

Tej Pratap Yadav addicted to drugs, says wife in divorce plea



Plea to reschedule NRC hearings for people from far-flung areas



14 killed, 145 injured in blast triggered by the Taliban in Kabul

India to take on West Indies in the first ODI

Page 19



PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA



Arguments begin in Unnao rape case

A Delhi court on Wednesday started hearing arguments in the Unnao rape case in which Uttar Pradesh MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar is one of the accused. Counsel for the CBI submitted before District and Sessions Judge Dharmesh Sharma that the minor was assaulted by the expelled BJP MLA and co-accused Shashi Singh helped him in the commission of the crime as she had lured the victim to his residence on the pretext of

getting her a job. **NORTH** ▶ PAGE 5

No trace of cab driver who 'raped' JNU student

After four days of investigation, the police are yet to trace the cab or the driver who had allegedly raped a 21-year-old JNU student. A police officer said the statements given by the student are not matching with the electronic evidence accessed by them.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3



Pakistan expels Indian envoy, suspends bilateral trade

It decides to take Kashmir issue to the UN, observe Aug. 15 as 'Black Day'

MEHMAL SARFRAZ LAHORE

Pakistan on Wednesday expelled the Indian High Commissioner and suspended bilateral trade in response to New Delhi's decision to end the special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Government of India has been told to withdraw its High Commissioner to Pakistan. The Indian government has also been informed that Pakistan will not be sending its High Commissioner-designate to India," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Ajay Bisaria is India's High Commissioner in Islamabad.

The decisions were taken at a National Security Com-(NSC) meeting mittee chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan at his office in Islamabad. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi read out the NSC decisions, while addressing a joint session of Parliament.

Be vigilant, forces told

The Committee has also decided to review bilateral arrangements and take the Kashmir issue to the UN, including the Security Council,

Pakistan will observe August 14, its Independence Day, "in solidarity with brave Kashmiris" and August 15 as a "Black Day." "The PM has

India's decision to end the special status to Jammu and Kashmir. • AFP

also directed all diplomatic channels to be activated in order to expose the brutal Indian racist regime, design and human rights violations. The PM directed Pakistani Armed Forces to continue vigilance," tweeted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the ruling

The NSC meeting was attended by the Foreign Minister, the Defence Minister, the Minister for Human Rights, the Army chief, the DG ISI, the DG ISPR and several other senior officials of the military and the government.

On Tuesday, while addressing Parliament, Mr. Khan had warned that India's decision could trigger more violent incidents in Kashmir.

He had also said Pakistan

decided not to pursue talks with India after having realised that it was not interested in them. Senior journalist Ghari-

dah Farooqi said he believes that the NSC decisions had changed the dynamics of the bilateral relations.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Many Jammu residents hail integration as best option

Phone and Internet connectivity continue to be disrupted

DAMINI NATH

Looking at a nearly deserted road that functions as Jammu's main outstation bus stand, Shubham Sharma said on Wednesday that though his business of ferrying passengers to Srinagar had taken a hit over the past three days, he was sure that "this [amending Article 370] was the best option, even for

It had been three days since the government imposed restrictions under Section 144 of the CrPC, curtailing vehicular movement and shutting off mobile Internet services in Jammu, ahead of its announcement of revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories on Monday.

While many Jammu residents welcomed the Modi government's move, across the road from Mr. Sharma, Umar, a resident of Srinagar who also runs a tourism transport business, termed it a "betraval."

Umar, who wished to be identified by his first name alone, said he drove from Srinagar overnight to avoid the stone-pelting by protesters, just in order to make a phone call to relatives abroad. Since Sunday night, all phone – mobile and fixed



Stranded on the street: Children sleeping on a pavement outside the Tourist Reception Centre in Srinagar as their parents make efforts to leave the Valley. • NISSAR AHMAD

'Unprecedented lockdown'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

J&K People's Movement president Shah Faesal on Wednesday said Kashmir was experiencing an unprecedented lockdown and the locals were yet to make sense of what had

befallen them. "Everyone is mourning what we lost...its the loss of statehood that has hurt people deeply. This is being seen as the biggest betrayal by the Indian State in last 70 years," the former IAS officer tweeted. ▶PAGE 12

line – services and Internet connectivity in Srinagar have been stopped on government orders.

"The government has put us at gunpoint. We had an agreement with India, not with Pakistan, when we joined. Now, they have broken the agreement. What relation do we have left with them? Now, anyone can come and claim Kashmir, be it Pakistan or China," said Umar, as he waited for information about when he could start driving back to Srinagar, if the roads were open.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

RBI takes offbeat tack to help reverse growth slowdown

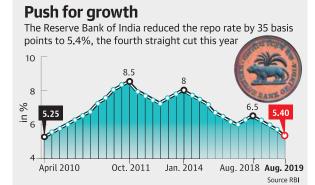
EMIs to fall after 'unconventional' 35 bps rate reduction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday opted to break with convention by reducing the key policy rate, the repo rate, by 35 basis points (bps) to 5.4% as it focused monetary policy measures on helping revive demand to tackle a deepening economic slowdown.

While central banks typically cut or raise interest rates in increments of a quarter percentage point or in multiples, Governor Shaktikanta Das said too much should not be read into the departure from convention.

The extent of cut was determined by the situation, he said. This is the first time the RBI has moved rates by a figure that is not a multiple



of 25 bps. A percentage point comprises 100 bps.

"Given the evolving economic situation, the assessment of the MPC, based on demand conditions etc. 25 bps cut was inadequate, while a 50 bps rate cut was excessive, especially after taking into account the ac-

tions already undertaken," Mr. Das said in a post-policy press briefing. "That is why we have taken a balanced

> **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12 **RBI'S GOLDILOCKS CUT ▶** EDITORIAL MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 15

Mayawati changes party U.P. chief, LS leader

Munquad Ali is new State BSP president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Making key changes to its organisation, the Bahujan Samaj Party on Wednesday appointed former Rajya Sabha MP Munquad Ali as the president of its Uttar Pradesh unit, while also replacing its floor leader in the Lok Sabha Kunwar Danish Ali.

Sources said that the Am-

Shyam Singh Yadav, the first-time MP from Jaunpur, is the new leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, where it has 10 members. Ritesh Pandey, the MP from Ambedkar Nagar, was nominated the BSP's deputy leader in the Lower House.

U.P., is Muslim.

Pakistan shuts

a part of its

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan has closed a

corridor in its airspace,

which will result in an

additional 12 minutes of

flying time for overseas

flights, an Air India official

said on Wednesday. The

flights would have to be

diverted to other routes

due to the closure.

airspace

NEW DELHI

While Mr. Yadav is an OBC - the BSP highlighted his "pichda varg" (backward credentials) in its press statement - Mr. Danish Ali, MP from Amroha in western

triple talaq Bill and the government's Kashmir measures were the main reasons for his removal.

He had, the sources said, consistently refused to toe a pro-government line that BSP chief Mayawati wished to follow and refused pointblank to speak on the debate on Article 370 if it meant supporting the government's line.

While the party replaced its Muslim leader in Lok Sabha with an OBC, in U.P. it did the reverse, perhaps to balance the caste-community calculus. Muslims make up 19% of the State population while OBCs are estimated to be over 40%.

Mr. Munquad Ali replaces R.S. Kushwaha as the head of the BSP's State unit.

Liaison officers plan on-campus Id celebrations for J&K students

SAURABH TRIVEDI

To help calm the nerves of rently studying in various colleges in Delhi-NCR and neighbouring States, the liaison officers appointed by the J&K government are planning several measures, including Id-ul-Azha celebrations, on campus.

Acting on the instructions of the Chief Secretary, J&K government, all liaison officers who have the responsibility of coordinating with J&K students at various universi-

have started visiting the campuses under their respective jurisdiction since August 6.

ties/colleges in north India

Visit to colleges

"Liaison officers in Chandigarh, Delhi-NCR, Meerut, Jaipur and Aligarh have visited colleges/universities and met the students as well as the institute authorities. Around 50 students have approached them with a request to contact their families in the Valley," said

"The liaison officers are planning to celebrate Id with some of the students. All necessary arrangements are being made for the festival," said Ms. Kapoor.

The colleges have been asked to issue a formal advisory to all the students to avoid making any inflammatory remarks and not pay heed to any rumours, said Ms. Kapoor. The local administration, including the police, is also keenly involved in

Full state honours for Sushma

Tributes pour in from diplomatic community, world capitals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Tributes poured in from the diplomatic community and world capitals for former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, who was cremated here on Wednesday with

full state honours. The series of condolences were led by the Ministry of External Affairs that she exited in May.

"Enjoying immense respect within the Ministry and outside, for her compassionate and amiable personality, she has left a lasting legacy for putting people at the core of Indian diplomacy," said the Ministry of External Affairs in a statement.

The United States, Japan, Bangladesh, and Bhutan were among the countries that condoled the passing away of Ms. Swaraj, who had



a distinguished public life spanning more than four decades. "Saddened to hear of the passing of my friend and former Indian External Af-

fairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. She was a strong partner who shared our view that a more democratic world is a more peaceful one," said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a message. **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGES 3, 12

Why use Urdu, Persian terms in FIR, asks HC

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to explain why Urdu or Persian terms are used in an FIR when the same are not used by the complainant.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said: "Too much flowery language, the meaning of which is to be found out by a dictionary, should not be used. An FIR should be in the words of the complainant. The police is there for public at large and not just for persons with doctorate degree in Urdu or Persian. Simple language should be used, instead of high-sounding words."

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 4

sensitising the students. Veedushi Kapoor, Deputy Director with Kashmir Bureau

S SHUBHRA RANJAN

ADMISSION OPEN on register.shubhraranjan.com **General Studies Foundation AUG Batch 2020**

Batch STARTS on 26 AUG 2019 Timings: 5 pm to 7.30 pm

Duration: 9 months Fees Rs 90,000/-

SHUBHRA RANJAN (Polity, IR, Governance) **RUSHIKESH DUDHAT** (Geography & Environment) **JAYESH KHADDAR** (History, Art & Culture) **VIVEK SINGH** (Indian Economy)

SANTOSH KUMAR (S&T) SHUBHRA MANGAL (Ethics) Only one person in a million becomes enlightened without teacher's help. (Bodhidharma)

General Studies Course Highlights:

- Integration of static and dynamic topics
- Syncronisation of Prelims and Mains Syllabus - Prelims and Mains Test Series included
- Faculty driven Test Discussions - Prelims Crash Course and MCQ Tool access included

OUR CSE 2018 RESULTS

TOTAL SELECTIONS: 64 (CSE 2018) 8 in TOP 100, 18 amongst TOP 200,

29 amongst TOP 300 41 amongst TOP 400, 53 amongst TOP 500

The TRADITION continues for 7th year in a row. ELHI CENTRE: 32B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar 122,

Delhi 110005. 5 9910812719/011-45612719.

IN BRIEF

Housing scheme: DDA to refund fee within a week

The DDA on Wednesday said that applicants who did not win the draw of lots conducted under the housing scheme 2019, will be refunded their registration amounts within one week. The DDA also said that successful applicants who want to return the flats that have allotted to them can do so without any deduction of the registration amount if they surrender within 15 days from the issuance of the demand-cum-allotment letter on the DDA's website.

Humid day in the Capital, light rain likely today NEW DELHI

It was a humid day in the Capital on Wednesday, with the mercury settling at 35.5° Celsius. The Safdarjung Observatory received 22.2 mm of rainfall. The Palam Observatory received 9.6 mm and Lodhi Road received 24.3 mm.The weather department has forecast generally cloudy skies with a possibility of light to moderate rains for Thursday. PTI

Air qua	lity	of Delhi-NCI	R
Delhi	75	Gurugram 36	
Ghaziabad	78	Faridabad 58	
Noida	76	Greater Noida 87	
Good 0-50	Sati 51-	sfactory Moderat 100 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Verg 301		

'What happened to J&K was a prelude to BJP's plan for India'

Several senior leaders, students, activists march in the national capital to protest the Central government's decision to amend Article 370

AARUSHI AGGARWAL

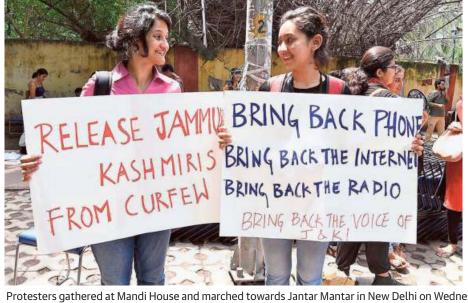
As Jammu and Kashmir remains under a communication lockdown, protesters gathered at Mandi House on Wednesday and marched towards Jantar Mantar in protest against the government's decision to remove the special status of the State and bifurcate it into two Union Territories.

The march was taken out under the eye of the police and paramilitary forces that made a ring around the protesters as a group of counterprotesters waved the national flag and shouted slogans of 'Vande Matram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' at several loca tions along the route.

Several senior leaders, including CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D. Raja, Politburo member Brinda Karat, and NFIW general secretary Annie Raja, along with student activists participated in the march.

Mr. Yechury said that what had happened to Jammu and Kashmir was a prelude to the BJP's plans for India.

"The promise that the same government made three years ago was to consult all the stakeholders before any decision on Jammu



Protesters gathered at Mandi House and marched towards Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

and Kashmir. But now the same people have been jailed and cut-off from the rest of the country. All this threatens federalism and the unity and integrity of India," Mr. Yechury said.

Kashmiri protesters, who have not heard from their families back in the State, are worried. Nasir Husain, a Kashmiri medical student studying in Delhi, shared that it had been three days since he last spoke to his mother who is unwell. "She had an appointment with the doctor the day they announced the abrogation of the Article. There has been a complete blackout since and I do not know if she was able to go. People cannot even access the lawns of their houses there," Mr. Husain said. He arrived at the protest with his luggage as he was heading back to Srinagar and said he feared for his life in Delhi.

"I think the Centre has given the paramilitary forces a licence to kill. They are ready

I think the Centre has given the paramilitary forces a licence to kill. They are ready for the casualties

for the casualties," he added. The crowd marching to Jantar Mantar shouted slogans of 'inquilab zindabad', 'goonda gardi nahi chalegi' and 'Amit Shah Murdabad'.

Avanti Balachandran and Keri Karen Sam, third-year law students at O.P. Jindal University were also part of the protest. They said, "Kashmir has been under siege for 40 years and instead of eradicating that, we have allowed the State to go from having a special status to the lowest one."

Granddaughters of Kashmiri politician Prem Nath Bazaz were also present at the protest. Seher and Tamanna Bazaz said that they had gathered there because they believed the BIP could do this to other States as well. 'The people of Kashmir own Kashmir and they get to decide what they want. The thread of democracy that India shared with Kashmir has been broken. You cannot go lower than this because there is nothing left," they

added. Echoing this sentiment, Anjali Bhardwaj, a member of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information, said: "Arresting people.

blocking communication, sending troops, and then bringing a Bill in complete secrecy and in a surreptitious manner challenge people's right to know and participate. Where is the freedom

of speech and expression?" Calling the government's move "a travesty of democracy," CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said, "Everyone is talking about buying land in Kashmir as if that is the only thing Kashmir has to offer.'

A new beginning



Workers at a site where a demolition drive is being carried out for a redevelopment project at Netaji Nagar Block-F in

'Look into plea alleging pollution by plastic units'

STAFF REPORTER

Following a plea alleging operation of illegal plastic factories in the Bhajanpura, the National Green Tribunal has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to look into the allegations and take appropriate action.

An Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "Let the DPCC look into the allegations and take appropriate action in accordance with law." The direction came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by petitioner Manish Sharma who alleged that the illegal industries were adversely affecting the environment causing air, noise and water pollution.

While directing the pollution control body to take action, the Bench also said, "Needless to say that the order of the NGT is binding as a decree of court and non-compliance is actionable by way of punitive action including prosecution, in terms of the NGT Act, 2010."

Unitech told to pay ₹92.77 lakh compensation to woman

Developer was supposed to deliver plot by April 2011

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed Unitech to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹92.77 lakh after it was alleged that the developer failed to deliver possession of a residential plot in Noida within the stipulated time.

The direction came when the apex consumer disputes redressal forum was hearing a complainant moved by a Mumbai resident who alleged that despite paying over ₹2.07 crore as the booking amount for the plot, the developer had failed to deliver possession of the same.

The developer is yet to pay ₹92.52 lakh to the complainant, as it has refunded

her remaining amount. Directing compensation, the consumer panel observed, "The documents filed by the complainant prove the allotment made to her as well as the payment which she made [to the developer]. Since the possession of the allotted plot has not even been offered to her, she cannot be com-



pelled to wait indefinitely for the possession of the plot and is entitled to seek refund of the amount paid

Complainant Anita Kaul Basu had alleged that she had booked a plot in a project that Unitech was to develop in Noida.

"As per the terms and conditions of allotment, the possession was expected to be delivered within eighteen months, meaning that the possession ought to have been offered to the complainant on or before April 2011," the Bench observed while noting the allegations made in the complaint.

While moving the consumer forum, the complainant sought compensation



NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES

in the form of interest and cited relevant clauses from the agreement that said, "If for any reason the developer is not in a position to offer the apartment [plot] altogether, the developer shall offer the allottee(s) an alternative property or refund the amount in full with simple interest of 10% per

annum..." The complainant had also alleged that the developers, despite the delay, had failed to provide an alternative plot to her.

Besides directing Unitech to refund over ₹92.52 lakh, which was pending, the consumer panel asked the developer to pay ₹25,000 as compensation towards cost of litigation.

Kejriwal distributes smartphones to 10,000 anganwadi workers

CM launches government's Early Childhood Care Curriculum

STAFF REPORTER

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday distributed smartphones to around 10,000 anganwadi workers in the city and launched the Delhi government's ambitious Early Childhood Care Curriculum.

"There is a perception that anganwadis are merely centres for providing food to children. Children will come and they will be fed and sent back. Now an Early Childhood Care Curriculum is being introduced to ensure that anganwadis provide the kind of care and education that is provided at expensive playschools. Even the poor will have access to the facilities that the rich do. Anganwadis will now be developed into playschools," Mr. Kejriwal said.

The Chief Minister said that earlier, anganwadi workers had to maintain 11 or 12 registers monthly at each anganwadi. "Now using smartphones, you will be able to enter everything into our database and the government will directly have access to that information.



Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia with anganwadi workers in New Delhi on Wednesday. • R.V. MOORTHY

Now an Early Childhood Care **Curriculum** is being introduced to ensure that anganwadis provide the kind of care and education that is provided at expensive

playschools ARVIND KEJRIWAL Chief Minister

This is a digitisation of the entire anganwadi sector that will not only benefit you, but also the department," the

Chief Minister said.

Speaking at the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia, said, "Across the world it has been acknowledged that 80% of a child's brain development takes place by the age of six. But India has continued to neglect early childhood care. Delhi's anganwadi reforms are an effort to change that, and build a model for the country... Today we are launching the Early Childhood Care Curriculum along the lines of the world's best early childhood care metho-

Expedite promotions of Delhi govt. staff, says L-G

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Wednesday directed authorities to expedite promotions of Delhi government employees to fill posts and also streamline direct recruitment through a time-bound action plan.

Mr. Baijal asked Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev to amend the recruitment rules wherever required within a fortnight.

Directions were issued as the Lieutenant-Governor reviewed the status of vacancies of various cadres.

"Reviewed status of vacancies in various cadres of Delhi Government Health, FSL & Delhi Fire Services. Directed to expedite promotions to fill post & streamline direct recruitment through a time bound action plan," Mr. Baijal tweeted.

"Advised CS to amend RRs wherever required within a fortnight [sic]," he

It comes close on the heels of the L-G directing authorities to identify "tainted" officers and "compulsorily retire them".

Irrigation department restores six waterbodies

Water from drains will be channelised during monsoon for groundwater recharge

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI The Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FCD) has rejuvenated six dry waterbodies in the city by channelising water from drains during monsoon that will recharge groundwater.

"The idea was conceived during the monsoon and we did it only for waterbodies which are close to drains," Nikhil Kumar, I&FCD Secretary told The Hindu.

The idea was conceived during the monsoon and we did it only for waterbodies which

NIKHII KUMAR

Currently, drains in the ci-

Secretary, Irrigation and Flood

are close to drains

ty largely do not recharge groundwater, as it is either lined with concrete or due to sludge deposited at the bottom, which makes it difficult

for water to percolate.

The department connected pipelines to drains, which took away only the top layer of water from drains when it rained. The pipeline then channelised the water to the waterbodies, which are up to 500-600 metres away from the drain, Mr. Kumar said.

"As we do not have regular access to rain water, in the future, we will use treated water from our sewage treatment plants to rejuvenate waterbodies," the Secretary

DELHI TODAY

said. He also said that during the next monsoon, they will try to rejuvenate more water-

Other projects

The I&FCD and the Delhi Jal Board are also working on the revival of around 200 waterbodies and will float tenders for the work. The I&FCD is also working on a project to build reservoirs on the Yamuna floodplain to store river water, when the river over-

flows during the monsoon.

'Indicate steps taken to fill vacancies in fire dept.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the AAP government to indicate steps it has taken to fill the vacancies in the fire department, which according to a plea, is facing a "manpower crunch" due to more than 1,500 vacancies.

The Delhi Fire Service

told the court that it has recruited 500 people as fire operators and an equal number have been employed on contract basis.

Apart from that, it has sent a requisition to the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board to initiate recruitment of an additional 706 personnel, the fire department told the court.

Talk: Dr. Aruna Roy, social activist and founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) will deliver a Snakti Sangatnan (MKSS) will deliver a talk titled, MKSS, the Right to Inform-ation Journey and its Relevance for India at Lecture Room - II, Basement Annexe, India International Centre

(IIC), 4 p.m. **Exhibition:** "Pratibimb", a group exhibition by Jyoti Sateeja, Virendra Kumar at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. **Exhibition:** Save Environment & Species. a solo painting exhibition by

Exhibition: "Confluence...", a solo painting exhibition by Meha Seth at Experimental Art Gallery, India Hab-

Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11

itat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Exhibition: "An Archeology of A New Identity", a solo exhibition by Sunil Yadav at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni

Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. **Exhibition:** "Fontwala: Stone to mobile, what remains?" by Rajeev Prakash Khare and Shubhra Prakash The show surveys the development of Devnagri letter form from it's earliest stone engravings to its digital adapta-tions at Digital Art Gallery, Triveni

Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Exhibition: A solo show of paintings, drawings and graphics by Suraj Ghai at All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m

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

Leaders remember the 'always-to-the-rescue' stalwart

'Sushma Swaraj was frank in her communication and was able to maintain a balance between being broad-minded in her thinking and traditional in her conduct'

JATIN ANAND JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ

The situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the status of laws governing women safety, and doubts about her health were on senior BJP leader Sushma Swaraj's mind hours before she died on Tuesday.

According to Shobha Vijender, wife of Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, Swaraj shared with her the reason for her decision to not contest the Lok Sabha election.

"She attributed her decision to doubts of whether she will be able to connect with people without breaking bread with them, which her health did not permit any longer," Ms. Vijender said.

She added, "I still can't believe it. I spoke to her for a good 25 minutes at her daughter's residence where she kept repeating that she was feeling fine and was okay. I still can't believe that the photo that we took together was our

Senior Delhi BIP leaders said that Swaraj, who was appointed Chief Minister of Delhi between October and December 1998, was brought in to help the party tide through a tough phase - the Delhi Assembly elections.

A new face

A BJP leader recalled, "The issue of skyrocketing onion prices and lack of cohesion between the two tallest leaders of the party at that time, Madan Lal Khurana and Sahib Singh Verma – both of whom who wanted the CM's chair – triggered the need for an internal party survey which called for the projection of a new face. Swaraj was that new face."

Vijay Goel, who served with Swaraj in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet called her a "disciplined party hand and a simple human

Maintained a balance

"She was frank in her communication and was able to maintain a balance between being broadminded in her thinking and traditional in her being just the way she conducted herself. For example, when she contested against [Congress leader] Sonia Gandhi from Bellary in 1999 she knew it would be an uphill task but she never questioned the party's de-

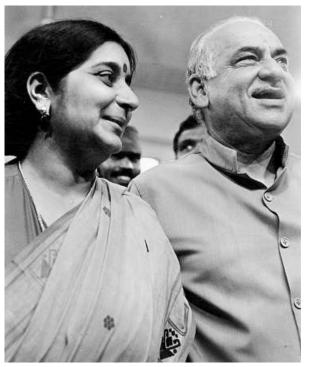
cision to field her," he said. Recalling her fondness for traditional festival, Mr. Goel said that for Swaraj, festivals like Teej and Karva Chauth were occasions that she celebrated with as many people as she could. BJP national executive member and former Delhi Mayor Arti Mehra recalled how Swaraj would both nurture and scold her as an "elder sister".

Grateful for guidance

"She was always frank about what she had to say. Both praise and criticism came with the same honesty. She may not have been very active in Delhi's politics but her guidance on issues related to it was invaluable," Ms. Mehra

1997, Mr. Gupta remembered and our suggestions were



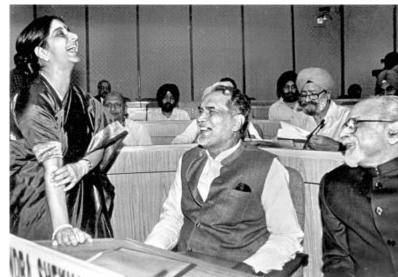


(Clockwise from top left) Sushma Swaraj being sworn in as the Delhi CM by then L-G Vijai Kapoor at Raj Bhavan on December 10, 1998; with former Delhi Chief Ministers M.L. Khurana and Sahib Śingh Verma; with former Prime Ministers I.K. Gujral and Chandrashekhar in May 1998; with BJP president L.K. Advani and Khurana at an election rally on April 5, 1996; with Shobha Vijender, wife of Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, a few hours before her death on Tuesday. • FILE PHOTOS, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT











She was always frank about what she had to say. She may not have been very active in Delhi's politics but her guidance on issues related to it was invaluable

ARTI MEHRA, BJP national executive member and former Delhi Mayor

While Swaraj was CM of Delhi in 1998 for three months, we were never considered like Opposition MLAs and our suggestions were always welcomed

with fondness the guidance he received from her as well as her dedication towards the cause of women's safety in Delhi.

'She was always particular about the precise details of issues as well as party events. She was so dedicated to women's safety that she would inspect police stations in the middle of the night." Mr. Gupta said.

Passionate person

Congress leader Haroon Yusuf said, "Swaraj was a very passionate person and while she was CM of Delhi in 1998 for the three months, any work that we, from the Opposition, approached her with, she was always willing to consider and help. We were never considered like Opposition As a first-time councillor in MLAs during her tenure as CM

"She had many plans for Delhi at that time but her tenure was short and lasted only three months before the Congress came to power in the election that followed. The country will miss her," Mr. Yusuf said offering his condolences.

Congress leader Krishna Tirath who was an MLA in 1998 when Swaraj was the Delhi Chief Minister and was her colleague in Parliament during the UPA government said, Swaraj always worked for the development and empowerment of women and ensured that women were the build-

ing blocks of the nation. "We many have had a difference in ideologies but we were good friends and colleagues in the Delhi Assembly as well as in Parliament," Ms. Tirath said.

Traffic hit during Swaraj cremation

STAFF REPORTER

Traffic moved at a snail's pace for a few hours in some parts of the Capital as former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's last rites were performed on Wednesday.

Delhi Police had issued an advisory on Wednesday afternoon wherein they mentioned that traffic will remain affected near Lodhi Road due to Swaraj's cremation. "Traffic will remain affected on Lodhi Road, Lala Lajpai Rai Marg, Neela Gumbad, Moolchand flyover, Defence Colony flyover, Lodhi Road flyover and adjoining roads from 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.," they said in a statement.

Almost 2,000 police personnel were deployed across central Delhi and south-east Delhi to ensure that the funeral procession from BJP headquarters to Lodhi Road crematorium moved without any hitch, a senior officer

Commuters complain

Commuters complained of traffic movement as VIP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Mo-



Heavy traffic on Vikas Marg as roads leading to Lodhi Road crematorium were closed for over three hours on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

di and Home Minister Amit Shah among other noted leaders across parties, reached the crematorium. The leader's body was kept at the BJP headquarters and then taken to Lodhi crematorium where her last rites were performed.

A commuter, Ausaf Akhtar, who had to reach New Delhi Railway Station to catch a train to

Patna, said he was stuck at Ashram for a few hours and was scared that he would miss his train.

Another commuter who did not wish to be identified said that she got stuck at Moolchand flyover as it was shut and had to walk till Lajpat Nagar metro station before taking a rickshaw to her home in Defence Colony.

Two-day mourning announced

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi government on Wednesday announced a two-day State mourning as a mark of respect to former Chief Minister of Delhi and senior BJP leader Sushma Swaraj who died on Tuesday following a cardiac ar-

"This means, there will be no entertainment events during this period. All other government business will continue as scheduled," the government

"Delhi govt will observe two days state mourning as a mark of respect in the memory of former Chief Minister & senior leader respected Sushma Swaraj ji," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia tweeted.

Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal condoled the leader's death on Twitter. "India has lost a great leader. Sushma ji was a very warm and remarkable person. May her soul rest in peace," he

Govt. discontinues road test for autorickshaw drivers

Kejriwal asks Imran Hussain to hold meeting to simplify procedure for recalibration of fare meters

STAFF REPORTER

Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology Department Minister Imran Hussain on Wednesday announced the discontinuance of the practice of road try test for autorickshaws drivers after recalibration of auto fare meters.

The Delhi government statement mentioned that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had directed him to hold a consultation meeting with all stakeholders to simplify the procedure for recalibration of auto fare meters, Mr. Hussain said.

"This initiative of the Kejriwal government will benefit the autorickshaw drivers as well as the commuters, as recalibration will be done faster, which will also save cost and time," the statement said.

The Delhi government had recently revised auto fares which has necessitated the recalibration of auto fare meters after upgradation of



Auto drivers had complained about being charged exorbitant prices by manufacturers, repairers and dealers of fare meters for the upgradation of software. • FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

their software.

The process of recalibration of auto fare meters is about to start shortly, the government said.

Exorbitant prices

According to Mr. Hussain, autorickshaw drivers had complained about being charged exorbitant prices by manufacturers, repairers and dealers of fare meters

for the upgradation of software.

"The Minister announced that for providing relief and succour to autorickshaw drivers, an advisory has been issued to the manufacturers, repairers and dealers of fare meters for not charging more than ₹400 per meter plus applicable GST for undertaking software upgradation post revision of This initiative of the Kejriwal government will benefit the autorickshaw drivers as well as the commuters, as recalibration will be done faster, which will also save cost and time

auto fares," the statement

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

Previously, the statement added, after recalibration and initial verification by the Weights & Measures Department, which has now been renamed Legal Metrology, in its laboratory at Wazirpur, auto drivers had to go for the road try test at Khanpur Rewla Najafgarh.

'Inconvenient test'

According to the government, autorickshaw drivers were finding the road try test at Najafgarh inconvenient and it was also causing them loss of a day's earning. They were requesting for

making the recalibration process smooth and convenient by conducting the test at a central location.

Re-examine proposal

"After convening several high-level meetings and discussing the issue, the Legal Metrology Department of Delhi was directed to re-examine the proposal in totality...after examining the legal provisions of Legal Metrology Act and in consultation with the Department of Consumers Affairs, government of India, it has decided to discontinue road try test which was proving to be inconvenient to autorickshaw drivers," the statement said.

The Department will, from now on, issue verification certificate after carrying out Simulated Road Test Method in the laboratory of the Department.

Police yet to trace cab driver who 'raped' JNU student

'Woman's statement not corroborating electronic proof'

SAURABH TRIVEDI NEW DELHI

After four days of investigation, Delhi Police is unable to find the cab or the driver who allegedly had raped a 21-year-old JNU student.

A police officer said that the statement given by the woman are not corroborating the electronic evidence accessed by them.

On August 3, at 1.07 a.m., the woman was seen coming out of JNU campus but in her police statement claimed that she was on the street after being raped by the driver.

Walked away

"On scanning CCTV footage of the police station that was visited by the woman, it was seen that a woman police constable and a counsellor gave her a sheet of paper to write her complaint, but she simply walked out without saying anything," said a police officer. The police have thoroughly scanned the CCTV cameras installed around the park where the woman claimed to have taken shelter but no clue of her presence was seen. They even questioned security guards and local visitors but no one had seen her.

'Woman in distress'

"We have traced the biker who had dropped the woman at JNU gate on August 4 morning. He said he had found the woman in distress and had offered help to her. She asked him to drop her till JNU gate and he did," said

the police officer. "The medical report of the woman found no injury marks anywhere on the body. Other samples have been taken and result is awaited,"

said the officer.

Hostel warden in her police statement claimed that she had seen the woman in the hostel premises at 1.30 p.m. on August 3. It was the same time when the woman claimed to have taken shelter in the park, said the offic-

"A woman was seen in a CCTV footage outside a temple on Mandir Marg. However, the identity of the woman is yet to be confirmed," added the officer.

A police officer said that they have been trying to connect the sequence of the events as the woman is unable to explain her movement as she was allegedly drugged at that time.

"We have got the report of cabs available online but no such cab as mentioned by the woman was available in the area at that particular time," added the officer. "The case is under investi-

gation. Around 40 police officers are working on the case to get any leads in the case," the officer said.



HC tells police to repair or replace defunct CCTVs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the police to repair or replace the non-functional CCTV cameras installed by it at various locations in the national capital.

The direction by a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar came after the Delhi Police told the court that out of the 4,388 cameras installed by it across the city, only 2,919 were functional and the rest were not working.

Delhi government additional standing counsel Satyakam, appearing for the police, told the court that the non-functional cameras were being repaired.

Taking note of the submission, the Bench said, " As the respondent is working [to repair the cameras] we see no reason to monitor the repair of CCTVs."

Why use Urdu, Persian terms in FIR, asks HC

Court tells police to stop use of 'bombastic language'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to explain why Urdu or Persian terms are used in a FIR when the same are not used by the complainant.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said: "Too much flowery language, the meaning of which is to be found out by a dictionary, should not be used. An FIR should be in the words of the complainant. The police is there for public at large and not just for persons with doctorate degree in Urdu or Per-Simple language should be used, instead of high-sounding words. People have to know what is written. It is applicable to use of English also. Do not use bombastic language."

Too much flowery language, the meaning of which is to be found out by a dictionary, should not be used. An FIR should be in the words of the complainant. The police is there for public at large and not just for persons with doctorate degree in Urdu or Persian. Simple language

should be used, instead of high-sounding words. People have to know what is written. It is applicable to use of English also. Do not use bombastic language CHIEF JUSTICE D.N. PATEL AND

High Court Bench

The High Court directed the Police Commissioner to file an affidavit explaining whether the Urdu or Persian words are used by the agency or the complainant. It listed the case for further hearing on November 25.

The High Court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Vishalakshi Goel seeking directions to the Delhi Police not to use Urdu and Persian words in FIRs.

Delhi government additional standing counsel Naushad Ahmed Khan, appearing for the police, said the Urdu and Persian words used in FIRs can be understood by "making a little ef-

He added that the words are used when transferring the FIR to the higher author-

Another case also solved with the arrest

NEW DELHI

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North East) Atul Thakur said that the accused identified as Sumit alias Bowler (29), Ajay Tyagi (31), and Raj (22) were arrested for allegedly opening fire at Vicky and killing him on Monday night. The incident happened a few metres away from the victim's house.

During interrogation, Sumit allegedly told the police that he had a fight with one Harsh on August 3 and Harsh is Vicky's friend.

"When Harsh told Vicky about the fight, the victim went and roughed up Sumit and his brothers after which he decided to kill Vicky and roped in two of his accomplices," Mr. Thakur said.

The police said that Sumit

the process of recruitment to fill up over 1,000 vacancies of Special Education Teachers (SET) in the Directorate of Education (DoE).

Age relaxation

HC seeks govt. reply on special educators

Plea alleges no process initiated to fill 1,000 vacancies in Directorate of Education

Though the period

expired, the

of four weeks has

authorities have

appointment letter

have they initiated

fresh recruitment...

In the contempt petition,

advocate Ashok Agarwal

submitted that despite the

order of a Division Bench of

the High Court, the Delhi go-

vernment failed to initiate

neither issued

to the man nor

any process for

A Division Bench of the High Court had on July 2 allowed a plea seeking age relaxation in order to qualify for the post of SET in Delhi government schools. The High Court had also directed the government to initiate the process of fresh recruitment to the post of SET.

It had directed the government to ensure its direc-

tions were complied with within four weeks from July

The contempt plea said though the period of four weeks has expired, the authorities have neither issued appointment letter to the man nor have they initiated any process for fresh recruitment to the post of SET in

The contempt petition, filed by Syed Mehedi, has sought initiation of proceedings against the authorities for "intentional and deliberate disobedience of the direction" of the High Court.

Three arrested for killing 30-year-old in Nand Nagri

STAFF REPORTER

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on

Wednesday sought a reply

from the city government

and the Chief Secretary on a

contempt plea alleging fai-

lure to initiate the process of

recruitment of special edu-

cators for disabled children

leged that the authorities

"intentionally and deliber-

ately" did not comply with

the High Court's July 2 order.

The HC has listed the case

for further hearing on

March 16 next year.

The contempt petition al-

in government schools.

Three persons were arrested for allegedly killing a 30year-old man in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri, the police said on Wednesday.

Meerut murder case

During interrogation, Ajay and Raj spilled the beans on their involvement in another murder case in Meerut's Kharkhoda. "With the arrest, the Meerut murder case has been worked out," Mr. Thakur said.

resides in Nand Nagri and works as a driver, while Ajay is a resident of Modinagar and is a small time money lender and Raj is unem-

NCW wants swift action in Tihar inmate rape case

Panel asks police chief for detailed report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women on Wednesday urged the Delhi Police chief to take immediate action and submit a detailed report in the alleged rape of a Tihar jail woman inmate by a police constable.

According to a media report, the alleged incident took place on August 3 when the 42-year-old woman inmate was returning to Delhi after appearing before a court in Murshidabad in West Bengal.

Raped in moving train She was allegedly raped in the toilet of a moving train by a Delhi Police constable,

who was part of the team

escorting her, according to a complaint filed at the New Delhi Railway Station police station on Monday.

The following day, she told a doctor in the Tihar Jail about the incident in the train.

Taking suo motu cognizance of the case, the women's commission urged the Delhi Police to submit a detailed report in the case.

"The commission is anguished and has taken suomotu cognizance of the matter. The commission has urged the Commissioner of Police, Delhi to take immediate action in this regard and submit a detailed investigation report to the commission," the NCW said in a statement.

Four held for murdering youth in Gurugram

Accused took revenge on victim for deposing against them in a case: police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Four persons have been arrested for allegedly murdering a young man in Garhi Harsaru village here earlier this month for allegedly deposing against them in an attempt to murder case.

Yatin, a resident of Joniawas village, had gone to deliver milk in Garhi Harsaru village on August 2 morning when unidentified men shot him point-blank and escaped. Some passers-by took him to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Yatin's father Sunder Lal told the police that when he called his son on his mobile phone an unknown person took the call and told him that he was shot dead. A case was registered at Farrukh Nagar Police Station in this connection and a probe was initiated. Fingerprints and

Forensic Science Laboratory teams also visited the spot and collected the evidence.

On Wednesday, four persons were arrested from Pataudi Road in connection with the case. The accused have been identified as Bhupender, Sankit, Pushpender and Hansraj alias Kalu.

During interrogation, the accused told the police that they along with Yatin and other accomplices had shot

ness in the case and deposed against them. Being a juvenile, he was acquitted in the case. The accused and their accomplices bore a grudge against Yatin for this and

at former Sarpanch of Far-

rukh Nagar village on Febru-

ary 23, 2017. But Yatin, who

was then minor, turned wit-

venge, the police said. The four were sent to judicial custody.

murdered him to take re-

Man bludgeoned to death in Punjabi Bagh

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man was bludgeoned to death in west Delhi's Punjabi Bagh, the police said on Wednesday.

The deceased has been as Shakeel identified Ahmed, a resident of Mehrauli, they said.

According to the police, they received a call on the early hours of Tuesday saying that a labourer died of electrocution in Punjabi Bagh. After reaching the spot, they found Ahmed lying unconscious in an office where medical equipments are being repaired. The victim was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared brought dead, they

During investigation, it was found that Ahmed was working as a mechanic in the company. His relative Naushad Aalam (31), a resident of west Sagarpur also works there.

Aalam told the police that he found Ahmed lying on the floor when he came downstairs for some work. He also told the police that Ahmed suffered an electric shock. However, the postmortem report revealed that Ahmed died due to head injuries and not of electrocution, the police said.

"The police grew suspicious and they called Aalam questioning. On sustained interrogation, he broke down and told the police that he had killed Ahmed as he suspected him of having an illicit relationship with his wife," said Monika Bhardwaj, DCP (West).

When Aalam and Ahmed were in the office, the accused hit Ahmed's head with a hammer following which he fell unconscious. Thereaf ter, he kicked the diseased several times. Later, he washed the hammer and rolled a tape around it and created a false story, the pol-

Out on bail, criminal held again with illegal pistol

STAFF REPORTER

A 25-year-old man, who was released on bail three months ago, was arrested from Dwarka's Najafgarh on Tuesday for allegedly carrying an illegal pistol, the police said.

A senior police officer said that the accused has been identified as Keshav Lamba, a resident of Shahbad Mohmmadpur.

"On the early hours of Tuesday, a police team was patrolling in Najafgarh when they noticed Lamba. The accused tried to run away on seeing the patrolling team. He was caught and a countrymade pistol with one live round was recovered from his possession," the officer said.

The police said that Lamba has four cases of robbery registered against him and was released on bail on May 10. "He was roaming in the area with a motive to commit crime," the officer added.

Dangerous ride



A woman balances some goods while riding pillion in the Capital. • v.v. krishnan

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency, First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun. Ref. No.:08/WAPCOS-PMGSY/2019 **BHARAT NIRMAN UNDER**

e-Procurement Notice The Chief General Manager, WAPCOS Limited on behalf of URRDA, Government of Uttarakhand invites the tem rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yoiana in the District of Tehri for 01 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 15.00 Crore including their maintenance for Five years for Stage-II from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 01-08-2019.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B. at WAPCOS Ltd, plot No. 209 Phase-I. Basant Vihar Dehradun. Uttarakhand, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 31-08-2019 01:00 PM.

class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract

Chief Engineer. Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate

Dated :01 Aug, 2019

Dated :29 July, 2019

Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2761531 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 **DIPR UK 8736**

Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun.

Ref. No.:09/WAPCOS-PMGSY/2019 **BHARAT NIRMAN UNDER** PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

e-Procurement Notice The Chief General Manager, WAPCOS Limited on behalf of URRDA, Government of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Almora for 02 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 5.35 Crore. including their maintenance for Five years for Stage-II from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 01-08-2019.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B. at WAPCOS Ltd. plot No. 209, Phase-I, Basant Vihar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 17-08-2019 01:00 PM. For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer, URRDA, Dehradun

Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2761531 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00

DIPR UK 8735

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

President of India from competent and experienced contractor for execution of the under mentioned work. E-tender Notice No RE/DNR/Gr.190/OT-01 Date: 06/08/2019 Name of the work with its location Balance work of "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 kv, 50 Hz, Single Phase, AC, Electrification Works S/SP/SSP as Electrical Work" in BKF (Excl.) - RGD - TIA -MPO (Excl.) under Danapur Division of East Central Railway under RE Project Danapur. 2. Approximate Cost of the work: ₹1,62,58,529.71 (Rs One Crore sixty two lakhs fifty eigh housand five hundred and twenty nine upees and seventy one paisa only) 3́. Cost f Tender Form & Earnest Money to be deposited : Tender paper cost of ₹5,000/- 8 EMD ₹2,31,300/- (Rs. Two lakhs thirty one thousand three hundred) only though payment modes available on IREPS porta rough net banking debit card, credit card etc at www.ireps.gov.in. 4. Date & Time for online submission of tender and opening of Tender: Bidding starts from 26.08.2019 and opening of e-tender on 09.09.2019 after 1.00 hrs. 5. Address of the office from where the tender details can be obtained Website particulars and notice board location: Office of the Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur Near Jagjeevan Stadium, Khagaul Danapur- 801105. E-tendring website www.ireps.gov.in Notice board Office of the Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur near Jagjeeva Stadium, Khagaul, Danapur.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/RE PR/0931/RE/Elec./T/19-20/48

VVIP chopper scam: ED moves court seeking NBW against Ratul Puri

Move comes day after court dismissed his anticipatory bail plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate moved a Delhi court on Wednesday seeking issuance of non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in connection with a money laundering case related to the AgustaWestland chopper scam.

The move comes a day after the court dismissed his anticipatory bail plea in the now scrapped ₹3,600 crore VVIP chopper deal with

AgustaWestland. The agency on Wednesday told Special Judge Arvind Kumar that Mr. Puri was non-cooperative and untraceable. The court is likely to take up the application for hearing today.

In its application, the agency said that Mr. Puri was directed to join the investigation on Tuesday but he failed to turn up before the agency. The court had on August 6 dismissed Mr. Puri's anticipatory bail application, saying the investigation is at a crucial stage and the allegations against him were

"grave" and "serious". Mr. Puri, chairman of Hindustan Powerprojects Pvt Ltd, had on July 27 approached the court seeking anticipatory bail in the case, saying he feared arrest in the

Two criminals caught after gunfight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GHAZIABAD

Two notorious criminals wanted in over five dozen cases were arrested in separate instances after an exchange of fire, the police said on Wednesday. Both the criminals and a constable sustained bullet injuries, they said.

SP (City) Shlok Kumar one of the bike-borne men said during a routine check around 11.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the Sahibabad police tried to intercept two-bike aged to flee. borne men on the Sikanderpur village road near the Hindon airport building. Instead of halting, the man riding pillion fired at the police,

sustained a bullet injury. He has been identified as Riyaz of Lakshmi Garden in Indirapuri. His accomplice man-In the second incident,

the police nabbed a criminal, Fazar, a native of Kaila Bhatta, after an exchange of he said. In retaliatory firing, fire on Wednesday evening.

Man detained on suspicion of murder

STAFF REPORTER

A 35-year-old man was detained on Wednesday on suspicion of bludgeoning a man to death in South West Delhi's Vasant Kunj on June 7.

A senior police officer said that the man was held under the Excise Act on Wednesday along with a few others. During investigation, it was found that his looks matched with that of a murder suspect, whose CCTV footage was found during the investigation in June.

According to the police, the body of a man was found on June 7. But the victim remained unidentified. However, when the CCTV footage of the locality was examined, the suspect was seen with the victim near where the body was found.

The officer said that the suspect is being questioned and further investigation is underway.

DELHI CTimings

THURSDAY, AUG. 08

RISE 05:47 SET 19:07 RISE 13:14 SET 00:00

FRIDAY, AUG. 09 RISE 05:47 SET 19:06

► RISE 14:14 SET 00:27 SATURDAY, AUG. 10 RISE 05:48 SET 19:06

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City

► RISE 15:12 SET 01:10

Safdarjang 26

Delhi Palam Today 34°C Warm and humid weather with cloudy sky to thundershower would occur

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 35°C Rise in temperature. Mostly dry and warm weather

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

IN BRIEF



Administration has derailed in U.P.: Akhilesh

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday alleged that the administration had derailed in Uttar Pradesh. "The Chief Minister may make tall claims, but his control over officials cannot be seen," he

₹40 lakh looted from **ATM in Punjab** FATEHGARH SAHIB

Some unidentified people looted ₹40 lakh from an ATM in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib district in the wee hours on Wednesday, police said. They said the accused broke open the cash dispenser of the ATM at 2.15 a.m. in Rurki village and fled with the money. Later, a police team reached the spot and started an investigation. PTI

Delhi court starts hearing arguments in Unnao rape case

Uttar Pradesh MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar is one of the accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Delhi court on Wednesday started hearing arguments in the Unnao rape case in which Uttar Pradesh MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar is one of the accused.

Counsel for the CBI submitted before District and Sessions Judge Dharmesh Sharma that the minor was assaulted by the expelled BJP MLA and his co-accused Shashi Singh helped him in the commission of the crime as she had lured the victim to his residence on the pretext of getting her a job.

When the State police did not take any action on the matter for almost a year after the incident, the victim's then approached a court there, counsel for the probe agency said.

Accused Kuldeep Sengar

Counsel for the accused submitted that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) was not attracted against his client as the victim was a major at the time of the alleged assault.

He further said that the fact that the victim had atadulthood proved by the school documents and her medical

However, victim's counsel D.K. Mishra claimed that she was a minor as per the school documents as well as the medical report at the time of tha alleged assault on

No media bar

Earlier, the court refused to debar media from reporting the proceedings as sought by counsel for the accused and the CBI. It advised the reporters to do balanced reporting without going into the minute details and making an opinion.

The court had on August 5 sent Sengar to judicial custody.

The Supreme Court had on August 1 transferred the rape case and three other cases related to it to the Delhi court. The apex court had also directed that the trial be wrapped within 45 days.

Victim, lawyer still critical, says AIIMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Unnao rape victim and her lawyer, admitted to AI-IMS Trauma Centre here, remain critical and on life support, hospital officials said on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old rape victim and her lawyer suffered critical injuries in a car-truck collision in Rae Bareli district in Uttar Pradesh on July 28. Following a Supreme Court order, she was airlifted to New Delhi from a Lucknow hospital on Monday for better treatment.

10,600 classrooms to come up in Rajasthan

83 school buildings will be renovated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of an action plan for time-bound implementation of budgetary announcements, 10,600 new classrooms will be constructed at a cost of ₹1,181 crore in Raiasthan's government schools and the information technology infrastructure strengthened. The utilisation of budgetary allocation is set to improve quality of

education in the State. Minister of State for Education Govind Singh Dostasara said here that the new classrooms would include computer rooms, science laboratories, library rooms and arts and crafts rooms. Besides, the projects for renovation of 83 school buildings and construction of 23 new buildings will be taken up this year.

Mr. Dotasara said at Shiksha Sankul here that the New classrooms would include computer rooms and science laboratories

GOVIND SINGH DOSTASARA Minister of State for Education

Department Education would establish IT labs in the schools which were yet to be connected with the new communication network. "We are taking steps for ensuring a high quality of education and making available basic facilities of drinking water and toilets in the schools," he said.

The Minister said the works such as construction of boundary walls of schools would be taken up under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, while regular monitoring would be carried out to provide all facilities to the stu-

4 suspended for mishap that killed 9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Four persons, including a transport officer, an education officer and two policemen, were suspended and Tehri's basic education officer was summoned on the direction of Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat in connection with Tuesday's road accident which killed nine school children in Uttarakhand.

The action was taken after preliminary investigations revealed that overloading led to the accident at Kangsali near Lambgaon in Tehri district, an official release here said.

Sub-inspector Mayank Tyagi, constable Durgesh Kothiyal were suspended for not keeping an effective tab on overloaded vehicles.

Transport tax officer of the area Nikhilesh Ojha has also been suspended for dereliction of duty.

HC dismisses former CMs' plea

Bahuguna, Koshiyari appealed against rent order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Uttarakhand High Court on Wednesday dismissed the pleas of former Chief Ministers Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and Vijay Bahuguna seeking review of its order to the State government to recover market-rate rents from them for overstaying in their official bungalows.

'Devoid of merit'

A Bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Ranganathan and Justice R.C. Khulbe turned down their pleas, saying they are devoid of merit and not legally sustainable.

"The time taken in the review proceedings will not af-



Vijay Bahuguna

fect the duration of six months from the date of the order (May 3, 2019) within which the respondents were directed to pay rent dues as per market rate," said Kartikeya Hari Gupta, the counsel for a Dehradun-based NGO, which had moved the court for recovery of rents from the former CMs

Both former Chief Ministers had argued before the



Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

court that before computing the rent dues, they should have been heard by the State.

Countering their argu-"We were opposing it, but ment, Mr. Gupta told the court that this ground was completely false and baseless as their counsel were not only heard but specifically asked during the arguments if they wanted to reply on the computation of rent.

JD(U) does a U-turn on Article 370

BJP ally supports Centre's move after Monday's walkout from Rajya Sabha

AMARNATH TEWARY

A day after opposing the Bill and walking out of Parliament, Bihar's ruling party, the Janata Dal (United), on Wednesday made a U-turn on the issue of Article 370 and supported the Centre's move. Earlier, the party MPs had walked out of the Rajya Sabha to opposing the Centre's move.

now it has become law and implemented in the country. So we all should accept it...we all should be with the Central government now on this issue", said senior JD(U) leader and party Rajya Sabha member R.C.P. Singh in



JD(U) Rajya Sabha member R.C.P. Singh •

who was the convener of the NDA, had decided not to support controversial issues like triple talaq, abrogation of Article 370 and Ram Mandir...so we're opposing government's move on these issue but once it has become a law, there is no point opposing it", he said.

Earlier on Monday, senior JD(U) leader and party's chief spokesperson K.C. Tyagi, though, had justified party MPs staging a walkout in nandes".

However, ID(U) leader Ajay Alok had earlier urged party chief Nitish Kumar to review the stand taken against the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill.

'Sentiments of people'

"With the country's interests in mind, I would appeal our national president @Nitish-Kumar that a rethink be done on party's stand on the Bill that has been brought with regard to Article 370. The sentiments of the people of the entire country, including Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir, are supreme and a decision must be taken keeping the same in mind," Mr. Alok had tweeted.

+ Policy to make Rajasthan a solar energy hub

10,000 MW target, says CM Gehlot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A new policy to be announced shortly by the Congress government will make Rajasthan the solar energy hub, protecting the rights of consumers opting for the renewable energy sector. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said here that a target would be set to produce 10,000 MW additional electricity from solar and wind power in the next five years.

Mr. Gehlot said at a review meeting that the policy would help develop a large number of solar power plants and attract fresh investments. "A robust power transmission infrastructure is taking shape in the form of a green corridor in western Rajasthan and 1.25 lakh hectare government land is available for setting up the plants," he said. Mr. Gehlot said the State

government would make



CM Ashok Gehlot

suitable provisions for storage of solar energy and its production at low cost. Rajasthan, which occupied third rank in the sector, would shortly be the leading State in the country, he added.

Hybrid policy

The presentations made at the review meeting emphasised that a hybrid policy covering both solar and wind energy would significantly promote the renewable energy sector. The policy would increase employment opportunities.





DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU Phone No. 0191-2561578

Fax No. 0191-2547807 E-Mail: sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.ir LOOK OUT NOTICE As reported by I/C PP Chinore, Jammu, applicant namely ShehnazAkter W/O MohdNazir R/O Naka Manyari, Poonch A/P Chinore, Jammu reported that her

search his whereabouts are still unknown As such photograph of missing MohdNasir S/O FayazHussain R/O Naka Manihari, Poonch A/P Chinore, Jammu is being published with consent of his legal heirs for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to his whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate

husband has been missing from home since 31.03.2017. Accordingly, missing

report entered at PP Chinore vide DDR No. 09 dated 31.03.2017. Despite thorough

Description Roll :-Name

Police Post

Permanent Address

Height Complexion Built Face Eyes

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:

1. DPO, Jammu 2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D 3. PCR Jammu

4. SP Rural 5. SDPO Domana 6. P/S Domana

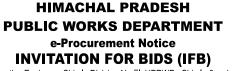
RO DIP/J-4848

7. Contact of Legal Heirs m

MohdNasir : Naka Manjhari, Poonch A/P Chinore Jammu Chinore, Jammu

5 feet 10 inch Medium Black & Brown

0191-2547807, 0191-2561578 : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in 0191-2542000 0191-2605949 0191-2604220 0191-2604214 84918-05500



of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HP.PWD. Department.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	C/O Type-II, Type-III and Type-IV Qtrs. 4No's each for staff of Hospital of Mental Health and mental bilitation at Baileauganj Shimla-5 (SH:- Civil work including site development, WS & SI works and rain baryestion tank etc.		Rs. 2,92,000/-	5000/-	Class-A

Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. Fo submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same

ა.	Key Dates:		
1.	Date of Online Publication	21-08-2019	17.00 HRS
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	21-08-2019 02-09-2019	17.00 HRS up to 17.00 HRS
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	21-08-2019 02-09-2019	17.00 HRS up to 17.00 HRS
4.	Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	03-09-2019	upto 11.00 HRS
5.	Date of Technical Bid opening,	03-09-2019	11.00 HRS

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:] Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents

Eligibility Information". Cover2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote

SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) FDR in original towards bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/O Executive Engineer, Shimla Division NO-III,

BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 03-09-2019 at 11.00 HRS in the office of Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No. III HPPWD Shimla 3 H.P.by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting

tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its

control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid

120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

information related to the tender

HP/1364/19-20

bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh)

The Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-III, HPPWD, Shimla-3 on behali

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	C/O Type-II, Type-III and Type-IV Qtrs. 4No's each for staff of Hospital of Mental Health and rehabilitation at Baileauganj Shimla-5 (SH:- Civil work including site development. WS &	2,59,45,499/-	Rs. 2,92,000/-	5000/-	Class-A
	SI works and rain				

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in.

by Opening of Financial Bid.

his offer for each item

HPPWD Shimla-3, H.P. as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the **Executive Engineer,** Shimla Division No-III,

HPPWD Shimla-3.

Mr. Singh, who is consi-Rajya Sabha over the issue, dered close to Chief Minister saying, "it was in line with and party president Nitish the ideologies of veteran so-Kumar, explained why the cialist leaders like Loknayak party had been opposing the Jayprakash Narain, Ram Manohar Lohia and George Fer-Centre's move. "Our late leader George Fernandes, EDE HES WINDES



STEP Coach Unlimited is a powerful English learning programme fuelled by unlimited* calls to experts, comprehensive modules and interactive sessions.











70% off on future

*Please visit the website to see associated terms and conditions



To know more, visit BIT.LY/COACHUNLTD



Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).

Flood-like situation in some areas, train services hit in southern region: officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR

Heavy downpour triggered by a deep depression, which crossed the Odisha coast, battered several parts of the State on Wednesday creating a flood-like situation and disrupting train services in the southern region, the officials said.

Special Relief Commissioner B.P. Sethi said torrential rain submerged vast areas in Malkangiri, Rayagada, Koraput, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Gajapati and Ganjam districts. These districts received more than 100 mm of average rainfall since Tuesday, he said.

"Incessant rain has created flood-like situation in some areas and the government is keeping a close watch. The administration is on a high alert," Mr. Sethi

Malkangiri and Rayagada districts are facing a floodlike situation, officials said. Rain has snapped the road link between Malkangiri town and Jeypore and hit road connectivity in Balimela, Kalimela, Motu and Padia, they said.

More rain likely

The Met department said the deep depression over north-west Bay of Bengal moved north-north westwards and crossed north Odisha-West Bengal coasts,



One of the derailed wagons submerged in floodwaters. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

close to north of Balasore on Wednesday afternoon. Moderate rain or thundershowers occurred in most places in Odisha and heavy to very heavy rain was received in some areas in the southern region. Heavy to very heavy rain is likely till August 9, it

As many as 21 shelter centres and relief camps have been set up in Malkangiri and people are being evacuated, District Collector

Manish Agarwal said. The water level of the Sileru, Saberi and Saptadhara rivers in the Malkangiri district and the Vansadhara river in the Rayagada district was rising. All schools in Wednesday, Mr. Agarwal

As the downpour washed away soil and ballast below the tracks between Dolkalu and Ambadola stations in Rayagada-Titlagarh section, at least six trains were cancelled, eight diverted and half-a-dozen partially cancelled on Wednesday, an East Coast Railway spokes-

man said. Three loaded wagons of a goods train were derailed and got submerged in floodwaters, and rail traffic between Rayagada and Titlagarh was disrupted, said ECoR sources. Cranes from Kantabajhi and Visakhapata-

TO ADVERTISE

PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 98203 50726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL

PH: 98110 06590

gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in

THEMAHINDU

Malkangiri were closed on nam are being used to salvage the wagons.

Two track patrolmen – S. Naidu and M. Ramana who sounded the alert will be awarded, the spokesperson said.

In Kandhamal district, life came to a grinding halt, particularly in the hilly areas of Daringbadi, Tumudibandha and Kotagarh blocks under the Balliguda sub-division, an official said.

Road links between Phulbani, Boudh, Kalahandi and Rayagada were snapped as several low level bridges and culverts were washed away,

(With inputs from Staff Reporter in Berhampur)

THEMOHINDU

Calcutta HC sets aside arrest warrant against Mukul Roy

BJP MP Mukul Roy

Appearing for Mr. Roy be-

fore the High Court, senior

counsel Bikash Bhatta-

charya submitted that since

the BJP leader has already

been quizzed by the police

at his Delhi residence, there

is no reason for the warrant

ta Mukherjee submitted that

the purpose of the arrest

warrant has been served

since he has already been in-

terrogated, but the main

proceedings before the low-

er court with regard to the

Public prosecutor Saswa-

to be in force.

Case relates to recovery of ₹19 lakh from a person last year

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday set aside an arrest warrant against BJP leader Mukul Roy in connection with the alleged recovery of unaccounted cash from a person.

Justice Rajasekhar Mantha set aside the warrant issued by a city court on a plea by Kolkata Police to question him in connection with the alleged recovery of ₹19 lakh from a person in Burrabazar area of the city last year.

Original proceedings

The High Court directed that the original proceedings pertaining to the alleged recovery of the sum will continue before the city court.

The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Kolkata, had on July 29 issued the warrant against Mr. Roy on a prayer by the Burrabazar police station, alleging noncooperation on his part in investigation into the case.

recovery of the sum should continue.

The Delhi High Court had on August 1 granted Mr. Roy protection from coercive action for 10 days, on a plea by the BJP leader challenging the notices issued to him by the Kolkata Police to appear before it for questioning in

'Join the probe'

While granting the relief to him, the Delhi High Court asked Mr. Roy to join the investigation into the case and be available for questioning.

Mr. Roy was quizzed by the officers of the Kolkata Police at his Delhi residence on August 2. The case pertains to the

recovery of ₹19 lakh from a person in Burrabazar area of Kolkata on July 31, 2018, leading to his arrest and a

Mr. Roy's phone number allegedly featured in one of the arrested persons' call

Odisha police station in top 10 in country

CORRESPONDENT

The Tarava police station in the Subarnapur district of Odisha has been adjudged as one of the 10 best police stations in the country in the annual ranking for the year 2018. The certificate of excellence and a trophy awarded by the Union Home Ministry were handed over to Tarava police inspector Dulamani Bhoi by Odisha DGP R.P. Sharma here on Wednesday. The Subarnapur district Superintendent of Police was also present on the occasion.

In the 2016 DGP conference at New Delhi, it was decided to award the 10 best performing police stations on the basis of smart policing, citizen-centric policing, community policing and use of technology for better grievance redress mechanism. "Tarava P.S. got this award on the basis of a system as it fulfilled all the criteria," said Dr. Sharma here while felicitating Mr. Bhoi.

Naveen launches 22 projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR

In an effort to take his government's 'Make in Odisha' initiative to a new height, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 22 new projects through video conferencing from the capital city on Wednesday.

The projects involve total investment of ₹4,461.42 crore and are expected to create employment opportunities for 9,451 people.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Patnaik assured the companies of complete facilitation support from the State government. "These projects will usher in the next era of industrial growth in the State and will contribute

towards the vision of an industrially prosperous State."

Odisha has a vision of becoming one of the top three investment destinations in the country in terms of grounded investments, said the Chief Minister. "Towards achieving this vision, we have devised the '5T' strategy in which transformation goals will be achieved through teamwork, transparency and technology enablers in a time-bound manner."

The Chief Minister also released a coffee table book 'Make in Odisha 2018'. Minister of State for Industries Divya Shankar Mishra and senior officials also spoke on

a 15

 \bigcirc [

MU removes guest teacher

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Manipur University has abruptly terminated the service of a guest faculty for his alleged link with a political party.

MU Registrar W. Chandbabu Singh had on Tuesday served the order to Ningombam Bupenda Meitei, who was on June 26 appointed a guest faculty at the Department of Philosophy for six months. The termination of service was on the 46th day of his teaching at the university. Mr. Meitei declined to comment. Some academicians in Imphal said that he was hounded out for adhering to the Nehruvian



Ningombam Bupenda Meitei ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Registrar's order said Mr. Meitei's service was terminated as he had failed to reply to queries whether he was a primary member and designated spokesperson of any political party. Mr. Meitei has been associated with the Congress in Manipur.

EDUCATIONAL

Career Launcher

Prelims

Test

CLASSIFIEDS MART

THEMAHINDU

LET US KNOW

TO ADVERTISE: www.thehinduads.com 011-43579738 • 43579797





सामान्य अध्ययन बेच प्रारंभ

VENUE: ALS, Vardhman Plaza, Nehru Vihar 9999343999, 9910602288, 27651110

BAGH 2020-21 **PUSAROAD**

BATCHES BEGIN MORNING

BATCH **EVENING BATCH**

GS OPEN SESSION YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

12-14 Aug > 11:30AM

Venue: 20 Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, Opposite Metro Pillar No. 97, Delhi-110005

EDUCATIONAL

For CSE,2020 get guided and evaluated in flexible online mode by

Ex-UPSC Examiners to get a distinct edge in **Ethics & Essay**

-Authoritative, update full Ethics course material(succinct, yet comprehensive) -Innovative Essay Synopses & Conceptual framework of different aspects of an essay -Evaluation based on Nigavekar Committee

parameters

-Relative Performance Report Card -More edge in less time at a nominal fee Offered by genuine scholars

To hedge you against any potential risk, we have the following:

-Option to withdraw from our programs after 40 days with refund of **70% of fee** - Refund of **100% of fee** in case of our non-delivery on our promise

Enroll before 31st August at a discounted fee of only Rs 7000/-(inclusive of GST 18%) For details, log on to

www.skylarkias.com



Pioneer in Essay Course Last Batch: 10th August Sharp at 6:00 pm

IAS ACADEMY

VIJETHA IAS ACADEMY

UPSC Syllabus precisely lecturedQuality Interactive & Constructive discussion Daily learning thru Answer writing

Weekly evaluation thru Consistent Tests ☑ 40 Practice Tests* ☑ Study Material & Reference Sources ✓ Mains 2020 Test Series* Add.: 7/50, II[®] Floor, Near Roop Vatika, Shankar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar. New Delhi-60 011-42473555, 7678508541 © 9650852636

SOCIOLOGY

EDUCATIONAL

By Vivek Bhardvaj

Open Seminar:

FOR FREE SEMINAR REGISTER



IAS EXAM **OPTIONAL**

www.blisspointstudies.com

9811343411, 9811343938, 9811343464



नि: शुल्क कार्यशाला के साथ बैच प्रारम्भ

PUBLIC NOTICE 9810172345, 9811583851

We Provide Best Notes for IAS Prelims ZU19 FROM OUR NOTES Watch Proof on Live Video on BestCurrentAffairs.com) BestCurrentAffairs.com

EDUCATIONAL MANAVA BHARATI NURSERY TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE New Delhi-17 Tel.: 26013749 Application forms available for management seats in **DPSE/NTT Course** 2019-21 From 04 Aug. to 13 Aug.'19 Only eligible candidates as per SCERT norms may apply. Filled up forms deposit upto 13th August'19 at 4.30 p.m.

40 Tests ₹999 **GS + CSAT** ₹50,000 Old Rajendra Nagar Center

AIR 1 in UPSC Civil Services 2017, 2015 & 2013! 9999-136-114 www.careerlauncher.com/ups

at our

Office Timing: 09 am to 03 pm

INTERNATIONAL LAND DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD. B-418, New Friends Colony, Delhi-110025

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas , M/s International Land Developers Pvt. Ltd, are in the process of undertaking of development of a Colony in Sector-36, Sohna, Distt. Gurugran over an area measuring 10.53125 acres in the revenue estate of Villagi Hariyahara in accordance with the license granted for a Group Housing Colony Licence No. 89 of 2013 dated 23.10.2013 by Director, Town & Country Planning Haryana Chandigarh.

And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of flat in the said colony (hereinafter referred as

And whereas, the layout plan earlier approved at the time of grant of license fo the said colony is now proposed to be revised on account of request made by M/s International Land Developers Pvt. Ltd. for Migration of 10.53125 Acres of land in Rect. No. 46//3/2 (5-17), 4/1 (3-8), 7/2 (3-8), 8(8-0), 13(8-0), 14/1 (3-8), 17/2 min(3-2), 18/2 min(4-9), 19/1min(0-13), 46//4/2(4-12), 5/1(4-16), 6/2(5-0), 7/1(4-12), 14/2(4-12), 15/1(5-0), 16/2(5-0), 17/1(4-12), 25/1/1min(2-17), 46//5/2min(0-16), 25/1/2(2-3) Total Area 84 Kanal 5 Mark i.e. 10.53125 Acres at Sector-36, Sohna, Distt. Gurugram for grant of license Jnder Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna, 2016.

And whereas, the office of Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of layout plan and grant of license Under Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna, as a precondition for allowing such revision in the layout plan.

Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony of the revision of the layout plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved layout plan bearing no. LC-2754/Licence No. 89 of 2013 dated 23.10.2013 & the layout plan now proposed to be revised bearing no. LC-4087-Asstt(AK)-2019/ 18870 dated 6th August 2019 is available for perusal on our websité i.e. www.ild.co.in. The said layout plan can also be perused at the office of undersigned at as well as in the office of District Town lanner (Planning) Gurugram.

Any allottee having any objection on the proposed revision in the approved layout plan, may file his objection in the office of District Town Planner Gurugram within 15 days of the publication of this notice, falling which it shall be assumed that here are no objections to the proposed revision in the layout plan.

Shahid Ali Khan Authorised Signatory Place: Gurugram M/s International Land Developers Pvt. Ltd

9999648884, 9891990011

Optional

10thAug @12.00pm **BATCH BEGINS: 13TH AUG.**

@www.pabulumias.com

09711713852,011-41661163 | pabulumias@gmail.com F-9, Katwaria Sarai,NewDelhi16

^ыRavindra N. Jha **REGULAR BATCH & TEST SERIES OFFLINE & ONLINE BOTH**

REGULAR BATCH & TEST SERIES

BLISS POINT STUDIES



बारा धर्मेन्द्र सर

A General Body Meeting of the Society is scheduled to be held on 08.09.2019 at 11:00 AM in the Chairman office of the society. Detailed letter also have been sent to each member separately. Kindly attend in time. Gordhan Das Sharma (Secretary) मुखर्जी नगर (पोस्ट ऑफिस के ऊपर)

Floods paralyse Kolhapur, Sangli; 1.32 lakh evacuated

16 dead in western Maharashtra in one week; CM orders survey of crop damage; Army, Navy, Air Force, NDRF teams engaged in rescue operations; bus services affected

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Over one lakh people from 20,000 families have been moved to safety as local residents, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and the Armed forces are pulling out all the stops to rescue those stuck in waterlogged areas in Kolhapur and Sangli districts. The districts are experiencing the worst deluge since 2005

Sixteen people in five districts - Pune, Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli and Solapur - in western Maharashtra have lost their lives over the past week, while 1.32 lakh people from these districts were evacuated till Wednesday, Pune Divisional Commissioner Deepak Mhaisekar said.

"As many as 51,785 people were moved to safe areas in Kolhapur, while 53,228 were shifted in Sangli district. In addition, 13,336 from Pune, 7,749 from Solapur district, and 6.262 from Satara district have been evacuated," Mr. Mhaisekar said. A total of 201 medical teams are working in the three most-afflicted districts of Kolhapur, Satara and Sangli.

Chairing an emergency meeting in Mumbai, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said rescuing women, children and patients is the priority, and directed the administration of the flood-hit districts to make alternative arrangements for food, essential items, and drinking water.

"I have directed for an immediate survey of crop damage. We will expand relief operations as and when required. At present, we are trying to mobilise maximum number of NDRF teams and those from the Armed forces. We have brought in NDRF teams from Gujarat and Odisha to focus on Kolhapur district where the situation is critical, while the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard teams are doing their best to rescue those strand-

ed," Mr. Fadnavis said. Mr. Mhaisekar said four



Staying afloat: Locals rescuing an old woman from floodwater at Renuka Mandir road, Kasba Bavada, in Kolhapur on Wednesday. • DEEPAK KUMBHAR

teams of the Territorial Army are engaged in rescue operations in Kolhapur and one team has reached Sangli. While six NDRF teams are already in action in Kolhapur, six more are on their way by road. One Navy team is in operation in Kolhapur. "Air connectivity has been

established over Kolhapur since Wednesday morning with five more Navy teams to be dispatched via air over the district. In addition, three NDRF teams have reached Sangli while three more are en route. As of now, 29 boats in Kolhapur, 43 in Sangli, and 17 in Satara have been pressed into service to evacuate people," he said, adding Pune divisional officials are in touch with the administration of the afflicted districts and the neighbouring Karnataka.

The deluge has completely thrown State Transport bus services in Kolhapur and Sangli out of gear. With 89 roads in Kolhapur under water, the district is completely

cut off from the rest of Maha-

"We have had to shut down traffic along the Pune-Bengaluru Highway owing to excess flooding in at least three places between Pune and Kolhapur. Likewise, we have lost contact with the Belagavi side owing to the deluge. Bus services to Kolhapur and Sangli have been suspended due to flooding with the bus stand in Sangli submerged," Mr. Mhai-

With the Panchganga river touching 54 feet mark and the Krishna waters wreaking havoc in Sangli, residential and government buildings, including commissionerates, collectors' residences, and jails, are half-submerged.

Rescue operations are under way in urban and the backwater areas of Kolhapur and Sangli.

Video clips of a courageous ambulance driver wading through the floodwater in Kolhapur to rescue a man in need of medical attention went viral, as did one of a

boat ferrying some women which capsized near the Venus Corner roundabout in Kolhapur city. There were no casualties in either case.

Dairy business in the region is severely hit while a number of poultry farms have gone under water in some places. With major dairy operators like Gokul, Warana and Chitale being compelled to shut operations, western Maharashtra is expected to face a severe milk shortage in the coming days.

The condition of the livestock is appalling with no fodder for those stranded. However, authorities said a number of farmers, anticipating the crisis and anxious to prevent a repeat of the massive loss of livestock in the 2005 floods, had already begun to shift animals before Kolhapur and Sangli being flooded.

"As per data, 16,633 livestock in Sangli have been moved to safe zones," Abhijeet Chaudhari , Collector,

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rain for Kolhapur in the next 48 hours. "From Wednesday night till forenoon of August 9, we expect heavy to very heavy showers to hit the ghat areas, including Kolhapur. The rain over Sangli has relaxed in contrast, with light to moderate rain expected on Thursday," Anupam Kashyapi, head, weather and air pollution

Warning for Pune

monitoring unit, IMD, said.

However, Mr. Kashyapi said Pune district will again witness heavy rain in some parts, especially in the ghat areas from August, and that a high alert has been issued in this regard.

"We expect extremely heavy, record breaking rainfall of 20.5 cm a day, in the ghat areas of Pune district over the next 48 hours. This may prompt a discharge from the dams yet again," he said, adding the situation will improve from August 11.

Govt. has learned nothing from deluge in 2005, says Raju Shetti



In safe hands: A member of the district disaster management team shifting a newborn out of Chikhali village on the outskirts of Kolhapur on Wednesday. • ABHIJEET GURJAR

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Swabhimani Paksha chief Raju Shetti has hit out at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for his government's unpreparedness and tardy response to the floods in Sangli and Kolhapur districts in western Maharashtra.

Speaking to The Hindu from his residence in floodhit Hatkanangale in Kolhapur, the former MP accused Mr. Fadnavis of failing to gauge the seriousness of the crisis, while stating that BJP leader and Kolhapur Guardian Minister Chandrakant Patil is nowhere to be seen.

The farmers' leader alleged that the administration has learnt no lessons from the 2005 experience. "The deluge of 2005 was considered the worst in western Maharashtra for a century. But the present situation is grimmer than that. Sangli and Kolhapur are inundated with waist-deep water and people can only navigate and help in rescue operations through boats. But 40% of the boats in the districts are dysfunctional."

Mr. Shetti chastised Mr. Fadnavis for failing to mobilise rescue teams earlier and seeking help from the Army, Navy and Air Force only when the situation became critical. He said the inclement

weather is preventing rescue teams from reaching farflung villages in Kolhapur district. "When this region was affected in 2005, the then Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh had secured help from the Armed forces well in advance and had personally visited the flood-hit zones. However, with no break in rains and the discharge of excess water from dams continuing, the Army is facing difficulties in rescuing people marooned in the backwater villages as roads and rail routes in Kolhapur been rendered inaccessible"

Instead, he said, the CM was busy on his pre-election

'Mahajanadesh Yatra', and the government has woken up to the crisis only now.

Mr. Patil said it is improper for the Opposition to play politics over floods while stating that he is trying to reach Kolhapur at the earliest opportunity.

"While Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara have been ravaged by floods, the situation in Kolhapur is critical. It is difficult to enter the district as it is cut off from all four sides. Even military helicopters were forced to turn back on Tuesday," Mr. Patil said in Mumbai.

He said he is coordinating with the administration of the three districts and reviewing the situation. "I am in touch with the Collectors of the affected areas over phone, reviewing the situation every half an hour. As of now, 40 boats in Kolhapur and 10 in Sangli have been pressed into service. All necessary provisions like milk + and drinking water are being reached out to the flood-hit."

Assembly polls: State defers campus elections

Cabinet amends Maharashtra Public Universities Act

SHARAD VYAS MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has deferred campus elections in the State citing a law and order situation in the run-up to the Assembly elections. The government had decided to hold campus elections nearly 25 years after they were last held in colleges across the State, but the Maharashtra Police have given a less-than-favourable report on the possibility of holding the polls in September, said Higher and Technical Education Minister Vinod Tawde.

The Cabinet on Wednesday amended the Maharashtra Public Universities Act

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav

Thackeray on Wednesday ex-

pressed grief over the "irrep-

arable loss" his family has

suffered following the de-

mise of former external af-

fairs minister Sushma Swa-

raj, whom party patriarch

Bal Thackeray had once

backed as the NDA's prime

Swaraj, the veteran BJP

leader, died in New Delhi on

Tuesday after suffering car-

diac arrest. She was 67. Mr.

Thackeray said Swaraj's

death marks an end of a "res-

plendent era" in Indian polit-

ics. He recalled that his fath-

er shared an affectionate

rapport with the BJP leader.

with his family remained the

same even after his father's

He said Swaraj's rapport

ministerial face.

which would allow the go vernment to push forward elections in case of a law and order emergency or calamity and natural disaster. The government has already deployed as many as six companies of Central Reserve Police Force in Jammu and Kashmir by pulling them out of Naxal-hit regions.

The Hindu had reported earlier this week that in a letter to the Maharashtra Cabinet, senior security officials had said there is a shortage of troops due to the ongoing situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the forthcoming Assembly elections in October. Mr. Tawde said some chancellors and senior police officials have provided inputs suggesting holding elections would not be possiauct was in place for the Assembly polls. Thereafter, the inputs were forwarded to the Maharashtra Home Department, which has done its own assessment of the emerging scenario. "I want to ensure students the elections are not being cancelled but only deferred. The police manpower and machinery will be busy in the Assembly polls and it will be impossible for them to make arrangements for the student polls," said Mr. Tawde

on the Cabinet decision. The latest amendments have been forwarded to the Governor and he is likely to give his assent at the earliest. Once the Governor signs the amendment, the State government will release a new date for the campus elec-

2016 to include provisions ble when the code of contions, Mr. Tawde said. The year as well, but Mr. Tawde clarified it was because of a delay in planning of the polling schedule. "The statute itself was not ready last year, but our government has ensured it is prepared in less than a year. We are in favour of the elections since it will help determine evolved voters and candidates across the State. We assure that we will hold them after the Assembly elections," said Mr. Tawde. University elections in the State were banned in 1993 following the murder of a law student in 1989. Under the new norms passed earlier this year, the government has barred candidates from political parties from contesting or using any sym-

EDUCATIONAL

Most Trusted since 2009 **CAREER QUEST** INTERVIEW B PO Int/GD C AAO Interv. CIntry.

Attend Free Session with **Sanjeev Kabeer** sir <u>www.careerquest.co.in</u> Career Institute for Interview Training, Delhi Call: 09811299811 & 09990840999

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

public that the Vat 47 bearing the no. 9665456, 9665457 (Original, the Commercial Tax Officer, Circle-F Commercial Tax Department, Jaipur have been lost. If any person/s who Ifinds it, is requested to return the same to us at below mention

nexG Devices Private Limited 1674, Jailal Munshi Lane, Chandpole Bazar, Jaipur-302001

PUBLIC NOTICE
t is Publically notified that residential Flat No 24, Block-H, Sector-12, Noida, Distr. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., allottee of Mr. Indroos Janusdeen S/o Mr. M. Adroos R/o E-101, Print

House, Sector-6, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budl Nagar U.P., had sold on the basis of Gener Power of Attorney to the following persons
The General Power of attorney was
registered on dated 21.02.1991, in the name
of Mr. Naim Ahamad S/o Mr. Sageer Ahamac R/o 57-K, Kaissawan Budhana, Dist Muzaffarnagar, U.P., and agreement to sell is execute in her favour which is not registered. Because an agreement to sell is no registered so it is publically notified that the transfer of the property bearing Flat No. 24 Block-H, Sector-12, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., is going to be transfer in the name of Mr. Shamim S/o Late Bashir R/o 546 Jaula, Distt. Muzaffarnagar U.P., if some one has any objection he/she file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Housing Department (H) of the Noida Authority with in 15 days from the date of publication of this

CLASSIFIEDS MART SITUATION VACANT



English Medium

हिन्दी माध्यम Skills Desired:

✓ Understanding of the requirement of UPSC Excellent Communication skills with positive attitude

end your updated resume to recruitment@visionias.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Inderjeet Tehlan resident of 1420-P, Sector-57, Gurugram, Haryana has severed my all relations and disowned my son MANISH TEHLAN and his wife SANGEETA TEHLAN from my all movable and immovable properties due to their misconduct and bad activities. I, shall not be responsible for any wrongful and illegal act in future. Any person(s) deals with them shall be self

responsible.

Real Time Governance Society (RTGS)

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Block 1, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi, Guntur. Request for Proposal - Call Notice for

Real Time Governance Society invites Request for Proposals (RFP) for "Selection of Suppliers for supply of equipment to the Village volunteer in the State of Andhra Pradesh".

(i) Equipment set 1 : Finger Print Scanner + Iris Scanner (ii) Equipment set 2 : Handheld Device + GSM SIMs

The main objective of this RFP is to select eligible supplier(s) for supply of above mentioned equipment to Village / Ward Volunteers and Village Ward Secretariat functionaries in Andhra Pradesh, along with support for a period of 3 years.

Time Schedule of Proposal related various events :

Description	Date and Time
Release of Request for Proposal (RFP)	Thursday, August 8th, 2019, 11:00 hrs
Last Date for Submission of online Questions by bidders	Monday, 12 th August, 2019, 5:00 pm hrs
Pre-Bid Conference	Tuesday 13th August 2019, 11:00 hrs, O/o. 4th Floor, Commissioner Panchayat Raj, Tadepalli, Guntur (DT)
Date of Issue of Clarifications	Thursday 15th August 2019, 5:00 PM hrs
Last Date for Submission of bids	Wednesday 28th August 2019, 3:00 PM hrs
RFP Document Cost	Rs.5,00,000 (in words Five Lakhs only)
Innue al leur	

Real Time Governance Society (RTGS)

On behalf of Commissioner, Panchayat Raj and Rural Developmen Department ("PRRD") and Commissioner, Municipal Administration and Urban Development ("MAUD"), Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The complete set of bid documents is available online on the below mentioned websites from **08-Aug-2019** at **2.00 PM.** IST onwards. (i) http://www.rtgs.ap.gov.in/ - RTGS website.

(ii) http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in - AP eProcurement website. Sd/- CEO, RTGS DIPR 82PP/CL, Dt: 07-08-2019



नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण वैबसाइट∶www.noidaauthorityonline.com शुद्धिपत्र

Job No: 04/Manager System/Courier Service/2019-20 के निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने की

तिथि 24.07.2019 से 05.08.2019 थी, निविदा की Prequalification खोलने की तिथि 06.08.2019 अंकित की गई थी। अपरिहार्य कारणों में उक्त निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना में निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने की तिथि एवं निविदा की Prequalification खोलने की

तिथि की प्रक्रिया को निम्नानुसार संशोधित किया जाता है:– ि निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने की तिथि दिनाँक 14.08.2019 तक बढ़ायी जाती है ।

दिनाँक 24.07.2019 को इस समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित निविदा आमत्रण सूचना मे

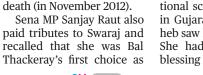
• निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की तिथि 16.08.2019 अपराहन 3.00 बजे, प्राप्त निविदाओं की Prequalification खोलने की तिथि 16.08.2019 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे | Pre-qualification में सफल निविदाकारों की Price bid खोलने की तिथि से पृथक रूप से सचित कर दिया जायेगा।

पूर्व में प्रकाशित निविदा प्रपत्र में उल्लिखित अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। जिन . नेविदाकारों द्वारा पूर्व में निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय किये गये हैं उन्हें निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। प्रबन्धक सिस्टम, नौएडा

स्वच्छ, हरित, सकुशल, सुरक्षित नौएडा

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

NOTICE INVITING TENDER rate single bids for the tender from the electrical contractors registered under eligible class in SDMC/NDMC/EDMC for a street light pole work vide NIT No 02/TC/EEE/NGZ/SDMC/2019-2020 dated:- 07.08.2019 Tender Amount:-Rs. 2,90,77,107/-. Tender Cost:- 1500/- Earnest Money:- 5,99,000/- Star date for sale of tender documents:- 07.08.2019, Last Date 22.08.2019 Any corrigendum with respect to the mentioned tenders shall be uploade online only. No separate press publicity will be done for this. All details are available on: www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER. The contact No- 011-28013254 R.O. No. 33/DPI/S/2019-20 EEE/NGZ





Bal Thackeray once backed Swaraj for PM's post: Raut

A file photo of Sushma Swaraj and Bal Thackeray.

the prime ministerial contender, when current Prime Minister Narendra Modi had still not emerged on the national scene and was active in Gujarat politics. "Balasaheb saw her as a firm leader. She had thanked him for blessing her. Such was their

regional news channel. The Sena founder, in an in-

terview to Mr. Raut carried in party mouthpiece Saamana in September 2012, had said, "At present, there is only one person who is intelligent, brilliant – Sushma Swaraj."

relationship," Mr. Raut told a

Gujarat govt., BJP cancel all programmes

bol, officials said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Gujarat government and the ruling BJP have cancelled all their programmes scheduled for Wednesday in view of the death of senior party leader and former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj. The government was supposed to organise a grand event in Gandhinagar on Wednesday to celebrate Chief Minister Vijay Rupani's three years in office.

However, the programme has been cancelled following Swaraj's death, a government release said.

The ruling BJP has also cancelled its various engagements, including the ongoing membership drive, scheduled for Wednesday.

Orthodox Church serves ultimatum to Kerala govt.

Frustrated by an 'abdication of intent' by the Kerala government in implementing the Supreme Court orders in the Malankara Church case, the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church on Wednesday served an ultimatum on the government asking it to implement the orders within a period of seven days. In a letter dispatched to the Chief Secretary, Biju Oommen, church secretary said the government allowed parallel administration and religious services by unlawful priests. and gave police protection to the dissident Patriarch group to occupy parish churches.

A.P. govt. extends ban on Maoists by one more year

The Andhra Pradesh government has extended the ban on the CPI(Maoist) and seven of its front organisations for one year under the A.P. Public Security Act, 1992. Except the Revolutionary Democratic Front, the ban on other organisations has been extended with effect from August 17, 2019. The ban on the RDF will be extended with effect from August 9,

Overnight traffic ban in Bandipur will stay, rules SC

Centre told to file affidavit on long-term solution

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the continuation of the overnight traffic ban on the national highway running through the core area of the Bandipur tiger reserve. A Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman asked the Centre to come up with a permanent solution which would keep the endangered species away from harm by exposing them to highway traffic. Highways do not have a place in the core tiger habitats and their buffer zones,

"There is a need to strengthen another route. We direct the Union government's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forest to file

the court said.



Red signal: Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have supported the overnight traffic ban in Bandipur. • FILE РНОТО

an affidavit within four weeks with suggestions on closure of it in the long run," the Bench said.

The court said it is a necessity to accept the recommendation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority to continue with the overnight traffic ban.

Senior advocate Jaideep Gupta said the highway is not a thoroughfare for holidayers. Much-needed essential supplies from Mysuru to Kerala go through it. The

ban affected the flow of inter-State trade, commerce and tourism. "This is not a question of pleasure drive. This is essential for movement of goods. The ban was causing widespread unrest in the State," he submitted.

Senior advocate Basava P. Patil, for Karnataka, submitted that an alternative route is being developed at a cost of approximately over ₹70 crore. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have supported the ban to protect ecology.

Class X student held in hostel murder case

STAFF REPORTER

The Krishna district police on Wednesday took a Class 10 student of the Government BC Welfare Hostel in Andhra Pradesh into custody for allegedly killing Dasari Aditya, 7, who was staying in the same hostel.

Aditya, studying in Class 3, was found dead in the bathroom of the hostel on Tuesday.

The 15-year-old boy allegedly killed Aditya by slitting his throat with a knife used for sharpening pencils, the police said.

Aditya and the senior student clashed a couple of days ago and Aditya reportedly abused him. Taking this as an insult, the senior planned to take revenge. He allegedly took Aditya into the bathroom and strangulated him. To confirm his death, he slit his throat leaving him in a pool of blood and returned to his room. The victim died after some time, the police said.

Rivers flow above danger level in north Karnataka

With no let up in the rain, flood situation worsens

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With no let up in the rain and increased outflow from the reservoirs in the Krishna basin in both Maharashtra and north Karnataka, the flood situation in the northern districts of Karnataka only worsened on Wednes-

Rivers in these districts are flowing above the danger level, and their tributaries and rivulets too are in spate.

Water from Maharashtra As of Wednesday morning, Maharashtra released 45.2 tmcft of water from its seven reservoirs in the Koyna and Warna basin and the inflow into Karnataka was estimated at 5,18,567 cusecs, according to irrigation engineers.

In Belagavi alone, over 30 bridges and barrages have submerged owing to the in-



creased water levels in all major rivers and tributaries.

The woes of Belagavi district further increased on Wednesday with a rise in water discharge from the Malaprabha (Renukasagar) reservoir at Naviluteerth in Savadatti taluk. The Malaprabha waters entered the streets, houses and shops in Munavalli town downstream. Ghataprabha river surrounded the town of Gokak and its surroundings.

The National Highway 48 remained blocked owing to a landslip near Kolhapur and flooding at several places. The two roads to Goa via Chorla and Amboli have also been shut.

Centre for 'amicable' solution to Mekedatu

Karnataka-proposed project refused clearance by Environment Ministry

MOHIT M. RAO

The contentious Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir project, which aims to augment the Cauvery water supply to Bengaluru much to the opposition of Tamil Nadu, has not been granted clearance by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

Apart from voicing environmental concerns over the submergence of 52.5 sqkm of forest land, including core areas of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) on River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects constituted by



The project intends to divert 4.75 tmcft of drinking water towards the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region. • FILE РНОТО

the MoEF has said the proposal can be reconsidered only after Tamil Nadu and Karnataka reach an "amicable solution.'

While the EAC meeting was conducted on July 19, the minutes were released recently. Karnataka had sought granting of Terms of

Reference (ToR), which is the first stage of the environmental clearance process, for the ₹9,000-crore project. The project intends to divert 4.75 tmcft of drinking water towards the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region and for the generation of 400 MW of hydro-electric energy.

The Tamil Nadu government has sought scrapping of the project through multiple legal and political fora while Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Tuesday requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to grant permission to build the balancing reservoir.

Sister Lucy Kalapura, who joined stir against Bishop Franco, sacked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Catholic religious order Franciscan Clarist Congregation has dismissed one of its members, Sister Lucy Kalapura, through a decree dated May 11.

A resident of Franciscan Clarist convent at Mananthawady in Wayanad, Sister Lucy shot into popularity after participating in a protest in Kochi against Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar, who was accused of raping a nun.

The protest, which lasted for over a fortnight, ended with the arrest of Bishop Mu-



Sister Lucy Kalapura

lakkal. The Clarists had accused Sister Lucy of living a life against the style and substance of the Congregation. The letter claimed that the dismissal followed Sister Lucy's failure to heed "canonical warnings." She did not

show "the needed remorse" and "failed to give satisfactory explanation for a lifestyle that was "in violation of the proper law of the FCC."

The Clarist Congregation said Sister Lucy could appeal within 10 days of receiving the dismissal order, issued on August 5 by Superior General Ann Joseph, to the Congregation for Oriental Churches, whereupon the dismissal would stand suspended.

Meanwhile, Sister Lucy has said that the action against her is inhuman and she will fight it legally.

⁺ Nod to regularise buildings in Idukki

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Kerala Cabinet has decided to ask the Idukki District Collector to prepare a report on the encroachments in the district and regularise buildings having an area up to 1,500 sq ft located on titled land up to 15 cents and being used for own purposes.

The building owners should not have property anywhere else.

The Land Assignment Rules, 1964, would be amended for regularising the buildings. Building owners in this segment who are using it for commercial purposes will have to prove that it is their sole means of live-

The Collector would examine each case and submit it for government decision.

Land to be taken over The Cabinet also decided to cancel the title-deeds of commercial buildings that did not fall in the above category, takeover the land and buildings and vest it with the government. It would be leased out as the rules in force.

Constructions on encroached government land without title-deeds would be taken over and used for public purposes. A fivemember committee was appointed for scrutinising the title-deeds that were deemed as counterfeit, but were approved by the government. These title-deeds were issued by a tahsildar, Ravindran, earlier.

The committee has been told to complete the scrutiny in a time-bound manner so that the follow-up action could be completed in three months.

Since the Munnar Tribunal has been wound up, the pending cases would be transferred to the courts from where they originated. An ordinance would be promulgated in this regard.

In full bloom



The glass house in Bengaluru's Lalbagh is being readied for the Independence Day flower show. This year a tribute will be paid to Maharaja Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar on his birth centenary. The flower show will commence on August 9. •v. Sreenivasa Murthy

Farmers' loan: moratorium + extended to December 31

Decision taken at meet by Kerala CM

l'he moratorium on Ioan recovery proceedings against farmers in Kerala, which expired on July 31, has been extended till December 31

The decision was finalised at a meeting convened by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials and bankers on Wednesday.

The RBI had written to its regional office here stating that the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) can decide on the State government's request to extend the moratorium.

In reality, the number of farmers whose loans were rescheduled before the deadline set for the purpose ended on December 31, 2018, is relatively low.

Nonetheless, Wednesday's decision would also cover farmers whose loans had not been rescheduled. Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar said.

A decision was taken on Wednesday enabling them to apply for fresh loans after remitting the interest amount on the outstanding loan amount, the Minister said.

Recovery proceedings would not be initiated against defaulters without the approval of district-level sub-committees jointly formed by the SLBC and the Agriculture Department.

Now operational in the Idukki and Wayanad districts, the sub-committees would be formed in other districts within a week, the Minister said.

"Recovery notices issued by banks must be cleared by the sub-committee first," the Agriculture Minister said

Kerala Cabinet nod for rail alignment

The train will cover the 532 km from Kochuveli to Kasaragod in four hours

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The Cabinet has given clearance for the alignment of the ambitious ₹56,443-crore semi-high speed rail (SHSR) corridor from Kochuveli to Kasaragod for traversing 532 km in four hours.

The third and fourth railway lines of the State will be away from the existing one in the 300-km Kochuveli-Shoranur section and parallel to the line from Thirunavaya to Kasaragod, with railway bypasses at Vadakara and Thalaserry. It will traverse 11 districts, except Alappuzha, Idukki and Wayanad.

The alignment mooted in the feasibility report by the Paris-based engineering and consulting group Systra was



presented to the Ministers on Wednesday morning by V. Ajith Kumar, Managing Director, Kerala Railway Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), the special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up to execute 'viable' projects

on a cost-sharing basis between the State and Railways. The train will move at 200 km an hour to cover the

north-south rail corridor with stops at Kochuveli, Kollam, Chengannur, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Tirur, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod. The fare would be ₹2.75 a

km with an annual hike of 7.5 per cent, Mr. Kumar told The Hindu. The train can ferry 675 passengers and the coach will have a three-plustwo configuration, with a business class. Only 1,226.45 hectares would have to be acquired

for laying the track and building stations and 6,395 structures/families will be af-Act, 1952. fected. Systra has found the third and fourth green corridor - to be completed by 2024 – and dedicated railway lines to the Thiruvananthapuram and Cochin international airports with railway stations for inter-modal transport 'financially

Act can't regulate online content, says HC

'Transfer of files or films through Internet won't come under Cinematograph Act'

cation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday held that films, serials and other multimedia contents transmitted, broadcast or exhibited through Internet platforms like YouTube, Google India, and online streaming platforms like Hotstar, Amazon Prime, Netflix and Alt Digital, could not be regulated under the Cinematograph

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Mohammad Nawaz passed the order while rejecting a plea made in a PIL petition filed by Padmanabh Shankar, a resident of Bengaluru.

While pointing out that children were being affected



government would find a solution if the petitioner submits a representation.

due to unregulated content transmitted through online platforms, the petitioner had sought a declaration from the court that films, serials, and other multimedia content transmitted through online platforms require certifiCinematograph Act till a suitable legislation is made to regulate them. It was also contended in the petition that the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Cable Television Network Regulation Act, 1995 are silent with regard to broadcast or transmission of films, cinema, serials and other multimedia through contents Internet. The Bench said that going

under

the

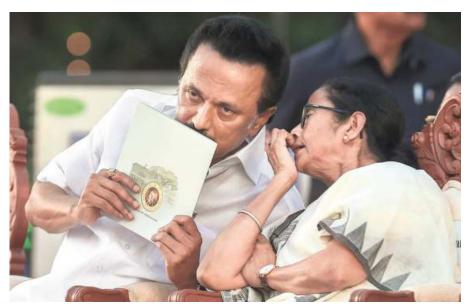
by the concept of Internet and its operation, the act of exhibition of films, serials and other content perhaps amounted to transfer of files based on requests by users, and hence it was not possible to accept that transfer of files or films, serials through the Internet came under the graph Act. However, the Bench observed that the anxiety of

purview of the Cinemato-

the petitioner, who is a senior citizen, that films, serials and other multimedia content transmitted through Internet platforms would have an adverse impact on children could be well understood. While observing that the concern expressed by the petitioner merited consideration by the Union government, the Bench said it hoped that the Union government, considering a larger public interest, would find a solution within the four corners of the law if the petitioner submitted a representation seeking regulation of content of online streaming platforms.

'Whereabouts of Kashmir leaders a concern'

Mamata says the people of a State should be taken into confidence before making any decision in connection with the State



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with DMK president M.K. Stalin at a meeting to mark the first death anniversary of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi. • PTI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Reiterating that the people of a State should be taken into confidence before making any decision in connection with the State, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee on Wednesday expressed concern over the whereabouts of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba

Ms. Banerjee, who was in Chennai to attend a public meeting marking the first death anniversary of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M. Karunanidhi and to unveil his statue at the office of the party mouthpiece Murasoli, said

she had expected Mr. Farooq Abdullah to be there at the

"He should have attended the meeting. I thought I should talk to him. But he is not able to come. Yesterday, I saw a video, and if I am correct, he was crying. He was not able to visit even his daughter's house. I do not know what is happening," she said.

Ms. Banerjee said a political party could take a decision in connection with a State, but should always take its people into confidence.

Recalling the battles waged by leaders like Karunanidhi, she said one could sacrifice their life, but not their mother tongue. She called for a fight against dictatorship and fascism.

DMK president M.K. Stalin said though Mr. Farooq Abdullah's name figured in the invitation, he could not attend the function because of the developments in Jammu and Kashmir. He had been under house arrest. Recalling the days when Sheikh Abdullah, father of Farooq Abdullah, was interned in Tamil Nadu, he said an attempt was being made to "rewrite the dark history".

Mr. Stalin said the DMK did not require any lesson on patriotism since it had stood for the unity of the country when it waged wars with its neighbours. "But the BJP is instigating communalism in the name of patriotism," he

India's first feature film - Da-

dasaheb Phalke's Raia Har-

ishchandra – is said to have

had its theatrical release in

1913 at the Coronation Cine-

matograph and Variety Hall,

The event is organised

Unlike this year, during

and presented by the govern-

ment's Directorate of Film

the previous Lok Sabha elec-

tion in 2014, the 61st National

film awards were announced

as per schedule on April 16

and presented on May 3.

Girgaon.

Festivals

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over coastal Karnataka, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, central Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Gujarat, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Sikkim and Odisha

IY	KAIN	IVIAX	IVITIN	CITY	KAIN	IVIAX	IVI I IV
gartala	2.9	34.0	26.7	Kozhikode	. 95.5	31.0	.24.4
hmedabad	0.3	31.0	26.7	Kurnool		31.0	.25.2
zawl		32.7	–	Lucknow	. 10.6	33.7	.25.0
llahabad	10.2	32.2	25.8	Madurai	0.7	37.0	.25.0
engaluru	2.0	25.4	21.1	Mangaluru	. 81.1	27.0	.24.1
nopal	9.0	27.3	24.4	Mumbai	8.0	29.3	.25.4
hubaneswar	43.4	30.7	24.8	Mysuru	. 27.6	26.0	.18.4
nandigarh	1.6	32.0	25.7	New Delhi	. 22.2	35.5	.25.6
nennai		34.5	28.3	Patna	. 12.0	33.4	.26.4
oimbatore	6.9	29.9	21.8	Port Blair	. 17.4	30.5	.25.5
ehradun	0.7	34.8	24.3	Puducherry		33.2	.25.5
angtok	34.4	21.2	19.0	Pune	6.2	25.6	.22.3
oa	29.9	28.0	23.6	Raipur	. 81.0	30.0	.25.2
uwahati		39.2	28.0	Ranchi	4.2	28.0	.22.4
ubballi		23.0	22.0	Shillong		26.5	.18.9
yderabad	2.7	28.7	22.9	Shimla	. 54.4	23.2	.17.0
nphal	1.0	28.5	22.5	Srinagar		33.1	.21.8
ipur	74.6	32.6	24.2	Thiruvananthapuram	. 22.2	29.2	.23.1
ochi	99.2	29.8	22.8	Tiruchi		35.7	.27.0
ohima		29.8	19.5	Vijayawada	1.3	30.7	.25.1
olkata	16.2	–	26.1	Visakhapatnam	. 18.8	27.2	.24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius) Pollutants in the air you are breathing

...99 ...25

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) **SO2:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by

reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes,

nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature



Order in 'scorpion' remark case on Aug. 27

A Delhi court on Wednesday reserved an order in a defamation case filed by Delhi BJP vice-president Rajeev Babbar against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor for his alleged 'scorpion' remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Additional chief metropolitan magistrate Samar Vishal reserved the order for August 27. Mr. Babbar has sought compensation of ₹5 crore.

Rail staff taken off duty over harassment charges

The Railways have suspended a train ticket examiner and taken a waiter off duty after a woman was allegedly molested by them on board the Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani Express. An acquaintance of the woman, who is a student, tweeted on Tuesday night alleging that the victim was drugged by the railway staff While the complainant did not file an FIR, details were taken from her over phone, the Railways said in a statement.

Niraputhari celebrated at Sabarimala temple

PATHANAMTHITTA The annual Niraputhari festival was celebrated with traditional fervour at Sabarimala on Wednesday. The Sannidhanam witnessed heavy rush in the morning as hundreds of devotees thronged the hillock to witness the annual ritual, which they believe would bring prosperity in the year ahead. The ritual began at 5.45 a.m. with the offering of fresh paddy spikes by devotees.

National film awards to be announced soon

They are likely to be out within a week; delay this year was caused due to the Lok Sabha election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Winners of the long-delayed and much-awaited 66th National film awards are likely to be announced soon with the jury meeting and deliberations having started on August 7 at New Delhi's Siri Fort auditorium.

"They will be announced within a week," said a source. The awards were postponed this year due to the Lok Sabha election. According to sources, the

non-feature film awards and

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

The Environment Mi-

nistry has unveiled a

draft plan that will dic-

tate how prospective in-

frastructure projects sit-

uated along the coast

ought to be assessed be-

fore they can apply for

mental and Social Man-

agement Framework

(ESMF) is part of a

The document lays

down guidelines for

coastal States to adopt

when they approve and

regulate projects in

assist the Government

of India in enhancing

coastal resource effi-

ciency and resilience,

by building collective

"The project seeks to

coastal zones.

Bank-funded

NEW DELHI

clearance.

World

project.

the best writing in cinema awards had been locked before the election.

On the other hand, though the viewings had been completed by the feature films jury, no deliberations had been done when the postponement was announced by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Even after the elections, the

coastal zone management

communities and de-

centralised governance)

for adopting and imple-

approaches," the intro-

duction to the report

notes. The document

was prepared by the So-

ciety for Integrated

Coastal Management, a

Ministry-affiliated body.

(ICZM) has to be a con-

tinuous process rather

than a "one-off" invest-

ment action, the report

So far three coastal

States, namely Gujarat,

Odisha and West Ben-

gal, have prepared Inte-

grated Coastal Zone

Management Plans with

support from the World

Such plans would be

Bank.

Integrated

(including

integrated

coastal

management

management

prepared for the select-

ed coastal stretches in

other States/UT, the

Proposed activities

The key activities pro-

posed for coastal zone

development that con-

sist of investments by

States include: man-

shelter beds, habitat

conservation activities

such as restoration of

sacred groves, develop-

ment of hatcheries,

rearing/rescue centres

for turtles and other

marine animals, crea-

tion of infrastructure

for tourism, restoration

and recharge of water

bodies, beach cleaning

and development, and

other small infrastruc-

ture facilities.

meadows,

sea-grass

eco-restoration

project notes.

Centre unveils plan for

It will lay down guidelines for coastal States

capacity

menting

coastal

could not be convened because two members of the feature films jury were out of the

'Power of media'

Earlier, in a press release dated April 24, the Ministry said that "since the Model Code of Conduct [MCC] is in force, which facilitates level playing field to all political

parties and the candidates and inter sure that the power of media is not used in such a manner which affects the general conduct and level playing field during the election process, it has been decided to declare the awards after the election process is over and the MCC concludes".

Designated date Every year the winners of

the awards are announced in The presentation ceremo-

ny is held on the designated date, May 3, which is when

Just 83 tmcft water from Godavari for Tamil Nadu

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

Tamil Nadu has been allotted 83 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of water under the proposed Godavari-Cauvery link, according to a draft detailed project report of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), a Central government organisation entrusted with the task of preparing proposals for link-

The allotment has not provided comfort to the State government, as Tamil Nadu has been demanding 200 tmcft of water, a quantity mentioned in a memorandum submitted by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June. A senior Tamil Nadu official, who is aware of the subject, said a letter will be sent soon, requesting the NWDA to revise the figure to at least 125-150 tmcft of water.

The report, which has been circulated to the States concerned for views, has also envisaged that 46 tmcft will be provided at the Grand

The State government would prefer the Kattalai barrage to the Grand Anaicut so that the diversion of water from Kattalai to Vaigai and Gundar basins in the southern districts of the State can be done smoothly, as the barrage is located at a higher elevation.

As per the current NWI sal, a total of 247 tmcft is sought to be diverted from the Godavari, through the Krishna river, to the Pennar basin. As much as 163 tmcft will be set apart for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and the balance will be given to Tamil Nadu.

Digital India Corporation

A section 8 Company of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, Electronics Niketan Annexe, 6, CGO Complex Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003, Tel.: +91 (11) 24360199, 24301756

RECRUITMENT

Technology Development and Deployment Division (TDDD) of Digital India Corporation requires Technical & Managerial persons with work experience for project work assignments, purely on contract basis on consolidated salary for fixed project duration to work at its offices at Nev Delhi and Mumbai

For more details, Application form etc.,

www.digitalindiacorporation.in Last date for receipt of applications: 26th August, 2019 Director (Admin & Finance)

Sundram Fasteners Limited

CIN: L35999TN1962PLC004943 Registered office: 98-A, VII Floor, Dr Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004

Tel: +91 - 44 - 28478500 | Fax: 91 - 44 - 28478510 Email: investorshelpdesk@sfl.co.in | Website: www.sundram.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS **FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019**

Standalone

(₹ in Crores)

Consolidated

			Stanua	ilone		Consolidated	
SI. No.	Particulars Particulars	Quarte	r ended	Year ended	Quarte	r ended	Year ended
NO.		30.06.2019	30.06.2018	31.03.2019	30.06.2019	30.06.2018	31.03.2019
		(Unau	(dited)	(Audited)	(Unau	ıdited)	(Audited)
1.	Total revenue from Operations	945.35	968.51	3,990.22	1,180.64	1,098.32	4,557.90
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax)	134.55	154.10	619.69	139.25	163.48	652.44
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax)	93.11	106.65	436.19	96.89	112.07	458.97
4.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	94.77	107.37	436.02	97.07	112.64	462.13
5.	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1/- each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01
6.	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of Re 1/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.)						
	(a) Basic	4.43	5.08	20.76*	4.55	5.31	21.77*
	(b) Diluted	4.43	5.08	20.76*	4.55	5.31	21.77*
	* Annualised						•

- 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- 3. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

and on the Company's website www.sundram.com.

For Sundram Fasteners Limited Sd/-

Tej Pratap is a drug addict, alleges wife

AMARNATH TEWARY

Tej Pratap Yadav, former State Health Minister and elder son of Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad, has been accused by his wife Aishwarya Rai of being a drug addict, who often dresses up like Radha, Krishna and Shiva claiming to be their avatar. She has also alleged "mental, physical and emotional" torture by him and members of his family.

Filing an application in the family court of Patna under Sections 18, 19 and 26 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Ms. Rai claimed that a few days into their marriage, she learnt that Mr. Tej Pratap "was addicted" to ganja (marijuana). "He told me that he considers himself to be an avatar of Lord Shiva and Lord Krishna," Ms. Rai said in her 18-page application. "On some days, he would completely transform himself and dress up like Radha, wearing a ghaghra-choli and lehenga [long skirt and blouse] sporting a wig and make-up all over his face," she said.

Ms. Rai continues to live at her in-laws' residence, 10 Circular Road, allotted to former Chief Minister and her mother-in-law Rabri Devi. She has requested the court for protection and permission for "private meetings with her family members." She also has requested the court to allow her to have a separate kitchen, keep her staff and live the kind of life the rest of the family lead in the house.

Ms. Rai's father Chandrika Rai is an RJD MLA and her grandfather Daroga Prasad Rai was a Chief Minister of Bihar.

Bidders Conference Kerala Water Authority is planning to introduce 24 x 7 Water Supply in the cities of

Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi at a cost of Rs. 1900 Crore with Ioan assistance of Asiar Development Bank (ADB) under the Kerala Urban Water Supply Improvement Project (KUWSIP). As part of this, a Bidders Conference is arranged from 10.00 AM onwards or 14.08.2019 at Mascot Hotel. Thiruvananthapuram. Tenders are not vet floated nterested bidders having experience in implementing 24 x 7 Water Supply Schemes similar projects are invited to participate in the meeting to understand the scope of the project and other details. The interested bidders who wish to participate in the conference shall mail the details to pmuadbkwa@gmail.com before 5 P.M or 09.08.2019. For more details: Phone No. 0471-2321375. KWA-JB-GL-6-181-2019-20

OIL INDIA LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise) KG BASIN PROJECT, KAKINADA,

CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT

Oil India Limited (OIL), KG Basin Project, Door No. 11-4-7 Nookalamma Temple Street, Ramarao Peta, Kakinada-533004 Andhra Pradesh invites applications from retired oil sector PSU Officers / Govt. Officials for engagement as Consultant (Land & Coordination) on contract, Job responsibilities, eligibility criteria etc. are furnished in OIL's website: www.oil-india.com. Interested candidates may send their CVs along with work experience details to e-mail ID: KGB_CONS@oilindia.in on or before 23.08.2019.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

NIRDPR is a premier Institute providing training, research and consultancy services in the field of Rural Development. Centre for Development, Documentation and Communication (CDC), NIRDPR proposes to engage the services of qualified and experienced persons to work for the following positions on short term contract basis.

1. Research Associate - 01 no. 2. Project Assistant - 01 no.

For details & online visit www.nirdpr.org.in Advt. No.21/2019 No. NIRDPR/CDC/AKS/IEG/2018

Last Date: 23.08.2019 Sd/-Assistant Registrar (E)

August 7, 2019

Chennai

2. The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review for the quarter ended June 30, 2019 and have issued an unmodified

Chairman



Blackout

Dissent does not have to invite measures aimed at throttling information flow

ammu and Kashmir remains entirely cut off, ironically, as part of the efforts at effecting its "complete integration" with the rest of the country. Rightly or wrongly, the BJP government at the Centre in its wisdom thought that annulling the special status accorded to I&K in the Constitution and demoting and dividing it into two Union Territories were essential steps towards national integration. Information flow to and from J&K has been restricted to almost nil, and media platforms reported on the momentous changes abruptly announced by the Centre without any independent account of the situation on the ground. That the world's largest democracy could clampdown on information to the public in such a cavalier manner may appear incomprehensible under ordinary circumstances. But then, muzzling voices from J&K was only a corollary to a far more consequential directing of discourse. People in J&K even missed the Prime Minister's tweet on how the new scheme of things would be helpful for them, as they were, and continue to be, snapped off the Internet. Reporting from conflict zones is not new to Indian media. Journalists have covered riots, insurgencies and wars for decades in the country, and governments have allowed them to do so. By and large, state agencies have even enabled reporting from conflict zones and sites of natural disasters with curfew passes and special communication facilities, though there have been exceptions. Accurate information is always the best counter to misinformation and treacherous rumours.

Information coming out of the State is sparse, costly and hard to gather. The announcement on the withdrawal of the special status of J&K was preceded by a flurry of reporting sourced to government officials that terror threats were the reason for additional troop deployment. The Amarnath yatra was discontinued and the Valley was emptied of tourists owing to these threats. Quite likely, irrespective of the nature of the threat alerts, these measures were linked to the Centre's decision on removal of the special status. Even before the clampdown on communication facilities, the government had been tight-fisted with information. The same attitude was evident subsequent to other critical decisions it made in recent years: official communication with the public has been strictly a one-way process, through press releases, radio monologues, and social media posts. Parliament, which ended a highly productive session in terms of business transacted, has been reduced to endorsing executive decisions with little meaningful discussions. While these are concerns that the government must address at the earliest, it must start with the immediate removal of all restrictions on movement of people and communication in J&K. Only security concerns under exceptional circumstances, and not aversion to democratic dissent in the normal course, can justify choking the information flow.

RBI's Goldilocks cut

The government must now unleash measures to boost growth

aced with slowing GDP growth and encouraged by benign inflationary trends, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has delivered a Goldilocks cut of 35 basis points in the benchmark repo rate. Though a rate cut was a foregone conclusion ahead of the monetary policy announcement, the expectation was of either a 25 or 50 basis points one. Given the extent of the slowdown in the economy, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) deemed the former as too low but taking into account factors such as the turbulence in the global financial markets and the rupee's fall in the last few days, the latter was seen as too high. In the event, the MPC settled on a median and unconventional 35 basis point cut, which keeps the powder dry for further cuts this financial year. With this, the RBI has cut rates in four consecutive policy announcements beginning February this year, aggregating to a total of 110 basis points. But the transmission by banks to lenders has not been even a third of this. The central bank says that banks have passed on just 29 basis points which is poor indeed. One factor inhibiting transmission was the tight liquidity conditions until June when the RBI flooded the market – in fact, the last two months the central bank has had to absorb excess liquidity floating around. There is, therefore, reason to hope that transmission from hereon would be quicker.

The repo rate at 5.40% is now at a nine-year low and is headed lower in the next few months and could well settle at 5% or very close to that by the time this rate cutting cycle plays out. Supporting this theory is the fact that inflation is projected to be benign for the next one year. Growth, on the other hand, is expected to be weak and the MPC has revised downwards the projected GDP growth rate for this fiscal to 6.9% from 7% earlier, with downside risks. Even this appears optimistic given the current impulses in the economy and it is very likely that GDP growth this fiscal will be closer to 6.5%. With the latest cut, the RBI has signified that it is willing to do the heavy lifting. But this alone will not suffice as cost of capital is just one aspect that determines investment. The government has to play its part too in boosting growth. Arguably, the space for fiscal concessions is limited given the overall revenue scenario, but the government can certainly push for further reforms to incentivise investment without impacting its fiscal arithmetic. The slowdown now is part cyclical – which can be addressed by a rate cut – and part structural, for which reforms are an absolute necessity. Therefore, unless the government responds with its own measures, the RBI's efforts to support growth may go in vain.

The fragility of India's federalism

The government's Kashmir move exposes the contingent nature of India's asymmetric constitutional provisions



The abrogation of Article 370 has exposed ambiguities that have long been evident in India's federal system. Asymmetric agreements have been negotiated in settlement of a number of regional conflicts in India. Kashmir's autonomous status was the oldest and – in original conception – the most far-reaching of these provisions. But in practice, there has been a contingency to autonomy provisions, leaving them open to revision by popular majorities at the all-India level.

An altered trajectory

The regionalisation of India's partv system between 1989-2014 contributed to the appearance that deeper federalism and growing regional autonomy vis-à-vis the Central government was an almost inexorable process. However, the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to national political dominance has altered that trajectory. By abrogating Article 370 and bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir State to create two Union Territories, the BJP has demonstrated the possibility of using the inherent flexibility in the federal order to centralise power and reshape the size, powers and stature of a constituent unit of the Indian Union – the only unit with a Muslim majority population.

The constitutionality of the abrogation of Article 370 will be carefully picked over in the months and years to come. But the government's ability to table and pass legislation with such important consequences for the fabric of federalism - while the elected assembly of Jammu and Kashmir is in abeyance – exposes the fragile set of compromises on which India's asymmetric federal system

Asymmetric federalism involves the granting of differential rights to certain federal subunits, often in recognition of their distinctive ethnic identity. In the case of Jammu and Kashmir, the negotiation of Article 370 was a transitional and contingent constitutional arrangement agreed in the midst of a continuing conflict while the Indian Constitution was being finalised. Over time, this 'transitional' clause had become a institutional semi-permanent compromise, although this was ever an uneasy compromise. Kashmir's autonomy arrangements had been eroded under successive governments as tensions grew between the desire of Prime Ministers from Jawaharlal Nehru onwards to integrate the State more closely into the Indian Union and the desire of many Kashmiris to preserve a special status for their State. Since 1954, as many as 94 of 97 entries in the Union List and two thirds of constitutional articles have been extended to the State. This process has happened with the approval of the Supreme Court.

Subsequent asymmetric agreements were reached with the Nagas and the Mizos, which are enshrined in Article 371 in the Constitution. When the small State of Sikkim joined the Indian Union in the early 1970s, Article 371F was added to the Constitution. Article 371F allowed for laws that were in place before Sikkim's accession to remain in place unless amended or repealed by the legislature. Article 371 also contains measures that were intended to promote intra-State equity in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka

Contesting asymmetry

Asymmetric constitutional provisions are a common feature of federalism in diverse societies. Many have argued that India sets an international example for how asymmetric features can help dampen secessionist conflicts by recognising multiple modes of belonging within the Union. Rather than encouraging secessionism,



gements argue that it is the denial of autonomy that can provide ground for secessionist claims to

However, asymmetric arrangements are often contested by majority national communities and by other regions without special arrangements. The annulment of Article 370 has long been a cause célèbre for Hindu nationalism, but it was striking that it also received wide support from many regional parties in Parliament.

The rationale set out by the BJP this week drew on all the textbook critiques of asymmetric arrangements to attract the support of many regional parties to pass the legislation in the Rajya Sabha. These include the argument that asymmetric provisions are discriminatory, for instance, by placing prescriptions on who can own property in particular regions, or because they privilege certain kinds of 'special' identities over others. A Telugu Desam Party MP, from India's first linguistic State Andhra Pradesh, welcomed the fact that India would now be 'one nation with one flag and one constitution.' Alternatively, asymmetric status is presented as contributing to secessionist claims, hence the argument that Article 370 is the 'root cause of terrorism'. Autonomy arrangements are also presented as anti-egalitarian because they prevent the extension of rights in force elsewhere in a country. This last argument underscores the significance of the simultaneous emphasis on extend-

Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the new Union Territories alongside the abrogation of Article 370. As the Home Minister, Amit Shah, said in the Lok Sabha: "Those who support Article 370 are anti-Dalit, anti-tribal, anti-women.'

A deliberate flexibility By design, India's federal institu-

tions place relatively weak checks on the power of a government with a parliamentary majority. As the political scientist, Alfred Stepan, identified, federal systems can be more or less 'demos constraining'. In those at the more 'demos constraining' end of the spectrum, federalism serves to undermine the consolidation of power by national majorities. For instance, the American theorist, William Riker, saw American federalism as a counter-weight to national populism since 'the populist ideal requires that rulers move swiftly and surely to embody in law the popular decision on an electoral platform'. By contrast, other federal systems, such as India's, are more 'demos-enabling'. This means that the design of federalism places fewer checks on the power of national majorities. For instance, the composition of the Rajva Sabha mirrors the composition of the Lok Sabha, rather than providing equal representation to States regardless of size, and the Rajya Sabha has weaker powers than the Lower House. Fewer powers are constitutionally allocated to federal subunits exclusively compared to more demos-con-

straining federations. Placing this kind of flexibility in the hands of the Central government was deliberate and designed to enable decisive Central action to protect national integrity in the aftermath of Partition. In the Constituent Assembly, B.R. Ambedkar highlighted the difference between the 'tight mould' of other federal systems and the flexibility hard-wired into India's which would enable it to be both 'unitary as well as federal' according to the requirements of time and circum-

This constitutional permissiveness has been used to do things that have deepened federalism in the past under both Congress and BJP-led governments, such as the creation of new States in response to regional demands from the linguistic reorganisation of States in the 1950s onwards. By granting the Central government the power to create new States or alter State boundaries under Article 3, and not giving State governments a veto over bifurcation, the Constitution enabled the Central government to accommodate linguistic and ethnic diversities in a way that would have been much harder in a more rigid federal system. It also enabled the Central government to adopt asymmetrical measures in the first place without facing a backlash from other regions that might have resented the 'special' treatment of minority regions. Until the 2000s, most of these changes were done based on a slow process of consensus building within the regions concerned.

The unknown

By abrogating Article 370, bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir and downgrading the status of the successor units to Union Territories, the government has used the flexibility of the federal provisions of the Constitution to other ends. This is not the first time that a Central government has used its powers to bifurcate a State in the absence of local consensus. This was also seen with the creation of Telangana in 2014. As in the case of Telangana, the creation of the Union Territory of Ladakh does respond to a long-run demand in this region with a substantial Buddhist population. However, the decision to transform the remainder of J&K State into a Union Territory, at the same time as annulling Article 370, is a departure with profound and as yet unknown consequences in Kashmir, and wider implications for Indian federalism.

Louise Tillin is a Reader in Politics at King's College, London. She is the author

Hong Kong adrift and China without an anchor

Beijing should realise that political reform rather than economic lures is what resonates in Hong Kong



s Hong Kong's turbulent summer of protests continues unabated, China's patience with its restive southern city could be wearing thin, and it has hinted at using the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to quell the protests. That would be disastrous

for both Hong Kong and China. Angry and frustrated young Hong Kongers have confronted the city's government with a series of demands, including the withdrawal of a bill that would allow people to be extradited from Hong Kong to China. The government has said it will shelve the bill temporarily, but will not scrap plans to reintroduce it at a later stage.

The extradition bill is only the latest issue that has brought people out on the streets. In 2014, young people occupied the streets of central Hong Kong for several weeks demanding among other things universal suffrage rather than the current electoral college to chose the head of the Hong Kong government. Earlier, students had protested attempts to introduce what was described as patriotic education into the school

The Chinese government is increasingly a target of the demonstrators, who recently attacked Beijing's liaison office in Hong Kong and defaced the Chinese national emblem. In China's view. this was a grave provocation, and appears to nave triggered a threat to bring in the PLA to end the

The Tiananmen shadow

In a rare public statement, the head of the PLA garrison in Hong Kong, Chen Daoxiang, warned that "violence should not be tolerated" and that the PLA "was determined to protect national sovereignty, stability and prosperity of Hong Kong." To drive home the message the PLA released a video of anti-riot drills showing heavily armed soldiers supported by helicopters quelling demonstrators.

If PLA troops and tanks rumble through Hong Kong's streets it would effectively end any pretence of Hong Kong's autonomy within China. It would spell the end of Hong Kong as a city open to the world, where freedom of expression and the rule of law pre-

For China, it would be a rerun of June 1989, when troops and tanks were used in Tiananmen Square in Beijing to crush students protesting for reforms. That action taken at the urging of Deng Xiaoping quelled the unrest, but threw China into a decade of international isolation at a time when it was



desperately seeking to modernise its economy and emerge as a global power. The G7 refused to deal with China, World Bank loans were frozen, and many western imposed countries trade

Potential global fallout

Any violence in Hong Kong with the Chinese military will produce a strong reaction from China's main trade partners. The United States is already engaged in a trade war with China, and the Trump administration has slapped additional import duties on Chinese goods to force it to end what it describes as predatory trade practices. Military action in Hong Kong will only strengthen support in the U.S. for tougher trade and economic sanctions. Similarly the European Union can be expected to react strongly to any action by the PLA in Hong Kong.

China's leader, Xi Jinping, is extremely conscious of the legacy he wants to create as the most consequential leader modern China has had, alongside Mao and Deng Xiaoping. Sending tanks into Hong Kong is not going to help him achieve this. But neither can he allow his authority to be defied in be allowed anywhere else in

China does not understand what fuels the anger in Hong Kong. It has fallen back on the standard argument that governments confronted with popular protests tend to use: foreign forces are behind the unrest. Yang Jiechi, a PolitBuro member of the Communist Party of China, has said that the U.S. and other unnamed countries had been stirring up trouble in order to undermine Hong Kong.

But there is no evidence to show that these protests are anything but home grown, and the continuing tragedy is that the Chinese leadership is either unable or unwilling to understand the roots of the anger in Hong Kong.

A disconnect

The hard fact China has to face is that 22 years after the British withdrew and Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty, the former colony is drifting further and further away from China, rather than getting closer to the mother-

The Hong Kongers who are at the forefront of the protests were all born shortly before or after Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty. They have only

known Hong Kong as a part of China. But their identity, outlook and worldview is not mainland Chinese, but distinctively Hong Kong. They speak Cantonese, not Man-Hong Kong in a way that would not darin. They look to Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the western world for neir cuiture, not the mainiand. When they travel on holiday, it is not to China but to other parts of the world. When they go abroad to study, it is not to China, but to the west. Like their parents who grew up under British rule, they have no desire to be integrated with the rest of China; they are suspicious of Chinese intentions.

> China's leaders had thought that greater economic opportunities in a booming China would help bind Hong Kong to the motherland. The booming cities of the Pearl River delta have become closely economically integrated with Hong Kong, offering jobs in cutting edge industries to young Hong Kongers.

> But these economic lures have not enticed them. Their desire is to to preserve what they see as the Hong Kong way of life. And for that to happen, they demand their own elected government, not leaders appointed by the Chinese government. This is more than China is willing to concede, and therein lies the seed for future tragedy in Hong Kong.

Thomas Abraham is a former Editor of The South China Morning Post in Hong

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

Inspiring Minister

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was a very affable personality and a popular face of the Bharatiya Janata Party (Inside pages, "A BJP stalwart with Socialist roots", August 7). In her stint as foreign Minister, her untiring efforts were what helped a number of Indians stranded abroad being brought back safely. An excellent orator, her speeches had a great impact. V. HARIHARAN,

■ Ms. Swaraj will be remembered as a model of

how an External Affairs Minister should function. She won the hearts of countless overseas Indians, particularly the NRI bluecollar worker in distress. She was an embodiment of compassion and a decent politician. At a time when the ruling dispensation is intent on implementing its agenda by hook or by crook, it is unfortunate that the country has lost a senior leader who was also a balanced thinker. THARCIUS S. FERNANDO.

■ There is no doubt that Ms. Swaraj projected a very high image of India at the global level. There was a touch of

humanism in all her functions. She was a people's minister all through. C.P. CHANDRA DAS,

■ Ms. Swaraj was an able administrator, stateswoman and an adept parliamentarian. Kerala will remember her efforts in 2014, in rescuing 46 nurses who were held captive by the Islamic State. Without her intervention the operation would not have been possible. Governments and ministers may change but Ms. Swaraj will live on in the hearts of every Indian. GEORGIL K. JEEMON, Pallikara, Ernakulam, Kerala

Over and above her administrative acumen, Ms. Swaraj will be fondly remembered for her humaneness during her stint as Minister. She was not only instrumental in arranging for the homecoming of several stranded Indians but also displayed a mother's touch by facilitating medical visas for ailing Pakistanis. S. VAITHIANATHAN,

Kashmir road map

No one was in doubt this time around about the Prime Minister walking the talk on scrapping Article 370. But what came as a bolt from the blue was the decision to

unilaterally downgrade and split the State. This is anathema to federalism. Though there is an assurance of full statehood being restored, expecting normalcy to return any time soon would be too illusory given the gravity of such radical decisions. S.K. CHOUDHURY,

Mrs. YGP

The passing of educationist, and patron of the arts, Mrs.

Y.G. Parthasarathy is a shock (August 7). "Big Miss" was a class apart. Her role stretched from taking English prose, Shakespeare, moral science class, morning and Friday assembly and overseeing school administration. Her favourite quote was: "More things are wrought by prayer than [what] the world dreams of" S.S. RAMESH.

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: In the report headlined "Bifurcation of Kashmir arbitrary: Opposition" (Aug. 7, 2019, some editions), there was a reference to DMK MP Murasoli Maran. It should have been Dayanidhi Maran.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300;

Downgraded at the stroke of a pen

The move to convert Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories could open a Pandora's Box



MALAVIKA PRASAD

The Indian government's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) raises many constitutional questions. One important question is whether the President had the powers to make all the provisions of India's Constitution apply to the State. Another is whether the Indian government was authorised to do this in the face of its own obligations to J&K under Article 370. Even assuming for a moment that these questions did not arise, a further question that does crop up is: Did Parliament have the authority to bifurcate J&K into two Union Territo-

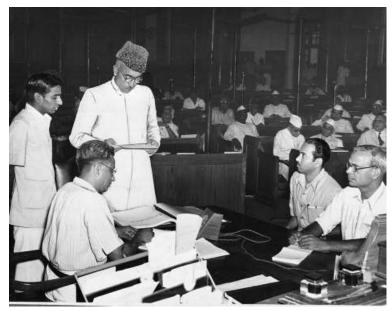
The last question assumes importance because the conversion of a State governed by an elected legislature into a UT/UTs adversely affects a people who had earlier enjoyed the freedom of full democratic participation. In the case of J&K, the centrally appointed administrator – called the Lieutenant Governor – will now have the power to make a wide range of decisions, as opposed to a regular State Governor, who must act typically on the aid and advice of the State's Council of Ministers.

Moreover, while the legislature of the UT of J&K – which the reorganisation law states will be akin to Puducherry's – will have the power to enact laws on matters in the State List and the Concurrent List of the Constitution, Parliament will retain the power to enact overriding laws. Consequently, the arenas open to decision-making by elected representatives will be diminished.

The Delhi parallel

The total reorganisation of a full-fledged State into two UTs is historically unprecedented in India. However, one example here that can be cited is that of Delhi.

When the Constitution of India was adopted, Delhi was a 'Part C' State administered by the President acting through a Chief Commissioner or Lieutenant Governor. From 1952 to 1956, Delhi had a Legislative Assembly empowered to make laws on



Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) acceded to India in 1947 on terms recorded in the Instrument of Accession. Picture shows J&K Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah taking oath as member of Constituent Assembly in June 1949. • THE HINDU

all matters in the State List excepting law and order; constitution and powers of municipal corporations and local authorities; and land and buildings in possession of the Central government situated in Delhi. However, in 1956, Delhi and all the other Part C States were divested of their legislative powers and converted into UTs that would now be administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by her.

Within some years, the other UTs were given legislatures, and by 1987, the UTs of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura and Goa were even made into States. Only the restoration of a Legislative Assembly in Delhi was stalled, out of concern that Delhi holding legislative powers over matters in the State List would compromise the Union government's ability to discharge its functions towards the nation in the national capital.

Even when Delhi received partial Statehood in 1992, with full legislative powers on subjects in the State List – except public order, police and land – the elected government in Delhi found its hands tied by the powers of a centrally appointed Lieutenant Governor. This tussle for democratic power in Delhi finally culminated in 2018, when the Supreme Court recognised that the Constitution has sought to create a democrat-

ic and representative form of government in Delhi. Only in the exceptional case that the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor differ on matters fundamental to Delhi's governance could the latter's decision override democratic will.

Accession after Independence

However, J&K's entry into the Indian Dominion is not comparable with Delhi's beginning as a 'Part C' State. Delhi was an integral part of the India during Independence and later, when the Constitution came into force. J&K on the other hand was a sovereign Princely State at the time of India's Independence and acceded to the Indian Dominion in 1947 on terms recorded in a treaty - the Instrument of Accession. Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which accorded a special status to J&K in comparison with other States, was an embodiment of the treaty's terms.

However, J&K's special status was not a claim to sovereignty. This is apparent from Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of J&K, 1956, which recognises it as an integral part of India.

The special status merely meant that provisions of the Indian Constitution (other than Article 1 defining India as a Union of States; and Article 370 itself) were permitted to be applied to J&K differently from the way

they applied to regular States. Such a modified application allowed J&K a higher degree of autonomy.

For instance, while Parliament had exclusive powers to make laws pertaining to States, on all matters not in the State and Concurrent Lists, the residuary power rested with the State legislature in the case of J&K. With this autonomy, the people of J&K on paper had an even larger arena than regular States for enacting laws through democratic participation. Therefore, J&K's reorganisation into a UT amounts to a more severe curtailment of democratic rights than that of Delhi in 1956.

Not a constitutional amendment Further, Delhi's conversion into a UT and the subsequent restoration of its Legislative Assembly were both carried out through constitutional amendments, which cannot easily be amended further. J&K's conversion into a UT, on the other hand, was effected through a regular law of Parliament, which can easily be amended at the behest of a majoritarian consensus from time to time.

Special status for States is not extraordinary in the Indian Constitution. Several States in India enjoy differential rights in their relationship to the Union by constitutional design, depending on their unique cultural, ethnic and geopolitical compositions. The thinking underlying this arrangement is that the interests of States with stronger intra-group ties or ethnic bases - like Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland - are better represented in the Constitution and the structure of the government, if we account for their subjective contexts.

The Constitution of India's chosen federal principle was to honour these subjective contexts to hold together the diverse Indian States in the Union, as B.R. Ambedkar stated in the Constituent Assembly. Therefore, the evisceration of the right to full democratic participation of an entire section of people, as happened earlier this week in the case of J&K, should make us all wonder: what if more such laws are enacted, disregarding the subjective contexts of our other States and downgrading the States into Union Territories?

Malavika Prasad is a lawyer and doctoral fellow at the Nalsar University of Law

The big picture on tigers

While the number of wild cats has increased, infrastructure expansion plans have totally discounted their presence



NEHA SINHA

The tiger, which once sat crouching, is now roaring in India. Results of a once-in-four-years estimation of tiger numbers show us that India has about 3,000 of them. This is relevant not only nationally, but also globally – this is a majority of the world's wild tiger population, of around 4,000 tigers.

Each year, the tiger estimation increases its scope. Camera trap images, findings of foot surveys and other evidence on tigers and their prey species are collected. The latest estimate says that we have approximately 2,967 tigers in India, up from 2,226 as per the 2014 count. The scope of the effort was different this time: while the 2014 count included tigers that were over 1.5 years of age, this one included tigers as young as one-year old.

Yet, we must look at numbers, especially that on young tigers and cubs, as just one indicator in the tiger story. A couple of days before World Tiger Day (when the tiger report was released), a tigress was beaten to death in fields near the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve. Two days after the report's release, a tigress and her cub were found dead near Bandhavgarh in

Madhya Pradesh. Shortly after, another cub was found dead in Umaria in the same State. Earlier in July, there were the poisoning-caused deaths of a tigress and her two cubs in Chandrapur, near the Tadoba Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.

Widening of rail, road networks

It may seem that these are stray cases with no real pattern. But while tigers are reproducing in India, new state policies are working directly against them. Relaxations in norms to allow for a widening of highway and railway networks are the new threats, adding to the old ones of retaliatory poisoning and poaching.

A report on management effectiveness of tiger reserves was also released on World Tiger Day. The report rated Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh as the best in terms of good management practices. This is fairly commensurate with its tiger numbers. Central India is one of the best tiger nurseries in India. Of all States, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers, over 500 of them.

Yet, tiger reserves cannot control what is around them; and the Pench tiger faces a

new threat. The National Highway 7 (NH7), which connects Pench and Kanha tiger reserves, has just been widened. Tigers, as well the animals they prey on, find it hard to cross roads; for instance, a tiger died near Dehradun in 2016 after being hit by a speeding vehicle. It may have been from Rajaji Tiger Reserve, an area that needs more male tigers. After sustained pressure from citizens and protests from the Madhya Pradesh forest department, authorities built underpasses meant for wildlife through NH7. But go down the spanking new highway in Maharashtra, and it has barriers on the road. It isn't much of a surprise then that a tiger was recently seen climbing the barrier to cross the road.

To put this incident into perspective, most National Highways are slated for widening and upgradation, and most tiger reserves have State or National Highways around them. Each year, thousands of animals die on the road. Apart from highways, railway and irrigation projects are coming up in tiger reserves, and the Ken-Betwa river interlink-

ing project will submerge 100 sq. km of Panna Tiger Reserve.

So, while the numbers are reason to cheer, they can hardly be the whole story. The story is beyond and around the reserve boundaries that tigers have to cross. The numbers should also give pause to the plans being made dis-

counting the presence of tigers. This is a time for thoughtful growth. Highways and railways should not be expanded to encroach into tiger areas; irrigation projects should also avoid the areas. Cost-benefit analyses need to take into account the needs of wild animals. At the moment, highways are not even able to do away with barriers, and it is assumed that tigers can swim through damsubmerged areas. So, to live, tigers are being made to swim across dams, cross highways, dash across railway lines, not eat livestock, and avoid people.

Currently, a group of tigers stand not too far from Bhopal. They may have come from the Ratapani Tiger Reserve, but the question is: what fate awaits them – roadkill, electrocution or poisoning? The question is bleak, but the answer need not be. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that development and environment do not need to come at each other's cost. This is true. And while tigers do not vote, our mandate to save them has never been greater.

Neha Sinha is with the Bombay Natural History Society. Views expressed are personal

Social reforms at a snail's pace

To be seen as a statesman, the Saudi Prince needs to free political prisoners and end the Yemen war

STANLY JOHNY

In an interview in April 2018, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) hinted that the country's male guardianship laws, which leave the legal and personal affairs of women in the hands of their male relatives, would be changed. "Before 1979 [the year of Iranian revolution and the Siege of Mecca] there were societal guardianship customs, but no guardianship laws. It doesn't go back to the time of the Prophet... we want to move on," he told *The Atlantic* magazine.

Sixteen months later, Saudi Arabia has amended the guardianship system. Under the new laws, women of 21 years or above may obtain passports, which will allow them to travel without male consent. They will also be permitted to register marriages, divorces, births and deaths and to receive family records. This follows last year's landmark decision to allow women to drive.

MBS has rightly been credited for these initiatives. After he rose to the current position, he initiated several economic and social reform measures. His 'Vision 2030' plan aims to lessen Saudi Arabia's near-total dependence on oil. It also promotes private enterprises, promises to raise women's participation in workforce, which is currently 22%, and to turn the country into a global investment favourite. Easing social restrictions has been an important part of this drive. While the goal is laudable, there are three fundamental problems with the model.

A complicated legacy

First, MBS is not the benign, visionary reformer that he's often presented as. His legacy is more complicated. The story of his rise to power is also a story of a brutal purge. He detained dozens of royals and businessmen in Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton hotel in November 2017 for weeks in the name of fighting corruption. The detentions lacked any legal basis and were inconsistent with the Saudi government's push to attract private investments. More worryingly, in recent years, the country has cracked down on both dissidents and rights campaigners. Political reform remains a taboo topic. Three prominent women's rights activists – Loujain al-Hathloul, Samar Badawi and Nassima al-Sada – who wanted the guardianship laws to be changed, are still under arrest.

Gender equality

Second, the social reforms are too little and too slow. True, women being allowed to drive and travel without male consent are big measures in the Wahhabi Kingdom, where the guardianship laws effectively make them second-class citizens. But from a universal rights perspective, Saudi Arabia has a long way to go before treating its women citizens equally. The guardianship system survives despite the latest laws. A Saudi woman still needs a guardian's permission to exit shelters (for abuse victims) or be freed from prison. She still needs a guardian's consent for marriage. A man can still divorce his wife without her consent.

Third, the incremental reforms might boost the Crown Prince's image at home, but his foreign policy record is awful. A UN in-

cord is awful. A UN investigation recently held the "Saudi state" (euphemism for MBS, the de facto ruler) directly responsible for the assassination of

Jamal Khashoggi, the Saudi dissident journalist who was killed inside the Kingdom's Istanbul consulate in October 2018. Saudi authorities still haven't disclosed what happened to his body, while Turkish prosecutors had claimed that the body was dismembered and disposed using acid. Besides, the war MBS launched in 2015 in Yemen has turned the country into a humanitarian catastrophe. It's difficult to overlook the argument that MBS is using the reform card to amass more powers at home and divert criticism of his ruthless interventions abroad. If he wants to change Saudi Arabia and remake himself as a reformer-statesman, he should perhaps step up the pace of social and political reforms, release the political prisoners and rights campaigners, and bring the war in Yemen to an

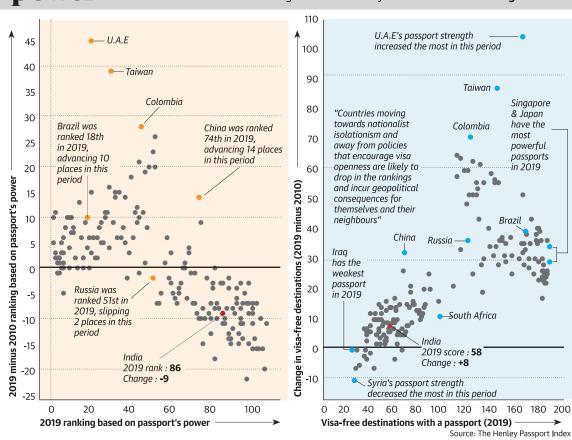
stanly.johny@thehindu.co.in



DATA POINT

Passport power

The "strength" of the Indian passport — countries it has visa-free access to — has weakened in the last decade. The passport ranked 86 of 187 countries in 2019, while in 2010 it was ranked 77. Just 8 nations were added to its visa-free access list from 2010 to 2019 - lowest among BRICS nations. By **Varun B. Krishnan** and **Vignesh R.**



The Man Timbu. FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 8, 1969

PM receives threats to her life

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi said here [New Delhi] to-night [August 7] that she had received some threats not only to dislodge her from the high post she was holding but her life as well. She did not explain how, when and who made these threats to her. Mrs. Gandhi was addressing a gathering of about 300 Government school teachers outside the gates of her residence in Safdarjang Road just after 9 p.m. The teachers, including several women, had come in drenching rain to congratulate her on bank nationalisation. The Prime Minister declared she would rather not deviate from "the good and right path" that she was following in the larger interests of the overwhelming majority of 95 per cent of people than continue to hold the high office. "They are welcome to take away this Prime Ministership from me but I want to tell them that the ultimate victory will certainly be ours," she said amidst cheers and shouts of "Long live Indira Gandhi." Mrs. Gandhi said that bank nationalisation was the second stage of the freedom movement, of making freedom a reality for crores of the

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 8, 1919

Amalgamation of Banks.

Presiding over the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Bombay [in Bombay on August 7], Sir Jamsetji Jijibhoy announced that the question of amalgamation of three presidency banks was under consideration. Proposals were to be submitted in due course to the shareholders for approval and sanction. Following the precedent set by the past Chairman, Sir Jamsetji delivered a lengthy speech reviewing the financial and trade situation. After pointing out that India had enjoyed another prosperous year and that the balance of trade in her favour was 84 crores, he compared the figures of the last year with those of 1914. After showing what tremendous effect the war had on India's external trade, he said it remained to be seen whether the United Kingdom would make sufficient effort to divert it back in prewar channels. He drew attention to the critical currency situation in 1918 and to America's help to tide over the difficulties. Referring to the recent appointment of the Currency Committee he hoped as the fixing of the rates of exchange was of vital importance to the well being and happiness of India's millions the committee would take various conflicting interests into account before making their recommendations.

FROM PAGE ONE

Full state honours for Sushma Swaraj

Earlier taking to the social media, U.S. ambassador Ken Juster said Ms. Swaraj will be "greatly missed."

Similar tributes came from the envoy of Bangladesh who conveyed the condolences from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and placed a wreath on the mortal remains of Ms. Swaraj, who passed away after a massive cardiac arrest late Tuesday evening.

Japanese Ambassador Hiramatsu also conveyed condolence from the people and government of Japan on the passing away of the former Minister of External

In a message to the current Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Russian Ambassador Nikalay Kudashev expressed Moscow's condolences, and described the departed

der and promoter of international interests of India." Dean of the diplomatic

leader as a "steadfast defen-

community of Delhi Hans Dannenberg Castellanos, Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of the Dominican Republic also expressed condolences and said that Ms. Swarai strengthened ties between India and the world.

Ms. Swaraj was cremated at the Lodhi Road crematorium in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, her former Cabinet colleagues, veteran leader L.K. Advani and her family members. The funeral was also attended by former Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay. In Bhutan, a special prayer was hosted by King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk.

Many Jammu residents hail integration

He said that after August 15 is when the real impact of the government's decision may be known, alluding to the potential easing of restrictions that are expected to be in place at least till then.

Another Srinagar resident who travelled to Jammu on Wednesday described the situation in his city as: "Everything is fine. There's a curfew that's all."

In other parts of Jammu, a handful of shops in otherwise busy marketplaces opened on Wednesday for the first time since Sunday, while concertina wire lay on crossings controlled by a large number of security personnel. Schools and colleges remained shut.

A senior government official said this was to control the number of people on the streets.

Standing outside a row of shuttered shops in Gujjar Nagar, Nazeer Ahmad said he should have been home on Monday. A resident of Doda, he said the truck that he was driving broke down on Sunday and needed repairs. But with the workshop closed, he had been stranded in Jammu with no news of his family since

"The phones aren't working there. I don't know what is happening. Now, only God knows what will happen," he said.

For police and government officials in Jammu, things were under control. A senior police official said there had been no reports of violence, clashes or stonepelting, but there had been protests and sloganeering by small groups at Chandimarh and Saaj.

While top government and police officials said restrictions would be eased over the next few days, there was uncertainty over when the educational institutions would open and the restoration of mobile Internet and other communication services in Jammu.

as)," Abheek Barua, Chief

Economist at HDFC Bank,

reluctant to cut loan rates in response to the previous 75

bps cumulative reduction,

with their benchmark lend-

ing rate having only de-

clined by 29 bps, Wednes-

day's rate move saw the

State Bank of India (SBI) res-

ponding promptly with a 15

bps cut in the marginal cost

of funds based lending rate.

Other banks are expected to

risk weight for consumer

loans, except for credit

cards, from 125% to 100% -

a step aimed at addressing

falling consumer demand in

segments such as individual

vehicle loans and personal

loans. The NBFC sector,

which is facing a cash

crunch, may also benefit

from measures that will in-

crease banks' headroom to

HSBC India Chief Econo-

mist Pranjul Bhandari, who

forecasts full-year growth at

a much lower 6.4%, expects

two more rate cuts of 25 bps

each over the fourth quarter

and the first quarter of the

lend to these lenders.

The RBI also reduced the

follow suit.

Though banks had been

wrote in a note to clients.

RBI takes offbeat tack to check growth slowdown

While all six members of the monetary policy committee (MPC) voted to cut rates, two members backed a 25 bps cut. With the GDP growth forecast for the year pared to 6.9%, the policy stance was accommodative.

The RBI lowered its forecast for GDP growth in the fiscal year ending March 2020 to 6.9% , from the 7%predicted in June, with "risks somewhat tilted to the downside".

The projection for consumer price index based inflation for the second half of the current financial year was posited to be slightly higher, at 3.5-3.7%, with CPI inflation forecast at 3.6% in the first quarter of the next

With this rate cut, the RBI has now reduced the repo rate by 110 bps in 2019.

"RBI has painted a reasonably gloomy picture for the economy and the 35 bps cut seems to suggest that it concedes the fact that the extent of the slowdown is sharper than it had projected earlier although it does not see the need to push the panic button (that a 50 bps might have been interpreted

Pak. expels Indian envoy, suspends trade

"Through NSC decisions, Pakistan has accepted though not expressed in words – it's an attack and a semi-war like situation. Through NSC decisions, Pakistan has not just shown its seriousness in condemnation of revocation of Article 370 to India but to the international community as well and would now be in a better position to convince the

world for its case on Kash-

She added that calling off all kind of bilateral trade means closure of all crossing points, "which also affects Indian trade with Afghanistan."Political analyst Mosharraf Zaidi says the NSC decisions represent Pakistan's effort to express its rejection of India's altering of the status of Kashmir.

Rajya Sabha bids adieu to a 'voice of the people'

Nation has lost an able administrator, says Venkaiah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Paying homage to former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday said she was like his sister, and always addressed him as Anna (elder brother).

In the House, Mr. Naidu read out an obituary reference saying: "She was a regular at family and cultural events at my residence for a long time. Every year, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, she used to tie rakhi on my hand. I will be missing this honour this year... I have lost a valuable sister in her demise, which is an irreparable loss to me."

'Voice of people'

Mr. Naidu said in her untimely demise, the nation had lost an able administrator, an effective parliamentarian and a true voice of the peo-

Ms. Swaraj was a member of the House for three terms between April 1990 and May 2009. She was elected four times to the Lok Sabha – in 1996, 1998, 2009 and 2014.

Mr. Naidu said she had several firsts to her credit: she was the youngest Minister at the age of 25 in the Ha-



condolence meeting for Sushma Swaraj in Indore on Wednesday. Geeta was rescued after being stranded in Pakistan for 15 years, after an intervention by Ms. Swaraj. • PTI

ryana government, the first woman Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the first woman "Outstanding parliamentarian", the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi and the first full-time wo-External Affairs Minister.

Stating that as a legislator and Union Minister, she remained committed and devoted to the cause of the people and country, he said that in her four decade-long stint in public life, she had emerged as a role model. She was grace, grit, affection, amiability and ability personified. She always dreamt of an India at its highest glory, he said.

"As a Minister of External Affairs, she gave a human touch to the Ministry by being in the forefront of rescuing Indians in distress in several parts of the world. She had come to be known as the most accessible Minister...," he said, adding that she was also an orator, with command over Hindi and English. Mr. Naidu mentioned her last message on Twitter, thanking Prime Minister on the issue of Article 370, stating that it showed her commitment to "One India, one Constitution". The members observed silence as a mark of respect to the departed.

We will miss our friend: neighbours

Sri Lanka, Maldives recollect memories

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

"Friend" was a recurring term in messages that poured in from leaders in neighbouring Sri Lanka and the Maldives, as they expressed grief over former Minister Sushma Swaraj's death.

Ms. Swaraj visited Sri Lanka in its post-war years, both in the capacity of Leader of the Opposition and later as External Affairs Minister.

Leaders across political hues fondly recalled their engagement with her. In a message on Wednesday, President Maithripala Sirisena called her a "true friend" of Sri Lanka, referring to her "immense contribution" to strengthen bilateral ties.

"She has etched a remarkable stamp in politics and diplomacy, reaching out to people of all walks of life through her pragmatic and people-centred foreign policy outreach," he said.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the people of Sri Lanka would always remember the "personal touch" she brought to



Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

relations. Recalling his meetings with her, the PM said in her "pleasing personality" he found a "true friend, neighbour and a relation of Sri Lanka." Opposition leader and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa called her a "role model".

Solih's condolences

Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih called her India's daughter. "Sad at the passing of @SushmaSwaraj. Our condolences to her loved ones, @PMOIndia and people of India. She was a great friend of the Maldives. She was truly India's daughter and will be greatly missed," he said in a tweet.

It's an unprecedented lockdown: Shah Faesal

'People are yet to make sense of what befell them'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

J&K People's Movement president Shah Faesal on Wednesday said Kashmir was experiencing

unprecedented lockdown and the local people were yet to make sense of what had befallen them.

"No violent incident has been officially reported so far. Random incidents of stone throwing were reported from Rambagh, Natipora, Downtown, Kulgam, Anantnag. But, no news of any killsaid Mr. Faesal through his Twitter account. "People are in shock,



what befell them. Everyone is mourning what we lost...it's the loss of statehood

This is being seen as the biggest betrayal by the Indian state in the last 70 years," he

reach Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, Sajad Lone or

send a message to them. In

the more strict. You can say that the entire eight-million population has been incarcerated like never before,"

Mr. Faesal said there was no shortage of goods and essentials as of now. Only those having Dish TV could access news. "Many people still have a bleak idea of what happened," he said.

He said a few leaders who escaped detention had called for calm through TV channels. "It is being said that the government is ready for a casualty figure of 8,000-10,000. So, sanity demands that we don't give anyone a chance for mass so been that let's stay alive, then we shall fight back," he

Govt. plans to reach out during Id

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

As Kashmir Valley remained cut off for the third consecutive day, a senior government official said some government outreach was expected during Id on Monday.

"I cannot share the details but the government is planning something to provide relief," he said. National Security Advis-

er Ajit Doval interacted with security forces and a few people in the Valley on Wednesday.

"Everything will be all right. Your safety and se curity is our responsibility," he was heard telling people in Shopian.

Left, Congress accuse TMC of helping BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Citing Trinamool Congress' abstention during voting on two crucial Bills - triple talaq and J&K Reorganisation Bill - in Parliament, the Congress and CPI(M) in West Bengal accused the State's ruling party of helping the BJP government at the Centre.

State Congress president Somendra Nath Mitra said that the Trinamool MPs walked out of the Lok Sabha during voting on both the Bills, refusing to register their opposition or support to them. CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Mohammad Salim argued that the TMC has failed to address the Kashmir question as a political issue.

RS clears Bill for more

nesday passed a Bill proposing an increase in the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 30 to 33 judges.

The House cleared the Bill by voice vote after the government agreed to a wider discussion on the functioning of the Supreme Court in the next session.

A coup against

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Kashmiris,

says PUCL

The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) has condemned the abrogation of key portions of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and taking away its statehood.

In a joint statement issued by its president Ravi Kiran Jain and general sedone was even more so. visions, procedures, safechange of status of the ersttalking to or consulting the people of that State, even as part of government tokenism."

strongly condemned the planned and sinister mangovernment has gone about arresting important leaders of political parties, including former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah, ers, soon after airlifting over 35,000 troops and suddenly and abruptly asking all Amarnath yatris and holiday visitors to leave the State creating an acute sense of fear and panic.

Ending special status is legal: official

'Original Instrument of Accession was studied before decision was taken'

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

Officials in the Home Ministry fished out original copies of the "Instrument of the Accession" signed with 562 princely states during the time of Independence to make a legal basis for the amendment to Article 370 taking away the special sta-

tus of Jammu & Kashmir.

The copies pulled out

from the archival records

were matched with the In-

strument of Accession

signed by Maharaja Hari

Singh, the ruler of J&K, with

cretary V. Suresh, PUCL said that while the deed by itself was deceitful, the manner in which it was "All the constitutional proguards and values have been disregarded. What pains us most is that this while State of Jammu and Kashmir was carried out with stealth, completely unilaterally, without even

particular, they ner by which the Central Mehbooba Mufti and oth-

India on October 26, 1947. "We matched the accession document of I&K with that signed with the other princely States, each and every word was the same," an offi-

According to him, though the legal document was the same, Article 370 was only applied in I&K.

'The accession agreement was never an impediment for the merger of other States with India. This is what made it clear that Article 370 could be removed as it was not part of the original

The document was to accede in respect of only the following subjects - Defence, Foreign Affairs, Com-

agreement," he said.

to courts and electtion. On April 20, 1951, the Maharaja issued a Proclamation constituting a 75-member Constituent Assembly (CA) for the purposes of framing a Constitution for

munications and ancillary

that included matters related

the State. Home Minister Amit Shah has said in both the Houses of Parliament that Article

370 was "originally a temporary provision." Mr. Shah told the Lok Sab-

ha on Tuesday that Article 370(3) provided the President the powers to amend or repeal the Article by issuing a notification, based on a recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of J&K and since it doesn't exist any more, it would be read as the Legislative Assembly.

He added that since the Legislative Assembly of J&K was dissolved last year, its powers vested in both the Houses of Parliament.

been vocally against the go-

vernment's action, spoke at

length about the historical

reasons behind Article 370.

Former Union Home Minis-

ter P. Chidambaram, who

largely authored the CWC re-

CWC meeting divided on Kashmir

Larger group will meet tomorrow to reinforce the party's ideological stand

SOBHANA K. NAIR NEW DELH

With open division coming to the fore at the Congress Working Committee meeting on revocation of Article 370 on Tuesday, a meeting of a larger group has been called on Friday to reinforce the party's ideological stand on

The CWC meeting on Tuesday night saw a heated debate between the old guard and the young leaders. Two CWC members, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Deepender Hooda, had already articulated their view supporting the revocation of Article 370.



A circular issued on Wednesday by general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal has called all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, heads of various departments under the All-India Congress Committee, all general secretaries, State unit heads and Congress legislative party leaders for a meeting. At the CWC meet, accord-

ing to sources, Mr. Scindia and Mr. Hooda's line found many takers, with the likes of former UPA Ministers Jitin Prasada and R.P.N. Singh backing them.

Outgoing president Rahul Gandhi, who heard out all the sides, said that persons from the northeast, southern States, Northern States and Kashmir would have divergent views on the issue and the party should reflect these views.

Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, who has

solution, talked about the technical flaws in the process by which the government brought about the legislation. In the end, there was broad unanimity on two issues. One, the manner in which the legislation was brought in, which was reflected in the resolution, and

Territory.

two, dismembering and reducing the State to a Union

judges in SC SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Rajya Sabha on Wed-

A ND-NDE

'Unshakeable faith is proof of Rama's birthplace'

Lawyer for Ram Lalla Virajman submits that references to disputed land are there in the Valmiki Ramayana

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

"Whether Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem... Has such a question ever arisen in any court," Justice S.A. Bobde asked senior advocate K. Parasaran, lawyer for Ram Lalla Virajman, the deity in Ayodhya, during the second day of hearing in the Ramjanmabhumi cross-appeals on Wednesday.

The appeals have been filed by Hindus and Muslims contesting each other's claims of ownership over the 2.77 acres in Ayodhya where Hindus believe Lord Ram was born in Tretha Yuga. The structure, Babri Masjid, which stood on the disputed land was demolished by "Kar Sevaks" on December 6,

The Allahabad High Court attempted to resolve the decades-old dispute by giving ioint possession of the disputed land to both Hindus and Muslims in a three-way partition among the deity, Nirmohi Akahara and the Sunni Waqf Board in September 2010. But the parties responded cross-appeals.

Mr. Parasaran submitted that references of disputed land were there in the Valmiki Ramayana.

He said the usual strict codes of evidence should be relaxed in this case as worshippers believed the spirit of Sri Ram "pervades/resides" in the Asthan. The unshakeable faith of the believers was itself evidence that the Asthan was the birthplace of Rama, he addressed the Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi.

Mr. Parasaran argued, "The Asthan has become a personification of the deity. It has by itself become an object of worship for the Hindus." The suit filed by the deity in 1989 was not hit by limitation as the installation of idols in the Babri mosque on the intervening night of

... the usual strict codes of evidence should relaxed in this case as worshippers believe the spirit of Sri Ram pervades/resides in the Asthan. The unshakeable faith of the believers is itself evidence that the Asthan is the birthplace of Rama. The Asthan has become a personification of the deity. It has by itself become an object of worship for the Hindus



December 22-23 of 1949 was not a "continuous wrong" as an interim injunction order was passed on January 19, 1950, which was again confirmed on March 3, 1951. The appeal against the injunction order was dismissed by the Allahabad High Court in

A Hindu deity in law is treated as a juristic person with rights. The Ayodhya deity is an infant form of

Lord Ram. The deity is

deemed a perpetual minor. The law of limitation does not apply to minors. The Allahabad High Court had admitted the suit filed on behalf of Ram Lalla and appointed the next friend to represent the Lord. The suit in the name of the deity had sought a declaration that the Ramjanmabhumi belonged to the deity. It had also sought a judicial order prohibiting any obstruction in the construction of the new temple building in the disputed area.

The court had asked Mr. Parasaran to commence his arguments after Nirmohi Akhara sought more time to produce oral, historical and documentary evidence to establish their claim over the entire area of the disputed Ramjanmabhumi.

'Time for evidence'

The court, which is on a tight schedule as the CJI has about 50 working days left before retirement in November, decided to hear the deity and gave the Akhara time to preare the evidence.

When a lawyer protested the move from the back row of the courtroom, Chief Justice Gogoi gave him a dressing down, saying "the First Court of this country should remain the First Court of this country. Don't try to make it anything else."

Earlier, the court did not

agree when senior advocate Sushil Kumar Jain, for Nirmohi Akhara, suggested reading the documentary evidence from the judgments of the lower courts in the case.

"These would be just excerpts. We want the original documents," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, on the Bench, reacted.

Mr. Jain said documentary evidence such as revenue records to establish the Akhara's claim of having managed and controlled the "temple" in the Ramjanmabhumi went missing in a "dacoity' in 1982. But Justices Ashok Bhushan and S. Abdul Nazeer seconded Justice Chandrachud, who asked Mr. Jain at least to present oral evidence, such as testimonies in court, before the Bench.

"Statements here and there will not do. Present us the oral evidence," Chief Justice Gogoi said.

The hearing will continue on Thursday.

Pilgrims leave for Kailash Mansarovar

Slight delay in granting visa by China

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

After a procedural delay of a few hours, two batches of Indian pilgrims for Kailash Mansarovar left for Tibet on Wednesday.

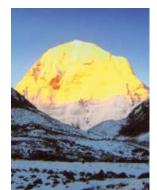
The delay in the departure was because of the late granting of Chinese visa by Beijing's authorities.

The Hindu had earlier reported that the pilgrims who were to leave on early Wednesday morning had not received visas till late evening of Tuesday.

However, the visas were granted by China and the pilgrims left from Delhi.

People-level contact

The Indian government showcases the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage as a major step towards maintaining people-level contact between India and China. The pilgrims are expected to travel on a land route



travel on land route through Himalayan passes to the holy mountain.

through the Himalayan passes to the holy mountain of Kailash.

Delay in the visas had triggered some concern among the pilgrims as the travel coincided with India's declaration on Kashmir and China's consequent objection to the creation of a Union Territory in Ladakh.

Good showing by Rajya Sabha, says Venkaiah Naidu

'32 Bills passed in the best Budget session in 17 years'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday said the Upper House had turned around from its disruptive past to a "new normal". In all, 32 Bills were passed in the Budget session, making it the best in the past 17 years and the fifth best in 41 years.

"Having reached a new normal in this session, the task now before all of us is to sustain it without getting back to old ways," he said.

The Chairman said the Budget session was the most productive in the past two decades in various aspects, appealing all "not to return to the old ways of persistent disruptions".

"With a total duration of 195 hours spent on transacting different kinds of business during the 35 sittings, this session turned out to be the best of 36 sessions durthe 249th session that conwould help in "addressing ing the past 11 years... the cluded on Wednesday was



M. Venkaiah Naidu

217th session in 2009 had a total business time of 147 hours 27 minutes," he said.

During the past five sessions, Mr. Naidu said that only a total of 173 hours and 33 minutes were spent on transacting business. With 35 sittings, the session was the longest in the past 14 years. The 204th session in 2005 had 38 sittings.

Lost time compensated With a total of 151 starred questions orally answered, the best in the last 14 years after 45 sessions, the earlier record being 165 such questions answered in the 204th session (2005). In all, 194 special mentions and 326 Zero Hour mentions (the best in the past 20 years) were The House lost 19 hours

ruptions, but gained about 28 hours by sitting beyond the scheduled hours. Mr. Naidu said that during the session, the Council of

and 12 minutes due to dis-

States stood up for the interests of the States. It reflected in the amendment made by the House to the Motor Vehicles (Amend-

ment) Bill. The Chairman also noted that the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill and the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill passed during the session were "truly historic, which

Recall NRC notices, says plea to SC

People told to go to far-flung areas within a day or two, says civil society group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A group of 131 academics, intellectuals, professionals and civil society leaders in Assam have sought rescheduling of hearings for National Register of Citizens applicants who have been issued notices to have their citizenship documents reverified within a very short In an appeal to the Su-

preme Court, which has been monitoring the NRC updating exercise, the 131 signatories said the "sudden, suspicious and mischievous' notices have created panic among a section of the people who were included in the draft NRC published on July

"The people of Assam have been supporting the NRC updating process and participating in the hearings and verifications, sometimes even by paying huge costs in terms of time, energy and financial resources. Nevertheless, they are ready to go



On the streets: CPI(M) activists protesting in Guwahati against the alleged harassment of citizens by NRC authorities. • PTI

greater interest of an errorfree and just NRC," said the appeal to Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi submitted to the court's Registrar on Tuesday.

'Panicky situation' "However, we would like to

draw your kind attention regarding the panicky situation created by suspicious and mischievous notices served to NRC applicants for through any verification reverification by the NRC whenever required for the authority in Assam. Now

EG12/8140/17

notices are being served to people and they are asked to go in far-flung areas with a short notice of one or two days," the appeal reads. "The people of Assam in

general and people living in riverine areas in particular have experienced one of the worst floods in recent years. They are struggling to cope with the losses and many of them are still living in temporary relief camps. Under such circumstances, if these people are asked to attend the NRC hearing giving them just one or two days and summoned to 500-600 km away from their homes, there is little doubt that a large number of them wouldn't be able to attend the hearings," the signatories said.

'At least a week'

They asked the court to direct the NRC authority to reschedule the hearing either within the district or within adjoining districts and provide at least a week's time so that the applicants could attend the hearing and complete the process within the August 31 deadline.

"Kindly direct the NRC authority to make the notice available on the Internet along with the physical serving so that people living in other States can also access the same and attend the hearing accordingly," the signatories said, also seeking instruction to the district administration to provide basic transport facilities in the greater interest of an error-

Will bring back M.P. man from Pak: Nath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Wednesday said the State government would make its best efforts to help bring back a man from Khandwa district detained in Pakistan for allegedly spying on a nuclear enrichment facility there.

"We direct officials to visit the family of Raju Lakshman Bheel of Indhawadi village of Khandwa district," Mr. Nath tweeted.

On August 1, Pakistani police told presspersons of the arrest of Lakshman the previous day.

Centre puts key airports on alert

BCAS orders additional checkpoints

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has in an alert issued to the Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, Nagpur and Chandigarh airports warned that they could be the target of a terrorist attack in view of recent developments in Jammu and Kashmir and additional inputs received.

"In view of civil aviation emerging as a soft target," the BCAS issued two sets of directives on August 5 and 6. The August 6 directive is to have vehicle checkpoints set up one kilometre away from the airport, or as per availability of space for setting up barricades away from the airport terminal building.

In its August 6 alert, the BCAS said the State police or the airport security group would man these checkpoints till August 31, or until further orders. The country's nodal aviation security group has asked agencies to carry out intensive random checks on vehicles approaching terminal build-

J&K move spurs alert While instructions were is-

sued to increase vigil for Independence Day on August 5, with visitor access being banned, a fresh alert was issued on Tuesday in view of the situation in J&K.

"The probability of un-



The alert says metro airports are more vulnerable.

lawful interference is more from the city side of the airport terminal," BCAS said. 'The metro airports are more vulnerable. All vehicles, particularly cars, approaching the airports shall be subject to intensive random security check at vehicle checkpoint one km away from the terminal building," it directed.

In its first alert, the BCAS said that in view of the Independence Day, it was imperative to enhance existing security measures at all civil aviation installations like airports, airstrips, airfields, air force stations, helipads, flying schools, aviation training institutes etc. so that no untoward incident takes place.

The BCAS also directed enhanced screening of passengers, including 100% full pat down search at pre-embarkation security checkpoint, and enhanced random screening of staff and visitors at the main gate to the terminal building.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD. Kalisindh Thermal Power Project, Jhalawar (Raj.) ONLINE TENDER NOTICE

Online Tenders are invited for supply of TN-538(RVU1920GLOB00794 Various types of cables, 568 (RVU1920GLOB00800) HT Motor spares and Various types of cautes, 300 (NVO) Page 20000000) Thirtion spaces and 592(RVU1920GL0B00820) Supply of Spares of main steam stop valve, HP control, HP Control valve and IP Control & Stop valve. Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender) www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Dy.Chief Engineer (MM)

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LTD. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (CIVIL), CSPGCL, Shed No. 2, Dangania, Raipur-492013 none No. 9771-2574562, Fax: 0771-2574579, website www.cspc.co.in E-mail: www.cspc.co.in E-Raipur, date 05.08.2019

nline bids with Reverse Live Auction are invited through MSTC E-procurement portal frontractors registered in appropriate class in CSPGCL in three part tendering system. I registered contractor having similar work experience in Govt-Public Secundertaking/Local bodies/ Power Generating Companies in India only may also be consider submission of experience certificate for following work:

SI. No.	Tender Specification No./ Event No	Description	NIT value (Rs.) i/c GST 18%	EMD (Rs.)	Completion period (incl. Rainy season)
L	CECHTPS-KW/W/ 2019/161/ CSPGCL/19-20/ ET/19	Utilization of pond ash by transportation of pond ash from Ledicta Ash dyke to VUP (Vehicle Under Pass) at CH 44-440 s 43-900 for filling in ongoing Bilingur Patharapali road construction of (NH-130) NHAI from CSPGCL, HTPS, Korba West	404.10 Lacs	4,04,100/-	06 Months

of techno commercial bids 22-08-2019 (up to 15:00 Hrs) & 22-08-2019 (at 16:00 Hrs) respectively. View tender date & time and start bid date & time will be 13.08.2019 (10:30 Hrs) and 16.08.2019 (10:30 Hrs) respectively. In case of holiday falling on due date, it will be dealt as per clause D-iv. The tender document can be viewed and downloaded on line from MSTC e-procurement portal http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/cspgcl. Note: Twelve Months maintenance period required for the work.

Chief Engineer (Civil) //Save Electricity// CSPGCL, Raipur

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT Notice No.09/2019 SALE OF LOCOMOTIVES THROUGH E-AUCTION ON "AS-IS-WHERE-IS-BASIS"

Southern Railway has proposed to sell Four Locomotives on "As-is-where-is basis" through e-Auction Scheduled to be held on 03-09-2019, 12-09-2019 & 23-09-2019 till the same is sold by Dy.CMM/GSD/PER. They are available at Diesel Loco Sheds / Ernakulam (2 Nos. - WDM2 & WDM3A), Erode (1 No. WDM2) & Tondiarpet (1 No. - WDM2). These Locomotives are in working condition. Those who are interested to participate in the e-Auction can get their firms registered with www.ireps.gov.in duly obtaining Class - III Digital Diesel Shed at Ernakulam on 27-08-2019, at Erode on 29-08-2019 & at Tondiarpet on 30-08-2019 to the bidders who have got their name registered with www.ireps.gov.in.

For more details logon to www.ireps.gov.in and contact Deputy Chief Materials Manager, General Stores Depot, Perambur, Chennai (Phone No. 044-26261226, Mobile No.9003160779). Chief Materials Manager / Sales Southern Railway (Mobile No.9003060775). For Live Demonstration contact numbers are:

No.9746769450), Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer / Diesel Loco Shed Erode (Mobile No.9003960404), Divisional Mechanical Engineer / Diesel Loco Shed/Tondiarpet (Mobile No.9003161402).

Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (Solid Waste Management Department)

online Bids for "Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of Mahalaxmi Refuse Transfer Station". The bids can be downloaded from MCGM's portal

The Bid Start Date and time is 08.08.2019 after 02.00 P.M. and the Bid End Date and time is 29.08.2019 up to 4.00 P.M. The intending bidders shall visit the Municipal web site a (http://portal.mcgm.gov.in) for further details of the tender. The bid document will not be issued or received by post.

PRO/736/ADV/19-20

Dy. Ch.Eng. (S.W.M.) Planning



ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या आर.ओ.बी.-02/2019-20 जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से कन्सलटेन्सी कार्य से संबंधित

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for Supply of The Materials & Components for The

Registration Board for Sea Going

For details and online submission of bids

Integration

Vessels

मुहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। इन कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक. निविदा, शर्ते आदि सम्पर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट www.jodhpurjda.org, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एव www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।UBN No: JOD1920SL0B00086 अधिशाषी अभियंता (जोन-आर.ओ.बी.) जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

राज. संवाद/सी/1827/2019-20

Kerala State Film **Development Corporation Ltd**

No.3320/P1/19/KSFDC **C-TENDER NOTICE** e-Tenders are invited for selecting the "Project Management Consultant" for the construction of Cultural Complexes at Palakkad

Kasaragod and Kollam (Estimated Cost-Rs.137.087Cr.) and for the

construction of Cinema Theatre Complexes at Alagappanagar

achitra Kalabhavan, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram-695014. Phone: 0471-2325325 2321586 E-mail: ksfdottd@gmail.com / ksfdckiifb@gmail.com Web: www.ksfdc.in

Perambra, Kayamkulam, and Payyannur (Estimated Cost-Rs.47.13Cr) For details visit website: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in



TAMIL NADU MARITIME BOARD GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU Tender Notice- Lump sum Items Rate Contract

(Two cover system)

No. 01/TNMB/2019-20 Date:06.08.2019 Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, invites tender for the following work. Last date of submissions of tender documents is 12.09.2019 at 3.00 P.M, and opening of 1st cover will be 12.09.2019 at 3.30 pm. Instruction and required work experience of this tender will be given along with the Tender schedule. All other information is available in the website www.tnmaritime.com. Tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost from the website

Name of Work	lotal Est. cost (Approx)	EMD
Extension of Passenger Jetty at Kanyakumari.	Rs.20 Crores	Rs.8.20 Lakhs*
Sale of Tender Documents -13.08	3.2019 to 11.09.2	019 on all

working days Cost of Tender Document - Rs. 16,800/- (Including GST)

*Cost of EMD and Cost of Tender Document should be drawn in the form of D.D from any of the scheduled Bank drawn in favour of Tamil Nadu Maritime Board, Payable at Chennai. For further details contact the Executive Engineer, Tamil Nadu Maritime Board

Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, DIPR / 2699 / TENDER / 2019 Tamil Nadu Maritime Board.

Divisional Mechanical Engineer / Diesel Loco Shed / Ernakulam (Mobile SMM/Sales/PER

KOZHIKODE CORPORATION

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Kozhikode Municipal Corporation (KMC) invites Expression Of Interest (EOI) from reputed firms for developing Multi Level Parking cum Commercial Complexes or PPP mode near EMS Indoor Stadium and Kidson Corner. For details visit www. kozhikodecorporation.lsgkerala.gov.in. Last date of EOI acceptance: 30/08/19, 4.00 pm

ONGC Petro additions Limited Reg. Office: 4th Floor, 35, Nutan Bharat Co-operative Housing Society Limited, R.C. Dutt Road, Alkapuri, Vadodara - 390007, Gujarat. Ph.: 0265 6192600 CIN No.: U23209GJ2006PLC060282

TENDER NOTICE OPaL invites the sealed tender under Open Tender Two Bid System for: Tender Number: 1901C00488; Tender Description: Hiring an agency for managing non-core activities (back office jobs) (Contract Duration - 03 Years); Pre-bid Conference: 22.08.2019, 1100 Hrs; Tender Sale Period: 08.08.2019, 0900 Hrs. to 10.09.2019, 1400 Hrs; Closing date and time for Bid Submission: 10.09.2019, 1400 Hrs.

Submission: 10.09.2019, 1400 mrs.
The tender document can be downloaded from OPaL website (www.opalindia.in). For other details of this tender including corrigendum if any, please logon to OPaL website "www.opalindia.in". In case of exigencies OPaL at its option may decide to extend tender sale/bid closing/ opening date/firme in future, which will be posted on the above referred website for information. Bidders should regularly visit OPaL website for the latest information in this regard.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS **E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE PURCHASE OF BOOKS**

SVIMS is inviting e-tenders (two bid system) for purchase of medical books to the central library. For details log on to the website http:// tender.apeprocurement.gov.in for further details contact phone numbers 0877-2287777 Extn.2305

The Director-cum-VC reserves the right to reject the tender without Roc.No.LIB/04/BOOKS/SVIMS/2019, Dated: 29-07-2019 Director Cum V.C.



e-TENDER NOTICE The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) invites

(http://portal.mcgm.gov.in) under "e-procurement" section.

'Hong Kong facing worst crisis since 1997' At least 14 killed, 145 injured

Chinese official says protests are getting increasingly violent and having 'a broad impact on society'

SHENZHEN

China on Wednesday said Hong Kong is facing the most severe crisis since the city was handed over to Beijing by Britain in 1997.

Those protests are getting increasingly violent and having "an increasingly broad impact on society," said Zhang Xiaoming, Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Hong Kong.

"It can be said that Hong Kong is facing the most severe situation it has faced since the handover," Mr. Zhang told Hong Kong residents attending a seminar in the mainland city of Shenzhen just across the border from the Asian financial hub that has been wracked by daily protests against the administration of Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

Officials in Beijing were "highly concerned" and studying the situation to decide on measures to take, he said.

China so far has not visibly intervened in the situation, though in editorials and statements from officials it has condemned demonstrators and protest organisers as criminals, clowns and "violent radicals" and alleged that they have been inflamed by politicians from the U.S., Taiwan and elsewh-

Speculation that the military could be deployed grew after Chinese officials pointed to an article in Hong Kong law that allows troops already stationed in the city to help with "public order maintenance" at the Hong Kong government's request.

Ms. Lam reappeared on Wednesday at the opening of an exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Communist

"Over recent months, con-

City at a crossroads

China's semi-autonomous city of Hong Kong has been rocked since April by increasingly violent protests that were sparked by a proposed extradition law

THE TRIGGER

April 28: Thousands march against a Bill that would allow extraditions to mainland China There are fears that

the law will allow Beijing to pursue its political enemies in Hong Kong

June 9: Despite government tweaks to soften the law, tens of thousands more protest again

It descends into violence after midnight when police, using batons and pepper spray hoses, try to disperse small groups of protesters who hurl bottles and use metal barricades

June 12: Huge crowds attempt to storm Parliament, delaying the Bill's second reading

ditions in Hong Kong society have been extremely unstable," Ms. Lam said in remarks distributed by her of-"The administrative region government will certainly join with all of you to deal with it calmly, restore social order, safeguard rule of law and cherish Hong Kong, cherish

'one country, two systems,' and cherish our home." Pro-democracy lawmakDEMONSTRATORS ATTACKED y <mark>21:</mark> Protesters are back on ■ In the Yuen Long area, masked

July 1. Just ahead of an annual march to mark Hona Kona's return to China, young masked protesters take over key roads, sparking

THE BILL IS DEAD

new clashes with police Later in the day,

hundreds smash their way into Parliament and ransack the building, daubing its walls with anti-government

July 9: Lam says the extradition Bill "is dead" but protesters

to be triad gangsters — attack protesters protesters are charged with rioting **UNREST SPREADS**

Demonstrators erect barricades in the tourist district of Tsim Sha Tsui August 5: Activists disrupt the subway system, paralysing China warns that "those who play with fire will delaying scores of international

> In return: A protester throws a tear gas canister back at the police in Hong Kong.

perish by it"

for Hong Kong," Ms. Mo said. Lawyers' march

Protesters have come from all professions and age groups. On Wednesday, several hundred lawyers sought a meeting with Secretary of Justice Teresa Cheng and staged a silent protest. The authorities have refused to

Kong) administration has be-

come completely untrust-

worthy and this is just so sad

open a dialogue with protesters and there was no immediate response from Ms. Cheng's office.

Margaret Ng, a lawyer, said they wanted to meet Ms. Cheng to seek an assurance that there was no political motive in prosecution of those detained. More than 500 people have been arrested since the protests began and dozens have already been charged with rioting.

in Taliban attack in Kabul

Explosion was triggered by a truck bomb, claim insurgents

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

At least 14 people were killed and 145 wounded in a massive bomb blast on Wednesday as fresh violence gripped Kabul even as insurgents appear to be closing in on a peace deal with the U.S.

The bloodshed in the capital comes amid an ongoing surge in attacks across Afghanistan, where some 1,500 people were killed or injured last month alone.

A huge plume of black smoke was seen rising over western Kabul following a massive explosion at the entrance to a police compound on Wednesday morning.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said the explosion was caused by a car bomb, but the Taliban, which claimed the attack, said it was a much larger truck bomb. An



Mayhem continues: An Afghan police officer inspecting the site of a blast in Kabul on Wednesday. • REUTERS

Afghan security official also said it was a truck bomb.

Images on social media showed toppled blast walls surrounding several largely destroyed buildings in a compound.

Afghan authorities said at least 10 civilians and four police officers had been

killed. Another 145 people, including 92 civilians, were wounded.

The attack came after the Taliban warned Afghans on Tuesday to keep away from the presidential election due in September. The Taliban has ordered its fighters to "stand against" the polls.

S. Korea to pay more to keep U.S. troops on ground: Trump

Over 28,500 soldiers guard against threats from N. Korea

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that South Korea has agreed to pay the U.S. "substantially more" for protection against North Korea and that talks have begun to further increase payments.

Mr. Trump tweeted the U.S. "has been paid very little" for decades but last year "South Korea \$990,000,000."

South Korea and the U.S. in March signed a deal to increase Seoul's payments for



U.S. troops in Osan Air Base on June 30. ■REUTERS

U.S. troop deployment there from \$850 million in 2018 to \$924 million in 2019. The White House, when asked about the apparent discrepancy between Mr. Trump's tweet and those figures, said it would look into it.

Mr. Trump's financial demands have triggered worries in South Korea that he might withdraw some of the 28,500 U.S. troops.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that the cost-sharing talks had not officially started. But it said that both sides during National Security Adviser John Bolton's visit to Seoul last month agreed that the talks should proceed in a



'N. Korean launches were warning to U.S., S. Korea

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said Pyongyang's latest missile launches were meant as a warning to Washington and Seoul over their joint military exercises, state news agency KCNA reported on Wednesday, AFF

Army spies charged for attack on scribe in Lanka

Sri Lanka on Wednesday charged two army spies for a decade-old serious assault of a newspaper editor. Rivira editor Upali Tennakoon and his wife survived the attack in January 2009 as they drove to work in Colombo. AFP

Trump visits victims in Ohio amid protests

REUTERS

President Donald Trump met in Ohio on Wednesday with victims and hrst responders from one of last weekend's two deadly mass shootings that shocked the country, even as critics and protesters accused him of inflaming tensions with anti-immigrant and racially charged rhetoric.

Mr. Trump visited Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, where the victims were treated after nine people and the suspect were killed in a rampage early on Sunday.

Crowds of protesters outside the hospital set up a "baby Trump" blimp balloon, chanted "Do Something!" and held signs reading



Kong leader Carrie

Lam postpones the Bill, but a fresh

demonstration the next

ers continued to criticise Ms.

Lam's handling of the prot-

ests. Claudia Mo told repor-

ters that Beijing and Ms. Lam

were employing a two-

pronged strategy of using the

police force to handle the

protesters physically while

also attacking them ideologi-

cally by labelling their move-

ment as seeking to destroy

the "one country, two sys-

"We all know this (Hong

tems" framework

Protesters outside the Miami Valley Hospital in Ohio. • REUTERS

"Hate not welcome here," "Stop this terror," and "You are why.'

Later, Mr. Trump will visit the Texas city of El Paso, on the border with Mexico, where 22 people were killed at a Walmart store on Saturday.

The back-to-back massacres, occurring 13 hours apart, have reopened the national debate over gun

Is 'Bernie or Bust' the future of American Left?

Sanders' popularity has helped swell the ranks of the Democratic Socialists of America

MARC TRACY AUDRA MELTON

Three years ago, the Democratic Socialists of America had 5,000 members. Just another booth at the campus activities fair, another threeinitialled group an uncle might mention over lunch.

Today, dues-paying DSA members exceed 56,000. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a rising star of American politics, is one. So are a couple of dozen local elected officials across the country. Sen. Bernie Sanders, a presidential candidate, is not, but he may as well be: he identifies as a democratic socialist and enjoys a totemic status

with the group's members. Mr. Sanders' popularity

during his unsuccessful 2016 run for the Democratic presidential nomination helped swell DSA's ranks. But a very different figure is primarily responsible for the group's staggering growth: President Donald Trump, who recently associated "radical socialism" with the "destruction of the American dream". In fact, the majority of current DSA members signed up in the past two years.

"Trump scared a lot of people," said Maria Svart, the national director. "So they joined."

Most of the roughly 1,000 DSA delegates who gathered at the convention last weekend to set organisation policy doubtlessly share Ms. Svart's resoundingly nega-



tive view of the President. And nearly as many would agree with her that Mr. Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont, is the one to beat him. The group endorsed Mr. Sanders in

But if Mr. Sanders is not the nominee? The group

passed a resolution on Friday saying it will not officially endorse anyone else. For the DSA, it is "Bernie or The vote does not mean DSA members cannot vote for a non-Sanders nominee in November 2020, of course, nor even that DSA cannot mobilise swing-State votes for such a nominee, as it did in 2016 when it did not endorse Hillary Clinton.

Unifying figure

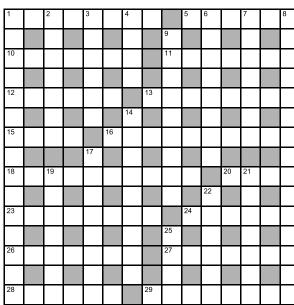
Yet the vote was a reflection of this charged moment for left-wing activists as well as the singular role Mr. Sanders plays in the minds of many members. "Bernie is a uniquely unifying figure in the DSA," said Thea Riofrancos, of the Providence, Rhode Island chapter.

Several DSA members made the persuasive case that Mr. Sanders' 2016 campaign fundamentally shifted the Democratic Party leftward, particularly on the signature issue of single-payer "Medicare for All."

And Winnie Wong, a campaign adviser for Mr. Sanders, who said she was attending the convention as a rank-and-file member and observer, not a delegate, in turn, credited the DSA for helping popularise Medicare for All, a policy it endorsed at its 2017 convention.

"I am extremely happy that the activist base of the DSA is energized around making sure we move the goal posts," she said. NY TIMES

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12699



ACROSS

- 1 Reserved beach around the tip of Triplicane (3-5)
- 5 Mend carried out retaining middle fold of tomb (6)
- 10 Sentimental Frenchman endlessly lauding dancing (7)
- 11 Revised report about one French mime (7)

- 12 Spell 'canter' incorrectly (6)
- 13 Writing on the wall: "German count healthy individual" (8)
- 15 Flower in the eye (4)
- 16 Interpreting prisoner's deceptive plan to trap Russian
- 18 Aim to retain central hero as Number 1 (10)
- 20 The old, oddly thin, elusive subject (4)
- new resident (8) 24 Resident Editor to follow
- market (6) 26 Exaggerate what's plain about
- 27 Copy lass' abrupt, odd

Caribbean music (7)

DOWN

1 What a mystery solver or you would look for (9,2,2,2)

(set by Gridman)

- 2 Nuts pushed French friend into
- 3 Second force leaves nothing to piece together (6)
- 4 Force starts to dwell in nice temperature (4)
- **6** Begin shooting around it, people may gather in winter

7 Swallow one drink (7)

huge wave (7)

- 23 In a month trophy goes to a 8 If all equipments are in
 - disrepair, ___ (7,4,4) 9 Tyrannised by spreading dope
 - 14 Page introducing pages (5,4) 17 Snow lander to avoid trail

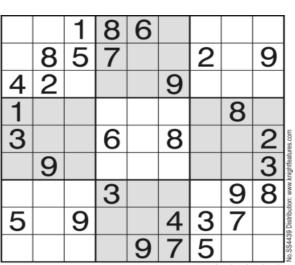
(3-5)

19 Old standard-bearer like lago

21 Model, once buxom (7)

- 22 Put into use odd deep trick (6)
- 25 Somehow chose to ignore second iteration (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12698 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING:

															_	_	_	_					
М	Α	Η	Α	R	Α	7		R	_	Ρ	0	F	F		4	7	3	1	2	9	6	8	5
Α		Α		Ε		Α		U		Α		Ε		F		<u>-</u>		-	_	-	-	~	$\stackrel{\smile}{=}$
R	0	В	-	Z		С	0	Ζ	Т	R	Α	ш	Т	0	12	5	1	6	8	4	3	9	7
R		1		Е		Α		U		S		L		R	0	^	0	E	7	0	0	4	4
ı	Ν	т	Е	G	ш	R		Ρ	ш	z	s	-	>	Е	Ø	р	9	Э	/	3	2	ш	4
Α		\supset		\supset		Α				-		z		Ы	5	1	Я	7	a	2	4	6	3
G	Е	Ε	S	Е		Ν	0	Т	1	Ρ	Ρ	1	Ν	G	_		U		J	~		U	S
Ε						D		R						Ν	7	4	6	3	1	8	5	2	9
В	R	Α	1	Ν	W	Α	٧	Ε		٧	1	S	Т	Α	_	_	^	4	_	^	~	=	7
R		Т		J				Α		Ε		Ρ		F	9	3	2	4	5	6	8	/	1
0	U	Τ	G	R	0	8		s	ш	z	Δ	0	ш	F	3	a	4	2	6	1	7	5	Я
Κ		Α		Т		Α		\subset				Z		Α	J	J		_	U		-	J	O
Ε	Ν	О	0	כ	z	т	ш	R		R		s	Ξ		6	8	7	9	4	5	1	3	2
Я		Τ		R		Е		Е		Е		0		R	4	~	_	~	_	=	~	4	_
	М	Ε	Т	Е	0	R		D	Е	S	Ε	R	Т	S	1	2	5	8	3	/	9	4	6

FAITH

His inscrutable ways

Saints and sages in search of realisation claim in one voice that the ways of the Lord always remain inscrutable. Manikkavachagar hails Him as "Ullam kavar kalvan," the thief who steals the heart. Is it not the greatest fortune to have the heart stolen thus by Him? This is what sages steeped in meditation want to attain.

This profound truth realised by the Gopis is translated in simple terms in the Bhramara Gita or the Ode to the bee, pointed out Nochur Sri Venkataraman in a discourse. Though their words flow as Ninda Stuti, it is all praise for Krishna who is none other than the Supreme Truth. 'The Lord belongs to all and none can own Him. Even Mahalakshmi, His divine consort has to put up with His fickle ways. He is adept in stealing the hearts of people which He does as easily as He steals butter. Now their hearts are not available for worldly objects. How easily Krishna has abandoned them who had given up everything that is theirs, sons, husbands, etc for His sake, they ask. His various deeds in His avatars only confirm His atrocious conduct, they say. Did He not have Bali bound in the most ungrateful manner after receiving his worship and gifts? Did He not kill Vali the monkey king like a cruel hunter in a deceitful manner, hiding behind the trees? How pitiless of Him to cut off Surpanakha's nose who was in love with Him? He is a dangerous person as one can see what effects He has unleashed on them. He comes and goes as He wills. Led by His false professions they have been ensnared by His love and now suffer Viraha tapa.'

But their Viraha tapa is a state that leads to realisation. There can be no separation between the Lord and His bhakta, since He is always present in the heart, mind, breaths, the pancha bhutas, senses and organs.

A ND-NDE

CM YK

airconditioning (7)

28 Madman - last one in station. say (6) 29 Newspaper editing site's

revised "Pesky Doc" (4,4)

	07-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,691	-0.77
US Dollar	70.89	-0.11
Gold	37,920	3.02
Pront oil	EC 71	4.00

NIFTY 50		
		CHANG
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv	7152.45	56.1
Bajaj Finance	3265.80	6.4
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL	331.10	-14.2
Britannia Ind	2540.55	-10.0
Cipla	518.30	18.1
Coal India	206.10	1.0
Dr. Reddys Lab	2556.80	0.6
Eicher Motors	16456.65	-554.1
GAIL (India)	121.70	-1.6
Grasim Ind	737.95	23.5
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
Indiabulls HFL		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Bharti Infratel		
Infosys		
*		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
State Bank		
Sun Pharma		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
UltraTech Cement		
UPL	532.80	16.5
Vedanta		
Wipro	262.55	3.6
YES Bank	86.85	1.5

Malaysian Ringitt 16.86 16.96

EXCHANGE RAT	ΓES						
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 07							
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL					
US Dollar	70.69	71.01					
Euro	79.33	79.69					
British Pound	85.88	86.28					
Japanese Yen (100).	66.85	67.15					
Chinese Yuan	10.02	10.06					
Swiss Franc	72.67	73.01					
Singapore Dollar	51.09	51.33					
Canadian Dollar	53.03	53.27					
Made District	1000	16.06					

The initial public offer (IPO) of Spandana Sphoorty Financial, which closed for subscription on Wednesday, was subscribed 1.05 times till 6 pm on the

According to data from the National Stock Exbids for 1.03 crore shares, on offer in the price band

long-term horizon.

Banks get more headroom for lending to NBFCs

RBI raises cap on exposure to single NBFC to 20%; lower risk weight for consumer loans may cut capital needs by ₹12,500 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

liquidity on-going crunch faced by non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) has made the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to take further measures to increase credit flow to the sector.

The central bank has decided to increase the cap on a bank's exposure to a single NBFC to 20% of its tier-I capital from 15% now.

Further, RBI has decided to give 'priority sector' tag for banks lending to NBFCs, for on-lending to farm, small and medium enterprises and housing sector.

Banks have been allowed to lend to the NBFCs for onlending to the agriculture sector up to ₹10 lakh, up to ₹20 lakh to micro and small

enterprises, and for housing, up to ₹20 lakh per borrower. These will be classified as priority sector lending.

This will improve the available sources of funding, especially for new-age mid and small-sized NBFCs, at a relatively lower cost, while improving banks' ability to meet their priority sector lending targets.

'Faster transmission'

"Permitting banks to on-lend through NBFCs for priority sector lending would make this transmission faster and more efficient," Umesh Revankar, MD and CEO, Shriram Transport Finance Ltd.,

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also batted for mutual fund and insurance compa-



Shaktikanta Das flanked by RBI colleagues Michael Patra, N.S. Vishwanathan, B.P. Kanungo and Mahesh Jain. PAUL NORONHA

nies, who are creditors of stressed NBFCs, to be part of the resolution process, and said inter-regulatory discussions were going on in this

"It is necessary to look at the whole liability of the enti-

ty comprehensively. So, we have had inter-regulator meetings, and IRDAI has taken a decision to enable the insurance companies to be a part of the inter-creditor agreement. Our discussions with other regulators are goRBI has decided to give 'priority sector' tag for banks lending to NBFCs, for onlending to farm, **SMEs and housing**

ing on," Mr. Das said.

In the resolution process of mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL), where insurance and mutual funds have sizeable exposure, banks want other creditors to be a part of the resolution pro-

Mutual funds are awaiting approval from the markets regulator for becoming a part of the bank-led resolution plan.

In a bid to encourage

banks to extend loans to retail consumers segments such as individual vehicle loans and personal loans, amid a sharp slowdown in demand, the central bank has decided to lower the risk weight for consumer loans, excluding credit cards.

The risk weight, which was 125% as prescribed in 2004, will now become 100%. As a result, banks will need to set aside lower capital for these loans.

Ratings agency ICRA said with personal loans of ₹6 lakh crore outstanding as on June 2019, a 25-percentage point reduction in risk weight may also reduce the capital requirements of banks by ₹12,500 crore and add 14 bps to their capital ra-

Transfer funds 24x7 via NEFT from Dec.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Come December, you can transfer funds round-theclock using the National Electronic Funds Transfer or NEFT facility. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced on Wednesday that the central bank would make available the NEFT system 24x7 from December.

Currently the system is available from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on all working days except second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

In another citizenfriendly measure, the Reserve Bank has thrown open the Bharat Bill Payment System to all categories of billers, except prepaid recharges.

INTERVIEW | SHAKTIKANTA DAS

Lower rates will spur credit flow and revive growth, says Das

Slowdown is perhaps cyclical, not structural; there is room for structural reforms to be undertaken, says the RBI Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

During the post policy media interaction, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das explained why the bank announced an unconventional rate cut of 35 basis points (bps).

Why a 35 bps rate cut?

According to the assessment of the MPC (monetary policy committee), based on demand conditions etc, a 25 basis-point [rate] cut was inadequate, while a 50 basispoint cut was excessive. That is why we took a balanced

What are the underlying issues, according to the RBI, that are hurting growth?

■ There is a demand and investment slowdown; both put together having a dam-

pening effect on growth. We have reduced the growth projection to 6.9% with risks slightly to the downside. Our understanding is that, at this point, it is perhaps a cyclical slowdown, not really a deep structural slowdown. Nonetheless, we have to recognise that there is room for

What is the RBI's view on dollar bonds?

needs to be undertaken.

structural reforms which

■ We have conveyed our views internally to the government. [The] Government is consulting the Reserve Bank on this issue. For the moment, I would leave it

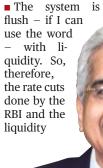
Where do you see the recovery in growth coming

■ Our expectation is – and I am saying this after our interaction with the government – the government will take necessary, further measures as may be required to deal with various issues. With the RBI cutting interest rates, the credit flow will revive. There fore, growth numbers will

When something is done against convention, too much should not be read into it

pick up.

What steps will the Reserve Bank take to ensure faster transmission of monetary policy rates?



which we have injected, both have started the cycle of rate cuts so far as new loans from banks are concerned.

We have a sense that there will be improvement. The RBI is monitoring it

regularly. And in future, whatever steps are required for faster transmission of rates, the Reserve Bank of India will not hesitate to take those steps.

> Despite interest rate cuts, there has been a demand slump.

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman and representa-

tives of the auto sector, on

possibility of fast-tracking of

loans to buy vehicles, and al-

so the employment status of

the auto sector in terms of

job losses so far, said officials

The sector also sought

easing of tax rates to bolster

demand. However, the Fi-

nance Minister said that the

government would take a

consolidated view and take

steps only after it had a more

complete view of the issues

plaguing the major sectors,

"The auto sector representa-

tives met the Finance Minis-

ter and laid out the issues

that are affecting their sec-

tor," the official told The Hin-

an official added.

Poor demand

present at the meeting.

stopped you from a 50 bps

■ In policy making there is something called 'you take a call.' When you take a call, there is something more than mere numbers, which is beyond what is there just in the data. So, the MPC, in its considered opinion, took the view that it will be 35 bps rate

What is so sacred about multiples of 25 bps? It has just been adopted and has become a convention. So, therefore, when you do something out of convention, too much should not be read into it. So, it is a judgement call that the MPC has taken.

The rupee is under

Automakers seek easing of tax rates +

Industry meets FM over fast-tracking of car loans, job losses

RBI's effort to push if it depreciates further?

■ On the rupee, it won't be appropriate for me to give some kind of forward gui-

I will just repeat the stated policy of the RBI that it is the RBI's responsibility to manage volatility of the rupee.

Is a CRR (cash reserve ratio) cut on the table? How long do you see the rate easing cycle continuing?

■ At the moment, there is no proposal for a cut in the cash reserve ratio. As far as future rates are concerned, you have to wait for the incoming data and [watch] how the

+ Spandana **IPO fully** subscribed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

last day of bidding.

change, the issue received as against 98.22 lakh shares of ₹853 to ₹856.

The lacklustre response from retail investors was seen even as many brokerages, including Motilal Oswal Financial Services, Emkay Global, Centrum, Prabhudas Lilladher and Angel Broking among others recommended subscribing to the issue with a investment

SBI cuts lending rate by 15 bps

RBI promises steps for faster transmission to consumers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hours after the Reserve Bank of India decided to cut interest rates for the fourth straight time, State Bank of India (SBI) responded with a 15-basis point (bps) cut in the marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) - the benchmark lending rate.

SBI announced the reduction across all tenors with effect from August 10. With this reduction, its one-year MCLR will be 8.25%

"With today's MCLR cut, home loans have become cheaper by 35 bps since April 10, 2019," SBI said. Since SBI has linked its home loan rate to the repo rate, those rates will also fall by 35 bps.

"With today's cut in the policy rate, SBI's effective Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) for cash credit /over draft customers will stand



revised to 7.65%," SBI said.

Banks have been reluctant so far to reduce interest rate, which is evident from the fact that their MCLR declined 29 bps in response to the 75 bps repo rate cut by RBI between February and June. However, now more banks may follow suit.

Improved liquidity

"Evidently, this would go to reduce the lending rate offered by banks. With improvement in the liquidity position and reduction in deposit rates offered by

MCLR cut, home loans have become cheaper by 35 bps since April 10, 2019

banks, further reduction in lending rate are expected," said Sunil Mehta, MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank and chairman of the Indian Banks' Association. By the time the festive season sets in, the lower lending rate would help to boost domestic demand, he added.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also said he expected more rate cuts by banks.

"We have a sense that there will be improvement [in monetary transmission]. RBI is monitoring it regularly. And in future, whatever steps are required for faster transmission of rates, RBI will not hesitate to take those steps," Mr. Das said.

Aurobindo Pharma profit rises 40%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Drugmaker Aurobindo Pharma has reported a consolidated net profit of ₹635.68 crore for the quarter ended June, an almost 40% increase over the ₹455.59 crore posted in the comparable period of the previous fiscal.

Revenue from operations were 28% higher at ₹5,444.6 crore (₹4,250.3 crore). Driving the performance was a 42.3% growth in formulations revenue to ₹2,688.4 crore (₹1,889.6 crore) in the U.S.

The formulations revenue from Europe and growth markets as well as those of ARV formulations were also higher and helped the company in the face of a 2.1% decline in API revenue to ₹732.2 crore (₹748 crore).



Nirmala Sitharaman

du. "The major issue they highlighted was that demand was poor, and that this was because customers were finding it difficult to secure

"The representatives and the Minister discussed the possibility of a fast-track loan programme for car loans and also for other consumer sectors," the official added. "The employment issue was also highlighted, but the FM said the government will take a decision on all the issues only once all the sector meetings are completed and internal deliberations "The meeting was a fruit-

ful one in that every auto maker and component maker who attended was given ample time to speak," a representative from the auto sector said on the condition of anonymity. "The meeting went on for three hours and all the sector's issues were discussed."

The auto industry is expected to submit a formal proposal with all their suggestions in a day or two.

Heavy Industries Minister Arvind Sawant and Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, as well as senior officials of the Finance Ministry attended the meeting.

> (With inputs from Yuthika Bhargava)

HCL first quarter net declines 8.2%

'Lower profit on account of certain cost items'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HCL Technologies on Wednesday posted a decline of 8.2% in its net profit to ₹2,230 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2019, even as revenue rose 18.3% to ₹16,427 crore, compared with the same quarter

The IT major, which is 'cautiously optimistic' about the growth this fiscal, maintained its revenue guidance of 14-16% in constant currency terms for FY19-20.

As per Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS), HCL Technologies' net profit stood at ₹2,431 crore in the year-ago period, while revenue stood at ₹13,878 crore in the same quarter last year.

"We have started FY20 on a very, very strong note with continued revenue momentum. We posted double-digit quarterly year-on-year



growth of 17% in constant currency [according to US accounting standards]. To give you a historic perspective, the last time we posted a 17% year-on-year growth was in 2011. In terms of incremental revenue added, it comes close to \$100 million, which is the highestever incremental revenue that we have produced," HCL Technologies president and CEO C. Vijayakumar said, announcing the results. Asked about the decline in profit, HCL Technologies CFO Prateek Aggarwal said the lower profit was in line with the guidance that the company had given in the last quarter. "Part of the reason is we

had already invested in certain [aspects such as] sales and other direct costs as well... the HCL software deal [with IBM] was expected to be closed by June 1; instead, it closed July 1. But pretty much for the whole quarter, we were carrying the cost in anticipation of deal closure and the revenue was not there to start with," he added. In December last year, HCL Technologies had inked an agreement to acquire select IBM software products for ₹12,252 crore (about \$1.8 billion), including earn outs of ₹1,035 crore (\$150 million). The board has de-

clared a dividend of ₹2 per

Changes to IBC may be challenged in Essar case

Creditors may file writ petition in SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The recent amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), passed by Parliament and awaiting assent of the President, were brought to the notice of the Supreme Court by a section of creditors on Wednesday.

A bench of Justices R.F. Nariman and Surva Kant was told by some operational creditors in Essar insolvency case that they will be challenging the new amendments passed by Parliament as they affected them.

The top court sought the assistance of the Attorney General in the matter and requested him to be present on August 19. The bench was hearing a

plea by the committee of

creditors (CoC) of Essar

Steel challenging NCLAT's July 4 order that approved steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittalled ArcelorMittal's ₹42,000 crore bid for acquiring the debt-laden firm. The CoC had sought

quashing of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order which had given financial creditors equal status with operational creditors in the distribution of the Arcelor-Mittal's bid amount. "During the hearing, we

have been apprised of the fact that amendments to the IBC have been passed by both houses of the Parliament. Counsel for respondents (operational creditors) take umbrage to some of these amendments and they want to challenge them by way of writ petition," the bench said.

Expenses hit Tata Steel profit

Firm's revenue rose by a marginal 1.3% to ₹35,497 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Tata Steel reported a 65% fall in its first quarter net profit to ₹683 crore on rising expenditure.

The fall in profit came on a marginal 1.3% increase in revenue to ₹35,497 crore as steel prices across geographies declined with weakening economic activities and uncertainty around the ongoing U.S.-China trade conflict.

Commenting on the results, T. V. Narendran, CEO and MD, Tata Steel, said, "The steel sector is facing significant headwinds which has affected spreads and overall profitability.

"However, our strong business model in India has helped us counter the overall market weakness, including the slowdown in the automotive sector, by growing volumes in multiple custom-



T.V. Narendran

er segments. Our focus on operational excellence has also helped in containing the impact on margins."

The company is banking on increased government spending and efforts to address the liquidity crunch to revive demand and steel prices in India in the second half of the year.

The company's adjusted EBITDA during the quarter fell by 21.7% to ₹5,530 crore. Koushik Chatterjee, executive director and CFO, Tata Steel, said, "Amidst a very challenging global economic environment, including in India, higher input costs and weak demand conditions. Tata Steel reported a consolidated EBIDTA margin of 15.4% on the back of a robust India performance of EBID-TA margin of 24.2%. "The European performance was impacted by

mance post the major repairs of the blast furnace earlier in the year." The company is implementing a transformation plan to reduce operating costs, rationalise capital expenditure and working capi-

shutdown and downtime in

Netherlands. The U.K. oper-

ations had a stable perfor-

"Our liquidity is strong at over ₹12,000 crore," Mr. Chatterjee added.

tal and improve overall cash-

Kia eyes global markets with India-made Seltos

South Korean auto major Kia Motors is looking to export its made-in-India mid-sized SUV Seltos to various global markets such as Africa and South America. "We are looking at regions like South Africa, South America and South Asian countries for exporting Seltos. But it is going to be a small number as our main focus remains India." Kia Motors India head. marketing and sales. Manohar Bhat said here. PTI

Wipro bags contract from ADM Aeroports

BENGALURU Wipro has bagged a five-year 'strategic, IT and business transformation contract' from ADM Aeroports de Montreal, which operates YUL Montreal-Trudeau International Airport. This partnership will transform ADM's airport operations through Wipro's integrated service delivery model, airport domain expertise and hyper-automation powered by Wipro HOLMES artificial intelligence platform, the company said.

Ramco Systems net rises 66.67% on higher sales

Ramco Systems Ltd. has reported a 66.67% growth in its standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 2019 to ₹15 crore on higher revenue. Revenue from operations grew to ₹83 crore from ₹74 crore. Expenditure stood at ₹68 crore (₹56 crore). In the quarter, the firm allotted 5,472 equity shares of ₹10 each under the employees stock option scheme. Accordingly, its paid up capital rose to ₹30.63 crore from ₹30.62 crore

India Cements plans ₹1,400 cr. expansion

Company's production capacity to grow by a third and touch 20 million tonnes in two years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The India Cements Ltd. (ICL) is working on expanding its production capacity from the existing 16 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes over the next two years, according to a top official.

ICL has already started the ground work for an integrated plant at Damu in Madhva Pradesh and a grinding unit in Uttar Pradesh.

The expansion programme is expected to involve an investment outlay of ₹1,300 crore to ₹1,400

Upgradation of existing plants would also form part of the expansion initiative.

"We have a mining lease in Madhya Pradesh. We are now in the process of buying the land," said N. Srinivasan,

profit up 53.6%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Ramco Cements Ltd. (RCL)

registered a 53.6% increase

in its standalone net profit

for the first quarter ended

June 2019 to ₹191.97 crore.

revenue increased to

₹1,392 crore from ₹1,225

crore. Operating profit

grew to ₹367 crore (₹255

crore). RCL sold 2.70 mil-

lion tonnes against 2.61

and customer preference

for new variety of cement

gave us premium and pro-

fit," said A.V. Dharmakrish-

nan, CEO, Ramco Ce-

ments. He said by end

2020, capacity will be en-

hanced to 20 million

tonnes per annum (MTPA)

"Cost control measures

million tonnes.

from 12 MTPA

During the quarter, total

Ramco

Cements

Cementing growth



72.4

2.3

vice-chairman and managing director, ICL.

Net profit (₹cr.)

EPS (₹)

To a question, he said ICL required about 500 acres for mining and another 200 acres for the integrated cement plant in Madhya Pradesh. The company had alacquired 160-170 hectares from private par-

LALATENDU MISHRA

An independent director of

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.

(IGAL), that owns and runs

IndiGo Airline, has voiced

concerns similar to the is-

sues raised by IndiGo co-

Anupam Khanna, in a let-

ter dated August 5, to chair-

man M. Damodaran, which

has been made public by Mr.

Gangwal, wrote, "I am still

hopeful that you would have

formulated a constructive

approach addressing the

concerns I had also ex-

pressed and built on the sim-

ple solutions I had suggested

pened and you have ad-

dressed 'remaining issues

with a non-solution.

"Alas, that has not hap-

"Moreover, a serious new

on July 24.

founder Rakesh Gangwal.

ties, he added. The project cost would be met through a combination of borrowings and internal accruals, he added.

21

0.7

243

"We will start the work on the three-million-tonne integrated plant once the land acquisition reaches a sizeable portion and then place

Indigo director slams chairman

'Serious new governance issue appears to be emerging'

M. Damodaran

governance issue appears to

be emerging with the ap-

proach you have laid out (es-

pecially relating to holding

various meetings after the

in arm for IndiGo co-foun-

der Rakesh Gangwal, who

had raised fresh issues in a

bid to curtail the 'growing

power' of other co-founder

Rahul Bhatia and his Inter-

The letter comes as a shot

order for equipment," he said. According to ICL officials, it would take at least three-to-four months to begin the project. It would be ready in two years, taking the total capacity to almost 20 MTPA.

Net profit rises

ICL posted a 243% increase in its standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 2019 to ₹72.43 crore on the back of improved selling prices, cost control measures and softening fuel

Revenue from operations grew to ₹1,468.80 crore from ₹1,360.65 crore.

Earnings before interest, depreciation, taxes and amortisation (EBIDTA) improved to ₹245 crore from

Globe Enterprises (IGE)

feguard (by him and Mr.

Gangwal) was precisely for

situations when the full

complement of independent

directors 'was not in place

and the IGE Group can ride

the past and this risk must

be avoided. A tremendous

trust deficit has been built

up and we, as a board, must

He had also asked Mr. Da-

Mr. Gangwal said he had

modaran not to schedule

meetings as the AGM had

to make this letter public as

the company had not filed

this relevant letter with the

stock exchanges.

been called on August 27.

over

"This has happened in

He said the suggested sa-

Group in IGAL.

roughshod

opposition'.

wring out."

During the quarter, ICL's cement sales, including clinker, stood at 30.42 lakh tonnes against 30.75 lakh tonnes.

The net plant realisation increased by 11%.

"EBIDTA increased by more than 50%. We recorded higher EBIDTA after 11 quarters.

"Our capacity utilisation was 77%, and during this year, we expect it to reach 85%," Mr. Srinivasan said.

Asserting that the cement industry had to remain content with a marginal growth of 1.2% during the first quarter against 13% registered in the corresponding quarter last year, he expected the demand to revive post monsoon and once governments finalised their action plans on the infrastructure front.

Oil slips 4% on U.S. stocks, trade war

REUTERS

Oil prices tumbled more than 4% on Wednesday to a seven-month low, extending recent heavy losses following a surprise build in U.S. crude stockpiles and fears that demand will shrink due to U.S.' escalating trade war with Beijing.

Brent crude futures were down \$2.52, or 4.3%, at \$56.42 a barrel by 10.27 p.m. IST, setting a sevenmonth low. Prices have lost more than 20% since their 2019 peak in April. Oil fell on worries about the trade war, then extended losses after U.S. government data showed a build of 2.4 million barrels in U.S. stockpiles instead of the 2.8 million draw expected.

MUMBAI

All is well

Feb.8.19

Net profit (₹cr.)

Metrics

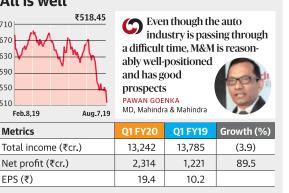
EPS (₹)

biles and tractors.

period last year.

On a standalone basis, in the same period last year.

On a consolidated basis,



Profit from investments boosts M&M net by 80%

Sans exceptional items, net drops 26%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Income from exceptional items (EI), mainly profit from investments of Mahindra & Mahindra Benefit Trust, pushed auto maker Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.'s (M&M) FY20 first quarter net profit up by 80% to ₹2,260 crore for the period ended June 30, 2019.

Without the EI, the company, along, with its 100% subsidiary Mahindra Vehicles Manufacturers Ltd., reported 26% drop in net profit at ₹918 crore as compared to ₹1,238 crore in the same quarter last year, owing to lack of demand for automo-

During the period, sales revenue was 4% lower at ₹12,997 crore as compared to ₹13,551 crore in the same

M&M reported a lower net profit of ₹973 crore, as compared to ₹1,200 crore in the same period last year. However, including EI, the net profit was nearly double at ₹2,314 crore as compared to ₹1,221 crore in the same period last year. Revenue was lower at ₹13,242 crore as compared to ₹13,785 crore

the company's net profit before EI was down 42.8% at ₹777 crore as compared to ₹1,358 crore in the same period last year on 1% decline in revenue at ₹26,289 crore.

The net profit after EI was down 46.5% at ₹914 crore as compared to ₹1,707 crore in the same period last year.

Commenting on the results, Pawan Goenka, managing director, M&M said. "Even though the auto industry is passing through a difficult time, M&M is reasonably well-positioned and having good prospects. We are fully prepared for the upturn in terms of products and capacity. We have no cash flow problem and not in any kind of desperate situation." "Given the macro situation, we have managed reasonably well," he added.

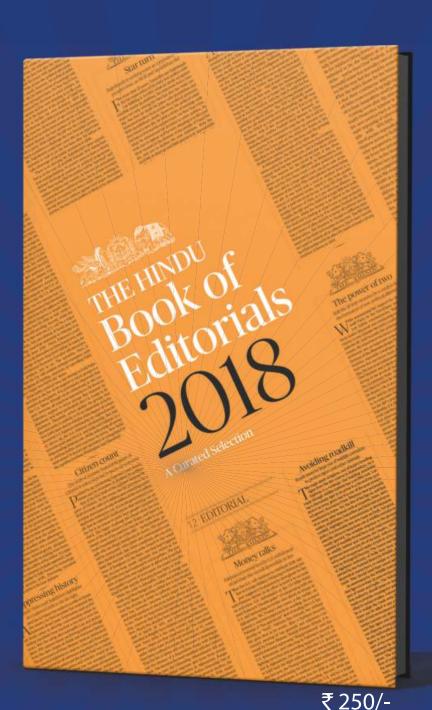
Job losses

However, he said without government's intervention, the industry would not revive, leading to job losses.

During the quarter when the Indian auto industry degrew 12.3%, with all segments of the industry reporting a decline, M&M sold 5% less vehicles at 1,23,690 units as compared to 1,30,484 units sold in the same period last year.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP





A Valuable Collection

A selection of editorials that were published in The Hindu in 2018, these offer a 'recap' of the year that went by, from the editorial pages of India's national newspaper.

The editorials cover a variety of topics ranging from politics, governance and civil society, to media, health and education. This book is invaluable for its aggregation of editorial commentary of some of the key events of the year that have continuing relevance. Segregated topic-wise for ease of reading, The Hindu Book of Editorials is a bookshelf essential.



To book your copy, Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/ For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in For any enquiries call: 1800 3000 1878

CM YK

'I keep reality apart from my characters'

Nawazuddin Siddiqui talks about *McMafia*, one of seven British dramas that will soon air on Zee Café

ANAHITA PANICKER

A sprawling story that unspools across the world - from London to Mumbai, Cairo to Qatar, to name a few - the crime drama McMafia is centred on Alex Godman (played by James Norton) a well-educated hedgefund manager unwillingly sucked into the lawless world of his Russian mafia family. Also featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui (as Dilly Mahmood, a Mumbai gangster), the show is inspired by the 2009 non-fiction book of the same name by journalist Misha Glenny and looks at the franchise-like world of organised

With BBC First returning for a third season on Zee Café, the series will be one of seven British dramas that will air on the flagship programming block.

Edited excerpts.

What drew you to Dilly Mahmood and how does he stand out from your other gangster roles?

The role was offered to me since the director, James Watkin (Black Mirror's 'Shut Up and Dance', The Woman in Black) had followed my work - Gangs of Wasseypur (2012), The Lunch Box (2013) and Miss Lovely (2012) and was impressed by it.

Dilly was not only complex but also challenging. He is an ambitious and strong business partner who is willing to do whatever it takes to reach the top.

James was very clear on how he wanted the character – there is a rawness about Dilly he wanted to showcase. Many times actors put on an accent in English movies, but James wanted me to speak how Indians speak English. The character's journey to constantly scale newer heights is what sets him apart from the other roles I have played and it is the sheer zest of the character that has made me want to play the role.

What was your experience working on a British show?

Britain has been home to riveting dramas and is famous for its rich storytelling. BBC First's shows have a large fan following amongst the global audience, as they are very well crafted.

Each of the shows focus on detailed performances and narrate the simplest story in the most unique way. It gave me the opportunity to work with actors from around the

There's a point when your character

truth about being a Muslim. He inevitably pits the identity against Shiv Sena in that line. You've played Bal Thackeray – a criticised choice, but

your performance was lauded. How do you go about reconciling these aspects - between performer and character, and even the many identities you step

incisively reveals an uncomfortable

Whether it is playing the role of a gang lord in McMafia, or the role of the Shiv Sena leader, all of these are just characters I portray. In real life I don't strictly hold onto a specific ideology or philosophy, because then it

Malefactor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, James Norton in a still from McMafia SPECIAL

rent characters I do. You can only do justice to a role when you

would be impossible for me to play the diffe-

truly believe in him, his philosophy, his ideology and his thought process. I have played roles like Manto, Thackeray and even Faizal Khan – the only way I have been able to do justice to them is because I don't hold a strict ideology or thought process in my personal

A lot of people don't understand this way of life I lead, but as an actor my thought process keeps changing [on the] basis [of] the roles I portray. In the long run it helps me get rid of baggage or taboos and [I] easily slip into the role I'm playing. I consciously keep my reality apart from the characters I play and it ends the minute the director calls it a day.

Was there a specific segment in McMafia that stood out for you?

There is one scene which we shot in Croatia. It is set in a pub where I meet with David [Strathairn, playing Semiyon Kleiman]. During the meeting both the characters are saying something, meaning something completely different and the subtext is also something else altogether. The complexity of how all the minute details have been looked [at] is something I enjoyed.

What are some other projects that are on your plate?

> I am working on my brother's [Shamas Nawab Siddiqui's directorial feature debut] movie Bole Chudivan

Tamannaah Bhatia. It's a movie that can be enjoyed with your family.

BBC First airs every weeknight at 10 pm

ON BBC'S ROSTER

BREXIT: THE UNCIVIL WAR - FROM AUGUST 5 AT 10 PM

The show unpacks the 2016 referendum that caused Brexit through the strategists behind the 'Vote Leave' campaign. Directed by Toby Haynes, the show features Benedict Cumberbatch as Dominic Cummings.

MCMAFIA - FROM AUGUST 6 AT 10 PM Director James Watkins' Alex Godman finds himself ensnared in the dealings of his crime family - much like Michael Corleone from The Godfather (1972). But modern organised crime has a globalised avatar.

MOTHERFATHERSON - FROM AUGUST 19 AT 10 PM

This melodrama about a media dynasty revolves around Richard Gere's Max Finch the owner of a large media empire, his estranged wife Kathryn (played by Helen McCrory), and his troubled son Caden (played by Billy Howle) who has developed a cocaine addiction.

LES MISÉRABLES - FROM AUGUST 28 AT

Writer Andrew Davies and director Tom Shankland reimagine Victor Hugo's 19 th century French novel by the same name into this miniseries that stars Lily Collins, Dominic West, Olivia Colman and David

THE SPLIT - FROM SEPTEMBER 9 AT 10 PM Writer and creator Abi Morgan (Sex Thriller, and The Iron Lady) weaves a drama around the Defoes - a family of divorce lawyers with a family firm. But the oldest of three daughters, Hannah (Nicola Walker), joins a rival firm. Soon she faces her family in a

PRESS - FROM SEPTEMBER 17 AT 10 PM Mike Bartlett's show is a look at the challenges of modern British newspapers and focusses on the lives of journalists and editors in a left-leaning broadsheet paper, The Herald, and a populist tabloid, The

OUR GIRL - FROM SEPTEMBER 25 AT 10

Writer and creator Tony Grounds brings back the military drama pivoted on Michelle Keegan's Lance Corporal Georgie Lane - an army medic in a male-dominated world, her platoon is sent to a Himalayan village hit

PLACE

Integrating art and food

The Hut Cafe in Guruqram is filled with contemporary versions of India's various crafts



As you enter The Hut Cafe in Gurugram, you come across vibrant Rajasthani floral patterned-chairs and Saharanpur's hand-painted tables. They sit in between a collection of objects, that've come from various parts of India.

The founder, Harsh Roy, 35, has collaborated with artisans to make modern interpretations of age-old craft. For instance, the all-too-common leather lamps from Andhra and Karnataka, are made into chandeliers. There are also versions of Kashmiri papier-mâché on cutlery, wall panels, as well as Kavad art from Chittorgarh, a storytelling box which when opened in a sequence, unfolds a mythological tale

"Initially, it started with just collecting craft pieces," says Roy, who opened the cafe two months ago. "Later, it became more about talking to the artists, and getting to know their stories," recalls Roy, who started seeing the cafe as an opportunity to work with and for these artists.

A chemical engineer by profession, Roy is also an avid traveller, interested in the country's arts - specifically, he's been collecting art work from his travels over the last 13 years. The diversity of art he saw over this period, inspired him to open The Hut Cafe.

In keeping with this inspiration, the menu also has dishes specific to different cities and towns of India - including Dharamshala Maggie roll, Mumbai masala sandwich and Meerut ki shikanii.

Much like a handful of other restaurants in the city, everything in The Hut Cafe, from the art on the walls, to the chairs you sit on, can be bought or custom made on

"We pay the artists directly. We have tried to take away the middleman, so the artists get a fair amount for their art," says Roy. The cafe also features a board, which spotlights one artisan, whose creations find space here,

B-106/107, First Floor, Nirvana Courtyard, Sector 50, Gurugram, Haryana 122018, ₹600 for two SANSKRITI FALOR

PRODUCT

Melt in the mouth cookies



Paying an ode to the upcoming festive season, Yoku Moku, the Japanese confectionery brand, recently launched its first range of eggless cookies in Delhi. Available as DCB -

eggless cocoa cookies with white chocolate filling inside and

DBL – eggless butter vanilla cookies doubled with milk chocolate inside, these cookies have been crafted specifically for the Indian market that is sensitive about egg in confectionery. They come in pastel coloured packing

Interestingly, Yoku Moku owes its significance to the Swedish town, Jokkmokk where the founder Noriichi Fujinawa first tasted European butter cookies. Fujinawa's passion for creating unique confectionery could be gauged from the fact that it took him years to perfect the ingredients and recipe.

The result was a delectable butter cookie. The brand's philosophy is "Making Confectionery is a creation, not a production". After multiple test productions and samplings, the brand came out with the eggless version

Two years ago, the brand made its entry into India and was brought by Liberty Group's Liberty Luxuries.

A box of egg-less cookies, with 26 cookies, ₹2405

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

IN OUR BACKYARD

The ghost of the past

From kabootar-baazi to feeding the birds, pigeons have taken over our cities, disturbing what little remains of our city's ecological balance

ABHISHEK GULSHAN

It's the bird everyone recognises, which is not surprising. Not only are they found in great numbers throughout the city, but pigeons have also been a part of Indian culture and society for several centuries.

An integral part of a game called kabootar-baazi, the art of pigeon flying, was a pastime of the Mughal emperors. The game involved learning and developing the skills to control flocks of pigeons, flying away and landing back at the command of the controller. Months and years were spent training pigeons for competitions that were organised, where these skills were displayed and the victors respected across the community. During Akbar's reign, pigeon-flying received royal patronage, and the 'game' is still played in parts of Old Delhi.

The rearing of such large flocks throughout history have left our cities infested with these feral birds. Pigeons are no longer wild species of birds. Feeding them, trading them and often releasing them is what disturbs the delicate ecological balance. There are dedicated feeding stations spread across the city, with shops



leftover food, even cake and cookies, is fed.

This makes the birds highly dependent on human beings for survival, changes their eating habits drastically, and killing their natural instinct to forage for food (they are grain-and and fruit eating). This changes the dynamics of the food chain drastically, eating away into the food cycle of several other native species like the house sparrow that also has a similar diet.

Historical buildings and statues are subjected to bird excreta, which contains uric acid and can cause irreversible damage to buildings: sandstone and limestone are extremely susceptible to it.

The corrosive effects may continue even after cleaning, which in turn leads to massive destruction of historical landmarks.

Pigeon excreta contains certain strains of the bacteria E. coli (Escherichia coli), which when introduced in the food or water supply, may lead to illnesses, making pigeons a regular carrier of these diseases. Traditional

practices have often hurt us in ways unknown to human kind. To maintain a healthy ecological balance, it's wise to avoid feeding pigeons.

Playing

spoilsport

Monuments

have taken a

hit due to

incessant

feeding of

■ WIKIMEDIA

COMMONS/

JORGE ROYAN

birds

The writer is the founder of NINOX -Owl About Nature, a nature-awareness initiative. He is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds. He formerly led a programme at

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



Wedding show

Mine N Yours Wedding Show 2019, a two-day luxurious exposition that showcases premium and high-end products and services from the wedding industry, is back with its fifth edition. Curated by Harpreett Singh, this year's line-up of designers include Rohit Bal, Ashima Leena, Anialee and Ariun Kapoor, Swati Vijavvargie, **VENUE:** Hotel Ashok, Chanakyapuri TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Monsoon special

Monkey Bar, a gastropub in South Delhi, has introduced a special monsoon menu with vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. On till August 31, this special menu has dishes like Butter Paneer Khichdi, Smoked Mushroom, Reddy's Popcorn Chicken, Chilli Cheese Dragon, Chicken Thai Green Curry, and more.

VENUE: Monkey Bar, Pocket C6&7, Vasant Kunj TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight



Kathak and Bharatanatyam

This year's IIC Monsoon Festival of Dance will be presented under the theme, Expressions of Abhinaya in Classical Dance. The festival will feature two different dance presentations -- a Kathak recital by Guru Prerana Shrimali and a dance presentation by Bharatanatyam exponent, Rama Vaidvanathan.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC



Magic

American Center New Delhi is hosting "Vanishing Mysteries: Magical Connections between India and America," a talk and performance on Indian magic by Fulbright Scholar, Shreeyash Palshikar. This lecture and performance explores the history and culture of Indian magic and the ways that magic connects India and the US. **VENUE:** American Center, 24, KG Marg TIME: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.



Biography

IHC will screen Anandi Gopal, a Marathi biographical film, this evening. Directed by Sameer Vidwans, the film recounts the life of Anandibai Joshi, the first Indian woman who has studied medicine in the United States in the late 19th Century and went on to become one of the first female physicians in India.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

MEENAKSHI J

We drive towards the arterial Jammu-Pathankot highway and begin our ascent through the winding mountain trails of the Shivalik ranges, flanked by trees and rugged cliffs. The tiny hamlets and pastoral terrace farms serve as a perfect foil to the hustle and bustle of Jammu city.

After nearly a three-hour-long outing, we are close to our destination that once was home to Sanskrit scholars, Pashmina silk weavers, Ayurveda practitioners, and artists.

Basohli is one of the primaeval towns of the Jammu region, an erstwhile prosperous kingdom founded by Raja Bhupat Pal in 1635 that lies on the banks of the Ravi in Kathua dis-

At the fag end of this ancient valley is the Purthu beach, nicknamed Mini Goa, because the landscape here closely resembles that of a Goan beach. Upon entering the town, we drive through a surprisingly well-laidout road towards this beach, flanked by tall trees burdened with huge nests with chirping birds, and chunks of intricately-latticed honeycombs hanging effortlessly.

Soon, we hit a dead-end, beyond which lay the placid waters of the Ravi, cuddled by the Shivaliks on one side, the snow-capped Dhauladhars on the other and the bountiful Pir Panjal range on the far side.

Alighting from the car in silence, dumbfounded by the landscape, we saunter in varied directions, clicking photographs.

The snow-clad silhouette of Dalhousie presents a majestic view, reminiscent of its colonial past from afar, while the newly-constructed Atal Setu, North India's first cable-stayed bridge connecting either side of the river banks, looks like an Olympian shouldering the burden of the passing traffic. None of us realises how the next 60-odd minutes pass until the driver signals us to move on to visit the fort.





A river runs through it (Clockwise from far left) The Atal Setu and snapshots from Basohli ■ SPECIAL

ARRANGEMENT

The car stops at Basohli

Cocooned amidst the Shivalik ranges, this town with its past glory and modern engineering marvel waits to be discovered

Impregnable fort

Basohli fort that once reigned over Chamba and Nurpur is dilapidated now, yet stands loftily in some sections, with a water tank in front acting as a moat, and a temple that has kept vigil for aeons.

Catch a glimpse of this ancient town, from an open crumbling watchtower of the fort and one can feel the transition of time. Vibrantly painted houses dotted with dish antennas, jostle for space with as many temples amidst crumbling heritage, while the architectural marvel of Atal Setu looms large.

The construction of Ranjit Sagar Dam across the Ravi has led to a mammoth lake formation, holding an island amidst its emerald green waters and home to the Chamunda Devi temple. A ferry ride to pay obeisance at this temple is worth every penny. From Basohli fort, we soon drive to the fort shrine of Chanchlo Devi, a



a strange cylindrical structure.

It serves as an ideal vantage point to take pictures of Basohli and its breathtaking surroundings. And, I realise small-yet-well-maintained temple with that Basohli is unlike any other Hima-

Basohli is 148km by road from Jammu, 60km from Pathankot and 180km from Amritsar. State buses ply from Pathankot and Jammu. The nearest railway station is at Kathua. Direct trains run from Delhi and various Indian cities to Kathua. There are frequent flights connecting New Delhi with Jammu and Amritsar.

gones with panache.

GETTING THERE

After all, it was the epicentre of Pahari miniature paintings in the 17th Century, whose fame spread far and wide upto Kangra and Kullu, giving rise to their own schools of miniature painting.

Show of colours

Immortalised by its artists, a boldand-stark colour palette and aesthetic patterns, Basohli painting is an important part of Indian Classical art. The fame of these paintings is such that some of them find place of pride in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and National Museum, New Delhi.

As I descend the fort and stroll in the town park, I could envision the palpable excitement in this town square during festive times. It serves as a venue for the century-old famous Basohli Ram Leela, when lakhs trickle in from neighbouring towns and villages during the Dussehra festival.

On one hand, this 5,000-year-old ancient region of Jammu and Kashmir creates a fantastical wonderland image, while on the other, its serenity sounds too far-fetched.

However, Basohli, with its captivating views of snow-capped mountains, the crumbling ruins of its fort, pebbled shores of Purthu beach and the cyan waters of the river Ravi, is Nature's magnum opus waiting to be



POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



layan hamlet. Abundantly blessed

with Nature's bounty, unparalleled

vistas, and lush flora and fauna, along-

side ancient ruins, Basohli also sports

the antiquity of artistic and feisty by-

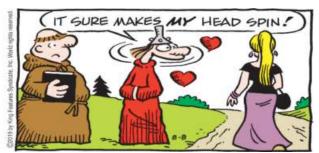






HAGAR THE HORRIBLE





CALVIN AND HOBBES



GRAFFITI







4 British admiral d. 21

15 Mayonnaise-based sauce with capers,

eaten with fish (7) 16 Red cold salad ingredient (6) 18 Green cold salad

ingredient (5)

20 Spry (5) **21** Be in want of (4)

October 1805 (7,6)

5 Strength (5) 6 Constituent habitat (7) 7 Japanese wrestling 8 As a consequence (6) 13 Conspicuous wealth (8)

TIGER



WUMO

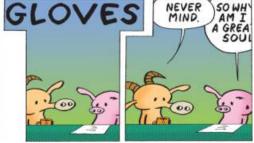


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE











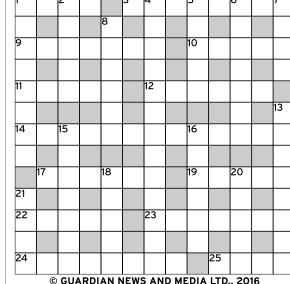
GOCOMICS.COM/GRAFFITI

MAG

THAT URGES PEOPLE TO
SAY NO TO RAW DOUGH.
ONE RISK IS THE RAW EGGS
IN COOKIE DOUGH, WHICH
MAY BE CONTAMINATED WITH SALMONELLA BACTERIA. ALSO, THE FLOUR CAN BE CONTAMINATED WITH E. COLI

BACTERIA. IF YOU JUST CAN'T RESIST RAW DOUGH, YOU CAN BUY "SAFE TO EAT" DOUGH AT THE STORE. Healtin Capsia en in not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13143



17 Medium of divine Across 1 Largest Caribbean revelation (6) island (4) 19 Slow speech with 3 Sparkling wine prolonged vowels (5) (slang) (8) 22 Obliterate (5)

9 Crossbred hunting

10 Moderate glow (5)

11 Comply with (3,2)

14 Very close by

12 Sway, as if about to

dog (7)

fall (6)

(2,3,8)

24 Sauce for salad (8) 25 Outdoor festivity (4)

23 Meeting of a court

Down 1 Vocal ads (anag) apple brandy (8)

2 Soft cap (5)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 9, 2019. Solution No. 13142

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

A ND-NDE

Kohli's men look to overcome World Cup disappointment

West Indies, too, will hope for a change in fortunes when the three-match ODI series begins today; Gayle's presence a big boost for the hosts

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

With an air of invincibility, India returns to the format that gave it a heartbreak in the not-too-distant past, facing West Indies in the first of three-match ODI series here on Thursday.

Shikhar Dhawan makes a comeback in the format where he has been India's third best player after skipper Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma.

Dhawan will take his place at the top of the order alongside Rohit and like the initial matches of the World Cup, K.L. Rahul is likely to go back to being the No. 4

With Kedar Jadhav expected to come in at No. 5 or 6 depending on how Rishabh Pant is used as a floater, it will be a toss up between Manish Pandey and Shreyas Iyer for the remaining middle-order slots.

With Bhuvneshwar Kumar playing three T20 Internationals he will probably get to cool his heels with Mohammed Shami leading the attack and Navdeep Saini making his ODI debut.

Kohli will fancy his team's chances in the series, notwithstanding the return of the swashbuckling Chris

Rohit Sharma will look to continue his golden run with

the bat in the 50-over format, having caressed his way to a record five centuries at the showpiece in the United Kingdom. Kohli, who also enjoyed a

great run in the mega event, will not be short on motivation despite the lack of world beaters in the opposition camp. The batting mainstay is also aware that a section of former players raised question mark around his captaincy in the limited overs format

Thoroughly outplayed in the shortest format, West Indies will hope the return of the talismanic Gayle bolsters

The squads (from):

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav. Mohammed Shami. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed and Navdeep Saini.

West Indies: Jason Holder (Capt.), Chris Gayle, John Campbell, Evin Lewis, Shai Hone, Shimron Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran, Roston Chase, Fabian Allen, Carlos Brathwaite. Keemo Paul, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas and Kemar

Match starts at 7 p.m. IST

STAT SPHERE

WEST INDIES

As India gears up to take on the West Indies in a three-match ODI series, a look at how the teams stack up

TOP RUN-GETTERS INDIA								
	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	50s/100s		
Kohli	33	1,912	157*	70.81	96.27	10/7		
Tendulkar	39	1,573	141*	52.43	78.02	11/4		
Dravid	38	1,348	109*	42.12	74.39	8/3		
Rohit	26	1,237	162	61.85	90.55	10/2		
Ganguly	27	1,142	98	47.58	72.18	11/0		

August 14, Port of Spain ALL MATCHES START AT

		Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	50s/100s
	Haynes	36	1357	152*	42.4	64.28	9/2
The Park	Chanderpaul	41	1319	149*	35.64	76.37	10/2
	Sarwan	31	1296	115*	58.9	75.65	11/1
	Hooper	42	1279	113*	44.1	84.75	8/1
	Gayle	38	1247	140	32.81	88.88	5/4

TOP WICKET-TAKERS INDIA									
	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Avg.	Eco	4W/5W	-ditta		
Kapil	42	43	4/54	28.88	3.62	1/0	ALC: NO.		
Kumble	25	41	6/12	23.73	4.36	1/1	_		
Jadeja	23	36	5/36	27.55	4.69	1/1			
Harbhajan	30	33	3/32	34.27	4.26	0/0			
Agarkar	21	32	3/24	24.5	4.49	0/0			

WEST INDIE	•						
		Inns	Wkts	BBI	Avg.	Eco	4W/5W
	Walsh	38	44	4/16	24.15	3.24	2/0
	Hooper	45	36	4/37	39.55	4.65	1/0
	Richards	22	36	6/41	21.97	4.63	1/1
	Ambrose	25	32	4/36	22.46	3.23	1/0
9 1 14	Rampaul	14	28	5/51	23.78	5.62	3/1

 Anil Kumble's 6-12 at the Eden Gardens in 1993 is the fifth best bowling figures by Sir Viv Richards Carl Hooper is the only player to has the second-best a bowler in an ODI against the West Indies



Raring to go: Virat Kohli will not be short on motivation despite the lack of world beaters in the

But eventually it is for the

BCCI and the panel it has

"It's about what they

want from the coach, the

Queried about India's

captain and the team."

failure to win the World

thought India played well

in the competition. It lost

narrowly to New Zealand

in the semifinal.

Cup, McGrath said, "I

appointed to decide.

Third 'Test' on

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

West Indies-A was 163 for third and final 'Test' here

The host's hopes rest on opener Jeremy Solozano who was unbeaten on 57. Sunil Ambris contributed

Umesh (two for 29 off 16 overs) bowled an economical spell, picking up the wickets of Akim Frazer and Brandon King to reduce West Indies-A to 36 for

Gowtham scalps three

to Shivam Dube. Off-spintook three for 56 as the Indian bowlers struck back.

In the India-A innings, skipper Hanuma Vihari (55 off 139 balls) and wicketkeeper batsman Wriddhiman Saha (62 off 66 balls) added 86 for the fifth wicket after the visitors were in a spot of bother at 48 for

Chemar Holder (three for 47) and Frazer (three for 53) were the pick of the bowlers for West Indies-A.

The scores: India-A 201 (Mayank Agarwal 33, Hanuma Vihari 55, Wriddhiman Saha 62, Chemar Holder three for 47. Akim Frazer three for 53) vs West Indies-A 163 for six (Jeremy Solozano 57 batting, Sunil Ambris 43, Krishnappa Gowtham three for 56).

renew Arthur's contract

axed coach Mickey Arthur on Wednesday after the team failed to get out of its group in a disappointing World Cup.

Arthur's contract expired after the World Cup and he had asked for a twoyear extension.

Board chief Ehsan Mani said Arthur and his assistant coaches Grant Flower and Azhar Mahmood had all been shown the door.

Reports say Arthur has been shortlisted as the next England coach after Trevor Bayliss departs following the ongoing Ashes Test

razor's edge

six in reply to India-A's 201 on the second day of the on Wednesday.

Solozano and Ambris joined hands for a 66-run partnership for the fourth wicket before the latter fell ner Krishnappa Gowtham

PCB not to

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Pakistan's cricket board

But Pakistan Cricket

Australia's Ashes sweep a possibility, says McGrath

'Smith hits the ball into unconventional areas; his ways at the crease are very effective'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Glenn McGrath sees a potential 5-0 sweep for Australia in the ongoing Ashes series following its remarkable comefrom-behind victory over England in the first Test at Edgbaston.

The Aussie pace bowling legend is back here at the MRF Pace Foundation where he will soon be joined by the emerging players of the Australian Academy team.

He said "5-0 is a possibility. It will not be easy for England who are without the injured James Anderson, such a big factor in the English conditions with the Duke ball."

And then he dwelt on Steve Smith whose battling twin hundreds in the first Test buried England, "The English crowd was after him but he showed enormous mental strength."

'Technique is for the purists'

Talking about Simith's methods, McGrath said, "Technique is for the purists. Smith's ways at the crease are very effective."

McGrath added, "Smith moves across and you think you can get him leg-before



Glenn McGrath, seen with M. Senthilnathan and Basil Thampi, is back at the MRF Pace Foundation in Chennal. • K. PICHUMAN

but he gets the better of you. He hits the ball into unconventional areas. You bowl outside off and he can hit vou behind square on the leg-side. He uses the pace on the ball."

The Aussie pace predator said, "Smith is not like Mark Waugh or Damien Martyn who were natural, fluent strokemakers. To me he is somewhere between Steve and Mark Waugh."

Still on Smith, McGrath said, "Smith is not ruffled by

the dot balls. Smith and Cheteshwar Pujara are two present-day batsmen who have loads of patience."

Smith and Kohli the best

McGrath said, "Smith averages close to 63 after 65 Tests. If he maintains this average after 100 Tests, he will be among the greatest batsmen to have played the game. Right now, Smith and Virat Kohli are the two best bat-

smen in the world." McGrath was excited with the comeback of the pacey James Pattiinson and said, "He is the enforcer in this Australian attack. He's got the pace, skill and presence."

He called his former teammate and now Aussie coach Justin Langer a tough bloke and said, "He emphasises discipline and commitment, has produced results with whichever team he has coached."

The pace ace sympathised with New Zealand's debatable defeat in the World Cup

UTT

Wednesday.

McGrath bats for Shastri

S. DINAKAR

CHENNAI "If it ain't broke don't fix it," Glenn McGrath

appears to be suggesting. On the issue of India either continuing with Ravi Shastri or picking a new coach, the Aussie pace legend said to The Hindu, "The Indian team has been performing well under Kohli and Shastri. They get along well. Only this year India won its first ever Test series in

Australia. McGrath continued, "If somebody asks me, I would say 'why change?'.

final and said, "We should have had another Super Over or a Bowl Out. I think the boundaries countback rule

was framed by a batsman!" Asked about Rohit Sharma's lack of consistency in Tests, McGrath replied, "He has the ability. I am surprised why he has not been able to seal his Test place so far. He has the technique and the strokes."

called Dale McGrath

Amalraj the star for the Goa side; Archana stuns Winter

"The odd defeat can happen to any team." McGrath's views are in

tune with the emerging indications that Shastri is likely to keep his job.

Steyn, who recently retired from Tests, "One of the greatest fast bowlers of all time with an outstanding strikerate."

On Mohammad Amir leaving Test cricket at 27 to play in the shorter formats, McGrath said, "That's a young age to leave Tests. I still hope there enough people who regard Test cricket as the primary form of the

Rain plays spoilsport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BECKENHAM (UK)

The India under-19 team was dismissed for 244 against Bangladesh under-19 in the tri-series match here on Wednesday. The latter was 19 for two in reply when a downpour ended the contest.

Opting to bat, skipper Shubhang Hegde topscored with 69 off 97 balls while Sameer Rizvi made 44 off 32 deliveries, the duo reviving the innings after a top-order collapse.

At one stage, the Indianswere reduced to 65 for four with openers Priyesh Patel (8) and Tilak Varma (1), No. 3 Pragnesh Kanpillewar (21) and No. 4 Shashwat Rawat (9) back in the pavilion.

After Shubhang and Sameer, Divyansh Saxena (37) and Karan Lal (25) made crucial contributions, sharing a 73-run stand for the seventh wicket to take India-A to 244.

Shoriful Islam, Avishek Das and Shamim Hossain took three wickets apiece. The scores: India under-19 244 in 49.3 overs (Shubhang Hegde 69, Sameer Rizvi 44, Divyansh Saxena 37, Karan Lal 25) vs Bangladesh under-19 19 for two. No Result.

Thakur ties it for Thalaivas

His buzzer raid helps the side finish level with Yoddha



Slipping away: Ajay Thakur provided the final touch for Thalaivas. • RANJEET KUMAR

SPORTS BUREAU

U.P. Yoddha was involved in its second tie of the season after a thrilling end to its match against Tamil Thalai-

The seesaw battle between the two ended in a 28-28 stalemate at the Patliputra Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday.

Ajay 'Iceman' Thakur lived up to his name, scoring in the crucial buzzer raid to help Thalaivas share the ho-

The contest began with Thalaivas getting on the scoreboard first, but Yoddha didn't wait too long for its opening point too. It was 3-3 after the first five minutes

before Yoddha's defence held firm and the team went into the break with a 16-11 advantage. Successive super tackles

opened up a 23-17 lead for Yoddha before the spirited Thalaivas fought back to finish level. The results: U.P. Yoddha tied with Tamil Thalaivas 28-28.

Patna Pirates 26 lost to Ha-

ryana Steelers 35.

Paltan needed to win by at least a seven-point margin to catch up with Goa at 34 points and advance on the basis of the head-to-head re-

sult of this encounter. But

Goa, determined to make

amends for its shock 11-4 loss

Goa Challengers got its cam-

paign back on track, knock-

ing out last-placed Puneri

Paltan 11-4 and sealing a sem-

ifinal berth in the Ultimate Table Tennis league here on

to U Mumba, proved too hot to handle. It was Archana Kamath who stunned Sabine Winter 2-1 to provide the finishing touches.

Desai drubbed The hero of Goa's big win

was A. Amalraj who handed out a 3-0 drubbing to the recently-crowned Commonwealth champion Harmeet Desai and gave his team the winning lead.



Challengers power past Paltan, enter semifinal

In the thick of it: Amalraj was in his element, winning both matches. ■ COURTESY UTT

After World No. 9 Cheng I-Ching expectedly blanked the 122nd-ranked Ayhika Mukheriee, the reigning Commonwealth champion, 3-0 to give Goa a flying start, Alvaro Robles' 2-1 loss to the fancied Chaung Ching-Yuan kept Paltan alive.

What followed was the 'Amalraj show'. Along with Cheng, Amalraj consolidated Goa's lead by beating anoth-

er India-Chinese Taipei pair of Ayhika Mukherjee and Chuang Chih-Yuan 2-1. But the former National champion was not done yet.

Amalraj, easily the quickest player on the Indian circuit, produced several closeto-the-table whipped returns on both flanks to keep the crowd enthralled. Even after winning the first two games comfortably, he did not offer ■ Paltan needed to win by at least a seven-point margin to catch up with Goa at 34 points and advance

■ Goa, determined to make amends for its shock 11-4 loss to U Mumba, proved too hot to handle

Desai a consolation game, bouncing back from 8-10 to win the 'golden point'.

In the final singles, Archana played way above her World ranking of 139 to upstage the 58th-ranked Sabine 2-1. Indeed, with Goa assured of a big win, the young Indian played without pressure while it was difficult for Sabine to keep herself

motivated.

The results: Goa Challengers bt Puneri Paltan 11-4 (Cheng I-Ching bt Ayhika Mukherjee 11-8, 11-1, 11-5; Alvaro Robles lost to Chuang Chih-Yuan 9-11. 11-10, 5-11; A. Amalraj & I-Ching bt Chih-Yuan & Ayhika 11-7, 9-11, 11-7; Amalraj bt Harmeet Desai 11-7, 11-7, 11-10: Archana Kamath bt Sabine Winter 8-11, 11-6, 11-9). Thursday's fixture: Chennai Lions v Dabang Delhi (7 p.m.).



"I'm at the age now when

"It's something I've got to

there's a chance injuries will

prepare for. But I'm very for-

tunate – I've been lucky with

having so few throughout my

Anderson, who is nick-

named 'The King of Swing',

said he felt awful watching

from the sidelines as the En-

gland attack struggled

against the Australians espe-

cially in the second innings.

are the best words to de-

scribe my feelings as I

watched the other England

bowlers toil in the first Test,"

"Devastating and horrible

happen more," he said.

career."

Karunaratne to lead Lanka against Kiwis

Series will mark commencement of Test Championship for both



Raring to go: New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson and Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne at a media briefing ahead of their two Test cricket match series. • AF

KIWIS IN LANKA

IANS COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has named a 22member squad for the two-Test series against New Zealand, starting August 14, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on Wednesday.

The series will also mark the commencement of the World Test Championship for both the countries. Dimuth Karunaratne will lead the islanders when the series gets underway at Galle.

Meanwhile, Oshada Fernando and Kusal Mendis, who propelled Lanka to its historic Test series win against South Africa and become the first Asian team to win a Test series in the African nation, have also been roped into the squad.

Dinesh Chandimal has been recalled for the series, apart from spinners Akila Dananjaya and Dilruwan

In the 15 Tests played in Sri Lanka dating back to 1984, New Zealand have won four, lost six and drawn five. New Zealand are currently ranked second in Tests, and Sri Lanka sixth.

Hathurusingha suspended

The Sri Lankan cricket authorities on Wednesday suspended head coach Chandi-Hathurusingha and appointed a temporary replacement for the New Zealand series.

Cricket Board chairman Shammi Silva said former

fast bowler Rumesh Ratnayake was made interim coach pending a final decision on the status of Hathurusingha.

"Hathurusingha will not be involved in this (New Zealand) series," Silva said. "We can't tell you details because this might end up being a legal issue."

Sri Lanka squad: Dimuth Karunaratne (captain), Angelo Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Janith Perera, Niroshan Dickwella, Dhananjaya De Silva, Angelo Perera, Oshada Fernando, Danushka Gunathilaka, Shehan Jayasuriya, Chamika Karunaratne, Dilruwan Perera, Akila Dananjaya, Lasith Embuldeniya, Lakshan Sandakan, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando, Kasun Rajitha, Asitha Fernando.

Stone absence adds to England's injury woes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

England fast bowler Olly Stone will miss the second Ashes Test against Australia after being ruled out for at least two weeks with a back injury.

Stone, who suffered the injury in training on Tuesday, joins fellow pacemen James Anderson and Mark Wood in being ruled out of the Lord's Test, which starts on August 14.

"It's really disappointing for Olly that he's been ruled out of action for such an important two weeks of cricket because of a re-occurrence of his back injury," said Warwickshire sport director Paul Farbrace.

Jofra Archer, who has also suffered with a side strain in recent weeks, is expected to replace Anderson for the second Test.

Stone, 25, took three wickets on his first Test appearance against Ireland last month and was in the squad for the first Test at Edgbaston, but did not play. The third Ashes Test at Headingley begins on August 22, making Stone's availability for that match highly unlikely.



Olly Stone. • GETTY IMAGES

Anderson pushing to return before Ashes end

'I'm pretty confident I can get over this, I want to keep going'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

England's record wicket taker James Anderson is determined to return to the team before the Ashes series with Australia ends in September, he told The Sun on Wednesday.

The 37-year-old has been ruled out of the second Ashes Test, which starts next Wednesday at Lord's, after injuring his right calf having bowled just four overs in the series opener at Edgbaston.

Anderson, who has taken 575 Test wickets, had not played competitive cricket for a month leading into the match after injuring the calf playing for same Lancashire.

"I'm pretty confident I can get over this, I want to keep going," said Anderson. "The plan is to get back

and play some part in The Ashes but, if that doesn't work out, the winter (tours

to New Zealand and South Africa) is absolutely on my radar.

and parcel of his advancing years. • AP

"I'm sure there will come a point where other bowlers either get injured or need a

"If one needs to be re-

placed, it might work out well if I can get myself fit and

The age factor

Anderson said injuries were

help towards the end of the

he said.

part and parcel of his ad-

"I felt guilty and apologised to the lads for leaving them in the lurch.

However, Anderson rejected criticism that he should have had a game before he returned to the Test side to prove his fitness.

Have always been in awe of Richards: Kaif

Part of the journey: James Anderson said injuries were part

Former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif on Wednesday shared a picture with West Indies' legend Vivian Richards and said he has always been in awe of the cricketer.

Kaif posted the picture on Twitter and captioned the post as "With the king, the coolest of them all Sir @ivivianrichards! Have always been in awe of the great man, but having spent 2 days chatting with him, feels like we've known each other for years. What a Man, What a legend."

Sixtyseven-year-old Richards is still viewed as one of the best players in cricket.

He was the vital cog in Windies' invincible lineup during the 1980s. Richards scored 8,540 runs in 121 Test matches and managed to register 6,721 runs in ODIs at an average of 47. Kaif, renowned for his

fielding skills, went on to play 125 ODIs for India in which scored 2753 at 32.01. He also played 13 Tests,

scoring 624 runs at an average of 32.84. His highest Test score was 148. Earlier, the Indian skipper had also shared a picture

with Richards, labelling the player as "the biggest boss". Kohli posted the picture on Twitter and captioned the post as "With the biggest

BOSS! @ivivianrichards".



Colourful mood: Mohd. Kaif with the legend himself — Sir Vivian Richards. • COURTESY MOHD KAIF/TWITTER

K1 Plus continues to play strong

BRIDGE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

K1 Plus continued to play strong after topping the qualification as it led 65-35 against Bedi's after two rounds, in the knock-out stage of the Team of Four Gold competition in the 17th HCL international bridge championship at the Aerocity on Wednesday.

The team of K1 Plus from Bulgaria, comprising Ivan Nanev, Vladimir Mihov, Rossen Gunev, Julian Stefanov and Marta Nikolava had topped the 10-round Swiss league earlier with 138.35 VPs, from among 55 teams.

South Sweden and Russia were placed second and respectively with 133.84 and 132.68 VPs.

In the knock-out stage featuring four sessions of 14 boards each among 16 teams, South Sweden led 78-68 against Pentagon, Russia led 50-43 against Cogito, Poddar Housing led 58-51 against Hemant Jalan, Don Julio Laws led 64-27.5 against Eager Eagles, Hema Narasimhan led 46-36 against CBC, Alpha led 67-58 against FII and Formidables were 87-72 ahead against Monika

In the Silver event after two sessions, I-Doctors, PBA, Hope N Pray, Saju, Cap-

tain's IV, Chandannagar, Amol and Invincibles led against their opponents.

In the Bronze event in which only top eight teams qualify for knock-out, Shiva, Ms KC, Apanjan and Antus made it to the semifinals, beating Galaxy, Pink Panther, Unpredictables and Iris

respectively. The Match Point pairs event started with 269 pairs playing in 12 sections. After three sessions of 18 boards each, the top 104 pairs will qualify for the second elimination round.

The non-qualifiers will participate in the Match Point pairs Strata-2 event

Serena tops *Forbes* list again

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Serena Williams topped Forbes magazine's list of the highest paid women in sports for the fourth straight year on Tuesday.

The business publication calculated that the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion earned \$29.2 million in the 12-month period ending June 1 – with just \$4.2 million of that coming from prize money.

Japan's Naomi Osaka became just the fourth woman to earn more than \$20 million in a year - after Williams and tennis stars Maria



Serena Williams. ■ REUTERS

Sharapova and Li Na.

Forbes pegged Osaka's earnings at \$24.3 million, putting her second on a list dominated by tennis

Bopanna & Shapovalov advance \$6.338,885 ATP-1000, Mon-

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov of Canada tamed the fourth seeds Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin of France 4-6, 6-1, [10-6] in the doubles first round of the \$6,338,885 ATP-1000 tennis tourna-

In the Challenger in Japan, Saketh Myneni beat wild card Yasunori Hashikawa of Japan 6-2, 7-6(4) after a bye in the first round. Myneni will face eighth seed Chung Yunseong of Korea in the pre-quarterfinals.

treal: Doubles (first round): Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna bt Nicolas Mahut & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) 4-6, 6-1, [10-6]. \$54,160 Challenger, Yokkaichi, Japan: Second round: Saketh

Myneni bt Yasunori Hashikawa (Jpn) 6-2, 7-6(4). €46,600 Challenger, Augsburg. Germany: Second round:

Julian Lenz (Ger) bt Vijay Sundar Prashanth 7-5, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta: First round: Soichiro Moritani (Jpn) bt Karunuday Singh 7-5, 6-2; Manish Sureshkumar bt Ajeet Rai (NZ) 6-0, 6-0; Luca Castelnjovo (Sui) bt Aryan Goveas 7-6(4), 6-3; Doubles (prequarterfinals): S.D. Prajwal Dev & Niki Poonacha bt Tsung-Hao Huang (Tpe) & Chien Hsun Lo (Tpe) 6-2, 7-6(3). \$15.000 ITF women. Nairobi:

First round: Saumya Vig bt Avika Sagwal 7-6(2), 6-1; Tiffany William (GBR) bt Sama Sathwika 6-2, 7-5; Lexie Stevens (Ned) bt Deeksha Manju Prasad 6-2, 6-4; Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Diana Maria Mihail (Rou) & Avika Sagwal bt Judity Muraa & Faith Nivabera Omu runga (Ken) 6-3, 6-1: Sravva Shivani Chilakalapudi & Snehal Mane bt Allyson Nancy Onya (Cod) & Sariaka Radilofe (Fra)

\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Elena Milovanovic (Srb) & Anna Turati (Ita) bt Alicia Smith (Aus) & Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-3, 6-2.

6-2, 6-2.

FIFA asks clubs to cooperate with AIFF

Says the national body is best placed to sort things out

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

In a tacit support to All India Football Federation's plans of having a unified football league in the country, the world body (FIFA) has advised the clubs to co-operate with the process.

The AIFF had drawn a three-year road map for unifying the I-League and the Indian Super League (ISL) but opposition from some of the top clubs had put a spoke in the implementation of the

The clubs - Minerva Punjab, Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Churchill Brothers, Aizawl FC and Gokulam Kerala FC, had approached FIFA to protest against the AIFF move to grant top status to the franchise driven ISL.

FIFA's acting deputy secretary general Mattias Grafstrom in his response on Wednesday said, "The review performed in 2018 did indeed identify a number of complex issues which require a prudent and measured approach, encompassing the positions of all relevant stakeholders, in order be appropriately addressed.

"After further discussions, it was clear that there are numerous aspects of the re-

Minerva owner threatens legal action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Minerva Punjab owner Ranjit Bajaj on Wednesday said the I-League clubs will take legal recourse if FIFA does not intervene in the Indian football crisis, in response to the world governing body's advice to work closely with AIFF to

Reacting to the FIFA letter, Bajaj said if the

find a solution.

world body does not intervene in the situation, the I-League clubs will have to approach the Indian courts as well as

'... the I-League clubs will have to approach the Indian courts for any legal recourse available to us and shall also consider moving to the CAS for relief," he wrote to FIFA in

the Court of Arbitration

for Sports in Switzerland.

"I am surprised to find FIFA turning a blind eye to the clear and obvious violation of FIFA statutes and principles by the AIFF which would not be acceptable anywhere in the world," Bajaj wrote in the letter addressed to FIFA acting deputy secretary general (football) Mattias Grafstrom.

commendations that still require further consideration prior to them being implemented."

The AIFF, while admitting the situation arising out of the confrontation between I-League and the ISL, had expressed helplessness citing financial issues. "We can't be blind to the fact that we need money. It is not that the AIFF does not have the interest of the clubs at heart. We all want to develop Indian football. There is no personal agenda here but sadly some of the clubs look at AIFF as the villain," AIFF secretary

general Kushal Das told *The* Hindu. The FIFA, meanwhile,

acknowledged, "We understand that based on this the AIFF president (Praful Patel) has met the clubs and suggested a short-term solution until a more sustainable long-term solution can be found following continued consultation with all stakeholders. We therefore strongly believe that the AIFF is best placed to do this and we are confident that a thorough and effective process can be managed by the AIFF in its role as the governing body for football in India."

Das asserted, "We have all along been saying that only AIFF is best placed to handle the crisis. There is a system in place and the clubs have to understand that financial guarantee for participation is a must."

The FIFA reply concluded on a positive note, "FIFA, together with the AFC, remains available to assist and support the AIFF with this process and it will be important that all clubs work closely with the AIFF as the cooperation of all stakeholders will be fundamental to ensuring that the best way forward for top-level football in India is found."

Apurvi looks to sustain momentum

Aims to do well in the World Cup at Rio de Janeiro

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI She is on top of the world. Apurvi Chandela is No. 1 in the women's air rifle ranking list in which World Championship silver medallist Anjum Moudgil is No. 2.

Winning two gold medals in World Cups this season in Delhi and in Munich -Apurvi shown her class with intimidating scores including a world record 252.9 in the final.

Ready to leave for the last World Cup of the season in Rio de Janeiro, the 26-yearold Apurvi wants to sustain the good work and stay on top of her shooting.

"I just want to perform consistently at this point, and keep the momentum going," Apurvi said, on the eve of the team's departure.

Preparatory camp

With seven Olympic quota places in the bag, the Indian rifle and pistol team will assemble early in Rio to have a fortnight's preparatory camp and give itself the best chance to win the maximum possible Olympic quota.

With the decimal scoring demanding a high degree of accuracy, Apurvi shoots

Focussed: Apurvi Chandela says association with coach Rakesh Manpat has helped a lot. •AP

Olympics. In restructuring

nearly an average of 10.5 over 60 shots.

She won the Commonwealth Games bronze last year in the 40-shot format, after having won the gold in 2014. She was fourth in the Asian Air Gun this year. And, Apurvi is still looking for an Asian Games medal after finishing fifth last year in Palembang and 13th in Incheon

Apurvi will be returning to Rio after the 2016 Olympics, when she shot 411.6 for the 34th spot. This was after winning silver in the 2015 World Cup Final triggering hopes of a good fare in the

her shooting post the Olympics, Apurvi rejoined longtime coach Rakesh Manpat in 2017 and has continued with him.

"I have trained with him for about six years in all. He understands my way of working. He knows what works for me and what doesn't. He has great, indepth knowledge of the sport technically and mentally. So, he is able to add great value to my shooting," said Apurvi.

"There is no room for excuses while working with him. He makes sure that I am

on track," said Apurvi. There are only five other

and Anjum, who figure in the top-10 ranking list. They all have won Olympic quota Pistol prodigy Saurabh Chaudhary is second in

Indians, apart from Apurvi

men's air pistol, two slots above Abhishek Verma. Rahi Sarnobat, who won gold and Olympic quota in women's sports pistol, is sixth. Divyansh Singh Panwar, who won the men's air rifle quota, is seventh.

Manu Bhaker is ninth, both in women's air pistol and sports pistol.

TV PICKS

West Indies vs India: 1st ODI, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7

p.m. **TNPL**: Star Sports 3, 7.15 p.m. UTT: Star Sports 1, Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD),

7.30 p.m. Global T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Rooney joins Derby County as player-coach

Manchester United legend Wayne Rooney will make an unexpected return to English football as a player-coach with Derby County in the upcoming season. The 33year-old will arrive from MLS outfit DC United on an initial 18-month contract until the summer of 2021, with the option of a further year. ANI

Praggnanandhaa finishes third

After finishing first in the Xtracon Open in Copenhagen hardly 10 days back, 13-yearold R. Praggnanandhaa produced another fine show to finish third, with nine points, in the Abu Dhabi International blitz tournament here on Wednesday.

India crashes out

KUALA LUMPUR India lost to England 3-0 in the quarterfinal and crashed out of the World junior women's team squash championship on Wednesday. The result (quarterfinal): England bt India 3-0 (Elise Lazarus bt Sanya Vats 8-11, 1-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-3; Alice Green bt Aishwarya Khubchandani 11-13, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6; Evie Coxon bt Yoshna Singh 11-7, 8-11,

Record-signing Hernandez starts training

Bayern Munich's record signing Lucas Hernandez took part in his first squad training session on Tuesday, four months after a serious knee operation, the Bundesliga champion reported on its website on Wednesday. The World Cup-winner is vet to feature for Bayern since his move from Atletico in March.



Real excludes Bale for friendly against Salzburg

Gareth Bale has not been named in Real Madrid's squad for the upcoming friendly against Red Bull Salzburg. Coach Zinedine Zidane has also opted to leave out James Rodriquez for the match, goal.com reported. ANI

Diego Forlan retires



Forlan. • FILE PHOTO: AFP

Uruguay forward Diego Forlan announced retirement from professional football on Wednesday. "After 21 years I made the decision to end my career as a professional footballer. A beautiful stage closes full of great memories and emotions but another of new challenges will begin," Forlan tweeted.

The 40-year-old played for the likes of Manchester United, Atletico Madrid, Inter Milan, and Villarreal.

Forlan made 112 appearances for Uruguay and scored 36 goals. He also helped his side to the Copa America title in 2011. He claimed the Golden Ball at the 2010 World Cup.



Outplayed: Heo Kwang Hee's ability to retrieve from difficult angles and cross-court smashes were too much to

Prannoy, Sameer knocked out

Sourabh Verma puts it across Namluk Adulrach

HYDERABAD OPEN

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

It was a forgetful day for India in the Hyderabad Open badminton championship men's singles competition on Wednesday.

First, defending champion and top-seeded Sameer Verma was knocked out by former World junior champion Heo Kwang Hee of Korea, who notched up an impressive 21-18, 21-11 win in just 28 minutes in the men's singles first round.

Later, third-seeded H.S. Prannoy followed his teammate with the Malaysian Jia Wei Tan notching up a 21-17, 21-10 win in 37 minutes.

Sameer was clearly rattled by the reach of the Korean opponent, who combined it with his ability to retrieve from difficult angles and come up with some stunning cross-court smashes.

Sameer's strategy of attacking Heo's forehand did not click and even the Indian shuttler's half-smashes were awry. The way the Korean controlled the pace of the game to push the Indian to the baseline heped him hit the sidelines with unerring regularity.

Later, it was the turn of H.S. Prannoy to bow out in just 37 minutes. Not the kind of start India chief national coach, P. Gopi Chand, who was there to watch the matches, had expected.

However, there was something to cheer for the host when seventh-seeded Sourabh Verma put it across a fighting Namluk Adulrach of Thailand 21-17, 21-14 to make it to the second round.

For the organisers, there was another embarrassment when the women's doubles match featuring Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy had to be shifted from Court No. 4 to No. 1 with the wooden flooring caving in one corner of the court.

Then, the tournament referee Pencho Stoynov of Belgrade had to leave back home following the demise of his 89-year-old father Lubomir in Sofia.

Praneeth bows out

In the evening, second-seeded B. Sai Praneeth too bowed out when 19-year-old Indonesian Ikshan Leonardo Imanuel Rumbay scored a 21-17, 21-23, 21-15 win.

Important results: First round: Men: Heo Kwang Hee (Kor) bt Sameer Verma 21-18, 21-11; Sourabh Verma bt Namkul Adulrach (Thai) 21-17, 21-14; Ajay Jayaram bt Teck Zhi Soo (Mas) 18-21, 21-3, 21-14; Tan Jia Wei (Mas) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-17 21-10: Ikshan Leonardo Imanuel Rumbay bt B. Sai Praneeth 21-17, 21-23, 21-15.

Women: Jia Min Yeo (Sgp) bt K. Supanida (Thai) 21-12, 21-19; Shu Ting Ji (Chn) bt Shikha Gautam 21-11, 21-13; Zhang Yi Man (Chn) bt Riya Mookerjee 21-15, 21-13; Yulia Susanto (Ina) bt Mughda Agrey 21-13, 21-15; Tam Brittney (Can) bt Jucharoen Chananchida (Thai) 21-17, 16-21, 21-18; Chaiwan Phittayaporn (Thai) bt G. Vrushali 21-16, . 21-10; Natalia Perminova (Rus) bt Anura Prabhudesai 21-18, 21-19; Lee Ying Ying (Mas) bt Ashmita Chaliha 21-13, 19-21, 21-17; Qi Zuefei (Fra) bt K. Sri Krishna Priva 21-15, 21-10,

Indian boys stun Latin America

JUNIOR NBA

IANS

It was a mixed bag for Team India on the opening day of the Junior NBA Global Championships as the boys team pulled off a stunning win over Latin America but the girls gave a poor account of themselves against the same opponents, in the pool play among international teams at HP Fieldhouse courts on Wednesday

The 10-member Indian teams, with nine debutants each in both boys' and girls' section, started on the best possible note with the boys getting the better of Latin America 73-67 in a cliffhanger which needed Over Time (OT) to decide the winner after both teams were tied 59-59 in the U-14 meet spread over six days.

Lokendra Singh scored 28 points, out of which nine were in OT, while Harsh Dagar added another 26 to star for the Indian side which will next take on Africa and Europe and Middle East. 'The girls also take on the same opponent on Thursday. For Latin America, forward Santiago Candia scored 23 points.

The Indian girls were no match to their Latin American counterparts as they went down 54-21. Patna's Muskan Singh was the lone ranger, scoring 13 of the team's 21 points.

The results: Boys: India 73 (Lokendra Singh 28, Harsh Dagar 26, Kushal Singh 11) bt Latin America 67 (Santiago Agustin Candia 23, Tiziano Prome 11); Girls: Latin America 54 (Letycia Miranda 14) bt India 21(Muskan Singh 13).

Great show by Ganguly

Wins the Belt and Road China **Hunan International**

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

Surya Shekhar Ganguly played some sparkling chess to win the Belt and Road China Hunan International tournament here.

The 36-year-old ONGC staffer from Kolkata, who started out as the 15th seed, finished with seven points from nine rounds to triumph at what is one of the



richest chess events around. It was probably the finest performance of his long ca-

He not only collected 27.5 Elo points but pocketed \$50,000 as well.

His rating performance



S.S. Ganguly • FILE PHOTO

was 2876, way above his current rating of 2638.

His final tally of seven was half-a-point more than the second-placed Yu Yangyi of the host nation, who was seeded second, and Amin Bassem of Egypt, the fifth seed.

Top seed Wei Yi of China was among the six players who scored six points; he was beaten by Ganguly in the fifth round.

The Indian Grandmaster needed only a draw in the final round against Francisco Vallejo Pons of Spain, and he got that after 36 moves from the white side of a Sicilian Defence.

He finished his campaign unbeaten - five wins and four draws.

Nikhat left undone by cancelled selection trials

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

The last-minute cancellation

of World women's championships selection trials in New Delhi for 51kg by the Boxing Federation of India has left Asian championships bronze medal winner Nikhat Zareen helpless. As per the schedule of

trials for Tuesday, Nikhat was pitted against Vanlalduati in the first bout. The winner of the bout was supposed to fight M.C. Mary Kom. However, it was not held on Tuesday. Nikhat complained to selection committee working chairman Rajesh Bhandari that she was "surprised" that her name and weight category were missing despite the "assurance" that her bout for Worlds trials would be held on Wednesday.

"I request (sic) an urgent explanation as to what is the final decision in this regard. In the morning, I had gone to give my weight but our head coach Ali Qamar Sir told me that it's not required as I had already given my weight yesterday morning.'

Bhandari said, "The BFI decided to select Mary Kom (switched from 48kg to 51kg) based on her past performances."

A BFI source threw more light. "In the light of the expression stated by Mary Kom for not taking the trials due to her continuous high-level performances in the last few months, the selection committee of BFI, after deliberations, has come to the conclusion that the Manipur pugilist will be exempted from the trials and will get direct entry into the Indian squad for the World championships.

"Her consistency in a new weight category and gold medal-winning efforts at the Round Robin Cup in Germany, India Open and the President's Cup in Indonesia, where she was able to outshine all her challengers in the 51kg category, were considered by the selection committee to arrive at the decision," said the source. "The selection committee

has decided to exempt Worlds bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain from the trials after carefully considering her consistent performances in 69kg and also because of the difference of standard compared to her opponent at the trials. With a gold medal from the Umakhanov Memorial and a silver from the India Open, the Assam boxer has justified that she deserves a direct entry into the Indian squad on her own merit," added the source.

Danish Farooq nets Real Kashmir's winner

DURAND CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

A last minute strike from Danish Faroog helped Real Kashmir FC (RKFC) down reigning i-League champion Chennai City FC (CCFC) by a solitary goal, in a group-C league match of the 129th Durand Cup at Kalyani Stadium on Wednesday.

The result helped RKFC maintain its winning record against CCFC, which was reduced to 10 men after goalkeeper Kabir was given marching orders in the 76th minute.

Having won both the previous two meetings in last season's I-League, RKFC continued its dominance and enjoyed a greater number of chances in the opening half. But Kabir stood alert under the bar and made a few good saves to keep the RKFC at bay.

Chennai City, which tried out its Indian recruits treating the tournament as a preseason outing, continued to hold RKFC's onslaughts after the break before Kabir ders for handling the ball

Real Kashmir made the most of its numerical superiority as Faroog found the target in the 90th minute to

The result: Real Kashmir FC 1 (Danish Faroog 90) bt Chennai City FC 0.

received the marching oroutside the box.

secure the win.

Ganguly, Harbhajan slam BCCI

Former cricketers unhappy after Dravid was issued a conflict of interest notice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

"God help Indian cricket," said Sourav Ganguly, expressing his displeasure after Rahul Dravid was issued a notice from the BCCI's ethics officer on conflict of interest allegations against the legend.

Ganguly was backed by off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

The BCCI ethics officer, Justice (Retd.) D.K. Jain, issued the notice to Dravid on conflict of interest allegations made by Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association member Sanjay Gupta.

'New fashion' "New fashion in indian crick-

etconflict of interestBest way to remain in news ...god help indian cricketDravid Gets Conflict of Interest Notice from BCCI Ethics Officer," Ganguly wrote on his Twitter han-

Supporting his former captain, Harbhajan said, "Really ?? Don't know where it's heading to.. u can't get better person thn him for indian cricket. Sending notice to these legends is like insulting them.. cricket need their services for betterment.. yes god save indian cricket.

Dravid has been given two weeks to reply on the allega-

Sneha in lead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amateur Sneha Singh

made good use of her local

knowledge of the Hydera-

bad Golf Club layout by

carding two-over 73 to take

the first-round lead in the

11th leg of the Hero WPGT

15 in June, had three bir-

dies, one bogey and two

double bogeys on the chal-

lenging but exciting course

of the Hyderabad Golf

Sneha was followed by

Vani Kapoor who, playing

her first event in two

months, shot three-over 74

despite starting the day

with three bogeys in a row.

Vani had two birdies, both

on par-3s, the 11th and

16th, while she dropped

jot Badwal shot 75 each,

while Ridhima Dilawari,

the only three-time winner

this season, shot 76 as did

Ananya Datar to be tied-

fifth. Gursimar Badwal and

Amandeep Drall were tied-

seventh with 77 each while

amateur Shreva Pal and

Gaurika Bishnoi carded 78

each to complete the

Neha Tripathi and Gur-

Sneha, who just turned

on Wednesday.

Association.

five bogeys.

top-10.

HYDERABAD

lar conflict of interest complaints against former cricketers V.V.S Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar for their roles as Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) members and mentors of IPL franchises Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians respectively.

Northern Alliance may score an encore in Bangalore Summer Million

BENGALURU: Northern Alliance, in fine nick may score an encore in the Bangalore Summer Million (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Aug 8). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

CAMINO PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), rated 00 to 20, 1-30 pm: 1. Debonair (8) Darshan 60, Show Girl (5) Vinod Shinde 59.5, 3. Girl With Pearl (3) Arshad 4. Dontbreaktherules (4) Chetan G 57, 5. Lady Diana (7) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 6. Sultana (10) Sai Kiran 57.5, 7. Dallas (6) Md. Akram 57, 8. Odyssey (2) N.B. Kuldeep 57, 9. Gin Daisy (11) Dhebe 56, 10. Kruger Park (1) S. Shareef 56 and 11. Duty Call (9) Akshay K 55.

1. GIN DAISY, 2. SHOW GIRL, 3. DALLAS.

CAPRICORN STUD PLATE 🚄 (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only. (Terms), 2-00: 1. Aachen (9) Suraj 56, 2. Alexander Burnes (8) Trevor 56, 3. Cavaliere (7) Antony 56, 4. Ozark (6) Akshay K 56, 5. Ruler Of Nation (3) T.S. Jodha 56, 6. Southern Power (5) Arshad 56, 7 Capella (10) B. Nayak 54.5, 8. Iconic Princess (4) Dhebe 54.5, 9 Queen Regnant (1) Darshan 54.5 and 10. Rorito (2) Sandesh 54.5. ALEXANDER BURNES, 2. AACHEN, 3. CAVALIERE.

3 (1,200m), rated 00 to 20, 2-30: 1. Only Prince (7) Darshan 60, 2. Paradiso (6) T.S. Jodha 60, 3. Smile Of Peace (10) Chetan G 60, 4. Honey Trap (4) John 59.5, 5. Savisa (3) Vinod Shinde 59.5, 6. Lovely Sierra (2) Md. Akram 59, 7. Premier Premises (9) Arshad 59, 8. Bellerophon (1) Noornabi 58.5, 9. Sadaqat (11) Antony 58.5, 10. Varsha (8) A. Merchant 58 and 11. Hunters Moon (5) Jagadeesh 56. 1. HONEY TRAP, 2. SAVISA, 3.

CHAITANYA CHAKRAM 4 TROPHY (1,600m), rated 60 & above, 3-00: 1. Merlot (8) S. Shareef 60, 2. Booker Jones (5) Irvan 58, 3. Set To Win (6) Zervan 4. Ambrosio (4) Trevor 55, 5. Corybantic (1) Akshay K 55, 6. Punjabi Girl (2) Suraj 55, 7. New Creation (7) Sandesh 54 and 8. New Moon (3) Arshad 53. 1. AMBROSIO, 2. NEW CREATION, 3. PUNJABI GÍRL.

S.M. RAMKRISHNA RAO ME-5 s.m. ramkrishna rao me-morial trophy (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 3-30: 1. Abira (4) John 60, 2. Mega Ikon (10) Vivek 60, 3. Siyouni (2) Khurshad Alam 60, 4. Brooklyn Supreme (7) Shobhan 59.5, 5. Call Me Maybe (1) Arshad 59.5, 6. Maybe Forever (3) Rajesh K 58.5, 7. Galvarino (8) Trevor 58, 8. Harmonia (6) Chetan G 57, 9. Varcasva (12) Akshay K 57, 10. Alberetta (5) S. Shareef 56.5, 11. Animal Queen (11) Yash 56 and 12. Beond Reach (9) M. Prabhakaran 56. 1. ABIRA, 2. GALVARINO, 3. MEGA

6 BANGALORE SUMMER MIL-LION (1,600m), 3-y-0 only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Corona Del BANGALORE SUMMER MIL-Corsa (5) Akshay K 57, 2. Mighty Red (2) Darshan 54, 3, Northern Alliance (3) Suraj 54, 4. Glorious Dancer (4) Jagadeesh 52.5, 5. Ice Floe (1) Sandesh 52.5 and 6. Rhapsody (6) Trevor 52.5. NORTHERN ALLIANCE, 2. CORONA DEL CORSA.

7 S.M. RAMKRISHIVA RANGE MORIAL TROPHY (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-30: 1. Tarini (2) Yash 60, 2. Mahanati (1) Vinod Shinde 56.5, 3. Lagopus (9) Tauseef 55.5, 4. Malwa (4) Sandesh 55.5, 5. Morrane Gabriella (7) R. Pradeep 55.5, 6. Port Of Beauty (6) Trevor 55.5, 7. Decisive (5) Darshan 55, 8. Amazonite (3) S. Shareef 54.5, 9. Stari Grad (12) Dhebe 54, 10. Desert Rose (10) Arshad 53.5, 11. Scarlet Princess (8) N.B. Kuldeep 53.5 and 12. Florencia (11) Rayan 52. 1. MALWA, 2. PORT OF BEAUTY, 3.

O TUDOR JET PLATE (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 5-00: 1. Kingsfield (11) Mark 60, 2. Brown Bess (9) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Songkran (4) Chetan G 59, 4. Soviet Union (6) Rajesh K 58.5, 5. Simply Magical (8) Yash 56.5, 6. Singhsaab (5) Md. Asif Khan 55.5, 7. Unifier (7) S. Shareef 55.5, 8. Princess Pride (1) Jagadeesh 54.5, 9. Darahasini (10) P. Surya 54, 10. Lee And Grant (3) R. Manish 53.5, 11. Speedster (2) Sandesh 53 and 12. Simone (12)

STAR CONTENDER PLATE 9 (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Smile Of Joy (1) Trevor 60, 2. Revan Star (6) Vaibhav 59.5, 3. Chula Vista (11) John 59, 4. Ice Speed (5) Md. Akram 59, 5, Radiant Treasure (7) Yash 59, 6. Dreams United (12) M. Kumar 58, 7. Track Striker (9) Kiran Rai 56.5, 8. Duxton (2) Darshan 55.5, 9. Memoriter (4) Antony 55.5, 10. Ekalavya (3) Sandesh 54.5, 11. Glorious Days (10) A. Merchant 54.5 and 12. Zhu Zhu Zest

BROWN BESS, 2. PRINCESS

PRIDE, 3. SPEEDSTER.

(8) Sai Vamshi 54.

i. RADIANT TREASURE, 2. CHULA VISTA, 3. EKALAVYA. Day's best: ABIRA Double: HONEY AMBROSIO Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6; (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

Cricket Academy (NCA) director and vice-president of India Cements Group, which

> er Kings. **Similar complaints**

tions levelled against him.

According to Gupta, Dra-

vid is allegedly conflicted as

he is the current National

owns Indian Premier League

(IPL) franchise Chennai Sup-

Gupta had earlier filed simi-

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (A Statutory Body of the Govt. of India) Neison Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070 Ph.: 011-26131577, 78, 80 & 011-29581000, e-mail: antiraging@aicte-india.org, website: www.aicte-india.org

PUBLIC NOTICE CURBING THE MENACE OF RAGGING IN AICTE

It is brought to the notice of all AICTE approved Institutions, students and other various stakeholders that ragging is a criminal offence and AICTE has already notified its Regulation vide F.No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2009 dated July 1, 2009 and subsequent amendments notified vide F.No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2009 & F.No. 34-AICTE/AR/Antiragging/2016 dated July 17, 2014 and February 22, 2017 respectively (available on AICTE web portal: www.aicte-india.org) on curbing the menace of ragging in AICTE approved Technical Institutions, in order to prohibit, prevent and eliminate the scourge of ragging in AICTE approved

APPROVED TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

The above Regulations are mandatory and applies to all AICTE approved Institutions. Therefore, all the Institutions should take necessary steps for its proper

implementation such as:

Constitution of Anti-Ragging Committee and Anti-Ragging Squad Obtaining Undertakings at the time of admission and at the time of allotment

Dedicated cadre of Warden(s) and regular visits to hostels

Creating awareness through regular meetings with students

Appointing Professional Counselor(s) for Freshers Erection of Poster/Banners displaying provisions of law, punishments etc.

Any violation of AICTE Regulations as cited above by an AICTE approved Institution or an instance wherein any Institution fails to take adequate steps to prevent ragging or fails to act in accordance with these Regulations or fails to punish perpetrators for incidents of ragging suitably, AICTE shall call for punitive action against erring Institutions as per provisions of the Approval Process Handbook.

Students in distress owing to ragging related incidents can access the **Toll Free** Helpline No.: 1800 - 180 - 5522 or write to the Member Secretary, AICTE, JNU Campus, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070. Advt. No.: PGRC/08 (01)/2019 Member Secretary, AICTE









popular franchises

Disney is planning to revive franchises like the Home Alone series, Night at the Museum and Diary of a Wimpy Kid into individual web series for its upcoming streaming service, The Hollywood Reporter said. PT



unauthorised data use

Twitter has admitted that it used user data, such as country codes, for personalised advertisements without a user's permission due to issues with its settings The company apologised and said the error has been fixed. No personal information such as email accounts were used. it added. REUTERS



Victoria's Secret hires first transgender model

Valentina Sampaio has become the first openly transgender model hired by Victoria's Secret nearly a year after a top company official was pressured to apologise for implying transwomen would not fit the brand's identity. AP



Legacy of Americana award instituted

Grammy-winning folk singer and musician Rhiannon Giddens and the late Frank Johnson, the leader of a 19th century black brass band, will be the first recipients of the inaugural Legacy of Americana Award that was announced on Wednesday. AP

Mexico's cactus offers alternative to plastics

The pulp of the prickly pear is mixed with additives to produce sheets that can be used for packaging

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mexico's prickly pear cactus, which is emblazoned on the country's flag, could soon play a new and innovative role in the production of biodegradable plastics.

A packaging material that is made from the plant has been developed by a Mexican researcher and is offering a promising solution to one of the world's biggest pollution conundrums.

"The pulp is strained to obtain a juice that I then

use," said Sandra Pascoe, who developed the product and works at the Atemajac Valley University in the western city of Guadalajara.

That substance is then mixed with non-toxic additives and stretched to produce sheets that are coloured with pigments and folded to form different types of packaging.

"What we're doing is trying to concentrate on objects that don't have a long life," she said, particularly "sin-



A worker collecting cactus in Jalisco, Mexico, AFP

Ms. Pascoe is still conducting tests, but hopes to patent her product later this year and look for partners in early 2020, with an eye towards large production.

The cacti Ms. Pascoe uses for her experiments come from San Esteban, a small town on the outskirts of Guadalajara, where they grow by the hundreds.

San Esteban is located in Jalisco state where, starting next year, single-use non-recyclable plastic bags, straws and other disposable items will be banned.

Pascoe says her new material would be no more than a "drop in the ocean" in the

battle to preserve the environment.

Given the rampant production of industrial plastics and the time it takes to make her material, there would need to be "other recycling strategies" to make any concrete difference, she said.

In March, UN member states committed to "significantly reduce" single-use plastics over the next decade, although green groups warned that goal fell short of tackling the Earth's pollu-



Meet the giant parrots that lived 19 mn years ago

The birds were at least a metre tall and were flightless

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WELLINGTON

The remains of a super-sized parrot that stood more than half the height of an average human and roamed the Earth 19 million years ago have been discovered in New Zealand.

Judging by the size of the leg bones, the bird would have stood about one metre tall and weighed up to seven kg, according to a report by an international team of palaeontologists published in the latest edition of *Biology*

"It could have flown but we're putting our money on it being flightless," said Paul Scofield, the senior curator of natural history at Canterbury Museum.

When the bones were found in 2008 no one was certain what they were, and they spent 11 years gathering dust on a shelf until the team looked at them again earlier this year.

'The thought they were from a giant parrot did not enter our minds. We thought it could be some type of eagle until we went back and looked at it again," Mr. Scofield said.

The parrot has been named Heracles inexpectatus to reflect its Herculean size and strength – and the unexpected nature of the

"Heracles, as the largest five million to 23 million same region.



Herculean strength: An artist's conception of the super-sized

parrot ever, no doubt with a massive parrot beak that could crack wide open anything it fancied, may well have dined on more than conventional parrot foods, perhaps even other parrots," Mike Archer, from the University of NSW Palaeontology research centre, said.

The bird was approximately the size of the giant "dodo" pigeon and twice the size of the critically endangered flightless New Zealand kakapo, previously the largest known parrot.

Fossil-rich zone

Evidence of the parrot was unearthed in fossils near St. Bathans in southern New Zealand, an area that has proved a rich source of fossils from the Miocene period which extends from about lions of years ago in the

years ago. New Zealand, home to the now-extinct flightless bird moa which was up to 3.6 metres tall with neck outstretched, is well known for its giant birds.

"But until now, no one has ever found an extinct giant parrot - anywhere," associate professor Trevor Worthy from Flinders University said.

"We have been excavating these fossil deposits for 20 years, and each year reveals new birds and other animals... no doubt there are many more unexpected species yet to be discovered in this most interesting deposit."

Last year, scientists found the remains of a giant burrowing bat that lived mil-

Gazans struggle to protect antiquities

Plundering and trafficking of artefacts is rampant in the territory under seige

ASSOCIATED PRESS KHAN YOUNIS

Walid al-Aggad's Gaza home would be the envy of many an antiquities collector. Pieces of Corinthian columns greet visitors in the backyard. Inside, hundreds of ancient pots and other artefacts hang on the walls or are arranged helter-skelter on shelves.

They are remnants of five millennia of Gaza's history, from the Bronze Age to the Islamic caliphates and on down to the years of Ottoman and British rule in the 20th century.

A sliver of land on the Mediterranean, Gaza was a major trade route between Egypt and the Levant going back to ancient times. But decades of uprisings, war and political turmoil have inflicted a heavy toll on its rich archaeological heritage, exposing it to looting and destruction.

Excavations hindered

The Islamic militant group Hamas seized Gaza in 2007 from forces loyal to the Palestinian Authority. In response, Egypt and Israel imposed a blockade on Gaza that has left the territory isolated and increasingly impoverished. The Palestinians say the closures have also hindered excavations and restricted experts' access to new discoveries.

Ayman Hassouna, professor of history and archaeology at Gaza's Islamic Universiblames Israel, the



Palestinian Authority and Hamas equally for not protecting the territory's cultural heritage. He says Israel confiscated artefacts from archaeological digs in the decades it occupied Gaza and did little to prevent antiquities trafficking. Palestinian authorities governing Gaza since 1995 have "attacked many archaeological sites either intentionally or not", he said.

"When they find something, they would hide it or build over it," he said.

Antiquities plundering and trafficking also remains a problem, said Heyam al-Bitar, an archaeologist with Gaza's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. She said the this year that dozens of anthe pieces," Mr. al-Aqqad venting this," she said.

smuggled out of Gaza in 2016. "It's difficult to track down the trafficking because everything happens in the dark," she said.

Citizen spirit

Mr. Al-Aqqad is one of few trying to save antiquities in Gaza. He began his collection in 1975, buying from collectors or searching the beach and new construction sites. Now his house in the southern city of Khan Younis is an archaeological, heritage and cultural museum, welcoming school trips and

history students. "This museum was established by personal efforts and at the expense of my Ministry only learned earlier children's bread... to protect the siege on Gaza are pre

inventory of all private collections to prevent artefacts from being sold or smuggled out, said Ms. al-Bitar. Owners have received

training from the Ministry and the Islamic University on how to preserve artefacts and restore clay objects when they fracture, she ad-

The underfunded Ministry opened a public museum in 2010 at al-Basha Palace, a fort built by Gaza's Mamluk rulers in the mid-13th centu-

"The Ministry has plans to build a large national museum for all these archaeological pieces, but the political economic situation and

Rocket Lab working on a reusable booster

REUTERS

Small-satellite launch firm Rocket Lab plans to recover the core booster of its Electron rocket using a helicopter, a bold cost-saving concept that, if successful, would make it the second company after Elon Musk's SpaceX to reuse an orbitalclass rocket booster.

"Electron is going reusable," Rocket Lab chief executive Peter Beck said during a presentation in Utah, showing an animation of the rocket sending a payload into a shallow orbit before speeding back through Earth's atmosphere.

Auckland-based company is one of a growing cadre of launch companies looking to slash the cost of



An Electron rocket.

sending shoebox-sized satellites to low Earth orbit, building smaller rockets and reinventing traditional production lines to meet a growing payload demand.

Unlike SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, which reignites its engines to land steadily back on Earth, Rocket Lab's Electron will deploy a series of parachutes to slow its fall the atmosphere.

Love is in the air



Formal finery: Girls dressed in Han Dynasty costumes prepare for an event marking the Qixi festival, the Chinese equivalent of Valentine's Day, at a park in Beijing. • REUTERS

Even in cities, natural signs can warn of floods, says study

'Indigenous knowledge should not be overlooked'

REUTERS

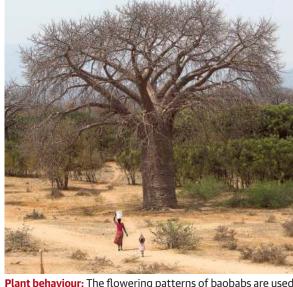
Indigenous knowledge about how to spot flood risks ahead of time could save lives in cities, researchers said on Wednesday, as climate change and population growth put millions of people at risk of increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

Understanding changes in natural indicators - such as plant and bird behaviour could be used to alert urban residents to extreme weather where forecasts are seen as unreliable, said a study in the Journal of the British Academy.

"Indigenous knowledge is often overlooked," said Caroline Knowles, director of the cities and infrastructure programme at the British Academy, the U.K.'s national body for humanities and social sciences.

"There are knowledge transfers that can be made between rural and peri-urban spaces that could save lives and livelihoods around the world," she said.

The study interviewed 1,050 people in 21 rural and urban communities in Ghana, including the capital city Accra and the main city of Tamale in its northern re-



Plant behaviour: The flowering patterns of baobabs are used in some African communities to predict the weather. • AP

Those include links between rainfall patterns and ant behaviour, appearances of certain birds, flowering of baobab trees and observations of heat intensity.

Ms. Knowles said not all rural indicators could be transferred to urban spaces, but some are relevant for both environments, such as clouds, heat, insects and

More trees

Promoting tree-planting in urban areas could offer further opportunities to apply indigenous knowledge on flora in cities, said study author Raymond Abudu Kasei from Ghana's University for Development Studies.

More than three million urban dwellers could be at risk of flooding from extreme rainfall by 2050 as climate change brings more unpredictable weather hazards, the study said. "We have seen the use of

indigenous knowledge for climate adaptation all over the world," said Stefan Thorsell, climate adviser at the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, who was not involved in the study. "Indigenous people in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Myanmar and Ethiopia, for example, use their knowledge to observe and mitigate impacts of extreme climate events such as flooding and droughts," he added.

China to boycott cinema awards in Taiwan

Mainland films, actors and filmmakers have been banned from participating in the ceremony

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

China's national film board on Wednesday ordered mainland directors and stars to boycott Asia's top cinema awards in Taiwan, as relations between Beijing and the self-ruled democratic is-

land worsen. Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards, dubbed the "Chinese Oscars," ran into trouble with mainland authorities last year after a Taiwanese winner called for the island's independence in an acceptance speech. Beijing sees Taiwan as part of its territory awaiting unification, even though the two sides have been ruled separately since the end of a civil war in 1949. But it is unclear whether

the speech incident was linked to the latest boycott.

The China film administration has "suspended mainland films and personnel" from participating in the awards in November, the body's official newspaper said. "We certainly would



Chinese director Zhang Yimou at last year's Golden Horse awards.

feel regret if it was true," Taiwan's Golden Horse Film Festival said in a statement, adding that related events Taiwanese presidential

will be held as scheduled.

spokesman Ting Yun-kung called the boycott unfair to the Chinese people, and added it would be "unhelpful for positive exchanges between the two sides".

Taiwan's mainland affairs council said in a statement: "The incident shows that mainland China interferes in cultural exchanges."

The move comes a week after China announced the suspension of individual travel permits to Taiwan "due land.

relations". Relations between Communist-ruled Beijing and Tai-

current

pei have plummeted since President Tsai Ing-wen came to power in 2016 because her party refuses to recognise the idea that Taiwan is part of "one China". As punishment, Beijing

cross-strait

has cut official communications, ramped up military ex-Researchers documented ercises, poached diplomatic natural indicators used by allies, and ratcheted up ecoindigenous communities to nomic pressure on the ispredict floods, droughts and temperature changes.