

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF DELHI

**All online services of Delhi Jal Board
will remain closed between August 23 to August 30
for enhancing the efficiency of Water Billing System**



- For improving the efficiency of Revenue Management System (RMS), DJB is moving to an Upgraded System.
- Due to this migration activity all online services like online viewing and payment of water bills/ applying for new connection/ cash counter etc will not be available from 23-08-2019 to 30-08-2019
- Bill Payment due dates during this period will automatically stand extended upto 09-09-2019 without Late Payment Surcharge.
- Offline activities in Zonal Revenue Offices will continue during this period. Consumers can make payment of water bills at the kiosks available at Zonal Revenue Offices.
- For more information please contact 1916 (toll free)

**INCONVENIENCE CAUSED DUE TO THIS IMPORTANT
RMS UPGRADATION WORK IS REGRETTED**

IN BRIEF



Duo held for supplying arms to criminals

NEW DELHI
Two men have been arrested for allegedly supplying arms to criminals in Delhi-NCR, the police said on Tuesday. Twenty-three pistols and 50 cartridges have been recovered from Akshay Adhwade and Chandpasha Seikh, both from Pune, said DCP (Special Cell) P.S. Kushwah.

Fire breaks out at popcorn factory

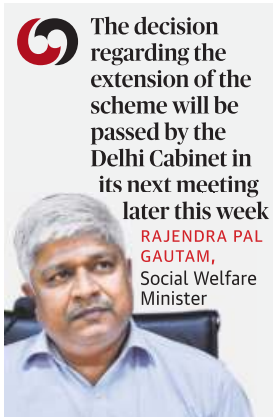
NEW DELHI
A fire broke out at a popcorn factory in Bawana on Tuesday, said fire officials. No casualties have been reported. The fire department said the fire broke out at 2 p.m. and was brought under control by 5.30 p.m. by 10 firemen. The cause of the blaze is yet to be ascertained, said a fire officer.

Govt. to expand ambit of free entrance coaching to poor

Under the scheme, four students secured admission in esteemed institutes

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI
The Delhi government will expand the ambit of its free entrance coaching programme, which currently applies only to Scheduled Caste students, to also cover students belonging to Scheduled Tribe, OBC, and EWS quota in the general category, said sources.

Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam told *The Hindu*, "The decision regarding the extension of the scheme will be passed by the Delhi Cabinet in its next meeting later this week." The maximum fee that the government pays to private coaching institutions will also be increased from ₹80,000 to ₹1.5 lakh, said sources. The duration of the



The decision regarding the extension of the scheme will be passed by the Delhi Cabinet in its next meeting later this week. **RAJENDRA PAL GAUTAM**, Social Welfare Minister

Entrance Test (NEET), said the government. "From these 35 students, 13 qualified in JEE MAIN and 22 in NEET. Till date, four students have secured admission in IIT-Delhi, NSUT Delhi, NIT Delhi and BAMS, BHU," Mr. Gautam had said. Under the 'Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana', the government currently pays eight coaching institutes. Apart from this, a monthly stipend of ₹2,500 is given to each student.

Various tests
Free coaching is provided to those preparing for various exams conducted by the UPSC, DSSSB, SSC, Railway Recruitment Board and examinations of officers grade conducted by banks and in-

insurance companies and for medicine and engineering. Around 5,000 SC students were enrolled for coaching for different competitive exams in the first year of the scheme, which was launched in 2018. The government has already conducted a meeting with coaching centres, including Aakash, Chanakya, Nirvana, Time, Khan Study Group and Pahuja Law Academy, among others and will increase the number of institutes. Ahead of the Assembly elections, scheduled for February 2020, the government – over the last three months – has announced free rides to women in metro and buses, free electricity up to 200 units, and also waived arrears on water bills.

Hawkers kill teacher for not buying pair of headphones

Fight ensued over the price of product outside railway station

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 27-year-old madrasa teacher was beaten to death by two hawkers outside Old Delhi railway station after he refused to buy a pair of headphones, the police said on Tuesday.

The incident was reported on Monday night when Mohammad Owais from Uttar Pradesh's Khandha arrived at the railway station. When he got out, a man selling mobile accessories approached him. Owais asked him the price of a pair of headphones for which he left without buying the accessory. The hawker started abusing when Owais asked him to stay away. The accused then called another hawker and they

The hawker [accused] abused Owais for not buying the mobile accessory. He then called another hawker and they started beating the victim till he fell unconscious

DELHI POLICE
started beating him till he fell unconscious, the police said. A passer-by informed the police about the incident. A team reached the spot and rushed the injured to Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. **No communal angle**
Denying any communal angle, the police said the fight

broke out after an argument ensued between the two sides over the price of a pair of headphones. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Harendra Singh said the accused – Lallan and Ayub alias Sarfraz – were arrested within a few hours of the incident. "We are getting details about their backgrounds to find out if they have been involved in any criminal case. We have registered a case under Section 304 [culpable homicide not amounting to murder] under the IPC. The body has been handed over to his family," said Mr. Singh. The police said they will call for a special drive against the unauthorised hawkers outside railway and bus stations.

Mob thrashes teenager over suspicion of theft

'Victim was plucking a leaf at that time'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A teenager was thrashed by a group of people over suspicion of theft in north Delhi's Burari, the police said on Tuesday.



An officer with the victim after the incident in Sant Nagar. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Aditya was heading home in Burari's Sant Nagar after visiting a temple on August 24 when he was chased by a group of people and then thrashed, they said.

"The boy is currently undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit of a hospital. He has received severe injuries on head and other parts," said an officer. The victim's friends, who were with him at that time, allegedly told the police while walking home, they noticed a tree and were having a discussion on its identity. To prove his point, Aditya jumped and plucked a leaf from the tree. On seeing this, two persons who were sitting inside a car came out and accused Aditya of committing theft. They tried to pull him inside the vehicle but he managed to run away. However, the accused chased and caught hold of him.

"The two men started thrashing Aditya by shout-

ing *chor chor* [thief]. On hearing this, a few locals gathered at the spot and joined the duo in thrashing him," said an officer. A case under relevant sections of IPC has been registered. "We are getting details of the duo who instigated others to attack the boy. We have got some videos of the incident. It will help us identify the attackers," said an officer.

The victim's family alleged that despite having evidence, the police refused to take any action against the accused.

Illicit liquor worth ₹50L seized in Greater Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA
The police claimed to have seized around 250 cartons of illicit liquor worth ₹50 lakh in Greater Noida, said officials on Tuesday.

Driver on the run
The liquor, which was marked for sale in Arunachal Pradesh, was being transported in a canter

truck on Monday night, they said. "The Delhi-registered truck was intercepted near Badalpur for checking. The driver fled the spot," an officer said. A manhunt is on for the driver, Dharamveer, from Haryana's Rohtak, the police said, adding that a case has been registered under the Excise Act.

Fire breaks out at DCW office

No casualties reported; many files were lost in blaze: Maliwal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A fire broke out on the second floor of Delhi Commission for Women office at Vikas Bhawan in Central Delhi on Tuesday evening, said officials.



DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal inspects the gutted office at Vikas Bhawan on Tuesday. *PTI

No injuries were reported, a fire official said, adding that a call was made at 6.15 p.m. after which seven fire tenders were pressed into service.

Short circuit in AC
"The blaze was doused by 7.15 p.m. It is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit in an air conditioner in the conference room," the officer said. Around 20 people were present inside the building at the time, he added. DCW chief Swati Maliwal

thanked the police and the fire department officials. "DCW office caught fire. Nobody got hurt but a lot of files got burnt. There was loss of property. The DCW team saved people with understanding and stayed on

Article 370 was a blot, its abrogation will bring peace: Khattar

BJP once considered 'untouchable' has now become 'a favourite', says Haryana Chief Minister during yatra in Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was a "blot" that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had amended within 70 days into their second term.

He added that the amendment of Article 370 would bring peace to the Valley and no more soldiers would be killed. Mr. Khattar was addressing a gathering at Jhund Sarai village as his 22-day-long Statewide 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' entered Gurugram. Accompanied by local MLA and Haryana PWD Minister Rao Narbir Singh, Mr. Khattar said his party had never compromised on nationalism and with the airstrikes in Balakot in the aftermath of Pulwama attack the masses were reassured that "the saviour of the country has arrived".

Referring to Opposition leaders joining the BJP in Haryana in the run-up to the Assembly elections due in October, Mr. Khattar said the same party which was considered "untouchable" had now become "a favourite" and leaders of all political parties were rushing to join.

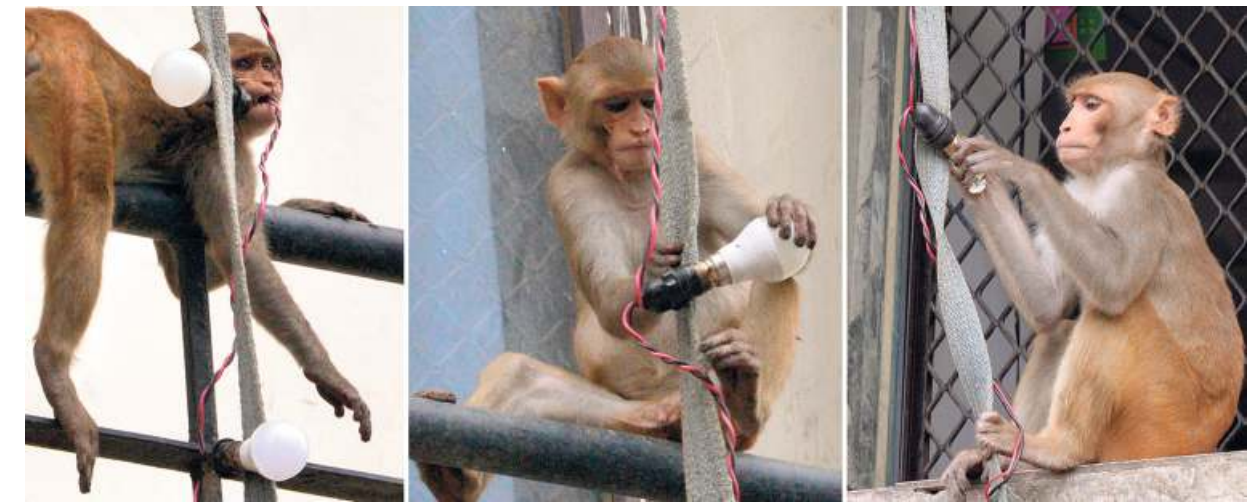


Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar with BJP national working president J.P. Nadda in Gurugram. *MANOJ KUMAR

"Our doors are open to all. We are ready to embrace them. But it is to be seen how quickly they embrace the culture of the BJP," quipped Mr. Khattar.

"We are different, we believe in public service and don't have families to worry about. Mr. Modi and me, who will we indulge in corruption for? And same is Mr.

A light-bulb moment



Monkeys fiddle with light bulbs installed at a government building in New Delhi. *R.V. MOORTHY

Two arrested for killing man over suspicion of affair

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Two persons have been arrested for allegedly killing a 25-year-old man as one of them suspected him of having an affair with his niece, the police said on Tuesday.

Pramod (20) from Haryana's Jhajjar and Prakash (22), a resident of Delhi's Najaf-

garh, were nabbed on Monday from Dwarka while the third accused is absconding, they said. On August 20, the trio invited Ankit, a distant relative of Pramad, for a party and took him to Baghat Industrial area in Uttar Pradesh where they shot him in the forehead and burnt his face to conceal his identity.

Three days later, the partially burnt body of the victim was found at an isolated place in Niwara. As the body could not be identified, it was preserved in the hospital, the police said.

Acting on a tip-off, Pramad and Prakash were nabbed and two loaded country-made pistols were recovered from

them, said DCP (Dwarka) An-to Alphonse.

Pramod said he suspected Ankit of having an affair with his niece and hatched a plan to eliminate him. He roped in two of his associates, including Prakash, who arranged for the pistols, the DCP said. Further investigation is under way, the police added.

Sonia, Chacko discuss new Delhi unit chief

Brush aside names in media reports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday met AICC in-charge of Delhi P.C. Chacko and district presidents to discuss the selection of a new chief for their city unit.

The Delhi Congress president post has been lying vacant after the demise of Sheila Dikshit last month. The selection of a new president for the unit was discussed in the meeting, Mr. Chacko said. "The Congress chief instructed me to take feedback of senior party leaders, including former Delhi unit presidents and MPs, to find the right person for the post," he said. Ms. Sonia held separate

meetings with Mr. Chacko and presidents of district Congress units. "Besides me, district Congress presidents also met Sonia ji," he said, adding that they would again meet her after taking feedback in the next few days.

Mr. Chacko rejected media reports suggesting names of Navjot Singh Sidhu and Shatrughan Sinha as probable for the post. "Such reports are mere conjectures. The next Delhi Congress president will be from Delhi," he said.

The Congress is endeavouring to select a suitable president to head the party in the national capital where Assembly polls are slated early next year.

REGIONAL APPOINTMENT

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कोषिकोड
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT KOZHIKODE
IIM Kozhikode Campus P.O., Kozhikode 673 570
Tel: 0495 2809160/234/125

Notification No. C-29/2019-IIMK. HR

Applications are invited for the contract position of **Consultant (Governance)**. Eligible and interested candidates may apply online at the careers page of our website <https://www.iimk.ac.in/>

Date: 13-08-2019 **sd/-**
Chief Administrative Officer

GITAM INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH (GIMSR) GITAM (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Visakhapatnam-530045, Andhra Pradesh, India.

MBBS ADMISSIONS - STRAY VACANCY ROUND

For the few vacant seats in MBBS course for 2019-20 batch, interested NEET qualified rankers who are in the wait list provided by MCC at www.mcc.nic.in may immediately contact the office of the Principal, GIMSR before 30-08-2019. Visit: www.gimsr.gitam.edu.

CONTACT: 9440279462 / 9908035979 Registrar

Delhi is prepared!

For the war against Dengue



Dip/Shabdarth/D/0104/19-20

10 हफ्ते
10 बजे
10 मिनिट

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वार हर
रविवार

Every Sunday

दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी

दिल्ली सरकार

आप की सरकार

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal top India's child well-being index

Children's well-being Kerala topped the chart in the child well-being index while Madhya Pradesh was the worst-performing State

Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh feature at the bottom, says NGO, urging the States to take action

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN NEW DELHI Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry topped the charts in the child well-being index, a tool designed to measure and track children's well-being comprehensively.

insights on health, nutrition, education, sanitation and child protection." The dimensions of the index include healthy individual development, positive relationships and protective contexts.

pare for priority areas of intervention with specific plans of action. It also hopes to trigger policy level changes, seek better budgetary allocations and initiate discussions with all stakeholders, which can help in enhancing the quality of life of all children in the country.

IN BRIEF



Cong. leader Kuldeep Bishnoi's hotel attached

A ₹150 crore worth five-star hotel in a prime business space of Gurgaon's DLF-phase 1 was attached by the Income-tax department as a 'benami' asset of Haryana Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi and his brother, I-T officials said on Tuesday.

Panchayat 'punishes' gang rape victim

A 15-year-old girl was gang raped by a group who abducted her from outside her home in Masaundha village in Bihar's Gaya district. In a strange turn of events, the village panchayat ordered that the victim be tonsured and paraded as "punishment."

Woman succumbs to Congo fever in Gujarat

A 75-year-old woman Sukhiben Meniya from Surendranagar district in Gujarat died on Sunday night due to Congo fever which is transmitted to people through ticks, the State government said.

HC upholds acquittal of journalist Jigna Vora

The Bombay High Court (HC) on Tuesday upheld the acquittal of journalist Jigna Vora in the 2011 murder of journalist J. Dey. A Division Bench of Justices B.P. Dharmadhikari and S.K. Shinde was hearing a plea filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after the trial court acquitted Ms. Vora and Paulson Palitara.

HC expedites disposal of land grab cases

The Madras High Court on Tuesday paved the way for early disposal of 82 land-grab cases booked by the Chennai police since 2006 and pending before two special courts from 2011 because of an interim order from the Supreme Court against the functioning of the special courts for trial of such cases.

Tank-like structure found at Keezhadi

After wall structures and a ring well, the Department of Archaeology has found a tank-like brick structure and terracotta pipelines during an excavation at Keezhadi. An official said a clear picture could be arrived at only after ascertaining whether the structures were interconnected.

Trainer aircraft crashes in Aligarh, six on board escape

A chartered trainer aircraft crashed in Aligarh after one of its wheels got stuck in the high tension wire during landing at the Dhanipur airstrip on Tuesday morning. Two pilots and four others evacuated just before the crash and escaped with minor injuries.

5 mn hectares of land set to be rejuvenated

About 96.4 mn hectares have become unfit for cultivation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A week ahead of a United Nations conference here that will see experts from over 90 countries deliberate ways to combat desertification, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said India had committed to rejuvenate 50 lakh hectares (5 million) of degraded land between 2021 and 2030.



Going green: The land rejuvenation work will be taken up from 2021.

Jojana are seen as prongs to tackle this land degradation, said a press statement from the Environment Ministry.

The Bonn Challenge

A senior official in the Ministry told The Hindu that the 5 million hectares were part of the Bonn Challenge commitment. "It's going to be combination of restoring forest land as well as cultivable land," he underlined.

India faces a severe problem of land degradation, or soil becoming unfit for cultivation. About 29% or about 96.4 million hectares are considered degraded. This January, India became part of the "Bonn Challenge", a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.

India for the first time will be hosting the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from September 2 to 13.

A report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change earlier this month underlined that land everywhere was bearing the brunt of severe climate change already which would lead to extreme food insecurity if steps weren't taken.

New guidelines are in for e-tailers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Guidelines for e-commerce firms aimed at protecting the consumer interests issued earlier this month would become mandatory under the new Consumer Protection Act, Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Tuesday.



The guidelines will be mandatory.

The guidelines entail a 14-day deadline to effect refund request, mandate e-tailers to display details of sellers supplying goods and services on their websites and moot the procedure to resolve consumer complaints.

As the draft guidelines will be made part of the law, they become mandatory," Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan told reporters. He was speaking at a press conference following two-hour consultation with parliamentarians who had moved amendments to the Act during the debate in Parliament.

"We have accepted most of the suggestions given by the parliamentarians and we will incorporate them in the rules which will be framed by December. Citizens too can submit their suggestions on the rules till September 15," he said.

The companies must protect the personally identifiable information of customers, should not directly or indirectly influence the price of the goods or services and "maintain a level-playing field".

Ex-Minister booked as girl goes missing in U.P.

'Chinmayanand harassing my daughter'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SHAHJAHANPUR

The police here on Tuesday lodged an FIR against former Union Minister and BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand after a student went missing following her allegation in a video clip that he had been harassing her.

Her father had filed a complaint with the police accusing Chinmayanand of sexually harassing her, a charge refuted by his lawyer who claimed it was a "conspiracy" to blackmail him.

Shahjahanpur Superintendent of Police S. Chanappa said he has been booked under IPC Sections 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation) based on the father's complaint.

In a video clip posted by the woman online, she said she was under threat from a leader of the sant community, without naming Chinmayanand or specifying the kind of harassment she allegedly faced.

on Tuesday alleged that she has gone missing at the behest of the 72-year-old BJP leader, who heads Mukshu ashram. She is a post-graduate student in one of the colleges run by the ashram.

Her father alleged that Chinmayanand and "some others" sexually abused her and other girls.

Chinmayanand has been a three-time Lok Sabha MP and was a Minister of State in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. In 2011, he was accused of rape by an inmate of his ashram.

When contacted, his lawyer Om Singh claimed that the leader was being blackmailed and had received a WhatsApp message demanding ₹5 crore.

He said an FIR was lodged over this on AUGUST 25.

The SP said that the video and the message demanding money from the former Minister will be probed by senior officers, and action will be taken against those guilty.

Portal drops plea against Amit Shah's son

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Online news portal The Wire on Tuesday withdrew its plea for quashing a defamation case filed by Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, against it and its journalists.

Appearing for the portal before a Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, senior advocate Kapil Sibal urged the court to allow it to face the trial in a Gujarat court.

The Bench allowed the plea, but not before making certain strong oral observations about the way journalism is practised, especially how subjects are not given sufficient time to respond before articles on them are published.

In a statement, the news portal said "circumstances have arisen as per which we believe it is best if we make use of the opportunity to justify everything we have stated in our article at the trial. We are therefore withdrawing."

ED summons 25 in Moser Baer case

Several foreign companies were allegedly incorporated for money laundering

DEVESH K. PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned 25 persons in connection with the ₹354-crore bank loan fraud case allegedly involving Moser Baer India Limited (MBIL) and its directors.

ED's request. The ED alleged that the company and its directors forged documents to get a loan from the Central Bank of India. The loan account was classified as non-performing assets (NPA) in November 2014.

The ED arrested Ratul Puri, then executive director of MBIL and nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, on August 19. After his six-day custodial interrogation, a city court on Monday extended his remand by four days on the

several foreign companies were incorporated for money laundering.

The ED alleged that Moser Baer had bought Blue Ray discs from Pacific International FZE, a company of Rajiv Saxena, who is an accused in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal case.

It arrested Mr. Saxena after his deportation from the United Arab Emirates in January.

Pacific International had taken over Blue Ray from Germany-based Singulus Technologies.

"The total quantum of purchase was about \$3.3 million, but price differential per unit was double the amount...investigation revealed that Mr. Puri was the beneficiary of the said tainted money, generated by diversion of bank funds through over-invoicing," the ED said.

Mr. Saxena supplied solar power panels to the Moser Baer group from Midas Metals International LLC, which were sourced from West Asia Trading and Ener-tec Ltd., the ED said.

WEATHER WATCH RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy falls very likely at isolated places over Gujarat region, east Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Jharkhand, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Assam and Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Table with 3 columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for cities like Agartala, Ahmedabad, Alizawl, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Gangtok, Goa, Guwahati, Hubballi, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Kanchi, Kohima, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Kurnool, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Mysuru, New Delhi, Patna, Port Blair, Puducherry, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Shillong, Shimla, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchi, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam.

Table with 3 columns: CITIES, AQI, AQI CODE. Lists AQI data for cities like Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Visakhapatnam.

KISHORE VAIGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA प्रोत्साहन योजना KVPY NOTIFICATION IN VIEW OF THE GRIM FLOOD SITUATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY THE REGISTRATION PORTAL WILL BE AVAILABLE TILL 31st AUGUST 2019.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 22267891 / 40931272 website : www.kiadb.in. SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

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IN BRIEF



Infosys closes ₹8,260-cr. buyback offer

NEW DELHI IT major Infosys has bought back 11.05 crore of its shares under its ₹8,260-crore buyback offer that began in March this year. "... The company bought back 11,05,19,266 equity shares at an average price of ₹747.38 per share and deployed ₹82,59,99,99,430.03, deploying 99.999999% of the maximum buyback size (excluding transaction costs)... till August 26," Infosys said. **PTI**

Indian Bank opens MSME processing centre

CHENNAI Indian Bank has geared up for speedy disposal of micro, small and medium enterprises' loans with the opening of its first MSME CPC (centralised processing centre) in the city. MSME CPC will also give a boost to its MSME portfolio, said the bank. K. Chandra Reddy, field general manager, Chennai, said that the bank had deployed skilled manpower in the CPC to improve credit quality and shorten transaction processing time.

Rupa to boost sales of womenswear segment

KOLKATA Rupa & Company, a knitwear manufacturer, is eyeing higher turnover from its Softline brand under which it retails womenswear. Innovation and a refreshed digital presence are the two prongs of its strategy to increase the brand's contribution from the current 7% of turnover to about 13% by 2022. By this time, the company's revenue is projected to almost double to ₹2,000 crore from ₹1,108 crore currently.

Fault lines exposed in MF industry: Tyagi

In pursuit of high yields, fund houses have made risky investments, says SEBI Chairman

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI**

Lack of self-discipline by fund houses, pursuit of high yield at the cost of prudent investment and mixing investment with lending had a cascading effect on the mutual fund debt schemes after a few issuers defaulted on their payment obligations, said Ajay Tyagi, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Addressing an event organised by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), the SEBI Chairman said that in a span of two months – September and October 2018 – assets under management (AUM) of debt-oriented schemes fell by 18% and that of money market schemes by 25% despite the fact that the total exposure towards



Red signal: A certain element of self-discipline by the industry could have averted such a situation, says Ajay Tyagi. **•PTI**

stressed securities of all schemes was a mere 1% of the total AUM of debt-oriented schemes.

"A certain element of self-discipline by the industry could have averted such a situation... While SEBI stepped in and took several measures in the interest of the investors, the need for us to step in may not have arisen if many of these measures were taken by the industry itself,"

said Mr. Tyagi.

"The events in the last year... exposed the fault lines in the industry and showed that a credit event in even one issuer/group could have a contagion effect leading to liquidity risk across the market," he added.

Liquid schemes

The SEBI chief further said that a regulatory analysis of liquid schemes showed that in at least 20% of the instances, the average holding in liquid instruments was less than 5% of the AUM even as the average net redemption in such schemes was around 19%. The last one year saw issuers such as Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL)

and Essel Group, among others, default on their payment obligations towards mutual funds.

"The recent events also threw into the spotlight several risky investments made by the industry in the quest for higher yields.

"The safety of the investment cannot be compromised for want of higher yields," he said.

Referring to some of the structured deals that a few mutual fund houses entered into with promoters of business houses, the SEBI Chairman said that there was a clear distinction between lending and investing. "We ought to remember that it takes years to build trust in an industry and only a single event may erode it," the SEBI Chairman concluded.

EESL to invest 180 crore in 'super-efficient' ACs

Firm eyes sales of 2 lakh ACs by 2021

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI**

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL), a joint venture between four public sector enterprises under the Union Ministry of Power, plans to sell 50,000 air-conditioners under its super-efficient AC programme (SEAP).

"In the first phase, we plan to sell 50,000 ACs on a first-come, first served basis. It is expected to save 27 million kWh of electricity per year," said S.P. Garnaik, chief general manager (technical), EESL. "The approximate investment will be ₹180 crore. It would be partially supported by a grant from the Global Environment Facility," he said.

After completion of the

pilot phase, EESL plans to sell two lakh ACs by 2021 through a business model targeting both residential and institutional consumers on a pan-India basis.

Mr. Garnaik also announced the launch of super-efficient ACs in Chennai and said they would be priced at ₹41,300, including GST and would come with a one-year free warranty. Manufactured by Voltas, they would be sold exclusively through eeslmart.in.

"Over the past one month, we have already received 10,000 registrations on our website. We plan to sell 10,000 ACs in the next three months and another 40,000 in next 6-8 months," he added.

Harley-Davidson unveils its first BS-VI bike at ₹5.47 lakh

Company also showcased its electric vehicle, LiveWire

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

American bike-maker Harley-Davidson on Tuesday introduced its first BS-VI certified two-wheeler – Street 750 – in India with a price tag of ₹5.47 lakh.

The company also showcased its electric vehicle, LiveWire, in India.

"As the first manufacturers of electric motorcycles in the premium segment, we are ecstatic to bring the LiveWire for showcase in the country," Sajeev Rajasekharan, managing director, Harley-Davidson India, said.

Limited edition

The firm, which has completed 10 years of operations



Sajeev Rajasekharan, MD, Harley-Davidson India, unveils the firm's electric motorcycle 'LiveWire' at New Delhi. **•PTI**

in India, also launched a limited edition of the Street 750 with India-inspired graphics. Only 300 units of

this edition will be put up for sale. Harley-Davidson did not disclose plans for bringing LiveWire to India.



Kitchen to vehicle: Domestic LPG is taxed at 5% while auto LPG is levied 18%. **•RITU RAJ KONWAR**

'High taxes leading to domestic LPG diversion'

Gas used to power vehicles: IAC

**TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI**

The Indian Auto LPG Coalition (IAC) has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying the current manner in which auto LPG is being taxed under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime is creating an incentive for people to illegally use domestic LPG as auto fuel.

While domestic LPG is taxed at 5%, auto LPG is levied 18%.

"Providing policy-level support and enabling a quicker growth of environment-friendly fuels is an imperative now," the letter said. "Impact of health costs on GDP for developing nations like us are well acknowledged.

Policy-level support

"In this regard, we seek an urgent policy-level support from you to address key issues which paradoxically do not align with Prime Minister's vision and efforts to provide a cleaner, breathable air to the populace of our country," the IAC said.

The IAC said given the low base of auto LPG adoption in the country right now, simple policy support would affect the govern-

ment's revenue only nominally, but would provide a big boost to the sector.

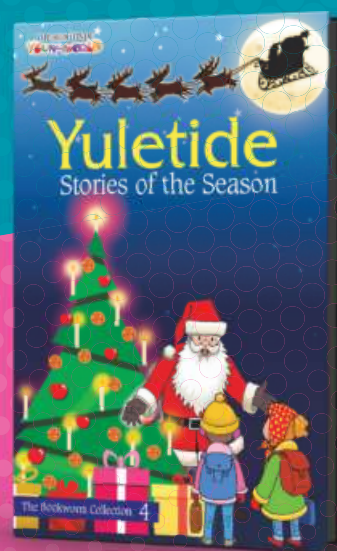
The letter calls for a reduction in tax rate on LPG conversion kits to 5% from the current 28%. It also asked for bringing auto LPG under the 5% slab from the current 18%.

"Also, with domestic LPG taxed at 5%, there is a key incentive to illegally divert domestic LPG to automotive purposes," the letter said.

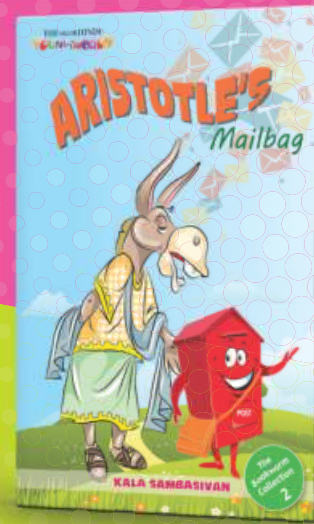
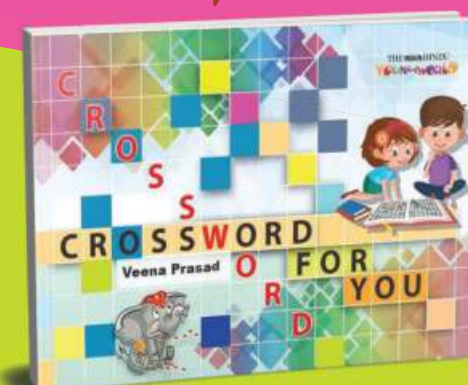
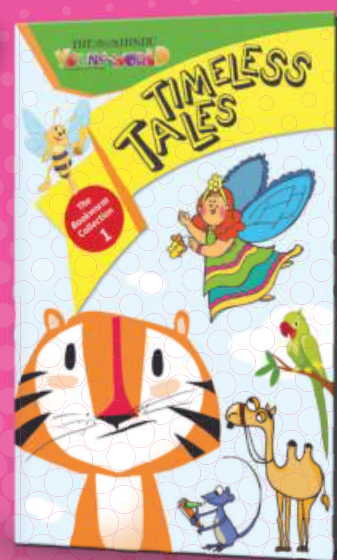
The IAC says that auto LPG is considerably cleaner than petrol. While it has similar levels of NOx and carbon monoxide emission, it emits less than half the particulate matter that petrol does. The industry body also says that auto LPG emits less than half the particulate matter emitted by CNG.

"Auto LPG typically costs 40% lesser than the price of petrol and hence, offers an extremely attractive and immediately-available solution to vehicle owners," the letter said. "Unlike CNG, auto LPG can be successfully installed in two-wheelers also. Emissions from two-wheelers rank right on top, in terms of its contribution to the urban air quality issues, because of the high particulate matter emissions."

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Strong foundation The XL6, to put it simply, is a more premium iteration of the Ertiga

• OMKAR DHAS



NIKHIL BHATIA

The XL6, to put it simply, is a more premium iteration of the Ertiga, and Maruti has done quite a bit to give the car its own identity. It's more rugged in looks, so to speak, with generous amounts of cladding to go around. What also adds some distinction to the XL6 is its redone front end, with a raised bonnet line, larger grille and unique-to-the-model full-LED headlights, giving it a more of a crossover look.

The cladding gives mass to the design, but there's a clear visual mismatch with the wheels. The 15-inch rims, finished in black, just look puny under the exaggerated wheel arches; 16-inchers with chunkier rubber would have done wonders for the XL6's stance. Roof rails, a rear scuff plate and the dual-tone tail gate are elements exclusive to the XL6, but to the untrained eye, it'll be hard to tell one from an Ertiga, at least from the sides and rear.

On the inside, the XL6 feels like the premium Ertiga it is. Sure, the dashboard and even the dials are carried over from the Ertiga, but the XL6's all-black interior theme does give it a more upmarket look. The faux black ash wood finish, leatherette upholstered seats, and even the knitted roof lining are other elements that uplift the experience. Front seat comfort is good even if the leatherette seats are slightly firmer than the Ertiga's fabric seats.

Of course, among the main talking points in the XL6 is its middle row. Out goes the Ertiga's bench and in come a pair of individual captain's chairs. The mid-

Maruti Suzuki XL6 builds on the Ertiga

Priced from ₹9.8-11.46 lakh, the XL6 range starts where the Ertiga range tops off



dle-row seats are easy to get into and you have the option to slide them further back to make ingress-egress even easier. Seat comfort is largely good too, though taller occupants will find high support a bit lacking. The seats recline to a fair degree as well, but you can't adjust the position of the armrest, which is a bit of an irritant when you want to sit back and relax. What are also missed are sunblinds for the massive rear windows. Still, it's a nice place to come to after a long day at the office.

As on the Ertiga, the XL6's mid-

litres to a useful 550 litres. However, the XL6's middle seats don't fold flat as the Ertiga's.

On the equipment front, the XL6 does get some additions over the Ertiga, such as the LED headlights, cruise control, leatherette seats and Maruti's new SmartPlay Studio infotainment system, replete with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. You can also add in Suzuki Connect as an option, which brings in e-SIM-based connected tech with features such as geofencing and real-time driving alerts. The XL6 can be had in two trim options – Zeta and Alpha – with the leatherette seats and a reverse camera exclusive to the latter.

If you've driven a petrol-powered Ertiga, you've driven



SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	1462cc, 4-cyl, petrol mild-hybrid
MAX POWER	105hp at 6000rpm
MAX TORQUE	138Nm at 4400rpm
HYBRID TYPE	Integrated starter generator
GEARBOX	5-speed manual/4-speed automatic
WEIGHT	1180-1190kg
LENGTH	4445mm
WIDTH	1775mm
HEIGHT	1700mm
WHEELBASE	2740mm
GROUND CLEARANCE	180mm
BOOT CAPACITY	209-692 litres

the XL6. Maruti hasn't tinkered with the BS-VI-compliant 1.5-litre petrol engine, which continues to feature mild-hybrid tech, with an integrated starter generator and a secondary lithium-ion battery pack providing some assist under heavy acceleration.

Initial responses are good, and if you hold gear, you'll also appreciate the borderline sporty top-end. What's more, the engine also sounds quite throaty above 3,000rpm. However, the mid-range is flat, so you'll have to shift down a gear if you want a quick overtake. There is fair power for driving with a full load, and cruise control helps maintain a steady clip, too, but drivers used to quieter turbo-diesels will find pulling power a little lacking.

The 5-speed manual gearbox is easy to use and the clutch is well-weighted. On offer is a 4-speed torque converter automatic. The unit is likeable, shifting smoothly in town driving. Pressing down harder on the accelerator has the gearbox drop down a ratio or two, and it gets the engine all riled up, often when you don't want it to. The automatic's average fuel economy is also a bit of a downer.

The XL6's low-speed ride comfort is good, with the suspension rounding off the bumps with ease. Large potholes do thud through into the cabin at high speeds but, like the Ertiga, the XL6 feels surprisingly well planted out on the highway.

The steering is also one of Maruti's finer efforts of recent times, with a good deal of weight to it. However, there's quite a lot of road noise at 80kph and upwards in the cabin, and this detracts from the premium feel the XL6 is trying to establish.

Priced from ₹9.8-11.46 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), the XL6 range starts where the Ertiga range tops off. The petrol-manual XL6 Zeta costs about ₹20,000 more than the comparable top-spec Ertiga ZXi+, which makes it a fairly good deal. The petrol-manual Alpha trim (₹10.9 lakh) is a touch pricey, and there's a significant premium to pay for the autos (₹10.36-11.46 lakh) too. That said, with the majority of Ertiga sales concentrated at the top-end, Maruti shouldn't find it too hard to convince buyers to upgrade to the XL6.

The XL6 builds on the Ertiga's strong fundamentals and adds in a fair dose of premium-ness to the package. Practical and reasonably upmarket too, the XL6 sure has its charms. It's a pity Maruti's brilliant in-house 1.5 diesel is not an option. That would have only added to this very capable and competent MPV's appeal.

POOCH CAFE



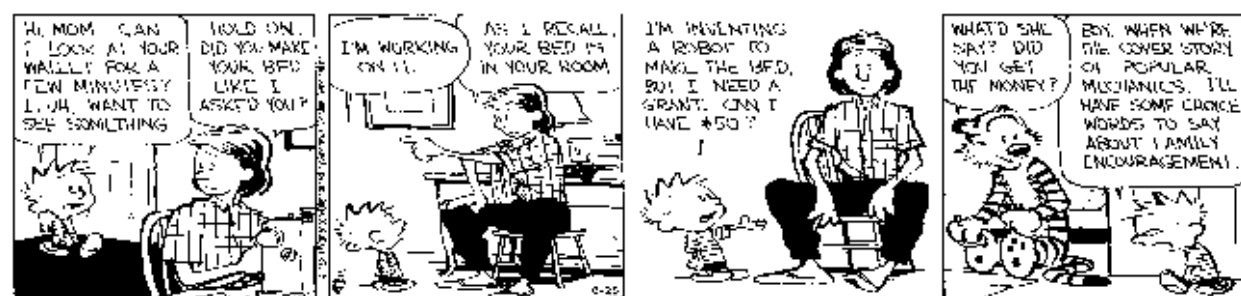
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



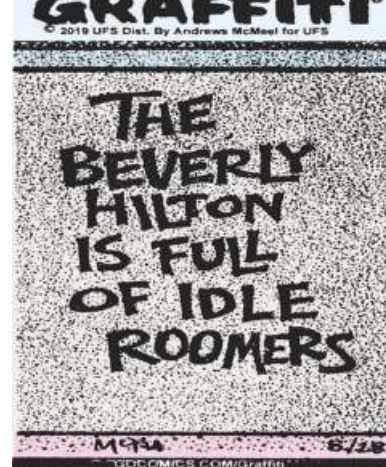
CALVIN AND HOBBS



TIGER



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13160

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- of a crowd scene (5,7)
- 4 Locomotive (6)
- 6 Caribbean country (5)
- 7 Colouring substance (8)
- 8 German Protestant theologian, d. 1546 (6,6)
- 12 Highly desirable or alluring (2,3,3)
- 15 Eight-limbed cephalopod (7)
- 16 Soft and soothing (6)
- 18 Lively dance, originally from Bohemia (5)
- 19 Bauxite, haematite etc (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 29, 2019.

Solution No. 13159

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WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES

by Bron Smith

WHAT IS BRADYCARDIA?

IS IT THE NAME OF A TOWN IN TEXAS?

NO, IT'S A HAZARD IN THE SAHARA DESERT!

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE BRADYCARDIA, CHECK YOUR HEART RATE!

BRADYCARDIA IS WHEN THE HEART RATE IS ABNORMALLY LOW FOR AN ADULT. BRADYCARDIA IS A HEART RATE BELOW 60 BEATS PER MINUTE. ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE MORE PRONE TO BRADYCARDIA.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



