelamarthi. Trainer: Satyanarayana

BASALAT JAH MEMORIAL CUP 4 BASALAT JAH MEMORIAL CON (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): ISABELLA (Sura) Narredu) 1, Classic Remark (Gauray Singh) 2, Trump Girl (Abhay Singh) 3 and Mr. Baahubali (Surya Prakash) 4. 1-1/2, 6 and 1. 1m, 11.41s. ₹8 (w), 5, 8 and 8 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 27, Q: 21, Tla: 82. Favourite Isabella. Owners: M/s. Poonawalla Rac. & Br. P. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Z.S. Poonawalla & Ms. S.Z. Poonawalla & M/s. Vijay Rac. & Farms P. Ltd. rep. by M/s. Vi-jay Kumar Gupta & Susheel Kumar Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

5 GOVERNOR'S CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o & over (Cat. I), (Terms): CORFE CASTLE (Akshay Kumar) 1,

Phenomenal Cruise (Zervan) 2 Like Wise (Nakhat Singh) 3 and That's My Class (Ashhad Asbar) 4. 1 3/4, 3/4 and 1-3/4, 1m, 42.54s, ₹8 (w), 6 and 7 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 21, Q: 15. Tla: 36. Favourite: Corfe Castle Owners: M/s. M. Ramakrishna Reddy, Tinder Singh Ahluwalia & M/s. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Zavareh S. Poonawalla & Ms. Simone Zavareh Poonawalla. Trainer: L. D'Silva. ASTRONOMIC PLATE (1,400m)

ASTRONOMIC PLATE (1,400II), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): MY JOURNEY (Suraj Narredu)1, Alta Vita (Afroz Khan) 2, Darshish (S.G. Prasad) 3 and Once More (C.P. Bopanna) 4. 9, 2 and (p), SHP: 24, FP: 41, O: 27, Tla: 324, Favourite: My Journey. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer Laxman Singh. Jackpot: ₹617 (1.056 tkts.), Runner-

up: 137 (2,037 tkts.), Mini Jackpot: 58 (3,077 tkts.), Treble (i): 331 (231 tkts.), (ii): 21 (4,418 tkts.).

Indian shooters continue to struggle

SPORTS BUREAU LAHTI (FINLAND)

The fortunes of the Indian shooters did not change in the mixed trap event in the Shotgun World Cup on Sunday.

The team of Seema Tomar (58) and Prithviraj Tondaiman (64), with 122 out of 150, finished 27th.

The other Indian duo of Shagun Chowdhary (50) and Kynan Chenai (67) was 33rd with a total of 117.

Just three medals for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TALLINN (ESTONIA)

In a below par show, the Indian wrestling contingent will return with just three medals from the Junior World Wrestling Championships following Sachin Rana's defeat in the repechage round in Greco Roman competition, here on Sunday.

Rana needed to beat Gerogia's Diego Chkhvadze in the 60kg repechage but ended up losing 5-1 despite getting a chance to score from choice of position following a penalty.

Only Sajan Bhanwal managed to win a bronze from among Greco Roman grapplers.

Sajan won his third medal in a row at junior Worlds when he beat Turkey's Abdurrahman Kalkan by technical superiority in the 77kg bout on Saturday.

Deepak had earlier won a gold in 86kg and Viky a bronze in the 92kg in the men's freestyle competition while the Indian women drew a blank for the first time in three years.

Target-throwing machines are different here: Mansher

Explains reasons behind Indians' poor show in Lahti so far



Rajeshwari Kumari's performance has come in for praise from Mansher. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI It has been a different challenge for the shooters as they have had to grapple with a distinctly different throw by the machines in the ongoing Shotgun World Cup here.

The coach of the Indian trap team, Mansher Singh, a very experienced shooter who has competed in four Olympics, 10 World Championships and six Asian Games, was able to pin the reason for the overall low scores, even by the best in

In qualification, 117 out of

125 was the best score for men, and in women, the 114 by Rajeshwari Kumari in the MOS section was the best. The regular shooters in the women's event could muster only a maximum of 112.

"The target-throwing machines here are a little different in nature as they throw with less spin.

'Thus, the targets are being pushed out, causing a very fast presentation effect," said Mansher when contacted in Lahti.

Areas of concern "The weather and light con-

ditions are varying throughout the day. The targets are also hard in nature and some do not break at impact with pellets," elaborated.

The Indian trap shooters have been left with only one final chance in the Asian Championship in Doha in November in their pursuit for Olympic berths. The skeet shooters are yet to compete in Lahti.

"It will be tough at the Asian Championship. The last time around, we won one quota at the Delhi event. It is well within our reach," said Mansher.

Even though only one trap quota was won for Rio in 2016, the National federation exchanged a rifle quota place for a shotgun quota, helping Kynan Chenai and Manavjit Singh Sandhu to compete there.

Skeet shooter Mairaj Ahmad Khan, who had earned the quota in style, had fared remarkably well to shoot 121 out of 125 at Rio, but finished ninth after missing a berth in the final in a shoot-off.

Up and down

"I think the conditions were very tough and the score could go up and down very easily. Kynan's performance was also up and down but he had a bad start and a good finish.

"There was bad luck with Manav breaking his gun. Prithviraj also struggled to adjust to the throw of the targets and so did the women's team," pointed out Mansher.

Adapting well

He praised Rajeshwari, daughter of Randhir Singh, six-time Olympian and Asian Games gold medallist and the former secretary-general of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), for handling the situation well.

"Rajeshwari was able to adapt very well. This should help her in the coming months. We will be ready to win in Qatar," said Mansher.

Double delight for Mahak Jain

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU NAIROBI

Two-time National champion Mahak Jain defeated Sada Nahimana of Burundi 6-1, 6-1 victory in the final of the \$15,000 ITF women's tournament.

It was the second successive singles title for the 18year-old Mahak who had won the tournament last week at the same venue.

Mahak had more reasons to be happy as she won the doubles title with Sathwika

After a not so impressive season, it was a smart return to winning ways for Mahak, who had made the semifinals of the \$25,000 tournament in Navi Mumbai in December last year.

Meanwhile, in the doubles final of the Challenger in Meerbusch, Germany, Sriram Balaji and Vishnu Vardhan were beaten 10-3 in the super tie-break by



Mahak Jain. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Andre Begemann of Germa-

ny and Florin Mergea of Romania, after two intense sets that went into the tie-break.

The results: €46,600 Challenger, Meerbusch, Germany: Doubles (final): Andre Begemann (Ger) & Florin Mergea (Rou) bt Sriram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan 7-6(1), 6-7(4), [10-3].

\$15,000 ITF women, Nairobi: Final: Mahak Jain bt Sada Nahimana (Bdi) 6-1, 6-1.

Kapur finishes as top Indian

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shiv Kapur had a fine day on the greens as he converted the chances that came his way to close the week with a superb eightunder 64 and finish T-21 at the Sarawak Championships here on Sunday.

On Sunday, Kapur needed 25 putts, as against 27, 31 and 32 on first three days. Kapur finished at 15-under for the week as Andrew Dodt (64) edged out Richard Lee (66) on a play-off after both were tied at 24-under.

Kapur was the best Indian at T-21, while S Chikkarangappa (68) was T-24 at 14-under and Aman Raj (70) at 12-under was T-31.

Among other Indians, Khalin Joshi (71) was T-44, Akshay Sharma (69) was T-51, Udayan Mane (74) and Aadil Bedi (72) were T-54. Rashid Khan (73) was T-59, while Ajeetesh Sandhu (72) was T-61.

A big relief for Tokyo Summer Games' organisers

France wins mixed triathlon relay; temperature, water quality cause no concern

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

France won a thrilling mixed triathlon test event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics on Sunday, which passed off as planned in a welcome boost for organisers after difficulties with high temperatures and water pollution.

The swimming leg of the paratriathlon on Saturday was scrapped after water tests showed levels of e-coli bacteria more than double the acceptable standard and the running section of a women's test event on Thursday was curtailed in blistering temperatures, with French athlete Cassandre treated for Beaugrand heatstroke.

But on Sunday in the Japanese capital with the temperature a slightly cooler 30 Celsius, the levels of bacteria reduced to within permitted levels.

The mixed relay, a new event for Tokyo 2020 involving two men and two wo-



.and there they go! Athletes start the swimming competition in mixed triathlon test event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics on Sunday. • AFP

men, was won by France in a photo finish from Great Britain after a nail-biting final sprint.

Dorian Connix chased down Alex Yee on the final straight despite being behind for most of the race and breasted the tape fractionally ahead of his British competitor. A powerful United States team came third.

The format is much shorter than the individual race with each athlete completing a 300 metre swim, a 7.4 kilometre cycle and a 2km run before handing off to a teammate, making it less demanding in hot weather.

Realistic measures

Battling the heat of the sweltering summer has become the main challenge for Tokyo 2020 organisers, who have otherwise won widespread praise, including from the International Olympic Committee, for their preparations.

Yasuo Mori, deputy executive director of the Tokyo 2020 Games Operations Bureau, said athletes needed to have greater access to water during the race.

"That alone would lower the risk of athletes getting heatstroke. That may be one of the realistic measures," he told reporters.

The International Triathlon Union would examine increasing the number of water supply points and was deploying medical staff every 500 metres along the course in case of an emergency, Mori added.

Aside from the problems at the triathlon, about a dozen people, including a spectator, were taken ill at a rowing test event last week with suspected heatstroke. A construction worker also died on an Olympic site as Tokyo sweats through a prolonged and deadly heatwave.

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