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THE HINDU

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
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Britain must pay Brexit divorce bill even if there is no deal: EU
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Stimulus booster helps equities log best day in more than 3 months
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Bumrah and Ishant blow away West Indies, give India a 1-0 lead
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NEARBY

'Final NRC unlikely to be free of errors'

GUWAHATI

The Assam unit of the BJP on Monday said that it does not believe the final National Register of Citizens to be published on August 31 would be error-free. BJP State chief Ranjeet Kumar Dass said the document being prepared excludes genuine Indians and includes foreigners.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 12

Unnao case: CBI gets time till Sept. 9 to finish probe

NEW DELHI

A court here on Monday granted the CBI time till September 9 to complete its investigation and file a status report in the 2017 Unnao gang-rape case, one of the four related cases transferred by the Supreme Court from Uttar Pradesh.

CITY ▸ PAGE 2

Speaker seeks probe into sale of Chinese *manjha*

NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Monday asked Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev to order an inquiry into the sale of Chinese *manjha* in the Capital, which has caused multiple deaths this month. "The Delhi government has banned Chinese manjha. Despite this, how is it being sold? There should be a probe," the Speaker said

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

PM rejects scope for third party mediation in Kashmir

Trump: Discussed issue with Modi — India, Pakistan can resolve it on their own

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIARRITZ

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday categorically rejected any scope for third party mediation between India and Pakistan on Kashmir, saying the two countries could discuss and resolve all issues bilaterally and "we don't want to trouble any third country."

Mr. Modi made these remarks while interacting with the media alongside U.S. President Donald Trump, who ahead of his meeting with the Prime Minister had said he would discuss the Kashmir issue with him on the sidelines of the G7 summit in the French town of Biarritz.

"All the issues between India and Pakistan are bilateral in nature, and we don't want to trouble any third country. We can discuss and resolve these issues bilaterally," Mr. Modi said.

"When I had called Prime Minister [Imran] Khan after the elections, I told him that Pakistan has to fight against poverty, India has to also fight against it. Pakistan has to fight against illiteracy and disease, and India has to also fight against them...I told him we should work together for the welfare of our people," he said.

Pat on the hand: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President Donald Trump at a meeting in Biarritz on Monday. ▪ AP

On his part, Mr. Trump said he and Mr. Modi spoke about Kashmir "at great length" on Sunday night and he feels that both India and Pakistan can resolve it on their own.

"We spoke about Kashmir, the Prime Minister really feels he has it [situation] under control. They speak with Pakistan and I'm sure that they will be able to do something that will be very good," Mr. Trump said.

"I have very good relationship with both the gentlemen [Modi and Khan] and I'm here. I think they can do it [resolve the issue] themselves," he added.

"We are talking about trade, we're talking about military and many different things. We had some great discussions, we were together for dinner & I learned a lot about India," the U.S. President said. Mr. Modi also thanked Mr. Trump for congratulating him after his recent election victory and said their two countries had "shared democratic values."

Briefing reporters after the talks between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the two leaders had a "very warm, very positive meeting" which lasted 40 minutes.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12
PM HIGHLIGHTS WAR ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ▸ PAGE 13

G7 pledges millions to fight Amazon fires

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BIARRITZ

The G7 has agreed to spend €20 million on the Amazon, mainly to send fire-fighting aircraft to tackle the huge blazes engulfing many parts of the world's biggest rainforest, the Presidents of France and Chile have said.

The G7 – comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States – has also agreed to support a medium-term reforestation plan that will be unveiled at the UN in September, France's Emmanuel Macron and Chile's Sebastian Pinera said at the G7 summit here.

Brazil would have to agree to any reforestation plan, as would indigenous communities living in the Amazon.

The initiative was announced after G7 leaders held talks on the environment.

TRADE TALKS ON ▸ PAGE 14
EARTH'S BURNING LUNGS ▸ EDITORIAL

RBI showers ₹1.76 lakh crore bonanza on government

Record surplus transfer to take care of Centre's fiscal stress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), at its board meeting on Monday, decided to transfer ₹1.76 lakh crore to the Centre – including the interim dividend of ₹28,000 crore paid in February – which is likely to address the precarious fiscal situation of the government to a great extent.

The ₹1.76 lakh crore includes the central bank's 2018-19 surplus of ₹1.23 lakh crore and ₹52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework adopted at the board meeting.

The RBI said that as financial resilience was within the desired range, the entire 2018-19 net income of ₹1.23 lakh crore had been transferred.

The RBI had formed a committee, chaired by former Governor Bimal Jalan, to review its economic capital framework and suggest the quantum of excess provision to be transferred to the government. The committee was formed after a demand from the government for more money. The RBI Board has accepted all the recommendations of the Jalan committee.

The panel recommended a clear distinction between the two components of economic capital - realized equity and revaluation balances. It was recommended that realized equity could be used for meeting all risks/losses as they were primarily built up from retained earnings, while revaluation balances could be reckoned only as risk buffers against market risks as they represented unrealized valuation gains and hence were not distributable.

The committee also recognised that RBI's provisioning for monetary, financial and external stability risks is the country's savings for a 'rainy day', (a monetary or financial stability crisis), which has been consciously maintained with the RBI in view of its role as the Monetary Authority and the Lender of Last Resort.

"This risk provisioning made primarily from retained earnings is cumulatively referred to as the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) and has been recommended to be maintained within a range of 6.5% to 5.5% of the RBI's balance sheet comprising 5.5 to 4.5% for monetary and financial stability risks and 1.0% for credit and operational risks," the RBI said in a statement.

The 'Surplus Distribution Policy', as recommended by the committee, says only if realized equity is above its requirement, the entire net income will be transferable to the government.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Boost to finances

At a board meeting on Monday, the RBI decided to hand over its entire 2018-19 surplus of ₹1.23 lakh cr. to the govt

In ₹ crore	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Income	64,617	79,256	80,870	61,818	78,281
Expenditure	11,934	13,356	14,990	31,155	28,277
Net surplus	52,683	65,900	65,880	30,663	50,004
Surplus given to centre	52,679	65,896	65,876	30,659	50,000
% of RBI's net profit	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.99

Chidambaram's custody extended by four days

He will be confronted with co-accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday extended the CBI remand of former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram for another four days in the INX Media case.

Extending the remand till August 30, special judge Arvind Kumar Kuhar said: "The reasons for grant of police custody have been given in the order on August 28 [when the former Minister was first sent to police custody]."

Seeking further remand for five days, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that the investigation could not be completed.

The accused had been confronted with one co-accused, he said, adding that Mr. Chidambaram was to be confronted with some other accused persons. However, he did not reveal the name of the co-accused whom Mr. Chidambaram was confronted with.

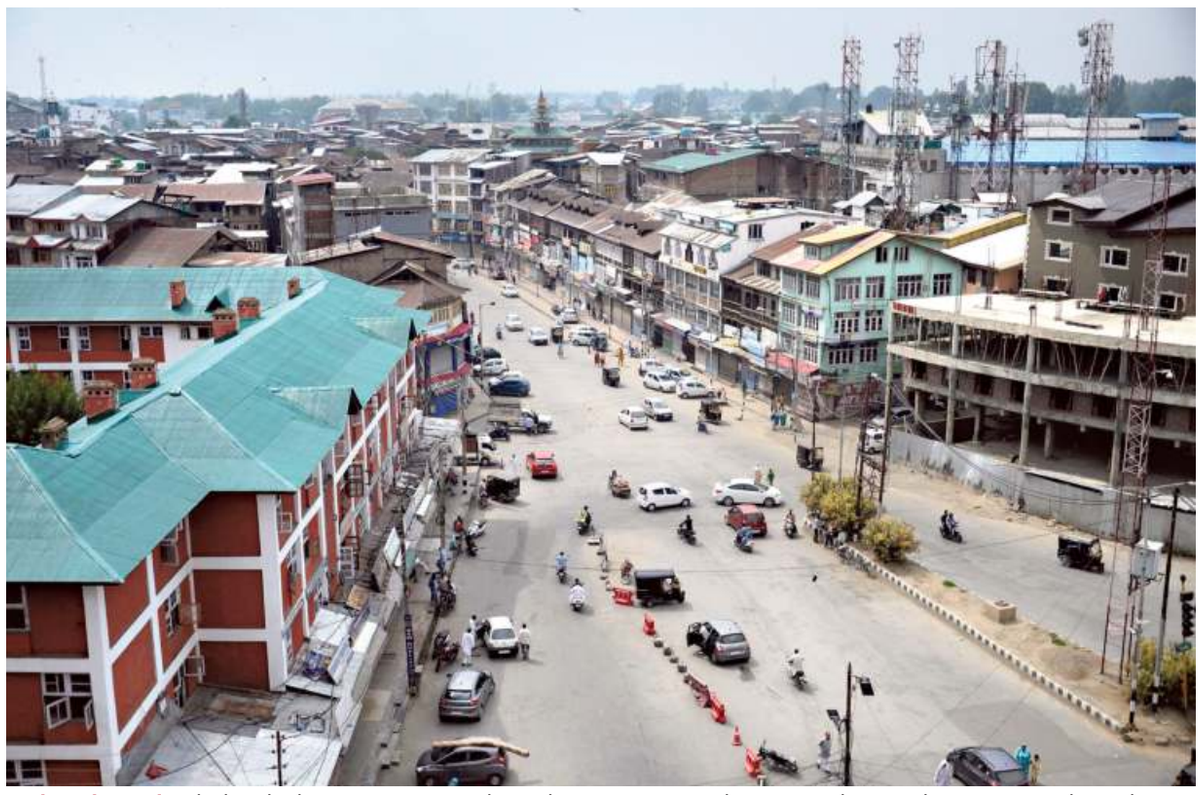
A sister probe

Mr. Mehta submitted that certain files concerning the transactions of INX Media were shown to the accused. Some information vis-a-vis his role had been received from sister probe agencies which were being scrutinised and required to be put to the accused, he added.

Also, there were numerous e-mails which were to be co-related with other documents. As regards the allegation of payments of $5 million and $4.5 lakh to the accused, Letters Rogatory had been issued, Mr. Mehta submitted.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12
CHIDAMBARAM GETS RELIEF IN ED CASE ▸ PAGE 12

A semblance of normalcy



Back on the road: Vehicles plied in Srinagar on Monday with restrictions eased in areas under 69 police stations in the Kashmir Valley. But shops, schools and private offices remained closed for the 22nd day. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD (REPORTS ON PAGE 13)

Manmohan continues to have Z+ security: MHA

CRPF likely to take over his protection

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday said former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh continued to have Z plus security, a day after *The Hindu* reported that the Special Protection Group (SPG) would be withdrawn from his security detail shortly. But the CRPF is likely to take over his security cover. Around 35 commandos will provide him round-the-clock security.

'Threat perception'

An MHA spokesperson said, "The current security cover review is a periodical exercise based on threat perception... purely based on professional assessment by security agencies. Dr. Singh continues to have a Z+ security cover."

Though the Congress did not formally react to the decision, *The Hindu* has learnt that senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last Friday, asking the government not to withdraw the SPG cover.

The SPG, an elite protection force, was set up in 1985 after the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Manmohan Singh

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Microchipping for native Chippiparai dogs

Initiative of Tamil Nadu veterinary college has put it on par with elite, exotic breeds

B. KOLAPPAN
P. SUDHAKAR
CHENNAI/TIRUNELVELI

An aquiline snout, a slender and streamlined body with long legs and the tail extending like a snake, Chippiparai, the native breed of Southern Tamil Nadu, is an ace runner and hunter. Even though their prominence faded with the advent of exotic breeds, there is a growing interest in local breeds now and the Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, has embarked on creating a database of the Chippiparai, which has already gained distinction as a universal donor of canine blood.

"We implanted microchips in 100 and collected blood samples from 151 dogs that attended the master health check-up and free anti-Rabies vaccination camp," said Dr. R. Ramprabhu, Professor and Head, Veterinary Clinical Complex, Tirunelveli.

Microchips have been implanted on 100 dogs in Tirunelveli. ▪ SHAIK MOHIDEEN. A

The camp in Tirunelveli was inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Vice-Chancellor Dr. C. Balachandran. He also released the Hand book of Indigenous Dog Breeds of Tamil Nadu.

Microchipping is mandatory for dogs that are members of the Kennel Club of India and the initiative of the Tirunelveli College has gained Chippiparai a status on a par with elite exotic dog breeds in the country.

Each microchip costs around ₹600 and the facility has made it easy for the owners to trace missing dogs. "We have come across a lot of police complaints about missing dogs and claim over ownership. Now the microchip with unique identification number will help establish the ownership," Dr. Ramprabhu said.

Manikandan, an owner of eight Chippiparai dogs, had microchips implanted in them. K. Pandithurai said four of his dogs were microchipped. As hunting is banned, the owners use the dogs only for guarding farms and houses.

Dr. Ramprabhu said he was confident of creating a database blood for Indian breeds and would go a long way in helping dogs that require blood. The blood typing was done by Dr. G.R. Baranidharan and Dr. Tirumurugan of the TANUVAS Canine Research Centre DBT Scheme. "We distributed identity cards to the dog owners. The donor dogs can enjoy many privileges in our hospital. They need not pay for registration and need not wait in queues," he said.

ED chargesheets Hooda, Vora in AJL case

Former CM, Congress leader accused of direct involvement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

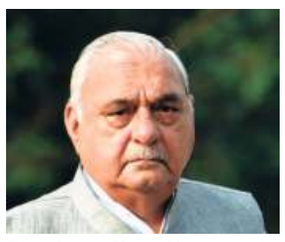
The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against Associated Journals Limited, veteran Congress leader Motilal Vora and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda for alleged illegal reallotment of a Panchkula plot to the company in 2005.

The chargesheet states that the accused persons were directly involved "in the process or activity connected with acquisition, possession or projection of 'proceeds of crime' i.e. Plot No. C-17, Sector 6, Panchkula to the tune of ₹64.9 crore".

The agency had earlier attached the plot and the order was confirmed by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act Adjudicating Authority. The ED probe revealed that the property was first allotted to AJL in 1982, but it was taken back by the Haryana Urban Development Authority Estate Officer on October 30, 1992, as the company did not comply with the allotment conditions.

The resumption order attained finality after dismissal of the revision petition in 1996. However, it is alleged that Mr. Hooda, as the then State Chief Minister and HUDA Chairman, misused his official position to reallot the plot to AJL in August 2005 at the original rate, plus interest, in violation of necessary conditions.

"He also did not adhere to the legal opinion of Legal Remembrance, Haryana, and recommendations of HUDA officials and Financial Commissioner of the Town and Country Planning Department. Thus, the Chief Minister caused wrongful loss to HUDA and wrongful gain to AJL," the ED alleged. The agency said Mr. Hooda further favoured AJL by granting it three undue extensions for construction on the plot from May 2008 to May 2012. The construction work was completed in 2014, it said.



Bhupinder Singh Hooda (left), and Motilal Vora

Cong. looks to fulfil poll promise in Chhattisgarh

SOBHANA K NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) or minimum income guarantee scheme, a key promise in the Congress manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, is set to make its first appearance in Chhattisgarh.

Under directions of the party high command, the Chhattisgarh government is likely to launch a pilot project for the scheme.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel last week met Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. K. Raju, who headed the office of former party chief Rahul Gandhi, was in Raipur to brief Mr. Baghel about the scheme.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 9

Traders' body supports call on plastic ban

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Traders body, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), has petitioned the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to take immediate steps to stop usage of single-use plastic, the group said in a statement on Monday.

In furtherance of the call made by the PM recently, the CAIT, which boasts of a support base of seven crore members, has assured the Minister of support from the trading community in making the ban of single-use plastic a "mass movement", it said. To this end, "We have decided to make traders and consumers aware of it through a campaign from September 1," it said.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Panel discussion on "Tibet and the Himalayan Borderlands" (panellists: Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU; Prof. Nimmi Kurian, Centre for Policy Research; and Prof. Vasudha Pande, Lady Shri Ram College. Moderator: Prof. Sangeeta Thapliyal, School of International Studies, JNU) at IIC, 6:30 p.m.

Talk: Charles Correa Memorial Lecture: "Conservation for Development" at by Ratish Nanda, Conservation Architect, IHC, 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "IhleD in Perspective", a solo photography exhibition by Rajan Bhatt at IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Balagan in Metamorphosis & Other Stories" an exhibition showcasing artworks on paper by Ruchika Wason Singh, curated by Manuela De Leonardis at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	66	Gurugram	48
Ghaziabad	50	Faridabad	49
Noida	42	Greater Noida	56

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

SFI accuses ABVP members of thrashing its activists in DU

Accused student outfit dismisses charge, calls it DUSU pre-election posturing

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Activists of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) were allegedly assaulted on the intervening night of Sunday while they were putting up posters in Vijay Nagar, allegedly by members of the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

Around 1 a.m., when ten members of the SFI, including five women, were putting up election-related posters on the North Campus, members of the ABVP allegedly attacked them. The ABVP members, who came in an SUV, allegedly attacked them with hockey sticks and cricket bats, Himanshu, an SFI member who got injured in the scuffle, said.

Apart from Mr. Himanshu, two other students – vice-president of the group, Sumit and an SFI member Noel – sustained injuries like limb fracture. It was alleged that later, more students arrived at the spot in another vehicle and attacked the SFI members.

> **The complete impunity that ABVP enjoys is evident from the fact that despite heavy police presence on the campus, the ABVP goons roam freely, armed with sticks and other weapons**
> STUDENTS' FEDERATION OF INDIA

Mr. Himanshu said that the vehicle was bearing the name of Sahil Malik, an ABVP candidate for the upcoming DUSU elections.

In a statement, the SFI said that Mr. Sumit, who was allegedly hit on the head with a blunt object, lost consciousness and sustained serious injuries. The group also claimed that women activists were verbally abused. Following this, the SFI students fled the spot and reached Hindu Rao Hospital for treatment of their injured friends, Mr. Himanshu said.

FIR registered

A complaint was registered at Maurice Nagar police station and later transferred to Model Town police station. An FIR has been lodged in the matter.

ABVP spokesperson Ashutosh Singh, however, denied the charge saying that none of the members of the group were involved in the alleged attack. He claimed that such allegations are levelled before the elections every time. ABVP candidate Mr. Malik could not be reached for comment.

Condemning the alleged attack, the SFI said that the ABVP has been involved in many such incidents in the last five years.

It also said that such incidents of violence "controvert the very concept and purpose of universities as autonomous spaces, where new ideas are generated, old ideas are contested and differences in opinions are supposed to be addressed through discussion without any prejudice".

It went on to allege that the ABVP received patronage from the university administration and the police. "ABVP goons can be found patrolling on the campus during late hours. The complete impunity that ABVP enjoys is evident from the fact that despite heavy police presence on the campus, the ABVP goons roam freely, armed with sticks and other weapons," it said.

'From student leaders, we at times get great leaders for the country'

High Court said in apparent reference to Arun Jaitley

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

"From student leaders, we sometimes get great leaders for the country," the Delhi High Court observed on Monday in an apparent reference to former Union Minister Arun Jaitley who passed away on August 24.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar while hearing a case related to defacement of public property during DUSU elections in 2017, said: "Don't be too harsh on them [students]. Don't put ban on everything. From student leaders, we sometimes get great leaders for the country. You know the examples, you must have seen it yesterday."

Jaitley was an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) student activist at Delhi University in the 1970s and had become the president of the university's students' union in 1974.

The High Court disposed of a petition by advocate Prashant Manchanda, seeking a complete ban on defacement of public properties by the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) poll candidates after passing certain directions.

It asked the authorities to inform student leaders and union about the guidelines framed to regulate election campaigning for the students' body polls, to prevent defacement in future.

It said that the students should be warned about the orders passed by the court and thereafter, civil and criminal action should be initiated against those involved in damaging public or private properties, in accordance with the law.

The petitioner had earlier placed before the High Court a report giving names of 15 people who were involved in destruction of public and private property through use of spray paints and other means of defacement during the process of DUSU elections in 2017.

The High Court asked the Centre, the university and the police to keep in mind the last year's direction to ensure there was no defacement of public property during the DUSU elections and wide publicity be given to penal consequences of such actions.

DU releases eighth cut-off list to merit-based UG courses

Candidates may approach colleges from today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi University released the eighth cut-off list to merit-based undergraduate courses on Monday evening.

Though general-category admissions to most courses have closed, admissions to B.Com (Honours) in North Campus colleges, such as Hansraj, Hindu College and Lady Sri Ram College remain open.

Admissions to B.A Economic (Honours) also remain open at Hindu College and Kirori Mal College.

Apart from this, admissions are open to various reserved categories, especially for students belonging to the Scheduled Tribe and those belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections.

The university had initially planned to release only five cut-off lists, but given the availability of seats, has released three more. It also carried out special drives before releasing the sixth and seventh lists.

Eligible candidates may approach the respective colleges to seek approval for admission, starting Tuesday.

Vector-borne diseases on the rise in city

20 cases of malaria reported last week

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The number of vector-borne diseases in the Capital shot up with 20 cases of malaria and 18 cases of dengue reported last week, according to the latest report from the municipal corporations released on Monday.

With this, the total number of malaria cases in the city this year has touched 131 so far and the number of dengue cases has reached 75.

The number of cases, however, is less than that of last year during the same time, when the Capital saw 145 cases of malaria and 78 cases of dengue. Apart from this, one case of Chikungunya was reported this week and the total number of such cases this year stands at 21, compared to 44 cases of Chikunguniya during the same time last year.

Effort by SDMC

As part of its effort to control mosquito-borne diseases, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation said that it had carried out intensive drives at office complexes, markets and constructions sites. It had found that 23.5% construction sites, 16% offices and 13% of markets surveyed were breeding sites of mosquitoes.

Despite repeated visits and public awareness campaigns, the civic body said that mosquito breeding had been detected in 84,344 premises across the city. This is out of nearly 2 crore houses visited by municipal staff in the city. The report also stated that 74,214 notices have been issued for the presence of mosquitogenic conditions.

In a statement, the SDMC appealed to the public to prevent water stagnation and keep water storage spots properly covered to prevent the laying of eggs as the breeding of mosquitoes and transmission of such diseases take places especially during monsoon season.

CBI gets time till Sept. 9 to probe Unnao case

Victim was gang-raped on June 11, 2017

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A court here on Monday granted the CBI time till September 9 to complete its investigation and file a status report in the 2017 Unnao gang-rape case, one of the four related cases transferred by the Supreme Court from Uttar Pradesh.

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma approved the investigative agency's request seeking more time to further investigate the case in which Shubham Singh, Naresh Tiwari and Brajesh Singh Yadav are the accused. All the three are out on bail.

The woman was allegedly raped by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and the three men in two different incidents in 2017 when she was a minor.

A separate rape case has been registered against Sengar in which the trial commenced on Friday.

The CBI had earlier told the court that the matter was at the final stage of investigation and had sought one week's time to complete its probe. The court had granted time till August 26 to the probe agency

The apex court had transferred four criminal cases – the 2017 rape case; an alleged fake matter under the Arms Act against the father of the rape survivor; his death in police custody; and the gang rape of the woman.

The court had earlier declined the plea of CBI seeking 30 days to complete the probe and directed it to file a status report by August 17.

The woman, who was a minor then, was allegedly raped by Sengar on June 4, 2017 and the three persons on June 11, 2017. The woman is battling for life at AIIMS here after a truck rammed into the car in which she was travelling along with family members and her lawyer on July 28. Two of her aunts died in the accident.

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THE HINDU GROUP

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PRESENTS
BusinessLine CEREBRATION
CORPORATE QUIZ 2019

DELHI
BLOCK YOUR DATE
30th August, 2019
VENUE: Fortune Institute of International Business, Vasant Vihar
Time: 2:00pm

To register, Visit: www.cerebration.co.in

HOW TO PARTICIPATE
- Participation is open to all corporate, B- school students and degree college students.
- Teams consists of any two people from the same corporate or college.
- Any amount of teams from the same corporate or college.
- The teams in each centre will participate in a written preliminary round to decide the 6 finalists for that centre.
- In each centre, the finals will be held immediately after the prelims.
- The winners in each centre will be declared as the Regional Winner.
- The Hindu Businessline will arrange for the travel and stay of the outstation teams qualifying for the All India Finals.

STAGE 1 Registration
To participate log on to cerebration.co.in and register with your details.

STAGE 2 Regional Finals
The top 6 teams from each region (based on their performance in the written test at venue) will enter the regional finals.

STAGE 3 National Finals
Top team from each regional final will contest the national final.

For Queries, Contact us at +91 98997 70370

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THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

AFBB SCHOOL CONDUCTS WORKSHOP

Air Force Bal Bharati School conducted a workshop on 'Sensitization of children on POCSO Act'. The workshop was conducted by Ld. Sh. Pawan Kumar, Judge, Ld. Secretary DLSA, East District Legal Services Authority, Delhi. The Principal, Mrs. Sunita Gupta, expressed her concerns over the growing menace of internet and social media. A poem on Women Empowerment, 'Little Kite', was recited by the students.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Modern School, Barakhamba Road, celebrated Independence Day. The Chief Guest, Chairman Birender Singh Dhanoa, Air Chief Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor, Vice Air Chief Marshal Ashok Pratap Singh, Secretary Ambika Pant, President Col Vijay Chadda and Principal Dr. Vijay Datta were present for the occasion. The Chief Guest hoisted the National Flag with the Principal. Students performed various activities to entertain the guests and the audience.

HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP

Ashok Memorial Public School, Faridabad, organised a free Health Check-up Camp on 18th August to commemorate the memory of Lt. Sh. Girdhari Lal Sachdeva, the founder Chairman of the school. The camp was organized to provide free medical facility to the poor and underprivileged section of the society. The camp was organised in collaboration with Alliance Club International and QRG Central Hospital and Research Centre, Faridabad. A team of Experts and Super Specialist Doctors were involved in the camp. The students also visited the old age home and cancer hospital with their teachers.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar:
Handphone: +91 98100 89457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in

5% tax rebate for societies saving water

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Residential housing societies in east Delhi, carrying out water conservation activities should get an additional 5% rebate in property tax, a House meeting of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation resolved on Monday.

The resolution was moved given the environmental damage taking place due to global warming and the Prime Minister's recent push for "Jal Shakti Abhiyan", it said.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड (वि./यौं), उ. प्र. जल निगम, गाजियाबाद

एन.आई.टी संख्या: 2993/विविध-7/320 दिनांक 22.08.2019
निविदा सूचना

उ.प्र. जल निगम, की ओर से जनपद गाजियाबाद के अन्तर्गत 50 क्यूसेक गंगाजल वाटर ट्रीटमेन्ट प्लान्ट, प्रताप विहार, गाजियाबाद में स्थित 33/6.6 के0वी0, 1500 के0वी0ए0 पावर वितरण ट्रान्सफार्मर के Die Electric Oil की आपूर्ति एवं फिलिंग आदि कार्यों हेतु निविदाओं की बिक्री दिनांक **29.08.2019** से दिनांक **08.09.2019** तक कार्यालय समय में कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता (गा0क्षे0) उ0प्र0 जल निगम गाजियाबाद, कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, यौंत्रिक मण्डल, उ0प्र0 जल निगम, गाजियाबाद, कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड (वि0/यौं) उ0प्र0 जल निगम, गाजियाबाद एवं कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक गंगाजल परियोजना इकाई, उ0प्र0 जल निगम, प्रताप विहार, गाजियाबाद से की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक **09.09.2019** को **03:00** बजे तक उपरोक्त कार्यालय में टेन्डर बाक्स में डाले जा सकते हैं जो कि उसी दिन **03:30** बजे कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, यौंत्रिक मण्डल, उ0प्र0 जल निगम, गाजियाबाद में खोले जायेंगे। निविदा प्रपत्रों का मूल्य रू0 1000.00 +18% **GST** है। निविदा के कार्यों का विस्तृत विवरण जल निगम की वेबसाइट **www.jn.upsdc.gov.in** से अथवा सम्बन्धित कार्यालय से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

Speaker seeks probe into sale of Chinese *manjha*

AAP MLA demands compensation for family of one such victim

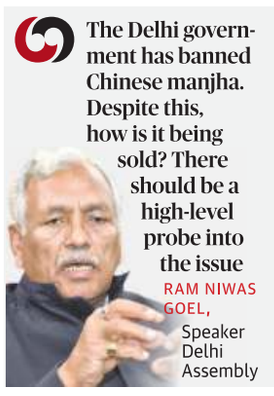
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Monday asked Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev to order an inquiry into the sale of Chinese *manjha* in the Capital, which has caused multiple deaths this month.

Chief Secy tasked

"The Delhi government has banned Chinese *manjha*. Despite this, how is it being sold? There should be a high-level probe in this issue," the Speaker said, adding: "I desire Chief Secretary to do a full inquiry into the issue. He should ask the police to inquire where are these *manjha* being sold, what fine is being imposed," he added.

The issue was raised in the House by AAP MLA Mohinder Goyal, who requested the Social Welfare Minister to give compensation to the family of a man who died after his throat was slit by a kite string.



The Delhi government has banned Chinese manjha. Despite this, how is it being sold? There should be a high-level probe into the issue
RAM NIWAS GOEL, Speaker Delhi Assembly

"The incident happened when the engineer was riding a scooter," Mr. Goyal said. The MLA said the victim's father had died earlier and now his mother has to take care of his sisters.

"I request MLAs to give ₹5,000 or ₹10,000 from our salaries to the family," he said, adding: "Till now, no government official has gone to meet them. It is the District Magistrate's responsibility."

Attacking the police, the MLA said, "This is why Delhi should have full statehood so that the police would be under the control of the State government."

On August 15, 28-year-old Manav Sharma and his two sisters were going to their aunt's house in Hari Nagar to celebrate rakshabandhan when the incident happened.

Manav was declared brought dead at a private hospital while his sisters sustained minor injuries.

'Sensitise students about menace of kite flying'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday directed heads of all schools to ensure that they sensitise students about the menace of kite flying. The move comes after a series of deaths were reported in the city due to *manjha*.

In a circular, the Directorate of Education said, "Flying kites becomes lethal and hazardous because of the metal-coated string. It is a matter of concern and therefore, the students should be discouraged doing it and also told about the dangers that kite flying can pose to people, animals, and birds around," the DoE said. The circular added that it can also interrupt electricity supply if it comes in contact with high tension lines.

Assembly grants ₹290 cr. for free rides to women in buses, metro

House also passed ₹142 crore for marshals in buses

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly on Monday passed Supplementary Demands for Grants of ₹290 crore for a government scheme to provide free rides to women in city buses and metro trains.

The Assembly also passed ₹142 crore for marshals in buses and ₹47 crore for RRTS corridors. On June 3, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced that the government is planning to make travel for women free in buses and metro trains.

On Monday, Finance Minister Manish Sisodia said the Cabinet is yet to approve the scheme. "In metro, they will have to adapt their systems, which will take time. In buses, it will happen soon," he said while presenting the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2019-2020.

Of the ₹290 crore, ₹140 crore is for free rides for women in buses and ₹150 crore for rides in metro trains, the Minister said.

Later, he told the reporters that though the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is not ready with the plan, the Assembly has passed the funds to avoid any crunch. Public Works Department Minister Satyendar Jain said the government has floated a tender for 1.4 lakh more CCTV cameras. The government plans to install a total of 2.8 lakh CCTV cameras on the streets and the installation of 1.4 lakh CCTVs is under way.

On this, Mr. Sisodia said the CCTVs have helped reduce thefts ranging from cars on streets to pencils at schools and even sandals outside temples.

Ventilators not working

Forty-four ventilators in government-run hospitals are not working, the Department of Health and Family Welfare said in a written answer in the Assembly, responding to a question by BJP MLA O.P. Sharma.

AAP Seelampur MLA Ishraq Khan on Monday spoke at the House for the first time in four and a half years.

"Speaker, thanks a lot for giving me a chance to speak under (Rule) 280," Mr. Khan said, adding that there were no parking facilities for people who live in smaller plots. "People in my Assembly are very poor and there is no college for women. They drop out after Class XII," he said.

Aam Aadmi Party MLA 'de-seals' building

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party Seelampur MLA Ishraq Khan has allegedly de-sealed a building which was sealed by a municipal corporation.

In a video of the alleged incident from last week, the MLA is seen removing the seal from a lock of the building and asking bystanders to open the blue door.

Slogans raised

As the door opens, people are seen chanting *Bharat Mata Ki Jai*.

When asked about the incident, the MLA told the reporters that "a poor family was living in the building and a police officer, who was harassing them, had made the civic body seal it."

SI rescues man from drowning in Yamuna

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police sub-inspector rescued a senior citizen from drowning in the Yamuna on Friday, said officials on Monday.

Sunil Kumar, posted at Majnu-ka-tilla police post, was on patrolling duty on Friday night when two passers-by informed him that a man had fallen into the river.

Mr. Kumar immediately reached the spot and jumped into the river. He rescued 70-year-old Roshan Lal, who was admitted to a hospital and later discharged after treatment.

The victim had gone to a gurudwara and on the way back, he fell into the river. "Mr. Kumar will receive a cash prize and an appreciation letter," said Special Commissioner of Police (Northern Range) Sanjay Singh.

Gangster involved in murder of Cong. leader nabbed at Delhi airport

Accused, wanted in around 50 cases, was carrying ₹5 lakh bounty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

An alleged gangster, carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh on his head, was arrested by the Special Task Force of Haryana Police at Delhi airport on Monday.

Kaushal was wanted in around 50 cases of murder, kidnapping and extortion in the State, including the murder of Haryana Congress leader Vikas Chaudhary in June this year.

Faridabad Police Commissioner K.K. Rao said Red Corner and Look Out notices were issued against Kaushal last year in a case registered in Gurugram.

"We got a call from the airport authorities around 3-30 a.m. stating that they have detained the accused. An STF team then reached the airport and arrested him," said Mr. Rao.

Kaushal was produced before a Gurugram court and remanded in police custody till September 2. "He will be arrested in other cases as well and taken on remand," the officer added.

Kaushal has been remanded in police custody till September 2
. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sentenced to life imprisonment in a murder case, Kaushal jumped six weeks parole in April 2015. He then set up a reign of terror in Gurugram, Rewari and Faridabad by making extortion calls and committing murders if his demand were not met. He was also involved in several cases of kidnappings for ransom.

₹1 crore ransom

Mr. Rao said Kaushal had demanded ₹1 crore ransom from Chaudhary at the instance of Sachin, prime accused in the case, who is still on the run.

Chaudhary was shot dead when he came out from a gym in Faridabad on June 27 morning. He added that the police had recovered 12 mobile phones, ₹14 lakh in foreign currency and a forged Spain passport from his possession. He wanted to escape to Zambia on the passport in the name of Naresh, said the officer.

Mr. Rao said the arrest of his gang members had also provided information about him. A case was also registered against him in Alwar for allegedly possessing a forged passport.

Man arrested for sexually abusing minors in Dwarka

He took the girls to secluded spots on pretext of offering bike rides

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly sexually abusing minor girls in Dwarka, the police said on Monday.

The case came to the fore after they got several complaints stating that a man has been sexually abusing minors in Najafgarh for the past month.

No previous crimes

"Belonging to Ranhola, the accused is a tailor. He has no previous involvement in any crime," said an officer.

On Saturday, the police claimed to have received a PCR call about a missing 10-year-old girl.

But when the beat officer reached the spot, the girl was back home.

She told her parents that how a man sexually abused her on the pretext of offering her a ride on his motorcycle.

'Mother is calling you'

"She had stepped out to buy sugar at 10.30 a.m. when suddenly a man on a black motorcycle told her that her mother is calling her. The accused then offered her a ride and took her to an isolated place and assaulted her," the officer added.

When the victim started to cry, the man dropped her on the road and fled the spot.

Missing report

Meanwhile, her family had reported a missing complaint.

"After medical examination, an FIR was registered under Indian Penal Code Section 363 [kidnapping] and under relevant sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act," added the officer.

When the investigating team reached the area from where the girl was reported missing, the locals said, a man who comes to the area on a bike has been assaulting minor girls in the area for the past 15 to 20 days.

"We scanned all the CCTV cameras installed in the area. In one footage, the suspect was seen riding a black motorcycle," added the officer.

After getting confirmation of his involvement in the case, the accused was nabbed from Baprola, the police added.

During interrogation, the accused confessed that he had assaulted four girls in the past five days using the same modus operandi.

"We have got two more complaints against him stating that he had assaulted two teenagers in Najafgarh. He has been sent to judicial custody," the officer added.

Youth killed in scuffle in Vikaspuri

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An 18-year-old boy was stabbed to death by his uncle's neighbour in west Delhi's Vikaspuri on Sunday night, the police said on Monday.

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the case, they said. A senior officer said Mohammed Riyaz from Tilak Nagar was on a visit to his uncle Lekh Mohammed's place when the incident happened. The accused neighbour, Sarvesh, and his relatives Shiv Kumar and Rekha have been arrested while four others are absconding.

The police said they received a call at 10 p.m. regarding a stabbing incident after which a team reached the spot. The officers were told that the victim had been taken to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

During inquiry, the police were told that a person informed Lekh that his relative Karan wanted to be friends with his daughter. Lekh objected to this and went to his residence and slapped him. Karan informed his father Sarvesh about the same and called his relatives who reached Lekh's residence. A fight ensued between the two families when one accused, Rahul, stabbed Riyaz, the police said, adding that teams are looking for the absconding accused.

Teen held for extortion attempt on eatery owner

Two others apprehended: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 19-year-old man has been arrested and two minors apprehended for their alleged involvement in attempting to extort ₹50 lakh from a restaurant owner in outer north Delhi's Bawana, the police said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said the accused has been identified as Rhytham alias Param from Rohini Sector 16.

He tried to extort money in the name of an absconding criminal Kuldeep alias Fajja, an accomplice of Jeetender Gogi, a criminal.

On July 18, a Bawana resident received a call from a man who identified himself as Fajja and threatened the complainant of dire consequences if he didn't pay ₹50 lakh, the police said.

Fired at restaurant

"The complainant didn't give the money. However, an unknown person fired in front of the victim's restaurant and then called him saying that the target will be his family next time," Mr. Sharma said, adding that a case was registered and protection was provided to the victim and his family.

During investigation, the police were informed that the extortion call was made using a phone, which was snatched a few hours before the call was made. The owner of the phone said two persons on a bike snatched his the device and sped off. Sketches of the suspects were then prepared, the police said.

The accused in police custody. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, on July 20, the accused fired again and this time, both outside the victim's restaurant and his house. "On August 5, the complainant received another extortion call from a phone which was again found to be snatched. Again, a sketch was made. On August 18, the accused called the victim and mentioned that his son missed the school bus on a particular day which scared the victim," Mr. Sharma said, adding that informers were then asked to get to work.

One of the informers, the police said, told them about a suspicious bike which was there in the area on the date on which the child had missed the bus.

With the help of human intelligence, the suspect was identified and a trap was laid after which Rhytham was arrested.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that he was in need of money and came in contact with one Pramod, neighbour of the complainant, who told him that the victim was a potential one and after this, they planned the crime.

Man held for duping over 50 people with promise of high returns on rentals

Initially, he paid victims to gain their confidence, later sold all cars

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A man was arrested for allegedly duping over 50 persons on the pretext of offering huge profits by renting their high-end vehicles, the police said on Monday.

Suraj Singh (24) from Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri has studied till Class X, they said, adding that he was wanted in a cheating case registered at Gandhi Nagar police station.

On August 14, a case was registered in which the victim alleged that Suraj, who claimed to be a tour and travel operator, asked him to put his SUV for rent in his firm and assured a handsome return, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Dr. G. Ram Gopal Naik.

After this, the victim gave Suraj his SUV for one and half years and also kept giving him more cars for hire. Initially, Suraj paid him some money. However, for the past eight months, the accused did not pay any money to the complainant, the police said.

"On August 5, Suraj fled off with all the vehicles and other valuables. After this, the victims approached the local police station and filed their respective complaints," said Dr. Naik.

The team worked on the case from several angles and managed to arrest the accused on Sunday night from Anand Vihar.

Recoveries made

The police claims to have recovered ₹2 lakh cash and jewellery worth ₹8 lakh from his possession.

During interrogation, he revealed that he came in touch with Bilal Khan and Mehboob, both from Seemapuri. The trio hatched a plan to cheat people and for the purpose, they opened a tour and travel office in Ghaziabad's Sahibabad.

They launched a scheme where they invited the victims to invest in return for handsome returns. Under the scheme, the cars will be put on rent with five stars hotels.

"Many people invested in his scheme. He had assured monthly rent from ₹60,000 to ₹2 lakh. Initially, he made payments to investors. But he again took some money back from the investors on fake assurance that they are buying other cars on their names," the officer said.

Later, it was revealed that he sold all the cars after making forged signatures of the victims and fled off.

The accused was planning to settle down in Mumbai, Dr. Naik added.

'Phones of Babul Supriyo, others stolen during Jaitley's cremation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

At least 11 people, including BJP MP Babul Supriyo, had their phones stolen during the cremation of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at Nigambodh Ghat, said Patanjali spokesperson S.K. Tijarawala on Monday.

An officer said a complaint had been filed in the case. "When all were paying their last tribute to Arun Jaitley, the phone from which this photo was taken, also gave me a final goodbye [sic]," Mr. Tijarawala tweeted.

Court extends Chautala parole by four weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday extended by four weeks the parole of INLD chief O.P. Chautala, serving a 10-year jail term in the teachers' recruitment scam, to observe the last rites rituals following his wife's death. Chautala was granted parole by the government on August 12 following his wife's death. His parole will expire on August 27.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Kasif** S/o Samsuddin R/o H. No. 22, Gali No. 8 Old Govindpura, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **F.I.R. No. 81/2019 u/s 394/411/34 IPC** registered at P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Kasif** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Kasif** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Kasif** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.09.2019**

By Order
Sh. Jitendra Pratap Singh,,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Court No. 15, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/1166/SHD/19
(Court Notice)

DELHI PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH UNIVERSITY
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(Established under Act 07 of 2008, Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research (DIPSAR)
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Online-Applications are invited (in the prescribed format with a hard copy) for the following posts at Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University.

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Number of Posts	Category of Post	Level (7th CPC)
1.	Controller of Finance	01	—-	Level-14
2.	Registrar	01	—-	Level-14
3.	Deputy Registrar	01	UR	Level-12
4.	Training and Placement Officer	01	UR	Level-13A

The details of qualifications, age and experience for the above posts are available on the DPSRU website **(www.dpsru.edu.in).** The candidates will be shortlisted based on the merit of the candidates for which the University has the sole right. The candidates may be called for the Interview. The dates for Interview will be notified later on the DPSRU website. A candidate may have to come for interview on different dates and no TA/DA will be admissible.

A print out of the online Application Form accompanied by self attested copies of Educational and Professional Qualifications, Experience, PWD Certificate, Ex-Serviceman certificate (in case claiming the benefit of reservation) must also be submitted in the University to the, **Officiating Registrar, DPSRU or sent by post so as to reach the Officiating Registrar,Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences And Research University, Pushp Vihar, Sector-3, M.B. Road, New Delhi-110017** latest by **19/09/2019, up to 05:00PM** (In case the closing date happens to be a public holiday the next working day will be the last date for receiving of applications and the University will not be responsible for any postal delay or loss. **Online Application will be accepted on or before 16/09/2019 up to 05:00 PM.**

NOTE 1 : If applicants apply for more than one position online then they have to send hard copies of online applications along with documents in separate envelopes.

NOTE 2 : **For the posts of Controller of Finance and Registrar appointment may be considered for 3-5 years on deputation. And for the post of Training and Placement Officer Appointment will be purely on contractual basis.**

NOTE 3 : If no suitable candidates are available for 3-5 years tenure, applicants will be considered for short term contractual position for 1-2 years for which the retired govt. servants (less than 64 years of age) can also apply.

DIP/Shabdarth/0577/19-20 **Offg. Registrar**

Dip/Shabdarth/D/0104/19-20

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Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

DELHI Timings

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
THURSDAY, AUG. 29			
RISE	05:58	SET	18:47
RISE	04:21	SET	18:14

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	26
Safdarjang	35	26
Palam	35	25

Delhi Palam Today
36°C Comfortable morning turns into a hot day with few cloudy and light winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
37°C A spell of light rain or thunderstorm may occur at few parts of the city. Rise in day temperature likely.

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Man attempts self-immolation at Haryana CM's rally in Sonipat

Rajesh was allegedly perturbed over unemployment of his two sons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A 45-year-old man attempted self-immolation at Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's "Jan Ashirwad Rath Yatra" in Sonipat on Monday, allegedly perturbed over the unemployment of his two sons. He sustained more than 50% burns and has been referred to PGIMS, Rohtak.

Five more persons sustained burns in the incident. Chief Medical Officer, Sonipat, Ashwani Kumar, said all the five injured were out of danger, but one of them, Chandram, has also been referred to PGIMS, Rohtak, for better treatment.

Rajesh, the victim, told mediapersons that he had met Mr. Khattar at Haryana Bhawan in 2016 seeking jobs for his two sons. He said the Chief Minister asked him to come to him after the vacancies for Group D jobs were advertised and assured help. But both his sons failed to make it in the recent appointments to Group D jobs. Rajesh, a worker at a factory in Rai, said he was worried about his sons' future and set himself afire in protest.

CM Manohar Lal Khattar

An eye-witness told *The Hindu* that Rajesh doused himself with an inflammable liquid soon after Mr. Khattar ended his speech at Rathdhana village around noon. He set himself afire and ran amok hugging people in the crowd, causing injuries to them as well. He was overpowered and taken to Civil Hospital in an ambulance along with the other injured.

Case registered for attempt to suicide and causing hurt. Preliminary probe suggests that the man is mentally unstable

PRATIKSHA GODARA
SP, Sonipat

Mr. Khattar had kicked off his State-wide tour, 'Jan Ashirwad Rath Yatra', in Panchkula earlier this month ahead of the Assembly elections due in October. He will reach all the 90 Assembly segments of the State till September 8.

'75,000 govt. jobs'

Haryana Urban Local Bodies Minister Kavita Jain claimed that 75,000 government jobs were given during the BJP rule and the appointments were made in a transparent manner.

Sonipat SP Pratiksha Godara said a case was registered against Rajesh on charges of attempt to suicide and causing hurt.

She said the preliminary investigation suggested that the man was "mentally unstable".

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

Punjab govt. announces free wheat seed to flood-hit farmers

CM Amarinder Singh reviews post-flood action plan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government on Monday ordered a slew of additional measures for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims in various parts of the State, including supply of free high quality wheat seed to farmers for the upcoming rabi season.

The announcement was made by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh after reviewing the post-flood action plan, as per an official statement.

Mr. Singh asked the Additional Chief Secretary (Development) to ensure timely supply of wheat seed to the flood-affected farmers, who have already suffered huge losses as a result of damage to crops due to inundation of their fields in flood water.

He also asked the cooperation department to convert the short-term loans of the flood affected farmers into medium term loans. Mr. Singh has directed the Registrar of Cooperative Societies to advance fresh crop loan limits to such farmers to enable them to cultivate Rabi crop.

Taking note of the damage to the rural link roads and other marketing infrastructure, he has directed the Mandi Board to take on repair work on war footing as the water recedes.

Power restoration

The Chief Minister has asked the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited to move expeditiously for restoration of power supply in the flood ravaged villages.

The PSPCL chairperson has been asked to further intensify their efforts by employing special teams of engineers to complete power restoration work.

Mr. Singh has also ordered the Principal Secretary (Health) to take effective measures to check the outbreak of diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, enteric fever, jaundice as well as vector-borne diseases like malaria, chikungunya, dengue.

'Breaches plugged'

Meanwhile, Punjab Water Resources Minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria on Monday said three breaches – 380 feet breach in Meonwal village, 180 feet in Meonwal Dera Pathra and 165 feet in Mau Sahib in embankment of the Sutlej river in Jalandhar's Phillaur area have been plugged. While the work of plugging in the remaining breaches in Phillaur sub-division would be completed in the coming days.

Recover compensation for felling of trees: NGT

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking action against illegal felling of trees in Gurugram, the National Green Tribunal has directed the Haryana forest department to recover compensation from the private players for damaging the environment.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel took note of a report furnished by the department and said: "The forest department of Haryana may now recover the compensation in accordance with the procedure laid down under the law. The quantum of compensation may need further enhancement for which purpose the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, may also be consulted."

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea which alleged that despite registration of FIR for the felling of trees by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gurugram, "no action was taken".

Oppn. 'marak shakti' to blame for Swaraj, Jaitley deaths: Pragya

She should be in a mental asylum, says Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur on Monday said the Opposition was using 'marak shakti' (killing power) to harm BJP leaders, adding the 'evil power' was behind the recent deaths of former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj.

BJP veteran Arun Jaitley died on August 24 and Sushma Swaraj on August 6.

Taking umbrage at the BJP MP's remarks, the Madhya Pradesh Congress said she has lost her mental balance and advised her to undergo treatment in a mental asylum.

"While I was contesting the [Lok Sabha] elections, a Maharaj ji told me that bad times are upon us and the Opposition is up to something using some 'marak shakti' against the BJP. I later forgot what he said but now when I see our top leaders leaving us one by one, I am forced to think, wasn't Maharaj ji right?" she said.

MP Pragya Thakur

Ms. Thakur was addressing a condolence meeting at the State BJP office to pay tributes to Jaitley and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Babulal Gaur. The latter had died on August 20.

She refused to talk on the issue when reporters asked about her remarks.

"Sadhvi Pragya's statement is extremely objectionable. It shows that she has lost her mental balance," said Shobha Oza, State Congress Media Cell chief.

'Abusive words'

"Sometimes she uses abusive words for Gandhiji or for Nehruji. Now she said so about the Congress. She needs to be treated as soon as possible. A mental asylum is the right place for her," Ms. Oza told reporters.

Ms. Thakur, who defeated Congress leader Digvijaya Singh from Bhopal Lok Sabha seat, has made many such controversial remarks and had to apologise for some of them. She was issued a show-cause notice by the BJP for calling Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse a patriot.

Rain havoc

The scene at Badhal village in Shimla district on Monday after heavy rain. • PTI

45 arrested for stone pelting at VHP rally

Section 144 imposed in Gangapur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

The police have arrested 45 people in Gangapur City of Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district where tension prevailed after some people pelted stones at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad rally, a senior police officer said on Monday. Prohibitory orders have been imposed in the area and mobile internet services have been suspended till normalcy resumes, he added.

"We have arrested 45 people under preventive sections. The accused will be produced before the magistrate today (Monday). Section 144 has been imposed and mobile Internet services have been suspended," Superintendent of Police (Sawai Madhopur) Sudhir Chaudhary said.

The situation is "completely under control" and peace talks are being held with both the communities, he said, adding that a flag march was conducted to maintain law and order.

He said cross FIRs have been registered by people from both the communities and the matter was being investigated.

On Sunday, some people had thrown stones at the VHP procession apparently from inside a mosque and the adjoining houses in the area.

Four to five persons were reportedly injured in the stone pelting following which additional force was deployed in the area to maintain law and order, police said.

U.P. riots case: charges framed against five

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARNAGAR

A local court has framed charges against five persons accused of killing a youth whose death was a trigger for the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots in 2013.

District and Sessions Judge Sanjay Kumar Pachori has framed charges under Sections 302 (murder), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon) and 149 of the Indian Penal Code against the five accused.

The court fixed next Tuesday for producing witnesses from the prosecution side against Prahlad, Bishan Singh, Tendu, Devender and Jitender.

According to the prosecution, the five are among the six accused of stabbing Shahnawaz to death.

Could have done little to prevent celebration, say police

Video of rousing welcome being given to seven accused in Bulandshahr violence case goes viral

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

A day after the video of a rousing welcome being given to seven accused in the Bulandshahr violence that led to the murder of a police officer by a mob in December 2018 went viral on social media, the police said they could have done little to prevent the "immoral" behaviour of their supporters and family members.

In the video, people could be seen garlanding the accused as they come out of the district jail in Bulandshahr after they secured bail from the Allahabad High Court in the sedition charge that was sanctioned by the Uttar Pradesh government. Slogans such as 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' could also also be heard.

Santosh Kumar Singh, SSP, Bulandshahr, said: "We felt bad as they are accused in a case where a fellow officer was killed, but we could not have prevented family members and supporters from welcoming the accused granted bail by the High Court. The slogans were not provocative either."

Accused being felicitated in Bulandshahr. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Singh added that the accused didn't come out in a group. "They trickled out one by one."

The accused included Shikhar Agrawal, a member of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Upendra Raghav, former district president of Bajrang Dal, and Jitendra Malik, an Army man. The video suggests that a party was also given in their 'honour'. "We were not aware of it. Even the media was not invited. The photos have been circulated by the supporters," the SSP told *The Hindu*.

The seven are out of the 44 people booked by the police in what they described as a "watertight" case. They were allegedly part of the mob that set Chingrawati police chowki on fire after a cow carcass was found in the area. In the violence that ensued, SHO Subodh Kumar Singh was killed and a local, Sumit, also lost his life.

'Not murder accused'

"Those who have been granted bail are not accused of murder. Apart from sedition, they have been charged with rioting and inciting violence," said Mr. Singh.

Retired police officer Maxwell Pereira said the celebration of crime and criminals is an "immoral act" but there is very little police could do in such cases.

'Send accused back to prison'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The family of a police officer who was killed last year in violence over alleged illegal cow slaughter here, demanded on Monday that the accused be sent back behind bars, days after they came out on bail to a hero's welcome by their supporters.

Reacting to their grand welcome, slain police officer's son Shrey Pratap Singh said that such elements are better behind bars. "I urge the Chief Minister that these criminals who were in jail for six months should be behind bars in the interest of society," he said.

'Ensure plastic ban or face action'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday said strict action would be taken against officials if it was found that banned plastic was being sold in any area of Lucknow from next month. Additional Chief Secretary Awanish Awasthi said he would inspect the areas in the city to ensure the implementation of the plastic ban.

Plastic of thickness less than 50 microns has been banned.

Punjab govt. undertakes plantation drive

Beautification of Sultanpur Lodhi area ahead for Guru Nanak birth anniversary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government has undertaken a plantation drive in the vicinity of Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala district to present a picturesque view of the place to the devotees during the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak in November this year.

Under the project, 550 gulmohar and amaltas trees will be planted in the area, along with several varieties of flower.

Around 300 tress have already been planted along the banks of Holy Bein and in and around Gurdwara Ber Sahib.

1,100 MGNREGA workers will plant four lakh plants along the Holy Bein

D.P.S. KHARBANDA
Deputy Commissioner, Kapurthala

Both sides of the roads leading to the holy city and 'Pind Babe Nanak Da' would be decorated with flowerbeds, an official spokesman said.

Sikhism founder Guru Nanak is said to have stayed at Sultanpur Lodhi for over 14 years and attained enlightenment.

The spokesperson said the State Horticulture Department had been entrusted with the task of planting flowery trees.

Kapurthala Deputy Commissioner D.P.S. Kharbanda said services of around 1,100 MGNREGA workers were being taken to plant four lakh plants along the Holy Bein.

Apart from this, different varieties of flower such as celosia, cristata, French marigold, celosia plumosa, gomphrena purple and cosmos bippinatus will be planted over four acres around the VVIP helipad on the outskirts of Bassowal village.

Eminent floriculturist Avtar Singh Dhindsa and advocate Harpreet Sandhu have conceptualised the plan in close coordination with government departments and village panchayats.

Seedlings of different varieties of flower are being prepared at a nursery in Sultanpur Lodhi.

The State government has already initiated a drive to plant 550 saplings in every village of the State.

Foundation stone of AMU building laid

It will house the archaelogy section of the university

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Aligarh Muslim University Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor on Monday unveiled the foundation stone of the building of the archaeology section in Zakir Bagh on the campus.

He also unveiled an inscription of Balban's Koil Minar from 1245 AD at the Musa Dakri Museum while inaugurating an exhibition on 'Tracing a Mughal Highway: Structures, Water Works and Inscriptions along the Lahore – Allahabad Route'.

Later, presiding over the inaugural function of the two-day symposium on 'Medieval Archaeology in India', the V-C said that AMU founder Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was a historian and archaeologist who could write with verve on the historical monuments of Delhi.

Sir Syed's contribution

"Sir Syed with his famous work 'Asar-us-Sanadid' heralded the tradition of Indian archaeology. He collected rare artefacts, ancient idols, and sculptures, and preserved them at a time when museums did not exist," said Prof. Mansoor.

He pointed out that the Department of History has a big role to play in AMU's centenary celebrations.

"Research scholars can be encouraged to write Ph.D thesis on the history of Aligarh and its adjoining areas," he said, adding that he recently read Dr. Jamal Siddiqi's book throwing light on the possibility of a historical minaret (tower) in the Upper Court area of Aligarh which might have been destroyed during the British rule. "The university will soon have a Dara Shikoh Chair and a Sir Syed Chair," said Prof. Mansoor.

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Odisha ex-CS passes away

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

Former Chief Secretary of Odisha Lalat Indu Parija passed away on Monday at a private hospital here, where he was undergoing treatment for the past two days. He was 89 and is survived by two children. Parija was admitted to the hospital on Saturday after he complained of acute chest pain.

Family sources said the mortal remains of the 1953-batch IAS officer were consigned to flames at the Khan Nagar crematorium here in the afternoon. He served as the State Chief Secretary twice – once in 1983 and again in 1986.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Parija was a brilliant administrator and remained a guiding spirit for others.

Son of eminent scientist Pranakrushna Parija, he was also a good cricket player and had captained Odisha in the Ranji Trophy.

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'Centre's help needed to check LWE'

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik seeks waiving CAPF deployment charges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Reiterating the Odisha government's commitment to the strategy of proactive security and sustained holistic development of Left Wing Extremism-affected areas to contain the menace, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday urged the Centre to provide full support to his government in this regard.

Speaking at the review meeting with Chief Ministers of affected States under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, Mr. Patnaik said Odisha had been experiencing the scourge of LWE for more than three decades.

Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at a meeting in New Delhi on Monday. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

Security response

The well-calibrated security response and targeted developmental and confidence building initiatives of the State government have gradually brought about a very significant improvement in the situation, he added.

Mr. Patnaik said that during the year 2018 and till August 15 this year, 26 Maoists were killed in police action, while 85 were arrested and 35 had surrendered.

The strength of the Maoist cadres operating in the State had reduced substantially, he claimed.

Stating that Odisha had been working in close coordination with the Centre and the neighbouring States to deal with the problem firmly, Mr. Patnaik sought the Centre's support in early installation of mobile towers at 866 locations in the LWE-affected areas and placement of a dedicated helicopter for the State.

Railway connectivity

The Chief Minister suggested that railway connectivity projects to Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts be completed within 36 months.

The State government has committed to provide land free of cost for these projects and also bear a substantial portion of the project cost, he added.

Mr. Patnaik further said that the banking infrastructure needs to be set up in the unbanked areas. He also requested that the pending ₹227 crore under the security-related expenditure scheme be released early.

He also urged the Centre to waive the deployment charge of the Central Armed Police Forces "as ensuring internal security is a constitutional obligation of the Union government".

Mr. Patnaik said that despite extremely hostile security environment, Odisha had successfully commissioned the ambitious Gurupriya bridge to connect the cut-off area of Malkangiri district.

The State government has rolled out a special package for the people living in the area in terms of connectivity, health care, electrification and education, and they were gradually integrating with the mainstream socio-economic and democratic activities, he said.

Assam teenage girl rescued from Delhi

She was forced into prostitution: DCW

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women on Monday said that a 16-year-old girl from Assam, who was allegedly trafficked to the Capital, was rescued from the Holambi Kalan area.

The girl was brought here nine months ago on the pretext of providing employment by a person known to the family, said DCW officials.

"Both the girl and her sister were forced into prostitution by the man and his wife. When they protested, they attacked the girls and did not provide food to them. One of the girls later managed to escape and met a woman, Shalini (name changed), who then approached the Commission," read a DCW statement.

The statement added, "The survivor has informed that there are around 20 girls in the house. While the survivor was shifted to a shelter home, other girls are yet to be rescued."

DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal said, "It is very unfortunate that such heinous crimes are occurring and yet remain undetected by the police. Special teams should be created and awards announced for anyone who gives information about the girls."

Tug of war

However, the rescue led to a tug of war between the Delhi Police and the DCW. The DCW claims that the police had initially refused to file an FIR but later they registered a case. However, the police said the woman informed them about the girl.

"Around five days ago, a passer-by spotted a girl and handed her over to police.. the girl does not know the exact location... We have already filed a case and are probing the matter," a senior police officer said.

(With PTI inputs)

Presidency University not allowed to screen film

Award-winning documentary *Ram Ke Naam* screened at Jadavpur University

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA

While one of the top Kolkata universities, Presidency, was not allowed to screen award-winning documentary *Ram Ke Naam* on Monday, the students of Jadavpur University could successfully screen it on their campus.

The students of Kolkata's premier universities were screening the film in solidarity with the Hyderabad Central University students, after six of them were detained for organising its screening.

The film by Anand Patwardhan is based on the 1992 Ram temple movement following the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.

The scene at Jadavpur University was tense before the screening, organised by the Department of Film Studies. Several students voiced their concern regarding the growing intolerance in the country.

'Against freedom'

"It is extremely sad that we have reached a point where a simple film screening is seen as a threat by the authorities and leaders. This is against basic freedom of speech and expression," said Ritapriya Ghosh.

"The permission (for screening it) was sought by the students some days ago and the authorities granted it," JU Registrar Snehamanju Basu said.

Screened earlier

The documentary has previously been screened several times in Kolkata without any resistance from any political party or authority.

Kasturi Basu of the People's Film Collective, a Kolkata-based cultural group, questioned Presidency University's decision. "*Ram Ke Naam* has a 'U' certification from the CBFC, meaning that even children can watch it. No university can say that film, as a medium of learning, is not allowed," she said.

Presidency University students' union spokesperson Sayan Chakraborty said there was no update from the authorities.

Dean of Students Arun Maity said: "We will confirm if the students had the necessary permission... Presidency had never encroached on the right of students and promoted liberal views."

Registrar Debojyoti Konar could not be contacted.

(With PTI inputs)

Calcutta HC sets aside trust vote held at civic body

Hold fresh vote within 12 days: court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Monday set aside a vote of confidence held at the Bongaon municipality for its chairman last month and ruled that a fresh process be held for deciding his fate.

Justice Samapti Chattopadhyay asked the civic body to hold a fresh vote of confidence within 12 days at the office of the District Magistrate of West Bengal's North 24 Parganas. The court said a notice for conducting the vote should be sent to the councillors willing to exercise their franchise.

Justice Chattopadhyay directed the district Superintendent of Police to ensure security of all councillors participating in the fresh mandate for Chairman Shankar Addhya. The order was passed on separate petitions moved by 11 BJP councillors, who claimed that they were forcibly prevented by the police and people owing allegiance to the Trinamool Congress from participating in the trust vote.

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		GS PAPER IV	02 - 05 PM
DAY 4	04th SEPT.	OPTIONAL	PAPER I
		PUBLIC ADMN.	10 AM- 1 PM
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Exodus continues, no end to NCP's troubles

Six-time legislator Dilip Sopal to join Shiv Sena tomorrow, more names doing the rounds

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The exodus from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) continued on Monday with Dilip Sopal, the party's sitting legislator from Barshi, in Solapur district, formally announcing his decision to quit.

Mr. Sopal, a six-time legislator and a political stalwart from Solapur, is expected to join the Shiv Sena in the presence of Uddhav Thackeray at a function at Matoshree in Mumbai on Wednesday. His decision comes a month after NCP president Sharad Pawar had refuted all talk of Mr. Sopal's exit.

"I have held meetings with my supporters a week ago...and they whole-heartedly back my decision to join Shiv Sena. I will be submitting my resignation as MLA to the Assembly speaker tomorrow," Mr. Sopal said in Solapur.

Even more worrying for Mr. Pawar and the party is the speculation that NCP stalwart and former MP Dr. Padamsinha Patil – one of the mainstays of the party since its formation in 1999 – and his son, Ranajagjitsinha Patil too may be on their way out.

Both senior leaders were conspicuous by their absence at the NCP's Shiv Swarajya Yatra in Osmanabad on Monday.

An eight-time MLA from Osmanabad, Dr. Padamsinha Patil is the brother-in-law of senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar and is considered a confidante of Mr. Sharad Pawar.

Testing times: Nationalist Congress Party leaders Jayant Patil and Sharad Pawar have been denying the possibility of more defections. ▪FILE PHOTO

The possible exit of the Patils would be the first from Mr. Pawar's family, and inner, elite council.

Ranajagjitsinha Patil, the sitting NCP MLA from Osmanabad, was handpicked by Mr. Pawar for the Osmanabad Lok Sabha seat, but he lost to Sena's Omraje Nimbalkar by 1.27 lakh votes. Political observers say he has been expressing an interest to join the BJP for some time now.

Once an NCP strongman in Osmanabad, the senior Dr. Patil's hold over the district began slipping since his name cropped up embroiled in the murder case of his cousin, Pawanraje Nimbalkar (father of Omraje Nimbalkar) in 2009.

Another family rivalry between Dr. Patil and the family of his late brother-in-law Maharudra Mote, has also taken a toll on the former's hold over the district with sitting NCP MLA from Paranda (in Osmanabad) Rahul Mote – Mr. Mote's son – trying to assert himself.

Putting up a brave face in the wake of ongoing and anticipated defections, NCP State unit president Jayant Patil said: "The BJP is aspiring to greatness by splitting other parties. Let those wishing to leave the party go... we have an institution called Sharad Pawar."

Addressing the party's Shiv Swarajya rally in Osmanabad today, Mr. Patil said those who used the strength of the party's name for long and quitting now, were opportunists.

There is also talk of Dhananjay Mahadik, former NCP MP former Kolhapur, joining the BJP. Mr. Mahadik lost the recent general elections to Sena's Sanjay Mandlik.

Mahayuti will be in power for next 25 years: CM

'No reason why people should vote the Congress and the NCP back to power'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

The rallies of Congress and National Congress Party will not have any impact on the outcome of the Assembly polls, said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday, expressing confidence that it was impossible to dislodge the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the Mahayuti, from power at the Centre and State for next 25 years.

Addressing a rally at Pathardi in Ahmednagar as part of the Mahajanadesh Yatra, Mr. Fadnavis said that

Devendra Fadnavis waves to supporters. ▪VIVEK BENDRE

the public in Maharashtra was turning its back on the Shiv Swarajya and Samwad yatras organised by NCP, and the Congress' Pardhaphash yatra.

"There is no reason why people should vote the Congress and the NCP back to power, given the economic mess created by their leaders and their poor governance for 15 years," said the Chief Minister.

Rubbishing the opposition's claims on the alleged tampering of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the general election, he said that EVMs were introduced when the Congress-led UPA was in power.

"EVMs were used for all elections between 2004 and 2014 and the Congress and the NCP won most of them. At that time, no questions were raised on their possible tampering. But when, Prime Minister Modi and the BJP began winning elections, doubts were raised on their functioning... So, when [NCP MP from Baramati] Supriya Sule wins, there is no problem with EVMs, but when Dr. Sujay Vikhe-Patil [BJP MP from Ahmednagar] wins, the machine has apparently been tampered with," Mr. Fadnavis said, in a jibe at NCP chief Sharad Pawar and other opposition leaders. He claimed that BJP had brought more development in five years than the Congress-NCP in 15 years.

Yatras in full swing, all major parties test ground reality

Leaders also look at the possibility of going solo in the polls

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

All four major political parties have kicked off their election campaigns well before the official announcement of the Assembly elections, despite no seat-sharing being announced yet. Each party is covering as much area as possible in an attempt to gauge the public mood and re-energise the local leadership, as well as exercise caution in case alliances do not materialise at the last moment, like it happened in 2014.

While leaders of ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena and of opposition Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) are claiming they will contest the Assembly elections as part of their respective alliances, tours of these parties are focusing on Assembly segments, irrespective of whether it is held by the ally.

Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray was first to hit the streets with his Jan Ashirwad Yatra from Jalgaon in North Maharashtra in mid-July. He was followed by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who launched the BJP's Mahajanadesh Yatra on August 1 from Vidarbha. The NCP was the third to join in with its Shiv Swarajya Yatra on August 6 in western Maharashtra and on August 26, the Congress embarked on the first phase of the Maha Pardafash rallies from Amravati

Crowd-puller: NCP leader Amol Kolhe taking selfies with workers during the Shiv Swarajya Yatra. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in Vidarbha.

"The BJP and Sena, high on the victory they achieved in the Lok Sabha elections, want to strengthen their base to increase the victory margin. The Congress and NCP, facing an exodus, want to send a message that they are not lost and are ready to fight again," said Abhay Deshpande, a senior journalist and political commentator.

According to Mr. Deshpande, following the exodus from the Opposition, these parties needed to present a brave face in front of their workers. "For a political party, such yatras give a reality check, connect with the people and bring out new leaders at the local level. At a time when many sitting members of the Legislative Assembly are switching to the BJP and Sena, these yatras give visibility to another set of leaders," he said.

Last week, in a meeting held in Delhi, senior Congress leaders from the State discussed an alliance with the NCP and, according to sources, a concern over the execution of the alliance was expressed. "There has been no meeting between Congress-NCP leaders to discuss seat-sharing for over 24 days now. I won't be surprised if 2014 is repeated," said a Congress leader.

According to sources in the saffron parties, contesting the elections as an alliance is bound to create unrest in the ranks as many will be denied party tickets. "Travelling through seats held by an ally also throws light on the fact that a repeat of 2014, when alliances broke abruptly, cannot be ruled out," said Mr. Deshpande.

Maharashtra links GST sops in policy to 'sons of

Government says 80% of the jobs created in the State

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Monday said it has put in place a new 'sons-of-the-soil' clause in its Industrial Policy, mandating 80% jobs for the locals.

Calling on all business leaders, entrepreneurs, and businessmen to take advantage of the new industrial policy and grow their business, Minister for Industries and Mining Subhash Desai said companies may find their GST (Goods and Services Tax) incentives cancelled if the sons of the soil clause is not adhered to.

More funds for MSMEs

The Minister said the previous version of the Udhyog Dhoran had been used to sign 1,289 MoU's (Memorandum of Understandings) with the MSMEs, attracting investments worth ₹3,591 cr. This is expected to be scaled up in the new policy, the senior Shiv Sena leader said.

"Overall, Maharashtra

Attracting investment: Minister for Industries and Mining Subhash Desai. ▪VIVEK BENDRE

employs 2.4 million persons in 3.8 lakh registered MSMEs. The State government is to set up Global Investment Promotion Council (GIPC) of Maharashtra. The council shall create strong network of enterprising people across the globe to attract investment in multiple sectors in the State as part of the policy," Mr Desai said, describing the new policy.

40 lakh jobs

Unveiled by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray days before the code of conduct for the Lok Sabha polls kicked in, the policy came into effect from April 1, 2019. It announced efforts to attract investments of over ₹10 lakh crore and create around 40 lakh jobs by 2023-24, Mr Desai had said, while reiterating the goal to turn Maharastra into a trillion dollar (₹1 lakh crore) economy.

Approved by the Cabinet in March, the Policy aims to promote a walk-to-work culture to enhance productivity for the urban working class. It also promises additional floor space index (FSI) to industries opting to construct residential complexes for the workforce on the same land, thereby making it easy to walk to work.

The policy offers special incentives for underdeveloped areas – Vidarbha, Marathwada and naxal-affected zones. It gives special emphasis to emerging technologies and other vital 'thrust areas'.

For better security

Members of Radium Arts Association from different districts of Maharashtra shout slogans at a rally on Monday against the High Security Number Plate Law to be implemented in the State. The protestors are demanding permission to make high security number plates, and to create awareness among people about their use. ▪JIGNESH MISTRY

Gujarat IAS officer appears before women's panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD

Suspended IAS officer Gaurav Dahiya on Monday appeared before the Gujarat State Commission for Women in connection with the allegations of bigamy and cheating levelled against him by a Delhi-based woman.

Mr. Dahiya was last week summoned by the women's commission in Gandhinagar to register his statement after the panel received the complaint from the woman, who alleged that Dahiya cheated her by getting married to her without divorcing his first wife.

After the meeting Mr. Dahiya said on Monday that the commission chairperson, Leelaben Ankoliya, said the panel may call him and the woman for a joint questioning to get clarity in the matter.

"During today's meeting, Mr. Dahiya gave an explanation on various issues pertaining to the allegations he is facing. We had detailed discussions on all the charges he is facing. If needed, we may hold a joint questioning of both the woman and Dahiya in future," Ms. Ankoliya told reporters in Gandhinagar. Mr. Dahiya, a 2010-batch Gujarat-cadre officer, was suspended on August 14.

New panel to look at findings on forest land

This is the second review committee formed by the Goa government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The Goa government has set up a three-member committee to review the findings of high-level panels formed earlier to identify private forest lands in the coastal state.

The move comes after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) earlier this month imposed a fine of ₹10,000 per day from July 2019 on the State government, till it submits the report on the private forest land.

Following this, the government issued a notification stating that a three-member panel will have to review the findings of the Karapurkar and Sawant committees (set up earlier) and submit its report within three months on the exact quantum of private forest land existing in Goa.

This is the second review committee formed by the state government.

The previous committees identified 42.12 sq km of land in Goa as private forest.

In April last year, the government constituted a similar committee which reviewed reports of the Karapurkar and Sawant committees, identifying 42.12 sqkm of land in Goa as private forest.

However, the BJP-led State government last month rejected that panel's report, claiming the "aggrieved people were not heard by the review committee".

In the latest notification, State under secretary (forest) Shaila Bhosle said, "The committee has been constituted to finalise the report on private forests submitted by the review committee, after considering the objections of the affected parties whose properties are going to be identified as private forests."

The committee should consider the objections of the affected parties and submit a report before the time limit prescribed by the NGT, she said.

The NGT, in its order on August 8, imposed a penalty of ₹10,000 per day from July 1 onwards till the time the government submit its report.

It allowed a final extension of three months for submission of report, subject to deposit of a performance guarantee of ₹ 1 crore to the satisfaction of the Central Pollution Control Board.

Last month, the then state forest minister Vijai Sardesai said it was incorrect to be assumptive about demarcation of land as forest, and people should be consulted before finalising the report.

He said many a times, a land owner is not even consulted or informed before his assets get marked as a private forest, depending on a survey.

He said the stratified random sampling method adopted for the survey was not acceptable as the actual position should be known before marking the forest.

'Hinduism, Judaism should come together'

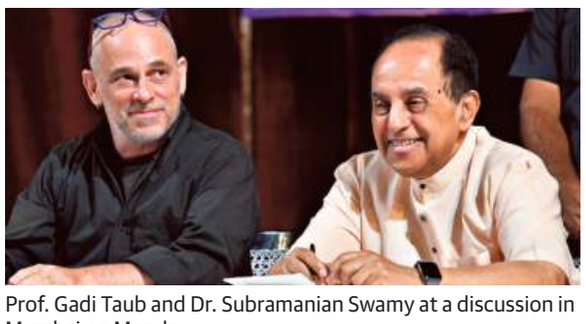
Both don't believe in active conversion: Subramanian Swamy

BHUMIKA PRUTHI
MUMBAI

Dr. Subramanian Swamy, MP, Rajya Sabha said on Monday that there are many similarities between Zionism and Hindutva but the only difference noted by the Chief Rabbi of Israel Yitzhav Yosef was that India is a polytheistic country whereas Judaism believes in one god.

He was speaking at a discussion organised by The Indo-Israel Friendship Association on Leaders' Idea of Nations in the context of Zionism and Hindutva. Prof. Gadi Taub from Hebrew University of Jerusalem also participated.

"We, too, believe in one god although his manifestations are many and therefore, there is no difference between Judaism and Hinduism. The one thing that is common between Judaism and Hinduism is that both don't believe in active conversion," Dr. Swamy said.



Prof. Gadi Taub and Dr. Subramanian Swamy at a discussion in Mumbai on Monday. ▪VIVEK BENDRE

"Over the years, India has looked after the Jews who came to India and treated them as their own in an unprecedented manner," Dr. Swamy said.

Prof. Taub said that Zionism was founded on the idea that all people have the right to self determination and that democracies are the form of government that allow people to be themselves.

"For 2000 years, Jews have had to hide their identity. Thus, for us, Zionism allows for the first time to have what normal people have. I believe that experience is teaching us, sometimes painfully, that democracy and nationalism are not enemies. They are two sides of the same coin and they need each other. If you want to have a healthy, long lasting democracy it needs to have a coherent sense of national identity and patriotism," Prof. Taub said.

The discussion was moderated by senior journalist Vaibhav Purandare.

Four of family found dead in Ahmednagar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDNAGAR

Four members of a family, including two minors, were found dead on Monday morning in Ahmednagar district, the police said.

The bodies of Babaji Badhe (41), his wife Kavita (35), their sons Aditya (15) and Dhananjay (13) were found in their home in Gunore village in Parner tehsil, some 67 km from here, said sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Ajit Patil.

"Neighbours alerted the police. Further probe is underway," Mr. Patil said.

IN BRIEF

AI, Emirates to operate big aircraft from Calicut

KOZHIKODE

Air India and Emirates are likely to operate their wide-bodied aircraft from the Calicut International Airport from October. Both the airlines have secured approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for the operation of aircraft under Code E. Their flights would be planned possibly during the winter schedule, said Airport Director K. Srinivasa Rao.

Dalits in Hassan denied entry into temple

HASSAN

Tension prevailed at Kadaga village in Hassan taluk when 'upper' caste people opposed the entry to members of the Scheduled Caste into the recently renovated Kalleshwara temple of the Muzrai Department on Monday. The district administration has deployed policemen in the village to avoid any untoward incident.

SC refuses early hearing to disqualified Karnataka MLAs

Legislators have challenged their ouster under the anti-defection law

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain an oral plea by a lawyer for early listing of petitions filed by several disqualified Karnataka legislators against their ouster under the anti-defection law from the State Assembly.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana rejected the oral mentioning made by the advocate-on-record.

Several MLAs, including Pratapgouda Patil and A.H. Vishwanath, have approached the apex court jointly and separately.

Their separate petitions have arraigned the then Speaker, the State of Karnataka, Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah and State Congress president Dinesh Gundurao, and former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy as respondents.

The petitions urged the court to set aside the former Speaker's decision to disqualify them from the Assembly.

Several MLAs have approached the Supreme Court jointly and separately.

"The petitioners have a fundamental right under Article 19 to carry on any trade, business and profession. Their right to resign from the post of MLA and carry on any vocation of their choice including public service cannot be denied by the Respondent Speaker by a completely illegal and unconstitutional order. The action of the Speaker is thus in violation of the fundamental rights of the Petitioners guaranteed under Articles 19 and 21," they have argued.

They have also challenged the then Speaker's conclusion that their resignations were neither voluntary nor genuine. The legislators asked the apex court to call for the records of the proceedings pertaining to their resignation and disqualification.

The legislators argued that the disqualification order under the Tenth Schedule was not in consonance with the Rules 6 and 7 of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly (Disqualification of Members on Ground of Defection) Rules of 1986.

They said the actions of the former Speaker were wholly arbitrary and unreasonable and in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution.

Besides, they argued, that not only had they submitted their resignations on July 6, they repeated the act by coming in person again on July 11 before the Speaker to submit their resignations.

Under Article 190 of the Constitution read with Rule 202 of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, a member can deliver resignation signed in his own hand and the Speaker is only to satisfy himself about genuineness and voluntariness of the resignation, they contended.

The legislators further blamed the former Speaker of adopting a "pick-and-choose" policy.

The petitions said the then Speaker had slipped out of his office when the legislators went to tender their resignations on July 6. The Speaker did not comply when the Supreme Court, on July 11, asked him to decide the resignations on the same day. The floor test, which was supposed to be held on July 18, was unduly delayed.

New role: From left, Govind Karjol, C.N. Ashwath Narayan and Laxman Savadi.

Yediyurappa names three Deputy CMs, allocates portfolios

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A month after B.S. Yediyurappa took over as Karnataka Chief Minister, portfolios were finally allocated on Monday to the 17 Ministers sworn in earlier and three Deputy Chief Ministers named to work alongside him.

This comes a week after the expansion of the Ministry, wherein 17 members were inducted. The Deputy Chief Ministers are five-time MLA from Mudhol Govind Karjol, 68; two-time MLA from Malleswaram, Bengaluru, C.N. Ashwath Narayan, 51; and three-time MLA from Athani Laxman Savadi, 59, who lost the election in 2018. They belong to the Dalit, Vokkaliga, and Lingayat communities respectively.

While Mr. Karjol is perceived to be close to the Chief Minister, the other two are known to have played a key role in the party's efforts to topple the Congress-JD(S) coalition government.

Yediyurappa not happy

While Mr. Yediyurappa is reportedly not happy with the decision to appoint three Deputy Chief Ministers, several senior leaders are said to be upset with the choice of Dr. Ashwath Narayan, seen as a relative junior, and Mr. Savadi, who lost the Assembly election. However, the party high command has left them with no option but to toe its line, sources said.

The BJP had appointed R. Ashok and K.S. Eshwarappa as Deputy Chief Ministers under Jagadish Shettar in 2012. All three leaders are now part of the Cabinet. They have been allotted major portfolios of Revenue, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, and Large and Medium-scale Industries respectively.

Trial in Sr. Abhaya case starts after 27 years

CBI witness, a nun, retracts statement against accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After meandering through various levels of the judiciary for 27 years, the trial in the case relating to the suspicious death of 19-year-old Sister Abhaya at a convent in Kottayam in 1992 commenced in the special court of the CBI here on Monday. However, the initial day of the trial appeared to go against the prosecution.

The CBI had named a nun as a witness in the case. However, she let the agency down by throwing in her lot with the defence.

Sister Abhaya

The nun retracted her statement that she had seen the headscarf and a pair of slippers that belonged to Sr. Abhaya beside the well from which rescue workers fished out her body the next day. She also denied she had heard what sounded like something heavy falling into the well the previous night.

The CBI had earlier found that at least eight objects submitted in court as material evidence had been deliberately destroyed. They included the clothes worn by Sr. Abhaya at the time of her death and her diary.

As per records, the police had taken the objects for the probe from the court and returned them. However, the CBI could not find the material in the evidence room.

The accused in the case are Fr. Thomas M. Kottoor and Sr. Stephi. Earlier, the court had discharged Fr. Jose Poothrukayil from facing trial in the case.

The agency argued that Sr. Stephi had hit Sr. Abhaya three times on the head with the blunt side of an axe when the 19-year-old novice entered the convent's kitchen to drink water and found her senior and Fr. Thomas in "objectionable circumstances."

KC(M) infighting puts UDF in a dilemma

Meeting fails to reach consensus on party's candidate for the Pala byelection

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN
KOTTAYAM

After manifesting in court battles, parallel meetings, and disciplinary actions, the battle of succession in the Kerala Congress (M) is now playing out in the run-up to the Pala byelection.

With a meeting convened by the United Democratic Front on Monday having failed to reach a consensus on the party's candidate for the byelection, what would otherwise have been a formality turned into another clash between the two factions. Sources said the meeting ended in a stalemate as the sides stuck to their stand to decide on the candidate and were not ready to concede any ground to each other. With this latest tussle, a sub-plot of the squabbling between Jose K. Mani and P.J. Joseph, casting a shadow over the party's prospects in its bastion, more rounds of discussions are to follow in the coming days.

"The UDF has no time to lose as the election is less than a month away. It is expected to settle the issue through bi-party discussions at different levels and come out with the candidate's name by the end of this week," said a senior UDF leader.

Earlier, Mr. Joseph said a meeting of the KC(M) steering committee would be convened to decide on the party candidate.

The opposing faction, however, retorted that the steering committee had already entrusted to Mr. Mani the task of selecting the candidate.

"There is absolutely no room for dispute as far as the Pala seat is concerned. Everybody knows who this constituency belongs to," said Roshy Augustine, a confidant of Mr. Mani.

The Mani faction, which is in power in seven of the 12 panchayats and the lone municipality in the Assembly segment, has the advantage in the constituency over the other group.

But with the likes of Joy Abraham in its fold, the Joseph faction appears unwilling to give up the seat without a fight.

Centre in a fix over shifting of Classical Telugu Centre

Change of guard in A.P. raises hopes of amicable solution

G. VENKATARAMANA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

The Centre faces the dilemma of deciding to which State the Centre for Excellence in Classical Telugu, currently located on the campus of the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, should be shifted, as both Andhra Pradesh and Telanagna enjoy certain advantages in being the suitable location for it.

Request placed

Telangana has placed on record its request that the centre be shifted to Hyderabad.

The erstwhile Chandrababu Naidu government gave the Union government a choice of shifting the Classical Telugu Centre (CTC) to either Tirupati or Amaravati.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited the CIIL a month ago and urged the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to set the process in motion. He, however, did not specify to which State it should be moved. Accordingly, the Ministry conveyed to the two States that a decision would be taken soon.

Of late, there has been a change in the political stand of the A.P. government, offering hope to lovers of the language. While the Chandrababu Naidu government was at loggerheads with the Chandrasekhar Rao government, the one headed by Jagan Mohan Reddy wants to resolve issues amicably. The two governments need to sit together and write a joint letter to the Union government.

World Telugu Writers' Association (WTWA) secretary G.V. Purnachandu said that funds to the tune of ₹100 crore for the preservation and promotion of classical Telugu language were lapsing, with none of the universities, research institutes and individual academics submitting projects worth mentioning in the five years since the States' bifurcation.

'At the earliest'

The WTWA would bring pressure on the Union government to take a decision at the earliest, Mr. Purnachandu said. A campaign would be conducted as a prelude to the 4th World Telugu Writers' Conference to be held in Andhra Pradesh in December.

Between life and death

Timely help: Fire and police personnel rescued a person, Kariya, from a huge well at K.R. Road in Bengaluru on Monday. He got into the well but was unable to come up. ▪ K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Search continues at Kavalappara

STAFF REPORTER
MALAPPURAM

The search for the victims of a massive landslip at Kavalappara near Nilambur continued for the 17th day on Monday even as the hopes for retrieving all the 59 missing people remained feeble.

As many as 48 bodies have been recovered so far. The district administration officials led by District Collector Jaffer Malik held discussions with the relatives of the 11 more missing persons on Monday, and decided to continue the search with their help.

Dozens of personnel of the State Fire and Rescue Services, supported by the police, National Disaster Response Force, and volunteers of various groups including trauma care, continued to dig using heavy excavators.

At BU, new Saraswati idol replaces old one

Controversy arose in May after some students wanted to instal a Buddha statue

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Over three months after the statue controversy hit Bangalore University (BU), a new Saraswati idol was installed in place of the old one at the Jnanabharathi campus early on Monday, amid tight security. University authorities said the decision was taken based on the directions given by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council.

No new statues

At the council meeting, former Higher Education Minister G.T. Deve Gowda had stated that the existing Saraswati statue could be replaced, but no new statues could be installed in universities.

The installation of the statue at the administrative block was done amidst police security. From 5 a.m. to 6 a.m., the university authorities headed by Vice-Chancellor K.R. Venugopal performed a *pooja* and later installed the statue. Students and staff were also served lunch post noon to commemorate the installation.

Replacing the old: The new Saraswati idol at Bengaluru University. ▪ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

A controversy arose in May after the Postgraduate and Ph.D Students' Association, along with some faculty members, decided to install a statue of Buddha on campus. The move was controversial as they wanted it installed in the place where a Saraswati idol was placed initially. The Buddha statue was allegedly brought in when the old Saraswati statue (which was installed more than three decades ago), which was damaged in an accident, was removed to be replaced with a new one.

'Secular symbol'

A section of the students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes communities argued that the Buddha statue deserves a place on campus as it was a 'secular symbol'.

The issue stirred up a hornet's nest. Several groups demanded that statues of several other icons, including Mahatma Gandhi, Kanaka Dasa, Basaveshwara, Shishunala Sharif, Kempe Gowda and M.D. Nanjundaswamy also be installed on campus.

Royal reception for Dasara elephants

First batch comprises six, another six will join them later for 10-day fete

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The first batch of six elephants, led by Arjuna, received a traditional reception on arrival at the palace on Monday in preparation for the 10-day Dasara festival to commence from the last week of September.

The elephants from the various jungle camps -- Dubare, Mathigodu, and Balle -- reached Mysuru on August 19 and were on the Aranya Bhavan campus for some days; they began their stately march through the thoroughfares of the city in the morning.

The caparisoned elephants hit the Ashoka Circle from where they marched in a single file along the 100 Ft. Road, crossed the Sanskrit College and reached the Jayamartanda Gate where Arjuna, Abhimanyu, Vijaya, Varalakshmi, Eshwara, and Dhananjaya -- were received with a guard of honour complete with the police band playing traditional numbers.

Traditional welcome: The first batch of six Dasara elephants at the Mysuru palace on Monday. ▪ M.A. SRIRAM

A battery of priests performed rituals while Vedic chants were played in the backdrop over the loudspeaker even as the folk artistes complete with their ensemble of drums, awaited the elephants' slow march into the palace courtyard.

Once the dignitaries, including the district in-charge Minister V. Somanna, Mayor Pushpalatha Jagannath and other elected representatives, senior officials of the district administration made floral offerings to the elephants, the formalities were complete and the elephants were ushered into the palace through the main gate.

They were led by folk artistes and the police band while an ensemble of traditional musicians playing nadaswaram formed the rear of the mini-procession. A large number of tourists who had come to visit the palace saw a photo opportunity in the proceedings that presented a picture-perfect slice of a bygone era - of caparisoned elephants and mahouts in traditional attire in the foreground and the palace in the background - and merrily clicked away to cherish the moment.

IN BRIEF

Centre has enough onion buffer stock: Paswan

NEW DELHI

State governments should lift onions from the Centre's 50,000 tonne buffer stock to ensure there is no price rise due to supply shortage in local markets, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Monday. The buffer is being distributed through agencies like Mother Dairy and NAFED.

Suspected JuM terrorist arrested in Gaya

Patna

A suspected terrorist, said to be associated with the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen (JuM) of Bangladesh, was on Monday arrested from Gaya, Bihar. He was produced in a local court and later taken to West Bengal. On an intelligence tip-off, a Special Task Force of the Kolkata Police, in a joint operation with the district police arrested Ejaz Ahmed, 30.

NHRC notice to U.P. over 'salt-roti' as meal

NEW DELHI

Terming the incident shocking and disgraceful, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued a notice to the UP government over reports of children in a Mirzapur government school being served rotis with salt as their midday meal. The NHRC took *suo motu* cognisance of media reports of a video that went viral showing the "salt rotis" being served in a primary school.

Man walks into police station with wife's head

BHUBANESWAR

A man walked into a police station with his wife's severed head in Odisha's Puri district late on Sunday. The victim has been identified as Anupama Behera. The man, Ganesh Behera, is believed to have committed the murder suspecting infidelity. The accused was a small trader in Chennai. The couple had returned to Odisha separately after a recent fight.

Cong. looks to fulfil poll promise in Chhattisgarh

NYAY, the minimum income guarantee scheme, will provide ₹72,000 to the 20% poorest families in the State

SOBHANA K NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) or minimum income guarantee scheme, a key promise in the Congress manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, is set to make its first appearance in Chhattisgarh.

Under directions of the party high command, the Chhattisgarh government is likely to launch a pilot project for the scheme.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel last week met Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. K. Raju, who headed the office of former party president Rahul Gandhi, was in Raipur to brief Mr. Baghel about the scheme.

NYAY was the corner stone of the Congress campaign with the slogan – *Ab Hoga Nyay* (now there will be justice). The manifesto had a image of an old woman hugging Mr. Gandhi with the tag line - *Garibi par waar* (strike on poverty) while guaranteeing ₹72,000 per annum to the poor.

Push to rural economy

In the run up to the election, Mr. Gandhi had variously referred to NYAY as a "surgical strike" on poverty, a "diesel for the engine of Indian economy" and "remonetising the economy" through the scheme.

He often pitted this against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim in 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign of depositing ₹15 lakh in every Indian's account by bringing back the black money stashed abroad. However, the party was unable to create a buzz about the scheme.

The Chhattisgarh pilot promises ₹72000 per annum to 20% of the poorest families of the State. The Congress has been repeatedly claiming that this kind of fund input is essential to keep the economy afloat. Launching the scheme in Chh-attisgarh, an insider said, is a way to keep it alive.

"We are discussing it within the party and it is under consideration. It will begin as a pilot project in a small area at first just the way we started a pilot project against malnutrition in Bastar to begin with and will expand it to the rest of the State on October 2," Mr. Baghel told *The Hindu*. After final discussions with the party high command and State leaders, the modalities will be charted out.

Injects financial fluidity

The scheme was a result of closed door meetings with many economists, Rajeev Gowda, convenor of the Congress manifesto committee said. NYAY was distilled down from the idea to provide Universal Basic Income which was seen as fiscally impractical.

Mr. Gowda stressed that in the current economic scenario NYAY becomes even more relevant to inject financial fluidity. "Rural income has been stagnant if not negative over last few years. This provides them basic level of support that will free them up from worrying about mere survival and to be able to think about other things like health, education and whole bunch of other things," Mr. Gowda said.

Farmers warn of long march to Jaipur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Farmers' groups in Rajasthan have warned of organising a long march from Dudu town to Jaipur on October 9 next unless their demands for remunerative prices for agricultural produce and decentralisation of procurement are met. The Kisan Mahapanchayat, a representative body of farmers, has planned a major agitation on the issues affecting peasants.

At a conclave held at Dudu, 62 km from here, the Mahapanchayat leaders said the farmers were suffering immense losses because of "rampant corruption" among the officials and anomalies in the procurement of crops. They demanded that the procurement be made operative throughout the year, instead of a limited number of days for each crop.

Mahapanchayat president Rampal Jat said the farmers had suffered losses up to ₹4,000 per quintal because of lack of proper arrangement for procurement of moong at minimum support prices in 2018-19 and gram and mustard in 2019-20. "Same was the case with urad, groundnut, maize and millet. The farmers had to travel long distances and stay overnight with tractors containing the produce with no certainty of purchase," he said.

Mr. Jat said the MSP announced by the government did not even cover input costs, while the schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrankshan Abhiyan had excluded 75% of farmers from the ambit of procurement.

The government was not willing to take responsibility for risks involved in farming, as was visible in the "guidelines" for giving assistance in natural calamities, he said.

Plea in Supreme Court seeks online RTI portals in States

Only Maharashtra and Delhi have set up systems for e-filing

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre and 25 States to respond to a writ petition for a direction to establish Right to Information (RTI) web portals across all States to enable citizens, especially those living abroad, to file RTI applications online.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana issued notice on the petition filed by the Pravasi Legal Cell, represented by senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, saying that none of the States except Delhi and Maharashtra, had set up RTI portals.

RTI Act

The Central government established an online RTI portal whereby any Indian citizen, including Non-Residential Indians (NRIs), can apply for information under the RTI Act with the desired Ministry or

Department under the Central government. An applicant can also pay the requisite fee through online payment in this portal and submit the RTI application, the petition said.

The Centre had also requested, via a letter dated December 13, 2013, the various State governments to explore the feasibility of implementing online RTI portals. It had even offered to provide technical support for this purpose through the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to the States.

"However, only the States of Maharashtra and Delhi have established their respective online portals for obtaining information from the departments of their respective governments," the petition pointed out.

Physical application

It said that a person seeking information under the RTI Act of 2005 from any State department, is compelled to make a physical application. This has become difficult for NRIs.

"The provision of an online web portal will help the Indian citizens, including the Non-Resident Indians by speedy dissemination of information requested, which in turn would only help in achieving the aim of the RTI laws of bringing transparency in administration," the petition said.

Doctors seek Ministry's intervention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA)-India has sought urgent intervention of the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan to help students get admission to super speciality courses (DM Mch. and DNB).

"August 26 was the last date to receive these letters. But due to technical glitches, some students haven't received them. Apollo-Delhi, Paras-Delhi and Fortis-Gurugram are some hospitals where website links to obtain these letters are not working. If students do not get them, their seats will be considered forfeited and admission will stand cancelled," said Dr. Sunil Arora, general secretary, FORDA-India.

FORDA has now requested the Ministry to intervene. "We request you to either postpone the date of reporting or permit offline reporting," it said in a letter to the Minister.

Some Apple laptops banned on flights

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aviation safety watchdog DGCA on Monday banned passengers from carrying some older Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch laptops, which were recalled by the American multi-national due to fears that their batteries may overheat and explode.

"DGCA requests all air passengers not to fly with the affected models, either as hand-baggage or checked-in baggage, until the battery has been verified/certified as safe or replaced by the manufacturer," it said on Twitter. The ban will be effective for Indian as well as international carriers.

The affected units were sold primarily between September 2015 and February 2017. MacBook Pro users can use their laptop's serial number to check on Apple's website if their device is affected by the ban.

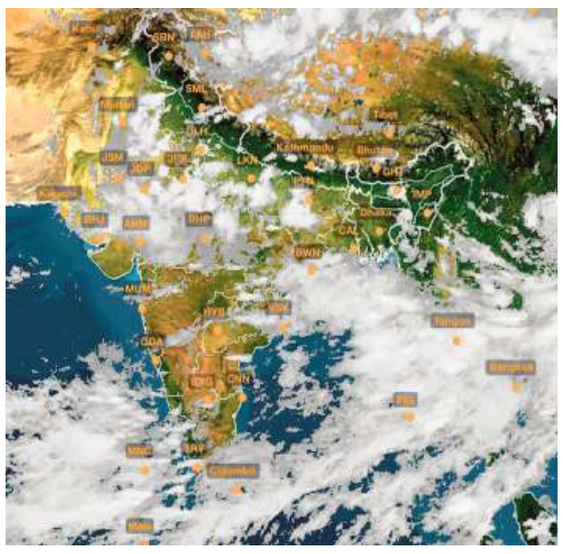
The order from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) follows warnings from the U.S. aviation regulatory body, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and European Union Aviation Safety Agency earlier this month reinforcing their curbs on recalled lithium ion batteries. While FAA bans their carriage as cargo and check-in and carry-on luggage by passengers, EASA requires such devices to be switched off and not used during flights.

In June, Apple Inc. informed users that a limited number of "older generation 15-inch MacBook Pro units may overheat and pose a fire safety risk." It decided to replace the affected batteries free of charge.

On Sunday, Singapore Airlines barred passengers from carrying the affected models on board either as carry-on or checked-in luggage unless their batteries had been verified as safe or replaced by the manufacturer. Three years back, the DGCA had similarly banned Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 after there were instances globally of smoke emanating from some devices.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy Rainfall at isolated places over Uttarakhand, West Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Saurashtra & Kutch, Konkan & Goa, Coastal & South Interior Karnataka and Kerala & Mahe.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	00.0	36.0	26.8
Ahmedabad	1	28.9	26.5
Aizawl	00.0	00.0	00.0
Allahabad	4.8	33.8	25.4
Bengaluru	00.0	27.7	20.0
Bhopal	19	28.7	23.8
Bhubaneswar	19.1	30.1	23.7
Chandigarh	18.6	28.6	26.4
Chennai	00.0	35.6	27.5
Coimbatore	00.0	30.9	22.4
Dehradun	2.6	31.3	24.2
Gangtok	4.7	25.2	17.2
Goa	1.8	31.0	24.6
Guwahati	00.0	37.0	26.9
Hubballi	00.0	28.0	21.0
Hyderabad	00.0	31.6	23.1
Imphal	00.0	32.5	20.8
Jaipur	1.8	31.0	24.0
Kochi	22	29.4	23.0
Kohima	00.0	29.6	20.6
Kolkata	20.4	31.6	26.5
Kozhikode	16	29.6	23.5
Kurnool	00.0	33.7	24.3
Lucknow	9.4	34.3	24.0
Madurai	00.0	37.6	26.4
Mangaluru	38.8	28.2	22.2
Mumbai	6.6	31.6	24.6
Mysuru	00.0	29.1	19.3
New Delhi	2.8	35.5	25.7
Patna	1.4	35.4	27.4
Port Blair	64.9	29.0	22.4
Puducherry	00.0	35.2	25.1
Pune	00.0	28.9	20.7
Raipur	0.6	29.3	24.5
Ranchi	4	27.9	22.5
Shillong	00.0	28.5	16.7
Shimla	3.4	23.5	16.0
Srinagar	00.0	31.3	16.0
Thiruvananthapuram	6.7	30.6	23.7
Tiruchi	5.8	36.6	25.6
Vijayawada	00.0	34.2	25.2
Visakhapatnam	2.8	32.0	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	60	.80	.68	71	.129	
Bengaluru	.4	.22	.20	24	.44	
Chennai	.6	.21	.28	60	.–	
Delhi	.5	153	.24	46	.44	
Hyderabad	35	.27	.14	37	.73	
Kolkata	.3	.23	.10	11	.17	
Lucknow	.8	.9	.52	72	.–	
Mumbai	.–	.13	107	24	.–	
Pune	74	.8	.67	49	.49	
Visakhapatnam	.–	.–	.59	–	.–	.–

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hubballi, Karnataka recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 213 indicating a high level of pollution. In contrast, Nagpur, Maharashtra and Narnaul, Haryana recorded a healthy AQI score of 29.

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

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

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

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

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

Tamil Nadu's first public electric bus ferries passengers in Chennai

It can run a maximum of 40 km with a fully charged battery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Tamil Nadu, an air-conditioned electric bus was flagged off by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in Chennai on Monday.

The bus, operated by the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), began plying on route 'A1', between Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station and Thiruvanmiyur, through Mylapore and Adyar. The bus, equipped with automatic doors and GPS, will make two round trips each in the morning and the evening. The MTC plans to operate the bus, manufactured by Ashok Leyland, on a trial basis at Deluxe rates, with a minimum

Good to go: Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami flagging off an electric bus at the Secretariat on Monday. ▪ R. RAGU

fare of ₹11 and a maximum fare of ₹25. The vehicle will be operated on a 'battery swap' basis and can run a maximum of 40 km with a fully charged battery. On completion of a single round trip, the battery will be swapped. The spare battery will be charged at the Pallavan Central depot off Anna Salai. The bus will cumulatively undertake eight trips in both morning and evening sessions.

Aimed at reducing pollution levels, electric buses are being introduced on a pilot basis. They will initially be tried for a few months, and based on the feedback, more buses will be introduced. According to a senior Transport Department official, another electric bus will be introduced in the next 10 days.

The 32-seater bus complies with the standards of the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and is equipped with a Fire Detection and Suppression System (FDSS) and other facilities to monitor the driver's functions and the battery's performance, among other factors.

The Central government had recently approved a total of 5,595 electric buses for 64 cities under FAME INDIA-2. In Tamil Nadu, besides Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Madurai, Erode, Tiruppur, Salem, Vellore and Thanjavur are to get a total of 525 electric buses.

Amma Patrol

Mr. Palaniswami flagged off 40 Amma Patrol vehicles, to be manned by police personnel for the benefit of women and children within the Greater Chennai Police limits, at a total cost of ₹7.50 crore. The vehicles will be attached to 35 All Women Police Stations in Chennai and will help in surveillance.

Ready to thwart Jaish threat, says Navy chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

An "underwater wing" of Pakistan- based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) is training people to carry out attacks but the Indian Navy is fully prepared to thwart any such attempt, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh said here on Monday.

He said all stakeholders in coastal security are ensuring that there is no intrusion from the sea.

"We have received intelligence (input) that an underwater wing of Jaish-e-Mohammed is training people to carry out attacks from water and that is one change. But we are fully prepared and will thwart any such attempt," Admiral Singh added, responding to a query on the changing forms of terror and the Navy's response to them.

Speaking about heightened vigil along the country's coast since the deadly 26/11 sea-borne terror attacks on Mumbai in 2008, he said the Navy was overall in-charge of maritime security.

"The Indian Navy, maritime police, state governments and other stakeholders are making sure there is no intrusion from the sea," the Navy chief stated.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a lecture, titled 'Indian Ocean - Changing Dynamic- Maritime Security Imperatives for India'. The lecture was part of a series held in the memory of the late Army chief General B.C. Joshi.

KERALA STATE COUNCIL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT (KSCSTE)
Sastrabhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram 695004, Phone: 0471-2548316, Website: www.kscste.kerala.gov.in

NOTIFICATION

The KSCSTE is seeking qualified candidates for the post of Senior Principal Scientist, Institute of Advanced Virology, Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram.

For details log on to **www.kscste.kerala.gov.in**
Last date for the receipt of application is **30.09.2019 at 5.00 pm**

Executive Vice President

Telangana State Technology Services Ltd.
BRKR Bhavan, Hyderabad – 500063, Telangana

Tender Ref. No. - TSTS/CS/ESD-GOC-O&M/2019, Dt: 27.08.2019

TSTS on behalf of the Commissioner, ESD- Telangana issues Tender call notice inviting bids for **Selection of Contract Service Provider (CSP) for Operation and Maintenance of 107 nos Government owned ESD Meeseva Centres in Telangana State** for a period of 3 years.

Pre-bid meeting: 30.08.2019 @ 04:00 PM, O/o Commissioner- ESD, 2nd floor, MCH Building, RD No.7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

For details please visit **www.tsts.telangana.gov.in, https://tender.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/- Managing Director

NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
CIN No. U40109TG2000SGC034119.

Tender Notice

TSNPDCL is intends to Purchase the Materials through e-Procurement platform from the Manufacturers.

Specification No.: CGM / P&MM / OT-31/2019 -20 and STN-06/2019-20

Name of the Material: S-ph 25 KVA DTRs and LT Distribution Boxes (SMC)

Bid Security @2% on Ex-Works. Downloading of Tenders through On-Line e-Procurement starts from 27.08.19 at 11.00 AM. For further details visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in and www.tsnpdcl.in

For obtaining Digital Key visit www.tsts.gov.in

Ph. No. 0870-2461507, Mail Id: cgmpmm@tsnpdcl.in

Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)
TSNPDCL, Warangal.

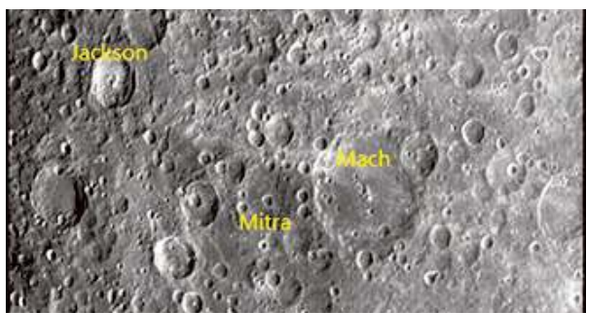
Chandrayaan-2 scans Mitra crater

Orbiter sends second set of pictures of craters in the northern polar region

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chandrayaan-2's orbiter or mother spacecraft has zeroed in on a crater on the moon named after 20th century's acclaimed radio physicist Sisir Kumar Mitra. Images of the crater are among the second set of pictures of the northern craters sent by the orbiter.

The Mitra crater is on the edge of another crater. The pictures were taken by the Terrain Mapping Camera-2 around 2. 15 p.m. on August 23. The orbiter was then



An image of the lunar surface captured by a terrain mapping camera on Chandrayaan 2. ▪ WWW.ISRO.GOV.IN

around 4,300 km from the moon, the Indian Space Research Organisation said in its update on Monday.

At 25 degrees Kelvin (minus 248 degrees Celsius), the northern polar region is believed to be one of the coldest spots in the solar system.

The first set of pictures of August 21 came from the camera on the lander which is riding atop the orbiter. The lander is set to separate from the orbiter on September 2 in preparation for its landing on the moon on September 7.

Prof. Mitra (1890-1963) also lends his name to the S. K. Mitra Centre for Research in Space Environment of the University of Calcutta.

Gold winner

Sindhu is on course to become India's greatest woman athlete ever

P.V. Sindhu's victory at the badminton World Championships ought to be regarded as one of the finest achievements in the history of Indian sport. No Indian shuttler had claimed the World title before; certainly no one after Prakash Padukone and P. Gopichand came close to matching their All-England wins. With her brutal 38-minute dismantling of Nozomi Okuhara in Basel, Sindhu has broken new ground. After a string of losses in major finals, including the 2016 Olympic Games, the 2017 and 2018 World Championships, and the 2018 Commonwealth and Asian Games, Sindhu's big-game temperament had been questioned, even if unfairly. Those doubts have now been answered emphatically. Two years ago, Sindhu had lost to Okuhara in heartbreaking fashion at the same juncture; this time, Sindhu battered her Japanese rival. The 24-year-old from Hyderabad showcased some ferocious hitting, her 21-7, 21-7 win the most resounding margin in the women's singles final at the Worlds since the 21-point format was adopted in 2006. Indeed, Sindhu was in tremendous form throughout the Championships, dropping only one game – to old foe Tai Tzu-Ying in the quarterfinals – over the entire week. That win over Tzu-Ying, from a game down, seemed a turning point; in the semi-finals, World No. 3 Chen Yufei was simply tossed aside.

The World Championships triumph now augurs well for Sindhu's chances of winning gold at the 2020 Olympic Games. It is something no Indian badminton player – male or female – has managed. Of course, it cannot be taken for granted, for the women's field is remarkably strong; nor should Sindhu be put under pressure to deliver that gold medal. But there is no reason she should not be able to finish on top of the podium in Tokyo, or indeed become the dominant figure in women's badminton as she enters what is expected to be the peak period of her career. Sindhu's World Championships success will, it is hoped, also have a galvanising effect on women's badminton in the country. Outside Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, the country does not have any woman shuttler in the top 60 of the BWF World rankings (for week 34); a new generation of talent has to break through. In contrast, there are seven Indian men's singles players in the top 41. Among them is B. Sai Praneeth, who reached the semifinals in Basel to become the first Indian man to clinch a singles medal at the Worlds in 36 years. Gopichand, India's chief national coach, deserves enormous credit for the country's rise as a force in world badminton. Sindhu is his most successful protégé; she is well on the path to becoming the greatest woman athlete India has produced.

Earth's burning lungs

Brazil's attitude to the destruction of large areas of the Amazon rainforest is worrying

The Amazon rainforest, the largest of its kind in the world, is ablaze, with over 9,500 distinct fires burning through its main basin since August 15. Overall, Brazil has seen more than 76,000 fires ravage the Amazon in 2019, of which around 10,000 have been started in the past few weeks, mainly by loggers and farmers seeking, as they do during the summer months, to clear vast tracts for agricultural or industrial use. However, this annual exercise of planned deforestation appears to have crossed a tipping point this year. There has been an increase of at least 80% in the number of recorded fires compared to the same period in 2018, according to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE). This week, images of darkening skies above Sao Paulo, more than 2,700 km away from the fires, went viral. The number and intensity of the fires are closely linked to the rate of deforestation. Some reports estimate that in July 2019, the Amazon shrunk by 1,345 sq km, up 39% from the same month last year, and a historical record. The flames are not confined just to Brazil either. In neighbouring Bolivia, deadly blazes are devastating forests and farmlands, so much so, that its President, Evo Morales, has put his re-election campaign on hold over the weekend, and, unlike his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro, was quick to welcome foreign aid to help fight the fires.

The distinctly political undertones of the crisis in Brazil sets it apart. Mr. Bolsonaro's critics say that his economic and environmental policies have virtually set the stage for intensifying degradation of the Amazon's rich biodiversity. They argue that since he came to power this year, he has chipped away at the protections that the rainforest enjoyed, including by weakening the environment ministry when he made Ricardo Salles, found guilty of administrative improprieties for altering a map to benefit mining companies, the Environment Minister; by driving away Norway and Germany, principal donors who have backed protections for the Amazon; by sacking the head INPE over absurd allegations that he was disclosing how rapidly Amazon deforestation was happening; and by attacking both environmental charities, alleging without proof that they started fires to serve certain foreign interests, and indigenous Amazon dwellers. Under intense global pressure, including from the ongoing G-7 meetings of world leaders, Mr. Bolsonaro, a right-wing climate-change sceptic, appears to have relented to an extent, and has authorised 44,000 military troops to help with the firefighting efforts. Even if they succeed, and the Bolsonaro administration ultimately bends to global outrage over the destruction of a critical global ecosystem, the discernible shift in Brazilian public institutions responsible for guarding the future of the Amazon rainforest is a worrying sign of worse things to come.

Time to strike the gavel

The judiciary needs to dispel the perception that its standing as the guardian of constitutional rights is faltering

DUSHYANT DAVE

The biggest blow to the people of India was delivered by the Supreme Court of India on April 28, 1976. five-member Constitution Bench (the Chief Justice of India, A.N. Ray, and Justices H.R. Khanna, M. Hameedullah Beg, Y.V. Chandrachud and P.N. Bhagwati) delivered its judgment in the *Additional District Magistrate, ... vs. S.S. Shukla Etc. Etc.* The scars it inflicted on the Constitution, constitutional morality and constitutionalism are deep.

Emergency formulation

This was the judgment that allowed the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus during Emergency.

Some of the points made were: "In period of public danger of apprehension, the protective law which gives every man security and confidence in times of tranquillity has to give way to interest of the State." (CJI A.N. Ray); Enforceability, as an attribute of a legal right, and the power of the judicial organs of the State to enforce the right, are exclusively for the State, as the legal instrument of Society, to confer or take away in the legally authorised manner." (Justice Beg); "Personal liberty is but one of the Fundamental Rights... therefore the suspension of the right to enforce the right conferred by Article 21 means and implies the suspension of the right to file a habeas corpus petition or to take any other proceeding to enforce the right to personal liberty conferred by Article 21." (Justice Y.V. Chandrachud); "The Constitution... if it says that even if a person is detained otherwise than in accordance with the law, he shall not be entitled to enforce his right of personal liberty, whilst a Presidential order under Article 359, clause (1) specifying Article 21 is in force I have to give effect to it." (Justice Bhagwati).

This was an anti-constitutional and anti-people decision. But in the true spirit of Rabindranath Tagore's words, Justice Khanna held: "If they answer not to your call, walk alone.

"But Article 21 cannot be considered to be the sole repository of the right to life and personal liberty. The right to life and personal liberty is the most precious right of human beings in civilised societies...."

Justice Khanna said, "The cases before us raise questions of utmost importance and gravity, questions which impinge not only upon the scope of the different constitutional provisions, but have impact also upon the basic, values affecting life, liberty and the rule of law... What is at stake is the rule of law. If it could be the boast of a great English judge that the air of England is too pure for a slave to breathe, cannot we also say that this sacred land shall not suffer an eclipse of the rule of law and that the Constitution and Indian laws do not permit life and liberty to be at the mercy of absolute power of the executive, a power against which there can be no redress in courts of law? Even if it chooses to act contrary to law or in an arbitrary and capricious manner... The question is whether the laws speaking through the authority of the courts shall be absolutely silenced and rendered mute because of such threat."

Rights in Kashmir

That was during the Emergency. Today, there is no Emergency, yet

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

the constitutional and basic rights of scores have been suspended in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Worse, the Supreme Court has virtually taken away their constitutional remedy to enforce those rights. Regrettably, the court has treated habeas corpus petitions in a most casual manner by justifying negation of the rule of law. Two episodes – though not directly connected – have left us searching for answers as to functioning of the court.

While adjourning for two weeks, a writ petition challenging the imposition of restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir, following the abrogation of Article 370, a bench of the top court, on August 12, 2019, merely accepted the pleas of the Attorney General on behalf of Centre to the effect that, "we have to ensure that law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir is maintained and that it will take a few days to return to normalcy." It further observed, "the situation is such that nobody knows what exactly is happening there. Some time should be given for bringing normalcy".

In other words, the top court – the custodian of the right to life and liberty – handed over its duty to the Central government. Subsequently, on August 16, another court bench hearing writ petitions on lifting the communication ban said, "let us give it a bit of time" and adjourned these matters to an unspecified date. During the hearing, the Central government urged that "things will settle down in next few days" and that "these are security related issues that are best left to the government and armed forces".

The court's handling of these cases is a harsh reminder of the ADM Jabalpur case. More than a million people have been locked down in one of the biggest clampdowns by the Indian armed forces; and all under the cover of Section 144 of Cr.P.C. Article 21 is about life and liberty, and all that the Supreme Court has done is to defer these crucial matters without taking the government to task. In the first instance, the state failed "to ensure normalcy" from the day it abrogated Article 370; it has now tried to buy more time from the top court to do so. The "situation is such that nobody knows what exactly is happening there", but that is precisely why it is the duty to court to ascertain true facts. It cannot shy away from doing justice in the name of "security" and "law and order".

It is not suggested here that the security of the nation can be compromised; nor can one argue that law and order ought not to controlled. But preservation of both is the duty of the state. If it intends to do so by taking away fundamental and basic human rights then one can infer that the state has failed in its duty.

An individual's rights

Equally, the court's approach to protecting the rights of individuals is disturbing as seen in the case of the former Union Minister P. Chidambaram. On August 14, 2017, the Supreme Court entertained an SLP filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the same day, included in the supplementary list as the last item before the Court of the CJI. The order of the Madras High Court appealed against was stayed. On February 22, 2018, the Supreme Court entertained the CBI's interlocutory application on being mentioned and listed it for the next day. In both these cases, the respondent was Karti P. Chidambaram. Contrary to these actions, on August 21, 2019, it shied away from entertaining a petition by Mr. P. Chidambaram on super technical grounds. On August 16, a court bench entertained a petition filed by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office, on the same date and stayed the order of the Madras High Court. The reluctance to even list the matter on the same day is disappointing.

It is not suggested for a moment that Mr. Chidambaram should not face the inquiry. But in a case where the retiring Judge of the High Court delivers the judgment after several months and in the afternoon (3 p.m.), virtually making it impossible for the petitioner to get relief from Supreme Court and which simultaneously fails to extend the interim protection which was operating for this period, is a case where the top court should have intervened. In its actions, the top court that made the right to anticipatory bail sacrosanct (*Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia Etc vs State Of Punjab*, 1980) has now made it infructuous. Does the judiciary have to be reminded of the fundamental principle, *actus curiae neminem gravabit* (no person should be prejudiced by an act of Court)?

The judiciary needs to dispel the perception that it is no longer the pillar created to protect constitutional and legal rights. In any failure, its stature and status as the "bulwark of the rule of law and the democracy" will be compromised.

Dushyant Dave is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

Giving wings to better air connectivity

A cooperative federalism framework can provide the required impetus to the civil aviation sector

USHA PADHEE

Civil aviation is a Central subject and one that barely got significant attention from the States until recently. It is evident from the fact that very few States in India have active civil aviation departments. This is also due to the reason that States have had a passive role, invariably, having had to look up to the Central government for the development of airports and enhancing air connectivity. However, in the last four years, the situation has changed considerably.

The cooperation of States is seen as a major factor in the growth of the civil aviation sector. The Regional Connectivity Scheme, UdeDeshkaAamNaagrik (UDAN), has become a game changer as this flagship programme has a built-in mechanism to develop stakes of State governments in the growth of the sector.

Key policy interventions

Thirty States and Union Territories have already signed memoranda of understanding with the Central government. The policies of States and Centre are now being interlinked to make flying accessible and affordable. Governments are poised for the growth as they have the potential to strengthen their partnership under the cooperative federalism framework to provide the required impetus to the sector. Here are some policy intervention suggestions to jump-start the aviation market.

For any airline in India, the cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) forms about 40% of the total operational cost. Keeping petroleum products out of the purview of Goods and Services Tax (GST) may be a policy imperative for the State governments but this is a step that adversely impacts the expansion of air services to the States. States have very high rates of value-added tax (VAT) on ATF – sometimes as high as 25% – which has dampened the growth trajectory of civil aviation. ATF is a small component of overall petroleum products and deserves to be treated separately.

The airline industry is capital-intensive and works on very thin profit margins. Therefore, relief on ATF is a major incentive for airlines to augment their operations. For States, it would be a notional revenue loss which can be offset by enhanced economic activities as a result of increased air connectivity to the region. An International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) study has shown that the output multiplier and employment multiplier of civil aviation are 3.25 and 6.10, respectively. Empirically, this has been proved in many airports within India where the connectivity has changed the economic landscape in a positive way.

Pending the decision on ATF at the GST Council where States are the major stakeholders, UDAN has motivated State governments to reduce the VAT on ATF to 1% for the flights that are operated under this scheme. Airports such as Jharsuguda (Odisha) and Kolhapur (Maharashtra) have successfully attracted airlines to connect these hitherto unconnected regions. Reducing VAT on ATF is the biggest lever States can operate, which will enable them in being an equal partner in steering sector policy.

S.S. KUMAR

Airport development

The second area is in the development and management of airports. There are many regional airports which can be developed by States on their own or in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India (AAI). In this, there have been different models of public-private-partnership which can be leveraged to develop infrastructures. Land involves huge capital and is a scarce resource. Innovative models can be explored to create viable 'no-frill airports'. These functional airports can open up regions and change the way people travel. India had about 70 airports since Independence until recently. Under UDAN, the Union government, with the help of the States, has operationalised 24 unserved airports over the past two years; 100 more are to be developed in the next five years, which can only be achieved through the active collaboration between willing States and the Centre.

Linking the hinterland

Third, States and the Central government can play a crucial role in supporting airlines to develop air services in the remote regions. To reduce operational cost of airlines and airport operators, incentives from State governments have been sought: some in the form of financial support such as VAT reduction; sharing of viability gap funding with airlines, and non-financial incentives such as providing security and fire services free of cost to airport operators. Similarly, under the scheme, the Union government has declared concessions on excise duty on ATF and made budgetary allocations for airport development. This unique scheme has been successful in encouraging airlines to operate on regional unconnected routes instead of trunk routes. Market appetite and aspirations of remote areas can match the plans of airlines where States play a catalytic role. Under UDAN, some success stories have motivated States to announce innovative approaches and policies in support of airlines.

However, to attract airlines from regional to remote connectivity, further interventions are necessary. Considering the infrastructural constraints and difficult terrain, small aircraft operators need to be encouraged. Many a time, policy reluctance is observed considering the financial non-viability of the models to connect remote areas using smaller aircraft and helicopters. But air connectivity to these difficult regions is indispensable. Areas which cannot be connected meaningfully by road or rail have to be linked by air. No doubt, they will be cost-effective if the economic analysis is factored-in. For example, travel from Dehradun to Pithoragarh (both in Uttarakhand) by road takes 16 hours and communication is almost cut-off in the rainy season. Air connectivity would not only bring down travel time but also be a boon in emergencies. This is also true for northeast India, the islands and also hilly States.

Convergence is an element in governance which is often overlooked due to a compartmentalisation in implementation. States may converge their relevant schemes relating to tourism, health, and insurance for supporting air connectivity to supplement the objectives of regional connectivity.

Currently the penetration of the aviation market in India stands at 7%. There is potential to be among the global top three nations in terms of domestic and international passenger traffic. For this States need to create a conducive business environment to facilitate the strong aspirations of a burgeoning Indian middle class to fly at least once a year. It would boost ticket sales from the present level of eight crore domestic tickets. Developing airports, incentivising airlines and pooling resources of both the Union and State governments can accelerate the harmonised growth of the Indian civil aviation sector which would be equitable and inclusive.

Usha Padhee is Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India. The views expressed are personal

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.

Restoring normalcy

The BJP has always criticised former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for imposing Emergency, but what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir today is simply an undeclared Emergency. It is a shame that the shutdown in J&K continues, local leaders are still under house arrest, and there are still restrictions on communication and movement ("Cong. hits out at curbs in Kashmir", August 26). The government says everything is normal. If so, why are there protests, incidents of stone pelting and curfews? Normalcy cannot be restored using military force. Unless the people willingly cooperate with the government, there cannot be normalcy.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

SPG cover withdrawn

It is hoped that the Congress accepts the government's decision to withdraw SPG cover for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh without attributing political motives to the decision ("Manmohan Singh set to lose SPG cover", August 26). After all, Dr. Singh continues to have Z+ security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked parliamentarians long ago to shun VIP culture. The government's move should be seen in this light.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

■ The government may cite lower threat perception as its reason for withdrawing SPG cover, but the political reasons are palpable. What else explains the fact that former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was provided SPG cover even when he was bed-ridden and until his death?

GAGAN PRATAP SINGH,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

War on plastic

Plastic has engulfed the world and become an existential threat to most life forms ("Let us wage a war on plastic, says PM", August 26). Even the oceans are full of plastic. While the problem is global, the war against plastic has to be fought locally.
Single-use plastic is still rampantly used in India despite attempts to ban it. The government has to invest in researching and developing alternate materials that are as versatile and useful as plastic. Meanwhile, heavy fines should be imposed on those producing, purchasing and using single-use plastic.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

Media freedom

The Press Council of India's stand is detrimental to democracy, which requires both freedom of speech and freedom of the press (Editorial, "On the wrong side", August 26). Politicisation of the press has always been on the agenda of political parties and it is shocking that the PCI has allowed such politicisation.

TANMOY CHAKRABORTY,
Siliguri, West Bengal

On top of the world

P.V. Sindhu's performance in the World Championships final was extraordinary ("Sindhu scales a peak no Indian ever has", August 26). It is incredible that she has been so consistent with her performance. This might be her first gold but it is her fifth medal at the World Championships. This outstanding and great victory puts her in the elite company of greats from India such as Prakash Padukone, Vishwanathan Anand, Abhinav Bindra and Pankaj Advani in individual sports and games.

VISHWANATH KOTEKAR,
Mangaluru

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India's culture of toxic masculinity

Violent masculinity is oppressive, exacerbates social conflict and is incompatible with democracy

RAJEEV BHARGAVA

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK PHOTO

Three images of social violence have haunted me recently. The first was that of a minor girl in her teens, beaten mercilessly by a village elder. Her crime? She dared elope with her young lover. Second, after the acquittal of all six men accused of lynching Pehlu Khan, TV channels replayed the visuals in which a crowd of men participated gleefully in the atrocity. The third was of three Dalits being thrashed over allegations of theft. The barbarity of this violence can hardly escape anyone, but equally striking is the absence of any woman among the perpetrators. This theatre of cruelty has an all-male cast.

Of course, women perpetrate violence too: they can be aggressive and brutal, particularly to other women. But undoubtedly, the culture that stokes such violence smacks of machismo. Though not solely responsible for such violence, this culture plays a central role in its recurrence, justification, and glorification.

Scholars have drawn attention to the fact that ideas of masculinity are tied less to the body and more to socio-cultural ideologies and practices. Manhood is not naturally given but is a goal to be achieved. To be born a boy is a privilege but one that can be lost if one is not properly initiated into masculine practices. Besides, male adults must maintain this privilege by regular performance. They must demonstrate that they are real men, manly, rather than womanly men. And what better way of doing so than by good, solid walloping? If one ceases to perform these masculine acts or gives up beliefs that constitute them, one slips out of manhood and becomes effeminate.

Model of manhood

What are the core features of this model of manhood? First, aggression is natural and desirable in men. A 'real' man is eager to pick up a fight. If he does not, he is told to wear bangles on his wrist. Even the slightest intrusion in his physical, mental or social space is unacceptable. Second, men must be tough – muscular and unemotional; they must not be easily perturbed, must not grieve and cry. I am reminded of a Latin American friend who told me that he loved the drama and action in Hindi films but, confronted with the hero's androgynous features, was perplexed: "Why do they cry so easily?" Relatedly, it is uncharacteristic of men to adopt the point of view of others, show empathy and understanding, gentleness and compassion. Part of what it means to be tough is to suppress empathy towards others, to be embarrassed by fear or any other vulnerability.

Third, men must be ambitious and ruthless. Once they set a goal, it must be achieved regardless of consequences to others. Since winning is all-important, other men striving to achieve the same goal are rivals to be eliminated. Extreme competitiveness, on this model, is a classical male characteristic. Fourth, it does not behove men to consult others, negotiate with the weak, or settle for anything less than what they want. They take independent decisions that brook no questioning. As famously put by Amitabh Bachchan in one of his films, '*Bas... keh diya na (Enough, I have said so).*' Once a man speaks, it is final; an order to be obeyed blindly. Men are sovereign, free and autonomous, in control of the world they inhabit, the women they rule over and the children they beget. In short, part of their freedom lies in having dominion over others, particularly women and 'servants'.

All these must be contrasted to features that inhere in women: being irrational, bereft of self-restraint, crying easily, emotional, empathetic but lacking judgment and impartiality. Women are physically and mentally weak, and therefore must be dependent on and protected by their male superiors. It follows that when men display such traits, they become weak, soft, wimpish. Acting like a woman is a betrayal of manhood. Cold-blooded violence shows the opposite: that manliness is fully alive and kicking!

Masculinity against freedom

Another key feature exhibited through images of social violence, and integral to a culture of masculinity, is the belief that 'real men' are directly responsible for sustaining a moral order. Its guardians, they must restore that order when it is disturbed. Since the girl had violated the honour of the community, she deserved the severe punishment meted out publicly and directly by an older, wiser man of the same community. How else can her subjection within the social order be conserved? Likewise, Dalits and cultural aliens (Muslims) must know their designated place in society. Any attempt to become equal must be put down. How dare a Dalit sport a moustache or dream of riding a horse? He must be shown his place. To men with such ideas of masculinity, the argument that they must not take law in their own hands falls on deaf ears. This is unsurprising, because from their own perspective, the law must be broken if it breaches the more fundamental moral order.

It is hard for me to assess the extent to which Indians are outraged by masculine violence. Are we unable to prevent this violence? Can't be bothered to stop it? Or do we secretly endorse it? The very best in traditional and modern India, in their own distinctive ways, avoided the pernicious binary at the heart of this male-centric world. For the Buddha, compassion was not a feminine virtue but a key moral value for all humans. Mahavira tried to inculcate the ethical significance of *ahimsa* not merely towards all humans but every living species. Asoka realised the futility of social and political violence and advocated harmonious coexistence among different religio-philosophical groups. The early Dharmasutras proposed that knowledge is not the exclusive preserve of professionally learned men (Brahmins); much can be learnt from women and those falling low in status-hierarchy. In our times, Gandhi showed how peaceful resistance against the oppressor can be more effective than violent confrontation. But in the world of violent masculinities, these are unmanly attributes fit only for women and the weak.

Real freedom for all is the heartbeat of the order envisaged by those who sought independence from colonial rule. But the central feature in the culture of toxic masculinity is domination, which is deeply incompatible with a freedom-sensitive, egalitarian ethic. Why then does an archaic, conservative, masculine moral order, sustained largely by aggressive and violent men, persist and continue to find support among aspiring sections of our society?

It is perplexing too that social violence is continually reproduced in a democracy. Democracies are meant to encourage the not-so-masculine values of consultation, negotiation, discussion, compromise; to accept that we might not get all that we want, that it is one thing to show strength, firmness, courage and quite another to be self-obsessed and obstinate, to posture belligerently, to bully the vulnerable. In peaceful, functional democracies, people have the quiet confidence that they will defend themselves against aggression, but they know equally well that there is nothing particularly heroic about violence. The greatest Indians have defied male stereotypes, refused to be trapped by the male/female binary. Will today's Indians follow them, reduce violence, and secure freedom for all?

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

A judicial overreach into matters of regulation

A PIL on Aadhaar sheds light on some problematic trends

GURSHABAD GROVER

The Madras High Court has been hearing a PIL petition since 2018 that initially asked the court to declare the linking of Aadhaar with a government identity proof as mandatory for registering email and social media accounts. The petitioners, victims of online bullying, went to the court because they found that law enforcement agencies were inefficient at investigating cybercrimes, especially when it came to gathering information about pseudonymous accounts on major online platforms. This case brings out some of the most odious trends in policymaking in India.

The first issue is how the courts, as Anuj Bhuwania has argued in the book *Courting the People*, have continually expanded the scope of issues considered in PILs. In this case, it is absolutely clear that the court is not pondering about any question of law. In what could be considered as abrogation of the separation of powers provision in the Constitution, the Madras High Court started to deliberate on a policy question with a wide-ranging impact: Should Aadhaar be linked with social media accounts?

After ruling out this possibility, it went on to consider a question that is even further out of its purview: Should platforms like WhatsApp that provide encrypted services allow forms of "traceability" to enable finding the originator of content? In essence, the court is now trying to regulate one particular platform on a very specific technical question, ignoring legal frameworks entirely. It is worrying that the judiciary is finding itself increasingly at ease with deliberations on policy and regulatory measures, and its recent actions remind us that the powers of the court also deserve critical questioning.

Government's support

Second, not only are governments failing to assert their own powers of regulation in response to the courts' actions, they are on the contrary encouraging such PILs. The Attorney General, K.K. Venugopal, who is representing the State of Tamil Nadu in the case, could have argued for the case's dismissal by referring to the fact that the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has already published draft regulations that aim to introduce "traceability" and to increase obligations on social media platforms. Instead, he has largely urged the court to pass regulatory orders.

Third, 'Aadhaar linking' is becoming increasingly a refrain whenever any matter even loosely related to identification or investigation of crime is brought up. While the Madras High Court has ruled out such linking for social media platforms, other High Courts are still hearing petitions to formulate such rules. The processes that law enforcement agencies use to get information from platforms based in foreign jurisdictions rely on international agreements. Linking Aadhaar with social media accounts will have no bearing on these processes. Hence, the proposed 'solution' misses the problem entirely, and comes with its own threats of infringing privacy.

Problems of investigation

That said, investigating cybercrime is a serious problem for law enforcement agencies. However, the proceedings before the court indicate that the cause of the issues have not been correctly identified. While legal provisions that allow agencies to seek information from online platforms already exist in the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Information Technology Act, getting this information from platforms based in foreign jurisdictions can be a long and cumbersome process. For instance, the hurdles posed by the mutual legal assistance treaty between India and the U.S. effectively mean that it might take months to receive a response to information requests sent to U.S.-based platforms, if a response is received at all.

To make cybercrime investigation easier, the Indian government has various options. India should push for fairer executive agreements possible under instruments like the United States' CLOUD Act, for which we need to first bring our surveillance laws in line with international human rights standards through reforms such as judicial oversight. India could use the threat of data localisation as a leverage to negotiate bilateral agreements with other countries to ensure that agencies have recourse to quicker procedures. As a first step, however, Indian courts must wash their hands of such questions. For its part, the Centre must engage in consultative policymaking around these important issues, rather than support ad-hoc regulation through court orders in PILs.

(*Disclosure: The CIS is a recipient of research grants from Facebook.*)

Gurshabad Grover is a senior policy officer at the Centre for Internet and Society. Views are personal

Talking trade with the EU

Why it is important for India to hasten talks with the EU on a free trade agreement

MOHAN KUMAR
& CONSTANTINO XAVIER

As the economy begins to suffer from the U.S.-China trade war, it is imperative for India to pursue a free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU). Last month, negotiators from both sides met in Brussels, for more talks about talks, but time is now running out for New Delhi.

Moving beyond the U.S. and China, this is the right time for India to engage the EU as an indispensable democratic partner to craft a favourable geo-economic order. A series of economic and geo-strategic factors make the need for an economic deal with the EU more urgent.

First, India risks being left behind amidst a collapsing global trade architecture, rising protectionism and a new emphasis on bilateral FTAs. India is the only major power lacking an FTA with any of its top trade partners, including the EU, the U.S., China and Gulf economies. This situation is not tenable as most trade is now driven either by FTAs or global value chains.

The EU's revived focus on FTAs could only exacerbate this risk for India. In June, Brussels concluded a trade deal with Vietnam and a historic FTA with the Mercorsur countries in South America. India, in the meantime, is hanging on to its Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status. Its status under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) will face rising competition from Pakistan or Sri Lanka, who enjoy GSP+ benefits.

Stuck in a 'grey zone'

Stuck in a 'grey zone', without preferential FTA tariffs or GSP+ status, India will struggle to keep exports competitive for Europe, its largest trade partner where 20% of its exports land up.

The good news here is that India's talks with the EU have been advancing slowly but steadily. From agriculture to intellectual property, the EU and India have quietly been exchanging and aligning views. New areas like e-commerce have registered significant convergence because India's position on data privacy is not that different from the EU's. As with the EU-Japan deal, India may wish to proceed at two speeds: it could delay discussions about free flow of data for a few years and freeze differences on the tax moratorium issue or data localisation, even while committing to liberalise in other areas.

Second, beyond mere economic cost-benefit analysis, India must also approach an EU FTA from a geo-strategic perspective. With Mr. Trump's hostile spotlight focussing on India, and lingering concerns about the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, New Delhi must realise the long-term strategic benefits of a trade deal with Europe.

Democratic regulations

EU negotiators are now more willing to make concessions on labour or environmental regulations, which used to be insurmountable obstacles. The collapse of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and concerns about excessive economic reliance on China have propelled the EU to become a little more pragmatic, which New Delhi should leverage before it's too late.

The EU also offers India a unique regulatory model that balances growth, privacy and standards. India's governance framework shares the European norms of democratic transparency and multi-stakeholder participation on a variety of new technological domains, from regulating artificial intelligence to 5G networks. New Delhi must see this as a strategic premium that is not accounted for in a strict cost-benefit economic analysis.

When New Delhi speaks of Europe as a strategic partner to uphold a multipolar order, it must go beyond security and begin with the business of trade and technology.

Mohan Kumar, is chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries; Constantino Xavier is a Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies, Brookings India

DATA POINT

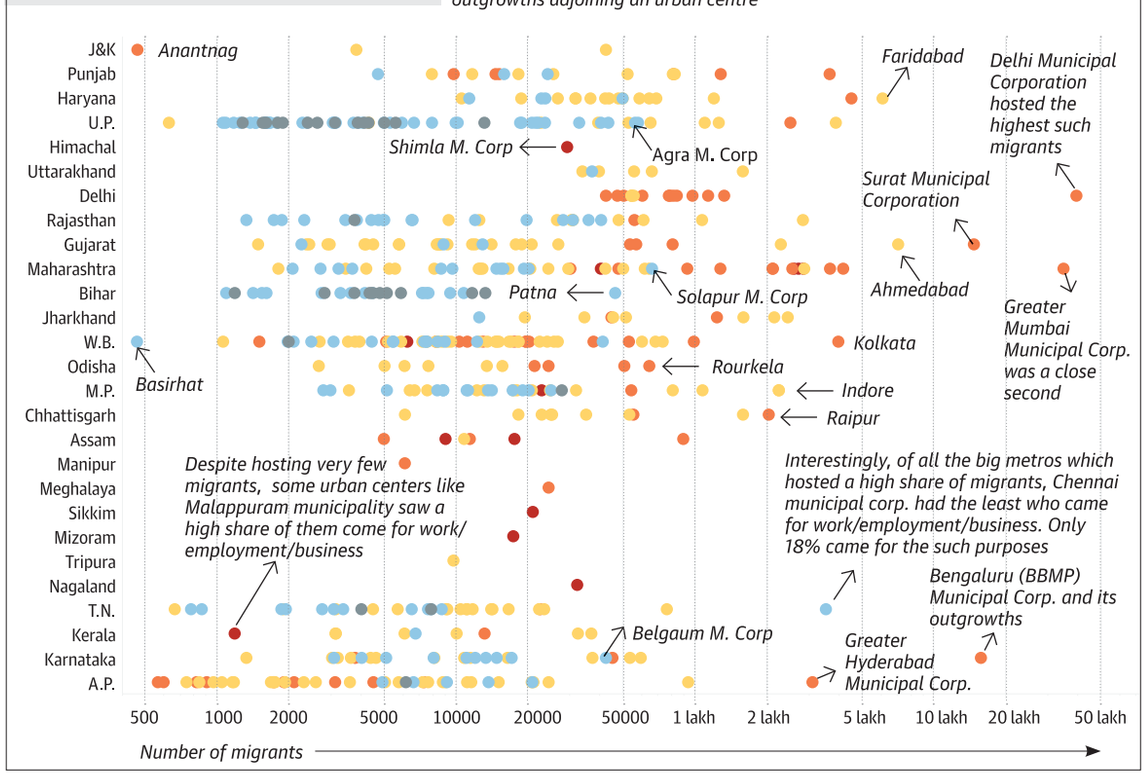
Migrant magnets

While most Indians migrated to big cities in search of work, a majority of those who moved to Chennai, Agra, Belgaum and Solapur did not go in search of work, data from the 2011 Census show.
By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

The graph shows the number of in-migrants in 501 urban centers across 29 States as of 2011. It includes only those migrants who previously resided outside the State to which they moved.*

Each circle corresponds with an urban centre. The circles towards the right had a relatively larger number of migrants. The colours correspond with the % of migrants who came for work/employment/business:
● >40% ● 30-39.9% ● 20-29.9% ● 10-19.9% ● 0-9.9%

** Urban centers include municipalities, municipal corporations, townships and outgrowths adjoining an urban centre*



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 27, 1969

The morning after

(From an Editorial)

The Congress Working Committee's two resolutions form no doubt an anti-climax to the tense political drama staged over the last few weeks, first at Bangalore and then at New Delhi. But the dissipation of the crisis that they have brought about will be received with a sense of relief by all those who were anxious that the party should not break up. Few will disagree with the Working Committee that "a split in the party will have calamitous consequences." It is this consideration that must have weighed most with both the warring groups, and particularly with the old guard which has had to do more of the climb-down. The most disappointed with the outcome seem to be the Marxists one of whose leaders has hastened to voice his utter disappointment by castigating the resolutions as "hypocritical". The impossible compromise has surely baulked their ambitions to exploit the vulnerability of a hopelessly divided Congress Party. This threat looked so real, as the party crisis seemed at one stage to reach a point of no return, that the sudden caving in of the old guard at the last minute may also be accounted for by it.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 27, 1919.

Fall of Lenin.

Copanhagen, August 24. - Doctor Martiny, head of the Danish Red Cross, who has arrived from Russia, interviewed by Reuter said that, Lenin decided early in 1919 to abandon terroristic methods and adopt a conciliatory attitude, in external and internal relations, with a view to attaining a peaceful settlement. This policy failed, whereupon the Soviets espoused the extremist methods of Peters and Dershisky, who have been the real Government for the past three months. The successes against Koltchak were largely due to the able Generalship of a supporter of Peters, named Kameneff, an ex-Czarist Colonel, who adopted an offensive instead of a defensive policy. Martiny believes that the Soviet would be overthrown in six months, if an Allied and Neutral Commission were attached to Koltchak and Denikin's forces, in order to guard against excesses. The Russians, except Bolsheviks, would welcome the British intervention. People would give up hope, if the British were to withdraw from Archangle, as Russia would inevitably fall under German influence.

FROM PAGE ONE

PM rejects third party mediation in Kashmir

Asked about the discussion on the Kashmir issue during the talks, the Foreign Secretary said there was "no discussion" on it during the bilateral meeting.

To another question, Mr. Gokhale said India had not taken any steps to harm regional stability.

"Normalcy is returning to Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding that certain restrictions will remain in place in the State to maintain law and order. "Their meeting principally focussed on trade and energy," Mr. Gokhale said.

"The Prime Minister spoke of the importance of energy imports from the U.S. and he referred to the fact that $ 4 billion worth of imports were already in the pipeline and that would be expected to be stepped up," he said.

Chidambaram's custody extended by four days

Rebutting the charge of payment of bribe to Mr. Chidambaram, his counsel Kapil Sibal said there was no document in support of it. He submitted that during the police remand of the accused, no question was asked of him regarding the two payments. Neither was the accused asked any question about the bank accounts, Mr. Sibal said.

He further submitted that there was no evidence of the two payments allegedly made to the accused. Terming the CBI investigation as clouded, Mr. Sibal submitted that the agency had not disclosed the name of any other accused with whom the accused was to be confronted. The CBI is learnt to have received information from the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Enforcement Directorate on suspect overseas transactions, shell companies and bank accounts in several countries, which are being verified.

Mr. Chidambaram's supporters, who had gathered in the court's corridor, shouted slogans when he was being escorted to and from the court.

(With inputs from Devesh K. Pandey)

RBI showers ₹1.76 lakh crore bonanza on govt.

The RBI said the available realised equity stood at 6.8% of balance sheet, and there was excess of risk provisioning of ₹11,608 crore at the upper bound of CRB and ₹52,637 crore at the lower bound of CRB.

"The Central Board decided to maintain the realized equity level at 5.5% of balance sheet and the resultant excess risk provisions of ₹52,637 crore were written back," the RBI statement said.

Manmohan continues to have Z+ security: MHA

The force comprising 3,000 officers meant for the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their families, would now be tasked with protecting only Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her children Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Former Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee continued to have SPG cover from 2004 when he demitted office till his death in 2018.

The Vajpayee government conducted a review of the SPG's operations and decided to withdraw its protection to former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao, H.D. Deve Gowda, and I.K. Gujral.

'Khattar misleading people on many issues'

Swaraj India to launch campaign on Sept. 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Swaraj India, which has decided to contest all the 90 Assembly seats in Haryana where elections are due later this year, on Monday released its second list of eight candidates. As the party announced its candidates here, its national president Yogendra Yadav hit out at the BJP government for allegedly misleading the people on several issues.

Mr. Yadav said Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who is travelling across the State with his "'Jan Ashirvaad Yatra", was not presenting the true picture, especially on unemployment and women safety. "The Swaraj India will launch 'Jan Satokar Abhiyan' from September 1, to expose the truth about the false claims being made by him," said Mr. Yadav.

Mr. Yadav alleged that the BJP government was concealing the dire state of unemployment. "The BJP is using the 18,000 Group D jobs to hide the bigger reality of lack of job generation. As per the latest report 'Unemployment in India, January-April 2019', released by the CMIE. Haryana is at the top of the major States in unemployment rate."

"The youth of the State are facing hardship due to the frauds committed by the previous INLD government, the corruption of the Congress government and now the incompetence of the BJP government," he said.

Thoothukudi firing: HC seeks probe status report

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday wanted to know the status of a CBI probe ordered by it into the police firing that claimed as many as 13 lives and left many injured during the protests against Sterlite copper smelting plant in Thoothukudi on May 22 and 23, 2018.

Justices T.S. Sivagnanam and V. Bhavani Subbaroyan also sought to know by Tuesday the progress made by a Commission of Inquiry, constituted by the State government under the chairmanship of former Madras High Court judge Aruna Jagadeesan, to inquire into the circumstances that led to the firing.

Chidambaram gets relief in ED case

The court, however, refuses to entertain his plea for liberty from CBI custody in INX Media case

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday extended its interim protection to former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram from arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for another day, but it refused to entertain his plea for liberty from CBI custody in the INX Media case.

A Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and A.S. Bopanna said Mr. Chidambaram's appeal for anticipatory bail in the CBI case was "infructuous". The senior Congress leader had been under remand for the past five days after his arrest on August 21. The Bench said he could apply for regular bail in the court concerned.

Hours after the Supreme Court declined his appeal against the CBI, the Special Court extended his remand till August 30.

But the Supreme Court Bench heard senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Mr. Chidambaram, argue the whole day a separate appeal filed for anticipatory bail in the case lodged by the ED, which is investigating the money laundering angle.

Under watch: Congress leader P. Chidambaram after being produced at a CBI court in New Delhi on Monday. • PTI

The court has scheduled the counter-arguments of the ED, represented by Solicitor- General Tushar Mehta, for noon on August 27.

'One-way street'

Mr. Sibal argued that the conduct of the case had been like a "one-way street" where the investigating agencies flashed documents at the courts to deprive a person of his personal liberty.

"One of the questions asked to him [Chidambaram] was whether he had a Twitter account? Is this how an investigation goes," Mr. Sibal asked the Bench.

He said the investigating agencies did not confront Mr. Chidambaram with any of the documents and records which they showed to convince the Delhi High Court to deprive him anticipatory bail in an order on August 20.

"If you probe and find out anything, first put it before the person. Let him give an explanation... What is happening in this case is a one-way street," Mr. Sibal said.

He submitted that Mr. Chidambaram was questioned three times by the ED on December 19, January 1 and January 21.

"He was not summoned before or thereafter. If documents were available, why was he not confronted with them during any of these three occasions? Why did they spring a surprise in the Delhi High Court by passing them on to the judge in sealed covers. This is nothing but a media trial," he said.

Mr. Sibal stated that certain paragraphs in the High Court verdict was a verbatim reproduction of the contents of a note handed over by the probe agencies to the judge. There was no application of mind by the judge before denying a man bail.

Mr. Mehta denied the existence of such a note. He said the case diary was handed to the judge for his perusal.

Mr. Sibal continued that an arrest spelt "great ignominy, humiliation, distress" to a man.

"The moment you arrest someone, you make believe that the man is guilty. You destroy a man... Cases like this have a money trail or documents, everything is traceable... So, what is the need for police custody. What are you trying to find out?" he asked.

'Long arms'

Mr. Sibal criticised claims by the investigating agencies that Mr. Chidambaram would tamper with the case. "They say I [Chidambaram] will tamper with the case... I must be having long arms to do that," he said.

"Yes, yes. That's what it shows," Mr. Mehta countered from his seat in the front row on the other side.

"You have long arms, very long arms. That is why I [Chidambaram] am here and you are there," Mr. Sibal replied.

SC to hear fresh plea against arrest

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and A.S. Bopanna will on August 27 hear a fresh plea filed by former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram against his arrest warrant and remand orders issued by the trial court in the INX Media case.

On August 23, the Bench passed an order to list the plea for August 26, but the petition did not find its way into the list. An oral mentioning was made by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Mr. Chidambaram, before Justice Banumathi's Bench about the absence of the petition in Monday's list of cases.

Justice Banumathi said that an order from the Chief Justice of India on the administrative side was required to get the case listed. In his plea, Mr. Chidambaram said the trial court had passed the arrest order without application of mind

22 tax officials sacked for 'graft'

Nine of them were posted as sector officers at a tobacco company in Indore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday announced that the President had ordered the compulsory retirement of 22 more tax officials on charges of corruption and other offences.

In June, the President ordered the compulsory retirement of 27 tax officials.

"The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has compulsorily retired yet another 22 senior officers of the rank of Superintendent/AO under Fundamental Rule 56 (J) in the public interest, due to corruption and other charges and CBI traps," a Finance Ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

> **The CBIC has compulsorily retired 22 senior officers under Rule 56 (J) in the public interest, due to corruption and other charges and CBI traps**
> FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a few recent speeches and interviews, highlighted that "some black sheep" in the tax administration had misused their powers and harassed taxpayers, either by targeting the honest assessees or by taking excessive action for minor or procedural violations. Action was being taken against them, he said.

Notably, nine out of the 22 officers compulsorily retired had been posted at different times as sector officers in a single company – Ellora Tobacco Company in Indore.

These officers "played the role of facilitating the excess unrecorded clandestine production and clearances of cigarettes", the Ministry official said. The Director-General of the Central Excise Intelligence had detected clandestine production and clearances and investigated the case. It issued two show-cause notices demanding a duty of ₹1,03,74,648 and another demanding ₹28,39,43,195 from the tobacco firm.

The other officers out of the 22 were implicated in cases of bribery, extortion, smuggling and concealment of evidence.

Custodial interrogation necessary: ED plea

'Strong case against Chidambaram'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday filed a 13-page affidavit in the Supreme Court saying the arrest and interrogation of former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram is necessary to "unearth a larger and wider case of money laundering".

It said the ED was tracking the money trail to clamp down on black money and there is a strong *prima facie* case against Mr. Chidambaram based on cogent evidence as contemplated under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The affidavit said a complaint filed under PMLA is akin to a chargesheet, which has not yet been filed. It said there is substantive evidence showing a *prima facie* case of "serious offence of money laundering" which requires his arrest and interrogation.

His arrest is necessary because as a former Minister he wields substantive and pervasive influence to falsify evidence, the ED said. Custodial interrogation would enable the agency to confront him with evidence.

Amit Shah meets CMs on steps to curb Maoists

Nitish Kumar flags reduction in funds for infrastructure in LWE-affected districts and police training

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday reviewed the security situation in the 10 States affected by left-wing extremism.

Mr. Shah said Left-wing extremism had no place in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "New India". He said these extremist organisations were against "democratic institutions", used violence and prevented development in the least developed regions of the country.

Surrender policy

The Minister asked the States to rationalise their surrender policy to mainstream "innocent individuals caught in the trap of LWE [left-wing extremism] violence." He said innovative measures need to be employed to prevent blasts by improvised explosive device incidents that had caused significant number of casualties this year.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel told Mr. Shah during the meeting that the State government had started withdrawing "fraud cases" registered against tribal people.

After coming to power in 2018, the Congress-led Chhattisgarh government announced that all cases registered against the tribal people in the past 15 years when the State was ruled by the BJP, would be reviewed.

In his presentation, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar protested that "stoppage of funding for Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)" by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will "adversely affect the ongoing development work in the LWE-affected districts," and urged that the scheme should continue.

Work mode: Home Minister Amit Shah with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. • PTI

Mr. Kumar, an ally of the NDA government at the Centre, also protested against the MHA's move to reduce funding under the modernisation of police forces (MPF) scheme.

He charged that "fight against LWE is a joint responsibility of Centre and State and therefore, the financial burden should also be shared by both."

Mr. Shah said LWE cannot be eradicated without the vigilance and efficiency of the local police and asked the States to use central schemes and their own budget for police modernisation.

Word of advice

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das expressed caution on withdrawing central armed police forces (CAPF) from the State.

"LWE is on its last legs in Jharkhand and to keep up the momentum against the Maoists, it is imperative their deployment is not reduced for the next two-three years. Recently some Central forces were pulled out of the State on a temporary basis and there is a proposal to withdraw some forces permanently," Mr. Das said.

JD(U) can't use its symbol in two States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Janata Dal (United) will not be allowed to use its symbol of arrow in Jharkhand and Maharashtra because it is similar to those of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Shiv Sena in these States, the Election Commission said in an order.

The Assembly elections are expected soon in Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

The JMM said in its application to the EC on June 24 that it was the principal Opposition in Jharkhand, while the JD(U) did not have any representation in the State. The party said the allotment of the arrow symbol to the JD(U) in Jharkhand would create confusion among voters.

10 declared foreigners released from Assam camp

They have completed over three years in a detention centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has conditionally released 10 people, including a woman, who have completed more than three years in a detention centre after being declared foreigners.

All 10 have been released from the Goalpara centre in western Assam, one of the six in the State for housing people declared foreigners by any of the existing 100 Foreigners' Tribunals. Nine are from Goalpara district and one from Chirang district under the Bodoland Territorial Council. Five are Hindus and five Muslims, all of Bengal origin.

> **They were released on bail on a Supreme Court order for conditional release of declared foreigners**
> BHASKAR JYOTI MAHANTA
> Special DGP (Border)

The first four among the 10 were released on August 9 and the last was released on Monday.

A Hindu woman from Goalpara district, at 69, is the oldest, while the youngest is a 39-year-old Muslim man, also from the same district. "They were released on bail as per the Supreme Court's order for conditional release of declared foreigners," Special Director-General of Police (Border) Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said on Monday.

The Border Organisation is a wing of the Assam police that is tasked with detecting and deporting illegal migrants or foreigners.

Hearing a public interest litigation petition in July, the court approved Assam's proposal for the conditional release of declared foreigners behind bars for three years or more. The government had prepared a list of 335 out of 1,145 declared foreigners.

Police have advised against publishing their names for security reasons.

Assam BJP chief says final NRC unlikely to be free of errors

Ranjeet Kumar Dass blames 'whimsical' NRC coordinator

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday said that it does not believe the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be published on August 31 would be error-free.

BJP State president Ranjeet Kumar Dass blamed a "whimsical" NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela for preparing a citizenship document that excludes genuine Indians and includes foreigners.

Big charge

"We are not happy with the way the NRC is being updated by Prateek Hajela who, despite the exercise being monitored by the Supreme Court, has been working as per his whims and under the influence of a couple of organisations. So be ready for an NRC that is full of names of foreigners and excludes many Indians," Mr. Dass said on Monday.

Ranjeet Kumar Dass

The BJP State chief's apprehension about the NRC is contrary to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's statement on August 15 that the NRC would be a historical document that includes all genuine Indians and keeps foreigners out.

"There are names of families of martyrs of Assam Agitation (1979-85) who were excluded from the NRC while the NRC authorities engaged some suspected foreigners in the updating process.

"These point to a document that will be full of errors," Mr. Dass said.

PM highlights war on single-use plastic

At G7 session, he speaks of conserving water, harnessing solar energy and protecting flora and fauna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIARRITZ

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address at a G7 session on environment here on Monday, highlighted India's large-scale efforts towards eliminating single-use plastic, conserving water, harnessing solar energy and protecting the flora and fauna for a sustainable future.

Mr. Modi is attending the G7 summit in the French town of Biarritz on a special invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Global stage: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Italian counterpart, Giuseppe Conte, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Biarritz on Monday. ▪ AFP

India's commitment

"Reiterating India's commitment to tackle global challenges PM @narendramodi attended the dedicated session of #G7Biarritz summit on 'Biodiversity, Oceans, Climate'; Underlined India's contribution to address reducing biodiversity, climate change, water stress & ocean pollution," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

In his address to the Indian community at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris last week, Mr. Modi said India would achieve most of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) climate change goals set for 2030 in a year and a half. As many as 195 nations took part in the 21st session of the COP21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris from November 30 to December 12, 2015.

The nations negotiated and adopted the Paris Agreement in which India made four commitments, including reducing greenhouse gas emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% below 2005 levels by 2030, under its Nationally Determined Contributions.

The country pledged that 40% of its power capacity would be based on non-fossil sources and the country would create an additional "carbon sink" of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Modi speaks good English, says Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIARRITZ

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks very good English, but he just doesn't want to talk, U.S. President Donald Trump said jokingly on Monday before they met for formal talks in Biarritz. Mr. Modi had answered questions by presspersons in Hindi.

Imports from U.S. to grow, trade Ministers to meet soon

Modi to meet CEOs of energy firms in the U.S. in September

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIARRITZ

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday informed U.S. President Donald Trump that India planned to further step up imports, including of oil, from the U.S. and an estimated $4 billion of imports were already "in the pipeline".

The Modi-Trump meeting assumes significance in the wake of the strain in the bilateral relationship on trade and economic issues.

Meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit here, the two leaders agreed that preferably before the Prime Minister visited the U.S. in September, the Commerce Ministers of the two countries would discuss a whole range of trade issues.

Briefing presspersons on the 40-minute meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal was supposed to go to Washington earlier, but it did not happen.

Donald Trump

Mr. Trump had previously described India as a "tariff king". Before meeting Mr. Modi on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, he had demanded that India withdraw "very high" tariffs on U.S. goods.

"The Prime Minister spoke of the importance of energy imports from the U.S...," Mr. Gokhale said.

He noted that Mr. Modi would travel to Houston, America's energy capital, on September 22, and was expected to have a meeting with the CEOs of top U.S. energy companies. The objectives were to see how India could import more oil and how the country could invest in the U.S. energy sector.

Mr. Gokhale said Mr. Trump spoke warmly of the fact that India had become a major energy importer. The President indicated that he was willing to send top administration officials to Houston to ensure that the bilateral energy relationship made progress.

Two injured in stone throwing in Kashmir

Shops, educational institutions and offices remain closed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Ajay Kumar, 16, from Udhampur and Mehmooda from the Kawdara area here were injured in separate incidents of stone throwing on Monday.

The incident comes a day after a civilian was killed in stone throwing at Anantnag in south Kashmir, the police said.

"Mr. Kumar was injured in Pulwama's Kakapora. He sustained injuries in the right eye and nose. Mr. Mehmooda was injured in the right eye and nose. Both were admitted to Srinagar hospitals," the police said.

"Whosoever will be involved in stone throwing will be dealt with sternly under the law."

Agitation front: The police detaining a doctor during a protest in Srinagar on Monday. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

Third death

The death in Ananthnag is the third of a civilian in street protests since the August 5 decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

One youth from the Safakadal area here drowned after security forces chased local protesters. A 65-year-old man died after inhaling gas of a tear-smoke shell, according to his family members. Over 60 protesters were injured in the Valley since the revocation of the special status.

Shops, educational institutions and private offices remained closed for the 22nd day in Kashmir, even as the authorities lifted restrictions in the jurisdictions of 69 of the 109 police stations in the Valley. The number of private vehicles plying on the roads showed an upward trend in the commercial hub of Lal Cowk on Monday, but the old city witnessed little traffic. Public transport remained off the roads.

J&K villages cut off, say panchayat members

'We are starved of basic rations'

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

They are frustrated with the "bunch of lies" propagated on television channels on the "normal situation" in Jammu and Kashmir and are in Delhi to "bust" the government's claims. "If the government bullets don't kill, starvation will," Talib Hussain, a panchayat member from Anantnag district, said.

Mr. Hussain is accompanied by his friends, Iqbal Ahmed, another panchayat member, and Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, who resigned as panchayat member recently. All three belong to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Congress formed in 2018. Mr. Hussain and Mr. Khan belong to the Bakharwala tribal community.

"The crackdown began on August 4 itself, with many of us getting polite calls from the police to come down to the station to discuss law and order. Only those of us who did not respond to the calls are free," Mr. Khan said. "The police are slapping PSA [Public Safety Act] like it's distributing toffees," he alleged. The three friends could plan to drive down to Delhi only because they live in neighbourhood villages.

"The cities are better off. In villages, we are starved of even the most basic rations. Most of the provision stores are shut. Hospitals don't even have basic medicines," Mr. Ahmed said.

Even to get curfew passes they have to reach the Collector's office. ATMs were open only on Id, but most of the rural population don't have access to them. So they got ₹2,000 a family as withdrawals from the government.

The only way to communicate with the government was through security forces. Government orders were conveyed through them, rations were being delivered by them and instructions to send children to school came from the station house officer, they said.

Mayawati questions visit by Rahul, other leaders to J&K

BSP chief says it will allow Centre to politicise the issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Monday questioned the visit by Opposition leaders led by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi to Jammu and Kashmir, saying it would provide the Centre and the Governor an opportunity to politicise the issue.

Mr. Gandhi and other leaders landed in Srinagar on Saturday and sent back to Delhi from the airport.

They should have waited for the situation in Kashmir to become normal before making a visit. It would take time for things to turn normal after the scrapping of special status granted by Article 370, she said.

The BSP chief reiterated her party's support to the Centre on scrapping the special status to J&K, saying it was because of Bhimrao Ambedkar's stand on the issue.

Mayawati

"It is well known that Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was always in favour of the country's equality, unity and integration. For this reason, he was not at all in favour of a separate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir State," she said.

Akhilesh's warning

Hours after Ms. Mayawati's comments, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav questioned the restrictions imposed on the residents of J&K."What's happened to them [people of Jammu and Kashmir] today, will happen to you and me tomorrow," he said.

People of J&K had been "imprisoned in their homes" for more than 20 days. "Are the people there happy? If this was such a good decision, why wasn't it taken after consulting the people," he asked.

Governor's invitation

Opposition members who were part of the delegation told *The Hindu* they had gone to J&K on the invitation of Governor Satya Pal Malik.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said, "Our visit was on the public invitation of the Governor. Ambedkar is being misquoted. He opposed the concept of Hindu Rashtra but didn't oppose Article 370. As chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, if he had opposed strongly, it wouldn't have found a place".

Dharmendra Pradhan and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at a press meet in New Delhi on Monday. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

BJP to start month-long outreach programme

Ministers, MPs, CMs to participate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday announced a month-long outreach programme across the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir, to make people aware of the importance of the Centre's decision to remove Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution.

From September 1 to 30, Union Ministers, MPs, Chief Ministers and State leaders of the BJP would hold public awareness events in 370 places in the country and large-scale events in 35 cities, BJP leaders and Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Gajendra Singh Sekhawat said at a press conference here.

Of the places selected for these outreach programmes, nine were in Jammu and Kashmir. They include Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla and Sopore in Kashmir, which has faced a communications shutdown since August 5.

Asked why the party felt the need for such a programme, Mr. Sekhawat said there was a need to make people understand the significance of the "historic move". Asked if the restrictions in Kashmir would be lifted soon, Mr. Sekhawat said he expected that they would be.

Answering a question on Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, not being allowed to go to Srinagar, Mr. Pradhan said there were some "perennial trouble creators" who had "isolated themselves from the rest of the country" on the issue of Article 370. He said the decision was a "unique moment" in Independent India's history that had brought people together.

Several local leaders from Ladakh joined the BJP in the presence of the two Union Ministers and Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.

'Withdraw media curbs in Kashmir'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Slamming the Press Council of India for failing to protect press freedom in the country, journalist unions have called for a withdrawal of the curbs placed on the media in Kashmir. Their protests come in the context of a PCI affidavit filed in the Supreme Court justifying the government's actions, citing overriding concerns of national security.

"The Press Council of India had been constituted to uphold the neutrality and independence of journalism in India. However, under the prevailing circumstances, its role has also come under shadow by acting as an organ of the government," said a statement issued jointly by the Press Association, the Press Club of India, the Indian Women's Press Corps, and the Editors' Guild.

All four organisations have called for a public meeting here on Tuesday to demand that the government "immediately restore conditions in Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate gathering and relay of news by all media personnel."

Journalists in Chennai will hold a protest meeting at the Madras Reporters' Guild on Tuesday. N. Ram, Chairman of The Hindu Group's publishing company, Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna, and V. Geetha of the Tamil Nadu Women's Coordination Committee, will speak.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)-S&P
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JAL SADAN: LAJPAT NAGAR: NEW DELHI-110024

N.I.T No.12/S&P/(2019-20)
Press Tender

S. No.	Name of work	Reserve Price	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e procurement solution
1.	Creation of Water lake at Pappankalan STP, Delhi	2,64,08,725/-	2019_DJB_178851_1 23.08.2019	18.9.2019 upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

Issued by P.R.O. (Water)
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OVER HEAD TANK, MUKHERJI NAGAR, DELHI-110009

NIT No.14 Item No.1 (North)-I (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Non-refundable) (Rs.)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	P/L 350 mm dia D.I. Pumping main from S.P.S. Mukherjee Nagar to N.T.S. under EE (North)-I (Re-invite) Tender I.D. No. 2019_ DJB_178808_1	81,35,745/-	23.08.2019 04.00 P.M. onward	1,62,800/-	1000/-	Technical bid received 13.09.2019, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank

Furhter details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

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Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Northern Circle, Rural Works, Angul.

e-Procurement Notice for PMGSY Batch-I (2018-19) & PMGSY-II, Batch-I (2018-19) works in Odisha

281-O: **Bid Identification No. PMGSY Online AGL-05/2019-20**

No. 1425 // Dt. 21.08.2019 //

1. Name of the Work : **Road Works**
2. Total No. of work : **2 Nos.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.118.27 Lakhs to Rs.254.00 Lakhs**
4. Class of Contractor : **"B"& "A" Class**
5. Period of Completion : **09 (Nine)** Calendar months.
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works, Northern Circle, Angul.	PMGSY Online AGL - 05 / 2018-19	28.08.19 at 11.00 A.M.	17.09.19 up to 5.00 P.M.	13.09.19 up to 2.00 P.M.	18.09.19 at 11.00 A.M.	21.09.19 at 11.00 A.M.

(1) For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
25049/11/0006/1920 **Superintending Engineer, N.C., Rural Works, Angul.**

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ.
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
OPTCL Lifeline of Odisha
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 022, Odisha, CIN : U40102OR2004SGC007553

e-TENDER NO. CPC-05/2019-20

For and on behalf of ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD, Sr. G.M. (C.P.C.) invites tenders from reputed Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) having installed / retrofitted & commissioned the automation system with trouble free operation for minimum three years in any of the power system utilities in India in two part bidding system towards **SUB-STATION AUTOMATION FOR 220/132/33 kV GRID S/S, PARADEEP / NEW BOLANGIR / NARENDRAPUR / KATAPALLI / BIDANASI / BUDHIPADAR / BALESORE**. Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL w.e.f 26.08.2019 (11.00 Hrs.) up to 24.09.2019 (11.00 Hrs.)**. Interested manufacturers may visit OPTCL's official website **http://www.optcl.co.in** and **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** for detail specification.

N.B : All subsequent addendums / corrigendum to the tender shall be hosted in the OPTCL's official website **http://www.optcl.co.in** and **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** only. Interested Bidders are requested to visit e-tender portal for update information of tender (Corrigendum / addendum etc.).

CR. Advt. No.10/19-20 **SENIOR GENERAL MANGER (C.P.C.)**

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Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION BOARD
6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003
Ph: 080- 23349434 Fax:23347670
No: B1/DVS&WP/11/2019-20 Date: 21.08.2019

e-AUCTION EXTENSION NOTIFICATION

The Director, Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board, has invited **application for e-AUCTION bidding from eligible bidders for the disposal of valued answer booklets, unused answer booklets, OMR formats, CNR formats, used envelopes and waste cloths in a single lot on 'As is where is basis'** pertaining to SSLC 2019 examination as per KTPP Act-1999 through e-procurement portal, as per the advertisement dated:05.08.2019. As the e-procurement portal was under maintenance, there was a delay in uploading the e-Auction documents. Presently the e-Auction documents have been uploaded in the e-procurement portal. e-AUCTION documents may be downloaded from **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and **www.kseeb.kar.nic.in** Last date for submission of the e-AUCTION applications is **18.09.2019 at 4.00 p.m.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **05.09.2019 at 11.30 a.m.** Technical bid will be opened on **20.09.2019 at 11.30 a.m.** Reserve price of the e-AUCTION is **Rs.56,12,500/-.** The Earnest Money Deposit is **Rs.2,80,625/-.** For more details, contact Board during office hours.

Sd/- Director (Exams)

PM Modi made a historic blunder: Imran

Pakistan Prime Minister, in address to nation, says he will raise Kashmir issue on every international forum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

With Pakistan failing to get traction for its belligerent stand on Kashmir, Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Monday that he will raise the issue on every international forum, including at the UN General Assembly.

Mr. Khan's address to the nation came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France on Monday, categorically rejected any scope for third party mediation between India and Pakistan on Kashmir.

Prime Minister Khan assured the people of Pakistan that his government will stand by the Kashmiris till India lifts the restrictions in the Valley.

Outlining his government's future strategy on Kashmir, Mr. Khan said: "First, I believe, the entire nation should stand with the Kashmiri nation. I have said this that I will act as Kashmir's ambassador."

"I will tell the world about this, I have shared this with the heads of state that I have been in contact with. I will raise this issue at the UN as well," he said, referring to his scheduled address to the UN General Assembly next month.

Making his point: People watching television in Islamabad as Pakistan PM Imran Khan speaks to the nation on Monday. ▪AFP

Mr. Khan said he would highlight the Kashmir issue at the UN General assembly. "I read in the newspapers that people are disappointed that Muslim countries are not siding with Kashmir. I want to tell you not to be disappointed; if some countries are not raising this issue because of their economic interests, they will eventually take this issue up. They will have to, with time," he said.

Mr. Khan claimed that Prime Minister Modi had made a "historic blunder" by revoking Kashmir's special autonomy. "This is the UN's responsibility, they promised the people of Kashmir that they would protect them. Historically, the world bodies have always sided with the powerful but the UN should know that 1.25 billion Muslims are looking towards it," he said.

The Prime Minister urged the people of Pakistan to hold weekly protests to support the Kashmiris.

'Nuclear weapons'

Prime Minister Khan once again raised the nuclear capabilities of the neighbours, saying there were no winners in a nuclear war. "Will these big countries keep looking at their economic interests only? They should remember, both countries have nuclear weapons," Mr. Khan said.

"In a nuclear war, no one will win. It will not only wreak havoc in this region, but the entire world will face consequences. It is now up to the international community," he said.

'False-flag operation'

Prime Minister Khan claimed that India was planning a "false-flag operation" like the one carried out after the Pulwama attack. "We received information that they were planning a false-flag operation like what they did in Balakot to divert attention from Kashmir," he said.

Mr. Khan also mentioned his peace overtures towards India after coming to power, but said India rejected those as it was following a different agenda.

"After the elections (in India), we realised they had a different agenda and they tried to blacklist Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)," he said.

Panel formed to execute FATF tasks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan PM Imran Khan has set up a 12-member committee to ensure the execution of Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 27-point action plan, days after the country was put on a terror 'blacklist' for its failure to curb funnelling of funds to terrorist outfits.

Led by Minister for Economic Affairs Division Hammad Azhar, the National Financial Action Task Force Coordination Committee comprises federal secretaries of finance, foreign affairs and interior, besides heads of all the institutions and regulators concerned with money laundering and terror financing, the *Dawn* reported. The committee will ensure execution of all FATF-related tasks till December 21, said a notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

Signs of hope as Trump says U.S.-China trade talks are on

'Beijing called and said let's get back to the table'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BIARRITZ

There were signs of a thaw in trade-war tensions between China and the U.S. on Monday as President Donald Trump said delegations would "very shortly" resume talks and Beijing's top negotiator called for "calm".

Just three days after the announcement of further mutual tariff hikes, Mr. Trump told reporters at the G7 summit in France's Biarritz that there had been two "very, very good" phone calls from "high-level" Chinese officials. "China called last night... said let's get back to the table. So we'll be getting back to the table," he said on Monday, adding that "they want to make a deal".

He later said talks with China were "more meaningful than at any time" because the United States was doing well while China was "losing millions of jobs".

Donald Trump

Mr. Trump's comments followed moves by China's most powerful trade negotiator, Vice-Premier Liu He, to take the edge off the soaring tensions. "We are willing to solve the problem through consultation and cooperation with a calm attitude," said Mr. Liu, according to a report by a Chinese news outlet.

"We firmly oppose the escalation of the trade war," he said, speaking at the opening ceremony of the 2019 Smart China Expo in Chongqing.

G7 leaders back Hong Kong autonomy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BIARRITZ

G7 leaders meeting in France on Monday backed Hong Kong's autonomy as laid out in a 1984 agreement between Britain and China.

"The G7 reaffirms the existence and the importance of the 1984 Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong and calls for avoiding violence," according to a joint statement issued in French at the end of a G7 summit in Biarritz, southwest France.

"The G7 nations all want to support a stable and prosperous Hong Kong and we remain collectively committed to the one-country, two-systems framework," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

'Energy reason for U.S. wealth'

REUTERS
BIARRITZ

U.S. President Donald Trump, responding to a question about climate change, said on Monday that U.S. wealth was based on energy and he won't jeopardise that for dreams and windmills.

"We are now the No. 1 energy producer in the world, and soon it will be by far," Mr. Trump told reporters.

"I'm not going to lose that wealth, I'm not going to lose it on dreams, on windmills, which frankly aren't working too well," he added.

U.S. President says he is ready to meet Rouhani

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BIARRITZ

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he was prepared to meet his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani within weeks, after talks about Tehran's nuclear programme at the G7 summit in France.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had made a surprise appearance on the sidelines of the summit in Biarritz on Sunday at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Mr. Macron said the "conditions for a meeting" between Mr. Trump and Mr. Rouhani "in the next few weeks" had been created through intensive diplomacy and consultations.

"If the circumstances were correct, I would certainly agree to that," Mr. Trump said at a press conference with Macron at the end of three days of talks.

Asked if he thought the timeline proposed by his French counterpart was realistic, Mr. Trump replied: "It does", adding that he thought Mr. Rouhani would also be in favour. "I think he's going to want to meet. I think Iran wants to get this situation straightened out."

IN BRIEF

Sri Lankan Army chief denies war crimes claims

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's new Army chief Shavendra Silva on Monday brushed aside international outrage over his appointment, saying "anyone can make allegations" that he had committed war crimes. AFP

'Remove virgin option from marriage certificates'

DHAKA

The word "virgin" must be removed from Muslim marriage certificates in Bangladesh, the country's top court has said. Currently, a bride has to select one of three options on the certificate — whether she is a *Kumari* (virgin), a widow or divorced. The court has ordered the government to remove the term and replace it with "unmarried". AFP

Trump denies report he wanted to nuke hurricanes

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday denied a report that he wanted to drop nuclear bombs on hurricanes before they made landfall in the U.S. Mr. Trump slammed the story, calling it "fake news". "The story by Axios that President Trump wanted to blow up large hurricanes with nuclear weapons prior to reaching shore is ridiculous. I never said this. Just more FAKE NEWS!" he tweeted. AFP

Hundreds of new fires flare up in Amazon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PORTO VELHO

Hundreds of new fires have flared up in the Amazon in Brazil, data showed on Monday, even as military aircraft dumped water over hard-hit areas and G7 nations pledged to help combat the blazes.

Smoke choked Port Velho city as fires raged in the northwestern state of Rondonia where fire-fighting efforts are concentrated, amid a growing global uproar and a diplomatic spat between France and Brazil.

Two C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying thousands of litres of water on Sunday began dousing fires devouring chunks of the world's largest rainforest, which is seen as crucial to keeping climate change in check.

Swaths of the remote region have been scorched by the worst fires in years, sending thick smoke billowing into the sky.

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

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has ordered an investigation into reports that rural producers in the northern state of Para held a "day of fire" on August 10 in a show of support for the far-right leader's efforts to weaken environmental protection monitoring in the region.

Smoke billowing from forest fires close to Porto Velho on August 24. ▪AFP

'Britain must pay divorce bill even if there's no deal'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

Britain must pay its Brexit divorce bill even if it crashes out of the bloc without a deal, the EU said on Monday, warning that future ties would be threatened if London failed to honour its commitments.

The stern rebuff from Brussels came a day after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson again said that in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit on October 31, Britain would be free from financial obligations to the bloc.

Asked if the EU would take Britain to court to recover the money, a spokeswoman for the European Commission instead stressed that a future trade deal between Britain and the remaining 27 states could be under threat. "As we have said many times before, all commitments that were taken by the 28 member states should be honoured," commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva told reporters.

Boris Johnson

Mr. Johnson has said that if Britain leaves without a deal it will not have to pay the £39 billion divorce bill agreed by his predecessor Theresa May.

'Address root causes of religious extremism'

Impunity has strengthened anti-Muslim groups, UN envoy Ahmed Shaheed tells Sri Lanka

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka must identify and respond to the "root causes" of religious extremism that has been used to incite violence in the country, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief Ahmed Shaheed said here on Monday.

Urging the state to prosecute those responsible for violence and incitement to violence, he said authorities must make efforts to "dismantle the networks of hate" and ensure that victims of hate crimes are able to access justice. Concluding his 10-day visit across the island, Mr. Shaheed told the media that the state should develop systems and mechanisms to monitor and respond to hate speech in conformity with international human rights standards.

Mr. Shaheed's visit comes four months after the Easter terror attacks that claimed more than 250 lives in Sri Lanka. Following the serial blasts that investigating authorities have attributed to local Islamist radicals, apparently inspired by the Islamic State, mobs unleashed violent attacks on the Muslim community, sparking serious concern over escalating religious tensions in the country.

In the island's post-war years, hardline Sinhala Buddhist groups have been repeatedly linked to incitement of violence against the Muslim community that makes up less than 10% of the population.

Ahmed Shaheed

On the main challenges in ensuring religious freedom, the visiting UN envoy said Sri Lanka's Muslim community faced "increased hostility", especially after the April bombings. "Prior impunity has strengthened anti-Muslim groups," he said, adding that "weak and un-coordinated responses" led to a rise in violence.

'Double standards'

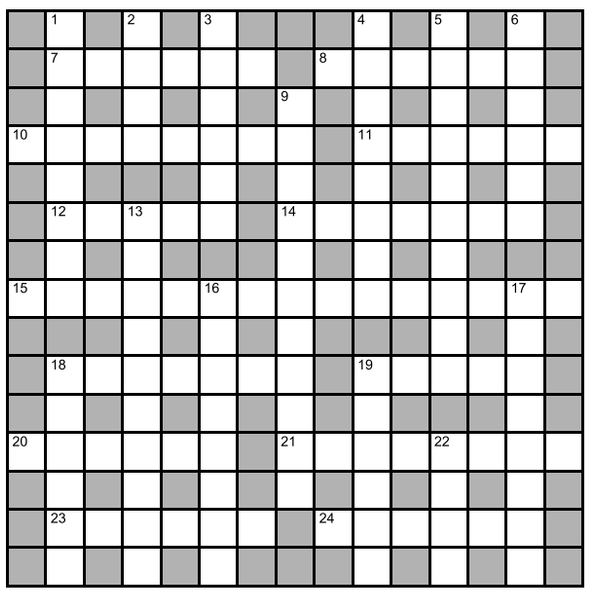
Commenting on religious discrimination, Mr. Shaheed said that while the Sri Lankan Constitution protects religious freedom, it declares that "Buddhism shall be given the foremost place by the State". Interlocutors he met "frequently" told him that they feel the State was structurally unable to treat other religions on an equal basis, owing to this provision.

Further, the rapporteur also said that religious communities pointed to the State allowing Buddhist monks to erect shrines or Buddhist statues even in areas where there was little Buddhist presence. Many, the envoy said, also referred to the "double standards" in law enforcement, as seen in cases when perpetrators of violence from the majority Buddhist community, clearly identifiable in video footage, remain "unaccountable for years."

Mr. Shaheed, who will submit his detailed report to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2020, said leaders must immediately condemn any violence targeting vulnerable communities. "Very often we find that the political leadership is on the back foot in such situations," he said.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12715

(set by xChequer)



ACROSS

7 International tender needs them in the same place (6)
8 Hot wind is back and low season's back (6)
10 Sit tight allowing international bank rate to regress in these spirals (8)
11 Resistance for Democrat in team discussion creating difficulty (6)
12 Has to break promises (5)
14 Auditor's negative remark about medical body's technique (4-3)
15 Good change made, team snatch decisive victory (4,3,3,5)
18 Sole crop in field for horses (7)
19 Too bad about line in plant (5)
20 Arose when police officer called (6)
21 Past issue boomerangs eventually (4,4)
23 Level sides to toss in competitions (6)
24 Interpret a tongue (6)

DOWN

1 Respectable but not socially acceptable amateur becoming female star (8)
2 Ceiling over public bathing area (4)
3 Is consistent with being born without privileges? On the contrary (6)
4 Prominent notice displayed by men reflecting moral approach (4,4)
5 Worth a full toss leaving open boundary in play (6,4)
6 Brief particulars with banks basis for ledger entry (6)
9 Act tense out in the middle to kick off game (4-4-3)
13 Time study to dilute move to stay afloat (5,5)
16 Thrill to keep working against gravity's pull a little longer (8)
17 Regular newspaper feature right under article — like a post (8)
18 Go for every season with this (6)
19 Energy and dash in furtive meet (6)
22 Hard to soak up nonsense (4)

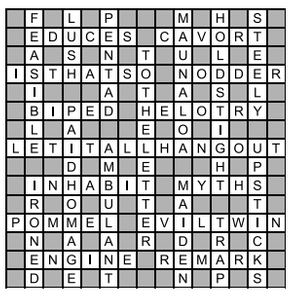
SUDOKU

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

No.SS4458 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12714



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Subhadra's marriage

Rukmini's wedding to Krishna is captured in a drama called Vaidarbhi Vasudeva. Subhadra's wedding to Arjuna, described in the Mahabharata, also has many dramatic moments, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Arjuna comes in the guise of a sanyasi to Dwaraka. Later he reveals his identity to Subhadra. Since Subhadra wants to marry Arjuna and Balarama is opposed to the idea, Krishna plans a secret marriage for Subhadra. He says that Subhadra is unwell, and all Yadavas must go to an island for thirty-four days and worship Lord Siva there. But Krishna has already ensured that Subhadra and Arjuna will marry when everyone is away.

Indra comes for the wedding and blesses the couple, who later escape in Krishna's chariot. The escape plan is also Krishna's idea. Subhadra is adept at driving the chariot, and Arjuna, now in his usual attire, sits at the back, with Subhadra in the driver's seat. When they are stopped by guards, Subhadra says that none of them should be harmed. So Arjuna uses an astra that makes their weapons fall to the ground, but they remain unharmed. When news of what has happened reaches Balarama, his first reaction is anger. Then realising he can do nothing when Subhadra has decided to marry Arjuna, he takes many gifts for the couple.

Subhadra is later blessed with a son. Krishna has restless eyes, which keep moving all the time. For this reason, Krishna is called capalAksha. Subhadra's son is also given this name. He is also named Abhimanyu – abhI means without fear. Manyu means anger. So, the idea is that this fearless child will also be angry when he must, namely when he faces his enemies. Abhimanyu is trained by Arjuna and Krishna in warfare, and he proves himself to be a great warrior.

MARKET WATCH

	26-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,494	2.16
US Dollar	72.02	-0.50
Gold	39,670	1.73
Brent oil	59.10	0.77

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	368.20	18.85
Asian Paints	1597.55	17.15
Axis Bank	683.70	19.80
Bajaj Auto	2736.80	-12.35
Bajaj Finserv	7190.80	306.20
Bajaj Finance	3324.25	149.90
Bharti Airtel	360.65	4.25
BPCL	335.40	6.05
Britannia Ind	2533.85	67.20
Cipla	466.55	0.65
Coal India	188.75	0.75
Dr. Reddys Lab	2567.20	25.95
Eicher Motors	15548.20	164.75
GAIL (India)	126.40	2.00
Grasim Ind	737.30	17.85
HCL Tech	1092.85	5.85
HDFC	2148.35	104.60
HDFC Bank	2256.15	93.45
Hero MotoCorp	2590.95	-49.25
Hindalco	178.75	-1.50
Hind Unilever	1876.55	16.55
Indiabulls HFL	487.75	19.90
ICICI Bank	411.65	16.25
IndusInd Bank	1348.50	38.00
Bharti Infratel	245.45	-1.50
Infosys	802.55	0.35
Indian OilCorp	125.50	2.70
ITC	242.50	6.40
JSW Steel	214.10	-6.55
Kotak Bank	1512.80	42.60
L&T	1333.65	47.15
M&M	544.30	11.05
Maruti Suzuki	6255.55	1.20
NTPC	120.05	1.55
ONGC	123.75	1.50
PowerGrid Corp	202.90	1.40
Reliance Ind	1266.80	-9.05
State Bank	280.20	9.10
Sun Pharma	419.35	-8.45
Tata Motors	110.55	-0.50
Tata Steel	338.05	-7.20
TCS	2276.30	28.60
Tech Mahindra	691.15	7.30
Titan	1102.45	28.95
UltraTech Cement	4038.40	176.60
UPL	549.80	2.55
Vedanta	135.05	-2.35
Wipro	249.10	-2.30
YES Bank	62.90	3.65
Zee Entertainment	364.90	13.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.82	72.14
Euro	79.84	80.20
British Pound	87.91	88.31
Japanese Yen (100)	67.83	68.13
Chinese Yuan	10.05	10.10
Swiss Franc	73.29	73.62
Singapore Dollar	51.74	51.97
Canadian Dollar	54.00	54.24
Malaysian Ringitt	17.08	17.17

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 26 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	49.8	(48.2)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3685	(3600)

Indices see biggest gain since May

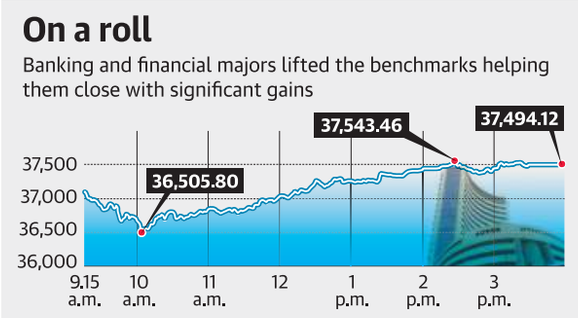
FPIs continue to remain net sellers; 'gains not reversal of weak sentiment'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Even as global markets remained in the doldrums on Monday, the Indian benchmark equity indices registered their biggest single-day gain in over three months on the back of the government's corrective measures announced last week to boost economic growth.

After an initial volatile hour of trading that saw the Sensex shed all its gains – as much as 700 points – as traders quickly squared off positions to book profit, banking and financial majors lifted the benchmarks helping them close with significant gains.

The 30-share Sensex closed at 37,494.12, up 792.96 points or 2.16%. It was the biggest single-day gain since May 20, when the index surged 1,422 points after exit polls showed that the incumbent BJP Government would get a second term with a clear majority.



The broader Nifty reclaimed the psychological 11,000-mark to close at 11,057.85, up 228.50 points, or 2.11%.

Gain ground

The renewed buying interest was further corroborated by the strong market breadth with over 1,700 stocks gaining ground on BSE as against 811 declines.

Market participants, however, believe that Monday's gains should not be looked upon as a reversal of weak investor sentiment as domestic economic indicators along with global concerns are showing no signs of abating.

"We see the announcements, and especially the government's flexibility and focus on ensuring such confidence-boosting measures continue, as a short-term positive for the market," said global financial major BNP Paribas in its latest India Strategy report, adding its December 2019 Sensex is pegged at 40,500.

It, however, added that a revival in earnings growth is needed for a more sustainable rally as the first quarter of the current fiscal saw lacklustre results with other indicators suggesting income uncertainty, leading to weak consumer spending.

Interestingly, Friday's announcements to assuage the concerns of foreign investors did not stem the outflow as provisional numbers showed that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net sellers at ₹753 crore on Monday.

Market participants attribute the selling to the overall weak trend in the global markets amid concerns over the ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China.

Both, Nikkei and Hang Seng were down about 2% with other indices also ending significantly lower.

Jet lenders again extend EoI deadline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The lenders to the defunct Jet Airways, on Monday, for the third time extended the deadline for submission of expressions of interest (EoI) for stake sale in the bankrupt airline to August 31 after a new bidder showed interest post-August 10 deadline.

After the second deadline on August 10, there were three bids, but one opted out while the another one did not qualify, leaving just one in the race.

The decision to extend the deadline for EoIs was taken by the lenders at a meeting of the committee of creditors held in the financial capital.

"The lenders have decided to extend deadline to submit EoIs till August 31," a banker told PTI.

Jet Airways has liabilities of over ₹26,000 crore.

Cyclical, structural issues will take time to fade away: analysts

'More job losses may be curbed'

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcements pertaining to revival of the economy Friday last may have improved sentiments and might augment liquidity in the system, but it will take time for the current slowdown to fade away.

Any further job loss is expected be curbed and consumer spend in the upcoming festive season will decide the quantum of bounce-back in the economy and the fortunes of companies affected by the slowdown.

While analysts are unanimous about the positive impact of the announcements on the economy, they feel that revival would be a gradual process.

"We believe that the current slowdown is a combination of cyclical and structural issues and will take time to fade away. The latest announcements [by FM] show the intent of the government to remove some of these irritants and structural issues, which will go a long way in preventing incremental damage," said Amnish Aggarwal and Amulya Channa, analysts at Prabhudas Lilladhar.

Raises hopes

"Although we don't expect these measures to boost sagging rural demand and offset the impact of widespread floods, it raises hopes of recovery from the third quarter of Y20," they said in a report.

Analyts expect markets to react positively to these moves and recommend investors to use these 'turbulent times' to build the portfolio of companies with 'moats in their business and ability to withstand technology disruptions'.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The government's intention and willingness to take feedback and act promptly may offset the pessimistic market narrative, felt analysts at Mototal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL).

"Timing-wise, it has come just ahead of the beginning of a long festival season and may boost consumer sentiment. Expectations of more measures over the next two weeks will likely drive a short-term bounce after the sharp correction post budget," Gautam Duggad, head of Research, and Siddharth Khemka, head-Retail Research, MOFSL, said in a report. "That said, we believe that a durable pick-up may have to wait until earnings recover," they added.

Though the measures announced by the FM will result in more sales of all class of vehicles, the auto sector will take time to come out of the woods.

According to a report by Fitch Ratings, fiscal FY20 will see a decline in auto sales volume, "... although volumes may stabilise in the coming quarters due to government's focus on improving liquidity at lenders and recent measures to revive auto demand."

Rupee breaches 72-a-dollar mark

Currency falls though equities surge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The rupee crashed about 59 paisa to hit 72.25 intraday after some major currencies, including the Chinese yuan, suddenly weakened against the dollar.

But later, the rupee cut losses to close at 72.02, down 0.5% from its previous close.

The rupee's depreciation came despite the surge in domestic equities after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced several measures on Friday to boost the slowing economy.

Under pressure

The rupee had come under pressure in recent times due to both domestic and global factors. The ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China has impacted emerging market currencies and the rupee was no exception. Domestically, weaker growth and slower direct tax collection have been causes for concern for currency market participants.

According to Radhika Rao, economist, DBS Bank, the rupee continues to watch Chinese currency movements and the broader dollar bias which, at this juncture, points towards further rupee weakness owing to a weak global environment.

Retail investors lap up NCDs as deposits, markets lose sheen

Some issues saw oversubscription of about 400%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The mayhem in equity markets and falling deposit rates are pushing retail investors to lap up corporate debt like never before, if the overwhelming response to the recent/ongoing NCD issues from NBFCs, which are facing one of the worst liquidity crises ever, is any indication.

This shows that retail investors' confidence in NBFCs have not been deterred by the risks facing the sector following defaults by IL&FS, DHFL and Reliance Home Finance, according to the subscription data.

For instance, the just concluded ₹500-crore NCD issue from Tata Capital had ₹175 crore reserved for retail investors but got 450% oversubscription at ₹787 crore, while IIFL's ₹100-crore issue, with ₹40 crore for retail, got an oversubscription worth ₹163 crore, or 408%, as per BSE data.

Similarly, JM Financial's ongoing ₹100 crore issue has ₹40 crore reserved for retail but has seen a full 185% or ₹78 crore oversubscription, while Shriram Transport got 278% and Indiabulls, ₹333 crore for the ₹133-crore reserved for retail.

More significantly, Muthoot Finance's recent ₹100-crore issue, of which 50% was reserved for retail, had got a whopping 1,077% demand or ₹538 crore.

In some other instances between April and July, issues by Srei Infra, ECL Finance, Muthoot Homefin, Magma Fincorp, received oversubscriptions that ranged from 160% to 322%, according to the BSE data.

According to B.K.R Sriram, the distribution head at Geojit Financial Services, the falling equity markets are taking conservative investors to the fixed income space, hence the higher demand for these offerings from retail investors.

IN BRIEF

Indian Bank, Tata AIG General Insurance tie up

CHENNAI

Indian Bank has joined hands with Tata AIG General Insurance to offer the latter's diverse range of general insurance policies benefiting the bank's customers by way of protection, wealth creation and savings. Tata AIG General Insurance will work with the bank for sales training, product support and ensuring smooth operational processes.

Infosys's board mulls closure of buyback offer

NEW DELHI

Infosys said a board committee is considering closure of the ₹8,260-crore buyback offer with the firm utilising almost full size of the issue approved. "...the buyback committee of the company will, on August 26, 2019, consider the closure of the buyback, pursuant to the terms of the public announcement, in view of the fact that the company has utilised 99.999999% of the maximum buyback size," Infosys said in a filing. PTI

Amazon job programme for Army veterans

BENGALURU

Amazon India has announced a 'military veterans employment programme' for military veterans and their spouses across Amazon India's fulfillment centres, sort centres and delivery centres in India. Amazon India is partnering with the Office of the Director General of Resettlement and Army Welfare Placement Organisation to create continued work opportunities for military families. Amazon respects the principles and work ethics of those who served the country, the firm said.

Exchange rate driven by capital flows, says RBI

India's forex reserves are borrowed and not built out of export surplus: Deputy Governor Kanungo

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The exchange rate dynamics in India is driven by capital flows rather than current account balances, Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor B.P. Kanungo said, adding that the central bank's intervention in the foreign exchange market was aimed at curbing sudden turbulences not backed by economic fundamentals.

Speaking at the Forex Association of India Conference in Singapore on August 10, Mr. Kanungo said the Indian forex markets had been fairly stable in recent months. RBI uploaded his speech on its website on Monday.

"The Reserve Bank is mandated to maintain orderly conditions in the foreign exchange market. Its intervention in the forex market is solely directed at curbing sudden turbulences not backed by economic fundamentals," he said.

The Indian currency has came under pressure in recent times due to a host of factors including trade tensions between the U.S. and China, and the central bank had intervened to curb volatility. "As has been said repeatedly, market operations are not intended to achieve any target exchange rate or band of rates. It must be pointed out that the exchange rate dynamics in India for more than a decade has been driven by capital flows rather than current account balances," he said, adding that India had mostly run a current account deficit, notwithstanding a bilateral trade surplus with the U.S., marginally more than $20 billion during 2018.

B.P. Kanungo

The deputy governor said though long-term flows related to FDI and long-term debt had been fairly stable keeping in tandem with the economic fundamentals, the portfolio flows had their own dynamics depending as much on attractiveness of returns of Indian assets as the global factors determining their risk appetite.

"Gyrations in the forex market in these circumstances leave no option other than market intervention to restore orderliness in the market. One also needs to bear in mind that India's forex reserves are borrowed reserves and not built out of export surplus," he said.

"Inasmuch as it provides a bulwark against sudden flow reversals, it enhances the country's ability to cope with the fall out and indeed, contributes to global stability as well," Mr. Kanungo said.

On trade wars between the U.S. and China, he said there was no quick solution possible and such a situation had contributed to the global economic slowdown.

"As of now, there does not appear to be any possibility of quick resolution of the tension, nor does it seem to escalate and get out of hand rapidly in near future. Whatever may be the rational and economic logic behind the competitive protectionism through tariff barriers, it is certainly contributing to the global economic slowdown," he said.

He further said the exit of Britain from the European Union was shrouded in uncertainty and it was recognised that a no-deal Brexit would surely be a disruptive factor.

"There are also risks emanating from geopolitical tensions in the Gulf and elsewhere that can adversely affect the sentiments," he added.

TAFE appoints CEO, elevates 2 officials

They will report to the firm's chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. (TAFE) has appointed a new chief executive officer and elevated two top officials.

Sandeep Sinha, former managing director, Cummins India, has been named as the chief executive officer. S. Chandramohan has been elevated as group president (finance and investment strategy) and T.R. Kesavan as group president (corporate relations and alliances).

All of them will report to Mallika Srinivasan, chairman, TAFE, said the company in a statement.

Mr. Sinha joins TAFE with a successful track record spanning over two decades of global and domestic industry experience, the statement added.

Sandeep Sinha

In his previous role at Cummins India, he led all the businesses and operational functions in the Asia region, and had been instrumental in increasing customer engagement.

Google brings Nest Hub to India

Smart display device introduced with a price tag of ₹9,999

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Technology giant Google on Monday launched its first smart display device 'Google Nest Hub' in India with a price tag of ₹9,999. The device comes with Google Assistant built in, making it simpler for users to control all connected home devices such as lights, security cameras, ACs and televisions, besides giving easier access to other Google services such as Search, YouTube, Google Photos.

"India is an important market, hence we are bringing all Made by Google products here...In many markets, including India, this is new category. Whatever the base is, we expect it to grow very fast," Mickey Kim, director, Asia Pacific Business, Google, said.

The 7-inch device is expected to heat up the competition in the voice-enabled smart home devices segment. The new product will compete with Amazon's Echo Show 5 that comes with a 5.5 screen and is priced at ₹8,999. Unlike Amazon Echo Show 5, the Hub does not come with a camera. "We consciously decided not to include a camera on Google Nest Hub, so you feel comfortable placing it in the private spaces of your home, like the bedroom," Saurabh Arya, India business lead, Google Home and Nest Products, said.

Promising sales: India is a key market, hence we are bringing all our products here, says Google's Mickey Kim. REUTERS

Mr. Arya added that the 'home view' feature on the Hub lets users control more than 200 million connected devices from over 3,500 brands globally. "With a simple tap or voice command, you can control products from Xiaomi, Syska lights, Oakter Plugs, Philips Hue, LG and more."

As an introductory offer, the company will be bundling a Mi Security Camera with its Nest Hub devices.

Bids invited for spectrum auction body

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications on Monday invited bids for selection of an agency to conduct the upcoming spectrum auction across various bands.

This will be the biggest-ever auction with a total of over 8,000 MHz of spectrum for sale, including airwaves used for 5G services.

"[DoT] invites... applications for selection of agency to conduct the e-auction of spectrum..." the government said in the 'Request for Proposal'. The deadline for submission of bids is September 25.

The guidelines for auction of spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz and 3300-3600 MHz bands will be announced separately.

'Microland repositioning itself for digital business'

Completes 3 decades of operation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Microland has announced a market repositioning to bring its digital services to the forefront.

The tech firm, which marked the completion of three decades of operations here on Monday, said its investments, business alliances and expansion in recent years had given itself a unique positioning in the industrial IoT service provider market. Microland, led by Pradeep Kar, currently offers remote infrastructure management technologies and solutions to global clients. The company has been investing steadily over the last half-decade to secure talent, skills, tools, and frameworks necessary to reinvent itself, to stay ahead of the curve even as the rate of technological change increases exponentially, it said.

Speaking to the media, Mr. Kar, Microland's founder and chairman, said his company had done the groundwork for the next stage of growth. "Over the last few years we have evolved, we have made significant investments in leadership talent, IPs and platforms, created centres of excellence, expanded our facilities and geographical footprint. We are now set to serve our global clients in their digital journeys."

The company currently has 4,500 digital specialists positioned across Asia, Australia, North America, Europe and west Asia.

"We had a 22% growth in revenue last year and going forward, we expect to grow in the 20% range," he added.

'Upfront capital will improve loan growth'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The government's recent announcement to infuse ₹70,000 crore capital upfront in public sector banks in the current fiscal is expected to improve loan growth to 13-15%, Moody's Investor Service said.

"We estimate that the fresh capital will enable public sector banks to grow loans by around 13%-15% in the fiscal year ending March 2020 (fiscal 2020), compared with about 10% in fiscal 2019, while also allowing them to meet the final Basel III capital requirements," Alka Anbarasu, V-P, Financial Institutions Group, Moody's Investors Service.

The front loading of capital support would improve banks' capitalisation and help them calibrate balance sheet growth.

FINDING MEANING in the now

Expressions of memory, freedom, and research, come together in a new annual show which aims to re-look at the definition of contemporary art

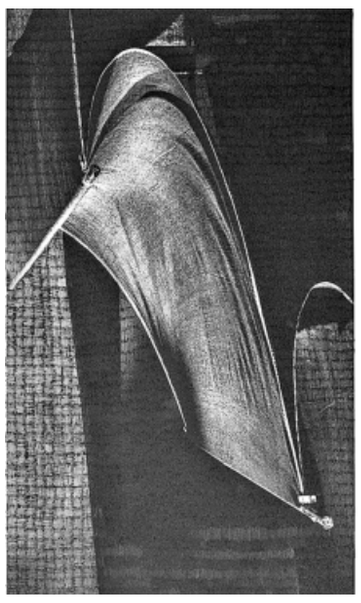
VANGMAYI PARAKALA

'What is contemporary...' is both a rhetorical question and the title of Art Alive's new show which brings together the works of three young artists. Debuting the gallery's annual series called Contemporary Idioms, this exhibit is curated by Anushka Rajendran, who is a curatorial assistant with the Kochi Muziris Biennale.

"The term 'emerging young artist' is much-abused," says gallery director Sunaina Anand. "The idea was to start Contemporary Idioms to look at fresh languages of artists coming from good [art] institutions. Sure, you can be a self-made artist, but the institution you're coming from shapes your thought process, making a language that you're sure of even when you start off."

Shiv Nadar has a laboratory sensibility with mentors as opposed to teachers, Visva Bharati has an academic focus on drawing, given its legacy with Indian masters like Nandalal Bose, and Srishti School has a conceptual design sensibility. This might be a generalisation, "but it's what I gather from these artists," Anand says.

On view till 10th September; S-221, Panchsheel Park



PURVAI RAI, 24

GRADUATE OF THE SRISHTI SCHOOL OF ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY IN BENGALURU

Other than three ink-on-paper works, which have been made referencing evocative photographs of textile draped in different, flowing ways, Purvai's works are all fabric. Variously arranged – as liner dots, discs, and abstract patterns – the artist talks about a journey of her self, via the context of parental support and the shifting parameters of cultural identity

Like most artists, she draws on the memories of her growing up years, where the coarse material of her father's labada, a traditional tunic-like garment for men in northern India, offered her much comfort during cold winters evenings. In the same breath, she laments how mass-manufactured retail has made clothes irrelevant as markers of cultural identity.

To bring these two things together, she uses red-maroon fabric to denote herself (the colour of the root chakra or muladhara in Indic philosophy, she says), a coarse brown of jute, for her father, and an off-white cotton to denote her engagement with the word. In a couple of frames, this off-white is also made of synthetic ("a lot of my clothes are, to be honest, man-made fibres, like a lot of my generation's," she says).

Whether intentional or not, it is noteworthy that in a series of frames that she's titled 'Memory Graph', the brown jute is seen supporting, embracing, or really filling the entire space inhabited by the red and white.

SUMAN CHANDRA, 27

MFA, VISVA BHARATI UNIVERSITY IN SANTINIKETAN

Research about the miners in and around West Bengal and Jharkhand informs Suman's work. In patches, the light blue square-graph on the canvas is left exposed. The artist uses black patches to show a significant presence of coal as a contrast to the pleasant pastel pink of the larger landscape.

Suman also takes the route of the personal to tell this story. He has made portraits of people in these vast scapes, filled with chickens and pet dogs, to showcase everyday life in the mines. But the highlight is a sculpture. In a block of coal dust mixed with sand, he's engraved the inside of a mine, with the silhouette of a team of miners, sitting together, as if posing for a portrait.

"This was a real photo," he says, attaching even more significance to the piece by sharing what he'd heard a year ago: The same team died in a mining accident.

DIVYA SINGH, 24

MFA, SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY IN NOIDA

Divya's deliberately dreamy and slightly smudged still-life paintings are meant to be an exploration of a "dystopian vision of freedom", she says, talking about the thrill of waking up really early, before anyone else, and walking around the house like you're the only person in existence. Or doing the same really late at night.

An orange-hued frame that shows an indoor scene, with a smattering of furniture and a doorway shows light delicately falling from one side of the room, illuminating only the emptier spaces. It makes you feel like the space has been recently abandoned, even though there's a pet-animal-like figure sitting in a corner. "When people pass away, they leave everything behind. And spaces are transformed really by nothing at all...it's not like something in the house changes," she says.

All her paintings have a focus that draws the eye through light. She is aiming at "pure vision", she says. When she paints, her vision moves like light, touching everything just the way light does. To her, this is freedom.

PLACE

Brewing liquid gold

The Ministry of Beer becomes the first to open a microbrewery in a Delhi restaurant

The Ministry of Beer, Connaught Place, is the first to start brewing beer in the Capital. The amendments in excise rules now makes this possible. Pratekk Chturvedi, 41, The Ministry of Beer Managing Director, tells us about his journey, from opening India's first microbrewery in Pune to Delhi's first.

How did you develop an interest in the microbrewery industry?

On a visit to one of the microbreweries in Singapore I went up to the owner and said I want to do this in India. I asked if he would teach me. He said, 'If you're serious, resign and come, then I'll teach you.' The next day I resigned and went to him. He asked me to start serving, which was quite surprising for me. I worked as a waiter for one and a half months, and after he was convinced of my dedication, he taught me to brew. I worked with them for 6 months.

Tell us about your journey of opening India's first microbrewery in Pune?

I flew down to Mumbai in 2008 and met the then Excise Minister for Maharashtra and expressed my desire of opening a microbrewery in Pune. I took the initiative of procuring the framework of the policy in Singapore to speed up the process. In six months flat, the microbrewery policy was rolled out in Maharashtra in October 2008, making it India's first State to pass such an order and I became the first licensee of a microbrewery in India for a company called Doolally.

How is Delhi's policy different from other states?

Delhi has one of the strictest policies for breweries, and we understand that this is the government's way of ensuring that nothing goes wrong. A brewery and restaurant together need a 6,500 sq feet footprint. A chemist has to be on board every day to certify that the beer is drinkable and that certificate is displayed every day.

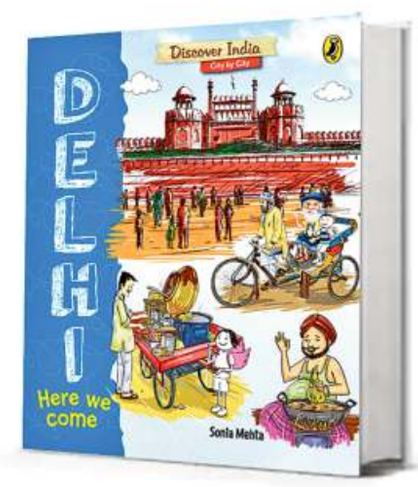
Have you implemented your learnings from Gurugram to kickstart the Delhi brewery?

We made sure we're doing beers that we knew Delhiites would love — we have already made more than 27 beers. We also have seasonal flavours like aam-sutra and we are planning on jaggery beer as well. The idea is to keep our beer fresh and our menu fresher.

PREEKSHA MALHOTRA AND SANSKRITI FALOR

PAGES

Delhi, for kids



In their new Discover India series, Puffin has made state- and city-guides for children ages 6 to 10. Their all-knowing character Daadu Dolma is accompanied by Mishki and Pushka, who explore the unique neighbourhoods of each of India's metro cities, learning about them through fun activities. The series has been witten by Sonia Mehta, a children's writer for over two decades, who also conceptualised the Cadbury Bournvita Quiz for TV.

Available online and across bookstores; ₹199

Contact us at *delhimetro@thehindu.co.in*

#DELHIMOVES

The perks of swimming in winter

As temperatures dip, here's how you can brave the chill and get in cold water

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

Cold splash At the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool • THE HINDU

On a cold winter morning, you'll find a few swimmers driving to the pool at the crack of dawn or after a hectic day, even when the temperature feels like it's hit freeze point, braving the waters of semi-heated pools. Swimming in an indoor pool, in winter, has its own charm. It's like a badge of honour, akin to a runner's tan or black toenails.

While a few government-run pools do remain open through winter, they aren't the most comfortable. The other option, hotel-pool membership, has always been expensive. Now, thanks to startups and schools opening their pools to 'outsiders', the number of options have gone up.

The heated indoor Olympic-sized pools at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex and Siri Fort Sports Complex (closed between December and February) are still available, the former requiring a swim test, the latter a membership (at least temporary). While there is no dearth of pools that are licensed by the Delhi Police: 78 pools in clubs, 52 in hotels, 96 in schools, most close in September and reopen in April.

Manisha Khunger, who is based in Gurugram has been a swimming coach for over 25 years. She trains triathletes, children participating in the Nationals and those with special needs, besides new swimmers. "Those who continue to swim in winter are looking to maintain their fitness and stamina. New learners in winter usually want to avoid crowds. Sometimes they are afraid of water or apprehensive to learn around strangers," she says.

Finding heated pools is relatively easy now. With Fitternity you can snag a membership deal at competitive prices or take the pay-per-class option. Fitso SEALs Getfitso.com has tie-ups with various swimming pools across Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad. All of these are indoors with the temperature maintained between 26°C and 28°C. In Delhi, swimming is rarely a solitary activity. It takes much more than luck to find the golden hour to swim a lap without bumping into someone.

If you swim in the winter, chances are you'll score a lane all to yourself.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE

MUSIC

Dhrupad

Pandit Kshitipal Mallick Dhrupad Society is hosting the Dhrupad Festival, in memory of late Pandit Kshitipal Mallick. This two-day event commencing this evening, will feature Dhrupad vocal recitals by Dr. Prabhakar Narayan Pathak Mallick in the Darbhanga gharana style and Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar in the Dagar tradition.

VENUE: The Stein Auditorium, IHC
TIME: 7 p.m.

FOOD

Kids' special

The Mellow Garden, a family restaurant with a kids' playroom now has a children's special menu that will have finger foods and sweet treats that children love. The menu offers French Fries, Pav Bhaji, Chicken Manchurian, Basil Paneer Tikka, Keema Pao, Chana Kulcha, Paprika Veg Pizza, Crackling Crispy Corn, Mocktails and Icecreams.

VENUE: J2/7, BK Dutta Market, Rajouri Garden
TIME: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

ART

Canvas

The ongoing exhibition, *The Spiritual Gold – Banaras*, is a solo show of oil paintings on canvas by Anand Narain. His subjects include the city's architectural beauty and unusual perspectives of urbanscapes, beliefs and myths deeply rooted in the hearts of rural people, the holy and serene ghats of the Ganga.

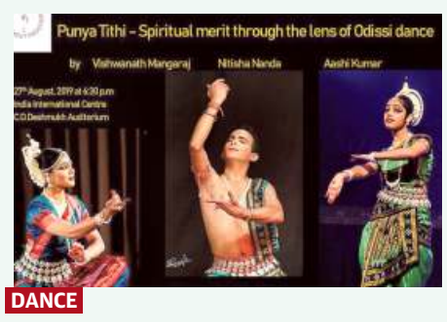
VENUE: Art Gallery, Annexe Building, IIC
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

CUISINE

Japanese special

Kampai, a restaurant that serves Japanese food, is offering an unlimited Sushi, Dimsum, and Bao in its lunch menu. This special menu consists of various Japanese specialities such as Crunchy Enoki Roll, Three Mushroom Bao, Spicy Tuna Roll, Ebi Tempura Roll, served with drinks like mimosa and beer.

VENUE: G-02 Worldmark 1, Aerocity
TIME: 12 noon - 3:30 p.m.



DANCE

Odissi recital

Manasa-Art Without Frontiers and senior Odissi dancer-guru Sharon Lowen present *Punya Tithi, Spiritual Merit through the Lens of Dance*, an Odissi dance recital. The presentation, based on the tradition of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra choreography, will be performed by Nitisha Nanda, Vishwanath Mangaraj, and Aashi Kumar.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

Skip the long-haul flight and beat the ticket queues Down Under, and click through Google Arts & Culture's collection of memories and stories on sports in Australia

A deep dive into sport as culture

History now known Vast Australian sporting history is given its own digital portal ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Google Arts & Culture (GAC) has launched 'Australia: Great Sporting Land', an immersive online exhibit that invites fans to explore the people, places, and moments that have shaped Australia's sporting culture and the stories behind some of the most popular games. The digital exhibit, the result of three years of research, offers content that engages with sports lovers around the globe, especially cricket, given Australia's great tradition in the game.

What to expect

Program Manager, GAC, Suhair Khan, explains the extent of the research. In the past, "Most of the work has primarily been around history, monuments, and culture. This is the first-ever GAC project that explores and celebrates the realm of sports as a culture. For this project, our team has worked closely in collaboration with 30+ partners (sporting institutions, stadiums, commentators, athletes, fans), who contributed over 11,000 images and videos and 200 artworks and artefacts."

The platform gives unprecedented access to sporting memorabilia, moments, and museums. "We are exploring the role sport has played in shaping the culture of a country. Following extensive research, we have tried to contextualise it and provide it with historical relevance on a global stage. That in itself is an incredible experience."

Highlights

Suhair's favourite feature is on Blind Cricket History. "It shows how Australians paved the way for disabled persons (and mixed gender teams) with gusto, inventing the game of Blind Cricket." The story about the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, with 6,000-plus items from their collection, is, "such a wonderful blend of the best of old and new in Australian lifesaving. Plus, it features an iconic beach and ocean. As a non-Aussie, it's very evocative of Australia!"

Cricket fans would love 'The Away Change Room Doors'. The Sydney Cricket Ground's Away Change Room is the inner sanctum of the visiting cricket team. The change room doors document tales of the past and present players, and their achievements at the ground. These doors feature a list of Australian domestic and international bowlers and batsmen. A replica door had to be erected to accommodate the performers. The replica has signatures of Indian cricket stars like Virat Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman and Yuvraj Singh, and many more Indian and international players.

To make sure we visit the page, Suhair says, "Recognising the great sporting rivalry that India shares with the Aussies, this is an excellent opportunity for fans to relive some incredible moments in the history of cricket, through archival footage, new film and interviews, and newly digitised assets from important cricketing collections, which are coming online for the first time."

CATCHING THE ASHES

Steve Waugh, one of the legends of modern cricket, had a 19-year-career — 46 of his 168 Tests were played in the Ashes and 10 of his 32 centuries were in the series, the unbeaten 177 at Leeds in 1989, his favourite.
Here, he talks about the significance of the Ashes.

WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO SPORT BEING INCLUDED IN GOOGLE'S ARTS AND CULTURE PROJECT?

● It is a natural fit. Sport is a part of our culture and make-up. Many people might say sport is art.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM THE COLLECTION?

● Don Bradman's first bat — to hold that, a piece of history, the feel is light-weight. Hold its skinny grip, and through Google's digital imagery, see deep into the grain of the wood. All its markings and chips in the wood magnified.

WHAT COULD BE THE DECISIVE FACTORS FOR THIS SERIES?

● Both sides have excellent bowlers who can take the required 20 wickets to win a Test match. From our point of view, we need a few of our lesser-known players to excel as we did in the 1989 Ashes and came of age as a team.

WHAT ARE THE BEST MEMORIES OF ASHES CRICKET YOU'VE PLAYED?

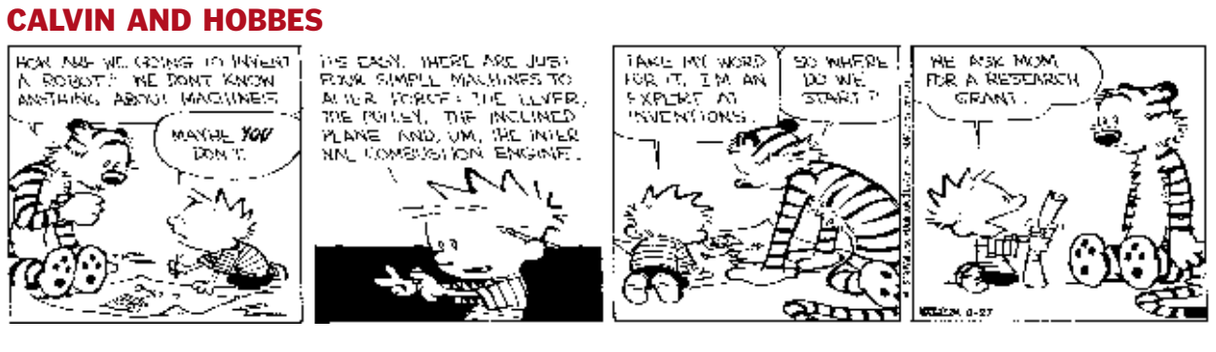
● My favourite memories of Ashes Test cricket are my 1989 ton in Headingly; winning 8 of the 9 Test Series I played in, and I will never forget the century on the last ball in Sydney.

POOCH CAFE

PEANUTS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

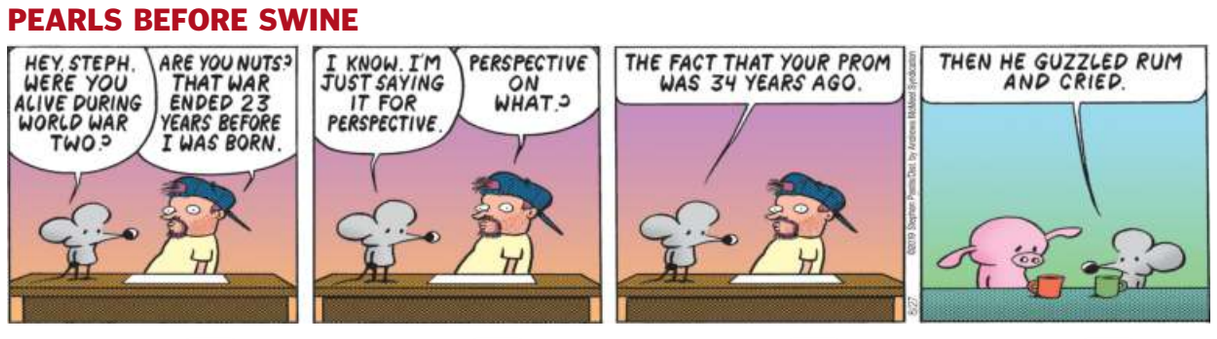
CALVIN AND HOBBES

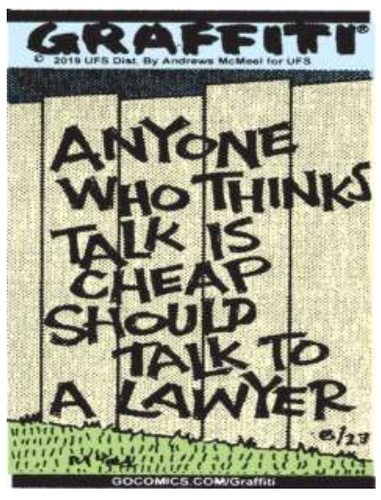


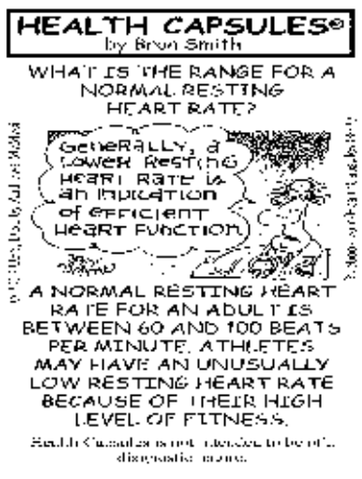
TIGER

WUMO

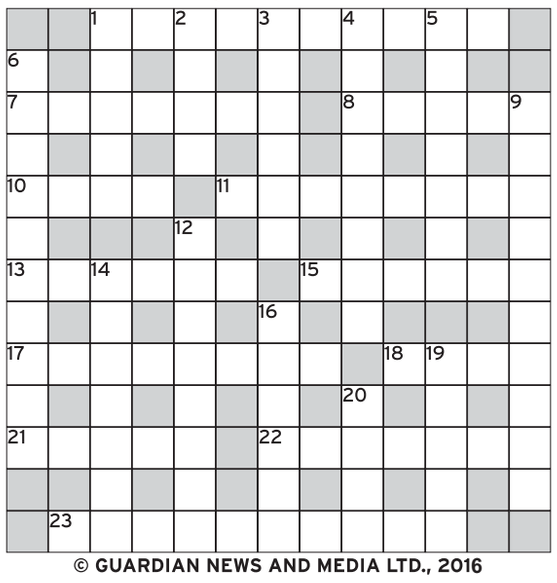
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE







THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13159



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Across
1 Nice try, NHS (anag) — highly poisonous compound (10)
7 Card game (7)
8 Sticks (5)
10 Espied (4)
11 Non-believer (8)
13 Device for sending or receiving signals (6)
15 Occur (6)
17 Boundless (8)
18 Display (4)
21 West African country, independent since 1957 (5)
22 Ecstasy — toenail (anag) (7)
23 Nasty (10)

Down
1 Gumption — feeling (5)
2 Coarse file (4)
3 Rugged (6)
4 Patron saint of Greece (and Liverpool) (8)
5 Relentless (7)
6 Frozen water sport (3,7)
9 Renewed energy to carry on (6,4)
12 Precipitation (8)
14 Part of a song (7)
16 Greats (anag) — Italian liqueur (6)
19 Robbery (5)
20 Indonesian island — programming language (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 28, 2019.

Solution No. 13158

Bumrah's fiery spell blows away the West Indies in opening Test

His five-for, supported by Ishant's three and Shami's two, helps India thrash the hosts by a whopping 318 runs inside four days

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Jasprit Bumrah led a devastating fast bowling assault as India shot out the West Indies for 100 and registered a crushing 318-run victory in the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday.

Set an improbable target of 419 after Virat Kohli declared the visitors' second innings at 343 for seven, the hosts were dismissed in 26.5 overs for their lowest total against India, with Bumrah returning sensational figures of five for seven off eight overs.

Another dimension

Four of his victims were comprehensively bowled in an irresistible spell in which he displayed a previously unseen ability to swing the ball both ways.

"I've been working a lot on this aspect of my game and I am really happy to see how it worked today," he said. "I was a bit stiff in the first innings, but it all came out well today. I just have to keep on learning my craft."

Ishant Sharma supported Bumrah brilliantly with the new ball, taking three for 31 to finish with eight wickets in the Test.

> **Vihari got the nod because combination is important. He's an effective part-time bowler and helps us when we need to catch up with the over-rate**
>
> VIRAT KOHLI
> On preferring Vihari over Rohit

Fast bowler's delight: Jasprit Bumrah sends Darren Bravo's stump cartwheeling. ▪ AFP

Mohammed Shami chipped in with two wickets as West Indies was reduced to 50 for nine. It took some big hitting from Kemar Roach, who top-scored with 38, to double the side's total.

It was Ishant who ended Roach's resistance and sealed victory, as wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant took a well-judged catch off a top-edged hook.

After Ajinkya Rahane completed his 10th Test hundred and Hanuma Vihari fell seven runs short of his maiden Test century, prompting the declaration, Bumrah and Ishant were on fire.

Bumrah was the first to strike, extending Kraigg Brathwaite's protracted run of low scores. He also castled Brathwaite's opening partner John Campbell and senior batsman Darren Bravo.

Ishant trapped debutant Shamarh Brooks leg-before and then made Hetmyer pay for his loose play outside the off-stump, Rahane atoning for his captain's error in the slip cordon.

Languishing at 15 for five at tea, Bumrah completed his five-wicket haul by shattering the stumps of Shai Hope and captain Jason Holder with remarkable accuracy. "We really have to stop making excuses and sort this issue out. It just keeps on happening," said a frustrated Holder on his team's latest collapse.

Second Test
- Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, Kingston (Jamaica)

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS: 297
WEST INDIES — 1ST INNINGS: 222
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
343 for seven decl.
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 b Shami 12 (*29b, 1x4*), Shai Hope b Bumrah 2 (*11b*), Jason Holder b Bumrah 8 (*19b, 1x4*), Kemar Roach c Pant b Ishant 38 (*31b, 1x4, 5x6*), Shannon Gabriel c Pant b Shami 0 (*4b*), Miguel Cummins (not out) 19 (*22b, 2x4, 1x6*); Extras (lb-7, nb-1): 8; Total (in 26.5 overs): 100.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Brathwaite, 1.4 ov), 2-10 (Campbell, 3.5), 3-10 (Brooks, 4.1), 4-13 (Hetmyer, 6.6), 5-15 (Bravo, 7.3), 6-27 (Hope, 11.1), 7-37 (Holder, 15.2), 8-50 (Chase, 19.2), 9-50 (Gabriel, 19.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Ishant 9.5-1-31-3, Bumrah 8-4-7-5, Jadeja 4-0-42-0, Shami 5-3-13-2.

Man-of-the-Match: Rahane.

India won by 318 runs and leads two match series 1-0.

STAT SPHERE

1 Bumrah has become the first bowler from an Asian country to record five-wicket hauls in Tests in Australia, England, South Africa and West Indies. He has achieved this in only 11 Tests

1 Bumrah is the first Indian pacer to have four 'bowled' dismissals to his credit in a Test innings

5/7 His spell is the most economical for a five-wicket haul by an Indian in Tests

FIVE-FORS BY INDIANS
- Bumrah 5/7 vs WI, North Sound, 2019
- Raju 6/12 vs SL, Chandigarh, 1990
- Jadeja 5/12 vs SA, Mohali, 2015
- Harbhajan 5/13 vs WI, Kingston, 2006
- Gupte 5/18 vs Pakistan, Dhaka, 1955
- Srinath 6/21 vs SA, Ahmedabad, 1996

12 Number of victories under Kohli in Tests outside India, the most by a skipper. He edged past Ganguly (11 wins).

MOST 'AWAY' TEST WINS BY INDIAN CAPTAINS
- **12** Kohli (26 Tests)
- **11** Ganguly (28)
- **6** Dhoni (30)
- **5** Dravid (17)

18 Number of wickets the Indian pacers took in the match, the most for a subcontinent side in a Test in West Indies. India had also taken an identical number of wickets in Bridgetown, 1997

22 India's unbeaten run in Tests against the West Indies, its longest against any country. This is also Windies' biggest winless streak against any opponent

27 Number of Test wins for Kohli, equalling Dhoni's record

MOST TEST VICTORIES BY INDIAN SKIPPERS
- **27** Kohli (47 Tests)
- **27** Dhoni (60)
- **21** Ganguly (49)
- **14** Azharuddin (47)
- **9** Pataudi (40)
- **9** Gavaskar (47)

29 Number of innings Rahane had gone without a century before the second innings of the North Sound Test. His previous hundred was in 2017 at Colombo (SSC)

100 Number of wins notched up by Kohli in International matches (out of 152). He is the third Indian, and 12th overall, to achieve the feat. Only Ponting (134), Waugh (150) and Cronje (151) had led their teams to a century of International wins in fewer games than Kohli

100 West Indies' score, its lowest against India in Tests. The previous lowest was the 103 in Kingston, 2006

318 India's victory margin is its largest (and fourth biggest overall), in terms of runs, in 'away' Tests, surpassing the 304-run win against Sri Lanka in Galle, 2017. This is also West Indies' worst defeat at home

INDIA'S BIGGEST TEST WINS (BY MARGIN OF RUNS)
- 337 vs SA, Delhi, 2015
- 321 vs NZ, Indore, 2016
- 320 vs Aus, Mohali, 2008
- 318 vs WI, North Sound, 2019
- 304 vs SL, Galle, 2017

Four of the above five victories have come under Kohli's captaincy

New Zealand dazzles in fading light

Registers an innings win over Sri Lanka, levels the two-match series 1-1

KIWIS IN SL

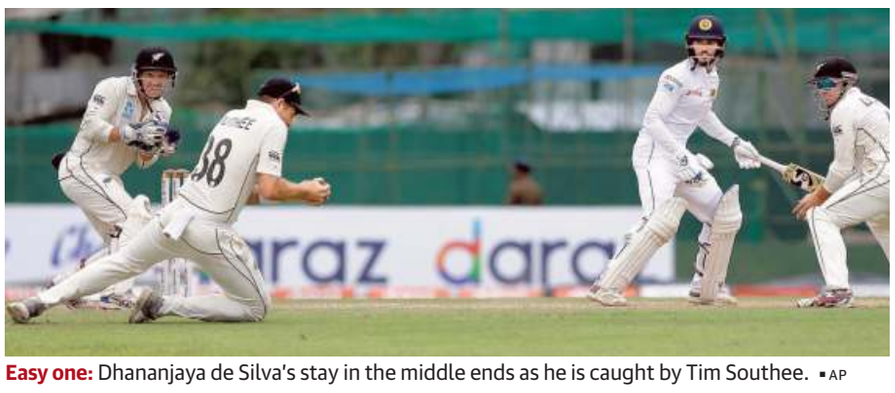
AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
COLOMBO

New Zealand held its nerve to clinch a hard-fought and comprehensive victory against Sri Lanka in fading light in the second cricket Test here on Monday and level the two-match series 1-1.

Victory was achieved with an hour left on day five when Lasith Embuldeniya edged a short delivery from Trent Boult to Kane Williamson at gully. Sri Lanka was bowled out for 122 after New Zealand declared its second innings on 431 for six with a first-innings lead of 185.

The game went to the last hour of day five, and although 19.4 overs remained when tailender Embuldeniya was the last man dismissed, umpires could have called off play at any time with the light fast-deteriorating.

The Kiwi bowlers hurried through their deliveries knowing that they were racing against time.



Easy one: Dhananjaya de Silva's stay in the middle ends as he is caught by Tim Southee. ▪ AP

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: 244.
New Zealand — 1st innings: Jeet Raval c de Silva b Dilruwan 0, Tom Latham lbw Dilruwan 154, Kane Williamson c Mendis b Kumara 20, Ross Taylor c de Silva b Embuldeniya 23, Henry Nicholls c de Silva b Dilruwan 15, B-J. Watling (not out) 105, Colin de Grandhomme c Kumara b Embuldeniya 83, Tim Southee (not out) 24; Extras (lb-4, w-3): 7; Total (for six wkts. decl. in 115 overs): 431.
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-34, 3-84, 4-126, 5-269, 6-382.
Sri Lanka bowling: Dilruwan Perera 37-4-114-3, de Silva 5-1-10-0, Lakmal 11-2-32-0, Kumara 25-0-115-1, Embuldeniya 37-4-156-2.
Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: Lahiru Thirimanne (run out) 0, Kusal Perera c Watling b Boult 0, Kusal Mendis b Somerville 20, Angelo Mathews c Taylor b de Grandhomme 7, Dhananjaya de Silva c Southee b Ajaz 1, Niroshan Dickwella c Latham b Ajaz 51, Dimuth Karunaratne lbw b Southee 21, Dilruwan Perera c Taylor b Southee 0, Suranga Lakmal c Latham b Somerville 14, Lasith Embuldeniya c Williamson b Boult 5, Lahiru Kumara (not out) 0; Extras (lb-2, w-1): 3; Total (in 70.2 overs): 122.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-4, 3-11, 4-22, 5-32, 6-73, 7-75, 8-115, 9-118.
New Zealand bowling: Boult 14.2-8-17-2, Southee 12-6-15-2, Ajaz 19-3-31-2, de Grandhomme 4-1-8-1, Somerville 21-6-49-2.

New Zealand won by an innings and 65 runs and shared the two-match series 1-1.

Player-of-the-match: Tom Latham; **Player-of-the-series:** B-J. Watling.

Gopi Chand and his driving force

One-page note to self, written long ago, is the key: coach's mother

EXCLUSIVE

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

A one-page, hand-written note by P. Gopi Chand, the chief national badminton coach, long before he won the 2001 All England championship is the driving force behind his passion to keep producing champion shuttlers.

Gopi's mother, Subbaravamma, who is the livewire in the functioning of the two Gopi Chand Academies at Gachibowli, recalls the note in which her son states: "I am an Indian. I cannot dream of better facilities like the other big stars in world circuit.

"But, I have to train with whatever is available and still try to win at the highest level." That he won the All England later is now history!

Not found wanting

She says that this is exactly the reason Gopi ensures that none of his trainees are found wanting in terms of support on any front.

Gopi's mother feels that this is also the significant factor which helps him strike the near-perfect balance in training the two superstars of Indian badminton – London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal and the new World champion P.V. Sindhu. For Subbaravamma, it has been a different kind of challenge.

She – along with Gopi's wife, Lakshmi, and other family members – has to ensure that the chief coach is always fresh for the daily grind at the academy.

Even when the champion shuttlers preferred to have separate training schedules, Gopi never went against either. His priorities were different – to see both of them in the race for an Olympic or a World championship medal.

Guiding light: P. Gopi Chand with his protégés Sai Praneeth and Sindhu after their exploits in Basel. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Major difference

The one major difference now for Gopi is the induction of Korean Kim Ji Hyun, a former Asian Games gold medallist.

She now takes more care of the women's singles players with Gopi chipping in only with critical inputs.

For someone whom it was a distant dream even to hold a foreign racket during his hey days, Gopi's shopping list now when on tour means buying badminton rackets and other gear which he gives it to the needy on his return.

"The joy on his face in giving them to the young talent is perhaps what keeps all of us going," concludes Subbaravamma.

Medvedev proves too good for Prajnesh

Indian fails to maintain the intensity after beginning aggressively

US OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

Prajnesh Gunneswaran got a taste of high-level tennis in his first-round exit from the US Open, losing to World No. 5 Daniil Medvedev in straight sets, here on Monday.

The gulf between Prajnesh and top-10 players was apparent as he lost 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 to the Russian, who had recently beaten Novak Djokovic.

The Indian left-hander began aggressively but could not maintain the intensity after losing the well-fought first set at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

The pressure induced unending unforced errors from Prajnesh, who was trying too hard.

He had the heart to fight but lacked the experience of playing at this level against the best in the business.

Steaming ahead: Daniil Medvedev had the measure of Prajnesh Gunneswaran in straight sets. ▪ AP

Prajnesh's body language was aggressive while Medvedev largely remained calm; the Russian served big and his solid returns in long rallies helped him take those extra points.

"I can't say I'm feeling amazing about my game but to win by that score in the first round is great," Medvedev said. "I hope I can continue to play well."

Kerber out

In an early upset on the opening day, the 2016 women's champion Angelique Kerber was bundled out by Kristina Mladenovic 7-5, 0-6, 6-4.

Reigning French Open women's champion Ashleigh Barty shook off a horrid first set to defeat Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas, third seed Karolina Pliskova struggled into the second round while the 2014 men's runner-up Kei Nishikori of Japan needed only 47 minutes to advance.

Tuesday's picks

MEN
- **2**-Nadal **vs** Millman
- **4**-Thiem **vs** Fabbiano
- **8**-Tsitsipas **vs** Rublev
- **6**-Zverev **vs** Albot
- **18**-Shapovalov **vs** Auger-Aliassime

WOMEN
- **1**-Osaka **vs** Blinkova
- **4**-Halep **vs** Gibbs
- **6**-Kvitova **vs** Allertova
- **7**-Bertens **vs** Badosa

THE RESULTS

Men: 5-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran (Ind) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

27-Dusan Lajovic (Srb) bt Steve Darcis (Bel) 7-5, 6-3, 6-3; Jenson Brooksby (USA) bt Tomas Berdych (Cze) 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; Bradley Klahn (USA) bt Thiago Monteiro (Bra) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; 7-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) bt Marco Trungelliti (Arg) 6-1, 4-1 retd.

Women: Kristina Mladenovic (Fra) bt 14-Angelique Kerber (Ger) 7-5, 0-6, 6-4; Rebecca Peterson (Swe) bt Monica Puig (Pur) 6-3, 6-3; Ons Jabeur (Tun) bt 27-Caroline Garcia (Fra) 7-6 (8), 6-2; 3-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt Tereza Martincova (Cze) 7-6(6), 7-6(3); Ana Bogdan (Rom) bt Harriet Dart (GBr) 6-3, 6-1; 12-Anastasija Sevastova (Lat) bt Eugenie Bouchard (Can) 6-3, 6-3; 2-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) bt Zarina Diyas (Kaz) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; 16-Johanna Konta (GBr) bt Daria Kasatkina (Rus) 6-1, 4-6, 6-2; Ekaterina Alexandrova (Rus) bt Samantha Stosur (Aus) 6-1, 6-3; 22-Petra Martic (Cro) bt Tamara Zidansek (Slo) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

Steelers prevail in a touch-and-go affair

Vikas Kandola to the fore against Warriors

PKL

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Haryana Steelers won a raid riot against the Bengal Warriors 36-33 in a tightly-contested match at Thyagaraj Stadium here on Monday.

Vikas Kandola was again the star for the Steelers. After two empty raids, he earned the first two points in a do-or-die situation.

Two minutes into the game, teammate Vinay successfully carried out a Super Raid, taking out three defenders Viraj Landge, Jeeva Kumar and Rinku Narwal.

Warriors' K. Prapanjan then removed Kandola, Sunil, Ravi Kumar and Vinay in a Super Raid to help his side lead 8-7.

After Warriors had inflicted an All-Out in the 11th minute, the first half score settled at 17-18 after Kandola's raid had ousted Baldev Singh and Landge.

Hero! Vikas Khandola, trying to get back to safety, was the stand-out performer for Haryana Steelers against Bengal Warriors. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In the second half, Steelers inflicted an All-Out in the 22nd minute as Kandola took down Nabibabakhsh.

With this Super raid, Kandola registered 300 raid points in the PKL and also reached the milestone of ten Super 10s.

Crucial contributions were made by the raiders of both teams with Warriors' Maninder Singh earning 15 points and Kandola getting 11. In the process, Maninder also registered 600 raid points in the the league.

In the last 70 seconds, the match decisively turned in Haryana's favour. Dharmaraj Cheralathan, the 44-year-old stalwart, steadied the defence to secure an important win for the Steelers.

The results: Haryana Steelers bt Bengal Warriors 36-33; UP Yoddha bt Puneri Paltan 35-30.

TV PICKS

KPL: Star Sports 3, 3 p.m.
US Open tennis: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m. & SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Lahiri regains PGA Tour card with Tied 5th finish

BOISE (USA) Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri reclaimed his PGA Tour card after finishing tied 5th with a bogey-free five-under 66 in the final round of the Albertson Boise Open here. With a tied 7th finish achieved in the previous week's Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, Lahiri has now secured enough points to earn one of the 25 PGA Tour cards at stake in the Korn Ferry Tour (KFT) Finals. "I haven't experienced any kind of a high. I had a lot of belief in myself that I could get my card back and play well," Lahiri said. PTI

Aditi logs season-best 13th as Ko triumphs

ONTARIO
Indian golfer Aditi Ashok shot a one-under 71 enroute to a season best tied-13th place finish, with a 12-under 276, and $31,704 at the CP women's Open here on Sunday. Top-ranked Jin Young Ko of South Korea won with a 262, five shots better than Nicole Broch Larsen of Denmark. PTI

McIlroy claims FedEx Cup

LOS ANGELES
Rory McIlroy fired a four-under-par 66 to win the PGA Tour Championship and claim the $15 million FedEx Cup jackpot on Sunday. McIlroy finished the tournament on 18 under, four shots clear of Xander Schauffele, who posted a closing 70 to finish on 14 under. McIlroy joins Tiger Woods as the only player to win the FedEx Cup playoff series twice. For McIlroy it was sweet redemption following a disappointing showing in last year's Tour Championship, when he faded from contention with an error-strewn four-over-par 74 in the final round as Woods clinched a memorable victory. AFP

Jamshedpur FC ropes in Vineeth

JAMSHEDPUR
Jamshedpur FC on Monday added C.K. Vineeth to its squad for the upcoming Indian Super League season. The midfielder from Kerala has racked up 53 goals in 203 career appearances and has earned seven caps for the national football team. "It's an exciting opportunity for me to play for Jamshedpur. I have been here twice while playing for Kerala Blasters in the last two seasons and the atmosphere at The Furnace was absolutely brilliant. It's a highly challenging ground for any opposition and it will be exciting to be on the other side this season," he said. IANS

Zurich to host Diamond League finals in 2020, 21

PARIS
Zurich will host the final of the Diamond League in 2020 and 2021, organisers announced on Monday. The Diamond League was established in 2010 with two finals, traditionally held in Zurich and Brussels, but for the next two years Zurich will host the single final. The decision coincides with Brussels' King Baudoin Stadium being scheduled to undergo renovation over the next two years. AFP

Spotlight will be on Archana in 200m

The meet is the final opportunity for many to qualify for Doha Worlds

INTER-STATE ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
LUCKNOW

Having run the fastest 200m by an Indian woman this season, Archana Suseendran will be keen to prove her performance 10 days ago was not one-off on the opening day of the 59th inter-State athletics championships here on Tuesday.

The elite group of male quartermilers too landed in the city on the eve of the competition, raising interest levels.

The meet, the final opportunity for many hoping to qualify for the World Championships in Doha next month, would see some big names trying to make the cut even as the rest of the field would be looking to improve their own performances at the PAC Stadium.

Gunning for glory: Archana Suseendran will be keen to prove her performance 10 days ago, when she ran the fastest 200m this season, was not one-off. ▪ FILE PHOTO K. MURALI KUMAR

Leading the list

Leading the list of hopefuls will be triple jumper and Asian Games champion Arpinder Singh, whose training and performances have been as unsteady as his career achievements.

One of only two Indians to have crossed the 17m mark, Arpinder failed to make the cut for the Asian Championships earlier this year with his training going all over the place.

He went to USA, came back for a disappointing Federation Cup, didn't receive approval to go back and has been training in Bangalore since then. His biggest competition would be from youngster Mohd. Salahuddin, who set a personal best in Almaty, and Renjith Maheshwary, the current national record holder who figures in the entry list but has been away from action for more than a year.

Change of mind

Meanwhile, having decided to continue training abroad initially, the AFI has had a change of mind for the men 400m runners with the big names – Mohd. Anas Yahiya, Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob – all confirming their participation. However, only Mohan Kumar Raja and Dharun Aiyyasamy would be participating in individual race with the rest only entering as the AFI team in the 4x400m relay.

Also looking to fine-tune his preparations for the Worlds would be long-jumper Murali Sreeshankar, one of the very few athletes to participate here despite having already qualified.

The 19-year old recently managed to touch the 8m mark at the fifth Indian Grand Prix and would be hoping to repeat the performance here.

On Tuesday, though, the spotlight would be on the women's 200m and Archana, looking to breach the elusive 23.02s-mark for a ticket to Doha.

Srabani Nanda, training in Jamaica for a while now and considered among those with a chance, failed to turn up on Monday and was not named in the start list.

The men's 5000m would see maximum competition with most of the top names in the fray. The entry list has Govindan Lakshmanan (Tamil Nadu) and Murli Kumar Gavit (Gujarat), both hoping to regain their places in the national camp, and Maharashtra's Kalidas Hirave and Kisan Tadvi with any of them capable of taking top honours.

Sunayna stuns Sala

It's Malhotra vs Jagtap in men's final

PSA CHALLENGER

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GREATER NOIDA

Fourth seed Sunayna Kuruvilla kept the Indian hopes alive in the women's event as she beat the second seed Sala Youssef of Egypt 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6 in the semifinals of the HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament at the Jaypee Green Sports Complex on Monday.

The 20-year-old, Sunayna, will play the third seed Menna Hamed of Egypt, who knocked out the top seed, the 17-year-old Farida Mohamed in three straight games.

With the women's champion assured of a berth in the World Championship, there will be a lot at stake apart from the ranking points for the two players.

In the $12,000 men's event, Vikram Malhotra subdued the bright player from the junior ranks, Velavan Senthilkumar in four games and Aditya Jagtap edged out Yash Fadte.

Junior event

The HCL 11th Indian junior squash open, with a six-star rating, will feature players from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Qatar.

Scheduled to coincide with the PSA Challenger event at the same venue which concludes on Tuesday, the Platinum event under the Asian Squash Federation, will have events for boys and girls in the under-11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 categories.

The results (semifinals): Men: Aditya Jagtap bt Yash Fadte 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; Vikram Malhotra bt Velavan Senthilkumar 11-9, 10-12, 11-9, 11-3.
Women: Menna Hamed (Egy) bt Farida Mohamed 11-7, 11-6, 11-6; Sunayna Kuruvilla bt Salma Youssef (Egy) 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6.

Important win: Sunayna Kuruvilla surprised second seed Sala Youssef of Egypt in the semifinals. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mental part wins match: Castellani

The renowned coach has trained many top players

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

He is a pioneer in the mental training of top tennis players. Alberto Castellani has coached a number of top-50 players like Marc Rosset, Janko Tipsarevic, Ivo Karlovic, Hicham Arazi, Karim Alami, Adrian Voinea and Rainer Schuettler over the years.

In trying to help the coaches around the world in the mental aspect of training players, Castellani had founded the Global Professional Tennis Coach Association (GPTCA) during the US Open in 2010, in association with, among others, Tony Nadal, uncle and coach of Rafael Nadal, and Schuettler.

"All the coaches and players agree that with other aspects being equal, it is the mental part that wins a match for a player. We are trying to equip the tennis coaches with the ability to deal with the mental aspect of the game. Professional psychologists cost a lot of money, and a lot of players cannot afford the additional cost. It helps that a tennis coach who understands the situation, empathises with the player, is able to help him or her," said Castellani on the final day of the GPTCA course at the DLTA Complex on Monday.

In a freewheeling chat, the 70-year-old Italian said the top players had very little time for themselves at the end of the season, to prepare for the next, and thus he had to shorten the course to make them mentally strong.

Matters of the mind: Alberto Castellani knows what it takes to become a champion. ▪ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

No standard formula

"The regular course has seven steps. If there is less time, we do fewer steps. There is no standard formula. It is customised for each player," said Castellani.

Among the three aspects for a tennis player – physical, technical and mental – Castellani emphasised that it was the mental part that was accepted as the most crucial, but least practised worldwide.

"French TV asked me to sum up coaching in one word and I said 'empathy,'" said Castellani as he explained his method.

"You have to see the problem from the player's side, understand and suggest a solution. If we don't listen, we will not understand each other," he pointed out.

Castellani said, thanks to the agreement with Newport Research University, coaches can study online to equip themselves to different levels of mental coaching certification, degrees and even doctorate.

"Depending on your experience and courses done, you will get to write less number of papers to qualify. Schuettler was World No. 4, Olympic medallist, so he had to write three papers, instead of 26," said Castellani about the practical approach of the mental courses being offered for coaches worldwide.

With about 60 coaches attending the three-day course, a foundation has been laid for Indian tennis, to address the mental aspects in thorough fashion, with the initiation done by the master of the craft – Alberto Castellani.

Viswanathan Anand among five leaders

SINQUEFIELD CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU
SAINT LOUIS (USA)

Viswanathan Anand dominated World No. 2 Fabiano Caruana for the better part of their eighth-round clash but eventually settled for a 44-move draw in the Sinquefield Cup chess tournament here on Sunday.

Anand appeared was comfortably placed in this Queen's Gambit Declined game but could not translate his superiority into a decisive advantage. He eventually drew following perpetual checks.

The results: Eighth round: Fabiano Caruana (USA, 4.5) drew with Viswanathan Anand (4.5); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 4.5) bt Levon Aronian (Arm, 3); Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 4.5) bt Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3.5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 4) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 4.5); Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 4) drew with Anish Giri (3.5); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 4) drew with Wesley So (USA, 4).

Saidan SSS storms into the semifinals

SUBROTO CUP

NEW DELHI: Saidan Secondary School (Kolasib) Mizoram defeated Govt. Model High School, Chandigarh 8-1 in a quarterfinal match of the Subroto Cup international football tournament here on Monday.

The results (quarterfinals): Saidan Secondary School (Kolasib) Mizoram8 (Hunmawia, B. Romalsawma, F. Lalthiamuana, M. Rozamliana, Jeremin Zorenkima, Malsawmtluanga, Lalrindika Fanai) bt Govt. Model High School, Chandigarh 1 (Gurnaj Singh).

Estiqlal School, Afghanistan 7 (Rashid Nazari 2, Firdaus Haidar 2, Hafizullah Abdullah, Ali Sina Hussain, Rahim Shah) bt Reliance Foundation School, Mumbai 0.

Unique Model Academy (Imphal), Manipur 1 (S. Anaroy) bt Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan (BKSP) 0.

Betkuchi High School, Sawkuchi (Guwahati), Assam 2 (Satyajit Bay 2) bt District War Sepngi Christian Higher Secondary School, Meghalaya 2 (Wanbhaboklang 41, Wansiewdor Nengnong) on penalties 5-3.

Team on right track: Rani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's invincible run in the Olympic Test event has boosted the confidence of the women's hockey team, but there are still areas where it needs to put in the hard yards ahead of the FIH Olympic Qualifiers, according to skipper Rani Rampal.

The Indian women's hockey team put up a brilliant performance at the Olympic Test event in Tokyo as it defeated host Japan 2-1 in the final.

Captain Rani seemed extremely pleased with the way the side played against formidable sides like World No. 2 Australia, World No. 11 China and World No. 14 Japan. "It was incredible to remain unbeaten throughout the Olympic Test Event. The hard work in the various training camps paid dividends. A victory in this tournament has given us a lot of confidence ahead of the tour of England and the FIH Olympic qualifiers," said Rani.

Well Connected wins her third Classic in a thriller

HYDERABAD: Padmanabhan's ward Well Connected, piloted by A. Sandesh, won the Deccan Fillies Championship Stakes, the stellar attraction of the races here on Monday (August 26). The winner is the property of Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar & Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd.rep. by Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Michella Y. Poonawalla.

Well Connected, who was racing fourth till the final turn, responded resolutely to Sandesh's urgings and pipped long-time leader Gift Of Grace to the post in a thrilling finish to claim her third Classic while winning her fourth race in a row.

Star of the day: Trainer S. Padmanabhan, left, and co-owner Phiroze Vazifdar leading in Well Connected (A. Sandesh astride) after she won the Deccan Fillies Championship Stakes on Monday. ▪ G. RAMAKRISHNA

1 **CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): **GALLOPING GANGSTER** (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Maxwell (Deepak Singh) 2, Mind Reader (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Nova Scotia (Akshay Kumar) 4. 3/4, 5 and 3/4. 1m, 13.52s. ₹9 (w), 6, 15 and 9 (p), SHP: 74, FP: 152, Q: 123, Tla: 751. Favourite: Galloping Gangster. Owners; M/s. Veeramachaneni Arjun & Nagendra Prasad. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

2 **DEMOCRACY PLATE** (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **GUSTY LOOK** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Sporting Smile (Nakhat Singh) 2, Brave Warrior (Rohit Kumar) 3 and Southern Lady (Santosh Raj) 4. 2, 4-1/4 and 4-1/4. 1m, 41.13s. ₹11 (w), 6, 6 and 8 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 28, Q: 13, Tla: 56. Favourite: Gusty Look. Owners: M/s. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Rama Sashu Eyunni. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

3 **CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): **CITY OF WISDOM** (Deepak Singh) 1, Silver Set (Akshay Kumar) 2, Sterling King (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Lesley (P. Trevor) 4. 2-1/4, 2-1/2 and 3. 1m, 14.14s. ₹83 (w), 16, 8 and 6 (p), SHP: 28, FP: 774, Q: 425, Tla: 977. Favourite: Best In Show. Owners: M/s. K. Thribhuvan Reddy, K. Vivek Reddy & Nirmal Singh. Trainer: Satyanarayana.

4 **PRINCE OF BERAR TROPHY** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **MON GENERAL** (Gaurav Singh) 1, Shandaar (Irvan Singh) 2, Blazer (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Shaquille (Afroz Khan) 4. 1, hd and 2-1/2. 1m, 13.44s. ₹8 (w), 5, 11 and 7 (p), SHP: 34, FP: 80, Q: 71, Tla: 194. Favourite: Mon General. Owner: Mr. S.R. Sanas. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

5 **DECCAN FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600M), FILLIES 3-Y-O ONLY (TERMS): WELL CONNECTED (ARAZAN-GUEST CONNECTIONS) A. SANDESH 1,** GIFT OF GRACE (Speaking Of Which-Appeasing) Zervan 2, THAILAND (Top Class-Immortal Story) P. Trevor 3 and SASAKWA (Kingda Ka-Jahanara) Akshay Kumar 4. Shd, 1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 39.07s. ₹7 (w), 5, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 25, FP: 24, Q: 22, Tla: 53. Favourite: Well Connected. Owners: Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar & Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd.rep. by Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Michella Y. Poonawalla. Trainer: Padmanabhan.

6 **CHAITANYA CHAKRAM PLATE (DIV. III)**, (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): **CARMELLA** (Kuldeep Singh) 1, O'Brien (Suraj Narredu) 2, Merry Dane (Ashhad Asbar) 3 and Sun Dancer (Umesh) 4. 4-1/4, 3/4 and shd. 1m, 15.16s. ₹25 (w), 7, 5 and 6 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 79, Q: 29, Tla: 132. Favourite: O'Brien. Owner: Col. K.S. Garcha. Trainer: Satyanarayana.

7 **DONEGAL PLATE** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): **SINDHU** (Afroz Khan) 1, Diesis Dream (Ajit Singh) 2, Story Teller (Jitendra Singh) 3 and Limousine (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 3-1/4, 1-1/4 and 2-3/4. 1m, 28.78s. ₹73 (w), 16, 9 and 9 (p), SHP: 28, FP: 640, Q: 304, Tla: 3,376. Favourite: Starboy. Owner: Mr. Surjeet Kumar Kuril. Trainer: A. Vatsalya.

Jackpot: ₹16,818 (37 tkts.), Runner-up: 383 (695 tkts.), Mini Jkt: 1,469 (137 tkts.), Tr (i): 367 (205 tkts.), (II): 662 (151 tkts.).

IN BRIEF

PSG hit by Mbappe, Cavani injuries

PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe will be out for four weeks and Edinson Cavani for three weeks after both came off injured in a Ligue 1 match against Toulouse on Sunday, the French champion has confirmed. Mbappe limped off after hurting his left hamstring during a trademark sprint at the Parc des Princes. The injury means he is set to miss PSG's opening Champions League group game, set for September 17 or 18. Cavani came off with a hip injury in the same game but could be ready in time for the start of PSG's European campaign. AFP

FIFA WC India qualifier tickets up for sale

NEW DELHI

Tickets for India's opening match in the FIFA World Cup qualifier against Oman have been put up for sale. The match is scheduled to be held at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on September 4. The tickets are priced at ₹50, 100 and 200. Guwahati has always proved to be a happy hunting ground for the Blue Tigers, having registered back-to-back victories earlier against Nepal (2-0) in March 2015 and against Laos (6-1) in June 2016. PTI

Misbah-ul-Haq applies for Pakistan head coach job

KARACHI

Former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq has stepped down from the PCB Cricket Committee after joining the race for the position of national team's head coach. After days of speculation that Misbah would be appointed head coach-cum-chief selector, the 44-year-old on Monday confirmed he was applying for the head coach job the deadline for which ended on Monday. "I am applying for the head coach's role fully aware that the competition will be tough."

Of fried chicken and chocolate bars

Ben Stokes reveals the secrets behind his Ashes fireworks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LEEDS

Ben Stokes may well have given the team dietician nightmares after doing the same to Australia's bowlers by revealing takeaway chicken and chocolate bars had fuelled his remarkable unbeaten century that saw England to a staggering one-wicket win in the third Ashes Test at Headingley on Sunday.

All-rounder Stokes was 61 not out, with England on 286 for nine, when he was joined out in the middle by last man Jack Leach.

It was the cue for Stokes, already a national hero following his batting fireworks in England's World Cup final win over New Zealand at Lord's last month, to switch into one-day mode.

In undoubtedly one of the greatest innings ever seen in 142 years of Test history, Stokes upped the tempo in a five-and-a-half hour stay of 219 balls, including 11 fours and eight sixes, that saw him finish on 135 not out as England squared the five-match series at 1-1.

There was no hint of the fireworks to come, however, when Stokes reached Saturday's close on two not out off 50 balls.

Calculated assault: When a No. 11 comes out needing 70 (73 in fact) to win, I knew what I had to do in terms of the game situation, said Stokes. ▪GARETH COPLEY/ GETTY IMAGES

Pasta works

Asked what he did overnight, the 28-year-old left-handed batsman replied: "My wife and kids came down and they got there at around 10 o'clock. My wife walked into me eating pasta in my boxer shorts!

"Last night, I think had a knock-off Nandos (fried chicken) and two (chocolate) bars of Yorkie biscuit and raisin. And a couple of coffees in the morning."

Reflecting on an innings that he reckoned was "certainly close" to surpassing his World Cup final display, Stokes said: "We knew if we lost this game then the Ashes were gone. When a No. 11 comes out needing 70 (73 in fact) to win, I knew what I had to do in terms of the game situation," the England vice-captain added.

> **The only time I started to get a little bit nervous or panicking was when we got into single figures**

"The only time I started to get a little bit nervous or panicking was when we got into single figures."

Stokes also paid tribute to a capacity, sun-drenched crowd, who even cheered England's defensive shots.

'Special moment'

"Walking off there at the end when the whole of Headingley was standing up and celebrating was a very special moment and something I had to try to take in because moments like that don't come along very often."

Stokes said he was proud of putting in the "hard yards", which included taking three for 56 during a marathon 24.2 over spell in Australia's second innings.

"He's a bit of a freak to be able to produce match-winning performances like that," England captain Joe Root said of Stokes.

"He's the ultimate team man, will do everything for every single player – that's why he's a brilliant vice-captain, he drags people with him.

"He stood up and that's exactly what you want from your leaders."

Paine to review DRS role after stunning defeat

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LEEDS

Australia captain Tim Paine said he would be putting someone else in charge of the team's reviews following his side's one-wicket defeat by England in the third Ashes Test at Headingley.

Paine's men were on the brink of retaining the Ashes only for Ben Stokes's remarkable 135 not out to see England home to a victory target of 359 that was still 73 runs in the distance when the all-rounder was joined by No. 11 Jack Leach.

Given he is Australia's wicketkeeper as well as captain, Paine ought to be the best placed person in the field to decide when his team uses DRS.

Paine admitted: "I've got every review wrong so far, so I'm going to give up and give it to someone else. It was just spur of the moment... have a dabble at it. But, yeah, I got it wrong."

Paine, however, refused to criticise Joel Wilson's original not out decision, even if he disagreed with the West Indian umpire's verdict.

"I saw it live. I thought it was out. I don't need to see it again," Paine said. "I have no issue with it, I don't think I've got a referral correct the whole series so I can't sit here and bag the umpires. To sit down and single out an umpire is unnecessary."

Rogers calls for more decision reviews

The former Australian opener gives all credit to Stokes for a brilliant innings

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

One man closely following the dramatic fourth day of fortune swings and eventual English glory at Leeds, was former Australian opener Chris Rogers.

Here, visiting the MRF Pace Foundation with the Australian Academy team, the 41-year-old Rogers who has 2015 runs in 25 Tests at 42.87 – he got his opportunities late – felt there was a need for more decision reviews in Test cricket.

He was referring to replays showing England's Ben Stokes clearly trapped leg-before by off-spinning ace Nathan Lyon.

However, the Australians, having run out of reviews by then, were able to do little about the flawed decision. Had a review been available, the pulse-pounding third Test would have ended right at that point, in the visitors' favour.

Rogers said to *The Hindu* on Monday, "There should be more reviews available to both sides. The umpires are human, they will make mistakes. But matches and series are on the line, and careers are at stake. You need to get every decision right. I don't see any harm in having more reviews."

Yet, what about the review that the Aussies got so horribly wrong when the ball cleared pitched outside Jack Leach's leg-stump?

Pressure all around

Rogers, known for his tight batting, noted, "Yes, the Aussies got it wrong and they accepted it. It happens in such a tense close game where the crowd is screaming and there is pressure all around. You do make mistakes."

Australia could have sealed the Ashes in those mind-boggling final moments. For instance, Lyon fluffed collecting a throw with Leach yards out the crease. Rogers responded, "I know Lyon well, played with him, and I can realise how he will be feeling right now. He is a great competitor. If he can make such an error, you can imagine the pressure he must have been under."

Chris Rogers. ▪M. VEDHAN

The genial Rogers gave credit to Stokes for his sensational batting. But he acknowledged Australia could have had a different game-plan.

"Stokes batted brilliantly. You cannot take that away from him. Could we have done things differently? Looking back is always the easier option. Perhaps you could have brought the field up for Stokes and denied him those easy singles, made Leach face more of the bowling. But in the heat of the battle it is hard to make such decisions," he observed.

Dravid to depose before ethics officer on Sept. 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India captain Rahul Dravid has been asked to depose in person to explain the conflict of interest allegations against him on Sept. 26 by BCCI Ethics Officer D.K. Jain.

Jain confirmed to PTI that Dravid will present his case on that date in Mumbai. Dravid is currently the Director of NCA in Bengaluru, besides being a vice-president in the India Cements group, which owns the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings.

"Natural justice demands that he be heard in person and that is why he has been called to depose," a BCCI official said.

The 46-year-old was the head coach of the India A and Under-19 teams before being handed the NCA role, which would include monitoring the progress of these two sides as well.

Conflict of interest

The complaint against Dravid, by MPCA life member Sanjeev Gupta, alleges that there is conflict in interest in Dravid's role as NCA head and being an India Cements employee.

Jain had asked Dravid to respond in writing, which he has already done.

Karun helps himself to a big century

Hits a chanceless, unbeaten 166 as India Red seals a spot in the final

DULEEP TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

India Red batsman Karun Nair underlined his class with an unbeaten 166, in a drawn Duleep Trophy outing against India Blue at Alur (1) ground here on Monday. The chanceless knock helped Karun erase the heartbreak of being dismissed for 99 in the first essay.

The 27-year-old reached his century in style, stepping out to left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar and lofting the ball over mid-off. He was on his way to a double hundred, but with no result in sight, the teams agreed to a draw and walked off the field at the stroke of tea.

Second-time lucky: India Red's Karun Nair made up for the heart-break in the first innings with a massive unbeaten century the second time around. ▪FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

India Red seals final spot

India Red (3 points) sealed a spot in the final, while both India Green (1 point) and India Blue (2 points) are both in contention for the other final berth. India Red takes on India Green in the last league match, commencing at Alur grounds here on Thursday.

The scores: India Red 285 & 297 for six decl. in 88 overs (Karun Nair 166 n.o., Ankit Kalsi 64, Jalaj Saxena four for 105) drew with India Blue 255.

With not much at stake, disinterest rules!

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Karun Nair was certainly in supreme touch, but he was helped by the callous attitude of the India Blue team. With not much but pride at stake, the fielders were plainly disinterested.

This was best illustrated when substitute fielder Shreyas Gopal hurled a wild throw to the wicketkeeper, Snell Patel, from long-on. Snell, clearly not expecting the action to come his way, failed to collect.

The overthrow headed to the third-man fence, but none of the fielders bothered to stop the ball. The batsmen, Karun and Harpreet Singh Bhatia, meanwhile, were initially hesitant to make the effort to run, before better sense prevailed and they picked up an extra double.

Eyebrows were raised again in the same over, when the third-man fielder tested his arm with a throw to the bowler's end. It was completely off target, leaving Gopal to clean up at long-on. On occasions, a fielder patrolled the 30-yard circle with the helmet on, having just moved there from silly point.

Gill the bowler

Skipper Shubman Gill was much too passive, and did little to set his straying mates straight. Gill made matters worse by bringing himself into the attack, and struggled through five poor overs. Before this, the Punjab youngster had bowled just two overs in First Class and List A combined, and it was abundantly clear that his talents were best served with the bat.

The proceedings, witnessed by National selectors Jatin Paranjpe and Gagan Khoda, fell well below the standards expected from a First Class fixture. Off-spinner Jalaj Saxena proved to be the exception, showing admirable commitment. He bowled with purpose, and picked up four wickets.

Griezmann channels inner Messi, LeBron

Stars in Barca demolition of Betis; Atletico makes it two in two

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Antoine Griezmann copied Lionel Messi for the goal and LeBron James for the celebration but it was his night for Barcelona on Sunday after he scored twice in a 5-2 win over Real Betis.

Griezmann imitated the basketball superstar by tossing confetti into the air to celebrate his second at Camp Nou, a curling effort into the corner that he said was inspired by watching Messi.

"I saw Leo do this in training, so I tried to copy him," said Griezmann. "And for the celebration, I like the ritual that LeBron did so we tried to do it as well."

Yet Griezmann was the star, if only for the night with Messi in the stands, the Argentinian still short of fitness following a calf injury.

Loren Moron slammed a late strike into the top corner for Betis but by then the game was up as Barca ensured no further ground was lost on Atletico Madrid, which beat Leganes 1-0 earlier on Sunday, or Real Madrid.

Perfect start

Atletico maintained its perfect start as Vitolo came off the bench to score a second-half winner at Butarque.

Joao Felix, Atletico's €126 million buy from Benfica and much-hailed replacement for Griezmann, was again quiet but again delivered the match's most memorable moment.

Lead performer: With its stars missing, Antoine Griezmann stepped up and scored twice in Barcelona's rampant win. ▪AFP

The 19-year-old's perfectly-timed pass set Vitolo free while Felix had been picked out by Kieran Trippier, who was faultless on his second Atletico start.

The result: La Liga: Alaves 0 drew with Espanyol 0; Real Mallorca 0 lost to Real Sociedad 1 (Odegaard 83); Leganes 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 1 (Vitolo 71); Barcelona 5 (Griezmann 41, 50, Perez 56, Alba 60, Vidal 77) bt Real Betis 2 (Fekir 15, Moron 79).

Serie A: Verona 1 (Veloso 37) drew with Bologna 1 (Sansone 15-pen); Cagliari 0 lost to Brescia 1 (Donnarumma 54-pen); Roma 3 (Under 6, Dzeko 30, Kolarov 49) drew with Genoa 3 (Pinamonti 16, Criscito 42-pen, Kouamş 70); Sampdoria 0 lost to Lazio 3 (Immobile 37, 62, Correa 56); SPAL 2 (Di Francesco 6, Petagna 26) lost to Atalanta 3 (Gosens 34, Muriel 70, 76); Torino 2 (Zaza 14, 55) bt Sassuolo 1 (Caputo 69).

Exceptional courage

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MILAN

A cap on his head and wearing a Bologna shirt, coach Sinisa Mihajlovic courageously joined his players for their Serie A opener in Verona on Sunday despite undergoing treatment for leukaemia.

Mihajlovic was diagnosed with "acute leukaemia" six weeks ago but the 50-year-old has continued working as Bologna coach.

His presence at the game in Verona has come as a surprise as he has been hospitalised in Bologna for the past month undergoing treatment.

Sinisa Mihajlovic. ▪AP

His face was gaunt and thinner following weeks of treatment.

"We were impressed, but we are happy that he is here with us, he shows an exceptional courage," said midfielder Andrea Poli.