

Dengue cases down by 80%

2015 : 15,867 cases
2018 : 2,798 cases

Delhi is prepared once again!

I will be inspecting my house for the next 10 Sundays. I hope you do it too!

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



डेंगू पे
वार हर
रविवार

Dear Delhiites,
This year too, we have to come together to fight against Dengue.
1st September onwards.

10 हफ्ते, 10 बजे, 10 मिनट
हर रविवार, डेंगू पर वार।

Know about Dengue

- The Dengue mosquito breeds in stagnant clean water.
- The Dengue mosquito grows from an egg into a mosquito in 8-10 days. If clean water is not allowed to stand, the mosquito will not be able to breed.
- The Dengue mosquito's flight range is approximately 200 meters. If someone in your house contracts Dengue, then it is likely that the mosquitoes have either originated from your or your neighbour's house. It is important to check your home and also that of your neighbours for your family's health and wellbeing.

10 minutes, every Sunday

- For the next 10 weeks, we all need to set aside 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday. Check flower pots, coolers, vases or anywhere inside or outside your house to make sure that clean water has not accumulated. If you find there is an accumulation of clean water, pour it out, change it or add petrol or oil to it.

Just 10 Sundays

- Most Dengue cases occur in the monsoon or just after that. During this period, there are 10 Sundays. If we dedicate 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday for this, we can get rid of Dengue and Chikungunya. We need to spend less than two hours over 10 weeks. In the last five years, Dengue and Chikungunya have been brought under control, and this year, we will do it again!

Let's come together!

- If you have inspected your house, do take a selfie inside your house and WhatsApp it to 8287972050. Together, we will make Delhi Dengue-free.

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

दिल्ली फिर कर दिखाएगी

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Two toddlers die in govt.-run orphanage

District administration orders probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MATHURA

Two toddlers died and eight others were taken ill at a government-run orphanage...

The authorities have taken sample of the milk being fed to children at the Rajkiya Shishu Sadan here...

Ten children of the orphanage fell ill on Wednesday, with two of them dying of diarrhoea...

Of the ten children, four serious cases were referred to Agra medical college...

He said despite the best possible treatment, two children below one-and-half-years of age could not be saved...

ADM (F&R) Brajesh Kumar has been asked to probe the death and illness of the children...

As children taken ill were under one-and-half-years of age and fed only milk, the milk sample has been lifted for examination...

BKU protests against hike in transport fee

Muzaffarnagar District Magistrate had reprimanded students, refused to take their memorandum

ANUJ KUMAR GHAZIABAD

Hundreds of farmers, led by the Bharatiya Kisan Union, staged a sit-in at the Muzaffarnagar Collectorate...



BKU members during their sit-in in Muzaffarnagar. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Section 144 After the police invoked Section 144 in the Collectorate area, farmers scribbled that the BKU had invoked its 'Section 288'...

The farmers stayed over-

night on the Collectorate premises and cooked their food there. "The government says that we don't educate our children...

The protest continued till Friday evening when district officials came out and announced that no change in the transport fee structure would be allowed.

According to official sources, following the directions of the Supreme Court, the State government had brought school vans under the legal regulatory framework...

Rakesh Tikait, senior BKU leader, said the new policy might be ideal but not practical.

Public schools that used to charge ₹400-₹500 a month from students commuting from villages are now asking for ₹2,500 a month.

He said the new policy expects schools not to use vehicles that are more than 10 years old.

number of seats. "We all want GPS and cameras in vehicles but the government should ensure that its cost should not be passed on to parents in the rural areas.

On Friday, Ms. Selva Kumar said even in the case of 'private arrangement', the increased expenses would not be passed on to parents...

The rise in electricity tariff in rural areas is also hurting farmer interests, said Mr. Tikait.

Khagragarh blast case: 19 get jail terms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA

A special National Investigation Agency court on Friday awarded varying jail terms to 19 people, including four Bangladeshi nationals...

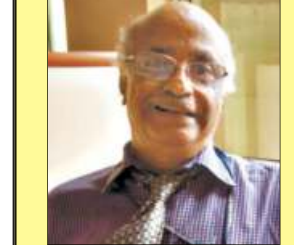
All the 19 convicts, out of 31 accused in the case, had admitted their guilt in the blast in a house at Khagragarh in Burdwan district...

Bombs and IEDs were being manufactured in the house when the blast occurred, killing two persons.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



We regret to announce the demise of Karmayogi Narayan Sekhar (Dr. N. Sekhar) ex-MICO, Retired Professor...

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number... www.thehinduads.com

Trinamool supporters heckle Bengal BJP chief

STAFF REPORTER KOLKATA

West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party chief Dilip Ghosh was allegedly heckled by Trinamool Congress supporters at Lake Town on Friday...

They also attacked BJP workers who were making preparations for the campaign. A huge contingent of police was deployed to control the situation.

ing my publicity. Actually, they are afraid of me," Mr. Ghosh said. Party workers organised rallies in the city to protest against the attack.

Minister's reply Responding to the allegations, Trinamool MLA and State Fire Minister Sujit Bose said the BJP was trying to disturb peace in the area...

High TB prevalence continues to haunt M.P. tribe

Poor housing, alcoholism and seasonal migration obstruct mitigative efforts

SIDHARTH YADAV SHIVPURI

It was in 2017 that Jasodi Adiwasi's husband, complaining of persistent stomach ache and cough for some days, died of tuberculosis.

Months later, desperate to find means to feed her seven-year-old son, she took up sex work, a seemingly easy way to make ₹5,000 a month.

Treating TB is not just a public health issue like polio wherein two drops are enough

nearly 50 women, both young and old, have lost their husbands to TB. With men missing from families, making ends meet is an enduring challenge for women.

Indigenous people across the world confront higher TB rates than others due to multiple factors. While only 23% of Saharias, mostly agricultural labourers, are literate...

Dr. Vyas. "This leads to overcrowding in houses. Already, lack of ventilation and dampness in a kutcha house make conditions suitable for bacteria growth causing TB."

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IN BRIEF



Put to rest speculation on Amaravati: Pawan

GUNTUR Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan urged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to put to rest speculations on the shifting of capital city out of Amaravati. He said the rumours had created fear in the minds of farmers of Amaravati, who had parted with thousands of acres of fertile land for the capital.

Narrow escape for school students in A.P.

NELLORE Ten students were injured when a private school bus hit a culvert and slipped into a gorge at Kammampalli village in SPSR Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on Friday. In all, 20 students were in the bus when its driver lost control reportedly while trying to avoid hitting a vehicle coming in the opposite direction, the police said.

HC seeks Telangana's reply on speed governors

HYDERABAD The Telangana High Court on Friday directed the State government to reply within two weeks over a Public Interest Litigation petition filed by an NGO, which said that speed limit devices were not being fitted to all transport vehicles in the State and this was resulting in loss of lives in road accidents.

Top election officers to visit Moscow

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Top election officers of Kerala and Odisha will fly to Moscow on September 3 to share tips with their Russian counterparts on smooth conduct of elections. The Election Commission has given the top spots for efficient organisation of the 2019 Lok Sabha election to Kerala and Odisha.

It's a conspiracy: Shivakumar

Congress leader and former Karnataka Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate to record his statement in a money laundering case. The questioning lasted for about five-and-a-half hours till 11.30 p.m.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Congress leader and former Karnataka Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate to record his statement in a money laundering case. The questioning lasted for about five-and-a-half hours till 11.30 p.m. The ED had summoned him after the Karnataka High Court on Thursday dismissed his plea against the earlier summons.

The ED opened its probe in September last year based on a chargesheet filed by the Income Tax Department alleging tax evasion and hawala transactions. The I-T Department had conducted searches on the premises linked to Mr. Shivakumar in August 2017. It is alleged that unaccounted cash of about ₹20 crore was seized. Mr. Shivakumar told reporters after the questioning that he had been asked by the ED to appear before it



Former Karnataka Minister D.K. Shivakumar waving to his supporters in Bengaluru. ■ V SREENIVASA MURTHY

again on Saturday at 11 a.m. Earlier in the day, Mr. Shivakumar tweeted: "Have received summons from ED late yesterday [Thursday] night at 9.40 PM asking for me to appear at 1 PM in Delhi today. Although the sudden scheduling by ED is mala-fide, I believe in rule of law & will definitely participate & fully co-operate with them and abide by the law of our country."

While speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, he recalled that his house was raided by the Income Tax Department in 2017 when he was shielding around Gujarat 40 legislators from being poached by the BJP ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections in August that year. "IT raid on me was politically motivated for hosting Gujarat Congress MLAs. As a loyal soldier of Congress & a

responsible politician, I did what party asked me to do, for which I am being targeted I have full faith in legal systems," he tweeted. Mr. Shivakumar termed the ED summons politically motivated and said he would face the situation "legally, politically, and socially."

"This is a conspiracy to trouble me in all ways possible. As a loyal soldier of the Congress and a responsible politician, I did what my party asked me to do, it was my bounden duty to keep the Gujarat MLAs safe. Politics has taken priority in this case," he said. "My 85-year-old mother is a widow and my two brothers have to take care of her. All my properties, including those held by my mother, and our ancestral home in Kanakapura have been attached by the ED as benami. Her properties are in our name and all of them have been attached as benami," he said.

Ernakulam-Angamaly gets Vicar Archbishop

Syro-Malabar church seeks to end row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOCHI

In a bid to resolve the crisis in the Syro-Malabar church following revolt by a section of priests against its head, Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, over a controversial land deal, its Synod on Friday decided to appoint Bishop Antony Kariyil as Vicar Archbishop of the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese. The decision was taken at a synod meeting here. Though the Cardinal will continue as the Major Archbishop of the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese, the

Vicar Archbishop will be in charge of its administration, finance and pastoral ministry, he said. The move came amid growing demand from the rival section, demanding that Cardinal Alencherry step down from the post of its Major Archbishop. The Synod also decided to revoke suspension of two auxiliary bishops of Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese, Sebastian Adayanthrath and Jose Puthenveetil, who led the revolt against the Cardinal, but transferred them to two separate dioceses.

Jacobite-Orthodox row takes a new turn in Kerala

Now, focus on Malankara constitution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

The feud between the Orthodox and Jacobite factions in the Malankara Church has taken a new turn with the Jacobite Syrian Christian Church deciding to approach the Supreme Court with the "original manuscript of the 1934 constitution of the Malankara Church," which it claimed to have obtained recently. The Orthodox faction had on Thursday moved the Supreme Court with a contempt plea against the government, accusing it of not

willing to implement the apex court orders regarding the ownership of a few churches. At a media conference on Friday, the Jacobite faction claimed that the Orthodox group had unauthorisedly introduced a series of amendments to the original document. The Jacobite faction said it was willing to submit the manuscript for forensic analysis. The Orthodox faction should come forward and submit the original document in their possession, said Mathews Mar Athanios.

Former Kerala official, three others held in flyover case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

The Kerala Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) on Friday arrested former Public Works Secretary T.O. Sooraj and three others in connection with the irregularities that led to the Palarivattom flyover on the National Highway 66 bypass developing cracks within two years of its commissioning. The others arrested are Sumit Goyal, managing director of the New Delhi-based RDS Projects which built the flyover in Ernakulam; Benny Paul, joint general manager of Kitco, who is also holding charge of Managing Director; and M.T. Thankachan, former Additional General Manager, Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala (RBDC). The flyover was built by the RBDC, a subsidiary of the Public Works Department, while Kitco was the technical consultant.

The anti-corruption agency has charged the arrested with corruption, conspiracy and misuse of funds, it is learnt. Superintendent of Police (Central Range) of the VACB, J. Himendranath, said the arrests were recorded after the four were summoned to the VACB office here and their statements cross-verified. "A medical examination of the four arrested will be done, following which they will be produced before a magistrate," he said. The probe team has sought custody of the arrested. The VACB had interrogated Mr. Sooraj on Thursday, while others, including Mr. Goyal had been questioned about a week ago.



Earthshaking: A stone extraction unit near Pandavapura in Mandya district of Karnataka. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Explosives banned in quarries near KRS

Tremors near dam threaten its safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MANDYA

An indefinite ban has been imposed on the use of explosives for stone extraction around the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir in the Mandya district administration, as the activity is being pursued in an unregulated manner, causing tremors and severe noise. There are about 80 stone extraction units, majority of them are owned by politicians in Srirangapatna and Pandavapura taluks in the district. Most quarries use high intensity explosives, causing a hazard to the reservoir. Loud sounds and vibrations are frequently encountered in the villages, where Deputy Commissioner, Mandya, M.V. Venkatesh, ordered the ban.

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) had submitted a report to the district administration in September last year following heavy tremors recorded close to KRS. A temporary ban on explosives was imposed then. Since the quarry owners were unwilling to comply with license conditions, the DC had taken the decision, district administration sources said. Revoking the ban could be considered based only on a technical report, they added.

MP raises issue Experts of the 'State Committee on Dam Safety' under the Department of Water Resources also sought action against blasting after tremors were recorded at the VSAT Enabled Permanent Seismic Monitoring Stations of the KSNDMC. The issue of explosives and the impact on the safety of KRS was raised in Parliament by Sumalatha Ambareesh, Mandya MP. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has also expressed his willingness to curb illegal blasting at stone quarries.

HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, (A Government of Haryana Undertaking) Bays No. 59-62, Sector-2, Panchkula, Phone: 0172-2590608

Notice for Walk-In-Interview HMSCL is desirous to fill three posts of Clerk from retired employees of Haryana Govt. of which notice is uploaded on the website www.hmscl.org.in

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE, JHARKHAND, RANCHI Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008 Short E-Procurement Notice E-Tender Reference No.-Agri/04/2019-20 Dated:-29.08.2019

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, and Estimated Quantity & Cost (Rs.). Includes items like Supply of Zero Till Drill, Estimated Quantity & Cost, and Tender Form Cost.

Further details can be seen on website-http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in Director Agriculture, Jharkhand, Ranchi Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA Short time e-Procurement Notice

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, and Estimated cost(In Rs.). Includes items like Construction of RCC Guard wall, Estimated cost, and Date of Publication of Tender on Website.

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Dumka

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JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY 3rd Floor, Pragati Sadan (RRDA Building) Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

PR Ref: 214060 NIT No. : JUIDCO/PMAY/Vertical-III/2019/279 Tender ID: 2019_UDD_40778. Project Name: Construction (including structural design) of 1110 Dwelling Units in 04 number of G+8 blocks (03 Blocks with 322 Dwelling Units each and 1 block with 144 Dwelling Units each) at Birsanagar, Jamshedpur under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (Package VI).

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PR Ref: 214062 NIT No. : JUIDCO/PMAY/Vertical-III/2019/280 Tender ID: 2019_UDD_40802. Project Name: Construction (including structural design) of 1610 Dwelling units in 05 number of G+8 blocks (05 Blocks with 322 Dwelling Units each) at Birsanagar, Jamshedpur under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (Package VI).

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY 3rd Floor, Pragati Sadan (RRDA Building) Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

PR Ref: 214063 NIT No. : JUIDCO/PMAY/Vertical-III/2019/281 Tender ID: 2019_UDD_40804. Project Name: Construction (including structural design) of 1432 Dwelling Units in 05 number of G+8 blocks (04 Blocks with 322 Dwelling Units each and 1 block with 144 Dwelling Units each) at Birsanagar, Jamshedpur under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (Package VI).

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY 3rd Floor, Pragati Sadan (RRDA Building) Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

Government of Jharkhand Office of the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Chaibasa - 833201 Corrigendum to National Bidding / e-Procurement Notice (2nd Call) (Tender reference no. - NH/CHAIBASA/EPC/672/2019-20 dated 22.08.2019)

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Industries NOTICE Sealed tender are invited by Directorate of Industries, Govt. of Jharkhand from Exhibition, Fabrication Agencies for Erection, Maintenance & Management of Jharkhand Pavilion in IITF (India International Trade Fair 2019), 14th-27th November, 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

All tenders submitted should include EMD of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One Lakh only) in the form of demand draft payable to "Director of Industries, Jharkhand" Tender Document fee Rs. 10,000/- (Non refundable) in the form of demand draft payable to "Director of Industries, Jharkhand"

IN BRIEF



No change in deadline for filing I-T returns

The I-T department on Friday dismissed social media reports that claimed the government had extended the due date for filing of income tax returns by a month and advised taxpayers to complete the process by August 31. PTI

CBI takes over 2 Deoria shelter home cases

The CBI has taken over two cases of alleged sexual assault of minor girls at a shelter home run by a non-government organisation in U.P.'s Deoria. Among those named in the FIRs are superintendent Kanchan Lata Tripathi and Girija Tripathi, head of Maa Vindhyavashini Mahila Prashikshan Evam Samaj Seva Sansthan.

No return visa to India for former Chinese soldier

A former Chinese soldier, who got married in India in 1974 and returned to his native country for the first time in 2017, is now stuck there for want of return visa to India, his son said on Friday. Wang Chang Qi, 80, was captured by Indian forces in 1963 after the India-China war. He was in prison for six years till his release in 1969. He married a woman in Madhya Pradesh in 1974 and settled there. PTI

Defamation case: Vaiko acquitted

MDMK general secretary and Rajya Sabha Member Vaiko was on Friday acquitted from a case by a special court for elected representatives in Chennai. Mr. Vaiko was facing a criminal defamation case since 2007 for allegedly defaming his mentor and DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi.

Collegium names judges for SC vacancies

Suggestions made for appointment of Chief Justices in eight High Courts

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has made a slew of recommendations to fill four vacancies in the Supreme Court and for appointments of Chief Justices in eight High Courts across the country.

On Friday the Supreme Court published its resolutions recommending Chief Justices of Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala High Courts - Justices Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat, V. Ramasubramanian and Hrishikesh Roy - for appointment to the Supreme Court.



All the recommendations of the Supreme Court were made on August 28.

CBI conducts checks at 150 govt. offices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday conducted simultaneous surprise checks at 150 government offices in different parts of the country, as part of a special anti-corruption drive.

Vigilance officers of various government departments were also involved in the exercise.

Special drive

"The joint surprise checks are primarily being conducted at such points and places where common citizens or small businesspersons feel the maximum pinch of corruption in government machinery. This special drive will sensitise all stakeholders about possible avenues of corruption a common citizen faces," an official said.

Palaniswami highlights T.N.'s efforts in ensuring public health

In England he discusses State's interventions, high funding

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Friday, during his speech in England, highlighted various efforts taken by the Tamil Nadu government in ensuring public health in the State.

In his speech at a gathering, that included Members of Parliament of the United Kingdom, Mr. Palaniswami said Tamil Nadu remained a front runner among Indian States in various health indicators.

"Our policy interventions, introduction of several novel schemes and increased funding played an important role in the State's improved health outcomes," he said.

Tamil Nadu has already achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set

Courts. The Collegium is also conscious of the fact that some High Courts are going to be unrepresented in the Supreme Court."

All the recommendations were made on August 28.

The Collegium has reconsidered its April 8, 2019 recommendation to appoint Justice Vikram Nath, the senior-most judge of the Allahabad High Court, as Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Instead, Justice Nath has now been recommended for appointment as Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court.

Justice J.K. Maheshwari, senior puisne judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has been recommended as

Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court. Justice Ajai Lamba, the senior-most judge from the Punjab and Haryana High Court and now functioning on transfer in the Allahabad High Court, has been recommended for appointment as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.

Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, a senior puisne judge from the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has been recommended for appointment as Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Justice L. Narayana Swamy, the senior-most judge from the Karnataka High Court, has been recommended for appointment as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

Justice S. Manikumar, the senior-most judge from the Madras High Court, has been recommended as Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court to replace Justice Roy.

To replace Justice Bhat, the Collegium has recommended Justice Indrajit Mahanty, the senior-most judge from the Orissa High Court who is now functioning on transfer in the Bombay High Court, as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

Finally, Justice Arup Kumar Goswami, the senior-most judge from the Gauhati High Court, has been recommended for appointment as Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court.

Chandrayaan-2 moves into pre-final orbit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The team of ISRO engineers further nudged the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft closer to moon on Friday in an operation lasting 20 minutes. The spacecraft will now go around the moon in an almost circular orbit of 124 km x 164 km, eventually getting into the desired orbit of around 100 km x 100 km.

"The fourth lunar bound orbit manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was performed successfully today (August 30) beginning at 18:18 hours IST as planned, using the on-board propulsion system. All spacecraft parameters are normal," said an ISRO update. This was the fourth orbit manoeuvre since the orbiter-lander reached the moon's vicinity on August 20. The next manoeuvre is planned for September 1.



Edappadi K. Palaniswami

by the United Nation and it was poised to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the health sector ahead of 2030, he said.

"We have learnt the expertise available in the UK and will be upgrading our healthcare delivery systems to better standards," Mr. Palaniswami said, and further added that the Global Invest-

mentors' Meet, 2019, attracted investors from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, France, USA, Germany and Finland, in which 304 MoUs were signed.

To take the State to the next level, the State government had taken several steps, including a State-supported Alternative Investment Fund that would facilitate investment by global investors in the area of economic infrastructure, a Social Impact Fund to fund affordable housing for lower income groups and vulnerable sections of the society, and a Bio-technology Fund to help promote the sunrise industry in India.

"We look forward to working with you to create a new paradigm for funding green energy, water, urban infrastructure and affordable housing," he said.



Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner plane with its special livery will be unveiled on World Tourism Day on September 1.

Air India's Boeing to turn into a billboard

Photos of heritage sites to be put up

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Air India will turn one of its planes into a billboard in the sky to showcase India's world heritage sites and spread Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message on promoting domestic tourism. A Boeing 787 Dreamliner plane with its special livery will be unveiled on World Tourism Day on September 1.

"We are looking at promoting tourism and celebrating India through photographs. We are preparing an aircraft which will display photos of world heritage sites in the country on the body of the plane," Air India CMD Ashwani Lohani said. He added that if the idea is a hit, the same livery will be displayed on all its 42 wide-bodied aircraft used on international routes.

Casual wear banned for Bihar Secretariat staff

Govt. issued order on August 28

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PATNA

The Bihar government has directed its Secretariat employees to avoid wearing casuals like jeans and T-shirts with immediate effect to uphold "office culture and decorum." They have been asked to come to work in formal clothes of sober colour.

An order was issued to this effect by Additional Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD) Shiv Mahadeo Prasad on August 28. However, it is not clear whether it is meant only for employees of the GAD or the entire Secretariat staff.

"The order issued by GAD usually means for all Secretariat employees...we

all have to comply with this order," said Suman Kumar, a Secretariat staffer.

Earlier in 2007, then Chief Secretary Ashok Kumar Singh issued a circular asking government employees to wear *khadi* clothes at least twice a week to promote the national fabric.

"Such orders come from time to time but are not being followed or implemented in spirit," said an employee retiring next June.

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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH HIGHER EDUCATION (UE) DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION

Government of Andhra Pradesh invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor of the following State Universities: 1. Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalaya, Tirupathi (from women applicants only) 2. Adikavi Nannayya University, Rajamahendravaram 3. Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur 4. Krishna University, Machilipatnam 5. Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupathi 6. Andhra University, Visakhapatnam 7. Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa For other details, please visit www.apsche.org. Applications with bio-data, processing Fee and prescribed format may be sent within (20) days from the date of notification by registered post to the following address. The Chairman, A.P. State Council of Higher Education, I & II Floors, C-Block, Sri Mahendra Enclave, Tadepalli, Guntur-522 510, Andhra Pradesh. Date: 29.08.2019 Place: Velagapudi J.S.V. PRASAD, IAS Special Chief Secretary to Government

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with squall very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and with lightning over Jharkhand and Odisha.

Table with columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN, CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various cities like Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chennai, etc.

Table with columns: CITY, SO2, NO2, CO, PM2.5, PM10, CODE, Yesterdays. Lists air quality index (AQI) scores for various cities.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI) SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monument. 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

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. Press Notice. Inviting tender for medium/long term purchase of renewable energy (HYDRO ENERGY). TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. 22/2019/IPC-645 Dated: 28.08.2019.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT UTTARAKHAND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENING PROJECT. Reference No: PMU/UKPFMS-7 (2019-20)106. The Government of Uttarakhand is financed from World Bank towards the cost of Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (A group company of IndianOil). NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS. Transfer of Equity Shares to Investor Education & Protection Fund. This Notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 as amended.

Hope and hurt in Ladakh

The Central government's decision to convert Ladakh into a Union Territory set off celebrations in Leh, but raised concerns in Kargil.
Damini Nath reports on the expectations and the apprehensions



There is happiness in the air in Leh (above) following the government's August 5 announcement. (Below): Security personnel keep vigil in Kargil, Ladakh. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

It is a pleasant Tuesday afternoon in Leh. It has been two weeks since the Central government's announcement that Jammu and Kashmir's special status stands scrapped and the State would be split into two Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Decorations hang overhead in Leh market as visitors mill around and shopkeepers sell handicrafts, shawls, rugs, carpets and stone jewellery. There is happiness in the air.

Just about 200 km away is Kargil's market. Most shops selling clothes, dry fruits and household goods are open. Visitors walk around here too, but no one is rejoicing. Small groups of armed paramilitary personnel stand in the bylanes and crossings; some sit on the steps of shops. They all keep a keen watch on the surroundings. There are barricades erected by the Jammu and Kashmir police throughout the market. Policemen in plain clothes, who identify themselves as 'CID' men, referring to the State Police's Intelligence Wing, walk up and down the streets. They ensure that groups of people disperse, although no restrictions on movement have been officially imposed in Kargil.

Most shops re-opened in Kargil only the previous day, on August 20, after a strike protesting the government's announcement on August 5 was called off. This was one of the many strikes that were called by local religious and political groups under the banner of the Joint Action Committee to protest the decision. The strikes all lasted for a few days, with shops closing and opening intermittently.

The two markets seem like they are located at two ends of the country. But they belong to the same region, Ladakh, which was a part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and will be a Union Territory without a Legislative Assembly from October 31. Both Leh and Kargil are governed by their own Autonomous Hill Development Councils, each having 30 members.

Soon after the government's announcement, images and videos beamed on televisions and phones of the rest of India, of citizens celebrating in Leh, where a demand for a separate Union Territory of Ladakh has existed for years. There were barely any images from Kargil town, which is unhappy with the government. The two towns are largely divided in their response. But what unites them is anxiety about the future of the Himalayan region.

Happiness at last

In Leh's Thiksey village, a retired State government employee, Nawang Chota, sits outside his home, chatting with a friend. "I am 72 years old. I think the demand for a Union Territory has been there for longer than that," he says. He



smiles broadly: "Now, there is one nation, one Constitution, and we are finally free of Kashmir."

Many in Leh believe that the dominance of Kashmir Valley-based political parties in State politics has resulted in discrimination against Ladakh. They say that Leh has always received less funds than required and has not seen development in years. "The politicians in Jammu and Kashmir ignored us. It doesn't matter if we don't have an Assembly. We have the Hill Council. The government should now strengthen it further," says Chota. "I struggled financially to ensure that my daughter completed her PhD. She completed it in 2016. But she still can't find a job. I hope the government does something about the job scenario," he adds.

Across the highway from Thiksey is Matho village, famously known for the Matho monastery which is perched atop a mountain. Matho is home to the Ladakh Bharatiya Janata Party MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, who gained prominence after his speech in Parliament on Article 370. Tsering Angchok, a farmer in Matho, says the whole village is very happy. He echoes Chota's views and concerns: "Kashmir would take 90% of the funds and leave us with just 10%. Now that won't happen," he says. "But the quality of education here is just not as good as it is in the rest of the country. I don't know how our people will compete with the rest of the country."

Down the road, Chhering Norbu sits outside a *kirana* shop. Norbu is an ex-serviceman. He worked in the State government after retiring from the Army. Retired from that job as well, Norbu hopes that his pension will come on time now.

While the people are jubilant, political leaders in Leh are waiting for the government's next move. Dorje Angchuk, the district unit president of Leh, says the BJP will "go to every village" to make people aware of what really has changed for Ladakh. "Some people are trying to compare us with other Union Territories. We have a Hill Council and the members will now work more like MLAs. Unlike the Delhi government, our Council has control over land. But we are still looking for more protection through the Sixth Schedule," he says.

On August 17, Namgyal wrote to the Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda, asking him to make a representation to Home Minister Amit Shah for declaring Ladakh a tribal area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The Constitution makes special provisions for the administration of tribal-dominated areas in four States: Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. Angchuk is confident the Central government will fulfil Ladakh's dream.

Nawang Rigzin Jora, Leh's Congress MLA and former Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet Minister, has fought for Union Territory status for Ladakh for decades. But he says the demand was always for a Union Territory with a legislature, an elected representative body. His constituency is among the four Ladakh seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly that will no longer exist. "We are looking at something like Article 371 that gives constitutional guarantees to the north-eastern States. If the Hill Councils are brought under that, many of our concerns would be taken care of. The BJP's sincerity will be tested on whether it provides this constitutional guarantee," he says.

Unkept promises of development

But standing in Kargil's market as police vehicles race past with sirens blaring, Zarina, a private school teacher, expresses her anger. She says the Central government's decision is akin to "snatching food from our mouths".

"On what basis did the government give us Union Territory status? Union Territories are usually small areas, but Ladakh is a vast region," she says. Leh district, sitting at over 11,500 feet above sea level, has a population of 1.33 lakh. It is among the largest districts in the country in terms of area (45,110 sq km). "Just like the British, the BJP is trying to divide and rule," says Zarina. "They did this just to break the Muslim majority of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. They can talk about development, but no de-

velopment is going to happen. The common people want their rights back." The crowd that gathers around her nods in agreement. Ghulam Raza, a Kargil-based businessman, steps forward. "Modi came here in 2014. He told us that he would bring the 'Gujarat model' to Kargil. We are still waiting for that to happen," he says.

For Raza and many others in Kargil, memories of the 1999 war fought between India and Pakistan in the mountains of the district remain fresh. "We in Kargil sacrificed everything and supported the Army. Our people carried provisions for the forces in the mountains, sometimes wearing their uniforms. Our people lost lives and homes in the shelling. If it had not been for Kargil's people, this would be in Pakistan today," he says, pointing to the ground.

Refuting the government's claim that development works had suffered over the years due to Jammu and Kashmir's status, Raza says the government had promised air connectivity to Kargil as well as a tunnel at Zoji La so that it wouldn't get cut off from Srinagar during winter. "They haven't fulfilled their own promises of development, so why talk of the State government," he asks.

Ladakh's MP refutes these charges. In a crowded room at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, three weeks after the government's announcement, Namgyal says, "People need not have fears [about land and job security]. We asked for Union Territory status precisely because we didn't have the protections. Under Article 370, our land, jobs, socio-economic aspects and culture were not secure." On the allegation that the Centre has failed to fulfil its promises, Namgyal says the expansion of Kargil airport "with ₹200 crore given by the government is under process".

"As far as the Zoji La tunnel project is concerned, it was the Modi government that issued tenders. Congress leaders raised some objections. Then there was another tender. IL&FS came, but it had

financial troubles. So, there was yet another tender. The government is making all efforts possible to implement it," he says, as party workers jostle to click selfies with him.

Rejecting the notion that Kargil residents are unhappy with the move and have come out on the streets, Namgyal says a small group of people is protesting "just to lodge its attendance". "Kargil is not just one market. There are people spread over an area of 15,000 sq km. I represent all of them," he says.

In Kargil, though used to the presence of armed forces given Ladakh's location, locals say the sight of gun-wielding soldiers in the market has become the new normal since August 5. "We used to have faith in the government. Most of the people here were supporters of India. Those who used to roam around with the tricolour in hand are now rethinking everything," says Sajjad Hussain, who works as an education and health counsellor with the State government. The right to vote has been "snatched", Hussain adds, with Ladakh's representatives to the Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly not finding any space now.

Communication woes

Though phone lines have not been snapped in Kargil, mobile Internet has been cut off by the government citing "law and order" as the reason. Phone and Internet services in Leh have not been cut off, but the communication lockdown in the rest of Jammu and Kashmir has affected citizens.

Mohammad Ali, a household goods shop owner in Kargil, says transporters have started demanding double the rate to bring products from Srinagar, fearing trouble. "Our stocks are running low. We did a hartal and it caused us losses, but we will keep our shops closed for a month if we have to. Article 370 was the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir and the government has removed it. We will not step back. We will continue our protests," he says.

"They have turned Jammu and Kashmir into a jail. Is this democracy? We can't speak to our relatives," says Abdul Ghani Shah, a businessman from downtown Srinagar who is in Kargil on work. Interrupting him, a farmer, Mohammad Abbas, says, "Look, I'm dialling the landline number of my relative." The phone doesn't connect though it has been a few days since the government announced restoration of landline connectivity in the Valley. Abbas says this news was merely "propaganda by the media".

Gyurmet, a taxi driver in Leh, rushes home three times a day in between airport drops and city sightseeing trips with tourists. In November last year, he was diagnosed with kidney failure,

which means he needs to get peritoneal dialysis done at home thrice a day. The solution that he needs for the procedure comes from Srinagar. "The phones are not working, so I have not been able to order the fluid. I'm running out of it. I don't know when and how I will be able to get more. The other route to get it is through Manali, but it's much longer and more expensive," he says.

An uncertain future

For now, Kargil is waiting and watching. Sheikh Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi, president of the Islamia School that is the hub of the Shia Muslim community in Kargil, and the chairman of the Joint Action Committee, says there is a lot of visible anger. "Since August 5, there have been protests and hartals. There were some students from outside who resorted to pelting stones and objectionable sloganeering. We made it clear in the Friday prayers that we condemn this. We are reminding people to respect the law and to demand our rights within the law," he says. The committee, he says, may call another hartal if the Chief Secretary does not meet its representatives.

The Ladakhis fear that outsiders may buy land and take away their jobs which were earlier kept for the locals. With the isolated region already facing employment issues (according to the 2011 Census, the percentage of non-workers in Leh and Kargil districts are 43.76% and 63.16%, respectively), jobs seem to be on everyone's mind. "The next generation will suffer the most," says Najumunisa, a government staff nurse working in Kargil town. If they have to compete with students from across the country for government jobs, they will find it all the more difficult to find employment now, she says.

Zehra Bano in Chuchot Shama village in Leh is stunned that the decision was taken without consulting anyone. "Even when there is a wedding in the village, we all get together before it is fixed. Here the government took such a big decision, but didn't talk to anyone," she says quietly. Her puzzlement slowly turns to anger. "They [government] can do anything they want. But they can at least keep the phones working, right? Our children are studying in Srinagar and we can't speak to them. What is the fault of our poor children? My brothers are all in the Army. We have given our lives for Hindustan, but Hindustan has done this to us," she says.

Everyone is worried about the future. In Leh, though happy, people want to know if their land and employment opportunities will be protected. Kargil's residents want to find out where the office of the new Lieutenant-Governor will be. Questions and concerns are many, answers and assurances few.



FILM REVIEWS

Missed opportunity

Riding on a staid and predictable plot, this ambitious film ends up as a disappointment

SANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO

About an hour into *Saaho*, when a group of police officers are strategising to hunt down a smart thief, Prabhas (as police officer Ashok Chakravarty) tells his peers that the thief is most likely to know all their moves – he is smarter than the police who learns of things later. He makes a point of how the police has to think like a criminal to be a step ahead and nab a suspect. Fair enough. But, while narrating such a story on large screen, aiming to entertain the pan-Indian audience (*Saaho* was simultaneously filmed in Telugu and Hindi, and dubbed in Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam) that has watched quite a few edge-of-the-seat thrillers over the years, the writing needs to be a notch above, to maintain the suspension of disbelief and not let the audience second guess what's coming.

In *Saaho*, connecting the dots seems like child's play. The interval twist and the one at the climax don't hold any surprises.

In the fictitious Waaji City that's dominated by gangsters, Roy's (Jackie Shroff) group of companies are on shaky turf after his sudden death. An heir apparent shows up from nowhere but the power struggle continues. A black box hidden somewhere in Mumbai apparently holds the key to a locker, which will provide crucial answers to the power struggle.

Meanwhile the Mumbai police is on edge after a bunch of harmless citizens have carried out a strange set of instructions, in a chain reaction, unwittingly paving the way for a theft. A special team is formed, which includes Amrita Nair (Shraddha Kapoor), David (Murali Sharma), Vennela



Bloated and boring Prabhas's demeanour doesn't live up to the heroic build-up in his dialogue ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kishore and Prakash Belawadi, among others.

Saaho is populated with well-known actors. Among them, Chunky Pandey as Devraj, Arun Vijay as Vishwak, Mandira Bedi as Kalki, and Neil Nitin Mukesh in a pivotal role, make their presence felt.

Jackie Shroff, Mahesh Manjrekar, Tinnu Anand and a host of others are mere bystanders without much to do. In his characteristic style, Vennela Kishore

tries to induce a few laughs but there are no smart lines or situations to help him do that.

In one scene, when Shraddha asks Prabhas if she's useful in any way to the special team, since he has all the answers himself, it's unintentionally funny. She's cast in a role that's far from a smart cop. If she looks lost, blame it on the lacklustre material she's been provided with.

Prabhas is in a shape-

shifting role that, had it been written and enacted well, would have held intrigue. Barring that 18-minute chase sequence with a Jetman action piece and some shots that present him as a suave superhero-like figure, he too looks lost. There's a thin line between projecting a casual, cool persona and coming across as disinterested. Prabhas's demeanour and laidback dialogue delivery, which sounds like a drawl, don't

Saaho

DIRECTOR: Sujeeth
CAST: Prabhas, Shraddha Kapoor, Chunky Pandey, Mandira Bedi, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Jackie Shroff, Mahesh Manjrekar
RUN TIME: 172 minutes
STORYLINE: A power struggle erupts in the fictitious Waaji City. A black box in Mumbai holds the key to a truth. Can the protagonist safeguard it?

live up to the heroic build-up in his lines. It's important to show, rather than just tell, how smart a character is. That doesn't happen at all in *Saaho*.

The much-talked-about action sequences are fun to watch but not truly awe-inducing. Smart wheels for a smart thief? We've seen that in the *Dhoom* series. The protagonist standing at the edge of a skyscraper and gazing into the city at night, his brow heavy with thoughts? We've seen that in superhero films.

Saaho feels bloated and is boring in portions. Cinematographer Madhie, and Ghibran with his background score, try their best to dress up the film's uninspiring story.

The witty one-liners aside – like the comment about fans and die-hard fans, hitting a sixer in the stadium and not gully cricket – there isn't much to the movie, other than what's in the trailer.

Saaho was an opportunity to follow up on *Baahubali*, which had both scale and imagination, to blur the boundaries between regional and national cinema once again. Sadly, it ends up as a missed opportunity.

The last scene hints at a sequel. If it happens, it will need a better story and screenplay.



No help in sight An underwater adventure that, along with the movie itself, turns sour ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sinks before swimming

The shark attack sequel to the 2017 survival horror film bites off way more than it can possibly chew

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

Shark attacks have been the subject of many a Hollywood film, from *Jaws* and its many sequels to *Deep Blue Sea* and *Sharknado*. The bloody subject continues to be an inexplicable lure for scores of gore fiends all over the world. It's why the 2017 film *47 Meters Down* has a new sequel – *47 Meters Down: Uncaged*.

Drawing from the premise of its predecessor, *Uncaged* too features a pair of sisters, but these are step siblings united by the interracial marriage of their parents. Though inconsequential to the eventual meat of the film, there's a lacklustre beginning to *Uncaged*. Mia (Sophie Nélisse) is demure and shy and Sasha (Corinne Foxx) is outgoing and popular. Though uncomfortable with their new familial connection, a convenient series of events results in the sisters and two other friends scuba diving in a secret lagoon near a submerged Mayan city.

Very quickly – due to the grating curiosity of Sasha's friend Nicole (Sistine Stallone) – this underwater adventure turns

sour. As hazy silt blinds their vision, a great white shark circles the girls. When collapsing debris covers the sole entrance and exit to the cave, the girls have to escape their finned predator while battling decreasing oxygen levels.

Uncaged should have been a nail-biting suspenseful survival film with loads of delicious jump scares. It's a shame that director Johannes Roberts allows the chaotic panic – replete with shrill screams – of his protagonists to eclipse the tension, fear, and claustrophobia of a deep underwater location. Even the film's antagonist, a great white shark that's evolved without vision to survive the dark of the submerged caves, is disappointing. In spite of its blindness, the fish continues to doggedly hunt its prey that aren't hurt or bleeding, ignoring its previous fresh victims, bloody and torn in half. At other times, it swims a hair's breath away from the protagonists. It's painfully evident that the creature's depicted behaviour is unnatural, forced to fit this horror film's premise.

47 Meters Down: Uncaged

DIRECTOR: Johannes Roberts
CAST: Sophie Nélisse, Corinne Foxx, Briane Tju, Sistine Stallone, John Corbett, Nia Long
STORYLINE: Four girls are trapped in an underwater Mayan cave with a white shark on the loose and depleting oxygen tanks

Somewhere into the second half of *Uncaged*, Roberts becomes desperate for action. Oxygen levels plummet faster than expected, the sharks multiply, and any potential help is ripped to shreds. Most twists are visible from miles away. Those that occur out of the ordinary appear to be clearly arm-twisted into the screenplay.

With a weak screenplay and little to no character arcs for the film's protagonists, there's a lot swimming on the backs of the actors. Unfortunately, it doesn't bode well for a shark attack film when you're rooting for the fanged villains instead of the loud, shrieking protagonists.

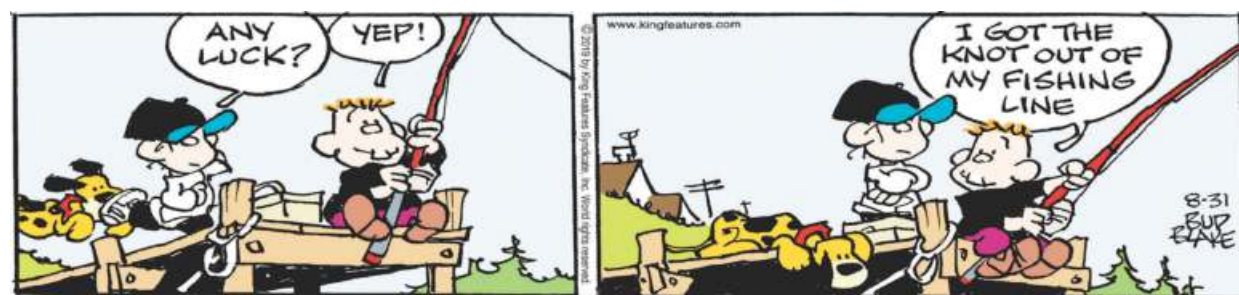
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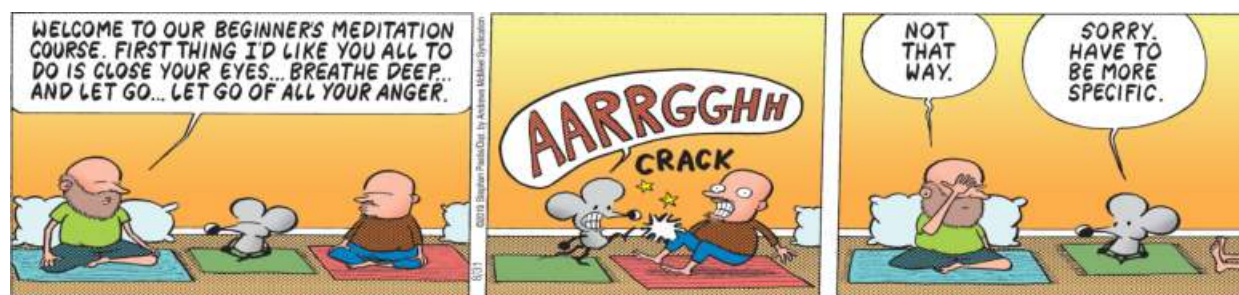
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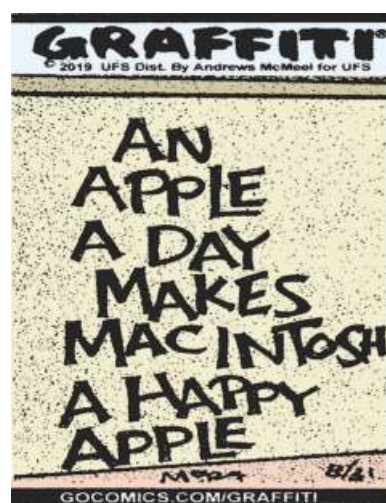
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- 14 Swindle (7)
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- 18 Greek philosopher (5)
- 20 Cane or beet? (5)

Solution will appear in *The Hindu* dated September 2, 2019.
Solution No. 13162

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'If you don't become one with the car, you can never win'

Rally star Gaurav Gill talks about the evolution of his driving, his philosophy of racing and what he still wants to achieve in the sport

RAYAN ROZARIO

Simple and calm off the track, he is simply in a class of his own on it. That's rally star Gaurav Gill for you. The three-time Asia Pacific Rally champion received the Arjuna Award this week, becoming the first Indian motorsport athlete to earn the honour. After 19 years in the sport, Gill, 37, says he is not ready to hang up his helmet just yet, in this chat with The Hindu. Excerpts

Can you take us through your early years? How did it all start?

I was not racing or rallying but playing tennis because my mother liked the sport. I played pretty well and almost made it to the AITA [All India Tennis Association] level but quite soon I shifted to racing and later to rallying.

My uncle [Dicky] was rallying with the top teams and was an MRF driver for several years. So, I saw rally cars, super bikes at home and it all started from there.

I took part in an autocross event in Delhi where I borrowed my uncle's friend's car.

I was only 16 then but went on to win the race against the likes of Nikhil Taneja [the national champion then] and a few others. Incidentally, I had a small penalty but it was a massive achievement for me. That race, which was co-sponsored by JK Tyre and Maruti, changed my life, as Hardy [Sanjay Sharma, the head of motorsports, JK Tyre] said that day that this boy is going to be my rallying prodigy.

After a brief stint in bikes, when did you switch to cars?

As soon as I turned 18, Hardy told me it's time to get into the car and I was soon rallying in cars. In March 2000, I took part

in the South India Rally at Chennai and won the Group N outright and came third overall. It was my biggest achievement and I was the youngest-ever winner of that category. I rallied for two more years and did the Raid de Himalaya which turned out to be a big disaster. I crashed my car and it overturned a few times.

Can you talk about your Asia Pacific Rally Championship experience with MRF?

In 2007, I did not win there. I did my testing and drove well but those cars and the speeds were a shocker to me. From a Baleno straight into an Evo9 was like going from a regular to a rocket-propelled car. Those cars were seriously fast. I actually came second fastest in Super Special stages. I was high on confidence or rather over-confident on the first day; I crashed. It was the worst crash of my life. It changed me a lot to what I am today.

That must have hurt you...

It changed my outlook towards everything, such as respecting the sport, the people and the machine. My co-driver [Glenn McNeal] taught me a lot on this and on how to win rallies. It can reflect on your driving skills too. In fact, it has to work together and you cannot be two different

personalities — in the car and out of it. I learnt the art of being one with the car. When you sit in the car, you concentrate to a level that you become part of it. You have to understand how each component works, how each millimetre of a tyre or suspension works. If you cannot feel all of that, you cannot achieve high standards of driving.

How far have you gone towards achieving that?

You will have to activate all your senses in your body to achieve these things. Everybody has that but you will have to find a way. I have found that, but, to be frank, I am still learning and evolving as a person. But today, the way I drive is all because of that. I have activated those senses. If you do not become one with the car you can never win. I am saying this at the interna-



tional level. That's how I won the championships for MRF.

Can you talk about your World Rally Championship-2 experience last year?

Last year was a big jump to WRC and I think I proved my worth there. I won eleven stages in Australia and did a few top-five stage timings in Great Britain, Finland, Italy. I think it was a huge achievement.

How can a driver attain mastery in the sport?

The thing that I have been working on all my life is to keep on evolving as the machines are evolving faster than us. If you can understand that, then you can come close to mastering the sport. I am also working on controlled aggression — which probably might take me all my life but that's how all top rallying and racing drivers are in the world. You should know when to use it and should not burn your fingers using it at the wrong time or place.

Is age fast catching up with you?

Age does not really matter. People say I have three to five years but it is for me to decide when I hang up my boots.

What is your ultimate goal?

There are two things. People think I want to prove myself. I have already done that. Now, I only want to go to the world championship and win the WRC rally, not to prove that I am capable of it, but I'm saying this because I feel I belong there and I am of that calibre.

Round 13: Belgian GP

SPA FRANCORCHAMPS

SPEEDS, GEARS, LAP AND SECTOR TIMES ARE BASED ON 2017 & 2018 DATA

SOURCE: FIA



RACE NOTES

The undulating 7km-long Spa-Francorchamps track, with its fast sweeps and flat-out blasts, is not just the longest but also among the fastest circuits on the calendar

While the drivers are subjected to high g-forces right through the lap, the

tyres aren't spared either — they face incredible amounts of stress from all directions: lateral, longitudinal, and vertical

To cope with these demands and allow drivers to push their tyres to the maximum, Pirelli has nominated the hardest selection of compounds from its

five-tyre range

Another challenge at Spa is the weather. And given the length of the lap, it can often rain in one section while another stays completely dry. Regions of standing water, which form because of the track's drainage characteristics, add to the difficulty

Formula One restarts its engines in Spa

Hamilton and Mercedes will look to re-establish their dominance in the season's second half, which gets underway in Belgium after the August break

Formula One returns this weekend after its August summer shutdown, with Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes in an excellent position to settle the race for the drivers' and constructors' championships in the second half of the season.

Sebastian Vettel and Ferrari haven't put up the challenge expected of them after their encouraging performance in pre-season testing in Barcelona. Indeed, Vettel has gone more than a year since he last tasted victory — if it's any comfort, it came at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit, which will host the Belgian Grand Prix this Sunday.

Pale shadow

While the 32-year-old has looked a pale shadow of the driver that won four titles in a row, Ferrari has also failed to produce a car that can match the mighty Mercedes.

Ferrari has, however, looked better on the high-speed layouts this season. Spa and Monza, where Ferrari's home Italian GP will be held the week after, offer the team its two best opportuni-



Orientation programme: Sebastian Vettel runs up the hill at the iconic Eau Rouge-Raidillon section in Spa. — GETTY IMAGES

ties to win. "I think it's more power-sensitive ... but there is nothing that is given," said Ferrari boss Mattia Binotto, whose team has not won since last October's U.S. GP. Spa has been a happy hunting ground for Vettel, who has won the race three times. A fourth win would see him draw level with Kimi Raikkonen, the most successful of the current crop. But the German will first have to overcome Hamilton, also a three-time champion in Belgium and the winner of

eight of 12 races this season.

"We're approaching the start to the second half of 2019 more like the start to a completely new season ..." said Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff. "We're looking forward to the fight."

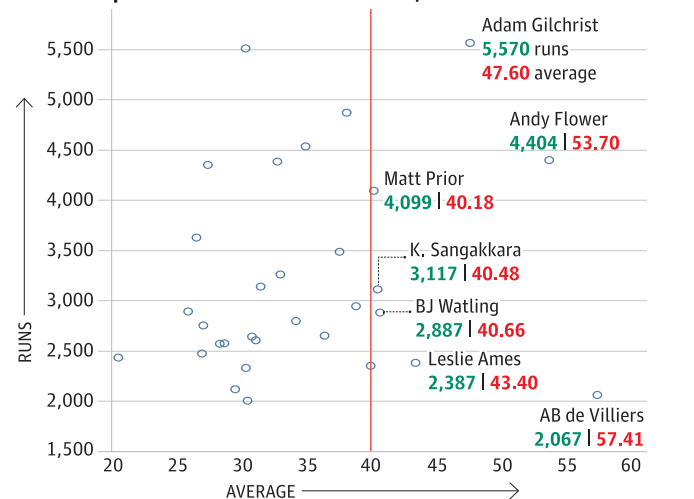
Max Verstappen, who has won two of the last four races, will be hoping to make it a three-way battle. But his Honda-powered Red Bull could struggle to match Ferrari and Mercedes at the horsepower-dependent track. SPORTS BUREAU & REUTERS

GAME THEORY

The understated excellence of BJ Watling

The New Zealand gloveman, adjudged the 'Player of the Series' in Sri Lanka earlier this week, often goes under the radar. But the numbers suggest that he is among the best-performing wicketkeeper-batsmen in Test history

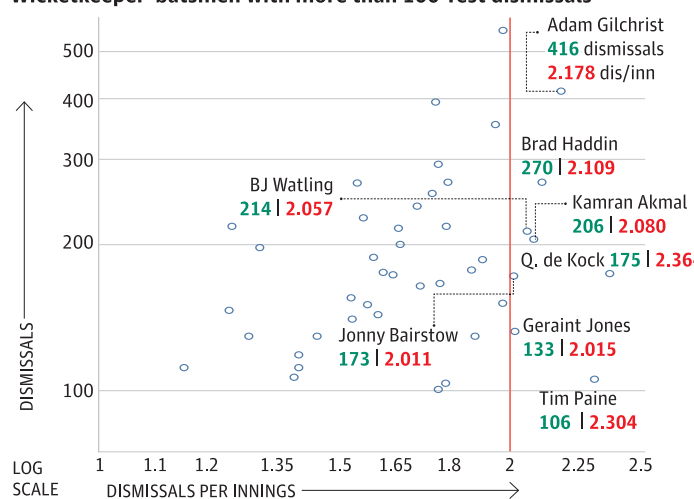
Wicketkeeper-batsmen with more than 2,000 Test runs



Watling is one of seven cricketers to average more than 40 when playing as the designated wicketkeeper



Wicketkeeper-batsmen with more than 100 Test dismissals



Watling is also one of eight keepers to average more than 2 dismissals per innings

As the scatter plots show, Watling is one of only two wicketkeeper-batsmen to average more than 40 with the bat and claim more than two dismissals per innings with the gloves. The other is Gilchrist

DATA VIZ: SUMANT SEN

PICTURE THIS



Roll and shoot

Wheelchair basketball has been around since the mid-1940s, when it was first seen being played in World War veterans' administration hospitals in California and Massachusetts. The sport follows most of basketball's rules, including

those specifying the size of the court and the height of the hoop. But some rules, such as the 'travel', have been adapted — the athlete isn't permitted to touch the wheels more than twice after receiving or dribbling the ball.

The 'basketball wheelchair' — seen in this photograph, taken at

St. Paul's Cathedral in London — is customised for the sport.

Each player has a different modification: guards need to move more than others and have a lower seat for increased stability; forwards and centres, who play under the net, use a higher seat that increases the reach for shots and rebounds.

The sport's main events are the World Championships and the Paralympic Games. Twelve teams are currently competing in the European Championships (August 28-September 9) in Walbrzych, Poland, to try and secure one of the four continental spots available for the Paralympic Games next year.

