



Green tribunal seeks timeline for cleaning Yamuna river

page 9



India lags behind in quality of economic data reporting: IMF

page 13



Rahane, Vihari and Indian bowlers put West Indies on the mat

page 18



Stokes' brilliant knock takes England to sensational win

page 20



NEARBY



Man dies after scooter falls off Barapullah

NEW DELHI
A 36-year man was killed and his cousin injured after they fell off the Barapullah flyover in south-east Delhi, the police said on Sunday. The victims — Rohit Makol (36) and his cousin Pradeep — were on a scooter when the accident occurred on Saturday evening.

CITY PAGE 3

Mob kills earth-moving machine driver in Nagaur

JAIPUR
A driver of an earth-moving machine was killed and five government vehicles were vandalised by a mob during an anti-encroachment drive in Rajasthan's Nagaur district on Sunday, police said.

NORTH PAGE 6

Now and Then

Former tennis player and now coach, Ankita Bhambri, has always been the quiet, diligent worker. Her coaching philosophy for parents is simple - focus on training, rather than results. PAGE 5

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EDUCATIONPLUS PAGE 4

Manmohan Singh set to lose SPG cover

Decision taken after review involving Cabinet Secretariat, MHA with inputs from intelligence agencies

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government is likely to withdraw the Special Protection Group (SPG) from former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's security detail shortly, according to several sources.

The decision, reportedly taken after a three-month review involving the Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of Home Affairs with inputs from intelligence agencies the Research and Analysis Wing and the Intelligence Bureau, has not yet been formally communicated in writing, but was "orally" conveyed to the former Prime Minister, the sources confirmed to *The Hindu*.

This would mean that the elite protection force of about 3,000 officers meant for the Prime Ministers, the former Prime Ministers and their families would now be tasked with protecting only Mr. Modi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her children Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

According to an official privy to the development, who asked not to be identified, the government had, according to the procedures laid down by the SPG Act, 1988, renewed Dr. Singh's SPG detail for a year after he demitted office in 2014, and subsequently, on an annual basis after reviewing the threats faced by him and his

THE ELITE SQUAD

Who all are covered?
Prime Minister and members of his immediate family (parents, spouse, children)

Present SPG protectees:
PM Narendra Modi
Former PM Manmohan Singh and wife
Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi

Former PM and family members, with annual review of level of threat

SPG has over 3,000 personnel deputed from ITBP, CRPF and CISF

wife Gursharan Kaur. (Dr. Singh's daughters, who were also eligible, had given up SPG cover voluntarily in 2014).

However, on May 25 this

year, the government decided not to fully renew the SPG cover, and instead ordered a three-month review process, which ended on Sunday. Dr. Singh's SPG unit was also

told about the decision and asked to await a final decision. "I can confirm that the government has informed Dr. Singh that he is no longer eligible for SPG protection," another well-informed source said, adding that this was conveyed by a senior intelligence official directly to the former Prime Minister. However, no written order had been sent as yet, and the 200-plus strong SPG force at Dr. Singh's Motilal Nehru Place residence in Delhi remains in place, indicating that there may yet be a change in decision.

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Let us wage a war on plastic, says PM

Modi calls for campaign from Oct. 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the people to observe the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi this year as a day to make India plastic-free and urged municipalities, NGOs and the corporate sector to come up with ways for safe disposal of accumulated plastic waste before Deepavali.

The call for a mass movement came after his Independence Day's address in which he had urged the people to shun single-use plastic.

In his monthly radio address *Mann ki Baat*, he also



Narendra Modi

asked the people to participate in the annual 'Swachhta Hi Seva' or 'quest for cleanliness is service.'

The 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign will begin on September 11.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

On top of the world

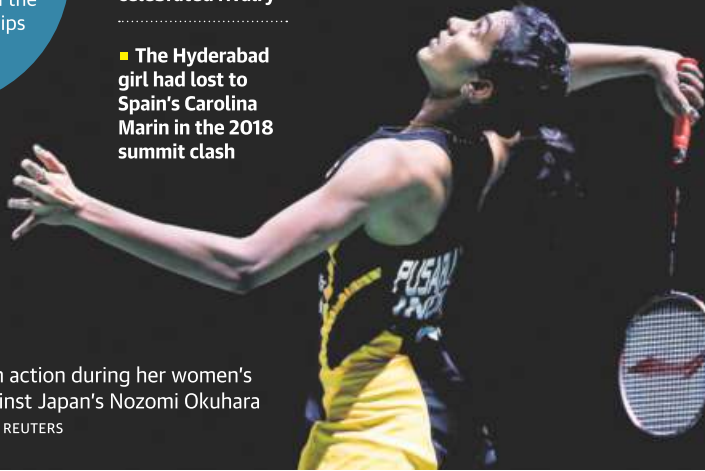
Third time lucky: It was sweet revenge for P.V. Sindhu who breezed past Nozomi Okuhara 21-7, 21-7 in just 38 minutes in the World Championships final in Basel on Sunday

The Indian had lost an epic 110-minute final to the Japanese in 2017

With this victory, Sindhu improved her head-to-head record against Okuhara to 9-7 in what has become a celebrated rivalry

The Hyderabad girl had lost to Spain's Carolina Marin in the 2018 summit clash

Superb show: Sindhu in action during her women's singles final match against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in Basel, Switzerland. REUTERS



REPORTS ON PAGE 18

Cong. hits out at curbs in Kashmir

Brute force unleashed, Rahul says on 20th day of shutdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With the official shutdown in Kashmir entering its 20th day, the Congress on Sunday accused the Modi government of curtailing the freedom and civil liberties of the people.

Posting a video on Twitter of his aborted visit to Srinagar along with 11 other Opposition leaders on Saturday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "It's been 20 days since the people of Jammu & Kashmir had their freedom and civil liberties curtailed. Leaders of the Opposition and the Press got a taste of the draconian administration and brute force unleashed on the people when we tried to visit Srinagar yesterday."

Mobile phones and Internet remain cut off and movement of people is res-



A market remains closed in Srinagar on Sunday. NISSAR AHMAD

Driver killed in stone-throwing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

Protesters on Sunday hurled stones at a civilian truck in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, killing the driver, police said.

Noor Mohammed Dar, 42, who belonged to the same Zradipora Uranhall locality, was returning home when protesters mistook his truck for a security force vehicle.

stricted, though officially no curfew has been imposed. Schools and offices have opened, but attendance has

been very thin. 'ANTI-NATIONAL' PAGE 13 ON THE WRONG SIDE EDITORIAL

Separate flag, law key to peace: Naga group

NSCN(IM) writes letter to the PM

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Less than a month after the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special status that allowed it to have its own constitution and a flag, a Naga extremist group has for the first time said a "separate flag and constitution" are necessary for an "honourable solution" to the 22-year-old peace process.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Isak-Muiwah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland has said any solution would be far from honou-

able if the core issues such as a Naga flag and constitution are yet to be agreed upon between the group and the Centre. The letter followed former IB officer R.N. Ravi's statement that Mr. Modi had, before his appointment as Nagaland's Governor, wanted the peace process concluded in three months.

Mr. Ravi was speaking at a civic reception in Nagaland's capital Kohima on August 17 and allayed fears that the scrapping of Article 370 would cast a shadow on the peace process and the State.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

SC slams govt. for denying pension to freedom fighter

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has slammed the Centre for harassing a 90-year-old freedom fighter by filing repeated appeals in higher courts, often at the last minute, to deny him a freedom fighter's pension.

The government had challenged a Delhi High Court order directing the Centre to pay Dev Narayan Mishra his freedom fighter pension.

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

New law to curb lynching unlikely

Group of Ministers yet to meet

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

An empowered Group of Ministers, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to suggest measures to combat mob lynchings is yet to meet, but a senior official has indicated that a new law on such crimes is unlikely.

The official said the existing laws were enough to combat crimes like lynching, and all it required was "enforcement".

"There are enough laws to deal with lynchings; it is a matter of enforcement.

The police need to be trained to ensure conviction in these cases," the official said, when asked whether the Centre was considering any amendment to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to prevent lynchings.

On August 5, the Rajasthan Assembly passed a Bill, the Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019, providing for life imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹5 lakh for persons convicted of lynching.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Jaitley cremated with state honours in the Capital

Thousands, including top party leaders, pay tribute to him



Final tribute: Amit Shah pays his last respect to former finance minister Arun Jaitley. PTI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley, who passed away on Saturday, was cremated at the Nigambodh Ghat here with full state honours in the presence of political leaders across party lines and supporters on Sunday.

As the BJP leader's last rites were being performed by his son Rohan Jaitley, it started raining.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP working president J.P. Nadda were among Jaitley's former colleagues in attendance.

Congress leaders Jyotiraditya Scindia and Kapil Sibal were also present at the cremation ground.

Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar and Uttarakhanda, Devendra Fadnavis, Vijay Rupani, B. S. Yediyurappa, Nitish Kumar and Trivendra Singh Rawat, respectively, were also there.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in France for the G7 summit, was in Bahrain on Saturday when he said it was "upsetting and unbelievable" that someone he had known since their youth was no more.

From the BJP office, the

mortal remains draped in the Tricolour were carried in a procession to the cremation ground in a vehicle decorated with flowers in the afternoon.

The former Finance Minister was admitted to AIIMS on August 9 when he complained of uneasiness and breathlessness. After being on life support for two weeks, he breathed his last at 12.07 p.m. on Saturday, according to AIIMS. He was 66.

He had been diagnosed with a form of cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, in January this year.

Last year, he had undergone a kidney transplant and in 2014, he had had a bariatric surgery. He is survived by his wife and two children.

(With PTI inputs)

A young biologist recreates a blue whale from bones

Complete skeleton formed in A.P. using several of the giants washed ashore

T. APPALA NAIDU
MACHILIPATNAM

It was like a jigsaw puzzle for the young wildlife biologist looking at the skeletal remains of dead blue whales washed ashore on the Andhra Pradesh coast. But he found a way to put them all together. All in just two months. Where the parts were missing, he used plaster of Paris and put in stainless steel and screws to configure a life-size skeleton of the endangered species.

In 2017, Kumpatla Balaji, the Andhra University alumnus launched a project to use the skeletal remains

to form the blue whale, replicating its natural anatomy structure. He was spurred to do so, after experts were unable to fit the bones collected from the Machilipatnam coast.

Mr. Balaji is a research scientist at the Coringa Marine Museum in Rajamahendravaram city, where the 32-ft-long life-size blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) skeleton he engineered is being preserved and on public display since early 2018.

"Dozens of skeletal remains of blue whales were lying with our museum,



From the deep: The skeleton assembled at Coringa Marine Museum at Rajamahendravaram. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

begging to be assembled," said Mr. Balaji.

Chemically treated

"Many bones and the head part of the blue whale were brought to our museum by the Forest Department from

Machilipatnam coast in 2017, helping me form the complete skeleton within two months," he said.

The skeletal parts were chemically treated before being rigged together with stainless steel. At least two

bones were made of plaster of Paris as they were missing."

The blue whale falls in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Dozens of dead blue and sperm whales have washed ashore on the Nagayalanka, Machilipatnam, Kakinada, and Srikakulam coast in Andhra Pradesh since 2015. What caused their death is the subject of study.

"The way the complete skeleton of the giant animal has been developed will help preserve it for the next three decades without the need for any further chemical treatment. The skeleton is painted with a white chemical for longevity," said Mr. Balaji.

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Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Man dies after scooty falls off Barapullah flyover

Victim's cousin, who was pillion riding, is undergoing treatment

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 36-year-old man died and his cousin has been injured after they fell off Barapullah flyover in south-east Delhi, the police said on Sunday.

The victims – Rohit Makol (36) and his cousin Pradeep – met with the accident on Saturday at 5 p.m., said DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswal.

Following two PCR calls, a team rushed to the spot and found two persons lying under the flyover near Barapullah drain. They were rushed to a hospital, the officer said.

While Rohit was declared brought dead at AIIMS trauma centre, Pradeep, who was riding pillion, is undergoing treatment. He is unfit for a statement, the police said.

During preliminary investigation, no other vehicle was found involved in the collision. It was found that Rohit was driving the scooty on the wrong side and on



Rohit Makol (left) and Pradeep met with an accident on Saturday at 5 p.m. on Barapullah flyover. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the loop going towards Sarai Kalen Khan. It appears that he lost balance after which the two-wheeler hit a railing at a sharp turn and fell off the flyover.

Their family members have been informed about the accident. The family said Makol worked at a tech firm and stayed with them in Tilak Nagar.

No CCTV cameras

According to police, there were no CCTV cameras near the accident site and they are working on ascertaining the sequence of events that

lead to the mishap.

"We have found a scooty in a damaged state and a broken helmet near the railings of the flyover. An FIR under Indian Penal Code Sections 279 [rash driving], 337 [causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others] and 304 A [causing death by negligence] has been registered at Sunlight Colony police station. The case is under investigation," said an officer.

"The sequence of the events will be clear after the injured is fit for a statement," the officer added.

Notice to UrbanClap for 'soliciting legal profession'

BCD seeks reply before hearing on Aug. 30

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Bar Council of Delhi sought a response from a mobile marketplace that links consumers to local service professionals for "soliciting legal profession" on its site.

'Affecting the credibility' "UrbanClap portal is not competent and authorised to indulge in such activities. This being a serious matter, affecting the credibility of profession," stated a resolution passed earlier this

month by the Delhi Bar Council. "It is further noted that UrbanClap is indulging in soliciting legal profession, which is absolutely illegal. There are so many of these websites and apps are coming up. We will take them to task," said Delhi Bar Council Chairman K.C. Mittal.

The Delhi Bar Council has directed UrbanClap and a lawyer, whose service was engaged through the portal, to respond to its notice before the next date of hearing on August 30.

Fire in flat injures three men

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Three men were injured on Sunday after a portion of a flat caught fire in south-east Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, the police said.

The incident occurred in the afternoon when a man had come to the flat to fix the Internet connection. "He threw a wire from

the window which came in contact with high tension wire lines adjoining another flat and there was a blast," said an officer. Tenant Masul Zama, his friend M.D. Wakar and Zaved (40) sustained injuries, he said.

They are said to be stable, the police said, adding that a case has been registered.

Man shoots self, implicates landlord to avoid paying over ₹2 lakh in rent

He was arrested along with his brother; police recover pistol

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly hatching a conspiracy to implicate his landlord in an attempt to murder case as he did not want to pay rent of ₹2.25 lakh, the police said on Sunday.

The accused's brother has also been arrested in connection with the case, they said. Sumit Bhadana and Naveen Bhadana (20) are both from Gurugram. Sumit was running a paying guest facility at a residential building in south-east Delhi's Amar Colony.

On August 22, Sumit called the police at 5 p.m. complaining that his landlord Varun Juneja had fired at him, said DCP (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal. On reaching the spot, the police found blood on the floor and also recovered two fired cartridges from the spot. Sumit had sustained injuries on his shoulder and thigh. A case was registered. Sumit allegedly told the police that due



Sumit and his brother Naveen in custody. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to some losses, he was unable to pay the rent for the past six months, which amounted to ₹2.25 lakh. Varun then came to his house and an argument ensued after which the landlord fired two rounds at him and ran away, the accused said. Sumit then said he managed to reach the hospital with the help of his friend, the officer added.

Denies shooting

Varun, however, denied the incident and said on August 22, he had gone to collect rent from Sumit but was asked to come at 8 p.m., the DCP said. During investiga-

tion, the police found contradictions in Sumit's statements regarding the sequence of events. Sensing trouble, Sumit escaped from the hospital as Leave Against Medical Advice while his tests were being conducted, the officer said.

Later, Sumit was apprehended from his sister's house at Shastri Nagar, the officer added. Interrogation revealed that 10 days ago, Sumit procured a pistol from his friend on Rajasthan. As per the plan, on August 22, Sumit called his landlord on the pretext of paying the rent and started arguing with him, Mr. Biswal said.

He asked Varun to come later in the day. Sumit then fired two rounds on his thigh and shoulder.

He had hidden the pistol in his scooter before calling the police.

Later, Sumit called Naveen and disclosed the incident to him. Sumit also gave his pistol to Naveen, which was later recovered, the police added.

CWC dealt with over 4,000 cases of child rights violations in the past five years

Around 4,300 children have been rescued, rehabilitated or reunited with their families, says chairperson

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

The Gurugram Child Welfare Committee (CWC) has dealt with as many as 4,482 cases of child rights violations over the past five years, including 700-odd cases of child abuse under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the highest in Haryana.

Around 4,300 children have been rescued, rehabilitated or reunited with their families. Speaking to *The Hindu*, CWC chairperson Shakuntla Dhull said despite the odds, the child rights bo-



CWC chairperson Shakuntla Dhull.

dy has rescued 100-odd children trafficked from States such as West Bengal, Jharkhand and Assam and recovered their wages and other 250-odd children engaged in

child labour. Similarly, around 50 children have been given for adoption.

Muskaan Operation

"Over the past five years, we have reached out to around 3,000 children who had gone missing or engaged in begging and rehabilitated them or reunited them with their families. The reunion cases include three of Nepal and one each of Bangladesh, New Zealand and Australia. As many as 1,066 children were united with their families, the highest in India, during Muskaan Operation in 2015 in Guru-

gram," said Ms. Dhull. Attributing the high number of POCSO cases to the rapidly increasing migrants' population in the district, Ms. Dhull said the conviction rate too was very low in these cases because the accused were migrants and mostly fled after the crime. "We have worked with the administration to create awareness on this," she said.

front. Ms. Dhull recalled how she did not have an office and a four-member quorum for over two years after she assumed charge in September 2014. "I had to fight for everything from staff to funds to cooperation of the administration. But I have been able to run the show with the support of the NGOs like Shakti Vahini, My Home India and Lions Club and funds from the Corporate Social Responsibility," she said, adding that things have now started to move in the right direction.

To ensure monthly coordination meetings with the judiciary, police and civil administration, besides formulation of guidelines for playschools, around 700 in Gurugram, were among the biggest achievements of the CWC in these years, she said.

"We make sure that visits are conducted to all Child Care Institutes twice a month to ensure implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act. Earlier there were 12 CCIs, but seven of them shut the shop after we ensured strict implementation of the law. We also opened a government home for children," she added.

She, however, felt that lack of infrastructure, funds, and the indifferent attitude of the police and the civil administration were the biggest impediments in delivering on this

front. Ms. Dhull recalled how she did not have an office and a four-member quorum for over two years after she assumed charge in September 2014. "I had to fight for everything from staff to funds to cooperation of the administration. But I have been able to run the show with the support of the NGOs like Shakti Vahini, My Home India and Lions Club and funds from the Corporate Social Responsibility," she said, adding that things have now started to move in the right direction.

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Proclaimed offender arrested from Sultanpuri

Countrymade pistol seized from him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A 33-year-old man, declared proclaimed offender, was arrested from outer Delhi's Sultanpuri by the Crime Branch, the police said on Sunday.

Rajiv was residing in Sultanpuri and was arrested in a case of robbery of Sarita Vihar police station in 2011, they said. After coming out from jail, he failed to appear before the court concerned. He was declared proclaimed offender in the case along

with another case of arms act registered at Jyoti Nagar police station, a senior officer said.

Cases against him

He was previously involved in several cases of robbery, arms act, assault on police officials, theft and NDPS Act in districts of Delhi and Ghaziabad.

The officer said one countrymade pistol along with two live cartridges were seized from him, the officer added.

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Not a stray thought: A woman feeding stray dogs with roti, biscuits and milk in the Capital; and children watching a stray dog.



• V. V. KRISHNAN, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

CITY TEAM
NEW DELHI

In the early hours of the morning, Joyita sets out of the comfort of her home with a freshly cooked pot of rice and chicken to feed around 150 stray dogs in her vicinity. A daily pro bono affair, done solely in pursuit of her compassion towards the homeless animals, Ms. Joyita, a resident of Sushat Lok in Gurugram, says that she has to be cautious each time she goes out to feed the dogs. Not from any sort of aggression or fear from the stray dogs, but of “angry, educated residents”.

Ms. Joyita and several other stray dog feeders in Delhi-NCR are at the cross-section of the perennial man-dog conflict where they are often accused of being part of the problem.

However, 51-year-old housewife Komal Gupta, a resident of Dilshad Garden, don't want people to feed the stray dogs. She said the stray dogs continuously bark and don't let people enter the colony. “But we can't do anything about it because our society is also divided on this matter,” Ms. Gupta said.

She recently had an argument with 25-year-old Sanya Dhingra, a marketing executive with a private firm in Noida, over feeding biscuits to stray dogs in a local park. The size of the man-dog conflict can be gauged from the fact that the 2016 dog census of the Capital, which is used to arrive at targets for sterilisation, put the figure of stray dogs at 1.9 lakh.

Animal rights activist Gauri Maulekhi, however, believes that the dog feeders are actually a crucial part of the solution. “Since these animals are there, the feeder actually plays an important role in conducting animal birth control surgeries,” Ms. Maulekhi said. She elaborates that if the

A VEXED ISSUE

animals are unfamiliar with people and they are not being fed, they become uncatchable. Since catching them is important for their sterilisation, feeders play a very important role. Legally also, there is a specific instruction of the Delhi High Court that no feeder can be prevented from feeding the dogs. “The maximum that can be done is, where there is a conflict, through consensus a particular place in the colony can be designated for dog feeding,” she said.

Apex court ruling

The Supreme Court is currently seized of a case aptly titled ‘Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) vs People for Elimination of Stray Troubles’. The case stems from a Bombay High Court judgment which had allowed municipal authorities in Maharashtra to kill stray dogs causing “nuisance”.

The apex court had on January 23, 2009, stayed the High Court's order after the Animal Welfare Board appealed that unless the term “nuisance” was clearly defined the order of the High



COURT cannot be implemented.

During the course of the litigation, the Animal Welfare Board had in 2016 submitted the “implementation framework for street dog population management, rabies eradication and reducing man-dog conflict”.

The Board had noted that the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001, prescribe the methodology for street dog population management, ensuring rabies eradication, and reduction in man-dog conflict based on scientific studies and recommendations of the World Health Organization.

However, it submitted that the implementation of the rules in most States was

inadequate, haphazard, and poorly planned, resulting in not achieving the desired result.

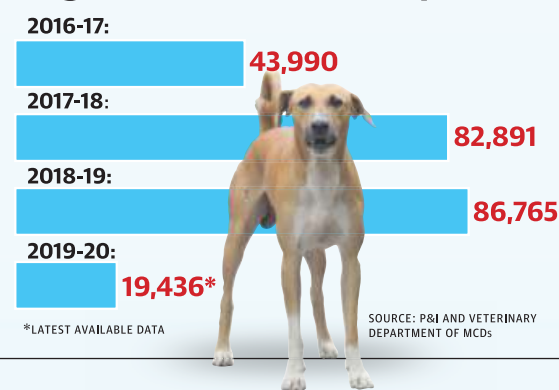
One of the reasons it cited was lack of coordination between the Centre and the State governments, and between local authorities, implementation agencies, and other stakeholders within the States. Most States have not created any budget head for animal birth control of street dogs, the Board added.

Centre's stand

In an affidavit filed in the case, the Central government had admitted that the involvement of various agencies/departments at the Central and State level, more particularly at the State-level, was required for the proper and effective control and management of stray dogs as per ABC rules

Dog lovers lament intolerance towards stray dogs; residents counter it citing their aggression

Dogs sterilised in the Capital



implemented by the AWBI. The State governments have already been advised by the Central government to set up State-level Animal Welfare Boards, which should be the nodal mechanism to perform this task.

Civic bodies' challenges

Ravinder Sharma, director of the veterinary department in South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), says civic bodies face several challenges in keeping a check on stray dog population. This, he said, included the physical catching of dogs, dealing with residents who oppose releasing them in the same area, opposition from animal activists

and even financial constraints.

NGOs with whom SDMC has a tie-up to carry out sterilisation have not been paid since March of this year, Mr. Sharma said.

According to data from the three municipal corporations, this year at least 19,436 dogs have been caught and sterilised so far. Last year, a total of 86,765 dogs were sterilised in the Capital.

No master plan

Ms. Maulekhi said that East Delhi Municipal Corporation does not have any animal birth control facilities, so they depend on NGOs to create the facilities. She said that as per the Supreme Court guidelines, the corporations have to create the facilities and involve NGOs in doing animal birth control work.

But it is not being followed in Delhi at all, she remarked accusing the civic bodies here of running a “shoddy programme ridden with corruption”. The payment for sterilisation to the contractors is done through organ counting. When a female dog is sterilised, the ovary and uterus is removed and when the male dog is sterilised the testicles

are removed.

“The organ counting itself is a very flawed exercise as it is not monitored. Some of these contractors are collecting testicles of goats from the slaughterhouses and getting them counted as dog organs,” Ms. Maulekhi claimed.

This is one of the reasons why results are not available on the ground, she said. “Some of the NGOs are doing a sort of slipshod operation of taking out the organ and the dog finally dies on the road. That is not the idea. If the dog dies on the road, its territory becomes vacant and other dogs fight to get the territory and bites increase,” Ms. Maulekhi explained.

The idea is for the dog to go back hale and hearty and not procreate any further so that conflict decreases. This has not been done in Delhi at all, she remarked.

Dog zoo

An idea of shelter homes for stray dogs or ‘dog zoo’ was also mooted before the Supreme Court. However, the Centre responded that there cannot be a concept of ‘zoo’ for stray dogs under the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001.

Growing intolerance

“There is no end to the number of animals that people are growing intolerant towards. But there is also a statutory provision for resolving such conflict and it cannot be done on the whims and fancies of the elected representatives,” Ms. Maulekhi said.

It has to be done in a manner which is scientific and sustainable.

She narrated that three High Courts - Bombay, Himachal and Karnataka -

had asked for dogs to be exterminated way back in 2009. Finally, the issue reached the Supreme Court, which stayed all such orders of the High Courts.

Culling not the answer

Ms. Maulekhi stated that in neighbouring countries - Bangladesh and Pakistan - there is no bar on the killing of these animals. “They kill them regularly, still they have not got rid of the problem,” she said.

She stressed that killing the animal is not the solution. The only solution, she said, is to follow the October 2016 Supreme Court's implementation framework.

She stated that the State-monitoring committee has not been formed in Delhi, while other States such as Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are doing a fantastic job. “Lucknow now boasts India's biggest animal birth control centre, which is opening at the end of this month,” she added.

“Even Jharkhand and Bihar has it. How can Delhi not have its animal birth control centre,” she argued.

Solution

While the animal birth control has been happening in the Capital for last 15-20 years, it has not been effective. “The only way it can be effective is if large birth control facilities are made and a very high put-through programme is made to cover at least 70% of the dog population within a span of two to three years,” she highlighted.

Running a small programme over a decade is not going to solve the problem. Because by the time you do, more dogs have procreated, she said. “You cannot empty an ocean one teaspoon full at a time,” Ms. Maulekhi concluded.

(With inputs from Soibam Rocky Singh, Hemani Bhandari, Sidharth Ravi and Aarushi Aggarwal)

In a majority of cases where people claimed the dogs are aggressive, it was later found that the incidences of cruelty were very high. For example, a few of them caught a certain dog by hand and then tied it to a tree or tied a dog and killed it by beating it. The residents are misled to the point that they believe feeding leads to an increase in the population of dogs and that we volunteers get paid to feed the dogs

— CHETNA JOSHI, animal rights activist

Dogs only start biting if they are ill-treated by the residents of the colony. When they do, they definitely become a menace to the neighbourhood. Otherwise, their presence is welcome

— VANI PRASAD, resident of Hauz Khas enclave

As long as they [dogs] are vaccinated, they're good. There ought to be a mechanism to provide them with help in case of injuries

— ARTIKA SINGH, resident of Malviya Nagar



I have helped vaccinate a few stray dogs in my colony. As long as we treat them with love, they don't create trouble. Designated dog parks in the locality may ease the unwanted issues and all can live harmoniously

— SANDAL KAPOOR, architect



There is a misconception that all stray dogs are violent. Stray dogs should be treated with love and care just as a pet dog and they will give love in return. Stray dogs bite only if a person is violent with them or threaten them

— PRITHA MARIK, architect and owner of two dogs

‘Building new hostels is key agenda in ABVP manifesto’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) elections, student activists and candidates of the ABVP canvassed those staying at hostels and paying guest accommodations, on Sunday.

During conversations with the students, they raised the issue of shortage of hostels in DU, the group said in a statement.

“There is a huge shortage of hostels in DU that makes the situation difficult for students from other States,” the ABVP said. The members also spoke about their effort to campaign for the construction of new hostels and asked for support in this regard.

“Building hostels will be the key agenda in our manifesto. With commercialisation of private hostels, rents have gone up,” said Sidharth Yadav, state secretary of ABVP.

IIT-Delhi establishes waste-to-wealth centre

It aims to remove debris from drains

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With an objective to remove floating debris from drains like Babarpur, Barapullah and other waterbodies in the Capital and generate resource from the mixed waste feedstock collected, the Indian Institute of Technology has entered into a partnership with Denmark-based firm to start DESMI Centre of Excellence on Waste-to-Wealth at IIT-Delhi.

The centre was set up under the guidance of the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA), Government of India. Commenting on the need for such a centre, PSA K.VijayRaghavan, said: “We urgently need to clean our waterways which feed into our rivers and oceans. Simultaneously, we need to change our attitudes so that we own our commons and not orphan them. This Centre of Excellence will deeply connect the best of national and international science to address the most

pressing environmental challenges of our age.”

V. Ramgopal Rao, IIT-Delhi Director, said the idea of the centre was to use the waste that is being generated from big cities and see how that can be converted into wealth. “This will in a way help us connect with the real problems in the society. And as a technology institute we will be able to provide solution to some of these problems,” Mr. Rao said.

IIT-Delhi said that the centre will provide support for implementing framework of pilot projects, which address waste collection and management with possible energy generation.

Removal of floating solid wastes for maintaining cleanliness and automated/energy-efficient collection of waste from waterbodies with smart and cost-effective segregation of solid-wastes based on post-processing methodologies will be a pilot project of the centre, the institute said.

Helping hand



An autorickshaw driver pushing a scooterist on Ring Road in the city on Sunday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

North body to declare a few areas as plastic-free

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation will soon declare certain areas, including the civic centre and other municipal facilities such as hospitals under its jurisdiction, as “plastic-free zones”. The modalities are being worked out and the policy will be ready by September 1, senior officials said.

Tie up with NGOs

Addressing a standing committee meeting last week, commissioner Varsha Joshi said that the civic body would also tie up with NGOs to provide cloth bags at these places.

The matter was discussed when a councillor raised issues regarding the implementation of plastic ban which was under way at the civic centre on Minto road, the headquarters of the South and North Delhi Municipal Corporations.

NOW AND THEN

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

When Ankit Raina won the Asian Games Bronze medal in Palembang, Indonesia, last year, there was someone in the background who prepped her for every match. Ankit Bhabri was the team coach, who worked quietly in the background, without basking in the kind of celebrity glory only cricket coaching commands.

But Bhabri has always been the quiet, diligent worker, even in her prime playing days. In 2001, she and Sania Mirza won the national women's doubles title when the two were just 15. In the following year, when the duo, with Kartiki Bhatt took India to the best-ever No. 5 spot in the world in the Junior Fed Cup under-16 tennis in France, she was the under-the-radar girl in Sania's star-personality shadow. This was ironical, because Bhabri was the one with the big serves and explosive strokes — she could rattle a player across the net, inspired by Rafael Nadal, whose game she silently admired.

Today, at 32, she takes the same discipline to her coaching, at the Team Tennis Centre in the Siri Fort Sports Complex, often waking to be on court at 6 a.m., hitting the ball with the country's best, and returning home late. She didn't allow her focus to waver, even in the first few months after her wedding. "I am blessed to have a supportive family," she says. Her in-laws aren't much different from her parents, even though they don't have a background in sport (her husband, Karan Jassal, is an investment banker).

Name and fame

Bhabri is a well-known surname in Delhi's sporting circles. Her younger sister, Sanaa, played tennis on the international circuit, and her brother, Yuki, and cousin Prerna, still do, while another cousin Prateek coaches. Ekta and Esha, the set of cousins she shared their Gulmohar Park house with, in a big joint-family set-up, played table tennis.

Growing up, "my dad used to follow football, table tennis, cricket," so dinner-table conversation centred around sport, but they also chatted



**ANKITA BHAMBRI, 32
TENNIS PLAYER**

CAREER SPAN: 2000 to 2009

HONOURS: Was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Puraskar by the Delhi government in 2001

KNOWN FOR: Strong serve and a big forehand

FOR THE RECORD: Along with Sania Mirza and Kartiki Bhatt, took India to its best-ever performance of No. 5 in the world in the Junior Fed Cup girls under-16 tennis event in La Baule, France, in 2002. Asian junior runner-up in 2002. Won seven singles and eight doubles titles in the international professional circuit

'I wish parents would focus on training, rather than results'

Former tennis player and now coach, Ankita Bhabri, talks about her approach to the game, and of how her only concession to fun is watching Shah Rukh Khan's movies



Spreading passion for the game (Clockwise from top) Ankita Bhabri (third from left) with Yuki Bhabri, Sanaa Bhabri and Sania Mirza; with cousins Prerna Bhabri and Prateek Bhabri; in action in 2003; as coach of the Asian Games team with Karman Thandi

about movies watched, places visited on their trips abroad, and food. As a treat, they'd go to Moti Mahal (in Greater Kailash) or the restaurants in Defence Colony or on Pandara Road. She carries this practice into her new relationship — she and her husband both like to try new cuisines and restaurants. "We make it a point to have nice sit-down dinners. They are unhurried and can last up to two hours. We have realised the joy of doing small things together." They also make sure to meet for

coffee at least once a week.

However, when it comes to daily food, she's even more strict than she was in her playing years, avoiding roti and cutting down on carbohydrates, but eating protein-rich dal, chicken, and mutton. "I tend to put on weight easily, if I don't control my diet now. Earlier, apart from playing, I also used to have a physical workout for about two hours every day. So, I could eat anything then," she says. She completely avoids white sugar now: "I have never liked

chocolates," but her one allowance is an ice cream every now and then.

It's not surprising. Growing up, she was so focussed on her sport that Delhi was reduced to a three-point city, where one of her parents would drive her between home in Gulmohar Park, to school on Mathura Road, and tennis court in Siri Fort. But it wasn't always tennis that preoccupied her.

Making a choice

When she was in school, Bhabri played table tennis.



velling overseas with Sanaa. Dad would not always be there to travel abroad and we learned to look after the trip, beginning from buying tickets and arranging for accommodation. There was no Google for us to get information at the click of a mouse. We weren't always comfortable, but we managed. We had basic allowances and could afford just one phone call a day back home, mainly to convey the result of the match."

When she travels with the team today, or engages with kids in school and college as

she scouts for talent, she says it's not just about being a mentor or talking technicalities. It is also about the responsibility of promoting the game. That's the reason she wanted to stay in Delhi even after marriage, though she agrees another reason was that she likes the familiar: "both places and faces".

"We do events for schools, and have noticed good players like Shruti Ahlawat, Sandeep Singh Rao, Jagmeet Kaur." As coach of the Fed Cup team, and the Indian women's teams for the Asian Indoor Games and the Asian Games, Bhabri has also been investing in the country's best players, like Ankit Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi, under the guidance of chief coach Aditya Sachdeva.

Her coaching philosophy is for parents to invest in basic training, rather than focus on winning tournaments. "The serve is key in tennis. We used to start the session with it and end with it. Just jumping onto court was not an option," she says, adding that she does just that with young players, some of whom come in from other academies that don't stress on this.

The only time she takes time off from tennis is to catch a movie with her family every Sunday. But if it's a Shah Rukh Khan film, she gives herself the luxury of a first-day-first-show.

"We lived in one big house, and Ekta and Esha were playing the game. But our parents felt we had better options with tennis," she says, referring to the scale of the game, both in terms of exposure and prize money (playing a Grand Slam game in the first round can fetch even the person who loses \$50,000).

Being on the international circuit, she often had to travel, and says that Mohamad Iqar Hussain, the principal of Delhi Public School, where she studied, and the sports head, Kusum Kathu-

ria, were very supportive. But it wasn't a cakewalk. Bhabri remembers studying until 2 a.m. in order to win permission for tennis engagements. At home, "we were told firmly that education was not to be ignored. If we performed well in the exams and played tournaments, they [parents] supported us totally. I never had any tuition. My dad used to teach me maths, and my mom, English."

She went on to study Mass Communication, French, Philosophy, and English

while graduating from Jesus and Mary College. "I can find my way in Paris with my French," she smiles.

Bhabri gave up playing international tournaments in 2009, a year before the Commonwealth Games in Delhi. "Sanaa was leaving for the U.S. for her education and tennis. I did not fancy travelling alone," says Bhabri, who won eight doubles titles on the international circuit, six of them with Sanaa. She also won seven international singles titles.

"It was an education tra-

DPCC norms to govern Ganesh idol immersion

Guidelines seek to minimise pollution of waterbodies

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

Idol immersions during Ganesh Chaturti, to be held in September, will be governed by a comprehensive set of guidelines framed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

The guidelines came into effect last month and seek to minimise the pollution of waterbodies on account of such festivals.

Studies had shown a deterioration of water quality with respect to conductivity, bio-chemical oxygen demand and concentration of heavy metal as a consequence of unchecked idol immersion, the guidelines state.

The use of chemical paints and dyes containing elements like mercury, zinc oxide, chromium, lead, cadmium cause harmful effects to aquatic flora and fauna which when consumed by humans may cause cancer and other diseases, including respiratory ailments, skin infections, it reads. Additionally, the use of plaster of Paris (PoP), which contains chemicals like gypsum, sulphur, potassium and magnesium is also similarly harmful to both aquatic life and human beings.

To this end, the use of materials, including PoP, baked clay, toxic and non-biodegradable colours have been banned. Only the use of traditional clay and "nat-



Studies have shown that unchecked idol immersion results in deterioration of water quality. FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ural materials as described in holy scriptures" is allowed, the guidelines state. And while painting of idols is to be discouraged, if required only water-soluble, non-toxic dyes are to be used.

Role of authorities

Taking account of the fact despite previous directions to not use these materials, they are regularly imported to Delhi from neighbouring States, the police and the civic bodies have been charged with the checking of goods carriers, to prevent the entry of PoP idols and to check the illegal sale of the same. Local authorities are also required to carry out mass awareness programmes with regard to these guidelines, violation of which will attract a fine of ₹5,000.

With regard to the ritual,

immersion of idols, ideally the five-foot ones, are to take place only at spots identified by local authorities. It has been asked to get such spots equipped with earthen bunds along with synthetic liners at the bottom, which are to be removed after the immersion.

While those carrying out the rituals are required to remove flowers and other decorations before immersion, local authorities are required to make arrangements to dispose of the waste 48 hours after the ceremony.

With the guidelines having been framed taking into consideration the National Green Tribunal's monitoring of pollution in water bodies such as the Yamuna, it is to be seen if they are carried out effectively and help reduce the impact on waterbodies this year.



Heavy rain in city leads to dip in mercury

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A heavy spell of rain lashed several areas in the Capital on Sunday afternoon, bringing down the temperatures in the evening.

The weather station at Safdarjung, which is the official reading of the Capital, recorded 2.4 mm of rainfall. Stations at Lodhi Road, and the Ridge recorded heavier spells of 10.1 mm and 14.2 mm respectively, during a short span in the afternoon.

The maximum temperature recorded was 34.1 degrees Celsius and the minimum was 26.8 degrees Celsius. Both were one degree above normal.

The weather office forecast cloudy skies and light to moderate rain or thundershowers for Monday. "The maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 34 and 25 degrees Celsius respectively," an official said.

On Saturday, the minimum temperature was recorded at 28 degrees Celsius, while the maximum temperature settled at 36.2 degrees Celsius.

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DELHI Timings

MONDAY, AUG. 26

RISE 05:56 SET 18:50
RISE 01:13 SET 15:27

TUESDAY, AUG. 27

RISE 05:57 SET 18:49
RISE 02:10 SET 16:26

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

RISE 05:57 SET 18:48
RISE 03:13 SET 17:22

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	34	27
Safdarjang	34	27
Palam	30	26

Delhi Palam Today
35°C A warm and humid weather lies ahead. Short spells of light rain are likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Mostly very warm and humid weather will prevail. There are chances of rain and thundershower.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	91	Gurgaon	77
Ghaziabad	90	Faridabad	67
Noida	79	Greater Noida	86

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

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

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Discussion on "Social and Gender Audits in Higher Education" at India International Centre (IIC), 4:30 p.m.
Talk: Lecture on "The Most 'Indian' of the Major French Poets, Leconte de Lisle" at IIC, 6:30 p.m.
Music: The third day of the Hindustani Musical Festival Shudh Dhwani at Triveni Auditorium, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 6 p.m.
Exhibition: "Sacred Sounds", a solo painting exhibition Open Palm Court Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Balagan in Metamorphosis & Other Stories" an exhibition showcasing artworks on paper at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Central team to visit Punjab soon to assess flood damage

Chief Minister holds meeting with senior officials to review situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

A Central team will soon visit Punjab to assess the damage in the flood-ravaged State, where rains lashed some parts on Sunday as Chief Minister Amarinder Singh directed all Ministers and Deputy Commissioners overseeing relief operations to step up vigil.

The Chief Minister, who was joined by his Chief Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar and Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh, presided over a high-level meeting to review the flood situation in Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Rupnagar districts. "Responding to the Chief Minister's request, the Union Home Ministry has decided to send a Central team to assess the damage and loss due



NDRF personnel shift flood-affected people from Takiya village in Kapurthala district on Sunday. •PTI

to floods in Punjab too. "Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla has informed the State government that a Central team to assess damage on account of floods would also be sent to Punjab, along with 11 other flood ravaged States," a Punjab government statement said here.

Earlier in the day, Capt. Amarinder had tweeted: "In view of resumption of rainfall, have directed all Ministers in charge and DCs to step up vigil"

He has deputed four Ministers - Charanjit Singh Channi, Sunder Sham Arora, Gurpreet Singh Kangar and

Bharat Bhushan Ashu - to oversee relief operations in the worst-affected Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Rupnagar districts.

NDRF, SDRF role
NDRF and SDRF personnel, who are assisted by hundreds of volunteers, have been working overtime to provide succour to the flood-hit population. They have been reaching out to people with food, water, medicines and other essentials.

In Jalandhar's Shahkot, hundreds of flood-affected people thronged a medical camp set up by authorities.

"People in numbers are reporting with stomach-related infections, skin allergies, high fever and other ailments," one of the doctors at the camp said.

Man beaten to death in U.P. over loud music

Section 144 imposed in Deoria

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEORIA

The administration has imposed Section 144 of the CrPC in Barhaj area of the district after a 25-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by some youths on Janmashtami.

District Magistrate Amit Kishor said the restrictions would remain in force till September 15.

Sumit was injured when he tried to save his father from the attackers, who were enraged over the objection to loud music during the festival. The incident had taken place on Saturday night in Barhaj's Patel Na-

gar, police said.

"On the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami, some youths were playing DJ in Patel Nagar of Barhaj on Saturday night. Munnu Lal asked them to stop it, which enraged 10-12 youths," Deoria Superintendent of Police Shripati Mishra said.

"They attacked Munnu Lal with sticks. When his sons Sumit and Sachin, along with his wife Sanju Devi, rushed to save him from the attackers, they too were beaten up," the police officer added.

Sumit was declared dead by the doctors at the district hospital, Mr. Mishra said.

Mob kills earth-moving machine driver in Nagaur

Anti-encroachment drive turns violent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR (RAJASTHAN)

A driver of an earth-moving machine was killed and five government vehicles were vandalised by a mob during an anti-encroachment drive in Rajasthan's Nagaur district on Sunday, police said.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Sarjeet Singh said that a case had been registered against two MLAs - Indira Bawari of Merta City and Pukhraj Garg of Bhopalgarh - and 300 others for obstructing the public servants from discharging their duty and causing damage to government vehicles besides inciting people.

The ASP said the drive was scheduled in Tausar village of the district, where 79 Banjara families had constructed "pucca" houses on an around 1.5-km stretch.

Stone pelting
On Sunday, when the anti-encroachment team, along with police force, reached there, those belonging to the Banjara families pelted the machine with stones.

When its driver tried to escape, the mob caught hold of him and beat him up severely.

The driver, identified as Farooq (40), was immediately rushed to a hospital, where he died.

Banned party drugs worth ₹400 crore seized

The drugs were smuggled into Manipur from Myanmar, say police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
IMPHAL

In one of the largest drug seizures in Manipur, the police have seized banned party drugs worth ₹400 crore in the international market from Thoubal district, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team with the help of local civil associations detained a mini-truck at the Phoudei Keirambi Makha area of Thoubal district on

Saturday, Thoubal Superintendent of Police S. Ibomcha Singh said.

The seized vehicle was brought to the Thoubal police station. During its search, the police recovered 40 lakh contraband amphetamine-based 'World is Yours' tablets, popularly known as party drug, valued at ₹400 crore in the international market, the SP said.

"The red-coloured tablets were kept concealed underneath carpets in the mini

truck," Mr. Singh said, adding that the drugs were smuggled in from Myanmar. The truck driver Md. Husain was arrested.

'International dealer'

Based on the information provided by Hussain, police arrested Myanmarese national Kyaw Naing from Imphal airport and two others, he said.

Naing is suspected to be an international drug dealer, police said.

The police had earlier busted a heroin manufacturing factory and seized 183 kg of drugs worth over ₹160 crore in international market from Moijing Awang Leikai area of Thoubal district on August 17.

In June this year, the police had busted a similar drug manufacturing unit at Lilong Turel area of Thoubal district and had seized 111 kg of heroin and brown sugar worth ₹100 crore in the international market.

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Uddhav: I will talk only to CM, Shah on seat-sharing for polls

Sena chief's remarks seen as snub to new BJP's State unit chief Chandrakant Patil

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said the formula for seat-sharing between his party and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will be decided only by himself, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, and BJP president Amit Shah.

Ever since both saffron parties agreed to contest polls together, prior to the Lok Sabha elections, questions have been raised whether they will share equal seats from the 288 Assembly constituencies in Maharashtra or either of the party will get more seats.

"The only people who will decide on a seat-sharing formula are me, CM, and Amit bhai," said Mr. Thackeray at his residence Matoshri. He was talking to reporters after Vilas Tare, Boisar (ST) MLA from the Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA), joined the Sena.

When asked about the new entrants in the Sena, Mr. Thackeray said, "I have not set any target. The people are getting attracted towards my party because of the good work that we are doing."

Nationalist Congress Par-



Flag bearer: Bahujan Vikas Aghadi MLA Vilas Tare with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray at Matoshri in Bandra, after joining the saffron party on Sunday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ty MLA and party's former State unit chief Bhaskar Jadhav is also said to have met Mr. Thackeray amid talks of joining the Sena, his former party. He could not be reached for comment.

Hitendra Thakur-led BVA won three seats - Nallasopara (Mr. Thakur's son Kshitij), Vasai-Virar (Mr. Thakur), and Boisar (Mr. Tare) - in the 2014 Assembly polls. The

BVA with support from the Congress, NCP and CPI(M) fought against Sena's Rajendra Gavit in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, but could not win the Palghar (ST) constituency. An encounter specialist police officer is also said to be interested in contesting from Nallasopara on either a Sena or BJP ticket.

Meanwhile, Mr. Thackeray's remarks on Sunday are

seen as a snub to BJP's newly appointed Maharashtra unit chief Chandrakant Patil, and an indication that he will hold talks only with the CM from the State BJP.

News reports have indicated Mr. Patil's supporters are not keen on an alliance with the Sena, while the CM wants to take the Sena along in the Assembly polls, slated to be held in October.

Two-wheeler collides with SUV in CM's convoy; no one injured

Case registered against rider for rash driving

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

In a security breach, a two-wheeler entered the convoy of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and collided with one of the SUVs at Shegaon in Buldhana district, the police said on Sunday.

Nobody was injured in the incident that occurred on Saturday evening when the CM was returning after offering prayers at Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, an official said.

"The two-wheeler entered the convoy after the CM's SUV and two other vehicles had passed the stretch of the road. His two-wheeler collided with one of the SUVs," the official said, adding the biker did not sustain any serious injury.

The police took the 27-year-old rider, Roshan Babhulkar, into custody. He was allowed to go after a case was registered against him under Section 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 185, 236, 177 of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Mr. Babhulkar, a resident of neighbouring Akola district, was returning after visiting his cousin in Shegaon.

8 vehicles of Sule's convoy found in no-parking zone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Eight vehicles, which were part of NCP MP Supriya Sule's convoy, were fined after being found parked in a no-parking area in Solapur city, the police said on Sunday.

Ms. Sule on Tuesday evening participated in an event, 'Sanvad Taishi', a mass outreach campaign, ahead of the Assembly polls, at the Indian Medical Association's hall at Dufferin Chowk in Solapur.

As the programme started, there was a traffic jam in the area following which the police asked the event organisers to remove some vehicles parked in the no-parking area outside the premises, a traffic police official said. However, despite repeated warnings, the vehicles were not removed.

Subsequently, eight vehicles, including some SUVs, which were part of Ms. Sule's convoy, were fined under provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

These included a four-



wheeler registered in the NCP's name and another vehicle in which Ms. Sule, the Lok Sabha member from Baramati (Pune district), arrived for the event, he said. "We are not sure if any of the vehicles belonged to the MP," the official said.

However, some members of the NCP's youth wing claimed there was no other place in the area to park the vehicles and alleged the action was taken "deliberately" by the police. Ms. Sule on Friday launched her 'Sanvad' (dialogue) campaign to reach out to the public ahead of the Assembly elections. In the first phase, Ms. Sule, will cover Ahmednagar, Solapur, Jalgon, Nashik, Thane and Navi Mumbai, a party leader said.

2 journalists, 4 others held for tracking lions in Gir forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JUNAGADH

Two local journalists and four others were arrested for unauthorised entry into a prohibited area of Gir Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat's Junagadh district and causing discomfort and annoyance to lions there, a forest department official said on Sunday.

They were tracking and chasing a pride of lions in the Gir (west) division, shining torchlights into their faces and recording videos, in the process severely inconveniencing the big cats, Dheeraj Mittal, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gir (west) division, Junagadh, said.

"The incident happened on Friday night. They entered the prohibited area of the forest illegally. The six were arrested under Section 9 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act that prohibits hunting of lions and other wild animals categorised under schedules I, II, III, and IV of the Act," Mr. Mittal said.

They were produced in court in Mendarda on Saturday, which granted bail to two accused, he said, adding four other accused got themselves hospitalised.

Tigress dead, poisoning suspected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDRAPUR

A tigress was found dead in a village in Chandrapur district, with forest officials suspecting poisoning as the prima facie cause. The tigress' carcass was found in Bedgaon village bordering Telangana on an agricultural land under Dhaba Forest Range on Saturday evening.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur circle, S.V. Ramarao, on Sunday said the feline might have died of poisoning. "Prima facie, the death occurred after the tigress consumed a dead wild bore that was apparently poisoned," Mr. Ramarao said.

Ruling out poaching, he said the carcass was intact.

Back in business



In full swing: Ganesh idol makers of Kumbhar Lane in Kolhapur had a major setback due to the recent flood, in which their houses came under at least six-foot water. Since they have got back to work, they are rushing to meet the deadline. *ABHIJEET GURJAR

IISER team's find may help fight drug-resistant infections

Researchers determine structure of McrBC, which prevents viral infections in bacteria

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A team of scientists at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune claims to have determined the atomic structure of McrBC - a complex bacterial protein which helps prevent viral infections in a bacterial cell and functions as a molecular scissor.

The pathbreaking structure of the McrBC as determined by Dr. Kayarat Saikrishnan, an associate professor of biology and his team at the IISER, was published last month in two prestigious, peer-reviewed scientific journals - *Nature Communications* and *Nucleic Acids Research* (which is published by the Oxford university Press) - and is said to be a major step towards understanding the working of the molecular scissors.

This is the first report of the high-resolution structure from India determined using electron cryomicroscopy, commonly known as cryo-EM.

The determination of the McrBC's structure has long-term implications in 'phage therapy' and could help combat drug-resistant infections in the future, says Dr. Saikrishnan. Phages are groups of viruses that infect and kill bacterial cells and phage therapy is the therapeutic use of

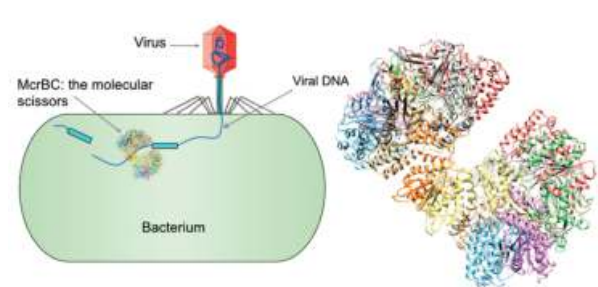
bacteriophages to treat bacterial infections.

How the 'scissors' work

"Like the human immune system, which fights viruses, bacteria too have an elaborate defence system to combat phages (the viruses which infect bacterial cells). These phages inject their DNA into the bacterial cell, wherein they multiply and duplicate the virus that eventually bursts out of that cell to infect many more. To prevent infection, bacteria have specialised 'molecular scissors' which specifically cut the foreign DNA, thus preventing their multiplication in bacterial cells," he explains, adding that the molecular scissors not only cut the viral DNA, but also regulate the entry of other foreign DNA that might host an antibiotic resistance gene.

Speaking to *The Hindu* about the importance of the McrBC's structure, Dr. Saikrishnan said the understanding of the molecular scissors would help combat multidrug resistant microbes. "As McrBC-like molecular scissors prevent viral infections of the bacterial cell, the design of such 'inhibitors' will be facilitated by their 3D structures," he said.

Thus far, despite contributions by research groups, relatively little has



The 3-D atomic structure of the McrBC which was determined by the IISER Pune team. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

been known about how these enzymes (protein molecules in cells) work and the structure of the McrBC has remained elusive, Dr. Saikrishnan said.

'Like a blueprint'

"[The McrBC's] unique feature is that it requires to be powered by an inbuilt motor that uses GTP (guanosine triphosphate) - an energy currency of the bacterial cell - as 'fuel' to cut the foreign DNA. It is important to know how the machinery works in order to be able to regulate it. If you have a drug-resistant strain in bacteria, it is often seen that this machinery is absent and they become resistant to antibiotics," he said, remarking that the technological revolution in the field of cryo-EM had allowed the determination of the three-dimensional position of every atom in biomolecules such as the McrBC.

"Just like the blueprint of a machine which illustrates its working, the atomic structure of McrBC reveals the details of its working parts and is a snapshot of the molecular machine designed by nature in action. Information derived from the 3D structure of proteins is integral to designing their activators and inhibitors," said Dr. Saikrishnan.

Trailblazing work in the field of bacterial immunity against viruses was first undertaken by in the early 1950s renowned Italian microbiologist Salvador Luria, who discovered the phenomenon of host-controlled restriction and modification of a bacterial virus. "The phenomenon that the Nobel Prize-winning Luria discovered was later found to be a result of the action of McrBC, which only cuts DNA that is labelled by a specific chemical mark. Interestingly, this chemical

mark is also seen in human DNA that regulates the reading of the encoded genetic information. Consequently, McrBC is used as a laboratory tool to study the readability of human and other genomes," Dr. Saikrishnan explained.

Studying phage therapy

Commenting on the potential importance of the McrBC's structure in 'phage therapy' and the renaissance in the latter phenomenon to treat bacterial infections, he said research into phage therapy in western countries declined in the 1940s after Alexander Fleming's discovery of antibiotics.

However, it continued in the erstwhile Soviet Union, particularly in Georgia, mainly due to the presence of Felix d'Herelle, the pioneering French-Canadian microbiologist. "However, much of it was obscured owing to the Cold War and the Iron Curtain. Meanwhile, by the 1960s, the number of new antibiotics discovered had started to decrease in a dramatic manner. What was also observed was that the bacteria had started acquiring resistance to these antibiotics. The main reason for the renaissance in phage therapy in the West and elsewhere is that antibiotics are losing ground," Dr. Saikrishnan said.

Godrej Material Handling forays into rental business

Company to provide end-to-end service at fixed rental

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Godrej Material Handling, a business of Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., has forayed into the equipment rental business. The company will provide an integrated service comprising machine, operator, fuel and maintenance at a fixed monthly rental to its customers under a new brand called Godrej RenTRUST.

Digital infrastructure has been built to provide on-time data from remote locations to the customer command centre.

A first for the industry, the digital monitoring system enables customers to view the equipment deployed at their facilities, submit and review logged requests and more.

Its Internet of Things-enabled fleet management system will allow customers to track the equipment status, fleet productivity, and fleet utilisation in real time.

The company, India's largest manufacturer and exporter of forklift trucks and solutions, believes there is huge potential for this business model from medium

Godrej RenTRUST was the only material handling equipment rental solutions company in India with the widest product range...

ANIL LINGAYAT
Godrej Material Handling

and small enterprises and from logistics players preferring an asset light model.

21 States

The company is planning to target customers from the warehousing, retail, e-commerce, airports and manufacturing industry. The service under RenTRUST has been made available in 21 States.

Anil Lingayat, executive vice president and business head, Godrej Material Handling, said, Godrej RenTRUST was the only material handling equipment rental solutions company in India with the widest product range, accessories and value-added services.

"This is the time to launch this service. In the material handling industry, capex (capital expenditure)

in equipment is only 13% of total cost of ownership (TCO) to a consumer," he said. "Our new rental solutions will address the balance 87% of the TCO pie."

He said the plan is to have a turnover of ₹100 crore from this business in two years.

The monthly rental would be in the range of ₹15,000 to ₹1.5 lakh depending on the equipment. For someone buying the equipment, the products would cost between ₹4 lakh for standard equipment to ₹1 crore for technologically superior equipment.

Lack of skilled labour

The Indian material handling industry is struggling with the lack of skilled labour, standardisation, regulations and the fragmented nature of the business. However, along with the goods and services tax, many other trends are shifting the industry from being fragmented and unorganised to consolidation towards larger organised players. This will spur demand for this industry, which sells about 16,500 units a year.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



A.R. DAMODARAN

Passed away peacefully on 25th August
Funeral on Tuesday 27th August at 10.30 am
No.2 Kilpauk Garden Road, 1st Street, Chennai 600 010
Deeply Mourned by
Andal Damodaran, Aswath Damodaran,
A.D.Sathyarayanan, Kalpana Sabanayagam
PH:9941872698 / 9677160564

DEATH

CK Balagopalan (79), Bharatanatyam guru, Kalakshetra veteran, passed away 24 August, at Chennai, survived by wife Leela, son Pranesh, daughter Prithvija. Ph: 98401 16562

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IN BRIEF



Congress leaders in Kerala slam Tharoor

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Congress leadership in Kerala came down heavily on Shashi Tharoor, MP, for his favourable remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chief Mullappally Ramachandran and Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said Mr. Tharoor should not have made such a statement. Mr. Tharoor, however, indicated that he was unrepentant about his remarks.

Man held for suspected terror links let off

KOCHI
A man who was taken into custody over suspected terror links was let off on Sunday after a probe by various security agencies could not find any such connection, sources said. The man's lawyer had told a channel his client and his friend were picked up by the police when they had come to the court to move a plea to "prove his innocence" following reports that he had links with members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, said to have infiltrated into Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka.

Techie from Telangana goes missing in London

KHAMMAM
Sanne Ujwal Sriharsha, hailing from Khammam in Telangana, who went missing in London on Friday, still remains untraced. He is an M.S. student of the Queen Mary University of London. "We received a phone call from the London police saying that a search is on," said his father Sanne Uday Pratap, the district unit president of the BJP. "The reported recovery of his laptop bag and phone at a beach near London points the needle of suspicion to some foreign students who stayed with him," he said.

No clue of deputy CM plan: Yediyurappa

BJP's central leadership 'keen on more than one' in Karnataka, but CM not for multiple power centres

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Amidst the expectation in political circles that Karnataka will have three Deputy Chief Ministers, the Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa, said he was unaware of any such plan.

Speaking to mediapersons in New Delhi on Sunday afternoon, he said that portfolio allocation had been finalised and they would be announced on Monday.

Meanwhile, reports suggested that the Central party leadership was keen on having Deputy Chief Ministers in the Cabinet, though their number was unconfirmed. "The Central leadership is clearly looking at people beyond Mr. Yediyurappa, who is at the fag end of his career, and wants to groom more leaders," a party strategist said.

However, sources close to Mr. Yediyurappa said he had vehemently opposed the creation of any Deputy Chief Minister's post, as it would lead to alternative power centres in the Cabinet. "He is upset with a section of the

Central leadership, which seems to be creating hurdles for him at every step from Cabinet expansion to portfolio allocation, and now over creation of multiple Deputy Chief Minister's posts," one of his close associates said.

Govind Karjol from the Dalit community, K.S. Eshwarappa from the Kuruba community, and R. Ashok, a Vokkaliga, are lobbying hard, even as the names of Laxman Savadi and C.N. Ashwath Narayan have sprung up.

Pecking order

"The order of Ministers taking oath has already sent a clear message on the pecking order in the party - Mr. Ashwath Narayan and Mr. Savadi took oath as second and third only after Mr. Karjol and ahead of Mr. Eshwarappa, Jagadish Shettar, and Mr. Ashok, and that has upset many," a strategist said.

Most of the State leaders, including Mr. Yediyurappa, were in New Delhi to attend the funeral of Arun Jaitley. Parleys with the party leadership are still on.



Facing hurdles: Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said the portfolios will be allocated on Monday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Cong. treated me like a clerk, says Kumaraswamy

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday accused the Congress of treating him like a clerk during the 14-month term that ended last month, and invited Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah for an open discussion on the short-lived coalition rule.

"How long do you want to be a slave? I have even been

humiliated by a Congress legislator who threw a bunch of papers in my face. I know how Congress treated me and I am only keeping quiet. I also know how he (Mr. Siddaramaiah) ran the government," Mr. Kumaraswamy told *The Hindu*.

JD(S) supreme Deve Gowda had in an interview to *The Hindu* blamed Mr. Siddaramaiah for the fall of the coalition government.

Case filed against ex-A.P. Speaker, son

Duo accused of taking office furniture

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The police have booked a case against former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kodela Siva Prasada Rao and his son Sivarama Krishna in connection with missing computers, furniture and other items belonging to the Assembly under Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant) and Section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property).

Dr. Siva Prasada Rao is accused of diverting some of the furniture belonging to the Assembly to his house at Sattenapalli and a motorcycle showroom owned by Mr. Krishna in the same town.

In his complaint to the Thullur police in Guntur district, Assembly Section Officer M. Eswara Rao said Dr. Siva Prasada Rao had illegally diverted the furniture and retained it at unauthorised places.

The police launched the investigation on the basis of the original complaint filed by Narsaraopet MLA Gopi-



Kodela Siva Prasada Rao

reddy Srinivasa Reddy on August 22, accusing Dr. Siva Prasada Rao of diverting the furniture for personal use.

'Informed officials'

The former Speaker admitted that he possessed some furniture belonging to the Assembly and claimed to have duly informed the officials concerned.

The police are also enquiring about other furniture allegedly stolen from the house of Dr. Siva Prasada Rao.

He is currently being treated for chest pain.

Rahul wants single window for lost papers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi has urged Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to establish a single-window system for replacing key documents lost by many families in his constituency in the floods.

In a letter, Mr. Gandhi said the affected families were visiting many offices to replace their ration, Aadhaar and pan cards, education certificates, land titles and birth and death certifi-

cates that they had lost. "Instead of expecting the victims to approach many offices, you may like to designate a nodal officer at the office of the District Collector to receive a consolidated application from the affected families, with the details of the lost documents," he said.

He suggested that the nodal officer coordinate with the departments concerned, collect the duplicate copies and deliver them to the families.

Prominent Indian-origin Pak. politician dies

Activist B.M. Kutty migrated from Kerala in 1949

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Prominent Indian-origin Pakistani politician and human rights activist B.M. Kutty, 89, died in Karachi on Sunday after protracted illness.

Biyyothil Mohyuddin Kutty, popularly known as B.M. Kutty, migrated to Pakistan from Kerala in 1949. "He was ill for a while. He spent his life fighting for civil and human rights," said Marvi Sar-

mad, a human rights activist and journalist. His wife Birjis Siddiqui died in 2010. The couple has four children.

Mr. Kutty came to limelight after he launched his autobiography *Sixty years in self-exile: No Regrets; A Political Autobiography* in 2011. In the book, he narrated his journey from Kerala to Karachi, explaining why he had opted to stay in Pakistan.

Votary of peace

Mr. Kutty was the general secretary of Pakistan Peace Coalition, a group that has been working to promote



B.M. Kutty

peace process between India and Pakistan. Intellectuals, journalists and politicians expressed their condolences on Mr. Kutty's death and have paid rich tributes for his ser-

vices for Pakistan and the community. "Sad to learn about the death of veteran left activist B.M. Kutty. Originally from Kerala, Mr. Kutty came to Pakistan as a young man and became a key figure in the politics of his new homeland, championing progressive causes..." Talat Aslam, a Pakistani journalist and editor of the *News International* daily, tweeted.

Born in 1930 at Tirur in Kerala's Malappuram district, Mr. Kutty migrated to Pakistan at the age of 19. The eldest of five siblings, he belonged to a Malayali Muslim

middle-class family of peasants and landowners.

During his student days, Mr. Kutty developed socialist and leftist political views and joined the Kerala Students Federation affiliated with the Communist Party. In 1946, he also joined the Muslim Students Federation under the All-India Muslim League. He studied science at the Mohammedan College in Chennai for four years.

Mr. Kutty also served as a political secretary to the Governor of Balochistan. He took part in several political movements.

Boat stuck in Prakasam Barrage removed

Salvage teams release vessel without damage to crest gate, 10 days after the incident

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

A metal boat used to carry sand, which had been stuck in the 68th crest gate of the Prakasam Barrage, was removed on Sunday afternoon more than 10 days after it ramed into the structure in heavy floods. After the coordinated salvage efforts, the gate was finally closed, preventing outflow of water. The 60-foot boat had blocked the gate of 40 feet.

Expert teams from various reservoirs in the State and Karnataka engaged by Water Resources Department (WRD) with the support of personnel of State Disaster Response Force and National Disaster Response Force worked to remove the boat since Saturday morning.



The boat that was removed from Prakasam Barrage's gate in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday ■ CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

Kakinada team

A team from Kakinada along with disaster response forces became successful in removing the heavy iron boat. It was first lifted and freed from the clutches of the crest

gate's side bar and frame using ropes and then pushed downstream.

District Collector A. Md. Imtiaz who supervised the operation until the boat was

successfully removed, lauded the efforts of the men.

Mr. Imtiaz, according to a release, said the boat was removed without causing any damage to the sluice gate.

The WRD officials supervised the entire operation. About 10 days ago when the Krishna was in spate, two boats hit the Prakasam Barrage. While one of them

passed downstream through a gate, the other got stuck.

WRD Minister P. Anil Kumar Yadav also visited the Barrage late on Saturday and inspected the operation.

'Kingpin' in human trafficking racket traced in Dubai

Efforts are being made to get her deported, says DGP

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
PALAKOL

The police probing the inter-country human trafficking racket found that more than 400 agents are sending women to Gulf countries from different places in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

Following complaints lodged by two victims of Mogalturu village and K. Jaggararam village in T. Narsapuram mandal in West Godavari district, police registered cases against Donda Venkata Subba Rao alias

Chinna Babu, Akumarthi Jyothi and Seelam Chinna.

Similar cases have been registered in Kurnool and Krishna districts. The accused were booked under Sections 370 r/w. 34 IPC, 420, 24 (1) (b) of Emigration Act, 1983 and other sections.

"More than 400 agents, who are sending women to Gulf countries were traced and most of them do not possess any licence. They were doing the illegal trade since a few years," West Godavari Superintendent of Police (SP) Navdeep Singh

Grewal said.

Jyothi, who allegedly trafficked many victims to Gulf countries, was traced in Dubai. Her car driver, Chinna, was also identified in the same country.

"Two of the accused in the case were traced in Dubai. The CID and the Law and Order police are in touch with the Indian Embassy in Dubai. We are trying to bring back Jyothi by following the legal procedure," Director General of Police (DGP) Gautam Sawang said.

Probe ordered into Tirumala bus ticket row

APSRTC gaffe has led to controversy: Chief Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI

The Andhra Pradesh government has ordered a probe into advertisements offering tours to sites belonging to other religions on bus tickets in Tirumala, according to Chief Secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam.

The controversy arose after a few devotees travelling on the Tirumala-Tirupati route by an APSRTC bus were given a ticket that carried an advertisement for a travel agent, offering "special tariff" to Christians wishing to travel to Jerusa-



Chief Secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam after having darshan at Tirumala.

lem and Muslims for Haj.

Addressing the media here on Sunday, Mr. Subrahmanyam, who is on a two-day visit to the city, termed it an unfortunate incident, and added that such irritants

could hurt the sentiments of crores of Hindus spread across the globe.

"The gaffe on the part of the APSRTC management, knowingly or unknowingly, has caused heartburn among a section of the devotees, and hence we have ordered a probe into the matter. The government is keen on preserving the sanctity of Hindu temples and will crack the whip if any attempt to malign their purity or spread other faiths in their vicinity comes to its knowledge," he said.

Mr. Subrahmanyam also announced the formation of a coordination committee to prevent such incidents in future.

At a meeting with the TTD

officials later, the Chief Secretary reviewed the measures taken to preserve the copper plates containing the 'sankirtans' composed by saint-poet Tallapaka Annamacharya.

He advised the officials to showcase the rare artefacts by prominently displaying them in the Tirumala museum.

Arrangements reviewed

He also reviewed the arrangements being made ahead of the Srivari Brahmotsavams scheduled to begin on September 30.

In the early hours of the day, Mr. Subrahmanyam offered prayers at the temple of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala.

26 gold bars seized at RGIA

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A man was arrested for trying to smuggle 2.99 kg of foreign origin gold worth ₹ 1.12 crore, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here on Sunday.

Officials said the passenger, Shaik Abdul Sajeed, arrived at the airport from Sharjah by an IndiGo flight with 26 bars of gold.

"When he came out of the flight, he panicked seeing the security arrangements and dropped the gold in a washroom near the immigration point," an investigator said, adding that the passenger was a courier.

IN BRIEF



Sardar Sarovar Dam water level rises

INDORE
A village in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh has started submerging as the backwater level of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat rises due to heavy rains. On Sunday, the backwater level rose to 133 metres, 6.5 metres above the danger mark, leaving the village of Nisarapur, 180 km from here, on the brink of going under, an senior official said. PTI

Trinamool leader shot dead in West Bengal

KOLKATA
A Trinamool Congress leader was shot dead in Asansol by three assailants on a bike late on Saturday. Muhammad Khalid Khan, a Councillor of Ward 66 in the Barakar area of Asansol municipality in West Bardhaman district, was shot when he was walking near his house. His wife said that the assailants first shot him in the leg. As he fell down, he was shot a few more times.

Two dead in clash between communities

ANAND
Two persons were killed and four others injured on Sunday in a clash between members of two communities in Gujarat's Anand district, police said. According to the police, violence broke out following an argument over money between the Patel and Molesalam Garasiya (Muslim) communities in Undel village in Khambhat taluka in afternoon. PTI

Final chargesheet in gutkha scam likely soon

CHENNAI
The CBI is expected to file the second and final chargesheet in the gutkha scam in a month or two. Sources say senior police officers, a former Tamil Nadu Minister and two politically connected people among others were likely to be named. The Anti-Corruption-III Unit of the CBI, New Delhi, which is investigating the scam, had earlier arrested six persons, including three officials.

SC slams govt. for denying pension to freedom fighter

Centre had filed repeated appeals against HC order

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has slammed the Centre for harassing a 90-year-old freedom fighter by filing repeated appeals in higher courts, often at the last minute, to deny him a freedom fighter's pension.

The government had challenged a Delhi High Court order directing the Centre to pay Dev Narayan Mishra his freedom fighter pension. The High Court attempted to make the government realise that the objective of the pension under the Swatantra Sainik Samman Pension Scheme of 1972 is not to "reward" patriotic men and women who threw their lives in-



The SC ordered the government to deposit ₹10,000 in the Advocates' Welfare Fund within two weeks.

to the Freedom Movement, but to honour them and mitigate their suffering.

"The scheme was introduced with the object of providing pension to freedom fighters and families of martyrs," the High Court had explained to the government in its October 2018 order.

Both the single Judge and Division Bench of the Delhi High Court consistently recognised Mr. Mishra's claim

for freedom fighter pension from 2015 onwards.

The High Court said the "standard of proof required in such cases (of freedom fighters) is not as required in criminal cases and once on the basis of evidence it is probable that the respondent (Mishra) had suffered imprisonment during freedom struggle, a presumption is required to be drawn in his favour".

But, instead of granting him pension in compliance of the high court orders, the Supreme Court Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and K.M. Joseph found the government opted to harass Mr. Mishra, choosing to file an appeal in the apex court after delaying it by 190 days.

Ordering the government to deposit costs of ₹10,000 in the Advocates' Welfare Fund within two weeks, the apex court dismissed the Centre's appeal, saying, "We are surprised that such a matter should have been found fit to be filed in this court. It is a sheer waste of judicial time".

Mr. Mishra's application for pension dates back to March 1982. He had participated in the Freedom Movement and remained underground from August 1942 to 1946. He had produced government records to support his claim for pension.

NGT seeks timeline for cleaning Yamuna river

Bench says pollution needs to be controlled at the earliest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed stakeholders to give specific schedule for cleaning the Yamuna, while noting that repeated timelines have not been adhered to in the last 30 years and pollution of the river was still continuing.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel made it clear that the tribunal will finalise fresh timelines with clear adverse consequences of violating such revised schedules.

Public health

"Such pollution needs to be controlled at the earliest for protection of environment and public health and having regard to unique significance of the Yamuna river, which is a major tributary of the Ganga river," the Bench said.

The tribunal directed all authorities to submit timelines for the actions to be undertaken in terms of orders of the NGT and directed Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the Delhi government, to compile such information and suggest extended timeline wherever it has expired.

The green panel had earlier said failure of the authorities was affecting life and health of citizens, and threatening the existence of a ma-



Garbage disposal: Plastic and other waste matter seen floating on the Yamuna in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

E-waste residue removed from banks of Ramganga

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Black powdery residue of burnt electronic waste (e-waste) has been removed from the banks of river Ramganga in Moradabad, an important tributary of the Ganga, a report by the Uttar Pradesh government

has said.

The State government recently submitted the report before a bench of the National Green Tribunal. The tribunal had earlier imposed an environment compensation of ₹10 lakh on the State.

Green Ganesha



Finishing touch: An artist polishing a clay idol of lord Ganesha ahead of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. Several idol makers have shifted from plaster of Paris to clay this year due to environmental concerns. BISWARANJAN ROUT

CSIR to certify air quality monitoring instruments

Rising demand by States for low cost monitoring sensors

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry has tasked the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) with certifying air quality monitoring instruments. This is in anticipation of a rising demand by States – against the backdrop of the National Clean Air Campaign – for low cost air quality monitoring instruments that can monitor levels of nitrous oxides, ozone and particulate matter.

"The Central Government hereby designates the Council of Scientific and Indus-

trial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) as national verification agency for certifying instruments and equipments for monitoring emissions and ambient air... CSIR-NPL shall develop necessary infrastructure, management system, testing and certification facilities conforming to international standards," according to a notification dated August 22.

Vast network

The Centre in January launched a programme to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024.

An edifice of this initiative is to have a vast monitoring network of sensors that can capture the rapid fluctuations of pollutants, necessary to ascertain how these gases and particles affected health.

Currently, the machines employed by State and Central Pollution Control Boards (SPCB and CPCB) are imported and can cost up to ₹1 crore to install and about ₹50 lakh to maintain over five years, Satchidananda Tripathi, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, who works on air quality-related research, told *The Hindu*.

'Can't expect Air India to repay debt'

No appreciation for the airline: Lohani

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

In an attempt to stave off criticism after the national carrier made news for having its oil supply cut-off, chairman and managing director of Air India Ashwani Lohani on Sunday said that the airline cannot be expected to repay its debt on its own.

"It is a fact that huge debt servicing affects every single aspect of the working of the airline... Expecting it to service out of its revenues is indicative of a lack of appreciation of the working of the airlines," Mr. Lohani wrote on his Facebook page. He added that the airline's in-



Ashwani Lohani

ability to pay oil companies did not in any way reflect its operational performance.

Air India has a total debt of ₹58,351 crore as on March 31 this year. On Thursday, oil companies cut-off aviation fuel supply to the airlines at six stations. Officials say it owes ₹3,000-₹4,000 crore to oil companies alone.

Pak. releases water; flood alert in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

A few villages in Punjab's border district Ferozepur are facing flood threat after a major portion of an embankment in the catchment area of the Sutlej river was washed away following Pakistan's release of water into the Indian territory.

Officials on Sunday said the Ferozepur district administration was on high alert, while precautionary deployment of the NDRF and the Army teams had been made in view of the flood threat which loomed large in some villages.

"Pakistan has released water in huge quantity which caused damage to the embankment in Tendi-wala village, and there is danger of floods in some villages," a spokesperson of the Punjab government said.

"The district administration has announced evacuation in most sensitive villages along the Sutlej river as a precautionary step," he said.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has asked the Water Resources Department to work out a joint action plan with the Army to strengthen the embankment at the village.

'Children in mica mining areas abandoning education'

They work as labourers to supplement their family income, says survey; over 5,000 of them have given up education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Over 5,000 children in the age group of six to 14 years have abandoned education in the mica mining districts of Jharkhand and Bihar, and a section of them have started working as labourers to supplement their family income, according to a government survey.

The survey was conducted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) after a report by Terre Des Hommes, an international development agency working in India, revealed last year that more than 22,000 children were employed as child labourers in the mica mining areas of

Jharkhand and Bihar.

In a report based on the survey conducted in the districts of Koderma and Giridih in Jharkhand and Nawada district in Bihar, the NCPCR said it had observed that a section of children were deprived of opportunities.

"As per the survey, there are 4,545 children, in the age group of six to 14 years in the area of Jharkhand, reported as not attending school," the NCPCR said.

The survey, done on the education and well-being of children in the mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar, found that 649 children in the same age group were reported as not attending



Lost childhood: Objective of the survey was to find out the educational status of children in the region. KAMAL NARANG

school in Nawada district, Bihar.

Collection of mica scraps

The reasons included a lack of interest and also cases where the collection of mica scraps were preferred activities, said the survey. It was

found that children in the age group of six to 14 years in Koderma, Giridih and Nawada collect mica scraps.

Officials say selling mica scraps is the main means of livelihood for many families in these areas.

"Several families do not

see the benefit of sending their children to schools and instead prefer them collecting and selling the scraps," an official said.

Largest producer

India is one of the world's largest producers of mica, with Jharkhand and Bihar being the main producing States. Mica is used in various sectors including buildings and electronics. It is also used in the production of cosmetics and paint.

The objectives of the survey were to find out the educational status of children, the number of children not attending school, whether they are involved in collecting scraps, if vocational

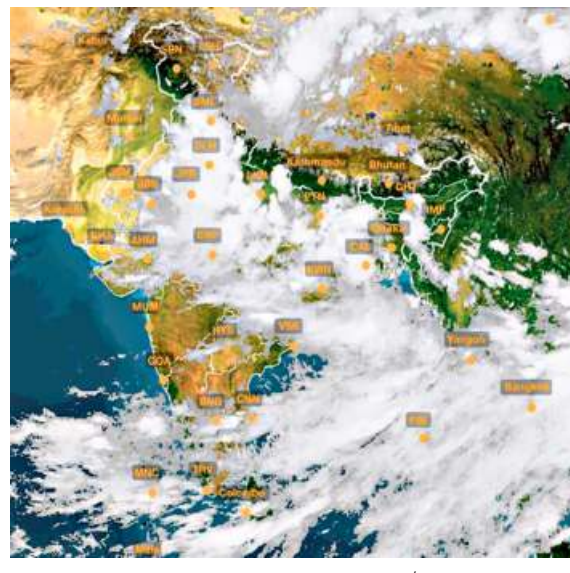
training is provided to the adolescents and the presence of NGOs.

The commission gave out a set of recommendations based on its findings. It said the supply chain of the mining and industry should be made free of child labour. "No child to be engaged in any part of the mica mining process and collecting scraps. NGOs/development agencies should work with the local and district administration as well as with industries to chalk out a strategy to make the supply chain free of child labour," the NCPCR said.

It said strict action should be taken against buyers of mica scraps from children.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kutch, central Maharashtra, Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.4	36.0	25.7	Kozhikode	22.8	30.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	0	34.1	26.5	Kurnool	0	33.1	23.9
Aizawl	0	30.2	22.8	Lucknow	2.2	31.7	26.2
Allahabad	16.8	31.6	26.2	Madurai	0	36.6	25.8
Bengaluru	0	26.9	20.0	Mangaluru	42.8	26.6	21.5
Bhopal	29.2	32.6	22.8	Mumbai	11.3	31.6	25.0
Bhubaneswar	3.0	32.2	24.8	Mysuru	0	28.1	20.0
Chandigarh	42.1	34.6	26.0	New Delhi	0.2	34.1	26.8
Chennai	0	35.2	26.3	Patna	0	32.2	25.6
Coimbatore	0	32.3	22.0	Port Blair	59.2	27.0	22.5
Dehradun	0.2	31.3	24.5	Puduchery	0	34.8	22.5
Gangtok	34.4	22.4	18.1	Pune	0	29.7	20.9
Goa	1.8	31.0	24.6	Raipur	0	34.4	24.9
Guwahati	1.2	35.5	26.0	Ranchi	0	18.5	28.2
Hubbali	0	27.0	21.0	Shillong	0	7.2	27.1
Hyderabad	5.4	30.6	22.6	Shimla	0	3.9	19.8
Imphal	0.2	26.8	21.4	Srinagar	0	31.3	16.0
Jaipur	0	34.9	25.3	Thiruvananthapuram	0	31.5	23.8
Kochi	19.8	28.6	23.4	Tiruchi	0	36.2	26.6
Kohima	0	31.6	23.1	Vijayawada	11.4	32.3	24.5
Kolkata	17.4	29.2	26.2	Visakhapatnam	2.8	32.5	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	INDEX
Ahmedabad	50	64	52	55	112	60
Bengaluru	09	45	76	60	109	50
Chennai	06	18	27	60	107	49
Delhi	06	182	28	85	81	3
Hyderabad	41	24	16	38	61	60
Kolkata	02	32	15	32	35	60
Lucknow	10	02	51	69	107	50
Mumbai	0	12	109	34	35	60
Pune	74	08	67	35	35	60
Visakhapatnam	0	0	0	0	0	60

In observation made at 6:00 p.m., Ahmedabad, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 182 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 19.

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030.

Rural Innovators Start-up Conclave (RISC 2019)

NIRDPR is organizing the "Rural Innovators Start-up Conclave (RISC 2019)" for innovators and start-ups on 27th and 28th, September 2019 at Hyderabad. A parallel event titled "Rural Innovation and Design (RIDE) Challenge" will also be organized for school children and college students with innovative ideas that can transform rural India are invited to participate in the event and avail the exciting opportunities: Fellowships, awards financial linkages, networking and mentoring support.

Last date for online registration is 13th September, 2019
For details visit www.nirdpr.org.in/RISC2019 or write to us at rtp.nird@gov.in



On the wrong side

The PCI must act in the interest of a free media and not kowtow to the government

The Press Council of India (PCI)'s support of government restrictions on communication last week was brazenly contrary to its mandate and purpose. It has sought to intervene in a petition by *Kashmir Times* executive editor Anuradha Bhasin, pending before the apex court, seeking an end to the restrictions on communication in Jammu and Kashmir that were imposed before the Government's decision on August 5 to revoke the special constitutional status of the erstwhile State. The petitioner has cited Articles 14 (equality before the law) and 19 (freedom of speech and expression) of the Constitution of India, and the PCI's intervention, if any, should have been on the side of the petitioner. Instead, it has justified restrictions on communication "in the interest of the integrity and sovereignty of the nation". The notion that an open society, and an independent media, are somehow a threat to the nation's integrity and sovereignty is nothing less than a rationale for despotism. That it is coming from a statutory, quasi-judicial, autonomous body whose mandate it is to protect and reinforce a professional and objective media is shocking.

The PCI explains its *raison d'être* as "rooted in the concept that in a democratic society the press needs at once to be free and responsible". Of course, freedom of expression like any other freedom is subject to reasonable restrictions. But the operative word is 'reasonable'. "Where the norms are breached and the freedom is defiled by unprofessional conduct, a way must exist to check and control it. But, control by Government or official authorities may prove destructive of this freedom... Hence, the Press Council," it says. The PCI's stance in the instant case goes against the letter and spirit of this claim. Its track record may not have been stellar; nevertheless, its interventions occasionally held the mirror to deviant journalists and publications and, at the same time, sought to shield the profession and professionals from the highhandedness of the state and non-state actors. It supported the Punjab Press in its "efforts to inform the people truthfully and impartially" during the years of militancy in the early 1990s; around the same period, it pulled up several publications that showed communal bias in coverage of the Ayodhya agitation. In fact, the PCI considers "defaming a community a serious matter" and believes "ascribing to it a vile, anti-national activity is reprehensible and amounts to journalistic impropriety". India is currently witnessing a disturbing debasement of standards in journalism, and the PCI's legal and ethical obligation has never been so critical. Media is often called upon by the state to privilege a narrowly defined national interest over truthful reporting; professional media in a democracy must view truthful reporting in itself as in national interest. The PCI must play its mandated role and not kowtow to the government of the day.

Currency capers

The rupee is falling, but it is too early to start worrying

The rupee is back in the news following a sharp depreciation in its value versus the dollar in the last one month after a prolonged period of relative stability. It has weakened by a little over 4% since mid-July and on Friday nudged the 72 mark to a dollar before retracing its steps. The fall has to be seen in the context of the overall weakness in currencies of emerging markets and Asia in August. The Turkish lira, Brazilian real, South Africa's rand, the Mexican peso have all uniformly lost value versus the dollar with the Argentine peso losing the most, but this has more to do with the Argentine economy's woes. The trigger was China's devaluation of the yuan to below the 7 per dollar level for the first time in more than a decade; the last time that the yuan was seen below the 7 per dollar mark was during the global financial crisis in 2008. The yuan's devaluation is itself a part of the complex trade war that Beijing is now waging with the United States whose President has labelled China a currency manipulator. Emerging market currencies have also been depressed more since the bond yield curve inverted in the U.S. last week when yields on 10-year bonds fell below the two-year note signalling the market's fear of a recession in the U.S. economy. While there's no data to support such fears as of now, the trade spat with China seems to be giving the jitters to the market.

The fall in the rupee is, of course, influenced to some extent by the overall economic slowdown and the sell-out in the equity markets in the last couple of months leading to capital withdrawal by foreign portfolio investors. The capital outflow particularly has hit the currency's valuation. But the fall is no cause for alarm as yet because there is stability on the external account with the current account deficit at a comfortable 0.7% in the quarter ended March 2019. Of course, export growth is depressed but the forex reserves are at historically high levels of \$430 billion. In fact, the fall will make India's exporters competitive. Economists often complain that the rupee is over-valued in terms of the real effective exchange rate making exports uncompetitive. Interestingly, the Reserve Bank of India does not appear to have intervened in support of the rupee, signalling that it is not uncomfortable with the fall. The central bank can be relied upon to enter the market if things get too depressing for the currency. The Finance Minister's announcements on Friday are sure to perk up the markets on Monday and the rupee may yet bounce back. But, eventually, in an environment where other major emerging market currencies are depreciating, the rupee cannot be an outlier.

Under the cover of President's Rule

Unless some limitations are read into the Centre's role under Article 356, the designated powers of States are in peril



K. VENKATARAMANAN

The lynchpin of the government's legal measures to declare Article 370 inoperative and reorganise Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories is the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of August 5, 2019. However, the task was not accomplished by that Order alone. The Centre and Parliament also used the fact that the State was under President's Rule to act on behalf of the State government and the State Assembly. This means that another principal source of the government's power was the President's proclamation issued on December 18, 2018, imposing Central rule.

Much has been written about the constitutionality or otherwise of the two principal moves of the Centre: hollowing out Article 370 using the two-pronged mechanism referred to above, and downgrading the State into two Union Territories. One clear way to question and challenge the legality of the measures is to find out whether there are any limitations on the Centre or Parliament using the prevalence of President's Rule to do anything that is not realistically possible to be done if there were a popularly elected legislature in a State.

Proviso suspension

While assuming to himself the functions of the State government and Assembly under Article 356 of the Constitution, the President also suspends portions of the Constitution. One such suspended part is the proviso to Article 3 (this Article empowers Parliament to create or divide States and alter their boundaries). The proviso says the President must refer any proposal to alter a State's name or boundaries to the State legislature

for its views. It is an acknowledged fact that under the constitutional scheme, Parliament has overriding powers over the States in this matter. However, in respect of J&K, there is an additional proviso, one found only in the State's own Constitution. This says J&K's legislature has to give its consent to any altering of its boundaries or size or name. Significantly, the Presidential proclamation suspends the second proviso too.

Consider the following: (a) the issuance, "with the State government's concurrence", of the Order of 2019, by which the Order of 1954 was superseded and the reference to "Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir" was to be read as the "Legislative Assembly" (b) the passage of a statutory resolution in Parliament recommending the declaration of Article 370 as inoperative (c) the adoption of a resolution accepting the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 and, finally, (d) the issuance of a notification by the President on August 6 midnight, declaring Article 370 inoperative. All these were made legally and constitutionally possible only because the State was under President's Rule and the President's Proclamation under Article 356 provided for it.

The legal fiction is that whatever Parliament or the President does in respect of J&K, it is the State Assembly or the State government that is actually doing it. How far should this legal fiction be allowed to prevail? Are there any legal limitations on this substitution of the State's powers and functions with the Centre's own, even if one concedes the wide amplitude of executive power under Article 356?

Extent of judicial intervention

A presidential proclamation under Article 356 is subject to judicial review, going by the verdict of the nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in *S.R. Bommai vs. Union of India* (1994). However, the scope for judicial intervention is limited to the adequacy and relevance of the material on the basis of which



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

the President comes to the subjective satisfaction that the governance of a State cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution. At the same time, the court read another limitation into the same Article. It said the initial exercise of the power is limited to taking over the executive and legislative functions without dissolving the Assembly. Once Parliament approves the proclamation, the Assembly may be dissolved.

India's quasi-federal Constitution is admittedly weighted in favour of the Centre, but the courts have always emphasised that, in their limited domain, States remain 'supreme'. They are not "mere appendages of the Centre". Notwithstanding the Centre taking over all the State government's functions under Article 356, there are certain functions that the States alone can do. If these functions are allowed to be performed by the Centre in lieu of the State government or Assembly in the garb of President's Rule, the concept of States being supreme in their own domain is completely destroyed.

In the realm of law and policy, the Centre may issue orders or enact laws that fundamentally alter the State's policies and programmes. This appears to be permissible under the Constitutional scheme of Article 356, which says the President may assume to himself all or any of the functions of the State government; and Parliament may perform the functions of the State legislature, but the President shall not assume any power vested in the respective High Courts. This schema poses a

real danger to the will of the people of a State, as decisions that a popular regime would never make may become possible under President's rule.

What could happen

Some of the possibilities of the kind of anti-federal damage that may be done while a State is under Central rule can be listed: (a) suits instituted by the State against other States or the Centre under Article 131 may be withdrawn or claims against it conceded (b) the power of a State Assembly to ratify Constitution amendments may be exercised by Parliament, and (c) the Assembly may be denied the opportunity to give its views on a proposal to alter the boundaries of the State. In the case of J&K, the consent of its legislature was mandatory, but the State Assembly's consent was given by Parliament itself. The resolution adopted in Parliament stated that since the State legislature's powers are vested in Parliament, "This House resolves to express the view to accept the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019."

To this list of State responsibilities that ought not to be discharged by the Centre while a State is under President's Rule, one may add two more aspects in respect of J&K. One is the power of the J&K government to concur with proposals to modify the way in which provisions of the Constitution apply to the State; and two, the recommendation of the State 'Constituent Assembly' to the President to declare Article 370 inoperative. These two measures have been adopted by the Centre in the name of the Governor and by reading the term 'Constituent Assembly' as 'Legislative Assembly', and using the factum of the State being under President's Rule to make Parliament itself perform the duty of recommending the step.

It may be argued that Article 356 empowers the Centre to assume and perform these two functions. However, these are clearly powers exercisable by elected regimes, and not by the Centre dis-

charging its emergency powers. The implicit limitation on the Centre performing nothing more than routine governance functions on behalf of the State will have to be traced to the overall scheme of Article 356 itself. First, the power is invoked only with the objective of restoring constitutional governance in the State, and not to exercise absolute powers to change policies, laws and programmes of the State in the limited period during which a State is under President's rule. Parliament may pass the State Budget, or essential legislation so that existing programmes and statutory measures survive, but Article 356 does not give a blanket power to the President or Parliament to alter any matter in which the political leaders and the electorate of the State have a legitimate stake. Unless these implied limitations on the way the President or Parliament performs the functions of a State under Central rule, no State law or policy is safe.

Another example may drive home the point. Let us suppose the Centre finds that it does not have the requisite number of State Assembly resolutions ratifying a Constitution amendment it has managed to pass with a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament. Can a few State governments be dismissed, and Parliament used to adopt resolutions ratifying the amendments on behalf of those States?

This may happen in other ways too. A State law may be amended by Parliament during President's Rule, and thereafter, the subject it falls under may be shifted to the Union or Concurrent List through a Constitution amendment; and the latter may be ratified on behalf of several State governments by placing them under President's Rule for a limited period. This route may be used to abrogate any State law, and thereafter future elected regimes in the State may be prevented from restoring its old law, by stripping it of its legislative competence.

venkataramanan.k@thehindu.co.in

Privacy no longer supreme

Two years on, the judgment in 'K.S. Puttaswamy' has hardly resulted in a rights-based handling of personal data



PRASANNA S.

Two years ago, this month, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court unanimously held that Indians have a constitutionally protected fundamental right to privacy. It held that privacy is a natural right that inheres in all natural persons, and that the right may be restricted only by state action that passes each of the three tests: First, such state action must have a legislative mandate; Second, it must be pursuing a legitimate state purpose; and third, it must be proportionate i.e., such state action – both in its nature and extent, must be necessary in a democratic society and the action ought to be the least intrusive of the available alternatives to accomplish the ends.

Prescribing a higher standard That judgment in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union Of India* fundamentally changed the way in which the government viewed its citizens' privacy, both in practice and prescription. It undertook structural reforms and brought transparency and openness in the

process of commissioning and executing its surveillance projects, and built a mechanism of judicial oversight over surveillance requests. It demonstrated great care and sensitivity in dealing with personal information of its citizens. It legislated a transformative, rights-oriented data protection law that held all powerful entities that deal with citizens' personal data (data controllers), including the state, accountable.

The data protection law embodied the principle that the state must be a model data controller and prescribed a higher standard of observance for the state. The law also recognised and proscribed the practice of making access to essential services contingent on the citizen parting with irrelevant personal information. This law established an effective privacy commission that is tasked with enforcing, protecting and fulfilling the fundamental right to privacy implemented through the specific rights under the legislation.

The data protection law also revolutionised the technology sector landscape in the country, paving way for innovative privacy-aware and privacy-preserving technical solution providers to thrive and flourish, and establishing the country as a global leader in the space.

This fairytale would have been



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

the story of the last two years if the government had followed the script. But it did the exact opposite. The judgment in *K.S. Puttaswamy* effected little change in the government's thinking or practice as it related to privacy and the personal data of its citizens.

National security as reason

It continued to commission and execute mass surveillance programmes with little regard for necessity or proportionality, with justifications always voiced in terms of broad national security talking points. The Ministry of Home Affairs, in December last year, authorised 10 Central agencies to "intercept, monitor and decrypt any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer in the country". This notification is presently under challenge before the Supreme Court. In July last year, it became known that the Ministry of Information Broadcasting had floated a

tender for 'Social Media Monitoring Hub', a technical solution to snoop on all social media communications, including e-mail. The government had to withdraw the project following the top court's stinging rebuke. A request for proposal for a similar social media surveillance programme was floated in August last year by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which is presently under challenge before the Supreme Court. The Income-Tax department has its 'Project Insight' which also has similar mass surveillance ends. These are but a few examples.

Data use vs. privacy

The government has shunned a rights-oriented approach in the collection, storage and processing of personal data and has stuck to its 'public good' and 'data is the new oil' discourse. In other words, personal data in the custody of the state is for the state to use, monetise and exploit in any manner it desires so long as it guards against security incidents such as breaches and unauthorised access – i.e. unauthorised by the government. This convenient redux of the idea of privacy to mere information security appears to inform all its policies. This is evident from this year's Economic Survey as it commends the government for having been able to sell and monetise the

vehicle owners' data in the Vahan database and exhorts it to replicate the success with other databases. The Justice Srikrishna committee which has published the draft Personal Data Protection Bill uses a similar language of 'free and fair digital economy', with the digital economy being the ends and the notion of privacy merely being a shaper of the means – not only misrepresenting the purpose of the bill, but also its history and the mischief that it intended to tackle. The committee made the choices it made despite being aware that the courts are likely to interpret every provision of the legislation purposively, taking note that the purpose is couched in terms of the economy as opposed to the bill having a singular focus on the fulfilment of the right to privacy.

As *K.S. Puttaswamy* ages and steps into its third year, the script is still on the table. A rights-oriented data protection legislation – which includes comprehensive surveillance reform prohibiting mass surveillance and institution of a judicial oversight mechanism for targeted surveillance – and which recognises the principle that the state ought to be a model data controller as it deals with its citizens' personal information; is still possible, one hopes.

Prasanna S. is a practising lawyer based in New Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Anything but normal

The treatment meted out to Opposition leaders Sitaram Yechury, D. Raja and Rahul Gandhi, who have all been turned away from Srinagar airport at different points in time in the last two weeks, is proof enough of the fact that no matter what the Centre claims, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is anything but normal (Front page, "Opposition delegation turned back from Srinagar airport," Aug. 25).

After imposing a blackout on the Valley, arresting the local leaders and placing restrictions on the fourth estate, the government is only hoodwinking the gullible when it tries to

present a picture of tranquility. The developments add more credence to the theory that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government always springs a surprise when it wants to divert the attention of the people from real issues. Amidst these events, the Prime Minister is back to doing what he does best – globetrotting.

A consensus builder Veteran parliamentarian Arun Jaitley, who set a high benchmark for integrity, had played a critical role in Narendra Modi becoming the Prime Minister in 2014.

He has left a strong imprint on India's economic path, replacing archaic indirect tax laws with the modern GST (Front page, "BJP veteran Jaitley passes away," Aug. 25). Jaitley was a consensus-builder who treated political opponents with great respect. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code introduced by him was a masterpiece reform which aimed to protect the interests of small investors. Another major initiative was the merger of smaller banks with larger ones.

R. SIVAKUMAR, Chennai

Parikkar and Sushma Swaraj, has suffered another blow in the untimely demise of Arun Jaitley. The leader, who graduated from being a student leader to a politician, was also a hotshot lawyer with a flourishing practice. He played the role of Finance Minister with distinction. Earlier, he had also excelled as the Leader of the Opposition and given many anxious moments to the treasury benches. Integrity, optimism and an unwavering patriotic streak were his hallmark.

C.V. ARAVIND, Bengaluru

No winners in n-war

A change of policy will not alter the dynamics of a

nuclear attack – both sides will suffer incalculable damage ("Should India tinker with its 'No First Use' policy?," Aug. 23). Both India and Pakistan need to find common ground to restart the stalled discussions. A nuclear attack can only lead to mutually assured destruction. Moreover, it will have grave economic consequences for both nations, at present making serious efforts to the raise the living standards of their citizens. It is not that the two

arch-rivals have not had a constructive relationship. The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) has withstood the vicissitudes of time and has admirably served the irrigation needs of both nations. Back-channel efforts need to focus on de-escalating tensions. The ongoing debate on nuclear deterrence is mere speechcraft.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA, Bengaluru

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

A Business page story titled "Plan in the works to fix power sector woes" (Aug. 25, 2019) erroneously referred to Subash Chandra Garg as the Union Finance Secretary. It should have been Union Power Secretary.

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

A bottom-up approach to conservation

The Western Ghats panel's suggestions stressed the need to strengthen grass-roots governance



MADHAV GADGIL

In 2018, many people thought that the floods and landslides in Kerala that caused huge financial losses and manifold human tragedies marked a once-in-a-century calamity, and that normalcy will return soon and we can merrily return to business as usual. Further, the probability of two such back-to-back events was only 1 in 10,000. Hence, in 2019, a repeat of the shocking train of intense floods, landslides, financial losses and manifold human tragedies has not just left the same set of people stunned but also made them realise that it is unwise to continue business as usual, and that we must think afresh of the options before us.

What are these alternatives? One set of possibilities is provided by the recommendations of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) which I had the privilege of chairing. Would those measures have averted the disasters of 2018 and 2019? Certainly, they wouldn't have pre-empted the intense rainfall, but they would have definitely reduced the scale of devastation caused by the downpours.

All our recommendations were grounded in a careful examination of facts. Furthermore, the policy prescriptions fell firmly within the framework of our constitutional duties and laws. We did not ask for any new law. All we suggested was that the existing laws relating to environmental protection and devolution of powers, right down to the gram sabha and ward sabha level, be followed.

A leader in devotion

Kerala leads the country in democratic devotion. The Kerala High Court had ruled in favour of Plachimada Panchayat that cancelled Coca-Cola's licence because the company polluted and depleted groundwater reserves, drying up wells and adversely impacting agriculture and livelihoods. While doing so, the panchayat invoked its constitutional rights, arguing that it had the duty to protect the well-being of its citizens and had the right to cancel – or re-



"A repeat of last year's extreme weather events in the Western Ghats region has made the people rethink their approach to conservation." Landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district caused havoc earlier this month. ■ REUTERS

fuse permission for – anything that affected its citizens adversely. The company's counterargument was that the panchayat was subordinate to the State government, which had granted it the licence. The Kerala High Court rejected this contention, affirming that grass-roots institutions have the authority to decide on the course of development in their own locality. Furthermore, the Kerala legislature unanimously passed a law asking Coca-Cola to pay Plachimada Panchayat due compensation for losses inflicted on them.

Kerala had also been at the forefront of the country's Literacy Mission of the late 1980s; it pioneered Panchayat Level Resource Mapping involving neo-literates and followed it up with the People's Planning campaign that attempted to involve every panchayat in the preparation of a Panchayat Development Report.

The WGEEP called for a model of conservation and development compatible with each other; we sought a replacement of the prevailing 'Develop Recklessly, Conserve Thoughtlessly' pattern with one of 'Develop Sustainably, Conserve Thoughtfully.' This fine-tuning of development practices to the local context would have required the full involvement of local communities. It would have therefore been entirely inappropriate to depend exclusively on government agencies for deciding on and managing Ecologically Sensitive Zones, and our panel certainly had no intention of imposing any development or conservation priorities

on the people.

So, why were our recommendations not implemented? For one, they were dubbed "impractical". What then is "practical"? Is violation of constitutional provisions that pertain to environmental protection and sabotaging of democratic processes practical? May be so, but it is certainly not desirable. Acting on the WGEEP report would have implied using our recommendations regarding ecological sensitivity as the starting point for a bottom-up democratic process for deciding on how we should safeguard this global biodiversity hotspot and water tower of peninsular India.

Preserving the 'sensitive zones'

The WGEEP's mandate asked it "to demarcate areas within the Western Ghats Region which need to be notified as ecologically sensitive and to recommend for notification of such areas as ecologically sensitive zones under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986." In line with the National Forest Policy, we decided to assign 60% of the total area of Western Ghats in Kerala, including the region housing wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, as a zone of highest ecological sensitivity, 'ESZI'.

We proposed 'elevation' and 'slope' as two indicators of sensitivity. In Kerala, rainfall increases rapidly with elevation, and high rainfall and steep slopes render localities vulnerable to landslides. Hence, areas prone to landslides would come under ESZI.

The extent and quality of natural vegetation was the third indicator for classifying an area as ESZI. Landslides are under check in areas with intact natural vegetation because the roots bind the soil. Any disturbance to such vegetation would render any locality that has steep slopes and experiences high rainfall susceptible to landslides. Such disturbances may include quarrying or mining, replacement of natural vegetation by new plantations, levelling of the land using heavy machinery, and construction of houses and roads. Therefore, we recommended that such activities be avoided in ESZI areas. Had our recommendations been accepted, the extent and intensity of landslides being encountered today would have been much lower. Implementation of our overall recommendations would have also had a plethora of other desirable results, both for nature and for people.

So, it would surely be wise to apply the panel's recommendations now. This would imply building on India's greatest strength, its deep-rooted democracy. Democracy is not merely voting once in five years; it is the active involvement of us citizens in governing the country at all levels, most importantly at the local level. We must insist that the Kerala High Court ruling that local bodies have the authority to decide on the course of development in their own localities be made genuinely operational across the country.

We must take full advantage of powers and responsibilities conferred on citizens under provisions such as the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution, and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. We should assert that conservation prescriptions should not be merely regulatory, but include positive incentives such as conservation service charges. We must hand over economic activities like quarrying to agencies like the Kudumbashree groups that are accountable to local communities. We, the sovereign people, are the real rulers of India and must engage ourselves more actively in the governance of the country and lead it on to a path of people-friendly and nature-friendly development.

Madhav Gadgil was the Chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel. Email: madhav.gadgil@gmail.com

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Fairness in the time of polarisation

While fact-checking, the desk applies the same standard of nonpartisanship for all articles, irrespective of the contributor



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

On August 17, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu wrote a lead article in this newspaper to welcome the abrogation of Kashmir's special status. His reference to B.R. Ambedkar's view on special status drew the ire of some academics and social activists. They asked whether *The Hindu* has a dual policy in handling contributions to the editorial pages: rigorous editorial processes for academic contributors and slack ones for contributors holding high constitutional positions.

The quote and the source

Before examining the critiques, let's recollect what Mr. Naidu said. He wrote: "While considering the proposal to incorporate it in the Constitution, Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru advised Sheikh Abdullah to convince B.R. Ambedkar, who apparently was not in favour of it. In the book, *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Framing of Indian Constitution*, by Dr. S.N. Busi, Dr. Ambedkar was cited as saying: 'Mr. Abdullah, you want that India should defend Kashmir. You wish India should protect your borders, she should build roads in your area, she should supply you food grains, and Kashmir should get equal status as India, but you don't want India and any citizen of India to have any rights in Kashmir and Government of India should have only limited powers. To give consent to this proposal would be a treacherous thing against the interests of India, and I, as the Law Minister of India, will never do. I cannot betray the interests of my country'".

The complaint we received cited two web pages to contest the views attributed to Dr. Ambedkar: <http://velivada.com/2019/08/05/what-ambedkar-had-really-said-about-kashmir-issue/> and <https://www.youthkiawaz.com/2019/05/article-370-and-dr-ambedkar-a-factcheck/>. The basic thrust of the criticism was that Dr. Ambedkar's writings and speeches on Pakistan, the Partition of India, and debates in the Constituent Assembly contained no authenticated writing on Article 370. These researchers asserted that the earliest "refusal to draft" statement was found in an editorial in *Tarun Bharat*, a

mouthpiece of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, dated 1991, citing the verbal account of former Jana Sangh president Balraj Madhok. Pratik Tembburne, in his *Youth Ki Awaaz* essay, contended that the wrongly attributed quote of Ambedkar's has been used by Subramanian Swamy, Sushil Pandit, and by different writers in various columns in publications such as *India Today*, *Daily Pioneer*, *The Hindu*, *Employment News*, *Indian Defence Review*, *Law Corner*, and *DailyO*".

In this context, let us examine how the desk handled the Vice President's article. It noticed that the quote was mentioned in page 472 of Volume 4 of Dr. Busi's six-volume work. Dr. Busi's work was an attempt to look at how each Article of the Constitution was drafted, debated and voted in the Constituent Assembly. Mr. Naidu neither claimed first hand-knowledge nor did he resort to some anonymous source to put forth an idea. His citation came from a multi-volume book dedicated to the framing of the Indian Constitution and not from an ideological publication such as *Tarun Bharat* or *Organiser*.

Principles followed

The desk at *The Hindu* follows some of the key principles enunciated by the International Fact-Checking Network at Poynter: "A commitment to nonpartisanship and fairness, transparency of sources, and to open and honest corrections." For the first principle, the desk uses the same standard to check every bit of information. It does not discriminate between academics and high constitutional authorities. The newspaper articulates its viewpoint in its editorials and refrains from taking positions on the articles it processes. The second principle sometimes gets lost in today's polarised political environment. The newspaper empowers its readers by consciously providing all the sources so that readers can verify the facts if they wish to do so. Of course, care is taken not to compromise personal security. The core editorial value of the newspaper states that the publications from The Hindu Group must endeavour to provide "a fair and balanced coverage of competing interests, and to offer the readers diverse, reasonable viewpoints, subject to its editorial judgment."

A newspaper committed to plurality cannot reject an argument that is based on a quote from an exhaustive work on how the Indian Constitution was framed.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

The importance of good data

In a democracy, it is important for government agencies to disseminate data in a timely manner

VARUN B. KRISHNAN

After a delayed start, the Southwest Monsoon recently wreaked havoc in Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and other parts of India. In such a situation, a data journalist would have ideally looked for weekly comparisons of rainfall data across the affected States to determine when the rains began to intensify; historical data to determine how the rainfall compared to the five- or 10-year average; and whether there was a 'tipping point' in the amount of rainfall.

However, getting such data is difficult in India as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has only two options on its website: the current week's rainfall numbers and the cumulative rainfall numbers of the season. To be fair, IMD also provides district-wise and State-wise data, but for the same two options. And while five-year district-wise data are available, each district has to be selected separately to access the data, a cumbersome and time-consuming process.

Outdated data

It is not just the lack of data which is a problem but also the fact that a lot of it is outdated. The Central government's initiative to have an open data portal is appreciable, but the datasets are rarely updated. Monthly data on rainfall are available for each subdivision, starting from 1902, but they stop with 2017. Similarly, the Census 2011 data on Indian migration, released last month, was well organised and provided insights into why people migrate, which States they come from and go to, etc. However, nine years have passed since the data was collected. Cities have undergone massive changes since then causing changes in patterns of migration too.

Furthermore, there are several datasets which are redundant. For instance, while there are data available from 1902 to 2017 for rainfall, the datasets for 1902-2015 and 1902-2016 are unnecessary.

Of course, collating the details of 1.21 billion people based on different parameters is a monumental task. Extremely granular data may not be required to give a snapshot of how things stand. But what is required is timely dissemination of good-quality

data, whether on employment (delayed this year) or on crimes (the National Crime Research Bureau is yet to release data from 2017).

Problem of 'dashboardisation'

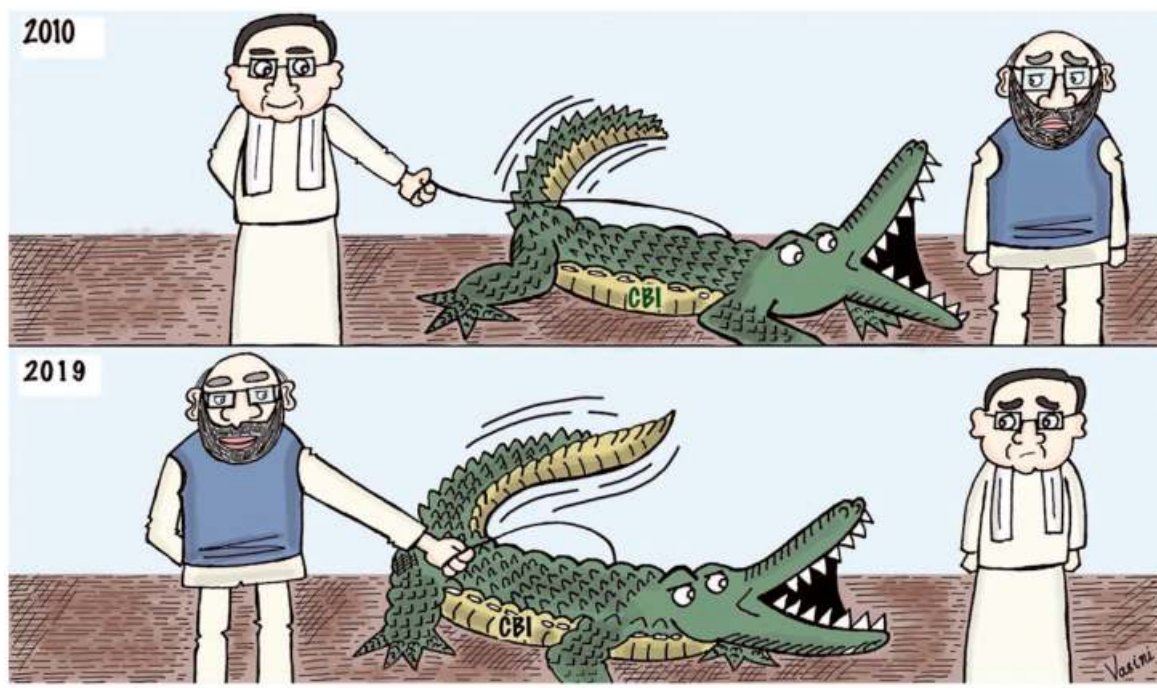
Instead of releasing data in a more timely manner, the government seems more keen on 'dashboardisation'. There is a perceptible shift from the timely release of structured data to publishing data dashboards with cumulative statistics. There are now dashboards for everything – from the number of BHIM transactions to the number of 'Smart City' projects taken up. The problem with this is that we never get the full picture. For instance, during Question Hour in Parliament, if questions are asked on start-ups, statistics are provided only about the start-ups under the Centre's Startup India Scheme. Similarly, questions on employment generated by MSMEs are answered only with data on employment generated under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

Why is the full picture so important? Let's take the case of a recent report that said that in an Uttarakhand district called Uttarkashi, not a single girl child was born in 133 villages in three months. A closer look revealed that while concerns about foeticide and infanticide were valid, another vital piece of data in this story would have assuaged concerns – the fact that in another 129 villages in the same region, no male child was born in the same period.

Merely putting out some numbers on a dashboard do not help data journalists, researchers and the public study data over time and identify trends. It is important to know not only the numbers but also how these numbers were arrived at. This is not the case right now.

Data are crucial, particularly for journalists, so that they can report accurately on various issues, especially at a time when fake news is rampant. It is a fundamental right for the public in a democracy to be informed. The government can earn the trust of the public only when it is transparent about numbers and timely in their dissemination.

varunkrishnan.b@thehindu.co.in



DATA POINT

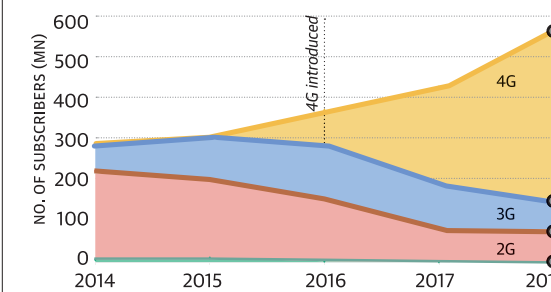
Hooked to high speed wireless

The number of wireless data subscribers doubled between 2014 and 2018, largely due to the cheaper prices of data. On average, wireless subscribers in 2018 used 7.6 GB of data per month, which was 29 times higher than in 2014.

By Varun B. Krishnan

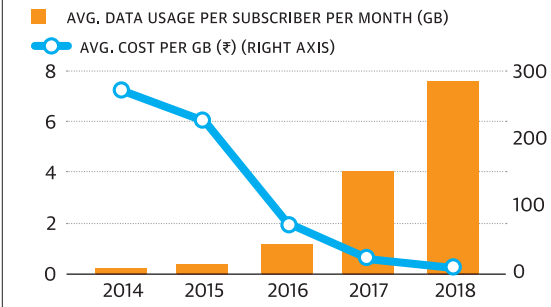
Forging ahead

The number of 3G users peaked in 2016. In 2018, 4G was most widely used, while 2G and 3G users accounted for 12% each of the total wireless subscriber base



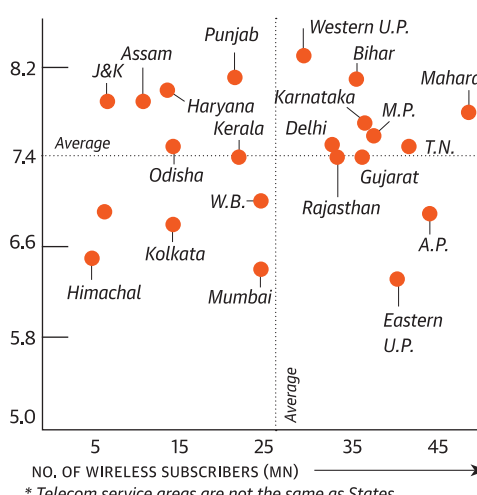
Cheap data

The average cost of data fell dramatically in 2016, with Reliance Jio being a huge disruptor. Correspondingly, there was a steep climb in the total number of data users



Going giga

Across service areas*, Indian wireless data subscribers used at least 6 GB of data a month in 2018. The average consumption of data was 7.6 GB a month



* Telecom service areas are not the same as States

- Maharashtra (excluding Mumbai) had the highest number of wireless subscribers, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)
- Consumers in U.P. (West), Bihar & Punjab used the most data per month on average
- Average data consumption in A.P. and U.P. (East) was lower despite an above average number of subscribers

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 26, 1969

Through the 'silk route'

Crossing through Indian territory in the Gilgit area illegally occupied by Pakistan, the first Chinese caravan entered Pakistan through the Mintaka Pass yesterday [August 24]. Radio Pakistan this morning reported the arrival of the Chinese caravan comprising 50 camels carrying merchandise for barter trade. The Radio did not say what the Chinese caravan brought in, but it mentioned that Pakistan's goods for the barter covered a wide range from medicinal herbs to surgical goods. The 456-mile caravan route which passes through the Mintaka pass crosses Indian territory now under illegal occupation of Pakistan. Pakistan authorities are laying out a red-carpet welcome to the Chinese traders who come through the "silk route", from Sinkiang. Radio Pakistan said that the Chinese traders would be flown by helicopter to Gilgit, on Wednesday. A civic welcome awaits them there. The Pakistan Resident at Gilgit and several other officials had arrived at the border well in time to receive the caravan yesterday. The Chinese Cultural Attache in Rawalpindi was also present when the caravan arrived, according to Radio Pakistan. The exchange of goods between China and Pakistan would take two days.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 26, 1919.

Gokhale Memorial.

Poona, August 25. - His Excellency Sir George Lloyd this evening at the request of the President and Councillors of the Poona City Municipality unveiled the portrait of the late Mr. G.K. Gokhale, C.I.E. There was a large gathering present including Lady Lloyd, members of the Executive Council of the Government, and many Indian gentlemen. Mr. L.J. Apte, President of the Municipality, in requesting His Excellency to unveil the portrait expressed regret that Mr. Gokhale had not lived to see the dawn of a wider political life now before India.

His Excellency before unveiling the portrait referred to Mr. G.K. Gokhale's life's work and career which he remarked had been dramatic from start. At the age of 21, he was professor of the Ferguson College, a few years later, the editor of a not unimportant journal, sometime later legislator in the Bombay Council at 40 and envoy of the Imperial Government. At the same time he was forming societies and institutions which were vital in character and would carry on his work after he had gone.

FROM PAGE ONE

Manmohan Singh set to lose SPG cover

The Hindu contacted several government agencies, including the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Home Affairs and intelligence agencies, in order to prepare this report, but received no official response. Dr. Singh also declined to comment on the development.

Plans for the move raised some eyebrows within the security establishment.

One official said that while the government was technically within the law to withdraw SPG cover to any former Prime Minister, it had chosen not to do so for Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who demitted office in 2004 and had SPG protection until he passed away in 2018.

A prolonged illness had kept Vajpayee home-bound for the past decade, while Dr. Singh is more "exposed" as he frequently travels for political engagements and was just re-elected a member of the Rajya Sabha, the official explained.

A retired SPG officer said

the SPG cover would only be reduced on the basis of threat levels as defined in the SPG Act of 1988.

"No govt. in power would take the risk of scaling down security without analysing the threat perception closely. No govt. would like to be discredited in taking a decision purely for political considerations," he said, citing former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, which brought much criticism to his successor V.P. Singh, whose government had withdrawn Mr. Gandhi's SPG protection.

The SPG was set up in 1985 after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and Parliament passed the SPG Act in 1988 dedicating the group to protecting the Prime Minister of India.

At the time, the Act did not include former Prime Ministers, and when V.P. Singh came to power in 1989 his government withdrew SPG protection to the outgoing PM Rajiv Gandhi.

Let us wage a war on plastic, says PM

"This year, on October 2, when we celebrate Babu's 150th birth anniversary, we shall not only dedicate to him an India that is open defecation-free but shall lay the foundation for a new revolution against plastic, by people themselves, throughout the country," he said.

People from all strata, he said, should celebrate Gandhi Jayanti as a day to make "Mother India plastic-free".

'Make arrangements'

Mr. Modi urged all municipalities, municipal corporations, district administrations and gram panchayats, and government and non-governmental bodies to make adequate arrangements for collection and

storage of plastic waste. "I also appeal to the corporate sector to come out with ways and means for appropriate disposal of all accumulated plastic. It can be recycled; it can be transformed into fuel. This way we can accomplish our task of ensuring safe disposal of plastic waste before this Diwali," he said.

Diwali falls on October 27. He said resolve was required to take up the challenge and "what can be a greater inspiration than Gandhi?".

In his Independence Day's address, Mr. Modi had urged the citizens to eliminate single-use plastic and suggested that shopkeepers give ecofriendly bags to customers.

New law to curb lynching unlikely

It will be examined by the Centre before it becomes a law as it seeks to amend the IPC.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) examines Bills passed by State assemblies that are not in confirmation with Central laws before they get the President's assent to become a law. As per rules, the President has to go by the advice given by the Council of Ministers, in this case represented by the MHA.

The official said several meetings were held with social media platforms to initiate action against persons spreading rumours that led

to such crimes.

Last month, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the Centre, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State governments on a plea seeking the implementation of its July 2018 judgement laying down several preventive, remedial, and punitive measures to combat the crime of lynching.

No data

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain data with respect to lynching incidents in the country and the incidents are listed crimes like murder.

Naga flag, law key to peace: Naga group

The publicity wing of the NSCN(IM) said hopes were raised about a final solution to the peace process — it began when the outfit declared a ceasefire in July 1997 — when the Framework Agreement was signed on August 3, 2015.

But there has been no headway in the three years since the agreement was signed, it said.

Going slow

The Indian government has been going slow in taking a stand on the core issues, compelling the group's chairman Q. Tuccu and general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah to write to the Prime Minister about the doubt and confusion on whether an honourable political solution can be arrived at, the NSCN(IM) said.

"This is in reference to the core issues like Naga flag and constitution, which

are yet to be agreed upon between the two parties. Without these two core issues solved, any solution would be far from honourable because Naga pride and identity is deeply entrenched here," the outfit said.

Framework Agreement

The Framework Agreement, initiated and signed by former NSCN(IM) chairman Isak Chishi Swu, was believed to have taken the peace process to a critical stage.

Neither the Centre nor the outfit, however, has divulged the contents of the agreement.

The Centre had a year ago insisted that the peace process would be incomplete if at least six other Naga extremist groups, some of whom are dormant, were not taken on board the negotiations.

Modi launches Bahrain temple project

Prime Minister says the 200-year-old Krishna temple manifests strong ties between the two nations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANAMA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a \$4.2-million redevelopment project for the 200-year-old Sri Krishna temple here, and said it manifested the strong ties between India and Bahrain.

Mr. Modi, the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the key Gulf nation, offered prayers at the Shreenathji temple, the oldest temple in the region, and bought *prasad* with a RuPay card, which he launched in the UAE on Saturday.

"Spent time at Bahrain's Shreenathji Temple. This is among the oldest temples in the region and manifests the strong ties between India and Bahrain," Mr. Modi tweeted and shared some of the blessed moments.

Redevelopment project

The Prime Minister then unveiled a plaque, officially launching the redevelopment project of the iconic temple.

He greeted and interacted



Narendra Modi waves at the crowd at the Bahrain National Stadium in Manama. • REUTERS

with the Indian diaspora, who came to witness the event at the temple.

"Thank you Bahrain for the warmth and affection. PM @narendramodi concludes his historic visit with prayers at the 200-year-old Shreenathji Temple in #Manama, the oldest temple in

the region. The temple reflects the pluralism of Bahraini society," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in a tweet.

The facelift for the temple in Manama will kick off later this year.

The \$4.2-million redevelop-

ment project will be on a piece of land measuring 16,500 sq.ft and the new four-floor structure covering 45,000 sq.ft will have an overall height of 30 metres.

There are also facilities for traditional Hindu marriage ceremonies and other rituals, promoting Bahrain as

Pardon for 250 Indian prisoners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANAMA

Bahrain pardoned 250 Indian prisoners on Sunday, during the maiden visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In a kind and humanitarian gesture, the Government of Bahrain has pardoned 250 Indians serving sentences in Bahrain," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted.

Mr. Modi expressed gratitude for the pardon.

a wedding destination and boosting tourism.

The temple corridors will be adorned with paintings by various Indian and Bahraini artists and people of all faiths are welcome.

Nearly 3,50,000 Indian nationals, mostly from Kerala, live in Bahrain.

Assembly byelections on September 23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The byelections to an Assembly seat each in Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh will take place on September 23, the Election Commission said here on Sunday.

Releasing the election schedule, the Commission said the byelections to the Dantewada seat in Chhattisgarh, Pala in Kerala, Badharghat in Tripura and Hamirpur in Uttar Pradesh would be notified on August 28.

The last date for filing of nominations is September 4, scrutiny of nominations September 5 and withdrawal of candidature September 7.

The panel said polling would take place on September 23 and the counting of votes on September 27.

The Commission said electronic voting machines with voter-verified paper audit trail machines would be used in all the polling stations.

CVC sets up panel to probe bank fraud

Will investigate fraud of over ₹50 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted the Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T.M. Bhasin to examine bank fraud of over ₹50 crore and recommend action.

The panel in its previous avatar was called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.

The ABBF, formed in consultation with the RBI, would function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective public sector

banks (PSBs), the CVC said in an order.

The four-member board's jurisdiction would be confined to those cases involving the level of officers of General Manager and above in the PSB in respect of an allegation of a fraud in a borrowing account, it said.

Lenders would refer all large fraud cases above ₹50 crore to the board and on receipt of its recommendation or advice, the bank concerned would take further action in such matter, it said.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation may also refer any case or matter to the board where it has any issue or difficulty or in technical matters with the PSB concerned," it added.

Pranab expresses concern over state of economy

He says no lessons have been learnt from past scandals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Former President Pranab Mukherjee has expressed concern over certain negative trends in the economy.

In a subtle critique while delivering the annual lecture of the Association of Corporate Advisers and Executives here on Saturday, the seasoned politician said the economy had not learnt a lesson from scandals and frauds.

In a direct reference to the irregularities at Punjab National Bank over Nirav Modi's massive fraud and serious regulatory issues at the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), he pointed out the gaping "systemic" loopholes.



"In the last couple of years, the frequency and scale of frauds revealed to stakeholders and the public at large have been astonishing. Many would have thought that post-Satyam scandal lessons were learnt and proper governance practices put in place. However, with irregularities at Punjab National Bank (PNB), Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), amongst others, coming to

the fore, the burning questions about loopholes in the system, accountability, risk management, etc., are again up for debate in the corporate world," he said.

He said if the activities of the fraudsters were not put under check, economic development would be stalled.

The promise of a \$5-trillion economy by the current regime depended entirely on external factors, the former President said.

NRC: Supreme Court rejected most of 51 petitions in 6 years

Many individuals and organisations had since 2013 filed petitions challenging one aspect of the NRC or the other

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An analysis of petitions related to Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) filed in the Supreme Court has revealed that the stakeholders received a favourable verdict in only four of the 51 cases heard since 2013.

Many individuals and organisations had since 2013 filed petitions challenging one aspect of the NRC or the other. But the court narrowed the stakeholders down to 10, including the Centre and the Assam government.

These stakeholders including the All Assam Students' Union, All Assam Mi-

nority Students' Union, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Assam Public Works, Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha, National Democratic Front of Bodoland (Progressive), Indigenous Tribal People's Federation and Joint Action Committee for Bangali Refugees.

Lawyers representing some of these stakeholders had analysed the NRC-related petitions.

Most significant

Of the four judgments that went in favour of the stakeholders, the most significant was allowing certificates issued by the gram panchayat or executive magistrate to be



On scan: NRC officials verifying documents. • PTI

used as an identity document for claiming citizenship if issued after conducting proper enquiries. The Supreme Court had on No-

vember 30, 2017, set aside an order of the Gauhati High Court that invalidated such certificates.

The overruling of the High Court's order provided relief to at least 29 lakh rural women in the State, who use the document to establish linkage with fathers and husbands.

'Major verdict'

"Another major verdict was on December 12, 2018, whereby the apex court rejected the NRC authority's plea that documents issued after 2015 would not be accepted. Allowing the documents irrespective of the date of issue enabled many of those ex-

cluded from the draft NRC to re-apply," a lawyer for one of the stakeholders said.

The third favourable ruling was on November 1, 2018, when the apex court reversed the NRC authority's move to trim the list of admissible documents from 15 to 10.

The five documents that the NRC authority said could not be relied upon included the NRC of 1951, electoral rolls up to the midnight of March 24, 1971, and citizenship and refugee registration certificates issued by the competent authority.

"Of the 47 petitions that were rejected, the most damaging included acceptance

of the NRC authority's claim that legacy data have been exchanged or traded, exclusion of declared foreigners, doubtful voters and people with cases pending in Foreigners' Tribunals, exclusion of people using legacy data by mistake and those with birth certificate errors," the lawyer said.

Legacy data is a set of pre-1971 documents containing the name of a person from whom lineage is claimed. The analysis also revealed that the Supreme Court heard nine petitions related to the NRC in 2013, seven in 2014, eight in 2017, 15 in 2018 and 12 in 2019 (till August 13).

'Modi, Shah must spell out their stand on quota'

RSS chief had sought an honest review of the issue, says Chhattisgarh CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Answers must be sought from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments that there is a need to debate the reservation issue, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Sunday.

"If Bhagwat ji says reservation needs an honest review after a dialogue with all stakeholders, let Narendra Modi and Amit Shah tell us whether they too hold a similar view. We need to ask them for answers," Mr. Baghel said.

He was attending a function organised by the Samwidhan Bachao Sangharsh Samiti on the birth anniversary of B.P. Mandal to felici-



Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel being felicitated by Loktantrik Janata Dal leader Sharad Yadav in New Delhi on Sunday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

tate him on his government's decision to increase reservation for the other backward classes from 14% to 27% and Scheduled Caste quota from 12% to 13%.

Mr. Baghel said reserva-

tion alone will not solve all problems but it is a symbolic move towards ensuring that each section of society gets representation according to its strength.

Attacking the Sangh and

its stand on cow slaughter, Mr. Baghel said, "Mr. Bhagwat doesn't discuss cow slaughter in Chhattisgarh, because he is aware of the condition of the cow shelters under the 15-year-long BJP regime and how cows starved to death there."

Critics claim that the announcement to hike the OBC quota has been made with an eye on the upcoming municipal polls and especially after Congress' defeat in the Lok Sabha poll in the State. The Congress won only one of the 11 Lok Sabha seats in the State. Rejecting any political motive behind the move, Chhattisgarh Congress secretary in-charge Chandan Yadav said, "The Congress government in Chhattisgarh is committed to social justice."

Lecturer seeks PM's help

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A former guest lecturer of Delhi University's Hindu College has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in his "arbitrary removal" as the guest faculty of Manipur University (MU), allegedly because of his political ideology.

The MU had on August 6

terminated the service of Ningombam Bupenda Meitei as the guest lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, much before his six-month agreement was to end.

The University had appointed him on June 26.

Mr. Meitei has been associated with the Congress in Manipur.



APPEAL

I, Jennifer Blessey Mano aged 17 years need your support to bring a new hope to my life. I suffer from Acute Myeloid Leukemia and require Rs. 6,00,000/- towards Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Donations sent by Ch / D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch / D.D. / NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: SYNB0006018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. (Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).

All Correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordell Apartments, Q.No. 13, No. 29, Periyar Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324. E-mail ID: womenswelfarefund@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfarefund.org

Jennifer Blessey Mano

IMF report flags several delays in India's data reporting

In 2018, India failed to comply with multiple requirements prescribed in the Special Data Dissemination Standard mandatory for all Fund members

VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Even as questions have been raised about the delays in data dissemination from various government agencies — the most recent data from the National Crime Records Bureau dates back to 2016 and accident statistics have not been updated since 2015 — a recent report published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows that inconsistencies have crept into the dissemination of fiscal data sets as well.

According to the IMF's "Annual Observance Report of the Special Data Dissemination Standard for 2018", India failed to comply with multiple requirements prescribed in the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) — a practice mandatory for all IMF members — whereas comparable economies comprising the BRICS grouping of Brazil, China, South Africa and Russia have maintained a near impeccable record in the same period. Also, India's non-compliance in multiple categories in 2018 and to an extent in 2017 breaks with an otherwise near perfect dissemination record.

When contacted, the IMF acknowledged India's deviations but termed them "non-

serious". However, independent observers see these deficiencies as a result of indifference to data dissemination procedures.

Importance of SDDS
The IMF launched the SDDS initiative in 1996 to guide members to enhance data transparency and help financial market participants with adequate information to assess the economic situations of individual countries. India subscribed to the SDDS on December 27, 1996.

The yearly observance report for each member country lists the compliances and deviations from the SDDS under each data category for that year. There are over 20 data categories which IMF considers for this report to capture a nation's economic health including national accounts (GDP, GNI), production indices, employment, and Central government operations.

The report lists three types of deviations from the SDDS. The first deals with delays in data dissemination. The second occurs when member countries do not list a data category in their Advance Release Calendars (ARC) despite the category being mandated by the SDDS. The third deviation occurs when data is

not disseminated at all for a particular period.

India, in 2018, has deviated from the SDDS in at least one instance in all the data categories listed.

A negative entry corresponds to "number of days dissemination was later than timeliness requirement". In 2018, in eight data categories, India delayed dissemination by varying degrees. For instance, in quarter 1, the "national accounts" data dissemination occurred almost four months (118 days) later than prescribed.

In comparison, Brazil did not delay dissemination in any category. China, South Africa and Russia lagged in some categories but the delay did not exceed a month (31 days) for any category. In India's case, the delay has exceeded 100 days in multiple instances.

An "X" entry reflects "data not being disseminated". In 2018, in at least nine data categories, India has not disseminated data. None of the other BRICS countries' reports records missing data for the period.

An "O" entry corresponds to "no mention in ARC". In at least three data categories, India has not mentioned a prescribed entry in its advanced data release calendar

Year	Xs	O's	Biggest delay (days)
2006	4	0	64
2007	9	0	16
2008	0	0	44
2009	5	13	52
2010	11	11	50
2011	1	1	31
2012	1	0	31
2013	0	4	4
2014	1	0	30
2015	0	0	14
2016	0	0	32
2017	3	21	43
2018	49	8	120

— again the odd one out among the BRICS nations.

A recent phenomenon
India's non-compliance with IMF standards is a recent phenomenon. The "X"s for non-dissemination of data and "O"s for data categories missing from the ARC were few and far between in India's reports in the 2006-2016 period. The graphic lists such instances since 2006.

Asked for the reason for the delays in 2018, Deputy Director in the Department of Economic Affairs Aakanksha Arora termed it a "one-off event due to technical glitches".

"In 2018, various changes

were carried out for the improvement of the website of the Ministry of Finance which hosts the National Summary Data Page (NSDP) web page. In this process, due to some technical glitches related to the Ministry's website, data in the NSDP was not recorded in the SDDS of IMF in 2018 despite updating the data on regular frequency," Ms. Arora said.

The IMF's "Guide for Subscribers and Users: The Special Data Dissemination Standard; 2013", a reference manual for the SDDS subscribers, mentions that "monthly reports are sent to individual subscribing countries about their obser-

ance". Thus India would have received such intimations about its deviations at the end of every month in 2018 from the IMF as at least one deviation from SDDS was observed in each month.

The IMF document also states that "monitoring observance of the SDDS is central to maintaining the credibility of the IMF's data standards initiatives". It further states that if the IMF staff considers a non-observance as a "serious deviation", then procedures would be initiated against the member country.

Asked to explain the significance of India's recent non-observance, the IMF's statistics department acknowledged that "there have been some deviations from SDDS requirements mainly on timeliness... some data points were posted on the NSDP with delay." However, the IMF staff did not consider these as "serious deviations".

The IMF came to this conclusion as, "although some data points were posted on NSDP with delays, they were made available on other (Indian) government websites on a timely basis through links on the NSDP to these websites."

However, this is in contradiction with the IMF's

SDDS guide document, which states that "Coordination among statistical agencies in providing data to the host agency for the NSDP is critical to meeting this SDDS requirement". The document further states, "The NSDP is to disseminate, at a minimum, the latest observation and the observation immediately preceding it for all prescribed data categories and related components." The document mentions the option to link to government websites for detailed data only as an "obligation".

When the IMF was asked to explain why India's non-observance was deemed as non-serious, their statistical department persisted that this was due to "information availability in other government websites". It added that "the forthcoming harmonisation of the NSDPs for all SDDS countries with those for SDDS Plus and e-GDDS countries (other similar standards)" will solve this issue.

'Lack of attention'
However, independent data experts have raised concerns about the delays. Former Acting Chairman of the National Statistical Commission, P.C. Mohanan, said India's deviations are a "result of inadequate care paid to (data) dis-

semination related issues which leads to a lack of openness and transparency."

He said metadata and reference links given in the NSDP "have not been updated for quite some time".

He said data collection efforts were more towards large schemes such as Economic Census and not towards improving the data quality.

Mr. Mohanan cited another part of the same IMF report to prove this point. "Information provided under the Data Quality Assurance Framework (DQAF) under various heads are also very patchy and poorly edited. For example, the link to the employment data refers to the 68th round of NSS (2011-12) with all the survey instructions."

Pointing out that the statistical system has behaved more like an adjunct to the government, Mr. Mohanan said the legal framework had to be updated for the statistical system to regain its high standards and credibility. "The strength of the professional cadre also needs to be augmented and the internal architecture of CSO and NSSO thoroughly reviewed to bring in professional competency," he added.

Tricolour up, but J&K flag not to be seen

People turn emotional about the missing colours at Secretariat; no official statement about new code

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir administration stopped hoisting the region's separate flag, the white plough on a red background, at the Civil Secretariat here on Sunday, evoking emotional reactions from people.

The Tricolour and the J&K flag used to fly next to each other at the top of the seven-storey building. Sources said both the flags were lowered by sunset on Saturday, but only the Tricolour was unfurled on Sunday morning.

However, there was no official confirmation. Earlier, there was speculation that the local flag might be lowered from October 31 when J&K will be reorganised into a Union Territory. It was after 20 days of the Centre's



The State flag was absent from the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar on Sunday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

move to abrogate sections of Article 370 that the flag was lowered, bringing to an end the symbolic separate identity adopted by J&K's first Constituent Assembly in 1953.

A security guard at the Civil Secretariat said the missing flag had become a spectacle.

"People driving on two-wheelers stopped, took a vi-

deo and left quietly," he said.

A vendor selling locally harvested pears near Jehanگیر Chowk described the missing flag as "an open provocation". "Hundreds of lo-

cals since 1947 offered sacrifices, in lives and material, to see the flag high and flying. Betrayal after betrayal saw the last remnant of J&K's special status down, never to rise again. It is heart-wrenching," he said.

A Kashmir Administration Services officer, pleading anonymity, said he broke down to see the visuals of the missing flag on television. "It was our pride at one time," he said.

A senior National Conference leader, on the run since the August 5 clampdown, told *The Hindu*, "It's a sad day."

"It's daylight robbery of our identity. The flag was part of the constitutional guarantee the Government of India offered J&K in the 1950s," he said.

No harm in curbs in Valley if they save lives, says Malik

J&K Governor says no shortage of medicines, essentials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik said on Sunday there was no harm in the communication blockade and other restrictions imposed in Kashmir as they saved lives.

He was in Delhi to attend the final rites of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

Mr. Malik denied any shortage of medicines and essential commodities, insisting that no life had been lost in J&K since August 5 when the Rajya Sabha passed the Bill to withdraw its special status.

The Valley has been under a clampdown for three weeks.



Satya Pal Malik

"If blockade of communication helps saves lives, what is the harm," he asked presspersons who asked how long the restrictions would continue.

Mr. Malik said whenever there was a crisis in Kashmir in the past, at least 50 people would die by the first week. "Our attitude is that there should be no loss of

human life. If there is no phone connection for 10 days, so be it. But, we will restore everything soon... In fact, we delivered meat, vegetables and eggs to people's doorsteps on Id," he said.

"I was advised by Arun Jaitley to take up the responsibility as Governor. He told me that it will be historic," he said.

In a statement, the Jammu and Kashmir administration said 1,165 of the 1,666 chemist shops in Srinagar remained open on Sunday.

It said all 376 notified drugs and 62 essential/life-saving drugs were available. "Both categories for 15-20 days stock," it added.

(With PTI inputs)

'Restrictions won't help convince Kashmiris'

Ex-IAS officer speaks of people's rights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAMAN

Days after resigning from the services, Kannan Gopinathan, who said he quit as he wanted to express his views against the "denial of freedom of expression" in Kashmir, on Sunday said the people of the Valley should be convinced on the decision on Article 370, but that could not be done by not allowing them to express their views.

Mr. Gopinathan, who was Secretary, Power Department, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, submitted his resignation last Wednesday. His resignation letter, however, made no mention of the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Gopinathan said to suspend Article 370 "is the right of an elected government", but in a democracy the people have the right to respond to such decisions.

'Kashmir shutdown anti-national'

Millions of people being silenced in the name of nationalism, says Priyanka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday said the party would continue to raise the issue of the continuing lockdown in Jammu and Kashmir, which entered its 20th day, and the denial of basic right to the people of the State.

Responding to criticism that the Opposition was trying to "politicise" the Kashmir situation, Ms. Vadra said there was nothing more



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

"political" and "anti-national" than the alleged "shutting down" of democratic rights in Kashmir.

Taking to Twitter a day af-

ter an Opposition delegation — led by former Congress chief and her brother Rahul Gandhi — was denied entry into the Valley, Ms. Vadra tagged a video in which an emotional woman is seen telling Mr. Gandhi, on the flight from Srinagar, of problems being faced by her family and loved ones due to the restrictions.

"How long is this going to continue? This is one out of millions of people who are being silenced and crushed

in the name of 'Nationalism'," the Congress leader said in a tweet accompanying the video.

"For those who accuse the opposition of 'politicising' this issue: There is nothing more 'political' and 'anti-national' than the shutting down of all democratic rights that is taking place in Kashmir," Ms. Vadra said.

"It is the duty of every one of us to raise our voices against it, we will not stop doing so."

No new engines for Jaguars, phase-out starts in 2023

Time and cost concerns stymie plan to give a power boost to 80 of the I16 jets now in service on the Air Force fleet

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has called off the long-pending plan to give new engines to the Jaguar fighter fleet because of time and cost concerns. However, there is no immediate need for their replacement, defence sources said.

"The design and development [of the engines] itself will take six years and then [more years for] modifying the aircraft. The project will take too long beside the high cost. So the proposal has been called off. However, there is no need for their replacement immediately as the phase-out plan will start in 2023 for the earliest var-

iants and will be spread over 15 years till 2038," a senior defence source told *The Hindu*.

The IAF now has 116 Jaguars and the plan was to replace the current underpowered engines on 80 jets with more powerful Honeywell F-125IN engines, but the plan has been repeatedly delayed.

Prohibitive cost

Now, the IAF has decided that the cost of the programme has become prohibitive and it was taking too long by which time phasing out of the aircraft will begin.

"They are not due for replacement as of now," the source added, when asked



More firepower: The Jaguars are now getting a new radar, an electronic warfare suite and avionics. ■ K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

which aircraft would replace the Jaguars.

India, which is one of the last users of the Jaguar jets, has procured older Jaguar airframes from several countries in the past few years to

cannibalise them for spares to maintain its fleet. Airframes have been procured from France and Oman, which gave them free of cost. The U.K. is set to give some frames at a nominal cost.

"India paid for the transportation," an official source said.

The first Jaguar with DARIN-III upgrades is ready and has completed corporate flying last week. "It is now ready for customer acceptance trials," sources said.

The upgrade being done by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) is a few years behind schedule. The DARIN-III upgrades include a new radar, a fully integrated electronic warfare suite, smart multi-function displays, new avionics, and a new attack system.

"The HAL will upgrade 56 Jaguars to DARIN-III standard, and the project will be completed by 2024," an offi-

cial source said.

The Jaguars will get a new advanced short-range air-to-air missile (ASRAAM) of European missile-maker MBDA, which is in the process of being integrated.

The ASRAAM is widely used as a within visual range (WVR) air-dominance missile with a range of over 25 km. It will be the first wing-launched missile in the IAF inventory. All missiles are now fired from under the wing. The IAF is looking to adopt the ASRAAM on its Su-30MKIs and the indigenous light combat aircraft. The first firing of the ASRAAM from a Jaguar is expected by year-end, defence sources had said earlier.

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project (APDRP)
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Tender ID: 2019_APDRP_497372 Date: 26-Aug-2019.
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
REQUEST FOR BIDS
(Through e-tendering of NIC Procurement Portal)

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project (APDRP) and intends to apply a part of proceeds to make payments under the contract for procurement of the following goods and related services:
Supply of Cable Fault Locator Van (Supply of Cable Fault Locator Van including AMC for 5 years after initial warranty period)

The Executive Director of Eastern Power Distribution Company of A.P. Limited now invites online bids from eligible bidders for procurement of goods and related services. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be downloaded by interested eligible bidders from the e-procurement portal mentioned above from **26 August, 2019**. Bids must be submitted through Central Public Procurement Portal on or before **15.00 Hrs. on 9th October, 2019**.

B. RAMESH PRASAD
Executive Director
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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender notice SI.No. 1 to 6)

Sl.No.	Tender Ref./Scope of supplies & Qty. Reqd.	Due date of opening:
1.	UNIT: M.M.COMPLEX: ENQ/19-20/001454/MM25(01) dt. 20-08-2019: 2 x 250 MM CFBC boiler combustor scaffolding – 1 Set.	16-09-2019
2.	PTE: ENQ/19-20/001375/MM18(03) dt. 21-08-2019: Procurement of Detonating Fuse. Qty: 1050000 Metres. Due date of opening: 20-09-2019	20-09-2019
3.	PTE: ENQ/19-20/001425/MM 18(03) dt. 21-08-2019: Procurement of Hydrochloric acid (HCL) to IS: 265/1976 having a min. strength of 30%. Qty: 1800 Metric Tons. Due date of opening: 23-09-2019	23-09-2019
4.	19-20/001452/MM 10(01) dt. 21-08-2019. M.S.ERW Pipes with plain ends and in random length of 4 to 7 metres, Size: OD8 5/8 inch, W.T: 0.312 inch (219.1 mm OD X 7.92 mm WT) heavy duty as per IS: 3589. Qty: 2500 Metres. Due date of opening: 19-09-2019	19-09-2019
5.	PTE: ENQ/19-20/001321/MM18 (03) dt. 22-08-2019. Procurement of Ordinary Portland cement 43 grade in 50Kg HDPE bags conforming to IS 8112 or IS 269/with latest Amendments. Qty: 2700 Metric Tons. Due date of opening: 23-09-2019	23-09-2019
6.	UNIT: CORPORATE OFFICE/COMPUTER SERVICES: CO/CS/ CCTV Surveillance/PTE/003/2019 Dt: 14-08-2019: Online Bids in English are invited by NLC India Limited, Neyveli for the Procurement of CCTV Surveillance cameras with three years warranty period and AMC of two years after expiry of three years warranty period. B.G.Amount: ₹ 1,86,000/-	03-09-2019
7.	NTPL TUTICORIN: ENQ/NTPL/19-20/000203/C&P01(01) dt. 06-08-2019: Purchase of stainless steel liner Plates. B.G. Amount: ₹ 70,000/-	03-09-2019

Cost of tender Document: SI.No.6: ₹ 5,000/-; SI.No.7: ₹ 1,000/-

Sl.No.	Last date for Sale	Last date for receipt	Date & time of opening
6	27-08-2019 to 19-09-2019 Up to 16.00 Hrs.	21-09-2019 Up to 15.00 Hrs.	21-09-2019 At 15.30 Hrs.
7	03-09-2019 At 15.00 Hrs.

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Rifts emerge as G7 summit kicks off

U.S. President at odds with Western allies on issues ranging from his trade war with China to Iran

REUTERS
BIARRITZ

U.S. President Donald Trump insisted on Sunday that he was getting along well with leaders at a G7 summit in France, but rifts emerged with his Western allies on issues ranging from his trade war with China to Iran, North Korea and Russia.

The G7 gathering is taking place against a backdrop of worries about a global economic downturn and coincides with an era of international disunity across an array of matters.

"Before I arrived in France, the Fake and Disgusting News was saying that relations with the 6 other countries in the G7 are very tense, and that the two days of meetings will be a disaster," Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter shortly before meeting new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"Well, we are having very good meetings, the Leaders are getting along very well, and our Country, economically, is doing great - the talk of the world!"

Tensions were quickly on show, however, as the first full day of talks between the



Done deal: Donald Trump greeting Japanese Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, while Japanese PM Shinzo Abe greets U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in Biarritz on Sunday. • AP

leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States got underway in the Basque coast resort of Biarritz in southwest France.

Trump's call

Before leaving Washington, Mr. Trump stepped up his tariff war with Beijing in a battle between the world's two largest economies that has spooked financial markets, and called on U.S. companies to move out of China.

Britain's Johnson voiced concern on Saturday about creeping protectionism and said those who support tariffs "are at risk of incurring the blame for the downturn in the global economy." Sitting across from Mr. Trump on Sunday, he said: "We're in favour of trade peace on the whole, and dialling it down if we can." Asked if he was being pressed by allies to relent in his standoff with China, Mr. Trump said: "I think they respect the trade war."

Underlining the multilateral discord even before the summit got under way, Mr. Trump threatened the meeting's host, saying Washington would tax French wine "like they've never seen before" unless Paris dropped a digital tax on U.S. technology companies.

European Council President Donald Tusk, who takes part in the G7 discussions, warned the EU would respond "in kind" if Mr. Trump acted on his threat.

U.S. President dangles trade deal for Britain

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday said he and U.S. President Donald Trump were "gung-ho" about a post-Brexit trade deal but cautioned that the United States would be a tough negotiator and that he would not rush talks. Mr. Trump promised a big trade deal for Britain after it leaves the European Union, which he said had been a drag on Britain's ability to cut a good deal. REUTERS

'Trump regrets not raising tariffs on China'

When President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he had second thoughts about escalating the trade war with China, he meant that he wished he had raised tariffs on Beijing even higher, the White House said. "His answer has been greatly misinterpreted. President Trump responded in the affirmative - because he regrets not raising the tariffs higher," White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement. REUTERS

Modi, Johnson agree to step up bilateral cooperation

Meeting comes after India ended special status for J&K

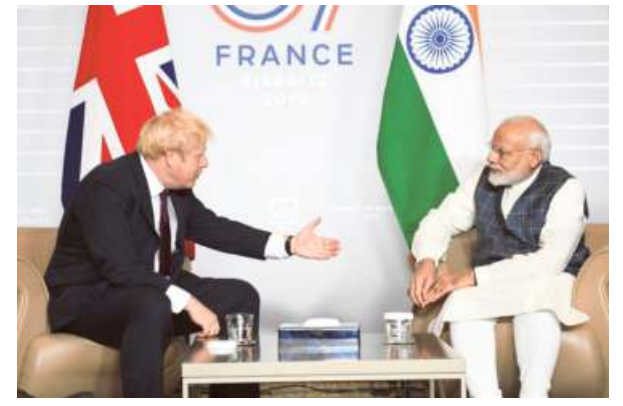
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIARRITZ

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a "good" meeting with his British counterpart Boris Johnson here on Sunday and they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas like trade, investment, defence and education.

Mr. Modi met Mr. Johnson on the sidelines of the G7 summit. The Prime Minister arrived in Biarritz from Manama, the capital of Bahrain after concluding the first-ever prime ministerial visit to the Gulf nation.

"PM @narendramodi had a good meeting with UK PM @BorisJohnson on margins of #G7 summit. Discussions focused on strengthening our bilateral ties going forward, inter alia, in trade & investment, defence & security, S & T and education sectors," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

"PM Modi begins by congratulating PM Johnson on England's spectacular win in the Third Test of the Ashes a short while ago," the Prime



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G7 summit in Biarritz on Sunday. • GETTY

Minister's Office tweeted earlier.

This is the first meeting between the two leaders after Mr. Johnson became Prime Minister last month, the third in fairly quick succession since Britain voted to leave the EU in June 2016 - following on from David Cameron and Theresa May.

Their meeting came against the backdrop of the Indian government revoking the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories.

During a telephone call early this week, Mr. Johnson told Mr. Modi that Kashmir remains a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan as far as the UK's view is concerned.

"The Prime Minister made clear that the UK views the issue of Kashmir as one for India and Pakistan to resolve bilaterally. He underlined the importance of resolving issues through dialogue," a Downing Street spokesperson said in an official readout of the phone call on Tuesday.

ELSEWHERE



Huge Rohingya rally marks 'Genocide Day'

KUTUPALONG
Some 200,000 Rohingya rallied in a Bangladesh refugee camp on Sunday to mark two years since they fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar forces. Around 740,000 Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine state escaped in August 2017 during the brutal offensive, joining another 200,000 who fled earlier persecution. AFP

Iran lets women attend World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN
Women fans will be allowed into the stadium for Iran's next football World Cup qualifier in October, a sports ministry official said on Sunday, ahead of a deadline to allow their attendance. FIFA had cajoled Iran to ensure women are allowed to attend qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup or else face consequences. AFP

Algerian minister resigns after deadly stampede

ALGIERS
Algeria's Culture Minister Meriem Merdaci resigned on Saturday, following the deaths of five young music fans in a stampede at a packed concert by rapper Soukling in the capital. Ms. Merdaci's resignation comes after an investigation into the blaze. AFP

Brazil's army fights Amazon fires after more flare-ups

Two C-130 Hercules aircraft deployed to rein in the blaze

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PORTO VELHO (BRAZIL)

Brazil on Sunday deployed two C-130 Hercules aircraft to douse fires devouring parts of the Amazon rainforest, as hundreds of new blazes were ignited ahead of nationwide protests over the destruction.

Heavy smoke covered the city of Porto Velho in the northwestern state of Rondonia where the defense ministry said the planes have started dumping thousands of liters of water, amid a global uproar over the worst fires in years.

Swathes of the remote region bordering Bolivia have been scorched by the blazes, sending thick smoke billowing into the sky and increasing air pollution across the world's largest rainforest, which is seen as crucial to mitigating climate change.

Experts say increased land clearing during the months-long dry season to make way for crops or grazing has aggravated the problem this year.

"It gets worse every year - this year, the smoke has been really serious," Deliana Amorim, 46, told AFP in Porto Velho, where half a million people live.

At least seven states, including Rondonia, have requested the army's help in



Protesters calling for reining in the Amazon fires sitting outside the Brazilian Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus. • AP

the Amazon, where more than 43,000 troops are based and available to combat fires, officials said.

Dozens of firefighters are en route to Porto Velho to help put out the blazes. Justice Minister Sergio Moro has also given the green light for the deployment of security forces to tackle illegal deforestation in the region.

Trade deal

The fires threaten to torpedo a huge trade agreement between the European Union and South American countries, including Brazil, that took 20 years to negotiate.

EU Council president Donald Tusk told reporters at the G7 on Saturday that it was hard to imagine European countries ratifying a

trade pact with the Mercosur bloc as long as Brazil fails to curb the fires ravaging the Amazon.

Pope Francis on Sunday also voiced concern for the rainforest, which he described as a "vital" lung for the planet.

Under intensifying pressure, Bolsonaro on Friday vowed a "zero tolerance" approach to criminal activities in the Amazon and promised strong action to control the fires.

Days earlier, he had accused non-government organizations of igniting the blazes.

"There are forest fires all over the world, and this cannot be used as a pretext for possible international sanctions," Bolsonaro said.

Hong Kong police draw guns in latest protests

Water cannon trucks used on protesters in a first

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

The Hong Kong police used water cannon for the first time and at least one officer fired his sidearm during pitched battles with protesters on Sunday, one of the most violent nights in the three months of pro-democracy rallies that have rocked the city.

An afternoon rally in the district of Tsuen Wan spiralled into violent confronta-



Protesters clash with police after an anti-government rally in Tsuen Wan district in Hong Kong on Sunday. • GETTY IMAGES

tions between protesters and police, with officers caught outnumbered and isolated by masked youths

wielding sticks and throwing rocks.

In one instance, several police officers drew their si-

dearms, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

Superintendent Leung Kwok Win said, "My initial understanding was that it was a uniformed policeman who fired his gun."

It was unclear where the shot was aimed, but it was the first live round fired since the protests started three months ago.

The financial hub has been gripped by mass rallies that were initially against a proposed extradition bill to China, but have spun into a wider pro-democracy movement targeting the pro-Beijing government.

Air strike in Syria a message to Iran: Israel

Netanyahu lashes out at 'Iranian aggression'

REUTERS
JERUSALEM/DAMASCUS

Israel said on Sunday an air strike against an arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards in Syria that it accused of planning "killer drone attacks" were to be seen as a "no immunity" message to Tehran.

A senior Revolutionary Guards commander denied that Iranian targets had been hit.

The Israeli military said its aircraft struck "Iranian Quds Force operatives and Shiite



Lebanese security personnel near the site where an Israeli drone crashed in Beirut, Lebanon, on Sunday. • AP

militias which were preparing to advance attack plans targeting sites in Israel from within Syria over the last number of days".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said

the military had thwarted the planned Iranian attack.

"Iran has no immunity anywhere. Our forces operate in every sector against Iranian aggression," he said. Syrian state media said

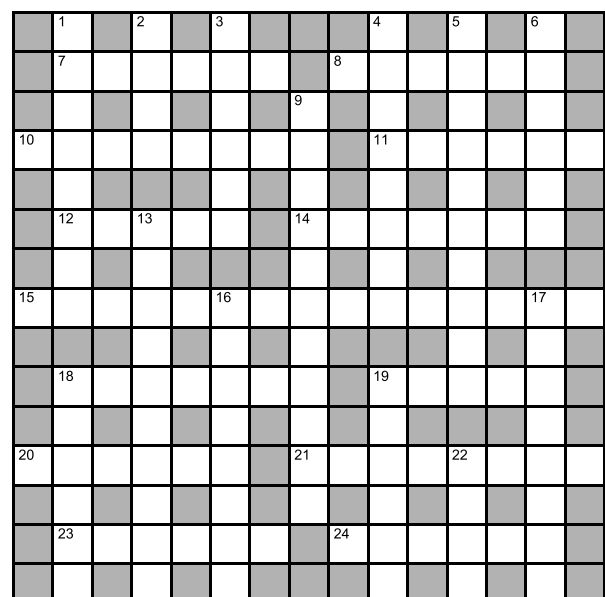
Lebanese PM: Israeli drones can stir tensions

JERUSALEM
Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri said two Israeli drones which crashed in a Beirut suburb were designed to stir up regional tensions. "The new aggression...constitutes a threat to regional stability and an attempt to push the situation towards further tension," Mr. Hariri's office said in a statement. REUTERS

Syrian air defences intercepted "hostile targets" over Damascus on Saturday night.

Witnesses in Damascus said they heard and saw explosions in the sky.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12714



ACROSS

- 7 Invokes son to be the ultimate in corrupt (6)
- 8 With say spring break around, men getting tense I'll be bound (6)
- 10 First shot, a shot to ask: "Are you serious?" (2,4,2)
- 11 Embarrassed fellow backing one in agreement (6)

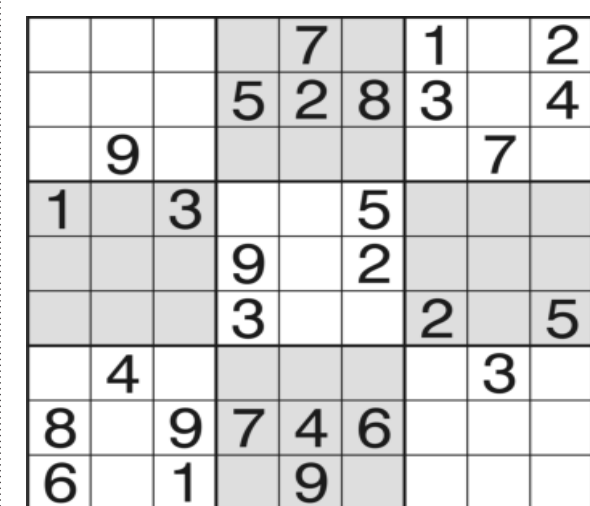
(set by xChequer)

- 12 Offer to hold exercise in Turkey for example (5)
- 14 Greeting liberal wanting to experiment with bondage (7)
- 15 Guilt that left alone disperses, be totally relaxed (3,2,3,4,3)
- 18 Soon connected with hundred people (7)
- 19 Fling with maiden backfiring over model's false notions (5)
- 20 Madame kept by politician showing attachment to the hilt (6)
- 21 Double faulted, preposterously as it happens, at the last moment before victory (4,4)
- 23 Uniform parts from genuine, certified agent (6)
- 24 Comment on target (6)
- 3 G5 lot possibly dash off and touch down (6)
- 4 Guide reversing world body's order round a volcano (5,3)
- 5 Stays put, this gold rush displaying high tension (5,5)
- 6 Hard stone gets slippery (6)
- 9 Perfectly formed teeth rot without check (2,3,6)
- 13 Attendant engaged to help at home endlessly saluted (4,6)
- 16 Manual British Telecom distributed for mobile (8)
- 17 Move away from bears trailing ahead (2,6)
- 18 Pressed journalist to support club (6)
- 19 First people to secure help (6)
- 22 Split up for ambush (4)

DOWN

- 1 Quite likely charges dropped, the Holy Book saving bishop (8)
- 2 Luxurious sponge (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12713

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Sadana and Sadhya bhakti

Sadana bhakti is trying to cultivate love and devotion to God through devotional practices of worship, such as sravana, kirtana, archana, Pada sevana, atma nivedana, etc. It should lead to Sadhya bhakti, the highest form, when devotion to the Lord becomes an end in itself. But at times the motive of sadana or austere disciplines gets deflected into self seeking goals as in the case of Hiranyaksha or Ravana.

It is also possible to have the Lord's darshan through rigorous sadana, but merely seeing God without devotional fervour is not the goal. It is how one sees God that matters. To the devout who seek Him with selflessness He reveals His true nature and rewards them with the highest goal enlightenment, pointed out Sri B. Damodhara Dikshitar in a discourse. Parikshit says he is able to experience the very God in Suka's narration. The way Tara sees Rama is not the same as how He is perceived by Vali or Sugriva. Though grief stricken at Vali's death, it is a moment of realisation for Tara when in her inner being she experiences the very essence of the Supreme Lord behind the human form of Rama. In her spontaneous address, Rama is the 'Aprameya,' one who is immeasurable in point of time, space and substance. He is the one who is difficult to approach even for yogis. He is a Jitendriya, a master over senses, is the embodiment of the highest virtues ever, enjoys undying fame, and is endowed with the extraordinary forbearance on a par with the earth. When the Lord incarnates and takes a human form, not all are able to recognise His Paratva. Bhishma and Kunti realise that Krishna is the Absolute Lord while some others disrespect and dishonour Him. Kamsa is determined to kill Krishna and Duryodhana sees Him as a mere cowherd boy and also as one who easily deceives people with magic.

ASK US



VIDYA BALA

Q. I am working in the merchant navy. I wish to invest ₹50 lakh but have no idea about where to put the money. My plan is to make a long-term investment that can assure me of good returns. I hear SIP is a good option but I am afraid of losing money. Kindly assist me.

ATINDERPAL BAJWA

A. If you are investing for the long term, it is a good idea to add some equity exposure through mutual funds. Systematic investment plan (SIP) is not an investment by itself. It is a way of channelling your investments systematically into mutual funds. It can be in equity or debt funds. While it is true that you may have short-term losses, investment in equity funds' SIP helps you to invest through market ups and downs. Consider investing 50-60% of your corpus in fixed deposits and quality corporate deposits of top-rated companies. You can deploy the rest in equity index funds and multi-cap funds, either through SIPs or through systematic transfer plans (STPs) where you invest in liquid funds and then transfer every month to the respective equity funds. You can do the SIP/STP over the next 12-18 months. Have a holding period of not less than five years for the equity funds.

Q. I am currently working in a company, with a CTC of ₹4 lakh. I want to invest a part of my monthly salary in some good pension scheme. Which pension scheme can give me over ₹10,000 per month? I am currently 24 and may retire around the age of 55-60.

ASHOK RAJ

A. Since you are just 24, you should look at building a corpus that will help you post retirement. Choosing a traditional pension product will curtail the optimal growth of your wealth. Also, the ₹10,000 per month that you are talking of may be too little after 30-35 years, if you consider inflation. An assessment of how much you need post retirement can be made a little later when your other life aspirations receive clarity and are met. Until such time, it is best to start saving whatever you can in tax-efficient, inflation-beating, market-linked products.

Since you are young, you can consider investing in market-linked pension products like the National Pension System (NPS). You can also consider quality mutual funds to invest in, as your income increases. When you reach your retirement age, you can always use this corpus to invest in an immediate annuity plan where you can start receiving the pension immediately.

Q. I am 32 years old and plan to retire after seven years. I want to buy a house or plot (to build a house) with a home loan. I found that I have to pay hefty interest on it. I am not sure of my second career and where I will settle down. Please advise if it is a good idea to buy a house now without knowing about my next career location. I can increase my savings up to ₹15,000 per month. Please suggest the best option to save money for a house without taking risk.

SIKANDAR KHATRI

A. If you plan to have a 'second' career, then we assume you're not really retiring. However, if you are not going to have a full-fledged career then you should be saving to create a corpus for the period of uncertainty. Paying high EMIs now will not allow you to save up. Besides, you have also stated that you do not know where your next career location will be. Unless you are clear about where you will work for the next 15-20 years, don't rush into a buying a house now. A loan is a risk if you do not plan on a full-fledged job that will help you pay the EMI comfortably. Use the ₹15,000 per month on additional saving to build a corpus that you will need when you are between jobs.

(The author is a personal finance expert)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

When you need cash in a flash

Both personal loans and cash via credit cards come with their own baggage

GAURAV AGGARWAL

Despite the best of financial planning and regular investing, unforeseen exigencies can always land one in a financial crisis.

To deal with such situations, the first two options that usually come to mind are taking a personal loan or using a credit card. However, both of these options have their pros and cons and are not always optimum for all situations.

Here is a comparison of the features of personal loans and credit cards to help you choose the best option.

Loan amount

Banks and NBFCs (non-banking finance companies) usually offer personal loans anywhere from ₹50,000 to ₹25 lakh. However, the actual loan amount will depend on the credit score, monthly income, job profile, etc. Additionally, lenders also prefer total EMI (equated monthly instalment) commitments of borrowers, including that of the fresh personal loan, to be within 40% of their monthly income.

In the case of credit cards, the issuers set credit limits for each cardholder on the basis of her monthly income and past payment track record.

Cardholders can swipe or avail loan against credit card up to the set limit beyond which they incur an over-limit fee.

This limit gets reduced by the

amount spent through the credit card or amount availed as loan against credit card and gets increased as the cardholder repays his credit card debts. Some lenders also offer a special form of loan against credit card, over and above the credit limit of the cardholder, thereby not affecting his credit limit.

The disbursement of conventional personal loans usually takes 2-7 days of making the loan application. However, some lenders offer instant personal loans, disbursing them within the same day of the application. Credit access through a credit card is usually instant. Loan against credit card and EMI conversion are processed within the same day as they do not involve any additional documentation.

Interest rate

Interest rates of personal loans range between 11-24% p.a., depending on the loan amount, monthly income, repayment tenure and employer.

While financing your spends through credit cards is free as long as the entire bill is repaid by the due date, carrying outstanding balance attracts hefty financial charges of up to 47% p.a.

Converting the entire dues or particular transactions into EMIs can cost anywhere from 12% to 25% p.a. While loans against credit card are also offered at similar interest rates, personal loans interest rates out-

score them by 1-2.5% p.a. for people having similar credit profiles.

Availing a personal loan can cost processing charges of 0-2.5% of the loan amount. Although, swiping credit cards do not cost any processing charges, taking a loan against credit card or converting your outstanding to EMIs can involve processing charges of up to 3%.

Repayment tenure

While personal loans usually have tenure of 12-60 months, credit card outstanding does not have to be repaid within a pre-determined schedule. One can always opt for the costlier option of revolving credit. However, in the case of EMI conversion, the repayment period can range between three months and 60 months. Similarly, the tenure of loan against credit card usually ranges between 6 months and 5 years.

While some lenders do not penalise pre-payment of personal loans, most charge 2-5% of the outstanding balance as prepayment charges. Some lenders allow prepayment of personal loans only after the repayment of a certain number of EMIs.

Credit card issuers also penalise pre-payment of loan against credit card and EMI conversion by way of pre-payment penalty of

up to 3% of the loan amount.

Making a choice

Use your credit card to meet your shortfalls if the amount is too small and too urgent to wait for a week. Opt for EMI conversion if the entire bill amount cannot be repaid by the next due date but can be repaid within 3-6 months. Go for a loan against credit card if it costs less than EMI option.

Personal loan should be preferred when the loan amount is sizeable and one can wait for the disbursement for at least up to a week. Personal loans also carry a lower interest rate than loans against credit cards for the same credit profile. This will also keep the credit limit free for financing daily spends and future exigencies.

(The author is head of unsecured loans, Paisabazaar.com)

Give it a thought!

- Personal loan amount depends on factors such as borrower's credit score
- Issuers set limits for credit cards
- Personal loan disbursement can take up to seven days
- Loans against credit cards are processed within the same day



COVER NOTE: ANNUITY POLICY

Prepare yourself for the golden years

Annuity policies, an important insurance tool to mitigate the risk of living too long

K. NITYA KALYANI

Longer lifespans, higher cost of living, aspirational lifestyles, nuclear families as well as migration of the next generation for careers necessitate rigorous planning of retirement finances.

Enter the annuity, or pension policy, an important insurance tool to mitigate the risk of living too long. Think of it as a substitute for your salary after retiring, as it serves well as one component of your income bolstered by an owned residence, investment income and so on.

Annuity policies are offered in India by life insurance companies, and there are quite a few options from which you can pick your preferred mix.

The premium you pay (purchase price), gets you a pension (annuity) from a date of your choice, called the vesting date. You can pick your retirement date or any other date to be your vesting date, and the premium paying period would normally be until that date.

Just as you can choose the frequency of your premium payment - monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual - you can choose the frequency of your annuity payout also. This is called 'Deferred Annuity' and works well for those putting in a periodic premium amount through their working years to get an annuity on retirement.



Looking ahead: Immediate annuity is suitable if you are just about to retire, and gives a lump sum benefit. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Money matters!

- The premium you pay is called the purchase price
- This gets you a pension, which is called annuity
- The vesting date can be your retirement date or any other date

You can also make a one-time lump sum premium payment for an 'Immediate Annuity'. Here, your annuity payment starts, well, immediately. This is suitable if you are just about to retire and will get a lump sum retirement benefit like a gratuity, your Employee Provident Fund commutation amount or Public Provident Fund account proceeds. You

can, of course, do it at any age when you have a lump sum to invest like a sign-on bonus, a golden handshake, or a nice pot of money your favourite uncle left you when he passed away, and use the annuity as a supplemental income.

Start early

As logic would tell you, for a given premium, the longer the premium paying period, the larger the annuity. So, it's worth it to start early, as with all insurance. As a very rough example, a 35-year-old and a 45-year-old will get very different annuities for the same purchase price with their 55th birthday as the vesting date.

Take a target purchase price of ₹2,00,000 a year. If you start at 35, you would receive

₹42,800 per year annuity from age 55. If you start at age 45, your annuity amount from age 55 will be lower at ₹40,900.

An 'Immediate Annuity' for the same purchase price will bring only ₹14,400 as annuity per year. When it comes to options on the length and scope of annuity payments, you have a plethora of choices. The simplest is annuity for life. This means that the annuity payment will go on for the lifetime of the annuitant, and no more benefits will be available from the policy.

You can also choose various combinations and options such as annuity certain for 10 years, or 15 or 20 years and for life after that, annuity for life and return of purchase price to nominee, annuity for life and then to a second annuitant for life and so on.

These options have to be finalised when you begin the policy and the amount you will get under each option reflects both the future value of your premium investment as well as the risk coverage that the annuity policy offers. An annuity for life could well extend to 30 or 40 years after vesting age and that risk of living too long is what the premium is meant for. Given today's realities of longevity, it is a risk you should cover well.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

E-PHARMACIES

Get your drugs online

E-pharmacies score over physical stores

NALINAKANTHI V

Buying medicines has got a lot easier, thanks to the advent of e-pharmacies.

Stiff competition from e-pharmacies has led brick-and-mortar pharmacies to offer services such as home delivery at no additional cost. Also, many physical pharmacies offer to procure drugs or brands on demand, in order to woo and retain customers. This is a significant change from the earlier times. Further, the government's attempt to get doctors to prescribe the generic name of drugs instead of just drug brands will also go a long way in empowering customers.

Price

E-pharmacies typically offer discounts of 10-40%. This varies across products. Many pharmacies offer lower discounts on nutritional products and higher ones for prescription drugs.

While e-pharmacies score over the neighbourhood drug store on convenience and pricing, the time taken to deliver is still a challenge. Efforts are on to solve this, but logistical constraints prevail.

However, for those who are under regular medication and can plan their purchases ahead, online pharmacies may offer a good bargain. There are three e-pharmacy models currently in vogue.

The first model is online-on-



•GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

here is log into the portal and place an order for the medicine you need. The same is delivered home by the e-pharmacy. Offerings such as Netmeds, Img, mChemist, Medlife and PharmEasy are in this category.

In the second model, pharmacy chains such as MedPlus encourage online booking by offering discounts. For instance, the average discount on prescription drugs when you visit a physical store is 10% (for purchases of up to ₹1,000). However, if you order online, you can get up to 20% discount on the maximum price.

Finally, there are those such as Vpharmacist, who help you choose the medicines you require and place an order online. The order is then passed on to a pharmacist located close to the customer's home. The medicines are delivered home and the customer can make the payment upon delivery.

(The writer is an independent financial consultant)

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"Let's avoid this! Contains 40% wheat, 30% sugar, 2% salt, 14% inflation..."

Bank fixed deposit rates				
Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.35	8.75	8.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.00	8.30	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.50	7.30	7.30
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.50	8.50	8.00
Fincare Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.00
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.50	8.00	8.35
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.10	7.50	7.00
North East Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.00	7.25	6.75
AU Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.01	8.00	7.77
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.35
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Indian Bank	6.90	6.75	6.75	6.90
Syndicate Bank	6.70	6.50	6.50	6.50
Bank of Maharashtra	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.50
State Bank of India	6.80	6.80	6.60	6.50
Andhra Bank	6.80	6.80	6.75	6.75
Canara Bank	6.50	6.50	6.40	6.40
Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	6.75	6.75	6.40	6.45
Indian Overseas Bank	6.80	6.60	6.80	6.80
Corporation Bank	6.90	6.80	6.50	6.50
Allahabad Bank	6.75	6.70	6.45	6.45
IDBI Bank	7.10	7.10	6.85	6.85
Central Bank of India	6.60	6.60	6.45	6.45
United Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.00
Bank of Baroda	6.60	6.45	6.45	6.45
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Punjab National Bank	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.50
UCO Bank	6.50	6.50	6.40	6.40
FOREIGN BANKS				
Karnataka Bank	6.90	6.90	6.80	6.80
South Indian Bank	7.30	7.25	7.30	7.00
Federal Bank	7.25	7.00	7.00	7.00
Axis Bank	7.20	7.10	7.00	6.75
Karur Vysya Bank	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
City Union Bank	7.00	7.00	6.85	6.85
Catholic Syrian Bank	6.75	6.75	6.50	6.50
Yes Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	7.25
ICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.10	7.00
HDFC Bank	7.30	7.00	7.30	7.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.90	6.75	6.75	6.25
IDFC First Bank	8.00	8.00	7.50	7.50
DCB Bank	8.00	7.00	8.00	7.75
RBL Bank	7.75	7.70	7.50	7.50
Bandhan Bank	7.65	7.35	7.65	7.65
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
IndusInd Bank	7.50	7.50	7.35	7.35
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.10	7.10	6.75	6.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citibank	6.00	5.50	6.00	6.00
Deutsche Bank	8.00	6.50	7.00	8.00
HSBC Bank	6.00	5.00	6.00	5.00
DBS Bank	7.25	7.25	6.75	7.00
FD rates as on August 22, 2019	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Home loan interest rates				
Name of Lender	Loan amount (₹)			
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh		
PUBLIC 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	8.50	8.50	8.75	
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	8.30	8.30	8.30-8.55	
ICICI 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	
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
ICI Bank	8.70-9.10	8.70-9.20	9.20-9.30	
Karnataka Bank	8.90	8.90	9.00	
Bandhan Bank	12.41-13.33	12.41-13.33	12.41-13.33	
Axis Bank	8.80-10.50	8.95-9.45	9.00-9.45	
Yes Bank	9.85-13.00	9.85-13.00	9.85-12.50	
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCs)				
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.65-9.00	8.65-9.00	8.65-9.00	
Karur Vysya Bank	8.80-11.55	8.80-11.55	8.80-11.55	
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.90	9.90	9.90	
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	
City Union Bank	10.25-13.25	10.75-13.25	11.25-13.25	
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	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	10.30-12.15			



Going beyond cruise liners, holidays on the sea now include 112-foot yachts, trip sharing, and parties with strangers

Get a yacht PASS

Circle raft at The Yacht Week • CHRIS ECONOMOU

PARITA PATEL

A day ago, I was dodging potholes in rainy Mumbai. Now, I am sailing, with the sounds of 'Pull! Grind! Release!' sounding in my ears. Ropes fly, the boom swings and the white sail buffets against a blue sky before refilling with Aegean air. Just like the ancient Greeks, whose waters we are sailing, we're travelling with the wind

on a 52-foot Sun Odyssey 519. It's day one of The Yacht Week (TYW) – an annual sailing festival held across seven destinations, including Greece, Croatia and the Caribbean – cruising from Athens towards the Saronic Gulf. We've anchored at a quiet cove on the way to the island of Poros. Our hostess, Cara, has rustled up a meal for 10 in under two hours. But before we 'dive' into

the food (*spanakopita*, bagel-style *koulouri*, Greek yoghurt and fruits), there's another dive that is customary now, off the yacht into the Aegean Sea. "Who wants a swim?" our Dutch skipper, Karen, asks and we leap off the stern. Opening my eyes beneath the salty surface, I am surrounded by shafts of sunlight, fish and sapphire depths. We swim in the shallow waters for a while, build up an appetite, and breakfast is polished off in minutes.

This ritual is followed every day, as we move to Erminoni, Porto Heli, Spetses, Dokos and back to Athens. Along the way,

Share the adventure

Yacht holidays are not just for the wealthy. Trip-sharing websites like Antlos, GetMyBoat, Intersaclub and BoatAffair help connect boat owners and holidaymakers, much like an Airbnb does for rooms or Uber for taxis. You can create a profile, check out who else has signed up, and use their online chat features to finalise details. No more wallet-draining nightmares on the sea!



Checks and balances

- TYW's Original Greece route costs between €2,500 and €3,000 a head. This includes the yacht, skipper and hostess charges, port docking and fuel charges, and groceries and alcohol. You can reduce costs by opting to do the cooking yourself.

- Marine Solutions' Mumbai-Goa route costs about ₹1 lakh per person (not including fuel). Their grandest, a 100-foot, four-cabin yacht, can set you back ₹7 lakh a day and ₹5 lakh for fuel. Skipper and hostess charges are included. They also have charters in Goa costing between ₹25,000 and ₹80,000.

- Blue Bay Marines' Mumbai-to-Goa charter for six guests costs around ₹8 lakh (all inclusive), for 7N8D.

- Istion's fully-crewed yachts cost from €5,000 per week to €60,000 (for the 112-foot Bugari, with five cabins). Fuel and food charges are not included.



we stop for the circle raft, a signature TYW feature, where all the yachts sailing the islands form a circle and everyone swims in the sea for a couple of hours. To make sure we don't become certified beach bums with the requisite tan, TYW also organises parties almost every day with a different theme.

The millennial draw

Sailing in a yacht means waking up to a different panorama every morning. It also means hassle-free travel – no traffic, no tourists. That's a realisation I, and several other Indians, have come to. What else explains the current interest in yachting, not just internationally but also in India? Marine Solutions, which started in 2003, is India's first profes-

sionally-managed company dedicated to leisure boating. "Yachting in India has always had its patrons, but now a lot more people are interested in it. It is no longer just the pastime of celebrities and leathery old men," says Anju Dutta, MD, Marketing and PR, Marine Solutions. "While most opt for day cruises, in Mumbai, Goa or the Kerala backwaters, we do have those who want to hire yachts for the three-day Mumbai-Goa route," she adds.

Meherzad Kajanwalla, a partner at Mumbai-based Blue Bay Marine, however, feels the "concept of chartering a yacht for a week or two" is still evolving in India. Most of their guests hire yachts for day trips, for either a celebration or a luxurious meal out at sea. "To

be out on a boat for a week or more, one really needs to love the sea. We have done charters to Goa and back though, where guests have enjoyed the experience," she says. But what Dutta and Kajanwalla both agree on is the "substantial increase" in the number of millennials showing an active interest in yachting holidays. In the last year or so, they've had more people in their 20s and 30s hiring yachts – for a few hours or even a day – for leisurely lunches, pre-wedding parties and trips to places like Alibag and Murud-Janjira.

Abroad, TYW, with its mix of parties, DJs and a young crew, is also catered towards millennials, with other yachting companies like Yachtico, The Moorings, and DreamYacht-Charter picking up on the trend. "We have groups of people in their early 20s who rent yachts at popular spots such as Mykonos and sail during the day and party in the evening," says a representative of Istion Yachts, a 27-year veteran of the industry in Greece.

Fun on the shore

Whether you rent a whole yacht with family and friends, or cruise with strangers, you can always expect bespoke experiences. TYW gives you access to exclusive nightclubs and beach clubs at the ports they dock. The white Riviera Chic party at Ermioni, the Nikki Beach Club party at Porto Heli and the retro-themed party at Spetses are now part of TYW legend.

MG Yachts, which sails from Athens to the Saronic and Cyclades islands, offers private chefs, and baby and pet-sitting, so you can make the most of island-hopping in Greece. Back home, Marine Solutions' Mumbai-Goa cruise promises a gorgeous coastline, stops at the 16th-century Jaigad Fort for some festivities organised by MTDC (Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation), and secluded beaches. And almost all of them leave the itinerary to you.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

The mystique of PURANA QILA

The old fort has preserved an atmosphere that defies time and age



R.V. SMITH

The Purana Qila in Delhi never ceases to confound the visitor. Take its northern gate which is known as the Talaqi Darwaza. Some say it means Forbidden Gate; others think it is the gate of special entry. Built by Sher Shah Suri, it has a panel showing a man fighting a lion, considered unusual in a Moghul-era monument. Perhaps the panel commemorates the fight Sher Shah had when, as a young man he killed a 'Sher'. Since then Farid Khan came to be known as Sher Afghan.

Emperor plays

But why was this scene carved on the Forbidden Gate? It was Humayun who built his capital Dinpanah here over the ruins of an old fort, below which lay the legendary city of Indraprastha. When Sher Shah ousted Humayun and built his own fort, he probably retained the gate marked 'Forbidden' by Humayun; forbidden because only the emperor, his children and the ladies of the

harem could enter or leave through the gate.

Another reason could be that it led to the heritage of the Pandavas, with its haunted palaces and 'Magic Casements' opening, not to the 'Perilous Seas' but to the swift currents of the Jamuna which flowed so close by that it filled the moat.

Humayun and Sher Shah were not iconoclasts like Mahmud of Ghazni. They were enlightened emperors who had great curiosity about the past. Could it be that they were carrying on excavations of their own and discovering the mysteries of the Mahabharat era? The Forbidden Gate hence was open only to the chosen few?

The marble panels are more than the tale of Sher Shah and his fight with the king of beasts. Such depictions were a common feature in ancient Babylon. The lion, besides man, is among the four living creatures (one 'full of eyes in front and behind') that are believed to surround the highest seat of heaven. This is part of the Semitic story of creation and the panel of the Talaqi

Darwaza may well have been inspired by it, though Sher Shah killed a tiger, not a lion.

Experiencing the Qila

When the Purana Qila is lit up at night you 'see' the ghosts of history parading themselves in all their splendour. Drive past it and feel the impact of the centuries. The Kurus, Guptas, Arabs, Pathans, Moghuls and many more held sway there. The crumbling walls have been built and rebuilt, the trees that glow near them perhaps germinated from earlier ones.

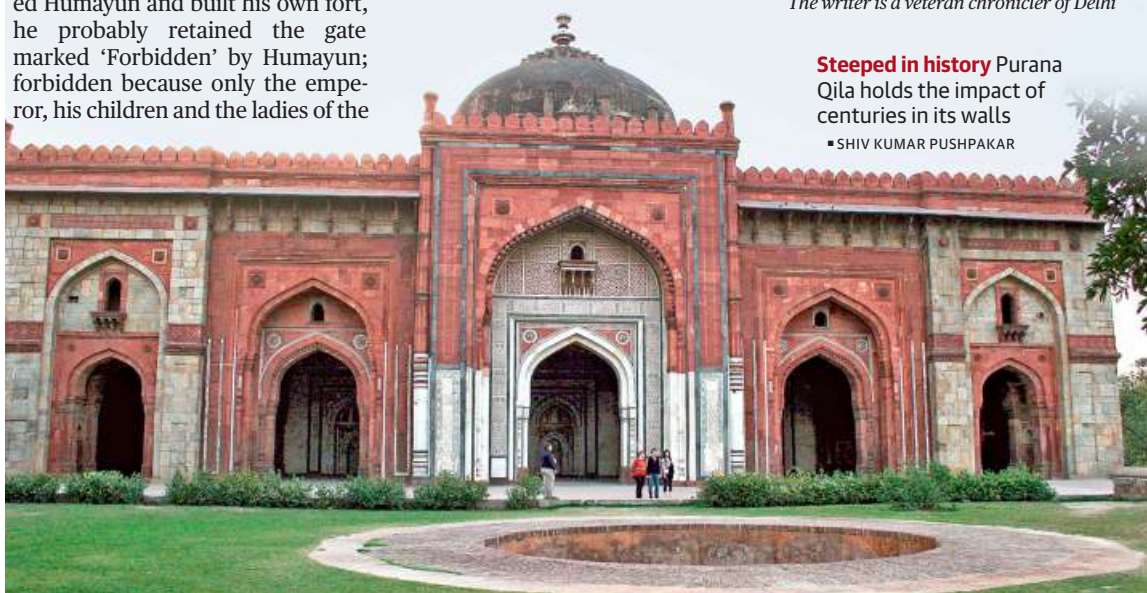
Lingering before those hallowed walls one could see the stones and crevices highlighted by the strong lights that illuminate them. An owl flew in circles till it found a perch on the ruined citadel of mighty empires which once drew awe and wonder because of the superpowers who ruled them.

Night imparts its own strange hues to buildings old and new. At the Purana Qila it seems to merge with hoary time and you begin to hear the sound of trumpets, the battle-cry of the warriors, the clash of swords, the whiz of a thousand arrows, the neighing of horses, the thunderous trumpeting of elephants and the piteous moans of the fallen being trampled upon by man and beast.

Here, history is unfolded before the eyes. You see emperor and clown for what they really were, and you hear the perennial song of humanity – of wars and conflicts, peace and tranquillity, power and glory, and then neglect and decay.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

Steeped in history Purana Qila holds the impact of centuries in its walls
• SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR



VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Returning to Akar Prakar over two years after his last show here, Delhi-based artist Debasish Mukherjee brings a vastly different body of work to show. What is striking between these two outings though, is clear preoccupation with how we are sensitive to, and preserve, things of the past.

With 'A Museum Within', his last solo at this very space in 2016, his installations had expressed a concern for the neglect of Indian heritage, encouraging a re-think in conservation. Mukherjee circles back to a similar theme with 'River Song'. This time, he is re-thinking how the 'heritage' of one's own life is preserved.

Some may complain that this very trajectory – from the public and built, to the highly personal and intangible – is what makes contemporary art inaccessible to large chunks of the population.

But the subtle richness in each installation, cocooned within a larger tone of minimalism, puts you at ease immediately; you want to linger to experience the texture. This is when his work shakes the old, dusty, and forgotten reaches of memory, and as good art is supposed to, delicately changes the way you've always reflected on something.

Take for instance, the first set of installations. Called 22 Moons, it is a representation of the artist's formative years of the artist's life, spent in Chha-



Misty memories (L-R) Spools in a cupboard; a frame from 22 Moons; the print-portrait, on a stack of *thaans*; and (below) Debasish Mukherjee
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The way we were

Using the softness of fabric and the structure of sculpture, Debasish Mukherjee's new solo explores how we preserve personal memory

pra, Bihar. Mukherjee has 22 embroidery hoops, one for each year he spent there, with different types of fabric stretched taut and twisted within them. A cracked coat of industrial white is painted over. Peer closer and the fabrics reveal themselves as varying types: plain or floral.

"My father worked in the railways, and we lived in the railway colony – with each new occupant, the houses there would be painted over with a fresh coat of paint without actually scrubbing out the old shade or wallpaper," Muk-

herjee recalls, as he explains how he's 'talked about' the layering of memory over memory, across the two decades he spent in the quarters.

There is also homage. The artist amassed thread-spools – they're commonly junked in his daily work in fashion – because they reminded him of homeopathic vials from his father's side-practice of the stream of medicine. He then heaped them onto each other within a seven-foot-tall wooden cupboard frame, to create a beehive-like structure that spills out. "Till when he was alive, my father kept our family together," he says.

Mukherjee's father passed on in 2015. In a conversation with cultural theorist Ranjit Hoskote at the show's opening on Thursday, the artist talked also of how his mother coped with the loss of her husband – she didn't understand that he was no longer alive, and continued to wear the *sind-
hoor*.

At the centre of the hall is a long, sari-like

ascading of cream threads with a vermilion flow in the centre, all fused together with a dissolvable adhesive-like material. Not a woven fabric, but holding on together somehow.

Mukherjee is rejigging "the approach towards time-honoured genres" like portraiture, says Hoskote. In a separate room is a tall assemblage, with *thaans* stacked over *thaans*, a printed pattern on the 'spine' of each. Step back, and a portrait is formed – of a generic ancestor-type figure taken from a hoary, yellowing family album.

This is the artist's way of remembering his strict grandmother, who followed every rule in the book prescribed for how a widow should live – one day, when he caught a glimpse of her opened cupboard, a sight that he wasn't privy to otherwise, he saw stacks of plain white saris arranged in the same way.

On view until 4th October, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Akar Prakar, D-43, first floor, Defence Colony





A fine balance (Below) Samar Farooqui on a free solo walk • NAVIN TORRES



Why they take the leap

Would you dive into a pitch-dark cave? Or jump off a building for fun? We explore the risks and rewards that come with taking part in extreme sports

SWETA AKUNDI

The first time that Mumbai-based Samar Farooqui tried walking on a highline, he froze. He was seconds away from stepping on to a tightrope stretched 12 metres above the ground. "My friend shouted from below, saying I could do it, and that brought me back to reality and I stepped on the rope."

That was in 2013, in New Zealand — Samar today is a professional slackliner and trainer, and does highlining (slacklining at an elevation) at a height of almost 900 metres. He has also done free-solos (without harness). Still, he admits, that fear before the act remains the same.

What is it that motivates Samar, and so many others like him, who take up extreme adventure sports such as highlining, base jumping, cave diving and white water rafting? The answer might lie in our psychological make-up.

"First, we need to qualify what counts as extreme sport," says Bengaluru-based psychiatrist Dr Shyam Bhat, head of Mindfit. With better safety regulations and technology, the danger a sport poses may decrease over time. There was a time when

skydiving or paragliding was considered extreme, however now it's a regular at vacations. So let's define extreme sport as any form of physical activity that may result in grievous injury or death, if there's any mistake, and leaves little room for error.

There haven't been many conclusive studies that point to what behavioural factors could result in a person being predisposed towards taking part in extreme sports. Having said that, there are a few influencing biological and psychological factors, according to psychiatrists.

"Some studies show that people who are drawn to extreme sports have variations in certain neurotransmitters and receptors, that make them more risk-taking. Another factor is the level of testosterone that the person was exposed to, while a foetus in the womb; more testosterone correlates with increased risk-taking behaviour," says Dr Bhat.

Samar himself claims to have been "surrounded by adventure all my life". "My mother has an NCC/Army background. She would take me on treks when I was a child. I have expe-



rimented with kayaking, surfing, rappelling and so on," he says.

Moreover, the same risk-taking behaviour that may result in one person liking adventure sports could also reflect in another person taking, for example, financial risks, like investing in share markets.

"The various neurotransmitter systems that get activated in all these scenarios are similar. There is extensive literature to suggest that," says Dr Senthil Reddi, Additional Professor, Department of Psychiatry at NIMHANS.

Focus and flow

Archana Sardana, India's first civilian BASE jumper, can tell you that the very moment before she takes the leap, she clears her mind of everything, including thoughts of her two teenage sons, and husband. "If you are thinking of anything at all, you won't be able to jump," she advises.

Dr Bhat calls this reaching a "state

this risk-taking behaviour escalates to achieve gratification.

In control

While earlier literature focussed on the reward-seeking or thrill-seeking aspects in people, newer studies suggest positive aspects of extreme sports, says Dr Reddi. "Areas of cognitive function like focus and skill development are enhanced through these activities. Moreover, the element of danger could help them develop a greater connectedness with their own inner sense, with Nature and environment, and their own sense of existence."

This contemplation about existence that extreme sports bring out, which is not generally in our thoughts, is its key attraction. "Why do we enjoy roller coasters? Why do we watch horror movies? The psychology is the same. All human beings deep down, have a fear of their non-existence, of death, and extreme sports is a way that some people confront, challenge and attempt to transcend this subconscious fear," says Dr Bhat.

Even though by her own admission, Archana is the kind of person who is likely to take risks in other parts of her life as well, when she is taking part in any adventure sport, it is never without a certain level of preparation. "These risks are never random. I know I have to take responsibility for myself, and what precautions to take," she says.

Samar too, spends hours training on the slackline; he runs a training institute Slacklife Inc in Mumbai. "Most people think that if you become a professional, you will overcome your fear. But I say that fear will always be there, and that's good. Without it, I would be complacent and make a mistake," he says. "Fear keeps me alert, and that keeps me alive."

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



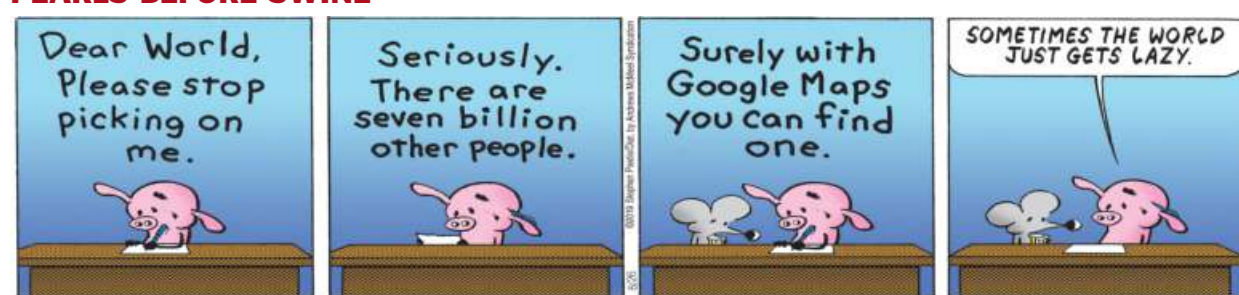
TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT COQ10? COQ10, A FORM OF UBIQUINOL, HELPS PROTECT AGAINST OXIDATIVE STRESS. COQ10 IS A NUTRIENT THAT NOURISHES THE MITOCHONDRIA, THE POWER PLANT PORTION OF THE CELL THAT GENERATES ENERGY. AS WE AGE, COQ10 LEVELS PRODUCED BY THE BODY DECLINE. THAT'S WHEN SUPPLEMENTATION BECOMES NECESSARY. LOW COQ10 LEVELS HAVE BEEN LINKED TO HEART DISEASE, BRAIN DISEASES, CANCER AND DIABETES.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13158

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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- antelope (5)
- Part of a tea set (6)
- Ludicrous (8)
- Hold gently and protectively (6)
- Cut into three parts (7)
- Slumber (5)
- Mayhem (5)
- Drawback (4)

- Across
- 1 Soon (6,4)
- 7 Protesting vigorously (2,2,4)
- 8 Not at home (4)
- 9 Tax — obligation (4)
- 10 Unauthorised absence from school (7)
- 12 True tobacco (anag) — basis of chocolate (5,6)
- 14 Clergyman's gown (7)
- 16 Wealthy (4)
- 19 Adhesive (4)
- 20 Become pregnant (8)
- 21 Contrite (10)
- Down
- 1 Creature with two feet (5)
- 2 Zealot (7)
- 3 Uncommon (4)
- 4 Glossy (8)
- 5 Large African (7)

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

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 27, 2019. Solution No. 13157

Congratulations to @Pvsindhu for the first ever world championships gold medal from India
SAINA NEHWAL

Hope this medal changes the attitude towards sports in our country and the deserving sports persons get all the support to achieve this kind of a feat! Thank you Pvsindhu for this! You only proved that with the right kind of support we can conquer the world
GUTTA JWALA

Maiden gold medal on your mother's birthday - what a special win this must have been for you @Pvsindhu :) Congratulations! You have made us all so proud! BWFWorldChampionships2019
SURESH RAINA

Congrats @Pvsindhu on winning the Gold medal at #BWFWorldChampionships2019 Great exhibition of skill, fitness and mental strength to defeat Japan's Okuhara in such an emphatic fashion. Proud of you.
VVS LAXMAN

Amazing performance, @Pvsindhu! Congratulations on becoming the 1st ever [Indian] to win the BWF World Championships! You have made India proud, yet again.
SACHIN TENDULKAR

This has to be the most commanding performance by an Indian athlete, certainly in living memory. 21-7, 21-7. What a star @Pvsindhu. Great moment for Indian sport. What a day. Proud.
HARSH BHOGLE

PV Sindhu creates history by becoming the first-ever Indian to claim gold in BWF World Badminton Championships! India is proud of @Pvsindhu. My hearty congratulations! Govt will continue to provide best support & facilities to produce champions
KIRAN RIJU, SPORTS MINISTER

Sindhu scales a peak no Indian ever has

Blows away arch-rival Okuhara in the summit clash to win her first title of the year; proves third-time lucky after losing in the 2017 and '18 finals

BADMINTON WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BASEL

P.V. Sindhu on Sunday scripted history as she became the first Indian to win badminton World Championships gold by beating arch-rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lop-sided summit clash on Sunday.

The Olympic silver-medalist Indian won 21-7, 21-7 in the final that lasted just 38 minutes.

Never-say-die attitude

It was third time lucky for Sindhu who had lost to Okuhara and Carolina Marin of Spain respectively in the 2017 and 2018 finals to bag a silver twice. She had won a bronze each in the 2013 and 2014 editions.

Sindhu is now the joint highest medal winner in women's singles in the World Championships history with former Olympic champion Zhang Ning of China who has won an identical one gold, two silver and two bronze between 2001 and 2007.

The fifth seeded Indian, who enjoyed an 8-7 head-to-head lead over the third-seeded Okuhara ahead of Sunday's contest, was simply unstoppable as she dished out an attacking game right

Joy and relief: P.V. Sindhu oozed authority and class en route to becoming the first Indian to win the badminton World Championships gold. She had lost in the final in 2017 and 2018. ■ AP



from the start to race to 8-1 lead.

The Indian targeted the deep corners and unleashed her big smashes to gather points at will. A precise net-shot helped Okuhara to snap Sindhu's run of straight eight

points but the Indian quickly got the control back when Okuhara went wide and then unleashed two good-looking smashes to enter the break with a massive 11-2 lead.

Okuhara tried to step up the pace but an alert Sindhu

was up to the task. The Indian targeted Okuhara's forehand corner to take two more points.

Sindhu used her height to produce those attacking clears which Okuhara could not negotiate. At 16-2, Sindhu

Simply sensational

ROAD TO TITLE:

First round: Bye
Second round: bt Pai Yu Po 21-14, 21-15
Third round: bt Biewen Zhang 21-14, 21-6
Quarterfinals: bt Tai Tzu Ying 12-21, 23-21, 21-19
Semifinals: bt Chen Yu Fei 21-7, 21-14
Finals: bt Nozomi Okuhara 21-7, 21-7

CAREER RECORD (WIN/LOSS)

Overall: **323/139**

Win percentage: **69**

In 2019: **19/9**

Win percentage: **67**

Prize money

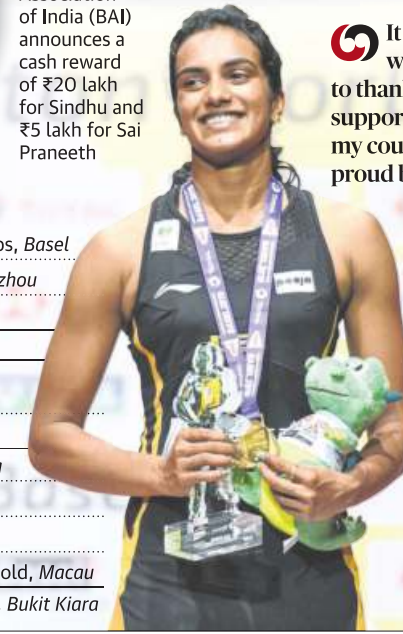
Career

\$652118

In 2019

\$64972.50

Badminton Association of India (BAI) announces a cash reward of ₹20 lakh for Sindhu and ₹5 lakh for Sai Praneeth



It is a very important win for me. I want to thank the crowd for supporting me. I won it for my country and I am very proud being an Indian

TROPHY CABINET

2019: BWF World Championships, Basel

2018: World Tour Finals, Guangzhou

2017: Korea Open, Seoul

India Open, New Delhi

Syed Modi International, Lucknow

2016: China Open, Fuzhou

Malaysia Masters, Penang

2015: Macau Open, Macau

2014: Macau Open, Macau

2013: Macau Open Grand Prix Gold, Macau

Malaysia Grand Prix Gold, Bukit Kiara

2012: Badminton Asia Youth under-19 Championships, Gimcheon, Korea

2011: Tata Open India International Challenge, Mumbai

Swiss International, Belp, Berne

Indonesia International Challenge, East Surabaya

Maldives International Challenge, Maldives

'Sindhu can win all major events'



Prakash Padukone.
■ FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA BENGALURU

Prakash Padukone believes P.V. Sindhu can go on to dominate women's badminton after her victory in the BWF World Championships in Basel on Sunday.

"If she can remain injury-free and choose the right tournaments, she can definitely win all the major tournaments and be World No.1 for a long time," Padukone told *The Hindu*.

"She's at her best right now. It's the first time an Indian has won the World Championships. I had a feeling she'd win today but I didn't expect that it would be so easy."

Good augury

Padukone felt Sindhu's win augured well for her chances of winning gold at next year's Olympics but he also cautioned against putting too much pressure on the 24-year-old.

"Now that she's won a very important event, and that too very convincingly, it should give her a lot of confidence going into the Olympics. I hope she will be able to repeat this performance there. But it's not something we should take for granted. We should not put too much pressure on her. It's important she takes little breaks in between, tries to peak at the right time," he said.

Sindhu had faltered in successive finals before crossing the line on Sunday but Padukone stated that he had never doubted her ability.

"Earlier, when people asked if she would ever win, I maintained that she definitely would," he said. "I knew it was just a matter of time and a little experience. Even now she's very young. She has a bright future."

'It was a near-perfect game'

An elated Sindhu says her next goal is the Olympic gold

EXCLUSIVE

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

India's golden girl of the moment P.V. Sindhu says she played the best and most consistent badminton in recent times in the World Championships.

In an exclusive chat with *The Hindu* after being crowned women's singles champion in Basel (Switzerland), Sindhu said she was fully prepared for the final and was in a much better frame of mind.

"Honestly, I was expecting a long battle, given Okuhara's reputation. But, I am glad that I could peak at the right time and never really let the lead slip away," Sindhu said.

I was at my best in this World Championship and that was the key to my success

"Definitely, the Korean coach Kim Ji Jyun's inputs and Gopi sir's guidance were major plus points in my campaign," she said. "I must say Kim has her own effective style of getting the best out of me," she added.

"I never felt any pressure before entering what was my third final. I just wanted to give my best shot and didn't bother whether I would win or not when the final started," she revealed. "The best part is there were very few unforced errors and it was a near-perfect game," she said

with a big smile. "Well, I didn't expect it to be such a one-sided final but I must say I played as well I could in the most important match of the championship," Sindhu said. "I was really dominating from the start," she added.

Not a conscious ploy
"It was not a conscious ploy to attack right from the first game but since every aspect of my game was falling in place, I just ensured that the momentum never really slipped away. I am immensely delighted with what is the most important win of my career," she said.

"I can't say whether there was any specific turning point in the championship but I must repeat that I was

at my best in this World championship over a week and that was the key to my success," Sindhu said.

Biggest gift
"Yes, this is the biggest gift I could give to my mother who is celebrating her birthday today and I dedicate this win to my parents, grandparents, coaches, all the support staff at the Gopi Academy and fellow-players who have always been there with me," she said.

"Well, one goal is achieved and the next one is there - Olympics. I will really work hard and will prepare to win that one also by doing well in the Super Series in the run-up to the Tokyo Games next year," an elated Sindhu concluded.

PARA BADMINTON

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

India had another world champion in Basel on Sunday when the 30-year-old Manasi Joshi, who also trains at the Gopi Chand Academy here, clinched the women's singles SL3 gold defeating World No. 1 and compatriot Parul Parmar 21-12, 21-7. This was her maiden title in the BWF Para World badminton championship.

"It feels great to be called a World champion. Never easy for any athlete and more so for someone like me who had to face adversity on all fronts to script this golden moment in my career," said Manasi in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu* from Basel. "The competition was ve-



Manasi Joshi.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ry tough and this is my first win against Parul, having lost in the Canadian Open recently. This time I was well prepared, having worked on my strokes, fitness and mental toughness," said Manasi, who became a champion in

her third appearance in the Worlds (she won a bronze in 2017). "It was a terrific experience to play at the same venue, share corridors with the other badminton greats. It makes you feel that you are there with the elite," she said.

What was Gopi's advice? "To stay calm, play clear strokes and just be focused. Not think about what happened or what is going to happen," said Manasi.

"It was great to be treated on par with the regular players and I hope life will change, after having sacrificed everything for this golden moment, in terms of better recognition and support, especially like getting world class equipment to chase my dream of winning a gold in Paralympics and the next Asian Games."

Rahane, Vihari and bowlers pile on the misery for WI

The hosts, pursuing a target of 419, reduced to 15 for five at tea with Bumrah and Ishant on fire

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Ajinkya Rahane scored his first Test century in two years before the Indian speedsters blew away the West Indies top-order on the fourth day of the first Test here on Sunday.

Rahane scored a patient 102, but young batsman Hanuma Vihari (93) missed out on his maiden Test century as India declared its second innings at 343 for seven to set West Indies a stiff 419-run target.

Rahane and Vihari raised 135 for the fifth wicket after India lost skipper Virat Kohli (51) early on during the day.

Jasprit Bumrah and Ishant Sharma then ripped through the West Indies top-order to leave it gasping at 15 for five at tea.

Bumrah and Ishant exposed the feeble West Indies' batting line-up with their fiery spells as none of the home batsmen could reach double digits.

Bumrah removed the openers - Kraigg Brathwaite

(1) and John Campbell (7) - before casting Darren Bravo (2) with a beauty. Ishant joined the party, getting rid of Shamarh Brooks (2) and Shimron Hetmyer (1).

Earlier, Kohli's scalp did not help West Indies much as Rahane and Vihari gradually took the game away from them with their confident

SCOREBOARD

INDIA - 1ST INNINGS: 297
WEST INDIES - 1ST INNINGS: 222

INDIA - 2ND INNINGS
K.L. Rahul b Chase 38 (85b, 4x4), Mayank Agarwal lbw b Chase 16 (43b, 2x4), Cheteshwar Pujara b Roach 25 (53b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Campbell b Chase 51 (113b, 2x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Holder b Gabriel 102 (242b, 5x4), G. Hanuma Vihari c Hope b Holder 93 (128b, 10x4, 1x6), Rishabh Pant c sub b Chase 7 (10b), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (b-6, lb-4): 10; Total for seven wickets, decl., in 112.3 overs): 343.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-30 (Agarwal, 13.2), 2-73 (Rahul, 29.2), 3-81 (Pujara, 30.5), 4-187 (Kohli, 73.4), 5-322 (Rahane, 107.6), 6-336 (Pant, 111.4), 7-343 (Vihari, 112.3).

batting. The moment Vihari miscued a pull which landed in the gloves of wicket-keeper Shai Hope, India declared its second innings.

It was Rahane's first Test hundred since his 132 against Sri Lanka in August 2017 while Vihari threw away a golden opportunity to get his.

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Roach 20-8-29-1, Gabriel 16-3-63-1, Chase 38-5-132-4, Holder 18.3-4-45-1, Cummins 7-1-20-0, Campbell 6-0-20-0, Brathwaite 7-0-24-0.

WEST INDIES - 2ND INNINGS

Kraigg Brathwaite c Pant b Bumrah 1 (4b), John Campbell b Bumrah 7 (15b, 1x4), Shamarh Brooks lbw b Ishant 2 (5b), Darren Bravo b Bumrah 2 (10b), Shimron Hetmyer c Rahane b Ishant 1 (12b), Roston Chase (batting) 0; Extras (lb-1, nb-1): 2; Total (for five wickets, in 7.3 overs at Tea): 15.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Brathwaite, 1.4), 2-10 (Campbell, 3.5), 3-10 (Brooks, 4.1), 4-13 (Hetmyer, 6.6), 5-15 (Bravo, 7.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Ishant 4-1-8-2, Bumrah 3.3-1-6-3.



Full of confidence: Rahane was in his element yet again while putting India in control. ■ AFP

Aguero on 400 in City stroll

Newcastle stuns an insipid Tottenham Hotspurs

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BOURNEMOUTH

Sergio Aguero reached 400 career goals with a clinical double as the Manchester City striker inspired the champion's 3-1 win at Bournemouth, while Tottenham suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Newcastle on Sunday.

Raheem Sterling was also on the scoresheet - making it six goals in four games this term for the England winger - as City's second win of the season lifted it to within two points of Liverpool.

It was a landmark day all round for City, with captain David Silva involved in all three of the goals on his 400th appearance for the club.

Meanwhile, Steve Bruce silenced his critics as Newcastle won at Tottenham to secure its first points under the polarising Magpies boss.

Since taking over from Rafael Benitez in the close-season, Bruce had found himself under pressure after losing his first two games,



Star striker: Sergio Aguero is ice cool as he slots in City's third past a maze of Bournemouth defenders. ■ REUTERS

with fans doubting his credentials and former players claiming his squad was uncertain about his methods.

But Joellinton's first goal for Newcastle in the 27th minute gave Bruce some breathing space for a few days at least.

The results: Premier League: Bournemouth 1 (H. Wilson 45+3) lost to Manchester City 3 (Aguero 15, 64, Sterling 43); Tottenham 0 lost to Newcastle 1 (Joellinton 27); Wolves 1 (Jimenez 90+5-pen) drew with Burnley 1 (Barnes 13).

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 2 (Werner 10, Poulsen 80) bt Ein-

tracht Frankfurt 1 (89 Paciencia); Hertha Berlin 0 lost to Wolfsburg 3 (Weghorst 9-pen, Brekalo 82, Roussillon 90+1).

Serie A: Udinese 1 (Rodrigo 72) bt AC Milan 0.

Saturday: La Liga: Osasuna 0 drew with Eibar 0; Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 82) drew with Real Valladolid 1 (Guardiola 88); Celta Vigo 1 (Fernandez 15) bt Valencia 0; Getafe 1 (Mata 12) drew with Athletic Bilbao 1 (Raul Garcia 6).

Serie A: Fiorentina 3 (Pulgar 9-pen, Milenkovic 51, Boateng 65) lost to Napoli 4 (Mertens 38, Insigne 43-pen, 67, Callejon 56).

TV PICKS

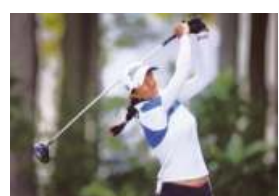
US Open: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 8.20 p.m.; SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.15 p.m. & 8.30 p.m.
West Indies vs India: 1st Test, day 5, Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 5, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 9.40 a.m.

IN BRIEF



Rins pips Marquez for British MotoGP victory

SILVERSTONE
Alex Rins won the British MotoGP in dramatic fashion catching world champion Marc Marquez to the finish line by 0.013 seconds of a dramatic race on Sunday. Rins' sensational finish earned the Suzuki rider a second victory of the season, but Honda's Marquez extended his lead atop the standings to 78 points after closest rival Andrea Dovizioso of Ducati was stretched off the track following a first-lap crash with Yamaha rider Fabio Quartararo. **AFP**



Aditi Ashok zooms to tied eighth

ONTARIO
India's Aditi Ashok was en route to her best round of 2019 before she erred and made a double bogey to tie tied eighth at the end of the third round of the CP Women's Open here. Aditi, who shot six-under 66, was eight-under through 16 and inside the top-5 before the disastrous double bogey on 17th pulled her back. Rolex Rankings No. 1 Jin Young Ko and Nicole Broch Larsen are tied at the top at 18-under heading into Sunday's final round. **PTI**

Watling and de Grandhomme put NZ ahead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Contrasting half-centuries from B.J. Watling and Colin de Grandhomme helped New Zealand lead by 138 runs in its first innings against Sri Lanka on day four of the rain-hit second Test here on Sunday.

De Grandhomme (83, 75b) and Watling (81, 208b) put together an unbeaten 113 for the sixth wicket.

Overnight centurion Tom Latham made 154 during a key 143-run partnership with Watling as New Zealand reached 382 for five at stumps.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: 244.
New Zealand — 1st innings: Jeet Raval c de Silva b D. Perera 0, Tom Latham lbw D. Perera 154, Kane Williamson c Mendis b Kumara 20, Ross Taylor c Dananjaya de Silva b Embuldeniya 23, Henry Nicholls c Dananjaya de Silva b D. Perera 15, B.J. Watling (batting) 81, Colin de Grandhomme (batting) 83; Extras (lb-3, w-3): 6; Total (for five wkts. in 110 overs): 382.
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-34, 3-84, 4-126, 5-269.
Sri Lanka bowling: Dilruwan Perera 37-4-114-3, Dananjaya de Silva 5-1-10-0, Lakmal 11-2-32-0, Kumara 23-0-98-1, Embuldeniya 34-4-125-1.

Srihari does it again

SPORTS BUREAU
BUDAPEST

Srihari Nataraj broke his own National record, clocking 2:01.70s, in the 200m backstroke heats at the FINA World junior swimming championships here on Sunday.

That was better than his old record of 2:02.08s clocked at the World senior championships in South Korea last month, but his time on Sunday was not good enough to carry him to the final.

Imran Pasha does it for Team TVS Racing



With the trophy: Winner Imran Pasha, center, with Samuel Jacob, who finished second, right, and Adnaan Ahamed, who was third, in the MRF MoGrip National Rally championship for two wheelers at Coimbatore on Sunday. ***SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

Tackles the tough terrains with ease after a cautious start

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Team TVS Racing's J. Imran Pasha tackled the tough terrains with ease to finish on top in the overall class of the Rally of Coimbatore, the fourth round of the FMSCI-MRF MoGrip National rally championship for two wheelers in Palladam on Sunday.

The 21-year-old from Mysore did not enjoy a great start to the season but since then has fought his way back in the next three rounds in a brilliant manner.

He started the day in a cautious manner as he was

not quite clear with the route.

But in the next two stages, he upped his speed as much as he could to gain command over his nearest rival and teammate Samuel Jacob.

Flat tyre

He enjoyed a comfortable lead and looked set for a big win. It was here that he suffered a flat front tyre right into the fourth stage.

Imran lost about 17 seconds but he carried on boldly from there to finish the rally in style, much to the joy of his team.

"This is the turning point for me and, I am glad that it came in Coimbatore which is my lucky venue," said Imran.

"It was brilliant by our boys. What we expected we achieved.

"We have closed a great deal in points and looking forward to the next two rounds," said Anand Hariharan, Team TVS rally manager.

The results: Overall: 1. J. Imran Pasha (TVS Racing); 2. Samuel Jacob (TVS Racing); 3. Adnaan Ahamed (Mangalore).
Super bike Pro Expert: C-1: 1. Venu Ramesh Kumar (Coimbatore); 2. R. Vignesh (Chennai).
Super Bike Expert: C-1A: 1. Badal Doshi (Mumbai); 2. Jatin Jain (Nagpur).

C-2 130cc: 1. Noldin Thomas (Kochi); 2. Azeeb Mohammed (Kottayam); 3. P. Janardhanan (Bengaluru); **C-3 165cc:** K. Sasi Kumar (Coimbatore); 2. Ishaan

Chandra (Mangalore); 3. Akshay Siddaramaiah (Bengaluru); **C-4 260cc:** 1. J. Imran Pasha (TVS Racing); 2. Samuel Jacob (TVS Racing); 3. Adnaan Ahamed (Mangalore).

C-5 400cc: 1. Sudeep Kottary (Mangalore); 2. Mithun Gopal (Trivandrum); 3. K. Vikram (Coimbatore); **C-6 550cc:** 1. Suhail Ahamed (Bengaluru); 2. Arun Joy (Kochi); 3. Jeemon Antony (Kochi); **C-7 Scooter class 210cc:** 1. Syed Asif Ali; 2. Shammim Khan; 3. Pinkesh Thakkar (all from TVS Racing); **C-8 Ladies:** 1. Aishwarya Pissay (TVS Racing); 2. A. Ryhane Bee (Chennai); 3. Baishali Nath (Assam).

C-9 (Star of Tamil Nadu): 1. Rakesh Kumar; 2. S. Vishnu Prakash; 3. Jaideep Joshi (all from Coimbatore).

Uncertainty over testing measures at inter-State meet

ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
LUCKNOW

The suspension of India's National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) by the international anti-doping body has led to uncertainty over monitoring of the upcoming 59th Inter-State Athletics Championships starting here on Tuesday and a threat of doping looming large on the meet.

The four-day event was set to be the final qualifying meet for the World Championships later this year, but the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has brought forward the sixth leg of the Indian Grand Prix (September 5), for an additional qualifying opportunity.

Doubtful
And with the batch of elite quartermilers still training

overseas and unlikely to participate here, the presence of NADA officials to collect enough samples for testing remains doubtful even as hopefuls in other events try to achieve the Worlds qualifying marks.

AFI treasurer and secretary of the UP Athletics Association P.K. Srivastava told *The Hindu* that a five-member NADA team, comprising three scientists and two officials, would reach the city only on August 28, the second day of the competition. Those participating or winning in events on the opening day — which will see nine finals including women's 200m, discus throw and the 4x400 mixed relay — will therefore not be tested immediately.

Cost worries
The AFI also admitted it was worried about the costs. "Yes, NADA team is coming

■ NADA officials did not commit themselves to a comprehensive presence and monitoring of the entire meet

to Lucknow for the inter-state championship. But NDTL's suspension for six months is a big worry also as we need to test athletes before the World Championship and we are also in a fix as to who will foot the bill for testing outside India," Srivastava added.

NADA officials, too, did not commit themselves to a comprehensive presence and monitoring of the entire meet.

Commitment to anti-doping
NADA Director General Navin Aggarwal reiterated the organisation's commitment to anti-doping, but did not confirm presence all

through. "We will be testing all the top athletes and all important events at the competition. We will try to cover all major events. Maybe we will be able to do it before competition or we can do it towards the end of the competition. We can test them even after the competition, there is no issue," he claimed.

"We will have to prioritise events and look at them in order of importance. We are trying to work it out. All events with international value and all tournaments with important participation will be covered.

Only, the number of samples collected may be lesser than usual because we will have to arrange their safe-keeping and process sending them to another Asian lab for testing," Aggarwal added, but did not explain how NADA would prioritise events.

First points for East Bengal

KOLKATA: East Bengal beat B.S.S. Sporting Club 2-1 to pick up its first points in the Calcutta Football League Premier Division 'A' here on Sunday.

Playing in its backyard, EB scored a goal each in either half to register a win in its second outing. **The result:** East Bengal 2 (Jaime Colado 17, Bidyashagar Singh 52) bt B.S.S. 1 (William Opoku 92-p).

Easy for India

KOLKATA: Taison Singh and N. Sridarth netted a brace each as India thrashed Bhutan 7-0 to post its second consecutive victory in the SAFF under-15 football championship.

The results: India 7 (Taison Singh 1, 59; N. Sridarth 9, 25; P. Singam 23; Isac Zomuanpuia 87, Renedy Meitei 89) bt Bhutan 0; Bangladesh 7 (Al Amin Rahman 32, 44, 59, 66, 71; Rakibul Islam 42; Al Mirad 48) bt Sri Lanka 1 (Muhammed Mihran 50).

Ali Sina and Firdaus perform hat-tricks

SUBROTO CUP

NEW DELHI: Three goals each by Ali Sina Hussain and Firdaus Haidar helped Estiqlal School (Afghanistan) hammer Maharashtra High School & College (Kolhapur) 9-0 in a Pool B match of the Subroto Cup international football tournament here on Sunday.

In a Pool D match, Ashokenagar Boys' Secondary School (West Bengal) defeated Air Force School 0.

Quarterfinalists

The following teams qualified for the quarterfinals: Reliance Foundation School, Estiqlal, Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan, Unique Model Academy (Manipur), Saidan Secondary School (Mizoram), Govt. Model High School (Chandigarh), Betkuchi High School, (Assam) 6 (Hari Rabha 2, Satyajit Bay, Bibhan Kashyap Bora, Mintu Barman, Nayan Kr. Rabha) bt Mamta Modern SSS (Delhi) 0.
Pool H: Major Dhyan Chand Sports College, Saifai, UP 1 (Mrityunjay Tiwari) bt Brajboomi International School (Gujarat) 0.

sam) and District War Sepngi Christian High Secondary School.

The results: Estiqlal School 9 (Ali Sina Hussain 3, Firdaus Haidar 3, Hafizullah Abdullah, Rehman Hamid, Farhatullah Mukhtar) bt Maharashtra High School & College (Kolhapur) 0.
Pool D: Ashokenagar Boys' SS 5 (Tathagat Pal, Rajibul Islam, Md. Jahedi Hasan) bt Air Force School 0.

Pool F: SAI (Kolkata) 1 (Alex Ginsuanmung) bt Govt. Model High School (Chandigarh) 0.

Pool G: Sainik School, Goalpara (Rajapara) 1 (Lobsang Tenzin) drew with Sainik School (Jharkhand) 1 (Md. Daud Islam).

Betkuchi High School (Assam) 6 (Hari Rabha 2, Satyajit Bay, Bibhan Kashyap Bora, Mintu Barman, Nayan Kr. Rabha) bt Mamta Modern SSS (Delhi) 0.

Pool H: Major Dhyan Chand Sports College, Saifai, UP 1 (Mrityunjay Tiwari) bt Brajboomi International School (Gujarat) 0.

Well Connected poised for a treble

HYDERABAD: Well Connected, winner of the Fillies Championship Stakes and the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore, who is in rousing form is poised to complete a classic treble in the Decan Fillies Championship Stakes (1,600m), the stellar attraction of the races to be held here on Monday (August 26).

There will be no false rails.

1. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (Div. I, (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, placed 2nd or 3rd not eligible (Cat. II), (Terms), 1:55 p.m.: 1. Ace Missile (7) R. Ajinkya 56, 2. Dimension (5) Khurshad Alam 56, 3. Galloping Gangster (2) Ashhad Asbar 56, 4. Maxwell (1) Deepak Singh 56, 5. Mind Reader (9) Nakhat Singh 56, 6. Nova Scotia (4) Akshay Kumar 56, 7. Sputnik (11) B. Nikhil 56, 8. Total Romantic (6) Gaddam 56, 9. Aristocrats Charm (8) Surya Prakash 54.5, 10. Royal Girl (3) Ajit Singh 54.5, Surseine (10) P. Sai Kumar 54.5.

1. GALLOPING GANGSTER, 2. NOVA SCOTIA, 3. ARISTOCRATS CHARM

2. DEMOCRACY PLATE (1,600m), 2-3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.25: 1. Gusti Look (6) Akshay Kumar 62.5, 2. Valee Tiger (4) G. Nareesh 62, 3. Barnabas (5) Jitendra Singh 61.5, 4. Sporting Smile (7) Nakhat Singh 60, 5. Southern Lady (8) Santosh Raj 57.5, 6. Brave Warrior (2) Rohit Kumar 56.5, 7. N R I Flame (3) Kuldeep Singh 53 and 8. Honourable Guest (1) Khurshad Alam 50.

1. GUSTY LOOK, 2. SPORTING SMILE, 3. BRAVE WARRIOR

3. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (Div. II, (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, placed 2nd or 3rd not eligible (Cat. II), (Terms), 3:00: 1. City Of Wisdom (7) Deepak Singh 56, 2. Fabulous Gift (3) Nakhat Singh 56, 3. Glendale (4) Ajit Singh 56, 4. Rathasapthami (-) (-) 56, 5. Sterling King (5) Suraj Narredu 56, 6. Turf Choice (9) Kuldeep Singh 56, 7. Best In Show (1) Gopal Singh 54.5, 8. Flying Queen (8) Arshad Alam 54.5, 9. Lesley (2) P. Trevor 54.5 and 10. Silver Set (6) Akshay Kumar 54.5.

1. STERLING KING, 2. SILVER SET, 3. FLYING QUEEN

4. PRINCE OF BERAR TROPHY (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3:30: 1. Shaquille (7) Afroz Khan 60, 2. Blazer (3) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 3. Mon General (2) Gaurav Singh 56, 4. Royal Green (9) Ajit Singh 54.5, 5. Classy Guy (8) Jitendra Singh 54, 6. Barur (1) G. Nareesh 53.5, 7. Palsey Walsy (4) B. Nikhil 53.5, 8. Shandaar (8) Irvan Singh 53.5 and 9. N R I Vision (5) Nakhat Singh 53.

1. MON GENERAL, 2. BLAZER, 3. SHAQUILLE

5. DECCAN FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600m), fillies 3-y-o only (Terms), 4:00: 1. Artistry (7) R. Ajinkya 56, 2. Cape Kidnappers (8) Srinath 56, 3. Exclusive Art (6) Suraj Narredu 56, 4. Gift Of Grace (5) Zervan 56, 5. Roll Call (2) Nakhat Singh 56, 6. Sasakva (3) Akshay Kumar 56, 7. Thailand (1) P. Trevor 56 and 8. Well Connected (4) A. Sandesh 56.

1. WELL CONNECTED, 2. THAILAND, 3. SASAKVA

6. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (Div. III, (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, placed 2nd or 3rd not eligible (Cat. II), (Terms), 4:30: 1. Dazzling King (9) R. Ajinkya 56, 2. Friday Fury (1) B.R. Kumar 56, 3. Golden Faraska (7) N. Rawal 56, 4. O'Brien (4) Suraj Narredu 56, 5. Royal Tiger (10) Ajit Singh 56, 6. Sun Dancer (5) Umesh 56, 7. Turbulence (6) S.G. Prasad 56, 8. Carmella (8) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 9. Merry Dane (2) Ashhad Asbar 54.5 and 10. Urvasi (3) Khurshad Alam 54.5.

1. O'BRIEN, 2. CARMELLA, 3. MERRY DANE

7. DONEGAL PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o & over rated upto 25 (Cat. III), (No whips), 5:05: 1. Bombastic (11) Gaddam 60, 2. Wood Bridge (9) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Shivalik Sand (2) Deepak Singh 59.5, 4. Starboy (3) Gaurav Singh 59.5, 5. Vallee Ikon (5) Gopal Singh 59.5, 6. Limousine (10) Ajeeth Kumar 59, 7. Story Teller (7) Jitendra Singh 59, 8. Blazing Speed (8) Santosh Raj 57.5, 9. Sisco (12) G. Nareesh 56.5, 10. Sindhu (6) Afroz Khan 54, 11. Dumbledore (1) Surya Prakash 53.5 and 12. Diesis Dream (4) Ajit Singh 52.

1. LIMOUSINE, 2. WOOD BRIDGE, 3. VALLEE IKON
Day's best: WELL CONNECTED
Double: GUSTY LOOK - STERLING KING
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 & 7; Tr (1) 2, 3 & 4; (ii): 5, 6 & 7; Tla: all races.

Self-analysis key to Komalika's success

ARCHERY

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Seventeen-year-old Komalika Bari's abilities to introspect and learn from her mistakes have made her not only a leading archer of the country, but also the third Indian to claim a World title.

For someone who trained with the Indian bows (read bamboo bows) for four years before switching to recurve at the Tata Archery Academy (TAA) in 2016, Komalika's rise has been steady and fast.

Hailing from a modest family in Jharkhand, Komalika followed in her cousin brother's footsteps to take up archery at the ISWP Sports Complex, Jamshepur, before honing her skills under TAA coaches Dharmendra Tiwari and Purnima Mahato.

Komalika, who was 15th after the ranking round, got a



Komalika Bari.

bye and beat five opponents — including two Koreans and a Japanese Waka Sonada (in the final) — to win the title in the World youth archery championships in Madrid on Sunday. Deepika Kumari won it in 2009 and the World junior crown in 2011. Palton Hansda was the compound World junior men's champion in 2006.

Komalika took heart from her performance ahead of

the Olympics qualifiers. "I have gained a lot of confidence after coming to elite level and it has helped me," Komalika told *The Hindu* from Madrid. "After coming to the TAA, I focused on my shooting. I learnt a lot working alongside the elite archers. I got to know how to maintain calmness, patience and how to handle different situations... Here, inputs from coaches Surinder Singh and Anil Kumar were useful."

The teenager, who made her international debut at the South Asian championship earlier this year, was drafted into the Indian side for elite events including World Cups in Turkey and Germany, the World championships in the Netherlands and the Olympic test event in Tokyo.

Komalika was thankful to her parents. "My family put me into archery. My parents support me wholeheartedly."

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Big Ben stokes England's incredible chase

Scores an astonishing attacking century while shepherding last man Leach along at the same time

THE ASHES

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LEEDS**
Ben Stokes was the hero yet again as his incredible unbeaten century saw England to a thrilling one-wicket win in the third Ashes Test at Headingley on Sunday.
England — all out for a woeful 67 in the first innings — was 286 for nine, still needing 73 more for victory when bespectacled No. 11 Jack Leach walked out to join Stokes at the crease.

Holding firm

Leach, however, held firm as Stokes's astonishing 135 not out saw England complete its highest successful fourth innings chase as it squared the five-match series 1-1.
"There's nothing like being out there in the end and getting your team over the line. I didn't get nervous till we needed single figures, I didn't know what to do then," admitted Stokes.

Squandered review

Australia, which would have retained the Ashes had it won, missed a clear chance to run Leach out when Nathan Lyon failed to gather a throw and then paid dearly for squandering a review.
All-rounder Stokes eventually flayed fast bowler Pat Cummins for four to seal a famous victory arguably even more improbable than England's celebrated 1981 Ashes Test success at Headingley



A hyper-kinetic innings: Ben Stokes got into limited overs cricket mode and carted Australia's bowlers all over the park to take England home. ■ REUTERS

when it won after following-on.
This was only the fourth time a team had made more than 300 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Headingley.
As Leach looked on, all-rounder Stokes went into one-day mode by driving off-spinner Lyon for two straight sixes and then produced a stunning reverse against him that sailed high over deep point.
Stokes's extravagant

scooped six off Cummins reduced the target to 40.
Despite Australia captain Tim Paine having scattered all his fielders to the boundary, Stokes pulled Josh Hazlewood for four to complete a remarkable 199 ball-century — his second in a row after his 115 not out in the drawn second Test at Lord's — featuring eight fours and five sixes.
Stokes then hoisted the next two balls for six.
He rode his luck when a

sliced two off Cummins was dropped by a diving Marcus Harris at third man.
Stokes, however, commandingly pulled and drove Cummins's next two balls for four to leave England just nine runs shy of victory.
But a single left Leach on strike with two balls left in the over.
The first of those sailed over Leach's head and the next saw Australia waste a review for a ball that pitched outside leg stump.

Are you expecting to get some sense out of me right now? It was the best feeling ever

JACK LEACH
England's tail-end hero

When Leach came in... I told him five and one, I'd take five balls and give him one.

BEN STOKES
Named Man-of-the-Match

STAT SPHERE

- 1** England's 362 for nine is the highest total ever for a side winning a Test by one wicket
- 2** The Stokes-Leach partnership is the second highest 10th-wicket stand in a successful fourth innings chase
- 78*** Kusal Perera-Vishwa Fernando vs SA, Durban, 2019
- 76*** Stokes-Leach vs Aus, Leeds, 2019
- 57*** Inzamam-Mushtaq vs Aus, Karachi, 1994
- 4** Stokes' unbeaten 135 is the fourth highest individual score in one-wicket wins in Tests
- 153*** Lara, WI v Aus, 1998-99
- 153*** Kusal Perera, SL v SA, 2018-19
- 138*** Inzamam, Pak v Ban, Karachi, 2003-04
- 135*** Ben Stokes, Eng v Aus, Leeds, 2019
- 4** England's first innings score of 67 is the fourth lowest total in Test victories
- 45** Eng vs Aus, Sydney, 1886-87
- 60** Aus vs Eng, Lord's, 1888
- 63** Aus vs Eng, the Oval, 1882
- 67** Eng vs Aus, Leeds, 2019
- 74** Runs scored by Stokes out of the 76-run 10th-wicket partnership with Leach who scored one run. The other run came off a wide Stokes **74** (45b, 4x4, 7x6) Leach **1** (7b)
- Test sides successfully chasing targets of 350-plus in the fourth innings**
Aus (3 times)
Ind & SL (twice each)
WI, SA, Pak & Eng (once each)

SCOREBOARD

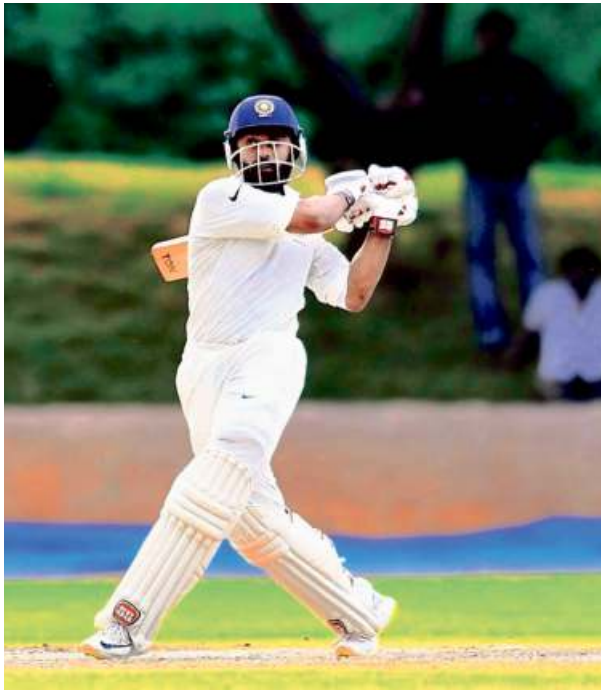
Australia — 1st innings: 179. **England — 1st innings:** 67.
Australia — 2nd innings: 246. **England — 2nd innings:** Rory Burns c Warner b Hazlewood 7, Jason Roy b Cummins 8, Joe Root c Warner b Lyon 77, Joe Denly c Paine b Hazlewood 50, Ben Stokes (not out) 135, Jonny Bairstow c Labuschagne b Hazlewood 36, Jos Buttler (run out) 1, Chris Woakes c Wade b Hazlewood 1, Jofra Archer c Head b Lyon 15, Stuart Broad lbw b Pattinson 0, Jack Leach (not out) 1; Extras (b 5, lb 15, nb 1, w 10); 31; Total (for nine wkts., in 125.4 overs): 362.
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-15, 3-141, 4-159, 5-245, 6-253, 7-261, 8-286, 9-286.
Australia bowling: Cummins 24.4-5-80-1, Hazlewood 31-11-85-4, Lyon 39-5-114-2, Pattinson 25-9-47-1, Labuschagne 6-0-16-0.
Man-of-the-Match: Ben Stokes.
England won by one wicket to level the series 1-1.

Bawane shines but India Red takes the lead

Avesh the pick of the bowlers; Karun in prime touch

DULEEP TROPHY

**ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU**
India Blue's Ankeet Bawane (121 n.o., 254b, 14x4) shone bright, but it was not enough to prevent India Red from gaining the first-innings lead on the third day of their Duleep Trophy encounter at the Alur ground here on Sunday.
When last man Basil Thampi was trapped on the pads by left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat, India Red secured a 30-run lead, and took a big step towards sealing a spot in the final.
India Red moved to 93 for two at close of play, with an overall 123-run advantage.



All class: Ankeet Bawane stayed calm even as wickets tumbled around him and took India Blue close to Red's first innings total. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

ly went up for a caught-behind appeal, causing Anmolpreet to lose his focus. A smart Kishan then realised

that Anmolpreet was out of his crease, and took off the balls. The third appeal upheld the modified appeal,

and Anmolpreet was declared stumped.
Bawane, meanwhile, was all class. The Maharashtra batsman stayed firm even as wickets tumbled around him. He found an able ally in nine-drop Aniket Choudhary (8, 40b), who hung around with Bawane for nearly 15 overs. Aniket's calm presence helped Bawane reach his 18th First Class century. Wakhare finally got Aniket bowled through bat and pad, and Unadkat cleaned up Thampi (0, 6b) in quick time.
Taking his time
Bawane was happy to find some runs, after a lacklustre 2018-19 First Class season. "It was important that I played the first 25-odd balls carefully, as I kept getting out in the first 10 balls in the previous season. So I took my time to get settled in, and it worked out well. It is nice to start the new season with a big one," Bawane said.
India Red fast bowler Avesh Khan (four for 58) was the pick of the bowlers.

Avesh got the ball to move at good pace, and went past the outside edge on numerous occasions.
Avesh stated that he learnt a lot from being part of the Indian team nets at the recent ICC 50-over World Cup. "Bowling to the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma is a big challenge. They can smash the bad balls and the good balls too. I picked up a lot of useful tips from bowling to these quality batsmen," Avesh said.
In India Red's second essay, Karun Nair (43 batting, 55b, 7x4) looked in prime touch. Karun was his usual confident self, reverse sweeping the spinners and driving the pacers. Ankit Kalsi, who scored a century in the first innings, stayed unbeaten on 21.
The scores: India Red 285 and 93 for two in 22 overs (Karun Nair 43 batting) vs India Blue 255 (Ankeet Bawane 121 n.o., Anmolpreet Singh 56, Ruturaj Gaikwad 37, Avesh Khan four for 58, Akshay Wakhare three for 32, Jaydev Unadkat three for 52).

Jemimah steers Diamonds home

**SPORTS BUREAU
YORK**
Jemimah Rodrigues scored an unbeaten 112 (58b, 17x4, 1x6) as Yorkshire Diamonds defeated Southern Vipers by four wickets in their Women's Cricket Super League on Sunday.
Bating first, Vipers made 184 for four with Suzie Bates (47) and Danielle Wyatt (42)

contributing.
In reply, Diamonds reached the target off the last delivery, thanks to Jemimah's brilliant effort.
The scores: Southern Vipers 184 for four in 20 overs (Suzie Bates 47, Danielle Wyatt 42, Tammy Beaumont 33, Alice Davidson Richards three for 21) lost to Yorkshire Diamonds 185 for six in 20 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 112 n.o.).



On the rampage: Jemimah's stroke-filled knock took the sting out of the Vipers attack. ■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

US Open — Prajnesh and Nagal primed for the big battle

**N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU**

The last time India had two players in the singles main draw at a Major was way back in 1998 when Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi both featured at Wimbledon. Two decades on, Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Sumit Nagal are set to emulate them at the US Open on Monday.
Prajnesh, India's top-ranked player at 88, will take on World No. 5 Daniil Medvedev in the second match while Nagal will experience the electric setting of playing Roger Federer under lights.
"It's pretty awesome that we have two guys [in main draw]," said Prajnesh. "It was just a matter of time. We have had many players in the qualifiers... myself, Ramkumar [Ramanathan], Yuki [Bhambhani], Sumit... it was bound to happen.
"The way Sumit qualified, in the final round he was down and had to dig deep. He deserves to be here and we are both looking forward to our matches."
Back then, Paes and Bhupathi had lost in the first round, to Zimbabwe's Wayne Black and Spaniard Carlos

Looking back, looking ahead

US OPEN RECORDS

MEN	WOMEN
Most titles: Roger Federer, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors (5 each) Most titles (doubles): Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan (5) Oldest champion: Ken Rosewall (35 years, 10 months, 11 days) in 1970 Youngest champion: Sampras (19 years, 28 days) in 1990 Most finals played: Sampras and Ivan Lendl (8 each) Most matches won: Connors (98)	Most titles: Chris Evert and Serena Williams (6 each) Most titles (doubles): Martina Navratilova (9) Oldest champion: Flavia Pennetta (33 years, 6 months, 18 days) in 2015 Youngest champion: Tracy Austin (16 years, 8 months, 28 days) in 1979 Most finals played: Evert (9) Most matches won: Evert (101)

MONDAY'S PICKS

3-Federer vs Nagal	1-Djokovic vs Carballes Baena Gunneswaran vs 5-Medvedev	2-Barty vs Diyas	8-Serena vs Sharapova	3-Pliskova vs Martincova
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Moya respectively. To say that the task at hand for Prajnesh and Nagal is equally arduous will be a massive understatement. Medvedev and Federer are the highest-ranked players they have ev-

er faced. Nagal, though, stated that he would simply cherish the moment.
"I am going to have as much fun as possible," the 22-year-old said. "When I found out I was going to play

Roger Federer, I was really, really happy. The first time I qualified for a Slam was here in 2012 as a junior. I am doing it again here in the men's category. So this tournament has played a big role in my

PKL

**ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI**
Rohit Kumar was the star for defending champion Bengaluru Bulls as it shocked league topper Jaipur Pink Panthers 41-30 in front of a packed audience at the Thyagaraj Complex here on Sunday. Both sides were looking to bounce back after the losses on Saturday, but it was the Bulls who had the last laugh.
Bulls, with a penchant to raid, and Panthers, with a reputation to defend, put up a stirring contest. It was Rohit who led by example to propel Bulls into a formidable position.
The Bengaluru side was also well served in the defence by Mahender Singh and Saurabh Nandal.
Rohit, with 13 raid points, crossed the 50-mark for the season even as Mahender, Saurabh and Mohit Sehra-

wat earned High 5s (tackle points), a first in the history of the competition. Ajinkya Pawar of Panthers registered 200 raids in the PKL.
Deepak Narwal earned the first point for Panthers with a successful raid, taking out Mohit Sehrawat. After 3-3, another raid by Rohit set the momentum, winning four straight points and finishing the first half 22-8.
Pawan Kumar Sehrawat of Bulls registered 100 successful raids this season as the defending champion continued to dominate. Bulls started the second half with the same strategy and intensity to attack.
"This win has set the momentum for our home leg matches and boosted our confidence as a team," said Rohit.
The results: Bengaluru Bulls bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 41-30; Dabang Delhi bt U.P. Yoddha 36-27.

Steve Smith set for return in tour match

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LEEDS**
Steve Smith is set to make his return to action in a tour match against Derbyshire after the Australia star batted against bowlers for the first time on Sunday since being concussed.
Smith was ruled out of the ongoing third Ashes Test at Headingley with concussion after being hit by a bouncer from England fast bowler Jofra Archer in the drawn second match at Lord's.
But he is now expected to return to action in a three-day tour match at Derby starting on Thursday with a view to being available for selection for the fourth Test at Old Trafford.
"Steve Smith batted against bowlers for the first time today (Sunday)," said an Australia team spokesman. The session lasted 25 minutes. He also did some high intensity running."

Anand lets Ding off the hook

**SPORTS BUREAU
SAINT LOUIS (USA)**
Viswanathan Anand missed a possible win against fellow leader Ding Liren before all games ended as draws in the seventh round of the Sinquefeld Cup chess tournament here on Saturday.
With no decisive games for the second successive day, Anand, Ding and Fabiano Caruana continued to lead at four points. Four rounds remain.
Anand, playing black, settled for a draw in the day's longest battle lasting 60 moves.
At one stage, the Indian managed to trade a knight and a pawn for rook by the 23rd move after the opening lines of Catalan.
But three moves later, Anand's decision to play the queen, instead of moving the knight to a strategic square at the centre of the board, proved instrumental in Ding escaping with half a point.
The results (seventh round): Ding Liren (Chn, 4) drew with Viswanathan Anand (4); Anish Giri (Ned, 3) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 4); Wesley So (USA, 3.5) drew with Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 3.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3.5) drew with Shakhriyov Mamedyarov (Aze, 3.5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 3.5) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 3.5); Levon Aronian (Arm, 3) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 3).

Bulls ride on Rohit, tame Panthers

Mahender, Nandal also do well

Yash rallies to beat Altamimi

**SPORTS BUREAU
GREATER NOIDA**
Yash Fadte bounced back from a tough start to sail past third seed Ammar Altamimi of Kuwait 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, 11-7 in the quarterfinals of the \$12,000 HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament at the Jaypee Greens Sports Complex on Sunday. The 17-year-old Goan will challenge the second seed Aditya Jagtap.
Velavan Senthilkumar set up a semifinal against the top seed Vikram Malhotra.
In the women's \$6,000 event, fifth seed Tanvi Khanna went down fighting in five games, after leading 2-1 against second seed Salma Youssef of Egypt.
The results (quarterfinals): Men: Aditya Jagtap bt Abhishek Agarwal 12-10, 11-6, 11-5; Yash Fadte bt Ammar Altamimi (Kuwt) 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, 11-7; Velavan Senthilkumar bt Rutvik Rau 11-5, 11-3, 11-7; Vikram Malhotra bt Robert Andrew Garcia 11-5, 11-2, 11-7. **Women:** Farida Mohamed (Egy) bt Hana Moatz (Egy) 5-11, 2-11, 11-4, 12-10, 11-5; Menna Hamed (Egy) bt Ananya Dabke 11-7, 11-5, 11-2; Sunayna Kuruvilla bt Sachika Balvani 11-1, 11-5, 11-6; Salma Youssef (Egy) bt Tanvi Khanna 8-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-9, 11-9.