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NEARBY



Mob attacks policemen in Muzaffarpur district

PATNA
A video in which a group of villagers are seen thrashing some policemen in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar went viral on social media on Sunday. The villagers turned violent after the bodies of two local youths who were missing for the last two days, were found in a rivulet outside the village. The incident took place at Madhuban Desi village on Friday.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

Minor domestic help rescued

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Commission for Women on Sunday said it had rescued a minor girl who had been working as a domestic help at a house in Ashok Vihar. The DCW had received an anonymous call on its women helpline number, 181.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ 4 PAGES

Trump calls off secret talks with Taliban

U.S. President criticises bomb attack in Kabul

**MICHAEL CROWLEY
LARA JAKES
MUJIB MASHAL
WASHINGTON**

President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he had cancelled a secret meeting at Camp David with Taliban leaders and the President of Afghanistan and was calling off months-long negotiations that had appeared to be nearing a peace agreement.

“Unbeknownst to almost everyone,” Mr. Trump wrote in a series of tweets, “Taliban leaders and Afghan Presi-



A trigger: A U.S. soldier was one of the victims of the car bomb explosion in Kabul on Thursday. • AP

dent Ashraf Ghani were headed to the United States on Saturday for a meeting at the President's official Camp David retreat in Maryland.

But Mr. Trump said that “in order to build false leverage,” the Taliban had admitted to a suicide car bomb attack on Thursday that had

killed a U.S. soldier and 11 others in Kabul. “I immediately cancelled the meeting and called off peace negotiations,” he wrote.

“If they cannot agree to a ceasefire during these very important peace talks, and would even kill 12 innocent people, then they probably don't have the power to negotiate a meaningful agreement anyway,” Mr. Trump added. “How many more decades are they willing to fight?”

A senior official said the meeting had been planned for Monday. **NY TIMES**

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
AFGHANS CAUTIOUS ▶ PAGE 14

100 days on, BJP showcases action on Jammu & Kashmir

Cong. points to mismanagement of economy

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Cornered on the state of the economy with the GDP at a six-year-low of 5%, the Narendra Modi government, celebrating the first 100 days of its second tenure, showcased the withdrawal of provisions of Article 370 and Article 35A as its biggest achievement.

But the Congress tried to pin it down on the dire state of the economy.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar, addressing a press conference on the occasion, said the biggest de-

cision by way of revoking Article 370 and Article 35A was to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir is no longer sequestered from the rest of the country.

“Modi government 2.0 in its first 100 days has made historic and landmark decisions, with speed, be it Jammu and Kashmir or decisions regarding Unlawful Activities Prevention Act or reflections on the state of the economy,” he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
**READY TO TACKLE ANY
CHALLENGE: MODI** ▶ PAGE 12

We won't dilute Art. 371, Shah assures NE States

He says the special provisions will stay

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday assured the northeastern States that the Centre would never touch Article 371 of the Constitution that grants special provisions to the region.

Mr. Shah, also the Chairman of the North Eastern Council (NEC), gave the assurance in his inaugural address at the 68th plenary session of the NEC here.

The meeting was attended by the Governors, the Chief Ministers and officials



Amit Shah at the plenary session of the North Eastern Council in Guwahati. • PTI

of the eight northeastern States. “There is a vast difference between Article 370 and Article 371,” the Home Minister said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Gangster gunned down in Narela

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

A gangster was gunned down by a group of assailants in north Delhi's Narela on Sunday in what appears to be a case of gang war.

They shot the victim over 20 times, the police said

“More than 40 rounds were fired at the car. It all happened about 200 metres from the Narela police station,” said an eyewitness. The victim was involved in 13 heinous crimes, including murder and robbery.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

Ram Jethmalani passes away at 95

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI**

Ram Jethmalani, twice Law Minister, criminal lawyer, jurist, teacher, litigator and parliamentarian who relished the epithet “unchanged and unrepentant maverick”, passed away at

95 on Sunday.

Mr. Jethmalani remains an enigma in modern times as he was a man who spoke and acted out of personal conviction.

“I do not claim to be infallible, but even my most trenchant critics would not

deny that I speak and act out of personal conviction. I write also to stir debate and have the humility to retract my views when bested in such debates,” he wrote in *Maverick Unchanged and Unrepentant*.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

5 journalists in U.P. booked for circulating ‘fake news’

Targeted for factual reporting: mediapersons

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD**

The Uttar Pradesh police booked five journalists in Bijnor on Friday for allegedly circulating fake news reports. In an FIR filed by the Bijnor police, two journalists, one working with a local daily and another engaged with a TV news channel, have been named, along with three unidentified reporters.

The FIR said Ashish Tomar and Shakil Ahmed tried to vitiate social amity by circulating fake news about a Valmiki family from Titarwala Basi village by putting up their house for sale after not being allowed to collect water from the village hand pump by an influential Dalit family from the same village.

The police said the issue had been resolved by the police and the village ‘pradhan’.

One journalist had put the “house for sale” message on the wall to present the local administration in a bad light.

The FIR quoted Lokesh Devi, wife of Gopal Valmiki, stating that the journalists had asked her to paint the “for sale” information.

When she said she was illiterate, one of them wrote it on the wall with a wooden stick and coal powder. However, the news report mentioned Premchand Valmiki as the head of the family.

The journalists have been booked under Sections 153 A (promoting enmity), 268 (nuisance) and 503 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC and Section 66A of the IT Act.

Protest police action

The journalists stand by their story and on Saturday several local mediapersons held a meeting against the police action, alleging that the scribes were being targeted for factual reporting.

When it was pointed out that the name that appeared in the news report and the one in the FIR did not match, Bijnor SP Sanjeev Tyagi told *The Hindu* that the house on which the “for sale” message was written belonged to Lokesh Devi.

Mr. Tyagi admitted that there was a clash between two groups over collection of water from the hand pump, adding that the investigation was on.

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Pinjra Tod
slams culture
of ‘hooliganism’
during DUSU
elections

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Calling for alternative spaces for political expression in Delhi University, Pinjra Tod, a women’s rights collective, on Sunday attacked the “legacy” of the Delhi University Students’ Union (DUSU) elections, terming it a culture of “hooliganism and violence”.

“The only small detail missing from most of these [election] posters seems to be their [students’ groups] agenda... but who needs that when there is money, alcohol, free pizzas, cakes, lip glosses, stationery material on offer. Right?” the group said in a series of tweet.

The collective highlighted the use of SUVs to block roads and intimidation of women students with “unabashed hooliganism and masculine aggression”.

It alleged that these actions were a result of a legacy built over the years by the ABVP and the NSUI.

Violence on campus

In the five years that the ABVP has been in power, it built a legacy of “disrupting seminars, beating up professors and students... threatening journalists, and flaunting guns at the DUSU office”, it said.

The collective accused the NSUI of paving the way “for dismantling of the university that we are witnessing today”. In this context, the choice between the two organisations is a “non-choice”, given the difference between them are marginal, it added.

The group has called for women students of the university to come together for a ‘Night March’ across the campus on Monday.

DUSU polls: progressive politics or tokenism?

Some students’ groups vow equality, others bat for women’s safety; ‘university-level reforms take a backseat’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Signs of the upcoming Delhi University Students’ Union elections can be seen at every corner of North Campus. Campaign posters and pamphlets urging students to “Join ABVP” or “Join NSUI” cover billboards, university walls, and litter the roads.

Ahead of polls on September 12, the students’ groups are making tall promises to remove inequality, fight for women’s safety, send students to the Olympics and procure concessional passes for the metro.

Post-poll scenario

“But as soon as all this is over, all these student leaders will disappear,” said Associate Professor of political science at Ramjas College Tanvir Aejaz, who has written many articles on the DUSU elections. In public, these students raise issues with regard to infrastructure improvements and other university reforms but after the polls, their prime objective becomes running college-level festivals and solving problems like attendance requirements, he said, adding: “There is no real attention paid to university-level reforms like changes in the evaluation process or admissions reforms.”

Among the primary contenders are candidates of the RSS-backed Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Congress-backed National Students Union of India (NSUI). The ABVP’s candidates for the post of president Pradeep Tanwar and secretary Yogith Rathe are both recent graduates of Ramjas College.

DUSU polls have long been a bipolar contest said Mr. Aejaz. “Both groups act similarly with shows of money and muscle power. One can see this in the posters floating around campus, vo-

lunteers soliciting students, SUVs bearing names of candidates,” he said.

He said ideally a third left front should also be part of the contest. This time, both the All India Students’ Association [AISA] and the All India Democratic Students’ Organisation (AIDSO) have put up presidential candidates. However, with the rise of a new crop of leaders among left groups, Mr. Aejaz be-



Ahead of DUSU elections on September 12, students seen campaigning on campus. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Some student leaders think they have a license to harass women, woo first-year students and park their vehicles anywhere on the road. They waste paper. They should campaign virtually and put an end to this street drama

SAHAJ KAMRA, Third-year student, Hindu College

There is massive wastage of paper and the men act like hooligans... they scream and throw posters on the roads. They need to realise that handing out notebooks, pens or chocolates will not convince us to vote for them

RITUNJAYA BHANDARI, Third-year student, Miranda House

The campus has seen hooliganism under the ABVP. There is no freedom of expression and no educational autonomy. Manifestos should address library and hostel issues. Every student is looking for an evolved manifesto. I hope more people come out to vote this year, defeating money and muscle power

AHNA PRAKASH, Second-year student, Miranda House

Election campaigning causes unnecessary inconvenience in attending classes

ANANYA SINGH, Second-year student, Sri Venkateswara College

All candidates come from political families. They exploit their privilege by campaigning in high-end cars to let people know their ballot numbers. They do nothing but litter on campus

DHARAM SINGH, Student at Faculty of Law, DU

lieves there is a resurgence on campus. Mr. Rathe is now campaigning to fight “anti-national” elements in North campus, he said.

Apart from this, there is also a larger growing interest in politics, perhaps a result of the polarised national discourse, he said.

Many promises

The ABVP, which was in power last year, has released

several objectives related to reforms in campus, examinations, curriculum, results and admissions, better infrastructure, inclusivity for LGBTQ students, free education for transgender students, and remedial classes for SC/ST students.

The group has also released a “manifesto for female students”.

On the other hand, AISA has come out with 12 major objectives, including reforms in the functioning of the DUSU and the election procedures involved, concessional transport facilities, committees to look into harassment and provision of basic infrastructure.

The NSUI has given itself a broad mandate to “fight inequality” in all its forms. This is with regard to discrimination faced by people from marginalised communities as well as inequities between colleges of the university. The group said it has put up a woman candidate for the post of president and a Dalit for vice-president. It also said it would fight back-door privatisation through self-financing courses, ensure timely distribution of scholarships and work towards rationalisation of fees.

“Factors like caste and regional groupings also play a role. These groupings are made in the hostels. When the list of new students enrolled in hostels is put up, it is quite an interesting sight. Groups already present identify individuals based on their names and they then approach them,” he said.

The ABVP, for instance, started its campaigning by meeting with students at hostels and PGs in the university, he added.

Once the campaigning ends, the voting will be governed by a host of statutes and court judgments. There are university-appointed officials, including a Chief Elec-

tion Officer and Chief Returning Officer, who govern procedural aspects, an anti-defacement committee, a grievance redressal cell, and a law and order committee.

The rules are derived from a model code of conduct, the DUSU constitution, anti-defacement guidelines of the National Green Tribunal, rules dealing with student politics under the Lyngdoh reforms, as well as other court judgments.

Circumventing rules

But the students’ groups circumvent several guidelines such as to do with campaign spending, which is limited to ₹5,000 per candidate and the ban on use of printed posters, among others, said university sources.

For instance, by misspelling the name of a candidate on posters and pamphlets, he or she maintains culpable deniability in case they are hauled up, the sources added. “The Lyngdoh committee recommendations need to be revisited. They were made in 2006 and don’t really hold up now,” said Chief Returning Officer Rupam Kapoor. Since the time of these recommendations, there have been two Pay Commissions added, said Chief Election Officer Ashok Prasad.

“Already there have been at least 11 complaints regarding defacement of property at the Maurice Nagar police station,” he said.

At times, the groups don’t seek votes but simply ask a student to join them, a source said.

Mr. Aejaz said many reforms on the university-level have come about because of efforts of the teachers’ association.

“Unlike in western countries where student politics tends to be a source of new ideas and is progressive, the politics here is mostly tokenism,” he added.



(From right) United-left panel JNUSU candidates Aishe Ghosh (for president), Saket Moon (for vice-president), Satish Chandra Yadav (for general secretary) and Md. Danish (for joint secretary). ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

United-Left panel
establishes early lead
in JNUSU elections

Results to be withheld till Sept. 17

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The united-Left panel looks set to sweep all four central panel posts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union election with Student Federation of India (SFI) candidate Aishe Ghosh gaining a strong lead over the others.

The JNUSU election committee said, “Counting of ballots for the posts of Central Panel and Councillors of the schools ended at 9 p.m. on Sunday. As per the direction of the Delhi High Court, declaration of the final result is being withheld. The JNUSU election committee has requested the Dean of Students for an urgent appointment to formally submit the final results in sealed envelopes.”

The court has refrained the university from releasing results till September 17. The order was passed on a plea by two students who have alleged that their nominations were “illegally” rejected for the post of JNUSU councillor.

JNU declares trends

JNU election commission chairman Shashank Patel said they had declared trends. The counting process, which was started on September 6, had to be put on hold for nearly 11 hours after which the election com-

mittee decided to resume the process.

After counting 5,050 of the 5,762 votes, sources said that for the post of president, Aishe Ghosh secured 2,069 votes while Jitendra Suna from Birsra Ambedkar Phule Students’ Association (BAPSA) took second place with 985 votes. Manish Jangid from ABVP was in third place with 981.

For the post of vice-president, united-Left panel’s Saket Moon was leading with 3,028 votes with Shruti Agnihotri from ABVP in second place with 1,156 votes.

For the post of general secretary, Satish Chandra, from the united Left, was leading with 2,228 votes with Sabareesh P.A. from ABVP in second place with 1,182 votes. For joint secretary, united-Left panel’s Md. Danish was leading with 2938 votes with Sumanta Kumar Sahu from ABVP taking second place with 1,310 votes.

Students supporting the united-Left panel comprising SFI, All India Students’ Association, All India Students’ Federation and the Democratic Students’ Federation celebrated after the trends were revealed.

Last year too, the united-Left panel had won all four central posts.

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Hefty fines keep motorists in line

Steep surge in penalties under the amended Motor Vehicles Act has made vehicle owners see reason in following norms, but many fear the law may be misused by traffic policemen

CITY BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Licence, pollution control certificate, vehicle registration documents, insurance papers, helmet, seat belt... the list of things to check before taking your vehicle out on the road has suddenly become taxing and essential.

The checklist was always there, for the safety of the motorists as well as others on the road, but it has gained urgency, thanks to the steep surge in penalties under the amended Motor Vehicles Act implemented in the country from September 1.

The city police have been issuing an average of 4,000 to 5,000 challans every day.

All the fines have to be paid in court, pending a notification from the Delhi government authorising officers to issue on-spot challans.

According to data shared by the Delhi police, between September 1 and 5, the most number of challans – 4,097 – were issued to people riding motorbikes without helmets.

As many as 254 people were challaned for drunk driving, 1,229 for not wearing seat belt, 1,527 for driving dangerously and 2,698 for signal violation, said the police.

Safety on the mind

When *The Hindu* asked motorists about the steep fines, some said it might increase corruption, while others lauded it saying it will enhance road safety.

Sheetal Kumar, an autorickshaw driver, said: “This change will make a difference because people will avoid wasting their hard-earned money on paying fines. The penalties are so high, people will end up following traffic rules out of fear. But of



course, people with fancy cars would be least affected because they get away easily.”

Echoing Mr. Sheetal’s opinion, Raju, another auto driver, said motorists have lost all fear.

“Three people without helmets can ride a bike and not get caught. But that will change now, especially in cases of drunk driving when you have to pay ₹25,000 to ₹30,000 as penalty [in case of multiple violations].”

Mr. Raju said he had been in Delhi since 1976 and things had only worsened. “The situation will not change till the people do,” he said, pointing to the cars parked at Khan Market.

Welcoming the amended rules, taxi driver Neeraj said it will discourage underage people from driving.

“The fines are more than the vehicle’s maintenance cost, so everyone will be careful. This is good,” he said.

Corruption concern

Some motorists, however, feared that higher penalties may mean more corruption.

A petrol pump owner in central Delhi, who did not wish to be named, said it will become easier for traffic police officers to take bribe once they start issuing on-spot challans.

Pramod, an IT professional who has a two-wheeler, said: “Earlier, the police were happy with a ₹100 bribe, now we will have to shell out more. The police will harass us more now.”

Recounting her experience of “police corruption”, a UPSC aspirant from south Delhi said her car, with an Uttar Pradesh number plate, was stopped for an apparent traffic viola-

tion in Karol Bagh. The policeman asked for the vehicle’s pollution certificate, which was valid in U.P. but not in Delhi.

“Instead of fining me ₹1,100 for the violation, the policeman asked me to ‘settle the matter’ for ₹500,” she said.

‘State-sponsored oppression’
The spike in the cost of fines for traffic offences has not gone down well with the owners and operators of goods’ and passenger vehicles in the Capital who termed the move a form of “state-sponsored oppression”.

“Genuine fines” are very few compared to instances of “deliberate harassment” by traffic and transport enforcement officials, said Rajender Kapoor, president of the Delhi Goods Transport Organisation, the apex body of transport service operators.

“There is no problem with genuine fines. Just think about it: would the owner of a high-end vehicle carrying expensive goods send drivers out without all the paperwork and risk losing business for a day because of a court date? The issue is of deliberate harassment of undereducated drivers by those enforcing and collecting these hefty fines,” Mr. Kapoor said.

“These penalties have become a noose around the necks of transport operators like me who are already reeling under the impact of the economic slowdown across sectors. Who is to say that a driver did not produce all the documents to a traffic policeman or an enforcement official? What they write and submit to court will be taken as gospel by the magistrate concerned and we will lose financially one way or another,” he added.

Sanjay Samrat, president of the Delhi Taxi, Tourist Transporters Association, complained that



Traffic police personnel fine a motorist as the pillion rider was not wearing a helmet; (below) a policeman cuts a lengthy challan for a driver of a motorcycle. • R.V. MOORTHY, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the heavy fines were especially punishing for the lower middle-class households which were trying to utilise their limited means in the “best way possible”.

“Public transport in Delhi is not adequate, pushing more people to use two-wheelers. What is the problem if a family of three is travelling on a motorbike or a scooter because there isn’t enough space on buses or metro trains and they can’t afford a cab?” he argued.

“It seems the government not only wants to divert attention from the dire condition of the economy, but also make common citizens pay steep fines to bring it back on track. They [lower-middle class], it seems, are being made to pay through their nose for trying to live a relatively dignified life,” Mr. Samrat added.

Addressing the apprehensions on corruption, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Narendra Bundela told *The Hindu*, “If we receive any complaint, we will take action. Measures are being adopted to monitor and keep such instances in check.”

On a few riders and drivers raising concern over being stopped randomly at dysfunctional traffic signals for speeding, Mr. Bundela clarified that if a traffic officer is not in possession of a speedometer, he or she cannot issue a challan for speeding. “Similarly, if a traffic light is not functioning, and the traffic is being managed manually, then no challan can be issued for jumping the signal. Meanwhile, details of dysfunctional traffic signals have been given to authorities concerned for repair,” he said.

Angry reactions

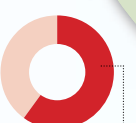
The increased penalties in challans have also led to incidents of angry and aggressive behaviour on the road.

On September 5, a resident of Sarvodaya Enclave, Rakesh, was stopped for riding a motorcycle without a helmet near Chirag Dilli.

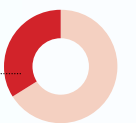
Facing a challan of ₹11,000, the man, allegedly under the

Drunk driving

A survey of women by the Community Against Drunken Driving has revealed the following:



More than **60%** women in the age group of 18-45 years admitted to driving drunk on one or more occasions. The trend was less visible in the 46-60 age group where only 45.3% women admitted to driving drunk; 21.4% women admitted to the same in the 60+ age group



Around **34.1%** women in the age group of 31-45 years drove drunk because they were near their homes post an outing; drinking in bars/pubs and in social functions appeared to be quite common among women in the age group of 18-45 years while drinking at home was preferred by women in the 46-60 age group

The survey

• Data analysis is from a public survey by the Community Against Drunken Driving (CADD). It was conducted over a 90-day period between May 1 and July 30, 2019. A total of **5,000 women** participated in the survey

• Respondents were between 18 and 70 years old



Nearly **37.8%** women in the age group of 18-30 years believed that driving their own vehicle was safer than public transport, especially in Delhi; women also drove drunk after arguments or when dealing with financial, health or familial problems

The survey has primarily established that more women are drinking, and women are drinking more

PRINCE SINGHAL, Road safety activist and founder of CADD



influence of alcohol, set his motorcycle ablaze.

Mr. Bundela said it was an isolated incident and cannot be seen as a trend which needs to be tackled. However, as a precautionary measure, and to protect themselves from any untoward incident, all traffic police officers have been asked to wear body cameras and use video recorders while issuing challans.

Body cameras will also keep corruption in check, said S. Velmurugan, Senior Principal Scientist and former head of the Traffic Engineering and Safety Division, CSIR CTRI.

“People trying to convince officers into not issuing challans and take money instead should be stopped. That menace should not be allowed otherwise the purpose of [traffic regula-

tions] will get defeated. Making body cameras mandatory for the police will help curb the menace,” he said.

Dr. Velmurugan said the higher traffic penalties are a welcome change. “The fines are higher but if you compare them to a developed country, the rates [here] are much lower. It will take time for people to follow the system. They will gradually accept the rules, which will directly contribute to road safety,” he said.

On-spot challans

Since the Delhi Police comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the force is implementing the Act in the city.

However, officers are not issuing on-spot challans as the Delhi government is deliberating on

the matter. All the challans currently have to be settled in court

The government is examining the various provisions of the Act before a gazette notification is issued, said officials.

Section 200 of the amended Motor Vehicles Act authorises the Delhi government to issue a Gazette notification for compounding of certain offences indicating who will be the person or official who can compound the offences and what would be the amount for such offences.

“The government is examining various revised provisions of the Act and intends to notify the legislation in the Capital soon,” the official said.

Sources claimed that the notification is likely to come by the end of next week.

Court challans

Given that only court challans are being issued currently, advocate Abhishek Kumar Pathak explained how they make lives easier for commuters.

“Now, an individual can get his traffic challan compounded even while sitting at home and making online payment. This has done away with the practice of visiting court which was a bit cumbersome process. This will also ease the workload of the traffic challan courts.”

Mr. Pathak explained that in case a person challaned for traffic violation wishes to challenge the same, he has to approach the magistrate court concerned to argue his innocence.

If the court is satisfied, he shall be discharged.

“In case he is not satisfied with the order, he can always challenge the same before a sessions judge,” Mr. Pathak said.

More appeals likely

Mr. Pathak further observed that the number of appeals in traffic challan cases could go up as the amount of fines has been increased.

He said earlier the number of people challenging traffic challans was negligible as the amount was small.

(With inputs from Hemani Bhandari, Arushi Agarwal, Jatin Anand and Soibam Rocky Singh)



Man stabbed to death for not withdrawing case; three held

Accused previously involved in kidnapping of a girl

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A 50-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly for not withdrawing an attempt to murder case that he had filed against his neighbours in south-east Delhi’s Badarpur, the police said on Sunday.

The accused have been identified as Manish alias RDX, Nishu Jha and Diwakar. They are all resident of Badarpur Extension.

In March, a quarrel had broken out between Rahul and his brother Manish, and Sourav. During the fight, Rahul stabbed Sourav.

An FIR was registered under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder) and the Arms Act. Rahul was arrested and is presently in Tihar jail.

“A few days back, Rahul met Manish and other family members during a court hearing and told them that he was desperate to come out of jail. Seeing his younger brother like that upset

Manish. Rahul’s bail request was also rejected several times,” said a police officer.

Rahul’s kin tried to reach a compromise with Sourav’s family but to no avail, said the police.

On September 4, Manish, Nishu and Diwakar consumed liquor and started looking for Sourav in the area. Around 9.30 p.m., they spotted Sourav with his father. They threatened Sourav to withdraw the case but he refused. Diwakar then attacked Sourav with a knife but he managed to save himself with a bag.

Stabbed eight times

“When Sourav’s father Ram Prakash Sharma tried to save his son, Manish caught hold of him and Nishu stabbed him in the chest four times. Diwakar stabbed him four times in the stomach. The injured was rushed to Apollo Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead,” said the officer.

An FIR under Indian Penal Code Section 302 (murder) and 307 (attempt to murder) was registered at Badarpur police station.

During investigation, the kin and friends of the suspects were questioned and the three accused were arrested within a few hours of the incident, said the police.

“A knife and blood-stained shirt of one of the accused has been recovered. The accused have been sent to judicial custody,” added the officer.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Manish was previously involved in a case of kidnapping of a girl while Nishu was involved in a case of causing serious injury to a man.

“Manish was angry as Sourav had turned down repeated attempts to reach a compromise and help his younger brother come out on bail. Manish wanted to teach Sourav a lesson,” said another police officer.

Gangster gunned down near Narela police station

Police suspect incident is related to a gang war

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old gangster was gunned down by a group of assailants in north Delhi’s Narela on Sunday in what police suspect to be a case related to a gang war.

The incident happened at 10.45 a.m. on Lampur Road in Narela Industrial area when the victim. Virender Mann alias Kale, was going to visit one of his relatives in his car with a driver.

The attackers surrounded the car of the victim and opened indiscriminate fire. They shot the victim over 20 times. The entire incident unfolded in full public view, said the police.

“More than 40 rounds were fired at the car. We ran for our lives. It all happened around 200 metres from the Narela police station,” said an eyewitness.

Police said the victim was involved in 13 heinous



The bullet-riddled car of the victim, Virender Mann.

• PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

crimes, including murder and robbery.

Driver escapes unhurt

“The driver of the car managed to escape unhurt but Virender, who was in the passenger’s seat, was seriously injured. The murder could be a fall-out of an old rivalry or personal enmity. We have formed teams to identify the attackers,” said a senior police officer.

“The white-coloured car

in which Virender was travelling was intercepted by four people travelling in another car. When his car got stuck in slow traffic, the assailants got down and opened fire on Virender’s car,” said a policeman.

Police said they are verifying the driver’s role as he is the only survivor in the attack. “A PCR van reached the spot after getting a call. The victim was shifted to Raja Harish Chander Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds,” said a policeman.

A doctor on duty at the hospital claimed there were around 20-25 bullet-entry wounds in Virender’s body.

Names of criminal gang members such as Sandeep Mental and Jitender Gogi have surfaced in relation to the case. Virender was associated with a political party and had also fought in the municipal elections, said the police.

Driver flees with ₹1.1 lakh challan money, arrested

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 57-year-old man who fled with ₹1.16 lakh belonging to his employer was arrested from Ferozabad in Uttar Pradesh, police said on Sunday.

The accused, Jhaabu alias Jakarta Hussein, is a resident of Ferozabad.

The police said that on Saturday, a transporter had lodged a complaint stating that he had to pay a fine to get a challan compounded at Rewari, Haryana, for which he had given ₹1.16 lakh to his driver Jhaabu to

go and pay the challan.

However, Jhaabu, did not reach Rewari and also stopped taking calls from his boss.

A case of criminal breach of trust was registered. A team was sent to Ferozabad to enquire about Jhaabu from his family members, a senior police officer said.

The officers found out that Jhaabu would be reaching the village soon.

The accused was arrested on Saturday evening and the entire amount was recovered from his possession.

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IN BRIEF



Two held at IGI Airport with fake tickets

NEW DELHI

Two persons, including a British national, were apprehended in separate incidents by the CISF at IGI Airport for allegedly using fake tickets to enter the terminal area, an official said on Sunday. The two men were apprehended on September 7. PTI

Three get life term for rape, murder

GURUGRAM

A court here sentenced three persons to life in jail for the gang rape and murder of a bar dancer. The crime had taken place on February 23, 2016 at Chakkharpur village when the convicts raped her before killing her at a rented house. PTI

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	77	Gurgaon	66
Ghaziabad	61	Faridabad	42
Noida	83	Greater Noida	70
Legend: Good 0-50, Satisfactory 51-100, Moderate 101-200, Poor 201-300, Very poor 301-400, Severe >401			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

Three street vendors suffer bullet injuries

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three street vendors sustained bullet injuries during a scuffle between two men over the rent of a battery in Shahdara's Geeta Colony on Sunday evening, the police said.

The police said the victims are currently out of danger.

One Mohammad Zubair, who rent out batteries to local vendors in Geeta Colony, met one Mufees, a local vendor and asked to return a battery. Mufees, however, claimed that the battery belonged to some other supplier and an argument ensued.

"Zubair who had come with three others took out a pistol and started firing indiscriminately on vendors. Two vendors got hit. People began to gather and one of the accused were held on spot, while the others fled," DCP (Shahdara) Amit Sharma said.

Property dealer arrested in 2018 murder case

Accused killed man over land dispute

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A man has been arrested from Gurugram for allegedly killing a person over a property dispute in south-east Delhi's Govindpur last year, the city police said on Sunday.

The accused, Harsh Choudhary alias Rocky, is into property dealing. He lived with his family in Kangar Mohalla in Tuglaqabad, they said.

Bounty of ₹50,000

The accused was declared proclaimed offender in the murder case by a city court here and was carrying a reward of ₹50,000 on his arrest, the police said.

The arrest was made on September 6 following a brief scuffle with the police. They had got a tip-off that Harsh would be coming to meet his associate at a hospital in Gurugram Sector 56, Deputy Commissioner

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: A group exhibition by Chanchal Ganguly, Kandi Narsimlu and Amy at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Man Mai Hain Dilli", an exhibition of watercolours by Krishnendu Chatterjee at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Eternal Reminiscence", a solo painting show by Hem Raj at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

City resident to sponsor education of student who secured seat in IIT

Youth cleared IIT Joint Entrance Exam after availing govt.'s free coaching scheme

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Sunday that a resident of Delhi has decided to sponsor the education of Vijay Kumar who had secured a seat in IIT-Delhi after availing the government's free coaching scheme.

The government said that Varun Gandhi, who lives in Defence Colony, has offered ₹2 lakh a year to Vijay. The son of a tailor and a domestic help, Vijay, had cleared the IIT JEE earlier this year. He had availed the government's Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana.

Announcing the initiative, Mr. Kejriwal said, "Vijay has recently gotten admission in IIT-Delhi. He is extremely intelligent, and has been a high scorer in school. Like Vijay, there are many bright and intelligent students who come from impoverished families. The competition, however, is such that the students who get ahead are



Arvind Kejriwal with IIT student Vijay Kumar during a press meet on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

those with resources to prepare for the competitive examinations under the guidance of reputed coaching centres. If we come together and decide to use our resources to support the needy, we can take our country to greater heights."

The Chief Minister added that Vijay would inspire people not to give up on their dreams, no matter what the circumstances are. "I promise that the Delhi government will never let lack of money and resources be a hindrance in the education of such students. We are

with you in your dreams. Educated youth is the future of the country," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Vijay said he has met several students like him who wish to get admission in IIT and now they can do it through hard work and with the help of the Delhi government.

Mr. Gandhi, addressing the media, said that he believes the Indian brains are the most intelligent ones in the world but several children do not have sufficient resources to develop and refine themselves accordingly.

"Instead of donating money to a temple, making a talented kid realise his dream is a much bigger service to God," Mr. Gandhi said.

Loan of ₹10 lakh

The Chief Minister also said that the Delhi government grants educational loans up to ₹10 lakh to students who wish to get admission in reputed institutions after Class XII. The students can repay the loan via easy instalments over a period of 15 years after passing out from the colleges and do not require any guarantee of any sort.

Inspect your houses for clean stagnant water, urges Kejriwal

CM ropes in officials, celebrities in campaign against dengue

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday tried to rope in celebrities and government officials to participate in the government's '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' campaign to fight against vector-borne diseases in the Capital, a week after its launch.

Using social media to popularise the campaign, Mr. Kejriwal urged people to inspect their home for clean stagnant water and challenged several celebrities to do the same. "In 2015, Delhi had more than 15,000 reported cases of dengue. In 2018, it was just below 3,000. The initial reports from this year are very positive. The people of Delhi have achieved this because we all came together," he said.

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal also endorsed the campaign and inspected his official residence, the Raj Niwas, to ensure there was no clean stagnant water accum-



I appeal to all to check their homes and surroundings for prevention of vector-borne diseases. Dengue-free Delhi is our goal

ANIL BAJJAL
Lieutenant-Governor

ulated anywhere on the premises. The L-G's Twitter handle posted, "Carried out inspection at residence to check for any potential sources of stagnant clean water, which can lead to breeding of Aedes mosquitoes that causes vector-borne diseases like dengue, chikungunya, etc. I appeal to all to check their homes & surroundings for prevention of vector-borne diseases. Dengue free Delhi is our goal."

The L-G has also directed the Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Commissioner of the Delhi Police to issue directions to their res-

pective departments to join the campaign launched by the Delhi government to fight dengue.

"This appeal is not limited to the Delhi government, its PSUs and institutions. I would also like to appeal to the Central government offices, PSUs and even the private sector to join this initiative," said Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev after participating in the campaign.

Celebrities like Kapil Dev, Shatrughan Sinha, Taapsee Pannu, Mahesh Bhatt, Emraan Hashmi, Javed Akhtar, Swara Bhaskar, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and several others tweeted in support of the campaign.

DCW rescues minor domestic help

Girl was allegedly forced to work without salary, beaten up

When we were rescuing the girl, the woman [employer] resisted and said she had paid the agent for the girl and would not allow her to be taken away until she recovers the amount from her



SWATI MALIWAL
Delhi Commission for Women chief

DCW, Swati Maliwal, said: "I am disgusted the way some people treat fellow human beings. Despite living in posh houses in the Capital, some people do not have basic human decency. Not only did this couple try to purchase the girl, but they also treated her outrageously. Even when we were rescuing her, the woman resisted and said she had paid the agent for the girl and would not allow her to be taken away until she recovers the amount from her."

No arrest yet

The police have registered an FIR in the matter. However, the couple and the agent are yet to be arrested.

Punjab. She was then sold to a placement agent in Delhi. The agent, she added, sent her to a couple's house in Ashok Vihar as a domestic help and she was promised a salary of ₹10,000 per month.

The girl said she soon informed her agent that she no longer wanted to work there and wanted to go back home after which the agent's wife allegedly beat her up and threatened her that she would be pushed into prostitution if she refused. The owners of the house, she alleged, also used to beat and harass her and did not even feed her properly.

The chairperson of the

'Terminator train' to fight mosquito breeding

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 'Mosquito Terminator Train' for the purpose of spraying insecticide was flagged off by leaders of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation at Shahdara Railway station on September 7.

A power sprayer placed on the train will spray insecticide in the vicinity of the railway line in east Delhi, the civic body said in a statement.

Standing Committee chief Sandeep Kapoor said that though the civic body takes steps to fight mosquito breeding regularly, usually the area around the railway tracks are left unattended. During the monsoon, water collected around the tracks increases the risk of mosquito breeding, he added. The present move, in tie-up with the Northern Railway, would help tackle this menace, he added.

A senior official said that the train will cover two EDMC zones, Shahdara South and Shahdara North, for four weeks.



The accused men in police custody. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

both then forcefully took away gold jewellery, including two necklaces, two bangles and rings and ₹1,50,000 cash, the police added.

The accused then allegedly confined the woman and the help in a room and fled, a senior police officer said.

After the matter was reported to the police, a case was registered and an investigation was taken up.

The police examined the CCTV footage and zeroed in on one of the accused, Razi, with the help of the number plate of his bike and his social media account. During interrogation, he confessed to have committed the robbery along with his accomplices, the officer said.

Subsequently, the other accused and the jeweller who purchased the jewellery from them were arrested, the officer added.

Stolen gold jewellery, ₹1 lakh cash, two two-wheelers, one countrymade pistol with one live cartridge and five mobile phones which were used in the commission of the crime were recovered, the police said.

IIM-Rohtak holds 2nd management summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Indian Institute of Management, Rohtak on Saturday organised the second management summit of this academic year at its campus.

The theme of the summit was "The Challenge of Change: Embracing it through a positive vision," which focused on the challenges posed by the changing business environment to the corporate world and how the companies are evolving and adapting to the challenges.

Several leaders from various corporate houses of the world attended the sum-



mit at the institute on Sunday.

Scrutinise change

Through this management summit, IIM Rohtak provided a platform to scrutinise various change management strategies of diverse businesses in India.

Gurdwara body to flag off bike rally next month

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) on Sunday announced that it will organise a motorbike rally from Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in the Capital to Gurdwara Fateh Garh Sahib in Punjab to spread the message of universal humanism and commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

The rally will be flagged off on October 6 and will make its way through va-

rious town and cities.

DSGMC president Manjinder Singh Sirsa said that the rally will cover a distance of around 250 km in 12 hours and will make brief halts at Kundli Border, Panipat, Karnal, Ambala and Fateh Garh Sahib where brief programmes highlighting Guru Nanak Dev's philosophy and teachings will be held.

Over one thousand bikers have signed up for the rally and a participation 1,500 bikers are expected, Mr. Sirsa said.

High Court declares constable's death in 2013 unnatural

Court directs Centre to enhance compensation to wife

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

Declaring that a CRPF constable, who was found mysteriously hanging near Dharampur railway station in Himachal Pradesh in January 2013, had died an "unnatural death", the Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to enhance the compensation paid to the deceased's wife.

A Bench of Justices Muralidhar and Talwant Singh rejected the Centre's submission that there are "no new facts/evidence" brought to their notice during re-evaluation which would indicate that the death is anything other than suicide.

The High Court's decision came on the petition of the widow of the deceased constable contesting the decision of the Court of Inquiry (CoI), instituted by CRPF, that her husband had committed suicide.

On January 9, 2013 the constable was found hanging in a bushy area near from Dharampur Railway Station.

Three of his colleagues who had accompanied him in a journey from Kalka rail-



tencies" in the CoI, such as there was no note left behind by the deceased nor was there any eyewitness.

She contended that her husband was around 6-feet-tall whereas he was said to have been found hanging from a pillar of a height of 4.7 feet and the length of the bandage/rope was 3.7 feet, making the theory of suicide by hanging entirely unbelievable.

Taking note of her argument, the High Court rejected the report of the CoI and a subsequent submission of the Deputy Inspector General of Police that no new facts/evidences came up during re-evaluation.

"The court accepts the plea that the death of the petitioner's husband should be declared as an unnatural death," the High Court said.

Risk fund, ex-gratia

It directed the Central government to pay the constable's widow a sum of ₹4 lakh from the 'Risk Fund' and another ₹10 lakh as ex-gratia amount on account of death occurring due to accident in the course of performance of duties.

DELHI ☀️ Timings		
MONDAY, SEPT. 09		
☀️ RISE	06:03	SET 18:34
🌙 RISE	15:46	SET 01:33
TUESDAY, SEPT. 10		
☀️ RISE	06:03	SET 18:33
🌙 RISE	16:30	SET 02:25
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11		
☀️ RISE	06:04	SET 18:31
🌙 RISE	17:11	SET 03:19

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	26
Safdarjang	35	26
Palam	37	26

Delhi Palam Today
37°C A hazy and humid morning with partly cloudy sky is likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
37°C Dry and very warm uneasy weather with partly cloudy sky would prevail.

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Minor killed, 3 injured in Punjab firing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
FARIDKOT

A minor died and three others were injured in a clash between two groups at a marriage function in Punjab's Kotkapura town, police said on Sunday.

One of the injured is serious.

A group, led by one Ankush, was consuming liquor at the marriage function on Saturday night, when another group, led by one Gurlal Singh, came there and started firing at them, police said.

Both the groups engaged in firing, in which a bullet hit 16-year-old Lovpreet Singh, who later died, police said.

Ankush was seriously injured and had been admitted to a hospital in Ludhiana, police said, adding that Gurlal and his companion were also injured.

An old enmity between Ankush and Gurlal is said to be the cause of fighting between the two, police said, adding that they were investigating whether those involved in the incident had any criminal record.

GoM formed to hold talks with SGPC on 'Prakash Purb': CM

Gurdwara body's charge that govt. did not attend coordination meeting rejected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Rejecting Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's charge that the Punjab government did not attend a coordination meeting on the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday said a Group of Ministers had been formed to talk to the apex gurdwara body.

Taking strong exception to SGPC's criticism against the State government for not attending the meeting on Friday, Capt. Amarinder said Cabinet Ministers Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and O.P. Soni were directed to discuss the modalities of the 'Prakash Purb' celebrations with the Parbandhak Committee.



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh



SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal

The Friday meeting was presided over by the SGPC chief.

It was not the State government that did not show interest in holding a joint function as directed by Akal Takht Sahib (highest temporal seat), but the SGPC which had been "refusing" to join the State government in celebrating the historic occasion

on a common platform, an official statement quoted the Chief Minister as saying.

Reiterating his appeal to the SGPC to support the government in commemorating the 550th birth anniversary celebrations, Capt. Amarinder urged the religious body's chief to "keep an open mind" on the issue.

Independent MLA booked for berating Gurdaspur DC

Video of incident at civil hospital has gone viral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BATALA (PUNJAB)

An independent MLA was on Sunday booked by the Punjab police for allegedly berating Gurdaspur Deputy Commissioner publicly at the civil hospital here on the issue of identity of a victim's body, with the video of the incident having gone viral.

In the video, legislator Simranjit Singh Bains is seen shouting at Deputy Commissioner Vipul Ujwal even as the officer tries to clear some confusion over the identity of a blast victim's body.

A day after the blast in a fir-cracker unit here that killed 23 people, Lok Insaaf Party chief and MLA Bains had allegedly berated Ujwal publicly at the civil hospital here.

Police have booked Lud-

hiana MLA and his unidentified 20-odd associates on charges of voluntarily obstructing and assaulting or using criminal force against a public servant from discharging his duty, committing trespass and making criminal intimidation and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Senior Superintendent of Police Opinderjit Singh said the FIR has been registered on the complaint of Batala Sub-divisional Magistrate Balraj Singh who was also present at the time of incident.

Yells at the officer

"Eh tere baap da office nahi hai. Eh public da office hai. Te tu public nu hi keh rehan ki bahar jao. (It's not your father's office, it's a public office and you are asking the

public to get out)," Mr. Bains is heard yelling at Mr. Ujwal, even as the officer is seen trying to calm the infuriated MLA in the video.

"Mera naal gal kar la pehla" (Talk to me first)," the legislator is seen telling the officer earlier in the 45-second video in presence of SSP Mr. Singh, Civil Surgeon Kishan Chand and Deputy SP Balkrishna Singla.

Refuses to see reasons

With the furious MLA refusing to see reasons, a humiliated Deputy Commissioner is heard merely quipping "I'm not going to talk to you" and seen leaving the place.

Reacting to the registration of case against him and his companions, Mr. Bains accused Chief Minister Amarinder Singh of being behind the legal action against him.

SIT records statements of law student's family members

She has accused Swami Chinmayanand of harassing her

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR (U.P.)

The Special Investigation Team on Sunday recorded statements of the family members of a law student, who has accused former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand of harassing her.

The SIT had called the family members at the district Police Lines in the afternoon for recording of their statement.

When contacted, the woman's father said over phone that investigation is going on. "Investigation is going on. I could speak to you as I had come outside," he said.

The SIT, probing allegations of harassment levelled by the law student against Mr. Chinmayanand, on Saturday visited his residence, ashram and the college run

by him where she studied, according to the college principal.

The SIT, headed by Inspector General of Police Naveen Arora, has been set up by the U.P. government on the Supreme Court's order.

'SIT at leader's house'

While police remain tight-lipped on the probe, the principal of Swami Shukdevanand Post Graduate College, where the woman studied, said the SIT which arrived on Thursday night also visited Diya Dham, the residence of Mr. Chinmayanand but could not meet him as he was out of town.

The team also visited the Mukukshu Ashram of the BJP leader and toured the five colleges run by the ashram, Principal Avnish Misra

had said on Saturday.

The team visited the college hostel where the room of the law student has already been sealed, he said.

A woman IPS officer spoke to the teachers and girl students of the college and took inputs from them, Mr. Misra said.

HC to monitor probe

The apex court had said that an Allahabad High Court Bench will monitor the probe. The woman had gone missing after levelling allegations against Mr. Chinmayanand in a video and was later found in Rajasthan by the U.P. police.

The police had on August 27 lodged an FIR against Mr. Chinmayanand after the student went missing following her allegation in a video clip.

Tribute to martyrs



Bishnois offer tribute to Amrita Devi Bishnoi and other martyrs during a fair in Jodhpur on Sunday. According to legend, 363 members of the community led by Amrita Devi died while protecting trees from being felled to build a palace in 1730. ■PTI

Officials suspended for protocol breach

Function attended by M.P. Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

Two Madhya Pradesh education department officials were suspended and a school principal issued a show-cause notice after a breach in protocol at a function attended by Governor Lalji Tandon, an official said on Sunday.

'Governor upset'

The move came after Chief Minister Kamal Nath phoned Mr. Tandon on Saturday on learning that the latter was upset over the incident, while State School Education Minister Prabhu Ram Choudhary and senior officials also met the Governor, sources said.

At a Teachers' Day func-



Governor Lalji Tandon

tion held on Friday, Mr. Tandon had to wait at his residence as Minister Choudhary was late, a development which officials termed as breach of protocol.

As per protocol, they said, the Governor leaves for a function from Raj Bhawan only after the Minister arrives at the venue.

M.P.'s Happiness Dept. to open Time Bank

It's a reciprocal service exchange which uses units of time as currency

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Whether it's a banker or a gardener, time progresses the same way for everyone, acting as an equaliser. So, the Madhya Pradesh government's Happiness Department plans to set up a Time Bank that would lend currency to an hour, which could be exchanged to learn a new skill without the need for any paper money.

Whenever a bank member needs a service or wants to acquire a skill, say gardening or playing a guitar, she could exchange a credit, worth an hour, with another member knowing the skill.

"It is a new way to link untapped social capacity to unmet social needs," said Akhilesh Argal, CEO of the State government department.

It is a new way to link untapped social capacity to unmet social needs

AKHILESH ARGAL
CEO, Happiness Department

"The core values are that we all are assets and driven by reciprocity."

50,000 volunteers

At the start, the 50,000 volunteers registered with the department through local networks will form community-level banks and list skills they could impart or services they could offer. An experienced volunteer will induct new members and keep a record of all the transactions.

Striking a note of caution, Mr. Argal said, "Since there is persisting trust deficit in so-

ciety, we'll start by forming groups with people we know." Whether you need someone to drive you to a supermarket, tend to an ailing grandmother or simply a jogging partner, it could all be sought at the bank.

Conceived at the Cincinnati Time Store in 1827, the concept gained currency with the setting up of the first Time Bank in Japan in 1973, and later when Edgar Cahn, CEO of TimeBanks USA, popularised 'Time Dollars'. Today, there are more than 500 such communities across 32 countries.

In Madhya Pradesh, time banks will enable person-to-person, person-to-agency and agency-to-agency transactions. "Members will start with zero credits, which they could gradually

acquire by imparting skills. Credits can even go in negative. And in case a skill becomes popular over time benefiting only a few members, other members will be compelled to do their mite with vigour to collect more credits," said Mr. Argal.

Common denominator

As the bank would measure all kinds of skills and services through a common denominator - time, members would view them, and those offering it, as an equal, said Mr. Argal. "Networks are stronger than individuals. Heeding different voices will help promote equality and dignity of labour." Those interested in becoming a Time Bank member could register on the department's website as a volunteer.

U.P. government on its toes ahead of SP protest

Section 144 imposed in Rampur

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

The U.P. government is on its toes ahead of the Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav's planned demonstration in Rampur on Tuesday to protest against the detention of party leader Azam Khan's son Abdullah Azam.

Mr. Yadav is arriving in Rampur on Monday for two days. "In the morning, Akhilesh will be in Bareilly to meet the family of former MLA Siyaram Sagar, who passed away recently. He will reach Rampur around 4 p.m. and meet party leader Azam Khan's family," Samajwadi Party spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said. The Rampur district administration has already imposed Section 144, which prohibits unlawful assembly, ahead of the Samajwadi Party's protest.

However, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has asked his party workers from Bareilly, Pilibhit, Sambhal, Badaun, Amroha, Moradabad and Bijnor to reach Rampur on Tuesday.



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav

SP patron Mulayam Singh has also urged the party workers to support Azam Khan.

'Stolen' books

Abdullah Azam was detained late last month after he tried to prevent State police officers from carrying out a raid at the Mohammed Ali Jauhar University, which is run by Azam Khan. In the raid, the police recovered several hundred rare books allegedly stolen from other institutes in the district.

There are more than 81 cases against Rampur MP Azam Khan.

New course to promote digital enterprise management

IIM-Udaipur launches first-ever master's programme in the field; MoUs with firms for collaboration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Taking an initiative to promote digital enterprise management, the Indian Institute of Management, Udaipur, has launched the first-ever master's programme in the field to equip professionals with working knowledge of emerging technologies and acclaimed practices.

Advisory board

The institute has also set up an Academic Advisory Board for developing the new course.

The curriculum for the 12-month residential course has

been prepared in consultation with industry experts. IIM-Udaipur director Janat Shah told *The Hindu* on Sunday that the curriculum would enable professionals to work efficiently in the emerging digital business enterprises where conventional management concepts and leadership styles were no longer relevant.

The IIM-Udaipur has signed memorandums of understanding with some leading companies for collaboration in educating its students in digital knowledge. Prof. Shah said this approach would help bridge the gap

between academia and industry and give an opportunity to the students to get a jump-start and enter the workforce with the relevant experience.

"Since the industries are ahead of us, an association with them will train our students - who will be professionals with three years' experience - in the organisational behaviour and strategies across disciplines as well in the analytics-related subjects and new technologies related to digital transformation," Prof. Shah said.

More MoUs are in the pi-

peline for collaborations focused on strategic and practical challenges of managing digital enterprises.

"For instance, IBM will give students relevant exposure to leading-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence and advanced analytics, and provide a platform for short-term projects in the digital space," said the IIM-Udaipur director.

The IIM-Udaipur, established in 2011, is currently ranked fifth in India for research in the field of management, according to the methodology used by the University of Texas at Dallas.

The institute has established a Centre for Digital Enterprise to create an environment for thought leadership in digital transformation and expand research opportunities in the field.

Begins in April, 2020

Prof. Shah said the IIM-Udaipur's Board of Governors had formally approved setting up of the Academic Advisory Board at its meeting held over the weekend. The new master's programme, for which admissions have started based on GMAT/GRE score, will begin in April 2020.

Earthquake rocks J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHADERWAH/JAMMU

A 4.9-magnitude earthquake hit Doda and Kishtwar districts of Chenab Valley region in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

There was no immediate report of any casualty or damage to property from anywhere, Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda, Mumtaz Ahmed said.

The quake occurred around 8.04 a.m. and lasted for a few seconds, causing panic among people who rushed out of their homes in Bhaderwah, Doda and Kishtwar.

What aftercare covers

- Interpersonal and social relationships
 - Financial independence and career
 - Physical health
- Affordable and adequate housing
 - Education and vocational skills
 - Mental and emotional
- wellbeing
 - Identity and legal awareness
 - Independent living skills

Life in childcare institutions



Youth who leave childcare homes struggle to survive

Aftercare found wanting; 47% of care leavers have no independent source of income, reveals study

JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI

Nearly 47% of youngsters who grew up in Maharashtra's childcare institutions did not have an independent source of income, while those who managed to get work earned just ₹8,017 per month on average, a study has revealed.

A majority of these youngsters who leave the institutions are unaware of the aftercare provisions. The study, titled, 'Beyond 18: Leaving Child Care Institutions – Supporting Youth Leaving Care' conducted by Udayan Care and supported by the UNICEF and Tata Trusts, looked at 107 'care leavers' from Maharashtra, including 74 boys and 33 girls. It said there were merely six aftercare homes for boys and one for girls in the State.

Aftercare is the support provided to young people over 18 years of age after they leave childcare institutions to help them with community integration and to live an independent life. Aftercare support is mandated by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, its rules of 2016, and child protection services.

"There is a need for effective implementation of aftercare provisions," the

study said.

In a statement, Aneesh Wadhwa, executive director of Udayan Care, called for recognition of care leavers as a vulnerable category under Central policies such as the National Youth Policy 2014, National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015, and other policies for the youth.



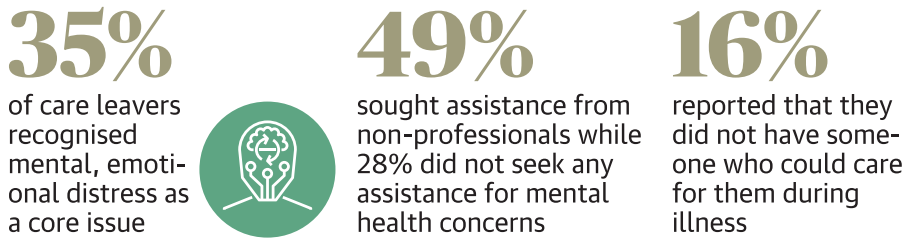
The need of the hour is more shelters at better locations. There need to be linkages between care homes where care leavers can be accommodated depending on space availability. The government can also set up more hostels where care leavers can get food and shelter until they earn better and manage to get their own space

MADHAVI MHATRE, a social worker who works in the field of child welfare

Housing



Transitioning out of care



Capt. Pawar to represent India in balloon fiesta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

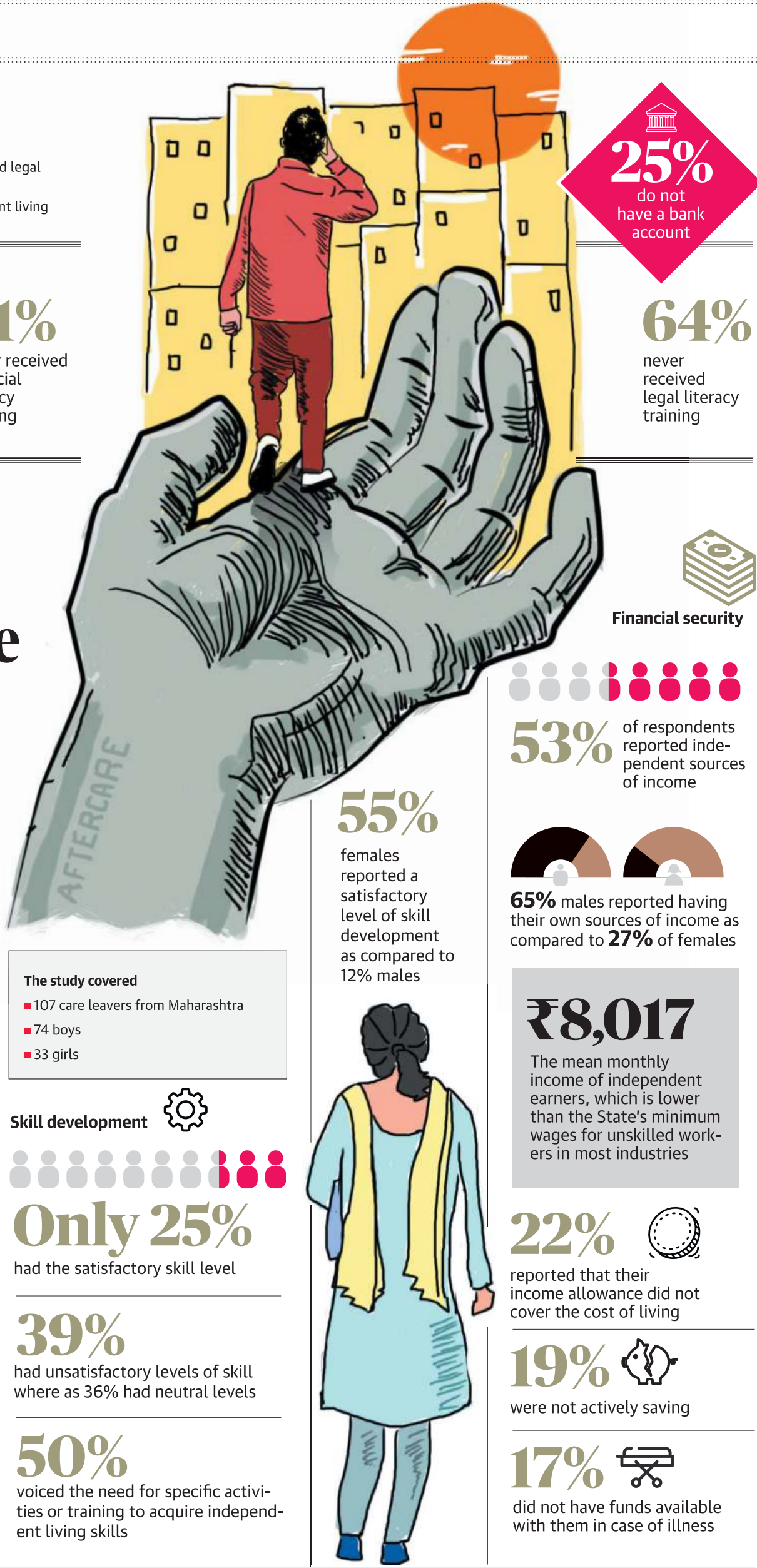
Captain Sangram Pawar will represent India for the first time at the 48th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta (AIBF) in the U.S. The event is scheduled to take place from October 5 to 13 at Albuquerque in New Mexico. AIBF is the world's biggest 'hot air balloon' gathering where over 650 pilots from 25 countries are participating, according to a statement.

On August 10, Capt. Pawar became the first pilot to fly the first hot air balloon in the history of Oman, the statement said. He also happens to be the first balloon pilot from Pune. He is the son of former Additional Director General of Police Prakash Pawar and grandson of late Shrirang Jadhav, who represented India in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics as a wrestler in the heavy-weight category.

Bracing for more havoc



Necessary precautions: Residents of Prayag Chikhali village near Kolhapur moving household items to a safer place after the Collector warned of flooding in areas near the Panchanganga river on Sunday. Danger of floods looms large over Kolhapur and Sangli after heavy rainfall and release of water from the Dudhganga, Koyana and Warna dams. The red arrow mark on the wall shows the recent flood level. ■DEEPAK KUMBHAR



Sports ministers' meet near Patel statue likely in November: minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD

A conference of sports ministers of various States is likely to be held in November at Gujarat's Kevadiya, the site of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's memorial, Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Sunday.

Mr. Rijiju said Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had agreed to his proposal and the conference will also allow participants to visit the world's tallest statue and learn about the culture of the State. The minister was here to take part in the inauguration ceremony of Sanskar Dham Sports Academy, an outfit run by a trust, and attend the opening ceremony of the State government's 10th edition of annual Khel Mahakumbh.

Apart from Mr. Rupani and Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, sports icons Mary Kom, Vishwanathan Anand, Pullela Gopichand, Deepa Malik, Gagan Narang, and Elavenil Valarivan were present.

"I have proposed to hold an all-India sports ministers' conference in November at Kevadiya, and the CM has agreed. Not only sports, but we will also get to know about Gujarat's culture and a chance to see the world's tallest statue," he said.

Mr. Rijiju praised the State for taking steps to improve its sports infrastructure. He said changes in the sports sector in the last five years have started to yield



Not only sports, but we will also get to know about Gujarat's culture and a chance to see the world's tallest statue

KIREN RIJIJU

results and claimed the country is no longer satisfied with just a few medals in international events.

"In the past, India would participate in Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth, and world championships, and would feel happy after winning 2-4 medals. But in New India, we are not going to settle for one or two medals," he said.

Mr. Rupani said government initiatives like 'Shakti-doot Yojana' have produced results with beneficiary players from the State winning 337 gold, 208 silver, and 108 bronze medals at various levels.

He said 47 lakh students will take part in the Khel Mahakumbh, with around 1.6 lakh students getting ₹40 crore worth of awards.

322 agitating gram sevaks relieved of duties in Akola

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AKOLA

Around 322 gram sevaks (village-level workers), who were on strike in Akola district over various demands including pay hike, have been relieved of their duties, an official said on Sunday. The gram sevaks had been agitating since August 22, paralysing work of the local administration and hampering the implementation of various welfare schemes.

"Therefore, they were relieved of their duties on Saturday. Their charges have been handed over to 50 contractual gram sevaks and 56

extension officers," Akola zilla parishad's chief executive officer Ayush Prasad said.

The charge of the remaining 216 posts will be handed over to principals of zilla parishad schools. "Because of the gram sevaks' strike, several works like issuance of birth and death certificates and tenders had come to a standstill. Therefore, we had to take this decision to revive the public services," Mr. Prasad said.

The village panchayats will take strict action if those who have now been assigned duties do not report to work, he said.

Rape case: swimming coach sent to 6-day police remand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

A Goa court on Sunday remanded swimming coach Surajit Ganguly, arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl training under him, in police custody for six days.

Mr. Ganguly, who had been on the run since the case was registered, was arrested in Delhi on Friday, and brought to Goa late on Saturday following which he was taken to Mapusa police station, where the offence was registered against him.

"On Sunday morning, he was produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class at Mapusa. He has been remanded in six-day police custody," Deputy Superintendent of Police Gajanan Prabhudesai said.

The Goa police were earlier granted a three-day transit custody of the accused by a Delhi court. Mr. Ganguly was employed with

the Goa Swimming Association when the alleged incident occurred in Mapusa.

The girl's father had approached Rishra police station in Hooghly district of West Bengal against Mr. Ganguly, a police officer earlier said. The Goa police later got the complaint from their West Bengal counterparts via email and registered an FIR.

After the case was registered, Mr. Ganguly travelled to different States. The Goa police then sent teams to different locations to nab him. Mr. Ganguly was apprehended from Kashmiri Gate in Delhi on Friday, Superintendent of Police (North Goa) Utkrisht Prasoos said.

He was booked under Section 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code, and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Goa Children's Act.

90 stray dogs found killed in Buldhana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

At least 90 stray dogs were found killed with their muzzles and legs tied with strings in Buldhana district, the police said on Sunday. The carcasses of the dogs were found strewn at various spots on Girda-Savaldabara Road in a forest area on Thursday evening, an official said.

"More than 100 dogs were found thrown on the road at five locations. Of them, 90 dogs were found dead while some were found to be alive," he said.

The incident came to light due to foul odour emanating from decomposing carcasses. "After villagers approached Police Patil (village police official), the forest department was informed," he said.

A case under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Indian Penal Code was registered on Sunday.





IN BRIEF

Buddhadeb's health condition improves
KOLKATA The condition of former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, 75, has improved and he remains conscious, doctors treating him at a private hospital said on Sunday. He was diagnosed with pneumonia on Saturday.

Four still missing after Odisha boat mishap

BHUBANESWAR Four persons, who had gone missing after a boat carrying nine persons capsized in the Brahmani river in Odisha's Dhenkanal district late on Saturday, remained untraceable as the search operation resumed on Sunday. Immediately after the mishap, fire service personnel were pressed into service, but they could not find the victims in the dark. Five others in the boat had swam ashore.

Parents, siblings booked in honour-killing case

SONIPAT In a suspected case of honour killing, Ritu, a 22-year-old woman from Khandrain village in Haryana was allegedly killed to death by her parents, police said on Sunday. A case under Section 302 (murder) and other sections of the IPC was registered against six persons, including her parents, sister and brother, who are absconding. PTI

TN police on lookout for Iraqi nationals

CHENNAI The Tamil Nadu police are on the lookout for two suspects who allegedly escaped from a detention centre in Baghdad with 12 others in the first week of August. Police sources said that after receiving an 'Orange Notice' by the Interpol an alert has been sounded across the State to all Commissioners/ Superintendents of Police to step up the vigil.

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



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

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Konkan & Goa, central Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, coastal & south Interior Karnataka, Andaman & Nicobar islands and Arunachal Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3.1...	34.0	26.0	Kozhikode	11.2...	32.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	0.5...	32.0	26.0	Kurnool	...	30.0	24.0
Aizawl	1.6...	25.0	12.0	Lucknow	9.6...	35.0	26.0
Allahabad	...	34.0	26.0	Madurai	...	40.0	27.0
Bengaluru	0.2...	28.0	21.0	Mangaluru	58.3...	29.0	23.0
Bhopal	22.4...	28.0	24.0	Mumbai	119.0...	30.0	24.0
Bhubaneswar	...	33.0	26.0	Mysuru	2.2...	28.0	20.0
Chandigarh	...	34.0	28.0	New Delhi	47.4...	36.0	26.0
Chennai	...	28.0	36.0	Patna	0.2...	34.0	28.0
Coimbatore	...	33.0	24.0	Port Blair	6.0...	29.0	23.0
Delhradun	69.4...	34.0	25.0	Puducherry	...	36.0	25.0
Gangtok	23.9...	21.0	18.0	Pune	2.9...	26.0	22.0
Goa	41.2...	27.0	24.0	Raipur	66.9...	30.0	24.0
Guwahati	9.2...	34.0	26.0	Ranchi	...	54.0	27.0
Hubballi	...	24.0	22.0	Shillong	4.0...	27.0	17.0
Hyderabad	...	30.0	23.0	Shimla	...	24.0	17.0
Imphal	1.3...	30.0	22.0	Srinagar	...	27.0	16.0
Jaipur	...	33.0	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	...	33.0	25.0
Kochi	14.4...	31.0	24.0	Tiruchi	...	38.0	28.0
Kohima	...	27.0	18.0	Vijayawada	...	34.0	27.0
Kolkata	19.3...	31.0	27.0	Visakhapatnam	...	32.0	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing				Yesterday			
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE	
Ahmedabad	57	63	40	...	48	61	Good
Bengaluru	12	42	71	...	95	95	Good
Chennai	9	11	92	...	53	53	Good
Delhi	150	151	...	65	96	96	Good
Hyderabad	1	10	...	22	19	19	Good
Kolkata	5	23	15	...	28	36	Good
Lucknow	8	17	63	...	41	...	Good
Mumbai	22	19	107	...	16	68	Good
Pune	74	...	67	...	21	...	Good
Visakhapatnam	6	41	35	...	32	61	Good

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

Study sheds more light on killing of American by Sentinels

A recent survey by the Anthropological Survey of India says preservation of Chau's diary is crucial as it seeks to throw more light on the incident

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA Almost nine months after American national John Allen Chau was allegedly killed by the Sentinelese on the North Sentinel Island of Andaman and Nicobar islands, a recent publication by the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) throws more light on the incident and also the ways of one of the most isolated tribes in the world.

Titled *The Sentinelese of the North Sentinel Island: A reprisal of Tribal Scenario in an Andaman Island in context of Killing of an American Preacher*, the paper published in the journal of AnSI discusses in detail the "mission" of the American national, the possibility of retrieval of the body and also the charge of murder which the police in the Andamans have pressed against "unknown tribal members of

Sentinelese Community". "The tragic death of Chau is a matter of grief, but what is equally distressing is the report that the Andaman police have registered a criminal case for murder against the unknown tribesmen," M. Sasikumar, the anthropologist who heads Maulana Abul Kalam Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIS), wrote in the paper.

Not the first time Dr. Sasikumar, in the paper running over 10 pages, stated that Chau's death was not the first time that "blood was spilled on North Sentinel Island." He pointed out that in March 1896, three convicts escaped from Andamans and drifted to the North Sentinel Island where they tried to escape in a raft made of bamboo. While two of them drowned, the third person was speared to death by the



Sentinelese tribals guarding a boat after killing two fishermen in the North Sentinel island of Andaman and Nicobar in 2006. ■ PTI/FILE PHOTO

tribal people. The second incident took place in January 2006, when two fishermen, Sunder Raj and Pandit Tiwari, were reportedly killed by the Sentinelese when the latter were illegally collecting

mud crabs in the protected area.

The publication states that there were attempts to reach out to the Sentinelese in the 1970s, which turned out to be futile.

V.K. Srivastava, Director of AnSI, however, feels that Chau was guided by some kind of "pathological curiosity" which led him to visit the island despite knowing the consequences. Explaining

that the earlier recorded visits to North Sentinel Island have been mostly for observational purposes (observation from a distance), and none of the visits were truly interactional, Dr. Srivastava said that Chau was the only person to have spent an entire day on the island, and saw the tribesmen from very close proximity, may be from an arm's length.

"On November 14, Chau left Port Blair and reached the island at night. He spent the entire day of November 15 with the Sentinelese and on the night when he met the fishermen who had transported him to the island, he gave them the dairy in which he had recorded his experience of the day," the director said. Some bits of Chau's diary, written in illegible handwriting, are in the public domain, said Dr. Srivastava.

He also emphasised that Chau's journal was an extremely important anthropological document, which should be preserved.

Chau's diary In the AnSI publication, Dr. Sasikumar also refers to the 13-page diary entry of Chau and quotes from it. "Well I have been shot by the Sentinelese... By a kid probably 10 or so years old, may be a teenager, short compared to those who looked like adults... The little kid shot me with an arrow directly into my Bible which I was holding at my chest... His high pitched voice still lingers in my head," the publication states.

"I don't want to die. Would it be wiser to leave and let someone else to continue? No I don't think so," Dr. Sasikumar quotes from the journal.

New beginnings



Celebrating together: Hiralal helps his differently abled bride Leela as they tie the knot along with 50 other differently abled and underprivileged couples at a mass wedding ceremony in Badi village near Udaipur on Sunday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

Nilgiri tahr's population up by 27% in three years

Their numbers have risen by 132 since 2016, officials say

ROHAN PREM KUMAR
UDHAGAMANDALAM In more good news for the State animal, the Nilgiri tahr, its sightings in the Mukurthi National Park have risen from 568 in 2018 to 612 this year.

Officials said this was the second consecutive year that an increase in the population of the animal had been recorded in the park, meaning the population of the Nilgiri tahr, also known as the Nilgiri ibex, has risen by 132 since 2016.

According to officials, the almost 8% increase in the population of the iconic animal in 2019 follows a similarly significant increase in its population in 2018. Officials said the upward trend was

good news, as the new data reinforced last year's findings. There was a decrease in tahr numbers in 2017, when a population of only 438 was recorded, down from 480 in 2016.

Deputy Director of Mukurthi National Park S. Senbagapriya said the yearly exercise to estimate the population of the State animal was organised in June. Ms. Senbagapriya said that preliminary findings pointed to a healthy sex ratio, slightly skewed in favor of does (female goats).

She added that efforts were being made to ensure that the 78-sq.km reserve, closed to tourists, remained relatively free of some of the species of invasive plants

that had begun their incursion into other habitats, such as Scotch broom and gorse in Avalanche. "For now, there is almost no spread of invasive plants, meaning the tahr have plenty of food and more room for the population to grow in the coming years," said Ms. Senbagapriya.

K.K. Kaushal, Field Director of Mukurthi National Park, said the almost 27% increase in the population of the tahr in the Nilgiris over the last three years showed that current conservation policies – keeping the national park closed to tourists and free from poaching, while fighting the spread of invasive flora – were bringing the desired results.

Centre asks States to identify accident-prone spots

'Give special attention to them in a time-bound manner'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued new guidelines to State governments for identifying accident 'black spots' on national highways and rectifying them and has urged them to give "special attention in a strictly time-bound manner" to the issue.

The guidelines detail the process for inspecting the spots, framing a proposal and obtaining sanctions for rectifying them, suggest a timeline for submitting an inspection report and completing the civil works.

"Based on site inspection,

preliminary survey etc., the type of interventions required may be identified and accordingly the action for taking corrective measures i.e., short-term measures and long-term measures may be initiated at the regional office level," states the letter from the Ministry's Superintending Engineer Varun Aggarwal to Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Engineers-in-Chief of PWD, Director General of Border Road and the Managing Director of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation. The letter was sent on August 26.

A black spot is defined as a stretch not more than 500m in length where five accidents have taken place or where ten fatalities have happened in the last three years.

Once the correction has been made, authorities will also monitor whether accidents have declined.

Recently, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said the government had prepared a ₹14,000-crore plan to identify black spots. The Ministry has reached out to the World Bank for funds after approval from the Ministry of Finance.

Amid acute poverty, Saharia children battle malnutrition

Premature pregnancies, higher instances of TB among children continue to afflict the particularly vulnerable tribal group

SIDHARTH YADAV
SHIVPURI/SHEOPUR

On July 9, when Akki Adiwasi returned home after working in the fields, she found her 18-month-old son lying unusually quiet, with eyes closed. She nudged him – even shook him – but to no avail. By then, Amir Awadesh, his chest shrivelled and cheeks sunken, had died of hunger.

"He didn't die of hunger. *Usse sookhe ki bimari ne cheen liya* (the disease of drought snatched him away)," quips Akki, a resident of Tiktiloti village in Sheopur district. While her husband is away in Gujarat for three months to work as an agricultural labourer for ₹150 a day, their half-an-acre arid field here lies fallow. Only milk from a few goats, short-

ing up their one-room ramshackle hut, and wheat given by neighbours, keep Akki, who is pregnant, and her other son, aged three, alive.

Loss of lives

Acute malnutrition among Saharias, a particularly vulnerable tribal group, due to crushing poverty, delayed breastfeeding, premature pregnancies and seasonal migrations is continuing to take away lives. As a result, every second child under five in the Shivpuri and Sheopur districts of central India is underweight.

Mitti Adiwasi, an anganwadi worker in Nonheta Khurd village in the Shivpuri district, breastfed her 10 children, two dead now, for the first time, three days after being delivered of them. Until then, they were fed on-



Girls are the most affected as they are not fed properly and contract diseases easily. ■ SIDHARTH YADAV

ly jaggery syrup or honey. "The first milk is impure. That's because it is extracted from breasts after nine long months," she says.

Chipping in, Danmati Adiwasi, wife of a school teacher who earns ₹22,000 a month, says, "Moreover, women become polluted at the time of

a delivery. They need to bathe after three days and only then feed newborns, otherwise the milk would only cause them harm." Right after the birth of her son a few years ago at a hospital, when she was prompted to breastfeed him, she just put his mouth to her breast,

and received ₹1,400 in the name of an institutional delivery.

According to the National Family Health Survey 2014-2015, just 43.2% of children under three were breastfed within the first hour of their birth in rural parts of Sheopur district.

Seasonal migration

Almost all the 35 families in the village, taking their children along and leaving behind the elderly, migrate to Rajasthan and Agra to harvest wheat and potatoes every year.

When families returned in July this year, the anganwadi workers noticed that more number of children had come back weaker. While three boys and four girls out of 83 children were underweight in April, 15 girls and



Three policemen were injured in the incident. ■ ANI

Madhuban Desi village on Friday. Muzaffarpur Senior Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar said the policemen were attacked when

they went to take possession of the bodies. The police fired in the air to disperse the mob. However, three policemen were injured in the incident and taken to the primary health centre. Additional police forces were sent to control the situation, Mr. Kumar added.

The villagers alleged that the two youths were beaten to death and their bodies dumped near the rivulet by someone, but the policemen said *prima facie* it was a case of drowning.

"The cause of death is yet to be ascertained," Mr. Kumar told journalists in Muzaffarpur.

four boys are in the category this month.

"Girls are most affected as parents mostly take them along with them to fields where they are neglected, wander under the sun, don't get food, and contract diseases easily during the monsoon," says an anganwadi worker.

Seven individuals in the village, including children, suffer from tuberculosis (TB). Ajay Yadav, a social worker who has been working in the area for 18 years, believes higher incidence of tuberculosis among Saharias is linked to the high malnutrition level among them and vice versa. An Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study revealed that, among Saharias, TB prevalence is an alarming 1,995 per 1,00,000 persons.



So close, yet so far

Chandrayaan-2 might have failed in an objective, but the mission itself is not a failure

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) came tantalisingly close to creating history in the early hours of September 7 when the robotic lander Vikram followed the predetermined descent trajectory and came just within 2 km of the lunar surface before contact was lost. While it is unfortunate that the lander failed to safely touchdown, it is apt to remember that ISRO was attempting powered landing for the first time. To put it in perspective, there have been 38 attempts so far by other countries to land a rover on the moon and have succeeded only a little more than half the time. This April, Israel's Beresheet lunar lander crashed to the lunar surface. But early January this year, China's Chang'e-4 touched down on the lunar far side and deployed the Yutu-2 rover to explore the South Pole-Aitken basin. In Vikram, the velocity was successfully reduced from about 6,000 km per hour at the start of the descent at 35 km altitude to a few metres per second before communication snapped. That strongly indicates that powered landing went as per plan till about 2 km altitude from the lunar surface.

While the powered landing of Vikram and exploration of the moon's surface for 14 earth days by the Pragyan rover were one of the main objectives of Chandrayaan-2, it is wrong to think that the mission itself has failed. On the contrary, 90-95% of the mission objectives have already been "accomplished". The orbiter is safe in the intended orbit around the moon. And with the "precise launch and mission management", its life span will extend to almost seven years. Carrying eight of the 13 payloads, the orbiter will spend the next nearly seven years making high-resolution maps of the lunar surface, mapping the minerals, understanding the moon's evolution, and most importantly looking for water molecules in the polar regions. Some of the impact craters in the South Pole are permanently shadowed from sunlight and could be ideal candidate sites to harbour water. Water on the moon would, in principle, be used for life support and manufacturing rocket fuel. With the U.S. wanting to send astronauts to the South Pole by 2024, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in particular, will be keen on data from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter. The ISRO's Moon Impact Probe and NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper on board Chandrayaan-1 had already provided evidence of the presence of water in the thin atmosphere of the moon, on the surface and below. A NASA study last year found regions, within 20° of each pole in general and within 10° in particular, showed signs of water. The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter will now possibly reconfirm the presence of water on the moon.

Italy afloat

The rise of the far right has been halted, but the respite might be temporary

Rome's unlikely ruling coalition of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) and the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) seems free of the many unwieldy elements of the previous government. To begin with, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte would now command greater functional independence. Earlier, he was hamstrung by two deputies from the M5S and its former ally, the far-right League, whose antagonism weighed on the 14-month long coalition. As Interior Minister, the League's leader, the hard-line anti-immigrant Matteo Salvini, adopted a hostile stance on the rescue of refugees stranded at sea, in the Mediterranean. Under the stewardship of a known immigration expert, Italy can hope to return to a course consistent with (EU) policy it had helped shape during the onset of the refugee crisis earlier this decade. Similarly, there will be relief in Brussels over the appointment of an influential PD member of the European Parliament to the economy portfolio. Under his predecessor, the bloc was faced with the risk of a deliberate breach of its already shaky fiscal rules. Worse, given the size of its economy, Rome's threat to quit the Euro single currency was far more potent than Greece's in 2015, sending financial markets into a tizzy. A key plank of the new coalition is to expand education, research and to stimulate growth.

As Foreign Minister, the M5S leader Luigi Di Maio would be obliged to temper his populist anti-EU rhetoric, which at times bordered on suggestions to the effect that Italy, one of the EU's founder-members, would withdraw from the bloc. The coalition has been granted additional legitimacy following its online ratification by the M5S's vast membership. But the unusual coming-together of the two traditional adversaries was brought about by the intervention of veterans Beppe Grillo and former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, respectively. They overruled their parties from going for a general election, given that the M5S is the largest in Parliament and much of its term still remains. That move spectacularly wrong-footed Mr. Salvini, who in mid-August pulled the plug on the coalition with M5S, following the League's emergence as the largest party in May's European elections. He has already attacked the new government as one engineered by Paris and Berlin. With his incendiary campaign, Mr. Salvini continues to receive high poll ratings and strong populist backing. Frictions in the new coalition would be apt for him to force an election. Governance by consensus would therefore have to form the operative principle. Mr. Conte has been reported to have emerged from his relative political inexperience during the recent crisis, confronting Mr. Salvini's sectarian agenda and enabling the coalition to close ranks. The good former professor would know that the far-right's current halt in Italy is but temporary. More needs to be done to keep Italy afloat.

Throttled at the grass roots

Local governments remain hamstrung and ineffective — mere agents to do the bidding of higher level governments



T.R. RAGHUNANDAN

Democratic decentralisation is barely alive in India. Over 25 years after the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments (they mandated the establishment of panchayats and municipalities as elected local governments) devolved a range of powers and responsibilities and made them accountable to the people for their implementation, very little and actual progress has been made in this direction. Local governments remain hamstrung and ineffective; mere agents to do the bidding of higher level governments. Democracy has not been enhanced in spite of about 32 lakh peoples' representatives being elected to them every five years, with great expectation and fanfare.

The ground report

Devolution, envisioned by the Constitution, is not mere delegation. It implies that precisely defined governance functions are formally assigned by law to local governments, backed by adequate transfer of a basket of financial grants and tax handles, and they are given staff so that they have the necessary wherewithal to carry out their responsibilities. Above all, local governments are to report primarily to their voters, and not so much to higher level departments.

Yet, none of this has happened, by a long shot. Where did we go wrong? Was the system designed to fail?

The Constitution mandates that panchayats and municipalities shall be elected every five years and enjoins States to devolve functions and responsibilities to them through law. This is regarded as a design weakness, but on closer

look, is not one. Given diverse habitation patterns, political and social history, it makes sense to mandate States to assign functions to local governments. A study for the Fourteenth Finance Commission by the Centre for Policy Research, shows that all States have formally devolved powers with respect to five core functions of water supply, sanitation, roads and communication, streetlight provision and the management of community assets to the gram panchayats.

Key issues

The constraint lies in the design of funding streams that transfer money to local governments. First, the volume of money set apart for them is inadequate to meet their basic requirements. Second, much of the money given is inflexible; even in the case of untied grants mandated by the Union and State Finance Commissions, their use is constrained through the imposition of several conditions. Third, there is little investment in enabling and strengthening local governments to raise their own taxes and user charges.

The last nail in the devolution coffin is that local governments do not have the staff to perform even basic tasks. Furthermore, as most staff are hired by higher level departments and placed with local governments on deputation, they do not feel responsible to the latter; they function as part of a vertically integrated departmental system.

If these structural problems were not bad enough, in violation of the constitutional mandate of five yearly elections to local governments, States have often postponed them. In 2005, when the Gujarat government postponed the Ahmedabad corporation elections, a Supreme Court constitutional bench held that under no circumstances can such postponements be allowed. Subsequently, the Supreme Court rejected other alibis for election postponement,



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

such as delays in determining the seat reservation matrix, or fresh delimitation of local government boundaries. Yet, in Tamil Nadu, panchayat elections have not been held for over two years now, resulting in the State losing finance commission grants from the Union government.

Downside of centralisation

Successive Union governments have made a big noise about local involvement in a host of centrally designed programmes, but this does not constitute devolution. Indeed, the current Union government has further centralised service delivery by using technology, and panchayats are nothing more than front offices for several Union government programmes. The beaming of homilies over the radio to captive audiences of local government representatives does nothing to strengthen local governments.

Union programme design for cities is inimical to decentralisation. The 'Smart City' programme does not devolve its funds to the municipalities; States have been forced to constitute 'special purpose vehicles' to ring fence these grants lest they are tainted by mixing them up with municipality budgets. There cannot be a greater travesty of devolution.

Sadly, except for a few champions of decentralisation in politics and civil society, people do not distinguish the level of government that is tasked with the responsibility of delivering local services. Therefore, there is no outrage when the local govern-

ment is shortchanged; citizens may even welcome it.

On corruption

Are local governments as corrupt as they are alleged to be? Doubtless, criminal elements and contractors are attracted to local government elections, tempted by the large sums of money now flowing to them. They win elections through bribing voters and striking deals with different groups. Furthermore, higher officers posted at the behest of Members of Legislative Assemblies, often on payment of bribes, extract bribes from local governments for plan clearances, approving estimates and payments. Thus, a market chain of corruption operates, involving a partnership between elected representatives and officials at all levels. Yet, there is no evidence to show that corruption has increased due to decentralisation. Decentralised corruption tends to get exposed faster than national or State-level corruption. People erroneously perceive higher corruption at the local level, simply because it is more visible.

To curb these tendencies, first, gram sabhas and wards committees in urban areas have to be revitalised. The constitutional definition of a gram sabha is that it is an association of voters. Because of our erroneous belief that the word 'sabha' means 'meeting', we try to regulate how grama sabha meetings are held and pretend that we are strengthening democracy. Cosmetic reforms of the gram sabha by videography of their meetings, does little for democracy. Consultations with the grama sabha could be organised through smaller discussions where everybody can really participate. Even new systems of Short Message Services, or social media groups could be used for facilitating discussions between members of a grama sabha.

Second, local government organisational structures have to be strengthened. Panchayats are bur-

dened with a huge amount of work that other departments thrust on them, without being compensated for the extra administrative costs. Local governments must be enabled to hold State departments accountable and to provide quality, corruption free service to them, through service-level agreements.

Third, we cannot have accountable GPs, without local taxation. Local governments are reluctant to collect property taxes and user charges fully. They are happy to implement top-down programmes because they know that if they collect taxes, their voters will never forgive them for misusing their funds. The connection between tax payment and higher accountability is well known, but we wish to ignore these lessons.

India's efforts in decentralisation represent one of the largest experiments in deepening democracy. Decentralisation is always a messy form of democracy, but it is far better than the operation of criminal politicians at the higher level who appropriate huge sums of tax-payer money, without any of us having a clue. We can keep track of corrupt local government representatives; at the higher level, we will never know the extent of dirty deals that happen.

We have given ourselves a reasonably robust democratic structure for local governance over the last two decades and more. It is for us to give life to this structure, through the practice of a robust democratic culture. Be warned; if we do not tell our higher level governments to get off our backs so that we can better govern ourselves, they will not. It is as important to tell higher level governments to stay away as it is for us to hold our local governments to account.

T.R. Raghunandan is former Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Government of Karnataka and former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. He is also Adviser, Accountability Initiative, Centre for Policy Research

Trump, Europe and the Iran effect

The Iran crisis reflects the strains between the U.S. and Europe over the U.S. President's maximalist political approaches



RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

Last month, the impromptu visit of the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, to the G-7 summit caught many leaders, especially the U.S. President, Donald Trump, off guard. Mr. Zarif was in Biarritz, the venue, at France's behest and though there were no meetings or negotiations with the American delegation, he was able to meet with the French President, Emmanuel Macron, and continue discussions about recent initiatives between the Presidents of Iran and France on the Iranian nuclear issue.

European leaders, and France in particular, have highlighted the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" plan in regard to Iran being a way with no end. And this was why they had decided to try and keep the nuclear deal going despite Iran's seizure of tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. The division between the European Union (EU) and the U.S. over Iran has been one of the most pressing security challenges since Mr.

Trump decided last year to abandon the deal that was struck in 2015. The European nations want to preserve the deal, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), even if they seem worried about a growing list of violations by Iran of the deal.

Iran has deliberately violated its terms by producing more low-enriched uranium than the agreement permits.

Ensuring energy security

First and foremost, the major reason is that Europe needs to keep the Persian Gulf open to guarantee the flow of oil and ensure its economic security. However, on this issue, France and Germany have refused to join the American plan called "Project Sentinel" to protect ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz. Second, the Europeans are fearful of getting involved in another war in West Asia which they do not want. The truth is that they do not trust that Mr. Trump will keep his word: that he will not attack Iran.

Third and last, the Europeans have been trying to find ways for their businesses to work around American sanctions on Iran. France, Germany and the United Kingdom have developed a mechanism to trade with Iran legally using a trading system known as INSTEX, short for Instrument in



Support of Trade Exchanges. It has been designed to permit countries to trade with Iran without the use of American dollars, so as to avoid the U.S. financial system. For many European companies, the risk of facing sanctions because of trade with Iran outweighs any gain from trading with the Islamic Republic and more specifically the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) which is targeted by the U.S. as a terrorist organisation.

No appetite for war

The Iran crisis and the debate it has fuelled reflects the strains between the U.S. and Europe over the maximalist political approaches of the U.S. President. But it also shows the wariness of America's allies about the war-mongering intentions of Mr. Trump's hawkish advisers to provoke a war with Iran no matter what the consequences are for the rest of the world. As such, the G-7 summit

was not a success, especially with the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, trying to make a move against the EU on the JCPOA with the need to keep Mr. Trump on his side for an eventual trade deal following Brexit. Let us not forget that relations between Iran and the U.K. are not as rosy as one might think. Iran's recent seizure of a U.K.-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz has thrust the relationship between London and Tehran into deep turmoil. This comes at a sensitive time when the Europeans are trying to salvage the Iranian nuclear deal.

Regional politics

As can be seen, no European country wants to trigger a military confrontation with Iran, one which would draw in other regional states and non-state actors. Despite the drone war between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia and the Lebanon Hezbollah and Israel which risks drawing in Iran in a new war in West Asia, European powers could play a major role in ending U.S.-led economic warfare against Iran and building a more effective diplomatic process in West Asia.

However, the reality is that at this time the situation is at a deadlock. It appears that the Trump administration will need to make its own calculations, without the

advice of its partners, in light of the costly setbacks that some of its recent policies have experienced in the region.

As for the Iranian government, the most immediate priority for containing public unrest and preventing social instability inside the country is to ask for help from France and Germany in finding a way out of the current economic crash dive. But ultimately, Iran will need to show some signs of flexibility that could possibly lead to a situation where some of the arrangements arrived at in the nuclear deal are enlarged and applied to other key issues; these could include a mutually acceptable range for Iran's missile forces as well as Iran's clandestine military adventures with the help of the IRGC in countries such as Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

Consequently, if it is true that the Islamic Republic still does not possess nuclear weapons and its conventional capabilities are still no match for those of the U.S., it is also clear that Iran has hybrid warfare capabilities and an expanded network of proxies and allies in the region which gives it a sharpened capacity to practise its hegemony in West Asia.

Ramin Jahanbegloo is Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace, Jindal Global University, Sonapat

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.

Not a setback

The inability of the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-2 mission to make the needed and expected 'soft landing' on the moon's hitherto uncharted 'South Pole' broke a billion and more hearts. Still, what the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s complex lunar mission achieved and is set to achieve with the orbiter still safe around the moon was and would be remarkable enough to fill us with pride. It is not for nothing that the Chandrayaan-2 mission has come in for praise from NASA. The last minute glitch caused by 'hard brake' that possibly spun the lander out of control was not a failure, but a deferred success in that it is only a matter of time before

the ISRO clears the final hurdle. To quote Rabindranath Tagore, tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection. It is a misnomer to call the faltering in the last leg a 'setback' as there is nothing called 'setback' when it comes the pursuit of knowledge in the realm of science (Front page, "ISRO scientists work to decode Chandrayaan-2 lander failure", Sept. 8).

G. DAVID MILTON, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Doval's claim

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval needs to explain the basis of his claim that a majority of Kashmiris support the Centre's decision on Article 370 (Front page story, Sept. 8). Did he carry out any

scientific survey to ascertain the people's response? His admission that restoration of normalcy will be dependent on Pakistan's actions betrayed the Centre's helplessness when it comes to reining in a recalcitrant neighbour. We need to ask the government: By continuing with the prohibitory orders, are we not aiding Islamabad in its sinister aims?

S.K. CHOUDHURY, Bengaluru

Need for an Indian NHS

The lack of competent primary care bedevils our health system. Unless this is addressed, our pitiable health statistics cannot be rectified (Editorial page, "Empowering primary care practitioners," Sept. 7).

Despite having an excellent template provided by the Bhore Committee report, we have not made much progress in this area. Having qualified at a time when all medical education was in the public sector and having also witnessed the decline in standards after private medical colleges came to prominence, I am convinced that health care and medical education should fully be in the public sector. The inferiority of the private health care system of the U.S. in comparison with the public health services of the European countries should show us the way. Perhaps, we do need our own Aneurin Bevan to get us a National Health Service.

D. RAGHUNATH, Bengaluru

New format

I was taken aback to see the Sunday Magazine's new format as, for the past few months, I had been enjoying its 32-page tabloid version. I am sure most readers will concur with me when I say that the earlier format was better. I request you to restore it.

TILAK SUBRAMANIAN V., Udupi, Karnataka

A household name

The passing of leg-spinning great Abdul Qadir is a loss to the game of cricket. He blossomed under the

captaincy of Imran Khan, who played a key role in shaping the spinner into a household name. Qadir's bumpy and long run-up, and his ability to extract sharp spin both ways made him unplayable at times. There is a tale that on a hot day with the temperature touching 40°C, despite bowling unchanged, he spent the tea break helping the opposition leggie with his craft.

R. SIVAKUMAR, Chennai

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the news report headlined "Shehla Rashid booked on sedition charge" (Sept. 7, 2019), the reference to IPC Section 153 (*wantedly* giving provocation with intent to cause riot) should be corrected to read as *wantonly* giving provocation with intent to cause riot.

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An arbitrary transfer, a graceful resignation

The ‘downgrading’ of Chief Justice Vijaya K. Tahilramani amounts to humiliation of a judicial officer

R. VAIGAI, ANNA MATHEW & S.DEVIKA

The transfer of Chief Justice Vijaya K. Tahilramani from the Madras High Court to Meghalaya is shocking and disconcerting. She had presided over a court of 75 judges and administered a subordinate judiciary in 32 districts in addition to the Union Territory of Puducherry. In contrast, the Meghalaya High Court has only three judges and a subordinate judiciary in just seven districts.

The transfer of a Chief Justice from one of the bigger High Courts to one of the smallest High Courts in the country is an obvious case of downgrading and amounts to public humiliation of the highest judicial officer in a State. Her response to this humiliation has been graceful but resolute – resignation.

Earlier, in 2017, Justice Jayant Patel, who was slated to be appointed Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, had resigned when he was transferred to the Allahabad High Court. Significantly, he was a member of the Bench of the Gujarat High Court that had ordered a CBI probe in the Ishrat Jahan encounter case.

A vulnerable high office?
Is the constitutionally protected office of a High Court judge so vulnerable? If yes, something is rotten in the State of Denmark!

The Supreme Court derives its power to select, appoint and transfer judges from its verdicts in Three Judges Cases. After a spate of “punishment transfers” of upright judges by the Central government during the Emergency in 1975, the judiciary arrogated to itself the power in order to preserve judicial independence. Thus, the collegium system consisting of the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court was put in place.

However, the apex court’s power to transfer is not unfettered and absolute and can only be carried out in public interest for better administration of justice. The Supreme Court can order a judge’s transfer to improve the functioning of either of the High Courts or if there are close relatives of the judge practising in the same Court. The apex court can also do so if the judge has litigation or property interest in the State or has become controversial and so her



“The transfer of Justice Vijaya K. Tahilramani to a smaller court defies logic.” The Justice at the inauguration of a court building in Chennai. • M. KARUNAKARAN

continuance in the same High Court is not conducive.

In the case of Justice Tahilramani, though the collegium’s recommendation stated that the transfer was made “in the interests of better administration of justice,” the lack of public interest is glaring. The judge has conducted herself with dignity befitting the high office, has not been mired in any controversy, and does not have any close relatives practising in Tamil Nadu.

In the past, the functioning of the collegium has attracted much criticism, largely due to aberrations in certain selections and transfers. Retired Supreme Court judge, Justice Ruma Pal, had in 2011 called the functioning of the body a “mystique” shrouded in “secrecy”. Later, the government’s attempt to have a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was rejected by the Supreme Court in 2015 and the system of collegium has continued with its opaqueness and inconsistencies.

Ironically, Justice A.K. Mittal, who has been recommended to replace Justice Tahilramani, was superseded in 2018 when the collegium found his junior Justice Surya Kant to be “more suitable” for the position of Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice. He was later appointed in May 2019 to head one of the smallest High Courts. Hence, the collegium’s recommendation to have him replace Justice Tahilramani, who has had

three stints as acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, defies logic. The transfer appears arbitrary, coming at a time when Justice S. Manikumar, a judge junior to her, has been recommended for appointment as Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, which has a larger strength than its counterpart in Meghalaya.

In recent times, despite its judicial pronouncements in cases such as the entry of women into Sabarimala and triple talaq, the Supreme Court has not exactly covered itself with glory in cases of women on its administrative side. The transfer of the highest-ranked woman High Court judge in the country will only dent the credibility of the collegium further.

Transparency needed
The most pertinent question here is whether the transfer serves the interests of administration of justice for the people of Tamil Nadu. The Supreme Court cannot function as a sentinel of justice unless it puts its own house in order. Its functions, both judicial and administrative, have to be transparent and accountable. Courts have in the past held illegal executive orders passed without reason. The same should apply to the administrative actions of the apex court’s collegium.

Due to the puzzling facts relating to Justice Tahilramani’s transfer, rumours are rife on social media and in court corridors. The media has re-

ported that the transfer is a reaction to her judgment in the *Bilkis Bano* case that concerned the Gujarat riots of 2002. It is also speculated by some that personal prejudices of some Supreme Court judges resulted in the transfer. One would like to believe that these rumours are false.

Here, Justice Ruma Pal’s revelations in 2011 that consensus in the collegium was often arrived at by “trade-offs” with “disastrous consequences” and that “sycophancy” and “lobbying” had coloured the appointments are ominous. Such actions shake the faith of the public in the judges’ functioning.

Checking the collegium
In 1977, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer warned in the *S.H. Sheth* case that “public power is a lofty trust to be operated and, if private impulses or public aberrations play upon the exercise, the Court shall quash the lawless fiat.” The collegium is not a creation of the Constitution, but of the court itself. Yet, when the collegium’s decisions are called into question for having been influenced by extraneous considerations, there is no institutional check.

In the general atmosphere prevalent now where even constitutional functionaries are kowtowing to the powers that be, Justice Tahilramani, by resigning, stands tall as a pillar of courage. One is reminded of Justice H.R. Khanna, who had braved intense political pressure to dissent in the *ADM Jabalpur* case (*Habeas Corpus* case) during the Emergency and chose to resign when faced with supersession.

The resignation of a judge with 17 years of judicial service, just a year before her retirement, has to raise alarm bells about the health of the system. Judges of High Courts enjoy constitutional tenure and protection and cannot be subjected to public shame for undisclosed reasons. Any arbitrary transfer by the Supreme Court collegium reduces the High Court judges to a subordinate status. Further, the collegium system, by its opacity, has failed to build a fearless and strong judiciary and serve the public interest. *Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes* (Who will guard the guards themselves)?

R. Vaigai, Anna Mathew and S. Devika are advocates at the Madras High Court

FROM THE READERS’ EDITOR

A disturbing downward spiral

When fundamental rights are being trampled upon, it’s the duty of the press to stand with its citizens



A.S. PANNEERSELVAM

Vijay. S. Raghavan, a reader from Navi Mumbai, often writes to *The Hindu*. His interests include the Indian Readership Survey, typography and newspaper design, sports, and economics. He frequently compares and contrasts the way various English language newspapers publish a story and shares his views with us. Mr. Raghavan took serious exception to my last column, “Selective silence leads to calamities” (September 2). His contention was that no one is sure who is right and who is wrong on the Jammu and Kashmir situation.

After criticising the role played by the political families of Jammu and Kashmir, including the Abdullahs and Mufti Sayeeds, Mr. Raghavan contended that the Modi government should be given a long rope to bring about law and order in the region. He then spoke of the exodus of Pandits from the Valley and said that no media came to their rescue then. He cited cross-border terrorism to justify the curbing of freedom of both the citizens of Kashmir and the media. He declared that there is “no use in lamenting on the freedom of press under these unusual circumstances in Kashmir.”

A flawed argument
There are many problems with Mr. Raghavan’s contention. They go against the grain of responsible journalism and the commitment of the state to its own citizens. Since 2014, an oft-repeated argument from some is that the media should refrain from premature criticism when the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government announces certain policies and the government should be given the benefit of the doubt and time to prove itself. This was the refrain when the huge economic fiasco called demonetisation was unleashed on citizens. It grew louder when the government failed to smoothly roll out the Goods and Services Tax.

The government’s failures are evident on multiple fronts. In the realm of foreign policy, India’s relationship with every neighbouring country is under strain. In the area of cooperation with developed economies, the failure to gain entry into the Nuclear Sup-

Saudis have lost the Yemen war

They have no credible ally on the ground and no effective strategy to turn around the war

STANLY JOHNY

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are allies. When they launched the Yemen offensive in March 2015, their common goal was to defeat the Shia Houthi rebels, who had captured the capital Sana’a. After over four years, they are not even close to meeting this goal, and there are growing frictions within the anti-Houthi coalition.

The Yemeni government, which Riyadh is backing, is headquartered in the southern port city of Aden and is practically operating from Saudi Arabia where the Yemeni President is residing. Aden was captured by southern separatists, who were part of the Saudi coalition, last month. The separatists are backed by the UAE, Saudi Arabia’s partner. Late last month, Emirati warplanes carried out airstrikes against Yemeni government troops, backed by Saudi Arabia, which were trying to recapture Aden from the UAE-backed separatists. In practical terms, there are three power centres and multiple militias in today’s Yemen: The Houthis, who control Sana’a and the northern towns, the southern separatists who are strong in and around Aden, and the internationally recognised government that is run from Saudi Arabia.

Weak on the ground
How did Saudi Arabia lose the war? Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the main architect of the war, may have thought Yemen would be a cakewalk for the Saudi troops. The Houthis lacked real battleground experience and are nothing in terms of a conventional military force against the Saudi war machine. The Saudis also enjoyed the support of the U.S., and had a coalition of Sunni Muslim countries backing them. The plan was to oust the Houthis quickly and restore the Saudi cherry-picked administration of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi in Sana’a.

But the Saudi coalition was weak on the ground. Former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the troops loyal to him joined hands with the Houthis in a tactical alliance. President Hadi, who is living in Saudi Arabia, has been anything but an inspiring, charismatic wartime leader. Within the coalition, there has been historical mistrust between the pre-

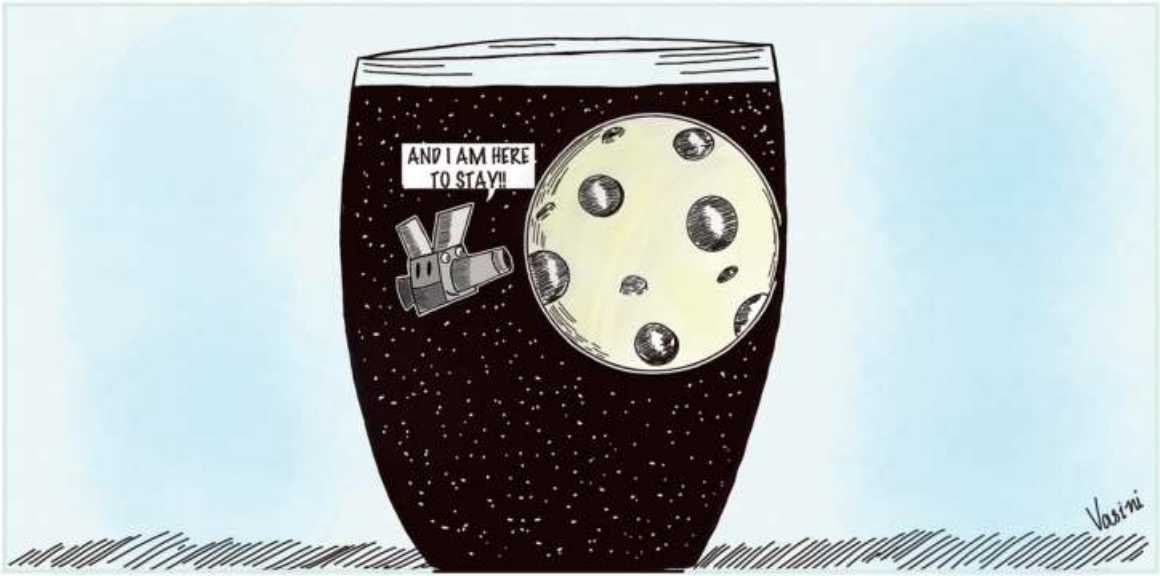
dominantly northerners-dominated government troops and the rebels in the south, who want the south to be a separate country.

The Houthis, on the other side, got support from Iran. They did not just prevent Sana’a from being recaptured, but also started attacking Saudi Arabia with short-range missiles and drones. The Saudi plan was to turn the war around using air power. But the problem is that air power alone doesn’t win a war; credible allies are needed on the ground, which Saudi Arabia lacked. Its excessive use of air power has turned Yemen into a humanitarian catastrophe: thousands have been killed, hundreds of thousands displaced, and the country pushed to the brink of a famine.

When it came evident that Saudi Arabia was not winning the war, fissures started emerging within the coalition. To stabilise the country, Saudi Arabia has turned to Islah, a political Islamist party in Yemen that has roots in the Muslim Brotherhood. The UAE is opposed to it. It began betting directly on the Southern Transitional Council, the separatists based in Aden. The UAE’s calculus is that even if the war slips into a stalemate, it could retain its influence in Aden, which is a strategically important port that offers access to the Arabian Sea as well as to the Horn of African coast.

Unclear role
The U.S. has signalled that it will facilitate talks among the multiple factions in Yemen through Oman, a neutral player. But it’s still not clear what Saudi Arabia will do. The Saudis hold the key to peace in Yemen. But they are also a strategically weak point. They haven’t got Sana’a. They have almost lost Aden. The government they back is practically a ghost government of militias that are on the loose. Prolonging the war is also not an option. Having no credible ally on the ground and no effective strategy to turn around the war, dragging on the conflict would only pull Saudi Arabia further deeper into the morass. The sooner the Saudis realise that they have lost the war, the better it will be for everyone, including the devastated Yemeni public.

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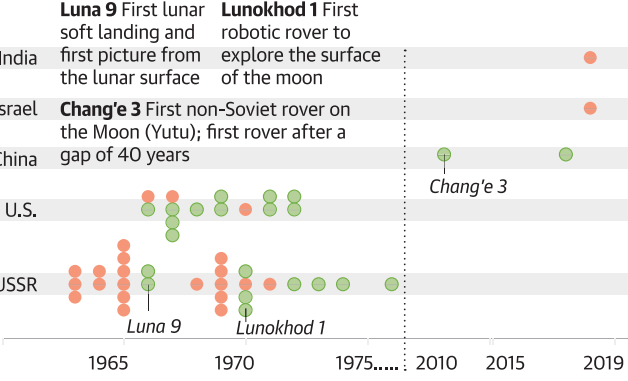
DATA POINT

It is rocket science

India’s Chandrayaan-2 “Vikram” lander failed to touch base with the moon. Difficulties in landing missions have been evident in the fact that the success rate has been less than 50% for such missions. This is unlike orbiter-only missions (with a success rate of 65.6%).
By Varun B. Krishnan

Moon landings

It took 12 lander-based moon missions for success to be achieved by the USSR in 1966 after its first launch in 1963. The U.S. began later but achieved success more quickly. Lunar missions were undertaken by China nearly four decades after the last one by the USSR in 1976



Failure-prone | Table shows the number of moon lander missions (includes landers, rovers and sample returns). The overall success rate is only 46.8%, only China’s has been 100%

Nation	No. of missions	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful
China	2*	100%	0%	0%
India	1	0%	100%	0%
Israel	1	0%	0%	100%
U.S.	14	78.6%	0%	21.4%
USSR	28	28.6%	7.1%	64.3%
Total	47	46.8%	6.4%	46.8%

All of China’s seven moon missions (including landers) have been successful. The former USSR had the most missions

Space agency	USSR	U.S.	China	India
Total missions	50	47	7	2
Successful	42%	60%	100%	50%

Others: Japan: 2(100%), EU: 1(100%), Israel: 1(0%)
Source: NASA

Landing trouble | Table shows that the success rate is only 37.5% for Lander missions. Orbiter missions are the most common and they have an average success rate of 65.6%

Mission type	Total missions	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful
Flyby	12	58.3%	16.7%	25%
Impact	14	35.7%	7.1%	57.1%
Lander	24	37.5%	0	62.5%
Lander, Rover	1	100%	0	0
Orbiter	32	65.6%	9.4%	25%
Orbiter, Lander, Rover	1	0	100%	0
Orbiter/ Impact	5	100%	0	0
Orbiter/ Sample Return	9	77.8%	11.1%	11.1%
Rover	4	75%	0	25%
Sample Return	8	25%	12.5%	62.5%
Total	110	54.6%	8.2%	37.3%

pliers Group stands out like a sore thumb. If supporters of the government had avoided this argument then, the economy would not have reached its present nadir. The latest estimates for GDP show that year-on-year growth in the April-June period slid for a fifth straight quarter to 5%, the slowest pace in more than six years. An editorial in this newspaper, “On the edge” (September 4), documented the slowdown in some of the key areas. It said: “Disconcertingly, the mainstay of demand – private consumption spending – slumped to an 18-quarter low, with the expansion decelerating sharply to 3.1%, from 7.2% in the preceding quarter and 7.3% a year earlier. Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), a proxy for investment activity, grew a meagre 4%, less than a third of the 13.3% growth it posted 12 months earlier.”

Facing the reality
The media is not the government’s headline management arm aimed at distracting citizens from scrutinising the government’s functioning. It is citizens who gain when the media takes the lead in providing credible information and cuts through the clutter of official rhetoric to make sense of the government’s claims. It is important for people who talk about giving the benefit of the doubt and time to the government to realise that this is the BJP-led NDA’s government’s second term. It is important for citizens to remember what Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself said in 2014 on completion of the first month of his tenure: “Emergency is a grim reminder of the dangers associated with subverting freedom of speech, press, expression and silencing opposition.”

“News behind the barbed wire”, an exhaustive study produced by the Network of Women in Media, India, and the Free Speech Collective, presents a very grim picture of the ground reality in Kashmir, which is vastly different from what the government wants us to believe. Mr. Raghavan should read this report, which states among many things that there is a growing silence of voices from Kashmir expressing alienation. The report points out how the government’s control of the communication processes is intrinsically undemocratic and harmful as it privileges voices of authority and weakens those who speak truth to power.

It is the duty of the press to point out the failure of the state and to be on the side of the citizens when their fundamental rights are being trampled upon.

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The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 9, 1969

U.S. Ambassador freed

The U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Burke Elbrick, was freed by his kidnappers yesterday [September 7] about seven hours after 15 Brazilian political prisoners received asylum in Mexico under a ransom agreement. Four of the six revolutionaries who kidnapped Mr. Elbrick were arrested shortly after his release, police sources revealed to-day. Mr. Elbrick had been held 78 hours by a group of terrorists.

“To coin the understatement of the year, I am glad to be back,” Mr. Elbrick said in a statement released by the U.S. Embassy, minutes after his return. “I am glad the kidnappers lived up to their word and let me go. I am grateful to the Brazilian Government for taking necessary action to bring about my liberation.” The Embassy said, Mr. Elbrick received a confidential telephone call from President Nixon shortly after his arrival. Pale and unshaven, Mr. Elbrick had a small injury on the right side of his forehead, and the skin was tinted red with a disinfectant. “The Ambassador was hit over the head with a pistol as he was being transferred from one car to another during the kidnapping”, the Embassy Press Officer, Mr. Ernest Wiener, said. Mr. Elbrick appeared to be in good physical condition, he added.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 9, 1919.

Punjab Situation.

Lahore, September 8. – The “Tribune” publishes this evening an account of a meeting convened by the Indian Association which was to have been held at Bradlaugh Hall on the 3rd September but which was subsequently prohibited by the Deputy Commissioner. It appears that the members of the Indian Association wanted to hold a meeting with a view to thank Sir Edward Maclagan for initiating a conciliatory policy, to pray for revision or further commutation of the sentences passed by the martial law commission officers, to request for immediate appointment of an imperial commission of enquiry. Though the members were of opinion that no sanction of the authority was necessary for holding a private meeting of this kind, it was considered advisable under the peculiar circumstances through which the province had passed to bring the fact to the notice of the District Magistrate and consequently Mr. Ganpat Rai, Barrister-at-Law, wrote a letter to the District Magistrate informing him of the proposed meeting.

FROM PAGE ONE

We won't dilute Art. 371, Shah assures NE States

"Article 370 was clearly temporary in nature while Article 371 is about special provisions in the northeast. I had clarified in Parliament, and I assure everyone in the presence of the chief ministers of the region that the Centre will never touch or dilute Article 371," he said.

"The withdrawal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir was criticised. Everyone can do so in a democratic country, but it was used to misinform and misguide the people of the northeast about Article 371," Mr. Shah said.

Touching upon Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC), Mr. Shah said the government would not allow any illegal migrant to stay in

the country.

"People have raised all kinds of questions on the NRC, which has been completed in a time-bound manner. I want to make it clear that not a single illegal migrant will be allowed to stay in the country by the Government of India," he said.

The Union Home Minister said the Centre has focussed attention on the northeast to make it one of the most developed regions in the country.

"But the development cannot be at the cost of the region's culture, language, and ethnic diversity. We are committed to sustainable development in a region inhabited by more than 270 communities," he said.

U.S. President Trump calls off talks with the Taliban

Mr. Trump's statement appears to scuttle – for now – his long-standing hope to deliver on a campaign promise to withdraw U.S. troops from an 18-year conflict that he has called an aimless boondoggle.

It comes amid stubborn resistance within Afghanistan's government about the peace agreement that had been under discussion, not only for security reasons but also because Mr. Ghani has been determined to preserve a planned September 28 election, which he is favoured to win. The Taliban has insisted on postponing the election before proceeding with negotiations with the Afghan government.

Several people familiar with the diplomacy between the Trump administration and the Taliban were

puzzled over Mr. Trump's stated decision to cancel peace negotiations entirely in response to one U.S. casualty, however tragic.

The Taliban had not agreed to halt its attacks on Americans in advance of a formal agreement. That raised the question of whether Mr. Trump might have been looking for a pretext because the talks had run into trouble.

The development is sure to inflame a political debate about the talks that until now had largely played out in national security circles to little public fanfare. Mr. Trump had been coming under pressure from Conservatives not to hastily exit the country while many Democrats have said they support peace talks leading to a U.S. withdrawal.

100 days on, BJP showcases J&K action

The Minister said Kashmir has largely been incident-free since revoking of Article 370 and 35A on August 5. "It's been 35 days. There has been only one or two stray incidents like the one yesterday. No life has been lost, no bullet has been fired. Since terrorism started in the Valley in 1990s, this is the first time that such a thing has happened."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a tweet said, "Congratulations to the Modi government on #100Days-NoVikas, the continued subversion of democracy, a firmer stranglehold on a submissive media to drown out criticism and a glaring lack of leadership, direction and plans where it's needed

the most – to turn around our ravaged economy."

On similar lines Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, tweeting in Hindi, said the Modi government was silent after "ruining the economy" and is instead trying to distract everyone.

"The government is mum after ruining the economy. The companies are in danger, while trade is in doldrums. Through drama, deceit, lies, and propaganda, they are trying to hide the country's grim situation," she said. In a series of tweets, the party attacked the government, pointing out that eight sectors had recorded a growth rate of below 2%.

Pak. violates ceasefire along LoC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

The Pakistani Army on Sunday targeted forward posts and villages in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district with heavy firing and shelling, violating ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) for the second day in a row, an Army official said.

The firing of small arms and shelling with mortars started in Sunderbani and Nowshera sectors around 10 a.m., drawing strong retaliation by the Indian Army, the official said.

Official sources said panic gripped the border residents in the two sectors as the shelling from the Pakistani side was intense, causing damage to at least one house. The firing was going on when last reports were received, the sources said.

Ram Jethmalani, an 'unrepentant maverick'

The eminent jurist and parliamentarian sought to protect the judiciary as much as he admonished it



RAM JETHMALANI: 1923-2019

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Ram Jethmalani, twice Law Minister, criminal lawyer, jurist, teacher, litigant and parliamentarian who relished the epithet "unchanged and unrepentant maverick", passed away at 95 on Sunday.

Mr. Jethmalani remains an enigma in modern times as he was a man who spoke and acted out of personal conviction.

"I do not claim to be infallible, but even my most trenchant critics would not deny that I speak and act out of personal conviction. I write also to stir debate and have the humility to retract my views when bested in such debates," he wrote in *Maverick Unchanged and Unrepentant*.

Bats for refugees

He argued his first brief in the court of Sindh at the age of 17. A refugee himself, he had moved the Bombay High

Court for the humane treatment of refugees in India.

He recounted that his days in an Indian refugee camp made him believe that "India and Pakistan must forget the tribulations of the tragic Partition and develop a relationship of trust and cooperation."

He took every opportunity to chastise judges. One often felt he relished the moment when he would drive in the fact that they had not even started their legal careers when he was already a senior lawyer.

Once, while arguing well after normal court hours his petition to bring back black money, Mr. Jethmalani noticed the judges sneak a peek at the clock. He promptly addressed the then Chief Justice of India, saying "You tired? Your Lordships are half my age."

His admonishing letter to the Madras High Court judge C.S. Karnan, who was facing contempt of court – the first

in history by a sitting High Court judge – for misconduct, is an example of how he felt the dignity of an institution could not be overawed by the idiosyncrasies of one man.

In the letter, Mr. Jethmalani told Mr. Karnan that he was writing as a "senior member of the Bar and living in the departure lounge of God's airport."

He advised Mr. Karnan to apologise to the Supreme Court.

He signed off with "if you do not know the enormity of your madness, do meet me and I might put some sense in your head."

'Evil absurdity'

He sought to protect the judiciary as much as he admonished it. He did not falter to call the National Judicial Appointments Commission, which gave primacy to the government in judicial appointments to constitutional courts, an "evil absurdity".

When faced with barbs about his role as a defence lawyer for the powerful, Mr. Jethmalani stoically replied that he was serving the law as an officer of the court. The law allowed an accused to put forward his best defence. It was up to the courts to declare a person guilty.

He defended the likes of Harshad Mehta, Ketan Parekh, underworld don Haji Mastan, the killers of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and BJP veteran L.K. Advani in the hawala scandal and headed Manu Sharma's defence in the Jessica Lal murder case.

In his speeches, he was an advocate against the death penalty. "A man should not pass irrevocable sentences," he reasoned.

He retired from law in 2017, announcing that he would continue to battle corruption. In his writings, he expounded that education, and not religion, was the right pill for India.

UTs of J&K, Ladakh to have a common HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

The Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will have a common High Court, State Judicial Academy's Director Rajeev Gupta said on Sunday.

He added that 108 Central laws would be applicable to the two UTs, while 164 State laws would be repealed and 166 State laws would continue to be applicable. Mr. Gupta was speaking at a refresher programme, organised by the SJA. "There will be a common High Court for the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Existing law and procedure for practice in the high court will remain the same," he said.

The Centre had on August 5 nullified Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of the State. Parliament approved the resolution in this regard and also passed the Bill on the bifurcation of the State into two UTs.

APPEAL

Name of Patient: **Lalitha**, 21 Days. Hospital Name: Columbia Asia Hospital. Diagnosis: Suffering from Congenital Heart Disease, Large AP Window. She requires to undergo urgent AP Window Closure Surgery to prevent irreversible damage to the vital organs of her body. The estimated cost of the Surgery is **Rs.5,00,000/-**.

We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save her. Kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D./M.O favouring Save Poor Lives A/c, Lalitha S/E Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, IFSC Code: SBIN001855, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.

Contact: **SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No. A4, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai - 600 028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com**

Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Donation given to patients upto March 2019 for Rs.4,26,89,335/- and Scholarship 7,30,800/-

Save Poor Lives

Ready to tackle any challenge, says Modi

First 100 days of the BJP government have been that of development, trust and big changes, says PM



Poll pitch: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the Vijay Sankalp Rally in Rohtak on Sunday. ■AKHILESH KUMAR

'Big decisions'

He was addressing the BJP's "Vijay Sankalp" rally in Rohtak in Haryana after launching the party's campaign for the Assembly election due in October.

Mr. Modi said the past 100 days of the BJP government had been days of development, trust and big changes in the country.

"Also these days have been that of decisiveness, determination, improvement and good intention... With the trust and support of the people, the government has been able to take big decisions surrounding national security and farming sector.

Several laws have been enacted to fight terrorism, for the rights of Muslim sisters during these 100 days," he said.

"Also, to strengthen the economy, a road map has been laid out to help different sectors. To strengthen the banking sector in the country, historical decisions

Praising Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for his work, Mr. Modi said it was evident from the huge public support for the "Jan Ashirwad Yatra" of the Chief Minister, that the BJP would once again be elected to power in Haryana.

'New direction'

"The State government under the leadership of Mr. Khattar has fought against corruption and nepotism and has given a new direction to the State politics by ensuring complete transparency in the system, and this was equally reciprocated by people in making BJP win all the 10 seats in the last parliamentary elections," he said.

Mr. Khattar said that during the past 48 years, the State was dominated by fear, corruption and discrimination. "The previous governments did not create any system; rather they merely played with the systems. But the present government has changed the old system and changed the politics by eliminating nepotism and regionalism," he said.

Cow a matter of faith not politics: Nath

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Stating that cow protection and conservation are the priorities of the Madhya Pradesh government, Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Sunday said, "*gaumata* [cow] is a symbol of faith and pride for us. We can't see it suffering on the streets."

Hence, the government had decided to construct 1,000 *gaushalas* (cow sheds). "For us, *gaumata* is a matter of faith not politics," he added.

On Saturday, Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry Pratap Chandra Sarangi at an event here extolled the State government for the initiative.

Thanking Mr. Sarangi for the praise, Mr. Kamal Nath said this gave the government inspiration to work for cow protection.

The *gaushalas* are being built at the panchayat level through a public-private partnership model. In the budget this year, the government had earmarked ₹132 crore for cow welfare.

Elected govt. to form J&K land laws

Central laws on land acquisition and compensation will be applicable, say officials



Tense situation: Security personnel checking people during restrictions in Srinagar on Sunday. ■NISAR AHMAD

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will decide its own land policy once it is elected, a senior government official said on Sunday.

The elected representatives can decide on the land use and categorise it as agricultural, commercial, educational and so on, he added. The new Union Territory will come into being on October 31.

After the special status of the State under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked by Parliament on August 6, residents of the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region expressed concern and demanded protection for their land, culture and tradition.

About a month later, the J&K administration released an advertisement on September 4, saying "the application of Article 370 and 35A placed restrictions on transfer of land ... As a result, private investment in development work was severely constrained."

'53 industrial estates'

But according to data available on the government portal Invest India, J&K is home to "about 53 industrial estates and 32,226 small-scale industrial units with an investment of over \$793 million".

The website of the State Industrial Development Corporation says there are 23 industrial units in J&K.

Senior Congress leader and former ruler of the State Karan Singh said the Valley was ecologically fragile and he hoped that development would improve after law and order was improved.

"We shouldn't throw it (land in J&K) open to land sharks; we have to safeguard it, whether you do it through [Article] 370 or some other rule. Himachal doesn't have 370 but they safeguard their land ... 370 was not a hindrance to acquiring land. We do not want polluting industries, the whole atmosphere of Valley would be destroyed," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

The senior Congress leader had earlier said there were several positives in the government's decision to withdraw Article 370 and Article 35A and bifurcate the

Home Minister Amit Shah had told a delegation from J&K last week that "only government land would be used to establish industries, hospitals and educational institutions" and "nobody's land would be taken away".

The first investor summit planned by the Centre in J&K from October 12 to 14 in Srinagar and Jammu has been postponed by a month as severe restrictions on movement and communication continue. Only landlines are functional in the Kashmir Valley, while in the Jammu region, mobile connectivity has been restored. The Internet can be accessed only in kiosks set up by the government in Srinagar and Jammu. Internet services are available through broadband connections.

A representative of a trade body said laws were never a hindrance in investing in the State. "Most factories and industrial parks are in the Jammu region; companies do not want to invest in the Valley due to militancy and law and order problems there," the representative said.

According to the J&K industrial policy of 2004, the government could "allot land on a long lease of 90 years in the industrial estates and developed areas on a first come, first served basis." "In case of large area requirements, land may be acquired in specific locations and allotted on lease," the policy said.

State into Union Territories.

On the issue of law and order, Mr. Singh said, "All big industries had pulled out from West Bengal because of the Naxalite problem, so law and order is a factor but not only particular to J&K"

Central law on land

A senior government official said J&K had its own land acquisition Act enacted in 1935 and with the revocation of the special status, the Right to Fair Compensation, Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, will be applicable to the Union Territory.

"The Central Land Act will ensure four times compensation than the 1935 Act," the official said.

Another official said private land could also be acquired through the Central Land Acquisition Act.

ised by the SJA. "There will be a common High Court for the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Existing law and procedure for practice in the high court will remain the same," he said.

The Centre had on August 5 nullified Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of the State. Parliament approved the resolution in this regard and also passed the Bill on the bifurcation of the State into two UTs.

Vikram may not spring back to life, say space experts

They believe that the moon lander may have crash-landed on the lunar surface and the impact shock may have damaged the module beyond repair

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Experts said on Sunday that time was running out for the moon lander Vikram and the possibility of re-establishing communication with it looked “less and less probable”.

A senior official associated with the mission said, “Progressively... as time goes by... it’s difficult [to establish link].”

However, with the “right orientation”, it can still generate power and recharge batteries with solar panels, he said.

“But it looks less and less probable, progressively,” the official said on condition of anonymity.

Not on all fours

Another top ISRO official said the “hard-landing” of Vikram on the lunar surface had made the task of linking again with it that much difficult as it might not have the “right orientation” and would not have landed on its four legs.

“Impact shock may have damaged the lander,” he said.

The lander was designed to execute a soft landing on the lunar surface and to function for one lunar day, which is equivalent to about 14 earth days.

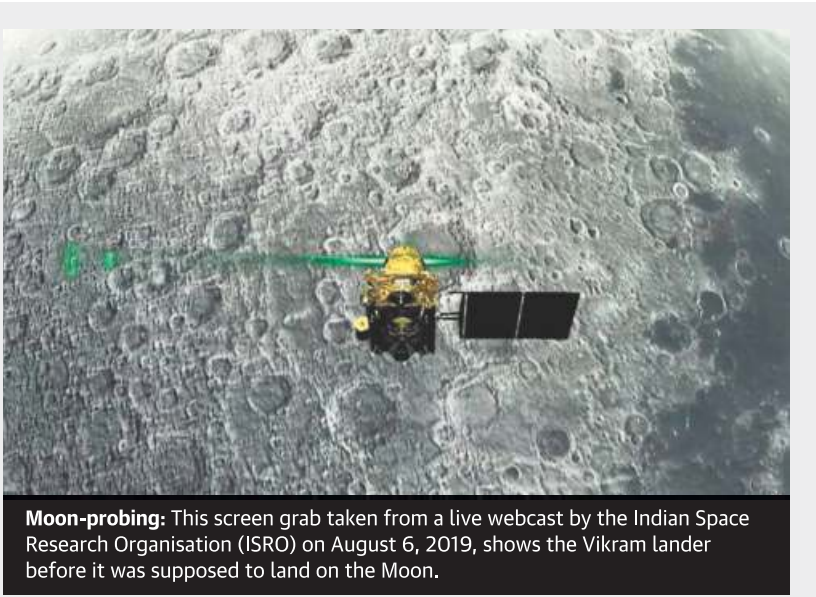
The location of the Vikram module “proves beyond doubt” that the orbiter is functioning well, space expert Ajay Lele said. “The orbiter is the main element of the mission as it will work for more than a year,” he said.

He said that with the orbiter working fine, 90-95% of the mission objectives had been achieved.

Former ISRO scientist S. Nambi Narayanan said the chances of re-establishing communication looked bleak as the lander may have crash-landed.

NASA salute

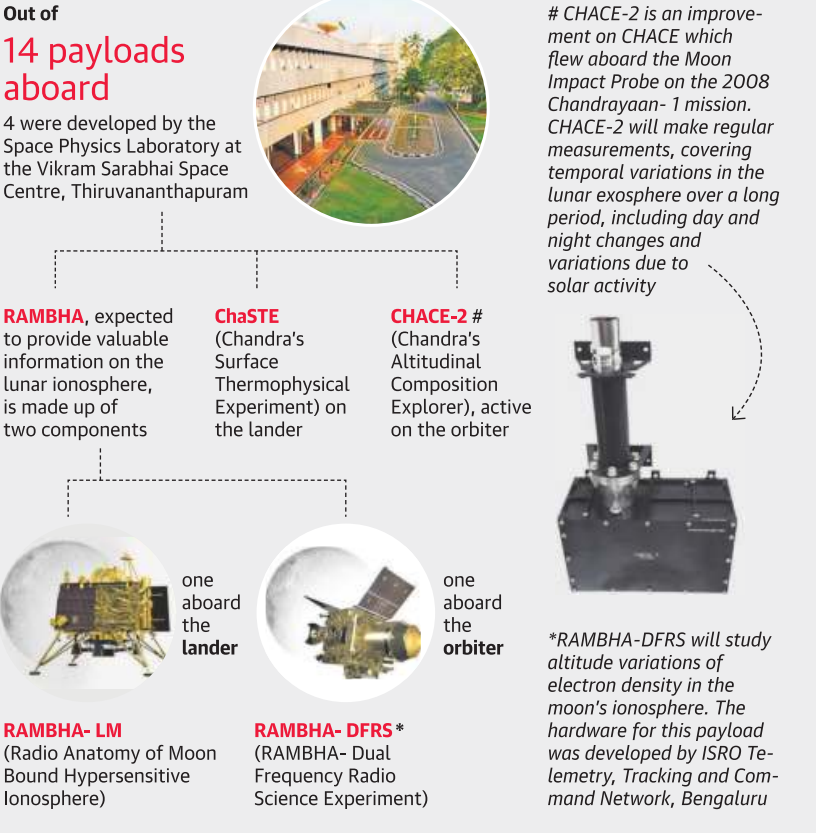
“Space is hard. We commend ISRO’s attempt to land their Chandrayaan2 mission on the Moon’s South Pole,” NASA said in a tweet. “You have inspired us with your journey and look forward to future opportunities to explore our solar system together,” it said.



Moon-probing: This screen grab taken from a live webcast by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on August 6, 2019, shows the Vikram lander before it was supposed to land on the Moon.

In transmission

Two of the four payloads developed by the Space Physics Laboratory are still active, on the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter



A rapid dive to 15 minutes of terror

MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU

At 1.38 a.m. on September 7, Vikram, recently separated from the orbiting Chandrayaan-2 parent craft, began its much awaited descent to the moon as planned. It was to reach the lunar surface 30 km below in 15 minutes.

The velocity of 6,048 metres per second was being gradually reduced by its five throttleable engines.

There was applause in the ISTRAC control centre in Bengaluru as everything went as planned.

First there was a “rough braking” period of 23 km lasting 10 minutes, when all engines were on. This phase was smooth until around 1.48 a.m. and the mission control engineers clapped. It was just 7 km more to the moon.

Then began the next stage of “fine braking”, when only the central engine was on. The speed had fallen to 86 metres per second.

By 1.51 a.m., Vikram, gliding in a parabolic path, was 2.1 km from the moon’s surface, slowing down to about 50 metres per second.

Suddenly there were bated breaths all around. The tense faces and body language indicated that something was wrong even as the big screen in the media centre went blank.

Some 15 minutes later, at 2.15 a.m., ISRO Chairman K. Sivan declared that they had lost contact with the lander when it was just 2.1 km from its landing spot, during the fine-braking phase.

It is surmised that the lander, *prima facie*, got physically disoriented. It deviated from its path as it lost communication with the control rooms and deep space antennas of ISRO in Bengaluru and of NASA in California and Canberra.

Was it because of the newly used throttleable thrusters? That is the answer ISRO is piecing together from the last numbers and data on the lander’s final journey collated by all the tracking teams.

VSSC scientists keep fingers crossed

Two crucial payloads were on the missing lander; two others are on the orbiter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Scientists at the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL) of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) at Thumba here are keeping their fingers crossed as the ISRO continues its efforts to establish contact with Vikram, the lander on the Chandrayaan-2 mission which has now been traced by the orbiter.

Of the 14 payloads aboard India’s second moon mission, four are from the SPL.

Of the four, two – RAMBHA-LM (Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere-Langmuir Probe) and ChaSTE (Chandra’s Surface Thermophysical Experiment) – are on the lander, which is believed to have crash-landed during Saturday’s soft-landing mission on the lunar south pole. RAMBHA, which is expected to



While ISRO is trying to establish contact with Vikram, the Space Physics Laboratory is in a tizzy. *K. MURALI KUMAR

provide valuable information on the lunar ionosphere, is made up of two components; one aboard the lander and the other, on the orbiter.

On the bright side for the SPL, its payload on the orbiter – CHACE-2 (short for Chandra’s Altitudinal Composition Explorer) – is functioning perfectly, SPL Director Radhika Ramachandran told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

“The data from CHACE-2 are excellent. In fact, we have been taking observations and collecting data on the way, in the trans-lunar orbit and the lunar orbit as well. It is functioning perfectly,” Dr. Ramachandran

said. CHACE-2 is designed to measure the composition of the lunar exosphere, and is an improvement on CHACE, which flew aboard the Moon Impact Probe (MIP) on the 2008 Chandrayaan-1 mission.

Ionosphere study

The second SPL payload aboard the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, the RAMBHA-Dual Frequency Radio Science experiment (RAMBHA-DFRS), will study altitude variations of electron density in the moon’s ionosphere.

The hardware for this payload was developed by the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network, Bengaluru. “With this payload, we are only participating in the science part. We are using the DFRS communication channel with our ground receivers to calculate the ionospheric distribution,” the SPL Director said.

3 declared foreigners dropped from NRC

NGO files plea against them, officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Three members of a family have been dropped from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) after the police registered a case against errant officials for including them despite being declared foreigners by a Foreigners’ Tribunal (FT) three years ago.

In 2016, the tribunal no. 3 in Morigaon district of central Assam declared Jubeda Begum and her three children foreigners. All four have been absconding since.

But the final NRC published on August 31 included the names of Jubeda Begum, her son Jahar Ali and daughter Sahida Begum. Another son, Giasuddin Ahmed, was excluded.

Assam Public Works, a Guwahati-based NGO and one of the parties in the NRC case in the Supreme Court, on September 4 filed a complaint against the three and the NRC officials involved in

the inclusion of their names. The NRC authorities on Saturday updated the on-line data on inclusions and exclusions to show the status of the trios “reject”.

The authorities, however, did not offer any official clarification.

The tribunal had disposed the case of Jubeda Begum and her children *ex parte*. The order copy said they did not turn up despite multiple notices. “Jubeda Begum, the daughter of Mohammad, along with her sons Giasuddin Ahmed and Mohammad Jahar Ali and daughter Sahida Begum... who had illegally entered India (Assam) from Bangladesh after the cut-off date, March 25, 1971, are declared ‘foreigners’ under Section 2 (a) of the Foreigners Act, 1946,” the order read. The tribunal asked the authorities to delete the names of the respondents from the voters’ list, government schemes, family ration card, voter ID and driving licence.

NRC a humanitarian crisis: ex-judge

A.P. Shah says citizenship is one of the most basic, fundamental human rights

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

“In the context of Assam – as well as in the country – citizenship, as the right to have rights, is one of the most basic, fundamental human rights in modern societies. Deprivation of citizenship must follow the most rigorous procedure available; the overriding concern must be fairness, not quickness or efficiency,” Justice A.P. Shah (retd) said at the concluding session of the two-day event on “Contested citizenship in Assam: people’s tribunal on constitutional processes and human cost”.

‘Humanitarian crisis’

“We have heard the views and experiences of people excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, and of various leading experts, and we all agree that the NRC has spawned a humanitarian crisis. We worry because there are no signs of this crisis abating,” he added, reading from the “jury report” presented on Sunday.



He said a large number of minorities, religious, linguistic or ethnic, in Assam had lived with the fear of being told that they did not belong to India. “They may at any time be marked doubtful (D) voters, and prevented from exercising their franchise. A local border police constable can again at any time accuse them of being a foreigner and refer the case to a detention centre. Even after the final NRC, there are many demands for selective re-verification of the NRC,” he said.

Justice Kurian Joseph (retd), Justice Madan B. Lokur (retd), Professor Faizan Mustafa and Syeda Hameed were present.

The panel said that after hearing the testimonies, they found that the “burden

of proof was shifted to the residents to prove that they were citizens. Documents such as those of birth, schooling and land-ownership which impoverished and unlettered rural residents anywhere would find hard to muster, were insisted upon.

Even when documents were produced, they were refused for discrepancies in the English-language spelling of Bengali names or in ages.

Professor Mustafa said, “Two very fundamental ideas of India – *Akhand Bharat* and *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* – have been violated. How can we agree to treat individuals the way we are treating people in Assam? We have to understand that this is not about inclusion but exclusion and also, this is not about the people but the State.”

Stating that the implication of the human cost has to be considered in this case, Dr. Hameed said that what she heard at the “public hearing” was like a stab in the heart.

“Imagine if what is happening to Assam is extended to the rest of the country...what would it mean for us?” she said.

Permanent paranoia

“The fear of being excluded from the NRC, being declared as foreigner, and finally being sent to a detention centre, has created a situation of permanent paranoia among vulnerable communities, especially Bengal-origin Assamese Muslims and Bengali Hindus living in the State of Assam. This fear has pushed the people to a snapping point and many are committing suicide. Women and their children bear a disproportionately higher burden of the process,” the group said.

Chinese trawlers in southern Indian Ocean worry India

The huge increase in numbers in the southern Indian Ocean far from the Chinese coast has raised concerns

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

There has been a huge increase in Chinese deep-sea fishing trawlers in the southern Indian Ocean far from the Chinese coast which has raised concerns in the government and the security establishment, according to official sources. This was discussed in the recent coastal security meetings involving Director-General (DG), Shipping, the Navy and other stakeholders.

“In the last four years, on an average at least 500 Chinese trawlers were present in the region and around 32,250 incidents per year were recorded,” a senior defence source said. The trawlers were, however, not in India’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) but beyond, the source added. This includes trawlers from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Breaking this up further, there were 1,100 occurrences near Somalia and 1,500 occurrences near the Coast of Oman. Occurrences are recordings of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) aboard trawlers and ships recorded when they are activated. So a trawler can be recorded multiple times based on its AIS signature. Chinese trawlers have institutional backing and have processing facilities with them which

are sold in the vicinity, the source added on the modalities of the operation.

While India has good inland fishing, the ocean fishing capacity is way below capacity. There have been recommendations for the need to boost domestic deep-sea fishing. “Our deep-



The rise in the number of Chinese trawlers in the Indian Ocean was discussed at coastal security meetings. *K.K. MUSTAFAH

sea fishing is in bits and pieces. We need to boost that,” the source said.

The maritime movements in the region are tracked at the Navy’s Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) at Gurugram, which is the single-point centre interlinking all the coastal radar chains and other inputs along the coastline. The AIS information comprises name, MMSI number, position, course, speed, last port visited, destination and so on. This information can be picked up through various AIS sensors including coastal AIS chains and satellite-based receivers.

To address this, the National Maritime Domain Awareness initiative aims to integrate fishing, ports, customs so that the database is available to everyone. Currently, the States have their databases. As part of this evolving mechanism, the National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security is scheduled to meet this week to discuss the implementation.

There has been a national effort to install AIS systems on ships under 20m for which a pilot study has been carried out. AIS works through satellite and the ISRO has already delivered 1000 transponders for trails in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

CBI, govt. must have arm’s-length ties: Rai

Discusses pillars of democracy in book

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

There is an urgent need to empower the CBI with a distinct mandate of keeping an “arm’s-length” relationship with the government, says former Comptroller and Auditor-General Vinod Rai.

The former IAS officer, in his book titled *Rethinking Good Governance: Holding to Account India’s Public Institutions*, stresses that these institutions serve as the pillars supporting the foundation of a robust and vibrant democracy.

He says that an alert Public Accounts Committee, holding frequent meetings, would be effective in keeping the executive under constant scrutiny and bring it to book when there is laxity, wastage or malfeasance.

From numerous occasions when MPs failed to adhere to the expected decorum in the House, the serious deficit of impartiality and integrity within the CBI, to the issue of governance that has plagued the BCCI, and the imbroglio around the perceived lack of cohesion between the government and the RBI, Mr. Rai claims that such instances led to a gradual decline of independence and autonomy of these institutions over the decade.



Vinod Rai

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice
Tender No : T No.15/2019-20/SE/Q. AMRUT-Augmentation of water supply system in Kollam Corporation- Phase I Construction of weir at Njankadavu across Kallada river including Mechanical, Electrical portion and 2 years operation and maintenance. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 15000+2700(18% GST - It will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns). Last Date for submitting Tender : 14-10-2019 02:00pm. Phone : 0474 2745293. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in. www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-274-2019-20
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kollam

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Sl.No.	Tender Ref./Scope of supplies & Qty. Reqd.
1. UNIT: M.M. COMPLEX: PTE No: ENQ No.19-20/001567/MM01 (01), Dt: 30.08.2019: Two wheel Boggies.	Due date of opening: 01.10.2019
2. PTE- ENQ/19-20/001610/MM01 (05), Dt: 30.08.2019: 10 items of Cardan Shaft.	Due date of opening: 03.10.2019
3. PTE No: ENQ No.19-20/001641/MM01 (01), Dt: 02.09.2019: Gear Box Internals - 8 items.	Due date of opening: 03.10.2019
4. PTE: ENQ/19-20/001676/MM18 (03), Dt: 02.09.2019: Procurement of (i) Site Mixed Bulk Explosive Cast Booster. Qty.: 4000 Kilograms. (ii) Site Mixed Explosive High Strength. Qty.:2000000 Kilograms.	Due date of opening: 03.10.2019
5. ENQ/19-20/001437/MM04 (08) Dt: 02.09.2019: Circulating Water Pump Motor.	Due date of opening: 04.10.2019
6. ENQ/19-20/001702/MM25(01) Dt:04.09.2019: 245 KV single phase outdoor oil filled type capacitance voltage transformer - 13Nos.	Due date of opening: 01.10.2019
7.ENQ/19-20/001724/MM22(01) Dt:05.09.2019: 3D Terrestrial Laser Scanner-1 No.	Due date of opening: 03.10.2019

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ELSEWHERE

Iran slams EU for broken promises on nuclear deal
TEHRAN
Iran's atomic agency chief Ali Akbar Salehi on Sunday slammed EU, saying its broken promises gave Tehran little choice but to scale back on the nuclear deal. IAEA's senior official Cornel Feruta visited Tehran in less than 24 hours after Iran said it was firing up advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium at a faster rate. AFP

Two die, 13 critical after Sri Lanka faith healing
COLOMBO
Two people died from heat and exhaustion after attending a faith healing session in Horowupotana, which left 13 others fighting for their lives. Around 10,000 people had gathered to listen to Deegoda Kumara, who claimed he could use "powers of the gods and the Buddha" to cure the sick. AFP

As talks are nixed, Taliban says more Americans will lose lives

Afghanistan government cautiously welcomes halt to secret U.S.-Taliban summit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL
The Taliban said the U.S. "will be harmed more than anyone" but left the door open for future negotiations on Sunday after President Donald Trump abruptly announced that he had called off year-long talks to end America's longest war.
"We still... believe that the American side will come back to this position... Our fight for the past 18 years should have proven to the Americans that we will not be satisfied until we witness the complete end of the occupation," the group said.
Mr. Trump had cited a Taliban attack in Kabul on Thursday, which killed 12 people, including a U.S. soldier, as his reason for calling off the talks, including a secret meeting with the insurgents



Back to square one: Afghan security forces taking positions during a battle with the Taliban in Kunduz. ■ REUTERS/FILE

at Camp David in Maryland planned for this weekend.
But the Taliban dismissed his reasoning in their statement, saying it showed "neither experience nor patience", and accused the U.S. of killing "hundreds of Afghans" in the fighting.
"Americans will be harmed more than any other," by Mr. Trump's decision, the statement said, adding that the U.S.'s "credibility will be harmed, their anti-peace stance will become more visible to the world, their casualties and financial losses will increase, and the US role in international political interaction will be discredited even further."
Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office cautiously sa-

luted the "sincere efforts of its allies"...
"The Afghan government, in relation to the peace, appreciates the sincere efforts of its allies and is committed to working together with the U.S. and other allies to bring a lasting peace," said a statement from President Ashraf Ghani's office.
Meanwhile, many Afghans welcomes the U.S. position. "It was a good opportunity for (the Taliban) but it was wasted because they did not stop attacks," 22-year-old Ahmad Jawad said.
Kabul resident Yama Safdari, 24, regretted that it took the death of one American to stop the process "while so many Afghan army forces and civilians are killed on a daily basis".
Many Afghans welcomed the decision on social media.

Hong Kong protesters appeal to Trump to 'liberate' them

U.S. urges China to show restraint; activist Joshua Wong held

REUTERS
HONG KONG
Thousands of Hong Kong protesters on Sunday sang the Star Spangled Banner and called on U.S. President Donald Trump to "liberate" the Chinese-ruled city, before violence broke out in the latest in a three-month series of clashes and unrest.
The protest started peacefully but fell into a now familiar pattern of barricades, window smashing and street fires, this time in the smartest banking and shopping district of the former British colony, as evening fell.
Police moved in with running battles with stone-throwing protesters who fled to nearby Admiralty and the bar district of Wan Chai and shopping area of Causeway Bay.
Police stood by earlier as protesters, under a sea of umbrellas against the sub-tropical sun, waved the Stars and Stripes and placards demanding democracy. "Fight for freedom, stand with Hong Kong," they shouted before handing over petitions at the U.S. Consulate. "Resist Beijing, liberate Hong Kong."
Hong Kong police fired tear gas to disperse protesters in the upmarket Causeway Bay shopping district.
U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Saturday urged China to exercise restraint in Hong Kong, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997.
Last month, Mr. Trump suggested China should "humanely" settle the problem in Hong Kong before a trade deal is reached with Washington. Earlier, Mr. Trump called the protests "riots" that were a matter for China



Marching on: Protesters showing their open palms, signifying their five demands, in Hong Kong on Sunday. ■ AP

to deal with.
Activists dug up bricks from pathways to break windows and set fires from cardboard boxes on the streets, building barricades with metal fencing.
Hong Kong returned to China under a "one country, two systems" formula that guarantees freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland. Many Hong Kong residents fear Beijing is eroding that autonomy.
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'Fomenting unrest'
China denies the accusation of meddling and says Hong Kong is an internal affair. It has denounced the protests, accusing the United States and Britain of fomenting unrest, and warned of the damage to the economy.
Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam announced concessions this week aimed at ending the protests, including formally scrapping a hugely unpopular extradition bill, which ignited the unrest in June. Many protesters said it was too little, too late.
U.S. legislation addressing China's actions in Hong Kong will be among the top priorities pushed by Senate Democrats when Congress returns to work after a recess next week, their leader, Senator Chuck Schumer, said on Thursday.
Mr. Schumer urged Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican who sets the floor agenda, to bring up a bipartisan Bill that would require an annual justification of the special treatment afforded by Washington to Hong Kong, including special trade and business privileges, under the U.S. Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992.
The legislation, called the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, would also mandate that officials in China and Hong Kong who have undermined the city's autonomy are vulnerable to sanctions.
Protesters, in a petition handed to the U.S. Consulate, urged that it be passed in full.
Meanwhile, Joshua Wong, one of the leaders of the pro-democracy "Umbrella" movement five years ago, was re-arrested on Sunday.

In another blow to Johnson, U.K. Minister quits

Amber Rudd says the govt. is spending its energy on a 'no deal' Brexit instead of securing a deal with the EU

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson received a fresh blow on Saturday when senior Minister Amber Rudd quit her Work and Pensions post in protest at his handling of the Brexit crisis.
Her resignation caps a miserable week for Mr. Johnson as he tries to steer his splintered country through its biggest political crisis since the Second World War.
Ms. Rudd was a moderate member of former Prime Minister Theresa May's government whose endorsement Mr. Johnson coveted during



Amber Rudd leaving the Cabinet Office in London. ■ AFP/FILE

his successful U.K. leadership challenge in July.
But she said on Saturday that she could no longer endorse Mr. Johnson's ap-

proach to negotiations with Brussels – or handling of domestic politics. "I have resigned from Cabinet and surrendered the Conservative Whip," Ms. Rudd tweeted.
"I cannot stand by as good, loyal moderate Conservatives are expelled," she said referring to Mr. Johnson's decision to expel 21 MPs from the Conservative party for voting against the government on Brexit.
Ms. Rudd said in her resignation letter that she felt uneasy about Mr. Johnson's commitment to take Britain out of the EU on October 31 even if the two sides fail to reach a negotiated deal.
She said she had once viewed Mr. Johnson's threat of a messy "no-deal" divorce as a useful negotiating tactic

to take with Brussels. "However, I no longer believe leaving with a deal is the government's main objective."
"The government is expending a lot of energy to prepare for 'no deal' but I have not seen the same level of intensity go into our talks with the European Union."
Mr. Johnson has been adamant that he will not seek a third Brexit delay this year.
Labour Party is plotting a strategy with smaller parliamentary groups that could leave Johnson with no other alternative but to seek an extension to the Brexit talks or resign.

Turkey, U.S. conduct joint patrols in Syria

Ankara is pressing for a 'safe zone'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAL ABYAD

Turkish and U.S. troops conducted their first joint ground patrol in northeastern Syria on Sunday as part of a so-called "safe zone" that Ankara has been pressing for in the volatile region.
Turkey hopes the buffer zone, which it says should be at least 30 km deep, will keep Syrian Kurdish fighters away from its border. Turkey considers these Kurdish militias a threat, but they've also been key U.S. allies in the fight against the Islamic State group. So far, the Kurdish-led forces have withdrawn 14 km only.
The depth of the zone, as well as who will control it, is

still being worked out.
Associated Press journalists in the countryside of Tal Abyad on Sunday saw about a dozen Turkish armoured vehicles with the country's red flag standing along the border after crossing into Syria, and American vehicles about a mile away waiting.
The two sides then came together in a joint patrol with American vehicles leading the convoy.
At least two helicopters hovered overhead at the border. The Turkish Defence Ministry confirmed the start of the joint patrols and said unmanned aerial vehicles were also being used.

AT TIFF, three Indian women filmmakers tell real stories

Geetu Mohandas' *Moothon*, Shonali Bose's *The Sky Is Pink* and Gitanjali Rao's *Bombay Rose* showcased

NAMRATA JOSHI
TORONTO

With 36% of its entire slate of films directed by women, it's no surprise to find TIFF showcasing works of three women filmmakers in its pick of four Indian films – Geetu Mohandas' *Moothon*, Shonali Bose's *The Sky Is Pink* and Gitanjali Rao's *Bombay Rose*.
Ms. Bose's film is based on the real story of Aditi (Priyanka Chopra Jonas) and Niren Chaudhary (Farhan Akhtar) and their daughter Aisha (Zaira Wasim), a patient of SCID (Severe Combined Immune Deficiency), a genetic disorder in which one loses the ability to fight infections.
A note at the very start of the film talks about it having



A still from *The Sky Is Pink*. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

been made with an unprecedented support and access provided by the Chaudhary family itself. In retrospect, however, it seems to hem in the film. The documentary approach gets the better of the cinematic eye. In recording their lives and bringing to

fore every possible detail of the Chaudharys' remarkable struggle to help their daughter, even while keeping their own marriage going through tremendous stress and strain, the film tries to pack in a lot and ends up spreading itself too thin. The ro-

mance of the parents, their silly jealousies, little fights seem pointless diversions that make the film stray rather than keep it on course.
In the process, characters and relationships, situations and trajectories get too scattered, the truly poignant moments often get lost in the several banal and some discomfiting, outright manipulative ones.
The back and forth narrative told through the perspective of the dead daughter has a whimsical potential that doesn't get adequately realised. There are several broad issues covered – the many individual ways of dealing with grief and pain, a shared tragedy casting people adrift than bringing them

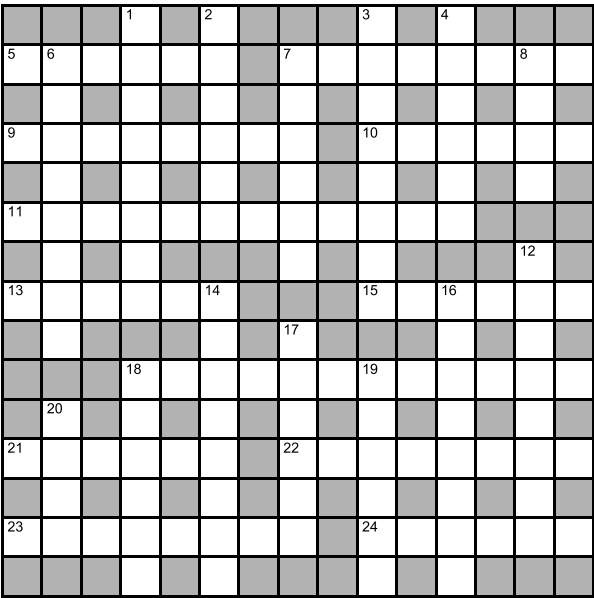
together, a sibling getting neglected – but all of them remain implicit than leap out and grab you. Chopra Jonas performs with earnestness, Akhtar looks curiously distanced, Wasim and Rohit Sarraf as her elder brother are winsome.
While watching *The Sky Is Pink*, I was constantly reminded of Hrishikesh Mukherjee's 1975 film *Mili*, also about a family facing the loss of a beloved daughter. There was something candid and sincere in the way Mr. Mukherjee made you well up and reach out for the tissues; *The Sky Is Pink* feels too crafty and calculated for its own good.
(The writer is in Toronto on the invitation of TIFF)

Russians go to polls in test for Putin allies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russians voted in local elections on Sunday that will test the popularity of President Vladimir Putin and his allies after a crack-down on opposition protests in Moscow.
Elections for municipal councils and regional Governors took place across the country, but most attention was focused on Moscow, where tens of thousands took to the streets this summer after potential opposition candidates were barred from the vote. Police detained hundreds of the protesters and while most were released, some faced serious charges.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12725



■ ACROSS

- 5 Hold on, swapping hands for support (6)
- 7 Charming daughter meets love in Middle Eastern locale, on vacation (8)
- 9 Love plied surreptitiously for stack of fuel (8)
- 10 Most recent city tax (6)

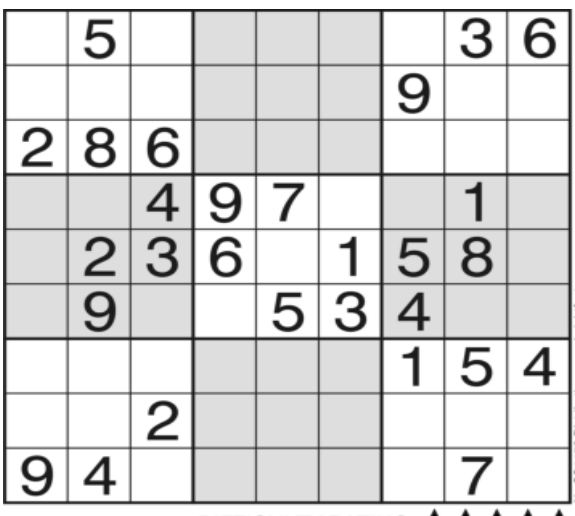
(set by Bruno)

- 11 Memory of cello concert I played starting to cool off (12)
- 13 SunTrust Banks have unchanged balance (6)
- 15 Distort dress by cutting leg short (6)
- 18 Hard-hearted, brutal China forced East under control (12)
- 21 Husband consumed by God after boy found God (6)
- 22 Propose Democrat to replace new rule (8)
- 23 Rogue finally wants to turn empty life on the run (8)
- 24 Battle and persist without leader in conflict (6)
- 4 Shameless desire to get one to take bottom off (6)
- 6 Private compartment to work or to meet (8)
- 7 Long time, no see – said secretary, finally at office (6)
- 8 Get rid of cabinet's contents (4)
- 12 Shouts "Let Luau get rowdy!" before starting to sing (8)
- 14 ... therefore, wire carrying current becomes warm (8)
- 16 Learns to struggle while absorbing Eastern lessons' essence on authenticity (8)
- 17 Think lost love can be replaced by a Cruise? (6)
- 18 Release Chinese arrested in gun raid (6)
- 19 Detain Indian setter guzzling up drink (6)
- 20 Escalate goal dispute (4)

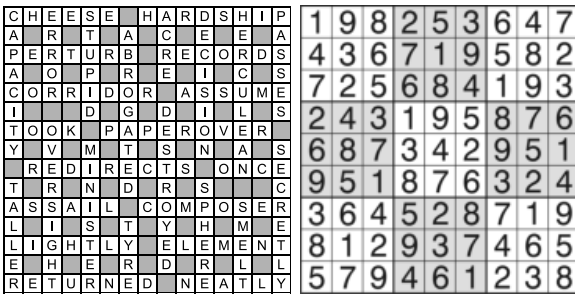
■ DOWN

- 1 Academic boss has loans (8)
- 2 Shake until HR intervenes (6)
- 3 Depressed member of parliament lounging around (3-5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12724



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Krishna avatar

The Lord is the embodiment of dharma and always remains the antaratma in each being. In a discourse, Sri Kesava Dikshitar pointed out that Krishna avatar is celebrated in the Bhagavata Purana, the Mahabharata, the Narayaneeyam and many other texts and these descriptions bring to life the exclusive atmosphere of the Lord's advent. In the Mahabharata, Vyasa speaks with loving devotion of Krishna's birth as taking place at the same time when Kunti gives birth to Arjuna, to indicate the Narayana and Nara tatva that they represent respectively. Narayana Bhattachari describes Krishna avatar as taking place in the temple at Guruvayur. The deity is none other than the wonderful child described in the Bhagavata Purana with the unmistakable marks of conch, discus, mace, pitambara, kaustuba hara, srivatsa mark etc. Except for Kamsa and the evil forces who dread the advent of Krishna, all the rest are joyous to welcome Him.
The jnanis see Him as the very Supreme Brahman. The rains that had started dwindle into a gentle drizzle to welcome Krishna. Krishna's birth continues to be celebrated with great devotion till date even after almost 5,000 odd years. During His life of 125 years, He has shown that His leelas teach the values of life even as He walked the streets of Mathura, Brindavan, and Dwaraka. His dignity and decorum are unique. His words are powerful and show mankind how to live and gain salvation. The Uddhava Gita and the Bhagavad Gita are the essence of Vedanta sastra. Even if one immerses in the Gita either in karma, jnana and bhakti yogas, at least once, he gets relief from samsara. It is equal to having bath in the Ganga that is believed to wash one's sins. The only mantra that is taught is total surrender to Krishna who will take care of everything else for each one.



AARATI KRISHNAN
Q. My father is retiring on July 31. He wants to invest ₹5 lakh. Please advise.

RISHABH DUBEY
A. The investment recommendation would depend on his goals. Assuming his main objective is to protect his capital while receiving a good return from this investment, he should consider the post office Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme, which allows individuals to invest up to ₹15 lakh of retirement proceeds. The scheme has a five-year lock-in period and pays interest at a fixed rate every quarter. For July to September 2019, the interest rate stands at 8.6% per annum. If your father invests before the end of September 2019, he stands to receive 8.6% interest throughout his five-year holding period. The account can be opened at many leading banks apart from the post offices. This scheme is absolutely safe, being a Government of India borrowing. If your father does not need regular cash flows, he can perhaps consider debt mutual funds investing in high quality bonds. But they carry market risks and pose some risk to capital.

Q. My husband and I want to support my parents and in-laws with a fixed monthly amount. Please suggest investment plans that would yield ₹10,000 per month.

SOUNDARYA N
A. Immediate annuity plans from life insurers are usually the best way to secure a fixed (and relatively risk-free) regular income for those who cannot actively manage their money. Under these plans, you pay a lump sum to an insurer who undertakes to pay a lifelong annuity (pension) as long as you live. However, the key disadvantage is they offer very low returns (about 6-6.5%) compared to bank deposits or debt mutual funds. If you are interested in such plans, do check out LIC Jeevan Shanti, LIC Jeevan Akshay VI and HDFC Life Immediate Annuity plan. However, if you are targeting a ₹10,000 per month payout for the next ten years, you should consider the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana offered by the LIC. The scheme is currently open until March 31, 2020. Senior citizens, who have completed 60 years of age, can invest up to ₹15 lakh in the scheme to secure a monthly pension of ₹10,000 for the next ten years. While the pension is calculated at prescribed rates, the effective return works out to about 8% per annum. A ₹15-lakh investment fetches you a pension of ₹10,000 per month. On the policyholder surviving 10 years, the initial investment is refunded. On his or her death within 10 years, the beneficiary receives this refund. The scheme allows premature surrender under exceptional circumstances. The pension received will be taxable if your parents fall in the taxable income bracket.

Q. I am an informal sector worker earning ₹16,000 a month. I can save ₹4,000. What kind of investments should I make?

RAHUL DHANI
A. If you would like your capital to remain completely safe while you earn a guaranteed return, you can consider recurring deposits (RD) with banks or a Public Provident Fund account (PPF). An RD will be best if you would like to have greater flexibility to withdraw your money as and when you need it. A PPF account will lock in your money for 15 years but is an excellent option to save for your retirement. If you are willing to take risk to your capital and don't need your money for the next five years, you can consider starting Systematic Investment Plans in aggressive hybrid mutual funds. These funds invest 65% of the money in stock markets and up to 35% in bonds and can get you to a double-digit return over time periods of five years-plus. But you should invest in such funds only if you can take a capital loss of 10-20% in some years when the stock market isn't doing well.

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.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH

"A penny saved is a penny earned, they say! But it is not true the other way round!"



Easy on the pocket

Cheaper loans is good news for borrowers but they must look out for spread and product structure

RADHIKA MERWIN

Lending rates on your home, vehicle and personal loans could get cheaper. Last week, the RBI mandated banks to link new floating rate personal and retail loans to an external benchmark from October 1, 2019. The external benchmark can be the RBI's repo rate, the 3-month treasury bill yield or the 6-month treasury bill yield. Up until now, loans were linked to the bank-specific benchmark – MCLR (marginal cost of

funds-based lending rate). There are several nuances in the new structure that borrowers need to be wary of.

Better transmission Floating rate loans, whether for buying a new house or a vehicle, are pegged against a particular benchmark. Until now, each bank decided its benchmark based on its cost of deposits or borrowings. Given that each bank's cost is different, MCLR also varied across banks.

Ideally, when the RBI cuts or hikes the repo rate, banks' MCLR should also move in tandem. But given that banks only source a small portion (1%) of their deposits at RBI's repo rate, banks' cost of funds reduce or increase by a smaller amount (than repo rate movement), limiting the changes in MCLR. Under the new repo-rate-linked system, RBI's rate actions will get transmitted almost immediately. Let us take the case of SBI. It introduced the re-

po-linked home loan in July. Lending rates change every time the RBI tweaks its repo rate.

The repo-linked lending rate or RLLR changes from the first of the following month in which the RBI changes its repo rate. With the RBI's 35 bps repo rate cut in August, SBI's RLLR has reduced to 7.65% since September 1 (from the 8% earlier).

Hence, for home loans up to ₹75 lakh, the effective interest rate for borrowers with a good credit score works out to 8.05% (including mark-up of 40 bps over RLLR) currently.

In comparison, the rate on SBI's MCLR-linked home loan now is 8.65%.

Takeaway 1: Loans under the new external benchmark structure will get cheaper if the RBI continues to cut rates. On the flip side, be prepared for a higher payout when the RBI starts hiking rates.

Base and spread Borrowers should be wary of two things.

FD FOCUS: BAJAJ FINANCE

A blend of safety and attractive rates

Company pays up to 8.6% interest, higher than what comparable NBFC deposits offer

PARVATHA VARDHINI C

Fixed-income investors with an appetite for risk can consider parking a portion of their surplus in the fixed deposits of Bajaj Finance. The firm offers cumulative and non-cumulative options under its fixed deposit scheme.

The tenure ranges from 12-60 months with interest rates from 7.72% to 8.6% (see table).

The offer is rated FAAA/Stable by CRISIL and MAAA (Stable) by ICRA denoting very strong degree of safety regarding timely payment of interest and principal and low-est credit risk.

The minimum deposit is ₹25,000. The firm offers 0.25 percentage points more interest for Bajaj Group staff, Bajaj Finance customers and existing policyholders of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance. Senior citizens get an additional 0.35 percentage points.

Investors not looking for regular income can consider the 36-month cumulative option that offers 8.6% returns.

With the RBI easing repo rates by over one percentage point so far this year, deposit



TENURE (MONTHS)	MINIMUM DEPOSIT (₹)	CUMULATIVE	INTEREST RATES (%)			
			Monthly	Quarterly	Half-yearly	Annual
12-23	25,000	8.00	7.72	7.77	7.85	8.00
24-35	25,000	8.15	7.88	7.93	8.00	8.15
36-60	25,000	8.60	8.28	8.34	8.42	8.60
SPECIAL DEPOSIT						
15 months	1,00,000	8.05	7.77	7.82	7.89	8.05

interest rates have been falling over the past few months.

Since interest rates are falling and are expected to be benign in the near-to-medium term, a three-year time frame will enable investors to lock into higher rates now. Besides, a three-year tenure is ideal to scout for better reinvestment opportunities if the rate cycle turns by the time the deposit matures.

The 8.6% offered by Bajaj Finance is higher than what most comparable NBFC deposits offer. The interest rates for three-year deposits in most private and public sector banks stand at 6.5-7.75% at present. For a tenure of 33 months, M&M Financial Services offers a slightly higher

rate of 8.7%. But it is not an apples-to-apples comparison for two reasons – one, the tenures are not the same, and two, the 8.7% rate is offered only on deposits made online through the M&M Financial Services website.

Investors can fill up an on-line application form on the Bajaj Finance website or do an electronic transfer of the amount they wish to deposit.

The downloaded application form with a photo and other required documentation will be collected by a company representative. An instant online loan of up to ₹4 lakh is available against this deposit. Renewal of the deposit will fetch 0.10 percentage points over and above the rate

at which the deposit is booked. However, it will be prudent for investors to weigh other options available at the time of maturity of this deposit and then take a call on renewal.

About the company Bajaj Finance focuses on lending to consumer, rural, SME and commercial segments, with consumer loans constituting 39%. Its assets under management were at ₹1,28,900 crore as of June 30. Net NPAs stood at a low 0.64%, and capital adequacy at a robust 19.48%.

(This column is for information purposes only and is not a recommendation to invest)

repo or t-bill yield. This means that your lending rate will be revised much faster. In case of SBI's home loan product, changes to lending rates happen immediately (within a month of change in RBI's repo rate).

Aside from quicker transmission, this also implies other changes in your monthly payouts.

Under a regular home loan product, your equated monthly instalment (EMI) on home loan is fair-

under external benchmarks. For instance, they could offer a steady EMI.

Takeaway 3: Look at individual products and understand their structure before deciding if predictability in EMIs is important to you.

Existing borrowers The RBI has also allowed existing borrowers under MCLR to move to the external benchmarked-loans, without levy of any charge or fee. Given that loans under the new structure will most likely be cheaper than under MCLR, in a particular bank, borrowers should consider making the switch.

However, do take note of any hidden charges (RBI has allowed some administrative/ legal costs) before making the move. Also ensure that you are offered the same lending rate as a new borrower under the external benchmark regime.

It may be prudent to also weigh in the benefits. If you are nearing the end of your existing loan, it may not make sense to make the switch. If you do not care much for volatility in your EMIs, then consider the move only if the interest savings are substantial.

Also, as of now, it appears that the no-charge/ fee mandate applies only to a switch within the same bank. If you are making a move from one bank to another, there could be additional charges.

Takeaway 4: Switch to external benchmark loans only if the remaining tenure of your loan is long and interest savings are substantial.

BLACKBOARD: MOBILE TRADING

Investing while on the go

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

What is mobile trading?

Mobile trading refers to trading in the stock market using a mobile phone. Leading brokerages now offer apps to their clients who can use them to trade in shares, invest in mutual funds or in initial public offers, and even monitor their portfolio. While the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved trading through mobile phones way back in 2010, traction was hardly visible in the initial years as investors preferred to trade through their dealers or relationship managers.

But the last few years have seen the share of mobile trading rise significantly, though it still accounts only for a small portion of the overall trading volume. As per BSE, mobile trading accounted for 5.1% of the total trading in August.

Two years ago, in August 2017, the share of mobile trading was pegged at 2.91%.

Why is mobile trading becoming popular?

First, the increased penetration of smartphones, along with the availability of cheaper data plans, has made the cellphone a

popular platform for investors, especially retail, to trade in the stock markets. Second, most new-age discount broking entities prefer that their clients trade using their mobile apps, which also help the brokerages lower their overhead costs by maintaining fewer dealers and relationship managers.

Trading apps of brokerages like Zerodha, 5paisa, ICICI Direct, Upstox, HDFC Securities, Angel Broking, Sharekhan and Kotak Securities feature among the top apps in the finance category in both Android and iOS.

Is trading on the mobile safe?

Brokerages invest a lot in technology nowadays and hence, most trading apps have strong encryption and other security features so as to make the trading experience quite secure. Most brokerages nowadays have a chief technology officer, which was unheard of a few years ago. The apps are also regularly updated with security features, among other things.

The strong level of security is further corroborated by the fact that some of the leading brokerages now see more than 50% of their active clients trade via apps instead of the web portal.

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank name	Interest rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.35	8.75	8.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.00	8.30	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.30	7.30
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.50	8.50	8.00
Fincare Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.00
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.50	8.00	8.35
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.10	7.50	7.00
North East Small Finance Bank	8.75	7.25	7.25	6.75
AU Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.01	8.00	7.77
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.35
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Indian Bank	6.90	6.75	6.75	6.90
Syndicate Bank	6.70	6.50	6.50	6.50
Bank of Maharashtra	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.50
State Bank of India	6.70	6.70	6.25	6.25
Andhra Bank	6.60	6.60	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25
Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	6.75	6.75	6.40	6.45
Indian Overseas Bank	6.80	6.60	6.80	6.80
Corporation Bank	6.90	6.80	6.50	6.50
Allahabad Bank	6.75	6.60	6.35	6.35
IDBI Bank	7.05	7.05	6.75	6.75
Central Bank of India	6.60	6.60	6.45	6.45
United Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.00
Bank of Baroda	6.60	6.45	6.45	6.25
Punjab National Bank	6.60	6.60	6.50	6.50
UCO Bank	6.50	6.50	6.40	6.40

Bank name	Interest rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Karnataka Bank	6.90	6.90	6.80	6.80
South Indian Bank	7.30	7.25	7.30	7.00
Federal Bank	7.25	7.00	7.00	7.00
Axis Bank	7.20	7.10	7.00	6.75
Karur Vysya Bank	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
City Union Bank	7.00	7.00	6.85	6.85
Catholic Syrian Bank	6.75	6.75	6.50	6.50
Yes Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	7.25
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.10	7.00
HDFC Bank	7.10	6.90	7.10	7.00
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.85	6.75	6.50	6.25
IDFC First Bank	8.00	8.00	7.50	7.50
DCB Bank	8.00	7.00	8.00	7.75
RBL Bank	7.75	7.70	7.50	7.50
Bandhan Bank	7.65	7.35	7.65	7.65
Dhanlaxmi Bank	6.90	6.90	6.50	6.50
Lakshmi Vilas Bank	7.60	7.50	7.50	7.25
IndusInd Bank	7.50	7.50	7.35	7.35
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.10	7.10	6.75	6.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citi Bank	5.50	5.25	5.50	5.50
Deutsche Bank	8.00	6.50	7.00	8.00
HSBC Bank	6.00	5.00	6.00	5.00
DBS Bank	7.25	7.25	6.75	7.00
FD rates as on September 5, 2019				

Source: paisabazaar.com

Home loan interest rates

Name of lender	Loan amount (₹)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
SBI (MCLR linked)	8.35-8.75	8.60-9.05	8.70-9.20
SBI (RLLR linked)	8.05-8.40	8.05-8.40	8.60-8.75
Bank of Maharashtra	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.25
Canara Bank	8.50-8.60	8.50-8.70	8.50-8.75
BoB (MCLR linked)	8.45-9.45	8.45-9.45	8.45-9.70
BoB (RLLR linked)	8.35-9.35	8.35-9.35	8.35-9.60
PNB (MCLR linked)	8.50-8.70	8.50-8.70	8.55-8.75
PNB (RLLR linked)	8.25-8.30	8.25-8.30	8.30-8.35
UCO Bank (MCLR linked)	8.50	8.50-8.60	8.65-8.75
UCO Bank(RLLR linked)	8.30-8.40	8.30-8.40	8.30-8.40
Indian Overseas Bank	8.50	8.60	8.75
United Bank (MCLR linked)	8.40-8.55	8.40-8.55	8.40-8.55
United Bank (RLLR linked)	8.15-8.30	8.15	8.15-8.30
Andhra Bank	8.50-8.55	8.50-8.55	8.60-8.65
Punjab & Sind Bank	8.50	8.50	8.75
Syndicate Bank (MCLR linked)	8.35	8.35	8.35
Syndicate Bank (RLLR linked)	8.25-8.85	8.15-8.85	8.15-8.70
Union Bank (MCLR linked)	8.60-8.95	8.60-8.95	8.65-9.25
Union Bank (RLLR linked)	N.A.	8.25-8.30	8.30-8.35
Bank of India	8.45-9.35	8.45-9.35	8.45-9.35
Corporation Bank	8.60-8.80	8.60-8.80	8.60-9.05
Central Bank of India	8.30	8.30	8.30-8.55
IDBI Bank(MCLR linked)	8.60-9.20	8.60-9.20	8.90-9.20
IDBI Bank(RLLR linked)*	8.30-8.45	8.30-8.45	N.A.
Allahabad Bank	8.40-9.40	8.40-9.40	8.45-9.40
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
ICICI Bank	8.60-9.00	8.60-9.10	9.10-9.20
Karnataka Bank	8.90	8.90	9.00
Bandhan Bank	12.41-13.33	12.41-13.33	12.41-13.33

Name of lender	Loan amount (₹)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
HDFC Ltd.	8.40-8.95	8.75-9.30	8.80-9.35
PNB Housing Finance	9.25-11.50	9.25-11.50	9.25-11.50
Indiabulls Housing Fin	8.80-12.00	8.80-12.00	8.80-12.00
LIC Housing Finance	8.80-9.05	8.95-9.15	9.05-9.15
Hero Housing Finance	>=9.75	>=9.75	>=9.75
Piramal Capital & Housg.	>=9.00	>=9.00	>=9.00
IIFL	>=10.25	>=10.25	>=10.25
Bajaj Finserv	8.60-11.15	9.05-11.15	9.05-11.15
Reliance Home Finance	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00	9.75-11.00
Aditya Birla Capital	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50
GIC Housing Finance	9.10-12.50	9.10-12.50	9.10-12.50
Repco Home Finance	>=9.25	>=9.25	>=9.25
Tata Capital	>=9.25	>=9.25	>=9.25
*Applicable from 10th Sept. 2019; Rates as on 5th Sept. 2019			

Source: paisabazaar.com



(Clockwise from left) The Beetle Bar from Amazonia; Raseel Gujral; the Emporio store; at One Style Mile

With a collection inspired by the Amazon about to drop, the interior designer talks about big projects and her love of scale

Raseel's singular take

SURYA PRAPHULLA KUMAR

The Amazon is burning, and debates about that pushing climate change to a tipping point have thrown a pall over the world. But the rainforest, decimated or not, has never failed to inspire. Most recently, it is interior and lifestyle designer, Raseel Gujral Ansal, who has looked West. Her limited-edition collection, Amazonia – conceptualised before the fire and scheduled to be launched at the end of the month – “delves into the organic space of the jungle”.

Featuring its flora and fauna, along with “Art Deco imagery and mid-century influences”, she says, “I am exploring it in stone inlay, embossed metal and semi-precious stones like jade, malachite and rose quartz, on

furniture, crockery, 3D marble (like wall panels), wallpaper, and more. Until next summer I will be expanding the Amazonia story.”

Emporio calling card

Raseel also recently re-opened her store, Casa Paradox, at DLF Emporio (after pulling out three years ago for some company restructuring). But she brushes aside any credit of being the only interior design outlet at Delhi's elite address. It is just one of many accomplishments she has accrued over her 33-year career.

Here's a quick rewind: beginning with architecture in 1986, the designer, in her 50s now,

moved to interiors, dove into furniture and product design, launched soft furnishings, and even ventured into fashion, with prêt collections under her brand, Casa Pop. Now she is experimenting with lighting, while overseeing her new store and a pop-up at One Style Mile. How does she do it all? “I don't sleep,” she jokes, but quickly adds, “It takes discipline; it is very important to creativity.”

Bold by choice

At a time when most designers are going minimalist, she has stayed true to her aesthetic: of volume, scale and bold statements. Her home, Chaand Bagh,



is a reflection, with its soaring columns, arresting entryway and use of colour – from emerald green chairs to a pink chest of drawers. “I'll take something and blow it out of proportion, and, suddenly, it will become totally different,” she says unabashedly about her glam signature.

Juggling multiple mediums and genres – from boutique hospitality and heritage to luxury residences – also comes naturally to her. Dare we say, it is the influence of her parents, renowned artist Satish Gujral (“he was not a static person,” Raseel shares, “always experimenting with various things”) and artist-ceramist Kiran Gujral? “I'm doing a penthouse in London for a

client who has an interesting art background. So I know I can do something fun and different. I'm also doing some restoration and hospitality work with the City Palace in Jaipur. It is a vast, unwieldy project, but it has all the things I want to be a part of.” At the moment, however, she is heading to Hyderabad, where a large project with a client who is “very bold, courageous and wants to spend money” promises to become one of her landmark projects.

The Art of Giving Porcelain collection ranges from ₹2,500 to ₹11,000; fashion accessories from ₹3,999 to ₹10,999; gifting collectibles from ₹3,500 to ₹20,000; and Amazonia furniture from ₹2.95 lakh upwards

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Swimming in the rain

Swimming fairs were a regular feature in the days of the Mughals, during the rainy season, when the Yamuna was full



R.V. SMITH

The Delhi Government Tourism Department's three-day Monsoon Fair at Mehrauli, in imitation of the ones that used to be held during Mughal days, witnessed classical dances, dastangoi, qawwalis, the rendition of Mahar or the raga of the rainy season, swinging on rope jhoolas, good food, and fun and games.

One result of pollution and the scanty water in the Yamuna is the virtual end of the annual swimming fairs, like the one at Okhla. The Delhi Gazetteer of 1883-1884 recorded the number of fairs in Delhi at 33, though originally there were 104, which included (besides the bathing ones) mostly those in honour of local deities, the pankha melas, the Moharum processions and the Urs at various shrines.

Among the fairs that attracted both Muslims and Hindus were the Tairaqi Melas, started by the Mughals, when the river was full and flowed right under the walls of the Red Fort. Nets had to be thrown in it to catch crocodiles that were swept thither by the flood. There may be some exaggeration in such accounts, though it is a fact that occasionally crocs found their way to Macchliwala, the fish market near the Jama Masjid. Here oil was extracted from their carcasses and, like their skin and teeth, fetched a high price,



Seasonal fun The Yamuna in the rains • SANDEEP SAXENA

along with the snout that was mounted by taxidermists for the drawing rooms of the nawabs. Until the late 19th century crocodiles were found basking near the Purna Qila in winter.

Swimmers from overseas

Here is an account written in the mid-20th century by my father, *Agra: Rambles & Recollections of Thomas Smith*: “For most Delhiwallahs the swimming season begins with the onset of the monsoon and not at modern swimming pools. There was a time when swimmers floated on their backs with iron spits on their chests on which kababs, paranthas and jalebis were fried. In Moghul days the art of swimming reached its zenith with Tariaqs (swimmers) from Turkey, Iran, Armenia, Central Asia and Afghanistan coming to compete here. A noted swimmer from Agra was given the title of Mir Macchli by Jahangir...When

Jahangir...was initiated into the sport, tons of roses were thrown into the Yamuna, then in flood. A similar story is told about Shah Jahan, which only goes to show how popular river swimming was in those days...”

Upto the early 1940s there were four swimming fairs on the four Thursdays of Sawan. Parties from the Walled City marched to the river to the beat of drums, headed by a flag-bearer (the Nishan Nashin), and singing the songs of Barsat (the rainy season) of poet Nazir. There were separate groups of Muslim and Hindu swimmers. For the former the Ustad was the chief and for the latter the Khalifa (colloquially pronounced Khalipa). This was strange since the word Khalifa has Arabic origins and got converted into the Anglicized Caliph. How was it then that a non-Muslim group had adopted it? One reason could be that in former times the trainers of both

communities were of Turkish descent and so when Ustad became popular with one group, the other one decided on retaining Khalifa.

The beating of the drums

The groups returned home with the drums beating again and the Nishan fluttering in the monsoon breeze to cries of “Nare Taqbi” and “Har har Mahadeva.” But if a group lost a swimmer then the drums were not played and it trooped home silently. Because of this fear little girls and boys were posted on the road to bring word to the zenana women that all was well. Later, kheel-batasha or sweet nuktidana (boondi) were distributed.

There wasn't much swimming at the recent Monsoon Fair but it wouldn't be a bad idea to introduce it next year when the Yamuna overflows its banks.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

SHIKHA TRIVEDI

In November 1616, Sir Thomas Roe, the English Ambassador to the Mughal Court presented a coach to emperor Jahangir from the East India Company. Jahangir was so disgusted with his gift, lined with ‘poor quality crimson China velvet’ that he ordered it to be dismantled and replaced the fabric with a richly patterned luxury silk, “the ground of it gold, mingled...with silk flowers, and the nails silver and double gilt.”

W. Foster (ed.) Sir Thomas Roe's Embassy, 1899

At a time when the demands of a capricious marketplace have made fashion props of art, design and craft, a show opens at the National Museum in New Delhi which is uncompromising in its rejection of trends and commerce.

Pra-Kashi: Silk, Gold and Silver from the City of Light, produced by weaving specialist, Rahul Jain, curated by Pramod KG and sponsored by the Government of India and the Devi Art Foundation, presents 48 masterpieces in ‘luxury silk’ woven at the ASHA workshop in Varanasi over 25 years.

‘Luxury silk’, was a term coined to describe a historic group of patterned silks, interwoven with gold and silver thread, manufactured, using the velvet, lampas, samite, and taquete techniques. “By the 19th century, these techniques had become extinct in India. ASHA could not revive them, so in an on-going unique experiment, it reinvented the skills and tools involved in the weaving process,” says Jain who set up the workshop in 1993.

Hand-woven on traditional Indian draw-loom the artworks on display in Pra-Kashi... are replete with depictions of birds and beasts, images of animal hunts, floral motifs and the human figure. Together, these textiles, represent the full range of ‘luxury silks’ woven for 2,000 years along the old Silk Road stretching from eastern Chi-



Craftsmanship is in the details One of the masterpieces in luxury silk woven at the ASHA workshop • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PURE GOLD

An exhibition of luxury silk that was almost lost to us, but has now been reinvented with current skills and tools

na to southern Spain.

The industry is believed to have put down roots in India around the 12th or 13th century, towards the end of the Sultanate rule, but peaked only in the Mughal period. Abu'l Fazl (1551-1602) the author of Ain-I-Akbari described the imperial karkhanas or factories during Emperor Akbar's reign, as places which “turn out many masterpieces of workmanship and the figures and patterns, knots and fashions, astonish experienced travellers.”

The idea of ASHA, modelled on the royal karkhanas of the pre-industrial era, came to Jain after he saw a Mughal Patka (a silk-and-gold sash tied at the waist) for the first time in the early 1990s. “I was convinced that the Patka belonged to a class of hand-made objects that had been processed to the point of ex-



tingtion through such intense engagement, that it had surpassed nearly all its defining material characteristics. Instead of looking like it had been woven from textile yarns, the Patka appeared to have mutated into a painting on gilded paper or an enamelled jewel.”

Over the next few years, Jain, who learnt hand-weaving in Washington D.C. after quitting his job as an economist at the World Bank, trained 15 young, underprivileged weavers to create the textiles for ASHA's first

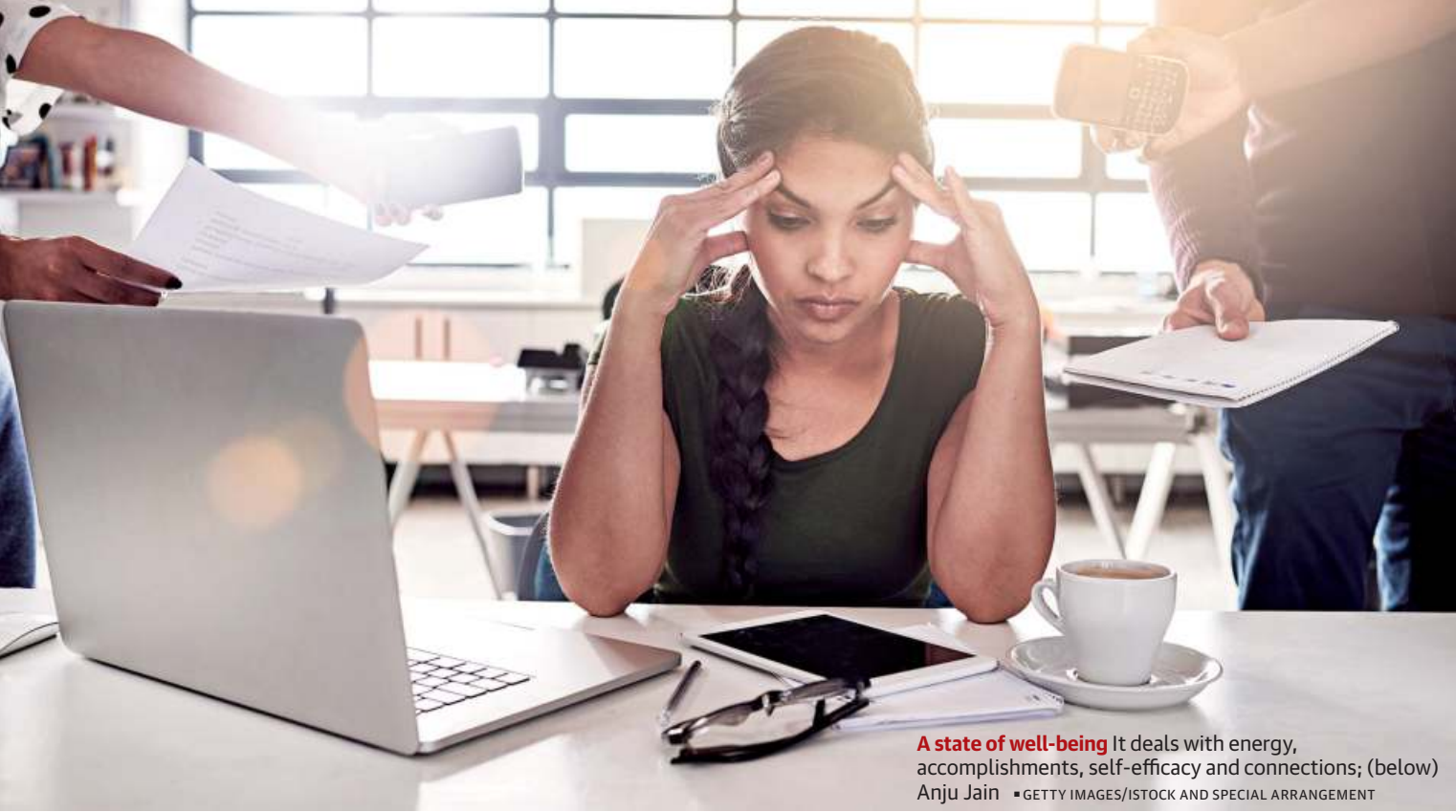
outing, Minakar, in 1997.

Whether it was garments, shawls, fabric lengths, borders, or royal tents, articles of luxury silk were designed and manufactured for the exclusive use of royal families, the temples, or for the purpose of gifting.

With the decline of the Mughal empire, following Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the imperial karkhanas lost their benefactors and began to shut down.

“ASHA has been fortunate for the support of textile connoisseur Martand Singh and industrialist Suresh Neotia, who breathed and lived the role of the peerless patron,” says Jain. Pra-Kashi... is a celebration of their and of an art, which belongs as much to the past as it does to the future.

At the National Museum, Janpath, September 9 to October 8



A state of well-being It deals with energy, accomplishments, self-efficacy and connections; (below) Anju Jain ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Everyman's guide to burnout

On the heels of the World Health Organization declaring it an occupational phenomenon, it's time to take it seriously

ANJU JAIN

To avoid burnout, we have to intentionally and deliberately nurture a well-being state. A state that is laden with positive energies that allow us to function without costing us our relationships, health or other things that matter.

According to Ed Diener, an American psychologist, well-being can be defined through three interrelated components: 'frequent positive effect, infrequent negative effect, and life satisfaction.' Likewise, Huseyin Naci of the department of social policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, and John Ioannidis of the department of medicine, Stanford Prevention Research Center, define it as: 'Physical, mental, and social health that includes

choices and activities related to achieving physical vitality, mental clarity, social satisfaction, a sense of accomplishment and personal fulfilment.'

A common thread underlying these definitions is the positive evaluation of oneself across physical,

BE POSITIVE

Positive thinking increases life span, lowers chances of depression and can even give greater resistance to the common cold.

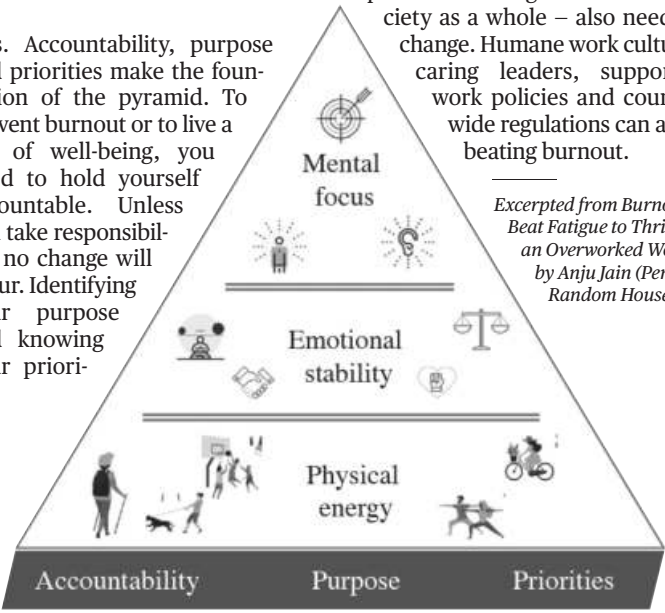


mental, emotional and social domains. Well-being is everything that burnout isn't. It is about energy, accomplishments, high self-efficacy and connections, as opposed to exhaustion, cynicism, poor efficacy and isolation.

To beat burnout, I propose a framework called the Well-being State Pyramid (WSP). It embodies the principle of being humane towards yourself. Being kind and considerate towards you; taking care of your health, needs and demands; addressing the stresses or the many alerts the body or mind may be giving you; taking timely action and pro-actively strengthening your whole self to tackle day-to-day challenging situations.

There are two parts to this framework: the foundation and three le-

vels. Accountability, purpose and priorities make the foundation of the pyramid. To prevent burnout or to live a life of well-being, you need to hold yourself accountable. Unless you take responsibility, no change will occur. Identifying your purpose and knowing your priori-

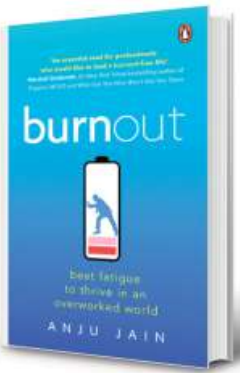


ties make the other two components of the foundation. Together, they serve as a guiding post for all your choices and future actions...

Physical, emotional and mental energies represent the three levels of the pyramid. By actively enhancing each of them, you can effectively and efficiently live your purpose and manage your priorities, all without getting burned out. As you do this repeatedly, you enhance your well-being, characterised by health, satisfaction, a sense of accomplishment and personal fulfilment.

Together, the three levels of the WSP work towards achieving a heightened sense of well-being. Though they appear distinct, they are interrelated. You need optimal physical and emotional resources to solve business problems. Likewise, you need emotional stability to recognise that your body requires rest or fuel to function effectively. Similarly, mental clarity will better facilitate your emotional and physical response to situations.

The best performers tap into positive energy at all levels of the pyramid. Though the WSP addresses beating burnout from an individual's vantage, there is more that requires attention. The environment we are a part of – our organisation and society as a whole – also needs to change. Humane work cultures, caring leaders, supportive work policies and country-wide regulations can aid in beating burnout.



Q&A

My mother has diabetes. How often should I take her for a dental and eye check-up?

■ The standard recommendation is to do an eye check-up every year. This eye check-up should be a retinal (back-of-the-eye) examination and not a routine glasses testing. Regarding the dental check-up, there are no established guidelines regarding the frequency. Once a year should be sufficient, unless there are any symptoms related to the teeth in which case they should be attended to.

I have just been diagnosed with diabetes. Can I eat idlis, dosa, or rice three times a day or is that a problem?

■ One of the main reasons for uncontrolled diabetes is consuming excess carbohydrate in the diet. For those who eat carbs three times a day in the form of idlis, dosa and rice, there seems to be a big surge of blood sugar levels after the meals. Do try to increase the protein content of the diet and reduce the carbohydrate intake. If you are eating carbohydrates three times a day, the amount should be reduced considerably. We recommend that half the plate (for lunch and dinner) is filled with vegetables and a quarter of the plate is filled with protein. For vegetarians, this protein can be in the form of Bengal gram, green gram, black gram, mushroom, soya beans, rajma etc, and for non-vegetarians it can be fish or chicken. The last quarter of the plate is reserved for a small quantity of rice or one or maximum two chapatis. This will help to control the diabetes better.

My son is getting married, and I have been under some stress of late. Do I need to worry about my blood sugar levels?

■ It is very well known that stress increases the blood sugar levels. Hence, you should check your blood sugar levels and if they are elevated, you should try to reduce them. Stress reduction measures like yoga and meditation, pranayama, deep breathing and other relaxation techniques can help you to reduce the stress and thereby reduce the blood sugar levels.

Dr V Mohan is a diabetologist based in Chennai, who heads a WHO collaborating Center for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and an International Diabetes Federation Center of Education

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 us with your questions at mp_health@thehindu.co.in

POOCH CAFE



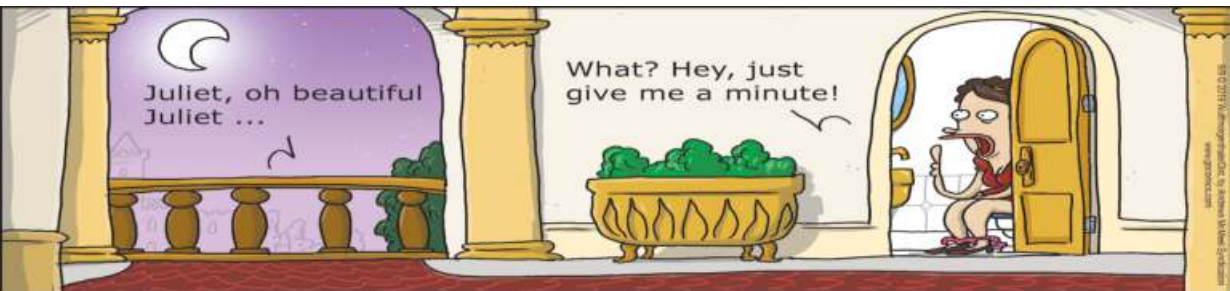
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



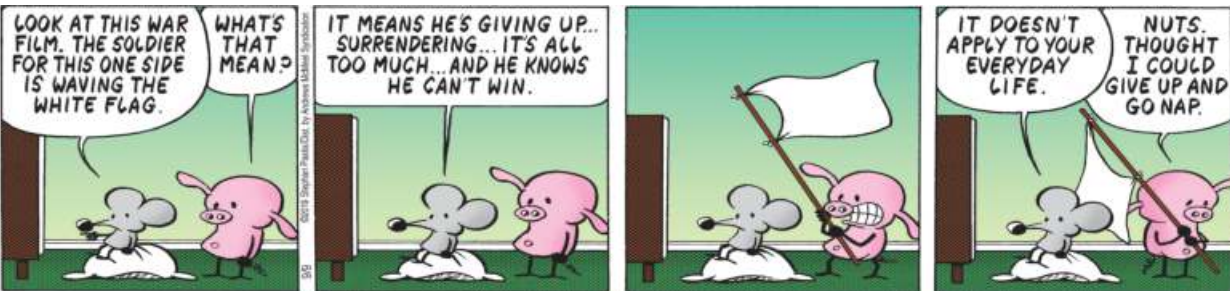
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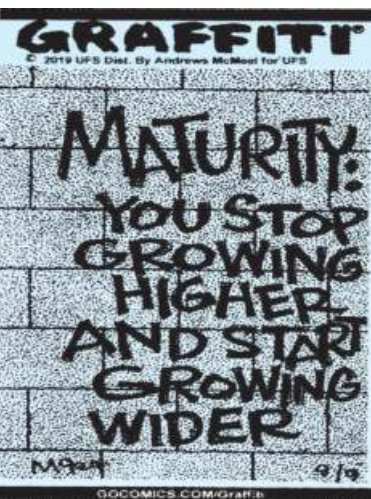
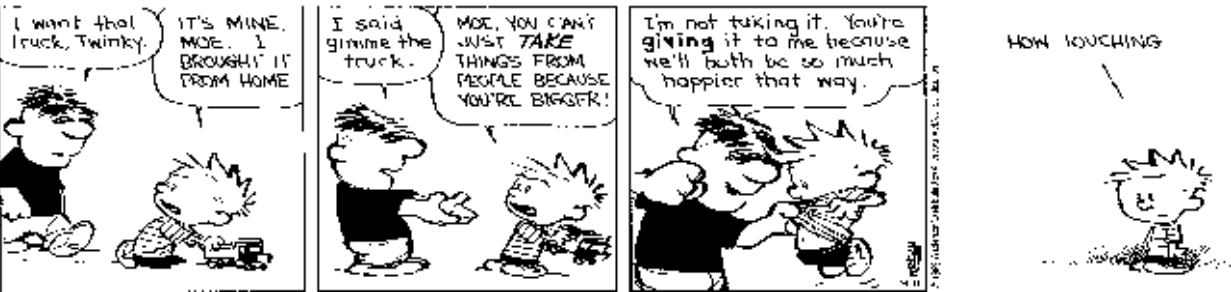
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Brian Smith

HOW CAN I AVOID KNEE REPLACEMENT SURGERY?

■ NITROGLUCONAMIDE HAS SAVED MANY PEOPLE FROM KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY. IT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO EFFECTIVELY RELIEVE THE PAIN OF OSTEOARTHRITIS. PATIENTS ALSO EXPERIENCE GREATLY INCREASED JOINT MOBILITY AND MUSCLE STRENGTH. TAKE 1,000 MG THREE TIMES A DAY. EXPECT PAIN RELIEF IN 3 TO 4 WEEKS.

Health Capsules® is not intended to be a diagnostic device.

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13169

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- Across
- 1 Pool for performing marine mammals (12)
 - 9 Paved area outside a house (5)
 - 10 Sharp – indicated (7)
 - 11 Teaching both girls and boys (2-2)
 - 12 One way of scoring at rugby (4,4)
 - 14 Unhealthy looking (6)
 - 15 C-F musical interval – Prince Regent George's eventual
- reginal number (6)
- 18 Lacking written authentication? (8)
 - 20 All Blacks' war dance (4)
 - 22 Clump of grass (7)
 - 23 Pale brownish-yellow colour (5)
 - 24 Plan to get out! (4,8)
- Down
- 2 Ground grain used to make porridge (7)
 - 3 Classical music concert for which part of the audience stands (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 10, 2019.

Solution No. 13168

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Teen sensation Andreescu overpowers Serena

The Canadian proves too good for the 37-year-old American who suffers her fourth straight defeat in a Slam final

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Teenager Bianca Andreescu became Canada's first Grand Slam singles champion on Saturday with a rollercoaster 6-3, 7-5 win over 23-time Major champion Serena Williams in the US Open final.

The 19-year-old Andreescu became the youngest Grand Slam winner since Svetlana Kuznetsova at the 2004 US Open, handing Williams a fourth consecutive defeat in the final of a Major to again deny her a record-equalling 24th Slam title.

"It's so hard to explain in words but I'm just beyond grateful and truly blessed. I've worked really, really hard for this moment," said Andreescu, who had won just two Grand Slam matches ahead of her US Open main draw debut.


It's 8-0

She improved her record over top-10 opponents this season to 8-0 and will rise to a career-high ranking of fifth on Monday.

Andreescu tied Monica Seles, who lifted the 1990 Roland Garros trophy in her fourth Major, for the record as the fastest player to win her first Slam title in the Open era. Williams, 37, suffered a second finals loss in a row at Flushing Meadows, after a 2018 defeat to Naomi Osaka best remembered for a furious tirade against chair umpire Carlos Ramos.

"Bianca played an unbelievable match, I am so proud and happy for you. It was incredible tennis out there. If anyone could win this, outside of Venus, I'm happy it's Bianca," Williams said.

Appearing in a 33rd Grand



The 19-year-old Queen

Andreescu is the first Canadian to win a singles Major. She has tied Monica Seles for the fastest path from Slam debutant to Slam Champion. Seles won 1990 Roland Garros in her fourth Major appearance. Andreescu won 2019 US Open, her fourth Major appearance.

Match stats

Andreescu		Serena
5	Aces	9
3	Double Faults	8
66	First Serve (%)	44
63	Net Points Won (%)	82
6/13	Break Points Won	3/8
19	Winners	33
17	Unforced Errors	33
77	Total Points Won	68
10.2	Distance Covered/pt (m)	9.3

SHE THE CHAMP! Congrats, @Bandreescu_ #WeTheNorth x #SheTheNorth"

TORONTO RAPTORS transmuted, reigning NBA champion which transmuted its slogan from its title run, "We the North", to "She the North" in tribute to Andreescu

CONGRATS GIRL! Canadian history"

EUGENIE BOUCHARD, the first Canadian woman to make it to a grand slam final, at Wimbledon 2014

I honestly don't think Serena showed up. I have to kind of figure out how to get her to show up in Grand Slam finals

SERENA WILLIAMS

This year has been a dream come true. Being able to play on this stage against Serena, a true legend of the sport, is amazing. I tried not to focus on who I'm playing

BIANCA ANDREESCU

Slam final, and fourth since the last of her 23 Major titles, Williams made an inauspicious start by conceding her opening service game with successive double faults.

Andreescu, who wasn't even born when Williams won her maiden Slam at the 1999 US Open, responded with a comfortable hold, a pattern that repeated itself until the Canadian threatened to run away with the

opening set. Serving at 2-4, Williams erased five break-points with a combination of aces and booming groundstrokes.

Sensational turnaround

Andreescu had failed to even reach the main draw at Flushing Meadows the past two years, twice falling in the first qualifying round, and her confidence continued to flow as she surged 2-0 ahead

in the second – Williams again doubled-faulting on break-point.

The American carved out four opportunities to hit back, benefiting from a huge stroke of luck when a forehand brushed the tape and trickled over to haul herself back on serve.

Undeterred, Andreescu promptly regained the initiative with another break and looked to be marching to-

wards the title when she followed a routine hold by again breaking serve for a 5-lead. Andreescu brought up championship point in the ensuing game, but Williams smacked a forehand winner to stay alive and then rattled off 14 of 17 points to peg her opponent back at 5-all.

Remarkable composure

The Canadian stemmed the bleeding by holding for 6-5

and an errant Williams backhand handed Andreescu two more shots at the title.

Williams saved the first with an ace but Andreescu secured victory on the next with a blistering forehand return.

THE RESULTS

Women: Final: 15-Bianca Andreescu (Can) bt 8-Serena Williams (USA) 6-3, 7-5.

A mock cheque that turned real!

When she was 16, Bianca Andreescu, after winning the Orange Bowl, a prestigious junior tennis tournament in the United States, wrote herself a mock cheque equal to the US Open prize money to act as motivation. "I just felt like I could do really big things in this sport," said Andreescu after her

triumph on Saturday. "So, I just grabbed a cheque and wrote the prize money of that year. "But every year I kept increasing it because it kept changing. But I just kept visualising that moment since that day. Now being the actual champion is just so crazy." The Canadian is now richer by \$3.85 million.

Serena didn't show up today, says Williams

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Serena Williams is wondering when she will start playing like a 23-time Grand Slam champion again in a Major final, calling her poor showing in Saturday's US Open final loss "inexcusable".

Williams fell to 19-year-old Canadian Bianca Andreescu 6-3, 7-5 at Arthur Ashe Stadium on the same court where she won her first Grand Slam title 20 years ago, nine months before Andreescu was born.

"I love Bianca. I think she's a great girl. But I think

this was the worst match I've played all tournament. It's hard to know that you could do better," Williams said.

"Bianca obviously played well. I think her returns make me play better and put pressure on my serve. At the same time it's inexcusable for me to play at that level," she said.

"I believe I could have just been more Serena today," Williams said. "I honestly don't think Serena showed up. I have to kind of figure out how to get her to show up in Grand Slam finals."



How much longer?! Serena Williams is struggling to find answers for bad performances in the biggest matches. •AFP

Australia registers emphatic win, keeps the urn

Cummins takes four as the bowlers rule the day at Old Trafford

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Pat Cummins led the way before Josh Hazlewood struck as Australia retained the Ashes with a 185-run win over England in the fourth Test at Old Trafford on Sunday.

England, set a huge target of 383 to win, was bowled out for 197 following some spirited lower-order defiance.

Cummins, the world's top-ranked Test bowler, took four for 43 in 24 overs.

The match ended when Craig Overton, who faced 105 balls, was lbw to Hazlewood for 21 after the tailender's review failed to overturn umpire Kumar Dharmasena's decision.

Victory ensured Australia kept hold of the Ashes at 2-1 up with one to play in the five-Test campaign.

If Australia avoids defeat at the Oval next week, it will have won its first Test series in England for 18 years.

Jos Buttler, England's last recognised batsman, faced 111 balls either side of tea making 34 when crease occupation was the order of the day.

But Buttler's patient vigil



On top of the world: The Australians are cock-a-hoop after their Ashes triumph. •AP

ended with a misjudgement that saw him play no shot to a Hazlewood ball that cut back and hit off-stump.

Smith the star

This match was a triumph for Australia's Steve Smith, the world's leading Test batsman, who scored 211 and 82. That took his tally for the series to 671 runs at 134.2, including three hundreds, despite Smith missing the third Test with concussion.


STAT SPHERE

■ It was a memorable victory for Australia as it retained the Ashes in England after 18 years when it had won 4-1 (2001)

■ Since then, England's five visits down under saw it lose the series four times and win once (3-1 in 2010-11)

■ On the other hand, the Aussies lost all the four away series prior to this tour. However, after routing the Englishmen 4-0 in the previous home series in 2017-18, the Australians have secured an unassailable 2-1 lead now and ensured that they will return home with the urn

■ Smith has been the prime architect of the success story, with 671 runs in five innings (Ave: 134.20, 3x100s, 2x50s)



Karthik apologises to BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Dinesh Karthik has tendered an "unconditional apology" for violating BCCI's Central clause by watching a Caribbean Premier League game from the Shah Rukh Khan co-owned Trinbago Knight Riders' dressing room.

Karthik is the captain of Kolkata Knight Riders but being seen in a Trinbago jersey while watching the match from the dressing room brought a show cause notice from the BCCI asking why his contract should not be cancelled.

Naveen and Meraj power Dabang past Thalaivas



No escape: Manjit Chhillar of Tamil Thalaivas is caught by Dabang Delhi defenders. •RAJEEV BHATT

PKL

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Naveen 'Express' Kumar and Iranian import Meraj Sheyk's exceptional raiding enabled table-topper Dabang Delhi to bounce back from its loss to Haryana Steelers and record an emphatic 50-34 win over Tamil Thalaivas in the ProKabaddi League at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Sunday.

The alert Naveen and the athletic Meraj stole 17 and 12 points respectively as Dabang posted its 11th win to bolster its position atop the table. Dabang gained the upper

hand, having Thalaivas all out within eight minutes. It tightened the grip further when Thalaivas was all out for a second time two minutes from half-time.

The change of sides did not help the southern outfit, which suffered its third all out within three minutes of resumption.

Naveen and Meraj steered their team to a 20-point lead with nine minutes left. While Naveen depended on his speed, Meraj used his acrobatic skills to fetch spectacular points through kicks and touches.

The Iranian impressed by slipping out of opponents'

tackles to score valuable points, including a three-pointer when he ousted Ajeet, Yashwant Bishnoi and Sagar.

Thalaivas' chief raider Rahul Chaudhuri and V. Ajith Kumar were left frustrated without enough support from teammates.

Bengal Warriors beat Puneri Paltan 42-39 in a thriller to secure its seventh victory.

The results: Dabang Delhi 50 (Naveen 17, Meraj 12, Vijay 5) bt Tamil Thalaivas 34 (Rahul 4, Ajith 9); Bengal Warriors 42 (Maninder Singh 10, Mohd. Nabibaksh 6, Suresh Hegde 6) bt Puneri Paltan 39 (Pankaj Mohite 11, Manjeet 10).

Showcause notice to Amitabh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Sunday issued a showcause notice to BCCI acting-secretary Amitabh Choudhary for not attending recent meetings of the ICC and Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

"It has come to the notice of the CoA that in the last meeting of the ICC and ACC, not only did you not attend the meetings, but also kept the BCCI in dark about your unavailability either until it was too late or altogether," wrote the CoA.

Leclerc says ‘Veni Vidi Vici’ at the temple of speed

Staves off the challenge from the Mercedes duo of Hamilton and Bottas to register first win for Ferrari at Monza since 2010

ITALIAN GP

S. DIPAK RAGAV
MONZA
Italy has a new hero. Ferrari has a new hero and he is just 21 years. Driving for the biggest team in Formula One in just his second year in the sport in front of the adoring tifosi, Charles Leclerc set alight the Autodromo Nazionale Monza sending the crowd draped in red into a tizzy by winning the Italian Grand Prix under tremendous pressure.

Leclerc showed nerves of steel as he battled challenges throughout the race, first from Lewis Hamilton and then Valtteri Bottas, who threw everything they had in them.

However, it was not enough to deny the young Monegasque his biggest moment as he helped end Ferrari’s winless run in Monza that dates back to 2010 when Fernando Alonso won in his maiden season at the Italian team.

After securing pole on Saturday, Leclerc had to fight



Conqueror: Charles Leclerc waves to his fans after racing Ferrari to victory. *AP

for the win. He staved off a good-starting Hamilton into turn one but quickly built up a one-second lead after the first lap.

Hamilton triggered the first round of pitstops and

Leclerc reacted to cover the undercut and the duo went toe-to-toe between lap 21 to lap 41. On a track where Mercedes’ lack of straight-line power was hurting Hamilton, the Briton kept the pressure

up and tried a move on lap 23 only for Leclerc to gently squeeze him out of the track much to Hamilton’s annoyance.

Leclerc then made a small error locking up into turn

one but managed to retain the lead and did well to keep Hamilton at bay before the latter made a mistake of his own allowing teammate Bottas to second.

The Finn was on seven laps fresher tyres to Leclerc and began to rapidly close on but messed on two occasions just when he was within one second.

Once on lap 46, Bottas made a mistake into Ascari chicane just before the back straight losing half a second and then on lap 50 into turn one when he was within striking distance.

The Renault drivers Daniel Ricciardo and Nico Hulkenberg finished fourth and fifth, a brilliant result for the team in its fight against McLaren. Max Verstappen starting from the back of the grid could only finish eighth with Lando Norris in McLaren taking 10th and final points-scoring position.

Worst for Vettel

But on a day when a new Ferrari star shone brightly, Sebastian Vettel produced his

worst performance in ages. The four-time champion spun on his own accord into the Ascari chicane on lap six and rejoined the track dangerously like a driver with no racing experience would do and forced Lance Stroll into a spin. The German was given a stop and go penalty and had a lonely race to finish 13th.

Vettel has had a terrible

season making numerous mistakes this season and has been beaten by Leclerc in recent times both in qualifying and races.

And on Sunday, it was the proverbial passing of the baton from Vettel to Leclerc as the latter moved ahead of his illustrious teammate in the driver’s standings 182 to 169. *(The writer is in Monza at the invitation of Petronas).*

THE RESULTS

1. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 1:15.267s, 2. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) +0.835s, 3. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) +35.199, 4. Daniel Ricciardo (Renault) +45.515, 5. Nico Hulkenberg (Renault) +58.165, 6. Alexander Albon (Red Bull) +59.315, 7. Sergio Perez (Racing Point) +1:13.802, 8. Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Honda) +1:14.492, 9. Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo Racing) +1 lap, 10. Lando Norris (McLaren) +1 lap, 11. Pierre Gasly (Torro Rosso) +1 lap, 12. Lance Stroll (Racing Point) +1 lap, 13. Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) +1 lap, 14. George Russell (Williams) +1 lap, 15. Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo Racing)

+1 lap, 16. Romain Grosjean (Haas) +1 lap, 17. Robert Kubica (Williams) +2 laps.
Drivers’ standings: 1. Hamilton 284 points, 2. Bottas 221, 3. Verstappen 185, 4. Leclerc 182, 5. Vettel 169, 6. Gasly 65, 7. Sainz Jr 58, 8. Ricciardo 34, 9. Albon 34, 10. Kvyat 33, 11. Hulkenberg 31, 12. Raikkonen 31, 13. Perez 27, 14. Norris 25, 15. Stroll 19, 16. Magnussen 18, 17. Grosjean 8, 18. Giovinazzi 3, 19. Kubica 1, 20. Russell 0.
Constructors: 1. Mercedes 505 points, 2. Ferrari 351, 3. Red Bull 266, 4. McLaren 83, 5. Renault 65, 6. Toro Rosso 51, 7. Racing Point 46, 8. Alfa Romeo Racing 34, 9. Haas 26, 10. Williams 1.

Driver, track safety in news again

Racers call for return to gravel and grass

S. DIPAK RAGAV
MONZA
Just a week after Formula 2 racer Anthoine Hubert’s death during the race in Spa Francorchamps in Belgium, the issue of driver and track safety was in focus again on Saturday when Formula 3 driver Alex Peroni had a huge crash.

Towards the end of the F3 race, Peroni ran wide at the final high-speed parabola corner and a small sausage kerb installed outside of the corner launched him into the guardrails.

The kerb came under criticism from the drivers and has since been removed though the issue of track limits has risen its head once again.

Lewis Hamilton said that tracks need to go back to gra-

It’s a band-aid on the issue of putting tarmac there in the first place. I don’t think they needed tarmac round there

LEWIS HAMILTON

vel and grass instead of tarmac run-off and said it was a bad bandage on a bad solution of having tarmac.

The tarmac run-off areas mean drivers are willing to take more risks without the fear of getting trapped in the gravel or pushed into the barriers.

Biggest problem

“It was much better when it was grass and gravel on the exit there because I remember you used to come into that corner, you kind of...

you were a bit nervous going in too deep because you might end up in the wall. The grass would pull you out wide and you’d pay the price for pushing beyond the limit. So now you can go beyond the limit and that’s the biggest – for me – the biggest problem with all these run-off areas that are tarmac now,” said Hamilton.

“It’s a band-aid on the issue of putting tarmac there in the first place. I don’t think they needed tarmac round there.”

Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc added, “Yeah, I think it was maybe a bit pointless to put a kerb like this, once they said they would look at the track limits there because anyway if you go out, you have your lap and the next lap deleted.”

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

K.Y. Ahamed led a podium sweep for TVS Racing in the premier pro-stock 301-400cc category, while Anish Shetty spearheaded a 1-2-3 for Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing, notching up his fifth consecutive win in the pro-stock 201-300cc class as the fourth round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National motorcycle racing championship at the MMRT on Sunday.

Earlier, Rajiv Sethu continued his winning spree in the popular pro-stock 165cc category after overcoming a poor start, as Idemitsu Honda Ten10 team swept the podium spots. This was 21-year-old Chennai-based Sethu’s sixth win in a row.



Three cheers, TVS! K.Y. Ahamed, centre, the winner, flanked by No. 2 Jagan Kumar, left, and No. 3 Deepak Ravikumar.

The results (provisional): Natl. championship: Pro-stock 301-400cc (race-2): 1. K.Y. Ahamed (TVS Racing) 15:29s; 2. Jagan Kumar (TVS) 15:30.137; 3. Deepak Ravikumar (TVS) 15:31.307.

Pro-stock 201-300cc (race-2): 1. Anish Shetty (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing); 2. Abhishek Vasudev (IHTR) 16:10.234; 3. Aravind Balakrishnan (IHTR) 16:20.165; **Pro-stock 165cc (race-2):** 1. Rajiv Sethu (IHTR) 16:04.365; 2. Sarath Kumar (IHTR) 16:04.708; 3. Kevin Kannan (IHTR) 16:17.731.

Novice (stock 165cc, race-2, 6 laps): 1. I. Venkatesan (Moto Maniacz Racing) 13:15.876; 2. Y. Manoj (Moto Maniacz)

HOCKEY

UTHIRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The pots for Monday’s crucial draw to determine the Hockey Olympic Qualifiers ties was finalised on Sunday with both the Indian men and women confirmed to play at home later this year.

The updated FIH rankings after the end of the Oceania Cup saw the top-five among men, including India, retain their positions despite the upsets in the recent European Championships.

With the continental champions getting a direct ticket to Tokyo 2020, the remaining teams as per world rankings were drawn up with the top-seven hosting the two-legged tie in October / November.

Men

- **Pot 1 (Host):** Netherlands, India, Germany.
- **Pot 2 (Host):** Great Britain, Spain, New Zealand, Canada.
- **Pot 3 (Away):** Malaysia, France, Ireland, Korea.
- **Pot 4 (Away):** Pakistan, Austria, Russia.

Women

- **Pot 1 (Host):** Australia, Germany, Great Britain.
- **Pot 2 (Host):** Spain, Ireland, India, China.
- **Pot 3 (Away):** Korea, Belgium, United States of America, Canada.
- **Pot 4 (Away):** Italy, Chile, Russia.

India would now be drawn against one of the three – Pakistan, Austria or Russia, the three bottom-placed sides – with the last replacing Egypt, which pulled out of the qualifiers.

The Indian women, meanwhile, rose one position to be placed ninth in the world and also make the cut for being in the top-seven

Euro qualifiers: France, Portugal back on track

Post impressive wins over Balkan nations Albania and Serbia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

France and Portugal got their Euro 2020 qualification campaigns back on track with impressive wins over Balkan pair Albania and Serbia that boosted the world and European champions’ chances of making next summer’s tournament.

France moved back top of Group H with a 4-1 thumping of Albania thanks to Kingsley Coman’s first international goals in more than three years and further strikes from Olivier Giroud and substitute Jonathan Ikone at the Stade de France.

Portugal meanwhile is second in Group B on five points from three games after it also struck four times in Belgrade, with William Carvalho, Goncalo Guedes, Cristiano Ronaldo, William Carvalho, and Bernardo Silva – celebrate a crucial win.



Team effort: All four of Portugal’s goalscorers – Goncalo Guedes, Cristiano Ronaldo, William Carvalho, and Bernardo Silva – celebrate a crucial win. *AP

tiano Ronaldo and Bernardo Silva giving Fernando Santos’ side a 4-2 victory that was also its first win of the qualifying campaign.

However, Portugal had a

much trickier time than the French, with Nikola Milenkovic and Aleksandar Mitrovic twice pulling goals at a loud Stadion Rajko Mitic back before Silva finally

made sure of three points four minutes from the end.

The results: Group D: Switzerland 4 (Zakaria 37, Mehmedi 43, Rodriguez 45+4, Gavranovic 87) bt Gibraltar 0; Georgia 0 drew with Denmark 0.

Group F: Romania 1 (Puscas 47) bt Malta 0.

Group J: Armenia 4 (Mkhitarian 3, 66, Hambartsumyan 77, Lomcar 90+5-og) bt Bosnia & Herzegovina 2 (Dzeko 13, Gokaj 70).

Saturday: Group B: Serbia 2 (Milenkovic 68, Mitrovic 85) lost to Portugal 4 (Carvalho 42, Guedes 58, Ronaldo 80, Bernardo Silva 86); Lithuania 0 lost to Ukraine 3 (Zinchenko 7, Marlos 27, Malinovskyi 62).

Group H: France 4 (Coman 8, 68, Giroud 27, Ikone 85) bt Albania 2 (Cikalleshi 90-pen; Turkey 1 (Ozan Urfan) bt Andorra 0; Iceland 3 (Sigthorsson 31, B. Bjarnason 55, Mudrac 77-og) bt Moldova 0.

Jokic sent off, Serbia loses

BASKETBALL WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WUHAN (CHINA)

All-Star Nikola Jokic was ejected in the third quarter for a row with the referee as fancied Serbia was stunned 81-69 by Spain to blow the Basketball World Cup wide open on Sunday.

Argentina topped Group I after a dominant 91-65 victory over Poland.

Important results:

Sunday: Spain bt Serbia 81-69; Argentina bt Poland 91-65; Italy bt Puerto Rico 94-89.

Saturday: United States bt Greece 69-53; France bt Lithuania 78-75; Australia bt Dominican Republic 82-76; Czech Republic bt Brazil 93-71.

Desert God may repeat

HYDERABAD: Desert God, who maintains form, may repeat in the President of India Gold Cup (2,400m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Monday (Sept. 9). There will be no false rails.

1. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE (Div. I), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (placed 2nd and 3rd not eligible), (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-25 p.m.: 1. Ace Missile (3) R. Ajinkya 56, 2. Bob Campbell (9) C.S. Jodha 56, 3. Dimension (1) Rohit Kumar 56, 4. Golden Faraska (8) N. Rawal 56, 5. Let It Be Me (7) Umesh 56, 6. Speed Warrior (2) Nakhat Singh 56, 7. Tough And Go (6) P. Sai Kumar 56, 8. Turbulence (10) S.G. Prasad 56, 9. Wind Power (4) Santosh Raj 56 and 10. Kimberly Cruise (5) Kiran Naidu 54.5.

1. GOLDEN FARASKA, 2. KIMBERLY CRUISE, 3. SPEED WARRIOR

2. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE (Div. II), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (placed 2nd & 3rd not eligible) (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-55: 1. Ashwa Yudh Vijeta (5) N. Rawal 56, 2. Brave Syera (8) G. Naresh 56, 3. Glendale (10) Umesh 56, 4. Gustly Note (2) B. Nikhil 56, 5. Rathasaphami (9) Deepak Singh 56, 6. Reno Star (3) Aneel 56, 7. Aristocrats Charm (1) Ajeeth Kumar

54.5, 8. Big Leauge (4) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 9. Coconut Coast (7) Zervan 54.5 and 10. Rasika (6) Kuldeep Singh 54.5.

1. RENO STAR, 2. ARISTOCRATS CHARM, 3. COCONUT COAST

3. HALF A CROWN PLATE (Div. II), (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), (No whips), 2-30: 1. Delphina (9) Gaurav Singh 60.5, 2. Alexanderthegreat (4) Surya Prakash 58.5, 3. Barnabas (6) Kuldeep Singh 58.5, 4. Once More (2) Jitendra Singh 57.5, 5. Baywatch Babe (8) N. Rawal 56.5, 6. Mahira (10) Abhay Singh 56.5, 7. Et Voici (3) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 8. Snow Castle (7) Gaddam 53.5, 9. Run Runner Run (1) Afroz Khan 52.5 and 10. Dance All Night (5) Kunal Bunde 51.5.

1. ONCE MORE, 2. ALEXANDERTHEGREAT, 3. DELPHINA

4. NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. I), 3-00: 1. Magical Skill (10) Jitendra Singh 60, 2. Scooby Dooby Doo (9) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. La Romance (5) Gaurav Singh 58.5, 4. Ashka Ashka Ashka (8) Kuldeep Singh 59, 5. Southern Crown (4) Surya Prakash 56.5, 6. Asteria (1) Suraj Narredu 55, 7. Gorgeous Lady (3)

Kiran Naidu 54, 8. Digger (2) G. Naresh 52, 9. Heaven Can Wait (6) Afroz Khan 52 and 10. Proud Warrior (7) B.R. Kumar 50.

1. ASHKA ASHKA ASHKA, 2. SCOOBY DOOBY DOO, 3. ASTERIA

5. ORIGINAL VEL MRS.RADHA BALASUBRAMANI GOLD CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, (Cat. II), (Terms), 3-30: 1. Destined Dynamite (4) B. Nikhil 62, 2. Phenomenal Cruise (3) Suraj Narredu 62, 3. Top Link (1) Ashhad Ashbar 60, 4. Ashwa Yashobali (2) A. Sandesh 58, 5. My Opinion (1) Akshay Kumar 58, 3. Reunion (4) C.S. Jodha 53.5, 4. Secretive Force (2) Zervan 53.5 and 5. Like Wise (5) Nakhat Singh 50.5.

1. DESERT GOD, 2. MY OPINION

7. NAWAB KHAJA MOINUDDIN KHAN MEMORIAL PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4-30: 1.

Pentagon (2) G. Naresh 60, 2. News O’ Star (1) Surya Prakash 59, 3. Warrior Supreme (9) Suraj Narredu 58, 4. Yanga (8) Afroz Khan 57, 5. Arc Of History (4) Gaurav Singh 56, 6. Marina Del Rey (7) Akshay Kumar 55, 7. Star Gazer (6) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 8. Shaandaar (3) C.S. Jodha 52 and 9. Ta Ta (5) Gaddam 51.

1. MARINA DEL REY, 2. YANGA, 3. WARRIOR SUPREME

8. ELUSIVE HERO PLATE (Div. III), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (placed 2nd & 3rd not eligible), (Cat. II), (Terms), 5-00: 1. Blazing Jupiter (6) Kuldeep Singh 56, 2. Dazzling King (3) Umesh 56, 3. Gold Label (5) Nakhat Singh 56, 4. Secret Command (4) N. Rawal 56, 5. Sputnik (7) Akshay Kumar 56, 6. Stepper (8) S.G. Prasad 56, 7. Strategist (10) C.S. Jodha 56, 8. California Beauty (2) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 9. Flying Queen (9) Suraj Narredu 54.5 and 10. Top In Turf (1) A.A. Vikrant 54.5.

1. FLYING QUEEN, 2. STRATEGIST, 3. BLAZING JUPITER

Day’s best: **DESERT GOD** Double: **BE SURE – MARINA DEL REY**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (d): 1, 2 & 3; (ib): 4, 5 & 6; (ii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

Moondancer wins feature event

HYDERABAD: Moondancer (Rohit Kumar) won the Soli And Gool Poonawalla Memorial Gold Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Sunday (Sept. 8). The winner is owned by Mr. Thimaraja Yelamarthi & Mr. C. Krishna Kannaiah and trained by Satyanarayana.

1. DELAGE PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **LOCKHART** (Afroz Khan) 1, King Maker (Surya Prakash) 2, Durango (Ajeeth Singh) 3 and Ashwa Raftar (Umesh) 4. Hd, 1/4 and 1-1/4. Im 39.49s. ₹33 (w), 11 and 10 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 137, Q: 46, Tla: 444. Favourite: N.R. I Heights. Owner: Mr. T. Rakesh Reddy. Trainer: A. Vatsalya.

2. STAR HAVEN PLATE (1,800m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **NAZARIYA** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Actually (Surya Prakash) 2, Buttonwood (Koushik) 3 and Lancashire (B.R. Kumar) 4. Shd, 1-1/2 and 1. Im 54.81s. ₹11 (w), 8 and 23 (p), SHP: 24, FP: 62, Q: 42, Tla: 99. Favourite: Buttonwood. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra & Mrs. Rina Mahindra. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

3. HALF A CROWN PLATE (Div. I), (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **AMAZING SCRIPT** (Surya Prakash) 1, Crimson Fire (Deepak Singh) 2, Brush The Sky (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Darshish (Ajay Singh) 4. 2-1/2, 1-1/2 and 1-1/2. Im 26.75s. ₹14 (w), 7, 15 and 8 (p), SHP: 42, FP: 168, Q: 87, Tla: 747. Favourite: Amazing Script. Owners: M/s. Zaveri Ltd. Farm Pvt.Ltd.rep. by Mr. Champakkal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri, Miss Harsha N. Desai & Miss Niti N. Desai. Trainer: Deshmukh.

4. SWEEPING SUCCESS PLATE (2,400m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): **LINEWILER** (Akashy Kumar) 1, Saffra (N. Rawal) 2, Star Racer (Deepak Singh) 3 and Green Turf (A.A. Vikran) 4. 1/2, 2-1/2 and 3/4. Im 13.66s. ₹9 (w), 6, 13 and 14 (p), SHP: 42, FP: 92, Q: 73, Tla: 526. Favourite: Linewiler. Owner: Mr. M. Rama Krishna Reddy. Trainer: L. D’Silva.

5. ARMY CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **VERSALLIES** (Afroz Khan) 1, Aon Aon Aon (Suraj Narredu) 2, Pontus Pilate (Gaurav Singh) 3 and One One One (C.P. Bopanna) 4. 1, 3-1/4 and 1-1/2. Im 12.23s. ₹27 (w), 6, 7 and 8 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 79, Q: 47.

Quite difficult: Leclerc

SPORTS REPORTER
MONZA

Speaking about the tense race especially towards the end, Leclerc said, “It was quite difficult because at no point the gap was more than 1.5 or 1.7 seconds to Lewis. I knew he doesn’t make a lot of mistakes. I made a few but it didn’t cost me the position. Going over the line, I let all my emotions out. Probably no one can understand what I said. It is beyond all the dreams of my childhood.

“The last two laps, I started to see in the grandstands the fans were jumping and there was a lot of agitation. I then said to myself, ‘Charles stop looking at the stands. Look at the car and drive.’ It was difficult to focus on driving seeing how much movement there was in the grandstand.”

TV PICKS

PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.15 p.m. & 8.30 p.m.
Bangladesh vs Afgh-
anistan: Only Test, day 5, 5S
Select 1 (SD & HD), 9.15 a.m.

Afghanistan inches closer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHITTAGONG

Spinners Rashid Khan and Zahir Khan shared five wickets between them as Afghanistan came within four wickets of a historic win over Bangladesh in the one-off Test here on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Afghanistan – 1st innings: 342.

Bangladesh – 1st innings: 205.

Afghanistan – 2nd innings: Ihsanullah Janat lbw b Shakib 4, Ibrahim Zadran c Mominul b Nayeem 87, Rahmat Shah c & b Shakib 0, Hashmatullah Shahidi c Soumya b Nayeem 12, Asghar Afghan c Shakib b Taijul 50, Afsar Zazai (not out) 48, Mohammad Nabi c Mominul b Mehidy 8, Rashid Khan b Taijul 24, Qais Ahmad lbw b Shakib 14, Yamin Ahmadzai (run out) 9, Zahir Khan c Mominul b Mehidy 0; Extras (b-4); 4; Total (in 90.1 overs): 260.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-4, 3-28, 4-136, 5-171, 6-180, 7-210, 8-235, 9-260.

Bangladesh bowling: Shakib 19-3-58-3, Mehidy 12.1-3-35-2, Taijul 28-6-86-2, Nayeem 17-2-61-2, Mominul 10-6-13-0, Mosaddek 4-1-3-0.

Bangladesh – 2nd innings: Liton Das lbw b Zahir 9, Shadman Islam lbw b Nabi 41, Mosaddek Hossain c Asghar b Zahir 12, Mushfiquur Rahim lbw b Rashid 23, Mominul Haque lbw b Rashid 3, Shakib Al Hasan (batting) 39, Mahmudullah Riyad c Zadran b Rashid 7, Soumya Sarkar (batting) 0; Extras (lb-2); 2; Total (for six wkts., in 44.2 overs): 136.

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-52, 3-78, 4-82, 5-106, 6-125.

Afghanistan bowling: Yamin 4-1-14-0, Nabi 17.2-4-38-1, Rashid 13-0-46-3, Zahir 10-0-36-2.

37, Tla: 298. Favourite: Marinetti. Owners: M/s. Balamukunda Das, K. Shashabindu Das & Krishnan Kamesh. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. SOLI AND GOOL POONAWALLA MEMORIAL GOLD CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 75 and above (Cat. I): **MOONDANCER** (Rohit Kumar) 1, Isabella (Suraj Narredu) 2, Prospero (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Amazing Response (Akshay Kumar) 4. Nk, 1 and 5-1/4. Im 12.19s. ₹12 (w), 7, 5 and 9 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 30, Q: 15, Tla: 173. Favourite: Isabella. Owners: Mr. Thimaraja Yelamarthi & Mr. C. Krishna Kannaiah. Trainer: Satyanarayana.

7. RED RUFUS PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated up to 25 (Cat. III): **STORMY** (Afroz Khan) 1, Halo’s Princess (G

‘A learning about inner-self’

I never thought I will progress in the field of sports, says Manasi

PARA-BADMINTON

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

The para-badminton World championship gold speaks about the fruition of a journey of learning about inner-self and of how the human body adapts to challenges, says Manasi Joshi.

The Mumbai resident, who picked up the singles gold in SL3 category final in Basel recently, says the World title is giving her the confidence to qualify and try for a medal in the mixed doubles category of Tokyo Paralympic Games next year. “So long it has been a journey of learning about the inner self and how human body can adapt to different situations it encounters and how we can push ourselves for the betterment of self and society,” Manasi said on the sidelines of the Kolkata leg of ProKabaddi League where she has been a special invitee.

New meaning
An engineer by profession,

Manasi says badminton has given a new meaning to her life. “I never thought I will progress in the field of sports. I got into it for my personal growth and it took me to a level where I am representing my country now,” said the 30-year-old champion who lost her left leg in an accident in 2011.

Asked about her next goal, she says it is to qualify to the Tokyo Paralympics. “This is a Paralympics year and I have six tournaments to secure the qualification. I have won a singles gold in the World Championship, but unfortunately my singles event is not a Paralympics event so, I am focusing on mixed-doubles for Tokyo (with Rakesh Pandey), she said.

“Our current ranking in the world is 13 and we need to be in the top-six to make it to Tokyo. It is a difficult task as the competition at this level is really stiff. We are working hard as a team and hopefully will make the grade,” said Manasi who has had a World para-badminton silver in 2015.



Twist in tale: Manasi said she got into the sport for her personal growth, but it took her to a different level. ■FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

Vaidehi wins Asian Tour tournament

Inflicts a rare defeat on Prerna as she romps home in straight sets

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Vaidehi Chaudhari inflicted a rare 6-3, 6-4 defeat on Prerna Bhambri in the final of the \$3,000 Asian Tour women's tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex here on Sunday.

Even though she was not that quick on her feet or that much error-free as she would have liked, the 27-year-old Prerna was quite competitive as she made the 19-year-old Vaidehi fight for the points.

It was perhaps a bitter pill to swallow for Prerna, who had won four National titles on these courts and had reached a career-best ranking of 358. But there was no denying the fact that Vaidehi was the better player.



Vaidehi . ■KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Incidentally, it was the second title on the Asian Tour for Vaidehi who had won the last tournament in Pune in May. The triumph was worth \$450 while the runner-up collected \$300.

There may not be many tournaments in the Asian circuit, especially with the revival of WTA and ATP points for the entry level tournaments on the ITF circuit, but the event definitely served a good platform for the players to check the quality of their game. “I was confident of winning. I had played and lost easy to Prerna long back. Maybe, I was under-14 then. I am happy with the quality of my game and the way I handled the match today,” said Vaidehi, who was accompanied by coach Etee Maheeta.

A trainee of coach Jignesh Raval, who along with Shrimal Bhatt and Alexander Waske of Germany has set up a collaboration of considerable quality in Ahmedabad, Vaidehi is easily one of the bright prospects in Indian women's tennis who has rejected all offers from the US Collegiate circuit for tennis scholarship.

Holistic approach

With such support in terms of tennis expertise as much as physical fitness and aspects related to mental toughness, the focus has been on a holistic approach towards player development at Altevol Academy in Gujarat.

In contrast, it was a bonus for Prerna who has not been competing much in the circuit after marriage earlier this year. However, it was very warm support for Prerna, as her brother and coach Praateek Bhambri was accompanied by Prerna's husband Ayush Tandon and other family members whose cheering brought the best out of her in some tough rallies.

The result (final): Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Prerna Bhambri 6-3, 6-4.

Double delight for young Yash

Divyansh bests Dhanush for top spot in the junior air rifle final

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Young Yash Vardhan of Rajasthan revealed his competitive excellence in the finals as he topped the men's and youth events in air rifle, in the seventh National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Sunday.

The 16-year-old Yash, who had missed qualifying for the final in the last World Cup in Rio de Janeiro by 0.2 point, beat Sandeep Singh of Army by 0.3 point. He delivered a 10.7 last shot to cinch the issue.

Sandeep had done well to

top qualification with 630.6 which will play a significant role in enhancing the averages for national team selection.

Pankaj Kumar shot 630.2 in qualification and placed third, ahead of Asian Games silver medallist Deepak Kumar who had missed the Olympic quota in Rio but had won the mixed air rifle gold with Apurv Chandel.

Dhanush Srikanth, who had dominated the sixth trials, was sixth in the men's event, after a modest qualification score of 627.3 which put him in the final ahead of Olympian Chain Singh, Olympic quota winner Divyansh Singh Panwar and the experienced Ravi Kumar.

Divyansh made the junior final and clinched the top spot by beating Dhanush by 1.6 point. Srinjoy Datta, who topped qualification with 629.4, placed third. Yash vardhan was placed sixth in the juniors.

Commendable fare

It was a commendable fare by Yash as he came back strong in the third final of the day, and topped the youth final with 250.7. He beat Dhanush by 0.4 point. Divyansh Singh Panwar opted out of the final.

Arjun Singh Cheema continued to dominate the 50-metre free pistol event, as he topped the men's and junior lists with 564, two points

better than his effort on Saturday.

The results:
10m air rifle: Men: 1. Yash Vardhan 250.4 (627.6); 2. Sandeep Singh 250.1 (630.6); 3. Pankaj Kumar 228.1 (630.2).

Juniors: 1. Divyansh Singh Panwar 251.2 (625.7); 2. Dhanush Srikanth 249.6 (627.3); 3. Srinjoy Datta 228.1 (629.4).

Youth: 1. Yash Vardhan 250.7 (627.6); 2. Dhanush Srikanth 250.3 (627.3); 3. Srinjoy Datta 228.5 (629.4).

50m free pistol: Men: 1. Arjun Singh Cheema 564; 2. MonuTomar 562; 3. Vikash Kumar 556.

Juniors: 1. Arjun Singh Cheema 564; 2. Vikash Kumar 556; 3. Sachin Bhatti 553.

25m sports pistol: Junior men: 1. Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu 586; 2. Udhayveer Sidhu 585; 3. Harshwardhan Yadav 580.

Rich haul by Indians

SPORTS BUREAU
VLADIVOSTOK (RUSSIA)

India won the team championship gold while Pranav and Meghana bagged the boys and girls singles titles respectively in the 10th Asia-Pacific Youth Games bad-

minton competition here.

The results: Team: India bt Russia-II 3-0; bt North Korea 3-0; bt Russia-I 3-0.

Boys (final): Pranav bt P. Sai Vishnu 21-19.

Girls (final): Meghana bt Ishani Waldia 21-19.



Proud moment: Indians with their medals. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All set for Track Asia Cup cycling

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

The three-day cycling extravaganza, the Track Asia Cup 2019, beginning on Monday will showcase top quality competitive track cycling in the Capital.

The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) will be hosting the sixth edition of the tournament at the Yamuna Velodrome in the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex from September 9 to 11.

More than 150 cyclists from Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, Uzbekistan, the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, China, Myanmar, Singapore, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Latvia and Slovakia, besides India, will be participating.

Part of World Cup

The competition is part of the World Cup, World Championships and also serves as a qualifier for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

A 34-member Indian team and an additional team drawn from Khelo India cyclists will participate.

Eighteen-year-old Esow Alben, who won team sprint gold in the junior track cycling World Championships, will lead the challenge in the men's elite category.

A big test

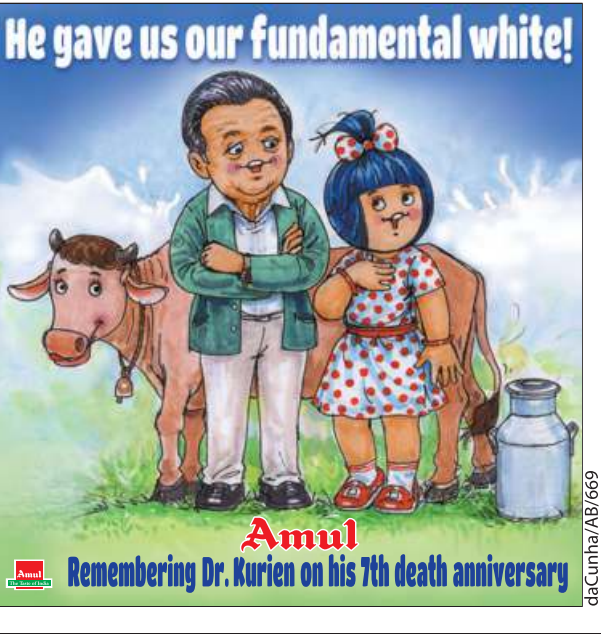
The transition to senior category will be a big test for

him.

Deborah Herold, currently fourth in UCI 500m time trail rankings, is looking to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. Along with Aleena Reji, she will take part in the women team sprint.

CFI chairman Onkar Singh said, “This is a build-up for Indian cyclists.

“We are organising it to help the junior cyclists learn from competing against some of Asia's best.”



Book on spin quartet launched

We took pride in each other's performance, success: Bedi



Recording greatness: Co-author Sachin Bajaj, Bishan Singh Bedi, Kapil Dev and author Aditya Bhushan during book launch of Fortune Turners. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

For more than a couple of generations, Indian cricket's fame and fortunes both at home and abroad were a direct result of its spin bowling, scripted through the 60s and the 70s primarily by four men – the famed spin quartet considered the most potent bunch of slow bowling in tandem ever.

Its exploits – Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrashekhar and S. Venkataraghavan – has now been brought out in a book. ‘Fortune Turners: The Quartet That Spun India To Glory’ by Aditya Bhushan and Sachin Bajaj has anecdotes, incidents and explanations of the times gone by from its main protagonists themselves.

And one of them, Bedi, was present at its launch here on Sunday, in a gathering that saw the likes of Kapil Dev and former Indian hockey captains Zafar Iqbal and Aslam Sher Khan in atten-

dance. “We were very fortunate that we all played together and we were very proud of each other. There was never a moment when someone took five wickets and the other three would sulk. We took pride in each other's performance and success,” Bedi reminisced.

“But beyond that, I think our performances were based on the two captains we played under, primarily Tiger (Mansur Ali Khan) Pataudi who, to my mind, was the best thing to have happened to Indian cricket,” he added.

Great, but not athletic

Kapil, who made his overseas debut under Bedi in 1978 to Pakistan, admitted he looked up to them. “Sitting with them itself was more enjoyable than anything else – how they ate, tied their laces, their mannequins – we used to look up to them for everything. Only, they were not great athletes,” he quipped.

But when Bedi retorted that the spinners would have been redundant today, Kapil was quick to disagree. “I think cricketers adapt to the era they are playing in. These people had the ability, the art of bowling. Today if you look back, you realise they had something which history will never see again. Even today in T20s, you need a great spinner if you have to win a competition,” he said.

Asked about the one quality in each of his three contemporaries that he admired, Bedi was quick to list them. “I loved Venkat's tenacity, he could persevere in what he had set his mind to do. Prasanna was the best in his craftiness – both with his hand and his mind. And Chandrashekhar, I call him God's own hand. He was class apart. Imagine, even Viv Richards used to tremble facing Chandra!”

The book has been published by Global Cricket School.

IOC tricks PNB in penalty corners

MURUGAPPA HOCKEY

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

To say IOC is a fantastic team because of its international players – 12 to be precise – is to state the obvious.

The real reason for its successful record, especially in 2018-2019 where it won eight of the 11 tournaments it took part in, is the near-perfect understanding between the players. All of it was evident in the final of the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup all-India hockey tournament when it tamed Punjab National Bank (PNB) 3-1.

Gurjinder Singh turned out to be the hero, scoring a brace as the side retained the crown.

Gurjinder opened the account in the second quarter when he deftly pushed one into the net off a penalty corner conversion by Raghunath.

PNB got one back through Vishal Antil, who was quick to score off a rebound in a penalty corner conversion after Man-deep's direct shot ricocheted off the custodian's leg.

Thakur scores

Deepak Thakur scored his second goal of the tournament when he tapped one off a cross from Rahil Mo-sin.

In a match that was decided on penalty corners, IOC showed its class.

The results (final): IOC 3 (Gurjinder Singh 23, 38, Deepak Thakur 59) bt PNB 1 (Vishal Antil 44).

Punjab boys, Maharashtra girls in finals

SPORTS BUREAU
CUTTACK

Punjab boys and Maharashtra girls made the finals of the National sub-junior basketball championships on Sunday.

The results: Boys (semifinals): Punjab 61 (Rupansh Garg 18, Yuvaraj Singh 15) bt Haryana 35 (Sandeep Kumar 19, Kaushal 16); **Quarterfinals:** Mizoram 87 (Lallianmaw 21, Johan Lal 18, Christopher 14) bt Rajasthan 78 (Anurag Singh 19, Dhannjay Jhakar 11); Haryana 70 (Kapil 19, Kaushal 17, Sandeep Kumar 11) bt MP 62 (Goutham Pal 23). **Girls (semifinal):** Maharashtra 72 (Sameeksha Chandak 19, Gunjan Manthri 16, Pragathi Nawale 10) bt Delhi 64 (Reha Singh 25).

A work incomplete, sadly

Qadir had finished half of his autobiography: son

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Spin legend Abdul Qadir had completed more than half of his autobiography before his passing away on Friday in Lahore, his son Sulaman said on Sunday. “He had completed more than 100 pages of his book and was very keen to invite Prime Minister Imran Khan for the launching ceremony in a few months time,” Sulaman said.

“He has written all about his struggle to become a top player and his many interesting incidents in domestic and international cricket as a player and official and his relationship

with Imran and others in the Pakistan team,” he added.

Surviving poverty

Sulaman said that his father was very keen to complete his book in which he has written about how he had survived poverty and played cricket.

“In one chapter, he has talked about how if he had breakfast in the morning, he was not sure if he would get food at night. Also about his experiences working at a bookshop and laundry for meagre allowances,” said another relative aware of the contents of the book.

“(There was also) about

the impact Imran (Khan) had on Pakistan cricket and him, and his matches against India and many other interesting incidents including the one about how Shane Warne got in touch with him,” he said.

“He has also written about the irony of life that there was a time when he used to sneak into the Gaddafi stadium to watch matches and today there is an enclosure named after him in the stadium.”

In the book, Qadir had also talked about his close friendships with Sarfaraz Nawaz, Iqbal Qasim and Wasim Bari and how they supported him.

Vantika on top

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Vantika Agarwal moved to the top and Rajdeep Sarkar shared the lead in the under-20 section as Sri Lanka's top seed G.N.H. Thilakaratne threatened to stop the Indian juggernaut after six rounds of the Western Asian youth chess championship here on Sunday.

Vantika (5 points) made amends for her loss in the fourth round by winning both her matches, including the one against Uzbek challenger Bakhora Abdusatorova (4.5). The triumph also helped Vantika move half-point ahead of her conqueror Sakshi Chitlange (4.5).

Sarkar (5) shared the lead with Uzbek Abdimalik Abdisalmov. With three rounds to go, it will be a close call.

Meanwhile, Thilakaratne (5) took a half-point lead over five Indians as the combined under-18 and under-16

section was poised for a tight finish. In all other categories, the Indians maintained their lead.

Mrudul Dehankar (5.5, girls' under-18), Greeshma Dhumal (5, girls' under-16), Ayush Sharma (5, combined under-14 and 12), Bhagyashree Patil (5.5, girls' under-14), Kheerthi Ganta and Mohitha Vakcheri (5 each, girls' under-12) held the top spot.

G. Aakash, along with Daaevik Wadhawan, Mayank Chakraborty and Mohamad Imran (5 each), led in the combined (under-10) and girls (under-10). Vivaan Saraogi and Rosh Jain (5 each) shared the lead in open under-8. Tashna Agarwal, Anaishaa Nahar, Siddhi Rao and Jennica Sequira (4.5 each) were ahead in the girls' under-8 section. In under-6, Shripad Joshi (5) and Diya Sawal (6) led their respective groups.

Army Boys sail past Sainik School

NEW DELHI: Army Boys (11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre) scored a 12-1 victory over Sainik School (Imphal) in a Pool A match of the Sub-rotto Cup boys' under-17 in-

ternational football tournament here on Sunday.

In Pool B, SAI (Kolkata) defeated Sainik Mahavidyalaya (Nepal) 2-0.

Gangjee finishes T10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
YAMANASHI (JAPAN)

Rahil Gangjee savoured his best result in 13 months, finishing Tied 10th at Fujisan-kei Classic after returning his third successive three-under 68, here on Sunday.

The Indian golfer, who once had a hole-in-one on a Par-4 in the US, had an eagle on a Par-4 as he aggregated five-under 279 for T-10.

His earlier rounds were 75, 68 and 68 as he bounced back from a disappointing

first round. With this finish Gangjee moves to 62nd on the money list.

It was Gangjee's best finish since he won the Louis Philippe Cup on the Asian Development Tour last year in August. Before that he won the Panasonic Open Japan in April and earned a two-year exemption till end of 2020 on Japan Tour.

Sang-Hyun Park quietly moved up the leader board and grabbed a come-from-behind win.