

IN BRIEF

Housing scheme: DDA to refund fee within a week

NEW DELHI
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 recorded 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 quality of Delhi-NCR

City	AQI	Category
Delhi	75	Moderate
Gurgaon	36	Good
Ghaziabad	78	Moderate
Faridabad	58	Good
Noida	76	Moderate
Greater Noida	87	Moderate

Legend:
Good: 0-50
Satisfactory: 51-100
Moderate: 101-200
Poor: 201-300
Very poor: 301-400
Severe: >401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

'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
NEW DELHI

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 counter-protesters waved the national flag and shouted slogans of 'Vande Matram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' at several locations 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.

NASIR HUSAIN
Medical student

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 BJP 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(M) 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 New Delhi. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Look into plea alleging pollution by plastic units'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
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-



The complainant cannot be compelled to wait indefinitely for the possession of the plot and is entitled to seek refund of the amount paid by her.

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION

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

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

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 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

NEW DELHI

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 methodologies."

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 (IFCD) has rejuvenated six dry waterbodies in the city by channelising water from drains during monsoon that will help recharge the groundwater.

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

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

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

The idea was conceived during the monsoon and we did it only for waterbodies which are close to drains.

NIKHIL KUMAR
Secretary, Irrigation and Flood Control Department

Currently, drains in the city 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

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

Other projects

The IFCD and the Delhi Jal Board are also working on the revival of around 200 waterbodies and will float tenders for the work. The IFCD is also working on a project to build reservoirs on the Yamuna floodplain to store river water, when the river overflows during the monsoon.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Dr. Aruna Roy, social activist and founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) will deliver a talk titled, MKSS, the Right to Information Journey and its Relevance for India at Lecture Room - II, Basement Annex, India International Centre (IIC), 4 p.m.
Exhibition: "Pratibimb", a group exhibition by Jyoti Sateja, 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 Archana Jha at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Confluence...", a solo painting exhibition by Meha Seth at Experimental Art Gallery, India Habitat

Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "An Archeology of A New Identity", a solo exhibition by Sunil Yadav at Shridharani Gallery, Triveti 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 its earliest stone engravings to its digital adaptations at Digital Art Gallery, Triveti 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 cityeditor@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
NEW DELHI

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 last."

Senior Delhi BJP 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 being".

Maintained a balance

"She was frank in her communication and was able to maintain a balance between being broad-minded 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 decision 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".

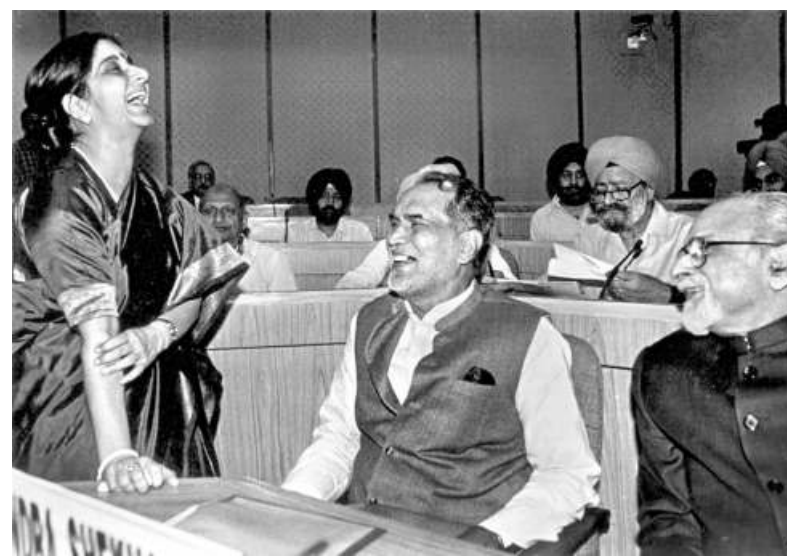
Grateful for guidance

"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 said.

As a first-time councillor in 1997, Mr. Gupta remembered



(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 Singh 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

HAROON YUSUF, Congress leader

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 MLAs during her tenure as CM and our suggestions were

welcome."

"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 building 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
NEW DELHI

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 Lajpat 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 said.

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
NEW DELHI

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 arrest.

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

"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 tweeted.

Govt. discontinues road test for autorickshaw drivers

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

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology Department Minister Imran Hussain on Wednesday announced the discontinuance of the practice of road try test for autorickshaw 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

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

auto fares," the statement said.

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 Rewla Khanpur in 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 she 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 officer.

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

DELHI Timings THURSDAY, AUG. 08 RISE 05:47 SET 19:07 ... FRIDAY, AUG. 09 ... SATURDAY, AUG. 10

Delhi court starts hearing arguments in Unnao rape case

Uttar Pradesh MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar is one of the accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

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.



Accused Kuldeep Sengar

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.

was a minor as per the school documents as well as the medical report at the time of the alleged assault on her.

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 NEW DELHI

The Unnao rape victim and her lawyer, admitted to AIIMS 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 Bareilly 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 JAIPUR

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 Rajasthan's government schools and the information technology infrastructure strengthened.

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. Dostasara said at Shiksha Sankul here that the



GOVIND SINGH DOSTASARA Minister of State for Education

Education Department 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 students.

4 suspended for mishap that killed 9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DEHRADUN

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.

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City 36 26 Safdarjang 36 26 Palam 34 25

Delhi Palam Today 34°C Warm and humid weather with cloudy sky to prevail. Spell of rain or thundershower would occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 35°C Rise in temperature. Mostly dry and warm weather with humid conditions to continue.

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IN BRIEF



Administration has derailed in U.P.: Akhilesh

LUCKNOW 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 said. PTI

₹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

HC dismisses former CMs' plea

Bahuguna, Koshiyari appealed against rent order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DEHRADUN

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



Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

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

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

Countering their argument, 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 PATNA

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.

"We were opposing it, but 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

Patna.

Mr. Singh, who is considered close to Chief Minister and party president Nitish Kumar, explained why the party had been opposing the Centre's move. "Our late leader George Fernandes,

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 issues 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 Rajya Sabha over the issue, saying, "it was in line with the ideologies of veteran socialist leaders like Loknayak Jayprakash Narain, Ram Manohar Lohia and George Fernandes".

However, JD(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 @NitishKumar 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 JAIPUR

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.



CM Ashok Gehlot

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

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.

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IN BRIEF



Kia eyes global markets with India-made Seltos

PANJIM (GOA) 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

CHENNAI 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
CHENNAI

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.

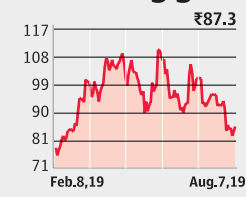
ICL has already started the ground work for an integrated plant at Damu in Madhya Pradesh and a grinding unit in Uttar Pradesh.

The expansion programme is expected to involve an investment outlay of ₹1,300 crore to ₹1,400 crore.

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,

Cementing growth



There will be an increase in demand for cement in the coming quarters due to thrust on infra and housing for weaker sections



Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth (%)
Revenue from operations (₹cr.)	1,468.8	1,360.6	7.9
Net profit (₹cr.)	72.4	21	243
EPS (₹)	2.3	0.7	

vice-chairman and managing director, ICL.

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 already acquired 160-170 hectares from private par-

ties, he added. The project cost would be met through a combination of borrowings and internal accruals, he added.

"We will start the work on the three-million-tonne integrated plant once the land acquisition reaches a sizeable portion and then place

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 costs.

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 ₹162 crore.

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.

Indigo director slams chairman

'Serious new governance issue appears to be emerging'

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

An independent director of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (IGAL), that owns and runs IndiGo Airline, has voiced concerns similar to the issues raised by IndiGo co-founder Rakesh Gangwal.

Anupam Khanna, in a letter dated August 5, to chairman 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 expressed and built on the simple solutions I had suggested on July 24.

"Alas, that has not happened and you have addressed 'remaining issues with a non-solution.

"Moreover, a serious new



M. Damodaran

governance issue appears to be emerging with the approach you have laid out (especially relating to holding various meetings after the AGM).

The letter comes as a shot in arm for IndiGo co-founder Rakesh Gangwal, who had raised fresh issues in a bid to curtail the 'growing power' of other co-founder Rahul Bhatia and his Inter-

Globe Enterprises (IGE) Group in IGAL.

He said the suggested safeguard (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 roughshod over the opposition'.

"This has happened in the past and this risk must be avoided. A tremendous trust deficit has been built up and we, as a board, must wring out."

He had also asked Mr. Damodaran not to schedule meetings as the AGM had been called on August 27.

Mr. Gangwal said he had to make this letter public as the company had not filed this relevant letter with the stock exchanges.

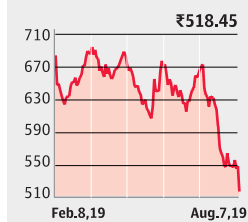
Oil slips 4% on U.S. stocks, trade war

REUTERS
HOUSTON

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 seven-month 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.

All is well



Even though the auto industry is passing through a difficult time, M&M is reasonably well-positioned and has good prospects



PAWAN GOENKA
MD, Mahindra & Mahindra

Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth (%)
Total income (₹cr.)	13,242	13,785	(3.9)
Net profit (₹cr.)	2,314	1,221	89.5
EPS (₹)	19.4	10.2	

Profit from investments boosts M&M net by 80%

Sans exceptional items, net drops 26%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

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 automobiles and tractors.

During the period, sales revenue was 4% lower at ₹12,997 crore as compared to ₹13,551 crore in the same period last year.

On a standalone basis, 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 in the same period last year.

On a consolidated basis, 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.

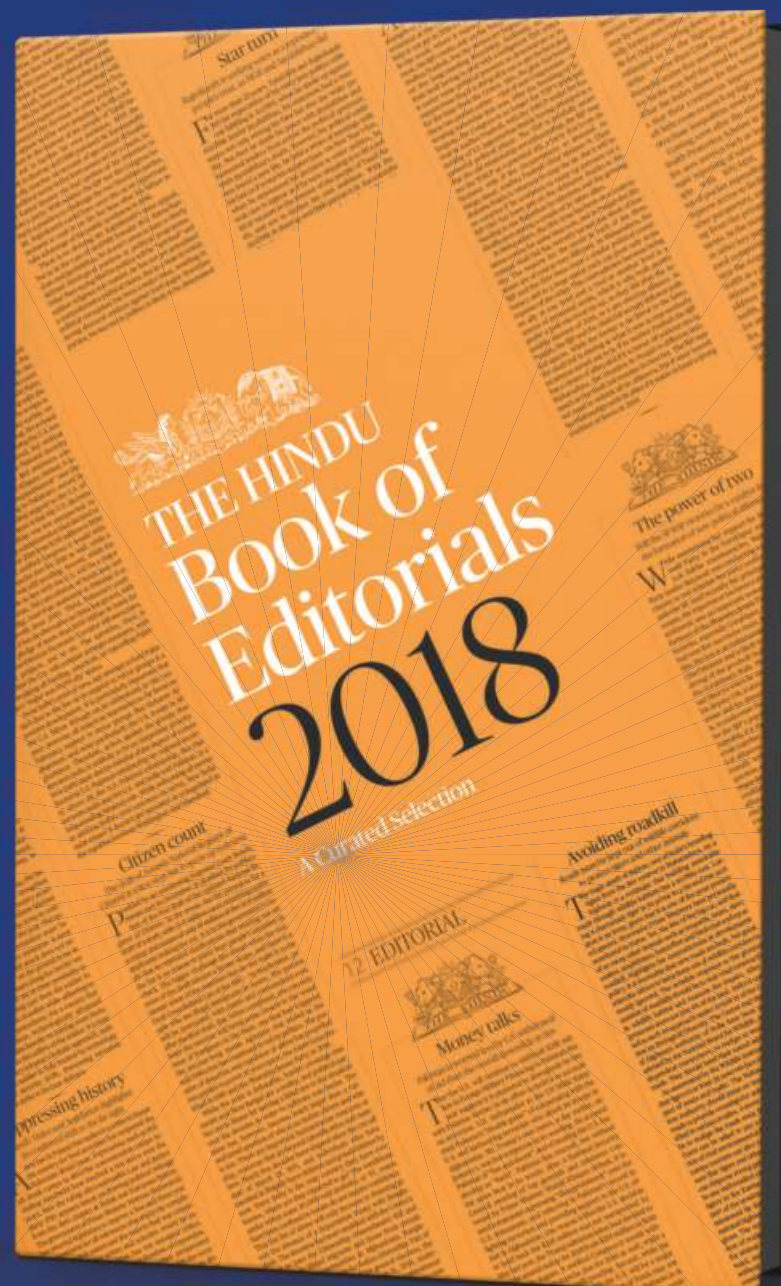
Commenting on the results, Pawan Goenka, managing director, M&M said, "Even though the auto industry is passing through a difficult time, M&M is reasonably well-positioned and having good prospects. We are fully prepared for the upturn in terms of products and capacity. We have no cash flow problem and not in any kind of desperate situation." "Given the macro situation, we have managed reasonably well," he added.

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.

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.

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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 primaevial 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 district.

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-laid-out 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

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 small-yet-well-maintained temple with



a strange cylindrical structure.

It serves as an ideal vantage point to take pictures of Basohli and its breathtaking surroundings. And, I realise that Basohli is unlike any other Hima-

layan hamlet. Abundantly blessed with Nature's bounty, unparalleled vistas, and lush flora and fauna, alongside ancient ruins, Basohli also sports the antiquity of artistic and feisty-by-

GETTING THERE

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.

gonous with panache.

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 bold-and-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 explored.



POOCH CAFE



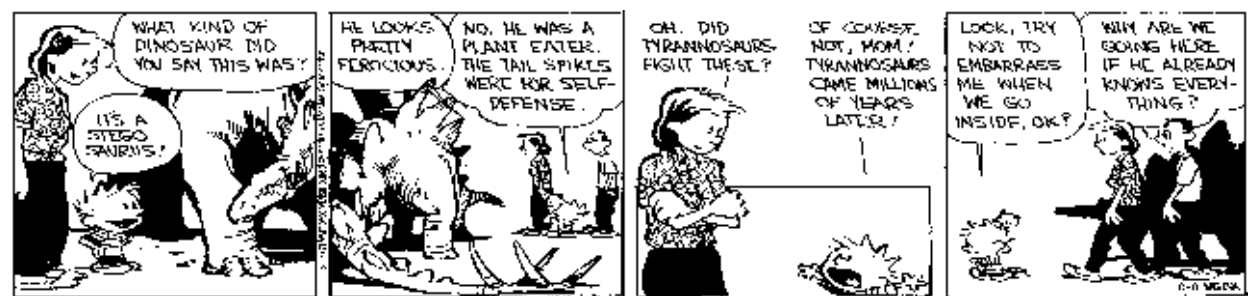
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



TIGER



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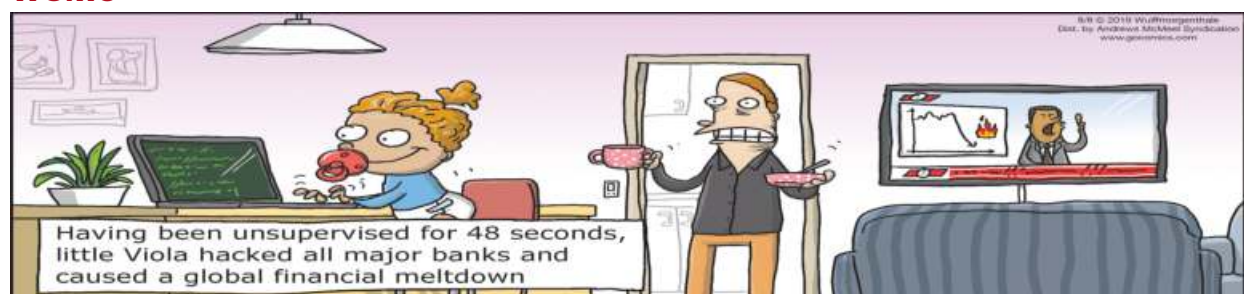
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- 6 Constituent - habitat (7)
- 7 Japanese wrestling (4)
- 8 As a consequence (6)
- 13 Conspicuous wealth (8)
- 15 Mayonnaise-based sauce with capers, eaten with fish (7)
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- 18 Green cold salad ingredient (5)
- 20 Spry (5)
- 21 Be in want of (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 9, 2019

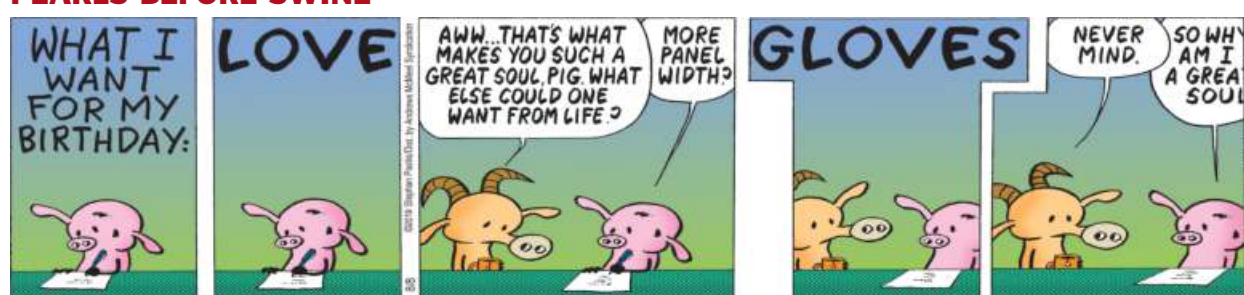
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- Across
- 1 Largest Caribbean island (4)
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- 10 Moderate glow (5)
- 11 Comply with (3,2)
- 12 Sway, as if about to fall (6)
- 14 Very close by (2,3,8)
- 17 Medium of divine revelation (6)
- 19 Slow speech with prolonged vowels (5)
- 22 Obliterate (5)
- 23 Meeting of a court (7)
- 24 Sauce for salad (8)
- 25 Outdoor festivity (4)
- Down
- 1 Vocal ads (anag) - apple brandy (8)
- 2 Soft cap (5)

