

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

Coffee and froth

The tagline for his CCD was 'A lot can happen over coffee'. And for V G Siddhartha, it did. On the life and death of India's coffee king

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

Tiger, Tiger

An estimated 2,967 tigers across 50 reserves. Following the pugmarks — from success in Pench to dip in Chhattisgarh



THE RAZOR'S EDGE

Before he learnt to turn his fears into stories, Norwegian writer Jo Nesbø was a stockbroker, a musician and an aspiring football player

TRACKING CHANGE EVERY SUNDAY

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CONG SEEKS PM STATEMENT ON KASHMIR IN PARLIAMENT

Global travel alerts, Opp urges caution: Valley still grapples with what next

Governor says no changes to Articles 370, 35A



Omar Abdullah with party leaders. Shuaib Masoodi

BASHARAT MASOOD & SHUBHAJIT ROY SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

THE QUESTION mark on what next continues to hang over the Valley. As tourists and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims started leaving the region Saturday, a day after the state government, citing security concerns, ordered them to leave immediately, at least six countries issued advisories against travelling to Jammu and Kashmir.



Tourism department officials said 10,000-15,000 tourists left Srinagar on Saturday. Shuaib Masoodi

Classes suspended, hostels closed, hospitals tell staff to 'be stationed'

ADIL AKHZER SRINAGAR, AUGUST 3

EVEN AS J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik warned against "unnecessary panic", a slew of new orders, by educational institutes, hospitals and government departments, added to the uncertainty across the Valley on Saturday.



Students leave NIT campus. Shuaib Masoodi

Five attempts by Pak's BAT on border posts, India hits back with Bofors

SUSHANT SINGH & ADIL AKHZER NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, AUGUST 3

AMID THE ongoing confusion in Kashmir, there has been a sudden increase in the quantum and nature of ceasefire violations on the Line of Control (LoC) in the past few days. This followed attempted actions by Pakistan's BAT (Border Action Team) and opening of artillery fire, which led to severe retaliation by Indian troops against Pakistan Army posts.

Top military sources told The Sunday Express that there were five BAT attempts on Indian military posts on the LoC in the past few days. It has been assessed that these BAT groups comprised highly trained professional SSG

Chhattisgarh: 7 Maoists killed in new Naxal zone

DIPANKARGHOSHE RAIPUR, AUGUST 3

SEVEN MAOISTS, including five women and an area committee secretary, were killed in an encounter with the Chhattisgarh Police Saturday in the Bagnadi area of Rajnandgaon district, bordering Maharashtra. With this operation, over the last week, 16 Maoists have been killed — an unusually high number during the monsoon when the forest tracks become difficult to navigate.

The encounter Saturday was also the first big operation in the MMC (Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh Confluence) zone, created by Maoists in a new area that adjoins all three states, affecting the dis-

EXPLAINED: New theatre of conflict

THIS IS the first big operation in the new MMC zone created by Maoists in an area that borders three states. It not only indicates that Maoist cadre are active in this zone but also that police is acting against Maoists in a new theatre of conflict.

tricts of Rajnandgaon and Kabirdham in Chhattisgarh, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Imam Bara in Kargil opens doors — for homework, coaching

ADIL AKHZER KARGIL, AUGUST 3

EVERY DAY after school, Zaheer Abbas, a Class IX student, heads to the Imam Bara at his Haldas village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kargil district. Though it is a place of worship, for Abbas and at least another 100 students, it's where studies really begin.

This Imam Bara, which until a few years ago, was closed most of the time except for 10 days during Muharram, has now opened its doors to school students from Haldas who need the extra coaching, help with homework and often, go just to listen to some good stories.

And to teach the students, Mohammed Hassan, who heads the village education committee, convinced young men from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

AN EXPRESS SERIES PART IV

After deradicalisation, safety net: Skills training, bank loans

SAGAR RAJPUT AURANGABAD, MUMBAI, AUGUST 3

SOON AFTER he had undergone the deradicalisation programme of the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) two years ago, the 33-year-old father of

four from Aurangabad faced a daunting question: what next? He had lost his job as a seller of mobile phones in 2016. And the ATS officers knew that without a secure future, there was a danger of him sliding back into the jihadi slipstream.

They had a solution, though. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Advertisement for Rahul's IAS Coaching Institute for Judicial Services Exams. Includes logo, text "Rahul's IAS at its best", and a grid of student photos with names and ranks.

Advertisement for Rahul's IAS Coaching Institute for Judicial Services Exams. Includes logo, text "Rahul's IAS at its best", and a large grid of student photos with names and ranks.

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Here's why dating apps have taken a liking to women



BURGLAR FINDS CASH DRAWERS EMPTY, LEAVES FEEDBACK NOTE IN DISMAY

A burglar who broke into a shop at Neyveli in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu left behind a feedback note for the shop's owner following an unsuccessful heist on Thursday night. The burglar was apparently left disheartened after coming across an empty cash drawer.

VIDEO OF THE DAY

JITTERS IN VALLEY

Jammu and Kashmir calls off Amarnath Yatra, tells tourists to leave

FULL COVERAGE

MUMBAI RAINS

Rains expected to intensify on Sunday and Monday

EXPRESS AUDIO

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In this episode of the Express Sports podcast, Daksh and Gaurav discuss how India is expected to perform at the Olympics next year

FROM PAGE ONE

5 BAT attempts

(Special Services Group) commandos of the Pakistan Army, said sources.

According to sources, Pakistan Army started artillery fire on Indian posts, which led to a retaliatory response from the Indian side. India's response including the use of Bofors 155mm artillery guns, which were used north of Pir Panjal ranges after a long time. The use of Bofors guns on the LoC is rare, and it has been done south of Pir Panjal.

It has been estimated, sources said, that the Pakistan Army was not prepared for such a massive retaliation and may have suffered high casualties.

The use of artillery guns portends a breakdown of the informal agreement between the two armies in April, when they had agreed to not undertake calibre escalation during ceasefire viola-

tions on the LoC. The violations were mostly limited to small arms firing, with only six calibre escalations among 181 ceasefire violations in the month of June.

Giving details of a BAT attempt "on one of the forward posts in Keran sector" of J&K, the Army said on Saturday that it had foiled the bid, "resulting in neutralising of 5 to 7 Pakistani regulars/terrorists".

A statement issued by the defence spokesperson in Srinagar, Colonel Rajesh Kalia, said that in the last 36 hours, a number of attempts were made by Pakistan "to disturb the peace in the Valley" and "target" the Amarnath Yatra.

Army sources said the BAT attempt was made on the intervening night of July 31 and August 1 in Kupwara's Keran sector, on the LoC. The operation in the area was still going on, they said.

Speaking to The Sunday Express, Colonel Kalia said that

since "shelling is going on in the area, the bodies haven't been recovered".

Army officers said four bodies of "possibly SSG" commandos or "maybe some of terrorists" have been sighted on the Indian side of the LoC. "Pakistani troops deployed in the area are interfering with search operations and attempts to recover the bodies," they said.

The Army also dismissed Pakistan's claims that India used "cluster bombs" against the people of Kashmir as "lies, deceit and deception". "Pakistan Army regularly attempts to push terrorists through infiltrations and opens up with multitude of weapons to assist them. India during numerous Directorate of Military Operations level talks, has maintained the right to respond. Such responses are only against military targets & infiltrating terrorists who are aided by Pak Army. Allegations of firing of cluster bombs by India is yet another Pak's lie, deceit & deception," the Army said in a sharply-worded statement.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had tweeted: "Strongly condemn the blatant use of cluster ammunition by Indian Security Forces targeting innocent civilians along the Line Of Control. This is clear violation of the Geneva Convention & International Laws".

"Use of cluster bombs by Indian Army violating international conventions is condemnable. No weapon can suppress determination of Kashmiris to get their right of self determination. Kashmir runs in blood of every Pakistani," tweeted Pakistan Army spokesperson Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor.

Meanwhile, Pakistani troops resorted to mortar shelling and small arms fire along the LoC in Balakote area of Poonch district on Saturday. The ceasefire violation began at 8.15 am, said sources. The Indian troops retaliated.

In the Valley, four Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists were killed in separate encounters by security forces. The cache recovered included a sniper rifle, IED and mine with Pakistani markings, the Army said.

— WITH ENS INPUTS, NEW DELHI, JAMMU

Deradicalisation

They got him to enrol at a rural government skill development centre and learn how to repair mobile phones. Next, they arranged for a public bank to give him a loan to set up a small shop in Aurangabad. Soon, he was back on his feet.

At least 120 youths, including six women, have undergone the ATS's deradicalisation programme — the only one in India to be run by a state police force — over the last three years to return from the brink of jihadi recruitment.

ATS officers said they have so far placed around 350 such youths for training at rural self-employment institutes that are run by banks with financial help for infrastructure from the state and central governments. After the six-week training, about 70 who underwent the programme have set up small ventures with the help of bank loans.

Even after this, officers said, the ATS continues to track them because any event, local or international, could still act as a "trigger" for those trying to build a new life. "For instance, after the New Zealand mosque attack in March, a close watch was kept on those who had attended the programme," he said.

Even after counselling, there were about 15 cases of potential re-radicalisation. "If we slip, anything can happen. But now, their movements are being watched by their families, too," the officer said. The Aurangabad youth is seen as one of the "waverers". In February this year, he decided to

Global travel advisories, Opp urges caution

And while J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik said there was no need to panic as the deployment of additional paramilitary forces was purely for security reasons, he underscored there were no plans to repeal Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution.

Malik also urged separate political delegations led by National Conference leader Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti to tell their supporters to maintain calm and not believe "exaggerated rumours".

"Nothing will happen secretly, it will come to Parliament...I've talked to everybody in Delhi and nobody has given me any hint that we will do this or that. Somebody is saying there will be trifurcation, somebody says Article 35 A, 370...Nobody has discussed these things with me, either the Prime Minister or the Home Minister," he said.

But with more official orders issued, including calling off the ongoing Machail yatra in Kishtwar and deploying additional forces in the Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar-Doda and

Ramban border districts, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said that "the Governor is not the final word on Jammu and Kashmir", and sought assurances on these issues from the Centre in Parliament Monday.

"He (Governor) assured us that there was no movement on (repealing) Article 370 or Article 35A or delimitation (of constituencies in the state)," Abdullah told reporters. "We went to Governor sahib to know what is happening because we are not getting the right answer from any side. We told this to Governor sahib that you are accusing us of spreading rumours but the fact is that wherever we want to know the truth, we don't get it."

Demanding answers, too, from the Centre, the Congress sought a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament to inform the country about the unprecedented steps it has taken and said that the BJP government is preparing for some "misadventure" in J&K.

According to Omar, Malik

told the NC delegation that a clear statement is being issued to satisfy the people. "But we want that when Parliament is convened on Monday, a similar statement should come from the Centre that makes us understand why the order — ending the yatra and asking tourists to return — was issued. We want to hear in Parliament that there is no need for the people of Kashmir to be frightened," he said. He also asked party MPs to move a motion in Parliament Monday seeking a statement from the Centre.

The BJP, meanwhile, accused leaders of the NC, PDP and Congress of deliberately trying to trigger panic as they themselves were frightened and asserted that the common man has nothing to fear.

Following the Centre's advisory - Malik Friday had said that there were serious and credible terror threats to the Yatra - tourists and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims started to leave the Valley Saturday even as the state Tourism Department said about 20,000-22,000 tourists were in Kashmir Friday.

The anxiety within the diplomatic community, too, was visible as six countries from the UK to Australia, Canada to Singapore issued travel advisories with more expected to follow suit.

This is the first time since Balakot airstrikes on February 26 that advisories have been issued by foreign governments on travelling to J&K.

The British High Commission in Delhi said that "UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise(d) against all travel to the immediate vicinity of the border with Pakistan, other than at Wagah, Jammu and Kashmir, except for (i) travel within the city of Jammu, (ii) travel by air to the city of Jammu, and (iii) travel within the region of Ladakh."

Germany, Canada, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia, too, issued similar alerts.

People's Conference Chairman Sajad Lone said that the Valley has "descended into a state of hopelessness and scare".

three years, we have opened lots of camps in the MMC area, almost 10 to 12 in the area."

"We have been training our forces in the terrain. What happened last year was that there was no exchange of fire but the forces moved around in those areas, increasing their knowledge of the geography. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra also are working, and we are coordinating with them. But no big encounter took place. It happened three to four times that we reached their camps but they ran away. This time, more specific intelligence, and some small tweaks in tactics have led to this."

Kargil Imam Bara



Children being offered free classes in Kargil. Shuaib Masoodi

village, particularly those studying outside Kargil, to return to Hardas in their college breaks and offer their services free of cost.

"Villagers were worried a few years ago when we received feedback from schools that children were unable to do their homework properly when they go back home. Also, fewer children attended school then. The villagers met and decided to start this initiative. We visited every household to convince them to send students to the Imam Bara for extra education," says Hassan.

"When we started this initiative, the number of students were few. But today, that number has reached 100 now," he says, adding that the Imam Bara "has found its calling. It opens round the clock to teach students."

Abbas says his life has changed. "When I have any doubts, I go to any of them and they explain it to me properly. Here, we are taught things in a simpler way and every day, I come here with full interest," he says, pointing towards his teacher, also named Mohammad Hassan, who is studying a post graduation course in Mathematics in Maharashtra.

Mohammad told The Sunday Express that other than the normal coaching, they also share experiences. "We give them more exposure by sharing our stories with them. Students here are always interested in listening to us and so, studies become more interesting for them," he says.

At the Imam Bara, volunteers focus on reading and writing. "We also improve their communication skills. The change is now happening because we have young children who are yet to go to school coming to our centre. We have given them drawing books and develop an interest for education among them," says Hassan, the education committee head.

Another college student Chulam Ali, pursuing his a post-graduation in geology in Uttarakhnad is also back in Hardas during his holidays and teaches at the Imam Bara every day.

"I give my time because I want to see these kids excel and do something well in the future," says Ali, who voluntarily teaches from 10 am to 2 pm," he said.

And when young men return to their colleges, residents of Hardas have also ensured that local teachers voluntarily to keep the Imam Bara coaching centre running.

The Imam Bara model is now spreading across Kargil said Nargis Bano, the Zonal Education Officer. She said that in other Kargil villages, too, non-local volunteers have started visiting government schools to lend a hand.

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# 'Controversy over DU English syllabus politically motivated'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

MORE THAN 80 English teachers across Delhi University (DU) colleges issued a statement, expressing displeasure at the controversy involving the revised English syllabus, calling it a "politically motivated attack" against a "democratically drafted syllabus".

This comes in the backdrop of the Undergraduate Curriculum Revision Committee suggesting the English department to consider removing several papers, as they are "controversial". The UGCRC suggested that poet Meena Kandasamy should be replaced by Premchand, Amitav Ghosh by R K Narayan, and any reference to the Indian People's Theatre Association or Jan Natya Manch should be removed.

Head of department Dr Raj Kumar confirmed that the process of revising the syllabus had begun in 2017 with a series of General Body Meetings and stated that the process of revision

had taken place over 3,000 hours with more than 120 teachers from 52 colleges. The teachers said the process of creating the syllabus began much before DU had directed departments to revise their curricula along Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework lines in March 2019.

"Discussions were minuted and circulated to ensure continuing the democratic spirit, in which the entire exercise was undertaken. The syllabus has received extensive student and faculty feedback, since it has been on the department website far longer than other subjects... Objections being raised now were never submitted during the time allocated for feedback," the statement read.

Rudrashish Chakraborty, who teaches English at Kirori Mal College, said the syllabus should be debated between teachers who teach the particular subject. "None of those raising objections are English teachers. Do they have the academic wherewithal to comment on the syllabus?" he said.

## DRIVER SPEEDING TO MAKE UP FOR DELAY: POLICE

# 1 dead, 2 injured after truck falls off flyover at IP Estate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

A 45-YEAR-OLD man was killed and two people injured after a truck they were travelling in fell off a flyover in Central Delhi's IP Estate early Saturday morning.

Eyewitnesses said the victims, who were trapped inside the truck, were pulled out after gas cutters were used to cut through the mangled vehicle.

Police identified the truck driver, who died on the spot, as Mohammed Jallaluddin, a resident of Mewat district in Haryana.

The other two victims, Sarukh (22) and Wazid (25), both helpers, suffered injuries and are recuperating in a hospital.

"Jallaluddin was working for a Rajasthan-based transporter and was transporting cap-



The truck first hit the railing of the flyover and tipped over, falling 25 feet below. The victims were pulled out after gas cutters were used to cut through the mangled vehicle. Express

sicums from Maharashtra's Kolhapur to the Azadpur market," said DCP (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa.

The truck was supposed to reach Azadpur market by 3 am, but was delayed due to a traffic snarl. As per preliminary inves-

tigation, a senior police officer said, the driver was speeding to make up for the delay.

The incident took place around 4.45 am near the Ring Road bypass flyover, when the driver lost control of the vehicle. "It first hit the railing of the flyover and then tipped over, falling 25 feet below. Police were informed about the incident around 4.50 am by locals. We had to use gas cutters to take out three persons trapped inside," an officer said.

"They were taken to a nearby hospital where Jallaluddin was declared dead on arrival, while the other two are undergoing treatment," he added.

Police are awaiting the post-mortem report.

Family members of the truck driver have been informed about the incident, police said.

# AAP MLA heckled while inspecting ration shop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

AAP MLA Pankaj Pushkar was allegedly heckled Saturday during the inspection of a ration shop, which has been under the scanner of the Food and Supplies Department over alleged irregularities since 2015, in North Delhi's Nehru Vihar. Food and Supplies Minister Imran Hussain was also present during the incident.

As per records of the food department, the licence of Fair Price Shop (FPS) 5509 was cancelled in March 2015 over a number of violations. The cancellation was revoked two months later as it was done without issuing notice. However, in another surprise inspection of the shop in October 2017, the department found more violations, including an excess stock of 41 kg of wheat.

When Hussain and Pushkar went to inspect the shop, the person running the FPS allegedly

heckled the Timarpur MLA. The licensee of the shop is one Savita, however, it is managed by her brother Sanjay Chawla.

As per the department's records, in 2015, the shop's licence had been cancelled when it emerged that Savita had leased her contract to Chawla, in violation of norms. In her appeal, she said her brother was managing the shop as she was a cancer patient.

Pushkar alleged the involvement of "ration mafia" in the incident. The MLA has named three persons, including Chawla, in the complaint. A video clip of the incident shows a man hurling abuses at Pushkar and activist Divesh Patel, who was also with him, and levelling allegations of extortion against them. As Pushkar urges Hussain to intervene, a woman slaps Patel and the group is forced to leave the spot.

DCP (North) Nupur Prasad said, "Necessary legal action is being taken. A non-cognizable report has been registered."

## BRIEFLY

### Mobile phones seized in prison raids

Gurgaon: Search operations were carried out in prisons across all districts in Haryana on Saturday, to beef up security in anticipation of Independence Day. While one mobile phone was seized from Gurgaon's Bhondsi Jail, two mobile phones, one charger, and a sum of Rs 35,510 was seized from inmates at Faridabad's Neemka jail.

### Scheme to fund SC students' education to be cleared soon

New Delhi: The Delhi government is likely to clear a scheme for funding the higher education of SC students abroad soon. Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam told *The Sunday Express* the government will fund the PhD and MPhil education of up to 100 eligible students per year under the scheme. A draft Cabinet note has been prepared for the proposal, which has already been vetted by departments such as finance and law. "The proposal is being studied by the CMO one last time before it is placed before the Cabinet," Gautam said. Under the scheme, those going for PhD, having a term of four years, will be paid Rs 20 lakh while MPhil and related courses will see funding of Rs 10 lakh per student.

### Plantation drives held

New Delhi: Nearly 10,000 students from 50 NDMC schools planted 8,000 trees and 27,000 shrubs in parks and 10 main roads as part of the Fifth Tree Plantation Drive Saturday. The event was inaugurated by Delhi L-G Anil Baijal at Traffic Training Park near Shivaji Stadium. Nearly 8,000 officials of the Delhi Jal Board also planted as many as 1 lakh saplings of trees and shrubs at 28 locations across the capital. The drive started from Chandrawal water treatment plant and covered the board's other offices and facilities. The saplings included species of jamun, bougainvillea, chandni, hibiscus and gardenia.

### Man held for kidnapping minor boy

New Delhi: A man was arrested Saturday from South Delhi's Sangam Vihar area for allegedly kidnapping a four-year-old boy. Police said the child was rescued from a day after he was kidnapped. ENS

**PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE**  
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M/s Bharadwaj Hotel & Resorts Private Limited & others  
(In R.P. Case No. 298/2012 arising out of Certificate No. OA. 89/2012)

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Description of Property:					
Schedule A Immovable Properties					
Sl.N./Lot No.	Description of Property		Reserve Price	EMD	Date and time of Auction
1	Schedule-A	7 Kattha 2 Dhur	Rs. 1,73,00,000.00 (Rupees One crore seventy three lacs only)	Rs. 17,30,000.00 (Rupees Seventeen lac thirty thousand only) on or before 04/09/2019 upto 4.00 P.M.	06/09/2019 between 12.30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required.
<p>(Equitable Mortgage immovable properties in the name of defendant no.-1 and mortgaged by it, through defendant no.-2 as security for the loan granted to the defendant no.1).</p> <p>1. All the piece and parcel of land admeasuring 7 Kattha 2 Dhurs more or less, in the name of Shri Samarendra Kumar &amp; Smt. Ruby Kumari, Situated at Mauza-Madhubani, Pargana Haveli, Thana No.123/2 Tauzi No.201, Old Ward No.08, New Ward No.14/15, M.S. Khata No.678, M.S. Khesra No.755(P), Sub Registry Office &amp; District Registry Office-Purnea, District-Purnea, in the District of Bihar and bounded by: North:Part of Khesra 755, South: Nij (Seller), East-Khesra 3351, West-NH31. Together with all the building and structures constructed or to be constructed thereon, fixed plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, fixtures and fittings erected/installed or to be erected/installed thereon, both present and future, and every part thereof.</p>					

Schedule "B"					
Sl.N./Lot No.	Description of Property		Reserve Price	EMD	Date and time of Auction
2	Schedule-B 1(a)	1 Bigha 4 Kattha	Rs. 40,00,000.00 (Rupees Forty lacs only)	Rs. 4,00,000.00 (Rupees Four lacs only) on or before 04/09/2019 upto 4.00 P.M.	06/09/2019 between 12.30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required.
<p>(Equitable Mortgage immovable properties in the name of defendant no.-2 and defendant no.-3 and mortgaged by them as security for the loan granted to the defendant no.1).</p> <p>Schedule-1(a) - Plot of land admeasuring 1 Bigha 4 Kattha more or less situated at Mauza-Madhubani, Pargana-Haveli, Thana-Khajanchi Hat, bearing Tauzi No.-201, Thana No.123/1, Survey Khata No.966, Survey Khesra No.-3340(P), Ward No.12(Old) 5/5(New), under Sub and Sadar Registry Office-Purnea, District-Purnia, and bounded by: in the North-Nij (Khesra No.3340(P)) in the South-Kachcha Road, in the East-Khesra 3351, in the West-nij (Road 12ft.), owned and possessed jointly by Shri Samarendra Kumar and Smt. Ruby Kumari.</p>					

Sl.N./Lot No.	Description of Property		Reserve Price	EMD	Date and time of Auction
3	Schedule-B 1(b)	16 Decimals 8 Kari	Rs. 45,00,000.00 (Rupees Forty five lacs only)	Rs. 4,50,000.00 (Rupees Four lacs fifty thousand only) on or before 04/09/2019 upto 4.00 P.M.	06/09/2019 between 12.30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required.
<p>Schedule-1(b) - Plot of land admeasuring 16 Decimals 8 Kari more or less situated at Mauza-Madhubani, Pargana-Haveli, Thana-Khajanchi Hat, bearing Tauzi No.-8/5, Thana No.108, Survey Khata No.73, Survey Khesra No.-324, under Sadar Registry Office-Purnea, District-Purnia, and bounded by: in the North-NH 31, in the South-Kachcha Road, in the East-S.P. Singh, in the West-Dilip Choudhary, owned and possessed jointly by Shri Samarendra Kumar and Smt. Ruby Kumari vide two separate Sale Deeds.</p>					

E-Auction regarding Details	
E-Auction Provider Company Name	E-procurement Technologies Ltd.
E-Auction Provider Company Address	B-705, Wall Street 2, (Near Gujarat College), Opposite to Orient Club Ellis Bridge, Ahmadabad- 380006
E-Auction Website	http://hudcoauction.auctiontiger.net
Contact Person of E-Auction Company	Shri Ali Jauhar - 9852483558/6202333686/6352490780
E-mail id of E-Auction Company	bihar@auctiontiger.net, rahul.p@auctiontiger.net
Land Line of E-Auction Company	079-40005418
Mobile No. of E-Auction Company	Shri Ali Jauhar- +91 9852483558/+91 6202333686/+91 6352490780
Authorized Person of HUDCO	Shri G. Adhin
Designation of Authorized Person of HUDCO	Joint General Manager (Law)
Mobile No. of Authorized Person of HUDCO	+91 8800100293/ +91 9264438823
Address of Authorized Person of HUDCO	HUDCO Ltd., Block-B/2, Mauryalok Complex, Dak Bunglow Road, Patna-800001.
Bank Details in which EMD/Sale Consideration is to be deposited	
Bank Name	AXIS Bank Ltd.
Branch Address	Loknaya Bhawan, Patna
Account No.	14201020000310
IFSC Code	UTIB0000142

**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE:-**

- The property shall be sold "as is where is basis".
- The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and password for participating in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite Earnest Money Deposit be paid by prescribed mode.
- To take part in Auction, each bidder shall deposit Earnest Money (EMD) @ of 10% of the Reserve Price which shall be paid by electronic transfer to the concerned Bank's EMD Account or through DD/pay order drawn in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna alongwith copy of PAN card, Address proof and Identity proof with E-mail ID, Mobile No. of bidder. The Envelop containing EMD alongwith details of documents should be superscribed R.P. No.298/2012 and in case of the company copy of resolution by the Board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company should reach on or before 4.00 P.M. of 04/09/2019 in the office of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna or should credit the amount in respective Bank's/Financial Institution's account. EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds (including EMD) on the next working day of sale through the mode as stated above.
- The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the Property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs.1,000/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs.1,000/- by prescribed mode as stated above.
- In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
- The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons.
- EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be returned the same day of auction by DRT/Bank by credit to the account of bidder mention in bid form.
- Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider.
- Prospective bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms & conditions of sale before submitting their bids or contact Branch Manager of the concerned Branch.

(Nandan Kumar)  
Recovery Officer  
Dated : 27.07.2019 Seal

**Gujarat National Law University**  
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Principal Investigator  
LONG TERM CORAL REEF MONITORING PROGRAMME - LAKSHADWEEP

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**C/O CLARION PROPERTIES LTD.**  
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Whereas, M/s Radhika Polymers & Others in collaboration with Clarion Properties Ltd. ('Company') is in process of undertaking the development of a Commercial Colony in Sector 102, Gurugram over an area measuring 5.846875 acres in accordance with the provision of License No. 93 of 2012 dated 05.09.2012 and 30 & 31 of 2014 dated 12.06.2014 granted by Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.

And whereas, the company proposes to add F.A.R on the basis of gold rating awarded by IGBC & make other minor changes inside the building.

And whereas, all the changes have been approved "in principle" by the DGTC on 25.07.2019. And whereas, as a pre-condition for allowing such revisions in the Building Plan, the office of Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana Chandigarh requires the Company to ascertain if there are any objections to the revision of Building Plan.

Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from the allottees on the proposed revisions to Building Plan of the said Commercial colony. A copy of the earlier approved Building Plan bearing memo no. ZP-979/SD(BS)/2015/9451 dated 05.06.2015 and the revised Building Plan "IN Principle" bearing memo no. ZP-979/AD(RA)/2019/17606 dated 25.07.2019 is available for perusal on our website [www.satyagroups.in](http://www.satyagroups.in).

The said Building Plan can also be perused at the office of undersigned at, plot No. 8, sector- 44, Gurugram as well as in the office of senior Town Planner, HUDA Complex, Sector- 14, Gurugram. Any allottee having any objection on revised Building Plan, may file his objection in the office of senior Town Planner, Huda Complex, Sector- 44, Gurugram within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the said Building Plan of the colony.

Place: Gurgaon  
Date: 04 August, 2019

For Clarion Properties Ltd.  
Authorized Signatory

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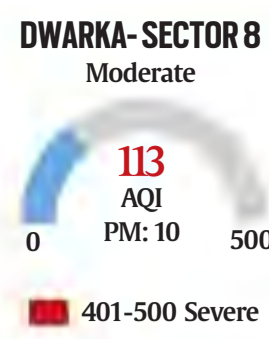
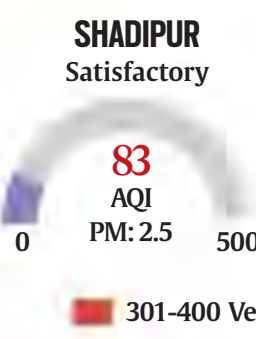
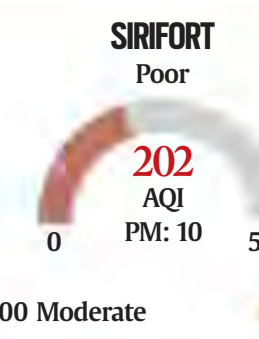
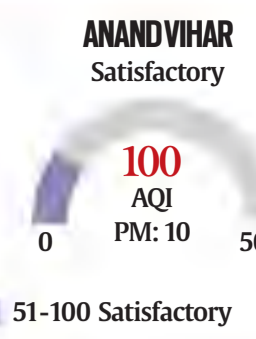
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DPCC sets 5-ft height limit on Durga idols, puja organisers approach CM

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

WITH TWO months to go for Durga Puja festivities, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has issued an order capping the maximum height of idols at five feet, prompting the organisers to raise the issue with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

According to the DPCC order dated July 5, the ceiling has been fixed so that the idols can be immersed in ponds at designated sites instead of the Yamuna, which is heavily polluted. The order also "discourages" the painting of idols, unless water soluble and non-toxic natural dyes are used. This year, Durga Puja will begin on October 4.



DPCC order states that the cap on height will ensure idols are immersed in ponds, and not the Yamuna. Archive

ner. Make small size idols not more than 5 feet in height so that those can be immersed in ponds to be prepared at designated sites," the DPCC order states. A delegation of the New Delhi Kali Bari, Mandir Marg, met Kejriwal on Saturday and conveyed that the condition on height of idols was "unacceptable". Dipten Dey, joint secretary of

the New Delhi Kali Bari, said Kejriwal assured the delegation that the government will issue a revised order soon, which will do away with the height ceiling. "The average height of Durga idols range between 10-15 feet. The large puja samitis usually make 15-foot idols. There are rare instances of idols touching 20 feet as well, but that is not the

norm," Dey said. The delegation also handed over a letter to the CM, stating: "Devotees from all over the country throng our pandal. During the time of aarti, thousands of devotees gather to offer prayers. Just imagine how will people at the back get a glimpse of Maa Durga if the height is capped at 5 feet? We are unable to understand how an idol of 5 feet will be less polluting than an idol of 15 feet."

Meanwhile, the DPCC has also notified 151 sites for immersion of idols across the 11 revenue districts of Delhi.

The order says toxic chemicals used in making idols cause serious pollution. "Studies carried out to assess deterioration in water quality due to idol immersion reveal deterioration of water quality in respect to conductivity, bio-chemical oxygen demand and heavy metal concentration," it states.

The DPCC did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

PROTEST AGAINST NMC BILL CONTINUES

AIIMS and Safdarjung doctors boycott work despite warning

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

FOR THE third consecutive day, resident doctors of two Centre-run government hospitals in the capital, AIIMS and Safdarjung, continued to boycott work Saturday in protest against the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill. The Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare, meanwhile, warned of punitive action like termination of service if they do not join work immediately.

Following the ministry's directions, administrations of both hospitals issued memorandums to resident doctors to resume work at their respective departments.

At AIIMS, resident doctors resumed emergency services around midnight but non-essential services, including OPD, remained suspended. At Safdarjung Hospital, doctors did not join duty in any department, including the emergency ward.

"All members of the RDA and students' union are hereby directed to resume duties in their respective departments with immediate effect, failing which strict disciplinary action like suspension/termination of services, vacation of hostel accommodation, etc may be taken," the AIIMS administration said in the memorandum.

Late Friday night, doctors said they were resuming emergency services at AIIMS and all hospitals under the umbrella of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA). However, the RDA of Safdarjung Hospital did not call off the strike.



Resident doctors from AIIMS and Safdarjung hold a protest on the Ring Road, blocking traffic along the stretch. Tashi Tobgyal

On Saturday, following the Health Ministry's warning, heavy police deployment was seen outside AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital to maintain order. The NMC Bill seeks to replace the graft-tainted Medical Council of India and proposes a common final-year MBBS examination, to be known as the National Exit Test (NEXT), for admission to post-graduate medical courses and for obtaining a licence to practise medicine.

Doctors have demanded amendments to the Bill, claiming it will otherwise lead to deterioration of medical education and the degradation of healthcare services. They claim that several sections of the Bill encourages quackery, by allowing persons other than those who possess MBBS degrees to practice modern medicine.

with any matter pertaining to his service". The statement resists the application of the CCS rules, alleging that these "infringe censorship as a condition of service. Indian academics will not be able to engage in any critiques of government policy, and will also not be able to fulfill their professional duties freely."

Gurgaon underpass opens 26 hrs later

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE GURGAON, AUGUST 3

OVER 24 hours after the right-turn underpass at Gurgaon's IF-CO Chowk was inundated under "around 5 feet" of water following heavy rainfall, the structure was cleared and re-opened to commuters on Saturday evening.

Officials from Bloom Companies LLC, the consultant allotted by NHAI for the underpass, said it was re-opened at 6 pm on Saturday. "The water was cleared Friday evening, but a lot of silt had gathered which needed to be removed manually... Around 20

labourers worked on this task, picking up silt and loading it onto tractors and dumpers. Additionally, since some of the silt had become liquid, like slush, we also roped in water tankers to wash it away," said Saurabh Singhal, team leader and traffic transportation expert at Bloom.

The underpass, which was closed around 4 pm Friday following 32 mm of rainfall, was finally opened 26 hours later.

On Friday, officials said although the pumps inside the structure were operational, a sudden gush of water coming from Sikanderpur proved to be difficult to handle. Speaking to The Sunday



Desilting work was carried out at the IFFCO Chowk underpass Saturday

Express Saturday, they said although the underpass has been re-opened, some work still re-

mains to be done.

"The extension joint, part of which collapsed Friday evening, will also be repaired overnight by installing stiffeners," said Singhal.

This is the second time in a month the underpass has been buried under water. On July 21, around "2-2.5 feet" of water collected inside it, following 2 mm of rainfall.

On Saturday, although some areas of Gurgaon like Farrukhnagar remained dry, others, including Manesar and Sohna, experienced 50 mm and 18 mm of rainfall respectively. Gurgaon city, however, experienced only 1 mm of rainfall.

Advertisement for East Central Railway tenders for various engineering and electrical works, including bridge repairs and station upgrades.

Advertisement for East Central Railway tenders for mechanical and electrical works, including signaling and power supply systems.

Advertisement for Southern Railway tenders for refilling and servicing fire extinguishers in electric locomotives.

Advertisement for Government of India Ministry of Finance Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Hyderabad, with details on debt recovery and legal procedures.

Advertisement for 'Salute the Soldier' by Sashtra Seema Bal, honoring a martyr.

Advertisement for 'Nivida Suncha' (निविदा सूचना) for various engineering tenders related to equipment and machinery.

Large advertisement for Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) corrigendum regarding recruitment rules and exam details.

Advertisement for the action against 48 JNU teachers, detailing the university's disciplinary measures.

Advertisement for the Matiyaki Mahavidyalaya, Kharwa, Jharkhand, mentioning its affiliation and faculty.

Advertisement for the Uttar Pradesh Pradhikaran Niyam Board, Kamal Singh, detailing exam regulations.

# Woman, three-year-old daughter killed after Army truck rams bike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOIDA, AUGUST 3

A 25-YEAR-OLD woman and her three-year-old daughter died after the two-wheeler they were travelling on was knocked down by an Army truck in Ghaziabad Saturday morning.

Police identified the victims as Tabassum and her daughter Sumaiya, and said that their relative Noor Mohammad, who was driving the bike, sustained serious injuries.

"We received information about an accident near a flyover

**A court of enquiry will be set up once we receive information from the Ghaziabad Police, said an Army official**

close to Meerut Tiraha. As per the complaint, the Army truck hit the vehicle from behind. The driver of the truck, Sukhvir Singh, has been arrested. The truck involved in the accident has been seized," said Shloka Kumar, SP City.

According to police, the Army truck belonged to the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Armed Forces.

The victims hailed from Meerut and were travelling towards Shahdara to visit a relative who had undergone an operation recently. They were planning to take Sumaiya's twin sister as well but dropped the plan as there was no space on the bike.

"Two of our relatives have died while another came out alive after an operation. They only wished to visit the patient, but instead they died on the

way," said Karimuddin, a relative.

The last rites of the victims were carried out in their native place in Meerut's Humayun Nagar.

Meanwhile, the Army said it is awaiting communication from the Ghaziabad Police.

"A court of enquiry will be set up once we receive information from the Ghaziabad Police. A decision, thereafter, will be taken on whether the case should proceed in the Military Court or the Civil Court. Action will be taken accordingly," said an Army official.

## जिला निर्वाचन कार्यालय, रेवाड़ी DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICE, REWARI

### 73-कोसली विधान सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र की मतदाता सूची में काटे जाने वाले मतदाताओं के नामों की सूची

क्र. सं.	भाग संख्या	वोट क्र.सं.	मतदाता का नाम	मतदाता सूची से नाम काटे जाने का कारण	गांव/शहर का नाम
1	15	381	पूज्य	स्थान परिवर्तन	भाकली
2	15	787	सोनिषा	स्थान परिवर्तन	भाकली
3	17	209	ज्योति	स्थान परिवर्तन	भाकली
4	20	280	सुरेना कुमारी	स्थान परिवर्तन	जखाला
5	24	116	पुष्पेंद्र	वोहरी चोट	तलथल
6	27	2	सुमित यादव	स्थान परिवर्तन	बैरामपुर
7	34	995	अजय कुमार	वोहरी चोट	कन्हौरा
8	49	72	सुरेश कुमार	मृत्यु	कोसली
9	49	289	भूपेंद्र सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
10	49	227	लक्ष्मी नारायण	मृत्यु	कोसली
11	49	161	सोना	मृत्यु	कोसली
12	49	203	ताराचन्द	लापता	कोसली
13	49	83	संतोष	मृत्यु	कोसली
14	49	71	मनभरी	मृत्यु	कोसली
15	49	726	मिश्री	मृत्यु	कोसली
16	49	692	जगहप	मृत्यु	कोसली
17	49	272	मूर्ति	मृत्यु	कोसली
18	49	578	नारायण सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
19	49	831	रामकिशन	मृत्यु	कोसली
20	49	427	विकास	मृत्यु	कोसली
21	49	150	सतबीर सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
22	49	840	सुमन देवी	मृत्यु	कोसली
23	49	839	सावित्री देवी	मृत्यु	कोसली
24	49	799	शीला देवी	मृत्यु	कोसली
25	49	733	प्रकाश	मृत्यु	कोसली
26	49	663	कंचार सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
27	49	48	धर्म सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
28	49	606	असरफ़ी	मृत्यु	कोसली
29	49	582	राम सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
30	49	425	नीलिखल सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
31	49	153	सुरेंद्र	मृत्यु	कोसली
32	49	150	सतबीर सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
33	50	894	मनिषा यादव	स्थान परिवर्तन	कोसली
34	51	65	रामकुमार	मृत्यु	कोसली
35	51	45	नरेंद्र	मृत्यु	कोसली
36	51	123	राजकौर	मृत्यु	कोसली
37	51	281	सतबीर	मृत्यु	कोसली
38	51	307	मकतूल	मृत्यु	कोसली
39	51	802	रिंकू राय	स्थान परिवर्तन	कोसली
40	51	362	सतदेव	मृत्यु	कोसली
41	51	372	जहारी	मृत्यु	कोसली
42	51	374	सम्जन सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
43	51	428	विद्या	मृत्यु	कोसली
44	51	429	राजकुमार	मृत्यु	कोसली
45	54	97	सावित्री	मृत्यु	कोसली
46	54	240	हमीर सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
47	54	245	पार्वती	मृत्यु	कोसली
48	54	128	नवीन कुमार	मृत्यु	कोसली
49	54	233	सुरेंद्र	मृत्यु	कोसली
50	56	23	मदन	मृत्यु	कोसली
51	56	95	ईश्वर सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
52	56	189	राज सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
53	56	203	महेंद्र सिंह	मृत्यु	कोसली
54	56	210	मुंशी	मृत्यु	कोसली
55	56	212	कमल	मृत्यु	कोसली
56	56	235	कृष्ण कुमार	मृत्यु	कोसली
57	56	251	मोंगे राम	मृत्यु	कोसली
58	56	255	नरपाल	मृत्यु	कोसली
59	56	183	रामकला	मृत्यु	कोसली
60	56	252	मुनी देवी	मृत्यु	कोसली
61	56	294	शान्ति	मृत्यु	कोसली
62	57	187	राजगण	मृत्यु	भूथला
63	57	189	माया देवी	मृत्यु	भूथला
64	57	493	कृष्णा	मृत्यु	भूथला
65	57	476	विमला	मृत्यु	भूथला
66	57	198	वजीर सिंह	मृत्यु	भूथला
67	57	194	वर्षा देवी	स्थान परिवर्तन	भूथला
68	57	933	कंचर सिंह	मृत्यु	भूथला
69	57	442	धन सिंह	मृत्यु	भूथला
70	57	70	लक्ष्मी देवी	मृत्यु	भूथला
71	57	41	मूर्ति	मृत्यु	भूथला
72	64	699	हरिओम शर्मा	स्थान परिवर्तन	झाल
73	67	943	सनेहा	स्थान परिवर्तन	कोहारडू
74	79	1030	निष्केतिका	स्थान परिवर्तन	नया गाँव
75	87	756	प्रियंका	स्थान परिवर्तन	कारोली
76	87	734	प्रियंका	स्थान परिवर्तन	कारोली
77	99	116	धर्मवीर	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
78	99	556	सतपाल	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
79	99	193	सुजयाना	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
80	99	947	रामसकल	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
81	99	89	दुलोचन्द	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
82	99	911	भगवानो	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
83	99	886	मुरली	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
84	99	36	दुलोचन्द	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
85	99	998	मुर्ती	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
86	99	461	सदराम	मृत्यु	जाहिरपुर टप्पा कोसली
87	111	589	योगेंद्र	मृत्यु	गुरावडा
88	113	540	किष्ण कुमारी	स्थान परिवर्तन	जौबडा
89	114	718	अनिता देवी	स्थान परिवर्तन	पाल्हावास
90	114	251	रुपा देवी	स्थान परिवर्तन	पाल्हावास
91	114	199	प्रिति यादव	स्थान परिवर्तन	पाल्हावास
92	114	717	राकेश कुमार	स्थान परिवर्तन	पाल्हावास
93	122	3	रविन्द्र कुमार	स्थान परिवर्तन	बोहरतवास भौडू
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97	126	204	कवरपाल	मृत्यु	दूमना
98	126	432	प्रेम सिंह	मृत्यु	दूमना

उपरोक्त नाम मतदाता सूची से हटाए जाने प्रस्तावित हैं। यदि इन नामों के मतदाता सूची से हटाए जाने पर किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह व्यक्ति एक सप्ताह के अन्दर निर्वाचक पंजीन अधिकारी, 73-कोसली विधान सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र एवं उप मंडल अधिकारी (ना.), कोसली के समक्ष साक्ष्यों सहित उचित दस्तावेजों के साथ आपत्ति दर्ज करा सकते हैं।

क्र. सं.	भाग संख्या	वोट क्र.सं.	मतदाता का नाम	मतदाता सूची से नाम काटे जाने का कारण	गांव/शहर का नाम
99	126	497	मीतू यादव	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
100	126	185	शमशेर	मृत्यु	दूमना
101	126	283	सुप्रीति देवी	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
102	126	216	विरेंद्र कुमार	मृत्यु	दूमना
103	126	218	रविन्द्र	मृत्यु	दूमना
104	126	226	राजेंद्र	मृत्यु	दूमना
105	127	153	प्रेम	मृत्यु	दूमना
106	127	15	मिन्दीवी	मृत्यु	दूमना
107	127	740	बसंती	मृत्यु	दूमना
108	127	466	प्रभाती लाल	मृत्यु	दूमना
109	127	1029	प्रभाती लाल	मृत्यु	दूमना
110	127	341	चंदन	मृत्यु	दूमना
111	127	974	मूर्ति	मृत्यु	दूमना
112	127	193	बलबीर	मृत्यु	दूमना
113	127	366	रौना	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
114	127	338	नधिषा	मृत्यु	दूमना
115	127	335	होशियार सिंह	मृत्यु	दूमना
116	127	166	मोनिका यादव	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
117	127	179	कुमारी संगीता	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
118	127	1052	रामप्रसाद	मृत्यु	दूमना
119	127		विमला	मृत्यु	दूमना
120	127	848	सतपाल	मृत्यु	दूमना
121	127	408	लाला राम	मृत्यु	दूमना
122	127	761	विनोद कुमार	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
123	127		हेमलता	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
124	127	320	द्रोपदी	मृत्यु	दूमना
125	127	127	शांति	मृत्यु	दूमना
126	127	27	कृष्णा	मृत्यु	दूमना
127	127	153	वीर सिंह	मृत्यु	दूमना
128	127	18	सुनीता	मृत्यु	दूमना
129	127	740	राजेंद्र सिंह	मृत्यु	दूमना
130	127	466	निवेश यादव	मृत्यु	दूमना
131	127	1029	अंकित	मृत्यु	दूमना
132	127	344	मंजु	मृत्यु	दूमना
133	127	974	रामचन्द्र	मृत्यु	दूमना
134	127	193	शीरा राम	मृत्यु	दूमना
135	127	366	रौना	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
136	127	355	विक्रम सिंह	स्थान परिवर्तन	दूमना
137	128	314	मनोज	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
138	128	128	रजनीत	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
139	128	46	सुरीला	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
140	128	2	मनोहर लाल	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
141	128	157	शांति बाला	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
142	128	152	विनोद कुमार	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
143	128	526	शिवचरण	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
144	128	25	सखती	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
145	128	98	बसंती	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
146	128	106	सुष्मा	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
147	128	99	विद्या	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
148	128	166	नेतराम	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
149	129	819	साधु	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
150	129	201	संतरा	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
151	129	390	इन्दुबाला	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
152	129	387	अनिता	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
153	129	417	ज्योति	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
154	129	725	निशा	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
155	129	601	प्रतिनि यादव	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
156	129	602	पूजा यादव	स्थान परिवर्तन	दड़ौली
157	129	719	छोट	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
158	129	718	श्यामबाई	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
159	129	638	नंकी राम	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
160	129	728	केलेश	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
161	129	641	विक्रम	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
162	129	452	मूर्ति	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
163	129	634	सखती	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
164	129	107	इमली	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
165	129	743	कन्हौराम	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
166	129	529	हरदयारी	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
167	129	205	रामनिवास	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
168	129	166	नेतराम	मृत्यु	दड़ौली
169	145	334	विरेंद्र	स्थान परिवर्तन	फतेहपुरी टप्पा डहौन
170	145	336	मनोमा	स्थान परिवर्तन	फतेहपुरी टप्पा डहौन
171	161	371	अनिल	स्थान परिवर्तन	आसियाकी गोरावास
172	161	364	अशोक कुमार	स्थान परिवर्तन	आसियाकी गोरावास
173	161	368	प्रदीप कुमार	स्थान परिवर्तन	आसियाकी गोरावास
174	173	760	वस्था	स्थान परिवर्तन	लाला
175	174	204	मोनिका	स्थान परिवर्तन	मुंसेपुर
176	175	767	वोहरी चोट	मृत्यु	मुंसेपुर
177	176	798	मोन्टी सोनी	स्थान परिवर्तन	वेरली कलाँ
178	180	378	अंजु यादव	स्थान परिवर्तन	काहडी
179	184	938	साक्षी कुमारी	स्थान परिवर्तन	कंबाली
180	184	307	राजकुन्ता देवी	स्थान परिवर्तन	कंबाली
181	184	321	राकेश रत्न	स्थान परिवर्तन	कंबाली
182	184	323	रमली	स्थान परिवर्तन	कंबाली
183	184	322	अशोक कुमार	स्थान परिवर्तन	कंबाली
184	184	324	अनू कुमारी	स्थान परिवर्तन	कंबाली
185	184	306	विरेंद्र कुमार	स्थान परिवर्तन	कंबाली
186	187	274	गीता देवी	मृत्यु	डहौन
187	187	459	रामभद्री	मृत्यु	डहौन
188	191	780	रामनिवास	स्थान परिवर्तन	डहौन
189	191	764	सरोज	स्थान परिवर्तन	डहौन
190	192	906	ममता	स्थान परिवर्तन	डहौन
191	227	252	प्रीतम	स्थान परिवर्तन	नांगल मुन्दी
192	238	77	सतबीर	मृत्यु	डेंचा
193	238	201	महीपाल	मृत्यु	डेंचा
194	238	194	ननिषा	मृत्यु	डेंचा
195	238	218	रामकंवार	मृत्यु	डेंचा
196					

# 7 GOVT & POLITICS

DAY AFTER GOVT ADVISORY

## Pilgrims, tourists head out, others on edge

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 3

UNDER A new flyover in the heart of Srinagar, inaugurated by the Governor less than two months ago, commercial vehicles were lined up to take tourists out of the city.

Tourists were seen climbing into the waiting vehicles, bags hanging from their shoulders, cutting their trips short and returning home. This a day after the Jammu and Kashmir administration called off the Amarnath Yatra and ordered pilgrims and tourists to leave immediately.

Although the order was directed specifically for yatrists and tourists, the non-local population in the state was also on edge. With apprehensions of a curfew being imposed allayed for another day, they checked tickets online or asked others to join them to take the road out of Kashmir.

"It does not seem like the situation will improve. There is so much confusion that we do not want to risk staying here and then not having the option to even reach the airport," Raj Sharan, a 38-year-old interior designer from Delhi, told The Sunday Express.

There was also confusion among those who work here and cannot abandon their livelihoods to return. They include people setting up fibre networks in the Valley, those designing cafes, labourers, tailors, muzzinis.

At the city centre, pilgrims who were returning without getting a chance to pay obeisance at the holy cave said that hotel owners turned them away from the reception quoting the government order issued on Friday.

Anticipating the end of the tourist season in Kashmir, vendors tried to sell trinkets at marked up prices. Tourists, however, were conspicuous by their absence and store owners sat at their shop fronts and discussed the developments in the state.



A cab driver loads luggage on his vehicle near the Dal Lake in Srinagar. Shuaib Masoodi

## Machail Yatra suspended, more forces deployed in Jammu areas

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, AUGUST 3

THE ONGOING Machail Yatra to the Kaali temple in Padda area of Kishtwar has been suspended with Governor Satya Pal Malik's administration deploying additional Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in areas of Jammu division along the borders of the Kashmir Valley.

"Following a message from the state administration last night that the Machail Yatra shall be stopped, we have suspended it till further orders," a senior official said, adding that the chopper service from Kishtwar to Machail has also been suspended.

The deployment of additional forces, including personnel of the BSF, CRPF and Rapid Action Force, has begun in areas of border Rajouri and Poonch districts in Pir Panjal region and

Kishtwar-Doda and Ramban districts of Chenab Valley, according to sources who did not wish to be named. "The new forces are being deployed in towns and areas falling on their periphery," they said, pointing out that this is apart from the security forces already deployed in forests and hilly areas which act as a dividing line between Jammu province and Kashmir Valley.

Pointing out that the deployment of additional forces had begun two-three days ago, local residents said that CRPF personnel have set up a picket at Buffiaz bridge checking vehicles plying on the Mughal road which connects Kashmir's Shopian district with Poonch in Jammu province. Another picket has come up at Dehra Ki Gali, which is on the road connecting Rajouri district with Mughal road at Buffiaz, they said. Bunkers and pickets have resur-

ged over the past few days at various places in Bhandarwah, Thathri and Doda towns after nearly 15 years, they said.

A senior police officer who did not wish to be named confirmed that bunkers are being set up in Doda and other places as it was done in Kishtwar, where a BJP leader and RSS functionary were gunned down in separate incidents last year and this year. Village defence committees have also been set up by the police in Kishtwar.

However, in the plains of Jammu, Samba and Kathua, there is no additional security forces deployment so far, sources said. Additional forces, which had arrived as part of security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra, continue to be stationed there.

The Machail yatra in Kishtwar's Padda area started last month and it was scheduled to end on September 5.

## 6,000 flown out of Srinagar, 22 flights today

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

MORE THAN 6,000 people were flown out of Srinagar by scheduled airlines and Indian Air Force planes on Saturday, a day after the J&K administration issued a security advisory.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) stated that 6,216 passengers reported at Srinagar airport on Saturday to fly back.

Of this, 5,829 passengers travelled by scheduled flights, and the "remaining 387 passengers were accommodated in four IAF aircraft and flown to destinations like Jammu, Pathankot and Hindon," AAI said in a statement.

Fares for scheduled flights out of Srinagar on Saturday skyrocketed shortly after the advisory was issued. The spot fares for a Srinagar-Delhi flight on Friday evening remained between Rs 7,000 and Rs 8,000; it went up to Rs 16,000-Rs 17,000 for Saturday.

To address the jump in fare, as a result of flights being sold out, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has asked all airlines to rein in the surging fares for those returning from the state.

Addressing the media on the situation of uncertainty and panic in the Valley, top Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, P Chidambaram, Ambika Soni, Anand Sharma and Karan Singh accused the BJP-led NDA government of spreading panic. "When they (government) do something in

## Cong cautions govt against 'misadventure'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

THE CENTRE is preparing for some "misadventure" in Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress said on Saturday and cautioned the government against resorting to any such course of action.

The party leaders also accused the government of "spreading fear by issuing the (security) advisory", curtailing Amarnath Yatra and asking tourists and pilgrims to leave the Valley immediately. The party asked PM Narendra Modi to make a statement in Parliament and inform the country about reasons for the unprecedented steps.

The CPI(M), too, asked the government to desist from any "political adventurism" in J&K that will have "grave consequences for the country" and demanded an explanation on steps being taken in the state.

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Ghulam Nabi Azad, Karan Singh in Delhi. Amit Mehra

Kashmir, they don't think about the benefit and damage it will have in Kashmir. They think how it can be encashed elsewhere in the country," Azad said. "The government is spreading fear by issuing the advisory. It is generating hate against people of Kashmir."

Asked about speculation that the government could scrap Article 35A through a Presidential order, trifurcate the state, or go for delimitation of seats in J&K, Chidambaram said he does not wish to anticipate what "misadventure" the government will embark upon. But "those (journalists) covering the Home Ministry know that in the last 24 to 48 hours the Home Ministry is indeed preparing for some misadventure."

## NC, PDP, Cong trying to create fear among people: J&K BJP chief

Jammu: The BJP's J&K unit on Saturday accused leaders of the National Conference, PDP and the Congress of deliberately trying to trigger panic among people since leaders of these parties themselves are frightened.

The party's state unit chief Ravinder Raina said every common citizen of the country is safe under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Some politicians in the Valley are knocking the door of the Governor in the dead of night because they are frightened... The Governor had made it clear that those who are corrupt cannot save themselves. Those who have ill intentions, (were) involved in betrayal and looted the money of the poor are a worried lot," Raina told the media after chairing a core group meeting of BJP here. PTI

## BSY yet to expand Cabinet week after taking charge; Cong, JDS slam delay

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 3

MORE THAN a week since he took oath as Chief Minister of Karnataka, the BJP's B S Yediyurappa is yet to expand his Cabinet as he awaits clearance from the BJP's high command to induct candidates as well as clarity on the future of the 17 disqualified MLAs who had withdrawn support to the Congress-JDS coalition that was in power till July 23.

The delay in expanding the BJP's one-man-cabinet in the state has led to criticism from the opposition Congress and JDS.

Yediyurappa took oath on July 26 and won a trust vote on July 29 — after the Speaker of the legislative Assembly disqualified 17 MLAs of the Congress and JDS under the anti-defection law.

With the 17 disqualifications, the strength of the Assembly is 208. The BJP has support of 105 of its own MLAs and one Independent MLA, while the Congress has 68 MLAs and the JDS 34.

According to sources in the BJP, Yediyurappa is awaiting clar-

**EXPLAINED**  
**E.**  
**Stuck over disqualification**

DURING NEGOTIATIONS with Congress and JDS rebels, B S Yediyurappa is believed to have promised several of them positions in the government. He is believed to have done this under the impression that their resignations would be accepted and that the MLAs would not be disqualified from the Assembly for anti-party activities.

ity on the future of the MLAs who have approached the Supreme Court over their disqualification before firming up Cabinet expansion plans. The state BJP leadership is waiting for the end of the monsoon session of Parliament

to hold parleys with the central BJP leadership, including party president Amit Shah, to obtain clearance for candidates who will be in the ministry, sources said.

"We are taking 20 people on board. We will make around 12 people who join us ministers and around eight people chairmen of corporations," Yediyurappa was heard saying in an audio tape of negotiations he conducted in February to get a JDS MLA to defect to the BJP.

Criticising the delay, the JDS said in a statement, "There is drought and flood conditions in many parts of the state. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa is yet to constitute his Cabinet of ministers. The wheels of administration have come to a halt. It is a government of dissatisfied souls."

"The speed the BJP showed in grabbing power is not being demonstrated when it comes to forming the Cabinet. Government departments that should address issues of the people... The governor must take note of the one-man government," Congress leader Siddaramaiah said.

"When a group of Lingayat

leaders met Yediyurappa seeking ministerial berths, he asked what should be done about the 17 rebels. It is clear from this statement that the rebels went against the Congress-JDS coalition to become ministers in the BJP government. When the BJP's own Lingayat MLAs are seeking to be made ministers, Yediyurappa says what about the rebels," KPCC chief Dinesh Gundu Rao said this week.

**Kumaraswamy wants to 'step back'**

**PTI adds:** Former CM HD Kumaraswamy said he wants to "step back" from politics and termed his entry into the field accidental.

"Today's politics is not for good people... The way certain feelings are instigated in people by a section, the way youth today are deflecting from their path... can I correct all these things? God will see," he said. Speaking to reporters at Hassan, he said, "Don't bring my family into this repeatedly. I'm not here to stick on in politics... looking at today's politics, I myself want to step back from politics... I became chief minister accidentally..."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

UNRUFFLED BY the developments in Jammu and Kashmir over the last few days, the BJP leadership gathered together in Delhi for a closed-door training session of party MPs. Describing the BJP as an organic entity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was learnt to have stressed the importance of collective efforts to party MPs.

"Individually we can make impact, but together we can make much better impact through our collective efforts," an MP present during the day quoted Modi as having emphasised during his brief address to them. The Prime Minister was also said to have stressed on the importance of striking a balance between parliamentary work and remaining connected with party workers.

"Modi described BJP as a family and categorically told party MPs that it is growing because of its ideology and thoughts and not because of the legacy of a family," Parliament-

TWO-DAY TRAINING SESSION FOR PARTY MPs

## 'BJP organic entity, not assembled'



Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and J P Nadda at Abhyas Varga in New Delhi on Saturday. Express

ary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi quoted Modi as saying while reminding them that "team BJP is an organic entity, not an assembled entity".

Modi also told party MPs to keep the spirit of party workers alive even as they progress through their political careers.

The Prime Minister spoke after inaugurating a two-day training programme - 'Abhyas Varga' - for party MPs at the Parliament complex on Saturday. Modi is

learnt to have invoked 'Bharat Mata Kijai' as the motivation not only for him but for all efforts by party leaders.

In his brief address, Home Minister Amit Shah was learnt to have focussed on organisation-related issues and did not dwell on the political developments outside.

"Not a sentence was uttered about the current situation in Kashmir through the day," said a party MP who was present

during the training session. However, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who met US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday, was seen with Modi after stepping out of the training session hall. Home Minister Amit Shah worked from his office in the Parliament complex.

During the meeting, BJP Working President J P Nadda addressed a session where he spoke about Modi's vision for 'New India' and how each MP can contribute to realise this dream. Nadda is believed to have emphasised a "poverty-free, corruption-free and terrorism-free" India where all Indians stand united as the PM's vision of New India.

During the first day, senior party leaders Thaaarchand Gehlot and Bhupendra Yadav addressed separate sessions for party MPs. While Yadav spoke on parliamentary practices and how to work through them, there was another session by Arjun Ram Meghwal about the MPLADS. Few selected MPs also made a presentation during the day about their best practices as an MP in their constituencies.

## Farmers 'struggling' after land 'seized' by varsity, Azam denies charge

SP leader calls it vendetta since he won LS polls; DM says getting complaints against Azam Khan for long

ASAD REHMAN  
RAMPUR, AUGUST 3

SPREAD ON a 300-acre campus, Mohammad Ali Jauhar University lies approximately 7 km from Rampur city, in the district of the same name in Uttar Pradesh. The university's chancellor is Azam Khan, Samajwadi Party leader and the Lok Sabha MP from Rampur, who faces 27 FIRs, lodged between July 13 and July 20 this year, over alleged land grab for the university's expansion.

One of those FIRs has been lodged by the district adminis-

tration over allegations of "usurping five hectares of river land".

While Khan denied the allegations and maintained that the farmers have already received payments for the land they now claim is theirs, District Magistrate Anjaneya Kumar Singh said the SP leader has forcefully acquired around 12 hectares belonging to farmers and around 5 hectares of public land near Kosi river.

"He has built a boundary wall, denying access to the people to Kosi river which is not allowed," Singh told The Sunday

Express. "He has also taken possession of a PWD guesthouse, which has now come under the university premises. I have received several complaints since February 2019 when I came to Rampur as DM. We have probed some complaints and registered cases against him."

The District Magistrate also said that there are complaints about Khan allegedly misusing the state's administrative and police machinery between 2003 and 2007, and between 2012 and 2017. The SP was in power in Uttar Pradesh in these two terms.



Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur. Asad Rehman

Twenty-five of these FIRs have been lodged by local farmers, who allege that Khan and former Circle Officer, City,

Aaley Hasan forcibly took away their land in 2004 and made it part of the university campus. Hasan is now chief security of-

ficer of the university.

In 13 of the FIRs lodged on basis of complaints by the farmers, Hasan, former station-in-charge of Azim Nagar police station; Kushalveer Singh; and Azam Khan have been named. In 12 others, Khan and Hasan are named.

The FIRs have been lodged under IPC Sections 506 (criminal intimidation), 504 (insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 384 (extortion), 447 (criminal trespass), 342 (wrongful confinement), and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt).

Hamseen is wife of Yasin, one of the 25 farmers who have complained against Khan, a former state minister. Sitting in her courtyard, Hamseen said they

have no money to get their three daughters married. "We are barely making ends meet. Our land was our only source of income. After it was taken away, we depend mostly on cattle for our livelihood. Our daughters now make kites to support the family," she said.

Yasin has alleged in his complaint that he was kept in lock-up for two hours and threatened that he would be framed in false cases of narcotics smuggling and theft unless he gave up his land.

Nazakat, 47, who has five children, works in other people's fields. "Today, I could not find any work. I will have enough to eat because my wife Saira keeps chickens and we recently sold one and got Rs 200. Otherwise, I

depend completely on the daily wage work I do," he said. Nazakat said that he and his four brothers owned two-and-a-half bighas, which have been "usurped" by the university.

Denying the allegations, Azam Khan told *The Sunday Express*: "This land is around 3.75 bighas. The university has bought 350 acres in all. I have not taken the land, the Jauhar Trust has. A trust that buys 350 acres will not cheat for 3.75 bighas of land."

He claimed that the allegations are coming since he won the Lok Sabha polls. "These farmers lodged complaints earlier as well. They did not stand in court. Later, they submitted an affidavit apologising for the complaint," he added.

## 4 militants killed in two encounters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 3

FOUR MILITANTS were killed in separate encounters in the Valley, an Army spokesperson said on Saturday.

A J&K Police spokesperson also said that four militants were killed in two operations in the last 36 hours.

Police officials said that two militants were killed in an encounter between militants and security forces in North Kashmir's Sopore on Saturday morning. One militant was identified as Umar Wani from Bandipora, while the other was a foreigner. "Both the killed terrorists as per police records were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit JeM," the police said.

Two other militants were killed in South Kashmir's Shopian district early Friday morning, police said. One of them was identified as Zeenat-ul-Islam, who, according to police, was affiliated with JeM. The second was Manzoor Ahmad, who as per police was affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen. One soldier was also killed in the operation.

The Army said that forces will continue to respond to "nefarious activities" along the LoC and hinterland.

## Hizbul leader asks police to shift sides

Srinagar: Hizbul Mujahideen operations chief Riyaz Naikoo has asked people to remain united and urged J&K Police to switch sides as the Valley remains on edge with apprehensions of tinkering with Articles 370 and 35A. In an audio message circulated on social media, Naikoo is heard saying, "...The political parties that were (earlier) martyring our youth to keep Delhi happy... today they have to beg to be allowed to move out of their houses." Stating that policemen are first Kashmiris and then policemen, Naikoo said it is the time to "wash your stains". He said, "If you want, you can do anything. You understand what I mean." **ENS**



## NORTH

## Tractor swerves to avoid cow, hit by truck, 4 killed

Lucknow: Four Kanwaris were killed and around 10 were injured after a speeding truck rammed into the tractor trolley they were travelling in Agra on Saturday. According to the police officials, the truck hit the tractor when the tractor driver tried to avoid hitting a cow that suddenly came in front of the

vehicle. Groups of Kanwaris and the locals staged protest after the incident and blocked the road. Later in the day, police officials assured of serious action against the truck driver and all possible help to the families of the deceased. The district administration is yet to announce any compensation. **ENS**



Relief operations by Indian Air Force as part of a three-day joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise in Chennai on Saturday. PTI

## WEST

## Man kills infant daughter for 'crying too much'

Mumbai: Irked by frequent crying of his one-year-old daughter, a man allegedly strangled her to death in Latur district of Maharashtra, police said on Saturday. The accused, Shivaji Lale, strangled the toddler to death inside a room in his house in Nilanga taluka of the district on Thursday night, an offi-

cial said. Lale, who used to run a hotel in the area, has been addicted to alcohol for the past few years, the official said. Based on a complaint filed by his wife, police have registered a case against Lale under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). **PTI**

## EAST

## Darbhanga DTO quits, says can't work in 'present system'

Patna: Darbhanga district transport officer Rajiv Kumar, a Bihar Administrative Service officer, has resigned from the BAS, saying he cannot work under "present system". In a letter to the General Administration Department principal secretary on Friday, he said, "...Under current system, I am unable to protect by self-

team. I am neither able to contribute to nation building nor to protect my constitutional rights." The Bihar Administrative Service Association's Darbhanga wing has alleged the executive engineer of the Building Construction Department often gets into conflict with BAS officers, and had also clashed with Kumar. **ENS**

## SOUTH

## Godavari water level rises; NDRF, SDRF deployed

Amaravati: Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were deployed in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari and West Godavari districts on Saturday due to a steady rise in the water levels in Godavari river. More than 60 villages in the two districts remain marooned

due to heavy discharge of floodwaters from upstream Bhadrachalam in neighbouring Telangana, where the water levels had reached 45 feet by afternoon. Road connectivity to tens of village in Polavaram region of West Godavari district and Devipatnam mandal in East Godavari has been totally cut off. **PTI**

## UNNAO

## Sengar in difficulty, will fight and return to lead: BJP MLA

ASAD REHMAN  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 3

DAYS AFTER rape accused MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar was expelled from the BJP, party legislator Ashish Singh alias Ashu was heard saying that Sengar is facing "difficulties" at present but would fight them and return to lead party workers.

Singh, the MLA from Bilgram-Mallawan constituency of Hardoi district, was speaking at an oath-taking ceremony organised at Ganj Moradabad Nagar Panchayat in Unnao district. BJP's Unnao district chief Shrikant Katiyar, MLA from Safipur in Unnao Bamba Lal Diwakar and other BJP workers and leaders were also present.

In a video purportedly shot at the oath-taking ceremony for Ganj Moradabad Nagar Panchayat president Ram Naresh Khushwaha, Singh is heard saying, "Aise katinayi ke daur se guzar rahe hum sab ke beech ke apne bhai... Adarniyani Kuldeep



A video grab of MLA Ashish Singh's speech in Unnao

Singh ji hum sab ke beech mein nahi hai. Kinhi karonon ka, samay ka kaal chakra kaha jayega, phir bhi hum sab ki shubhkamnayen hai. Jo katinayen hai, jo samay kharab hai, un sab se lad kar, apse sab ke beech mein, aap sab ka netritva kame pahuchenge. (Our brother, who is facing difficulties, respected Kuldeep Singh Sengar, is not present among us today. For some reasons, call it circumstances, he is not here. Still, our best wishes are with him. The difficulties he is facing... his time is not good. He will fight it and will return

among us to lead us)."

There was also a poster at the event with a photograph of Sengar.

After the state party leadership inquired about the matter, district chief Katiyar claimed that he issued an advisory to BJP workers and leaders regarding Sengar's expulsion and directed them to refrain from talking about Sengar till further orders.

"We have issued an advisory saying that Sengar has been expelled from the party and that the party's decision should be followed, and if someone does not follow it we will take action for discipline. There is no point talking about someone who has been removed from the party. The party is bigger than a person," Katiyar told *The Sunday Express* on Saturday. "I was present there. He said it unknowingly. We tried to stop him, too," he added.

Asked about the poster, Katiyar said, "It was made before Sengar was removed from the party. Our supporters at the village level did not know that he

had been expelled."

MLA Diwakar, who was also present at the event, told *The Sunday Express*. "He (Singh) had finished speaking when I reached." He also claimed that he did not notice any poster with Sengar's image on it.

Singh said his statement "has been twisted" and refused to comment further.

BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said Singh made the remarks in his "personal capacity".

"Until MLA Sengar is proven guilty, he is innocent in the eyes of the law. Because the BJP respects the sentiments of the people and because Sengar has been accused of serious offences, the party has expelled him. We have taken the decision because the party believes its image is more important than the image of an MLA. He has been expelled from the party on moral grounds. He is still an MLA and if another MLA has used the word 'respected' for him in his personal capacity, it is a personal matter," Tripathi said.

## Doctors say rape victim has developed pneumonia, remains critical

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 3

THE UNNAO rape victim, who was injured in a road crash, has developed pneumonia and remains in a critical condition, doctors attending to her at a hospital here said on Saturday.

The woman is still on life support but her lawyer, who too was injured when their car was hit by a truck in Rae Bareilly district on July 27, is breathing without ventilator, King George's Medical University Trauma Centre in-charge Sandeep Tiwari told PTI.

Because of pneumonia, she has fever and is also being given medication to control her blood pressure, Tiwari said. She is being given oxygen through a tube inserted in the windpipe. Her condition is stable but not out of danger, he said.

The lawyer has suffered injuries in his head and cannot be described as out of danger, Tiwari said, adding KGMU is fully equipped to provide best treatment to the two patients.

The woman and her lawyer are under round-the-clock observation, doctors said.

The Supreme Court will pass orders on Monday whether the woman should be moved to AIIMS hospital in Delhi for better treatment.

She and her lawyer suffered critical injuries in the truck-crash; her two aunts were killed. One of the aunts was a witness to the rape of the woman in 2017 when she was a minor.

The CBI, which has taken over the investigation into car crash as well as the rape cases, booked 10 people, including BJP legislator Kuldeep Singh Sengar, for murder.



CBI officials at the KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow on Saturday. Vishal Srivastava

## CBI sleuths question Sengar on accident in Rae Bareilly

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 3

A THREE-MEMBER CBI team questioned jailed MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, booked for allegedly conspiracy behind a recent road accident in Rae Bareilly in which the Unnao rape victim and her lawyer were critically injured and two of her aunts died.

Sengar has been lodged at Sitapur district jail on rape charges since last year. On July 28, a car in which the victims were travelling rammed into a truck coming from the opposite direction in Gurubaksganj area of Rae Bareilly district. They were on the way to Rae Bareilly district jail where the rape victim's uncle was lodged at the time.

Ten persons, including MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and his younger brother Manoj Sengar, were booked in July 28 incident on charges of murder, attempt to

murder and criminal conspiracy. The police also invoked criminal intimidation charges on allegations that accused were threatening and harassing the rape victim's family.

On Saturday, a CBI team reached Sitapur jail after obtaining a court's permission to question Sengar. The questioning is over allegations being leveled by the rape victim's uncle in the FIR. The uncle had allegedly said that there was a conspiracy behind the road accident and that the truck owner is an associate of the MLA.

The uncle had also claimed that the MLA and his associates were regularly putting pressure on his family to strike a "compromise" in connection with the rape case and the murder case of the rape victim's father.

"CBI officers had questioned the rape victim's uncle inside the jail before he was transferred to Tihar jail," said an officer at Rae

Bareilly jail.

The case is being investigated by CBI on a recommendation sent by the state government.

The CBI Saturday moved an application in a Lucknow court seeking permission to conduct searches houses of all 10 accused named in the FIR, including MLA Sengar.

Meanwhile, the CBI team Saturday took three-day custody of truck driver Ashish Pal and cleaner Mohan, who are lodged in Rae Bareilly district jail, for questioning in the case. The CBI team took the driver and cleaner to the accident spot and asked them to elaborate on how the incident occurred.

On Saturday, a four-member CBI team reached the rape victim's village in Unnao district. The team met local residents and recorded their statements. They also visited the local police station and recorded statements of police personnel.

## Two days after he landed off TN coast, Maldives ex-VP sent back

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, AUGUST 3

TWO DAYS after he was not permitted to enter India off the coast of Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, after he reached the southern port on board a tug vessel, former Maldives Vice-President Ahmed Adheeb Abdul Ghafoor (37) was sent back to his country on Saturday.

Government sources in Delhi made it clear on Saturday that Adheeb was neither detained nor arrested, since he was not allowed to enter India.

Adheeb, who is facing trial in Maldives, had tried to enter India to seek political asylum, but government sources said that he was denied entry as he was not entering through a designated entry point and did not possess "valid travel documents".

According to Tamil Nadu authorities, he was questioned on-board the vessel by various central agencies.

A police officer said a team of security personnel from the Maldives received Adheeb near the international maritime boundary.

"They are sailing back to the Maldives now," the officer said. "His original plan was to flee to UK or a similar country. He didn't expect to be caught in this manner, neither did he trust India," said the officer.

Sources said the nine crew members — one Indian and eight Indonesians — were also sent back to the Maldives.

On Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson, Raveesh Kumar, had said that "since he (Adheeb) was not entering India through a designated entry point and did not possess the valid document, he has not been permitted entry into India".

Government sources in Delhi reiterated this on Saturday, and said that because he was not in



Ahmed Adheeb reached Thoothukudi on a tug

## E. Positive signal to Maldives govt

WITH A friendly government in Male, Delhi did not want to wade into a domestic political controversy. So, it showed the rulebook to the former V-P who was taking an illegal route to enter India, and then flee the country. Delhi's moves are watched closely in Maldives, and this time, it acted quickly to avoid any strain in ties.

India, reports about his "deportation" were incorrect.

Adheeb's lawyers in London had requested India to grant him political asylum, citing threat to his life from the current dispensation in Maldives.

Adheeb is a key witness in a money laundering case against Abdulla Yameen, who lost the presidential election to Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in September last year. A senior Maldivian official had earlier said that Adheeb was supposed to appear before investigators earlier this week.

## MAHARASHTRA

## Junior colleges asked to hold public speaking contest on govt schemes

SANDEEP ASHAR  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 3

AHEAD OF the Assembly polls in Maharashtra, the Devendra Fadnis government has asked all junior colleges in the state to hold public speaking competitions on its flagship schemes.

The state school education department has on July 24 issued orders in this regard, requiring all the 7,100 junior colleges in Maharashtra to organise such competitions.

Further, the best three speakers in each college will qualify for an inter-college competition at the taluka level, from where the candidates would advance for an oratorical competition at the district and later at the state level. The state government has set aside Rs 1.31 crore for the competitions.

But just as the department justified the move by saying that it was being done to enhance leadership qualities among the youth, the Opposition has raised a red flag.

## Gogoi: BJP govts either insincere or incapable of producing NRC

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 3

FORMER ASSAM chief minister Tarun Gogoi on Saturday alleged that the BJP governments in the state and Centre were either insincere or incapable of producing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and expressed doubts that the final NRC — scheduled to be published on August 31 — will not be correct.

"We had seen that the state government was happy with the NRC process and now it is the opposite. This opposite narrative is creating doubts in our minds now. Today it has been proven that in producing a correct NRC,

the BJP government is either not sincere or incapable... this shows even the Central government is not able to produce an NRC, and if they are so incapable then how will they detect foreigners, leave alone deportation. And this 'foreigners' issue was the primary issue of elections. We will ask Modi how many 'foreigners' have you identified and deported?" Gogoi said at a press conference in Guwahati on Saturday.

The senior Congress leader's comments came two days after the Assam government presented district-wise data in the Assembly regarding exclusion from the draft NRC published in July last year.

## Activist approaches SC for live streaming of Ayodhya hearing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

SOCIAL ACTIVIST K N Govindacharya on Saturday approached the Supreme Court for the live streaming of proceedings in the Ayodhya case hearing, scheduled to begin on August 6.

With the mediation proceedings to find an amicable solution to the dispute failing to make any headway, the apex court on Friday had fixed August 6 to begin day-to-day hearings on appeals against the September 30, 2010 verdict of the Allahabad High Court in the matter.

In his plea, Govindacharya said, "...the common public which is devotee of Lord Ram is inter-

ested in knowing as to how an individual can represent Lord Ram before the Supreme Court... There are crores of persons, including the Petitioner, who want to witness the proceedings in the matter before this Hon'ble Court, but cannot do the same due to the present norms in the Supreme Court. There are also other persons, who wish to intervene and attend the proceedings but cannot do the same due to the Orders of this Hon'ble Court."

He recalled that the Supreme Court, in its September 2018 judgement in the Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change vs Secretary General, had ruled in favour of live streaming important constitutional matters.

## Adityanath in Ayodhya: Even before Mahabharat, mediation attempts failed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 3

A DAY after the Supreme Court said the mediation efforts on the Ayodhya dispute had failed, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Saturday said he already knew that the mediation attempt would not reach any conclusion.

Addressing a gathering in Ayodhya, Yogi said that from August 6, the case would be heard daily and expressed confidence that the Supreme Court would respect public sentiments. Earlier in the day, Yogi paid tribute to Paramahansa Ramchandra Das and inaugurated a guesthouse in Digambar Akhara.

He also met local akhadas who are demanding that a Ram temple be built on the dis-



Yogi Adityanath pays tribute to former Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas Mahant chief Ramchandra Das Paramhans. Express

puted site in Ayodhya. The CM reached the banks of Saryu river and inspected the proposed site for construction of the world's tallest statue of Ram at Meerapur Doaba.

Addressing a gathering, "Hum log pehle se jaante the mad-

hyasthata se ab kuch hone wala nahi hai. Lekin achha hai, prayas agar ho to achhi baat hai. Mahabharata ke pehle bhi bade madhyasthata kame wale prayas hue they. Lekin uska parinaam phir viphal raha (We already knew this that nothing was going to come

# Under pressure to marry, man shoots 5 kin, himself: police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUDHIANA, AUGUST 3

A 27-YEAR-OLD man in Punjab's Moga district allegedly killed five members of his family and shot at another before committing suicide, allegedly because they had been pressuring him to get married but he didn't want to tie the knot, police said Saturday.

The incident took place in the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, at about 12.30am, at village Nathuwala Garbi under Baghapurana police station.

Sandeep Singh alias Sunny allegedly shot dead his father Manjeet Singh (55), mother Binder Kaur (50), grandmother Gurdeep Kaur (70), sister Amanjot Kaur (33) and three-year-old niece Maneet Kaur with a .32 bore revolver he had stolen from a relative. He also fired at his grandfather Gurcharan Singh (80), police said, adding he shot himself dead using the same weapon at their residence.

Sandeep's family members had fixed a date for his wedding in December. He was against the marriage and used to get into fights with the family members nearly everyday, his grandfather told the police.

Moga SP (Investigation) Harinderpal Singh told *The Sunday Express* that Sandeep acted normally hours before he went on the killing spree. On Friday, he even brought home

his sister and niece from Ferozepur. "He also spoke to his fiancée," the SP said.

"In a note, Sandeep made it clear that he did not want to get married. He wrote that he had started consuming liquor so that his marriage could be called off. He wrote that he was mentally depressed and only he should be held responsible for what he was going to do. He also mentions that he had sold off a chunk of land and a baba (sorcerer) who used to live there had cursed the entire family," the SP said.

He has also mentioned that he stole the revolver from one of his relatives in Araian village, the SP said, adding, "It is unclear when exactly he wrote the note that was found from his room where he shot himself".

The handwritten papers will be considered as "a confession-cum-suicide note", the SP added. Police sources, meanwhile, said that he also apologized to his fiancée in the note saying that he didn't want to spoil her life.

Based on his grandfather's statement, an FIR has been registered against Sandeep under sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) of IPC and relevant sections of Arms Act at Baghapurana police station.

Sandeep and his family were financially well-off and owned 22 kilas (acres) of land in the village.

"There were no financial issues," said SP.

# 'Inebriated' Kerala IAS officer knocks down, kills journalist; arrested after protests

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
AUGUST 3

A JOURNALIST working with a Malayalam daily was killed in Thiruvananthapuram in the early hours of Saturday after a speeding car, allegedly driven by an IAS officer in an inebriated state, hit his two-wheeler and knocked him down.

The victim, K M Basheer, 35, worked as bureau chief of local newspaper *Siraj*.

The accident took place near Museum Police Station, in the heart of the city. Basheer died on the spot, the police said.

After alleged police inaction, and following protests by mediapersons, Sriam Venkitaraman, 32, a 2012-batch IAS officer, was arrested on Saturday evening. He was booked under non-bailable IPC Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), among other charges.

Confirming the arrest, Deputy Commissioner of Police Kori Sanjaykumar Gurudini said on Saturday: "As per accounts of witnesses and other (circum-



Journalist K M Basheer and (right) IAS officer Sriam Venkitaraman

stantial) evidence, we have confirmed that Venkitaraman was driving the car in a drunken state. His arrest was recorded and he will be produced before a magistrate court."

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said his government would do everything possible to bring to justice those responsible for the death of Basheer. In a Facebook post, Vijayan also said he would take necessary steps to ensure the safety of journalists.

Venkitaraman was earlier this week appointed director of Kerala Survey and Land Records Department. A trained doctor, he had joined back service last week after finishing Master of



The car was reportedly being driven at a high speed.

Public Health degree from Harvard T H Chan School.

The victim, Basheer, came from Kerala's Malappuram district. He is survived by wife and two children.

According to the police, Venkitaraman was in the car with a woman friend, identified as Wafa Firoz, at the time of the accident. Venkitaraman had initially told the police that Wafa was behind the wheel, while she told the police — much later, when the police questioned her, ostensibly fol-

lowing the protests — that Venkitaraman was driving it.

One Shafeeq, who said he witnessed the accident, told the media on Saturday, "After the car hit the two-wheeler, a man came out from the driving seat. He was in an inebriated state and was driving at high speed. Policemen who reached the spot also realised that the man was in a drunken state...he could barely stand on his feet."

The police, sources said, initially took Venkitaraman, who

sustained minor injuries in the collision, to a government hospital and let Wafa go home - the police did not record her statement and reportedly arranged a taxi for her.

At the government hospital, the police reportedly did not ask the duty doctor to run a test to examine whether Venkitaraman was under the influence of alcohol. The duty doctor, Dr Rakesh, told the media that the police did not request for blood test, although Venkitaraman's behaviour suggested that he was inebriated. There was also no formal request from the police specifying that it was a medico-legal case, Dr Rakesh said.

When doctors at the hospital referred the IAS officer to the medical college, he opted for a leading private hospital, it is learnt.

Following outrage from mediapersons, the police summoned Wafa, the woman accompanying Venkitaraman at the time of the accident, on Saturday morning and recorded her statement. Wafa confessed that Venkitaraman was behind the wheel at the time of accident.

The police also collected her blood samples to run an alcohol test.

As protests carried on, alleging an attempted cover-up, the police also collected blood samples of Venkitaraman at the private hospital where he was admitted and recorded his statement.

He was subsequently arrested, based on Wafa's statement recorded under CrPC Section 164.

According to the police, Wafa said that Venkitaraman, whom she had met on Facebook, was returning after a late-night party at a club in the city and wanted to drive the car, which she owns. The car had been caught on camera for speeding on two occasions before the accident occurred, the police said.

Venkitaraman had hit the headlines in 2017 when, serving as sub-collector of Devikulam in Idukki district, he had taken stern action against illegal encroachments at the hill station Munnar. He reportedly locked horns with the district leadership of the CPI(M) over this action later and was removed from the post.

# UP: Chasing thief, two mowed down by train

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOIDA, AUGUST 3

TWO WOMEN were killed after they were hit by an oncoming train while chasing a thief on railway tracks near Vrindavan station on Saturday morning. The victims were identified as Meena (45) and her daughter Manisha (21), police said.

The two were hit by the oncoming Sampark Kranti Express. Meena died on the spot, while Manisha succumbed to her injuries at hospital. According to the police, Meena's son Aakash (23) was also in the train but was not aware of the incident.

"As per information, there was one accused who looted the

deceased's (Meena's) bag from the train at around 4 am. The accused then pulled the chain and the train began to slow down. Both Meena and Manisha were alerted and they chased the thief as he got down from the train. While the thief crossed the tracks, Meena and Manisha were fatally impacted by another train. An FIR has been filed against an unknown accused at GRP Mathura," said GRP Agra SP Jogendra Kumar.

The family, which originally hailed from West Bengal, was traveling to Kota and had alighted from Nizamuddin Railway Station in Delhi. The SHO of GRP Mathura has been reserved to the police lines after the incident, police said.



People walk on the tracks near Thane station after Central Railway services were shut due to waterlogging. Deepak Joshi

# Rain cripples Mumbai, more in store; 4 drown

SANJANA BHALERAO  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 3

INCESSANT RAIN crippled normal life in Mumbai and adjoining areas such as Thane, Palghar and Navi Mumbai on Saturday. The central and harbour lines of the railway network were disrupted, while waterlogging led to traffic snarls across the city. Four college students drowned after water surged at the Pandavkada falls, even as the city witnessed its highest tide this monsoon at 4.9 metres.

The IMD issued a red alert for Thane and Palghar with forecast of extremely heavy rainfall at a few places on Sunday. For Mumbai, the Met department issued an orange alert with forecast of heavy rainfall at a few places.

For 50-year-old Susheela Chavan, living in the Kranti Nagar slums of Kurla, it is an annual affair to find the authorities knocking on her door, asking her family to evacuate from their home along the Mithi river. However, this time, she along with her husband and two children were asked to vacate their house twice in just over the span of a month — once on Saturday and once after

heavy rainfall on July 2.

After incessant rain since Friday night, the Mithi river, Mumbai's "mother drain", reached its danger mark of 3.25 metres. As many as 150 people living in its banks in Kranti Nagar were shifted to a safe zone at 10.30 am on Saturday. "We were prepared that we may be asked to vacate the house soon," said Chavan.

Manish Valanju, assistant municipal commissioner, L Ward, said, "Preventive evacuation of inhabitants around the river was required. Due to overflowing of the Mithi, there was waterlogging reported on tracks near Kurla station."

The Dahisar river at the north end of the city also began overflowing, adding to the waterlogging. The state forest department closed Mumbai's Sanjay Gandhi National Park after the Tulsilake and Dahisar river overflowed.

When the highest tide this monsoon struck at 1.44 pm, it led to more waterlogging and the sea spewing 20 metric tonnes of garbage along Marine Drive and Girgaum Chowpatty. Severe waterlogging was reported in Kandivali, as it received 41 mm of rainfall within an hour between 7 am and 8 am.

Following the high tide and

overflowing of Tulsilake and Powai lake, Kurla's Kranti Nagar and Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg were waterlogged till Saturday evening, even after rainfall stopped.

Thakur Village, a densely populated residential locality in Kandivali, was inundated and residents took to Twitter to ask for assistance. Saturday's downpour left many commuters stranded at Mulund railway station, which received 109 mm of rainfall over 10 hours till Saturday evening.

Over 50 residents of Trimurti Society and Hanuman Nagar in Kandivali (East) were provided food on Saturday morning after the society flooded.

In Mumbai, waterlogging was also reported in Borivali, Kandivali, Andheri, Santacruz, Khar, Bandra, Matunga, Parel, Dadar, Kings Circle, Sion, Matunga, Vikhroli, Ghatkopar, Kurla, Bhandup and Mulund.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC's) disaster management unit declared a holiday for schools and colleges in the second half of the day. The state school education department extended the deadline for the third round of FJC admissions by a day to August 6.

# Rain pounds south Gujarat, 2,700 evacuated to temporary shelters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SURAT, AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 3

AFTER HEAVY rains inundated Vadodara in the past few days, rain in parts of south Gujarat such as Surat and Valsad districts flooded low-lying areas as rivers and creeks began overflowing. A total of 2,649 people were on Saturday moved to temporary shelters as the rivers and creeks in the region began overflowing.

Valsad city was evacuated of 989 people, while 1,261 people of Olpad taluka in Surat district, 110 people in Khambhat in Anand district, 91 from Asama village of Bharuch district and 200 of Majur Gamdi village of Vadodara were moved out of their homes to safer places.

Rainfall measured on Saturday in the 24 hours till 6 pm was 160 mm in Surat city, followed by Umarpada 219 mm, Mangrol 200 mm, Mandvi 90 mm, Mahuva 123 mm and Olpad 308 mm. In just nine hours between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Saturday, Vallabh Vidyanagar in Anand district received 162.5 mm of rainfall, while Valsad clocked 134 mm, Vadodara 80.4 mm and Surat 41.2 mm rainfall during the same period, government data showed.

The forecast for Sunday is of extremely heavy rainfall in the districts of Anand, Bharuch, Valsad and Surat, a weather bulletin from the India Meteorological Department said on Saturday evening, while heavy to very heavy rains are likely at isolated places in the districts of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Navsari, Dang, Tapi and Narmada as well as the Union Territories of Daman and Dadra and Nagar Haveli on Sunday.

Similarly, districts of the Saurashtra region, including Gir Somnath, Junagadh, Amreli, Bhavnagar and Rajkot are expected to receive heavy rainfall.

# Month after rapist gets bail, US woman puts out video: Will move SC, fight on

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

AN AMERICAN woman who was sexually assaulted while she was sleeping in her room in Delhi in June 2013 has decried the bail given to the man convicted of the crime and stated that she will move the High Court, or even the Supreme Court, to get justice.

In a video posted on Facebook on July 30, and shot in front of the Indian consulate in San Francisco, the woman alleged that she was notified that the man who broke into her apartment, "viciously attacked" her, and who she had to "fight to get (him) convicted", has been granted bail.

The accused, Rajiv Panwar, was sentenced by a Delhi court to seven-year rigorous imprisonment in February this year in the case of digital rape of the US national in 2013.

Additional Sessions Judge, Special Fast Track Court, Harish Dhudani imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh and directed that the amount be paid to the victim. The court also considered aggravating circumstances such as the traumatic impact of the incident on the complainant's marriage.

On July 5, Justice Chander Shekhar of Delhi High Court granted bail to Panwar. The court observed that in view of "discussions and circumstances, as well as the fact that the fine amount (imposed by trial court on him) has already been deposited, and that the disposal of appeal may take some time, the substantive sentence of the appellant is suspended during pendency of the appeal and the appellant be released, if not required in any other case, subject to furnishing a personal bond of Rs.25,000..."

In her video, the woman said, "Last month, I was notified that the man who viciously attacked

me, who I had to fight to make sure he was convicted of his crime and sentenced in India, has been given bail on his appeal. This man broke into my apartment and attacked me. I fought. I went to India to testify — all by myself... He was sentenced for (seven) years in prison and then on his appeal... (got bail)..."

She also alleged that she was not getting enough support from the Indian authorities.

She said, "I come here to the San Francisco consulate, where I need to have these forms notarised so that High Court knows who my attorney is... I am again denied service and assistance from the consulate in India; now (in) San Francisco, they tell me now that I need to go and get it notarised locally, then have to go to Sacramento [California] and get the notary verified... a simple verification, like the one I received at the New York City at their consulate, I am being denied here in San Francisco..."

She ended the video by seeking help in her fight for justice: "...all my friends, I need your help... We are going to take this to the Supreme Court, to the high court of India. You do not let convicted criminals off when victims were brave enough to go and testify. I need your help."

The consulate's response said: "Our deepest sympathies and our support are with you. As you know, all attestations were provided the same day (Tuesday) after you spoke to the Consulate officials and we waived the requirements of the Hague Convention that requires apostilling (attestation in which documents are legalised in a particular format that is acceptable in all nations) of legal documents. We hope you obtain the justice you seek and deserve at the earliest."

WITH INPUTS FROM  
PRITAM PALSINGH

# Judiciary overburdened, only solution is to have specialised benches: Justice Malhotra

SAILEE DHAYALKAR  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 3

SUPREME COURT Justice Indu Malhotra on Saturday said the judiciary is burdened, and that the solution lies only in having specialised benches to dispose of cases. She also spoke of how matters that go into arbitration sometimes remain pending for years, stating it was time for the bar and bench to work "in tandem in disposal of cases".

Speaking at the central court of the Bombay High Court in the presence of many HC judges, senior advocates, advocates and law students, Justice Malhotra gave an overview of the changing landscape of arbitration in India.

She also said that while the judiciary is "overburdened", the solution lies in having specialised benches to dispose of cases.

Justice Malhotra was elevated as a Supreme Court judge in 2018, after practicing as a senior advocate.

"India has done extremely well in the last three years, I must say with pride the World Bank has now rated us at number 77 in ease of business. The government of India has set a target which is to be at number 30," she said, adding that arbitration would further help ease of doing business and help India meet its target.

Reading from quotations of Justice D A Desai in the Guru Nanak Foundation case, Justice



Justice Malhotra was elevated as a Supreme Court judge in 2018.

Malhotra said the way arbitrations worked was "really poor". She added that instead of arbitrations acting as an alternate dispute resolution system, such applications filed in courts remained pending for years.

"I remember coming across cases which have been pending in arbitration for 19-20 years, which is shocking... Arbitrators would only work for couple of hours and adjournments were sought and routinely given. And arbitrators, I must confess as a member of judiciary, would actually treat it as an income post retirement and would be easy to grant adjournment because they would charge by every hearing," she said.

On the institutionalisation of arbitration, Justice Malhotra said, "We had recommended to set up a centralised flagship institution — the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution now taken over by the government and being set up as New Delhi Arbitration Centre."

Another recommendation was to train and accredit arbitrators, she said.

"...there are several retired judges of Supreme Court who are appointed to international commercial arbitrations, they get isolated on these tribunals. I was engaged by the Ministry of Petroleum in one of the cases and officers came and told me that India always loses in its arbitration. There are, I think, two-fold reasons — one is that the government is very slow and tardy for various reasons in giving instructions... The second reason is when you retire and become an arbitrator, you must take off the cloak of being a judge. If you remain a judge, you remain in seclusion," she said.

# AGUSTAWESTLAND CASE

# After 'witness' says tortured by ED, agency denies claim

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate has rejected allegations that its investigators harassed, tortured and forced a witness to make a statement implicating Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath's nephew Ratul Puri in a money laundering case related to the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper case.

Special Public Prosecutor for the agency, D P Singh, told the court of Special Judge Arvind Kumar that the application moved by the witness was "sensational" and "frivolous".

This comes a day after a man walked into the courtroom of Special Judge Kumar in the mid-

dle of the ED's rebuttal, claimed to a witness in the case, and leveled allegations against the agency. His advocate, Ajayinder Sangwan, had identified the witness as Mahipal had taken down Mahipal's pants and forced him to give a statement.

But Singh submitted that they have reasonable apprehension that the application was moved on behalf of Puri to derail the investigation, and possibly tamper with evidence.

Mahipal alleged that the ED dictated a statement to him on July 23 and "harassed and tortured" him the following day, before making him sign the statement on July 25. He also told the court that he has moved the National Human Rights

Commission over the issue.

The ED replied that it had recorded Mahipal's statement over his association with Puri's company and his family, and his growth to get information on the modus operandi of cash transactions, as also to get names of people who could be important to the investigation.

The court has extended Puri's interim protection from arrest until August 6 and listed the matter for hearing on September 18.

The ED said they had sought details of another VVIP chopper case witness K K Khosla from Mahipal. Khosla, the agency claims, has been missing for the last four months, and it didn't know whether he is alive or absconding.



# 10 IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

Had Parliament made a (triple talaq) law without any punishment, would it not have met the same fate as the SC verdict? If people can, in the absence of punishment, defy SC order, wouldn't they have defied the law as well?"



## WHY ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN

A former Union minister, who has held portfolios such as energy and civil aviation, Arif Mohammad Khan famously resigned from Rajiv Gandhi's Cabinet in 1986, after the government decided to overturn the Supreme Court judgment in the Shah Bano case by bringing a legislation in Parliament. A supporter of reforms in Islam, Khan has

opposed instant triple talaq for years. The practice now entails punishment after the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019, was last week passed in Parliament. After quitting the Congress, Khan joined the Janata Dal and BSP. In 2004, he joined the BJP but left three years later, saying he felt ignored in the party



"Deoband gave *fatwas* asking people to read a *wazifah* (verse) to ensure that BJP loses. In such a climate, how can you expect (Muslim) BJP candidates to win? Be realistic... You expect BJP to nominate you for MP?"

**MANOJ C G:** During the triple talaq Bill discussion in the Rajya Sabha, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that while the country has moved ahead, the Congress is still standing where it was in 1986. What do you make of the position?

After the Supreme Court's judgment (on triple talaq), most people were under the impression that now they had got rid of this evil practice. However, reports of triple talaq cases continued.

On September 5, 2017, a month-and-a-half after the Supreme Court judgment, a friend from my old constituency, Bahaich, called me. He said his daughter had been divorced. Her husband works in a state in South India. His daughter told me, 'Chacha (uncle), I don't even know what really happened. We had a small argument over something and he suddenly lost control.' I immediately spoke to the local MLA and Bahaich's Superintendent of Police. They tried to explain to the boy that triple talaq was unlawful, but the boy disappeared from Bahaich...

On October 6, 2017, I wrote a six-page letter to the Prime Minister. The next day, I had an hour-long meeting with him... I complained to him that in 1986, we committed a blunder by enacting a law to reverse the judgment in the Shah Bano case, and now we will repeat the same blunder if we don't enact a law to ensure that the judgment of the Supreme Court is respected and followed. The Prime Minister told me that the law will be enacted.

The next day, I had a three-hour-long meeting with a team of officers from the Law Ministry and gave them whatever inputs I could. Eight days later, the (triple talaq) draft was finalised. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha and passed... Later, that same girl called me up and said, 'My husband called me up from Andhra Pradesh. He said he will come and take me after four days.' That boy was unnerved just with the passing of the Bill in the Lok Sabha...

A lot of noise is now being made about conflating the civil with the criminal offence... Had Parliament made a law without any provision for punishment, would it not have met the same fate as the Supreme Court judgment? If people can, in the absence of a provision for punishment, defy the judgment of the Supreme Court, would they not have defied the law enacted by Parliament?

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** But why does the law have to be religion-specific?

This is because, unfortunately, we (Muslims) decided a long time ago that our personal law shall be based on religion... The (law against triple talaq) should be implemented without any delay. We should try and purge ourselves of the enormities perpetrated in the name of these religious laws... Mr (Asaduddin) Owaisi (AIMIM chief) is keen on the equality clause — why is a Hindu man punished for one year and a Muslim man for three years, he asks. However, no one is being punished for divorce. Here the punishment is for *haram*, for doing something unlawful. The Supreme Court held it (triple talaq) unlawful on two accounts. First, it is arbitrary, therefore repugnant to the constitutional scheme. Second, they raised a question about the privy council's (affidavit)... which admitted that the practice is good in law but bad in religion. So the Supreme Court asked how something that is bad in religion can be good in religious law? So it is unlawful...

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** Why couldn't the girl from Bahaich go to the police with a domestic violence complaint, which includes emotional abuse?

Due to large-scale illiteracy, Muslims take guidance from the local *mullah*. Four years ago, Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani, chairman of Pakistan's Council of Islamic Ideology, in a letter to the then Pakistani PM, wrote that while triple talaq was outlawed in 1961, it is as rampant in Pakistan as it was before the ban. This, he said, was because the local *mullah* tells the family of the girl that this is the law of God... He added that unless a provision is introduced to punish the offender, this is not going to come to an end. In 2018, the new chairman Qibla Ayaz repeated the same demand and referred to the judgment given by the Supreme Court of India.

**APURVA VISHWANATH:** In terms of conviction, the law could face roadblocks. Since the crime is restricted to two individuals, it will be difficult to prove in a court of law.

The law does not ban divorce, not even triple divorce. The law bans irrevocable divorce in one sitting... What is punishable is arbitrary divorce... Imagine the pressure of society on the Muslim woman. Shah Bano fought for years and finally secured

## 'No major riot in last 5 years... If lynchings create fear, doesn't this create a sense of security?'

Ex-Union minister Arif Mohammad Khan explains why he doesn't agree with the civil-criminal debate on triple talaq, says events have to be viewed against history, finds hope in Muslims giving importance to education, and asks what Cong-appointed panels achieved



Former Union minister Arif Mohammad Khan with Deputy Associate Editor Manoj C G in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Amit Mehra

a judgment from the highest court of the land. The amount involved was Rs 174.20. But then she yielded to the pressure of clerics and wrote to the Supreme Court that 'I have been told that this provision goes against my religion and so I am not going to avail of it...'

For divorce, pronouncement is supposed to happen over three months, husband and wife are supposed to continue to live together for the next three months. The real test (for conviction) is whether the wife has been turned out of the home or not. That's physical evidence. If she does not leave the house, it is not instant or arbitrary divorce.

**MANOJ C G:** This law comes at a time when there is a sense of insecurity among Muslims in the country. There are incidents of lynching, people are being forced to say *Jai Shri Ram*...

In 1986, there was no lynching, there was no BJP, yet the movement started by the Muslim Personal Law Board led to the most aggressive and violent use of language. It was said then that our community's identity, our religion was in danger, that the courts are trying to interfere in the religious affairs of Muslims. When the Muslim Personal Law Board's meeting was held on the India Gate lawns, a public call was made to break the legs of those MPs, particularly Muslim MPs, who dared to differ with their position... The BJP only had two members in Parliament at the time.

In 1946, what was the stand of the Muslim League? If the country is not partitioned, whether Muslim or Hindu or anybody, they will be in danger... So if some people have all these fears and insecurities, how are you going to help them...

I have very strong feelings on lynching because I am a survivor of lynching. After my resignation in 1986, there were at least three attacks at my house. Then in 1990, they almost had me...

If anybody is subjected to this kind of treatment because of his faith, colour... it is the most obnoxious thing and that cannot and should not be tolerated. But, at the same time, we must also remember that in the last five years there has been no instance of any major communal riot in India. If the lynchings are creating insecurity, why does that not create a sense of security?

As far as the common man is concerned, whether Muslim or Hindu or anybody, they are only concerned about their livelihoods. It is the privileged sections, at whom, in the name of secularism, some crumbs of power were thrown... it is they who are feeling uneasy. It is they who are creating this fear in the minds of the people. How is the common man concerned with these things?

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** Should there be a law against lynching?

My question is, are we implementing the laws that are already in place? Unfortunately, whenever a problem arises, we make a new law... We have enough laws. A new law can also be made.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** You speak about 1986, when the party in power had a brute majority, and did whatever it wanted. There is a majority now too, of a party which fielded only a handful of Muslims in the elections, and which is now saying that I will ignore the voices of people from the community concerned and pass this Bill. Isn't it the same as 1986?

In a big country like India, how can it happen that I take an action and then fear its consequences. How can I blame the BJP for it? Why is there such a climate now? There were *fatwas* issued by Deoband, asking people to wake up before *sehri* and read such and such *wazifah* (verse) to ensure that the BJP loses. In such a climate, how can you expect candidates of the BJP to win? How is that possible? Be realistic. But I am hopeful because there has been no major communal riot in the last five years.

Also, in the last five years, a large number of Muslim youngsters have entered the administrative services. It has never happened before. How did this happen? It is because they are losing their faith in the clergy. They have now started to stand on their own feet. They have started giving importance to education.

Will the BJP lose elections if you read a *wazifah* before eating *sehri*? Are you giving *afeem* (opium) in the name of religion? And then you expect the BJP to nominate you for MP's post? In every religion, there

is one basic teaching: never blame others for your problems. Others cannot create them. We were conquered by some because India had become conquerable. Swami Vivekananda, Swami Ranganathananda have said this. The Quran says, 'Take care of yourself. If you are on the right path, then those on the wrong path cannot harm you.' A bully is insecure and fearful. A law-abiding citizen never feels insecure, he is never scared.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** The BJP does not have articulate Muslim voices who command historical standing. How do you convince members of your community, or anyone in the public at large who is not a BJP supporter, that you are not a BJP stooge?

I won't even attempt to convince these people. Whatever I am saying, I haven't been saying this since the BJP came to power. I resigned from the Congress government while I was saying these things. I don't have to prove anything to anybody. What can be a bigger proof than the fact that I gave up power for this stand (Shah Bano)? Now is it my fault that in 1986, both the CPI(M) and the CPI were supporting me, and so was the BJP? It's a different matter that after a few years, the CPI(M) started to dilute its stand. And you must have seen photographs of a CPM leader with a big *bindi* sharing stage with *maulvis*. Does she ask them if they ever get the women of their house to such meetings? They don't feel uncomfortable sitting with you, but they don't allow their own women to come and attend any public meeting. I don't need to prove anything to them.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** The Sachar Committee had detailed the condition

of Muslims in India with facts and figures. It seems to some that you have wrong priorities, that you are focused on just this Bill and are not putting any pressure on the BJP to improve the condition of Muslims in the country.

Who made the Sachar Committee (2005)? Who made the Ranganath Commission (National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, 2004)? Who made the Gopal Singh Committee (to inquire into the condition of minorities, SCs, STs and other weaker sections, 1980)? (Congress governments)... when even the minority commission was never given statutory status. At Vigyan Bhavan, Manmohan Singh said 'Muslims have the first claim to the resources of this country'. The next day when a Muslim steps out of his house, his neighbour will look at him and think, 'Oh, so now they have the first claim on the country's resources'. You are only creating hostility for me (Muslims).

What does minority mean? Should I accept that my status is less? Should I become the victim of an inferiority complex? No. Right from 1981, since my first year in Parliament, I have said that I find it humiliating when I am told I am from a minority community. I win with Hindu votes, I defeat a Hindu candidate... Am I a minority? You are only trying to demean, devalue me. I am a full-blooded proud citizen of India. I have equal rights. If I am less than no one, then my responsibilities too are not less than anyone... So let me be an Indian, religion is my personal affair. Committees like these are made to increase my (Muslims') fear and insecurity. I will demand action that is beneficial for everyone, not for just one community.

**MANOJ C G:** Is there any hope for the Congress? Can it be revived?

The day this (triple talaq) Bill was brought to the Lok Sabha, I ran into (Congress leaders) Anand Sharma, Ahmed Patel, in Parliament's Central Hall. I sat down with them for two hours. I tried to explain to them, 'Look, this was a party with 407 seats, but after the Shah Bano case, it couldn't touch 200'.

The Congress called itself 'secular', but its opponent, the Muslim League, used to call it the Hindu Jamaat. Most Urdu newspapers referred to its president Maulana Azad as the 'Muslim chief of the Hindu Congress'. In the common man's mind, would the Congress's secular image leave an impression on the Muslims' definition of it as a Hindu party? It's always your opponent who defines you, not your supporters.

Maulana Azad, who was against Partition, prevailed upon everybody to accept the Cabinet Mission Plan. (The 1946

"Congress called itself secular, Muslim League called it Hindu Jamaat... Indiraji was accused of playing Hindu card... Your ideals may be lofty but if people not with you, they won't survive... do what is possible



**I**N KARNATAKA'S coffee-growing hill district of Chikamagalur, V G Siddhartha, entrepreneur and founder of the Cafe Coffee Day chain dotting urban India, is considered a demi god. A vocational training school Siddhartha established in Chikamagalur in 2004 has provided over 10,000 youths from the region — 35% of them girls — free education in computers, English language and soft skills, helping them find jobs in the services industry.

A few years ago Siddhartha told a students' summit at IIT Kanpur that a member from the first batch of the school was a manager at a restaurant in New York. "If not for the vocational school, our youths would not get a job paying more than Rs 3,000-Rs 4,000 per month," he said.

By investing roughly Rs 50,000 per member, for a six-month training, the school also ensured a constant supply of workers for the CCD chain. "In Chikamagalur, he is considered god. Even elderly people would call him to settle disputes," said a relative/advisor of the businessman, whose death on July 29 in a suspected case of suicide sent shockwaves among the financial community and set off allegations of tax terrorism.

A soft-spoken, reclusive individual who shunned public appearances till they became necessary for his Coffee Day brand, 60-year-old Siddhartha had broken away from the family tradition of coffee-growing early on, at the age of 21. The story in Chikamagalur is that Siddhartha's father Gangaiah Hegde was reluctant to let his son go his own way, and that it was S M Krishna, a Union minister at the time, a family friend and a fellow Vokkaliga, who brought him around. In 1988, Siddhartha got married to Krishna's older daughter Malavika. They have two sons, Amartya, who has a business degree from a foreign university and was being groomed to take over from Siddhartha, and Ishaan, a student.

In a talk in 2016, Siddhartha recounted this early part of his life. "My family has been growing coffee since 1870, we had around 300 acres. I was the only son... My father had about Rs 15 to Rs 20 lakh income every year from land. I wanted to do something on my own... He gave me Rs 7.5 lakh. He told me that by chance if you lose the money, come back and work on the estate. If you succeed, all the best to you." As Siddhartha's funeral was being held on July 31, his ailing 95-year-old father lay unwell in a Mysuru hospital.

For nearly a decade after leaving home, Siddhartha worked as a stock-broker in Mumbai and Bengaluru. He held a job as a research analyst for Morgan Stanley (then J M Financials) in Mumbai, and in the 1980s started a brokerage firm in Bengaluru with part of the money given by his father. "I made a lot of money between 1985 and 1992. The markets were so inefficient that inter-market arbitrage allowed me to make Rs 1 lakh every day," Siddhartha said a couple of years ago.

### Rise of the coffee king

Siddhartha used these gains to gradually buy up coffee land in his home district. "By 1992-93, I had almost 5,000-6,000 acres. The first property I bought was for Rs 10,000 per acre. Somebody with equity trading and research knowledge can finance deals much faster than guys on the street," he said in his 2016 talk. In those early days, Siddhartha's firm was called Amalgamated Bean Coffee (ABC) Trading Company, which later became Coffee Day Global.

When Manmohan Singh, as finance minister, unshackled coffee-growers and traders from selling only to the state-run Coffee Board in 1993 as part of liberalisation, Siddhartha hit pay dirt. "I was India's biggest coffee trader. By 1995, I became India's biggest commodity trader. There was a frost (affecting the coffee yield) and coffee prices went up three times. I honoured all my commitments and became a darling of international buyers and traders," he said.

Siddhartha had by now crores in trading profit and two factories, and bought six more. He bought sick units, German machines. He also realised that if it was this easy to build India's largest commodity/coffee trade house, "the big traders of the world can also throw me out in no time". Operating only as a coffee trader would not allow him to enjoy market leadership for too long.

Around this time, Siddhartha had a chance encounter with the owner of German coffee retail chain Tchibo — the second-largest coffee chain in Europe — who had built a business worth USD 25 billion. "They started in 1948 with a 10x10 shop in Hamburg... I could not sleep that night thinking of the potential that lay ahead," Siddhartha once said.

A retail brand, he realised, was just the natural corollary to his coffee-growing and trading business.

### ABC to CCD to IT

Thus was born Cafe Coffee Day. Its first outlet, in 1996 in central Bengaluru, added an extra perk to its cosy environment and good coffee: the Internet. At a time when many accessed the Internet through cyber cafes, the early CCDs had computers that customers could use.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

respective of the stature of the employee, if he was invited and in town," the aide said.

Actor Raghavendra Rajkumar said when forest brigand Veerappan kidnapped his father, the thespian Dr Rajkumar, in 2000, Siddhartha was a huge support for the family in opening a channel with the CM. "We didn't know what to do, whom to approach... Siddhartha said, 'You are family, you have the right to meet us any time'," Raghavendra wrote in an article following the businessman's death.

However, that episode also marked the change in the profile of Siddhartha from a low-key businessman to a key power centre. A book written by then state police chief C Dinakar, *Veerappan's Prize Catch: Rajkumar*, spoke about how Siddhartha and a police officer had travelled twice to Chennai with ransom for Rajkumar's release.

Meanwhile, Siddhartha's fortunes kept growing, as he ventured into real estate, created SEZs and tech parks around Bangalore (later Bengaluru). Around 2006, Siddhartha diversified into the hospitality business, launching the high-end luxury eco resort enterprise Serai Resorts, with properties in Chikamagalur and the Bandipur National Park region. In 2010, the business attracted global private equity investor Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR).

By 2019, holding firm Coffee Day Enterprises (CDE) had ballooned to a nearly Rs 8,000 crore worth enterprise, even as CCD outlets crossed the 1,700 mark.

### Backroom to frontlines

In 2017, when Krishna ended a 46-year association with the Congress to join the BJP, many Congress leaders in Karnataka suggested that the 85-year-old was changing his loyalties to protect the business interests of his son-in-law.

While Siddhartha was already a successful businessman by the mid-1990s, Krishna's 1999-2004 tenure as CM and his May 2009-October 2012 stint as External Affairs Minister provided huge leverage for his interests. RBI records for foreign investment outflows from India for 2007 to 2013 reveal that Siddhartha's ABC channelled nearly USD 5 million of investment (out of a total USD 6 million) to a Cyprus-based subsidiary

firm, A N Coffee Day International Ltd.

The expansion of Siddhartha's businesses abroad — including coffee outlets in Vienna and Prague and agricultural holdings — also coincided with Krishna's tenure as Union minister. One of Siddhartha's dreams was to make his Coffee Day brand globally recognised, as he lamented the lack of Indian brand names on high streets like Oxford Street in London or Orchard Street in Singapore.

Congressmen claimed that by joining the BJP, Krishna wanted to ensure his family's interests were protected if the NDA government went after its rivals to stifle poll funding. Krishna's second daughter incidentally is married to the stepbrother of Vijay Mallya, the liquor baron whom the government has made an example of for bad loans.

In his statement on Siddhartha's death, Mallya drew that parallel. "I am indirectly related to V G Siddhartha. Excellent human and brilliant entrepreneur. I am devastated (by) the contents of his letter. Government agencies and banks can drive anyone to despair. See what they are doing to me despite offer of full repayment," he said.

### The tax dragnet

But, in the end, Krishna's change of loyalties did not shield Siddhartha. An income tax investigation in 2017 against DK Shivakumar, one of Krishna's proteges in the Congress, is believed to have put the authorities on the trail of Siddhartha. Like Siddhartha and Krishna, Shivakumar is a Vokkaliga.

Siddhartha cited troubles with tax authorities. "There was a lot of harassment from the previous DG Income Tax," the letter said.

### Cup of woes

At least three persons close to the group told *The Sunday Express* that Siddhartha compounded his troubles by ignoring a fundamental tenet of business in his passion to build a big brand. He kept pumping money into CDE by raising debt, even as profits were not in sight.

So, even as the consolidated profit of the company stood at Rs 147 crore in the year ended March 2019, around the same levels as last year, the consolidated finance charges for CDE rose sharply from Rs 349 crore in FY'18 to Rs 456 crore in FY'19.

Insiders and people who have worked with the group say debt had been an issue with the group since 2008. Apart from Coffee Day, some of the burden on the group and Siddhartha's personal assets was brought on by overseas business interests. "All of Siddhartha's foreign ventures turned out to

be white elephants," says a source, giving the example of Siddhartha's investment into a timber import business in Ghana, which went bust. "There was a sense that if a strong brand is built, he could monetise and exit, but that could not happen."

Sources said "the prominent political leader" referred to by the department was Shivakumar, and that probe had shown that Rs 20 crore had been transferred to him through CCD-linked entities. Officers also claimed to have found links between Shivakumar and Siddhartha during a 2017 search on a former director of Siddhartha's Cyprus-based firm A N Coffee Day International Ltd, who is a Singapore citizen.

Within a month of the searches against Shivakumar and his aides, in September 2017, the Income Tax Department cracked down on 25 premises linked to Siddhartha. Shivakumar, who was with Siddhartha's family for his funeral, said on social media, "It's unbelievable that a courageous man like him would resort to this. I urge a thorough investigation... Shri Siddhartha and his family were closely known to me for decades."

On the tax evasion cases against him and his associates, the Congress leader has said, "We are ready to face these challenges." His brother D K Suresh, an MP, has accused the BJP of being behind the searches. "They have instructed officials of the CBI, I-T and ED to do these things."

### The end

Siddhartha indicated some of the stress he was under in his "suicide letter", saying, "I fought for a long time but today I gave up as I could not take any more pressure from one of the private equity partners forcing me to buy back shares, a transaction I had partially completed six months ago by borrowing a large sum of money from a friend. Tremendous pressure from other lenders led me succumbing to the situation."

While the letter refers to a private equity partner, a source in the financial services industry said Siddhartha was under pressure from a distress debt fund that had provided the family money in January-February 2018 to buy back shares of CDE from KKR. In

# Coffee and froth

His CCD brand carried the tagline 'A lot can happen over coffee'. And for V G Siddhartha, it did. How then did the 21-yr-old heir of a fortune who decided to carve out own path, gave India its first coffee chain, was among the first to spot the IT trend, cashed in on Bengaluru's real estate boom, and moved among the powers and shakers, end up as a 60-yr-old broken man on a bridge? JOHNSON T A on the life and death of India's coffee king

**EXPLAINED**

## Too big too fast

EVEN THOUGH Siddhartha was ahead of his times when he decided to establish the Coffee Day chain of cafes over two decades ago, his audacious expansion drive across diverse businesses on the back of aggressive borrowing from banks, MFs, NBFCs, PEs and even friends may have tripped him. Also, his political connections, which once provided him strength, became his Achilles' heel when power equations changed.

## THEN...

**1993:** Coffee Day Global Ltd created to start Cafe Coffee Day business

**1995:** Coffee Day Global launches 'Coffee Day' branch to retail fresh coffee beans, powder from stores

**1996:** The first CCD opens, in Bengaluru, with Internet facility

**2000:** Launch of financial advisory and services firm Way2Wealth, taking over Sivan Securities Ltd

**2000:** Investment in Mindtree Ltd through Coffee Day Trading Ltd

**2005:** Coffee Day Global launches first international café in Austria

**2006:** Subsidiary Tanglin launches Global Village, an SEZ tech park

**2006:** Coffee Day Hotels & Resorts Ltd starts; brand name 'The Serai'

**2008:** Holding company Coffee Day Enterprises (CDE) set up

**2010:** Investment by PE firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co

**2011:** Acquisition of Sical logistics firm through Tanglin subsidiary

## ...NOW

**NO. OF SUBSIDIARIES:** As of March 31, 2018, CDE had 45 subsidiaries (including indirect subsidiaries), 3 associate companies and 3 joint ventures

**PROMOTERS' STAKE IN CDE:** 59.74%, with Siddhartha's individual holding at 32.75%

**PROMINENT SUBSIDIARIES:** Material subsidiary Coffee Day Global Limited; key subsidiaries Tanglin Developments Ltd, Coffee Day Hotels and Resorts Pvt Ltd, Coffee Day Trading Ltd, Way2Wealth Securities Pvt Ltd, Sical Mining Ltd

**CDE DEBT IN FY '19:** Rs 6,547 cr, up from Rs 4,003 cr in FY '18

**CDE REVENUES, PROFIT IN FY '19:** Posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 147.2 cr on a revenue of Rs 4,264.4 cr. The interest cost for the year stood at Rs 456 cr

February 2018, when KKR reduced its holding in CDE from 10.33% to 6.07%, the exit seems to have been provided by the promoter family. Shareholding data show that the same day, the shareholding of Siddhartha's wife Malavika jumped from 1.44% to 4.05%.

According to business associates of Siddhartha, they were under the impression that "the KKR situation had been worked out" and that things were under control. "There seems to have been a cascading effect where one crisis was leading to another and there seemed to be no let-up," a business associate said.

The CDE board has sought investigations into Siddhartha's "suicide letter", including his claims of harassment by tax authorities. "The Board took cognisance of statements... relating to financial transactions outside the knowledge of the senior management, auditors and the Board. While the authenticity of the letter is unverified and it is unclear whether these statements pertain to the Company or the personal holdings of Mr. V. G. Siddhartha, the Board took serious note and resolved to thoroughly investigate."

The Congress has called Siddhartha's death "the result of harassment by I-T officials" and said it shows the "decline of India's entrepreneurial position with tax terror", a statement dismissed by the BJP, now in power in the state, as "opportunism by vultures". "Investigation will reveal the facts. Until then respect the sentiment of masses and display some humanity," the BJP Karnataka unit said.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa as well as several leaders from the Chikamagalur region, where the BJP is dominant, were among those who turned up to pay their respects to Siddhartha in his home town.

What remains undisputed is Siddhartha's legacy as one of India's pioneering entrepreneurs. And at least one part of his "suicide letter". Siddhartha wrote about the thousands of jobs he had created, in his companies, subsidiaries, IT sector, and regretted that after "37 years with strong commitment to hard work", he had "failed to create the right profitable business model".

"I would like to say that I gave it my all."

WITH SANDEEP SINGH IN DELHI





Girls from non-Thakor communities at the Jegol bus stand; (below) Chandrika Thakor with her father Balvantji, who has a phone and who admits he didn't allow her to go to college as he didn't want her travelling alone. Javed Raja

RITU SHARMA

**A** FORTNIGHT after a July 14 meeting attended by over 800 Thakor leaders, from 12 villages in Gujarat's Dantiwada taluka, resolved not to allow unmarried girls mobile phones as well as to punish parents of anyone marrying outside the caste, there is widespread approval. Among the men, cutting across communities, Like Naresh Chaudhary, of the most prominent community after the Thakors in Jegol village, where the July 14 meeting was held (Thakors make up nearly 70% of the village population). While the Class 11 student owns a smartphone, his two elder sisters pursuing their graduation from Palanpur, nearly 40 km away, share one. They take a bus to college, he rides a motorcycle to school. Listing what all he does on his phone — "Tik Tok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp" — Naresh says, "My sisters use a mobile since they travel far from home. But they do not use all these social media apps." He knows because he scans their phone, he adds.

Located 35 km from district headquarters Palanpur, Jegol, with its population of 3,503 as per Census 2011, has a sex ratio that is evenly balanced towards women, four government primary schools, a grant-in-aid secondary and higher secondary school, four anganwadi centres, a primary health centre, a community health centre, three dairy cooperatives, two banks, tapped drinking water and towers of almost all major mobile operators.

But those details don't tell the entire story, as much as another number does. Jegol has a low literacy level of 48% (against the state average of 78.03%), mostly pulled down by the gap between women (38%) and men (60%).

The resolution passed at the July 14 meeting was called 'Thakor Samaj na bandharan' (Constitution of the Thakor community). While pointing out that it had little

legal standing, Banaskantha Collector Sandip J Sagale fears it could have a larger impact. "For a large community like the Thakors, its implementation may not be possible. But I also believe this should not be promoted as other communities will emulate it."

Sapna Kumrecha, a Class 11 Thakor student, says her uncle attended the July 14 meeting. With one mobile phone among the family of five, including her three younger sisters and mother, Sapna insists, "It is my mother who usually uses the phone. We sisters do not need it." Sapna's father died in an accident in 2004.

Laxmiben Thakor, who is also in Class 11, is not sure if her parents would send her to a college outside the village as none of her three brothers aged between 18-24 studied after Class 8. About the resolution against phones, Laxmiben says, "All my brothers have mobile phones, but I do not. Even my sister-in-law does not use one."

Chandrika Thakor, 22, dropped out after Class 12 as none of the other three girls in her school batch was pursuing higher education. "Sending her alone to Palanpur was not possible," says Chandrika's father Balvantji Thakor. While in private Chandrika questions the phone resolution targeting only girls, she keeps quiet as Balvantji backs it.

Artiben Thakor, a Class 12 Arts student, stays with her elder sister and grandmother in their ancestral village house. The rest of the

## Calling all boys

They are united over concern about lack of jobs, but also inter-caste relationships. So as Thakors of a Gujarat taluka seek an answer in banning phones for girls, other communities watch, in approval



JEGOL

TOTAL POPULATION	MARGINAL WORKERS	AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS	NON-WORKERS
3,503	449	316	1,903
women 1,724	women 385	women 261	women 1,065

family, including her parents, another sister and a brother, lives in the fields, a 30-minute drive away. Artiben also feels that if mobile phones had to be banned, there should be

parity between boys and girls. "Though both my brother and father have mobile phones as well as my elder sister who goes to college in Palanpur, I do not have one. At home we

have a television set, but it doesn't work."

This leaves her with "all the time to help my grandmother with household chores", she says.

"What will girls miss if they are prohibited from using mobile phones? It is only for their benefit," Hitesh Thakor, 22, says. Having dropped out after Class 8, he finished his schooling from open school and now runs a small tailoring shop in the village, has been married for two years, and has a six-month-old daughter. His wife, who studied up to Class 10, is not allowed a phone, nor is his married sister.

Hitesh claims he didn't want to study further as "there was no chance of getting a job". If there is another cause for the Thakor angst, it is this. Balvantji, who forbade his daughter from travelling 40 km for college, says poor education and employment opportunities are a major concern. Giving the case of his 28-year-old son Maheshbhai, who did his graduation and post-graduation privately, has a Primary Teachers Certificate (PTC), and is currently preparing for an entrance exam for the job of a clerk with the government, Balvantji says, "Despite being a majority in the village, only two boys from our community have government jobs... On the other hand, five Chaudhary boys are employed with the government."

Currently helping his father farm their five-bigha land, Mahesh says, "The few Thakor boys who clear Class 12 all fill out

forms for such openings. Some who can afford it, go to Deesa, Palanpur or Gandhinagar for coaching. Girls also prepare for exams but hardly any sits for them."

If the anxiety hints at the same uncertainty that fuelled the Patidar agitation in the state, the elders believe keeping mobiles out of reach will help in this too. Govindbhai Ratada, 58, a former taluka panchayat president, whose Velavas village was one of the 12 to have signed the July 14 resolution, says only a quarter of the boys in his Chaudhary community now help out parents at farms or do chores at homes. "The rest are just wasting their time on mobile phones."

Saradarbhai Bhatol, one of the trustees at the grant-in-aid B C Chaudhary Secondary and Higher Secondary School, whose 847 students (only 245 girls) come from more than 18 villages around, says he put his own son in a private school with residential facilities in Palanpur, hoping to give him a better education. "He failed in Class 10 this year, only because he would spend all his time on a mobile phone."

Adding that his daughter too uses a mobile, Bhatol says, "It is a menace. Only 10% of the youth use it for good. It is high time this mobile ban is implemented in our Chaudhary community too."

Jayantibhai Thakor, the district panchayat member who chaired the July 14 meeting, would count that as a success. Sitting at his office in Dantiwada, he says, "At the meeting, our elders felt that something should be done for society. We respect our women, but there should be some control and social pressure on them. We have witnessed nearly seven-eight cases in the last two months where girls were trapped through social media, and ran away. Their parents are not able to show their faces to the community."

Jayantibhai believes such cases will fall by 70-80 per cent after the phone ban. Next, they are planning to rope in 22 more villages.

## Treading on flip-flops

Shoes-and-socks are latest addition to TN's benefits for govt students, replacing sandals. K Hariharan, 16, is pleased, but happier about the laptop he is getting

ARUN JANARDHANAN

LIKE ANY of the 70 lakh-odd students in government and government-aided schools between Classes 1 and 12 in Tamil Nadu, K Hariharan is entitled to a spree of government benefits. The state government provides free textbooks, uniforms, mid-day meals and bus passes to all students up to Class 8, free bicycles and laptops for those in higher secondary, extra financial assistance for children of manual scavengers and sweepers, and scholarships too if you are a girl student.

Hariharan, now in Class 12 in a government-aided school in Chennai, says one benefit has been a sore point: the government-provided free sandals every year. They never last beyond two months, and mostly come in only three sizes, irrespective of the age of the student, he says.

Recently, the Tamil Nadu government announced that they would replace the sandals with free shoes and socks from next academic year. While some have questioned whether a shoe would be comfortable given Chennai's humid weather and torrential rains, Hariharan shrugs, "A shoe will be decent, nice-looking."

Growing up, the 16-year-old says, he owned a pair of shoes as a child, and now has

another at home. "I wear it only for functions."

While Hariharan's father Kannan drives an autorickshaw, his mother works as a domestic help. Of their combined income of around Rs 15,000 per month, Rs 6,000 goes towards rent for their single-room home in a housing board's slum settlement, and Rs 1,500 for Hariharan's private tuitions. He is the only child.

Hariharan, who is yet to get his pair of sandals for this academic year, says the one he received last year broke in two months. "If we use it regularly, it breaks within a month. I am using an ordinary chappal now, which is the best," he says, showing his blue slippers worth Rs 100. Some of his friends, who wear sizes 9 and 10, have no use at all for what the government mostly provides — sizes 6, 7 and 8.

So, Hariharan has his concerns regarding the shoes.

"Can we play wearing the shoes the government gives? Can we wash them? What if we use them in the rains? Won't the socks smell if we don't wash them every day?"

The government has not given out any details regarding the kind and number of

shoes/socks they are going to provide. The policy note of the Tamil Nadu School Education Department sets a budget of Rs 28,957 crore for 2019-20, of which Rs 2,578 crore is exclusively for welfare schemes for students.

Still, Hariharan adds, with his family's meagre resources, he is grateful for every little bit. "Not that we cannot survive without these things," he says, "but they make life easier."

While he doesn't come to school on it because of the distance, he rides the bicycle he got last year to his tuitions. He is excited these days about the laptop he is set to get, something his father could never afford. "We are not allowed to bring laptops to school, but I will keep it at home. I can learn speed-typing on it, read books. While my mother has a basic phone, I hardly get to use my father's touch phone. On the laptop, I can use the

Internet... I have lots of plans for it." Those plans include using the laptop to "study well", do a Bachelor's in Commerce from one of the city colleges, and get a job. "I will work in an office. Something like a manager?... Not my parents' jobs."



"I use an ordinary chappal, which is the best," Hariharan says, showing his blue slippers worth Rs 100. Express

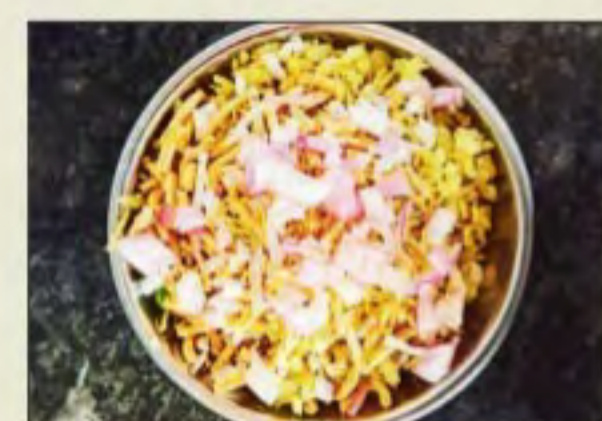
## TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS

DEEPAK JOSHI, 63, INDORE'S 'OLDEST' POHA VENDOR

### 'Indore poha from Maharashtra... but no row over GI'

Recently, the Indori Mithai Aur Namkeen Nirmata-Vikreta Vyapari Sangh applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the 'Indori Poha', along with three other snacks unique to the city



The secret lies in soaking... Now we are also on food delivery apps'. Express

**1 Since when have you been selling poha?**

My father Purushottam Chintamani, who came from Maharashtra, started selling poha in Indore in 1949. He charged 10 paise for a plate. Now we charge Rs 13.

**2 What's special about poha, according to you?**

It's light, very little oil is used to make it. People here eat it through the day.

**3 How is your poha different?**

Our poha is a little sweet. The secret lies in us soaking it before cooking. Most vendors steam-cook it before adding tadka, but we cook it directly on fire. We also add sev, chopped onions, a dash of

lemon and jeeravan (a kind of masala).

**4 Who are your customers?**

Anyone who tastes our dish is hooked forever. Families come to our outlets together, and also carry some poha back home. People who come to Indore by bus, first stop at our shop and then head to work. Recently, we registered ourselves with food delivery apps.

**5 How will the GI tag help?**

I don't know about that. My father brought the dish to Indore from Maharashtra... But Indore's poha has become more popular... I don't think there is any dispute over the issue.

MILINDGHATWAI



(Above, below) Kanwar-makers at Pantdeep, Haridwar. 95% are locals, who say money earned during Kanwar Mela sustains them for rest of year. Virender Negi

# The hand that makes the kanwars...

... is a Sikandar and a Sajid, a Shashi and a Rampal. Why bring religion into god's work, they say

LALMANI VERMA

**K**ANWAR MELA got over with Sawan Shivaratri on July 30 and Mohammad Sikandar (42) is winding up his temporary shop at Pantdeep near Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar when Sumit of Dhanoi village approaches him. The 27-year-old who has come 25 km is specific about the *kanwar* he wants — it should be “large size” and in Tricolour shades, as a mark of his “*deshbhakti* (patriotism)”.  
The deal is settled at Rs 2,000 and Sikandar asks one of his associates to make the basic structure of the *kanwar* as another cuts out saffron, white and green patches and prepares other items of decoration.

At Pantdeep, *kanwars* can come for as low as Rs 100, going up to thousands of rupees, depending on the design, material and decorative items used. Come Kanwar Mela season, makers like Sikandar take space on rent from the administration to put up their stalls.

VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi said recently that 99% of the *kanwars* in Haridwar were made by Muslims, and that they should be boycotted. Sikandar and Sumit haven't heard of the statement, nor are they bothered.  
“I am the third generation of my family making *kanwars*. There are a few Hindu families too in my village, Jwalapur (7 km away), where I have my workshop, but they have never objected. In fact, some of the Hindu families learnt this work from me,” Sikandar says, adding that his wife Zahira Begum and six children help him in the trade.

Sajid, 37, who is also a *kanwar*-maker, says, “At my workshop, Hindus decorate the *kanwars* with bangles, spoons, mirror, photographs of Lord Shiva, strings of coloured paper, plastic snakes etc. Customers don't ask



about my religion. They know we make good *kanwars*. Politicians make statements for their own gains, but the common man wants to live peacefully.”

Pointing out that Kanwar Mela is brief, Sajid says that for the rest of the year, his family of five depends on the money he makes collecting and selling scrap. “Earnings from *kanwars* feed our families for the better part of the year. I also feel blessed to be a part of this religious fair.”

Nooruddin, 63, entered this business eight years ago, and is now assisted by his son Asad (30), who learnt the work from Sikandar. “As this market is near Har ki Pauri, a religious place, we avoid non-vegetarian food during Kanwar Mela. We cook here itself during the 10 days of the Mela because pilgrims come round-the-clock,” says Asad,

adding that otherwise he works as a house painter and his father as a carpenter.

The preparations begin four months before the *mela*, with the *kanwar*-makers buying material on credit, returning the money after the festivities are over.

Sikandar invested Rs 10 lakh this time. “But I am in loss, sale has not been up to expectations. I made 1,500 *kanwars* but around 150 are lying unsold.”

Sajid, who spent Rs 6 lakh to make 750 *kanwars*, adds that while the footfall of pilgrims remained large, “most of them were *daak-kanwars*, who come on buses, four-wheelers and motorcycles”. “Our buyers are generally those pilgrims who walk from their homes to Haridwar and take holy water of the Ganga back in *kanwars*.”

The 37-year-old is planning to dismantle

his 100-odd unsold *kanwars*, remove the cloth and decorative items and re-use them next year.

Tourism officials estimate that nearly 3.5 crore *kanwariyas* visited Haridwar this year, the highest ever footfall. The 2018 figures were 2.8 crore.

A supervisor at a Patanjali store in Haridwar, Neetosh Kumar, who is also from Jwalapur, says he learnt *kanwar*-making from Muslim artisans at the village. He sells the *kanwars* he makes during *mela* time for Rs 250-Rs 300. “I made 600 *kanwars* this year. All were sold as walking with small *kanwars* is comfortable,” he says.

Among those in the trade is his aunt Shashi. The 45-year-old started making *kanwars* in 2006, after her husband's death. During the other months, she works as a midwife. Shashi says there is no religious divide among them. “Since Muslim families have been doing this work for several decades, they are good in *kanwar*-making. I learn new designs and decorations from them.”

While 95% of the *kanwar* makers in the market are locals, Rampal Singh (72) and his wife Santosh Devi (68) come to Haridwar every year from Badaterakpur village in Bijinor district of Uttar Pradesh, more than 70 km away. Pulling a plastic sheet over his temporary shop to protect his goods from rain, Rampal, who works as an agricultural labourer for the rest of the year, says, “I like making *kanwars* and started this work for money... We have been coming for 45 years.”

The elderly couple sell their small *kanwars* usually for Rs 200. With the *mela* ending though, they agree to sell one to Sonu Kumar, who has come driving a motorcycle from Panipat, 190 km away, for Rs 110.

Sonu is happy. He doesn't know the significance of the *kanwars*, he smiles; he bought one copying the others.

## A campus with a ‘torture room’

Kerala's University College, dominated by SFI and known for its vicious, violent campus politics



The SFI has since dissolved its unit at the Thiruvananthapuram college. Express

SHAJU PHILIP

ON JULY 12, Akhil Chandran, a third-year degree student at Thiruvananthapuram's University College, was sitting with some of his friends on campus, near a flagpost of the Students Federation of India (SFI), the student outfit of the CPI(M), when a few SFI workers asked the group to clear out. Still simmering over an earlier face-off, he refused. As the two sides came to blows, the SFI's R Sivarajith, president of the college's students' union, allegedly stabbed Chandran as secretary A N Naseem held him.

Outraged over the attack, hundreds of students, many of them girls, spilled out to the streets of the state capital against the SFI. While Chandran, himself a local committee member of the SFI, recovered, the incident threw an unflattering spotlight on the British-era college, one of the more sought-after institutions in the state, but where campus politics is practised with a viciousness that's extraordinary even by the violent standards of Kerala politics. As the only student body on the campus, with an uninterrupted reign of nearly two decades, the SFI rules.

In a major embarrassment for the CPI(M)-led LDF government in the state, it was soon revealed that Naseem and Sivarajith, among the six arrested for attacking Chandran, had topped a rank-list for police constables. The opposition Congress said this showed that the state government was using the SFI as a “parallel recruitment centre” to further the CPI(M)'s hold on the law and order machinery. The SFI has now dissolved its unit in the college.

Established in 1866 by the erstwhile Travancore royal regime, University College is the alma mater of such illustrious names such as former president the late K R Narayanan, former Maharashtra governor PC Alexander, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court Fathima Beevi and scores of litterateurs, politicians and civil servants.

Somewhere during this journey, University College, now affiliated to Kerala University, became a fertile ground for violent campus politics. In the 1970s, the SFI was a minor player on the campus, while the Congress's KSU dominated student politics. However, things changed in the '80s when the SFI led violent protests against granting autonomy to colleges.

With the college in the heart of the capital city, its students readily extended their strength to these agitations, held outside the state Secretariat building, that's a mere 400 metres from the campus. Over the years, the college slowly became an SFI fortress, fortified by the CPI(M) and its youth wing DFYI. The last time a KSU leader was elected to the college union was in 1986.

In 2000, a KSU leader, A R Nishad, who was visiting from a private college at Nilamel in Kollam, was allegedly forcibly taken to the SFI office on campus, where the assaulters carved “SFI” on his back. The

SFI office on campus has a notorious reputation of being an “*idimuri*” or torture chamber, where anyone who runs afoul of its leaders is “dealt with”.

As a fallout of the outrage over the Nishad incident, the SFI was forced to dissolve its unit on the campus. A year later, in 2001, a KSU unit was formed on the campus. Again, that proved short-lived with the SFI emerging victorious in subsequent student body elections.

In February 2017, in an incident of moral policing, two girls and their male friend were beaten up by alleged SFI activists for sitting together while watching a play.

Recalls senior Congress leader K Muraleedharan, who was state party chief in 2001, “KSU men at the college came under constant attack. They could not keep up their political work due to the SFI's threats. The Congress party failed to support the KSU unit and it slowly fizzled out.”

After a gap of 18 years, KSU is back on the campus — earlier this week, the outfit formed a union, cashing in on sentiments among students against the SFI.

Another incident that triggered the growing anger against the SFI was the suicide attempt by a student early this year. Nikhila Sajith, 19, a first-year degree student, had alleged that she was subjected to mental torture by SFI leaders for refusing to take part in SFI-organised agitations in the city.

Nikhila, who moved to another college this academic year, says, “I didn't give a written complaint against the SFI leaders because I was afraid of the fallout. But I took up the matter with the college authorities, and they failed to act.”

Nikhila is one of 187 students to obtain transfer certificates from the college halfway through their courses, according to a document submitted by Higher Education Minister K T Jaleel in the Assembly last month.

When reached for his comment, Prof K Vishwambharan, who was removed as principal after the July attack on Chandran, said, “On the day of attack on the SFI worker (Akhil Chandran), I was busy with the admission process. The students should have settled the issue among themselves. But everyone knows what has been happening at the college.”

An SFI leader, who has been at University College for the last six years, says, “Most of the students on campus have no political affiliation. They don't have the courage to speak out against the criminal elements in the SFI who rule the college with the support of their political masters.”

Reacting to the stabbing case, SFI all-India president V P Sanu pointed out that the organisation has dissolved its University College unit. “We will ensure steps to prevent a repeat of such incidents at University College or any other college in Kerala. However, it's also true that the incident has been used to attack SFI,” he said.

## The four ‘routine’ lynchings

Suna, Champa, Fagni, Piro were killed in Jharkhand's Gumla dist after being accused of witchcraft. It's business as usual in village of victims 85, 86, 87, 88

ABHISHEK ANGAD

SILENCE HANGS over Nagar Siskari Tola in Jharkhand's Gumla district, with most houses locked and lanes empty but for policemen, five days after four people were lynched on the charge of practising witchcraft here. “*Koi baat nahin karega* (Nobody will talk),” a policeman tells you, keeping guard at the local *akhara* (meeting point), where the four were dragged to and killed in the wee hours of July 20.

All four were known to be “*ojhas*” or healers, villagers believing they could cure small ailments through their supernatural powers.

Many in Nagar Siskari would turn to them, with the nearest health sub-centre 5 km away. Mukhiya Ravi Oraon says even at that sub-centre, a doctor is rare. “If there is no doctor, what does one do? The village has to rely

**At 4 pm on a weekday, the health sub-centre was locked. Jitendra Munda, who works at a medical store in Sisai, 15 km away, sat outside distributing medicines, “for a minimum consultancy charge of Rs 10”**

on quacks and *ojhas*. If the ailing person improves, they feel obliged to the *ojhas*. But if the patient deteriorates, conspiracy theories abound.” He adds that his complaints to the Block Development Officer regarding the health centre had gone unheard.

The Sunday Express visited the sub-centre at 4 pm on a weekday, and it was locked because of it being the village market day.

Jitendra Munda, who works at a medical store in Sisai, some 15 km away, sat outside distributing medicines. “There are no doctors here and I realised people needed help. So I give them medicines for a minimum consultancy charge of Rs 10,” says Munda, admitting that he didn't have any degree.

Locals say even the auxiliary nurse midwife is available only for three hours a day, 10 am to 1 pm.

Gumla Deputy Commissioner Shashi Ranjan, however, says it is wrong to connect the lynchings with the lack of healthcare facilities. The Sisai Community Health Centre, he asserts, is “the best of the best”. “This case is a result of pure superstition.”

The Sisai block under which Siskari Tola falls has a population of around 3,000, most of them farmers. However, water is scarce, says Oraon. The only source of drinking water is a well, and fetching it can be a hour's



Policemen deployed at the *akhara* where the “*ojhas*” were killed. Abhishek Angad

walk. Few are attracted towards MNREGA jobs, he adds, as payments come late. But there are not many other jobs forthcoming, as few have studied beyond Class 10.

About the killing of Suna Oraon, 65,

Champa Oraon, 79, Fagni Oraone, 60 and Piro Oraone, 74, the *mukhiya* admits there was no shock as there had been a “similar killing” four years back. This time, he says, the killings were triggered by a couple of

deaths that had occurred. “An *ojha* from a far-off place said somebody was practising witchcraft. So the villagers decided to take matters in their own hands.”

Villagers, who claim they saw nothing, similarly dismiss the killings as “routine”. “*Jharkhand mein dayan hota hai aur bahut log ka tabiyat kharab hua hai* (Jharkhand has witches and many people have fallen ill due to them),” says one.

Between January 2017 and July 2019, 88 people have been lynched on suspicion of witchcraft in the state, according to data compiled by the Jharkhand Police. Police have arrested eight people of Siskari Tola in this case, as well as Suhila Nayak, also an *ojha*, from another village.

Of those lynched, Champa and Piro sold vegetables at the weekly market. A 70-year-old relative says she isn't sure if the two practised witchcraft, adding “*ab log bol rahe hain to karte honge* (if the people are saying, they must have been)”.

Heera Oraon, the daughter of Suna Oraon, says he had been treating people for 17 years. “Many people would come to him, from far-off places too. He used to help everyone.” Now, Heera is planning to take away her siblings from the Tola. “There is so much superstition.”

ACROSS  
THE AISLE

P CHIDAMBARAM

I USED the phrase 'cooperative federal polity' in my Budget speech on February 28, 1997. I do not claim that I was the first to use that phrase, but I am happy that 'cooperative federalism' has been used repeatedly in Budget speeches and on other occasions.

## STATES ARE SOVEREIGN

What does 'cooperative federalism' mean? The phrase recognises and affirms that India is a federal State. There is a Central government and there are state governments. Each government has areas of legislation reserved to it. The Central government (through Parliament) cannot encroach upon the territory reserved for the state government, the state government (through the Legislature) cannot encroach upon the territory reserved for the Central government. There are also some areas where both governments may legislate. The division of legislative fields is the essence of federalism. Respecting the constitutional scheme is cooperative federalism.

Nevertheless, the Constitution of India contains exceptional provisions authorising Parliament to make a law on any unenumerated matter (Article 248); on any matter included in the State List if it is "necessary or expedient in the national interest" for a limited period (Article 249); and on any matter "while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation" (Article 250).

Article 258(2) is an interesting provi-

sion. A law made by Parliament may confer powers and impose duties upon a state government or its officers, but the Centre shall pay the state such sum of money as may be agreed. This provision is a strong affirmation of states' sovereignty, rights and powers.

PUSHING BILLS  
THROUGH

The BJP government is a government with a difference: it does not respect states' rights nor does it observe constitutional limitations or niceties.

The BJP government's commitment to federalism can be gauged by the manner in which Bills are passed in the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha is the House of the People while the Rajya Sabha is the Council of States. The primary duty of the members of the Rajya Sabha is to protect and advance the interest of the states. As on August 2, the Lok Sabha has passed 28 Bills in this session and the Rajya Sabha has passed 26 Bills. Not one of them — repeat, not a single Bill — went through a process of consultation with the opposition parties. Not one Bill was referred to the Standing Committee or a Select Committee for detailed scrutiny. State governments were not consulted on any Bill, including Bills that were on subjects included in the Concurrent List (List III) of the Constitution and that affected the rights of states. Not one amendment proposed by the Opposition was accepted by the government.

A few examples would suffice. In Justice Puttaswamy, the Supreme Court explained the scope of Article 110 of the Constitution, and that judgment is binding on the government. The Rajya Sabha cannot amend a Money Bill or vote out the Bill; it can only make recommendations and return the Bill to the Lok Sabha, which may or may not accept the recommendations. The President cannot withhold assent to a Money Bill or return it to Parliament for reconsideration. Taking advantage of these limitations, but in brazen violation of Article 110, the government amended at least 10 non-financial laws through the Finance (No. 2) Bill and thus avoided scrutiny by the Rajya Sabha or a direction by the President to reconsider.

**The Right to Information Act, 2005**, has been hailed universally as a seminal legislation. Section 15 of the Act authorises the state government to constitute the State Information Commission. The state government will select and appoint the State Information Commissioners. The initial term of office was five years. Hitherto, the power to prescribe the salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of their service was vested in the state government (Section 16). Now, the power to prescribe the initial term and the salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions has been taken over by the Central government! We asked why? There was no answer.

**The National Medical Commission Bill** is the ultimate affront to the states. Every power of the state government to

provide for and regulate medical education has been taken away leaving each state with only a two-year term as a member of the commission, *once in four years!* It is as good as transferring the subject of medical education from List III to List I. Yet it passed in the Council of States without a protest from the states!

EVERY TRICK IN  
THE BAG

How does the government manage to win the vote on Bills in the Rajya Sabha? Take the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, otherwise known as the triple talaq Bill. The government won the vote by 99 to 84 because 46 members of the Opposition were absent at the time of voting! No member of the BSP was present, six SP members were absent, the NCP had two out of four members, one Congress member resigned on that very day (and joined the BJP the next day) and four Congress members were absent. The AIADMK, JD(U), TRS and PDP which had spoken against the Bill vanished at the time of voting!

Divide, cajole, intimidate, threaten or close 'deals', the BJP has used every trick in its bag to pass laws that will reduce states to municipal administrations and add one more dimension to the sinister idea of Oneness — One Government for everything.

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## FIFTH COLUMN



TAVLEEN SINGH

Modi's  
aura  
shrinks

AFTER GIVING Narendra Modi a magnificent second chance to save India, the gods seem to have given up on him. There was a time not long ago when he was so bestowed with divine blessings that whatever he did seemed to work well for him. Even when he made reckless decisions like invalidating nearly all our currency overnight. But, since he was given his second chance just two months ago it is as if nothing he does is working well for him. Was it his Budget that began it all?

Perhaps. Everyone who wants India to become a country whose economy soars to new heights put all their hopes on this particular Budget. Personally, I have been hoping for the past five years that he would come up with at least one Budget that would be as dramatic and courageous as that one in the early Nineties that closed down the wicked licence raj. Not only has there never been such a Budget from Modi, but he seems to view with suspicion and malevolence the men who have created some of the finest companies in the world. So last week they were told that they could be fined and jailed if they defaulted on their corporate social responsibility. Forcing them to set aside funds for compulsory charity was one of Sonia Gandhi's worst ideas.

It should have been tossed in the garbage bin by Modi and he should instead have appealed to big business to help him serve India by contributing to his big plans like Swachh Bharat and the new Jal Shakti mission. There is still time. Stop threatening them with jail and they could become the most useful partners in the mission to give every Indian access to clean and reliable supplies of water by 2024.

Stop the campaign of tax terrorism that recently drove one of India's finest entrepreneurs to take his own life, and you could see a new mood among businessmen. The step most urgently needed is for the Prime Minister to stop treating businessmen as if they were pariahs. It is because of severely restricted access that ugly rumours are spreading about how the Prime Minister gives help to only a privileged handful. Talk of oligarchs has begun.

On the political front, the BJP's image of being a 'party with a difference' has been badly damaged. This is because of the way Kuldesh Singh Sengar was handled. He should have been expelled a year ago when the child who accuses him of rape tried to kill herself in front of the Chief Minister's residence in Lucknow. He should have been expelled before he managed, despite being in jail, to intimidate and probably kill the victim's family and possible witnesses. This is normal in rural and small-town India where violent thugs control law enforcement. What should not be normal is for said violent thugs to be honourable members of the BJP. The Prime Minister will find it hard to continue lecturing India about values and morality in his *Mann ki Baat* if he is seen to be sheltering rapists and other criminals in his fold.

This is just the domestic proof of the gods having retracted their grace from the man to whom they have given so much. Beyond our borders things do not look that good either. Imran Khan seems to have made a good enough impression on the leader of the free world for him to suddenly declare that Pakistan has changed. It now has a new leader, 'a great athlete', who will change it from being the 'subversive', 'deceitful' country it was before Imran.

So the United States will once more shower billions of dollars on the Islamic Republic next door. And, our hope that Pakistan will stop exporting jihadists to India because of being broke will die. We know that Donald Trump is not just impressed with Imran's athleticism and good looks. We know that it is because he needs his help to end America's unending, hopeless war in Afghanistan that Imran was so feted, but we also know that this renewed friendship hurts us directly. Imran is probably the first Pakistani Prime Minister to have got an American President to declare publicly that America is ready to mediate in Kashmir.

This brings me to another area in which the Prime Minister appears to have not had much luck or divine intervention. On account of reckless chatter in Delhi and large numbers of troops moving to the Valley, there are rumours in Srinagar that the special status of Kashmir is on the verge of being ended. They have reason for concern because this is something that the BJP believes should be done, but Modi would be wise not to do this so soon in his second term. If only because the gods no longer seem to be on his side.

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@tavleen\_singh

## Coercive federalism

## INSIDE TRACK



COOMI KAPOOR

## INDIRA'S EXAMPLE

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman is getting the rap for the high tax in this year's Budget on the super rich. But Sitharaman may be merely a scapegoat for what was essentially a political decision. It is believed that the BJP top leadership pushed for the richest Indians to be taxed higher, even though Finance Ministry officials fought against the proposal, pointing out that this would send wrong signals to the business community and stall foreign and domestic investment. The leadership seems to have been inspired by Indira Gandhi, who, half a century ago, enforced bank nationalisation and abolished privy purses to demonstrate to the poor that the government would not spare the rich.

## RAJASTHAN QUARTET

The government's success in getting through amendments to the RTI Act and passing the triple talaq Bill, despite the BJP's lack of a majority in the Rajya Sabha, is at least partly due to the tireless efforts of party general secretary Bhupendra Yadav, who is Amit Shah's right-hand man for floor coordination. Yadav was in constant touch not just with BJP MPs but with parliamentarians from other parties. Which was why he displayed supreme confidence several days before the Bills were taken up in the House. Yadav, a Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan, is one of four MPs from the state who played an important role in the smooth functioning of Parliament this session. The others in the Rajasthan quartet are: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, BJP whip in the Upper House Narayan Lal Panchariya and MoS for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal.

## KASHMIR ELECTIONS

The BJP is veering round to the view that to abrogate Article 35(A) of the Constitution, which allows the J&K Legislature to define permanent residents of the state, getting through an amendment in Parliament is not necessary. It can be done simply by an executive order by the Law Ministry, in conjunction with the Home Ministry. Even a Cabinet approval is not required. The legal opinion given to the Narendra Modi government is that the amendment itself is illegal since it was passed merely by a Presidential Order in 1954, when Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime

## OUT OF MY MIND



MEGHNAD DESAI

WE HAVE a letter of protest from a group of distinguished Indians raising the problem of Hindu youths forcing Muslim youths to say *Jai Shri Ram* and beating them up. Another group objected that the issue was raised publicly at all as they thought it would create a bad impression of India abroad.

But whether foreigners take any notice

Minister. (A PIL has already been filed in the Supreme Court along these lines.) However, the government may delay taking any action on Article 35(A) until after the Jammu and Kashmir elections, which could be held simultaneously with the Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly polls.

## MOVING ON

Usually key jobs in the President's secretariat are co-terminus with the President's tenure. But in the case of the low-key Ram Nath Kovind, his press secretary Ashok Malik and his joint secretary Bharat Lal quit Rashtrapati Bhavan last month after two years in the job. Both men were reportedly handpicked by the PMO to assist Kovind at the start of his tenure. Malik is keen to return to journalism and work at the Observer Research Foundation, while Lal has already joined as Additional Secretary in the Water Ministry, a ministry in which the PM takes special interest. Lal was Modi's point person in Delhi during his years as Gujarat Chief Minister.

## OUT OF CLOSET

The absence of so many opposition MPs during the passing of the triple talaq Bill in the Rajya Sabha was because of a secret understanding between the BJP and party bosses of allies AIADMK and JD(U) that their MPs would walk out of the House. While the BJP came out in support, parties such as the BSP, TDP and TRS did a no-show. Some degree of arm-twisting was evident in the exercise with most politicians apprehensive of Central government agencies. But the absence of six of the 12 Samajwadi Party MPs and both the PDP MPs was not because of a call from their leaders but because the BJP reached out to individual MPs directly. In fact, except for the BJP, Congress and Trinamool Congress, parties do not generally issue whips since they do not want to reveal the cracks in their camp. Sanjay Singh from the Congress came out of the closet on voting day and others could follow suit. The absence of four Congress MPs was also puzzling.

## PULLING NO PUNCHES

Mary Kom is an unattached nominated MP and hence under no obligation to follow any whip or support the government. Just before the triple talaq Bill was to be taken up in the Rajya Sabha, a senior Central minister spied the sportswoman, nominated by the Modi government, quietly leaving the House. He quickly stopped her and reminded her of the important role she had to play. Kom tried to excuse herself, explaining that she had a sports practice scheduled, but the minister was adamant and even made BJP office-bearers speak to her. In contrast, senior lawyer KTS Tulsii, nominated by the UPA government, was not present during voting.

## HISTORY HEADLINE

## Gaya Lal, and Haryana art of defection



PRADEEP KAUSHAL

WHILE THE large-scale crossing over by MLAs resulted in state governments falling in Karnataka and Goa recently, they were still no match for what a Haryana legislator managed in 1967, back when shadows had just started appearing over Indian democracy's golden halo. In the process, Gaya Lal also lent the term 'Aya Ram, Gaya Ram' to the country's political lexicon.

The month was February, and there was political uncertainty in the air. The Congress had returned to power at the Centre with its lowest tally till then (283 out of 520), under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. The party had suffered setbacks in Assembly polls in several states, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Orissa (now Odisha), Madras (now Tamil Nadu) and Kerala. This had triggered a tussle for power between the Congress and an Opposition combine, consisting of the Jana Sangh, Swatantra Party, Samyukta Socialist Party, Praja Socialist Party, regional parties and defectors from the Congress. The Opposition coalition gave its state regimes an umbrella identity — the Samyukta Vidhayaik Dal (SVD) governments.

For Haryana, carved out of Punjab on November 1, 1966, it was its first Assembly election. While the Congress won, it was with a thin majority of 48 out of 81 seats. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh got 12 seats, Swatantra Party three and Republican Party two. The Independents formed the second-largest block, with 16 seats. One of them was Gaya Lal, winning from Hasanpur (SC) constituency.

Congress Chief Minister Bhagwat Dayal Sharma was sworn in on March 10, 1967. Within a week, his government fell after 12 Congress MLAs defected, forming a group that they dubbed the 'Haryana Congress'. The Independent legislators also forged a new party, 'United Front'. The process of switching sides continued, swelling the United Front ranks eventually to 48 MLAs.

Consequently, on March 24, Rao Birendra Singh (father of present Union Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh), who had been elected from Pataudi on a Congress ticket, took over as CM under the SVD banner. His position was flimsy at best, threatened by both Bhagwat Dayal Sharma and Devi Lal,



Bhajan Lal with Indira Gandhi, after turning his Janata Party govt wholesale into a Congress govt, on Jan 22, 1980, taking along 37 MLAs. Express Archives

who was still in the Congress.

However, if there was one man who defined those days of uncertainty, it was Gaya Lal. Within nine hours, the MLA changed sides twice — in and out of the Congress — and within a fortnight, moved to the United Front.

Presenting him at a press conference in Chandigarh after having overthrown Sharma, a beaming Rao Birendra uttered those inimitable words "Gaya Ram is now Aya Ram". Then home minister Y B Chavan later used the phrase in Parliament to denote political turncoats.

But Rao lasted only a few months, demitting office on November 2. The Assembly was dissolved and the state placed under President's Rule, followed by elections in 1968.

Meanwhile, Gaya Lal marched on. After the United Front, his next stop was the Arya Sabha, led by Indervesh, Agnivesh and Adityavesh, in 1972. Two years later, he found his way into the Bharatiya Lok Dal, led by Charan Singh. Consequently, he got a Janata Party (formed by the merger of four parties, including the Bharatiya Lok Dal) ticket in 1977 and won. Gaya Lal's last election was in 1982, as an Independent. He lost.

By the time he died in 2009, Gaya Lal had paved the way for son Udai Bhan. In the 1987 Assembly elections, Bhan, a Lok Dal-BJP candidate, won, riding a wave in favour of the combine; he lost in 1991, as a Janata Party nominee; tasted defeat again in 1996, as an Independent; won a second time, in 2000, as an Independent; joined the Indian National Lok Dal; defected to the Congress in 2004 but lost;

and a year later, returned to the Assembly as a Congress candidate.

However, long before then, Haryana had moved on — to five-star defections, showing the way to the rest of the country. In 1979, facing competition from incumbent Janata Party CM Devi Lal, Bhajan Lal set off with dissident party MLAs on "Bharat Darshan". For over two weeks, the group, on a luxury bus and a fleet of cars, toured Alwar, Kota, Agra, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Bhopal, Kanpur, Kolkata and Mumbai, staying at heritage hotels and resorts, with Bhajan Lal picking up the entire tab. It paid off, and on June 29, 1979, he became the CM.

After Indira Gandhi returned to power at the Centre, Bhajan Lal converted his Janata Party government wholesale into a Congress government, on January 22, 1980, taking along 37 party MLAs.

At least Bhagwat Dayal Sharma, the first victim of Haryana's topsy-turvy politics, retained his good cheer through it. As the CM during the March 1967 phase of defections and counter-defections, while he was headed one day for the MLAs' hostel to try win over some potential turncoats, an aide came up running to tell him, "Sahib, Pandit Tuhi Ram has also left." "Pandit Tuhi Ram?" Sharma said, askance. "Phone lagao (connect me to him)." The aide indicated there was no hope; the news was on All-India Radio.

Known for his wit, Sharma quipped, "Just check, maybe Panditayin too has defected." Panditayin being his own wife Savitri Devi.

pradeep.kaushal@expressindia.com

## Why the fear of debate

of internal Indian quarrels (they don't and why worry about it even if they do?), is the issue in itself not worth debating? We have been here before. After 2014: we had issues of vigilante attacks, love jihad, *ghar wapsi* etc. The Prime Minister was blamed for every incident. No one was interested in asking why such things happened but only in blaming the ruling party or rather the Prime Minister.

The issue of illegal violence and intimidation is important. But it is also important to ask about its causes. Modi cannot be the direct cause of every incident. After all, violent incidents happen under every government. The Nirbhaya case was not the fault of Dr Manmohan Singh during whose prime

ministership it happened, nor the problem of safety of women in public which became prominent at that time. Nor was the last major communal riot in Muzaffarnagar during the Samajwadi Party's rule in Uttar Pradesh the fault of Akhilesh Yadav. Nor of the UPA government which was in power at the Centre then.

If there are recurrent incidents of violence, it is necessary to examine their roots rather than just blame the party you do not like or even dismiss such complaints because you like the party in power. These are social problems which have to be tackled at the place where they occur and not in Delhi. Let me try, even at the risk of upsetting all sides.

A moment's thought would reveal that all these complaints of Hindu-Muslim confrontations are local to the Hindi belt — the BIMARU states. The peculiarity of the Hindi belt is a serious issue to investigate. It is frequently taken, not least by itself, as India itself. It was for decades the source of power of the Congress. It is the one area of India which has not had an anti-Brahmin movement or any social reform agitation as South India, Punjab, Gujarat or Maharashtra have had. It was left backward socially in terms of literacy, women's status, low status of OBCs during the Congress's 50-year rule. The Hindi belt has also the largest concentration of Muslims in India. The idea of secularism is said to be based on the *Ganga-Jamuni*

*tehzeeb*. Yet, the lack of social reform in the Muslim society is also to be laid at the door of the Congress. Just compare Muslims in South India with Muslims of the Hindi belt in terms of modernity.

The idea of Hindu nationalism is founded on a history of India based solely on the history of the Hindi belt — thousand years of Muslim domination etc, which did not affect South or Northeast at all.

There is plenty of political violence in West Bengal, religious quarrels in Punjab (within the Sikh community), dowry deaths and female foeticide in Punjab/Haryana but little of the communal violence which we see in the BIMARU states. It is worth asking why.



# 19 THE WORLD

## ICELAND

### WHALES DIE IN MYSTERIOUS STRANDING

Some 20 pilot whales have died stranded in mysterious circumstances on the south-western coast of Iceland, emergency services said Saturday, only two weeks after a similarly unexplained mass stranding had already killed dozens of the long-finned cetaceans. The dead whales, part of a group of 50 stranded whales, were discovered late Friday near Gardur town.

## TOP OF THE WORLD



### USA Freed from jail in Sweden, rapper A\$AP Rocky lands in US

Los Angeles: Nearly a month after he was arrested in Sweden, rapper A\$AP Rocky returned to the US as the verdict in an assault case against him and two other Americans looms. The 30-year-old whose real name is Rakim Mayers had flown out of Stockholm on Friday, the same day they learned they would be released while judges mull a verdict that's expected August 14. The case has attracted the attention of prominent figures, from Justin Bieber to President Donald Trump. Trump had caused a stir in US-Sweden relations after publicly offering support to the artist.

## DAY AFTER EXITING LANDMARK ARMS TREATY WITH RUSSIA

# US wants to quickly deploy new missiles in Asia, says Defence Secretary Esper

IDREES ALI  
SYDNEY, AUGUST 3

WASHINGTON WANTS to quickly deploy new missiles in Asia, to counter the rise of China in the region, new US Defence Secretary Mark Esper said Saturday, a day after the United States withdrew from a landmark arms control treaty.

Esper's comments are likely to raise concern about an arms race and could add to an already tense relationship with China.

"Yeah, I would like to," Esper said, when asked whether he was considering placing such missiles in Asia.

"I would prefer months... but these things tend to take longer than you expect," he told reporters travelling with him to Sydney when asked about a timeline for when the missiles could be deployed.

The United States formally left the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia on Friday after determining Moscow was



US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper arrives in Sydney on Saturday for annual bilateral talks. AP

violating the treaty, an accusation that the Kremlin has denied.

On Friday, senior US officials said that any deployment of such weaponry would be years away.

Within the next few weeks, the United States is expected to test a ground-launched cruise missile, and in November, the Pentagon will aim to test an inter-

mediate-range ballistic missile.

Both would be tests of conventional weapons—and not nuclear.

The 1987 pact banned ground-launched nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500-5,500 km.

US officials have been warning for years that the United

## EXPLAINED Collapse of Cold War treaty adds to new arms race fears

THE US Defence Secretary's announcement that he would like to deploy new missiles in Asia is sure to anger at least Russia, China and North Korea. With the latter having resumed testing ballistic missiles, and Moscow and Beijing already seeking to impose their influence in the region, the deployment of new US missiles in Asia raises fears that an all-out arms race may be in the offing. With the US withdrawing from the INF treaty—which had stopped both itself and Russia from deploying nuclear-capable, medium-range missiles that could travel within the agreement's prohibited range—another hurdle to a possible arms race has been lifted.

States was being put at a disadvantage by China's development of increasingly sophisticated land-based missile forces, which the Pentagon could not match due to the US treaty with Russia.

The United States has so far relied on other capabilities as a counterbalance to China, like missiles fired from US ships or

aircraft. But advocates for a US land-based missile response say that is the best way to deter Chinese use of its muscular land-based missile forces.

While no decisions have been made, the United States could theoretically put easier-to-hide, road-mobile conventional missiles in places like Guam.

## Multiple casualties in shooting at Texas mall

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
EL PASO, AUGUST 3

MULTIPLE PEOPLE were killed and one person was in custody after a shooter went on a rampage Saturday at a shopping mall, police in the Texas border town of El Paso said.

Police responded in the early afternoon to an active shooter scene at the Cielo Vista Mall, which is near Interstate 10 on east side of the city, and were advising people to stay away from the area.

Shortly after, Sgt. Enrique Carrillo, a police spokesman, said a suspect was in custody and there was no longer danger to the public.

El Paso, which has about 680,000 residents, is in West Texas and sits across the border from Juarez, Mexico.

Presidential candidate and former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke appeared a bit shaken as he appeared at a candidate forum in Las Vegas on Saturday shortly after news of the shooting in his hometown was reported.

O'Rourke said he had called his wife before taking the stage and said the shooting shatters "any illusion that we have that progress is inevitable" on tackling gun violence.

The Democrat said he had heard early reports that the shooter might have had a military-style weapon, saying we need to "keep that (expletive) on the battlefield and do not bring it into our communities".

"We have to find some reason for optimism and hope or else we consign ourselves to a future where nearly 40,000 people a year will lose their lives to gun violence and I cannot accept that," O'Rourke said.

Police in El Paso said a suspect was in custody and there was no longer danger to the public

Police in El Paso said a suspect was in custody and there was no longer danger to the public



Officer Daniel Pantaleo

## White cop, who killed black man in 2014 case that shook US, should be fired: Judge

JONATHAN ALLEN  
NEW YORK, AUGUST 3

A WHITE New York City police officer who killed an unarmed black man with a banned chokehold in 2014 should be fired, a police judge recommended on Friday in a case that stoked the Black Lives Matter movement and reverberated in the US presidential campaign.

Officer Daniel Pantaleo had been on desk duty since widely viewed cellphone videos showed him using the chokehold on Eric Garner during an attempted arrest on a sidewalk in Staten Island, one of five boroughs in the most populous US city. Police believed Garner was selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

Garner's repeated dying cries of "I can't breathe!" became a rallying cry for the growing Black Lives Matter movement, which protests police brutality against blacks around the country.

His death, and the slow-moving investigations that followed, have generated some of the harshest criticisms of Mayor Bill de Blasio during his tenure and have spilled over into his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. Protesters chanted "Fire Pantaleo!" during de Blasio's opening statement in Wednesday's presidential primary debate in Detroit.

"Today, we finally saw a step towards justice and accountability," de Blasio told reporters at City Hall. REUTERS

## MEXICO 3 journalists slain in a week

Mexico City: Two journalists were shot dead in Mexico Friday, bringing to three the number of journalists killed in the country this week. Jorge Celestino Ruiz, who worked for the newspaper *El Grafico de Xalapa*, was killed on Friday night in Veracruz, the mayor of the state's capital said. Less than 24 hours earlier, the director of online news website *La Verdad de Zihuatanejo*, Edgar Alberto Nava, was gunned down in the state of Guerrero. And on Tuesday, the body of Rogelio Barragan — head of news website *Guerrero Al Instante* — was found in an abandoned car's trunk.

## USA Cop 'shoots at dog', kills woman

Arlington: A rookie Texas police officer accidentally shot and killed a woman when he fired repeatedly at a dog believed to be hers that was running at him, authorities said. The officer in Arlington responded to a welfare check Thursday about a woman who appeared to be passed out behind a plaza. Footage from the officer's body-worn camera shows the him walking along a sidewalk and calling out, "Hello. Are you OK?" The woman replies, "Yeah, I'm fine." A barking dog runs towards him and the officer yells, "Get back!" He begins to back up and then fires three shots. The woman screams, "Oh, my God!" and continues to cry out.

## Police use force to end latest Moscow protest; 600 arrested

JIM HEINTZ  
MOSCOW, AUGUST 3

POLICE CRACKED down hard on an unsanctioned demonstration in Moscow for a second weekend in a row, detaining about 600 people protesting the exclusion of some independent and opposition candidates from September city council elections.

The issue taps growing dissatisfaction with a political environment dominated by the Kremlin-aligned United Russia party, in which dissenting voices are marginalised, ignored or repressed.

An arrest-monitoring group, OVD-Info, said 685 people were detained Saturday. The Russian Interior Ministry said the number was about 600.

The detentions came a week after authorities arrested nearly 1,400 people at a similar protest.

Lyubov Sobol, one of the excluded candidates and a driving figure of the current wave of protests, was among those de-

tained. She was grabbed by police in central Moscow and hustled into a police van, loudly demanding to know why she was being held.

Demonstrators were aiming to hold a march along the Boulevard Ring, which skirts central Moscow and is a popular locale for people to walk around, despite repeated warnings that police would take active measures against a protest.

The Interior Ministry said the total number of protesters was about 1,500, although the police are widely believed to underestimate crowd estimates for opposition events.

Helmeted riot police lined the route and started seizing demonstrators from a scattered crowd on Pushkin Square and pushing them back from another square further along the route.

Some of the detentions were harsh, including one young bicyclist who was beaten with truncheons as he lay on the pavement still straddling his bike. AP



At a rally in Moscow on Saturday. AP



Protesters shine a laser beam during a confrontation with police in Hong Kong on Saturday. AP

## Hong Kong protesters seize roads in defiance of China warnings

AGENCIES  
HONG KONG, AUGUST 3

PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTERS in Hong Kong erected barricades in a popular tourist district and briefly blocked a major tunnel Saturday evening, defying increasingly stern warnings from China over weeks-long unrest that has plunged the city into crisis.

The semi-autonomous Chinese financial hub has seen two months of protests and clashes triggered by opposition to a planned extradition law that evolved into a wider movement for democratic reforms.

Authorities in Hong Kong and Beijing this week signalled a

### PROTESTERS' LATEST TOOL: LASERS

PROTESTERS IN Hong Kong have been increasingly using laser beams during confrontations with police.

THE LASERS are aimed at police personnel as well as security cameras, with the intention being to confuse

law enforcement officials and to stop cameras from identifying protesters.

CHINA IS one of the leading users of facial recognition technology in law enforcement, regularly using security cameras to identify offenders.

hardening stance, including with the arrests of dozens of protesters, and the Chinese military saying it was ready to quell the "intolerable" unrest if requested.

But protesters have re-

mained unyielding, vowing to hold multiple occupations and rallies into next week, sending tensions soaring once more.

Saturday's violence — the ninth consecutive weekend of

## SURFACE OF ISLAND'S ICE SHEET MELTING AT NEAR RECORD LEVELS

# Europe's heatwave, fuelled by climate change, moves to Greenland

HENRY FOUNTAIN  
AUGUST 3

CLIMATE CHANGE made the stifling heat that enveloped parts of Europe last week much more likely and hotter, researchers said Friday.

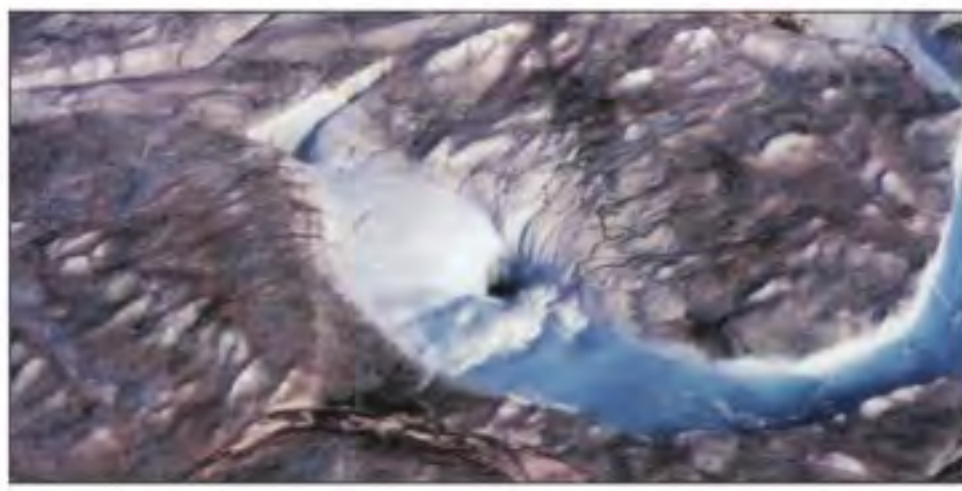
The heatwave, the second to hit Europe since late June, set temperature records in Paris, as well as in Germany, the Netherlands and other countries. Nuclear reactors in France and Germany were forced to reduce output or shut down because the water used to cool them was too warm.

The hot air, which was trapped over Europe after travelling from northern Africa, lingered for about four days. It has

since moved north over Greenland, causing the surface of the island's vast ice sheet to melt at near-record levels.

World Weather Attribution, a group that conducts rapid analyses of weather events to see if they are influenced by climate change, said that for France and the Netherlands, the four days of extreme heat last week were a rare event even for a warming world. But it said climate change had made the heatwave at least 10 times more likely. In Germany, the heatwave was at least eight times more likely because of climate change, the group found, and in Britain, where the heat did not linger as long, it was at least two times more likely.

"European summer heat



Ice melting in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, on Thursday. Reuters

waves are absolutely one of the hot spots of climate change," said Friederike Otto, a member of the group and a climate researcher at the University of Oxford in England. "We've had two of

these this summer alone, and the summer is only halfway through. We also had a massive heat wave last summer."

World Weather Attribution, with researchers in Britain,

France, the Netherlands and elsewhere, uses computer simulations of the climate as it is now and as it would be if human activity had not pumped hundreds of billions of tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The group's goal is to bring legitimate scientific analysis to the public quickly after an event to help counter any potential misinformation.

The group said that every European heatwave that has been analysed, dating to 2003 and including the earlier one this summer, had been found to have been influenced by climate change, although the degree of impact has varied depending on location, intensity and other factors.

With the hot air moving

north this week, Greenland was experiencing its own version of a heatwave. On the southwestern coast, Nuuk, the capital, reported temperatures in the high 50s Fahrenheit, about 10 degrees higher than average for this time of year. (55 Fahrenheit is the equivalent of roughly 13 Celsius).

The warmth increased the surface melting of Greenland's vast ice sheet, which covers about 80 per cent of the island. Analysis of satellite data by the National Snow and Ice Data Centre in Boulder, Colorado, showed melting Wednesday extended across 380,000 square miles, or about 60 per cent of the total ice area.

That is about four times the median extent for the end of July over the past four decades. But

while the extent of melting has been higher than average this year — including a day in June that set an early-season record — it is less than the record 2012 melt season, when warm temperatures persisted for much of the summer and at one point nearly 100 per cent of the ice sheet was melting.

Greenland's ice sheet is nearly 2 miles thick in places, and if all of it were to melt, global sea levels would rise about 24 feet. Melting has increased in recent decades because of climate change and has been outstripping accumulation from snow, resulting in a net loss of ice. A 2018 study found that the ice sheet has been losing an average of nearly 300 billion tons of ice per year this decade. NYT



# 20 ECONOMY

COMMERCE SECRETARY MEETS WITH TRADE MINISTERS OF VARIOUS NATIONS

## India flags 'concerns' on existing trade imbalances between RCEP members

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 3

INDIA MAY only agree to the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact, if partner countries like China resolve its trade deficit with India by providing more market access. "India's concerns regarding market access and other issues leading to imbalanced trade between some of the partner countries were specifically flagged during the meetings," a Commerce Ministry release said on Saturday. "During the meeting with ASEAN economic ministers, the Commerce Secretary highlighted the importance of services trade which supports both goods trade and investment," it further said. While negotiations for the proposed mega trade agreement have been on in Beijing this week, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan raised specific bilateral trade issues with his counterparts as well as trade ministers from other RCEP member countries on the sidelines.

These include demand for greater access in China for Indian exports of pharmaceuticals, agricultural products and resolving service-sector related issues in the IT and ITes industries that were raised with Commerce and

EXPLAINED

### Govt may not ink pact unless trade deficit addressed

INDIA IS already suffering from a trade deficit with most RCEP countries and the industry here fears such a deal would not make Indian products more competitive, instead flood the Indian market with cheaper products from other member countries.

The bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the latest round of negotiations may be a sign that India is willing to dismiss the deal if other countries, especially China, do not heed its calls to right its goods and services trade imbalance with them.

Industry minister Piyush Goyal earlier this week, said an official.

In his meeting with Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen, Wadhawan emphasised the importance of an RCEP agreement "that would duly address the causes of existing trade imbalances," the release said. "He used this opportunity to flag bilateral market access related issues on various categories of products in which discussions are ongoing between India and China. He also emphasised the importance of easing the business visas regime of China for Indian business travelers," it added.

Similar requests for greater market access for Indian goods and services were made to Indonesian Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukita and South Korean Trade Minister Myung Hee Yoo. India currently has \$53.6 billion trade deficit with China, around \$10.6 billion deficit with Indonesia and \$12 billion with South Korea. The domestic industries have raised fears about Chinese products potentially flooding the Indian market if it agrees to join RCEP.

On Wednesday, representative from several large IT companies met Commerce and Industry

Minister Piyush Goyal in Delhi to discuss non-tariff barriers that prevented them from growing their business in China, including visa-related issues.

Wadhawan attended the RCEP ministerial meet in Beijing in place of Goyal, who passed on it to attend the extended Parliament session here. The Minister had last month conducted "marathon" meetings in Mumbai and New Delhi with members of all Indian industries to understand concerns and issues that he would take forward to the RCEP meet.

The Commerce Secretary also requested Thailand, with which India has around \$3 billion trade deficit, "to improve its offer in goods and services under RCEP". He also sought Singapore's support in operationalising the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on nursing, signed between the two countries in June 2018. India's deficit with Singapore is around \$4.7 billion.

Meanwhile, according to the latest joint statement following the intersessional ministerial meeting on August 2-3, in 2018, the RCEP region grew by 5.6 per cent, "slightly moderated" from 5.8 per cent the previous year.

RCEP covered 47.4 per cent of the global population, 32.2 per cent of the global economy, 29.1 per cent of global trade, and 32.5

per cent of global investment flows last year.

Over the last three rounds, the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) made headway in "both market access and text-based negotiations," as per the statement.

"The ministers, in particular, welcomed the conclusion of the annexes on Telecommunication Services, Financial Services, and Professional Services, bringing a total number of seven concluded chapters and three concluded annexes, and noted that some of the remaining chapters or annexes are nearing conclusion.

"The Ministers were pleased to note that over two thirds of market access negotiations have reached mutually satisfactory outcomes, and that work on the remaining areas are being intensified through constructive engagements at all levels," it stated.

The sixth RCEP Intersessional TNC Meeting and Related Meetings will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia later this month. The ministers will reconvene for the seventh annual RCEP Ministerial Meeting in September in Bangkok, Thailand. RCEP is a mega free trade agreement being negotiated between 10 ASEAN group nations, India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. India has until November to join the agreement

BANKING WATCH

### REVENUE DEPT SLAPS FINE ON IOB

New Delhi: In a regulatory filing on Saturday, Indian Overseas Bank said that the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Revenue Department has levied a penalty of Rs 10.4 lakh on it for delay in filing certain threshold based reports. PTI

## Sebi likely to raise minimum net worth requirement of portfolio managers to ₹5 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 3

MARKETS REGULATOR Sebi has proposed to increase the minimum net worth requirement of a portfolio manager to Rs 5 crore from the current level Rs 2 crore. It also proposed to raise the minimum investment amount to Rs 50 lakh from Rs 25 lakh.

The proposals, which were released in a consultation paper on Friday by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), are based on recommendations of the working group that has proposed changes in the Sebi (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 1993.

While making recommendations on a range of issues pertaining to portfolio managers, the working group proposed to amend the definition of principal officer besides enhancing the minimum educational qualification requirements.

According to the recommendations, portfolio managers may be permitted to invest in listed securities (equity, debt or commodity derivatives) and units of mutual funds, on behalf of their clients.

"Periodic reports should be furnished to clients at least once in 3 months instead of 6

### 'Related party transactions being used for diversion of funds'

Kolkata: Sebi on Saturday expressed concern over related party transactions, a method "frequently" employed by corporates for diversion of funds.

The capital markets regulator also said another means of such diversion was extension of loans. "Related party transactions are being frequently used for diversion of funds by corporates. Another instance is extension of loans of companies to related parties. The list is endless. This really bothers the regulator", Sebi's executive director Amarjeet Singh said.

Speaking at the Financial Market Conclave organised by CII here, he said these practices should be discontinued in the interest of listed companies, promoters and related parties.

Singh said fraudulent related party transactions were being used for "siphoning of funds".

He added that regarding corporate governance, there had been a decline of trust for which Sebi had already initiated steps.

"Serious corporate governance issues witnessed a linear rise causing a number of company failures. Corporate governance is aimed at keeping the trust of various stakeholders. Learning from the global financial crisis, this was far from satisfactory", Singh said.

There had also been instances of non-disclosure of valuation reports, he said adding that the companies resorted to complex structures to hide risk for siphoning of funds. PTI

months," Sebi said.

Regarding disclosure document, it has been proposed that information on conflicts of interest related to services offered by group companies of the portfolio manager be compulsorily captured while disclosure on commission paid to dis-

tributor may also be included.

Additionally, the working group has also made recommendations on performance reporting by portfolio managers, reporting and disclosure requirements of portfolio managers and rationalisation of fees and expenses, among others.

BRIEFLY

### Aditya Birla Capital Q1 net profit up 27%

New Delhi: Aditya Birla Capital on Saturday reported a 27 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 270 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2019. The company had reported a PAT (after minority interest) of Rs 213 crore during the April-June period of 2018-19. Revenue grew to Rs 3,962 crore during the first quarter as against Rs 3,424 in the year-ago period, Aditya Birla Capital said in a statement. The company said the profit during the period under review was largely driven by growth in NBFC, housing finance and asset management businesses.

### Bandhan Bank to add 187 branches

Kolkata: Bandhan Bank would open 187 new branches by the end of the current financial year, taking the total number to 1,187, a top official said on Saturday. The private lender would also open 340 doorstep service centres by 2019-20, MD and CEO Chandra Sekhar Ghosh said. Ghosh said its board has approved 200 new branches this fiscal. PTI

## Number of sellers on GeM crosses 2.5 lakh

Over 2.5 lakh sellers and service providers have registered on the public procurement portal - Government e-Marketplace (GeM) - so far

2,59,815

Number of sellers and service providers who have registered with the portal so far

11,12,524

Number of products available for sale at GeM portal

14,247

Number of services available for sale at GeM portal

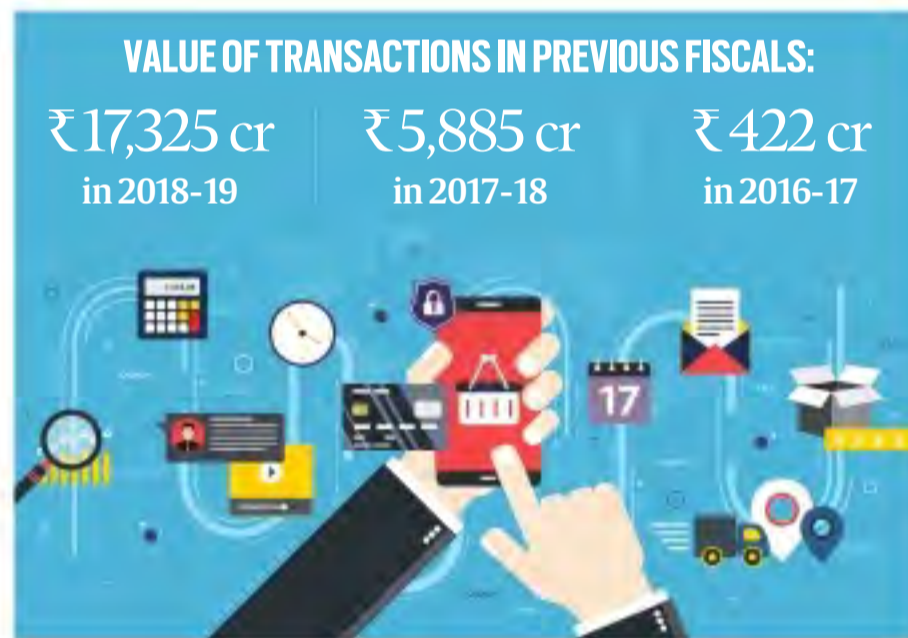
₹50,000 cr

Public procurement expected to take place through GeM during 2019-20 financial year

**Started in August 2016:** The portal was launched in August 2016 for online purchases of goods and services by all central government ministries and departments as well as states

**Mandatory for all departments, ministries:** The government has made it mandatory for all the departments and ministries to source goods and services from its e-marketplace

**Aimed at transparency, streamlining:** The move is aimed at bringing in more transparency and streamlining government procurement, which runs into lakhs of crores



**Wide range of products:** Wide ranging products from office stationery to vehicles in store with automobiles, computers and office furniture in top category

**Numerous services available:** Services, including transportation, logistics, waste management, web casting and analytical, among others listed on the portal

## Insurance, economy, tariffs weigh on Berkshire Hathaway

JONATHAN STEMPEL  
NEW YORK, AUGUST 3

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY Inc on Saturday said its quarterly operating profit fell more than analysts expected, as weakness in insurance underwriting, a slowing economy and trade woes weighed on the conglomerate run by billionaire Warren Buffett.

Berkshire's auto insurer Geico suffered a larger number of acci-

dent claims, while competition from foreign producers, lower imports and "trade policy" dampened cargo volumes for consumer and agricultural products at its BNSF railroad.

Earnings also barely budged at Berkshire's manufacturing businesses, where US tariffs hurt sales of gas turbine and pipe products at its Precision Castparts unit, and its service and retailing businesses. Second-quarter operating profit declined 11 per cent

to \$6.14 billion, or roughly \$3,757 per Class A share, from \$6.89 billion, or roughly \$4,190 per Class A share, a year earlier. Analysts on average expected operating profit of \$3,851.28 per share, according to Refinitiv IBES.

Berkshire also said quarterly net income rose 17 per cent to \$14.07 billion, or \$8,608 per Class A share, from \$12.01 billion, or \$7,301 per Class A share, a year earlier, reflecting higher unrealized gains on Berkshire's invest-

ments. A US accounting rule requires Berkshire to report such gains with earnings. That rule adds volatility to Berkshire's net results, and Buffett says it can mislead investors.

The US Economy's annualized growth rate slowed to 2.1 per cent in the second quarter from 3.1 per cent in the first quarter, as an acceleration in consumer spending was partially offset by declining exports, manufacturing and business investment, reflecting the

trade war between the United States and China.

Buffett told CNBC in May that a US-China trade war would be "bad for the whole world," and a full-scale trade war would be "bad for everything Berkshire owns."

Berkshire ended June with \$122.4 billion of cash and equivalents, reflecting Buffett's 3-1/2-year drought in finding big acquisitions since buying Precision Castparts. REUTERS

CLAIMS TARIFFS HE IMPOSED ARE BRINGING 'BILLIONS' FROM BEIJING

## Trump defends China trade policy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 3

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump defended Saturday his headline trade policy against China, arguing that the tariffs he imposed are bringing in "billions" from the Beijing government.

"Things are going along very well with China. They are paying us Tens of Billions of Dollars, made possible by their monetary devaluations and pumping in massive amounts of cash to keep their system going," Trump wrote on Twitter.

Trump often argues that tariffs imposed on Chinese goods are paid by China when in fact they are covered by middlemen for US importers and in most cases end up being paid by US consumers who buy those goods.

Trump also said that other countries, fearful of being pun-



In a tweet on Saturday, Trump said that other countries, fearful of being punished with US levies like China is, are clamouring to reach trade deals with the US. AP File Photo

ished with US levies like China is, are clamouring to reach trade deals with the United States.

"Countries are coming to us wanting to negotiate REAL trade deals, not the one sided horror show deals made by past administrations. They don't want to be targeted for Tariffs by the US,"

Trump tweeted without saying which countries want such accords.

On Thursday Trump announced plans to impose tariffs on another \$300 billion in Chinese goods in September. The threat jolted global stock markets. Trump's announcement

came a day after US and Chinese trade negotiators revived talks aimed at ending the year-long dispute.

The new plan means virtually all of the \$660 billion in annual two-way trade between the world's two biggest economies will have tariffs on it.

China on Friday threatened to retaliate. It has already imposed tariffs on \$110 billion in American goods, almost all of the products it imports from the US. "Slapping on tariffs is definitely not a constructive way to resolve economic and trade frictions, it's not the correct way," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

After resuming face-to-face talks in Shanghai this week, trade negotiators are set to reconvene in Washington in early September for another round of discussions, which means they will take place just after the new tariffs take effect.

## 'Nissan wants Renault to reduce stake to revive Renault-FCA deal talks'

REUTERS  
BENGALURU, AUGUST 3

CARMAKERS NISSAN Motor Co and Renault SA are trying to reach a deal to reshape their global alliance, in hopes of reviving Renault's merger talks with Italy's Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday, citing emails and people briefed on the talks.

Nissan wants Renault to reduce its 43.4 per cent stake in the Japanese auto company, according to emails reviewed by WSJ.

The discussions, which are at an early stage, started soon after the potential deal between Renault and FCA collapsed, the report added. Talks could extend until the end of the year.

The negotiations could lead to an initial memorandum of understanding on restructuring as early as September, the Journal re-

ported, citing emails. Nissan and FCA said they had no comment on the WSJ report. Renault was not immediately available for a comment.

FCA said in June that it had abandoned its \$35 billion merger offer for Renault, blaming French politics for scuttling the deal. The French government owns a 15 per cent stake in Renault.

Reuters had reported in June that a revival of the collapsed merger plans of FCA and Renault may hinge on the French carmaker cutting its stake in Nissan.

Q1 RESULTS

### Corp Bank profit rises to ₹103 cr

New Delhi: State-run Corporation Bank on Saturday posted a 22 per cent increase in net profit to Rs 103.28 crore for the April-June quarter of 2019-20 on lower provisions for bad loans.

The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 84.96 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal ended March 2019. The lender had posted a net loss of Rs 6,581.49 crore in the last quarter of the preceding fiscal

year, resulting into an overall loss of Rs 6,332.98 crore for the fiscal ended March 2019.

Total income during the first quarter of 2019-20 was down at Rs 4,417.88 crore as against Rs 4,977.92 crore in the same period of 2018-19, the bank said. It's asset quality improved, as gross non-performing loans fell to 15.44 per cent of gross advances as on June 2019, as against 17.44 per cent a year ago. PTI

### J&K Bank net dips 58% to ₹21.8 cr

New Delhi: State-run Jammu & Kashmir Bank on Saturday reported a 58 per cent fall in its net profit to Rs 21.87 crore in the first quarter of 2019-20 due to a rise in provisions for bad loans. The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 52.59 crore in the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal.

Total income during the first quarter of 2019-20 rose to Rs 2,256.25 crore from Rs 1,897.24 crore in the same pe-

riod of 2018-19, the bank said. On asset front, gross non performing assets fell to 8.48 per cent of gross advances as on June 2019, as against 9.83 per cent by June end 2018.

Net NPAs also dropped to Rs 4.36 per cent from 4.46 per cent a year ago, but the provisioning for bad loans and contingencies moved up to Rs 293.21 crore in June quarter from Rs 255.01 crore in the year-ago quarter. PTI

### LIC Housing Finance net up 7%

New Delhi: LIC Housing Finance on Saturday posted a 7.39 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 609.13 crore for the first quarter ended on June 30, 2019. It had reported a net profit of Rs 567.18 crore during the same period last fiscal.

Total Revenue from operations rose to Rs 4,815.57 crore for the first quarter as against

Rs 4,068.93 crore in the year-ago period, LIC Housing Finance said in a filing.

"The business environment continued to be quite challenging. However, despite that, the company's outstanding loan book grew consistently, especially on the home loan segment," LIC Housing Finance MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty said. PTI

# Ace of Pace

A wiry Navdeep Saini once forced local batsmen to strap on abdomen guards, channelling his whippy tennis-ball bowling action to strike terror in faint hearts. Now the 26-year-old paceman, who makes his debut in the Caribbean, has bulked up to sustain the 150 kph assault. VISHAL MENON travels to Saini's village, returning with tales of Indian cricket's latest bullet train.

**G**ROWING UP in Taraori, a dusty Haryana town dotted with paddy fields and rice mills a 12 km drive from Karnal along NH 44, Indian cricket's latest pace sensation Navdeep Saini didn't get much adult attention beyond his home. The elders of this farming community of close to 30,000 were way too busy growing and selling their produce to notice a bunch of kids who used to regularly use sacks of grains as stumps for their tennis ball cricket games.

However, most of the kids who faced the teenaged Saini in Taraori's mill compound still get nightmares recalling the time they spent facing the pacer, who at 26 consistently touches 150kph, an attribute that played a big role in him getting a place in India's shorter-version squads for the West Indies tour. The story goes that such was Saini's aura that batsmen would come armed with an abdomen guard when facing the short and skinny boy who could hurl a tennis ball at lightning pace.

Navdeep too loved sending stumps flying and was very serious about pursuing cricket, but didn't have a definitive roadmap for his crickering aspirations. All that changed in the winter of 2010, with the advent of the Karnal Premier League — a 6-team T20 extravaganza played with a leather ball on turf under floodlights.

The village IPL of sorts had everything — there were trials, an auction and also cash. A player of Saini's skills could easily earn close to Rs 10,000 while being part of this week-long fest. The idea was conceptualised by Sumit Narwal, a former Delhi cricketer and a Karnal native, and executed by his brother Amit.

Karnal's T20 dhamaka posed a challenge for the Taraori Express. It was to be the first of many high hurdles he would make a habit of clearing. He had never bowled with a hard ball nor was he used to playing in front of a crowd.

It didn't matter. As has been the case with generations of Pakistan pacers who got initiated into cricket on the taped tennis-ball circuit, Saini's transition to the leather ball was seamless. He didn't lose speed or accuracy. He wasn't just the find of that year's T20 league but his lively spells under Karnal's night sky fast-tracked him to the fringe of first-class cricket.

Delhi Ranji pacer Sumit, who moonlighted as a T20 organiser, was thoroughly impressed by Saini and took him to the Feroze Shah Kotla as a net bowler for Delhi's Ranji Trophy squad.

"The league wound up the following year, but I guess it was just the kind of exposure Navi had yearned for. Seeing him, Sumit *bhai* took him to Delhi and the rest, as they say, is history," was how Navdeep's childhood friend Mohit Kalyan, a stodgy opener in the Haryana Ranji Trophy squad, puts it.

A year after bowling to Delhi's top players at nets, Saini made his first-class debut. With time, he became a regular on India A tours. Soon, a plum contract with Royal Challengers Bangalore followed. In the most recent IPL edition, he clocked 150kph with ridiculous ease, sending social media into meltdown. All this finally translated into selection in the Indian senior team, with a ticket for the upcoming series in Florida and the Caribbean. For someone without any formal coaching, and who till the age of 18 had only bowled with a tennis ball, Saini's dreamy rise is a tale of grit and unflinching passion.



Despite Saini's exploits on the cricket field, it's his father Amarjeet, a retired Haryana Roadways driver, who is more popular in this neck of the woods. In Taraori, the Saini household is hard to miss. Just ask anyone for '*Saini sahab ka ghar*', and they would promptly direct you to his two-storeyed house with a garage that boasts of a Hyundai Creta, a Harley Davidson and a Royal Enfield. Amarjeet is a 60-year-old man with a robust frame, thick black hair

and infectious smile. He greets you with a firm handshake and is quick to show you around.

The Sainis hail from Punjab's Ropar district. It was Amarjeet's 95-year-old father Karam Singh, a former Indian National Army subedar, who purchased land here at dirt cheap rate and migrated with his family in the 1960s.

"It was a single-storey house back then and we have expanded it only recently. *Yeh sab Guru ki kripa hain* (It's all Guru's blessings)," Amarjeet says. The nonagenarian looks frail and doesn't talk much. But he sports an innocent smile and readily poses for the camera.

"My father is still very fit, and till last year would go out for cycling in the morning," Amarjeet gushes.

He admits that there has been an improvement in their lifestyle over the last decade. And it's not entirely due to Navdeep

**Navdeep does not have a clean action, but his real strength is his quick, whippy arms that generate enormous speed. I guess this can be attributed to his tennis ball days. When I met him for the first time, I remember telling him not to alter his bowling action."**

**WAQAR AHMED,**  
FORMER HIMACHAL PRADESH  
CRICKETER

making rapid strides on the cricket field. In fact, Amarjeet gives credit to his elder son Mandeep.

"He is two years elder to Navi and works in a departmental store in Glasgow. He has married a local and has settled there for some time now. He has a four-year-old son. Last year, he got our house painted. Every time he visits us, he makes it a point to gift me something or the other. This time around, he gifted me a pair of sunglasses... I now have four of them," he offers.

Amarjeet ushers you to his drawing room, which has a gigantic glass cabinet with an assortment of medals and trophies that Navdeep has won over the years. "I was initially sceptical if his dreams would materialise... *yahan facilities nahin hain cricketer banne ke liye* (here you don't have facilities to become a cricketer)."

He remembers a time when he had desperately sought out his friend's help to



Navdeep Saini's father Amarjeet and grandfather Karam Singh at their residence in Taraori; Singh was a former subedar with the Indian National Army. *Gajendra Yadav*

know more about Yograj Singh's coaching centre in Chandigarh.

"My friend had told me that it's very expensive and difficult to get admission at. But even then, my son didn't lose heart. He kept telling me, *papa, aap meri fikr mat karo...mein to cricketer hi banoonga* (Don't worry about me... I will become a cricketer only)," Amarjeet quips.

His wife Gurmeet Kaur was closer to both sons than her husband. "*Navi ke papa to subah nikal jaate they kaam ke liye aur raat ko waapas aate the. Pura din in ladkon ke saath mein hi rehti thi* (Their father used to go out for work in the morning and return at night. I was the one who stayed with them the whole day)," she says.

At first, she found Navdeep's overwhelming love for cricket a tad difficult to comprehend. "He used to keep watching cricket on the television the whole day and kept mimicking their actions in front of the mirror. *Koi ek Brett Lee tha aur Dale Steyn tha* (there was one Brett Lee and some Dale Steyn)...whole day he would keep talking about them," she reminisces.

Those frequent games, however, left Gurmeet worried about her younger son's health. "*Bachpan se bahut hi dubla-patla sa tha* (He was very skinny from childhood)," she recalled. The doting mother would pack an extra parantha with generous dollops of ghee in Navdeep's tiffin box, but her efforts did little to help her son gain extra kilos.



When he made his first-class debut in 2013-14, Navdeep was not an overnight sensation. First-class cricket had exposed a few chinks in his armour. He had raw pace, but lacked control. He was still very much a work-in-progress. Fitness had become a major issue in his debut season as rarely could he last five matches at a stretch. Navdeep's frail 62-kg body couldn't bear the rigours of four-day cricket.

After a forgettable debut season, the rookie pacer needed help on two critical fronts — refining his bowling and a systematic overhaul of his fitness regimen. Help came from Narwal's friend Waqar Ahmed, a former Himachal Pradesh player.

"Navdeep does not have a clean action, but his real strength is his quick, whippy arms that generate enormous speed. I guess this can be attributed to his tennis ball days. When I met him for the first time, I had told him not to alter his bowling action. I remember, he began on an erratic note in his debut season... would bowl one incredibly quick spell and then tire out. I realised that he needed a good trainer who could not only take care of his fitness, but also improve him holistically," Ahmed explains.

He introduced Navdeep to Nasir Jamshed, a fitness expert, who operates out of a plush clinic in Delhi's Shahpur Jat area,

## 152kph

That's Navdeep Saini's quickest delivery bowled during an IPL match against the Mumbai Indians this season.

and boasts of a clientele that includes a bevy of first-class cricketers and tennis player Yuki Bhambri.

"When I first met him, he was like a 2,000cc engine fitted inside a Maruti Alto... really thin, weighed a little over 60kg and looked like being on the verge of a breakdown. In fact, I was surprised to know that he was in fact a fast bowler," Jamshed remembers.

For Jamshed, the biggest challenge was to instill muscle mass into Navdeep's wiry frame. It needed a systematic overhaul. At the outset, a detailed diet plan was chalked out; gluten was junked and more carbohydrates and leafy veggies and fruits were incorporated. Even the water he drank was monitored.

"During his first year in Delhi, he was staying in a flat that did not even have a proper RO filter. We conducted blood tests and found that there was a small enlargement in his liver," he explains.

Before coming to Jamshed, all Navdeep did was run 10km five times a week. He was asked to stop running and for the next six months, was put on weight training three times a day.

A separate diet chart was prepared for his off days as well. He was also given supplements that would prove to be crucial in gaining muscle. The diet and weight training was complemented by adequate rest — as much as 8-10 hours on a daily basis.

The results did not come overnight. But with time, it helped Navdeep gain muscle, essential for a fast bowler, and also made him less injury-prone. "I have worked with him for close to five years now, and the results are tangible. Look at him now. He can bowl long spells and does not get tired and weighs about 75kg, which is ideal for his 6-foot frame," Jamshed adds.



Back at the Saini household, Navdeep's parents greet their son's maiden India call-up with a tinge of pride laced with despondence. "I am extremely happy at what he has achieved as a cricketer. But as a father, I rarely get to see him these days because of his commitments and training. But you can't do anything about it, that's how life is," Amarjeet notes. It's not as if Navdeep has stopped coming home but his visits have been few and far in between.

"He would randomly call and come one evening and then leave the next morning. He will also not eat much," Gurmeet laments.

Amarjeet, though, delves on the positives. "I believe everything happens for the good. How many from Taraori have gone on to become international cricketers. He found the right people at the right time, who helped him in his quest. As I always say, *yeh sab Guru ki kripa hain*," he adds, before breaking into an infectious smile.

# Speed and yorker, the main currencies in tape-ball cricket



AAQIB JAVED

THE WORLD'S most exciting version of street cricket is probably played in Pakistan. It's called tape-ball cricket, which has its own stars. More importantly, it's a steady supply line of fast bowlers to Pakistan cricket's mainstream. Tennis ball players graduating to leather ball cricket and going on to represent the national team is quite common. From Wasim Akram to Shaheen Afridi, the tradition continues. Haris Rauf of Lahore Qalandars is tipped to be the next pace-bowling sensation in Pakistan cricket, another product of the tape-ball variety.

Tape-ball is a tennis ball wrapped in electrical tape. This is done to make the ball heavier. The ball still remains lighter than the leather ball. When you are bowling with a heavier ball, your arm-speed is slower. When you are hurling a lighter ball at a distance, your arm-speed becomes faster. I've done some experiments with the tape-ball and what I found was that if your normal speed is 135kph with the leather ball, the tape-ball goes at 155kph. A tape-ball travels 20 per cent faster in the air than a cricket ball and that's because the tape-ball is lighter and smaller.

Bowling with a tape-ball requires more effort. It puts a lot of stress on your body. And when a kid starts playing with this ball, he naturally develops the habit of bowling with a quicker arm-speed. Also, almost every tape-ball bowler is very good with yorkers. To bowl a lighter ball at yorker length, you have to put in extra effort. The tape-ball doesn't have a seam. So speed and yorker are your main currencies.

Naturally, you can't do that without a quick arm-speed.

A tape-ball bowler develops the understanding of angles quickly as well. The lighter ball moves in the air a lot more compared to a cricket ball. And if a bowler can control the lighter ball, when he graduates to proper cricket and bowls with a cricket ball, control comes to him naturally.

Reverse swing is another aspect that tape-ball cricket helps you learn. Tape-ball cricket is played on the streets and grounds that have barren outfields. So the tape gets damaged. The idea is to ensure that one side of the ball becomes rough and the other side stays relatively smooth. Then it starts

reversing. It's an important learning point, because the basic mechanism of bowling reverse swing remains the same even in international cricket — one side of the ball rough and heavier, and the other side smooth and lighter.

If you play with a plain tennis ball, you don't have a big advantage, learning-wise. You have to play with a tape-ball.

Because bowling with a tape-ball puts a lot of stress on the body, your back and shoulders especially, become stronger. Your wrist becomes very important to give the ball the necessary zip. So your wrist becomes stronger as well. Bowling fast doesn't come from having a great physique. It

**Bowling with a tape-ball requires more effort. It puts a lot of stress on your body. And when a kid starts playing with this ball, he naturally develops the habit of bowling with a quicker arm-speed. Also, almost every tape-ball bowler is very good with yorkers.**

mainly depends on coordination of your legs. Your legs give you stable pace. And the trunk transforms the force from the ground to the upper body. The most important point here is that when you are bowling, throwing or batting, 70-80 per cent of the force is generated from repulsion. So loading becomes very important for a bowler. In tape-ball cricket, a bowler has to land on his front heel.

A downside of tennis ball/tape-ball cricket is that with a lighter ball, chances are higher to bend the elbow for generating pace. This is a reason why Pakistan have so many bowlers with illegal action. The remedy is to shorten the distance for the kids, when they are just starting. The pitch-length should be 16 or 18 yards, not 22 yards for them. It can help the kids stave off bad habits.

The positives, though, far offset the negatives. To start with, tape-ball cricket thrives on natural ability, for there's no coaching. This is why you will see the majority of variations — reverse swing, doosra, teesra — are

originating from Pakistan and India. Because tennis ball/tape-ball cricket gives you a chance to experiment. Players grow by gaining practical experience and take that muscle memory to mainstream cricket.

Because stakes are higher in tape-ball cricket compared to learning the ropes at an academy, youngsters here can't afford to go wrong. It develops their temperament. When you are training a kid at an academy, you are telling him, 'don't worry, you can afford to go wrong and learn from your mistakes'. But on the streets, you will get wild comments, angry expressions and abuse if you don't perform well. The whole atmosphere makes tape-ball cricketers mentally tough. Also, there's burden of responsibility. When someone is getting Rs 200 per match for example in tape-ball cricket, there's an obligation to justify it. Youngsters become street-smart.

(Aaqib Javed, a former Pakistan pacer & head coach of PSL franchise Lahore Qalandars, spoke to Shamik Chakrabarty)

# (Nav)Deep impact

Debutant Saini takes three wickets as India beat West Indies by four wickets in the series opener in Florida

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AUGUST 3

ON A surface custom-made for spinners and the cutter-spitting medium pacers — a throw-back ODI strip really — it was the quickest man among both teams, Navdeep Saini, that blazed brighter than the Florida sun on Saturday. The debutant's three wickets, two of them in succession, played a huge part in helping India close out a contest that turned out to be closer than it had once seemed.

In the end, it was a nervous scrap, requiring the number eight batsman Washington Sundar to strike the winning runs, after their star cast had made a mess of hunting down a meagre total of 99, at the same ground where these two teams had almost racked up 500 in a T20 game three years ago. But it wasn't that kind of a belter. Then again, it wasn't one where you would expect a fast bowler to prosper. That said, Saini's gifts transcended the slowness of the surface.

It wouldn't have begun more nightmarishly for the wiry 26-year-old, his second ball in international cricket smoked over his head for a six by Nicholas Pooran, the man Chris Gayle has anointed as his successor. It was a good delivery, back-of-length and slanting across him. But Pooran's quick hands and brute force dumped it out of the ground. It could have been enough for most young debutants to wither away mentally, mess up their lengths, but Saini, unflustered, bounced back immediately. Two balls later, he induced a top-edge of Pooran, off an identical delivery. Only that this time the ball was pitched a yard further up, still back-of-length than good length on leg-stump, and much quicker. So much so that both the bounce and pace surprised Pooran. Saini is one of those bowlers the batsmen would admit is quicker than what he looks. He didn't ratchet up the pace — he's quite capable of bowling in excess of 150 kmph, but his speediest was 144.2. But it didn't quite matter in the end.

With the next ball, he nailed the most destructive of West Indies's batting tyros, his RCB teammate Shimron Hetmyer. Again it was the bounce that surprised him, as he didn't expect the ball to climb as much as it eventually did, pre-empting a dab to the third-man and chopping onto the stumps. Thus on a sluggish surface, his pace, bounce, discipline and the natural angle away from the left-handed batsmen were the biggest gifts. He pushed them on the back-foot, hurried them into their strokes and had them feel tenuously outside the off-stump. A hint of variable bounce made him even deadlier and stroke-making almost impossible. They couldn't play him through the line, they couldn't blindly swing their blades at him. Heck, they couldn't even defend him convincingly. In his final spell, he unfurled his wide yorkers, his default weapon in shorter versions, to good effect. Even Kieron Pollard, nudging to his half-century, couldn't connect one. Remarkably, his last-over was a wicket- maiden.

As much as his skills stood out his temperament. Of course, he is no novice, having collected 43 first-class caps and cemented a regular IPL spot for Royal Challengers Bangalore. But from being struck for a six off his second ball, he not only demonstrated considerable smarts to recover and then help India bolt the match but also presented a serious case of prolonging his international exposure. For a while, he has been there or thereabouts the national team, often picked as a standby. Once Mohammad Shami and Jasprit Bumrah return, he could be back among the reserves again, but he gave a good account of himself.

## Satisfactory outing for bowlers

Left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed, returning to international cricket, also bowled with discipline and guile, smartly varying his pace, angle and occasionally making the ball hold its line. Add to that left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya, who ejected the skipper Carlos Brathwaite, and off-spinner Washington Sundar, who once again showed the courage to open the bowling and got rid of John Campbell, and India seem to be brimming with multi-dimensional bowling potential.



Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Navdeep Saini dismantled the West Indian top order at Lauderdale in Florida on Saturday. AP

**Kudos Navdeep Saini on ur India debut. U already have 2 wkts even before u have bowled- @BishanBedi & @ChetanChauhanCr. Their middle stumps are gone seeing debut of a player whose cricketing obituary they wrote even before he stepped on the field, shame!!! @BCCI**

GAUTAM GAMBHIR, ON TWITTER

It helped them that the West Indies batsmen played loose strokes, as if they were competing with each other on who would get out in the silliest manner. Pooran made a strong case for himself, trying to heave Saini two ball after he had sweetly ferried him over midwicket. Hetmyer made an outside case for the prize as, in trying to steal a single down the third man, he committed to the stroke too early.

Even more hideous was Powell's waft — merely throwing his arms at a wide Khaleel Ahmed delivery, his feet crease-tied and head falling over. Earlier, Evin Lewis, centurion against India on this same ground, perished attempting an ungainly swipe at Bhuvneshwar Kumar's knuckleball. It could be that they were desperately trying to reproduce the same rake-hell methods that have won them the World Cup and live up to that reputation.

But it was more of a sub-continental ODI strip, dry and sluggish, with the batsmen struggling for timing even against the new ball. Where the prudent method was to milk singles and punish loose balls, they fatally tried to manufacture the big shots. It was the same lack of flexibility, rather one-dimensionality, that had seen them free fall after a terrific start to the World Cup. Likewise, they had little clue dealing Saini on a throwback ODI surface.

## Out playing a reckless shot first ball, Pant shows he's still a work-in-progress

Lauderhill: Ahead of the series opener against the West Indies in Florida, India captain Virat Kohli said the time had come for Rishabh Pant to "unleash" his rich potential in all three formats. Yet, in the very first match on Saturday, Pant tried to hit the very first ball that he faced out of the park and was out caught in the deep. And who was left fuming at the non-striker's end? Kohli himself.

With little clarity over the future of veteran M S Dhoni, Pant has now become the preferred choice in all three formats, and that was pointed out by chief selector MSK Prasad after the selection panel picked the squads for the West Indies tour.

"It's a great opportunity for someone like Rishabh Pant to really play a lot of international cricket, show his credentials, really unleash his potential at this stage," Kohli said here on Friday. "We know how much ability he has and we all want him to become a consistent performer for the Indian cricket team. MS Dhoni's experience is always going to be a very crucial factor but having said that some of these younger guys have a great opportunity ahead of them and they should just look forward to it."

Kohli has already said the tour is a good opportunity for fringe players like Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey to stake a claim for a spot in India's brittle middle-order in ODIs.

"The first few days after we exited the World Cup were quite difficult. Till the time the tournament got over, every time we woke up it was the worst feeling in the morning. Then through the day you do things and



Rishabh Pant is being groomed as MS Dhoni's successor behind the wicket.

sort of get on with your life. We are professionals. We move ahead. So we are quite okay with what happened in the World Cup."

Among other things, Kohli was all for having more international games in the United States. "You see 15,000-20,000 people going to a place to watch something, obviously it should be important. Hopefully in years to come, people will have more interest. Local people in America as well, not just the Asian community or the West Indian

community but the whole community in general will have more interest in the sport. I think T20 cricket is something that can be understood and accepted in the American culture because of the length of the game and it's quite entertaining as well. So I think for the sport to become global in many ways, a lot of interest here will go a long way in achieving that for the sport," he added.

**WI vs INDIA, 2ND T20 — LIVE ON SONY SIX, 8 PM ONWARDS**

## SCORECARD >>

WI vs IND

Lauderhill | Toss: India

WEST INDIES 95/9 IN 20 OVS

J Campbell c Pandya b Sundar 0 (2b)  
E Lewis b Kumar 0 (4b)  
N Pooran c Pant b Saini 20 (16b, 1x4, 2x6)  
K Pollard lbw b Saini 49 (49b, 2x4, 4x6)  
S Hetmyer b Saini 0 (1b)  
R Powell c Pant b Ahmed 4 (5b, 1x4)  
C Brathwaite c & b Pandya 9 (24b)  
S Narine c Ahmed b Jadeja 2 (4)  
K Paul c Kohli b Kumar 3 (11b)  
S Cottrell not out 0 (1b)  
O Thomas not out 0 (3b)

Extras: (w 8) 8

Fall of wickets: 1-0 (John Campbell, 0.2 ov), 2-8 (Evin Lewis, 1.6 ov), 3-28 (Nicholas Pooran, 4.4 ov), 4-28 (Shimron Hetmyer, 4.5 ov), 5-33 (Rovman Powell, 5.6 ov), 6-67 (Carlos Brathwaite, 14.2 ov), 7-70 (Sunil Narine, 15.1 ov), 8-88 (Keemo Paul, 18.1 ov), 9-95 (Kieron Pollard, 19.3 ov)

Bowling:

Washington Sundar 2-0-18-1  
B Kumar 4-0-19-2  
N Saini 4-1-17-3  
K Ahmed 2-0-8-1  
K Pandya 4-1-20-1  
R Jadeja 4-1-13-1

INDIA 98/6 IN 17.2 OVS

R Sharma c Pollard b Narine 24 (25b, 2x4, 2x6)  
S Dhawan lbw b Cottrell 1 (7b)  
V Kohli c Pollard b Cottrell 19 (29b, 1x4)  
R Pant c Cottrell b Narine 0 (1b)  
M Pandey b Paul 19 (14b, 2x4)  
K Pandya b Paul 12 (14b, 1x4)  
R Jadeja not out 10 (9b)  
Washington Sundar not out 8 (5b, 1x6)

Extras: (w 5) 5

Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Shikhar Dhawan, 1.6 ov), 2-32 (Rohit Sharma, 6.3 ov), 3-32 (Rishabh Pant, 6.4 ov), 4-64 (Manish Pandey, 11.4 ov), 5-69 (Virat Kohli, 13.5 ov), 6-88 (Krunal Pandya, 15.6 ov)

Bowling:

O Thomas 4-0-29-0  
S Cottrell 4-0-20-2  
S Narine 4-0-14-2  
K Paul 3.2-0-23-2  
C Brathwaite 2-0-12-0

India won by 4 wickets



Sheldon Cottrell celebrates the wicket of Shikhar Dhawan. AP

## Smith stands between England, Edgbaston win

AGENCIES  
BIRMINGHAM, AUGUST 3

STEVE SMITH'S unbeaten 46 helped Australia recover to 124-3 in their second innings before bad light stopped play with the tourists 34 runs ahead at the end of day three of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston. England's first innings resumed on 267-4 and collapsed before making a late recovery to post 374, taking a lead of 90 runs.

Then, the injured Jimmy Anderson was kept out of the bowling attack, with Broad opening, and he soon had his 450th Test wicket as he enticed an edge from David Warner (8), with Cameron Bancroft next to go for seven to leave Australia 27-2. Usman Khawaja (40) batted well before Ben Stokes had him caught behind. But Smith, who scored a brilliant century in the first innings, once again proved immovable as he and Travis Head (21 not out) stayed at the crease until the umpires took the players off as daylight diminished.

Broad sent Warner back shortly after making valuable tailend runs that put England in a strong position. In a match already full of overturned decisions, England needed to review West Indian umpire Joel Wilson's original not out call when Warner feathered a catch behind to wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow on eight to give Broad his 450th Test wicket.

Warner, one of three Australians together with fellow opener Bancroft and former captain Smith making a return to Test cricket fol-



Steve Smith is hit on the helmet by a Ben Stokes bouncer. Reuters

lowing lengthy bans for their involvement in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa last year, walked off to raucous chants of "Same old Aussies, always cheating" from England fans.

It was an important blow for Broad, who took 5-86 in Australia's first innings of 284 which featured Smith's superb 144, as new-ball partner James Anderson was off the field with a calf injury that meant England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker only bowled four overs first time around.

Earlier, England opener Rory Burns batted

for nearly eight hours to top-score with 133 — his maiden Test hundred — in an innings where featuring half-centuries from captain Joe Root (57) and Ben Stokes (50). England lost three wickets for four runs before lunch to slump to 300-8 — just 16 runs ahead.

But a ninth-wicket stand of 65 between Chris Woakes, who made 37 not out on his Warwickshire home ground, and Broad (29) boosted their total. Fast bowler Pat Cummins led Australia's attack with 3-84 in 33 overs on an increasingly placid pitch, with off-

spinner Nathan Lyon taking 3-112 in 43.5 overs.

England resumed on 267-4, 17 runs adrift, with Burns, who would have been out for 21 if Australia had reviewed after a rejected Lyon lbw appeal, 125 not out and vice-captain Stokes 38 not out. Stokes was out for exactly 50 when he a loose cut off Cummins was caught behind by Australia captain and wicketkeeper Tim Paine to end a stand of 88 with Burns.

New batsman Bairstow gave England the lead with a four off Pattinson while Burns — who only managed three runs in Saturday's first hour — drove Peter Siddle to the cover-point rope. But Lyon finally ended the left-hander's marathon innings when a delivery that turned and bounced took the outside edge and was well caught by Paine.

Burns faced 312 balls, with 17 fours. By contrast, new batsman Moeen Ali lasted just five balls before he inexplicably shouldered arms to Lyon and was clean bowled for a duck — the eighth time the spinner had dismissed him in 10 Ashes innings.

And when Bairstow was recklessly caught in the slips off Siddle, England's 300-7 became 300-8. England now led by just 16 runs, with Woakes and Broad then each on nought. But Woakes hoisted Lyon for a leg-side six and the pair accumulated runs steadily before Broad turned Cummins straight to long leg.

**BRIEF SCORES (AT STUMPS, DAY 3):** Australia 284 & 124/3 (Smith 46 batting, Khawaja 40) lead England 374 (Burns 133, Root 57, Stokes 50; Cummins 3/84, Lyon 3/112) by 34 runs.

## BRIEFLY

### India A close in on win over WI A

Port of Spain: Openers Mayank Agarwal and Priyank Panchal struck fine half-centuries as India A inched closer towards registering a comfortable win over West Indies A in the second unofficial Test here on Saturday. Chasing 278 for a 2-0 lead in the series, Agarwal made 81 off 134 balls while Panchal scored 68 off 121 deliveries as India were 33 runs shy off the target at lunch on the final day of the four-day match. Agarwal and Panchal shared 150 runs for the opening stand to set the platform for India A's chase. Besides, Abhimanyu Easwaran was batting on 47 in the company of Anmolpreet Singh (30 not out) as India A didn't lose any wicket in the first session. Chemar Holder picked up two wickets for 51 runs for West Indies A till the break.

### Windies are dangerous, says Rahane

Kolkata: India batsman Ajinkya Rahane on Saturday said the West Indies are a dangerous and unpredictable side and Virat Kohli and his men need to respect their opponents in the ongoing away series. Overlooked for the shorter format once again, Rahane is looking forward to the two Tests beginning August 22. "We all know they are a dangerous team, unpredictable team. I'm really looking forward, really ex-



Former India cricketer Arun Lal with India's Test vice captain Ajinkya Rahane at the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Annual Awards 2019 in Kolkata on Saturday. Lal received CAB's Lifetime Achievement Award. Partha Paul

cited about this series against the West Indies," Rahane said at the Cricket Association of Bengal's annual awards ceremony at the Netaji Indoor Stadium. "It is important to respect them, play our game as we've been playing especially in Test cricket and for me it's important to give my best. I always focus on contributing for my team and I think I'm just going to do my best as well. Once I go there I will give my 100 per cent."

AGENCIES

## BRIEFLY

N Korea to host  
World Cup qualifier  
in Pyongyang

North Korea have nominated Pyongyang as the host venue for their World Cup qualifying match against South Korea in October, clearing the way for the two countries to play on North Korean soil for the first time in almost 30 years. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) confirmed to Reuters on Saturday that the North Koreans had requested that the game scheduled for Oct. 15 be played at the 50,000-capacity Kim Il-sung Stadium in the northern capital. The two countries are still technically at war after the 1950-1953 conflict but sport has in the last couple of years acted as an agent for reducing tensions either side of the demilitarised zone that splits the peninsula. In a much-feted display of unity, the two Koreas fielded a joint women's ice hockey team at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang and marched under a unified flag.

Lahiri makes cut  
at Wyndham

Anirban Lahiri savoured another bogey-free day to add a second successive three-under 67 to be placed Tied-38th at the halfway stage of the Wyndham Championship, here. Lahiri, who needs a very good result this week to find his way back into the Play-offs beginning next week, had three birdies and no bogeys in his 67 for a total of six-under 134. He had a great day, finding 17 of the 18 greens. He also had 11 of the 14 fairways. However most of his iron shots were in the 15-28 feet range and twice were 45 and 55 feet. But he did well to get his first putts inside five-six feet for par or birdie. Only on the 12th, he needed to hole a 13-foot for par. Lahiri's first birdie was on the 529-yard par-5 fifth when he hit the green in two and two putted for birdie. On the par-4 11th, Lahiri's 171-yard approach to 4 feet, set himself up for the second birdie.

Boxing: Lovlina,  
Neeraj bag gold

Lovlina Borgohain and Neeraj clinched gold medals while Gaurav Solanki had to settle for a silver as Indian boxers ended their campaign with a rich haul at the Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament in Kaspiysk, Russia. The Indian boxers fetched six medals at the tournament, including two golds, one silver and three bronze. Reigning Asian Championships gold medalist Pooja Rani suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat against home favourite Anna Anfinogenova in the middleweight (75kg) semi-finals and had to be content with a bronze. Govind Sahani (49kg) and Jony (60kg) also grabbed bronze medals after their semi-final losses. While Govind lost to Russia's Kurban Bayranbekov 1-4, Jony went down to Russia's Natalya Shadrina by a similar scoreline. Having had to taste a bitter 2-3 defeat at the hands of Assunta Canfora at the India Open final, World Championships bronze medalist, Lovlina (69kg) was better prepared this time to tackle the wily Italian. The tall Assamese boxer was on guard throughout the bout and never shied away from raining down Canfora's flurry of punches to grab a narrow 3-2 win. **AGENCIES**

## Reddy, Shetty, go

Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty become first Indian pairing to make the finals of a Super 500 event



Saatwiksairaj Rankireddy (R) and Chirag Shetty beat former world champs Ko Sung Hyun - Shin Baek Cheol 22-20, 22-24, 21-9 in the Thailand Open semis. *Badminton Photo*

SHIVANI NAIK  
AUGUST 3

SAATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY watched it from Indonesia at the start of this swing of tournaments; he had imbibed the spirit playing next week in Japan, and by the time Thailand rolled in, the winds from Wimbledon were soothing his usually jumpy nerves. India's badminton doubles sensation recalls watching his favourite Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final this year and deciding in a split-second he wanted to play like him. "When people think Saatwik, they think anger and 'josh' - that's how I've been playing," says the young player, a beast of a smash player from the back court. "But I'm a big fan of Federer. I watched him at Wimbledon this time and decided that's how I want to play - he won't show any emotion. He plays calmly," says India's biggest doubles talent in badminton.

That wave of serenity has been the single-biggest change seen on court, when the Saatwik-Chirag Shetty pairing have played these last three weeks. It fetched them a sensational 22-20, 22-24, 21-9 in 63 minutes over Korean former world champs Ko Sung Hyun - Shin Baek Cheol on Saturday at the Thailand Open. This was also the biggest day for men's doubles in the country as this was the first pairing to make the finals of a Super 500 event.

Jwala Gutta - V Diju have of course made the year-end Tour finals of mixed doubles earlier, but India's pickings on the higher levels of the circuit have been quite scanty; in fact none.

Saatwik-Chirag will play world champions Chinese Li Jun Hui - Liu Yu Chen in the Sunday finals searching for India's first ever doubles title since the current tourna-

ment structure came into being. It started with how they responded to pressure while levelling at 13-13 in the opener - not by trying to play faster and hitting harder. After securing the first set, they'd show great poise to get to 20-all from 12-19 down. "We lost the second but we were playing right game. I focused on taking the first stroke and not thinking too much. We usually get pumped up and lose it. Today we defended well and in the third tactically, my serving and receiving was spot on," Shetty said.

Shetty's Federer-esque inspiration are Danish pair Boe - Mogensen. "It's not assured you will win 100 percent of you stay calm on crucial points. But they've told me I'll win 70 percent times at least if I don't get desperate to collect points at that juncture and keep it simple."

— SAATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY  
ON HIS APPROACH

ment structure came into being.

It was Chirag Shetty though who after two seasons of ending on the wrong side of "anybody's game after 17-17 in the decider" situations, grabbed the third set against the Koreans by the scruff of the net and was in devastating form on the forecourt.

After claiming the opening set, the Indians had two match points in the second after trailing 12-19 and 16-20. But after the Koreans levelled to force the decider winning 24-22, Chirag had had enough. "We played really well and in the end it was all a bit mad and Chirag just did not give them a chance," Saatwik chortled.

There's history to two seasons of near-misses - a close loss to World No 1s Kevin-Gideon at French Open, losing at Asian Games after being 19-18 up and a 2017 heartcrusher against Boe-Mogensen, from 18-18 in the decider. All matches lost to needless hurrying while closing out. "We've worked on being calm. We don't rush now. Idea's to play our natural game and not hurtle towards finishing fast," Chirag says. The duo in their early 20s with all the attendant impatience and immaturity earlier had lost at the biggest stages - Worlds and Asiad, rushing to utter ruin. Saturday, with a sprinkling of Federer inspiration, was to be different.

brute smashes. Coach Siadatt accompanying the team at Thailand said as much: "His half smashes from behind and Chirag's good drives and quick net-play were crucial. And very few errors."

The effects of this win back home run deeper. National coach Pullela Gopichand reckons it's a start of an exciting time for doubles, which is starved of good news beyond Jwala-Ashwini's landmark wins.

"What they've achieved here is really good. This could easily have been the World Championships or Olympics or any of the big events because all the top players were playing here. Having said that they've been playing well over the past few months. And they're very young and in the years to come, it's good not only for them but also for Indian doubles in general," he said of the pair's possible surge into Top 10.

Chirag Shetty has always been level-headed off court. He tends to be happy with a win for half an hour that day and in case of a loss will mope for max an hour the same evening, his father jokes. It's the sort of temperament his quick-to-raise partner needed to internalise. The massive-smashing Saatwik though needed some tempering and was helped along by his mixed doubles partner, the more accomplished Ashwini Ponappa. "I always think of her fighting spirit even in (men's) doubles matches. Even at 16-20 down she has a tremendous attitude," he says.

That, and his new-found Federer-inspired philosophy as he says the pairing are in search of "playing good quality matches, not simply winning anyhow." Reputations of opponents - Chinese or Koreans - will hardly matter. For Saatwiksairaj's new motto is playing like Roger: "You know how he looks at points," he ventures, "aaya toh kya, gayaa toh kya, bas calmly khelna hai." (Points will come and go. We just play calmly.)

Messi faces  
3-month  
international  
suspension

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
ASUNCION, AUGUST 3

ARGENTINA STAR Lionel Messi was banned from playing for his national team for three months and fined \$50,000 on Friday by CONMEBOL after he heavily criticized the South American football governing body during the Copa America.

The 32-year-old Barcelona forward had accused CONMEBOL of "corruption" after he was sent off against Chile during the third-place play-off during the tournament in Brazil, which ended last month.

Messi was angered by two incidents during the June-July Copa hosted by bitter rivals Brazil. Argentina were denied two penalty claims in their 2-0 semi-final defeat to the hosts, after which Messi claimed Brazil were "managing a lot in CONMEBOL these days."

And when he was harshly dismissed in the next game, which Argentina went on to win 2-1, he couldn't contain his anger. "Corruption and the referees are preventing people from enjoying the football and they're ruining it a bit," Messi said.

He was given his marching orders after a first-half scuffle with Chile captain Gary Medel in which television pictures suggested he'd done little wrong.

The CONMEBOL statement on its website didn't specify why Messi was being punished but said it was related to articles 7.1 and 7.2 of its disciplinary regulations. One such clause refers to "offensive, insulting behavior or making defamatory protests of any kind."

Another clause mentions "breaching the decisions, directives or orders of the judicial bodies."

The ban means only that Messi will miss a handful of friendly matches as Argentina's next competitive fixture is not until the South American qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar begin in March.

However, he has already received a one-game ban from CONMEBOL for his red card against Chile meaning he'll miss the first of those. Argentina have two friendlies lined up in the United States in September against Chile and Mexico and another in October away to Germany.

Messi would miss all three of those but be free to play for his country again in November.



Lionel Messi will only miss a handful of friendly matches.

Murray inches closer  
towards singles return

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 3

Andy Murray moved closer to a singles return six months after right hip surgery while Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas rolled into the world's top five Friday at the ATP Washington Open. Britain's Murray and his brother Jamie, in their first doubles event since the 2016 Rio Olympics, lost to New Zealand's Michael Venus and South African Raven Klaasen 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (8/6), 10-7 in a quarter-final at the US Open tuneup event.

Murray has practised singles this week to improve his conditioning after the long layoff.

"I feel fine," Murray said. "Practice has been fine. No issues physically. So progressing well. Just keep practicing the next 10 days or so and see what happens." Top seed Tsitsipas beat French 10th seed Benoit Paire 7-5, 6-0 to reach the semi-finals and ensure he will overtake Germany's Alexander Zverev to crack the world rankings top five on Monday. "Once you're in a certain position for a long time, you really crave for more," Tsitsipas said.

He said there's a lot of people behind his comeback. "This one position difference might not feel a lot for some people but for me it really means a lot because there has been a lot of hard work behind it, just a lot of



Murray has practised singles this week to improve his conditioning after the long layoff. *AP*

suffering in general. I feel I deserve this position. It means a lot for sure."

The 20-year-old Australian Open semi-finalist, who lost to Zverev in last year's Washington semis, booked a semi-final against Australia's Nick Kyrgios, who ousted Slovakian lucky loser Norbert Gombos 6-3, 6-3. "I'm excited to play him," Kyrgios said of Tsitsipas.

"He's one of the best players in the world right now," Murray, who feared his career might be over after the January operation, hasn't played singles since the Australian Open but says he might return at the ATP Cincinnati Masters starting August 12," he said.

## Verstappen makes it perfect in Hungarian practice

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BUDAPEST, AUGUST 3

AFTER HIS brilliant win at the rain-soaked German Grand Prix last weekend, Max Verstappen had a near-perfect lap at the Hungarian GP to take the first pole position of his Formula One career on Saturday.

The Red Bull driver set a track record with 1 minute, 14.958 seconds and then beat it again with 1:14.572.

"Big thanks to the team, the car was flying," said Verstappen, who became the 100th F1 driver to take a pole. "This one was missing... It was only a matter of time."

It was another boost for the 21-year-old Verstappen, who has won two of the past three races to creep into outside contention for the title race although defending champion Lewis Hamilton - who qualified in third place behind Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas - remains comfortably ahead.

Still, another win will start to eat into Hamilton's 63-point lead over third-place Verstappen with nine races left after Hungary. Verstappen kept his nerve at a chaotic, crash-marred Hockenheimring, having shown astonishing speed to win the Austrian GP on June 30 after tumbling down the leaderboard following a poor start in Spielberg. Given that the Hungaroring track is one of the toughest to overtake on, he is in a good position to clinch an eighth career F1 win on Sunday. Verstappen's speed and rac-

ing nous can be seen from the fact that none of his wins have been from pole - and achieved with the third-fastest car in F1 behind Ferrari and ultra-dominant Mercedes.

Verstappen is the youngest driver to win an F1 race, he was 18 when he won the Spanish GP in 2016, and is the fourth youngest to take pole. He sits behind Fernando Alonso, Charles Leclerc and record-holder Sebastian Vettel, who were all also 21.

Hamilton, the five-time F1 champion, was chasing a record-extending 88th career pole and record-equaling seventh at the Hungaroring circuit to match F1 great Michael Schumacher.

"Max did a great job. It kind of got away from me," Hamilton said. "But we're still in the fight. There's a long run down to Turn 1, so it's going to be very interesting. It's not the easiest place to overtake, but strategy will come into it."

Leclerc, who took his first career pole in Bahrain in March, placed fourth ahead of his Ferrari teammate Vettel. The Ferraris were quickest in the first sector of qualifying but both tailed off. Leclerc recovered well after spinning the car in the first part of qualifying, known as Q1, sliding backward into the barriers and drifting back onto the track as a Williams car came flying past.

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Pierre Gasly qualified sixth ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris, who has impressed in his debut season. But Daniel Ricciardo, a winner of seven F1 races, was among the five driv-



Verstappen supporters cheer him on as the Belgian-Dutch racer clocks the fastest time during qualification for the Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix. *Reuters*

ers eliminated from Q1. Ricciardo, who left Red Bull and made a surprising move to join Renault, starts from 18th place.

Renault struggled again as German driver Nico Hulkenberg was among the five eliminated from Q2. Despondency at Renault but it will be all smiles in the Red Bull garage on Saturday night.

Team principal Christian Horner made the difficult choice to drop Renault engines and switch to Honda for this year and beyond. It appeared a somewhat risky move, given that McLaren experienced a woeful three seasons running on Honda engines from 2015-17. But the marriage between the

Red Bull chassis and the Japanese manufacturer's engine is proving a harmonious one. The reliability problems of recent years finally seem over. This was Honda's first pole since British driver Jenson Button at the Australian GP when driving for the Honda Racing F1 team in 2006. Earlier Saturday, Hamilton had the fastest time in the third and final practice ahead of Verstappen.

Hamilton leads the championship by 41 points ahead of Bottas, who is fighting for a new Mercedes contract next year.

After Sunday's race, F1 takes a mid-season summer break and resumes at the Belgian GP in Spa on Sept. 1.