



Russia is helping India in 4-5 critical areas of Gaganyaan
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India, Pakistan to hold talks on Kartarpur Corridor on Sept. 4
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At least 7 dead as gunman hijacks truck and opens fire in Texas
page 14

Bumrah's hat-trick and six-wicket haul bundles out West Indies
page 18



3,900 challans issued on Day 1 of new MV Act

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Traffic Police issued 3,900 challans on Sunday — the first day of implementation of the new Motor Vehicles Act. “We have also asked the traffic policemen to update their handheld e-challan machines as per the new Act,” said a senior traffic police officer.

CITY ► PAGE 2

Pregnant woman thrashed over child-lifting rumours

NEW DELHI
A pregnant and differently abled woman was thrashed by a mob over suspicion of child abduction in north-east Delhi's Harsh Vihar. The police have arrested two people in connection with the case.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Now and Then

Hockey Olympian Zafar Iqbal credits his parents for helping him get the balance right in life. He tried to push his teammates as well to have a life outside the sport as “not everyone can be a coach or administrator for life”. ► PAGE 5

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greet its readers on the occasion of
Vinayaka Chaturthi
There will be no issue of The Hindu dated September 3, 2019 as Vinayaka Chaturthi is a holiday.
Readers can access the online edition at www.thehindu.com

EDUCATIONPLUS ► 4 PAGES

India facing prolonged slowdown: Manmohan

Former PM blames it on note ban, GST

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday said the 5% growth in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) signalled a prolonged slowdown and asked the government to engage with “thinking minds by shunning vendetta politics to take the economy out of a man-made crisis”.

In a video statement, he said the state of the economy was “deeply worrying” and the near zero% growth of the manufacturing sector proved that it had not fully recovered from the “blunders of demonetisation and a hastily implemented GST”.

“The last quarter's GDP growth rate of 5% signals that we are in the midst of a prolonged slowdown. India has the potential to grow at a much faster rate but all-round mismanagement by the Modi government has resulted in this slowdown,” he said.

“It is particularly distressing that the manufacturing sector's growth is tottering

Assam to move SC for NRC reversion in select districts

“Technical flaws” may have caused exclusion of Bengali Hindu refugees: Minister

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The Assam government and the ruling BJP in the State have termed the finalisation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as a “mixed bag” with concerns being raised over several “technical flaws” in the process that may have caused the exclusion of Bengali Hindu refugees who had crossed over to Assam before 1971.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the State government would approach the Supreme Court again for a reversion process, on a pilot basis, in a couple of districts to try and address the anomalies.

“The NRC authority has registered many cases where documents were questionable after which we asked for a reversion of 20% of the cases in border districts and 10% in other districts as we found that in border areas, where populations were high, deletions were low, whereas in tribal areas deletions were higher in proportion. The Supreme Court denied that request. We will go back again to the Supreme Court and ask that at least in two districts, on a pilot basis, reversion should happen,” he said.

According to him, the out-



Paper trail: Villagers taking printouts of documents to prove their citizenship in Morigaon district on Saturday • RITU RAJ KONWAR

come saw two kinds of people among a total of over 19 lakh exclusions: “Bengali Hindu refugees who had come over before 1971 and the others who had issues with their documentation.”

Refugee certification

He said there were “technical flaws in the exercise as many NRC officials did not recognise refugee certification issued before 1971, as a result of which many Bengali Hindus remained outside the list.”

He said he was also concerned with the over 3 lakh people who did not appeal against their exclusion when the draft NRC had come out earlier. “There are lakhs who

did not reapply. Unless you update the NRC nationally, we will not know the net result of illegal immigrants across the country,” he said.

Detection to continue

He insisted that going forward, the process of detecting foreigners would not be restricted to just the NRC exercise. “The NRC is one place, but our border police have the right to pursue enquiries against those with questionable documents and citizenship for the detection of illegal foreigners, and that will continue,” he added.

GIVE REASONS FOR EXCLUSION, SAYS CONGRESS ► PAGE 12
‘NRC-EXCLUDED NOT STATELESS’ ► PAGE 12

NRC authority registered many cases in which papers were questionable. So we asked for reversion of 20% cases in border districts and 10% in other districts. Supreme Court denied that request. We will go back to court for reversion in at least two districts



‘Want to die as an Indian’

RAHUL KARMAKAR
MAJARTOP (ASSAM)

“I fail to understand how the same set of documents that made my four sons and four daughters Indians has put a question mark on my citizenship,” said Akbar Ali, a 58-year-old tea-seller, whose name was excluded from the final NRC published on Saturday. “I know there's not much life left in me, but I was born an Indian and want to die an India,” he added.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 12

Kulbhushan to meet Indian officials today

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

Pakistan will provide consular access to alleged Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav on Monday, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Sunday.

Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Faisal tweeted: “Consular access for Indian spy Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian naval officer and RAW operative, is being provided on Monday 2 September 2019, in line with Vienna Convention on Consular relations, ICJ judgement & the laws of Pakistan.”

Dr. Faisal added that Mr. Jadhav remains in Pakistan's custody “for espionage, terrorism and sabotage.” Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi had confirmed the news earlier in the day.

After the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Pakistan agreed to provide consular access to Mr. Jadhav, 49, who was arrested in Balochistan province in March 2016. He was sentenced to death in April 2017.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12



Five States to get new Governors

Arif Mohammed Khan sent to Kerala

Raj Bhavan bound

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday appointed four new Governors and transferred one

Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan
Telangana

Kalraj Mishra
Rajasthan

Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
Maharashtra



Bandaru Dattatreya
Himachal Pradesh

Arif Mohammed Khan
Kerala



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday appointed new Governors for five States. A communiqué from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said President Ram Nath Kovind appointed new Governors for Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana.

Former Union Minister Arif Mohammed Khan, who walked out of the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1986 after it decided to overturn the Supreme Court's Shah Bano judgment, was appointed Governor of Kerala.

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has been named the Governor of Maharashtra, while Tamil Nadu BJP president Tamilisai Soundararajan will be the new Governor of Telangana.

Former Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya will be the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in place of Kalraj Mishra, who has been given the charge of Rajasthan, replacing Kalyan Singh.

Critic of triple talaq

Mr. Khan, an ardent critic of instant triple talaq and advocate of reforming the Muslim personal law, will be replacing Justice P. Sathasivam (retired).

Another prominent appointment is that of Ms. Soundararajan, who will be replacing Telangana Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan, a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12
PATIENT WAIT PAYS OFF FOR DATTATREYA ► PAGE 8

Mamallapuram to host Modi-Xi meet in October

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

The historic town of Mamallapuram on the scenic East Coast Road in Tamil Nadu is expected to be the venue for the second India-China informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping, scheduled for October this year.

Mr. Modi will host Mr. Xi for two days — October 11 and 13 — in Mamallapuram, informed sources in the government said. Arrangements are being super-



PM Modi and President Xi are likely to visit the monuments in the town.

vised at the highest levels of the Central and State governments.

During the summit, be-

sides holding talks, the leaders are likely to make a visit to the ancient monuments in the coastal town. The monuments there have been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the first informal summit in Wuhan, the leaders had made a visit to the Hubei provincial museum.

A Chinese delegation is also to be apprised of the arrangements prior to Mr. Jinping's visit.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

‘Govt. planning J&K troop reduction’

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The Centre is planning to reduce the number of troops in J&K, sent in the past month to deal with the aftermath of the Article 370 decision, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Sunday. He held meetings in Brussels where EU officials raised concerns over human rights curbs in the State, ahead of a European Parliament meeting on the situation in Kashmir on Monday.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 13

JNU reviewing position of emeritus professors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University is in the process of reviewing the position of all its emeritus professors who are above the age of 75 years.

At least five such professors, including renowned historian Romila Thapar and sociologist T.K. Oommen, have received letters from JNU's registrar asking them to submit their curriculum

vitaes to a university-appointed committee which will review their position, despite the fact that these were originally lifetime appointments.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 9

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(From left) The DDA flats complex in Narela; interior of the low-income group apartments; a locked flat; (below) the housing complex is built adjacent to a landfill. ■PHOTOS: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Delhi address remains a distant dream

Lack of transport facilities, landfill near boundary wall keep buyers away from newly constructed Narela apartments; over 60% of allottees return flats to DDA

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority's housing scheme this year drew over 45,000 applications from hopeful buyers, but for many the dream of owning a Delhi address remained unfulfilled despite being picked in the draw of lots.

Several of the successful applicants have surrendered their flats as their location is way off their plans – in Narela.

While flats offered in Vasant Kunj have been received well by stakeholders, according to DDA officials, the low-income group (LIG) flats in Narela have found few takers. Out of approximately 6,000 low-income group flats put on offer under the Housing Scheme 2019, around 3,700 flats have already been surrendered to the DDA.

Lack of amenities

Distance, small size, lack of transport facilities, access to shops and markets are a few of the concerns cited by applicants for sur-

rendering the one-bedroom flats in Narela, which skirts the border between the national capital and Haryana.

For 42-year-old Rishab Agarwal, the idea behind applying for the scheme was to own a house in Delhi and not "in some far-off place".

"If I am spending this amount [around ₹22 lakh], then I might as well buy the best available budget property within the city. Why should I go to some far-off place where there is hardly any development or facilities? I wanted a flat in Vasant Kunj but did not get it and Narela is out of question. Why should I invest in a place where I don't know when development will finally take place," asked Mr. Agarwal, who works in a private company.

Locals in Narela said the nearest metro stations, Rithala and Jahangirpuri, take around 40 minutes to an hour to reach via public transport.

Architect and south Delhi resident Pritha Marik said, "I was allotted an LIG flat in Narela.

First, I never selected it as an option and buying a flat in such a far-off locality was not logical. Secondly, the size of the flat was too small compared to the rate



being asked for."

Senior officials of the DDA, however, maintained that issues pertaining to the size of LIG flats, which was a major reason behind flats being surrendered under the previous scheme, were addressed under the current one. "The LIG flats put on offer this time are much better and the issues which arose last time have been addressed. Several allottees had surrendered the LIG flats under the previous schemes citing issues related to the size of the flats. However, under the new scheme, bigger flats under the LIG category have been constructed," said a DDA official.

Stench issue

Several allottees have raised questions over the fact that there is a problem of stench in a few of the housing societies, with the Bawana landfill site bordering them.

Ramakant Kumar (62), who was seen at the DDA office inquiring about the process to surrender an allotted flat, said, "My

son lives abroad and he had booked a flat. However, now we want to surrender the flat as it is in Narela. We had gone there earlier to check the sample flats and the distance was too much. Above all there is a landfill site right next to the housing complex and we cannot imagine the stench and horror we would have to face if that's the view from the balcony."

When asked, officials maintained that the "landfill is there to stay". "The land was allotted to the civic body by the DDA and nothing can be done about it. Though there is a waste-to-energy plant there to treat the waste getting accumulated, the issue cannot be dealt with right now. It is something which the DDA has to decide once the complaints arise," said another DDA official.

With a wide expanse of high-rises and another 30,000 flats under construction, senior officials said the urban body is still mulling possibilities by which the flats can be sold.

"We are yet to decide what to

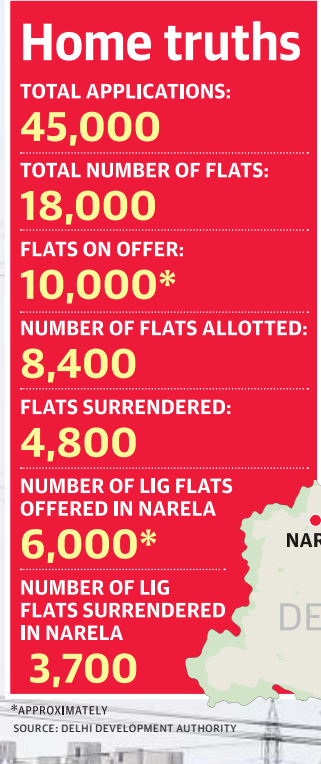
do with these LIG flats. The low response can be because of misconceptions about DDA flats. Market rates of other flats in the same area may also be a reason. For a previous scheme, the DDA had even amalgamated flats to increase the size. However, that

might not be possible this time," said DDA commissioner (housing) Rajiv Gandhi.

Currently, over 30,000 flats are under construction apart from the ones offered by the urban body under the 2019 housing scheme. With the present inventory of newly constructed flats still remaining vacant, senior officials said the urban body will "take a call" on further steps to be taken.

The officials, however, added that plans to turn Narela into an urban hub is under way.

"We are trying to create an urban hub there [in Narela]. We want to ensure better connectivity and employment in the area so that it makes sense for people to live there. Shops and marketplaces will also be set up with time. We have even auctioned commercial plots in the area. However, shop owners are unwilling to invest there as the response is low. Everything is related and a call will have to be taken," said another DDA official.



Kejriwal urges Delhiites to join war against dengue

Delhi CM launches 10-week-long awareness campaign

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 10-week-long awareness campaign for prevention of dengue and chikungunya was launched by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday. The CM checked his own residence for potential sites that could lead to the breeding of the aedes aegypti mosquito, which spreads the vector-borne diseases.

Keeping with the theme of the campaign, publicised as '10 Hafte, 10 Baje 10 Minutes', the CM took 10 minutes on Sunday at 10 a.m. to check the surroundings of

his home. He also appealed to Delhiites to do the same and join the fight against vector-borne diseases.

Several AAP Ministers and party workers also checked their premises and posted photos on social media.

"My family and I inspected our home to make sure there is no clean standing water in any part of the house. This is the best way to protect your family from dengue. I am happy to see people across Delhi participate in this campaign," said Mr. Kejriwal.

He stressed on the impor-

ance of taking 10 minutes every week to carry out such inspection. The CM also presented data from a survey, which he said showed that only 35% of respondents were aware that dengue is caused by breeding in clean stagnant water."

"The aedes mosquito cannot fly a long distance... if we ensure that there are no breeding spots for these mosquitoes around us then we are safe from dengue," said Mr. Kejriwal.

The campaign will continue every Sunday till November 15.



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal inspects his house for stagnant water on Sunday. ■PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'First day of classes at SOL centres mismanaged'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of students attending the first day of classes at centres of the School of Open Learning (SOL), Delhi University, on Sunday were forced to return home due to insufficient seating and mismanagement, students' group Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) has alleged. The SOL administration was unreachable for a comment.

At Swami Shradhdhanand College, students found that several of the subjects they had selected were not avail-

lable, the KYS said in a statement. At Satyawati college, classes were postponed as timetables had not been prepared, it claimed.

The KYS alleged that classes were cancelled at Hansraj due to shooting of a movie on the premises.

At the Arts Faculty, students had to allegedly sit on the floor.

"More than 400 students were tossed into classrooms despite more rooms being available," the KYS claimed, adding that many students had to return home.

6 policemen booked for 'ill-treating' law student

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has filed a case against an SHO and five other officers of Adarsh Nagar police station for allegedly ill-treating a third-year law student.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West) Vijayanta Arya said an FIR has been registered on the complaint of Pramod Kumar under relevant sections of the IPC, including the SC/ST Act.

Several students of Delhi University Law Faculty had gathered outside the police

station on Saturday following the incident.

In his complaint, Mr. Kumar said that on August 25 around 1.15 p.m., he got a call from the Adarsh Nagar police station informing him that three persons, including his nephew Amar, had been arrested. When he reached the station and asked for the reason behind the arrest, the policemen allegedly thrashed him and made casteist remarks.

Mr. Kumar's nephew is an accused in a case of extortion and Arms Act.

Pregnant woman beaten up on suspicion of child abduction

Two people held; police urge residents not to believe rumours

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A pregnant and differently abled woman was thrashed by a mob over suspicion of child abduction in north-east Delhi's Harsh Vihar.

The police have arrested two people in connection with the case. Deepak (27) and Shakuntala (52) are residents of Mandoli Extension, said the police.

Atul Kumar Thakur, DCP (North East), said the incident was reported on August 27. The woman's family got to know about the incident after a video of a mob thrashing a woman went viral and a family member received it on WhatsApp.

"We have lodged an FIR under IPC Sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) and 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint)

against unknown persons. We are going through the video to identify the other attackers," said Mr Thakur.

He added that the Delhi Police has requested people not to pay heed to rumours of child abduction.

For any assistance, people should approach the police, said the DCP.

The police said that the woman was a resident of Tughlakabad and was married to a man in Faridabad.

The family members of the woman alleged that her in-laws had expelled her from their house on August 18 and she had been missing since then. She is four months pregnant.

"Somehow, the woman reached Harsh Vihar and was living on the streets for the past few days. Locals used to give her food. On Au-

gust 27, rumours were flying in the area about abduction after a child was reported missing. The locals suspected the woman's involvement and attacked her," said a police officer.

Locals informed the police about the incident and a team brought the woman to the Harsh Vihar police station. She was sent to a women's shelter home after medical examination and a police team was formed to trace her family.

"The woman has been handed over to her family," said the officer.

A family member claimed that the woman has bruises all over her body. She is undergoing treatment in Safdurjung hospital.

A spate of similar incidents have been reported from western Uttar Pradesh.

Voter verification campaign launched

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi on Sunday launched the 'Electors Verification Programme', a campaign to urge citizens to authenticate existing details on electoral rolls.

The campaign will go on till mid-October and is meant to help improve the "health and fidelity of the electoral rolls", the CEO ofice said in a statement.

In order to verify themselves, electors are required to upload an official ID card. Details can be verified either online by registering on the National Voters' Service Portal with an EPIC number; or through the Voter Helpline App; or offline by visiting Common Service Centres or local Voter Centres.

Doctor falls to death from eighth floor of hostel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 44-year-old doctor fell to his death from the eighth floor of a hostel located on the GTB Hospital campus on Saturday night.

The doctor was from Assam and had been staying on the campus, the police said,

adding that the man's wife works in the hospital. The man was practising at a private hospital in Noida.

A senior police official said the victim was admitted to the casualty department on Saturday with serious injuries after allegedly falling from a great height.

At the time, the doctors declared him unfit for statement. During the probe, the police found out that he had jumped from the balcony of the hostel's eighth floor.

Later, the man succumbed to his injuries.

The family has been informed and the body is be-

ing kept in the mortuary pending postmortem.

A probe under Section 174 of the CrPC has been initiated, said the police.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

Slowdown cripples markets, festive season fails to bring cheer

Markets in the Capital paint a grim picture with dip in sales, lack of demand and cash crunch; traders talk about reasons behind the deepening crisis, discuss solutions

SIDHARTH RAVI
JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Multiple reports of an economic slowdown in India find strong resonance among traders, cutting across sectors, in the national capital.

Citing a lack of demand spurred by a cash crunch in markets in addition to sector-wise policy concerns, the traders spoke of a deepening crisis that needed immediate attention.

At Sadar Bazar, the largest retail market in Delhi, one such crisis brews. “With sales at the levels we have now, we have stopped going to banks to ask for loans,” said Dev Raj Baweja, general secretary of the trader’s association here.

“They [the banks] take a look at our papers and tell us to go back.”

Without liquidity in the market there is simply no purchasing power to make way for the cycle of buying, stocking and selling, he said.

Credit agreements that might have been made for 60 days are now being made for 120 days as retailers are not



Some traders in the Capital blame lack of purchasing power, sealing of shops and demonetisation for the slowdown. *FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

able to finish stocks sold to them, he added.

“The festival season has already started but we have not witnessed any positive effect on the sales yet,” said Mr. Baweja, painting a bleak picture. Regarding the effect of demonetisation and GST on the present situation, he said: “The current situation is clearly a consequence of the moves, but they are bitter pills that may hopefully give a positive outcome.”

At present, he said, a poli-

cy to extend collateral free loans would be crucial to help small traders.

In the jewellery business, a burgeoning grey market, high import duties and soaring international rates of gold have dealt a severe blow to the traders, said Pankaj Arora, a jeweller and a traders’ representative with the Confederation of All India Traders Association (CAIT).

“Since the announcement of the Union Budget four months ago, sales have been

down by nearly 80%,” Mr. Arora said. “Jewellery, after all, is a luxury purchase”, and typically not on the priority list of consumers when compared to other goods, he said.

“Also, unlike earlier, almost no one buys gold as an investment any more. The only purchases we get are during weddings,” he added.

A parallel market where goods are sold without receipts at cheaper rates compared to those sold with GST

receipts has left consumers and traders alike confused.

“Apart from reducing import duties, there needs to be a crackdown on gold smuggling and one rate needs to be fixed if things are to get better,” he said.

Transport sector

The Capital’s transport sector is also gradually grinding to a halt due to the lack of demand for goods and ancillary services by consumers.

Goods transporters and taxi operators complained this was one of the slowest business seasons they had encountered in decades which, by pulling the brakes on their usual plans to increase the number of vehicles on their fleets, was also impacting the larger auto industry per se.

“The pre-Diwali period used to be a brisk time for us. Sales would go up by as much as 50% for a few months preceding the festive season on the back of demand from local markets, which we supply wholesale goods to,” said Rajender Kapoor, president of the Delhi

Goods Transport Organisation.

“But this time, business has not only stagnated but has dipped by 35%. Traders and shopkeepers are not stocking up because of lack of demand. All we are transporting these days are essential goods,” he said.

Labourers and drivers

The slowdown, he said, has also impacted labourers and drivers who, because of the lesser volume of goods being transported, were being sent on leave by their employers.

Meanwhile, taxi operators, who had been facing stiff competition from app-based cab companies such as Ola and Uber, were forced to shelve their expansion plans due to lack of demand.

“We were already facing problems because of app-based cab companies weaning away our customers and now this,” said Sanjay Samrat, president of the Delhi Taxi Union.

“But we are not alone. The Centre has made so many anti-taxi laws aimed at making our drivers bleed through

large cash fines that operators like me have decided to function only with the existing fleet that we have. Why do you think the auto industry is being impacted? It is because transporters like us have been forced to shelve our plans to expand existing businesses,” he added.

Eating patterns

“Typically all other purchases might go down but people do not compromise on eating out,” said Bipin Ahuja, a restaurateurs’ representative. But sales volumes have drastically reduced, especially with ordering patterns having been altered, he said.

“The tables from which we expected a bill of least ₹5,000 earlier, now hand over just ₹2,000,” he said.

All other sectors are affected. People who do not have purchasing power will not spend on eating out, said Mr. Arora, adding that “any sort of lavish orders are hardly going to be placed.”

Apart from this, various regulations from local municipal bodies, to do with sealing of properties, are also

posing a threat to businesses.

More than a slowdown, there is a “degrowth” taking place, he said.

Parallel economy

Speaking on condition of anonymity, another traders’ representative argued that the collapse of the parallel economy had severely affected trade. Earlier, even during the 2008 recession, India was protected from the severity of the blow because the parallel economy helped infuse cash into the system, he said.

“There certainly is a slowdown in the market,” said Praveen Khandelwal, president of CAIT, citing the reason as a shortage of liquidity.

“But it has to do with a transformation in trade in India as well,” he claimed.

“There is a change in business formats with e-commerce players like Zomato and Swiggy entering the market,” he said, adding: “But navigating this period of transformation and the steps being taken by the government are crucial in ensuring that the economy recovers.”

‘Prison rules notified without submitting file to L-G’

Baijal informs HC during hearing of a plea seeking quashing of new jail manual

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal has informed the Delhi High Court that the Delhi Prison Rules (DPR) 2018 was notified by the city government without submitting the file to him.

In an affidavit filed before the High Court, Mr. Baijal said that a reading of the Delhi Prisons Act, 2000, “clearly shows that the Rules were to be made only after submitting the file to the L-G of Delhi”.



Anil Baijal

The L-G’s response came on a notice issued by the High Court on a petition filed by social activist and lawyer Amit Sahni claiming that the

Delhi government had not sought the approval of the L-G before giving effect to the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018.

Mr. Sahni said, “Unlike previous rules, neither the beginning lines of DPR, 2018, mention about any approval sought from the L-G nor do they refer to anything that the rules shall become operative after notifications to be issued by the L-G, in future, in this regard.”

Mr. Sahni argued that whenever any guidelines concerning the convicts

lodged in jails of Delhi are made, they are required to be approved by the L-G. He sought quashing of the new jail manual.

The plea also contended that by virtue of DPR 2018, the Delhi government, by not taking the approval of the L-G, had sought to override the previous orders, circulars and notifications in respect of parole and furlough, premature release of convicts etc., which were notified by the L-G after due deliberation.

Policeman moves CAT over metropolitan allowance

Central Administrative Tribunal seeks reply from Finance, Home Ministries

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police head constable has dragged the Centre to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) over abolishing of metropolitan allowance, which was being given to about 80,000 non-gazetted personnel of the force.

The tribunal, which adjudicates service cases, has called for response from the Finance and Home Ministries within two weeks.

The allowance was granted to Delhi Police personnel on account of hardship faced in metropolitan area. Constables, head constables, assistant sub-inspectors used to get ₹120 per month and sub-inspectors a sum of ₹180 a month as part of their salary, under the allowance.

Head Constable Babu Lal Mitharwal, who had been getting ₹120 per month as metropolitan allowance till it was stopped from July 1, 2017, had made a representation to

The 7th CPC and the Committee on Allowances did not consider the fact that there was no change in the nature and scope of duties of Delhi police personnel which, in fact, had become more arduous

the force. However, it was rejected prompting him to approach the tribunal.

In 1966, the Central government constituted a Delhi Police Commission headed by Justice G.D. Khosla to go into the problems faced by the police department. On the basis of the Khosla Commission Report a decision to grant metropolitan allowance to Delhi Police personnel was taken in 1967.

The allowance was cleared

by all Central Pay Commissions (CPC) since 1967, with the 4th CPC and the 6th CPC going ahead to further recommend three-fold and two-fold increase, respectively in the amount being paid to constables, head constables, ASIs and SIs.

The decision to abolish the allowance, with effect from July 1, 2017, was taken on the recommendations of the 7th CPC, which stated that “the justification provided by the Ministry concerned for the grant of these allowances is not sufficient for their continuance”.

A Committee on Allowances, constituted by the Finance Ministry, subsequently accepted the recommendation as no demand from the Ministry concerned for continuation of the allowance was received on behalf of non-gazetted policemen, who are not allowed to form union or association of their own.

Advocate Gyanant Kumar Singh, who appeared for Mr. Mitharwal before the tribunal, argued that the 7th CPC failed to note that Delhi Police had sent a memorandum for increasing the amount.

Mr. Gyanant said, “It was not a new allowance being introduced so as to require justification but it was an existing allowance for which there had to be a justification for discontinuation and not continuation”.

“Neither the 7th CPC nor the Committee on Allowances consider the fact that there was no change in the nature and scope of duties of Delhi police personnel which, in fact, had become more arduous and challenging with the increase in the presence of VIPs, security threats, long duty hours, pollution, etc.,” Mr. Gyanant said.

He also argued that there was no study done to show that the allowance was no longer needed.

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Woman poses as NRI, dupes man of ₹19 lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GURUGRAM

A woman allegedly duped a man of over ₹19 lakh by posing as a Poland-based NRI, an official said on Sunday.

Abhishek Mishra, a resident of Sector 47 here, had given a written complaint to the police in March that he was duped by a woman of lakhs of rupees. Following five months of probe, the Cyber Cell of the Gurgaon police registered an FIR in the case on Sunday, he said.

Mr. Mishra had met with one Maria Patel on Facebook in February. They exchanged numbers and later started chatting, the official said.

She posed as an NRI businesswoman and said she wanted to set up an IVF centre in Delhi. She said she would travel to India and sought help from Mr. Mishra, the official said.

“She told him she would take a flight to Mumbai on February 19. On the same day, a man posed as a Customs officer and told Mr. Mishra that Ms. Patel was apprehended by the Customs at Mumbai airport for carrying ₹2 lakh in cash,” an Cyber Cell official said. Mr. Mishra transferred ₹19.30 lakh on different dates in the next seven days. On February 28, the man asked Mishra to pay more ₹3.80 lakh to complete all formalities for Ms. Patel’s release. Mr. Mishra denied and the man and the woman switched off their mobile phones.

Swaraj India’s election campaign flagged off

Yogendra Yadav slams political outfits

Yogendra Yadav will travel across 13 districts as part of his nine-day ‘Jan Sarokar Abhiyan’.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Kicking off the party’s election campaign at Gurugram on Sunday for the Assembly elections in Haryana which is due in October, Swaraj India national president Yogendra Yadav announced that he would travel across 13 districts of the State as part of his nine-day-long “Jan Sarokar Abhiyan”.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Yadav attacked all political outfits for “political bankruptcy” and said that his party stood for “politics of truth, honesty and change”.

Referring to the BJP’s 2014 election manifesto, he pointed out that the party had promised to fill all vacant posts in government sector, but more than 41,000 posts of school teachers alone were vacant.

He further said the BJP had also mentioned in the foreword to 2014 election manifesto that Congress rule was so inept that it drowned Haryana in debt, but his party had shown the

Conference on democratic rights curtailed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The second day of a two-day ‘National Convention in Defence of Democratic Rights’ being held at the Malaviya Smriti Bhawan on Sunday was interrupted when the Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya Trust cancelled the permission granted for the event.

The Trust said that the organisers of the seminar did not disclose the “ideology and ethos” of the event when they had booked the hall.

In a letter to the organisers, the members of the trust wrote “Our executive members and general members who gathered on Sunday said that the premises should not be available for an organisation that is against our ideology, ethos and national interest.” It added that the seminar be terminated immediately.

‘Slogans raised’

The organisers said that they held their session successfully and concluded without holding their plenary session as some protesters had gathered outside the venue. “A meeting of leading human rights defenders held in Delhi had to be curtailed after permission was cancelled under pressure from the government with thugs raising slogans outside the venue,” said Kavita Krishnan, secretary, AIPWA.

NOW AND THEN

‘I’M GLAD I LISTENED TO MY FATHER’

Hockey Olympian Zafar Iqbal on how his life has unfolded, from being the son of an academican to his days spent on the golf course today



UTHRA GANESAN

The general impression of a hockey player in India is that of a talented sportsperson from the hinterland, modestly educated, and fighting poverty and lack of resources in the struggle to reach the top. Zafar Iqbal breaks the mould in more ways than one.

The former Executive Director (Properties and Facilities) with the erstwhile Indian Airlines is one of the few in the sport to have managed a life outside hockey post-retirement. He credits his parents and upbringing for helping him get the balance right all through, in his articulate, but gentle manner.

“My father never stopped me from playing sports, but he was quite strict when it came to studies as well. He knew there was fame and popularity in sport;

money, not so much, and so wanted us to be self-sufficient enough to manage our lives even after our sporting days were over. I am glad I listened to him,” says the 63-year old, who says he has worked enough in his life to be able to sit back and enjoy retirement.

How the world knows him

One half of the famous Shahid-Zafar pair that tormented teams’ defences for years, the talented left winger would set up the legendary Mohammed Shahid for his stylish goals. They needed little or no communication to know exactly what needed to be done.

The subtle stickwork, though, was always backed with a strong understanding of physics, thanks to his degree in civil engineering from Aligarh Muslim University and an even stronger realisation that the sport would always be his passion, but not something that would help him lead a life of comfort in the long run.

A resident of Vaishali in Ghaziabad - he moved to the house once he had retired - Iqbal’s major commitment through the day now is to golf. “I started learning golf a few years before retiring and I am still not satisfied with my game. I wake up around 4.30



in the morning and from 5.15 to almost 11.30-12, I am at the golf course. It’s the best part of my day,” he says, laughing.

As the son of Prof. Shahbud-din, dean of the science department at Aligarh Muslim University, Iqbal did not lack resources or an atmosphere of learning at home. Today, he’s surrounded by books on history that he enjoys, and has read the texts of all the major religions, including the four Vedas.

Having made his national debut in 1977, and getting his degree in 1978 - the same year he joined Indian Airlines - he was finally free to pursue hockey full-time. “That was also at my father’s insistence. I had job offers from the Indian Railways and Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, but he advised me to join the airlines, saying that I might not get immediate rewards but would surely be successful in the future. I realised he was right when I was finally appointed ED,” Iqbal recalls.

Players off the field

He talks about how he tried to push his teammates as well to have a life outside the sport. “I used to tell them to continue with their studies and office work after active sports, because not everyone can be a coach or administrator for life. Unfortunately, there were many, much bigger players who could not rise to a senior post. I told them it might be tough initially, but office work is no rocket science. Also, as players we are used to quick decisions on field, so it is easier for us to make

ZAFAR IQBAL, 63
Left winger, Indian hockey team

CAREER SPAN: 1977-1986

HONOURS: Arjuna Award (1983), Padma Shri (2012)

KNOWN FOR: Speed, ball control, reverse hit

FOR THE RECORD: Gold in the 1980 Olympic games; played in the 1984 Olympics (5th position); played in the 1978 World Cup (6th position), 1982 World Cup (5th position); silver in the 1978 and 1982 Asian Games

the switch. They didn’t listen to me, though,” he rues.

It was in 1977 that he moved to Delhi and decided to make it his home. “For me, coming from a small town like Aligarh, Delhi was this huge, fast place where everything was big and far. In AMU everything was available at your doorstep; here, I had to travel 16 km by bus, every day, from the Indian Airlines Colony in Vasant Vihar for training at the stadium. But when I see it now, I feel it was so laid-



the Delhi he remembers is restricted to nostalgia now. Even the most secure areas of the city - in and around Parliament, which he had to cross to reach National Stadium - had easy access, including Race Course Road, which he recalls used to be open to the public back then.

“I sometimes wonder what progress we have actually made. Everyone seems to be running all the time and everyone is addicted to mobiles. We seem to have become breathing mechanical bodies,” he says.

The discipline of a sportsper-son, though, continues to guide his life. Iqbal is a member of two golf courses in NCR - Army Golf Club and the Noida Golf Course - but also visits the one at Hindon. On a week-long break to Chennai to visit his son, Yasir, an assistant professor of physics at IIT, he still managed to find people who would help him play his daily round, at the Cosmopolitan Club. He hasn’t the same luck in Mumbai though, when he visits his daughter, Samia, who moved to the city for her work as a copywriter.

For the rest, he is happy to accompany wife Fauzia (who also retired from the commercial department of what was Vayudoot and consequently Air India) around or spend time occasionally with his friends.

As a member of the governing body of the Sports Authority of India, as well as consultant with the University Grants Commission in the sports curriculum committee, he has stayed in touch with sports administration, pushing the agenda of games as an essential part of the development of a person.

As a former India coach (1993-94), selector (over three tenures), and government observer for many years, he has given back to the sport that helped him become an Olympic champion. But in his pursuit of golfing excellence, Zafar Iqbal continues to live a sporting life.

This ends our 10-part series on former sportspeople who are based in Delhi

Dal Khalsa to hold march against temple demolition

Ravidas temple in Delhi was razed by DDA on Aug. 10

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Upset over the demolition of the Guru Ravidas temple in Delhi’s Tughlakabad, Sikh radical outfit Dal Khalsa along with two other political parties have announced that they would hold a protest march in Jalandhar on September 3.

The temple was demolished by the Delhi Development Authority on August 10 on the orders of the Supreme Court.

‘Reconstruct temple’

“We would be holding the march to express solidarity with the Ravidasia community and to send a message to

Bhagat Ravidasji’s hymns are part of Guru Granth Sahib, hence both the communities have shared bonds

KANWAR PAL SINGH
spokesman, Dal Khalsa

the Delhi government that nothing short of reconstruction of the temple would soothe the hurt sentiments of the aggrieved community,” said Kanwar Pal Singh, spokesperson of the Dal Khalsa on Sunday.

Mr. Singh said the demolition of the temple was as painful to the Sikhs as it was to Ravidasia community. “Bhagat Ravidasji’s hymns

are part of Guru Granth Sahib, hence both the communities have shared bonds. Moreover forceful demolition of any holy place, irrespective of religion, leaves followers in pain and stress,” he said.

‘Mann to lead march’

The spokesperson said the march will be led by Simranjit Singh Mann of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) and Harpal Singh Cheema of Dal Khalsa. “We will support Ravidasia community in their future action plan to build the temple in case the government fails to reconstruct the same at the original location,” he said.

Suicide: two constables suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHHATTARPUR (M.P.)

A 24-year-old man accused of kidnapping and raping a minor died in custody in Chhattarpur district in Madhya Pradesh, prompting authorities to suspend two policemen, an officer said on Sunday.

Virendra Lodhi had hanged himself in the bathroom of a medical centre where he was taken for an examination on Friday, SSP Tilak Singh said.

“Constables Anil Yadav and S. Sahu have been suspended,” Mr. Singh said.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -7.30 p.m.

Vice-principal held for spreading rumours

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
SITAPUR (U.P.)

The vice-principal of a government intermediate college here has been arrested for spreading child-lifting rumours, police said.

Rupesh Singh, vice-principal of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Inter College, was arrested on Saturday for spreading rumours that two students from the primary section were missing for the last two days and had probably fallen victim to child-lif-

ters, said Sidhauli Circle Officer Ankit Kumar Singh.

“The rumour spread like wildfire after which some parents stopped sending their children to school and informed the police about it,” the officer said.

All accounted for

When a police team reached the college to trace missing children, it found that all the students were present and the absentees were at their homes.

Murder convict’s birthday bash in jail

Mutton curry served; inmates record it on their cellphones

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SITAMARHI (BIHAR)

A murder convict has cut a cake and served mutton curry to other inmates inside a jail here to celebrate his birthday, and the ‘invitees’ video recorded the programme on mobile phones, a senior jail official said on Sunday.

Seven prison officials were suspended in connection with the hosting of the party by Pintu Tiwari who is serving life sentence for murdering two engineers in

Darbhang.

“A video of the party, which had gone viral on Saturday night, shows Tiwari cutting a cake and sharing sweets with other inmates who present him with gift-wrapped packets,” Sitamarhi Jail Superintendent Rakesh Kumar Rai said.

Selfies taken

A platter of rice and mutton curry was also served at the gathering while some of the inmates whipped mobile phones out of their pockets

and clicked selfies with Tiwari, he said.

Tiwari, a sharp-shooter of the Mukesh Pathak gang, had carried a reward of ₹50,000 on his head. He was arrested from Patna three years ago.

It was not clear when the birthday party was held.

Mr. Rai said the revelry took place in violation of the jail manual and the entire episode was captured on mobile phones, which is banned inside the prison premises .

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Assam tea garden doctor succumbs to injuries

He was assaulted following a worker's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JORHAT (ASSAM)

An elderly doctor of a tea estate in Assam's Jorhat district has succumbed to his injuries allegedly inflicted by garden workers following the death of one of their colleagues who was undergoing treatment at a hospital in the plantation, officials said.

The incident occurred at Teok tea estate on Saturday.

"The garden doctor, 73-year-old Deben Dutta, was assaulted following the death of one Somra Majhi who was undergoing treatment at the estate's hospital," a statement by Jorhat district Deputy Commissioner Roshni Aparanji Korati said.

Ms. Korati said that tea garden workers had gheraoed the hospital and Dr. Dutta had to be rescued by the police. He was shifted to

Jorhat Medical College and Hospital where he died while undergoing treatment, she said.

Probe ordered

A magisterial inquiry has been ordered and Additional Deputy Commissioner Subhan Gowalla has been asked to submit a report in seven days, she added.

The Deputy Commissioner said follow-up action into the incident has been initiated and the situation was under control.

Meanwhile, Assam Valley Consultative Committee of Plantation Associations has condemned the incident.

"Mindless and murderous assault perpetrated on the Medical Officer of Teok tea estate while he was on duty in the estate hospital," it said. The Assam Valley CCPA has demanded strict action against the guilty.

Naveen asks BJD workers to act as agents of change

I want people to see integrity in our approach, says party chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal president Naveen Patnaik on Sunday urged his party colleagues to act as agents of transformation and bring cheer and satisfaction in the lives of the common man.

"I want people to see integrity in our approach," Mr. Patnaik said while addressing the party's extended executive meeting here. The people are the central focus of the party's work, he added.

5T initiative

Observing that the 5T (teamwork, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit) initiative was a major step towards good governance, Mr. Patnaik said that he was indebted to the people for blessing their party in the recent elections.

He also thanked the party workers for their efforts.

On the ongoing celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, Mr. Patnaik said the ideals and principles of the Mahatma were relevant even today.

He advised the leaders to work with Gandhian institutions to spread the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.



A BJD leader welcoming party chief and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the party's executive body meeting in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

The Chief Minister also stressed the need for intensifying Jeevan Bindu, the party's blood donation initiative.

Doubling membership

Mr. Patnaik further urged the leaders to actively participate in the party's membership drive that is scheduled to begin on Monday. The drive will continue till October 31.

Asking the leaders and grassroots workers to reach all homes and spread the party's message, Mr. Patnaik said that he will review the progress of the membership drive every 15 days.

It was decided at the executive meeting to double the number of party mem-

bers from the existing 47 lakh during the drive.

The drive will be intensified at the district and block levels by involving local leaders, a senior leader said.

"Arrangements have also been made for inducting members online," said Lok Sabha MP Bhatruhari Mahatab.

Mr. Patnaik had earlier formed a State-level committee to monitor and coordinate the membership drive. The committee comprises senior leaders Prasanna Acharya, Debiprasad Mishra, Pramila Mallick, Sanjay Kumar Das Burma, Pratap Keshari Deb, Pradeep Panigrahi and Pranab Prakash Das.

(With PTI inputs)

Cracks appear in Kolkata homes

Police evacuate hundreds; residents blame Metro tunnelling

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Panic gripped the Bowbazar area residents on Sunday as cracks appeared on some of the old houses in the area. Bowbazar is one of most congested areas of central Kolkata where tunnel boring work for the East West Metro corridor is being undertaken.

The Kolkata police evacuated hundreds of people from 18 houses in the area — particularly from Durga Pithuri Lane. Portions of a house also collapsed due to the cracks. About 254 residents of these buildings have been provided alternative accommodation.

There is no report of any injury, a Fire Brigade officer said. The area has been cordoned off by the police.

"Water seepage during the boring started at 6.45 p.m. yesterday. Usually, we grout the area with cement at the seepage points. But in this case whatever we were putting was being washed away," a senior official of the Kolkata Metro Railway Corporation said.

He added that the engineers had never faced such a situation while tunnelling anywhere in the country. "For safety reasons, we have shifted 254 people," the official said.

Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said that if the pro-



Police personnel in Bowbazar area of Kolkata where a portion of a building collapsed on Sunday. • PTI

blem persists, the Metro authorities will arrange temporary accommodation for the residents of these houses.

'No prior warning'

Those who have been shifted were visibly enraged and said that no prior warning was issued by the Metro authorities.

A number of houses in the Bowbazar area are quite old and are in a dilapidated condition.

Construction of an underground tunnel between

Esplanade and Sealdah stations is going on at present. The East West Metro Project which will connect Howrah Maidan with Rajarhat Salt Lake area is a mega infrastructure project with a cost of about ₹8,474.98 crore. Of the 16.6 km line, about 10.8 km will be underground and the remaining will be an elevated corridor. Boring of tunnels under the river Hooghly to connect Kolkata and Howrah has been successfully completed in March 2017.

(With PTI inputs)

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It is hereby informed to all concerned that the above said flat is going to be transferred in the name of Sh. Suresh Wadhawan S/o Dileep Rai R/o MIG-II, Flat No. D-026, Sector-20, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) on Attorney basis. If any one has/have any objection, he/she may file his/her/their objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Housing Department of Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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I, **GARIMA** KAPOOR W/O HIMANSHU TANWAR born on 24 July 1991 residing at E-1353, Sanik Colony, Sector-49, Faridabad, have changed my name to GARIMA KAPOOR TANWAR vide affidavit dated 30/08/2019 at Faridabad.

CM: only selected opposition leaders being allowed in BJP

‘No need for astrologer to divine Congress and NCP are finished as political forces’

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

It is wrong to say that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is on a ‘mega *bharti* (recruitment)’ drive of opposition leaders, said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday, while stressing that the BJP is giving entry to only selected leaders from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress.

Addressing a press conference in Latur district on the concluding day of the party’s Mahajanadesh Yatra, Mr. Fadnavis attempted to reassure party loyalists that 98% of the BJP leadership was constituted from the ranks of original party members, and said the “new recruitments” would not create “any issues”.

“Despite the media dubbing the continuous exit of opposition leaders as the BJP’s ‘mega *bharti* (mega recruitment)’, this is not so...in fact, it is the Opposition’s ‘mega exodus’. Thus far, only four opposition leaders who are tipped for tickets in the Assembly elections have been inducted,” Mr. Fadnavis said. He also said some more leaders will be inducted taking into consideration the number of seats in the BJP-Shiv Sena ‘Mahayuti’ (grand alliance).

In a riposte to Congressman Prithviraj Chavan, the CM said there was no need for an astrologer to divine that the Congress and the NCP were finished as political forces even before the polls. On Saturday, Mr. Chavan asked whether Mr. Fadnavis was an ‘astrologer’ after the latter had said that the Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi was becoming “Team A” among opposition parties while the ‘Congress-NCP’ was reduced to playing second fiddle.



Reaching out: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a Mahajanadesh Yatra rally at Nilanga in Latur district on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Have asked 4 MLAs to wait: Danve

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JALNA

Union Minister and former Maharashtra BJP chief Raosaheb Danve on Sunday said four Opposition MLAs had met him to join the BJP but he had asked them to wait.

Assembly polls are likely to be held in September-October and several leaders from the Congress and the National Congress Par-

ty have made a beeline for the BJP and the Shiv Sena over the past few weeks. “Today four MLAs from the Opposition met me to join the BJP; I have told them to wait,” Mr. Danve said at a felicitation programme for people from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Mr. Danve said he will propose to the Union government that a “caste-based census” be carried

out along with the regular exercise in 2021. He said OBCs have been demanding such a census for a long time. The minister claimed the BJP-led governments at Centre and in the State had worked a lot for the development of OBC communities, including giving Constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes in August last year.

Flood assessment: State seeks different criterion for losses to sugarcane, grapes

Central team also urged for aid to small businesses, hawkers, stalls in urban areas

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The State government has raised a demand to modify a criterion applied by the National Disaster Management Authority while assessing the damage caused by floods.

A Central team to assess the flood damage has completed its tour of the affected areas in western Maharashtra and Konkan. On Sunday, the team members held a meeting with State officials, including Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta. Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Chandrakant Patil was also present.

Mr. Patil said, “The floods have not only damaged the agriculture but also the infrastructure. On account of this, farmers are going to suffer for the next two-three years.”

Mr. Mehta, while making a presentation before the Central team members, said, “Kolhapur and Sangli are two topmost agri-producer districts in the State. Major losses have been found in horticulture. We urge you to apply a different criterion for the losses of sugar cane and grapes than those applied to other crops.”

Other points raised by the government include the major setback to the dairy industry due to the floods



Taking stock: Central team members survey the road restoration work after visiting flood-affected areas in Shirol near Kolhapur. ■ FILE PHOTO

and women being the primary sufferers. Mr. Mehta said apart from rural areas, urban parts suffered major losses and it is important to provide assistance to small businesses, hawkers and stalls.

“Financial assistance is also required to construct elevated roads or bridges for the villages that were submerged. The State has planned a scheme to relocate those living on the ri-

verbanks by giving them pucca houses elsewhere,” he said.

The Central team that landed in the State on August 27 visited Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Thane and Palghar districts in two groups.

The team under V. Thirupuggaz, joint secretary of MDMA, included central officials from power, water resources, road, finance, agriculture and rural deve-

lopment departments. The State has already submitted a memorandum seeking ₹6,800 crore relief package from the centre. Mr. Patil said a detailed memorandum will also be submitted after the visit of the Central team.

Two days ago, the team’s site visit had come under controversy after its members advised locals to not take sugar cane crop and instead opt for rice.

Bappa gets family reception



Festive spirit: A family, dressed in traditional attire, taking Ganapati bappa home from a shop in Pune on Sunday. The 10-day Ganeshotsav begins on Monday. ■ MANDAR TANNU

Bhagat Singh Koshyari is new Governor

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

President Ramnath Kovind on Sunday announced the appointment of Bhagat Singh Koshyari as the Governor of poll-bound Maharashtra. Mr. Koshyari will replace Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, who completed his term of five years.

A postgraduate in English literature, he was born on June 17, 1942. Mr. Koshyari started his public life through the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He was jailed in 1977 during emergency.

Following the formation of Uttarakhand as a separate



State, he was appointed the first State unit chief of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In 2001, he became the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He was also the Leader of Opposition in the As-

sembly from 2002 to 2007. He was a Rajya Sabha MP from 2008 to 2014.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis congratulated Mr. Koshyari. “Heartiest congratulations to Hon Bhagat Singh Koshyari ji on being appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra ! @BSKoshyari,” he tweeted.

Mr. Koshyari replied in a tweet: “Thanks Devendra jee for your warm wishes. Looking forward to contribute in prosperity and development of #Maharashtra. #JaiHind #JaiMaharashtra.”

The new governor will

take over from Mr. Rao who took charge of the office on August 30, 2014. A BJP leader from Telangana, Mr. Rao had served as Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and subsequently as Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry in the government led by late Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 1999 to 2004. Mr. Rao was elected to the 12th Lok Sabha from Karimnagar constituency in 1998 for the first time. In 1999, he was elected as president of the State unit of the BJP. He was re-elected to the 13th Lok Sabha in 1999.

A display of culture, tradition and history

The Southern Command Gold Trophy has for years been the highlight of the Pune racing season

VINAYAK M. ZODGE
PUNE

The audience at the Pune racecourse on Sunday witnessed thrilling races and vivid cultural displays at the Southern Command Gold Trophy, which has been the highlight of the racing season since its inception in 1948.

The Southern Command is the oldest field Army in India, having come into existence more than a century ago, and was instrumental in the integration of the princely States post-Independence. It has made its mark in modern warfare, having fought the 1965 and 1971 wars, and has been at the forefront of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance operations across Southern India.



Riding to victory: Sultan Suleiman, ridden by jockey A.Sandesh, was the winner of the Southern Command Gold Trophy. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cultural diversity Personnel from the Army also showcased their cultural diversity and traditions through band displays, a Kalaripayattu performance and a tent pegging demonstration.

Six military bands – Bombay Engineers Group & Centre Band, Kirkee; Maratha Light Infantry Centre Band, Belgaum; Mechanized Infantry Regimental Centre Band, Ahmednagar; Artillery

Centre Band, Nashik; 15 Punjab Band, Mumbai; and 4/5 Gorkha Rifles Band, Aundh; marched along to fifes and drums.

There was also a Kalaripayattu performance by a team from the Madras

regimental centre in Wellington, consisting of 19 soldiers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu who have won several accolades at the international level. A martial art technique from Kerala, Kalarippattay has

been practised by warriors since the third century BC, as they attempted to master weapons such as the spear, sword, shield, and bow and arrow.

Meanwhile, the tent pegging demonstration was conducted by horses and cadets from the National Defence Academy at Khadakwasla. In this practice, the rider manoeuvres his horse to gallop close to the ground target, with the help of a lance, and hit it.

A practice used to disturb enemy camps, tent pegging is one of only 10 equestrian disciplines officially recognised by the International Equestrian Federation.

This occasion was graced by Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Command, Lt. Gen S.K.Saini, (AVSM, YSM, VSM), who presented the Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw Memorial Trophy and the Southern Command Gold Trophy to the winning connections.

Stick to ideology, avoid switching parties, Gadkari tells politicians

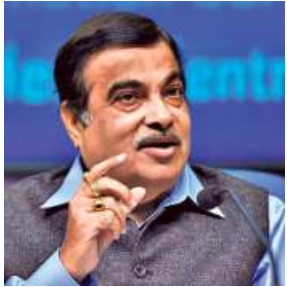
‘History will be written by those who stuck to their ideologies’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

Union Minister and BJP leader Nitin Gadkari on Sunday told a gathering of politicians that one should stick to an ideology and avoid party-switching “like rats jumping from a sinking ship”. He also said history will not be written by such opportunists but by those who stuck to their ideologies despite facing hardships.

Incidentally, the BJP is in the midst of an influx of opposition leaders in the run-up to the Assembly polls, likely to be held in September-October. Mr. Gadkari was addressing a gathering at the launch of ‘Political Icons of Vidarbha’, a coffee table book, organised by the Lokmat Group.

“I feel people in politics should clearly understand the meaning of politics. Politics is not just power politics. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Tilak, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Veer Savarkar did not indulge in power politics,”



he said. “Gandhi ji pursued samajikaran, rashtrakaran and vikaskaran (politics of society, country and development),” he said. “Don’t compromise on principles, and keep patience,” he said.

‘Jumping like rats’ He said he never thought of leaving his party even when faced hardships, but the current situation is such that people are changing parties according to who is in power. “People run after those who come to power. Today we are in power, they (party-hoppers) will come with us. Tomorrow if someone else attains power, they will run after them. People

just jump like rats from one side to another when a ship starts sinking.”

“But history will not be written by these people. It will be written by those who stuck to their ideologies despite facing hardships,” the Nagpur Lok Sabha MP said.

Different ideologies About Communist stalwart late A.B. Bardhan, who was Nagpur University Students Union president, Mr. Gadkari said, “I have a lot of respect for A.B. Bardhan though both of us followed different ideologies. He was such a dedicated leader. His stature is unmatched when compared to any leader in Nagpur.”

Speaking of ideologies, Mr. Gadkari said the issue was not about differences in ideology, but about having no ideology at all.

Several leaders from the Congress and the NCP in poll-bound Maharashtra have joined either the BJP or the Sena in the recent weeks.



IN BRIEF

Jose Tom is UDF candidate from Pala
KOTTAYAM

Following a frenetic day of political wrangling and uncertainty, senior Kerala Congress (M) leader Jose Tom Pulikkunnel was on Sunday named the United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate in the upcoming Pala byelection in Kerala. The name of Mr. Pulikkunnel, regarded close to the KC(M) faction led by Jose K. Mani, was put forward by an election subcommittee of the KC(M) headed by Thomas Chazhikadan, MP.

Malabar water festival to begin on September 15
KOZHIKODE

Malabar Jalotsavam 2019 will begin at Kunjilil Kadavu on the Korappuzha river near Atholi here in Kerala on September 15. It is being organised by Changathikkootam, the alumni association of Government High School, Atholi, in association with the District Tourism Promotion Council. The festival will feature boat race and swimming competitions, besides tug of war, coir making and cultural programmes.

Karnataka will see polls soon, says Siddaramaiah
MYSURU

The former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday predicted mid-term Assembly elections by the year-end. Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "I told party workers in Dakshina Kannada on Saturday that they should be ready for midterm polls in December as the present [BJP] dispensation does not appear to have the ability to run the government," he said and lashed out at the government for its "failure" to handle flood-relief work.

Tirupati goes the extra mile, makes 'recyclable' idols

Made of bangles & copra, these idols need no immersion

A.D. RANGARAJAN
TIRUPATI

At a time when eco-friendly celebrations have become the mantra for Vinayaka Chaturthi, Tirupati has emerged as a trailblazer by going a step ahead to present 'recyclable' idols. There are at least two huge idols in the temple town which need no immersion as they will be dismantled and distributed among the devotees after the festival.

At Thummalagunta village on the city outskirts, a huge Vinayaka idol made of clay bangles is drawing the attention of the passersby. The Bala Vinayaka Committee and Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Youth Association have plans to welcome the 'Lord of wisdom' in a novel form. They have chosen bangles as the raw material this festive sea-



An idol made of two lakh bangles at Thummalagunta. *K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

son. Made of a whopping two lakh bangles, the 30-foot deity has become the cynosure of all eyes.

'Baahubali' connection
Artisans who had worked to erect the magnificent sets

for the Tollywood movie 'Baahubali' are said to have been roped in to give shape to the idol here. It is learnt that a group of 30 artisans have slogged it out for 15 days for the task.

"Unlike the regular spherical shape, the Laddu placed in the palm of the Lord has been crafted in the form of Vinayaka himself. The prasadam weighing 1,116 kg is being prepared by local confectioners Sharif and Ashraf and it will be distributed among the devotees on the 'Nimajjanam' day," a representative of the puja committee says.

Another huge idol is made of dry coconut (copra) at Gandhipuram Circle on D.R. Mahal Road after YSR Congress Party leader S.K. Babu took the initiative. The idol is made of 170 kg of copra and 200 coconuts.

Remembering a legend



Film director Adoor Gopalakrishnan garlanding a statue of writer O.V. Vijayan at Thasrak village in Palakkad on Sunday. His visit comes in the backdrop of the golden jubilee year of Vijayan's acclaimed novel 'Khasakkinte Ithihasam' (The Legends of Khasak), which was set in the village. *K.K. MUSTAFAH

Narrow escape for crew as snakeboat capsizes

It got caught in the current in swollen Pampa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATHANAMTHITTA

The Palliyodam (snakeboat) belonging to the Vanmazhi Palliyoda Karayogam capsized in the Pampa on its way back to its home village of Vanmazhi, near Chengannur, on Saturday.

All the 15 oarsmen on board were rescued by the Fire and Rescue Services and Seva Bharati volunteers who were escorting the snakeboat from Aranmula.

Tugged by motorboat
The snakeboat had reached Aranmula on August 23 for the annual ritualistic mass feast, Ashtami-Rohini Vallasadya, held at the Sree Par-



The snakeboat belonging to the Vanmazhi Palliyoda Karayogam that capsized in the Pampa, near Chengannur in Alappuzha, on Saturday.

thasarathy temple situated near the river.

The snakeboat crew was taking the vessel back to Van-

mazhi, braving the strong current in the swollen Pampa. The snakeboat was being tugged by a motor boat of

the Palliyoda Seva Sanghom (PSS) in view of the strong current.

However, the oarsmen

lost control over the snakeboat that was caught in a fierce current while it was approaching the bridge across the river at Mangalam, near Chengannur. The vessel rammmed a bridge pier, breaking its front portion, according to PSS sources.

A few persons on board swam to safety while others were rescued by the Fire and Rescue Services and Seva Bharati volunteers who were searching for a youth who had been reportedly missing in the river from Saturday morning.

The Vanmazhi Palliyoda Karayogam leaders said they would make every possible effort to repair the snakeboat before the annual snakeboat regatta to be held in the Pampa on the Uthtrattathi day during the Onam festival on September 16.

Politician to succeed jurist as Kerala Governor

G. ANAND
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Arif Muhammad Khan, the Kerala Governor-designate, brings to the Raj Bhavan the tactfulness of a seasoned politician.

He succeeds P. Sathasivam, a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who had invested the Governor's office with subtlety and judiciousness seldom seen in statecraft.

Mr. Khan had cut his teeth in student politics before being elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly at the age of 26. He graduated to New Delhi politics and was elected to the Lok Sabha on a Congress ticket from UP in 1980 and 1984. Mr. Khan's moment in the national limelight came in 1986 when he quit the Rajiv Gandhi government to protest the Centre's decision to reverse the Supreme Court's verdict granting alimony to a divorced Muslim woman in the Shah Bano case.

His opposition to the practice of triple talaq and reformist positions had earned Mr. Khan bouquets and brickbats.

Heated issues
Mr. Sathasivam, the incumbent, leaves behind a legacy of having striven to keep his office above the cut and thrust of daily politics, with varying degrees of success, in the thick of heated issues such as the Supreme Court verdict favouring entry of women of all ages to Sabarimala.

His high-profile interventions in sensitive issues had gained traction in the public sphere though they were mostly symbolic acts given the Constitutional limitations of the Governor's office.



TRS secretary-general K. Kesava Rao, right, greeting BJP leader Bandaru Dattatreya on his appointment as Himachal Pradesh Governor on Sunday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Patient wait pays off for Bandaru Dattatreya

He did not get Secunderabad LS ticket

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY
HYDERABAD

Bandaru Dattatreya, who on Sunday was appointed Governor of Himachal Pradesh, kept a low profile after losing the BJP ticket for the Secunderabad seat, which he had won more than once.

It has been a long wait for Mr. Dattatreya, 72, after he was earlier dropped from the Union Cabinet during the first tenure of the Narendra Modi government.

He was first elected to the 10th Lok Sabha in 1991 and in 1998 for the second time when he worked as the Union Minister of State, Urban Development, under Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He was re-elected in 1999 and yet again given an opportunity to serve as the Union Minister of State for Urban Development and also Railways, where he is credited with bringing in a Multi Modal Transport System (MMTS) to Hyderabad.

Independent charge
Mr. Dattatreya was then elevated as Minister of State with Independent Charge for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. He was elected to Parliament for the fourth time in 2014 and in-

cluded in Narendra Modi's government as Minister of State (Independent Charge), Labour and Employment.

Many thought his political career ended when he was denied the Secunderabad Parliament ticket that he held for several years and the present Union Minister of State for Home, G. Kishan Reddy was favoured. But Mr. Dattatreya continued his work for the party without showing any dissent and has now been rewarded.

Born on June 12, 1947 in Hyderabad, Mr. Dattatreya strikes a chord with the average voter as well as political leaders of all hues.

A B.Sc graduate from Osmania University, Hyderabad, he started his career as an RSS *pracharak* in 1968 and held various positions in organisations associated with right wing groups. He was jailed under MISA during the Emergency.

He joined the BJP in 1980 and worked as secretary, BJP Andhra Pradesh unit. He was elevated and functioned as general secretary from 1981 to 89. Between 1996-98, he worked as the president of the BJP AP unit. He served in the same post for the second time between 2006 and 2009.

Global meet of poll officials to begin today in Bengaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Representatives from election bodies in over 50 countries will congregate in Bengaluru to share their electoral experience with programmes connected to the Fourth General Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) starting on Monday. Incidentally, India will take over as A-WEB's chair for 2019-21.

While the international conference on 'Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections', hosted by the Election Commission of India, will be held on Wednesday, representatives from over 50 countries will join a three-day meeting starting on Monday.

"The ECI has been very closely associated with the process of the formation of A-WEB since 2011-12 and has been its executive board member since its inception in 2013," Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha told presspersons here on Sunday. "By far, this is the largest congregation of delegates.

Over 120 participants from more than 50 countries will join the A-WEB events," he said.

The A-WEB has 115 members and 20 regional associations/ organisations as associate members. The members include 24 from Asia, 37 from Africa, 31 from America, 17 from Europe, and six from Oceania. The ECI will continue to remain on the executive board of the A-WEB for 2021-23 in its capacity as immediate former chair of the A-WEB, a release said.

"India has the largest democracy of the world. India has been a role model on the world forum," Mr. Sinha said.

Karnataka farmer killed in suspected tiger attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

A farmer was killed in a suspected tiger attack in a village bordering the Bandipur National Park in Karnataka. The body was discovered by a search party on Sunday.

The victim, Shivamadaiah, 58, is the son of Putaiah of Chowdahalli village, which is on the border of the Gopalaswamy Betta range of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar district.

Villagers in panic
Locals and Forest Department officials suspect that a tiger might have attacked him while he was on his way back home after tending to his cattle on Saturday. The incident occurred within

500 m of the forest boundary, creating panic among the community, which has urged the Forest Department to trap the animal. There are fears that the tiger, having tasted the flesh and blood of the victim, could turn into a man-eater.

Conservator of Forests T. Balachandra said camera trap images in the area would be studied for the tiger's stripe patterns to ascertain its identity. "An operation will be launched in a day or two to trap the tiger," he said. People of Chowdahalli say it was the same tiger that had attacked a forest guard early this year.

A cheque for ₹5 lakh has been handed over as compensation to the family of the deceased.



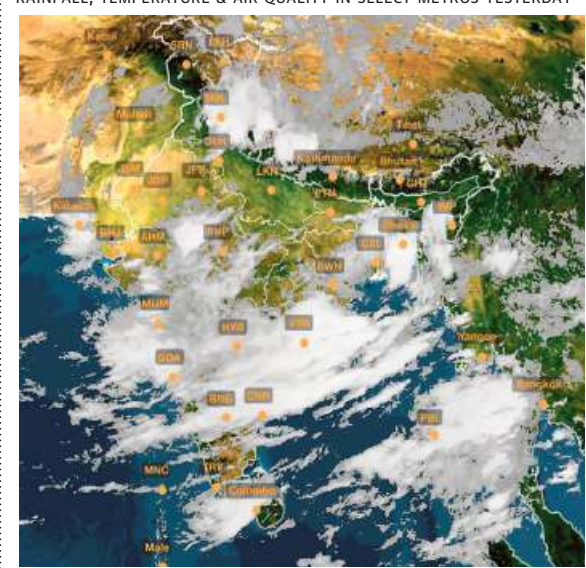
Lt. Gen. Naravane is Vice-Chief of Army
NEW DELHI
Lt. Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane on Sunday assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Army. He will be in contention for the Army chief's post as he will be the senior-most commander incumbent when General Bipin Rawat retires on December 31. PTI

Business news channel suspends broadcast
NEW DELHI
Business Television India (BTVI) suspended its transmission on broadcast platforms with effect from Saturday midnight. In a note circulated among its employees, the management said their efforts in the past three years had led to BTVI achieving consistently high ratings that vaulted it to the second rank in the English business television genre.

Over 5.65 cr I-T returns filed till Aug. 31 deadline
NEW DELHI
Over 5.65 crore income tax returns were filed by taxpayers for the assessment year 2019-20 as the deadline ended on August 31, showing a 4% rise in ITR filing over the previous year, according to the data. Nearly 50 lakh people filed their returns online on August 31, the last date for ITR filing, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) data showed. PTI

AIBOC to decide future action on bank mergers
MANGALURU
With the Centre moving to merge more public sector banks, the All India Bank Officers' Confederation, which has opposed it, will meet in Delhi on September 5 to decide on its future course of action. Satish Shetty, vice-president, AIBOC said the experience from the earlier mergers had not been very encouraging on business front, NPA management and managing the workforce.

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



Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Odisha, coastal Karnataka and Konkan, Goa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Gujarat, Telangana, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely over Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala		36.0	26.0	Kozhikode	6.4	29.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	22.2	33.0	26.0	Kurnool	43.5	30.0	23.0
Aizawl		26.0	19.0	Lucknow		34.0	28.0
Allahabad		36.0	27.0	Madurai		37.0	26.0
Bengaluru	20	27.0	20.0	Mangaluru	15.6	30.0	23.0
Bhopal	20.5	28.0	23.0	Mumbai	15.7	30.0	25.0
Bhubaneswar	0.5	33.0	25.0	Mysuru		26.0	20.0
Chandigarh		34.0	27.0	New Delhi	0.8	32.0	26.0
Chennai	0.6	32.0	26.0	Patna		37.0	29.0
Coimbatore		31.0	22.0	Port Blair	43.5	30.0	24.0
Dehradun	61.1	32.0	23.0	Puducherry		34.0	25.0
Gangtok	4.2	26.0	20.0	Pune	0.2	28.0	23.0
Goa	90.0	29.0	24.0	Raipur	52.0	32.0	23.0
Guwahati		34.0	25.0	Ranchi		33.0	24.0
Hubballi		23.0	22.0	Shillong	3.1	24.0	17.0
Hyderabad	5.9	29.0	22.0	Shimla		23.0	17.0
Imphal		33.0	21.0	Srinagar		26.0	17.0
Jaipur		34.0	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	5.4	31.0	24.0
Kochi	1.2	30.0	24.0	Tiruchi		36.0	27.0
Kohima	1.8	28.0	18.0	Vijayawada		32.0	26.0
Kolkata		33.0	27.0	Visakhapatnam	34.2	32.0	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)
Pollutants in the air you are breathing
Yesterday
CITIES SO₂ NO₂ CO PM_{2.5} PM₁₀ AQI
Ahmedabad..... 61 62 36 48 91
Bengaluru..... 11 56 77 71 113
Chennai..... 11 12 42 44 57
Delhi..... 13 52 30 75 74
Hydrabad..... 6 23 40 31 73
Kolkata..... 7 23 14 60 66
Lucknow..... 5 29 153 64 37
Mumbai..... 18 12 105 14 37
Pune..... 74 8 67 30 30
Visakhapatnam.....
Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
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.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

JNU reviewing position of emeritus professors

At least five of them have been asked to submit their CVs to university-appointed committee, despite having lifetime appointments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Jawaharlal Nehru University is in the process of reviewing the position of all its emeritus professors who are above the age of 75 years.

At least five such professors, including renowned historian Romila Thapar and sociologist T.K. Oommen, have received letters from JNU's registrar asking them to submit their curriculum vitae to a university-appointed committee which will review their position, despite the fact that these were originally lifetime appointments.

'Embarrassing move'
"It is embarrassing for professors emeritus to be asked such a thing," Dr. Oommen told *The Hindu*. "Our CVs, the record of our work and achievements are easily available. What is the need to write and ask for such a

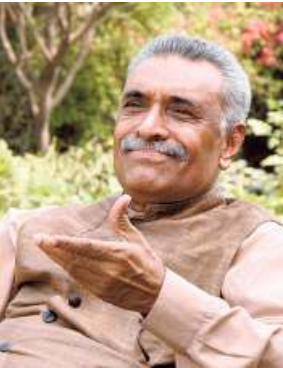
thing?" he asked. In fact, the CVs of several emeritus professors, including Dr. Thapar's, are available on the JNU website itself.

"In my response to the University, I mentioned the fact that the original appointment sent to me said it was for life," said another professor who did not wish to be identified.

At its meeting on August 23 last year, JNU's Executive Council revised the guidelines for the emeritus professor designation. It now says, "Once appointed, E.C. as an appointing authority, will review the continuation or otherwise for each existing Emeritus Professor after attainment of her/his age of seventy five years by considering her/his health status, willingness, availability, university needs etc. so that more positions will be available to other potential candidates."



Noted historian Romila Thapar, left, and sociologist T.K. Oommen have received letters asking for their CV.



The Council added that it would appoint a sub-committee for each Professor Emeritus above 75 years, "which will examine each case as it deems fit, including by interaction, inviting latest CV, peer group views etc."

Dissent recorded
Elected teachers' representatives to the EC recorded their dissent to this decision

on the ground that this process amounts to insulting the retired faculty members whose immense contribution to JNU had made them distinguished.

Several professors also told *The Hindu* that they had received letters from the Registrar over a month ago, well before the resolution taken in the EC meeting on August 23.

"There is no move to discontinue their emeritus professor position if they reply to our letter and express their willingness to continue," JNU Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar said, in response to *The Hindu's* questions on the issue. In a statement, JNU said such "informed review" by the Executive Council was consistent with the practices at universities such as MIT and Princeton. However, the guidelines at these universities only mention the need to keep the university informed of research activities and the possibility of emeritus status being rescinded for unethical conduct.

There has been an outpouring of outrage within the university and on social media after JNU's letter to Dr. Thapar came to light on Saturday, when *Economic and Political Weekly* published a letter from JNU emeritus

professor Prabhat Patnaik. "This current action of the JNU contradicts the very basis on which the status of professor emeritus was conferred on retired faculty in the JNU," he wrote. "There is much talk these days about improving the quality of our higher education. This would remain a chimera if our outstanding scholars are treated in this manner by their own universities."

'No need for removal'
Dr. Patnaik, who is under 75 years himself and thus not directly affected by the decision pointed out that emeritus professors do not receive any salary or perks from JNU. "It's zero cost for the University, so they are free to appoint as many people as they like to the position. There is no need to remove someone in order to consider new candidates," he said. Several emeritus profes-

sors said that they had been abruptly asked to vacate their offices at JNU last year via a "sharply-worded" notice. There is a wide range of involvement among the emeritus professors whom *The Hindu* spoke to. Some still go to the University daily, give lectures and publish papers. Others struggle with ill-health and are unable to partake of academic life.

"The emeritus professor designation was a recognition based on our CVs at the time, as it were. It really should not matter what we have done after that. It is based on past achievement, not future expectation," said Dr. Oommen. "However, even if they wanted to know what we have done since retirement, they should have asked the Centres [which the professors originally worked with] or looked at their own annual reports. It is not right to demand a CV."

Aadhaar system for NRIs in 3 months

'It will do away with 180-day wait'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has said its systems will be ready within three months to issue Aadhaar cards to NRIs with Indian passports without the mandatory 180-day waiting period, as announced in the Budget.

The legal measures would be notified soon, UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey said.

"We are working to make the appropriate technological changes and we will provide an appointment facility where people outside the country also can apply for a time slot and specify the place they would like to go

to get their Aadhaar made... as soon as they come to India they can, very conveniently, go and get their Aadhaar made," Mr. Pandey said.

Sources privy to the development said a notification by the IT Ministry was awaited.

The UIDAI – which has made operational two more Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs) in Bhopal and Chennai after the fourth centre in Hisar was launched recently – is confident of meeting its target of opening 114 such centres in the coming months at an estimated cost of ₹300-₹400 crore to facilitate enrolment, updation and other activities.

Associate of Michel identified in VVIP chopper scam: CBI

'Middleman connived with then GM of Westland Helicopters'

DEVESH K. PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged that AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal middleman Christian Michel accessed classified documents on the procurement process in connivance with K.V. Kunhikrishnan, the then general manager of Westland Helicopters, in Delhi.

Support services
According to the agency, Mr. Michel paid ₹97 lakh to Mr. Kunhikrishnan during 2011-2012, which was shown as remittance for providing off-set support services. However, no such services were allegedly provided by him. These facts were not brought on record in the Italian courts, it said.

The CBI alleges that the



Christian Michel.

British national had hired one J.B. Subramanian as his associate in Mumbai for typing hand-written notes and sending confidential information on the defence procurement processes to those linked to AgustaWestland and another middleman, Guido Haschke, via fax or other means.

"These reports/dispatches were recovered from the

house of Mr. Haschke's mother at Lugano on April 23, 2012, by the Swiss police," the agency recently submitted before a city court.

Among the documents received by the agency from Italy and Switzerland were those of the Indian Air Force and the Defence Ministry, papers related to the procurement of VVIP choppers, and a partly hand-written draft agreement dated May 8, 2011. "The document expert opinion has confirmed his writings on certain questioned documents...," said the agency.

It is also alleged that Mr. Michel had hired some retired Air Force and Navy officials to get inputs about defence procurements by India and the progress in the VVIP chopper matter.

BJP MP injured in West Bengal clashes

Party supporters clash with police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Violence erupted in the Shyamnagar and Jagdalat areas of Barrackpore subdivision of West Bengal on Sunday with the BJP's Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh sustaining head injuries in the clashes.

Trouble started in the area in North 24 Parganas district when certain party offices of the BJP were occupied by cadre of the Trinamool Congress.

When the MP, who quit the Trinamool earlier this year ahead of the Lok Sabha poll, was heading towards the party offices, his vehicle was attacked.

BJP supporters then put up road blocks at various places in protest.

As the police tried to disperse the protesting crowd, a pitched battle ensued, leaving Mr. Singh and a few

local people injured.

Mr. Singh was rushed to a State-run hospital where he was given first aid. He was later admitted to a private health facility.

Senior police officers, including Barrackpore City Police Commissioner Manoj Verma, were on the spot trying to control the situation.

"Working like puppets of Barrackpore police and Mr. Ajay Thakur - DC, Zone-I, Barrackpore police commissionerate did lathi charge, I have been severely injured in the same and MLA of Bhatpara, Pawan Singh has been injured as well. Trinamool is murdering democracy in Bengal," the BJP MP said on social media.

He alleged that his house was also attacked.

The Barrackpore city police said the MP was injured by a brick thrown by his supporters.

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY						
Tender Notice						
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Principal Chief Engineer/ICF, Chennai-600038, invites e-Tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the Tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online Tenders will be accepted. The cost of the Tender Form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of Multiple Banks, Net-Banking, Debit Card and Credit Card.						
Sl. No.	Name of Works & Location					Tender No.
1.	(A) Extension of North Bay Coil Shed - Phase I (WP 19-20) (B) Extension of Goliath Crane Gantry (WP 19-20)					EW/1033
2.	(A) Construction of 4 Type-IV Quarters in ICF Colonies (WP 19-20) (B) Construction of Type-III Quarters (04 Units) over the existing quarters in west colony (WP 19-20) (C) Providing of Frontage of dining hall at Thiruvalluvar hall (WP 19-20)					EW/1034
3.	(A) Replacement of damaged doors and windows and safety grill in all colonies (WP 19-20) (B) Providing safety grills for quarters in all colonies (WP 19-20)					EW/1035
4.	Attending Roof leaking in staff quarters in all colonies (50 units) (WP 19-20)					EW/1036
5.	(A) Reconstruction of RCC storm water drain from SSE/W/GL office to Higher Secondary School (WP 19-20) (B) Providing separate line for gardening in Perambur quarters and service buildings - Phase I (WP 19-20) (C) Repairs to office class rooms, construction of compound wall of TTC at ICF (WP 19-20)					EW/1037
Sl. No.	Tender Value Rs.	EMD Rs.	Cost of Tender Schedule Rs.	Period of Completion	Date and Time of closing : 14.30 hrs. & opening of Tender at 15.00 hrs. on	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
1	1,29,63,369/-	2,14,800/-	5,000/-	6 months	23.09.2019	
2	2,58,92,153/-	2,79,500/-	10,000/-	9 months	23.09.2019	
3	85,13,108/-	1,70,300/-	5,000/-	6 months	23.09.2019	
4	93,21,133/-	1,86,400/-	5,000/-	9 months	23.09.2019	
5	1,09,49,176/-	2,04,800/-	5,000/-	9 months	23.09.2019	
GREEN ICF ! CLEAN ICF !						

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Cairn Foundation (CF), a not-for-profit society, committed to empower local communities in its areas of operation and support them for their suitable and inclusive growth seeks an Expression of Interest (EOI) under Competitive Bidding Process ("CB") from suitably experienced NGOs, Not for profit organizations, for profit organization and charitable organizations with proven capabilities and demonstrated performance in similar requirement to express their interest for pre-qualification to participate in Competitive Bidding Process for the following:

- To assess the skill development gaps and opportunities by conducting a baseline & need assessment study.
- Basis the outcome of the study - design, develop & execute vocational/ skill training programs, to link rural youth, women and differently abled community members to livelihood/ economic empowerment opportunities.

The interested parties should evince interest to participate in the Expression of Interest by clicking on the "Evince Interest" link against the Eoi listing on the Cairn website i.e. <http://www.cairnindia.com> and submit their contact details online. Further to this, interested parties will be invited to submit their response via Smart Source (Cairn's e Sourcing Platform) within 10 Days from this publication.

BusinessLine

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Irresponsible rhetoric

India must resist the temptation to imitate Pakistan in its provocative tactics

Statements by senior functionaries of Pakistan including Prime Minister Imran Khan threatening war and violence against India and in Jammu and Kashmir are irresponsible, escalatory and dangerous. Mr. Khan has even spoken about the possibility of a nuclear war, albeit couched in language purportedly meant to be about the dangers of it, while a Minister went to the extent of announcing a time frame for starting a war. Several diplomats have called for jihad. Pakistan's reputation as a reckless nuclear power is reinforced in all this, and its continuing support for Islamist terrorist outfits is not doing any good for the people of J&K. Pursuit of military parity with India has ruined Pakistan economically, though the compact of generals and clerics that controls it has flourished. These vested interests have placed Kashmir as central to Pakistan's national identity that they understand as exclusive and Islamist. Now under fire for being ineffective in the face of India's recent measures with regard to J&K, Mr. Khan and his allies are ratcheting up the rhetoric. The military that is in step with him, tested a surface-to-surface missile amid the tensions. Pakistan is trying to catch the world's attention and assuage the perilous passions its state policies have created in its society.

Unlike Pakistan, India has set for itself high standards as a democratic secular polity and a responsible nuclear power. Its behaviour in all circumstances must live up to its reputation. New Delhi rules out mediation by any other country in its relations with Pakistan, on grounds that it is capable of resolving all issues bilaterally. Since 2014, India has also rejected any role for Pakistan on the question of J&K. Indian Ministers have been saying that the only point to be discussed with Pakistan is the return of parts of the region that is under its control currently. Simultaneously, New Delhi has also ruled out any talks with political leaders in J&K, separatists or mainstream. India has also indicated that it would be open to reviewing its 'no first use' nuclear doctrine. India calculates, probably rightly, that global powers caught up in their own crises have no inclination to be involved in any India-Pakistan dispute. Indian leaders have expressed willingness to talk to Pakistan on the one hand, and on the other hand made menacing statements primarily meant to sustain nationalist passions back home. Ambiguity may be a good tactic in diplomacy at times, but this occasion warrants stated clarity that India does not seek conflict. Having disrupted the equilibrium in J&K, India must now work harder to restore it and reaching out to Pakistan may be well worth it. At any rate, the government functionaries must resist the temptation to match the Pakistan leadership in irresponsible rhetoric.

Citizenship, figured

The final NRC list should have led to closure, not vexed beginnings

The publication of the final National Register of Citizens on Saturday brings no closure to the vexed issue of illegal immigration to Assam yet. Those left out are not foreigners until the tribunals set up to determine their fate pronounce them so. The process could go all the way to the Supreme Court. The Home Ministry has also extended the time to file appeals against exclusion in the Foreigners Tribunal from 60 to 120 days. The point, however, is that the process has yielded an updated register, and a figure. It has had its warts and all even as it left over 1.9 million people staring at statelessness – in a continuing saga of glaring omissions, a serving lawmaker, a former legislator, and retired Army man Mohammad Sanaullah, whose case propelled NRC excesses into the spotlight, did not make the cut. But protests across the spectrum expressing concern over the excluded, suggest the judiciary-led process was perhaps largely robust and the errors were more procedural than targeted. The State government and many political parties have promised to offer legal help to those excluded, but such assistance should have been forthcoming from the time the updating exercise was rolled out on the ground in 2015. Instead, it was mostly left to sundry organisations and concerned activists to come to the aid of hundreds of thousands oblivious of documentation novelties such as legacy data.

Beyond that lies the question of what to do with those declared illegal aliens once the quasi-judicial process is done and dusted. The administration is readying detention centres, but only a veritable 'prison state' can house such numbers. Options being banded about include instituting a system of work permits, a renewed attempt to nudge Dhaka to take in some of the declared foreigners with appropriate deal sweeteners (though India has thus far maintained that the NRC update is the nation's internal matter, and Bangladesh has never acknowledged any illegal crossings across its borders), or 'friendly' State governments volunteering to share some of the burden. While the Assam Chief Minister struck a temperate tone, the studied silence of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister on publication day is unnerving. Of greater concern is the stance of the de facto No. 2 in the State government, who said that the NRC was no quarter-final, semi-final and final for driving out Bangladeshis and promised "more finals". The Centre might have a plan in place, but if it is in the form of the Citizenship Amendment Bill to extend citizenship to non-Muslims alone, left after judicial filtration, that would negate the very non-denominational premise of the exercise to identify those who entered the country illegally after the cut-off date of March 24, 1971. While the apex court could still consider limited reversion to satisfy sentiments even though it had rejected the plea in the run-up to final publication, the aim should be to bury the bogey of the Bangladeshi.

Banking on the banks for expansion

The government accepts that the economy needs more growth but could end up paying for its inaction



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

In 2005, a Nobel laureate in economics claimed that the "... problem of depression-prevention has been solved". He was exulting over an innovation in economic theory according to which fiscal policy, associated with profligacy, had no role whatsoever. Just a few years later, following the North Atlantic financial crisis, the U.S. fiscal deficit had to be raised three-fold, he responded, "I guess everyone is a Keynesian in the foxhole", implying that in the face of an impending crisis it is alright to rely on fiscal policy after all. A similar pragmatism is absent from economic policymaking in India today.

By meeting industrialists for policy inputs so soon after the Budget for the year had been presented and then, via a press conference held a few weeks later rolling back some of the tax proposals in it, the government revealed its anxiety about the state of the economy. This is only to be expected of a party that came to power promising to transform it. Far from having significantly improved the performance of the economy in its first term in office it has been presiding over an economy in which growth has been declining for close to two-and-a-half years by now. So what did the Finance Minister offer in her press conference? And can we expect it to be game-changing?

Three sets of announcements pertain to concessions impacting upon the automobile sector, proposals for the banking sector and a

change in a practice of the Income-Tax Department. Of the first it may be said that addressing the problems of any one sector when several are equally stressed is not fair governance. There have been reports of severe stress in the packaged foods industry for instance and we have long been aware that the agricultural sector has been troubled after demonetisation.

Of the revision of the procedure adopted for issuing an IT notice, it can be said that it does address the issue of tax terrorism, but only a thorough social audit of the processes adopted by the tax authorities can establish whether it would be sufficient to ensure that honest firms are not be hounded and that the government receives all the revenue due to it. Industrialists are under pressure to not speak out against high-handedness, and the compulsory retirement of income tax personnel for malpractice recently point to not everything being well within that department. That leaves us with the proposals for the banking sector. Of these it can be said right away that some of them are quite sound; but if the government's intention was to reverse the slowing of growth they are unlikely to make much of a difference.

Infusion without reforms

Most significant among the measures related to banking is the infusion of capital upto ₹70,000 crore into the public sector banks. This is expected to contribute to a potential ₹5 lakh crore expansion of credit. With this the government has frontloaded a provision already announced in the Budget. This transfer is now going to be made right away. This is a major step in the direction of taking the banking sector to a more solid foundation. There is also a proposal to ensure that loan decisions taken by bank-



ers are treated as economic decisions and not as instances of corruption when a loan goes awry.

Public sector banking has been hobbled by the colonial attitude that India's public servants cannot be trusted, leading to a continuous surveillance that is not conducive to their exercising initiative in lending. At the same time, the present non-performing assets crisis points to the role of political pressure on banks in the past. Without addressing both these issues we can never transit to a strong banking sector. So the capital for the long term infusion should have been accompanied by governance reforms that both enforce honest behaviour and ring-fence the public banker from political pressure.

Policy rate cuts

Finally, there was the announcement that public sector banks will pass on more of the policy rate cuts that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has effected in several rounds by now. The government's frustration at this not having happened is easily imagined but is the proposal for a near automatic adjustment sound by itself? It is tantamount to the lending rate of banks being determined by the RBI's actions. There is after all the risk premium that banks tack on to

their prime lending rate, which itself depends on factors other than the policy rate. Overall, the move towards having commercial bank rates move in tandem with the repo rate by fiat is not advisable. The decision should be left to the banks.

Let us, however, assume for a moment that lending rates are set to be lowered whatever be the mechanism. Will this revive the economy? It is apparent from the Finance Minister's press conference that the government thinks this will happen. Generally, the potency of monetary policy in reversing sluggishness in the economy is considered to be weak. The belief among economists is that while a rise in the rate of interest can hold back a decision to invest by raising the cost of finance, an interest rate reduction can do little in the absence of an urge among investors to commit capital. A lack of understanding of the factors governing investment is evident in the suggestion often seen in the press that the government must 'revive animal spirits' in the economy. Animal spirits were originally imagined as the spontaneous urge to either undertake investment or hold back from it. The expectation of future profits is the key element here for potential investors. The government can have a role only if it can affect long-term profit expectations. Certainly not by lowering interest rates.

Focus on private investment

Presently, we are witnessing an interesting strategic interaction. The government accepts that the economy needs more growth but insists that this can only come via private investment and the private sector awaits an improvement in growth before deciding whether to invest. It is not clear whether the basis of the government's insis-

tence on private investment alone is ideological or based on fiscal considerations. Whatever it may be, it is clear that if it does not get proactive now, it could be left waiting for a private investment that may not be forthcoming.

Our experience of the five years of very high growth over 2003-08, when the economy grew at its fastest ever, tells us that three factors had played a role in it. These were unusually high rates of agricultural growth, record levels of public investment and buoyant exports. The package announced by the Finance Minister on August 23 did not relate to any of these. Of course, exports depend to an equal extent on factors beyond India's control but the government could have addressed the other two factors. Notably, it had nothing for the rural sector which clearly needs attention. For a start an expansion of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, with attention paid to building assets that most strongly impact agricultural output, may be considered. As for public investment, it is the elephant in the North Block. The government is reluctant to step it up, harping on fiscal space, but fiscal space is for a smart government to make up. Instead this one shrunk the space for public investment by introducing an income scheme exclusively meant for farmers just before the elections and then expanding it soon after it returned to power. It was a case of rewarding political support rather than attending to the needs of an economy known to be slowing. When in the foxhole you imagine that you are on a mountain top, you end up paying for your fancy.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor, Ashoka University, Sonapat and Senior Fellow, IIM Kozhikode

A new ethics for a sustainable planet

Viewing the transnational challenge of climate change through the narrow lens of nationalism will only spell disaster



SUJATHA BYRAVAN

Brazil's Amazon forests are ablaze with dozens of fires, most of them set intentionally by loggers and others seeking greater access to forest land. How long the fires can continue is unclear. But at this scale, they are paving the way for a global climate catastrophe. While European leaders and civil society in many places are organising protests to oppose policies that encourage the fires, the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has stated that they are an internal matter and that they were actually started by the very non-governmental organisations who are now shouting "fire".

The American President Donald Trump has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement stating that it is against the national interests of the U.S. Across the Atlantic, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, a vocal critic of European integration, has spoken from both sides of his mouth on climate change, receiving funding from climate science denial groups while saying that he would lobby the U.S. to take climate change more seriously.

Meanwhile, many cities in Europe and elsewhere have seen high temperatures never before

experienced. Heat waves have also accelerated melting of glaciers in Greenland at a rate that was not anticipated by scientific models until much later this century.

The burning of the world's largest forest reserves, the withdrawal of the world's leading polluter from a major international treaty and the U.K.'s isolationist policies may appear to be the triumph of nationalist ideology. But these actions have consequences that far transcend national boundaries and impact all creatures that share life on the planet.

While energy and transport are mainly responsible for the accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere, changes in land use patterns too have made significant contributions. Deforestation, industrial agricultural systems and desertification are major drivers of climate change. Agriculture, forestry and other land use activities accounted for a little less than a quarter (23%) of the total net anthropogenic emissions of GHGs between 2007-2016.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently brought out a special report on Climate Change and Land that covers desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. Very wide in its scope, the report makes it clear that unless land is managed in a sustainable manner, the diminishing chance that humanity will survive climate change



will become smaller still.

Land management

Land is part and parcel of people's lives. It provides food, water, livelihoods, biodiversity and a range of other benefits from its ecosystems. Land use is indeed interlocked with several aspects of life on earth. For example, decades of poor land management in the agricultural system are coming back to haunt us. Soils have become depleted with heavy use of chemicals, farms have few or no friendly insects, monoculture has led to a reduction in the use of indigenous crop varieties with useful characteristics, groundwater is depleted and polluted farm runoffs are contributing to contaminated water bodies while destroying biodiversity. We have created a system that no longer supports agricultural households, and the stresses have led to farmer suicides.

Managing land better for farming would entail implementing more sustainable agricultural practices. It would mean, for instance, reducing chemical input drastically, and taking the practice

of food production closer to natural methods of agroecology, as these would reduce emissions and enhance resilience to warming. The report calls for avoiding conversion of grassland to cropland, bringing in equitable management of water in agriculture, crop diversification, agroforestry and investment in local and indigenous seed varieties that can withstand higher temperatures. It also recommends practices that increase soil carbon and reduce salinisation.

Establishing sustainable food systems means reducing food waste, which is estimated to be a quarter of the food produced. It also necessitates eating locally grown food and cutting meat consumption. Alongside these changes, it is important to put an end to deforestation, while conserving mangroves, peatland and other wetlands.

To make these significant changes and reduce inequality and poverty, land use policy should incorporate better access to markets for small and marginal farmers, empower women farmers, expand agricultural services and strengthen land tenure systems. Sustainable land management can reduce multiple stressors on ecosystems and societies. It will also help societies adapt better to warmer climates and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Fresh template needed

In thinking about how to address the transnational challenges of climate change and land, the narrow

lens of nationalism is no longer serving us. We need a new planetary ethics that supports alternative systems for the future, for a sustainable earth. It is one that cultivates the growth of ecological sensibilities, supports pluralism, enhances quality of life, shifts values away from consumerism and creates new identities and cultures that transcend conventional boundaries.

A plea for such values is not new, and there have been successful civil society movements that have transcended borders, for example, La Via Campesina, The Transition Network, and Ecoregionalism. More recently, Fridays for Future and Fossil Fuel Divestment are part of such evolving sensibilities. How we move forward with these successes to create a sense of solidarity across boundaries, instead of building fortress worlds, will contribute to the path we build.

In the Great Transition Initiative, Paul Raskin has said that seeing our place as part of the web of life, instead of at its centre, requires a Copernican shift in world views. Just as Copernicus changed the perception of the earth from the centre of the universe to being one among many planets, so too will our sensibilities have to shift. If we fail to see our place as being part of the planet, we may well go down with it.

Sujatha Byravan is a scientist who studies science, technology and development policy

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.

A failure of imagination

The exclusion of over 19 lakh people from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) represents a humanitarian problem of enormous proportions for the country (Front page, "Over 19 lakh excluded from final NRC," Sept. 1). The NRC is a failure of imagination. The very idea of excluding and deporting those considered "foreigners" repudiates the notion of common humanity outlined in the *vasudaiva kutumbakam* principle and glosses over the simple fact that the history of mankind is the history of migrations. It is significant that most of the excluded people are poor, landless and illiterate people without documents to establish their residency

or legacy. The NRC has also demolished the myth of 'massive influx' of illegal migrants into Assam. Provided there is human kindness, the excluded persons too can be accommodated in the list and saved from facing an uncertain future and undergoing immense human suffering.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Big mergers

The sole purpose of the merger of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) is to increase the size of the banks. Through this, half a dozen banks, each having its own culture, strengths and set of customers, are being subsumed into four large banks. Such undue rationalisation is bound to

cause reduction in service points to customers, perhaps impacting the quality of services as well. There will be disruption of a large scale. Further, prospects for bank employees to move up will be less. Fresh recruitment will reduce, impacting the employment situation. Big loans may also bring in big bad debts. Frauds may increase. I only hope that this does not turn out to be another folly of the Modi government like demonetisation, where lakhs of Indians lost their businesses and jobs (Editorial, "Big bank theory," Aug. 31).

B.G. BALIGA,
Thrissur, Kerala

■ Though the merger of banks is a welcome move,

the haste shown by the government in announcing the mergers, at a time when the economy is in a difficult situation, is questionable. The earlier merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda has not had the desired effect. The government has failed to meet the then Finance Minister's promise that concerns of staff would be taken care of and employees are facing mass transfers. The present set of mergers will only compound main concern of Indian banks, the burden of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). The government, rather than focusing on bringing to book the economic offenders who fled the country after fleeing the banks, has engaged in a clear diversionary tactic. It would

have done well to at least consult the unions of bank employees before making such a drastic move.

R. GIRIDHARAN,
Coimbatore

No boots on the ground

Former Ambassador Bharath Raj Muthu Kumar is right in cautioning India not to fall into the trap of the U.S. by placing our troops in Afghanistan (Front page, "How India armed the Northern Alliance," Sept. 1). Already, the splinter war groups in Afghanistan that were engaged in fighting Russian forces in the 1980s

have turned into mercenaries and are fighting Indian troops in Kashmir. Further, the Islamic State, whose 'caliphate' has crumbled, seems to have developed a presence there. Any deployment of troops in Afghanistan is bound to provoke these forces further. Securing our own country and cleansing troubled regions of militants should be the priority rather than deploying forces in a foreign land like Afghanistan.

A.G. RAJMOHAN,
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the Editorial page article titled "Spelling out the government's RBI windfall" (Aug. 31, 2019), it was erroneously stated the Jalan Committee to assess the quantum of economic capital of the RBI was set up in end-November 2019. It should have been 2018.

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A flawed process that pleased none

Even the Bengali-origin Assamese included under NRC can be deemed ‘illegal immigrants’ later



HARSH MANDER

Fear and disquiet have gripped nearly two million residents of Assam, and their loved ones, after their names failed to show up in the final updated list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). But the unrelenting tragedy of the Bengali-origin people of Assam is that even those whose names appear on the list have no assurance that they will not be deemed ‘illegal immigrants’ sometime in the future. They are a people for whom there is still no closure, no prospect of permanent security and dignity of citizenship.

Anxieties about land, culture and migration have, over decades, created entrenched fissures in the social and political life of Assam. People on all sides of these bitter divides had hoped that the conclusion of the six-year-long process of updating the 1951 citizen’s register in Assam would resolve finally this long-festering dispute. But despite the immeasurable toll of human suffering that the process extracted from millions of very impoverished people, it is evident that it has resolved nothing.

For supporters of the Assam agitation, it is an article of faith that millions of immigrants from Bangladesh have continued to ‘illegally penetrate’ the porous border which Assam shares with Bangladesh, and that these immigrants will submerge their culture and language and edge them out of their lands and forests. Estimates of the numbers of these ‘illegal immigrants’ that their leaders have tossed around range from five to 10 million. The final figure of less than two million has sorely disappointed, and enraged, them.

BJP’s core agenda

For the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) establishment in both Assam and at the Centre, expelling ‘infiltrators’ from Bangladesh has been as integral to their core agenda as abrogating Article 370 and building the Ram Temple. But in their definition, it is only Bengali-origin Assamese Muslim immigrants who constitute a threat to the Indian nation; Bengali



“The burden of proof was shifted to Assam residents to prove that they were citizens.” An official at a National Register of Citizens office in Guwahati. ■PTI

Hindus are not infiltrators but ‘refugees’ for whom India is their ‘natural home’. We do not yet have an official break-up of the 1.9 million people excluded from the NRC, but indications are that more than half of these are Hindu.

Assamese sub-nationalism was never communal: its supporters are agnostic whether Bengalis are Hindu or Muslim. For the BJP, on the other hand, disenfranchising or deporting Bengali Hindus would be political suicide, sacrificing its core constituency. Therefore, BJP leaders in Assam and Delhi are today disingenuously rejecting the process their own government drove as ‘biased’. The only way in which the NRC could work for them would be if they could pass the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, giving citizenship to undocumented immigrants if they are Hindu, but not if they are Muslim.

The Bengali-origin Assamese, on the other hand, have long maintained that the estimates of illegal immigration are grossly exaggerated, and that most Bengali-origin people in Assam are descendants of people who came in legally when this was one country, and that since the cut-off date of 1971, illegal immigration has been small. The relatively low final tally, even after a highly flawed process which was entirely loaded against them, seems to vindicate their stand. But this is cold comfort and assures them no security, because demands are being raised for re-verification, especially in districts with a high Muslim population.

It is also important to observe that the flawed process of NRC was monitored and, indeed driven, by the Supreme Court of India, in ways that

did little to defend the constitutional rights of the residents of Assam. The burden of proof was shifted to the residents to prove that they were citizens, based on documents such as those linked to birth, schooling and land ownership which impoverished and unlettered rural residents anywhere would find hard to muster. Even when residents succeeded in producing these documents, they were often rejected for small discrepancies, such as in the English-language spelling of Bengali names or in the age even though it is well-known that most rural people do not know their dates of birth. Many of them do not have legal land records. And in the middle of the NRC process, an arbitrary category was introduced of the ‘indigenous’ Assamese, who were treated much more leniently even when they could not produce the required documents.

What the future holds

What does the future hold for the Bengali-origin people of Assam? Those excluded from the NRC will have the option of appealing to Foreigners’ Tribunals (FTs). This is a frightening prospect for them, because the FTs have operated in openly hostile and arbitrary ways. The presiding officers of FTs are often lawyers with no judicial experience and appointed with no security of tenure by the State government, follow no due process, and are reportedly driven by informal targets to maximise the numbers of persons who they deem to be ‘foreigners’.

There is also the enormous workload that the appeals will engender. There are today 100 FTs. An average case in one FT might take one year or

longer to dispose. I did a back-of-the-envelope calculation that even if there are 1,000 FTs which decide one case every working day, it would take more than six years for them to decide 19 lakh cases. Given their actual rate of disposal, it could take three or four times this period.

Even more worrisome is that it is not just people whose names have been excluded from the NRC whose cases will be considered by the FTs. Disappointed by the smaller numbers of Bengali Muslims in the final list, the State government has already indicated that it will continue to verify even those whose names have been included, and if it believes that they could be foreigners, it would refer them as well to the FTs.

Citizenship without rights

The biggest question relates to what would be the fate of the people who, at the end of this process, are declared ‘illegal immigrants’. There is no question of Bangladesh accepting them: the Indian government is not even negotiating this with Dhaka. The Assam agitation was clear in its demand of ‘detection, deletion (from electoral rolls) and deportation’. Home Minister Amit Shah declared in Parliament that he would deport illegal immigrants from every square inch of Indian land. How would this be accomplished? Would these millions be pushed forcefully into Bangladesh? Or would they be locked in massive detention centres? If yes, for how long? The realistic probability is that, in the end, they would be allowed to live in India, but stripped of all citizenship rights. They would be a ‘marked people’, powerless and susceptible to social violence and intense state scrutiny.

Think then of the demand – and the promise by Mr. Shah – of extending the NRC to all of India. Think of this being done with amendments to the citizenship law which accepts all undocumented immigrants as Indians except those who are Muslim. Think of throwing sections of Indian Muslims into the vortex of human suffering caused by the NRC and FT processes. This would mean the destruction of the secular Constitution of India, an end to India as we know it, a country which belongs equally to people of every faith.

Harsh Mander is a human rights and peace worker, writer and teacher

FROM THE READERS’ EDITOR

Selective silence leads to calamities

Not reporting some news may provide momentary comfort, but it will hurt the social fabric in the long run



A.S. PANNEERSELVAM

The explanations provided by the Chairman of the Press Council of India, C.K. Prasad, in defending the body’s intervention in a petition filed in the Supreme Court show a limited understanding of the role of a responsible press in a democracy. Justice Prasad’s letter to the Chairman of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., N. Ram, brought out this myopia in an unequivocal manner. The Chairman of the statutory watchdog of the press came up with a bewildering separation of “individual right and national interest”, thus reducing the right of the press to an individual right.

News is a public good

The rights of the press do not pertain to the right of any individual reporter or media organisation. The freedom of the press represents the collective will of the people. It flows from Article 19 of the Constitution. The rights and privileges of the press are devised to provide crucial information to citizens so that they can make informed choices in a democracy. So, it is very disturbing that this public good is being converted into an “individual right”. In his interview to *HuffPost India*, Justice Prasad prioritised the state’s interest over the people’s interest when he declared that in his personal opinion, “some news is best not reported”. He came up with a three-way conflict of interests: public interest, national interest, and freedom of the press. Justice Prasad fails to understand that these three are integral to a democracy and are related. They cannot be disaggregated.

Some readers wanted to know whether I am prepared to reconsider my opinion in the light of Justice Prasad’s view. They felt that my column, “Information blackout leads to silence and exaggeration” (August 12), which argued against the idea of institutionalised curbing of media freedom, had been effectively countered by Justice Prasad. There is a vast difference between bearing witness and a voyeuristic gaze. Journalism is not an instrument for wishful thinking but a mirror that reflects the views of citizens. It is through journalism that we get a glimpse of reality. When this intrinsic value of journal-

ism is replaced by the instrumental requirements of the ruling elites, the world becomes a very dangerous place.

Recently, Alan Rusbridger, former Editor of *The Guardian*, initiated a Twitter thread on this particular peril that has plagued journalism for nearly a century. He sought examples of wishful thinking colouring news judgment in journalism. He cited the case of the *Express* [in the U.K.] 1936-1939 repeatedly telling readers that there’d be no war because no-one wanted another war”. Mr. Rusbridger said he was looking for cases of wishful thinking (“I hope this will be for the best”) that turned out to be false prophecies (“there will be no war”), and hence showed “corrupted reporting”.

The problem of wishful thinking

Of multiple responses to Mr. Rusbridger’s tweet, I would like to share four examples. One person responded that the press “did no due diligence” when the U.S. claimed that there were Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq before launching a war on that country; the press, especially the Western media, simply bought the propaganda lock, stock and barrel. The director of the journalism fellowship programme at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, Meera Selva, pointed out another example: “Business pages cheer-leading Jon Moulton of Alchemy Partners as he bought Rover, as a sign that the UK car industry could still be saved.” Former executive director of the Organisation of News Ombudsmen, Jeffrey Dvorkin, said everyone believed that the “Arab Spring will succeed in bringing democracy to the region because everyone has a smartphone”. Andrey Mir cited the example of the study by Walter Lippmann and Charles Merz on how the *New York Times* had consistently skewed coverage in favour of what its editors wished would happen: “That the Bolsheviks would continue Russia’s involvement in the war against Germany, and then, after the war, that the various White Army factions would defeat the Bolsheviks.”

These examples explain the huge cost paid by humanity when the media is reduced to a tool of wishful thinking. Whatever be the magnitude of the crisis, it is vital for citizens and policymakers to know the truth. Not reporting some news may provide momentary comfort, but it will hurt the social fabric in the long run.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Redesigning medical education

In addition to raising the standards of medical professionals, the system should innovate

KRISHNA REDDY NALLAMALLA

Despite tremendous changes in health systems over the last century, medical education curricula have remained mostly outdated. The key elements that define today’s global health systems include ageing populations; demand for quality, equity and dignity; transition from communicable to non-communicable diseases and from episodic illnesses to lifelong ailments; double burden of disease in some countries; and disruptive advances in medical knowledge, IT, and biotechnology.

Medical education is the bedrock on which the needs of ‘human resources for health’, one of the major building blocks of any health system, are met. Today’s health professionals are required to have knowledge, skills, and professionalism to provide safe, effective, efficient, timely, and affordable care to people. They are required to: be proficient in handling disruptive technologies, understand the economics of healthcare, have the skills to work in and handle large and diverse teams, be ethical, demonstrate empathy, and be abreast of rapid developments in medicine.

Today’s medical education should be able to groom such professionals to face medicine of the 21st century. In addition to raising the standards of medical professionals, the system should innovate to meet the growing shortage of health professionals to serve ageing populations with lifestyle and lifetime ailments.

Required reforms

First, there is a pressing need to revisit the existing guidelines for setting up medical schools and according permission for the right number of seats. Methods of education across fields are undergoing changes on account of advances in e-learning methods and tools, including remote learning, virtual classrooms, digital dissections, and simulation systems for imparting skills. Extending teaching privileges to practising physicians and allowing e-learning tools will address the shortage of quality teachers across the system. Together, these reforms could double the existing medical seats without compromising on

the quality of teaching.

There are ongoing innovations in medical education to prepare professionals for the complex and rapidly changing healthcare system. In fact, *The Lancet* report, ‘Health Professionals for a new century: transforming health education to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world’ (2010) outlines key recommendations to transform health professional education. According to a study by Densen P. (2011), “it is estimated that the doubling time of medical knowledge in 1950 was 50 years; in 1980, 7 years; and in 2010, 3.5 years. In 2020 it is projected to be 0.2 years – just 73 days.”

At this pace of change, a student can be prepared to process information that is readily available than to know past knowledge. Periodic recertification based on continuing learning systems may become essential to keep up with the fast pace of change. Virtual learning tools eliminate the need for didactic classrooms. Dynamic curricula designed around specific health systems will become more relevant than the systems designed for the classical hospital-based care. Since health professionals work in teams, inter-professional combined learning methods are being introduced. Even the concept of the teaching hospital is changing from a single, large hospital to a network of hospitals and community health centres.

For a more responsive system

The Medical Council of India has been mired in controversies, resulting in deterioration in the quality of education. Also, its policies and strategies were delinked from the rapid changes happening in health systems within India and globally. By monopolising control over every aspect of medical education, it bred the culture of deep-rooted corruption. However, if MCI splits its functions into four well-defined areas, and stipulates fixed and rotating terms to key people, it could enable the creation of a more responsive system.

Krishna Reddy Nallamalla is a senior cardiologist and currently Country Director, ACCESS Health (India)

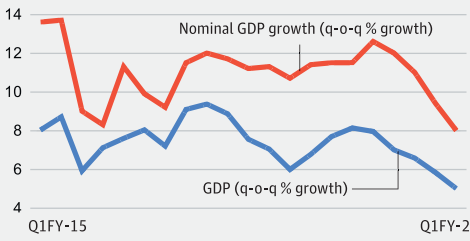


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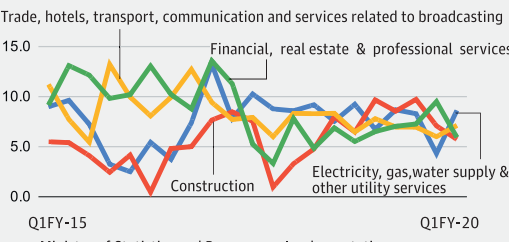
In first gear

With both private consumption growth and investment rate dropping below 5% in Q1 FY2020, the GDP growth rate has fallen to 5%. Nominal GDP growth has slid to 8%, a record low. Growth in employment-intensive sectors such as manufacturing and construction has also been muted. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

DISTINCT SLOWDOWN Both nominal GDP (which includes inflation) and real GDP grew at the slowest-ever pace since the NDA took charge in 2014. Nominal GDP is a proxy for income growth, especially that of corporates. A slowing nominal GDP will eventually lead to low tax collections. The government estimated a 11% nominal growth in the Union Budget and over 15% of tax revenue growth

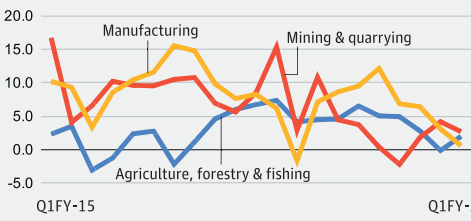


LAGGARDLY PACE For a while now, the rest of the sectors have had growth rates within the 5% to 10% band. In Q1 FY2019, the construction sector, an employment-intensive sector apart from manufacturing, slowed down to register a seven-quarter low (5.7%)

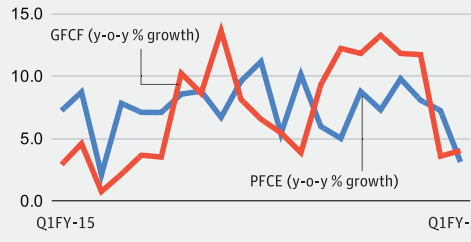


Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

SECTORAL CRISES From 12.1% growth in April-June 2018 to 0.6% in April-June 2019, the manufacturing sector experienced the biggest slowdown. This is its lowest growth rate in the last six years (barring Q1 FY2018, when it shrunk because of de-stocking before GST implementation). For the fourth straight quarter “mining and quarrying” and “agriculture, forestry and fishing” have grown at less than 5%



UNDERLYING FACTORS Both Private Final Consumption Expenditure, which reflects consumption, and Gross Fixed Capital Formation, which reflects investments, fell drastically in the latest quarter. PFCE accounts for more than 55% of the GDP and GFCF accounts for 28% to 30% of the GDP



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 2, 1969

Coup in Libya: Republic proclaimed

The Libyan Army has taken over the Government in Libya and proclaimed a Republic, the Italian news agency ANSA reported today [September 1, Rome], quoting Radio Benghazi. The coup occurred while King Idris was in Turkey. The coup apparently was led by a group of leftist army and air force officers who promptly established a revolutionary council to rule the country. Maj.-Gen. Sadduddin Shuwier was named its chairman. Tripoli and Benghazi radio stations blared socialist slogans proclaiming the revolution stood for “Arab unity, socialism and freedom.” An Ankara report quoted the Private Secretary of King Idris as saying that the military coup in his country was of “no importance” and that the monarch planned to return to Libya as scheduled. He said over the telephone reports that the King would go to London or Switzerland were not true. He declined further comment.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 2, 1919.

Afghan Intrigue.

The Honorary Secretary, Punjab War News Association, writes: The following facts relating to the events and incidents which preceded the attempted Afghan invasion of India have reached India from an unimpeachable source. They serve to show not only the ugliness of the conspiracy that was hatched in Kabul, but how very grave are the dangers that still threaten the peace of India. In 1916 three Indians, who had been provided with a little money from some unknown source, arrived in Kabul and settled down in the Bazar. There they let it be known that they were the heads of a Conspiracy that had been formed to overthrow the British Government of India. These men were Obeidullah, a converted Sikh, who styled himself Administrative Minister of the Provisional Government of India, one A.H. Aziz, said to be an inhabitant of Kasur, who styled himself Assistant Administrative Minister, and Burkatullah, the well known renegade, who acted as Secretary of this precious organisation. The conspirators also had a President, one Mahendra Partap who was sent to Kabul from Berlin, but very little is known about this man who seems to have been slightly insane. He is said to have left Kabul in 1918. The existence of the conspiracy, of course, soon became known to the Amir Habibullah, who, however, took no notice of it as being beneath contempt.

Protesters block Hong Kong airport, flights hit

Pro-democracy activists barricaded roads and disrupted other transport links to the airport

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

More than a dozen flights were cancelled on Sunday as thousands of pro-democracy activists blocked routes to Hong Kong's airport, a day after protesters and police fought pitched battles in some of the worst violence seen in the city since unrest began three months ago.

At least 16 flights were cancelled, the airport's website said, with the departure hall packed with a backlog of passengers who had struggled to make it to the terminals.

Earlier, operators of the Airport Express train suspended services after the station was besieged, while black-clad protesters – hid-



Escalating tensions: A barricade that was set on fire during a protest near a metro station in Hong Kong. ■ REUTERS

ing from CCTV cameras under umbrellas – built barricades at the bus terminus and attempted to stop traffic on the main road leading to the facility.

Stranded travellers were

forced to abandon their lifts and drag their luggage along the airport road.

Sunday's action is the latest in three months of increasingly violent protests sparked initially by opposi-

tion to a proposed law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China, but which morphed into a broader anti-government movement.

Outside one airport terminal, protesters set off fire extinguishers, piled luggage trolleys into makeshift road barricades and smashed surveillance cameras before being driven away by police.

"It's out of our control," said Andy Tang, 26, returning to Australia from a week's holiday in Hong Kong. "So there's no point getting annoyed about it."

Pitched battles

The airport is covered by an injunction banning protesters from entering – im-

posed after a shutdown in August, which ended in ugly clashes – but protesters have routinely ignored legal moves to ban their actions.

On Sunday, city sanitation workers were seen clearing debris and removing graffiti after a night of pitched battles between protesters and police.

Hardcore demonstrators on Saturday hurled petrol bombs at government buildings and police, who responded with tear gas and water cannon laced with chemical dye before making mass arrests.

Hong Kong is bracing for more disruption on Monday, with calls for a general strike and the start of a university boycott.

China's prisons swell after a surge in arrests of Muslims

Government is pursuing a 'strike hard' security campaign

CHRIS BUCKLEY

The Chinese government has built a vast network of re-education camps and a pervasive system of surveillance to monitor and subdue millions from Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region.

Now China is also turning to an older, harsher method of control: filling prisons in Xinjiang.

The region in northwest China has experienced a record surge in arrests, trials and prison sentences in the past two years, according to a *New York Times* analysis of previously unreported official data.

As the Chinese government pursues a "strike hard" security campaign aimed overwhelmingly at minorities in Xinjiang, the use of prisons is throwing into doubt even China's limited protections of defendants' rights.

Courts in Xinjiang – where largely Muslim minorities, including Uighurs and Kazakhs, make up over half of the population – sentenced a total of 230,000 people to prison or other punishments in 2017 and 2018, significantly more than in any other period on record in decades for the region.

During 2017 alone, Xinjiang courts sentenced almost 87,000 defendants, 10 times more than in the previous year, to prison terms of five years or longer. Arrests increased eight-fold; prosecutions five-fold.

The police, prosecutors and judges in the region are working in unison to ram through convictions, serving the Communist Party's campaign to eradicate unrest and convert the largely Muslim minorities into party



A statue of Chairman Mao shaking hands with a Uighur villager in Hotan, southwestern Xinjiang, China. ■ NYT

loyalists. Arrests, the critics said, are often based on flimsy charges, and trials are perfunctory, with guilty judgments overwhelmingly likely. Once sentenced, prisoners face potential abuses and hard labour in overcrowded, isolated facilities.

No disclosure

Xinjiang, like other parts of China, does not disclose how many people are in prison, and the regional government did not answer faxed questions about incarceration and the legal statistics. Not all the people imprisoned in Xinjiang are from Muslim minorities, and not all charges are baseless.

"It's as if the whole population is treated as guilty until proven innocent," said Sean Roberts, an anthropologist at George Washington University who studies Uighurs, whose religion, Turkic language and traditions set them apart from China's Han majority. "These internment camps and prisons are not going away and stand as a warning to the population that they better be more loyal to the party."

Han Chinese residents have been largely spared from the wave of detentions,

according to experts as well as data from Han-majority parts of Xinjiang.

The expanding population in prisons raises questions about Xinjiang officials' recent avowals that most of the inmates in re-education camps – a separate system of incarceration – have been released.

Beijing's claim disputed

Uighur activists and overseas Uighurs with relatives in the camps have disputed Beijing's claim that the camps are shrinking. Interviews and government documents indicate that former camp inmates may be pressed into assigned labour or other kinds of detention.

And Uighurs living abroad said a sizable fraction of people held in re-education camps end up in prisons.

A sizable fraction of Uighurs sent to prisons were businesspeople, professionals and academics, said Habiulla Altay, a Uighur tea merchant who left China in 2016 and has settled in Switzerland.

"The government thinks they are dangerous because they have money and knowledge and often have been abroad," he said. NY TIMES

7 dead in Texas shooting

Gunman hijacked a postal truck and opened fire at random

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEXAS

The death toll in a West Texas shooting rampage increased to seven on Sunday as authorities investigated why a man stopped by State troopers for failing to signal a left turn opened fire on them and fled, shooting more than 20 people as he drove before being killed by officers outside a movie theatre.

Odessa police spokesman Steve LeSueur said that at least one person who was shot remained in life-threatening condition on Sunday. Authorities say the gunman was a white male in his 30s, but police have not released a name or possible motive.

The shooting began on Saturday afternoon at an interstate traffic stop where gunfire was exchanged with



Police directing traffic in Odessa, Texas. ■ AP

police, setting off a chaotic rampage during which the suspect hijacked a mail carrier truck and fired at random as he drove in the area of Odessa and Midland, two cities in the heart of Texas.

Police initially reported possible multiple shooters, but Odessa police Chief Michael Gerke later said there was only one male suspect.

The suspect shot "at innocent civilians all over Odessa," according to a statement from Odessa police.

A trooper and two police officers were shot before the suspect was killed.

Authorities say the trooper was in serious but stable condition on Saturday, and the other officers were stable.

U.S., Taliban on 'threshold' of a deal on Afghanistan

Militants attack Pul-e Khumri after Kunduz

REUTERS
KABUL

U.S. and Taliban negotiators are close to a deal that would open the way for peace in Afghanistan, a top U.S. official said on Sunday, as the insurgents followed their weekend assault on the strategic centre of Kunduz by attacking a second northern city.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the Afghan-born U.S. diplomat overseeing negotiations for Washington, said ahead of his visit to Kabul for consultations after wrapping up the ninth round of talks with Taliban officials in Qatar.

"We are at the threshold of an agreement that will reduce violence and open the door for Afghans to sit together to negotiate an honourable and sustainable

peace and a unified, sovereign Afghanistan that does not threaten the United States, its allies, or any other country," he said in a Twitter post.

The comment came as Taliban fighters attacked Pul-e Khumri, in the northern province of Baghlan, just a day after a major show of strength by hundreds of fighters who overran parts of Kunduz, a strategic city the insurgents have twice come close to taking in recent years.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement on Sunday that 20 Afghan security force members and five civilians were killed, and at least 85 civilians were injured in Kunduz city during clashes with the Taliban fighters.

ELSEWHERE



Indian-American attorney to become federal judge

WASHINGTON
Indian-American attorney Shireen Mathews has been nominated as a judge of the U.S. District Court for California. If confirmed, she will be the first Asian American woman to serve as an Article III federal judge in the Southern District. PTI

EU negotiator says no change in Brexit deal

LONDON
EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said on Saturday the bloc will not change the divorce deal agreed with Britain and that he is "not optimistic". He said the contentious backstop mechanism must remain. AFP

80 years after Second World War, Germany asks Poland's forgiveness

'I bow before the Polish victims of German tyranny'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WIELUN

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Sunday asked Poland's forgiveness for history's bloodiest conflict during a ceremony in the Polish city of Wielun, where the first World War II bombs fell 80 years ago.

"I bow before the victims of the attack on Wielun. I bow before the Polish victims of German tyranny. And I ask your forgiveness," Mr. Steinmeier said in both German and Polish.

Poland suffered some of the worst horrors of Second World War II: nearly six million Poles died in the conflict that killed more than 50 million people overall.



Frank-Walter Steinmeier

That figure includes the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust, half of them Polish. "It was Germans who committed these crimes against humanity in Poland. Anyone calling them things of the past, or claiming that the vile rule of terror of the National Socialists in Europe was a mere footnote of German history, is passing jud-

gement on him or herself," Mr. Steinmeier added in the presence of his Polish counterpart.

The line appeared to be a clear reference to the German far-right, whose co-leader Alexander Gauland once called the 12-year Third Reich a "speck of bird poop" on an otherwise glorious German past.

"As Germany's Federal President, let me assure you that we will not forget," Mr. Steinmeier said.

"We want to, and we will, remember. And we will bear the responsibility that our history imposes upon us."

Poland's President Andrzej Duda denounced Germany's attack on Poland.

'Catastrophic' Dorian hits Bahamas

REUTERS
MIAMI

Hurricane Dorian became the strongest storm in modern records to hit the northwestern Bahamas and is expected to pound the islands with up to two days of torrential rain, high waves and damaging winds as parts of Florida evacuated before it took aim at the U.S. mainland.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Dorian was over Abaco as a Category 5 storm on Sunday with maximum sustained winds of 285 km per hour and gusts of more than 322 kph.

After churning over the Bahamas, Dorian is expected to veer northwest toward Florida.

Pope gets stuck in elevator, firefighters rescue him

He apologises to the people for delay

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VATICAN CITY

Thousands of people who were gathered in St. Peter's Square for the traditional Sunday on-the-dot-of-noon appearance by Pope Francis were watching for the window of the Apostolic Palace to be thrown open so they could listen to the pope's remarks and receive his blessing. But after seven minutes, people were looking at each other quizzically – no pope?

Then Pope Francis popped out and answered their question, "First of all I must excuse myself for being late. I was blocked in an elevator for 25 minutes."

Apparently referring to electrical power, the Pope explained that there was a



Pope Francis

"drop in tension," causing the elevator to get stuck.

"Thank God the firefighters intervened," he said, referring to Vatican State's fire department.

The Vatican didn't say if the Pope was alone in the elevator or accompanied by any of his aides.

China, U.S. kick off new tariffs

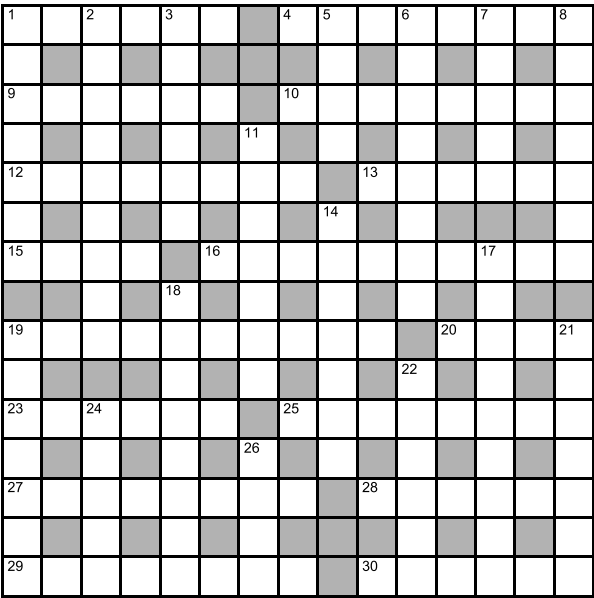
REUTERS
BEIJING

China and the U.S. began imposing additional tariffs on each other's goods on Sunday, the latest escalation in a bruising trade war, despite signs that talks would resume some time this month.

The Trump administration on Sunday began collecting 15% tariffs on more than \$125 billion in Chinese imports, including smart speakers, Bluetooth headphones and footwear.

In retaliation, China started to impose additional tariffs on some of the U.S. goods on a \$75-billion target list. Beijing did not specify the value of the goods that face higher tariffs from Sunday.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12720



■ ACROSS

- 1 Tie up fancy undergarment (6)
- 4 Chemical substance that can fence a house? (8)
- 9 A blind test for infection (6)
- 10 Shroud over established concern (8)
- 12 Fancied criminal aiding me (8)
- 13 No even benefit to badly televised grasslands (6)

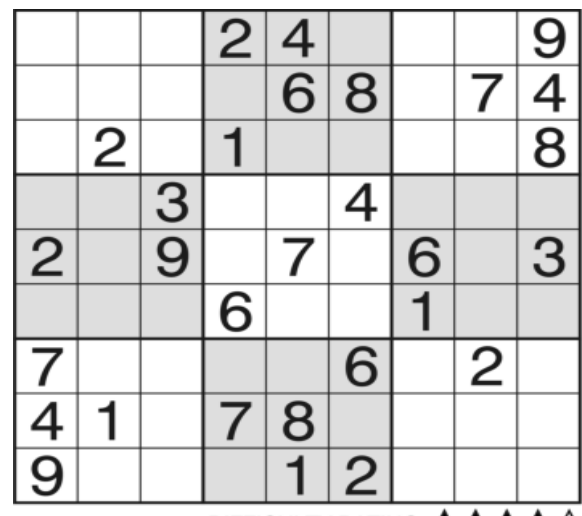
■ DOWN

- 1 Going forth, Iceland's taking to court (7)
- 2 Violent, evil Arabs – they keep changing (9)
- 3 Reportedly find kiss to be beautiful (6)

(set by Scintillator)

- 15 Go over some muddled logic to buy expensive stuff (4)
- 16 Respecting antisubmarine companies (2,8)
- 19 Nitty-gritty about news studios revealed (3,3,4)
- 20 Did he cause a red stain at Jallianwala Bagh? (4)
- 23 Sharpest point blunted in parts (6)
- 25 Time to have idea for local layout (4,4)
- 27 Protection for illuminator? (4,4)
- 28 No mother accepts stylish names in Latin (6)
- 29 Familiar view next to passenger seat (8)
- 30 Son breaking records gets grand treats (6)
- 5 Noise of an animal? Alright to keep at home (4)
- 6 Phantom's personality (8)
- 7 You hang in a balance and turn the other way (5)
- 8 Hates exams, half-dead at start (7)
- 11 Allowance covers one working (7)
- 14 Power key on a keyboard (7)
- 17 Income from sovereign bonds (9)
- 18 Hen seems suspect, finding traps (8)
- 19 Hormone protection stops at nothing (7)
- 21 Empty nester lets out, seeking a payment (7)
- 22 Returns from party upstairs, finding husband not home (6)
- 24 Apparently almost endless difficulty in breathing (5)
- 26 Agreement with a detective agent (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12719

PITTIABLE BARRING
ARREST AROUND
LEAST ARGUMENTS
A VIKAKA EES
CLEANSOUT DERMA
PLAINGUETM
MERRITSCOURGE
ERRATIC SHEAD
OCHAUESSA
INDIEIRITATES
OETMUEBT
COMEGAINEMEER
RUIGANOTTEA
ENROLLSRIGHTFUL

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

473851926
912634758
586972431
638495172
259187643
147326895
825719364
394568217
761243589

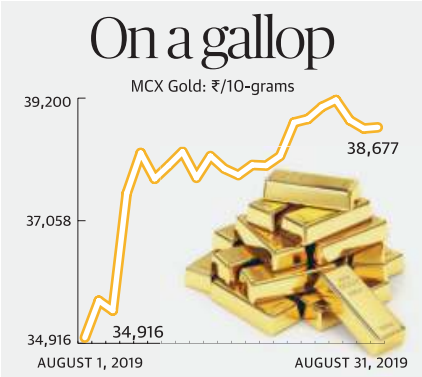
FAITH

Trust in God

When Rama and Sita arrive at the ashram of Sage Atri, they are welcomed warmly by the sage and his wife Anasuya. Anasuya tells Sita that She did the right thing by leaving behind the comforts of the palace to follow Rama to the forest. Anasuya says that a woman, who wishes to be with her husband in prosperity and adversity, is virtuous. Such a woman will be glad to be with her husband, whether he lives in a palace or in a forest. A woman cannot have a better friend than a husband who protects her always. Women like Sita will reap rich rewards for their conduct. Sita replies, "Even if my husband had lacked all the virtues He is well known for, I would still be reverent towards Him. My husband is compassionate and as caring to me as a mother or a father would be. He is as affectionate towards all the other Queens, as He is towards His mother Kausalya. He sees all the wives of King Dasaratha as His mothers."

Sita's words would be the words of any true devotee, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi, in a discourse. A man visiting the Sri-rangam temple noticed Parasara Bhatta there, and wondered what he did for a living. One day he asked Bhatta, "How do you manage your expenses, when you seem to have no occupation?" Bhatta replied, "The Lord's palm faces His devotees, to reassure them that He will save them. But even if His palm were to be turned away from me, I will still continue to place my trust in Him. He will take care of me." If He decides to save us, can anyone stop Him? If he does not save us, who else can? He cares for us as a mother does for her child. When asked what his income was, Chanakya replied, "I am not worried about my income. When a child is born, milk flows from the mother's breasts. It is God who makes this happen. Will He not provide for me?"

TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS



Gold going strong, silver on a song

B. KRISHNAKUMAR

August turned out to be a strong month for precious metals with gold hitting a six-year high in the international market. Comex Gold futures gained close to 7% while silver rose by about 10% in August. The rally was fuelled by fragile sentiment over the global economy and growing concerns about the trade-war between the U.S. and China. Expectations of lower interest rates also played a part in fuelling the uptrend.

Comex Gold futures settled at \$1,529.2 an ounce while Comex Silver futures ended August 2019 at \$18.3 an ounce.

In the domestic market, the price of gold futures at MCX rose about 12% in August to close at ₹38,677 per 10-grams. MCX Silver futures, too, gained almost 12% to settle at ₹47,760 per kilogram by the end of August.

The short-term outlook for Comex gold and silver is positive. Any short-term weakness would be an opportunity to enhance exposure in precious metals. Comex gold has support at \$1,490-1,500 zone. The short-term outlook would be positive if Comex gold holds above the negative trigger level of \$1,480. A move above the minor resistance at \$1,560 an ounce would be a sign of strength and could propel Comex gold to the short-term target of \$1,585-\$1,590.

The outlook for silver is no different from that of gold. The short-term support for silver is in the \$17.5-\$17.7 range. The short-term outlook would turn negative if the price closes below the support-cum-negative trigger level of \$17.3 an ounce. Until \$17.3 is breached, there would be a strong case for a rise in silver price to the immediate target zone of \$19.4-19.8.

Domestically, both gold and silver prices touched record highs in August. The outlook for MCX gold and silver appears positive. The gold futures price at MCX is likely to progress to the immediate target of ₹39,700-40,000 per 10-grams. The positive view would warrant a reassessment only if the price falls below the support zone of ₹37,200-37,500 per 10-grams.

The outlook for silver at MCX is positive too and a move to the immediate target of ₹49,800-₹50,500 appears likely. MCX Silver has strong support at ₹44,500-45,000 zone. Until this zone is breached, there would be a strong case for a rise towards the target of ₹49,500.

To summarise, the short-term outlook for precious metals remains bullish. Until there is evidence to the contrary, any price weakness is likely to be an opportunity to add exposures in precious metals.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst / trader. The views and opinions featured in this column are based on the analysis of short-term price movements in gold and silver futures at COMEX and Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

EPS matters

Scheme can help employees get guaranteed pension throughout retired life

AARATI KRISHNAN

How do I secure a regular monthly income after retirement? That's a vexing financial problem that most Indians of our generation face, after the phasing out of guaranteed pension from the Government. But one guaranteed option that remains and usually flies under the radar, is the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995. This scheme can help employees with long years of service receive a modest but guaranteed pension throughout their retired life.

Enrolment

All organised sector employees in India who are enrolled with the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) automatically become members of the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) as well. Once you enrol in the EPF, your employer deducts 12% of your basic pay plus dearness allowance every month towards your retirement corpus, with your employer making a matching contribution.

While your 12% contribution goes entirely into the EPF account which gives you a lump sum on

Finer points

- Employer and employee each contributes 12% to retirement corpus
- Pension payouts under EPS available only for employees who have put in a minimum 10 years of service
- Pension payable is calculated on the basis of a formula

retirement, 8.33% of your employer's contribution goes into the EPS to fund your pension payouts post-retirement. The government also adds 1.16% of your pay to the EPS kitty every month.

However, both the employer's and the government's EPS contribution on your behalf are subject to a pay cap. The maximum pay on which the EPS used to accept employers' contributions used to be ₹6,500 per month until September 2014. In a sweeping amendment to the EPS rules in September 2014, this pay cap was revised upwards to ₹15,000 per month. This effectively means that whatever your pay, the money flowing into the EPS kitty every month on your behalf is

capped at ₹1,250 per month (8.33% of ₹15,000). The September 2014 amendment made another critical change as well. It decreed that new employees who enrolled with the EPFO from that month, who earned a basic pay plus DA of over ₹15,000 per month, would not be eligible for EPS benefits. So if you've joined the workforce only in the last five years, you are likely to be enrolled only in the EPF and not EPS. This may change after a recent Supreme Court ruling as we'll see later in this article.

Eligibility

Under the EPF, the government credits interest at a specified rate on your accumulated balance at the end of each financial year. At the time of retirement, your maturity amount from the EPF will be equal to the contributions made by you and your employer plus the annual interest earned. In contrast, there is no annual interest credit to your EPS account. If you have been a regular contributor, the government simply promises to pay a fixed monthly pension to you after retirement.

Pension payouts under EPS are only available for

employees who have put in a minimum 10 years of service with an organisation that offers EPF benefits (doesn't matter if you've jumped jobs). If you choose to quit all employment without completing 10 years of service, you are not eligible to receive any pension and you can apply to withdraw your accumulated EPS contributions.

When you switch jobs and transfer your EPF account from one organisation to another, your old organisation is expected to provide a Scheme Certificate detailing your length of service, pay, non-contributing period and so on.

The PF Commissioner records this information over the years to compute your final pension payout. Don't worry if your online accounts statement from the EPFO does not reflect your EPS balance; it only needs to capture your service details for you to get pension benefits.

What you get

Under the EPS, the government promises to pay you a monthly pension calculated using a specified formula from the age of 58 until your death. Though you can opt for early pension from the age of 50,



this requires a steep sacrifice on the amount of monthly pension. The monthly pension payable to you is calculated based on the formula – pensionable salary multiplied by pensionable service divided by 70.

Pensionable salary, for the purpose of this calculation, is your monthly basic pay plus DA averaged over the last 60 months of your service. The pensionable salary is, however, subject to a ₹15,000 per month cap. Pensionable service is the number of years you have been employed until you retire,

with the number capped at 35 years. To illustrate, if your basic pay plus DA averaged ₹40,000 a month in the 60 months before retirement and you retire at 58 after working for a total of 20 years and five months, your monthly pension will amount to ₹4,285 per month (₹15,000*20/70).

Court ruling

In October 2018, the Kerala High Court, in response to a petition, struck down the amendments to the

EPS made in September 2014. This judgment was upheld by the Supreme Court in April 2019.

This judgment is expected to affect subscribers in three ways. One, employees who joined service after September 2014 and are now contributing to EPF alone, may become eligible for EPS benefits that were so far barred to them. Two, if the salary cap of ₹15,000 on EPS contributions and pensionable salary goes, employees may be able to bump up their pension by asking their employer to contribute a higher sum to the EPS, rather than EPF. Three, they may also get a higher pension because the pensionable salary will then be based on the last 12 months' average pay rather than the last 60 months.

While all this is good news for employees, they mustn't count their chickens before they hatch.

The SC ruling is yet to be given effect as the EPFO is unsure how it can implement them. As things stand, the fund may be unable to meet a sudden spike in pension demands from many of its subscribers. The EPFO is reportedly planning to seek a review of this decision.

ASK US

Investing long-term capital gains

N. SREE KANTH

Q. During the interim Budget in February , the Finance Minister relaxed long -term capital gains tax norms whereby one could invest in two residential properties from the proceeds of sale of a house. I want to know 1) If the two houses must be in the same town or can be in different towns 2) one house can be in a town and another new construction in another town 3) Both from new construction.

KAMALUDEEN M

A. A one-time exemption for individuals and HUF was announced in the Interim Budget in February 2018 and later brought into force. With effect from April 1,2019, if the long term capital gains (after indexation) from sale of house property does not exceed ₹2 crore, the assessee may, at his option, purchase or construct two residential houses in India.

1.It is provided that the residential property be situated in India, hence, it can be situated in the same town or different town as long as it is situated in India

2. One residential house can be purchased in one town and one constructed in another town as long as both the towns are situated in India

3. Both the residential houses can be constructed or both can be purchased at the option of the assessee

4. It is to be noted that this option of purchasing or



constructing two residential houses is a one-time option and cannot be exercised in any other year.

Q. I am a senior citizen and would like to open an account in the PMVVY pension scheme soon. I would like to know while filing ITR 1, where the interest or pension income out of the above scheme should find its place?

R. KESAVAN

A. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) is a social security scheme launched by the government through LIC of India. It is in the nature of an annuity scheme wherein a subscriber is required to pay a lump sum premium amount on subscription.

The scheme pays out to the subscriber on a monthly basis based on the initial contribution.

Annuity scheme payouts are in the nature of pension; however, these do not pertain to any employee-employer related pension thereby not warranting disclosure under "Income from Salaries."

Hence, income in the nature of pension from PMVVY is to be declared as "Income from Other Sources" in ITR 1 or any other ITR applicable to the assessee.

Q. Sir, I am a retired defence person. My monthly pension is ₹38,000 and my total annual income for FY 2018-19 is ₹4,55,088. The interest from fixed deposits for the FY 2018-19 is ₹1,48,085. Am I eligible to get exemption from tax on the interest arising from fixed deposits, as a senior citizen?

KULWINDER SINGH

A. Fixed deposit interest is deductible for senior citizens up to ₹50,000.

It is to be noted that this threshold limit is applicable for savings bank account interest also. In your case, out of the ₹1,48,085, ₹50,000 will be deducted and the remaining portion is considered as your taxable income.

You will have to disclose the said sum in your ITR 1 and the same shall be auto-considered by the return filing tool for computation of your net taxable income.

(N. Sree Kanth is partner, GSS & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Taking a suitable health policy

K. NITYA KALYANI

Q. I am 35 years old and a Kerala State government employee. I haven't taken any health insurance policy yet. I am single and live with my mother. Two months ago, I had to undergo a myomectomy and the expense came to around ₹1.25 lakh. I have no other health issues. Now, I am thinking of taking a health insurance policy, though I know it's already late. When I consulted an insurance company official, he told me that I can start claiming the policy just after the completion of one month after I apply. Is it possible?

1) Can you suggest a health insurance policy that is suitable for me, that can give coverage to my uterus-related issues? 2) Is it better to take a family health insurance, adding my mother also or to take two individual policies? My mother is a senior citizen. 3) Which policy would be better for me in terms of waiting period and incurred claim ratio?

SREEJA SREEDHARAN

A. No, it's not too late to take a health insurance policy. A new hospitalisation policy will admit claims after a 30-day waiting period (except if hospitalisation is due to an accident), but pre-existing conditions, like your fibroids and their removal, will be covered only after a specified waiting period, usually three to four years.

There are also waiting periods for various specified conditions and procedures even if not pre-existing. Please read the policy prospectus closely as these vary by company and policy.

Opt for a sum insured (SI) of ₹3 to ₹5 lakh. You can add your mother to the policy and get a family discount! Floater or individual SI are options, each with pros and cons.

If your mother is a tax assessee, then she can buy a separate policy to avail of income tax rebate under Section 80D. If you pay her premium, you get a higher rebate.

Incurred claims ratio is an internal business metric for insurance companies.

Perhaps you mean claims settlement ratio which indeed indicates the company's customer service levels, a higher ratio meaning a more customer-friendly company.

Q. My husband and I are senior citizens and have been covered under our bank's group health insurance policy for over a decade. Last year, the bank wrote to us saying they are discontinuing the policy and suggested that we should port our policies out. The insurance company we approached has refused to port my husband's policy and we have bought a new hospitalisation policy for him. In my case, they quoted a premium for porting and encashed my cheque. Then,

when the medical examination revealed a fibroid in my uterus, they rejected my porting request. At the same time, I have received a letter from them asking if I have symptoms or am undergoing any treatment and so on. What should I make of this and what do I do for coverage?

KAMALA SHETTIGAR

A. The situation certainly is contradictory! Was the porting request rejected in writing? If not, then the letter asking for clarifications may be the document to go by as they may want to know your current health status for issuing the policy.

Please do provide them factual replies to their queries and ask them in writing about your porting request status pointing out that your premium cheque has been encashed.

Also point out the fact of your earlier policy expiry date and stress that their early decision is imperative or you will lose unbroken medical coverage creating hardship for you.

They should issue the policy or refund your premium. If you are unhappy with their response, take it up with their grievance redressal official in writing.

If they reject your porting, hurry and buy a new policy in your own interest.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

LOOSE CHANGE

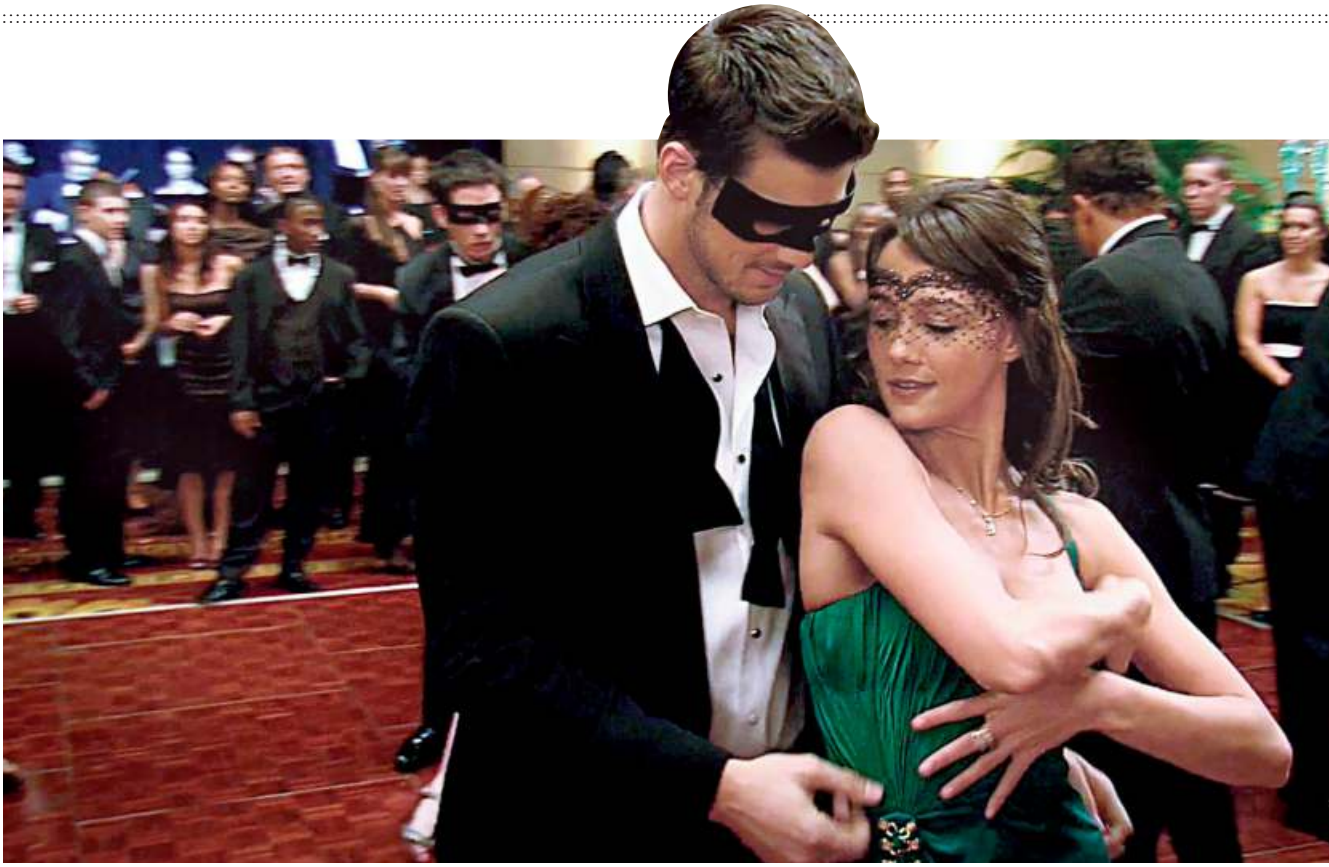
RAVIKANTH



I will think about it after the festival season. It's all Recurring Withdrawals now!"

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES					
Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (₹)	EMI (₹)	Processing fee	
		Loan amount 5 lakh	Loan amount 1 lakh		
		Tenure-5 years	Tenure-5 years		
State Bank of India	10.75-15.15	10,808-11,934	2,161-2,386	Upto 1% of loan amount	
South Indian Bank	11.55-14.65	11,008-11,803	2,201-2,360	2% of loan amount	
HDFC Bank	11.25 - 21.50	10,933-13,667	2,186-2,733	Upto 2.5% of loan amount	
Axis Bank	15.75 - 24	12,092-14,383	2,418-2,876	Upto 2% of loan amount	
Indian Bank	10.65-13.3	10,784-11,453	2,156-2,290	Upto 0.51% of loan amount	
Bank of Baroda	11.45-16.45*	10,983-12,278	2,196-2,455	Up to ₹10,000	
Oriental Bank	10.8-12.3	10,821-11,198	2,164-2,239	Upto 1% of loan amount	
ICICI Bank	11.50 -19.25	10,996-13,039	2,199-2,607	Upto 2.25% of loan amount	
Union Bank of India	10.5-14.5	10,746-11,764	2,149-2,352	Upto 0.5% of loan amount	
Canara Bank	10.8-13.8	10,821-11,582	2,164-2,316	₹1,000-5,000	
Punjab National Bank	9.3-14.85	10,452-11,855	2,090-2,371	Upto 1.8% of loan amount	
UCO Bank	11.25-11.65	10,933-11,033	2,186-2,206	Upto 1% of loan amount	
Bandhan Bank	15-15.83	11,894-12,113	2,378-2,422	1% of loan amount	
Citi Bank	10.99-14.75	10,868-11,829	2,173-2,365	Upto 3% of loan amount	
IDBI Bank	12-14	11,122-11,634	2,224-2,326	1% of loan amount	
Corporation Bank	12.7-13.7	11,299-11,556	2,259-2,311	1.5% of loan amount	
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.5-16.99	10,746-12,423	2,149-2,484	Upto 2.5% of loan amount	
*Strategic premium in addition to the interest rate may be levied, which depends upon the customer's risk profile.					
Rates as on August 29, 2019			Source: Paisabazaar.com		

NEW CAR LOAN- RATES AND CHARGES				
Name of Bank	Interest rate (%)	EMI (₹)	Processing fee (₹)	
		Loan amount 5 lakh		
		Tenure-5 years		
Andhra Bank	9.15	10,415	1% of loan amount	
South Indian Bank	9.45-10.7	10,488-10,796	1% of loan amount	
State Bank of India	9-12.35	10,379-11,210	NIL till 31.10.2019	
Canara Bank	8.8-9.45	10,330-10,488	0.25% of loan amount	
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.9-10.5	10,598-10,746	1% of loan amount	
Axis Bank	8.9 -11.15	10,354-10,908	3,500-5,500	
HDFC Bank	9-10.25	10,379-10,685	3,000-10,000	
Bank of Baroda	8.45-10.45*	10,246-10,734	500 (Till 31.12.2019)	
United Bank of India	8.7-9	10,306-10,379	Upto 11,800	
Karur Vysya Bank	9.55-10.65	10,513-10,784	3,000-7,500	
Indian Bank	9.1-9.6	10,403-10,525	Upto 0.23% of loan amount	
Indian Overseas Bank	9	10,379	500-10,000	
Karnataka Bank	9.25-10.5	10,439-10,746	Upto 0.5% of loan amount	
Punjab National Bank	8.9-9.35	10,354-10,464	Upto 1,500	
IDBI Bank	9.2-9.8	10,427-10,574	1,000	
UCO Bank	8.65-8.9	10,294-10,354	1% of loan amount	
RBL Bank	12-14	11,122-11,634	Upto 2% of loan amount	
Bank of India	8.95-9.55	10,367-10,513	500	
Allahabad Bank	8.65-10.9	10,294-10,846	0.5% of loan amount	
Federal Bank	9.25-9.5	10,439-10,500	1,500-2,500	
*Strategic premium in addition to the interest rate may be levied, depending upon customer's risk profile.				
Rates as on August 29, 2019			Source: Paisabazaar.com	



New on the block
(Clockwise from far left) A still from *Step Up 3*, the poster of *Down a Dark Hall*, stills from *The Terror Live* and *Instructions Not Included*, Rohit Jain, and a poster from *Wonder*



We will have more launches in the next 12-18 months and will make our service available to even more consumers



form, less than 20 minutes (KPMG 2019 report). Arguably, the high-profile original content war is being fought between Netflix and Amazon Prime whose smash-hit shows such as *Sacred Games*, *Mirzapur* and *Made in Heaven* have set the benchmark for others to scale. (altBalaji, Zee5, Voot regularly churn out originals too.) Lionsgate Play, too, is busy producing its own slate of originals. Jain rightly points out that it's too early to call the field because in the last two years barely a handful of India-made originals have left a mark. "We are also remaking two high-concept international properties – Mexican comedy, *Instructions Not Included*, and South Korean action thriller, *The Terror Live* – in collaboration with Azure Entertainment," he adds.

The numbers game
In addition, he believes there are many miles to be covered in accessing India's vast potential audience for such content. He says that television channels like Star Movies, by most accounts, reach around 10 million viewers. OTT platform viewers are also in single-digits or low double-digit numbers. Jain plans to work with large distributors and look at strategic alliances to reach at least 100 million customers over the next few years. Further, he insists that Lionsgate Play is going to go deeper into India. After all, most of their content will be dubbed into four Indian languages: Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi.

There is, however, a catch. Only Vodafone and Idea mobile subscribers can access it. If you're on any other network – as about 75% of Indian subscribers are – you are out of luck. There is no website either: the content is limited to mobile/tablet apps and restricted to subscribers only. Jain says they are also in the process of closing in on other deals with companies across industries such as telecom and e-commerce. "We will have more launches in the next 12-18 months and will make our service available to even more consumers," he concludes.

Lionsgate Play is available on Vodafone Play

Eyeing the lion's share

With over 30 OTT platforms vying for space in the country, is there room for more?

SHUBHODEEP PAL

After taking its 17,000-title film and television library to over 45 countries, content giant Lionsgate finally made its way to India this August with OTT platform, Lionsgate Play. Targeting regional audiences and going beyond just Hindi and English content, the Canadian-American entertainment company's strategy is clear: to stand out from the rather overcrowded playing field of online content providers. Launched on August 14 in partnership with Vodafone Idea, it is currently exclusive to their streaming platforms: Vodafone Play and Idea Movies &

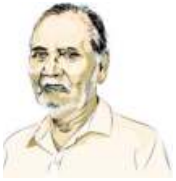
TV. Viewers can look forward to over 1,000 hours of streaming content, including mega-hit franchises such as *The Hunger Games*, *Twilight*, *Step Up*, and films like *La La Land* and *Wonder*. **Not just competition** Rohit Jain, MD at Lionsgate India, contends that it is too early to worry about an overcrowded market. India has over 30 OTT platforms and while Netflix and Amazon Prime are firmly enshrined in the consciousness of streamers, Jain believes he's expanding the pie and not necessarily competing for attention. He insists that customers are discerning enough to know

what they want to watch and will gravitate towards quality content. But what happens when competitors have quality content as well? The answer is unclear. Lionsgate Play claims to offer premium offerings from Hollywood as well as TV shows. Jain mentions how the company has produced many critically acclaimed shows (all streaming on Netflix) including *Orange is the New Black*, *Mad Men* and *Dear White People*. Upcoming productions such as Daniel Craig-starrer *Knives Out* will also be available on the platform after its release in November this year. Offering an interesting analogy with television, where hundreds of channels compete and co-exist with each other, he says each platform has its own audience and tends to bring something unique to viewers. Streaming, too, he says, will likely go the same way. It is, however, an analogy built on hope. Television, for instance, ushered in the boom in modern advertising, which provided a steady source of revenue. Streaming services have mostly shunned advertising in favour of paltry subscription fees from customers. Lionsgate



Play, too, depends on the mobile subscription revenue that Vodafone and Idea collect.

Battle of the originals
For the average viewer, where will the differentiation – or viewing hook – come from? In recent times, original content from various platforms has been pitched to customers as a significant attracting factor. And 54% of all the original content released in India for the 2019 financial year were short



R. V. SMITH

While travelling to Jaipur recently, I stopped at a steep hill in Alwar, atop which was a small Shiva temple, with a red flag fluttering in the breeze. In it sat a sadhu, wearing only a loin-cloth, his muscular body smeared with ashes. After some coaxing, he spoke about his life. Shyam Baba had been a Rajasthan government employee until he lost his wife and only child. Devastated, he renounced the world to become an ascetic. He spends all his days and nights at the Shivalaya, in winter, summer and in the rainy season. When it's cold he covers himself up with an army blanket given to him by a retired havaldar. During the monsoon, a similarly donated raincoat is his protection, and in summer he doesn't have to wear anything, braving the scorching loo and glare of May and June. Devotees bring him food, but most of the time he is fasting. A strong smell of charas pervaded the place. There are many

The famous Shivalaya
Gauri Shankar Mandir
• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

DOWN MEMORY LANE

DEITY OF THE LAND

The Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur has several Shiva temples or Shivalayas

such small Shivalayas atop the hills in Jaipur and in the city itself, where diyas are lit at night by those who come in to offer prayers, mostly women. In Agra there is the Mankameshwar temple from which the main celebrations of Shivratri start. At the side of Strand Road, now Yamuna Kinara Road, you can see a temple devoted to Shiva beyond the Yamuna bank, surrounded by water and looking more like a lighthouse. When the Yamuna is in spate, the pujari is marooned and devotees go by boat to offer him food and water. The Shivalayas of Delhi

have a hoary history which goes back to primeval times, even before Mahashivratri became a popular festival. Jaipur may have the largest number of temples devoted to Shiva, but the ones in the Capital have their own unique tradition. The Kali temple of Kalkaji, was the earliest known place where Shivratri was celebrated by Delhiwallas. The first Kali temple, historically speaking, was built by Seth-turned-Raja Kedarnath of Akbar's court in the 16th century, though legends say that there was one at the place in pre-historic times too. However, Delhi was handicapped in Mughal and British times by

the absence of any pilgrimage centre of note, despite the popularity of the temples near Jantar Mantar, in Mehrauli and at Jhandewallan. In 1910, a Shiv Sabha was set up to honour the God, whose Shivalayas in the Capital were earlier outnumbered by Ram temples. The one in Naraina Vihar is said to be about 120 years old, but its history is mixed up with Narainpal, a grandson of the famous Anangpal (of the Tomar dynasty). The most famous Shivalaya in Old Delhi is the Gauri Shankar Mandir of Gangadhar, a Maratha soldier of the British army in the 18th century. It was then known as Shivalaya Apa Gangadhar. Then there are many Shivalayas of Katra Nil, in Chandni Chowk. Manakchand's Shivalaya, for instance, was built in 1845 and Bada Shivalaya in 1816 (Akbar Shah's reign). Shivalaya Ghanateshwar Mahadev came up in 1850, Bahadur Shah Zafar's time, so also did Dhumimal's Shivalaya and Pandit Hari Ramji-ka-Shivalaya. The Mahadev Mandir opposite Old Delhi Station is of the late 19th century. The one in Kanjhaola, the Shiva Mandir in Nizamuddin, and the Shivalaya in Jal Vihar, Lajpat Nagar are also of the late Mughal period. However, the one near Todapur, Dasghara village, outside the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), is gaining popularity.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

The restoration of glory

Ajmer's dargah of Moinuddin Chishti is undergoing massive restoration work

MADHUR TANKHA

The dargah of Moinuddin Chishti, fondly remembered as Khwaja Garib Nawaz, or the benefactor of the poor, in Ajmer, will, in two years' time see a restoration and an incorporation of modern facilities. Considered a holy place of hope, where people from different denominations believe their prayers will be answered, the dargah was built in the 13th century. The tomb was constructed in wood, later covered with a stone canopy. In 1579, Akbar reconstructed the sanctum sanctorum and built the dome. It was renovated in later years by Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Jahanara.

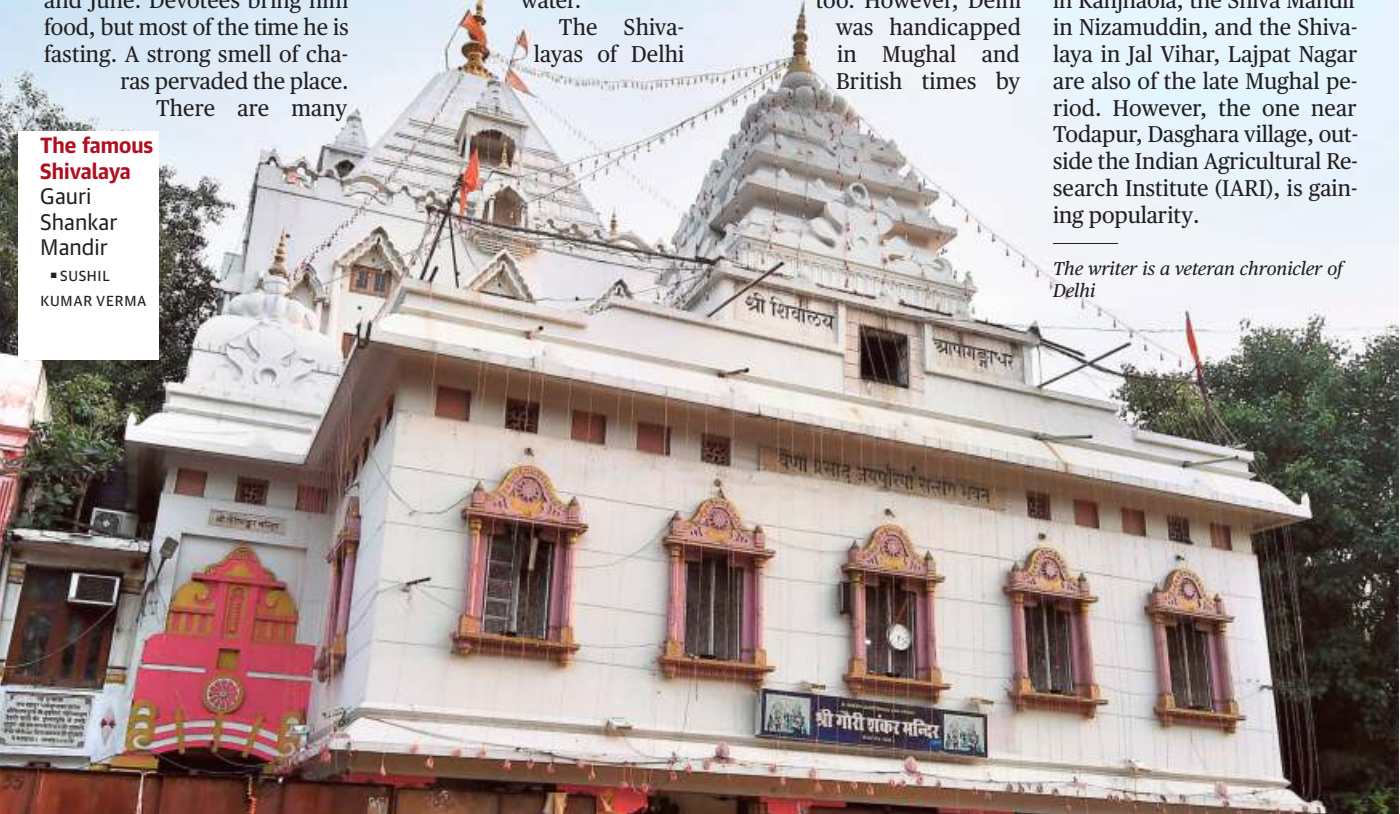
The project, a part of the CSR wing of Hindustan Zinc Limited, is headed by architect Surbhi Gupta, a heritage management consultant. At present, the dargah that was organically built with various materials, ranging from brick and marble to sandstone, is seeing restoration and redevelopment of the interiors of the Mehfil Khana, widening of gates, structural consolidation, facade work in the courtyards, cleaning of stone surfaces, and new terracing in lime concrete. "There is no single language of design or material as the dargah was never planned systematically," says Surbhi, working on one of the most important pilgrimage sites of South Asia with members of her studio Rasika that specialises in heritage management. The square structure of the royal darbar (Mehfil Khana), was built in 1888 AD. She says it "has been painted over as a part of living tradition. The idea is to bring out its character as a space meant for performances. The architectural character needs to be revived to bring back the original identity of the structure. The pat-



Refurbishment at the sacred space A view of the dargah of Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

terned ceiling will be designed on the lines of Kashmiri Khatambandh (a woodwork ceiling with a carved geometric pattern), and Mughal stone inlay flooring," says Surbhi. Work is also going on at the famous Shahjahani Gate, built by the Mughal emperor Shahjahan to mark the expansion of the dargah complex beyond the Buland Darwaza. The project – under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan – also revolves around sanitation, cleanliness, and waste management within the dargah's periphery. The work entails providing clean drinking water for pilgrims, building toilets, and kiosk management. "Every day, seven tones of rose petals are wasted. For the flower-waste disposal, a compost waste converter has been installed." As the Khwaja was known far and wide for his large-heartedness and hospitality, the dargah distributes deggh ka khana (food from a cauldron) comprising rice, almonds, cashew nuts, raisins and ghee. "The food is prepared in two big degghs, which were made during Mughal emperor Akbar's reign. A retort packaging machine (sterile packaging of plastic and foil) has been

installed to increase the shelf life of food from three hours to three months." Feeding into the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Surbhi says that her team is working on the revival of wudu (Islamic ritual purification) points so that pilgrims can wash their hands, face and feet before offering namaz. Right now, the overflow leads to a cesspool of water. "We are also building newer ones that are aesthetic as well as functional," says Surbhi, who from her days in college at CEPT, Ahmedabad, has been interested in heritage structures. She chose Chunnamal ki haveli in Old Delhi, as a research project. "On the ground floor were shops, first and second floors were residential spaces. It had five chowks (internal courtyards). And it was built as an organic edifice over many decades during the 18th century," she says. Meanwhile, she hopes to look at the parts around the dargah. "The approach street is famous for food, craft and gota work done on the chadar laid at the dargah by devotees. We have proposed a facilitating centre that includes a large shopping space, kiosk, and toilets inside the complex," she says.





Life is precious, live it large

What happens when your mother asks you to help her die? In *Time to Go*, Guy Kennaway explores euthanasia with honesty and light humour

SOMA BASU

It is not easy to get a conversation going on a book, whose subject matter is as difficult and sensitive as death. But Guy Kennaway, British author of five books, including the popular *One People*, keeps it light because he insists he writes only to delight. True to his style, his latest book *Time to Go* celebrates honesty and humour as he explores assisted dying.

Euthanasia is not just a medical idea but a moral, emotional, intellectual and practical maze that offers the option to choose the manner and time to die. Kennaway goes deeper when his 88-year-old mother asks him to help her because she is afraid that she may slip into infantile catatonia (in layperson's language: a second childhood).

The son doesn't find the mother infirm or ill and doesn't seek medical help. Rather, he sees a good

project in her wish because, he jokes, there was a period when he fancied the idea of killing one of the most vexatious women he'd ever met.

When Kennaway starts taking notes, the conversations with his mother are profound, funny, reminiscent, free and centred around when and how to make her final exit. He says that talking about incursions both shared and suffered, melted away the fractious relationship between the two. And *Time to Go* turned into a poignant account of ageing and ailments, depression and helplessness. Yet Kennaway, with his comic timing and style of writing makes it a book of hope that pushes people to re-think the rights of the elderly. "The senior generation should know how to live life on their own terms and not be dictated to by others," he says.

Excerpts from an email interview:

What was your immediate reaction to your mother's request?

● My first reaction was shock, but I soon began to see that she had a good point, wanting to remove the last painful and humiliating act from the drama of her life.

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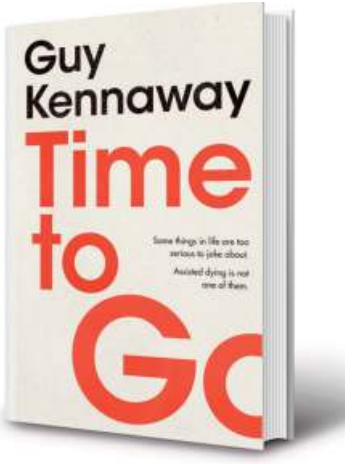
Life lessons Kennaway (below), with his comic timing and style of writing, makes it a book of hope



coaster ride on multiple emotions. Did you go on 'detached mode' while writing or was it catharsis?

● After my mother announced she was going to end her life in the time, manner and place of her choosing, I was mainly busy taking notes and describing the process, as events occurred. I didn't know when she was going to do the act, nor how involved I'd be. I had to shape the story to make it readable, and at times took fairly outrageous liberties with reality to keep it entertaining. When my mother read the book, she was extremely angry about the changes I made to events. I don't blame her. I am a very bad son, but luckily, quite a good writer. Looking back, I feel the process and the book cleared a lot of air between us.

You lighten up a sensitive



subject. Is that the real you who lightens up serious matters thus? Or, was it because it was challenging to act on your mother's death wish that you found humour the best option?

● The only effective defence we have against the tragedy of life is laughter. Making a reader laugh is a much underrated skill. All of the best writers can do it, and the greatest ones make us cry too.

What is the best thing about the book? Was it a gratifying experience fighting your mother's death wish?

● I like the contrast between the seriousness of the subject matter and the humour of the telling. I am also convinced that 50 years hence, this book will be seen as the turning point in the debate about who really owns our lives, the citizens or the State, and when is the right time to die.

If you had to rewrite *Time to Go* for someone else (not as close as your mother), how different would it be?

● My mother's extraordinary character is the main driver of this story. Her controlling, manipulative and bossy behaviour was always going to make her surrender into the arms of death a good story. But I think a lot of other people will now see the point of telling their own stories about how they are planning to own their deaths.

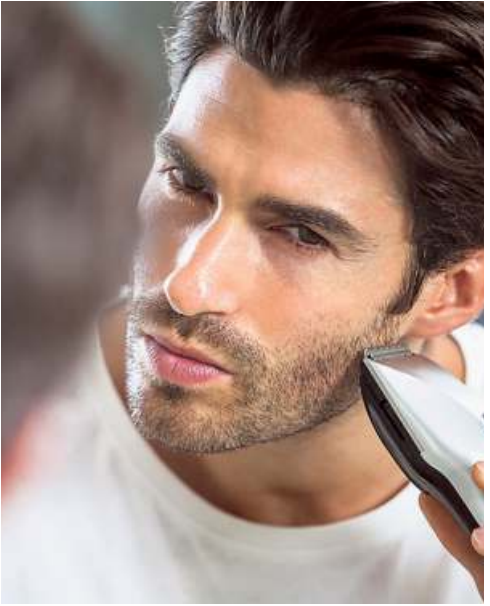
Does the book aim at any message to those who fight for the rights of the elderly or are opposed to euthanasia?

● Now the geriatric medical industry has turned into an enterprise to keep us alive for as long as possible, simply to make as much money as possible regardless of the pain and suffering. I think we really need to look seriously at what is happening to the end of life in the elderly.

Does your book hurt or comfort those suffering with fatal diseases?

● That is tricky. I agree that my mum's course of action could be seen as offensive. For those who want to live, whatever their personal circumstances, I have a message: Live on! It is your own choice how you finish your days. But remember life is too precious not to be lived.

Q&A



Is it better to start my son off with a trimmer instead of blade?

■ If the problem is with handling a razor, without cutting himself, then yes, a trimmer is a safer alternative. These days, electric shavers that do a safe job are also available. Do advise him against very forceful, reverse shaving. Teens sometimes do that to 'increase' the growth.

I am a 32-year-old and have had grey hair since I was 22. I do not have any other medical condition. What are the ways to slow down or reverse it?

■ Early onset greying or premature greying has several possible underlying causes, but at times, may be a normal occurrence as well, or a result of genetic predisposition.

The most common causes that we look for, are thyroid dysfunction, vitamin deficiencies, specifically vitamins B12 and D, anaemia, micronutrient deficiencies like zinc deficiency, and rarely, some medications.

Recent studies have connected early onset greying to some metabolic features like lowered good cholesterol, and raised blood pressure, as well as a relation to a family history of conditions like diabetes and thyroid dysfunction. Again, if there is a family history of early greying, that is a genetic predisposition as well. Evaluation for, and correction of these above causes, can help with slowing down of the greying.

Reversal as such, is possible only if the greying was due to conditions like extreme malnutrition. Vitamin supplementation would definitely help if a deficiency can be identified.

Dr Renita Rajan is the Chief Consultant Dermatologist at RENDER Skin & Hair, a cosmetic dermatology clinic in Chennai

Nothing in this column is intended to be, and is not, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please seek independent advice from a licensed practitioner if you have any questions regarding a medical condition. Email questions at mp_health@thehindu.co.in

POOCH CAFE



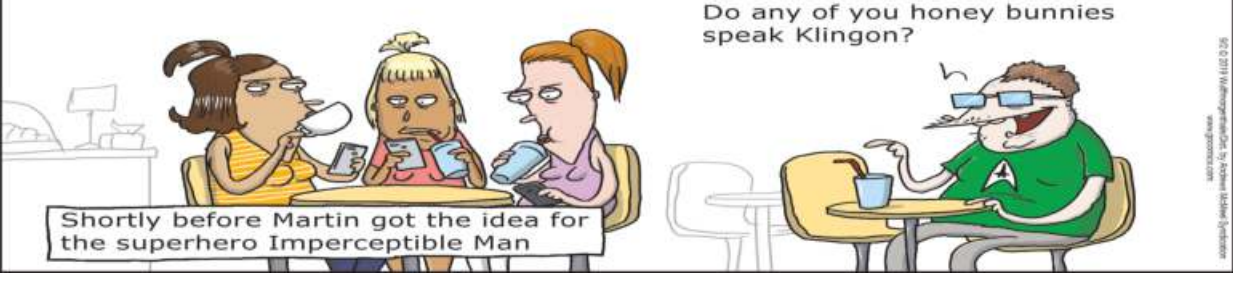
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



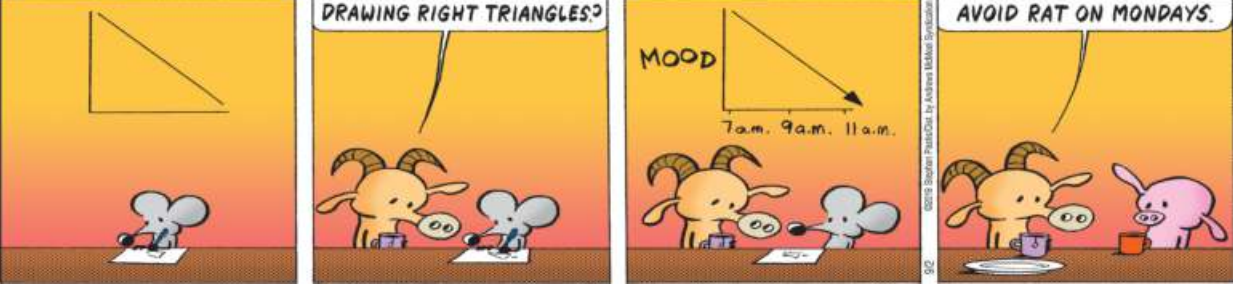
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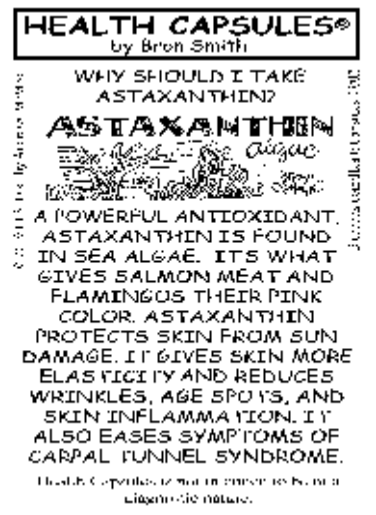
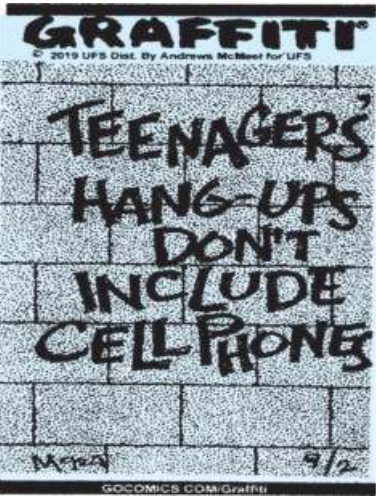
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



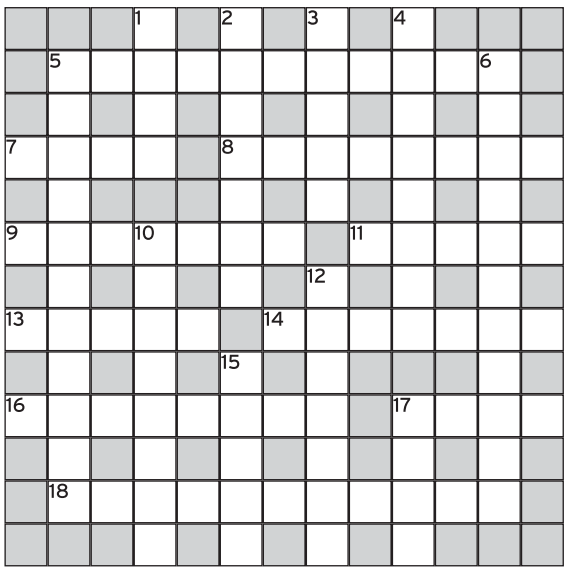
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13164



- Across
- 5 Overusing it (anag) — inducing dizziness (11)
- 7 Small fly that bites (4)
- 8 Homeless feline (5,3)
- 9 Collection of books (7)
- 11 Jewish baked roll (5)
- 13 Boring tool (5)
- 14 Writers (7)
- 16 Rugby halfback (5-3)
- 17 Enid Blyton's famous number? (4)
- 18 Unusually good (11)
- Down
- 1 Be anxious — part of a fingerboard (4)
- 2 Artisan (anag) — My Way singer (7)
- 3 Young mare (5)

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Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 4, 2019.

Solution No. 13163

Hat-trick hero Bumrah rips through the West Indies

The pacer finishes with a six-wicket haul as the hosts are shot out for 117; Kohli decides to bat again despite taking a 299-run lead

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KINGSTON

Jasprit Bumrah became only the third Indian to get a Test hat-trick after Hanuma Vi-hari's maiden century powered the visitors to a commanding position in the second Test against the West Indies here on Sunday.

Chasing India's 416, the hosts were bundled out for 117 with Bumrah finishing with sensational figures of six for 27 on the third day.

Batting again

Captain Virat Kohli declined to enforce the follow-on despite India taking a 299-run first innings lead, opting to bat again. At lunch, the tourists were 16 for one – an overall lead of 315.

Bumrah failed to add to his six-wicket tally from Saturday and it was left to the other frontline bowlers – pacers Mohammed Shami and Ishant Sharma and spinner Ravindra Jadeja – to claim the last three wickets.

Shami produced a steep lifter to remove Rahkeem Cornwall who gave a simple catch to Ajinkya Rahane at gully, while Ishant accounted for the other overnight debutant, Jahmar Hamilton, Kohli holding on to the chance low at third slip. Roach opted to hit out against Jadeja but could only spoon a catch to Mayank Agarwal at cover.

In a lethal opening spell on Saturday, Bumrah made



First strike: John Campbell is about to be caught by Rishabh Pant off Jasprit Bumrah. ■ AFP

inroads into the West Indies line-up in the seventh over by inducing an edge from John Campbell, which wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant accepted gleefully. Bumrah was at his best when he picked up the wickets of Darren Bravo, Shamarh Brooks and Roston Chase to register his name in

the record books.

He first had Bravo caught by K.L. Rahul at second slip and then Brooks and Chase lbw off the next two balls. Part of the credit for Bumrah's hat-trick must go to skipper Virat Kohli, who insisted on a review after Chase was given not out by on-field

umpire Paul Reiffel. Earlier, Vihari, who scored a career-best 111, dedicated his maiden Test ton to his late father, keeping a promise he made to himself 13 years ago.

This is for dad

"My dad passed away when I was 12. I decided then that

TEST HAT-TRICKS FOR INDIA					
Bowler	Opponent	Year	Venue	Innings	Batsmen dismissed
Harbhajan Singh	Australia	2001	Eden Gardens (Kolkata)	First	Ricky Ponting (lbw) Adam Gilchrist (lbw) Shane Warne (c Ramesh)
Irfan Pathan (FIRST OVER OF THE MATCH)	Pakistan	2006	National Stadium (Karachi)	First	Salman Butt (c Dravid) Younis Khan (lbw) Mohammad Yousuf (b)
Jasprit Bumrah	West Indies	2019	Sabina Park (Kingston)	First	Darren Bravo (c Rahul) Shamarh Brooks (lbw) Roston Chase (lbw)

Sensational @Jaspritbumrah93 well done on your great spell.. welcome in the hattrick club so so so proud of you. Keep it going brother
— HARBHAJAN SINGH

Welcome to the #Hattrick club @Jaspritbumrah93
— IRFAN PATHAN

Jasprit Bumrah is a once in a lifetime talent — IAN BISHOP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS: 416.
WEST INDIES – 1ST INNINGS (overnight: 87 for seven, Hamilton 2 batting, Cornwall 4 batting)
Kraigg Brathwaite c Pant b Bumrah 10 (38b, 1x4), John Campbell c Pant b Bumrah 2 (16b), Darren Bravo c Rahul b Bumrah 4 (8b), Shamarh Brooks lbw b Bumrah 0 (1b), Roston Chase lbw b Bumrah 0 (1b), Shimron Hetmyer b Mohammed Shami 34 (57b, 7x4), Jason Holder c sub b Bumrah 18 (38b, 2x4), Jahmar Hamilton c Kohli b Ishant 5 (59b), Rahkeem Cornwall c Rahane b Shami 14 (31b, 2x4), Kemar Roach c Agarwal b Jadeja 17 (31b, 3x4), Shannon Gabriel (not out) 0 (3b); Extras (b-8, lb-5): 13; Total (in 47.1 overs): 117.

INDIA BOWLING
Ishant 10.5-3-24-1, Bumrah 12.1-3-27-6, Shami 13-3-34-2, Jadeja 11.1-7-19-1.

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS
K.L. Rahul (batting) 6 (29b, 1x4), Mayank Agarwal lbw b Roach 4 (15b, 1x4), Cheteshwar Pujara (batting) 5 (10b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for one wkt. in nine overs, at lunch): 16.

FALL OF WICKET
1-9 (Agarwal, 4.6).
WEST INDIES BOWLING
Roach 4-1-7-1, Holder 3-2-4-0, Cornwall 1-0-4-0, Gabriel 1-1-0-0.

India 73 for four

■ At tea, India was 73 for four with Rahane (23) and Vihari (3) at the crease.

Why Jadeja? Why not Ashwin?

IAN S
KINGSTON

Ravindra Jadeja's improved batting and control on a flat pitch helped him get picked ahead of off-spinner R. Ashwin, India head coach Ravi Shastri said here on Saturday.

"Look at Jaddu, his record is fabulous. You have to see what he brings to the table. He is probably the best fielder in the world now and has improved his batting," said Shastri.

"On these tracks, I don't think there isn't much for the spinners and you need control."

Green through on better quotient

DULEEP TROPHY

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

India Green entered the final of the Duleep Trophy after finishing second on the table by virtue of a better quotient. Green could take only one point from its drawn encounter with India Red at the Alur grounds here on Sunday, after conceding a one-run lead on first innings. The outcome left India Blue and Green level on two points, but Green's quotient of 1.197 was superior to Blue's 0.63. India Red had already booked its spot in the final and will now meet Green in a five-day red-ball game at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium from September 4.

That India Green conceded the lead here was due in no small part to Avesh Khan. The Madhya Pradesh pace-man made 64 (56b, 2x4, 7x6) – his highest First Class score – as Red's last-wicket pair added 73. Nearly half of those runs had been scored on the third evening, when Avesh had clubbed five sixes

in a stunning onslaught. He would not be dislodged easily on the final morning either. The 22-year-old kept up the entertainment, reverse-sweeping Rahul Chahar for four and thumping two more sixes. He raised his maiden first-class fifty off 45 balls and was eventually dismissed after having guided Red past Green's 440.

"We were the last pair; we just wanted to add as many runs as we could," Avesh said later. "I was just hitting and it was connecting; it was a good feeling."

It was clear, though, that but for a spectacular collapse, Green would not slip below Blue on quotient. Faiz Fazal and Akshath Reddy fell cheaply but Dhruv Shorey remained in control. With a draw the only probable result, play was called off at tea with Green 98 for three.

The scores: India Green 440 and 98 for three in 54 overs (Dhruv Shorey 44 n.o.) drew with India Red 441 in 145.3 overs (Avesh Khan 64, Mahipal Lomror 126, Karun Nair 90, Priyank Panchal 31, Jaydev Unadkat 30, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja four for 135).



A scare: Priyam Garg was struck on the back of his neck, but tests cleared him of major injury. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Garg injured but fine

Uttar Pradesh batsman Priyam Garg suffered a blow to the back of his neck while fielding at silly point in the Duleep Trophy on Sunday. Garg, who was conscious after the hit, was rushed to hospital for precautionary tests. He was subsequently cleared of concussion and returned to the ground. Garg did not bat in India Green's second innings.

The incident occurred

in the third over of the final day, with India Red's Avesh Khan at the crease. A back-foot punch from the batsman struck Garg just below the helmet as he turned. An ambulance arrived at once, and after initial treatment on the field, Garg was taken away. The 18-year-old was wearing a helmet with a neck guard.

His reports will be sent for further examination.

US OPEN

REUTERS
NEW YORK

Second seed Ashleigh Barty lost 6-2, 6-4 to China's 18th seed Wang Qiang, who advanced to her first Grand Slam quarterfinal by dispatching the French Open champion in 82 minutes.

Wang claimed victory on her third match point after Barty had saved two on her own serve, but 39 unforced errors by the Australian, who did not convert a single break point, saw her make an exit.

Roger Federer was barely tested in his fourth round match against David Goffin, beating the Belgian 6-2, 6-2, 6-0 at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Federer converted nine of 10 break points, won 19 net points and hit 35 winners (27 more than Goffin) to move into his 56th Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Osaka in ominous form
Meanwhile on Saturday, defending women's champion



Giant-killer: Wang Qiang had the measure of second seed and Roland Garros champion Ashleigh Barty on Sunday. ■ AP

Naomi Osaka blasted past Coco Gauff 6-3, 6-0 to end the American teenager's run.

World No.1 Osaka has often struggled to replicate the

form that secured her maiden Grand Slam at New York last year and the Australian Open in January, but the Japanese returned to her ruthless best to take down the ta-

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Fourth round: 3-Roger Federer (Sui) bt 15-David Goffin (Bel) 6-2, 6-2, 6-0.
Third round: Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt 28-Nick Kyrgios (Aus) 7-6(5), 7-6(5), 6-3; 24-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) bt Alexei Popyrin (Aus) 6-4, 6-4, 6-7(3), 7-6(2); 13-Gael Monfils (Fra) bt Denis Shapovalov (Can) 6-7(5), 7-6

(4), 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-3; Pablo Andujar (Esp) bt Alexander Bublik (Kaz) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 6-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Aljaz Bedene (Slo) 6-7(4), 7-6(4), 6-3, 7-6(3); 20-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) bt Tennys Sandgren (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; 22-Marin Cilic (Cro) bt 14-John Isner (USA) 7-5, 3-6, 7-6(6), 6-4; 2-Rafael

lented 15-year-old.

Three-time winner Rafael Nadal cruised into the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over South Korean Chung Hyeon and will next face 2014 champion Marin Cilic, who downed American John Isner 7-5, 3-6, 7-6(6), 6-4.

Zverev stays on course
German sixth seed Alexander Zverev reached the fourth round for the first time with a 6-7(4), 7-6(4), 6-3 7-6(3) win over Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene.

He was joined by Russia's Andrey Rublev who defeated Australian Nick Kyrgios 7-6(5), 7-6(5), 6-3, while 13th seed Gael Monfils outlasted Denis Shapovalov in five sets.

Leclerc gets his first win

Victory clouded by friend Hubert's death in F2 race

BELGIAN GP

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS
REUTERS

Charles Leclerc dedicated his maiden Formula One victory at the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday to his late friend, Anthoine Hubert on an emotional day at a sombre Spa-Francorchamps.

The Ferrari driver's landmark success came in the aftermath of 22-year-old Frenchman Hubert's death in Saturday's tragic Formula Two race.

Leclerc led almost the entire race from pole to hold off Mercedes' defending five-time World champion Lewis Hamilton's dramatic late charge by one second.

Difficult to enjoy
"My first victory in F1 and this one is for Anthoine," he said on the team radio. "It feels good, but it's difficult to enjoy on a weekend like this."

After what he described as "a very difficult weekend"



Charles Leclerc. ■ AP

he added: "I have lost a friend and I want to dedicate this victory to him."

"One hand I've got a dream since being a child that has been realised, on the other hand it has been a very difficult weekend since yesterday," said Leclerc,

who dedicated his win to Hubert.

"We grew up together, my first ever race I did it with Anthoine, Esteban (Ocon), Pierre (Gasly). I can't fully enjoy my first victory, but it will definitely be a memory I will keep forever," added Leclerc.

Bottas third

Valtteri Bottas took third in the second Mercedes ahead of last year's winner Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari.

Red Bull new boy Alex Albon came home fifth, after luckless British rookie Lando Norris's McLaren had stopped with one lap remaining, ahead of Sergio Perez of Racing Point, Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso and Nico Hulkenberg of Renault.

Pierre Gasly was ninth on his return to the Toro Rosso team and Lance Stroll 10th in the second Racing Point.

The race was preceded by a minute's silence to honour Hubert, killed in a multi-car collision in the Formula Two race 24 hours earlier.

Arsenal fights back to share points

Richarlison is Everton's hero with a brace

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LIVERPOOL

Arsenal fought back from two goals down to salvage a 2-2 draw against Tottenham in a pulsating north London derby on Sunday which both sides will feel they should have won.

Spurs preyed on the Gunners' vacant midfield early on as Christian Eriksen tapped home at the end of a



Well-deserved: Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates scoring the equaliser against Tottenham. ■ REUTERS

flowing counter-attack before Harry Kane's penalty doubled the Champions League finalists' lead.

However, Arsenal was always a threat going forward and, after Alexandre Lacazette reduced the arrears in first-half stoppage time, was well worthy of a point after the break.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang got the equaliser 19 minutes from time and Arsenal even had the ball in the net again through Sokratis,

only to see its celebrations cut short by the offside flag.

Earlier, Richarlison bagged a brace as Everton earned a dramatic 3-2 win over Wolves. Brazil forward Richarlison scored the winner with 10 minutes left at Goodison Park.

The results: Premier League: Everton 3 (Richarlison 5, 80, Iwobi 12) bt Wolves 2 (Saiss 9, Jimenez 75); Arsenal 2 (Lacazette 45+2, Aubameyang 71) drew with Tottenham 2 (Eriksen 10, Kane 40-pen).
Bundesliga: Werder Bremen 3 (Osako 6, 67, Sargent 21) bt Augsburg 2 (Vargas 12, 46); Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Dost 57, Paciencia 86) bt Fortuna 1 (Hennings 36).

La Liga: Valencia 2 (Parejo 43-p, 57-p) bt Mallorca 0; Atletico Madrid 3 (Joao Felix 27, Vitolo 52, Partey 90) bt Eibar 2 (Charles 7, Arbillola 19); Espanyol 0 lost to Granada 3 (Puertas 13, Fernandez 68, Azeze 74).

Serie A: Lazio 1 (Luis Alberto 58) drew with Roma 1 (Kolarov 17-pen).
Saturday: Serie A: Juventus 4 (Danilo 16, Higuain 19, Ronaldo 62, Koulibaly 90+2-og) bt Napoli 3 (Manolas 66, Lozano 68, Di Lorenzo 81).

Yoddha, Bulls post wins



Giving the slip: Pawan Kumar Sherawat escapes the clutches of the Thalaivas defenders. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

PKL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

UP Yoddha produced a defensive masterclass to outlast Bengal Warriors 32-29 in a ProKabaddi League match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Sunday.

Nitesh Kumar, with a High 5, was the star in the Yoddha defence as it tackled this season's best raiding unit.

Warriors, the team in form, raced to a quick start with their raiding trio of Ma-

Taylor sews up a Kiwi win

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KANDY

Ross Taylor hit a quickfire 48 to set up New Zealand's five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first T20 International here on Sunday.

Taylor lifted the Black Caps from a precarious 39 for three in their chase of 175 to complete the win in 19.3 overs and lead the three-match series 1-0.

Malinga's feat

Sri Lanka skipper Lasith Malinga became the highest wicket-taker in the shortest format after his two scalps took his tally to 99 in 74 matches, surpassing Pakistan's Shahid Afridi.

But his effort was not enough as Taylor put on 79 runs with Colin de Grandhomme, who scored 44, to take the attack to the opposition bowlers.

Daryl Mitchell (25 n.o.) and Mitchell Santner (14 n.o.), put on a 31-run stand to steer the visitors home.

Earlier, Kusal Mendis smashed 79 toff 53 balls to help Sri Lanka post 174 for four.

He built crucial partnerships, including a 63-run stand with Niroshan Dickwella, who made 33.

The scores: Sri Lanka 174 for four in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 79, Niroshan Dickwella 33, Tim Southee two for 20) lost to New Zealand 175 for five in 19.3 overs (Ross Taylor 48, Colin de Grandhomme 44, Daryl Mitchell 25 n.o., Wanindu Hasaranga two for 21, Lasith Malinga two for 23).

TV PICKS

India-A v South Africa-A: Third one-dayer, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
West Indies v India: Second Test, Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.
US Open tennis: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Shubhankar slips but stays in line for PGA Tour card

NEWBURGH (USA) Shubhankar Sharma ground it out for an even par 72 that kept him in contention for a PGA Tour card despite dropping from tied third to tied 10th in the second round of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship. The Indian needs to finish sole sixth or better to lock his PGA Tour card for 2019-20. He is six off the lead, as Chris Baker with 69 moved to 12-under. PTI

Jehan moves to second in title race

SPA (BELGIUM) Jehan Daruvala could not make the most of his pole position as he finished third in round six of the FIA Formula 3 championship, but the podium performance pushed him to number two in the drivers' title race. Jehan has moved up to second from third in the championship standings with 129 points behind teammate Rober Schwartzman (152). PTI

Jinson makes the Worlds

SPORTS BUREAU BERLIN Jinson Johnson stunningly broke his own men's 1500m National record, improving it by more than two seconds, as he finished second at the ISTAF meet in Berlin on Sunday, and in the process made the qualification standard for this month's IAAF World championships in Doha. Johnson clocked 3:35.24s, a massive improvement on his old record of 3:37.62 which came in the Netherlands in June.

Indian Navy defeats PSB

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI Indian Navy beat Punjab & Sind Bank courtesy a wonderful deflection from Sunny Malik in Group-B of the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament. **The results: Group-A:** Bengaluru HA 3 (Mohammed Naeem Uddin 27, Prithvi Raj 30, Pradhan Somanna 37) bt Indian Army 1 (Rajnish Salaria 11). **Group-B:** Indian Navy 1 (Sunny Malik 35) bt PSB 0; HUTN 2 (V. Vinod Ray 28, M. Kannan 56) drew with CS 2 (Umar Mohd. 42, Mithlesh Kumar 50).

Raghul and Diljith share the pie

RAYAN ROZARIO COIMBATORE T.S. Diljith (Dark Don Racing) and Raghul Rangasamy (MSport) stole the show with a race win each in the FLGB4 class in the second round of the JK Tyre-FMSCI National racing championship here on Sunday. **The results (provisional): Formula LGB4: Race 2:** 1. T.S. Diljith (Dark Don Racing) 18:14.76; 2. Raghul Rangasamy (MSport); 3. A. Sandeep Kumar (Dark Don). **Race 3:** 1. Raghul 20:29.90; 2. Vishnu Prasad (MSport); 3. Sohil Shah (MSport).

Suzuki Gixxer Cup: Race 3: 1. Tanay Gaikwad (Pune) 14:18.57; 2. Syed Muzammil Ali (Bengaluru); 3. Shazhan Khan (Bengaluru). **JK Tyre Novice Cup: Race 3:** 1. Aaroh Ravindra (Mumbai) 18:19.30; 2. Chirag Ghorpade (Bengaluru); 3. Mohamed Ryan (Chennai).

Nitten Kirrtane overwhelmed

'Happy my family was there when I got Dhyan Chand award'

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

He has been the unsung hero of Indian tennis. For sheer courage and perseverance, few can match Nitten Kirrtane, the recipient of the Dhyan Chand award. For one who had finished runner-up in the junior doubles with Mahesh Bhupathi in Wimbledon in 1992, Nitten did not have a glittering career like the multiple Grand Slam champion, for a variety of reasons. The 45-year-old gutsy left-hander, who continues to play the game despite coaching stints, has extended the winning streak to the international seniors circuit. He had won the mixed doubles silver with Vlada Kirovskaja of Latvia in the World Championship in Miami last year.

Goosebumps

"I was very happy that my family was there when I received the award from the president," said Nitten, quite overwhelmed by the atmosphere at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. "When the president walked in and the live band played the national anthem,



One for the album: Nitten Kirrtane, wife Rheeja, sons Arjun and Aaryan, pose with the award. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

I had goosebumps. My mind went blank when my name was called, but I stood composed when I received the award," recalled Nitten, about receiving the life-time achievement award. After being one of the top juniors in the world, Nitten was quite strong in the men's

circuit. He was in the Davis Cup team and was a member of the squad along with Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and cousin Sandeep Kirtane, which won the Asia Cup in 1997. He had won the SAF Games gold and silver medals. During the 2010 Commonwealth Games, Nit-

ten was part of the coaching staff. What distinguished Nitten was the courage he showed in bouncing back to the tennis court from a road accident that required a steel rod to be put in his right arm, after it was almost paralysed, and an Achilles tendon surgery. He lost nearly three years from 2005 to 2007, but compensated with his winning return to the game.

Retaining the passion

Nitten has retained the passion for the game that was nurtured at the Batra Tennis Academy in Pune by coach Nandan Bal, after he had taken the baby steps into the game at the Deccan Gymkhana Club. A member of the Railways team that won the World Railways Games gold and silver, Nitten was the coach of the team this time when it defended the gold medal. He admires Olympic bronze medallist Leander Paes for sustaining his hunger for the game at the high-level in the international arena, and is quite pleased to find Indian tennis quite healthy.

Yashashwini's performance unsurprising for Dhillon

She was physically very frail but very disciplined, says her mentor

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Yashashwini Singh Deswal shooting the gold and the Olympic quota place with nonchalance in women's air pistol in the World Cup in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday may be a revelation for many, but not for her mentor Tejinder Singh Dhillon.

"I was not able to watch the live streaming because of bad internet connection. But, I kept track of the scores. Yashashwini shot very well.

"During training, we had always maintained that she had to shoot first time, and not cancel her shots and focus again," said Dhillon, the former Inspector General of Police at the CRPF Academy in Gurugram and the North East.

Dhillon has established many shooting ranges in Phillaur, Badal, Guru Natak

Hima's fitness causes concern

Contradictory views doing the rounds

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

With less than a month for the Doha World Championships, India's two biggest track & field stars are struggling with injuries and rehabilitation.

While javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is almost out given that he has just resumed training after elbow surgery, Hima Das is the other injury concern for AFI although there are contradictory views about her readiness.

A top-eight finish in Doha will ensure a ticket to the Tokyo Olympics. "There will be no more competitions for women quartermilers," an AFI official confirmed. This would mean Hima, the country's biggest track star and the foremost quartermiler, will not be participating in the 400m since she is yet to qualify. "Yes there is a back problem, specially during long training sessions, but we need to assess the extent of it. It is not a new injury, as is being said. Also, there is no spondylitis as reported,



Hima Das. ■ FILE PHOTO

which is an inflammation of the vertebra. What Hima has is spondylolysis, which is a degenerative stress fracture and needs rehab more than anything else," the official added. In fact, she may not be fielded in the 4x400m relays as well – women and mixed – if she isn't fit. However, National coach Radhakrishnan Nair denied all rumours on Hima's fitness. "She ran the 400m as recently as August 24 in the Czech Republic (she timed a disappointing 53.07s) and before that in July also. I refute any injury concerns," he told *The Hindu*.



Constant backing: Dhillon introduced Yashashwini to shooting and helped her buy an old pistol to start her training. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dev University, Amritsar and the 1000-yard full bore range for the 2010 Commonwealth Games, in Gurugram. It was he who introduced Yashashwini to the sport and helped her buy an old pistol to start her training. "Yashashwini was physically very frail but very disciplined. "We had established a shooting range at home for her in Panchkula and it was shifted to Delhi when her

dad was transferred," recalled Dhillon. Yashashwini was in the reckoning for the Rio Olympics, after having made the final of the Youth Olympics in Nanjing, but missed out narrowly. In the Asian Championship – the last event for the Olympic quota places at home in Delhi – Yashashwini shot 387 out of 400 in qualification, on par with Heena Sidhu, but ended up fourth.

Sasi Kumar loses both finals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU BAOTOU (CHINA) The climax did not pan out the way he wanted as Sasi Kumar Mukund lost in both the singles and doubles finals of the \$54,160 Challenger tennis tournament here on Sunday. The 22-year-old Mukund, ranked 285 in the world, was beaten by the top seed James Duckworth of Australia 6-4, 6-3 in the singles final. While Mukund collected 48 ATP points and \$4,240, the champion pocketed 80 points and \$7,200. In the doubles final, Mukund and Teymuraz Gabashvili of Russia lost to the second-seeded Koreans, Nam Ji Sung and Song Min-Kyu 7-6(3), 6-2. Mukund and partner collected 48 points and \$1,800. The champion team won 80 points and \$3,100. **The results: \$54,160 Challenger, Baotou, China: Final:** James Duckworth (Aus) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 6-4, 6-3. **Doubles:** Nam Ji Sung & Sng Min-Kyu (Kor) bt Teymuraz Gabashvili (Rus) & Sasi Kumar Mukund 7-6(3), 6-2.

Chandni corners glory

SPORTS BUREAU
KARNAL

Chandni Srinivasan, the country's No. 2 in the under-14 age group, was in top form as she cruised to the under-18 girls' title with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over M. Sanjana in the AITA Championship series junior tennis tournament here on Saturday. Chandni dropped only eight games in all to her four opponents after a bye in the first round. Vivek Kumar clinched the under-18 boys' title with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Siddharth Basaiti. **The results (finals): Boys: Under-18:** Vivek Kumar bt Sidd-



On top: Chandni Srinivasan, winner of the girls' under-18 title. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

harth Basaiti 6-2, 7-5.

Under-16: Aditya Chauhan bt Abhay Yuvraj Singh 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

Girls: Under-18: Chandni Srinivasan bt M. Sanjana 6-2, 6-0. **Under-16:** Niharika Deshmukh bt Swetha Rana 6-0, 6-1.

Curator Daljit Singh retires

CRICKET

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Former wicketkeeper-batsman Daljit Singh's long association with the game ended on Sunday when he received an intimation from the BCCI that his services as chief curator were no longer required. Daljit played First Class cricket for 19 years, representing Services, Northern Punjab, Delhi and Bihar (87 matches, 3964 runs, seven centuries, 157 catches and 68 stumpings). Daljit took to coaching soon after retirement with a certificate from MCC, UK. He coached Bihar, Karnataka and Punjab and among his trainees were Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh. On former BCCI president I.S. Bindra's advice, Daljit took up work as curator at the Punjab Cricket Association

(PCA) Stadium in Mohali. "I took it as a challenge and learnt the nuances from various books on the subject," Daljit told *The Hindu*. His debut as curator was the India-West Indies Test at Mohali in 1994 when he offered the teams a "hard and bouncy pitch." Daljit became a choice on merit when the first Pitches and Grounds Committee was formed in 1997 with Kapil Dev as the chairman. In later years Daljit remained on board, introducing a scientific approach to the job. "My experience of having played the game came in handy. I could understand the needs of the players. Pitch of true bounce was what I always looked to prepare and often I could meet my goals. Grounds were not being prepared by *maalis* (gardeners) and it was a specialised job now. Modern cricket demanded professionalism and I take pride in

what we achieved collectively," said Daljit. He was instrumental in holding annual workshops for the ground staff, convincing the authorities to invest in state of the art equipment for every state unit. Daljit's contribution also included preparing a manual for the curator in the company of Venkat Sundaram and P.R. Vishwanathan. "I am glad we have a certification course for budding curators in India to prepare a pool of qualified men in charge of preparing the ground and the pitch," he added. Among his feats is the PCA winning the best pitch award in the IPL on "eight occasions." The 77-year-old Daljit signed off: "I celebrate the completion of a marvelous journey filled with satisfaction of having contributed to Indian cricket. I am grateful to all the people connected with the game of cricket."

RACING

Impavid for the second classic of the season

HYDERABAD: Impavid appeals most in the Deccan Colts Championship Stakes (1,600m), the second classic of the season, to be held here on Monday (Sept. 2). There will be no false rails. **1. A. KRISHNASWAMI MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (winner not more than three races), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1-30 p.m.:** 1. Miss Lily (7) P. Trevor 60, 2. Nayadeep (6) Srinath 59, 3. Gorgeous Lady (3) Kiran Naidu 58, 4. La Mer (1) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 5. The Special One (4) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 6. Kingswood (5) P. Sai Kumar 56.5, 7. Dunkirk (8) Afroz Khan 56 and 8. Happy Together (2) Gaurav Singh 55. **1. MISS LILY, 2. NAYADEEP, 3. DUNKIRK**

2. CONAMORE PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2-00: 1. Private Empire (2) P. Trevor 60, 2. The Great Gatsby (4) Suraj Narredu 60, 3. Rutliff (1) R. Ajinkya 59.5, 4. Paso Robles (9) Afroz Khan 58.5, 5. Mr. Bruss (8) Gaddam 55, 6. Handsome Duo (3) Ajeeth Kumar 53, 7. Locha Stella (7) C.P. Bopanna 52.5 and 9. Hurricane (5) N. Rawal 51. **1. THE GREAT GATSBY, 2. PRIVATE EMPIRE, 3. HANDSOME DUO**

3. MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II), 2-30: 1. Euro Zone (3) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. Crimson Fire (4) Rohit Kumar 57.5, 3. Satin Symphony (6) Ashhad Asbar 57.5, 4. Semira (1) Surya Prakash 56.5, 5. Shiloh (8) R.S. Jodha 56, 6. Vashista (9) Ajeeth Kumar 55.5, 7. Brave Warrior (2) Afroz Khan 55, 8. Vega Cassandra (7) Akshay Kumar 53.5 and 9. Escalating Striker (5) Umesh 51. **1. SATIN SYMPHONY, 2. SEMIRA, 3. VEGA CASSANDRA**

4. A. KRISHNASWAMI MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (winner not more than three races), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3-00: 1. That's My Magic (7) Harinder Singh 60, 2. Evon Von Brando (9) Surya Prakash 57.5, 3. Star Gazer (2) C.P. Bopanna 57, 4. Max (5) Afroz Khan 56.5, 5. Light-nig Fin (3) B. Nikhil 56, 6. Honest Hunter (6) B.R. Kumar 55, 7. Rapid Fire (1) P. Trevor 54.5, 8. Dancing Doll (8) Nakhat Singh 54 and 9. Shakespere (4) Gaurav Singh 53. **1. DANCING DOLL, 2. RAPID FIRE, 3. HONEST HUNTER**

5. MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-35: 1. Egyptian Prince (4) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Dandy Man (9) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 3. Sublime (1) Suraj Narredu 58, 4. Alta Vita (2) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 5. Soul Empress (8) Ashhad Asbar 55, 6. Southern Meteor (7) B.R. Kumar 55, 7. Curcumin (6) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 8. Mr. Shanghai (5) Kuldeep Singh 54.5 and 9. Run Runner Run (3) Afroz Khan 51.5. **1. SUBLIME, 2. SOUL EMPRESS, 3. DANDY MAN**

6. STARSKY PLATE (1,100m), 5-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5-05: 1. Patron Saint (5) C.P. Bopanna 60, 2. Tamanna (2) Kuldeep Singh 60, 3. Cowboy's Delight (4) Jitendra Singh 59.5, 4. Invasion (8) B.R. Kumar 59, 5. Limousine (9) Afroz Khan 59, 6. Royal Dancer (3) Akshay Kumar 59, 7. Wood Bridge (1) A.A. Vikrant 59, 8. All Star General (10) Deepak Singh 56.5, 9. Recumbentibus (6) Gaddam 56, 10. Ultimate Risk (7) Kunal Bunde 56 and 11. New Hope (II) Ajit Singh 50. **1. ROYAL DANCER, 2. LIMOUSINE, 3. PATRON SAINT**

7. RED CHEFTAN PLATE (2,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II): CALL OF THE BLUE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Symbol Of Star's (Surya Prakash) 2, Mossad (Afroz Khan) 3 and Ajmal Birju (Gopal Singh) 4. 2-1/4, 1-3/4 and 1-1/4. 2m, 37.14s. ₹9 (w), 5, 11 and 8 (p), SHP: 42, FP: 83, Q: 88, Tla: 303. Favourite: Call Of The Blue. Owners: Dr. Peddi Reddy Prabhakar Reddy & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequiera. **8. DR. HARISH CHANDRA MEMORIAL PLATE (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): NIMBLE MIND (Koushik) 1, Midnight Dream (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Cincia Azzurra (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Liberate (Yash Narredu) 4. 1-3/4, 1-1/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 26.90s. ₹12 (w), 6, 6 and 6 (p), SHP: 19, FP: 49, Q: 33, Tla: 114. Favourite: Nimble Mind. Owners: M/s. P. Prabhakar Reddy, C. Parthasarathy & Rajat Parthasarathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequiera. **9. P.G. REDDY MEMORIAL PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II): ROYAL GREEN (Ajit Singh) 1, Vancouver (B. Nikhil) 2, Magical Skill (C.P. Bopanna) 3 and Somerset (Umesh) 4. 1-1/4, 3/4 and hd. 1m, 28.83s. ₹393 (w), 61, 17 and 7 (p), SHP: 57, FP: 6,870, Q: 1,773, Tla: 34,931. Favourite: Magical Skill. Owner: Mr. Md. Junaid Ali Khan. Trainer: Ravinder Singh. Jackpot: ₹4,00,283 (C/o), Runner-up: 10,721 (66 tkts.), Mini Jkt: 76,817 (C/o), Tr (i): 191 (241 tkts.), (ii): 522 (47 tkts.), (iii): 21,580 (3 tkts.).****

Khade asserts himself in 50m freestyle

Srihari Nataraj and Kushagra Rawat swim to new meet records

NATL. AQUATICS

STAN RAYAN
BHOPAL

His 50m freestyle timings (22.95s) in the recent World championships in South Korea had rankled him and Virdhawal Khade just wanted to be faster at the 73rd Glenmark National senior aquatic championships here on Sunday.

The 28-year-old from Maharashtra, the country's fastest swimmer with a time of 22.43 which came at last year's Jakarta Asian Games, appeared impatient, breaking his meet record in the morning heats and then improving it to 22.44s to take the gold in at the Prakash Tarun Pushkar pool.

"Frankly, I did not have any target but I think this is a good place to be. I knew I would go fast, the expectation was to go faster than the Worlds," said Khade, a 50m butterfly bronze medallist in the 2010 Asian Games, who is coached by the experienced Nihar Ameen in Bengaluru.

"I will not go to the Asian



Dominant: Kushagra Rawat flashes the victory sign after claiming the 1500m freestyle in record time. ■A.M. FARUQUI

age-group meet (later this month in Bengaluru) with any expectations but I would like to win a gold."

A few minutes before that, another big star, Srihari Nataraj – who has been on a record-breaking spree in the senior and junior Worlds the last few weeks – bettered his own meet record in the punishing 200m backstroke.

"That race hurt a lot, especially since the junior Worlds was so close," said the 18-year-old Bengaluru boy who has A.C. Jayaraj as his coach.

In the same race in the women's section, Gujarat's

Maana Patel and Karnataka's Suvana C. Baskar were virtually kicking each other on their way to gold and silver.

Maana, not a great fan of the 200m backstroke, was planning to pull out of the event. "I've never liked the 200 back and I have a very bad throat infection so I was actually going to pull out from the heats but I had to swim at the last minute. I'm glad I did," said Maana who trains in Mumbai.

The race was close and there were some dramatic moments too.

"Maana and I were hitting each other in the second and

third laps. I was hitting Maana's leg, she was hitting my back," said Suvana pulled off a personal best.

The results (finals):

Men: 50m freestyle: 1. Virdhawal Khade (Mah) 22.44s (MR, OR 22.70 in heats), 2. Viraj Prabhu (Rly) 23.39, 3. Mihir Ambre (Mah) 23.76.

1500m freestyle: 1. Kushagra Rawat (Del) 15:41.45 (MR, OR 15:42.67), 2. Sushrut S. Kapse (Rly) 16:29.27, 3. Aneesh S. Gowda (Kar) 16:32.28.

200m backstroke: 1. Srihari Nataraj (Kar) 2:02.29, 2. S. Siva (Kar) 2:07.11, 3. Arvind Mani (Ser) 2:10.24.

4x100m free relay: 1. Karnataka (Tanish George Mathew, M. Prithvi, Siva, Srihari) 3:30.45, 2. Services 3:31.04, 3. Maharashtra 3:31.17.

Women: 200m backstroke: 1. Maana Patel (Guj) 2:21.74, 2. Suvana C. Baskar (Kar) 2:22.30, 3. Soubhrit Mondal (Ben) 2:23.55.

400m medley: 1. Richa Mishra (Pol) 5:05.49, 2. Apeksha Fernandes (Mah) 5:12.91, 3. B. Shakti (TN) 5:13.19.

4x100m freestyle relay: 1. Maharashtra (Rutuja Khade, Apeksha, Sadhi Dhuri, Kenisha Gupta) 4:02.90 (MR, OR 4:03.05); 2. Karnataka 4:09.88, 3. Tamil Nadu 4:13.25.

This is bad, at best!

STAN RAYAN
BHOPAL

National records, in any sport, are the best performances by the country's athletes anywhere, but not for the Swimming Federation of India. For years, the sport's National body has stubbornly hung on to its theory that National records are timings set at National championships and maintains another list for 'Indian best performance'.

But it has not provided the Indian best performance for the events on the day's start-list, only National meet records. When the best Indian performance list was sought an hour before the start of



A.V. Jayaveena. ■A.M. FARUQUI

the championships' opening session of finals here on Saturday, the SFI officials were caught by surprise.

Only then the officials began updating the new records set at the recent World

senior and junior championships.

Surprisingly, many 'Indian best performances' even at last year's Thiruvananthapuram Nationals, including Sajjan Prakash's 2:05.83s in the 200m medley, do not find a place in the list. Rehan Poncha's 2:05.89 clocked in 2009 is the best in the event as per the SFI 2019 list.

Tamil Nadu's A.V. Jayaveena also pointed out that the women's 50m breaststroke time in the SFI's best performance list was wrong.

"I had done 33.76s at the Khelo India Games in January (in Pune)," Jayaveena told *The Hindu* after winning

the breaststroke sprint gold here. The best performance in the women's 50m breaststroke, according to SFI's list, is Delhi's Priyanka Priyadarshini's 34.29s clocked in 2012.

And the meet record in the event, as per the start-list, is Jayaveena's 33.81s clocked on September 19, 2018.

That was the period the senior Nationals were held in Thiruvananthapuram. But Jayaveena did not even win the gold last year, it was Karnataka's Saloni Dalal who had taken the 50m breaststroke title in 34.56s with the Tamil Nadu girl clocking 34.59 for the silver.

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DD Motors (Narela) 9873563171	T.R. Sawhney (Amar Colony) 9999563333	Magic Auto (Gokulpuri) 011-49077777	Auto Vibes (Kosli) 01259-275300	T.R. Sawhney (Sarawati Vihar) 9582263509	T.R. Sawhney (Meerut Road) 7065191234	T.R. Sawhney (Mohan Nagar) 9582263544	Auto Vibes (Bawal) 7082100280
T.R. Sawhney (Peergarhi) 25963535	Competent (Lajpat Nagar) 8377007979	Magic Auto (Preet Vihar) 9506999556	Auto Vibes (Silverton) 7835003300	T.R. Sawhney (Badli) 9999324333	Competent (JMD Sikanderpur) 4395700	Competent (Udyog Vihar) 4395700	Auto Vibes (Neelam Chowk) 0129-4252525
D.D. Motors (Peeragarhi) 25963535	AAA Vehicleleads (Malviya Nagar) 9971500011	Competent (C.P.) 9582797749	Pasco (Sec-50) 7835003300	Rana Motors (Prashant Vihar) 9711507777	Competent (Dwarka Sec-13) 9818444481	Competent (Dwarka Sec-13) 9818444481	Fair Deal Cars (Gazipur) 8377007977
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