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SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

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NEARBY

Chargesheet filed against Gambhir

NEW DELHI

The police have filed a supplementary chargesheet against BJP MP Gautam Gambhir and others for allegedly cheating flat buyers in a project in Indirapuram, Ghaziabad. Mr. Gambhir was an additional director and brand ambassador of the project.

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India slams Imran's 'hate speech' at UN

Pakistan PM's speech attempts to sharpen differences and stir up hatred, Indian envoy says

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
NEW YORK

In a strong rebuttal to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), India said he had engaged in "hate speech".

"Unfortunately, what we heard today from Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan was a callous portrayal of the world in binary terms, 'us' versus 'them', rich versus poor, North versus South, developed versus developing, Muslims versus others," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Vidisha Maitra said on Friday night.

She was speaking during the minutes allocated to India for its right of reply.

"A script that fosters divisiveness at the United Nations, attempts to sharpen differences and stir up hatred is, simply put, 'hate speech'," Ms. Maitra said.

Mr. Khan, who addressed the General Assembly shortly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday morning, had warned of a likely "bloodbath" in Kashmir when India removes restrictions on the State, imposed after the revocation in early August of Article 370.

He had also outlined the linkages between the origins of RSS ideology and Nazism.

'Industry of terrorism'

"Citizens of India do not need anyone else to speak on their behalf, least of all those who have built an industry of terrorism from the ideology of hate," Ms. Maitra said.

Mr. Modi's address, calling for a united fight against terrorism, made no reference to either Pakistan or Kashmir.

> When a nuclear-armed country fights to the end, it will have consequences far beyond the borders. It will have consequences for the world. I'm warning you, it's not a threat. It's a fear
>
> – IMRAN KHAN, PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

> Words matter in diplomacy. Invocation of phrases such as 'pogrom', 'bloodbath', 'racial superiority', 'pick up the gun' and 'fight to the end' reflect a medieval mindset and not a 21st century vision
>
> – VIDISHA MAITRA, FIRST SECRETARY IN INDIA'S PERMANENT MISSION TO UN

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SRINAGAR WITNESSES 23 STREET PROTESTS ▸ PAGE 10
WORLD RESPECTS INDIA MORE NOW, SAYS MODI ▸ PAGE 11

Five-judge Bench to hear pleas against dilution of Art. 370

The hearing will begin on October 1

Restrictions back: A cyclist crossing a concertina wire fence in Srinagar on Saturday. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A five-judge Bench, led by Justice N.V. Ramana, is learnt to have been formed to start hearing from October 1 petitions challenging the reading down of Article 370 to strip Jammu & Kashmir of its special status and the bifurcation of the State into two Union Territories. The other judges on the Bench are Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, R. Subhash Reddy, B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant.

A Presidential Order on August 5 read down Article 370, which accorded special rights and privileges to the people of Jammu & Kashmir since 1954 in accordance with the Instrument of Accession.

The special status was bestowed on the State by incorporating Article 35A in the Constitution by an order of President Rajendra Prasad in 1954 on the advice of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cabinet. Parliament had not been consulted.

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has also given approval for the setting up of three other Special Benches, one of which will deal with death penalty cases. Their composition is not yet known. Justice Ramana is the third senior-most judge of the court.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Apple Inc. told to give Sengar's location on day of Unnao rape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday asked American multinational Apple Inc. to give it by October 9 the details of expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar's location on the day he allegedly raped a 17-year-old girl from Unnao.

The iPhone maker has sought two weeks to locate and access the requisite data, said lawyers. The counsel for Apple India told the court that they needed to seek instructions regarding availability of data because, as of now, it is not known whether the data is stored. The company counsel further said they were yet to take a decision on the format in which the data, if available, can be supplied to the court.

District judge Dharmesh Sharma, holding in-chamber proceedings, directed that the data be furnished with a certificate from the system analyst or the authorised person of the company. The woman was allegedly raped by Mr. Sengar on June 4, 2017.

SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 5

Sikh officer killed in U.S.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOUSTON

Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, a trailblazing Indian-American Sikh police officer, was shot and killed in an "ambush-style" attack in a "ruthless, cold-blooded way" in Houston, Texas, a senior official said on Saturday.

Mr. Dhaliwal made national headlines in 2015 when he was allowed to grow a beard and wear a turban on the job.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Three Hizbul militants, jawan killed in Jammu encounter

They had a role in the killing of BJP leader, his brother

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Three Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists and a jawan were killed at Batote in Jammu's Ramban district along the Jammu-Kishtwar National Highway on Saturday after a nine-hour operation.

The terrorists were identified as Osama Javed and Zahid – both from Kishtwar – and Moin-ul-Islam, a resident of Shopian.

The trio belonged to the new Hizbul Mujahideen module activated by Jehangeer Saroori, a 'commander' active in the area for two decades.

The incident occurred early on Saturday when the trio were planning to leave the region. Javed and Zahid were allegedly involved in a spate of killings in Kishtwar, including the 2018 double murder of BJP leader Anil Parihar and his brother Ajit.

Jawans taking position during an encounter with militants at Batote. ▪ PTI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

A ND-NDE

DELHI Timings

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29			
RISE	06:13	SET	18:10
RISE	06:32	SET	18:55
MONDAY, SEPT. 30			
RISE	06:13	SET	18:09
RISE	07:40	SET	19:36
TUESDAY, OCT. 01			
RISE	06:14	SET	18:08
RISE	08:46	SET	20:16

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	33	24
Safdarjang	33	24
Palam	32	23

Delhi Palam Today
33°C A pleasant morning with cloudy sky to continue. Day will be warm. Short spell of light rain at isolated places is likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34°C A comfortable and hazy morning turns warm day with cloudy sky.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	67	Gurugram	54
Ghaziabad	57	Faridabad	42
Greater Noida	66	Noida	50

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

DELHI TODAY

Talk: On the occasion of World Heart Day 2019, IIC, in collaboration with All India Heart Foundation organises a series of lectures. Dr. (Brig.) Y.K. Arora will deliver a lecture on "Heart Attack - Early Intervention is the Key"; Dr. (Prof.) S. Dwivedi will speak on "Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases", followed by Dr. A.P. Arora on "Hypertension". The event will feature a panel discussion by Dr. A.S. Dave; Dr. Saroj Prakash; Dr. S. Dwivedi; Dr. A.P. Arora; Dr. Y.K. Arora; and Dr. Anita Khalil at Lecture Room - II, Basement Annexe, India International Centre, 2 p.m.

Dance: Bharatnatyam arangetram by Sanskriti Choudhary, a disciple of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Yamini Krishnamurti at Triveni Kala Sangam, 6 p.m.

Dance: Rangmanch Pravesh, a solo Odissi dance by Kiana Abraham, a disciple of Guru Radhika Samson at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC, 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Tribute to Women", a solo painting exhibition by Bharti Srivastava, India Habitat Centre, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: Definitely, Maybe, a solo show of paintings by Palak Modi, curated by Annkush B Sharma at Galerie Romain Rolland, Alliance Francaise de Delhi, Lodhi Estate, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

The 'undisputed last elephant' of Delhi

While her namesake hogs the limelight, Laxmi enjoys a quiet and cosy life at her owner's farmhouse in south Delhi

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Amid the hullabaloo over the sudden disappearance and recovery of Laxmi, claimed to be Delhi's "last elephant", another Laxmi, an year younger to her famous namesake, enjoys a serene life in her green-coloured enclosure at a farmhouse in south Delhi's Dera Mandi.

Owned by the Dabur Group, 46-year-old Laxmi is now the undisputed last elephant of Delhi as the other one, 47-year-old Laxmi, has been shifted to a jumbo rescue centre in Haryana's Ban Santour after her recovery near the banks of the Yamuna earlier this month. Her disappearance in July had led to a nationwide alert, with both national and international media reporting her as Delhi's "last elephant", even though two jumbos were present in the city at that time.

Away from the limelight, Laxmi, at the farmhouse, wakes up around 5 a.m. every day and lets out a cry for the caretakers to know it's time to feed her jowar or sugarcane and water – her first meal of the day. On a September afternoon, *The Hindu* found Laxmi resting in her enclosure, an open shed, munching on jowar leaves after her daily walk.

Eat, walk, rest

"After we give her food in the morning, she is taken around for a walk for about three hours as she needs some exercise. We never take her to the main road," said Islam Khan, 56, one of the mahouts.

Mr. Khan, who has been with Laxmi for the past 35 years, said he has also grown old with the elephant. "She loves sugarcane the most and we give it to her throughout the year, except for three months when we switch to jowar. That is needed for her health," said Mr. Khan. When the supply of sugarcane from Uttar Pradesh stops, the Dabur Group gets it from Pune, he added.

Best care

Though Laxmi drinks about 80 litres of water a day and eats bananas among other things through the day, her dinner is more interesting. "We make rotis for her with 2.5 kg of wheat flour. Each roti is about half a kilo and we cook it in a earthen hearth," the caretaker said. The rotis are then greased with *desi* ghee and served with jaggery to Laxmi.

"Even if someone is ready to give us ₹10 lakh for a minute, we won't send her for any work," Mr. Khan added.

Forest officials said that Laxmi is taken care of well, but they are framing new guidelines to ensure that her living conditions are inspected every three months. There is no such official inspection cycle currently.

Inspection of upkeep

In 2016, the Forest Department carried out inspections of all seven privately owned elephants in Delhi at that time, as per 2008 guidelines of the Union government, and found lapses in the upkeep of six of them, except for the one owned by the Dabur Group.

In 2017, the department issued directions to the six owners to surrender the animals or else they would be seized. All the six elephants have been sent to different States in 2018-19, making Dabur Group's Laxmi the last elephant.

"If you see any jumbo in Delhi, except for Laxmi, it's an illegal elephant," said a senior forest official.

Pet passion

Animals you can keep, and those you can't

Which animals can be kept as pets?
Almost all wild animals including lion, tiger, cheetah and leopard cannot be owned by individuals. All animals in different schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 cannot be owned by individuals. More animals were included to the schedules via notifications over the years. Check the full list before proceeding

What about animals of foreign origin?
You can own any exotic (foreign origin) animal or bird as long as it is legally acquired. Officials say the Wildlife Protection Act pertains only to animals of Indian origin.

Can you keep an elephant?
Though there is one privately owned elephant, Laxmi, in Delhi, you cannot own one now. After a 1992 notification amending the 1972 Act, elephants cannot be owned by an individual. All elephant owners in Delhi trace their ownership antecedents prior to 1992.

Are all varieties of dogs and cats allowed?
You can keep a dog, but not a wild dog (dhole). You can own a cat, but not those found in the wild — sand cat, fishing cat, golden cat, etc.

Are pet monkeys legal?
You cannot own a monkey or a langur, but the latter is often used — in violation of the law — by people who are hired to ward off monkeys.

Are butterflies barred?
You can keep commonly found butterflies, but not Andaman tailless Oakblue and those species found in forests

Laxmi at her enclosure in a south Delhi farmhouse. ▪R.V. MOORTHY

DPCC fines authorities over pollution

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on Saturday imposed heavy fines on authorities for violating construction norms.

A fine of ₹5 lakh was imposed on the Central government-run National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) for "negligence" in checking dust emission at the site of an under-construction World Health Organisation building in ITO.

According to a statement issued, the fine was imposed after a DPCC team visited the WHO building as a part of its ongoing drive to check dust emissions at construction sites and found a large quantity of construction material lying uncovered.

DPCC member secretary Arun Mishra said that the NBCC was found negligent despite the entire Delhi-NCR region being put on high alert to prevent air pollution.

Meanwhile, a fine of ₹50 lakh each was imposed on the Public Works Department (PWD) and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) after the demolition and construction waste was found lying on a stretch of the Ring Road. "The DPCC detected construction debris on a stretch of the Ring Road, from Brar Square to Dhaula Kuan, significantly contributing to re-suspension of dust particles. Both agencies, the PWD and the SDMC responsible for the cleaning of the roads, were found wanting," said Mr. Mishra.

The pollution control body also imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh each against polluters across the city including, a hotel project in Motia Khan, Deepak Memorial Hospital on Vikas Marg in East Delhi, ESIC Hospital and Medical College in Basai Darapur and Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute in Rohini. Polluters at the sites, located along major transport corridors to take coercive measures within three days failing which the construction work will be stopped and prosecution launched.

DU student leaders join AAP

Kejriwal expresses gratitude to them for choosing party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressed several student leaders, who won elections to various posts in Delhi University colleges as independent candidates, during their induction into the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) here on Saturday.

At the AAP's party headquarters here, the national convener was told by student leaders that money and nepotism were dominating student politics. Mr. Kejriwal said that AAP was the only party where "anyone can contest and win elections".

"Politics in the country will change only when there is politics without means. If politicians contest elections with someone's money, then their accountability will also be limited to them. Today, politics is happening like this in the country, which we changed in Delhi. I still have nothing, that is why I am able to think of, and for, the public," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"The foundation of the country's development is being laid in Delhi. There were talks about closing government schools in the country and privatising them. Now we have changed this perception in Delhi. Today, government schools are better compared to private ones. Political changes are taking place in Delhi. Politics is taking place without money," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He said, students needed to think about how to contribute towards the development of the country after their graduation, expressing gratitude to them for choosing AAP.

Dwarka-Najafgarh corridor likely to open next week

Commuters can avail of the interchange facility at Dwarka

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following approval from the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS), the Delhi Metro's Grey Line connecting Dwarka and Najafgarh is likely to begin passenger operations next week, said Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) spokesperson.

The approximately 4.3-km-long corridor is a section of the Grey Line which is set to get extended to the Dhansa Bus Stand, by December. Once the corridor is functional, the Delhi Metro network will get expanded to 377 km with 274 stations across the network.

With three stations, Dwarka, Nangli and Najafgarh, the corridor has two elevated stations and one underground station.

Commuters can interchange trains and get connected to the existing Blue Line via an 80-metre passageway constructed by the DMRC.

"The Dwarka metro station is all set to emerge as an interchange facility that will connect the sub-city with the locality of Najafgarh. After the Dwarka Sector 21 station, the Dwarka station will be the second interchange facility in the Dwarka sub-city," an official said.

The approximately 6-km-long Grey Line, that was not a part of the initial Phase-III network and was only added later, will have a frequency of seven minutes and 30 seconds throughout the day, the official said.

DMRC spokesperson Anuj Dayal said, "This metro corridor is also expected to reduce traffic congestion in Najafgarh area."

The 4.3-km-long corridor of the Grey Line is set to extend till Dhansa Bus Stand by December. ▪SANDEEP SAXENA

Satellite TV broadcaster told to pay ₹60,000 to man

'HD boxes provided by the company failed to broadcast the promised channels'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The state consumer disputes forum has directed satellite television broadcaster Tata Sky to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹60,000 after it was alleged that the HD boxes provided by the company failed to broadcast the channels as promised by the company.

Stating that the consumer was entitled to compensation, the consumer panel observed, "A person who is unable to avail of the facility despite payment of service charges for the whole year in advance, is bound to have frustration and mental tension which cannot be proved by tangible evidence. Such type of injury has to be assessed by common sense."

Following the observations, the company was directed to pay ₹50,000 as compensation for pain and mental agony caused to the complainant. The service provider was also directed to refund an amount of ₹9,700 paid by the complainant for the annual subscription and an amount of ₹8,950 which he paid to avail services of an alternative service provider.

The directions came when city resident Hemant Gupta moved the consumer panel while alleging that a day after the installation of two HD boxes by the company, the same started malfunctioning. "He [complainant] complained at the customer care centre as well as through various emails but all in vain. When the company failed to redress his complaint, he shifted to Airtel. The complainant had to shift his connection merely within three months of installation," the consumer panel observed while noting the allegations in the complaint.

The Bench further added, "The factum of shifting to another service provider and that too within a short span of three months shows merits of the claim."

Haryana polls: activists bring out public manifesto

Document identifies the state of affairs of nine major services, offers suggestions

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Ahead of the Assembly polls in Haryana next month, at least 50 activists of different organisations belonging to farmers, labourers, Dalits, women, minorities and government and private employees and awakened citizens have come out with a "public manifesto". This is to emphasise on the issues of public interest and draw the attention of the masses and political parties.

The manifesto, prepared over a period of two months, identifies the state of affairs of nine major services – education, public health, other public services, agriculture, industry, law and order, employment, social justice and administrative and political reforms – in Haryana, and offers suggestions to improve their delivery system.

The 16-page document links the exploitation in agriculture and the industrial sector to privatisation and globalisation and establishes a direct relation between the nine services and employment opportunities.

Electoral mileage

Those involved in the preparation of the manifesto felt that present-day politics was aimed at taking electoral mileage out of issues that create division in the society such as caste, communal hatred and fake nationalism whereas pushing the real issues to background.

"The policies of the government post-2014 have been more anti-people. While the debt of industrialists running into several crores was waived off in the name of non-performing assets, the income of the farmers and the labourers has gone down over the past five years despite the growth in Gross Domestic Product," said Haryana Kisan Sabha vice-president Inderjit Singh who was part of the process to prepare the manifesto.

Mr. Singh added that had this money been used to fill the vacancies and provide jobs to the youth, it would have increased the demand and helped overcome the slowdown.

Conventions were held across eight districts of the State to prepare the document, before it was adopted at Jind.

Besides Mr. Singh, women's rights activist Jagmati Sangwan, social reformer Ram Mohan Rai, environmentalist Mehar Singh, agriculture scientist Mahavir Narwal and social activist Sadik Ahmed Meo were also part of the process to prepare the document.

Some of the suggestions included in the manifesto are to recruit regular staff in colleges and universities; close sub-standard private institutes; spend 5-6 % of the GDP on health services; develop public transport; give greater representation to women, Dalits and minorities in the police force; encourage agriculture-related research in the country and increase employment.

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70 mobile vans to sell onions at ₹23.90 in city

Delhi CM flags off vehicles meant to supply onions to people in all Assembly constituencies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a move to provide relief to residents of Delhi from the skyrocketing prices of onions, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday flagged off 70 mobile vans which have been arranged to supply onions to people in all Assembly constituencies in the Capital at ₹23.90 per kg.

In addition to these vans, the Delhi government said in a statement, onions are also being sold at 400 fair price shops at the same price. One person can get a maximum of 5 kg onions in one day. The sale of onions will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No identification proofs are required to purchase onions from such shops.

"The retail market in Delhi is selling onions at ₹70-80 per kg. We do not want people of Delhi to suffer due to the eye-watering prices of onions. So, we have decided to sell onions at ₹23.90 per kg. One mobile van each will be taken by the MLAs to their respective constituencies to cover all the 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi," Mr. Kejriwal said while flagging off the mobile vans.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal flagged off 70 mobile vans in the Capital on Saturday.
▪ R.V. MOORTHY

"We are directly putting into the market whatever has been procured from the centre. Two Delhi government officials will visit Nagpur to examine the quality of onions and to ensure supply of good-quality onions to Delhi," Mr. Kejriwal said, adding that after the first five days, the procurement of the onion stock will be reviewed as per requirement.

Fair price shops

"Seventy mobile vans have been launched and 400 fair price shops have been selected to sell onions as per the requirement. In this way, onions will be made available at around five shops in one Assembly. Based on the demand of onions per constituency, the government will comprehend the requirement of positioning more fair price shops and mobile vans in the city," Mr. Kejriwal said.

According to Mr. Kejriwal, the government was also keeping an eye on hoarders and legal action would be taken against them. This, even as the Chief Minister said, the government was aware of a "sudden rise in price of onions by ₹10 per kg in 10 days." This, he said, pushed the retail price of onions in Delhi. The wholesale price of onions at Azadpur Mandi, for instance, the government statement said, had gone up to ₹60 per kg, the highest since 2015. On the other hand, the statement said further, Asia's largest onion market in Lasalgaon in Maharashtra was also selling the onions at ₹50 per kg.

> **The retail market in Delhi is selling onions at ₹70-80 per kg. We do not want people to suffer due to the eye-watering prices of onions. One mobile van each will be taken by the MLAs to their respective constituencies**
>
> ARVIND KEJRIWAL
> Chief Minister

'No steps taken to curb black marketing of onions'

Kejriwal behind onion shortage: Gupta

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Opposition BJP on Saturday alleged that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal may have made arrangements to supply onions across the Capital but not to stop their sale in the black market.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, alleged that chaos had been triggered across several markets in Delhi after Mr. Kejriwal flagged off 70 mobile vans on Saturday to cater to all the Assembly constituencies in the city.

"When the government sells onions at a limit of 5 kg per customer, there is no guarantee that he will not be there to buy these onions again for selling those in the black market. On the other hand, there will be people who will not get even a kg [of onion] as Kejriwal has made no arrangement to deal with this particular situation," Mr. Gupta alleged.

"To meet the shortage of onions in Delhi, the Union government is supplying onions to the Delhi government at ₹15.90 per kg. But the Kejriwal government is selling onions at ₹23.90 per kg. The Delhi government is profiteering instead of providing some subsidy to the people," he alleged further.

The BJP leader argued that there was "every possibility" of onions being sold by the Delhi government in the black market since it had taken "no steps to curb black marketing of cheap onions". There were, he said further, also apprehensions that more than half of the cheap onions reaching the local vegetable vendors would be sold by them to customers at "arbitrary prices".

"I urge the Kejriwal government to ensure that cheap onions supplied by the Centre reach the people and there is no black marketing. Kejriwal alone is responsible for the shortage of onions in Delhi. Why did his government not take steps on time to overcome the shortage? Onions are selling in Delhi at ₹80 per kg due to the government's negligence," he alleged.

Actor bats for menstrual hygiene

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With the Centre declaring that the country is open defecation-free, Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar issued an urgent plea for menstrual hygiene to get the same attention as household sanitation got through the Centre's flagship Swachh Bharat scheme.

"Menstruation and periods are still taboo words, just like toilets used to be before the Prime Minister's [Narendra Modi] speech at Red Fort on Independence Day 2014. We need a movement, a *jan andolan* like this in order to change that," said Mr. Kumar on Saturday.

Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer noted that menstrual waste management was a key element of the second phase of Swachh Bharat. UNICEF's India representative Yasmin Haque emphasised that technology research budgets were needed to develop affordable, high quality, sustainable sanitary products for women.

IN BRIEF

Ex-BJP MP B.L. Sharma 'Prem' passes away

NEW DELHI

Former two-time BJP MP from East Delhi B.L. Sharma 'Prem' passed away at his residence in BK Dutt Colony here on Saturday. He was 90. Sharma, who also served as a functionary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, was elected as the BJP MP from East Delhi in a row in 1991 and 1996. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. His mortal remains will be kept at the VHP headoffice on Sunday. He will will be cremated at Nigambodh Ghat on Monday, VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said. PTI

Heart diseases catching people younger, say doctors

Deaths due to cardiovascular diseases in India increased from 1.3 million in 1990 to 2.8 million in 2016

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) claim the lives of 17.9 million people every year, 31% of all global deaths.

"Triggering these diseases – which manifest primarily as heart attacks and strokes – are tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol," the World Health Organization (WHO) said ahead of World Heart Day observed on September 29. "These in turn show up in people as raised blood pressure, elevated blood glucose and overweight and obesity, risks detrimental to good heart health," it said.

'Millenials at higher risk'

According to doctors, millennials are at a higher risk of developing heart disease at a younger age than the previous generation.

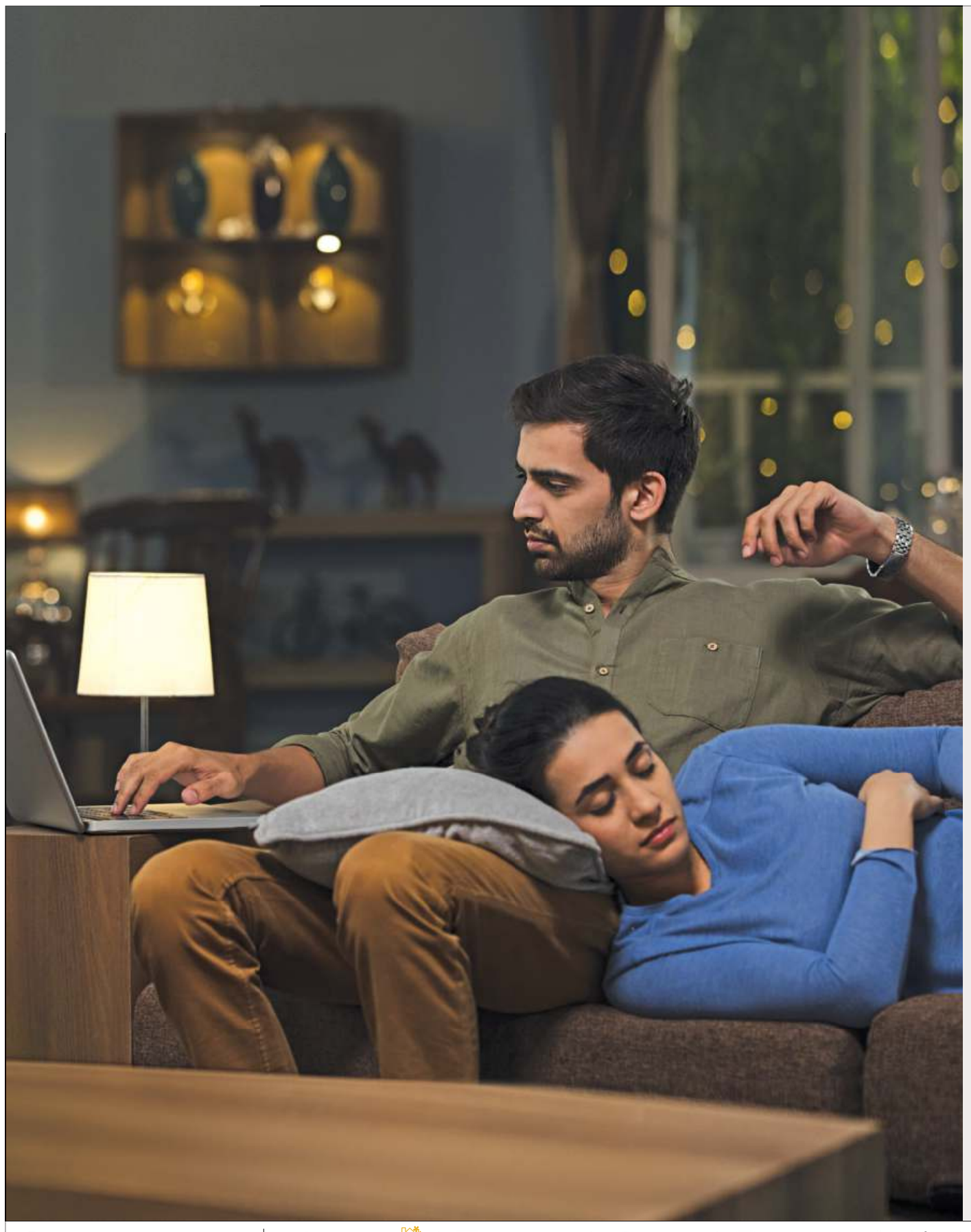
Speaking about the Indian scenario, Neeraj Bhalla, senior cardiologist at BLK Super Specialty Hospital, said: "These days we do not get surprised to handle heart attack patients belonging to the age group of 25-35...in emergency. The biggest cause of heart diseases among young people is wilful ignorance of healthy lifestyle, leading to the risk of uninvited heart attacks."

He said lifestyle issues, such as smoking and substance abuse, family history, alcohol abuse, lack of exercise, sedentary lifestyle and poor dietary choices, were the leading causes of heart ailment at a younger age.

Through the Global Hearts Initiative, WHO is supporting governments around the world to scale up efforts to prevent and control CVDs through three technical packages: MPOWER for tobacco control; SHAKE for salt reduction; and HEARTS for the strengthening of CVD management in primary health care.

Mitesh B. Sharma, director and senior consultant, Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery, at Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, said stress was also an important risk factor.

"Deaths due to cardiovascular diseases in India increased from 1.3 million in 1990 to 2.8 million in 2016," he said.



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MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

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COSMOPOLITAN

Wanted For 27 Year Old Good Looking, Engineer Girl From Good Family, Bridegroom, Good Looking Engineers and Professionals preferred, cast no bar Cont: 8008608222.

DENTIST MALAYSIA Settled in Chennai BDS/ 43/162 / Tamil Fair Slim Gud Looking Well Settled Divorcee No Issue Seeks Broadminded Alliance, Caste No Bar Ct: +91 9884050307

COSMOPOLITAN

Koundinya/ Div./ 48 Seeks groom div. wid below53 relocate Hyd 9133091337 Jviswanathan581@gmail.com

WELL EDUCATED, cultured 38 year old divorcee girl without children presently located in Bangalore is looking for a well qualified, highly placed person below 45 years belonging to modern aristocratic family. Please contact 9847506782

DIVORCEE

CSI- BC (CNB) 34/164 Divorcee ME, PhD Asst Prof 6 LPA. Seeks Qualified Groom. Ph– 9655679974.

DOCTOR

LOOKING FOR a bridegroom for a 32 year old Catholic Dr in US preferably in US medical field. 9488187926

TAMIL MUSLIM Well Settled Educated Parents Chennai Seeks Prof Qualified Match 26 / MBBS Good Looking Dr. (Sonology Done. Preparing PG) 8939214627 Whatsapp

Final Year MD Pediatrics, 27 Year, Telugu Devanga, Chennai seeks Alliance from settled MD Doctor groom. Phone: 9884614168

RICH WELL-TO-DO Mudaliyar 26/ MBBS, MD, girl looking for PG Doctor groom Subcaste no bar ct:8838300676

SC 26/MBBBS, Fair, Govt. Doctor, Earning 65000/pm, looking for Doctor groom. Ct: 8838300676

MD (ANESTHESIA) Iyer 27 Ashwini Athreya fair goodlooking girl seeks PG Doctors/ IAS/ IIT/ IIM/CA , Contact 9444475275

YADAVA/NAIDU MBBS,MS 29 Seeks MD/MS/MDS/Doctor/CA/IAS/Grade1 Grooms only CT: 7305352183

Chennai Based Well Settled With Good Net worth,Fair & Beautiful Girl 29yrs / 163cm, MS(O&G),F.MAS-Hindu Telugu Family - Seeks Groom PG Clinical / Industrial/ Institutionalist / Business From an Elite Family. Sub-Caste No Bar.
Mail BHP / Whatsapp to
vrm19990@gmail.com
9962326000

MALAYALAM

NON RELIGIOUS. Christian background. 27/167. BTech-IIT, MBA-IIM. Working in an MNC, Delhi. 22 L.PA. Seeks alliance from highly qualified. Call: 094472 36448

MALAYALI VISWAKARMA GS Uthiram, MBA, 30/5'5", Sn. IT Consultant in MNC.Seeking educated and employed Groom. Ct No. 09445651626, 09790739037

MENON Grooms over 183 cms PG Professional Preferably MD/MS/MDS, 29 to 34 years, for Menon bride 175cms, MDS, Chovva dosham. Send details to jaimakaali10@gmail.com

NAIR, B.E, 26/153, Karthigai, Chennai Settled Seeks Suitable Employed Groom. Cont: 9443560984/ 7200763445

MALAYALI NAIR - Chennai born - educated MBBS PGD Anesthesia 27/ 163. proposal invited from professional Contact: 7448747235 / 9444067002/ 9444653642/Mail:kpr.cms@gmail. com

ALAPPUZHA DISTRICT, Nair Girl (widow-No Issue) ,36 years , Uthradam , 158 cm , Btech , MNC Bangalore 9633851831 , 9880273614.

MBA/CA/ICWA

ALLIANCE FROM Professionally qualified grooms, for 32 years divorcee (marriage not consummated) Hindu, Sengunthar, ACS LLB CA(Inter), Sathayam (3) Kumbh Rassi, Raghu Kethu Dosham. Mail: pssr5678@gmail.com/ 9444498594

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN DKV Doctor 25 employed–Reputed Hospital Vellore seeks Christian groom, preferably Doctor Ct:7010350204/ goodhopetoday19@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN FAITH, Hindu Nadar, 35yrs/168cm, BE., SWE - MNC, Canada, Wheatish seeks suitable Groom from Decent Family. Ct: 9944461125/ sumathi.deepi@gmail.com

CSI CHRISTIAN NADAR /Girl/ Tamilian/33 yrs/MBBS,MD (Gen. Med)Fellowship in Cardiology and Critical Care,Working Presently in a leading Corporate Hospital in Chennai, Separated,No Issues,Good Family with Institutions, Preference,Doctors, Administrative Service, well qualified people in Businesses , Caste No Bar.CT:B.K Ashokan PH:9841151842/9443124425

CSI NADAR 27/160 fair ME CTS Chen Wellsettled seek Professionally Qualfd Working Chennai Groom. 9444412653

CSI NADAR 36/152 MS,Che.Engg.(USA) R&D Manager,Bangalore, 12LPA Seeks Educated Employed UnmarriedGroom below 40yrs.Ct:9444402442/ 9841151842

TAMIL MUSLIM,23YRS, B.Com.,CA Inter, Ht 5.2 seeks religious & educated groom ct: 8870918502

SEEKING TAMIL C.S.I Nadar bridegroom for a Cultured and Virtuous SWE working in Bangalore. D.O.B. Oct.14.1986/ 163 cm, 18L PA, Ct: 9443883665

RC NADAR, 29,155, B.Tech (Hons), Working in TCS, Canada. (Caste No Bar) 7538802230

DKV CHRISTIAN (AG) Chennai based 25Yrs /160cm, BBA, BL , ML Practicing. Seeks Qualified , Professional Groom. Ph: 9566180759

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil , working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private) , Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

CSI CHRISTIAN 32/158 M.Sc IT Working HCL Chennai Seeks Suitable Wellplaced Groom. 9884016726/ 9884315529.

RC, AD 34, Bcom Bride looking for God Fearing & Working Groom 9500139301

VEGETERIAN 26 M.Sc Pvt Chennai seeks Chennai Based, Veg, Employed Groom. Religion No Bar. 8124982764

TAMIL MUSLIM Girl B.E. 23, Kumari Dist.,Engr.Isro , Trivandapuram,Religious. 9840114786, 8344422848.

MUSLIM Girl 21/162, very fair,BTECH (IT) Selected in MNC Chennai,Well to do family Chennai,Ph 9445556810

Hindu 32/150 B.E, M.S, Upper Middle Class, Divorcee, Seeks suitable groom India / Abroad. Caste No Bar. Contact : 94896 95984.

HINDU SC Arunthathiyar Thiruvathirai /Mithunam 33/150 M.Sc, seeks Suitable bridegroom. Cont: 9486749630

GAVARA NAIDU 25/158 Thulam, Mesham, Karthigai - 1, Fair, B.E., Infosys, Chennai. 2.80 Lac p.a.,Suitable Groom well settled family. Ct: 9442122806 / 9442585737. Name / DOB / TOB / POB. Send to 94421 87960

Vanniyakula Chatriyar Ayilyam 30 BE MNC Chen 50kpm seek EducatedEmployedGroom,CasteNoBar.9840104265

HINDU DKV Pallar, 30 yrs, M.E., Officer in Nationalised Bank, Divorcee with 4 yr Girl Child, from a well educated upper Middle Class family seeks suitable educated & employed Groom. Same Caste only. Ct: 94876 87140.

RC 25/150CM B.Des(NIFT)M.A. Fashion Promotion(UK) Well Settled in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom Preferably Well Employed Designer. Caste Nobar magimai2005@gmail.com 9444132111

Sozhia Vellalar Tamil 42 years wish to settle / settled at USA for divorcee US Citizen. Caste no bar. Divorcee can also apply. Contact : 9442608146.

Slim Good looking RC Vellalar Girl 29/ 160 M.Sc, M.Phil. Asst. Professor in Trichy. Parents invite suitably placed qualified match around 33 preferrably settled in Trichy. Contact: 7708879406 / 0431 2302556

MUDALIAR GIRL 27, 173, BE, Fair Good looking, Utharattathi, Govt Undertaking job Send Biodata, Horoscope, Photo Email:rsankar9765@gmail.com

VANNIAR, 35 B.E, M.Tech, SWE seeks a suitable good family groom. 9003110229 / 9789992524

T V MUDALIAR, Oct 1981,154cm, Wheatish, Star Aswini, B.Tech, MBA, Working in a Hospital as Asst. Mgr, (HR), Seeks suitable qualified, preferably postgraduate or professionally qualified and well employed groom, age not more than 42 years, Vegetarian Hindu , Businessman also accepted. Ct: 09444931866, / 044– 22268166 Email: ksai56@gmail.com

IYER ATHREYA Revathi 28/176 Beautiful, works in MNC seeks Groom Employed in India from Affluent Family. E.Mail : allianceforak@gmail.com. Contact : 044–24937854 / 8925240723

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR Girl, 26/5'2"/Fair/B.Tech/TCS/ Uthiradam seeks Chennai based Handsome, Educated, Employed Groom with clean habits from well to do family. E.mail: nkgparan@yahoo.co.in

MUDALIAR/PILLAI 31/154 Hastham MCA fair UpperMiddleClass seek Prof. Qlfd Well Settled Groom. 8220757159

HINDU SC/AD 29/165 Govt MBBS Swathi Thulam seeks Suitable Groom 9444921014 / thailarani21@gmail.com

MUDALIAR UTHIRATTATHI 24/165 Fair, Goodlooking,B.Com,ACS, 20kpm Stipend,Company Secretary Chennai Educated Family,Upper Middle Class, Propertied.Subsect No Bar.No Brokers Cont: 9444787836(W)/9952045947(W)

TAMIL

Parents inter caste. Dr. (BDS) Age 26, Aayilyam Very fair, Divorcee, short lived. No issues. Seeks Matching stars Uthirattadi, Krithigai, Avittam. Preferred well settled doctors / govt. bank officers. Caste (BC / FC) No bar. Contact : 9488923083 / 9443955220

SEEKING ALLIANCE for SC/ AD bride, 35 yrs/ 153 cm, B.Tech, Bharani/ Mesham, S.Consultant in reputed IT firm. Ct 8056404941/ 04449595634

SC-AD Poosam Kadagam 25/09/1989 Ht 172 cm, BE, MBA(B School)13L/pa Non IT/MNC Wellsettled Family seeks BrideGroom.9840401929/9840607125

HINDU VANNIYAR Uthradam 28/162 Fair,BE,MBA Working Pvt Chen seeks educatedEmployedgroom.6374776824

SC/AD/ 39/163CM 1stMarriage, B.Pharm,Sr.Manager MNC Chennai. 14–Lac PA. Seek Suitable Groom. 9940136187

MUDALIAR (CASTENOBAR) 40 /155, Ph.D (Pharma), Sr.Analyst, seeks Qualified Employed Groom. India / Abroad. 9444675720, 044–22601953, rajasekaransguru@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR /23/B.E/CTS/3.6Lak/P.A SG DuraiNadar Chromepet Ch–44044–48573284,6381576005 10am– 6pm

HINDU NADAR /24/M.TECH/5.5Lak/P.A SG Durai Nadar Chromepet Ch–44044–48573284,6381576005 10am–6pm

SC-AD Hindu 36/157 Unmarried MSc, Employed Pvt Chennai seeks Suitable Groom. Caste No Bar.Ct:9940446541

Vanniyakula Kshatria poosam 33/162 BTech(IT) Employed 10Lpa seek EducatedGroom.CasteNoBar.9003206527

HINDU NADAR – 32 /152cm /Fair /M.Sc., /Bank EmployeeSeeks Employed Groom with Good Family.Cont–9789349205

REQ SUITABLE match for a Vellalar Chettiar girl M.Tech Thiruvadirai 32/165,Software Engineer working for TCS Chennai. Subsect no bar. 7299999336/9894552727. jeeva.jan@gmail.com

VISWAKARMA 37/164 MSc IISC, B'lore Seeks Suitable Boy. CNB. 9488634806, 9442429032

TAMIL

SAIVA VELLALAR Divorcee 29/164 BE., MBA Working in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact : 9003051425

PILLAI Mirugaseeridam 38 /172cm Phd (agri), Very Fair Employed in Govt of India, TVM, 12L, PA seeks suitable Bride Groom Unmarried / Divorced. 9443090908

VANIYA CHETTIAR M.Sc 39/157, Karthigai Scnt.Officer Chennai,seeks equal Qfln employed Boy.9994568366

AFFLUENT IYER, Brahacharanam, Haritha, Poosam / 22/ 162cms / MBA Good Looking seeks Prof. Qualified/ Fin. sound / employed / Business / Veg / T.totaler – 9445063846 / rrajeswari1968@gmail.com

Naidu, Fair and Slim Girl 33 / 173, Kumbam, Pooratathi - 2, MSc. CS, Upper middle class. Seeks suitable educated employed or Business Groom. email : esspeeswamy@gmail.com. 98424 70621

HINDU NADAR 40/153cm, Ph.D, PDF, working in pvt university in TN, seeks groom vegetarian, teatotaller, Ph.D Teaching/Research,Medical Doctor. Ct: rajasundarib56@gmail.com

VVIP (1500 crores) Hindu Nadar Divorce, own fertilizers company, Rubber estate etc.,(no child) fair seeks groom Mrs. Manjula 8838300676

S C 2nd Marriage 29/BE own Resorts, own Complex, well to do (No child)girl seeks groom 7305440042

GOWNDER 30/MBA own exports, big level (2000 crores) family seeks groom, caste no bar 8838300676

KAMMA NAIDU (Kovai) 26/M.S (500 crores family) fair girl seeks abroad settle groom 7305440042

THUVA VELLALAR 28/BE., own Dhall Exports all over (world) well to do fair, girl seeks groom 9498352938

MUDALIAR, 25/160, Fair, B.E, SWE, TCS, 480000PA, Well to do, Sks Suitable Groom, 8056174102, 8754415378

DKV HINDU 33/165cm Viruchigam Anusham B.Tech SWE TCS Chennai seeks SWE/State/Central/Govt bank Employee. CT: 9566884715.

PILLAI, 26/173, Fair, B.E, SWE, TCS, 40000PM, Well to do, Seeks Suitable Groom, 9789850231, 9677086774

TAMIL

WANTED BRIDEGROOM
for unmarried March 1984 born Iyengar Girl from a Very Affluent Family.
Contact: vasanthiiyengar1961@gmail.com

TELUGU

RC VELLALAR 50+ BCA B.Ed Fair Slim Homely seek alliance from Groom Below 55. Ph:9491596045

NAIDU 26 MBBS CHENNAI. WANTED MBBS PG GROOM. 9940620500

NAIDU 40/163 MCA MNC unmarried Chennai Fair seeks suitable groom srikrishna.dr@gmail.com 9445691753

USA H1B 1984/153cm/Fair–Pooradam/ Dhansu seeks Hindu groom(caste no bar) Ind/US telgu/tamil.9940644626/ dhanskin@yahoo.co.in

29,VERY FAIR, Balija, Astham, B.com MBA, MNC 50k, seeks chennai boy ct:8939432241/9884584151

KAMMA NAIDU, 24/171, Fair, B.E (CS) , SWE, MNC, 50000PM, Seeks Suitable Groom, 9566002501, 9500147440

BALIJA NAIDU, 26/166, Fair, B.E, SWE, MNC, 700000PA, Well to do, Sks Suitable Grm,8056272922, 9003281596

BALIJANAIDU CASTENOBAR 23/160 V.Fair BE,MBA HCL/Chennai 50k PM.Seeks India/abroad 9380332267, 9384887888

TELUGU

REDDY(CHENNAI) 27/162 MBA,Chennai Affluent Family 60Cr Seeks Job/ business Groom 9385599044, 9848197222

KAMMANAIDU BEAUTIFUL Bride B. Tech(BITS) MBA(IIM) 26/167/Engg MNC/Bangalore 9341444444, 9382554555

BALIJANAIDU 29/165/B.TECH Central Govt Employee/Chennai Seeks Job/ Business Groom 9385599044, 9840037433

PADMASALI(CHENNAI) 26/157/BE, MS (Networking) Engg MNC,Australia. Seeks Groom 9345563793, 9380474999

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Labbai 25yrs/150cm, B.E Software Engineer/1 lakh PM. Seeks Software Engineer Groom KA & TN State only. Ct : 9442669961.

MUSLIM Girl 21/162, very fair,BTECH (IT) Selected in MNC Chennai,Well to do family Chennai,Ph-9445556810

Groom Wanted
Muslim PG Doctor MBBS DNB Urdu Sheik 28, Fair, Slim, Pious Good looking from Affluent Educated family, working as Senior Resident at Renowed Medical College, Tamilnadu, Short period Khula seeks suitable unmarried Groom. **Urdu/ Tamil Sunnath Jamath.**
Father: 9443568046

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

TAMIL, HINDU, SC Boy 34/173, fair, B.Tech, IIT, Self employed Software Engineer, seeks girl willing to settle down in Bangalore. Caste, community, language no bar. The boy is the only Son of wealthy parents, has good income and is independently wealthy. Girl should be fair, of average height and adjustable. Email: padkdoss@gmail.com

DOCTOR

KAMMA NAIDU (Kovai) 27/ MBBS, MD., own Hospital, well to do seeks bride 9498352938

HINDI

WELL PLACED, talented, intellectual, spiritual, respectful, professional MS,PhD (US), DOB:Mar78, Ht:5'11",son of army officer, educated, supportive family, Bangalore.Educated,settled families invited.Tel:9845284089,Eml:omps s30@gmail.com

KANNADA

VOKKALIGA GOWDER (Kannada) Groom, Native of Coimbatore, B.E.(Mech) M.S.(London) Business Family 32 Years settled in Chennai seeks bride. Contact: 9841737747

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA BOY 31 Punartham 178cm BE(Bits Pilani)MBA(IIM)Prefer Girls with keen Professional Interest any Religion any State Ph-9447614809

NAIR 29/172 B.Sc/MCA IT empld Chennai Good looking Poororutathi seeks qualified employed suitable bride 9941209091/ vellangilb2007@gmail.com

MARATHI

MARATHI BRAHMIN, 32, MBA, Gautama Gotra, 175 CM, seeks educated and employed bride Ph: 9962581127

NRI

HINDU MUDALIAR 26/173 B.Tech, (CS) M.S.(USA), employed in Fremont seeks brides in USA from same caste. nandakumar060264@gmail.com 9840267955

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR 33/176, US Educated Corporate employed Chennai from Business Rich Affluent Educated family seeks Professionally Qualified Bride from same Community. Ct: 9443256614, 9884353795.

Christian Nadar 26 MBBS GovtDoctor Rich chennai 72kpm seekRich,Affluent Dr/Any Professional Bride.8838094831

CSI Tamil FC 36/167 MCA, MNC Hyderabad, clean habits seeks bride 30-33. Ct: 9894677892, 9841094607.

SAMBHA CHRISTIAN, 43/173, graduate, divorcee. Ph: 07510616225

RC 33/174 BE,MS,(USA), Seeks ME/MS/M.Tech/BE Bride below 33yrs prefereably working in USA Ct : 8939484076

PROTESTANT BE MBA/MNC/175°/ 11 Lacs PA, Handsome, Clean Habits, Seeks well Qualified Girl. Ct: 6379397599

TAMIL MUSLIM 29 / 165 BE / MBA Govt. Employed seeks educated bride Ct: 9443046840, mdtn555@gmail.com

FAIR GIRL for B.E., MBA (IIM) boy. 29 years: 5'11". 36 lakh income. Caste No Bar. 9840970170

HINDU BC 39/162 PhD, Govt Service Visually Challenged 15Lpa seeks suitable Bride. Caste/ Religion/ Issueless Widow/ Divorcee No Bar. 7598215875

SEEKS IYER Girl (Sub Caste No Bar) age 40 to 44 for an Iyer Groom who is a Government Employee (Only Son) Unmarried. Education and job not necessary. No expectation. Contact: 9443696083

S.PRAVEENKUMAR B.E, CTS 40000/ Pm Vanniyar 12.4.93 Mulam Seeks Educate Girl Ch 77: 9445201906/ 8610711668

PILLAI 34/167 BE Mech Anusham Chevvai Dosham Singapore CT: 09442794092. Seeks suitable Bride.

HINDUSC,Caste no bar,BE,MBA,Manager,NLC,Govt of India 45,seeks alliance,any graduate bride from decent family,No dowry Ct:9487140882

Vanniyakula Kshatriya 31/180 BE, MS(UK) Working at Chennai Affluent family seek Educated wellsettled Bride 9498337384 / muralibabl@gmail.com

VIP VANIYACHETTIAR 28/BE, own Bearings Distributor (all over India) rich family, seeks bride. 8838300676

TAMIL VISVAKARMA, 30, Chithirai , Medium Complexion,Business (Industry),Sevvai,Raaghu,KethuDosham Groom seeks Graduate Non working Bride.Contact: N.Gunasekar, Cbe. 9750953069.

HINDU AGAMUDIAYA /Thuluvavellalar / 41 B.com, M.C.A, Pdy Govt.Service/ Never Married /Clean Habits seeks bride 9940970769,9994065521

TAMIL

SC HINDU AD 27 years, Kiruthigai / Rishabam Height 174cm Fair, B. Tech, M.S.,software US, salary USD 95,000 PA . Looking for Fair same Profession Bride Ct: 9445564255

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR Boy,31, 5'7", Fair, KRITHIGAI, B.E., 14 lakh p.a,(CTS), Chennai seeks suitable bride Fair, working, Educated & Decent Family. Mob.72999 63696/ 9841986024

SMART BOY, Utthirattathi , BE, Overseas MBA, 33 / 165 / 84 Lakh PA Employed in Dubai, E-commerce Co. From Educated & Well settled Reddiar Family is looking for a suitable educated bride with Good Family background from same community. 99406 77174 muraliyath@gmail.com

Hindu Pallan 28/171 Avittam, working Paypal Chennai, Good Looking. Seeks working B.E. Bride. Ct : 99408 62629 / 94421 27500

HINDU NADAR 34/170, Fair, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, B.E., MBA, Manager HR, MNC Chennai seeks qualified employed well to do family. 9443472053

CHETTIAR 47/183 divorcee seeks suitable bride cnb ct : 9443245306, 8072556487.

THEVAR/ AGAMUDAYAR, 26/180, BE (BITS Pilani), MS, working USA, H1B, seeks bride working/ studying/ willing to do MS USA. F/M Engineers in TNEB. 9444829573, 9445332163

HINDU, 33/175, BE, INFOSYS, 10L p.a, Divorcee Issueless Seeks Employed Bride. Caste No Bar. 9498400948.

DOCTOR MD, Felship Radiology, 30/ 170, punarpoosam, mithunam, seeks mudaliar pretty girl degree 6380086715

HINDU, SC/AD, 33/168Cm,BE (ECE) Poosam, Kadagam,Pvt/ 65000/– Seeks suitable Bride.Ct:9941342376

HINDU NADAR /26 /MCA /4.8Lak /P.A SG DuraiNadar Chromepet Ch–44. 044–48573284, 6381576005. 10am–6pm

HINDU NADAR /29/ M.SC/ 70,000/P.M SG Durai Nadar Chromepet Ch–44. 044–48573284, 6381576005. 10am–6pm

KAMMALAR SELVAPERUMAL 29Yrs/160 M.Tech/Ph.D Asst. Prof Seeks Good Looking Graduate Bride Cell: 9597780910

VELLALA PILLAI/ Nanjil – Non veg/ 33 yrs/ 175 cm/ Hastham/ Tamil & Malayalam/ MBA. Family Business Export/Import – Well settled. Preferably Housewife. Ph – 9843140480

Karkathar Saiva Pillai 32 / SWE / TCS Chennai (Divorcee Issue less). Seeks suitable bride. 09943794753.

MUDALIAR, PILLAI or Similar sect Bride for 33/183 B.E, Manager in MNC employed at Bangalore + Rental income from properties Ct: 9741695443

MUDHALIYAR, TAMIL, 36/165cm, M.E. PhD., Professor 90,000Pm Working at Hydrabad, Thiruvathirai (Mithunam). Unmarried/Divorced Issueless, Educated/Well Settled bride. 8870147711

SUITABLE BRIDE for 1986 born/tall handsome post graduate HR professional from an educated Thevar family contact 7358590404

WANTED BRIDE Caste no bar,Kurumans, Arun M/31yrs/166cm/70kg (Fair/ECE–NITT) temporarily posted in UAE,Bride horoscope Ragu&kethu dosham in 6th or 7th House call +91 9025341697

Aga Mudaliar Merugasirisham 7/5/81 170,M.Tech,MBA,VeryFair,TCS,18Lpa seeks Bride.8248568243/9443520653

F-SC, M-Mudaliar 40/170 Unmarried Mirugasirisham-3,CivilEngr seek bride CasteNoBar.9789253201/9551167452

NAIDU 32 / Height 6'0, M.B.A , Pharma MNC, Seeks Same Caste / CNB Only Hindu Girl, Early Marriage Living in Own House. Contact : 7358416990

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE Boy 43/178, BE SWE working in US, Non Vegetarian, Contact: 09845394022

MUDALIAR GROOM B.E/29/180cm Bharani, Mesham. only Son, Employed & Automobile Business, Income 15Lacs p.a. Own Houses. Brokrs Excu 8608187058

VANNIYAR, 30, ME, 178cm 11Lacs PA Well Settled Family Seeks Suitable Bride CNB Ct: 7200866346/ 8778514465

✔ **TAMIL CHETTIAR** 39/175, Rohini, B.E., SWE, 60 Lakhs P/A UK, Seeks well educated BC/FC Bride 8940195014 email: sivam.matri@gmail.com

Mudaliar Bharani 38/175 (B.E) Own business 40kpm divorcee,NoIssue well todo seek Graduate Bride.7708957743

HINDU DKV Pallan, M.E. Branch Manager Nationalised Bank 37 / 167cm / seeks employed /teaching (PG) / Gov't Servant. Ct: 9965211259

DKV SC, 30/170cm, Govt.Doctor (Ortho) seeks suitable Doctor Bride. Ct: 99434 69215/ 99437 30849

VANIYA CHETTIAR Uthiram M.Sc 43 / 175 Scnt. Officer. seeks Girl any Degree. Sub caste also. 9994568366

HINDU NADAR 43 Widower 3 Children Own Hardware in Chennai. Wanted Good Bride Age below 35. Ct:9445909499

AGE 40, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9840516093

MUTHURAJA COMMUNITY, 29, 175cm, M.E, S/W working and settled in Chennai, Salary Rs–92000/month. Kumbham / Puratathi. Family is financially well off. Seeking Fair, Good Looking Bride from Decent Family of same community. Ph: 9444335111/9444758668

VANNIYAR 62/160 Widower Well Qualified Chennai, Retd General Manager from PSU and Settled. Seeks life partner prefer educated Widow/ Unmarried / Divorcee without Commitments. Caste No Bar. Ct:09632150741

UDAYAR 29/MBA own Benefit fund (famous in Chennai) medicine factory, seeks bride (caste no Bar) 8838300676

TAMIL IYER 45/174, B.Sc (Trivandrum), Area Sales Manager, Biomedical Device Co. seeking alliance from Brahmin girls (widow/divorcee too preferred). hariuniquespl@gmail.com, 9349362212

IYER BHARADHWAJAM Uthiram, 37yrs/ 180cms, BE, MNC Chennai 15 Lakhs per annum, Own House at Chennai seeks any Brahmin Girl. Ct: 09445222214

MUDALIYAR 27/B.S.L.L.L.B Own Benefit fund office, Auto finance etc.,well to do seeks fair girl 7305440042

TAMIL

RC PARAYAR BE, 29/168, 6L PA, Tuticorin seeks well qualified same community. judepio2019@gmail.com

MARUTHUVAR 42/177 1st Marriage B.Tech, TCS Chennai 1.5 L pm , Nat: Tuticorin. Seeks Qlfd Bride 9840830796

TIRUNELVELI SAIVA PILLAI Boy B.Sc MBA aged 32/172cms working in Chennai HCL seeks bride from Saivapillai, Saiva Mudaliar, Saiva Chettiar, Brahmin also. No Raagu, Kethu & Sevvai. Cont: 9943140727.

HINDU NADAR BE/ 5.11/ Age 25/ 30 Lacs P/A Working in (HONG KONG) /K.A.Raman Nadar whats app : 9380791999

TAMIL YADAVA 26/175 Parani working in MNC studied IIT & IIM invites suitable well educated bride. Ct:9444170565/ Mail to:rrkrsp1@gmail.com

MUDALIAR, 29/170, Handsome, B.E, MS, IIT Research, 70000PM, Seeks Suitable Bride, 9003077746, 8056174102

PILLAI, 30/168, H.some, B.Tech, SWE, PAYPALINC, 1400000PA, Seeks Suitable Bride, 9500085718, 8754415378

ADIDRAVIDAR, 30/180, B.Tech, SWE, MNC, 1800000PA, 10Cr, Seeks Suitable Bride, 9789850231, 9677086774

MUDALIAR(HANDSOME) 30/180 Chartered Accountant Ford Motors/Chennai 12Lakhs P.A 9385599033, 9840782222

MUDHALIAR, 32 / 175, Fair, Rich, Anusham, B.E-Marine-Ch.eng, 40LPA, Anusham, seeks good looking bride, Contact: 8838331367.

EMPLOYED ENGINEER, Brahmin Iyer, 29, settled in Mysore, looking for any brahmin girl. Contact : 9980916765, E-mail : rajagopal604.khb@gmail.com

BRAHMIN 36 BE LLB 13L/PA Own House Sr.Mgr Diamler Marriage Expenses accepted. All Veg OK. CNB. 6369157055

BRAHMIN KOUNDINYA, Ashtasahasram (Any Sect Ok), Thiruvonam 33/172. Area Sales Manager E–Commerce, Chennai. Rs.13L P.A Seeks Good Looking Graduate Girl Job Optional. 9962247681

Iyer Vadamal N.Kasipam Rohini June 79/172 BE Business 12Lpa CleanHabit Own House, Veg seeks Bride CNB. 9600023894/9840458358/9677115426

IYENGAR Vkalai Bwajam Thiruvm 52yrs 5ft Commercial Tax Officer in Coimbatore seeks Iyengar/Iyer bride 45-50yrs as soulmate&life companion divorcees/widows excuse.6369111511

HYD IYER Boy 1978 Born Kawsigam Gotham Vadama Rohini (2) Working as Consultant with decent income (BCOM S.A.P) seeks suitable Allaince preferably working Girl Contact : 9704390980 / 9000173397

IYER,VADOOLAM, UTHIRAM NOV 77 BSc.Electronics (MCA), MNC Bangalore 18 LPA CT 9841071359

IYER BRIDE wanted for unmarried Iyer 54 own business Pious Teetotaller traditional family. Ct:09447496006

30/176 FAIR handsome IYER Baradwaj-Vadama Kettai affluent BE Entrepreneur mfg chennai based family, financially well off, seeks affable educated Brahmin girl. 6381100874

Iyer, well to do family, 36/178 cms,Uthram(4), MBA, Area Manager, MNC, Hyderabad, seeks girl willing to settle in Hyd, caste no bar, Early marriage. Ph: 8106885021.

VADAGALAI IYENGAR Srivatsa Hastham, only son 28yrs/169cms BTech/working MNC Chennai/14LPA seeks alliance from good family, employed girl at Chennai Ph. 9444675760.

BRAHMIN, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl, 9487851429

TAMIL IYER Vadama Srivatsam 41 5'10 B.E Technical Analyst, Own Flat in Chennai, Total Income 11 LPA, Salary 15,000/- Month seeks suitable Iyer / Iyengar Bride. Contact: 8939181438

BRIDE WANTED
Seeking Hindu alliance from a well educated, good looking girl for a handsome yadav groom, who is a doctor aged 27 yrs, height 5.9', athletic built and has completed his masters degree. Groom's family is a well mannered, educated, affluent, financially well off family based in Chennai with a good blend of traditional and modern values. Looking for a like - minded alliance preferably from business / industrial / medical family background. Bride can be from other professions also. Caste no bar.
Contact with photos, horoscope and bio data to
drvkgm2019@gmail.com
93619 42414

BRIDES WANTED

Alliance invited for Chennai Born, Australian Citizen, Graduate BE (Hon's), Financially sound, Brahmin Iyer,Shadamarshna gotharam/ Poosam, 30years/5'10" medium complexion,only son, clean habits, employed as a Project engineer in Sydney, Seeks from Brahmin Iyer girl aged between 24 to 29 years, qualified, good family values, willing to relocate to Sydney Australia. Email with recent photo and details. Other Brahmin too welcome
9444441653
kalakrishnan64@gmail.com

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BRAHMIN, 28, 183 cms, Student, pursuing MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Chartered Accountant. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 8695668994

VISHWAKARMA, 29, 178 cms, Businessman, ME. Lives in Salem. Father is a Businessman and Mother is an Entrepreneur. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 9380054837

MUDALIYAR, 25, 180 cms, Businessman, M.Sc in International Business. Lives in Erode. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a well educated match from the same community. Contact: 9360655558

THONDAI MANDALA VELLALAR, 38, 183 cms, Businessman, Graduate. Lives in Chennai. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable

IN BRIEF

Youth who escaped from police custody held

NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old repeat offender, who had escaped from the police custody last month, has been arrested, the police said on Saturday. The youth was identified as Rohit alias Galwa, as resident of Samaypur Badli. He was arrested on August 27 in a snatching case, but managed to escape on the pretext of using the washroom, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said. He is involved in cases of robbery, burglary and theft, the police said.

'People refusing to rent house to Unnao victim's kin'

Delhi court directs DCW to assist the family in getting accommodation in the city for a period of at least 11 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A court here on Saturday directed the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) to assist the family of the woman, who was allegedly raped by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, in getting accommodation in the city.

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma, during in-camera proceedings, gave the direction after the counsel for the rape survivor told the court that landlords were unwilling to give their premises on rent to them for a short duration and due to the background of the case, a lawyer privy to the proceedings said.

The court asked the DCW chairperson to nominate a team of two counsellors to assess the family's residential requirements and assist them in locating and providing suitable place in Delhi at a reasonable rate on rent or in any government accommodation for a period of at least 11 months, he said.

The court has put up the matter for further hearing on Monday.

The counsel for the rape survivor and her family members were earlier asked by the court to make necessary residential arrangements here after they had said they wanted to live in the national capital, apprehending threat in Uttar Pradesh, the State they hail from.

The woman was brought to AIIMS after an accident on July 28, following the Supreme Court's orders.

The family is being provided CRPF security.

During Saturday's proceedings, the counsel for the rape survivor said that although a few accommodations were looked into, none of the landlords contacted were willing to provide their premises on rent to the family.

The court also directed the DCW to oversee rehabilitation measures of the children in the family and ensure their further education and skill developments to their liking in Delhi.

Meanwhile, DCW chief Swati Maliwal said, "We are thankful to the honourable court for issuing the directions regarding accommodation and rehabilitation of the victim and her family. We will assign our team tomorrow [Sunday] to arrange accommodations for them. The commission will also start working for the rehabilitation of the victim. She is a brave fighter and the DCW will try its best to help her."

Expenditure

"Whatever expenditure that may be incurred in this case be intimated to this court, including terms of the lease agreement and rent, so that appropriate directions may be passed to the government of Uttar Pradesh for reimbursement of direct payment or for provision thereof," the court said.

Bar owner, manager held in excise raid

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The owner and the manager of a bar in south Delhi have been arrested for allegedly serving liquor without licence at a high-profile party organised at the bar, officials said on Saturday.

A raid was conducted by the Excise Department along with the police after which Amit Singh, the owner, and Mahesh, the manager, were held, officials also said.

Chargesheet filed against Gambhir

BJP MP is accused of duping people in a housing project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has filed a supplementary chargesheet against BJP MP Gautam Gambhir and others for allegedly cheating buyers of apartments in a building project in Ghaziabad's Indirapuram.

Gautam Gambhir ▪

Expiry of plan

The developers entered into agreements and collected money from the buyers even after the expiry of sanctioned building plan, the chargesheet alleged.

"Investors have been deliberately kept in dark about the litigations over the proposed project site. Authorities cancelled the sanction/approval etc. for the project on April 15, 2015, due to default of payments of requisite licence fees etc. and non-compliance of other formalities," the probe report charged.

The other accused who figure in the chargesheet are the firm and its promoters. The chargesheet followed filing of complaints by some of the buyers alleging that the accused persons cheated them by luring them to invest in the project.

Revision petition

A sessions court had last year dismissed a revision petition filed by Mr. Gambhir challenging his summoning as an accused by a metropolitan magistrate court for allegedly cheating the buyers.

Though the Delhi police have not chargesheeted him due to 'lack of sufficient evidence', the magistrate court had summoned him after going through the probe report.

In his appeal, Mr. Gambhir argued that he was merely a brand ambassador of the project, Serra Bella/Pavo, launched by Rudra Buildwell Reality Pvt. Ltd.

"Being a brand ambassador was alone not sufficient to show that he allured the buyers to buy the flats in the project. Further, he did not own any equity share in the firm", counsel for Mr. Gambhir submitted, adding that he was also not chargesheeted by the police.

Countering his arguments, the Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that Mr. Gambhir was an additional director when the complainants had booked flats. "This further lured the buyers to book the flat," he submitted.

17 cases of theft solved with arrest of two men

Two-wheelers recovered from them

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With the arrest of two men who used to steal two-wheelers, the police on Saturday claimed to have solved 17 cases of theft in the Capital.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Jasmeet Singh said that the accused have been identified as Wasim (23) and Sudhanshu (21), both residents of Mandawali.

The police said that to curb incidents of snatching and theft in Mandawali, a drive was being conducted by a team to identify and catch the culprits. On Thursday, around 9.30 p.m., the team was in Railway Colony when a man was spotted coming from near the railway underpass on a scooty. "On seeing the police, he tried to flee but in vain. He was asked to produce the papers of his vehicle but could not give a satisfactory reply," Mr. Singh said, adding that the accused was identified as Wasim who was later found to be involved in 31 cases.

During interrogation, he admitted to have stolen the scooty from Railway Colony along with his accomplice Sudhanshu who was arrested on Friday. Four more stolen two-wheelers were recovered at their instance, the police said.

"They used to do necessary modifications on the stolen vehicles so that they did not require any key to start the vehicles. They used to hide the stolen vehicles in the locality to sell them later," Mr. Singh also said.

City court summons DCP

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A court here has summoned DCP, Special Cell, over alleged provocative comments on social media against the Sikh community posted by a Delhi Police constable in June.

The complainant, Manjeet Singh Chugh, has sought prosecution of the constable under IPC Sections 153A (promoting enmity between classes), 153B (imputation, assertion prejudicial to national integration) and 295A (maliciously insulting religious belief of any class). He stated that the constable had posted the comments while making a reference to an incident in Mukherjee Nagar in which members of the community allegedly beat up some policemen while staging a protest against alleged bashing up of a driver and his son by the police.

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INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS / NOMINATIONS FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

The post of Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), Tiruchirappalli will fall vacant shortly. The Selection Committee set up under the Tamil Nadu National Law University Act, 2012 now invites applications / nominations from eminent academicians in the field of Law who are interested to serve TNNLU as its Vice-Chancellor not later than Monday, the 28th October, 2019. For further details see tnnlu.ac.in/vc.php.

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DEATH

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief we inform the demise of our father
Shri. M Krishnamoorthy Sastrigal (95)
on 28-9-2019 morning.
Cremation will take place at Thamndalam Village (Thiruvallur Dist) on
Sunday 29th Sep, 2019 at 7 am.
Mourned by Sons:
MK Sreedharan ● MK Kumar
MK Prabhakar ● MK Raghu
Daughters:
Radha ● Uma ● Varalakshmi and family
Cont: 9940028104 99624 44426

DEATH

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits"

Thanking God for the life of
Dr. Rani Siromoney
4.7.1929 - 28.9.2019
Former Professor
Madras Christian College
Chennai Mathematical Institute
W/o late Dr. Gift Siromoney

Beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and great grandmother

Funeral Today at 3 pm at St. Andrew's Kirk, Egmore, followed by burial at Kilpauk Cemetery

Arul & Anna Siromoney
Ph: 9940027471, 9840537471

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

SRI D.S. LAKSHMANAN
(Retd. Bank of Baroda)
passed away peacefully on 21.09.2019 at Bengaluru
Deeply mourned by Sudha Lakshmanan, Daughters, Son-in-law, Grandchildren, Relatives & Friends
Ph: 9886434064, 9980111346

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Adityanath talks democracy with Kashmiri students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday met a group of Kashmiri students here and talked of the importance of dialogue in democracy while urging them to share their trials and tribulations directly with him to resolve them.

"We are living in a democratic society... dialogue could be the most important medium in it. We have to make new efforts with this view in mind," said the CM.

"We also need to understand what democracy actually means. There will be prosperity in our lives only when there is development. How can we become a part of this development process?" he said, adding that the common people want basic facilities and employment guarantee.

The CM sought to assure students that the abrogation of Article 370 would accelerate development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmiri students studying in Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) had on Friday decided against participating in an event meant to discuss the "advantages" of the nullification of Article 370.

'Urdu not a foreign language'

PU's Urdu Dept. objects to being clubbed with foreign tongues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Panjab University's Urdu Department has objected to its proposed merger with other foreign tongues, asserting that Urdu is not a foreign language but an Indian one like Hindi and Punjabi.

The university recently proposed making the Urdu Department part of the School of Foreign Languages to be set up after merging departments of Russian, French, German, Chinese and Tibetan languages, said Urdu Department coordinator Ali Abbas on Saturday.

"Urdu was born, nurtured and cultured in India during the first two decades of the 13th century by Amir Khusrau. From that moment onward, Urdu and Hindi languages have not looked back. Not only this, even Punjabi language was put on the path of development by Baba Farid Ganj Shakar," said Mr. Abbas in a letter to the PU's Dean University Instructions (DUI).

A "wrong impression" is being created by certain elements that Urdu is a foreign language", said Mr. Abbas, asserting that "it is far from the truth".

> **Urdu was born, nurtured and cultured in India during the first two decades of the 13th century by Amir Khusrau. From that moment onward, Urdu and Hindi languages have not looked back**
>
> ALI ABBAS
> Urdu Department coordinator, Panjab University

Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi are the three main languages of India which were later accorded the status of State language at different times, the letter stated.

The Urdu Department raised the objection after the PU authorities recently proposed to merge small departments with less than six faculty members with each other to form one single school or centre, as per new norms laid down by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

As per PU's proposal, the merger is aimed at enhancing "academic performance by sharing infrastructure and human resources of various smaller departments".

Mr. Abbas has, however, suggested bringing the departments of Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi under one umbrella of the department of Indian languages. "... or the Urdu Department may be allowed to function independently as per the present arrangements," he wrote.

Final call tomorrow

Several other departments are also being merged. A 15-member panel will take a final call on the proposed mergers on September 30.

Before Partition, the Urdu Department was a major department of the then University of Punjab, Lahore, which was set up in 1882.

It was introduced in Panjab University, Chandigarh, in 1976.

25 rain-related deaths in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

As many as 25 rain-related deaths were reported from across Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, read an official statement by the State government. Around 10 people had died on Friday.

On Saturday, four persons died after a house collapses in Mirzapur. Another four were killed when a wall fell on them in Azamgarh due to heavy rain.

Three persons each died in Ambedkarnagar and Ghazipur due to house collapse and two persons each died in Ballia and Sitapur due to wall collapse. Another two persons died after being struck by lightning in Banda, the statement read.

"One person each died in Chitrakoot and Unnao due to wall collapse, and another was killed in a house collapse in Bulandshahr. A person died due to a snakebite in Unnao and another due to heavy rain in Saharanpur," it said.

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
Government of Jharkhand

e-procurement Notice inviting BID
4th (Call)

Ref No ;- SHAJ/PROC/CW/SBD/2019/ **Date: 27-09-2019**

1. State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites BID for " Construction of underpass Road and Flyover Bridge between Matkuria to Ara more under Dhanbad Nagar Nigam. " (Length–3.27 km)The approximate cost of the work is Rs. 121.50 Crore.
2. The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Bid document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 28.09.2019 (15:00 hrs) to 11.10.2019. (15:00 hrs). The complete BID Application shall be submitted online by 11.10.2019 (upto 15:00 hrs) on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in. All the details regarding this BID will be available on the above mentioned website.
3. The contractors are required to submit non-refundable document fee of Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of "State Highways Authority of Jharkhand Fund" payable at Ranchi & Bid Security of Rs. 121.50 lakhs (Rs. one crore twenty one lakhs and fifty thousand.) only in the form of Bank Guarantee from a Schedule Commercial Bank as per prescribed format. The document fee & Bid Security should be submitted to the office of undersigned latest by 12.10.2019 (upto 15:00 hrs).
4. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

Member (Technical)
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand,Ranchi
Deen Dayal Nagar
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Divsion, Ranchi)
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306,

बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे
P.R.218266 State Highway Authority of Jharkhand(19-20)-D

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- III, DELHI
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI: 110 001
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act. 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993).
In the matter of **OA. 37/2019/DRT-III**
YES BANK Applicant Vs PINKI TEVATIA & ORS. Defedants

D-1) Ms. Pinky Tevatia (Borrower/Defendant No.1) E-2 UG-1 East Jyoti Nagar Shahdara, Delhi-110093. **Also At:-** Teotia Fashions, 14A Naresh Jain Industrial Complex Loni Road Jawahar Nagar Shahdara, Delhi- 110094. **Also at:** E-2 UG-2, East Jyoti Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi- 110093
D-2) Mr. Raju Tevatia (Co-Borrower/ Defendant No.2) E-2 UG-1 East Jyoti Nagar Shahdara, Delhi-110093. **Also At**: Teotia Fashions, 14A Naresh Jain Industrial Complex Loni Road Jawahar Nagar Shahdara, Delhi- 110094. **Also at:** E-2 UG-2, East Jyoti Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi- 110093
D-3) Mr. Pawan Tevatia (Mortgagor/ Guarantor Defendant No. 3) E-2 UG-1 East Jyoti Nagar Shahdara, Delhi- 110093. **Also At**: Teotia Fashions, 14A Naresh Jain Industrial Complex Loni Road Jawahar Nagar Shahdara, Delhi-110094. **Also at:** E-2 UG-2, East Jyoti Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi- 110093

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 07.11.2019 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **19th, day of Sept. 2019.**
(Seal) **By Order of the Tribunal, Assistant Registrar**

Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Chaibasa

Very Short (Emergent) E-Procurement Notice
e-tender Reference No. : RCD/CHAIBASA/975 Date : 27.09.2019

1.	Name of Work	Road Safety Work(Crash Barrier) in Railway Crossing in Hata Chaibasa Road to Proposed Chaibasa Byepass Road Barachiru-Aachu-Aamita-Diliyamircha-Chaibasa Road, Sikursai-Kursi-Bandhdih-Chandankeri Road including HL Bridge in 9th KM, Bhoya Pandrasali Road, Chaibasa Saitwa Road, Trill Butta to Pampra Road, Chaibasa Byepass Road, Kudahatu Chowk to Usambir (Orissa Border) Road And Chaibasa Kokcho Bharbharia Road under R.C.D. Road Division, Chaibasa under Non Plan Head for the Year 2019-20. (Details of work can be had from detail estimate roadwise)
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 16175081.00 (Rupees One Crore Sixty One Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand and eighty One) (In the shape of 5 Years National Saving Certificate or 3/5 Years Post Office/ Nationalized BankTime Deposit/ BANK GUARANTEE from any Post Office/ Bank within the State of Jharkhand)
3.	Time of Completition	2 (Two) Months
4.	Date of Publication of Tender On Website	04.10.2019 at 11.30 AM
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids.	14.10.2019 Up to 3.00 P.M.
6.	Last date/Time of receipt of cost of bidding document and Bid security	15.10.2019 Up to 12.00 P.M. in Chief Engineer(Com)-cum-Nodel Officer, e-ProcurementCell, RCD, Jharkhand, 1stFloor, Engineer'sHostel No.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	15.10.2019 at 3:30 P.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa
9.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	7979945893
10.	Authority to Open the Bid	E- ProcurementOfficer. office of the Chief Engineer(Com)
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Quoted rate Below 10% will be Outright Rejected.
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtender.gov.in

बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे
Executive Engineer
Road Division, R.C.D. Chaibasa
PR 218254 (West Singhbhum)19-20#D

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You may call us at toll free 1800 102 1878 or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R.C.D. , ROAD DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ

e- Procurement Notice
(2nd Call)
(Very Short Tender)
e-Tender Reference no.- RCD/SAHIBGANJ/1087/2019-20
Dated : 27.09.2019

1	Name of Work	Construction of HL Bridge Over Gumani River at 6th KM of Pathna-Hiranpur Road in Sahibganj District.
2	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Rs. 5,37,20,870.00 (Rupees Five Crores Thirty Seven Lacs Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy) Only.
3	Time of Completion	18 (Eighteen) Months
4	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	18.10.2019 upto 12.00 Noon
5	Date of Publication of Tender on website	11.10.2019 from 10.30 A.M.
6	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, R.C.D. Road Division, Sahibganj
7	Contact no. of Procurement officer	9110193240
8	Helpline number of e- Procurement cell	0651 - 2401010

Further details can be seen on website ***http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in***

बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
ROAD DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ
PR 218283 (Road)19-20#D

Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Chaibasa

Very Short (Emergent) E-Procurement Notice
e-tender Reference No. : RCD/CHAIBASA/973Date : 27.09.2019

1.	Name of Work	Road Safety Work (Crash Barrier) in Aura PWD to Kumardungi via Balandia Road, Singhpokharia to Jaintgarh via serengsia, Jagannathpur Road (0.00 to 59.66 Km), Tantnagar to Manjhgaon via Kumardungi-Chaibasa Kokcho-Bharbharia Road, Jamdih in Km 33 of Singhpokharia-Jhinkpani-serengsia-Jaintgarh to Hatgamhati NH 75E via Kendposi Railway Station Road , Bandpara to Sikursai Road, Hatgamharia Benisagar via Manjhgaon from Km 31.00 to 44.485 And Chaibasa Airport Road under Road Division, Chaibasa under Non Plan Head for the Year 2019-20 (Details of work can be had from detail estimate roadwise)
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 15393505.00 (Rupees One crore Fifty three lakhs ninety three thousand Five hundred and five) (In the shape of 5 Years National Saving Certificate or 3/5 Years Post Office/ Nationalized BankTime Deposit/ BANK GUARANTEE from any Post Office/ Bank within the State of Jharkhand)
3.	Time of Completition	2 (Two) Months
4.	Date of Publication of Tender On Website	04.10.2019 at 11.30 AM
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids.	14.10.2019 Up to 3.00 P.M.
6.	Last date/Time of receipt of cost of bidding document and Bid security	15.10.2019 Up to 12.00 P.M. in Chief Engineer(Com)-cum-Nodel Officer, e- ProcurementCell, RCD, Jharkhand,1stFloor, Engineer's Hostel No.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	15.10.2019 at 3:30 P.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa
9.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	7979945893
10.	Authority to Open the Bid	E- ProcurementOfficer. office of the Chief Engineer(Com)
11.	e-Procurement cell Helpline number of	0651 2401010

Quoted rate Below 10% will be Outright Rejected.
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtender.gov.in

बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे
Executive Engineer
Road Division, R.C.D. Chaibasa
PR 218245 (West Singhbhum)19-20#D

Government of Jharkhand
Urban Development and Housing Department
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad

e-Procurement Tender Notice No. DMC/54/2019-20
NIT No.- DMC/54/2019-20 Date :- 26.09.2019

1.	Name of the work	**Construction of Five Storey Commercial Building at the place of Old Municipal Corporation Office at Bank More, Dhanbad, Jharkhand.**
2.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 31,19,15,000.00
4.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee: - INR 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand Only) Non-Refundable. Bid Security: Rs 31,20,000.00 (Rupees Thirty one Lakh Twenty Thousand Only).
5.	Time of Completion	24 Months
6.	Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website	01.10.2019 at 04:00 PM
7.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	10.10.2019 at 05:00 PM
8.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids Online	16.10.2019 (On line) till 05:00 PM
9.	Date of Receiving Hard Copy of Earnest Money & Cost of Tender Fee	Upto 17.10.2019 till 03:00 PM at DMC, Luby Circular Road, MADA Building, Dhanbad.
10.	Date and Time of Technical Bid Opening Online.	18.10.2019 (On line) from 09:00 AM
11.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Chief Executive Officer, Dhanbad Municipal corporation,Dhanbad.
12.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	**9431115351**
13.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**9431115351**

NOTE:- (i) Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
(ii) Contractor should be registered in appropriate class as per NIT
(iii) Estimated Cost / Quantity May Vary

बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे
S/d-
Executive Engineer,
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad.
PR 218151 (Urban Development)19-20#D

HP.PWD
TENDER NOTICE

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the eligible contractor enlisted in the appropriate class in HPPWD. So as to reach in the office of the Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-I, HPPWD Shimla-3 on or before 18-10-2019 up to 1030 A.M. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 11.00AM. in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized agents who may wish to be present. The applications for issue of tender forms shall be received 16-10-2019 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M alongwith FDR for the required amount. The tender form shall be issued on 17-10-2019 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.

The intending contractors shall bring their registration letter renewal of their enlistment and proof of CST/GST/ otherwise the tender documents shall not be issued to them.

The earnest money as shown below shall accompany the tender in the shape of NCS/Time deposit receipt or post office Saving Bank Account in H.P. duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer. The contractors who do not deposit the earnest money in the prescribed manner, their tender shall summarily be rejected without assigning any reason. The tenders offer shall be kept open for 120 days.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Allowed	Form Cost.
1.	Special repair to various residential Qtr type-I to VI at Mehli Kasumpti Shimla-9 (SH;- Repair of Type-III set No.110 Kasumpti Shimla-9).	146803/-	3000/-	Two Month	350/-
2.	R/R Damages on Kogi to Seon road km. 0/00 to 3/700 (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD. 1/495 to 1/509).	356028/-	8000/-	Two Month	350/-
3.	R/R Damages on Gumma to Jabal road km. 0/00 to 2/240 (SH;-C/O R/wall at RD. 1/840 to 1/850).	160933/-	3600/-	Two Month	350/-
4.	Restoration of rain damages to MRR via Chotta Shimla km. 149/00 to 156/640 (SH;- C/O Retaining wall /Protection wall between Rd. 154/047 to 154/062).	204052/-	4100/-	Two Month	350/-
5.	Restoration of rain damages on Ever sunny to Pagog road km. 0/00 to 5/00 (SH:- C/O Retaining wall at RD. 1/400 to 1/407).	123821/-	2500/-	Two Month	350/-
6.	R/R Damages on Fagu Cheog road km. 0/00 to 5/600 (SH:- C/O P.C.C. Breast wall at (Edge wall) RD. 0/570 to 0/615).	135773/-	2800/-	One Month	350/-
7.	Special repair to various residence quarter at Brock Hurst Shimla-2 (SH:- Construction of new sewer line for type-III set NO.33 to 48 and Type-I set No.1 to 24 at Brock Hurst).	157088/-	3200/-	Two Month	350/-
8.	R/R Damages on Kufri chail road km. 0/00 to 25/00 (SH:- C/O R/wall at Rd. 1/135 to 1/150).	461871/-	10000/-	Two Month	350/-

Terms & Conditions:-
1. The contractor/firm shall have his GST No. and attested copy of the same be attached with the application for issue of tender form.
2. The contractor/firm should attach attested copy of registration/renewal.
3. Copy of PAN card be attached with the application form.
4. Copy of EPF be attached with the application form.

HP/2250/19-20 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

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Office of The Director General of Police Uttarakhand
12, Subhash Marg, Dehradun
RE-E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sl. No.	Description of stores	Qty	Tender No.
1	Water Bottle	2557 Nos.	DG-III-74/2019
2	Kit Bag(Ruck Sack)	2500 Nos.	DG-III-77/2019

1. Last date of receipt of E-Tender :- 09-10-2019 Time 17:00 hrs.
2. Date of opening of bid :- 10-10-2019 Time 11:00 AM

Further Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://uktenders.gov.in

IG(P&M)/
Chairman
Purchase Committee,
Police H.Q., Uttarakhand
Dehradun.

DIPR-UK-9397

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
NO.C1/129/2019/I&PR
Information Public Relations (C) Department
Thiruvananthapuram, Dated 27/09/2019
Attention- Designers/Fabricators

Designs are invited from artists/designers/fabricators for the facade, central theme area and general design of Kerala pavilion, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi in connection with the India International Trade Fair-2019 being conducted from 14th to 27th November 2019, based on the subject **"Ease of Doing Business"**. The miniature 3D models prepared on the above subject should be demonstrated before the Principal Secretary, Information & Public Relations Department, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram at 11.30 AM on 11/10/2019. The theme note and estimate should be submitted along with the 3D models. Fabrication works of the selected designs shall be done by the selected firm/ person. The expenditure in this regard will be met by the Department. After completion of the event, dismantling, if necessary shall also be done by the concerned firm/person. The amount reported by the concerned authority of PWD in the survey report of scraps will be deducted from the final bill.

For more details- www.prd.kerala.gov.in
Phone : 0471 2518013, 2518447, 9496003239
Sd/- U.V. Jose, Director
(F4/253/2019/I&PRD)

देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय
विश्वविद्यालय भवन, आर.एन.टी. मार्ग, इन्दौर - 452001
निविदा आमंत्रण

देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय, इन्दौर के समस्त परिसरों, नालंदा परिसर, तक्षशिला परिसर, आई.ई.टी. संस्थान, फार्मेसी एवं समस्त होस्टलों सहित, समस्त भवनों, आवास परिसरों के निर्मित एवं अनिर्मित क्षेत्र (Area) की साफ-सफाई कार्य हेतु लगभग 120 सफाई कर्मियों की सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराने हेतु प्रतिष्ठित, सुस्थापित एवं आर्थिक रूप से सुदृढ़ अभिकरणों से ई-निविदाएं **www.mptenders.gov.in** पर (TWO BID TENDER SYSTEM) आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय, इन्दौर की वेबसाइट **www.dauniv.ac.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/95321/2019 **कुलसचिव**

FT orders missing from record

Gauhati HC expresses dismay over conduct of Foreigners' Tribunal member

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Several orders of a Foreigners' Tribunal in central Assam declaring some people as non-citizens have been found missing from record, a recent order of the Gauhati High Court has revealed.

FT Number 4 in Morigaon district had declared 282 people foreigners from 2015 to 2017. But judgments were "not found in record" in 11 of these orders. And while there was "mismatch between judgment copy with order sheet" in six cases, five orders were found to have had "dual judgment".

Discrepancies in FT

The discrepancies in FT 4 had come to light when a member (tribunal head) had on April 23, 2018, written to the State's Home Secretary about "detailed opinions" signed by his predecessor "not available" for 288 "case records". A copy was marked to the Registrar (Judicial) of the Gauhati High Court.

The number of such cases was later trimmed to 282 as six cases were found to have been repeated.

After a scrutiny of 50 cases seized by the Assam Police Border Organisation – it is tasked with identifying foreigners – it was found that 13 persons tried by the FT had been declared as Indians and judgments in the remaining 37 cases were found to be "correct in all respects". Anomalies were detected in 57 of the remaining 232 cases.

'No order'

Based on the findings, the High Court ruled that disposing of cases "without a reasoned opinion/ absence of judgment copy/ dual judgment/ without vacating earlier order in the case file would be no order in the eye of law. Such a noting or order cannot be construed to be an order disposing of a reference case by a Foreigners' Tribunal".

The court of Justice Manojit Bhuyan and Justice Kalyan Rai Surana further noted in its September 19 order: "There has to be an opinion on record which must carry the seal and signature of the presiding officer of the tribunal. In the absence thereof, such a reference will have to be treated as not being disposed of and be considered as a pending reference, which would have to be heard afresh."

The court also expressed disappointment "over the way the member conducted himself". It added: "This was not expected. In the ordinary course, this would have called for some action, disciplinary or otherwise. We leave it at that."

'Examine claims with utmost care'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Gauhati High Court Chief Justice (Acting) Arup Kumar Goswami on Saturday urged the newly recruited members of the Foreigners' Tribunals in Assam to examine with utmost care the claims of the petitioners whose names have been left out of the final NRC.

The State government has notified setting up of 200 more appellate FTs for hearing of appeals. Over 19 lakh people have been left out in the NRC exercise.

Justice Goswami asked the new recruits to "delve into the depth of claims and objections with utmost care while performing their duties in the FTs".

Husband, wife to take oath together as judges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

A husband-wife duo is set to take oath together as judges at the Punjab and Haryana High Court soon.

Six judicial officers of the Punjab and Haryana HC are slated to become judges after promotion on the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegium. Among them are Vivek Puri and Archana Puri, both Punjab Superior Judicial Service Officers.

While Mr. Vivek is posted as district and sessions judge at Mohali in Punjab, Ms. Archana is a presiding officer at State Transport Appellate Tribunal (Punjab) and Food Safety Appellate Tribunal (Punjab).

This is probably the first time that a married couple would take oath together after elevation.

BJD fields Rita Sahu from Bijepur

Bypoll was necessitated after Chief Minister vacated it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Former legislator Rita Sahu will be the candidate of the ruling Biju Janata Dal for the October 21 bypoll in Bijepur Assembly constituency in western Odisha.

Announcing on Saturday Ms. Sahu's name as the party's nominee for the upcoming bypoll, Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik said that Bijepur will continue to be a focus constituency for him.

The bypoll in Bijepur was necessitated after Mr. Patnaik vacated it and retained the Hinjili seat in his home district Ganjam in south Odisha. Mr. Patnaik had won from both the seats when the Assembly elections were held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year.

Welfare schemes

While vacating the Bijepur seat under Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency, the Chief Minister had announced a series of schemes for the benefit of the people in that region. He had said that he would review implementation of the schemes every two months.

Rita Sahu was first elected to the Assembly in February 2018. ▪FILE PHOTO

Ms. Sahu was first elected to the State Assembly on a BJD ticket in February 2018 when a bypoll was held following the death of her husband and then Congress MLA Subal Sahu in August 2017.

She had defeated the BJP nominee by over 41,000 votes.

However, Mr. Patnaik contested from two seats in the last elections with a view to brighten his party's electoral prospects in the western region of the State where the BJP had a strong base. And it paid dividends with the BJD performing well in the region in the Assembly polls.

'Public funding'

On the other hand, the Congress has already announced that Dillip Kumar Panda will be its candidate for the bypoll. Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Niranjan Patnaik has appealed to the public to donate to the party to help it fight the bypoll.

The BJP, which lost in all the seven Assembly seats under Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency which it won in the last elections, is likely to announce its candidate for the bypoll on Sunday.

The candidates of the three major parties are likely to file their nomination papers on Monday, the last date for filing of nomination papers for the bypoll.

The counting of votes will be held on October 24.

Parties support slain MLA's wife in Arunachal by-election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ITANAGAR

Five parties in Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday decided not to field any candidate for the Khonsa West Assembly bypoll, scheduled for October 21, and to support Independent candidate Chakat Aboh, wife of Tirong Aboh.

The bypoll was necessitated after Tirong Aboh, who was elected from the seat in May this year, was shot dead by suspected NSCN militants before the counting.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu convened an all-party meeting at his office and said Ms. Chakat would be supported by the ruling BJP, Congress, People's Party of Arunachal, National People's Party and Janata Dal (United).

Aboh, seeking a re-election from the constituency on an NPP ticket, was on his way to Khonsa on May 21 when he was killed.

EDUCATION ROUND UP

International Conference at IP University

Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi speaking at IP University, New Delhi

"Educational Development is an integral part of Capital Development. Capital Development is not merely confined to development of infrastructure like construction of roads, flyovers, bridges etc. Its ambit is beyond it. If you are developing educational infrastructure, you are contributing something more valuable and significant towards the Capital Development", said Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi at the inaugural function of the International Conference on Knowledge and Policy for Sustainable Development: Global Lessons and Local Challenges organized by the Directorate of International Affairs, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University at Radisson Blu hotel Dwarka here today.

He further said that educational institutions cannot work in isolation. It holds good for government also. For the betterment of the society, it is essential to work collectively. Focusing on the crucial role of positive mindset, he stressed that if you have positive mindset to work, you can do wonders even in available infrastructure and funds.

Presiding over the function the Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma said that the whole world is like a family. We concern for everyone. It is part of our culture and heritage. For development, it is essential to be innovative and experimental. University is a strong stack holder of sustainable development. Our University Schools are intended to be oriented towards sustainable development.

Speaking on the occasion the High Commissioner of Ghana Michael A. N. N. Oquaye Esq. said that identification of social changes and then formulating apt policies for cope up those challenges is need of hour to maintain sustainable development.

Prof. Anubha Kaushik, Director – International Affairs of the University said on the occasion that all the stock holders will have to work together to maintain sustainable development. An Abstract Book of the conference was also released on the occasion by the Chief Guest Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi.

Dr. Gagan Deep Sharma, organizing secretary of the conference informed that this three days conference is divided in six technical sessions in which a galaxy of speakers coming from India and abroad are participating.

JGU hosted the 1st Global Finance Conclave on Building a $5 Trillion Indian Economy

Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog highlighted the necessity of a healthy India especially at the grassroots for the country to become a $5 Trillion economy "Our children aged between 6-24 months do not get the proper nourishment that they deserve. 38% of our children are under nourished and 50 % of our women are anaemic in our county. So you have to look after your human resource which is the most prized resource in our country, from the grassroots level and that will be the beginning of our attempt to get to the target of being a $5 trillion economy."

Dr Kumar was addressing at the Global Finance Conclave hosted by O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) on 'Building a $5 Trillion Indian Economy: The Way Forward'.

He asserted: "The fact is that India did achieve between 2003-2011, an 8.5% growth. We have done it, and within those 8 years, 2 years we achieved 9-9.5% rate of growth. So, the Indian economy can grow at that pace. So any argument, any perception that we are just not upto it, I think is misplaced."

He also laid importance on "improving the export of goods and services." He said "while India is at 2.2%, China's export is at 10.8%. For example, in agriculture it is astonishing that 43%-44% labour produces 16% of the GDP, whereas the export is negligible. We have tremendous demand locally and globally that we need to unlock the growth potential".

In his inaugural address, Mr N. Sivasailam, Special Secretary (Logistics), Ministry of Commerce stressed the need to create long term funding sources through institutional development, instead of depending on commercial banks for building the country's infrastructure.

Speaking on the current economic slowdown and the road to building a 5 trillion-dollar economy, he described the economy as a "riding a tiger from which we can't get off".

The 2-day conclave witnessed a number of interesting sessions, the conclave assembled key national stakeholders including senior regulators and policy makers, economists, professional service providers, and leaders from banks and insurance companies, asset and wealth management, FinTech and more. They discussed topics of current interest to build new opportunities for organizations, consumers, and the economy. The conclave highlighted a range of timely global economic and financial issues, including prospects for growth, challenges in adopting digital transformation, cross border regulation and tax policy, and more.

Welcoming the distinguished guests and panellists on Day 1, Professor (Dr) C. Raj Kumar Founding Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) said, "There is a need to radically reimagine our knowledge system including our universities which I believe is the heartbeat of the future of building a 5 trillion-dollar economy" He emphasized the need for building "human capacity, research capacity, knowledge development capacity intellectual and innovation capacity".

Dr Ashish Bhardwaj, Dean, JSBF explained "If our goal is to reach the 5 trillion-dollar economy mark, we need to know what it means. We don't have to go to London, Paris or Tokyo to realise how much ground there is to cover. The challenges we face include taking the underprivileged with us in this journey, making sense of the new disruptive technology, fixing our financial system and taking care of non-performing assets".

The Government of India has put out a bold vision of creating a $5 Trillion economy by 2025. To nearly double the economy in six years will require significant industrial growth coupled with access to infrastructure funds, financial inclusion of a broader section of society, adoption of emerging technologies, and smart trade policies.

The Global Finance Conclave, was hosted by Jindal School of Banking & Finance, JGU on 17th and 18th September, 2019 in New Delhi. JGU is celebrating its tenth-year anniversary of its founding. It was conferred an 'Institute of Eminence' by the Ministry of Human Resources development on September 17th.

10th Annual Convocation at LPU

Honoris Causa to Vice-President of Suriname Dr Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin

Lovely Professional University held its 10th annual Convocation at Baldev Raj Mittal Unipolis, today, where strong protagonist of Vedic Sciences, His Excellency Vice-President of the Republic of Suriname, a South American Country, Dr Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin was the Chief Guest of the ceremonial day. Mr Vice-President was also conferred upon "Honoris Causa" Doctorate degree of LPU for his astounding Vedic Science research, and belief in 'the whole world is one family' dictum. He not only delivered the convocation address but also awarded doctorate degrees and gold medals to meritorious LPU students for their outstanding performances. On this occasion, along with 53 Ph.Ds, 51 Gold Medallists, 123 Academic Toppers; 19977 Regular & Distance Education LPU students of batches 2018 and 2019 received degrees & diplomas.

On this occasion, also present on the main dais were Lovely Group Chairman Mr Ramesh Mittal, Vice Chairman Mr Naresh Mittal, LPU Chancellor Mr Ashok Mittal, Pro Chancellor Mrs Rashmi Mittal and Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rameshwar Kanwar. Important guests from Suriname included Mr Arnold Karam Chand Adhin, Ms Gracella Adhin, Rana Sewkaran Sing, Pankaj Chaudhary, Nitin Nanda, VK Ahuja.

61 students of Allen Bengaluru selected for NTSE scholarship

National Talent Search Examination (NTSE-2019) Stage II results have been released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on 30 August 2019. The NTSE Stage 2 examination was conducted on 16th June 2019 (Sunday). Students of Allen Career Institute have once again proved superiority in NTSE. In this, 61 students from Allen Bengaluru have been selected for NTSE scholarship. The highest number of Scholars selected from a single institute in Bangalore

Naveen Maheshwari, Director of Allen Career Institute, said that this year a total of 2103 students have been selected for the scholarship in the results declared by the NCERT. Among this, 505 students of Allen Career Institute have been selected for the scholarship.

Maheshwari said that a total of 2103 students have been selected for the scholarship across the country. According to the result, the cut-off for general category is 134, for OBC category the cut-off 116, for SC category the cut off is 105 and for ST cut off is 93.

A monthly scholarship will be given by the Union Ministry of Human Resources to the students selected in the second stage. NTSE stage 1 examination was conducted by the respective State Boards in November where about five times students were selected for the NTSE Stage 2 examination. After the examination, students were selected for the scholarship based on their cut-off marks. In the final stage, the nationally selected students of 11th and 12th will get a scholarship of Rs 1250 per month. At graduation and PG level, selected students will get Rs 2000 per month i.e. 24 thousand scholarships annually.

IN BRIEF

Bathukamma gets off to a colourful start

WARANGAL URBAN

Dressed in their festive best, hundreds of women made their way to temples across the city as part of Bathukamma, the nine-day festival of flowers, which began in Warangal district of Telangana on Saturday. On all the days, women would gather in the street corners and temples in the evenings to sing and dance in praise of Goddess Durga.

Villagers prevent drilling for uranium samples

KURNOOL

The drilling for collecting uranium samples, which was taken up by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research at Yadavada village of Allagadda mandal in A.P.'s Kurnool district, was prevented by about 200 villagers on Saturday. The villagers were led by former Minister Bhuma Akhila Priya.

Maradu homes: SC accepts demolition plan

Holding the builders responsible, the top court orders attachment of their properties and accounts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Holding the builders of flats in Maradu responsible for illegal constructions, the Supreme Court has ordered the attachment of their properties and bank accounts.

The Bench directed its registry to issue notices to Paul Raj of Alfa Ventures, Sany Francis of Holy Faith Builders and Developers, Sandeep Malik of Jain Housing and Construction Ltd, and K.V. Jose of K.P. Varkey and Builders.

Accepting the 138-day timeline submitted by the Kerala government for completing demolition and clearing the debris, the court directed the State to begin demolition as per the schedule. The State had offered to begin demolition on October 11.

The Supreme Court made it clear that non-compliance with the court's order would make the Chief Secretary personally liable.

While ordering the State to pay ₹25 lakh each to the apartment owners, the court made it clear that the amount shall be "recoverable from the builder/ promoter/ the persons/ officials responsible for raising the construction."

A committee headed by former Kerala High Court judge K. Balakrishnan Nair will "look after the payment of the amount to each of the flat owners, as well as work out the actual amount paid".

The order regarding the compensation was made "without prejudice to other proceedings, which may be taken by the flat owners against the builder/ promoter/ persons/ officials responsible for raising the construction for realisation of damages/ compensation", it said. The court posted the case for October 25.

Civic body reaches out

Meanwhile, the civic administration has offered to help the residents to move out of their homes from Sunday, the first day of the four-day evacuation period.

A view of one of the apartments built in violation of coastal zone regulations, in Maradu, Kochi. ▪PTI

Snehil Kumar Singh, Fort Kochi RDO, and secretary of Maradu municipality, said the officials would meet the residents at their apartments on Monday. From identifying homes to negotiating the rates with movers and packers, the administration would facilitate the evacuation.

The administration had offered to reinstate the power and water supply connections, which were snapped on Thursday, to help the residents shift their belongings, he said.

"We do not anticipate any untoward incidents or need to use force during the evacuation. However, there will be adequate police force in all the locations to provide security to the officials. We will do everything legally permissible to help the residents," said Mr. Kumar, urging the residents to cooperate with the decision.

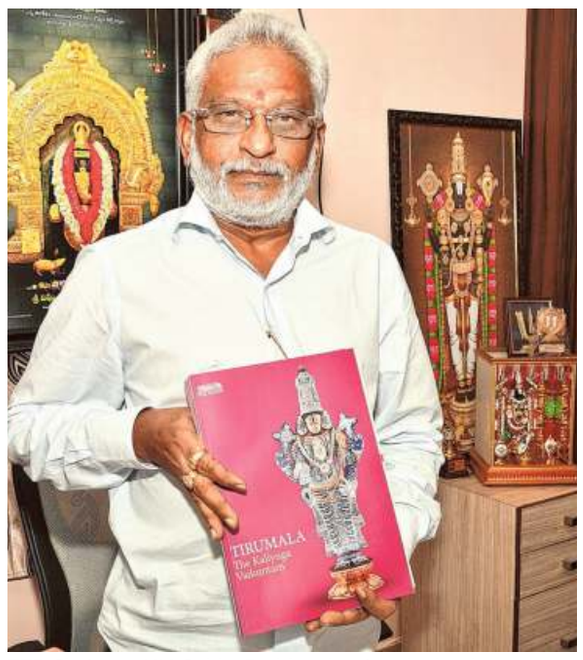
Interim relief

There was no question of allowing anyone to stay in the apartments beyond October 3, as evacuation had to be completed by that date.

The administration was duty-bound to implement the Supreme Court order, he said.

Even while helping the residents to move out, the Revenue officials would collect the bank account details and other documents from the apartment owners to disburse the interim compensation as ordered by the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court had ordered the Kerala government to pull down the structures after they were found have to violated the Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines.



TTD Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy releasing the book, published by *The Hindu*, on Saturday. ▪CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

The Hindu's book on Tirumala released

It has rich collection of articles, pictures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TADEPALLI

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy on Saturday released the book '*Tirumala - the Kaliyuga Vaikuntam*', a special publication of *The Hindu*.

The book release comes ahead of the Brahmotsavam at Tirumala which starts on Monday.

Speaking at the launch at his camp office near here, Mr. Reddy said the TTD had made elaborate arrangements for the huge influx of pilgrims expected during the event. "Several VIPs, including three Union Ministers, have confirmed their visit. Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao is also expected to be among the high-profile visitors," Mr. Reddy said.

Tirumala - The Kaliyuga Vaikuntam is an informative 112-page volume containing a rich collection of articles and exclusive pictures of Sri Venkateswara, the temple and its traditions.

The articles cover a wide range of subjects such as the significance of the Brahmotsavams, the temple's riches and the social and religious activities of the TTD.

Interesting topics

Among the most interesting topics covered are the ones on the temple's gold assets, which form 2% of India's sovereign gold holdings held by the RBI; the 'Nitya Annadanam' (free meals) programme; the Veda pathasala; and Sri S.V. College of Music and Dance, among others. Priced at ₹250, the book comes with two posters of Sri Venkateswara and Sri Padmavathi. Readers can avail themselves of a discount of 20% by pre-booking the volume at https://publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/

Flight makes emergency landing as woman goes into labour

Dubai-Manila route flight was diverted to Hyderabad

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A Manila-bound flight carrying 325 passengers made an emergency landing at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here after a woman went into labour pain in the wee hours of Saturday.

"Flight 5J15 of Cube Pacific airlines flying on the Dubai-Manila route was diverted to the Hyderabad airport around 4.55 a.m. after an expecting woman passenger of Filipino nationality reported contractions mid-air," sources at theRajiv Gandhi International Airport said.

A medical team and ambulance were put on standby after the flight captain alerted the Air Traffic Controllers to the medical emergency.

Delivery in ambulance

The team attended on Mananieta Baby Jean, 26, immediately after the flight landed. "Jean delivered a baby boy in the ambulance while she was being shifted to the airport medical centre around 5.30 a.m.," said an official, adding the ambulance was about 100 metres away from the medical centre when the baby was born.

He said the mother and the baby were shifted to a corporate hospital in Jubilee Hills and would soon be ready to return to their destination.

The flight departed around 8 a.m. after making an emergency parking payment of ₹6 lakh to airport authorities, said the official.

Believers were not evicted from church, says Orthodox Bishop

'Only those who camped illegally were removed by police'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Reports that believers were being evicted or expelled from St. Mary's Church, Piravom, are false, said Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Kandanad East Diocese, here on Saturday.

What has happened is that the police have evicted a group of people who illegally camped inside the Piravom church as part of its duty to follow a Supreme Court verdict. Reports that the District Collector took over the church and expelled believers are totally false, said Bishop the of Kandanad East diocese Thomas Mar Athanasios.

Despite the Supreme Court ruling that the church should be governed by the 1934 constitution of the Malankara church, Jacobites continued to occupy the church and prevented the priests and vicars authorised by the Supreme Court to enter. The Jacobites, thus, publicly challenged the Supreme Court ruling and continued to insist on parallel administration of the church. It was under these circumstances that the trustees and the Vicar of the Piravom church sought police protection through the intervention of the High Court.

According to the Supreme Court verdict, anyone who put his trust in the constitution of 1934 can participate in the church rituals, continue to be members of the respective churches and fulfil their ritual requirements, the Bishop added.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA, JHARKHAND

e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
e Tender Reference No. RCD/DUMKA/1456 Date- 27.09.2019

1.	Name of the work	Reconstruction of Tharhimore to Tharhihat Road (Total length - 4.775 Km) for the year 2019-20.
2(a)	Approximate value of Work (Rs. In Lacs)	Rs 1170.08551 Lacs (Rupees Eleven Crore seventy lacs eight thousand five hundred fifty one only.)
(b)	Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 11.71 Lacs
3.	Time of Completion	Nine Months
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	15.10.2019 Up to 12.00 Noon.
5	Date of Publication of Tender on website	04.10.2019 AT 10.30 A.M
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Road Division, Dumka
7.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	9431178289
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**0651-2401010**

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

बूंद - बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department
Road Division, Dumka, Pin-814101

P.R.218222 Road(19-20):D

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, GENGAJAL PROJECT UNIT U.P. JAL NIGAM, 4/4 SANJAY PLACE, AGRA

Letter No. 650/ V-14/51
Date 26-09-2019

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

Short term e-tenders are invited on behalf of Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam, in two envelope system (Pre qualification/Technical bid and Financial bid) on Turn-Key Basis, from the eligible Contractors / Firms having requisite experience and financial capabilities for the water supply works in Agra city under Agra Water Supply Scheme (Phase-3) approved under AMURT programme. There is no restriction of registration in Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam for participating in E-tendering based on two - envelope system . Bid document shall be available at e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in. Interested bidders may view & download bid document and upload their e-bid, duly filled online as per schedule given below:-
(i) Uploading bid document on website : 30-09-2019 (ii) Pre-bid Meeting : 05-10-2019 at 11.30 Hrs. (iii) Submission date of bids: 14-10-2019 up to 17.00 Hrs. (iv) Opening of pre qualification / technical bid : 15-10-2019 at 12.00 Hrs.
Any addendum issued in this regard shall only be uploaded on website . Intended bidders are advised to visit the above website at regular interval.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA

CORRIGENDUM

TENDER REFERENCE No.- RCD/DUMKA/1400
P.R. No. 217566(Road)/2019-20D

NAME OF THE WORK - Construction of Jama- Barapalsi Road (Length-7.00 Km) and high level bridge over Mayurakshi river.

CORRIGENDUM DETAIL IN e-procurement notice.

1	Please read as Date of Publication of Tender on website 30.09.2019 at 10.30 AM in place of 27.09.2019 at 10.30 AM

Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Dumka

PR 218221 (Road)19-20#D

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN – U40108JH2013-SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com

1st Time Extension-cum-Corrigendum Notice

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of physical submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following short e-procurement notice no. is hereby extended as below :-

Sl. No.	Tender notice no. and description of item	Extended online bid uploading/ submission end date	Last date of physical submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time	Remarks
1.	83/PR/JBVNL/19-20 Different types of testing instruments for MRT Lab, TRW & Stores of JBVNL in Package –A	16.10.2019 upto 18:00 Hrs	17.10.2019 upto 13:00 Hrs.	17.10.2019 upto 18:00 Hrs.	Corrigendum
2.	84/PR/JBVNL/19-20 Different types of testing instruments for MRT Lab, TRW & Stores of JBVNL in Package – B	16.10.2019 upto 18:00 Hrs	17.10.2019 upto 13:00 Hrs.	17.10.2019 upto 18:00 Hrs.	Corrigendum

Further details against the above NIT can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 09431135523 / 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Submission of tender fee/EMD will not be accepted by courier/Regd. Post. Further details.

बूंद – बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

PR No. 216107

Sd/-
ESE (Purchase)

PR 218182 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)19-20#D

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DELHI BASED Sozhiya Velalar 36 fair slim 170 cms BBA Chitaraikanni working manager having house in Delhi seeks bride caste no bar contact 9871101344

TELUGU

PADMASALIYAR, 28/180cm, Uthrattathi / Meenam. Ph.D Prof., OSU, Columbus. Ct: 9994492650 / 9443426525

NAIDU Uthiradam-4, 28/162 Divorcee (Short Lived within 10days) BE Infosys Ch 75Kpm OwnHouse seek Educated Bride. Subsect No Bar. Ct:9840861659

Gavara Naidu, Kettai, 33/175, Dindigul, Tamilnadu, BE., SWE Job Hyderabad, 80K. seeks Engr. PG Bride. CNB. Ct. 9362412226 / 8778811693

34/ 178 Divorcee, BE–EIE/ MBA, 10L PA, Plant Mngr– Kochi. Loves Travel, Food & Music. Caste no Bar. Ct. 9562982431/ 9894704796

REDDY AVITTAM Kumbam 28/175 Fair BE,MBA Pvt Chennai seeks Educated Bride.9841074431/ 8248593385

BALIJA NAIDU 33/170cm Pooram/Simmam Fair MBA SAP Sr.Analyst MNC ChSeeks Good ProfessionalBride 9962855292

BALIJA 28/170, BE, MBA, Moolam, MNC Chennai, 15L/PA.Seeks fair Employed Engr.bride below 25yrs.Ct: 6380386349 /6382995863, vrb10@yahoo.co.in

Kavara Naidu 28/170 MBBS Working Pvt Chennai 60Kpm seeks MBBS,MD, Dr Bride. Subsect No Bar.7373221185

BALIJA / GAVARA NAIDU, BE, (M.S), 25/168cm, 12–10–1994, Uthiradam, Makara rasi, Father & Mother Govt staffs, native Chennai seeks Educated Employed Bride from same community upper middle class may please contact with family details, Photographs & Horoscope to: jawaharrm@gmail.com – 9444445557 / 8778582829

TELUGU

ARYA VYSYA Pubha 62/175 unmarried BA, Own Business 8L pa, seeks qualified Vegetarian unmarried girl & widows welcome. Caste No Bar. Ct:sri224499@gmail.com/8095919472

AGE 32/KAMMA cast/Hight 5.8/ divorced/masters degree/govt job/ telangana/need suitable bride/contact 7382756436

KAMMA NAIDU, 31/175, B.Tech, Own Business, 2400000PA, 50Cr, Seeks Suitable Bride, 8056272922, 9003281596

BALIJA NAIDU, 28/188, H.some, B.E, MS, MNC, USA, 100000$PA, Seeks Suitable Bride, 8056091059, 7358378866

KAMMANAIDU M.TECH(IIT) 25/185/handsome Engg MNC, B'lore 18Lakhs PA Affluent Family 9342939346, 9384884888

BALIJANAIDU CASTENOBAR 26/172/MBA Bank Manager,B'lore 18Ls PA. seeks Min. Graduate 9380471999, 9840023395

CASTENOBAR (ONLY-SON) Verry Handsome 29/170 M.Tech MNC,Chennai 12Lakhs P.A 9345448354, 9842961666

GAVARA NAIDU (Madurai based), 31yrs/ 168cm, B.E., QC Inspector at Saudi Arabia seeks Bride. Can take the family to Saudi. Ct: 98719 08806/ srisubsid@gmail.com

URDU

AGE 31, Working in Ministry of Defence as a Supervisor, Muscut. Government of Oman. Need a Graduate Girl. Contact : 7305832576

MUSLIM SHEIK Urdu 26/156 M.Sc working @ Cbe in IT company seeks well educated & religious minded bride. Contact : 9894257111

SMU/AGE 37/BBA/UNMARRIED/ Working as Manager in Shipping Company Chennai, Seeks Urdu Speaking Bride, Looking for Early Marriage Ct:9094535986

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BUSINESS OFFER

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✓Secured Loan
✓Unsecured Loan
✓SME & Corporate
✓NPA Release
✓Cheque Basis
7Days Evaluation
2 CRORES & ABOVE
CIBIL Not Required
7358408941
9150446529
contact@frontlinefincorp.com

SITUATIONS VACANT

COMPUTERS - IT

WANTED FULL Stack PHP Developer as a Business Partner. 9787806366

MEDICAL

WANTED ANESTHETIST (2L), Duty Doctor (50K)- Rotary Hospital at Batlagundu, Dindigul. Con: 9842406904

TECHNICAL

MANAGER REQD for Machine Assembly in Kolkata. koicacaps@gmail.com

FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS Required: We are a Leading Food Additive Manufacturing Company having Manufacturing base at Chennai & with long–standing Indian & International Business Operations. We are looking for Graduates/ Post–graduates in Food Technology from Premier Institutions/ Universities & with about 7 years manufacturing experience in Biscuit/ Confectionery/ Allied Industries to take up assignments– Product Applications/ Product Executives in Company Executive Cadres. Age below 35 years. Good Remunerative Package will be given for right candidates. Higher Qualifications & Higher Experienced will also be considered for Senior Positions. Apply with full Bio–data, Present Salary/ Salary Expected & Photo to excl.tch1990@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE

SELLING

COMMERCIAL LAND

ELAGIRI HILLS : Athanavoor main road commercial property, 9 cents, 6 lakhs/cent. Nilavoor on the main road 54 cents, 2 lakhs /cent. Contact : 9840061264

FACTORIES & SITES

WAREHOUSE FOR Rent / Sale at Karur – Trichy NH 10 acre land with 37000 Sq Ft Buildings. Contact: 9894888860 / 9715432318

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

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IN BRIEF

PAN-Aadhaar linking date extended to Dec. 31

NEW DELHI

The deadline to link permanent account number (PAN) with Aadhaar has been extended till December 31, a CBDT order said on Saturday. Earlier, the deadline was September 30. This is the seventh time that the government has extended the deadline. PTI

6 dead after boulders hit vehicle in Uttarakhand

DEVPRAYAG

Six people were killed while four were injured after boulders fell on a mini-van in which they were travelling near the Teen Dhara area of Devprayag in Tehri Garhwal district on Saturday. The identities of the victims are yet to be ascertained by the police. All the injured have been sent to AIIMS in Rishikesh. ANI

Leopard kills 3-year-old in Uttarakhand

PITHORAGARH

A leopard mauled a three-year-old boy to death after snatching him from the lap of his mother at a village here on Saturday. The child was attacked when his mother was breastfeeding him in the courtyard of their home, Berinag Forest Range Officer Jagdish Joshi said. This is the second killing by a leopard in the district this month. PTI

BJP MLA held for abusing policewoman

NAGPUR

A BJP MLA from Bhandara district in Maharashtra was arrested on Saturday for allegedly outraging the modesty of a woman police official. An official said the Tumsar MLA, Charan Waghmare, had abused the official, who was on duty, following an altercation at an event on September 16 to distribute construction kits to workers. PTI

Web series' content irks RSS

Uncensored show on OTT platform justifies people turning to militancy, it says

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Panchajanya, a publication affiliated to the RSS, has raised objections to the uncensored content being aired on various over the top (OTT) platforms, especially a new series on Amazon Prime called *The Family Man*, starring actor Manoj Bajpayee. Sources in the RSS confirmed that this was a reflection of its own views on the matter.

In an article that the magazine published only on its website, it raised objections over certain dialogues featured in a couple of episodes of the series, specifically pertaining to the Union government's action of revoking the special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

"In the series, a woman affiliated to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is shown speaking to her male colleague at Srinagar's Lal Chowk, decrying the fact that Kashmiris were being oppressed by the Indian state as it had shut down phones and Internet and used measures like the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). At one point she asks her male colleague, who appears quite affected by her talk, whether there is any difference between the Indian administrative apparatus and militants," says the article.

The RSS objected to dialogues in *The Family Man*, starring actor Manoj Bajpayee. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It also says this particular web series (directed and created by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D. K.) constantly justifies people turning to terror and militancy, rather than it being a criminal activity. "The message from the series is that terrorism is not bad. In most cases, the love interest of the terrorist is either Hindu or Christian who is shown to express love for her terrorist boyfriend despite the odds and in spite of his being a terrorist," says the article.

Problem of terror

The article also says according to the series, the problem of terror arose due to the 2002 Gujarat riots; a character who turns to terror is shown having lost his parent in the riots. "More than 300 Hindus were also killed in the riots, why hasn't anyone turned to terror yet?" asks the article.

Panchajanya editor Hitesh Shankar told *The Hindu* that "we have objections to this series and a couple of others that I would not like to name right now. My larger point is that this kind of uncensored content is reaching people's homes, their mobile phones and is dangerous. There has to be some oversight, some mechanism through which this kind of content cannot make its way to screens in this country."

Watery way

Tough trek: People wading through a waterlogged road after heavy rain at Rajendra Nagar in Patna on Saturday. ▪RANJEET KUMAR

'3 activists are missing in Punjab'

SUVOJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

Two prominent civil rights activists of Kolkata have "disappeared" in Punjab after being allegedly detained by the police.

An activist hailing from Punjab has also been detained along with them, according to civil rights activists in Kolkata and Punjab. The police, however, said there was no record of any such detention.

Activists in both Kolkata and Punjab claimed that Dr. Suresh Bayen, a civil rights activist from Kolkata, and Rahul Chakravarty, a member of the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), were detained at the Bathinda station in south Punjab around mid-day on Saturday. They are "detained incommunicado", the activists alleged.

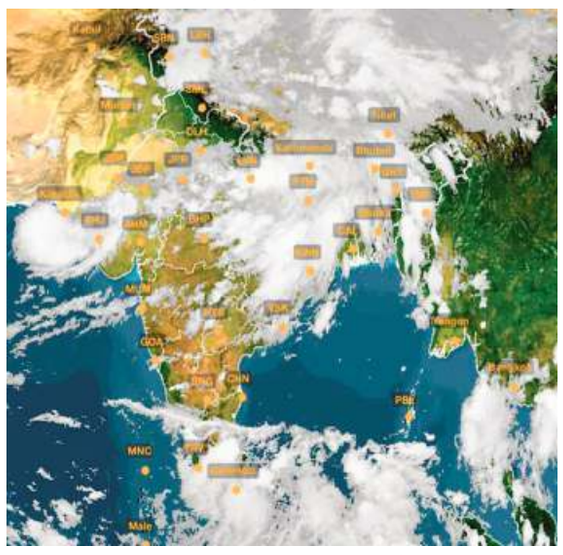
"Dr. Bayen is one of the most senior civil rights activists of Bengal, who mainly worked in the colliery areas, and Rahul is the secretariat member of APDR. We are very worried as we do not have any information about them," said Ranjit Sur, vice-president of APDR in Kolkata.

Lajpat Rai, an APDR activist of Punjab, was accompanying the Kolkata-based activists. "Mr. Rai's daughter was also detained at the Bathinda station but was released later. It is very worrying that three adults disappeared in broad daylight," said a Punjab-based activist on the condition of anonymity.

The police, however, said they had no idea about the "disappeared" individuals. "We have not received any notice about the individuals you are talking about," Jaspal Singh, SP of Bathinda city, told *The Hindu* over phone.

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 Sunday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Bihar, Gujarat, West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	33.8	25.4	Kozhikode	–	32.4	25.4
Ahmedabad	4.1	28.2	25.0	Kurnool	–	32.7	24.5
Aizawl	7.0	29.6	19.1	Lucknow	43.6	25.1	23.0
Allahabad	43.0	25.5	23.8	Madurai	–	32.8	23.8
Bengaluru	6.0	29.1	21.1	Mangaluru	–	32.0	23.8
Bhopal	18.6	29.7	22.7	Mumbai	1.0	31.6	24.8
Bhubaneswar	–	30.9	24.0	Mysuru	2.8	31.7	20.3
Chandigarh	22.2	31.0	23.2	New Delhi	–	32.6	24.1
Chennai	–	32.8	26.0	Patna	98.0	26.0	23.2
Coimbatore	–	34.0	23.2	Port Blair	00.0	00.0	00.0
Dehradun	00.0	00.0	00.0	Puducherry	00.0	00.0	00.0
Gangtok	00.0	00.0	00.0	Pune	1.6	32.0	25.6
Goa	24.2	31.3	24.2	Raipur	–	31.3	25.1
Guwahati	–	32.0	23.9	Ranchi	19.7	26.0	21.0
Hubballi	–	28.0	21.0	Shillong	5.0	22.0	14.5
Hyderabad	–	29.6	22.8	Shimla	00.0	00.0	00.0
Imphal	00.0	00.0	00.0	Srinagar	7.3	19.2	13.8
Jaipur	–	32.4	23.2	Thiruvananthapuram	–	32.7	24.0
Kochi	–	31.6	24.8	Tiruchi	–	33.7	25.0
Kohima	–	23.4	–	Vijayawada	4.2	31.7	24.6
Kolkata	1.5	30.1	24.9	Visakhapatnam	–	31.0	25.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	98	127	101	48	43	
Bengaluru	08	.95	.93	122	–	
Chennai	08	.16	.70	48	–	
Delhi	05	.70	.24	58	.232	
Hyderabad	01	.11	.11	54	61	
Kolkata	12	.37	.17	59	58	
Lucknow	01	.26	.92	18	–	
Mumbai	12	.21	.11	16	43	
Pune	86	.08	.67	29	29	
Visakhapatnam	–	–	.24	–	–	

Yesterday

In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Ahmedabad, Gujrat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 106 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: 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.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Mukul Roy appears before CBI in Narada sting case

BJP leader alleges conspiracy by Mamata to tarnish his image

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Mukul Roy on Saturday appeared before the CBI in the Narada sting operation case.

After being interrogated for nearly three hours, Mr. Roy stepped out of the CBI office here and said, "It is the duty of every law-abiding citizen to cooperate with the investigating agency. It can call me as many times as they wish and I will cooperate."

The BJP leader also alleged a conspiracy by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee "who is asking every accused to take my name before the investigating officers".

The agency issued summons to Mr. Roy after it made the first arrest in the scam by taking into custody IPS officer S.M.H. Mirza on Thursday. It asked Mr. Roy to appear before it on Friday, which he declined citing political preoccupations. Mr. Roy was questioned in the presence of Mr. Mirza who remains in CBI custody till September 30.

Mukul Roy

The CBI is probing the Narada video tapes, where several Trinamool Congress leaders were seen on camera purportedly accepting cash.

The Narada news videos, shot in 2014 and made public ahead of the 2016 Assembly election in West Bengal, showed senior Trinamool leaders accepting bundles of cash from journalist Mathew Samuel who posed as representative of a fictitious company, Impex Infrastructure. In March 2017, a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court ordered the CBI to take over the case. While Mr. Roy, one of the most influential Trinamool leaders then, has not been seen accepting any cash, he could be heard telling the sting operative, "You talk to Mirza." The arrest of Mr. Mirza and the questioning of Mr. Roy have once again brought the scam to the fore in West Bengal. During the day, Trinamool MP Kakuli Ghosh Dastidar, who is also seen in the videos, said, "She had taken money to fight elections."

President's Colours for Army's Air Defence wing

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday awarded President's Colours to the Corps of Army Air Defence at Odisha's Gopalpur military station.

President's Colours is the highest honour bestowed upon a regiment of the Indian Armed Forces in recognition of invaluable contributions to the security of the nation during peace and hostility. It was presented on the completion of 25 years of the Army Air Defence as an independent arm of the Army. It was received by the Army Air Defence Centre on behalf of the Corps of Army Air Defence.

Glorious legacy

The President, in his address, recalled the glorious legacy of Indian Armed Forces in protecting the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation in general and the Corps of Army Air Defence in particular.

President Ram Nath Kovind awarding the President's Colours on Saturday. ▪PTI

Air Defence came into existence in 1940 as part of Corps of Artillery. In 1994 it was bifurcated from the Regiment of Artillery. Its troops had shown valour during World War II in various operations and won gallantry awards, namely four Military Crosses, one Medal of the British Empire, seven Indian Distinguished Service Medals and two Orders of the British Empire.

Train mishap victims' kin seek govt. jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMRITSAR

The families of people killed in a train accident during a Dasara celebration in Amritsar last year staged a protest outside Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's residence here demanding government jobs.

About 60 people were mowed down and 72 injured by a train that hurtled through the crowd which had spilled onto railway tracks while watching a Ravana effigy burn.

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Last Date for Receipt of Application: October 20, 2019 (Sunday)
अधिष्ठाता, शैक्षणिक कार्य

'I should be reinstated with due honour'

U.P. doctor now demands CBI inquiry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Suspended paediatrician Kafeel Khan, who has been absolved of charges of medical negligence and corruption in connection with the Gorakhpur's B.R.D. Hospital tragedy of 2017, on Saturday demanded that he be reinstated with due honour.

Addressing mediapersons at the Press Club of India here, he reiterated that the Uttar Pradesh government should apologise to the families of the children who died and provide compensation to the kin. "The departmental inquiry has shown no medical negligence on my part... That tag of "Murderer Kafeel" is off my head now. I demand a CBI inquiry should be conducted into the case or a court-monitored probe outside Uttar Pradesh."

Kafeel Khan

About 30 children died at the hospital during the night of August 10, 2017, and 34 more over the next few days, officials had then said.

IUSSTF Indo-US Science and Technology Forum
Department of Science & Technology Govt. of India
University of Nebraska Lincoln
Water for Food Daugherty Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

WATER ADVANCED RESEARCH & INNOVATION (WARI) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Govt. of India, the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)**, the **Daugherty Water for Food Institute (DWFI)** and the **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)** have partnered to nurture cooperation between students and scientists from both countries on Water Quality Research. The **Water Advanced Research and Innovation (WARI) Fellowship Program** - a dynamic and transformative program has thus been developed to foster long term Indo-American science and technology partnerships.

The program is envisaged to:

- Provide opportunity to best and brightest Indian students and scientists to gain exposure and access to world class research facilities at **the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Purdue University, Texas Tech University and the University of Idaho;**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For Student Internships

- Indian citizens currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Water Science & Engineering at a recognized institution of higher education and learning in India
- **Age:** Upto 32 years as on 31 December 2019

FELLOWSHIP / INTERNSHIP INCLUDES:

- Monthly Stipend
- Air-Fare
- Contingency Allowance
- Health Insurance

For Fellowships

- Indian citizens having Ph.D. in Water Science & Engineering.
- Applicants must be able of doing independent research work and have published in internationally recognized academic journals
- Open to applicants working in the fields of Water resources, water chemistry and environmental engineering.
- **Employment:** The applicant should be in a regular position at a public funded R&D Lab / S&T Institution / recognized Universities / Colleges in India
- **Age:** Upto 40 years as on 31 December 2019

Submission Deadline 14 October 2019
For any queries, please write back at water.fellowship@indousstf.org

IBAB Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology
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Biotech Park, Electronic City Phase I, Bangalore - 560100
iiitb International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore

Call for Applications for a
'PG Diploma in Big Data Biology'
(In collaboration with IIIT, Bangalore)
(Funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Science & Technology

Recent advances in diverse areas of life sciences such as high-throughput genomics, computational neuroscience, biopharma, medical and cellular imaging have led to the generation of massive data. This poses a huge challenge to researchers to handle such large data sets, analyse and interpret them. The advent of big data has impacted personalised medicine and health care services significantly. Efficient computing platforms and tools, sophisticated measurement technologies, Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence have transformed life sciences and health care, enabling unprecedented interpretation of data and novel outcomes.

Realising the need for data scientists and data engineers to handle the challenges in biological and medical data, the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB) is pleased to announce the launch of an innovative ***one - year PG Diploma Programme in 'Big Data Biology'*** *in collaboration with the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-B), Bangalore and funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. This interdisciplinary programme will focus on Big Data in Life Sciences and will help explore the opportunities and challenges of handling big data in health care and imaging and will impart engineering approaches to problem solving in this emerging area.*

Unique Features of the Programme

- Interdisciplinary programme with courses that strengthen the computational, statistical and engineering components required to analyse large scale data in life sciences
- Courses handled by faculty from IBAB and IIIT-Bangalore and industry experts
- Integrated learning experience involving coursework and industry and research oriented project work
- Comprehensive curriculum comprising diverse areas in Data Science with applications in Life Sciences, including development of machine learning algorithms, genomics, imaging and image processing and clinical data analysis
- Extensive interaction with industry including mentoring and selected teaching by subject matter experts from industry
- **100% track record** of placements of the two institutes and their estabilished industry network
- Curriculum with a blend of computing and life sciences that will open opportunities in diverse areas including health care data science, genomics and clinical trials

For detailed course content, visit: http://ibab.ac.in and https://www.iiitb.ac.in

Eligibility

- *Indian nationals with B.E. / B.Tech. degree in Biotechnology / Biomedical Technology/ Bioinformatics/ Computer Science and Engineering/ Electronics and Communication Engineering/ Electrical and Electronics Engineering/ Information Technology or equivalent degree or M.Sc. degree in Biotechnology/ Bioinformatics/ Biochemistry/ Computer Science/ Information Technology / Statistics or equivalent degree with a minimum of 60% in the qualifying examination*
- ***Scholarships :*** *Students selected for the programme may be eligible to receive a scholarship of Rs 10,000/- per month from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India***

Application Procedure

Applications to the programme can be submitted online at
https://ibab2019.azurewebsites.net
Number of seats : 25

** As per eligibility conditions prescribed by DBT, Govt. of India

Selection Procedure

National level online entrance examination at select centres across the country
Reservation for SC/ST/Physically Challenged candidates will be based on the norms of MHRD, Govt. of India

Deadline for Application : 20 October 2019
Date of entrance examination : 03 November 2019
Commencement of the course : 06 January 2020

Contact

Office of Admissions
Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB)
Biotech Park, Electronics City Phase I, Bangalore-560100
Email: pgdbigdata@ibab.ac.in
Phone: 080-2852 8900/01/02

FROM PAGE ONE

India slams Imran's 'hate speech' at UNGA

Mr. Modi's address, while calling for a united fight against terrorism, made no reference to either Pakistan or Kashmir.

Imran Khan addressing the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. ▪ AP

Words Matter

"Words matter in diplomacy. Invocation of phrases such as "pogrom", "bloodbath", "racial superiority", "pick up the gun" and "fight to the end" reflect a medieval mindset and not a 21st century vision," Ms. Maitra said.

"Pogroms, Prime Minister Imran Khan Niazi, are not a phenomenon of today's vibrant democracies. We would request you to refresh your rather sketchy understanding of history. Do not forget the gruesome genocide perpetrated by Pakistan against its own people in 1971 and the role played by Lieutenant General A.A.K. Niazi. A sordid fact that the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh reminded this Assembly about earlier this afternoon," she added.

Bench to hear pleas against dilution of Art. 370

Both the CJI and Justice S.A. Bobde, the second seniormost judge, are part of the Bench hearing the Ayodhya case, which is expected to continue till October 18.

A three-judge Bench, led by the Chief Justice of India, referred the petitions on Article 370 to the Constitution Bench on August 28.

The petitions include those by advocate M.L. Sharma and the National Conference, which had challenged the Centre's "unilateral" move to impose curfew by dividing Jammu and Kashmir "without taking consent from the people".

The petitions have questioned the Centre's sudden decision to "unilaterally unravel the unique federal scheme, under cover of President's Rule, while undermining crucial elements of due process and the rule of law".

A separate petition from detained politician Shah Faesal and Shehla Rashid Shora, among others, has contended that the August 5 order and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, were arbitrary. They also challenged the proclamation of President's Rule in December 2018. The petitions said what happened to the State "goes to the heart of Indian federalism".

"National integration is best served by a pluralistic model. Under this model, one size need not always fit all," the NC petition said.

3 Hizbul militants, jawan killed in Jammu

The were also involved in the April 9 killing of RSS functionary Chanderkant Sharma and his personal security officer.

On September 13 the duo allegedly snatched weapons from the house of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) district president Sheikh Nasir Hussain in Kishtwar.

After being chased by the security forces, the terrorists, who were dressed in camouflage uniforms, entered a residential house. The family members mistook them for security forces and offered them tea.

Director General of Police Dilbag Singh told *The Hindu* that the terrorists were given ample opportunity to surrender with the police even made them speak to their family members on phone to convince them.

"In the past ten days, we destroyed half a dozen hideouts of theirs and arrested three people who provided them shelter. They were planning to leave the town and were moving towards Valley when they tried to stop a car this morning. The driver informed a patrol party ahead and when the security forces chased them, they took refuge in one of the houses in Babote," Mr. Singh said.

An alert was sounded in the area and as the terrorists were wearing olive green patterned dress, the family welcomed them and offered them tea.

"Once they realised that they were not from the forces, one of them got out of the house and informed the police. The security forces covered the house from all sides but an elderly family member – Vijay Kumar Verma – couldn't come out. He was rescued 45 minutes later as the police closed in on the house. The terrorists then jumped from the balcony and moved towards an open area where an encounter broke. It was in this exchange of fire that we lost an army jawan and two policemen were also injured," said Mr. Singh.

Sikh police officer shot dead in Houston

Mr. Dhaliwal, a 10-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's office and its first Sikh deputy, was gunned down while conducting a mid-day traffic stop in northwest of Houston on Friday, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said.

Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal

The officer said Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, 42, was taken by helicopter to a hospital where he died, a decade after becoming the force's first Sikh and pushing for a historic expansion of religious rights in the department.

"I'm sad to share with you that we've lost one of our own. Our HCSO Texas was unable to recover from his injuries. There are no words to convey our sadness," Mr. Gonzalez said in a tweet.

Mr. Gonzalez said Mr. Dhaliwal, who kept his Sikh articles of faith including a turban and beard, stopped a vehicle with a man and woman inside.

Why Centre's apple purchase is a forbidden fruit in J&K

Farmers fear that the government's offer will disrupt their traditional trade ties with buyers from the rest of India

VIJAITA SINGH
SHOPIAN/PULWAMA

Mohammad Younus Bhat is not impressed with the government's offer to buy apples from farmers in Jammu and Kashmir at double the market rate.

Mr. Bhat of Shopian in south Kashmir, the largest apple producing area in J&K, says he cannot betray his trade partners of several decades in Lucknow and Delhi. He fears the government's offer can damage the age-old social and economic ties the Valley have with the rest of India.

"We take advance payment from traders in Delhi and Lucknow and have been doing business with them for decades. We will not sell our produce to the government... cannot afford to betray our friends for a little extra money, with whom we have family relations," Mr. Bhat said.

In August, J&K Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam announced the government's plan to procure almost 12 lakh tonnes of apples directly from farmers under the special Market Intervention Price Scheme (MISP) with the help of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). J&K contributes over 70% of the apple production in the country.

The severe restrictions imposed in J&K since August 5 following the revoking of the State's special status under Article 370, included curbs on vehicular movement which hit the transport of the fruit. The official restrictions were followed by threats and attacks by militants on fruit growers and farmers in the Valley against selling their produce to the government.

Bumper crop, no buyers

Shopian, Pulwama, Sopore and Batengo in Anantnag are the four main *mandis* (wholesale markets) in the Kashmir Valley. Shopian's orchards produce 3.5 lakh tonnes on average and this season a bumper crop is expected.

Big player: Jammu & Kashmir contributes over 70% of the apple production in the country. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

However, the *mandi* wore a deserted look last week. "We have suffered 100% loss. The shutdown here is also to protest against the government's action on Article 370. Nobody has asked us, and we are not following any calendar issued by the separatists. This is voluntary," Mohammad Isar, another resident, said.

According to Shopian Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Yasin Choudhary, around 60% of the apple growers sell their produce to contacts with whom they have old business ties; 40% come to the *mandis* to participate in the bidding process where they interact with buyers.

The government has also said it will encourage and provide security to truck drivers to come to the *mandis* and collect the produce.

For small farmers

Mr. Choudhary, however, said the market invention scheme was not a bid to disrupt the decades-old trade practice. "We are expecting demand and supply to be disrupted in our favour. Earlier, the big farmers were selling apples to old dealers for a price. Now the government is offering a better price. So far, 50,000 growers have registered with us; our scheme will help the 40% farmers who are not able to sell it to anyone," Mr. Choudhary told *The Hindu*. He added that government would take care of the transportation.

An official said the government was offering ₹900 a box instead of the ₹500 fixed by the dealers before the clampdown.

Mr. Choudhary said the administration was advertising its scheme through radio, pamphlets and local cable channels.

He said the idea was to eliminate the middlemen so that the money reached the farmer in his account through direct benefit transfer.

"The farmers will get the money in 48 hours. We have held outreach programmes to explain the benefit of government scheme to people," Mr. Choudhary said, adding that a new *mandi* has been built for ₹31 crore in Shopian. He said a new cold storage facility with a capacity of 21,500 tonnes would become operational this year.

In Pulwama district, which produces 1.56 lakh tonnes, a farmer said they would prefer to store the apples in cold storage rather than sell it to the government.

"Will the government protect us next season? They cannot force us to sell to NAFED. We will store the produce in cold storage and sell when normalcy returns. Trucks are not able to come to *mandis*," he said.

Navy stronger than in 1971, says Rajnath

Minister says it is capable of delivering a 'much bigger blow' to Pakistan than in the Bangladesh war

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Recalling the "exceptional role" played by the Indian Navy in the 1971 war when Operation Trident and Operation Python "broke the backbone" of the Pakistani Navy, Defence Minister Rajanth Singh on Saturday said the former was today capable of delivering a "much bigger blow" if required.

The Minister was speaking after commissioning the second Scorpene submarine *Khanderi* in Mumbai.

"Pakistan should understand that today with the strong resolve of our government and advancement in naval capacity with additions like *INS Khanderi*, we are capable of giving a much bigger blow to it if need be," Mr. Singh said.

He later inaugurated an aircraft carrier dry dock and launched the first of the seven Project 17A frigates, *Nilgiri*, into water.

Mutual trust

Mr. Singh, however, stressed that the Indian Navy would not pose any threat to any peace-loving nation and in fact, it wanted to build a "sense of confidence and mutual trust with all big and small nations in the Indian Ocean Region".

Mr. Singh, along with the Chief of the Navy Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, emphasised that ship-building was a labour-intensive industry and significantly ploughed back the investments into the economy. Of the 51 ships and submarines currently on order, 49 were being constructed indigenously.

The construction of one frigate itself provided direct employment to 4,800 personnel and indirect employment to nearly 27,000 for eight years, he said. "Almost 87% of the total warship cost is invested in the Indian economy which is a significant contribution."

Six Scorpene class conventional diesel-electric submarines are being built by Mazagon Dock Ltd. (MDL) in Mumbai with technology transfer from the Naval Group of France under a 2005 contract worth $3.75 billion. After a series of delays, the first submarine of the class *Kalvari* joined service in December 2017. The cost of the Scorpene project now stood at ₹25,000 crore.

Trial issues

The *Khanderi* was launched into water in January 2017 but the induction was delayed due to issues encountered during trials. The remaining four submarines are in advanced stages of manufacturing and trials.

The carrier dry dock is the largest dock of the Indian Navy measuring 281m in length, 45m in breadth and 17m in depth and is also the first Indian dry dock built into the sea, unlike the conventional docks built on land.

It is capable of servicing the 44,500 tonne aircraft carrier *INS Vikramaditya* and in the first indigenous aircraft carrier *Vikrant* under construction at Kochi.

Mr. Singh will go to Goa where he will spend a day at sea on *INS Vikramaditya*.

Adding firepower

In Mumbai on Saturday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the second Scorpene submarine Khanderi, launched the first of the seven Project 17A frigates, Nilgiri, into water and inaugurated an aircraft carrier dry dock

The dry dock for aircraft carriers in Mumbai, inaugurated on Saturday. ▪ VIVEK BENDRE

KHANDERI

- Khanderi is the second of six Scorpene conventional submarines for which the Mazagon Dock, Mumbai, has won contract
- Khanderi was launched into water in January 2017
- The Scorpenes have been constructed with technology transfer from the Naval Group of France under a 2005 contract worth $3.75 billion
- The project saw several delays, and the first submarine Kalvari joined service in December 2017

NILGIRI

- The P-17A class is the follow on to the P-17 Shivalik class stealth frigates in service. It will weigh 6,500 tonnes
- Nilgiri, launched into water, is the first of seven frigates to be built
- Four will be built by the Mazagon Dock and three by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata
- The launch weight of Nilgiri is about 2,500 tonnes. It is expected to be commissioned in 2022 after completing construction and trials

AIRCRAFT CARRIER DRY DOCK

- This is the Navy's largest dry dock measuring 281 m in length, 45 m in breadth and 17 m in depth
- It is also the first Indian dry dock built into the sea, unlike the conventional docks built on land
- It is capable of servicing the 44,500 tonne aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and the first indigenous carrier Vikrant, which is in an advanced stage of construction in Kochi

Bengal in the grip of 'jungle raj', says Nadda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal is in the grip of a "jungle raj", where the ruling Trinamool Congress is resorting to "physical liquidation of political opponents", BJP working president J.P. Nadda said on Saturday.

He was addressing the families of the BJP workers killed in political violence in the State after performing *tarpan* (offering of prayers to the departed) in the Bagbazar Ghat on the banks of the Hooghly.

He accused the Trinamool of indulging in "state terrorism". "Every day, there is physical liquidation of people who have faith in a different political ideology." Eighty BJP workers had been killed in the past few years, but police complaints were not registered . "Those who killed are roaming openly. The police have become mute spectators. The protector has become the predator," he said.

Mr. Nadda, on a two-day trip to the State, said he was visiting different parts of the country, but had not seen such a situation anywhere. It was cutting the ground from under the feet of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, he said.

Kashmir crisis could deepen, warn activists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Termination of the special status for J&K and the bifurcation of the territory has put the people of the region under great political stress and opened chances of international intervention, declared a civil society meeting on Kashmir held here on Saturday.

"Fifty-five days since the siege began, repressive measures are still in place. Human rights violations are naturally routine in an atmosphere of communications and media lockdown," stated Centre for Peace and Progress (CPP).

Former chief of Research and Analysis Wing A.S. Dulat said that he is sceptical about the chances of normalcy returning to Kashmir.

"Kashmir is a political issue. If handled only through the security framework it will deepen problems," said the collective statement from the organisers who urged an immediate end to the communication lock-down in the Valley.

Srinagar witnesses 23 street protests in a sudden spike

Law and order worsens instantly after Imran's speech at UN

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The police have recorded at least 15 late-night protests and eight daytime incidents of stone-throwing in Srinagar on Saturday, indicating a sudden worsening of law and order in the wake of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech at the UN on Friday.

Scores of youth took to the streets in at least 15 locations across Srinagar on Friday, immediately after Mr. Khan concluded his speech. They clashed with security forces and raised slogans. The forces used tear-smoke shells to break up the protests at Batapora, Lal Bazaar, Soura, Chanapora, Bagh-e-Mehtab and parts of the old city.

Several youth managed to enter mosques and used its public address system to raise anti-India slogans and play religious songs, a police officer posted in the old city told *The Hindu*.

In the sudden rise, the police recorded eight incidents of stone-throwing in Srinagar during the daytime on Saturday both in the old city and the uptown area. "There were nine major blockades erected by protesters," the police officer said.

On alert: Police recorded eight incidents of stone pelting in Srinagar during the daytime on Saturday. ▪ PTI

When contacted, Inspector-General of Police S.P. Pani said he was busy and would not comment immediately.

It's for the first time since August 20 when around 40 incidents of protests were reported that the Valley saw a sudden spurt in street protests. The police also recorded two incidents where youth burst crackers.

The Valley is in the grip of an uneasy calm since the Centre had revoked J&K's special status. However, this month saw a significant dip in the number of incidents of stone-throwing as security forces ensured no civilian casualty takes place during the clashes.

Govt. to release 8 Sikh prisoners in November

On Guru Nanak's birth anniversary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Eight Sikh prisoners, lodged in different jails in the country for committing crimes during the militancy in Punjab, will be released by the government as a goodwill gesture on the occasion of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in November.

The Union government has taken a decision to grant a special dispensation to nine Sikh prisoners from various jails in the country, an official from the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

The Home Ministry added that through a special remission, the death sentence of another Sikh prisoner had been commuted to life imprisonment.

Reprieve for Rajoana

Though the names of the prisoners were not revealed by Ministry, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa told *The Hindu* that he met Home Minister Amit Shah last week and pressed for commuting the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana.

Rajoana, a member of banned terror group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and convicted for the assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, is the only Sikh prisoner on death row in a militancy-related case.

The Akali Dal, a BJP ally, has been demanding the release of Rajoana and other political prisoners. Former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal led a delegation that met Mr. Shah on June 6 and sought Rajoana's release. The execution of his death sentence was stayed on March 28, 2012 on the intervention of the Badal government.

On Saturday, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal tweeted, "I am grateful to PM Sh @narendramodi ji & HM @AmitShah ji for heeding my repeated requests & commuting death sentence of a Sikh prisoner into life term and releasing 8 others prematurely ahead of the #550thparkashpurab. This step will heal wounds inflicted on #Sikhs."

Infighting on in Punjab Congress

Minister says MP 'sabotaging' party

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the Assembly byelection in Punjab, the infighting among Congress leaders has once again come to the fore with a Minister on Saturday accusing the party's Rajya Sabha member Partap Singh Bajwa of deliberately "sabotaging the party's chances".

Raking up the sensitive Bargari sacrilege issue, Mr. Bajwa had recently alleged that the Advocate-General's office had misled the State and the Assembly on the withdrawal of the Bargari sacrilege cases from the CBI.

Mr. Bajwa had hit out at Chief Minister Amaridner Singh, accusing him of favouring the "Badals" in the sacrilege case. The Chief Minister though denied making any statement on exonerating Shiromani Akali Dal patron and former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal in the sacrilege case.

In a fresh salvo among party leaders, Punjab Rural Development Minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa on Saturday accused Mr. Bajwa of "deliberately sabotaging the party ahead of the Assembly byelections".

"You have mischievously raked up the sensitive issue of sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib when the State government has already questioned the move of the CBI to reopen the case after filing the closure report despite the fact that the investigation had been withdrawn from the central agency by the State. Your design has the potential to harm the Congress so that Capt. Amarinder Singh can be blamed in case this plan succeeds. You are still harbouring the grudge that you were replaced as Punjab Congress Committee chief by Amarinder Singh," Mr. Tript said.

Ajit Pawar's political future hangs fire

Sharad Pawar says the decision to continue or quit will be announced by his nephew himself

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A day after resigning as MLA and remaining incommunicado for over 20 hours, an emotional Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Saturday said that he was being defamed and allegations of scams were levelled against him before every election. The inquiries against him keep on continuing with no end in sight.

"In 2014, I was blamed for the ₹70,000-crore irrigation scam, and now it is ₹25,000 crore. The inquiry on the allegations in the irrigation scam has been going on for five years. Just like others, we too are doing our work. How long am I supposed to suffer? We are humans too. We too have emotions," he said fighting back tears at a press conference at the Y.B. Chavan Centre here.

No clarity yet: NCP leader Ajit Pawar in tears at a press conference in Mumbai on Saturday. ▪ EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mr. Ajit Pawar, a former Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, was joined by senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal, NCP State president Jayant Patil, Leader of the Opposition Dhananjay Munde and NCP MLA Jitendra Awhad in a show of solidarity.

He, along with other directors of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, has been named by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the alleged ₹25,000-crore scam. His uncle and NCP president, Sharad Pawar, too has been named, despite never being a director of the bank.

"Had my name not been on the director board of the bank, then this case itself wouldn't have come up ever. It came up because of me, and Sharad Pawar had to suffer," he said.

"I apologise for hurting the feelings of leaders, workers and sympathisers for resigning without discussing it with them. I knew that they would stop me had I discussed it with them. I had been thinking of resigning for the past three days due to allegations of scam. But elections were staring at me. I was upset because Sharad Pawar was named in this case despite having no relation whatsoever with the case. He was named only because of his relationship with me," he said. He said he wondered how a bank with deposits worth ₹11,000 crore could get involved in a scam worth ₹25,000 crore.

Own decision

Mr. Ajit Pawar said he did not inform even the NCP president about his decision and was at a relative's residence as he needed time to think.

At a press conference in Pune on Friday night, Mr. Sharad Pawar had said that Ajit had spoken to his family members about quitting politics and going back to agriculture and industry.

On Saturday morning, he held a meeting with the NCP chief at the latter's residence in south Mumbai along with other members of the family. NCP leaders were kept out of the meeting. After the meeting, Mr. Sharad Pawar said the decision on whether to continue or quit politics would be announced by his nephew himself.

Asked if he would contest the Assembly election or quit politics, the former Deputy Chief Minister said, "Sharad Pawar told me that you will have to do what I tell you. I could not meet his eye and nodded."

Rubbishing reports of a family feud, Mr. Ajit Pawar said, "A feud was talked about when Supriya [Sule] entered politics, then Parth [Pawar] contested and now when Rohit [Pawar] may contest. It is all baseless. Sharad Pawar is the head of the family and we work as per his directions."

Maharashtra list of BJP likely today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The ruling BJP is likely to announce it first list of candidates for the Maharashtra Assembly election on Sunday, a party source said here.

The Assembly election will be held in the State on October 21.

"The list of candidates will be finalised after state leaders discuss it with Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has returned to the country," the source said.

CM in Delhi

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and BJP State president Chandrakant Patil will fly to Delhi on Sunday, he added.

Some ticket aspirants have already collected nomination forms from government offices, he said.

The last date of submission of nomination forms is October 4.

Backhanded compliment for Imran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A day after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan attacked the RSS at the UN, the Hindutva organisation on Saturday said that he had made its name synonymous with India.

Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh functionary Krishna Gopal also added that Mr. Khan had ended up spreading the RSS's name, and prayed that the Pakistan Prime Minister did not stop now.

"The RSS is only in India and for India. It has no branch anywhere else in the world. Why is Pakistan angry with us? It means if it is angry with Sangh, then it is angry with India. The RSS and India have now become synonymous. We also wanted that the world should see India and the RSS as one and the same, and not two separate entitles. Our Imran *sahab* has done this job very well and we congratulate him for that. He is spreading our name," the RSS joint general secretary said.

Mr. Gopal, who was speaking at an event here, said people who were victims of terrorism or opposed to it now realised that the RSS was also against it.

That is why, he said, Mr. Khan was attacking the RSS.

"It is getting so much of fame without doing much, and we pray that he should not stop now," he said.

World respects India more now: PM

BJP holds a grand welcome for him with sights, sounds and attire of a 'mini-India'

Back home: Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd after arriving in New Delhi on Saturday. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

JATIN ANAND
SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was greeted by the sights, sounds and attire of a "mini-India" in a welcome organised by the BJP State unit on Saturday evening.

Party workers in their thousands, mobilised from across the capital and showcasing the cultural heritage of various States, began assembling at the Palam airport technical area hours in advance of his arrival.

From *Bhangra* to traditional songs being recited in his honour by women in Poorvanchali attire, the arrangements were, according to party insiders, meant to somewhat replicate the "warmth" exhibited by the Indian diaspora at the "Howdy, Modi!" event in Houston.

"I am thankful and honoured that so many of you are here... In 2014, too, after winning the [Lok Sabha] election, I went to the United Nations in the United States and have now gone in 2019. I have felt the difference... the honour of the country has increased in the eyes of the international community and the eyes of the leaders of foreign nations," Mr. Modi told a small gathering allowed to assemble below a small stage at the airport technical area.

Credit to the people

"The credit goes to the people of this country who have helped form a strong and stable government again. The Indian diaspora across the world, in the countries where they live, have also received the warmth due to them because of those who have helped form such a government in India yet again," Mr. Modi said.

Party national working president Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan, Delhi chief Manoj Tiwari, Rajya Sabha member Vijay Goel and several party office-bearers were in attendance.

"The 'Howdy, Modi!' event was so significant in its scope that not only President [Donald] Trump was there but so were politicians from across the political spectrum – whether Republicans or Democrats... this holds testimony to the fact that the stature of India has increased in the eyes of the world," Mr. Modi said.

"When I reached New York, every international leader I met started the conversation saying 'Howdy, Modi!'... This is the magnitude of the effect that Indians can have on the world. This is how India can win the hearts of the world... I have seen it with my eyes, I have felt it myself," he said thanking the Indian diaspora in the U.S. for organising the event.

Before signing off by extending greetings for Dasara, the Prime Minister told his audience about the significance of September 28.

Surgical strike

The surgical strike by the security forces across the border three years ago on this day, Mr. Modi said, made his return to Indian soil on Saturday evening more memorable.

"Today is September 28. Three years ago, on this day, I could not sleep the entire night...every moment I was waiting for the phone to ring...That September 28 was a momentous day...it was the day when the brave soldiers of our India executed the surgical strike...I take this opportunity to thank and bow my head in reverence to those brave soldiers," he said.

Meghalaya minor tribes fear exclusion from 6th Schedule

We have virtually been made non-indigenous, they say

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya's bid to exclude "unrepresented tribes" from the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution has left minor tribes in the hill State edgy.

Meghalaya is divided into autonomous councils in the names of the three major matrilineal communities – Garo, Khasi and Jaintia. The minority tribes include the Hajong, Koch, Rabha, Boro and Mann.

Uncertain phase: A dance by the Hajong, one of the minority tribes in Meghalaya. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Parts or the whole of the four northeastern States – Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura – fall under the Sixth Schedule, which makes special provisions for "tribal areas".

'Unrepresented tribes'

On September 26, a subcommittee constituted by the State government had decided to recommend to the Standing Committee of Parliament the removal of the word "unrepresented tribes" from the amended Sixth Schedule. Currently, members of such tribes are nominated to the autonomous district councils.

A joint delegation of organisations representing five "unrepresented tribes" had met Home Minister James A. Sangma to voice their concerns about the amendment.

These groups were the Meghalaya Hajong Welfare Association (MHWA), Meghalaya Koch Association, Meghalaya Rabha Jatio Sewa Sangha, All Bodo Students' Union, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, All Meghalaya Mann Welfare Society and All Rabha Students' Union. Leaders of these organisation said the outcome of the meeting was not to their expectations. "It is sad the minority tribes have run into tribal majoritarianism. We have virtually been made non-indigenous and unwanted in our own homeland," an MHWA spokesperson said.

Unite against terrorism, says Venkaiah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU ROAD

In an apparent reference to UN General Assembly speeches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said that while one was about peace and welfare, the other was about hatred and violence.

Speaking at the inaugural function of a four-day global peace summit here, Mr. Naidu called upon the world to come together on the issue of terrorism and isolate those who were behind the menace.

Referring to the speeches by Indian and Pakistan Prime Ministers, but naming neither, at the UNGA on Friday, Mr. Naidu said, "We listened to the speeches in the United Nations General Assembly. One was about peace, progress and welfare, while the other was about hatred and violence. The choice is before the world."

PM's speech 'belies' Centre's actions in J&K, says NC

Party says world leaders are now judging Modi government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

The National Conference (NC) on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at the United Nations General Assembly "belie" the actions undertaken by his government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, the Prime Minister on Friday exhorted the international community to stand united against terrorism, which he described as one of the biggest challenges not for any single country, but for the entire world.

"The speech of PM Modi in the UNGA eulogising the country on being the biggest democracy is no less than travesty. The communities of world leaders are judging the Modi-led government on its actions in the State of J-K," the party said in a statement.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah is now incarcerated in his home. ▪ AP

The NC said the idea of development was impossible without having due respect for human rights and "unfortunately, ever since the unconstitutional abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A was carried out, the people of the State have been denied of their basic civil liberties." The NC said Jammu and Kashmir was "robbed" of its status and demoted to the status of a Union Territory on the alleged reason of development.

Restrictions were imposed across Kashmir on August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to dilute Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate the State into Union Territories. The restrictions were lifted in phases.

Suspected JeM militant arrested from Haryana

AMBALA

A suspected member of the Jaish-e-Mohammad group has been arrested from a truck on the National Highway at Ambala Cantonment area, police said on Saturday. The militant has been identified as Mohammad Ismail. PTI

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RAJASTHAN UNIVERSITY OF VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES, (RAJUVAS), BIKANER

No: F.77 / RAJUVAS / (COMP. / PUR.) 2019-20/ 106 Dated :- 26.09.2019

निविदा संशोधन सूचना

इस कार्यालय ई बोली आमन्त्रण सूचना सं. 01 / 2019-20 (क्रमांक 88 दिनांक 11-.09-2019) UBN No. - VAU1920GLRC00036 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :-
1. कॉलम सं. 07, '' निविदा अपलोड / डाउनलोड करने की तारीख '' 15.10.2019 एवं कॉलम सं. 08, '' तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख '' 16.10.2019 पढ़ा जावे। समय यथावत रहेगा।
2. कॉलम सं. 03 में वर्णित राशि को '' रुपये लाखों में '' एवं कॉलम सं. 04 एवं 05 में वर्णित राशियों को '' रुपयों में '' पढ़ा जावे।

राज. संवाद / सी / 2856 / 2019-2020 वित्त नियंत्रक

Selection of System Integrator for Integrated Excise Supply Chain Management System for Uttar Pradesh Excise Department (UPED)

e-Tender Notice

Online e-bids are invited from reputed Companies for Selection of System Integrator for development and maintenance of Integrated Excise Supply Chain Management System for Uttar Pradesh Excise Department up to 3.00 PM on 06.11.2019 Pre-bid meeting is scheduled on 16.10.2019. The complete details are available in RFP document which can be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal http://etender.up.nic.in from 27.09.2019. The UPED reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids/ annul the bidding process without assigning any reason. Any amendment(s) to this Notice or RFP in future shall be uploaded and informed on e-Procurement portal only and shall not be published in News Paper(s).

No:4179/T.F.-86(A)/End to End solution/RFP dt 27.09.2019 (P Guru Prasad) Excise Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh

Office of Excise Commissioner U.P. (Camp)
UP Pollution Control Board Building, T.C. -12V, Vibhuti Khand,
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010
R.O. No. 144267, R.O. dt 27/09/19 website www.upgov.nic.in

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Signal & Telecommunication/Construction/Madurai
(i) Tender Notice No. MDU-SG-CN-OT-19-20-02-EI Dt. 25.09.2019
(ii) Tender Notice No. MDU-SG-CN-OT-19-20-03-OD Dt. 26.09.2019

For and on behalf of THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Arasaradi, Madurai - 625 016, invites ONLINE TENDERS for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for WORKS in construction organization, S&T, Madurai need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. **The cost of tender form and EMD can be made only by online gateway payment through multiple bank's net banking, debit & credit card.** All relevant supporting documents are to be scanned and uploaded along with the offer.

Name of the work	(i) "Provision of Indoor Signalling arrangements (Electronic Interlocking with Hot standby) at Andipatti, Teni & Bodinayakkanur stations in connection with Gauge Conversion between Madurai and Bodinayakkanur". (ii) "Provision of outdoor Signalling arrangements in Madurai - Bodinayakkanur section in connection with Gauge Conversion between Madurai and Bodinayakkanur".
Approximate Cash Value	(i) **Rs.5,54,40,035.59** (Rupees Five crores fifty four lakhs forty thousand and thirty five point five nine only) (ii) **Rs.7,34,17,151.87** (Rupees Seven crores thirty four lakhs seventeen thousand one hundred and fifty one point eight seven only).
Earnest Money Deposit	(i) **Rs.4,27,200.00** (Rupees Four lakhs twenty seven thousand two hundred only) (ii) **Rs.5,17,100.00** (Rupees Five lakhs seventeen thousand one hundred only)
Closing Date and Time	(i) **05.11.2019, 15.00 hrs.** (ii) **06.11.2019, 15.00 hrs.**
Cost of Tender Form	(i) **Rs. 10,000/-** (ii) **Rs. 10,000/-**
Period of Completion	(i) **Eight Months** (ii) **Twelve Months**

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Arasaradi, Madurai - 625 016.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. V/SG/2019-20/38 Dated 25.09.2019

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division, Thiruvananthapuram - 695014, for and on behalf of The President of India invites ONLINE open tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Thiruvananthapuram Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. The bidders will have to make payment towards tender document cost and earnest money against such tenders through online payment modes like net banking, Debit/Credit cards etc., available on IREPS Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of the work
1.	TVC-SNT-SIG-2019-20-35	Interlocking of LC No.5 at KM:6/900-7/000 between Ernakulam 'D' Cabin and Trippunittura stations in Thiruvananthapuram Division
2.	TVC-SNT-SIG-2019-20-37	Replacement of slide by panel interlocking at Irumpanam station of Thiruvananthapuram Division.
3.	TVC-SNT-SIG-2019-20-38	Replacement of Slide instrument by control panel at LC gates under the jurisdiction of ADSTE/TVC section in Thiruvananthapuram Division.
4.	TVC-SNT-SIG-2019-20-39	Replacement of Slide instrument by control panel at LC gates under the jurisdiction of ADSTE/ERS section in Thiruvananthapuram Division.

Sl. No.	Cash value (Approx.) (Rs.Ps.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.)	Last Date for receipt of Tender	Completion Period
1.	22,15,975.89	44,300	3,360	14.10.2019 14.00 Hrs.	150 Days
2.	48,44,921.80	96,900	3,360	17.10.2019 14.00 Hrs.	240 Days
3.	28,76,155.93	57,500	3,360	17.10.2019 14.00 Hrs.	150 Days
4.	30,96,900.76	61,900	3,360	17.10.2019 14.00 Hrs.	150 Days

Divisional Railway Manager/S&T Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-695014

ELSEWHERE

Don't want to provoke China, says Malaysia PM

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia does not want to take a confrontational stance towards China over the disputed South China Sea and Beijing's alleged mistreatment of its minority Uighur Muslims, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said in an interview published on Saturday. REUTERS

18 injured as S. Korea tanker blast sparks fire

SEOUL

A huge blast on an oil tanker in a South Korean port on Saturday sparked a raging fire that spread to a nearby vessel, leaving 18 people injured, authorities said. All 25 of those on board the Cayman Islands-flagged tanker and the 21 people on the second ship have been rescued, according to the Coast Guard. REUTERS

Robert Mugabe buried in his village

KUTUMA

The body of Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe was buried on Saturday in a low-key ceremony in his village after weeks of wrangling over his final resting place. Family members threw white roses into the grave as the coffin was lowered to its final resting place in the courtyard of his rural home, about 90 km west of Harare. AFP

Pompeo subpoenaed as House Democrats press impeachment

Committees seek documents related to President Trump's Ukraine phone call

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Democrats charged aggressively into an impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump on Friday, ordering Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to turn over Ukraine-related documents and scheduling testimony for witnesses to alleged abuse of power by the U.S. leader.

Three House committees gave Mr. Pompeo one week to produce the documents, saying multiple State Department officials have direct knowledge of Mr. Trump's efforts to enlist the Ukraine government's help in his U.S. campaign for re-election.

"The Committees are investigating the extent to which President Trump jeopardised national security by pressing Ukraine to interfere with our 2020 election and by withholding security assistance provided by Congress to help Ukraine counter Russian aggression," they said.

Under the scanner: President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at a news conference in New York. ▪AP

Release of complaint

Public support is growing for impeachment after the release of an anonymous whistleblower's complaint on Thursday, reportedly made by a CIA analyst who had worked in the White House. It accused Mr. Trump of pressuring Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky in a July 25 phone call to supply dirt on former Vice-President Joe Biden.

The complaint also revealed that White House aides sought to hide the record of the call in a highly secure computer system normally used only for the country's most top-secret intelligence.

Congressional investigators on Friday announced interviews starting next week with five State Department officials, including former Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, whom Mr. Trump reportedly forced out earlier this year for resisting his efforts to pressure Kiev to probe Mr. Biden.

Envoy to Ukraine resigns

The list also includes U.S. special representative on Ukraine Kurt Volker, who resigned on Friday after being ordered to answer questions in the impeachment investigation, said a source familiar with the matter.

The whistleblower complaint said Mr. Volker met senior Ukrainian officials on how to "navigate" Mr. Trump's demands of Mr. Zelensky.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared that the impeachment investigation would move quickly, saying evidence from the whistleblower's complaint against Mr. Trump of abuse of power and an attempted cover-up was unambiguous. "The clarity of the President's actions is compelling and gave us no choice but to move forward," Ms. Pelosi said.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Trump attacked Democrats – including Adam Schiff, the lawmaker named by Ms. Pelosi to lead the impeachment probe – calling them liars, while also taking aim at the "partisan" whistleblower and the "Fake News Media and their partner, the Democrat Party".

In a video leaked from a private gathering Mr. Trump held on Thursday with U.S. diplomats in New York, Mr. Trump made clear he was battling for his survival. "We're at war. These people are sick," Mr. Trump ays in the video obtained by Bloomberg.

Mr. Schiff said on Friday his committee will issue more subpoenas next week and conduct a closed-door briefing with the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, the official who conducted a preliminary probe into the whistleblower complaint and deemed it credible.

Amid deadly violence, Afghans vote in presidential election

Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah are the main rivals

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Afghans voted in presidential elections amid tight security on Saturday, even as insurgents attacked polling centres in a series of blasts and clashes across the country that left at least two people dead.

The first-round vote marks the culmination of a bloody election campaign that, despite a large field of candidates, is seen as a close race between President Ashraf Ghani and his bitter rival Abdullah Abdullah, the country's Chief Executive.

Wary authorities placed an uneasy Kabul under partial lockdown, flooding streets with troops and banning trucks from entering the city in an effort to stop would-be suicide bombers targeting residents as they cast their votes.

Low turnout: Afghan women arriving to cast their votes in the presidential election in Kabul on Saturday. ▪REUTERS

Two-hour extension

Polls closed at 5 p.m. after a two-hour extension due to long queues of people still waiting to vote, the Election Commission said.

Compared to previous elections, the initial toll appeared relatively light, though authorities provided little information about reported blasts and ongoing armed clashes with the Taliban in various provinces.

A security official said that two civilians had been killed and 27 wounded in Taliban bombings and mortar attacks at polling centres across the country.

Serious security incidents were reported in several provinces, including Kunduz, Nangarhar, Kabul, Bamiyan and Kandahar.

The Taliban, who unleashed a string of bombings during the two-month election campaign, claimed to have conducted hundreds of attacks against Afghanistan's "fake elections".

Mr. Ghani, having voted at a Kabul high school, said the most important issue was finding a leader with a mandate to bring peace to the war-torn nation.

"Our road map (for peace) is ready, I want the people to give us permission and legitimacy so that we pursue peace," said Mr. Ghani, who is seeking a second term.

Some 9.6 million Afghans are registered to vote, but many lack faith that after 18 years of war any leader can unify the fractious country.

Observers from the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission said turnout appeared to be low, especially among women.

Still, many voters braved insurgent attacks and long queues to cast a ballot.

7 tuskers found dead in Sri Lanka

Wildlife authorities suspect poisoning, launch probe

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

As many as seven elephants have been found dead in the north-central part of Sri Lanka, prompting wildlife authorities to launch a probe into what they say appears to be a case of poisoning.

"We suspect that the animals have been poisoned. We are conducting post-mortem examinations to establish the cause of their death," said Chandana Sooriyabandara, Direct-General of the Wildlife Department. On Friday, locals who found elephant carcasses in Habarana, in Anuradhapura district, alerted authorities and by Saturday, the toll went up to seven. All of them were female elephants, Mr. Sooriyabandara told *The Hindu*.

The area surrounding Habarana is among the main elephant habitats of the country, adjoining the Minneriya National Park and Polonnaruwa. Sri Lanka currently has an elephant population of nearly 5,500 and the authorities' suspicion that the seven elephants were poisoned has raised alarm over a heightening human-animal conflict in the island. Official data points to nearly 300 elephant deaths in 2018 due to electrocution, railway track accidents, 'hakka patas' or traps made of explosives, and gunshots. Animal welfare activists also criticise the use of elephants in temple processions. Earlier this week, Tikiri, the skinny 70-year-old elephant that sparked a social media uproar after being forced to take part in an annual Buddhist pageant, died.

The body of one of the elephants in Sigiriya. ▪AFP

Serious blow

Experts consider the loss of seven elephants this week a serious blow to the country's elephant population. All seven animals found dead were said to have been 10 to 15 years old, "in the prime of their lives", according to Jayantha Jayawardena, managing trustee of the Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust, an NGO.

"It takes 22 months for an elephant to give birth to a calf and usually, elephants take a four- to five-year break before conceiving again," he said. Much of the conflict, in his view, arises as villagers' homes have been built on corridors that elephants use for internal migration. "Elephants generally walk about 12 miles a night to find food on the way. Now, when they find paths blocked by these house, they break in and then stumble upon crops. It is like a buffet for them," explained Mr. Jayawardena, who has been studying Asian elephants for 40 years. All the same, he argues that while the villagers' actions against the animals might seem harsh, they were "fully justified". "No villager would like to see an elephant killed, but when the animal damages their crops, they are affected badly."

"They lose their entire income, what can they do," he said, suggesting that the animal and the villagers were both victims.

U.K. watchdog could probe PM Johnson

REUTERS
LONDON

The government of London said it had referred Prime Minister Boris Johnson to Britain's police watchdog for potential investigation over allegations of misconduct involving a U.S. businesswoman while he was Mayor of London.

The Greater London Authority said on Friday that it had referred a "conduct matter" concerning Mr. Johnson to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

The referral follows allegations, first reported by *The Sunday Times*, that when Mr. Johnson was Mayor, he failed to declare close personal links to tech entrepreneur Jennifer Arcuri, who received thousands of pounds in public business funding and places on official trade trips.

Asked about the referral, Mr. Johnson's spokesman said: "The Prime Minister as Mayor of London did a huge amount of work when selling our capital city... Everything was done with propriety and in the normal way."

Tanker docks in Dubai after release by Iran

Its seizure was seen as a tit-for-tat move after the capture of an Iranian vessel

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

The British-flagged oil tanker *Stena Impero* docked in Dubai on Saturday after sailing from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas where it was held for more than two months, according to pool footage and a tracking website.

The vessel docked at Port Rashid in Dubai on Saturday after halting off the coast overnight, according to data from ship tracking website MarineTraffic.com.

Pool reporters at the commercial port confirmed the ship had moored, while video images showed the Swedish owned vessel docked and surrounded by several small boats, including at least one flying the United Arab Emirates flag.

Coast is clear: Staff of *Stena Impero* signing papers before leaving Iran's Bandar Abbas port on Friday. ▪REUTERS

The ship's seizure back in July was widely seen as a tit-for-tat move after authorities in the British overseas territory of Gibraltar detained an Iranian tanker on suspicion it was shipping oil to Syria in breach of EU sanctions. Tehran repeatedly denied the cases were related.

The *Stena Impero* sailed from Iran and into international waters of the Gulf on Friday morning, according to local authorities.

Photos released by the Iranian agency Fars News on Saturday showed the black and red-hulled tanker sailing from Bandar Abbas in southern Iran the previous day.

The images also showed the captain apparently signing the ship's release documents before it left port, and the crew – dressed in red overalls and safety gear – lifting anchor ahead of the journey.

Hong Kong marks 5th anniversary of 2014 protests

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Renewed clashes broke out in Hong Kong on Saturday night as police used water cannon and tear gas to disperse protesters hurling Molotovs and bricks after tens of thousands rallied peacefully in a nearby park.

Huge crowds had gathered to mark the fifth anniversary of the "Umbrella Movement", the failed pro-democracy campaign that laid the groundwork for the massive protests currently engulfing the finance hub.

Tens of thousands crammed into a park outside the city's Parliament, the same site that was the epicentre of the 2014 protests. But smaller crowds took over a main road opposite the building with groups of hardcore activists in masks throwing bricks and petrol bombs at the nearby Central Government Offices.

Police responded with water cannon laced with pepper solution and tear gas volleys, though the crowds soon dispersed at the sight of riot police.

Many of those attending Saturday's rally defended the use of violence by more hardcore activists and said Beijing's refusal to grant democracy – coupled with the ongoing erosion of freedoms – had hardened their resolve. Earlier on Saturday, Joshua Wong, a prominent student leader who served a short jail sentence for his role in organising the 2014 protests, announced that he would stand in upcoming district council elections.

SUDOKU

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	7	3	9	5	6	8	4
3	9	6	4	8	2	1	5	7
4	5	8	6	1	7	2	3	9
7	2	4	9	5	1	3	6	8
6	8	5	7	2	3	9	4	1
9	3	1	8	4	6	5	7	2
5	7	2	1	3	8	4	9	6
1	6	9	5	7	4	8	2	3
8	4	3	2	6	9	7	1	5

U.S. academic denied entry in Hong Kong

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

An American academic on Saturday said he was denied entry into Hong Kong, days after he testified in a congressional hearing alongside prominent democracy activists from the Chinese city.

Dan Garrett said he was turned away after landing on Thursday for "unspecified immigration reasons" – something he said was a first in 20 years of travelling to and living in Hong Kong.

The week before, Mr. Garrett had appeared in Washington before the Congressional Executive Commission on China alongside prominent Hong Kong activists.

The congressional hearings – coupled with a proposed Bill in Congress aimed at defending civil rights in Hong Kong – have sparked a furious response from Beijing.

U.S. military again hits IS in southern Libya

Drone strike killed 17 militants in an unidentified location, says the Pentagon's Africa Command

ERIC SCHMITT
WASHINGTON

For the third time in a week, the U.S. military carried out an airstrike on Thursday against Islamic State (IS) fighters in southern Libya amid indications that the terrorist group was seeking to exploit the country's civil strife to increase its recruitment. The Pentagon's Africa Command said in a statement on Friday that the strike – which other officials said was carried out by an Air Force Reaper drone based in neighbouring Niger – killed 17 militants in an unidentified location in southwest Libya.

In this August 2016 photo, Libyan forces allied with the UN-backed government fire at IS positions in Sirte. ▪REUTERS

No safe haven

"We will continue to pursue ISIS-Libya and other terrorists in the region, denying them safe haven to coordinate and plan operations in Libya," Rear Adm. Heidi Berg, the command's director of intelligence, said in the statement, noting that the strike was coordinated with the Libyan government in Tripoli.

The strike was the latest in a flurry of attacks in a largely ungoverned portion of the country. Earlier, the Africa Command said that on September 19, an airstrike killed eight IS fighters in a compound in Murzuq, Libya, nearly 600 miles south of Tripoli, the capital. Five days later, the military said it killed 11 more fighters in an airstrike in the same area.

Taken together, the three missile attacks were the first U.S. airstrikes this year in Libya against IS or Qaeda fighters, after the military conducted six aerial attacks last year, most recently in November 2018.

Nathan Herring, a spokesman for the Africa Command at its headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, declined to provide further details about the latest strike, saying analysts were still assessing its results.

Clandestine networks

Frederic Wehrey, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the author of *The Burning Shores: Inside the Battle for the New Libya*, cited social media reports in Libya saying that the strikes had targeted Malik Khazmi, a major IS facilitator and recruiter from Bani Walid.

Mr. Wehrey, who last visited Libya in June, said that Khazmi had been an important IS recruiter and architect of its clandestine fighter networks since 2014, surfacing in pivotal combat areas like Derna, Tripoli and Sirte, before fleeing into the southern desert.

Until a drone strike against al-Qaida fighters in southern Libya in March 2018, the Pentagon had focussed its counterterrorism attacks in the country almost exclusively on IS fighters and operatives farther north. Over several months in 2016, the military conducted nearly 500 airstrikes in the coastal city of Sirte to destroy the Islamic State's stronghold there.

Many IS leaders, like Khazmi, fled south before the fall of Sirte, and from there have been trying to exploit the country's security vacuum and civil strife to increase recruiting and reconstitute an effective guerilla force, analysts said. Mr. Wehrey cautioned that in the remote and politically fractured landscape of southern Libya, the line between who is a militant or terrorist or militiaman is frequently blurred, and there is the potential for these strikes to err and inflame ethnic and tribal tensions. "There's been collateral damage in the past," he said. NY TIMES

DHFL's draft plan proposes debt-equity conversion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden mortgage lender DHFL floated a draft resolution plan under which it proposes to convert debt into equity, subject to approval of investors and bankers.

The Wadhawan family, which owns a little over 39% in the company, has been looking at various ways of coming out of the stress, which came to light in 2018 following the IL&FS bankruptcy. These include selling stakes in group entities, including in the flagship to the extent of giving up half of their stake.

On September 27, the company held a meeting to present the draft resolution plan to all its institutional creditors including banks, financial institutions, mutual funds, insurance companies and other institutional bond holders, and to apprise them of the steps required to be undertaken to implement the Resolution Plan, DHFL said in a filing to stock exchanges on Saturday.

The plan assumed a price of ₹54 per share for debt conversion into equity by lenders to acquire 51% in the company, it said.

This proposed resolution plan, including all projections, cash flows, computation of liabilities, etc. are based on reports received from various consultants appointed by the lenders and the company, it added.

The cash flow projections factored in for the proposed resolution plan do not take into account any tax impact that may occur, in the hands of the borrowers, it said.

Clear vendor dues by Oct. 15, PSUs told

Finance Minister asks public sector firms to front-load investment for the second half of current fiscal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday set October 15 as the deadline for central public sector units to clear overdue payments to vendors and exhorted them to front-load capital expenditure, as it looks to lift economic growth from a six-year low.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who reviewed capital spending programmes with heads of 32 Maharatna and Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), said the state-owned companies have been asked to front-load investment for the second half of the current fiscal.

CPSEs have been asked to submit a road map for the next four quarters by October 15, she said after the meeting. "It was decided that all pending dues to be cleared by October 15 and by October 15, they will have a portal through which all dealers and contractors shall start monitoring their payment," Ms. Sitharaman said.

"Meeting [will be held] with the RBI and the Finance Secretary and select number of CPSEs to talk about why bank guarantees are becoming a big hitch or hurdle in government paying up the 75% post arbitration awards. If that is the case, then I will seek RBI's help," she said.

Also, the CPSEs have been asked to detail the lifespan of arbitrations that lock payments after disputes with vendors and contractors, she said.

Capex needs to be given a vigorous push in the next two quarters, says Nirmala Sitharaman. ▪SANDEEP SAXENA

'Spurs investment cycle'

The Minister stressed that capital expenditure (capex) needed to be given a vigorous push in the next two quarters. CPSEs must ensure that regular payments are cleared expeditiously as it spurs the investment cycle, and must establish the e-billing portal for enabling stakeholders to track the status of payments, she said.

She added that special efforts must be made to clear dues of MSMEs and resolve cases on the SAMADHAN portal of the Department of MSME.

Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar said that 34 central PSUs have already spent ₹48,077 crore till August, and have detailed spending of another ₹50,159 crore till December 2019. An additional ₹54,700 crore would be spent in the January-March quarter.

The expenditure plan is on track and companies have expressed their willingness to meet the target set for the current fiscal, he said.

Expenditure Secretary Girish Chandra Murmu said the capex of all the 244-odd PSUs would be about ₹4 lakh crore for the current fiscal.

IRDAI-NHA panel bats for strong law to deter health insurance fraud

'Standardise definition of fraud, abuse'

N. RAVI KUMAR
HYDERABAD

A sub-group on fraud control in health insurance, forming part of the joint working group of National Health Authority and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has advocated a strong law to act as a deterrent.

A strong legislation – National Health Insurance Anti-Fraud Act – is "required to effectively to deal with the whole gamut of activities for preventing, detecting and deterring fraud." This would benefit the entire ecosystem, including private paid health insurance, the sub-group's report said.

▪GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

Anti-fraud task force

Suggesting that such a law should provide for setting up of a special anti-fraud task force to take punitive action, carry out recoveries, searches and seizures, the report said joint collective measures by all payers would have great impact on fraudulent practices of providers "which are the major players for fraud."

While IRDAI is the regulator for the insurance sector, the National Health Authority (NHA) is the nodal agency for implementing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aroygya Yojana (PMJAY) or Ayushman Bharat as the healthcare scheme is known.

In the set of recommendations and measures for collaboration, the sub-group said the definition of fraud and abuse should be standardised.

Also, the contracts entered into by a payer – with policy holder, empanelled hospitals, intermediary, employee – should mandatorily incorporate a standard definition of fraud, clauses, and the resulting punitive action that those indulging in them could face.

The report also emphasised the need for creation of a common talent pool for effective investigation and a certification programme for ensuring minimum standards.

The impact of healthcare fraud is not only financial but also on the people's health, and was an issue of "grave concern.

As the coverage/penetration of health insurance expands to more people, for more services, the element of fraud and abuse will also go up exponentially if handled inadequately," the report said.

With the launch of Ayushman Bharat, the number of people covered under health insurance - private paid, organised through insurance companies under the aegis of IRDAI or government funded, organised by State governments, now stands at 65 crore, including 15 crore under private paid insurance and 50 crore under PMJAY.

RBI brings Lakshmi Vilas Bank under PCA

Action due to 'high level of bad loans, lack of sufficient capital to manage risks'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank has initiated Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) against Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) due to a high level of bad loans, lack of sufficient capital to manage risks, and negative return on assets for two consecutive years, the private sector lender said on Saturday.

The RBI move comes at a time when the Delhi Police Economic Offences Wing has registered a complaint against the board of LVB alleging cheating and misappropriation of funds.

The regulatory action may cast doubts over the proposed merger of Indiabulls Housing Finance with LVB, which is awaiting RBI nod.

The Delhi High Court on Friday agreed to hear a petition alleging that Indiabulls had given loans worth crores of rupees to shell companies. In a regulatory filing, LVB said RBI had taken the action "on account of high net NPAs, insufficient Capital to Risk (weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) and Common Equity Tier 1 (CET 1), negative return on assets for two consecutive years and high leverage."

Dark clouds: The move may cast doubts over the proposed merger of Indiabulls Housing Finance with LVB. ▪BIJOY GHOSH

PCA was initiated after an on-site inspection, under the risk-based supervision, was carried out for the year ended March 31, 2019.

"RBI has also advised the bank on the restrictions put in place and the actions to be taken by the bank, which the bank has taken note of for necessary compliance, with progress to be reported on a monthly basis to RBI," it added.

For FY19, the bank's net NPA stood at 7.49%, capital adequacy ratio was at 7.72% and its return on assets was (-) 2.32%. It had reported a net loss of ₹894.10 crore for 2018-19.

PCA is aimed at improving the performance of the bank and will not have any adverse impact on the day-to-day operations, including acceptance/repayment of deposits in the normal course, LVB said.

Glenmark to raise debt up to $200 mn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Saturday said its shareholders had approved a proposal to raise up to $200 million (about ₹1,413 crore) through issuance of debt securities.

The proposal was approved at the company's annual general meeting held on September 27. "All the resolutions were declared passed with the requisite majority," the company said in a BSE filing.

According to the proposal, the firm plans to raise up to $200 million in Indian and/or international markets through bonds, debentures or other debt securities in one or more tranches.

'Amazon India's growth trajectory intact'

E-tailer onboards 1.2 lakh new sellers, 90,000 additional delivery staff this year

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Amazon India expects sales volumes from this year's Great Indian Festival to go 'much higher' than what it sold a year ago.

Gopal Pillai, president, Seller Services, Amazon India, told *The Hindu*: "All indicators for this season look fantastic for us. In the last 12 weeks, we have not seen any deceleration in our sales and, in fact, our growth trajectory for India is quite intact."

As a preparatory step, the e-tailer has on boarded 1.2 lakh new sellers on its platform, taking its seller population in the country to 5 lakh, from 3.8 lakh a year ago.

The company has also engaged additional delivery staff of 90,000 across the country. "We have reworked the delivery channels and the speed is going to be significantly better this year," he said.

Gopal Pillai

The e-commerce major will kick off a month-long online shopping extravaganza starting midnight of September 28-29, and the first wave of deals will be available until October 4. Amazon said it experienced an overwhelming response from the seller community. With new sellers onboarded, the marketplace has over 200 million items. The company has also expanded its warehousing facility to 26 million cubic feet. According to Mr. Pillai, Amazon's India experience has been good so far. "Our loyalty programme, Amazon Prime, has received a 2x growth with millions of buyers coming to us."

Rising sales volume

Commenting on the value the platform had been creating for the seller community, Mr. Gopal said in the last 12 months, sales volumes for 23,000 sellers had doubled, 18,000 sellers reported threefold growth, while 14,000 sellers posted fivefold growth after selling on the platform.

"As a result, our seller profile has also seen a dramatic change. This year, we already saw 15,000 millionaires and 3,500 crorepatis being born on Amazon India," he added.

Amazon recently introduced three different seller cohorts such as Amazon Karigar, Amazon Saheli and Launchpad. Over 2,400 weavers and artisans as well as State co-operative bodies, who directly impact 8 lakh lives, will showcase over 55,000 products.

Saheli 'empowers' over 1 lakh women from underserved and underprivileged communities, while Launchpad offers opportunity to over 800 start-ups to showcase 8 lakh products.

Amazon's Global Selling Programme has generated a cumulative Gross Merchandise Sales of $1 billion in the last four years, which is expected to grow to $5 billion by 2023, the e-commerce major said.

Indiabulls Real Estate may sell U.K. property

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Indiabulls Real Estate on Saturday said shareholders have approved the proposal to sell its London property to promoters for £200 million in an annual general meeting held on September 28.

Earlier, the company had disclosed its plans to focus on its India business and cut down on debt.

In the notice for the AGM, the company had said, "In light of continuing Brexit related issues and uncertainty around it, the London property market remains sluggish."

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court on Friday decided to examine allegations, based on a PIL, of financial irregularities against promoters of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.

IRDAI issues norms for travel policies sold via portals

Wants details of insurance firm, premium clearly specified

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Travel insurance policies sold through travel agencies, portals or offered under the group platform, need to specify the insurance company offering the cover, the premium collected towards the same, as well as the rate of applicable tax.

This is one of the many norms the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued, presumably for greater disclosure by insurers and intermediaries, and towards better clarity for policyholders.

Besides this, the regulator has stipulated that in case of domestic travel, the premium should not be received more than 90 days in advance to the date of commencement of the risk covered or while purchasing the travel tickets, whichever is earlier.

An option to de-select before concluding the transaction needs to be provided

Insurance covers towards overseas travel, however, can be issued at any time, IRDAI said in its circular on travel insurance products and operational matters to general and standalone health insurers.

'No preselect option'

The regulator said insurers ought to ensure that the portal or app providing travel cover should not have a preselect option of buying the policy as a default option.

The prospective customer should be able to specifically choose whether or not to buy the cover. Further, an option to opt out or de-select before concluding the transaction needs to be provided.

Those buying a travel cover should be provided details such as the benefits, terms and conditions on the screen itself and give their consent in confirmation of having read and understood the terms and conditions.

The norms come into force with immediate effect. All group travel insurance arrangements not in compliance to the norms shall be terminated with effect from October 1, 2019, IRDAI said.

'Chemical sector to double size to $300 bn by 2025'

'India will become manufacturing hub'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Indian Chemical Council (ICC), the apex body dedicated for the growth and development of chemical industry in India, is aiming to double the size of the industry to $300 billion by 2025.

"The Indian chemical industry has witnessed robust growth in the past decade and the potential for future growth is significant. In the coming years, India is expected to rise both as a manufacturing capital for valued goods as well as a consumer-driven economy, from a broader perspective," Vijay Sankar, president, ICC, said.

Growth in consumer base, changes in lifestyle, increase in disposable incomes and focus on healthcare and hygiene have created higher demand for the sector, he said.

Vijay Sankar

Also, factors such as growth in specialty chemicals and pharmaceuticals, low per capita consumption leaving headroom for growth and likely demand growth from paints, textiles and diversified manufacturing base, would scale up the potential of Indian chemical industry, he added.

Kingston bets on HyperX for online gaming

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Kingston Technology, a leading manufacturer of memory devices, is planning to grow in the online gaming segment in India with its high performance gaming product division HyperX. "HyperX contributes up to 15% to 18% in overall revenue of Kingston and in the next three years, it is expected to rise from 25% to 30%," Vishal Parekh, marketing director, Kingston Technology & HyperX India, said.

He said HyperX had been instrumental in popularising competitive gaming in the country and had played a major role in changing the eSports gaming scenario. Kingston reported global revenue of $8.3 billion and achieved around 35% growth in Asia.

Spoton close to acquiring third-party logistics firm

Aims to combine air and road express businesses thereafter

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Spoton Logistics, a multimodal express logistics company in India, is close to announcing an acquisition of a third-party logistics (3PL) company to provide a comprehensive offering to its customers. The company is doing due diligence with two to three players and the announcement is expected in a few quarters.

"We are looking at an inorganic play in third-party logistics space which will be an acquisition or partnership. We are evaluating a few different scenarios," said Abhik Mitra, MD & CEO, Spoton Logistics.

"Our customers who avail express business also need a third party logistics. It is a player with pan-India presence. We are looking at it internally between us and our investors. We have not reached a firm conclusion. But funding is not an issue," he said.

Abhik Mitra

"So, thereafter, Spoton will have an express business which will combine the air express and road express business. And another business called the third party logistics. These will be two separate business units run with their own set of key performance indicators and metrics. We will look at synergy possibilities," he added.

The company had grown from ₹180 crore in 2012 to ₹700 crore this year and the growth momentum would continue despite the temporary setback to the economy, he said.

"Over the last three years we had a CAGR of 25% as compared to industry growth of 12-13%. That makes us the fastest-growing express logistics company in India. We have more headroom for growth," he added.

Super Plastronics raises Noida plant capacity

It can now make 85,000 TVs a month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Super Plastronics Pvt. Ltd. (SPPL) has expanded its television manufacturing facility in Noida by investing almost ₹300 crore over the last two years, said a top official.

"We recently completed a total investment of ₹300 crore," said Avneet Singh Marwah, director and CEO, Super Plastronics Pvt. Ltd. "With this, our total manufacturing capacity has risen to 85,000 units per month from 30,000 units per month earlier."

According to Mr. Marwah, SPPL integrated two of its manufacturing plants in Noida into a single unit. It had invested about ₹150 crore in each plant. "We have an exclusive brand licence to produce Thomson TVs and Kodak TVs in India. Thomson TVs constitute a majority of the production. We are also exploring the export of Thomson TVs," he said. Currently, SPPL has three manufacturing plants at Noida, Jammu and Una in Himachal Pradesh.

To a question, he said it made sense to set up a unit in Chennai due to its proximity to sea ports and as it also came on the Chennai-Tirupati freight corridor.

Mr. Marwah was in the city to announce plans to sell 1.5 lakh units of Thomson TV smart television sets during the five-day 'Flipkart Big Billion Day' sale which was expected to fetch the company about ₹500 crore.

SPPL will offer Android 4K TVs starting from ₹5,999 for a 24-inch set to ₹55,999 for a 65-inch set.

ANNA MONEYMAKER/NYT

Day of reckoning?

How likely is U.S. President Donald Trump to get impeached over the Ukraine episode?

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

The story so far: Even by the standards of his rambunctious term in office so far, U.S. President Donald Trump has found himself in the cross hairs of a political-existential challenge – the prospect that he might be the fourth American President in history to face impeachment proceedings, after Andrew Johnson in 1868 (violation of the Tenure of Office Act), Richard Nixon in 1974 (Watergate), and Bill Clinton in 1998-99 (high crimes or misdemeanours). Mr. Trump's troubles mounted after his telephonic conversation/s (on July 25, 2019) with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky, about the former U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden (Mr. Trump's potential 2020 opponent). These were allegedly done in a bid to influence Mr. Zelensky to investigate the business dealings of Mr. Biden's son, Hunter Biden (in relation to links to a Ukrainian natural gas company). Subsequently a whistle-blower, believed to be an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), filed a formal complaint outlining alleged improprieties that the call entailed, as well as broader hints about potential compromise of national security in the White House. As news of a whistle-blower complaint outlining such alleged improprieties reached the U.S. Congress, pressure began to mount on the White House to release the edited memo – not a full call transcript – of the discussion between Mr. Trump and Mr. Zelensky. In a rare show of bipartisanship, the U.S. Senate voted and passed unanimously earlier this week a resolution calling for the White House to release the whistle-blower complaint. The White House had no choice but to accede, and on Thursday, Capitol Hill had in its possession both the complaint and the edited memo on the call.

What are the specific allegations of wrongdoing?
First, Mr. Trump is said to have "personally ordered" his staff to freeze more than $391-million in military aid to Ukraine, a short while before the incriminating call with Mr. Zelensky. Given that such aid is considered to be essential for Ukraine to purchase Javelin anti-tank missiles potentially for use against Russia-backed rebels, anything that Mr. Trump demanded in return for releasing these monies would imply that his conditions represented an outright quid pro quo involving a questionable use of taxpayer funds. Second, Mr. Trump went on to say, "I would like you to do us a favour though..." and then mentioned two "favours" relating to his personal political interests – not national security. In the view of Democrats on Capitol Hill, this would constitute a betrayal of Mr. Trump's oath of office. The first favour related to asking Mr. Zelensky to help him "get to the bottom of" the dealings of a prominent U.S. cybersecurity company called CrowdStrike, the firm that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) called in 2016 after discovering a hack of its server leading to email and other data theft. This is widely believed to be based on Mr. Trump's erroneous belief that there was a "missing server" in CrowdStrike's possession that held some undefined but incriminating evidence against the Democratic Party.

> The success of the impeachment inquiry would depend on whether there is a 'smoking gun' to be found, of the kind that brought down Richard Nixon

The second favour related to Mr. Trump's belief, again not supported by any known facts, that Mr. Biden stopped the prosecution of his son (relating to his role on the board of Burisma Holdings Limited, a Ukrainian gas company. Mr. Trump appears to not attach importance to Ukraine's (now former) public prosecutor, Yuriy Lutsenko, saying on the record that he had no evidence of wrongdoing by the younger Biden. Third, Trump administration officials may have overreached their authority when they sought to block that complaint from reaching the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, despite Michael Atkinson, Inspector General of the intelligence community, saying that he considered it a credible matter of "urgent concern" that merited notifying the U.S. Congress.

What do Democrats consider "explosive" in the whistle-blower's complaint?
The complaint, that some media reports said were authored by a CIA analyst stationed at the White House, not only references Mr. Trump's telephone call with Mr. Zelensky, but also alleges that Mr. Trump used that phone call to "solicit interference" in the 2020 election, and that the White House then intervened to "lock down" the transcript of the call. Indeed, the whistle-blower added that this was "not the first time" that Trump administration officials placed presidential call transcripts in a separate, classified system that was intended for national security, not political protection. This protocol may also be investigated by Congress.

It was in this backdrop that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced an inquiry into impeachment proceedings against Mr. Trump, which is set to begin after she meets with her colleagues next week.

How likely is Mr. Trump to be impeached?
A majority of House members have now said 'they support an impeachment inquiry into Mr. Trump'. One media report has the figures as 225 being in favour (223 Democrats, 1 Independent and 1 Republican) while 155 are undecided; a response is waited from 54. 'If the House votes on articles of impeachment, a simple majority, or 218 votes, would be needed to impeach'. The success of the inquiry would depend on whether there is a "smoking gun" to be found, of the kind that brought down President Nixon.

In U.S. history, impeachments have tended to pick up momentum in the House, but a conviction, which is necessary for the impeachment to succeed, has depended on which party controlled the Senate. In this case, the Republican Party's control of the Upper House might just be the lifeline that rescues the Trump presidency if the inquiry moves forward as planned.

What is 'quantum supremacy'?

What have researchers at Google achieved? How are quantum computers different from regular personal computers? How will it impact the technology world?

JACOB KOSHY

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The story so far: Tech websites and theoretical computer-science outlets were aflame earlier this week after a story in the U.K.-based *Financial Times* said Google had claimed to have achieved 'quantum supremacy'. In a line, it means that researchers at Google had solved a really difficult problem in seconds with the help of quantum computers which a supercomputer could not. The research paper is yet to be formally vetted by peers in the field and became public after having appeared briefly on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) website – apparently some of its researchers were involved in the project. It is likely to reappear soon in a complete form.

What are quantum computers?
Quantum computers work differently from the classical computers we work on today. Exploiting the principles of quantum mechanics, they can easily tackle computational problems that may be tough for the classical computer as the size of the numbers and number of inputs involved grows bigger. Quantum computers do not look like desktops or laptops that we associate the word 'computer' with. Instead (and there are only a handful of them) they resemble the air-conditioned server rooms of many offices or the stacks of central processing units from desktops of yore that are connected by ungainly tangled wires and heaped in freezing rooms. Conventional computers process information in 'bits' or 1s and 0s, following classical physics under which our computers can process a '1' or a '0' at a time. The world's most powerful super computer today can juggle 148,000 trillion operations in a second and requires about 9000 IBM CPUs connected in a particular combination to achieve this feat. Quantum computers compute in 'qubits' (or quantum bits). They exploit the properties of quantum mechanics, the science that governs how matter behaves on the atomic scale. In this scheme of things, processors can be a 1 and a 0 simultaneously, a state called quantum superposition. While this accelerates the speed of computation, a machine with less than a 100 qubits can solve problems with a lot of data that are even theoretically beyond the capabilities of the most powerful supercomputers. Because of quantum superposition, a quantum computer – if it works to plan – can mimic several classical computers working in parallel. The ideas governing quantum computers have been around since the 1990s but actual machines have been around since 2011, most notably built by Canadian company D-Wave Systems.

How will it help us?
The speed and capability of classical supercomputers are limited by energy requirements. Along with these they also need more physical space. Looking for really useful information by processing huge amounts of data quickly is a real-world problem and one that can be tackled faster by quantum computers. For example, if we have a database of a million social media profiles and had to look for a particular individual, a classical computer would have to scan each one of those profiles which would amount to a million steps. In 1996, Lov K. Grover from Bell Labs discovered that a quantum computer would be able to do the same task with one thousand steps instead of a million. That translates into reduced processors and reduced energy.

In theory, a quantum computer can solve this problem rapidly because it can attack complex problems that are beyond the scope of a classical computer. The basic advantage is speed as it is able to simulate several classical computers working in parallel. Several encryption systems used in banking and security applications are premised on computers being unable to handle mathematical problems that are computationally demanding beyond a limit. Quantum computers, in theory, can surpass those limits.

> Google's quantum computer, named Sycamore, claimed 'supremacy' because it reportedly did the task in 200 seconds that would have taken a supercomputer 10,000 years to complete

What has Google achieved?
Quantum supremacy refers to quantum computers being able to solve a problem that a classical computer cannot. In the research paper, Google used a 53-qubit processor to generate a sequence of millions of numbers. Though these numbers appeared randomly generated, they conform to an algorithm generated by Google. A classical supercomputer checked some of these values and they were correct. Google's quantum computer, named Sycamore, claimed 'supremacy' because it reportedly did the task in 200 seconds that would have apparently taken a supercomputer 10,000 years to complete.

Is this an important achievement?
Impressive as this may sound, experts caution that this does not imply that the quantum computer can solve every challenging problem thrown at it. The number-generating task was the equivalent of having a Ferrari and a truck compete in a race and, on the car's predictable victory, declare that the Ferrari could do everything that a truck did. While IBM and a few other private establishments also have quantum computer prototypes, a common ailment is that they have their own unique propensity to errors and are not as amenable to executing real world problems as super computers.

Then again, nothing yet rules out the creation of new mathematical methods or techniques that would allow classical computers to execute the same task faster. Some experts even question the term 'quantum supremacy' coined by theoretical physicist John Preskill of the California Institute of Technology, United States. However, the Google feat shows that quantum computers are capable of a real world task. It gives confidence to private entrepreneurs and even academics to invest time and money to improving them and customise them to real world problems. In terms of the number of qubits, D-Wave Systems says it is ready to commercially launch a 5000-qubit system by 2020. It already has a 1000-qubit system at NASA. D-Wave claims that car maker Volkswagen used its quantum computers to figure out how best to control a fleet of taxis in Beijing relying on data from 10,000 cars, but the research paper describing this experiment does not quite explain how the proposed solution is better than algorithms that are currently used to optimise traffic flow.

What will it mean for online banking?
A question critics raise is how the use of quantum computing and its ability to break encryption codes will impact online banking. Breaking banking grade encryption is far away. Scott Aaronson, a theoretical computer scientist who has written on Google's feat, opines that current encryption standards would require a quantum computer to have "several thousand logical qubits" working in tandem perfectly. It requires millions of qubits of the kind that powers Sycamore to make 'logical qubits' and the 53 at Sycamore's disposal does not quite cut the ice. However, there are other approaches to designing quantum computers and with it there may be cleverer ways to solve problems using them. Moreover, if technological breakthroughs were to pose a real threat to banking or financial operations, it is likely that banks will harness quantum computers themselves.

Is India working on quantum computing?
There are no quantum computers in India yet. In 2018, the Department of Science & Technology unveiled a programme called Quantum-Enabled Science & Technology (QuEST) and committed to investing ₹80 crore over the next three years to accelerate research. The ostensible plan is to have a quantum computer built in India within the next decade. Phase-1 of the problem involves hiring research experts and establishing teams with the know-how to physically build such systems.

Why demand needs to be the focus

What can policy makers do to address weakness in consumer sentiment? Why are tax sops not enough?

SURESH SESHADRI

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The story so far: A worryingly persistent slowdown dragged economic growth in India down to 5% in the fiscal first quarter, its weakest pace in more than six years. And while the recent weeks have seen the possible reasons for the slowdown, as well as the government's policy measures to ostensibly help revive the economy being put under the spotlight, the missing demand is yet to be addressed in a direct and concerted manner. As data from the National Statistical Office show, private consumption expenditure, which contributes more than half the gross domestic product and is the mainstay of demand, has decelerated so sharply that at 3.1%, the expansion is at an 18-quarter low. Automobile sales continued to plunge in August, posting their worst drop since the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) started collating wholesale vehicle sales data in 1997-98. The absence of demand pervades almost every key sector: from consumer durables to biscuits and housing.

How did we get here?
Multiple factors have contributed to the demand drought. A lack of jobs, or even where jobs are available – like in the new or digitally enabled "gig" economy – a tenuousness about the incomes from such work, the abiding rural distress, widening inequality and, interestingly, in the opinion of some economists, even the Reserve Bank of India's successful targeting of inflation are all cited as contributors. The view on inflation is compelling as its proponents contend that for an economy such as India's, the central bank's remit of containing consumer price index based inflation within a 2-6% band may be proving less than ideal, especially if monetary policy makers fix their sights on trying to peg inflation at or less than 4% – even it means retarding growth as a fallout. Low inflation extracts costs in the form of lower nominal growth (growth measured in current prices) that could crimp tax receipts and in turn lead to cuts in government spending, these economists assert. Also, with wage/salary increases most often linked to inflation, slower price gains would result in smaller annual increments that would leave the earners more wary of spending on discretionary or non-essential purchases. The crisis of demand in the rural hinterland has snowballed to the point where sellers of consumer goods including Hindustan Unilever (HUL) and ITC have seen appreciable slowing in sales growth in recent quarters. Rural growth rates – which were almost double those in urban areas earlier – have eased to the point where they are now almost at par with those in urban areas, according to HUL's first-quarter results statement.

And it is not just consumer goods makers that are hurting from lack of rural consumption. In a research report earlier this month, CRISIL Ratings forecast weak growth in rural income and moderation in rural infrastructure spending would lead to de-growth in tractor sales volume by 5-7% this fiscal. "Rural wage growth was lower at 3-4% [last year] compared with an average 6% in the preceding two fiscals," the ratings firm's research group wrote.

What can be done to revive demand?
Consumer sentiment is a key ingredient affecting consumption and it is vital for policy makers to address weakness in consumer sentiment through a mix of measures in the economic realm, both monetary and fiscal, as well as ensuring a congenial socio-political climate that enhances the 'feel-good' factor. As the RBI had pointed to in its last policy announcement in August, consumer confidence has worsened appreciably, with 63.8% of respondents in its July survey expecting discretionary spending to stay at the same level or decrease one year ahead. In June 2018, only 37.3% of those surveyed held such a downbeat view.

On the monetary side, ensuring lower borrowing costs as well as adequate availability of credit are crucial to helping create an enabling environment for consumers to consider taking out loans to fund their purchases.

However, fiscal measures are in many ways far more crucial. Targeted tax breaks or non-tax sops that incentivise consumption is one option and the U.S. 'cash for clunkers' or Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS) programme of 2009, which provided economic incentives to U.S. residents to purchase a new, more fuel-efficient vehicle when trading in a less fuel-efficient vehicle, is a classic example.

The government's latest decision to cut baseline corporate tax rates is certainly a good move, aimed at incentivising and spurring sluggish capital investment by businesses. However, companies may balk at adding capacity when demand for their manufactured goods is still weak and it is therefore imperative that the revival of demand stays front and centre of any new policy measures.

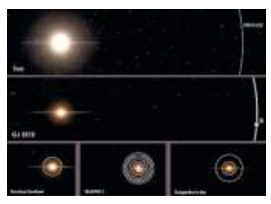
As far as rural demand goes, the government must go beyond the Pradhan Mantri KIsan SAmman Nidhi, or PM-KISAN income supplementing scheme and tackle the crisis of low real farm incomes by radically recalibrating its approach to the agrarian economy. As an immediate and necessary measure, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme needs to be reinvigorated by ensuring timely and adequate funding and the fixing of appropriate wage levels. As studies have shown, in its first five years, the scheme gave a big fillip to rural incomes and consumption in the hinterland.

> Any economic stimulus package that the government may come up with would necessarily assume a short-term loosening of the fiscal deficit goals, whether from enhanced spending or from reduced tax revenues

What, if any, are the risks?
Any economic stimulus package that the government may come up with would necessarily assume a short-term loosening of the fiscal deficit goals, whether from enhanced spending or from reduced tax revenues as the corporate tax cut may engender. If the stimulus also entails a large expenditure component, there could also be second-order inflationary consequences. However, the risks of failing to revive demand, at a juncture when the economy is heading for a stall, are far greater in the long run. Once, the economy has been reflated and demand revives, revenue buoyancy is bound to return and prudent management can ensure a gradual return to normal service on long-run fiscal goals.

CAPSULE

Cracks for durability
A new study published in *Nature Communications* has revealed the nature of human teeth enamel known to be made of microns-long nanocrystals, bundled into rods. The team found that these crystals are not perfectly aligned but have tiny cracks and this may be helping in the long-lasting nature of the enamel.



Giant exoplanet
A paper published in *Science* describes an exoplanet orbiting a very-low-mass star. This giant exoplanet was found around the star GJ 3512 and has a mass of about 0.46 Jupiter masses and an orbit of 204 days. The paper notes that this planetary system of a large exoplanet around a small star challenges the currently accepted formation theories.

Food insecurity affects children's learning

Indian adolescents' performance in maths, reading, vocabulary was affected, a study finds

ASWATHI PACHA

With the introduction of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the mid-day meal scheme, there has been an increase in the number of children enrolling in schools. But new research says that Indian children are not able to perform well in their studies due to widespread food insecurity at home.

An international team from U.K. and India looked at data collected by Young Lives, a UK- and India-based research study of over 1,900 schoolchildren in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The team examined how the experience of food insecurity at home at ages 5, 8 and 12 years affected children's performance in studying maths, reading the local language, vocabulary skills and English ability in adolescence (12 years old).

Preventive move: Expanding the mid-day meal scheme to include breakfast for children at risk of food insecurity may prevent impact of hunger on child cognition. ▪G. MOORTHY

Crucial pattern

The study published in *Economics of Education Review* shows that children whose families struggled with their food needs during different stages of childhood performed less well in all the four tests in adolescence compared to their peers.

The link between food insecurity at home and learning was more pronounced for those children who experienced chronic food insecurity and/or experienced it during early childhood (at 5 years).

Further, transitory spells of food insecurity at home did not affect the kids' test scores in reading and vocabulary, but their mathematical skills were still affected. This suggests that children may be able to bounce back from short-term food insecurity in some learning domains, but not in others.

Early intervention

The researchers ask for early intervention from the government. "Because some curriculum is cumulative, it may be difficult for children who experience childhood food insecurity to catch up on learning later," explains Dr. Elisabetta Aurino, from Imperial College Business School, London, and the lead author of the work, in an email to *The Hindu*. She adds that teaching at the right level and remedial education programmes can also help children who have fallen behind to catch up with peers.

"Studies have shown that mid-day meal schemes can improve learning and classroom effort. Expanding this programme to include breakfast for children at higher risk of food insecurity or in the lean season may prevent hunger and its negative repercussions on child cognition," she adds.

"Our findings highlight how even very early experiences of food insecurity can have a lasting impact on outcomes across the life course," one of study authors Dr. Jasmine Fledderjohann, from Lancaster University adds.

Dr. Sukumar Vellakkal from BITS Pilani KK Birla,Goa Campus says, "Increased budget allocation and effective implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services programme would be also welcome. Also, the nutritional value needs to be enhanced. Community kitchens for provisioning free food for needy populations are another initiative worth considering in this regard, which could be provisioned and run through local bodies." He is one of the authors of the paper.

Impact on economy

The researchers add that experiencing food insecurity at home during childhood can affect India's economy through lower human capital accumulation. "There are plenty of economic studies that show that countries with better-educated workforces are more capable of innovating and grow at a faster pace than countries with lower human capital stock. If children from food-insecure households tend to learn less at school, a country is not reaching its potential in terms of human capital, thus hampering its economic performance," adds Dr. Aurino.

As this is a study on a very small population, the team suggests regular surveys that measure food insecurity among households with children across the whole of India are needed, as this will allow for tracking the state of household food insecurity over time and devise locally-appropriate remedial measures.

Why do we nod off during lectures?

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

It is end-September, and the season for conferences and seminars has started in India. Generally, they invite experts from diverse disciplines in a conference, usually on a broad theme, while in a seminar, it is experts in a given discipline or even sub- disciplines, who exchange and critique ideas for collaborations, and thus, hopefully, advance the field. A typical attendee in conferences gets to hear lectures from a field that may not be familiar to him/her and thus has a learning opportunity. In a theme-special seminar, the attendee is a part-player in the game, has a broad familiarity with the theme and gets to listen to various nuances, some of which he learns, appreciates and gains from. Thus, conferences and seminars are useful.

Jump in nodders

However, there is one downside to this and that is this business of some or many in the audience nodding off their heads and taking naps while the presentation on the stage is on. Why do they do it, how often does this happen, what the "risk factors" for are such nodding off have been summarised in a 15-year-old publication by K. Rockwood et al., in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, Dec 7, 2004 issue (DOI:10.1503/emaj.1041570). In this humorous and satirical paper, they talk about how they conducted a surreptitious, prospective cohort study to examine how often physicians nod off during scientific meetings and to examine the risk factors for such nodding off. In a two-day lecture series, attended by 120 people, they found that the number of nodding off events per lecture (NOELs) per 100 attendees jumped to about 10 for a 15-20 minute lecture to over 22 or so when the lecture goes on for 30-40 minutes or more; the longer the lecture the greater the NOELs. They further ensured that "nodding off" is different from "nodding in agreement (NIA)" by the attendee who appreciated the point made by the speaker (nodding here was different in amplitude, the timing and the frequency).

Why did this happen? What are the risk factors? Several factors came to light. These were environmental factors (such as dim lighting, room temperature, comfortable seating), audiovisual (poor slides, not speaking into the microphone), circadian (early morning hours, postprandial or after a good breakfast or lunch) and "speaker-related" (speaking in a monotonous tone, boring direction). [Today, cell phones and mini-laptops are carried by most, if not all members in the audience. While the organisers announced ahead of the lectures that cell phones be switched off, or put on silent mode, the numbers of NOEL has probably come down as the attendee loses interest in the speech and moves to his/her phone or the computer on hand . If however the announcer insists that these be put off during the sessions, the NOELs will increase!].

The authors then accosted the NOEL people in the audience and politely asked them why they nodded off. First of all, when a nodder was told he was not alone, but many others did same too, most of them were reassured to know that it was not their individual fault! When asked whether he/she is likely to attend such a lecture again, some of them said yes, they always needed a nap; some others said yes they will if they are paid , and some would rather have their "teeth grilled" than attend! And finally, when asked whose fault led to nodding off, most said that it was entirely the speaker's fault, and only a few said the fault was theirs!

Sustaining interest

What are the take-home lessons for speakers? How does he/she capture sustained interest in the audience? They cannot avoid dimly lit room, since the speaker uses slides, presentations and short videos. But a useful tip comes from a recent report in the literature. It says that the ideal lecture should have 37% text, 29% diagrams/figures and 33% videos. It would worth putting this fractionation into practice and see how it works. And in text slides (or presentations), it is best to stick to the "aspect ratio" (five units width and three units height of the image or text), large fonts so that reading the text is easy, and colour contrast between the background and text (black or light blue background and a contract colour text). In addition, speak slow and clear and into the microphone (see the paper by Lim et al., from Singapore, titled "Sustaining interest during lectures with the use of multimedia", Med.edu.online 2006, available from http://www.med-ed-online.org.

Finally, the brain-biology behind this has become better understood, as a recent publication from a team of Japanese and Chinese scientists has shown. They point out that the part known as the nucleus accumbens in the brain has a strong ability to induce a nap by activating a set of molecules called the A2A receptors. The main triggering molecule here is adenosine which activates the A2A receptor and induces sleep (Y. Oishi et al., *Nature Communication* 2017:8(1) DOI: 10.1038/S41467-017-00781-4). Besides adenosine there are other somnogenic molecules, which act on the A2A receptor as well. Popular sleep-inducing drugs potentiate the A2A receptor and put you to sleep. On the contrary, caffeine in coffee and tea block the receptor and keep you awake.

So next time you attend a lecture drink a cup of coffee before and keep awake, And when you give a lecture, follow the instructions of Lim and others from Singapore.

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Bio-restoring degraded patches of Sunderbans

Lack of essential nutrients and increasing salinity were main reasons for decline

ASWATHI PACHA

Increasing anthropogenic activities along with natural stresses have led to massive degradation of one of India's World Heritage Site – the Sunderbans. A team of researchers from West Bengal State University, Kolkata, set out with the herculean task of identifying the major reasons for the decline and also devising new restoration strategies. They surveyed 19 shoreline mangrove patches, collected soil and water samples and studied them. The results published in *Hydrobiologia* highlight that lack of essential nutrients and increasing salinity were the main problems in Sunderbans.

Cause of decline

"Nutrient depletion especially phosphorus and nitrogen was found to be directly connected with the decline in forest cover. We are now trying to understand what is causing nutrient depletion. We have also planned to expand this analysis to a larger area, so as to cover the whole mangrove region and get a complete picture," says Rajojit Chowdhury, Ph.D. scholar at the university and the first author of the paper.

Sturdy species: The site of restoration was first stabilised by planting four native, salt-tolerant varieties of grass, says Krishna Ray (left). ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

They also saw a change in the species distribution – salt-sensitive ones such as *Heriteira fomes, Xylocarpus* species and *Phoenix paludosa* were not able to cope up with the increase in the salinity and declined while the tolerant varieties thrived.

After understanding the state of the degraded region, the team started the bio-restoration process. "We initially stabilised the site of restoration by planting four native salt-tolerant varieties of grass. These grasses proved to exhibit the highest survival in the lower and middle intertidal zone. During the last five years (2014-2019) almost about one-hectare area of the degraded patch has been restored by the growth of these grasses," explains Krishna Ray, team leader of the Environmental Biotechnology Group of the university and corresponding author of the work.

The grass rhizosphere also provided a nutritive atmosphere to the colonizing mangroves because this root zone decomposes microbes and helps release more nutrients in the mudflat soil. In addition, these grasses also provided protection from high energy waves and subsequent erosion of soil. The team also used native plant growth-promoting bacteria to enrich the degraded land.

Route to restoration

The team then established an on-site mangrove nursery and during each season collected mangrove propagules or buds and maintained in the nursery till transplantation. About 22 species of mangroves were restored in the region which included threatened, endangered and vulnerable species. High salt-tolerant varieties were planted near the shoreline and the moderate ones farther. The team notes that the present ecosystem in the studied patch is almost brought back to the original pristine condition.

"We have already identified many degraded mangrove patches in the western part of Indian Sundarbans and have planned to restore them by the application of this technology," adds Prof. Ray.

IISc: Trapping, moving nanoparticles with light

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Researchers at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, have developed a technique to trap and move tiny objects in the nanoscale using optical "tweezers" employing light. This is a tool that can be used to pick and move small suspended particles even including cells. This research has been published in *Nature Communications*.

Optical tweezers have been known for about thirty years now ; however, they have a limitation when it comes to nanosized particles. This was partly solved with the development of "plasmonic tweezer" which works on the principle that when a disc of noble metal, like gold, is illuminated with light, it creates an electromagnetic field around the disc. This field can attract and hold on to tiny particles.

Plasmonic tweezers are fixed in space and can therefore only trap objects that come close to them. Though the team, in an earlier work, showed that such plasmonic tweezers could be manoeuvred with a combination of light and magnetic fields, they could not apply the technique to some types of colloids.

Tweezer-in-a-tweezer

In the present work, they overcome this limitation by developing a method that uses only optical force. They integrate a silver nanodisc with a microrod made of glass and the combination can be manipulated using laser beams alone. This "tweezer-in-a-tweezer" approach can trap objects of about 40 nanometres in size, using a single laser beam. This is the typical size of a virus or DNA. "The optical tweezer holds the plasmonic tweezer and the plasmonic tweezers trap our target nanoparticles, therefore tweezer (plasmonic) in tweezer (optical)," says Souvik Ghosh, first author of the paper.

"The technique is ready for real world applications," says Prof. Ambarish Ghosh, in whose lab the research was carried out. "Simplicity and ease of implementation are the biggest USPs for this device. It is patented and we are already in discussion with a company for licensing."

Scientific way of reviving fragments of rainforests

Degraded forest areas studied in Anamalai Hills recovered significantly in terms of numbers of trees and species

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

A two-decade long study carried out by ecologists from Nature Conservation Foundation and University of Columbia finds that active restoration can promote recovery of tropical rainforest fragments with seven to 15 years of effort.

The recovery included improvement in forest structure and composition as well as carbon storage. Further, the study finds that such a restoration effort would be more effective in fragmented forest patches. For example, those found in the middle of plantations, rather than in areas where the forest is contiguous but degraded. The results of the study are published in the open-access journal *Ecosphere*.

All in 14 years: A degraded fragment in the Anamalai Hills (left) with with invasive weeds removed in preparation for restoration planting in 2004, and the same site in 2018 (right) showing some recovery of rainforest trees. ▪NCF

Ecological restoration

The study, which began in 2002, focused on rainforests fragments in Anamalai Hills, in the Western Ghats, and the ecological restoration involved clearing the chosen areas of invasive weeds and planting a diverse mix of native species. "We planted more than 150 native rainforest tree species overall. Depending on size of the plot, we planted between 27 and 82 native species carefully selected as appropriate for the site," says T. R. Shankar Raman, from NCF and an author of the paper.

The group studied 25 pairs of plots within degraded forest fragments. In one of the pair of plots, they carried out active restoration which included first removing non-native weeds and then planting saplings belonging to a variety of native tree species.

The other plot was left to regenerate naturally. Finally, the results of the effort on the two sets of plots were compared with 17 benchmark areas that were relatively free of human disturbance in a few decades.

"A key challenge we faced was in identifying suitable pairs of sites such that actively restored and naturally regenerating plots were similar to each other in all respects (for instance, slope, topography, past disturbance), except for that one was restored and the other was not," says Anand Osuri from The Earth Institute, Columbia University, and first author of the paper, in an email to *The Hindu*. "We achieved this by conducting detailed site surveys before the main study, comparing old photographs of the sites pre-restoration, and through discussions with our field staff who were involved in the restoration efforts."

Quantifying recovery

The team found that the actively restored areas improved in comparison with the passively restored ones in a way that matched the benchmarks to a good percentage. From seven to 15 years after restoration, these degraded forests recovered significantly in terms of numbers of trees, 49% in the number of tree species and 47% in the amount of carbon stored for a given area, compared to degraded forests left to recover naturally, according to figures presented in the paper.

"First, don't assume that planting trees is the best way to restore an ecosystem. Trees should not be planted in ecosystems such as grasslands, deserts, or wetlands that did not have any forests to begin with." says Divya Mudappa, another author of the paper and from NCF.

According to her, the best way to go about ecological restoration would be to identify critical areas that would benefit from restoration effort – this would include sites far away from larger, contiguous tracts of forests or those that would be critical as animal or plant movement corridors. "Ecological restoration should use a diverse set of local, native species. We need to plan long-term as most of the native plants can be slow-growing and sometimes even difficult to grow," Dr. Mudappa explains.

Cost-effective plan

With regard to degraded forests that are not isolated, Dr. Shankar Raman says, "If degraded forests adjoin or are near larger tracts of relatively intact forests, it may be better to just protect them and leave them to regenerate naturally as that would be cost-effective."

Some of the fragments that the team studied were located within tea and coffee plantations. "We were fortunate that tea and coffee plantation companies extended their support. They engaged in partnerships with us, recognised these forest patches as 'biodiversity plots' within their estates and provided in-kind support such as labour and space for nursery," says Dr. Shankar Raman.

Between home and refugee camps

Dhaka's attempts to send back Rohingya fail as refugees think they won't be safe in Myanmar

DHAKA

Arun Devnath is a journalist based in Dhaka

Two years ago, Bangladesh was a welcoming place for displaced Rohingya. Now they are perceived to be a drag on the host and a security threat. Bangladesh made a second attempt in August to send them back, but no refugee boarded waiting buses in the southeastern district of Cox's Bazar to head home. There are no signs of a successful repatriation on the horizon.

That's bad news for the country, apparently fatigued by the refugee crisis lingering since August 2017. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina openly expressed frustration over Myanmar's broken promises and failure to build trust among the Rohingya people. "It is regrettable that we are passing yet another year without any solution to the Rohingya crisis," Ms. Hasina said at an event, alongside Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad in New York on September 24.

The mass expulsion of Rohingya by Myanmar's security forces created a major humanitarian emergency in Bangladesh. Around one million Rohingya, from the latest and previous exoduses, live in a cluster of densely populated camps in Cox's Bazar. Humanitarian efforts by local and international aid groups have successfully addressed the immediate priorities. Life-saving essentials – food, water, sanitation, shelter and basic health services – are now in place. Camps are much better prepared than before against rains: drainage has been improved and roads through the camps have been surfaced.

But patience is running thin in Bangladesh with the government fearing new security risks. In her speech, Ms. Hasina emphasised that the Rohingya crisis is a political one and deeply rooted in Myanmar. "And the solution has to be found in Myanmar."

On September 1, the Bangladesh telecom regulator ordered operators to shut down mobile phone services in the camps within seven days, citing security reasons. The next day, the telecom regulator ordered the operators to shut down 3G and 4G services in the camps each day between 5 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The government actions appear to be in response to recent incidents involving the Rohingya, according to the Human Rights Watch. A highly publicised attempt by the Bangladesh government to repatriate Rohingya refugees to Myanmar on August 22 failed because the refugees believe that the current conditions in Myanmar make their return unsafe.

In no time, a local leader of the ruling Awami League's youth wing in

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Teknaf, Omar Faruk, 30, was murdered allegedly by a group of Rohingya refugees. In response, law enforcement officers then killed six Rohingya refugees who they said were involved in the murder, the HRW said in a report on September 18. Separately, police shot dead a detained Rohingya couple on September 22 linking them to a robbery gang.

Genocide charges

Meanwhile in New York, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir came down hard on the Myanmar authorities bringing charges of genocide against them. The Rohingya faced untold brutality and were at risk of seeing an entire generation wiped out. "Some were able to escape but these lucky ones are now unable to return to their homes," he said.

The Myanmar authorities still have not addressed the fundamental issues of the Rohingya being denied citizenship, freedom of movement, security and other basic rights, the Brussels-based International Crisis Group said in a recent report. For his part, Mr. Mahathir called for Myanmar to demonstrate that it is serious in alleviating the crisis. In doing so, repatriation should be the main priority, he said.

"The failed repatriation attempts have not only created an atmosphere of anxiety among refugees in the camps, they have demonstrated insincerity on part of the Myanmar authorities at enabling conditions for safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees," Saad Hammadi, South Asia campaigner at Amnesty International, told this reporter.

Fighting between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, a militant outfit that draws its support mainly from the ethnic Rakhine population (a mostly Buddhist group distinct from the Rohingya Muslims), has escalated sharply since January. The Rohingya in Rakhine are caught between the warring parties, according to the Crisis Group.

That creates a further impediment to the refugees' return. The conflict also has pushed repatriation down the list of priorities in Naypyitaw, which is currently focused on the Arakan Army insurgency and the national elections in 2020.

When the saffron robe has the final say

A monk's cremation on a temple's premises, in violation of a court order, has triggered protests

COLOMBO

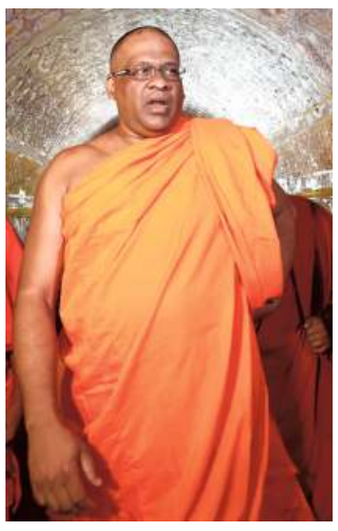
Meera Srinivasan is *The Hindu*'s Colombo correspondent

The recent passing away of a Buddhist monk in Sri Lanka and his subsequent cremation in the northern district of Mullaitivu has brought to the fore an old concern – the power wielded by the Buddhist clergy and the impunity shielding them. It wasn't the monk's cremation that was the problem, it was the site.

On Monday, a group of saffron-robed men, led by controversial monk Gnanasara Thero (in picture) of the Bodu Bala Sena (Buddhist Power Force), gathered near the Neeravi Pillaiyar Kovil (temple) well in Mullaitivu, even as their supporters swiftly made arrangements for the cremation to be held there. They completed the final rites, defying a court order barring it on the temple's premises. Around noon the same day, the Mullaitivu magistrate court had ruled that the cremation be held by the sea, near the Army camp facing the temple.

"When I returned from the court to the temple, I was shocked to see the monks going ahead with the cremation there, despite the court ruling against it. There were some 40 *bikkus* (monks) and maybe around 200 supporters with them," said Kanagarathinam Sugash, attorney-at-law, who appeared for the temple administration in the case.

As the news spread, several locals – mostly Hindu Tamils – gathered around the temple in protest. "When I tried to draw the monks' attention to the court order, one of them, speaking in broken Tamil, turned very aggressive towards me and told me – 'This is a Sinhala Buddhist



REUTERS

country and monks come first, they are above all'," recalled Mr. Sugash, who was assaulted in the ensuing clash. The Jaffna-based lawyer found the monk's remarks most telling. "He [the monk] was effectively telling me that monks are above the courts, above law and order."

By then, dozens of policemen had gathered at the spot. "They didn't allow me or the people to enter the temple," said Shanthi Sriskandarasa, the Mullaitivu parliamentarian from the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), representing Tamils of the north and east. "Some of our youngsters were very angry. Instead of ensuring that a court order is adhered to, the police were busy protecting the monks," said the MP, who plans to initiate legal action.

"The whole incident showed us how Buddhist monks in this country can get away with just about anything, it is very worrying," she added. Ms. Sriskandarasa's concern has to be seen in context.

Presidential pardon for monk

In May this year, President Maithripala Sirisena pardoned Buddhist priest Gnanasara Thero, who was serving a prison term after being convicted for contempt of court. The monk is notorious for hate speech targeting minorities, particularly Muslims, and is also accused of inciting anti-Muslim violence in the past.

Monday's incident has heightened anxiety among Tamils, who see the monk's assertion of authority as yet another attempt towards "Sinhala colonisation" of the island's Tamil-majority north and east.

In the post-war decade, locals have often pointed to new Buddha statues emerging in different parts of the north and east, where most residents are Tamil Hindus, Christians, and Muslims. In several cases, the military has erected the statues, residents said.

When contacted, a police officer-in-charge (OIC) in Mullaitivu said, "An inquiry is being conducted to look into what happened on Monday." The BBS, according to local news reports, has claimed its leader was "not aware" of the court order at the time of the cremation.

Meanwhile, lawyers in the north and east are striking work, protesting against the violation of a court order. They have decided to raise the matter with the Attorney General before returning to courts.

Reacting to the developments, Northern Province Governor Suren Raghavan urged politicians not to create communal and religious tensions ahead of the presidential election. "At the moment, southern politicians are in the north in order to stir up things with regard to the final rites of the chief incumbent of Gurukanda Nayaru Rajamaha Viharaya. These are primitive and tribal political campaigns. We clearly know that the northern votes are a decisive factor in presidential elections," the state-run *Daily News* quoted him as saying.

The Tamil vote may be crucial in the polls, but that has not prompted any strong condemnation of the monks' questionable actions by national leaders. The people of Mullaitivu, along with many others elsewhere, are watching how the judiciary and state will respond to a blatant defiance of a court order.

Battling poverty at the grassroots

With financial aid and integration of villages with agri parks, China is transforming its countryside

SHANDONG

Atul Aneja is *The Hindu's* Beijing correspondent

Outside a giant exhibition hall near Dai village, in Shandong province, where local agri-produce – ginger, capsicum and much more – are displayed, Wang Chuanxi is a much sought after man. In the soft light of an early September morning, he was mobbed by visiting local and international media, keen to understand how China has fought ingrained poverty at the grassroots.

Mr. Wang – a local hero and a member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) since 1997 – had for years served as the party's secretary in the village. Under the local leadership, Dai village, once a remote and poor outpost of the eastern province of Shandong, has morphed itself into prosperity. So how did this humble hamlet's rags-to-riches story begin? The answer may lie in a combination of a dedicated local leadership, backed by a strong Central government, well- known for thinking big.

Instead of seeking village development in isolation, a bolder plan was drawn to transform the area, which would integrate the village into a much larger Lanjing National Agriculture Park (LNAP).

Drawing on experiences

"We had to draw from national and international experience to finalise our plans. Since we were already in an era of reforms and opening up, our teams visited several advanced countries, including Israel, Germany, France and Japan. We also learnt from India's experience in agriculture," says Mr. Wang.

The second strategic decision was to lower the village's reliance on agriculture.

Farming had to be complemented with agro-tourism and green development, in tune with China's new obsession with green mountains, clean air and water, as well as a massive reduction of the carbon footprint to meet the country's climate change goals.

Generous financial support, arrival of broadband Internet and the growing profile of e-commerce have also contributed to the transformation of this backwater of eastern China. "We got financial support from China Agriculture Bank, but there have also been local agriculture banks that have given us financing," says Mr. Wang. That includes the local Linyi agriculture bank, which has parcelled a three-year loan of around $140 million.

Farmers will use the cash for startups, food processing and logistics, including setting up cold chains for perishable products. "We already have 50,000 trucks, including refrigerated vehicles, to transport the agricultural products," Mr. Wang said.

The local official, designated by the government as a "model worker," points out that 20-30% of products of the agricultural park are now sold online through the e-commerce channel.

The dramatic transformation of LNAP can now be measured in numbers. The average per capita income, from a very low base, has now surged to nearly $9,500, while the annual revenue shot up to $393 million.

The increasing reliance on online sale mirrors the growing presence of China's e-commerce giants in the countryside. Of the 20 million new users Alibaba gained in the April-June quarter this year, China's smaller cities and rural areas contributed more than 70%.

In the nearby town of Longquan, the Shandong Donghua Cement Company has signed up with Alibaba Cloud Computing to promote an entire building materials industry

GETTY IMAGES

chain under a smart cement project.

The local initiatives in Shandong are part of a much larger national plan to eliminate poverty in China by 2020. In Beijing, Professor Zhang Qi, president of the China Poverty Relief Institute of Beijing Normal University, told the media during a recent event organised by the All China Journalists Association that there has been a dramatic reduction in poverty – from 98 million in 2012 to 16 million currently.

"This is a very remarkable achievement. By the end of 2019, it is estimated that 300 poor counties will get rid of poverty. By 2020, all the remaining poor counties will get rid of poverty so as to achieve our goal to walk out of poverty. This is dream long cherished by the Chinese people. It is also the sacred commitment made by the Communist Party to the Chinese people," he said.

Mr. Zhang pointed out that China was dovetailing its anti-poverty programme with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the UN. "In the international community we have SDGs, which have five or six items related to poverty reduction. So our initiative is also in line with the UN sustainable development agenda."

In solidarity with the 'Blue Girl'

For many Afghan women, Khodayari's act of protest symbolised their own struggle for equality

KABUL

Ruchi Kumar is a journalist based in Kabul

The stadium in Kabul was packed, as thousands of football fans gathered to watch the latest edition of the Afghanistan Premier League (APL), which kicked off earlier this month. Not too long ago, this stadium was used as a venue for public executions, including that of women, by the Taliban, during their regime in the late 1990s.

However, since the fall of the extremist group in 2001, the city's stadiums have come a long way, now reclaimed by the Afghan youth, including women, who attend as well as take part in several sports, on grounds earlier forbidden to them. This sentiment has reverberated across the stadium every year during the APL and other competitions that witness massive crowds. However, this season, the acclamations by women fans carried a stronger message – solidarity with their Iranian counterparts, who are still prohibited from entering a stadium. Several Afghan women, attending the APL on September 13, raised hand-drawn placards expressing support for the actions of Sahar Khodayari, a young Iranian woman football fan who had died after immolating herself just days earlier.

Khodayari, who is now being referred to as the 'Blue Girl', a nickname given to her in reference to the jersey colour of the team she supported – Esteghlal FC – set herself on fire in protest against arrest for trying to enter a stadium. Ironically, the word *esteghlal* in Persian translates to 'independence' and the stadium that she tried to enter was

AFP

called Azadi (freedom) Stadium. Khodayari's death gave rise to a stronger call from the international community against Iran's discriminatory policies, including from Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. "What happened to Sahar Khodayari is heart-breaking and exposes the impact of the Iranian authorities' appalling contempt for women's rights in the country. Her only crime was being a woman in a country where women face discrimination that is entrenched in law and plays out in the most horrific ways imaginable in every area of their lives, even sports," Philip Luther, director at Amnesty International, said in a statement, urging FIFA, and the Asian Football Confederation to take action.

Empathy and sisterhood

In Kabul, meanwhile, Khodayari found empathy and sisterhood, as her campaign was received with much enthusiasm at the stadium. Many Afghan men joined the women, amplifying their voices by carrying posters with the words #BlueGirl. For the Afghan women, who have lived through an extremist regime, and still continue to experience discrimination and challenges, the protest represented their own struggles. "We have a common culture and we speak the same language, so why shouldn't we raise our voice for the women in Iran?" Mariam Atahi, an Afghan women's rights activist who participated in the demonstration at the stadium, told this writer.

"Going to a stadium and watching a football match is not a crime... [I]t is not banned in Islam either. Islam doesn't say anywhere that women should not go to the stadium and watch a match," she asserted, adding that Afghan women were familiar with the struggles of Iranian women. "We had a dark time during the Taliban regime. Women were not allowed to get out of their homes or study or even express themselves," recalled Ms. Atahi, who lived through the years of the Taliban.

For Ms. Atahi and her compatriots at the stadium, their act of solidarity was a way to reassert their voice in the international community. "Afghan women have an identity, which should be considered during the peace process and reconciliation. At the same time, we will also continue to stand for human rights around the world. We will raise our voices not just for ourselves but also for all women who are denied basic rights," Ms. Atahi said.

"We have many problems here [in Afghanistan] but it should not matter where one lives and where are we geographically located, everyone has a responsibility to raise their voice for women's rights."

Like many women in the country, Ms. Atahi fears a possible return of the Taliban. However, Afghan women remain adamant that they won't surrender their rights and allow the progress made in the last 18 years to be rolled back. "Over the past 18 years, Afghan women have achieved so much and struggled a lot to get to where we are today. We fought, we advocated for rights and we stood up and now, we are not going back to a time when we were not allowed in the stadiums," Ms Atahi said. "We won't give up."

Chepngetich tames heat, claims marathon gold

Crosses the finish line over a minute clear of holder Chelimo; DeAnna Price wins hammer

IAAF World Athletics Championships DOHA2019

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DOHA

Kenya's Ruth Chepngetich powered through brutal heat and humidity to win the women's marathon on Saturday, bringing the curtain down on a dramatic opening day at the World Athletics Championships in Doha.

With around two dozen runners in the 68-strong marathon field falling by the wayside as the sweltering conditions took their toll, Chepngetich dug deep to win the first gold of the championships in a time of 2 hours 32 minutes and 43 seconds.

The marathon had started at 11.59 p.m. local time on Friday, in a scheduling move designed to protect athletes from the furnace-like daytime heat.

DeAnna Price of the United States won the gold medal in the women's hammer throw on Saturday, completing a superb victory after a career ravaged by injury.

Fighting back: DeAnna Price of the USA was close to tears after clinching the hammer throw gold. ▪ REUTERS

Sifan Hassan, the 10,000m winner. ▪ REUTERS

Ruth Chepngetich. ▪ GETTY IMAGES

The 26-year-old from Missouri took gold with her third throw of the night, launching a 77.54 effort onto the field.

"Who I am doing it for is to impact female athletes and let them know that you can be any shape and size and still be strong and beautiful," she said in a recent interview.

"You get the best of both worlds being the athlete and the girl." Sifan Hassan secured her first global outdoor title as the Dutch runner won the women's 10,000 metres in the fastest time: 30m 17.62s. The 26-year-old Ethiopia-born athlete, who came to the Netherlands aged 15 as a refugee, stormed home clear of former compatriot Letesenbet Gidey who clocked 30:21.23. Agnes Tirop of Kenya took the bronze in 30:25.20. Jamaica's Tajay Gayle upset the long jump form book to strike gold, producing the leap of his life to defeat favourite Juan Miguel Echevarria.

The result:

Women: Marathon: 1. Ruth Chepngetich (Ken) 2:32.43; 2. Rose Chelimo (Brn) 2:33.46; 3. Helalia Johannes (Nam) 2:34.15. **Hammer:** 1. DeAnna Price (USA) 77.54; 2. Joanna Fiodorow (Pol) 76.35; 3. Zheng Wang (Chn) 74.76; **10,000m:** 1. Sifan Hassan (Ned) 30:17.62s; 2. Gidey Letesendet (Eth) 30:21.23; 3. Agnus Jebet Tirop (Ken) 30:25.20.

Men: Long jump: 1. Tajay Gayle (Jam) 8.69m; 2. Jeff Henderson (USA) 8.39; 3. Juan Miguel Echevarria (Cub) 8.34.

Coleman the fastest

- Christian Coleman of the United States won the men's 100m in a time of 9.76s, easing past countryman Justin Gatlin (9.89) and Canada's Andre De Grasse (9.90).

Indians in action today

- Mixed 4x400m relay, final, 1.05 a.m. IST, Monday

Indian mixed relay team books Tokyo berth

Creditable show: The Indian mixed relay team finished third and entered the final. ▪ REUTERS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Despite a baton fumble just before the last lap, India recovered nicely and entered the 4x400m mixed relay final at the World athletics championships in Doha on Saturday night.

The all-Kerala quartet of Muhammed Anas, V.K. Vismaya, Jisna Mathew and Noah Nirmal Tom clocked a season-best 3:16.14s to finish third in the semifinal, edging out Belgium by two hundredths of a second.

The final entry also brought India a Tokyo Olympics berth.

Meanwhile, M.P. Jabir finished fifth, with 49.71s, in the men's 400m hurdles semifinal and failed to qualify for the final.

Norway's Karsten Warholm, the world's fastest hurdler this year, topped the semifinals with 48.28s.

Earlier, World University Games champion Dutee Chand, the country's fastest woman with a time of 11.26s, was far away from her best as she finished seventh in her 100m heat (37th overall), clocking 11.48s and failed to enter the semifinal.

COI notice served on CAC members

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

BCCI Ethics Officer Justice (Retd) D.K. Jain on Saturday issued Conflict Of Interest (COI) notices on the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) members Kapil Dev, Aunshuman Gaekwad and Shanta Rangaswamy.

The COI charges have been levelled by Sanjeev Gupta, a life member of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association.

The three have been asked to reply by October 10.

Recently the CAC chose Ravi Shastri as head coach of the Indian team. It also chose New Zealand's Mike Hesson and Australia's Tom Moody as second and third choice respectively.

Second ODI put off to Sept. 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

The second ODI between Pakistan and Sri Lanka has been rescheduled to September 30 due to heavy rain. The Pakistan Cricket Board said that the decision was made in consultation with Sri Lanka Cricket.

Bharat, Panchal, Lad bat well

Rohit fails; some high-quality bowling by Rabada, Philander

SA IN INDIA

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
VIZIANAGARAM

The focus was on Board President's XI captain Rohit Sharma when he went out to open the innings.

But South African fast bowler Vernon Philander produced a beauty and removed him for a second-ball duck on the final day of the three-day warm-up game which ended in a draw here on Saturday.

The pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander made the pitch look completely different with some high-quality bowling.

Gritty knocks

However, Priyank Panchal showed grit to score 60 (77b, 10x4). Wicketkeeper-batsman Srikar Bharat enhanced his reputation with a belligerent 71 (57b, 7x4, 5x6), including three sixes and a four off a Dane Piedt over.

Bharat and Siddesh Lad, who also completed a well-compiled unbeaten 52 (89b, 7x4, 1x6), put on 100 for the sixth wicket. Eventually, Board President's XI finished on 265 for eight.

Temba Bavuma continued to impress with some beautiful strokeplay during an unbeaten 87 (127b, 14x4, 1x6) in the morning session.

On the go: Srikar Bharat made a belligerent 71. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK

The scores: South Africa — 1st innings: Aiden Markram (retd. hurt) 100, Dean Elgar c Panchal b Umesh 6, Theunis de Bruyn lbw b Porel 6, Zubayr Hamza lbw b Jadeja 22, Temba Bavuma (not out) 87, Faf du Plessis lbw b Jadeja 9, Vernon Philander c Rohit b Jadeja 48, Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for six wkts. in 64 overs): 279.

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-33, 3-78, 4-171, 5-199, 6-279.

Board President's XI bowling: Umesh Yadav 11-0-56-1, Shardul Thakur 13-3-47-0, Ishan Porel 8-1-26-1, Avesh Khan 12-1-51-0, Jalaj Saxena 8-1-32-0, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 12-1-66-3.

Board President's XI — 1st innings: Mayank Agarwal c Philander b Maharaj 39, Rohit Sharma c (sub) Klaasen b Philander 0, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Markram b Rabada 13, Priyank Panchal c du Plessis b Philander 60, Karun Nair c (sub) Klaassen b Maharaj 19, Siddesh Lad (not out) 52, Srikar Bharat b Maharaj 71, Jalaj Saxena lbw b Muthusamy 2, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja c (sub) Klassen b Piedt 0, Extras (lb-4, b-4, nb-1): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 64 overs): 265.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-23, 3-85, 4-134, 5-136, 6-236, 7-264, 8-265.

South Africa bowling: Rabada 9.5-1-27-1, Philander 9-1-27-2, Maharaj 13.1-4-35-3, Ngidi 8-0-55-0, Nortje 9-2-31-0, Piedt 14-3-80-1, Muthusamy 1-0-2-1.

Back to business for the women

Sun shines again after two days of rain

SA WOMEN IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR
SURAT

After two days of wet weather, India and South Africa women heaved a huge sigh of relief with bright sunshine greeting the city. It prompted them to revert to cricket mode after an extended break.

Both teams – after posing for selfie-seekers, there are hundreds wherever they have been – got down to business the moment they arrived at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in the evening, ahead of Sunday's third Twenty20 International of the five-match series.

Close watch

While all of India's top-six had multiple stints in the nets with head coach W.V. Raman keeping a close watch, Veda Krishnamurthy was into her element with her effortless range-hitting.

Raman will be hoping that Veda will come good on Sunday with her designated role of a finisher.

Helping hand

The Proteas, on the other hand, will be hoping to lend a helping hand to veteran Mignon du Preez, who waged a lone battle to get South Africa in with a chance from a hopeless situation while chasing a moderate target.

Warming up: Jemimah Rodrigues, Radha Yadav and Smriti Mandhana practise under lights at Surat. ▪ VIJAY SONEJI

The South Africa camp would be banking on openers Lizelle Lee and Tazmin Brits to get them off the blocks and the middle-order to hold fort against India's potent spin unit.

The teams (from):

South Africa: Sune Luus (Capt.), Anneke Bosch, Tasmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Shabnim Ismail, Sinalo Jafta (wk), Ayabonga Khaka, Lara Goodall, Lizelle Lee, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, Mignon du Preez, Lara Wolvaardt.

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Poonam Yadav, Shikha Pandey, Arundhati Reddy, Pooja Vastrakar, Radha Yadav, Veda Krishnamurthy, Harleen Deol, Anuja Patil, Shafali Verma, Mansi Joshi.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

Pole for Leclerc

RUSSIAN GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SOCHI

Charles Leclerc reeled off his fourth consecutive pole position with another stunning lap on Saturday as he topped qualifying times for Sunday's Russian GP.

The in-form Monegasque clocked a best lap of one minute and 31.628 seconds to improve his time in the final seconds and set up an end to Mercedes' five-year domination of the event. Series leader Lewis Hamilton pulled out a dazzling final sector and final lap to take second ahead of Sebastian Vettel in the other Ferrari by a narrow margin.

STARTING GRID

First row: Charles Leclerc (Fer), Lewis Hamilton (Merc); **Second:** Sebastian Vettel (Fer), Valtteri Bottas (Merc); **Third:** Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren), Nico Hulkenberg (Ren); **Fourth:** Lando Norris (McLaren), Romain Grosjean (Haas); **Fifth:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull), Daniel Ricciardo (Renault); **Sixth:** Sergio Perez (Racing Point), Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo); **Seventh:** Kevin Magnussen (Haas), Lance Stroll (Racing Point); **Eighth:** Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo), Pierre Gasly (Toro Rosso); **Ninth:** George Russell (Williams), Alexander Albon (Red Bull); **Tenth:** Robert Kubica (Williams), Daniil Kvyat (Toro Rosso).

Manchester City downs Everton

Chelsea beats Brighton; Lewandowski's day out

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
LONDON

Gabriel Jesus, Riyad Mahrez and Raheem Sterling were on target as champion Manchester City won 3-1 at Everton on Saturday to stay five points behind English Premier League leader Liverpool.

Earlier, Frank Lampard finally earned his first home win as Chelsea manager after goals from Jorginho and Willian sealed a 2-0 victory against Brighton.

Barca downs Getafe

In the La Liga at Madrid, Barcelona ended a string of bad results away from home with a 2-0 win at Getafe. Strikes by Luis Suarez and Junior Firpo either side of half time gave the Spanish champion its first win of the season on the road, although it finished with 10 men after Clement Lenglet's dismissal.

Lewandowski makes history

In the Bundesliga, Philippe Coutinho shone again and Robert Lewandowski made history for Bayern Munich as the defending champion went on top on Saturday with a 3-2 win at Paderborn after Leipzig crashed against Schalke.

The results: EPL: Aston Villa 2 (El Ghazi 33, McGinn 79) drew with Burnley 2 (Rodriguez 68, Wood 81); Bournemouth 2 (King 17, Wilson 46) drew with West Ham 2 (Yarmolenko 10, Cresswell 74); Chelsea 2 (Jorginho 50-pen, Willian 76) bt Brighton 0; Crystal Palace 2 (Milivojevic 21-pen, Townsend 90+2) bt Norwich 0; Sheffield United 0 bt Liverpool 1 (Wijnaldum 70); Tottenham 2 (Ndombele 24, Kane 43) bt Southampton 1 (Ings 39); Wolves 2 (Doherty 18, Janmaat 61-og) bt Watford 0; Everton 1 (Levin 33) lost to Man City 3 (Jesus 24, Mahrez 71, Sterling 84).

Bundesliga: Leipzig 1 (Forsberg 83) lost to Schalke 3 (Sane 29, Harit 43-pen, Matondo 58); Hoffenheim 0 lost to Borussia Moenchengladbach 2 (Plea 43, Thuram 65); Mainz 0 lost to Wolfsburg 1 (Tisserand 9); Augsburg 0 lost to Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Niederlechner 35-og, Volland 76, Havertz 84); Paderborn 2 (Proeger 68, Collins 84) lost to Bayern Munich 3 (Gnabry 15, Coutinho 55, Lewandowski 79); Borussia Dortmund 2 (Goetze 9, Reus 41) drew with Werder Bremen 2 (Rashica 7, Friedl 56).

Serie A: Juventus 2 (Pjanic 45, Ronaldo 78) bt SPAL 0; Sampdoria 1 (Jankto 55) lost to Inter Milan 3 (Sensi 20, Sanchez 22, Gagliardini 61).

La Liga: Athletic Bilbao 0 lost to Valencia 1 (Cheryshev 27); Getafe 0 lost to Barcelona 2 (Suarez 41, Firpo 49); Granda 0 drew with Leganes 0.

Memorable feat: Lewandowski became the first Bayern player to score in each of the first six matches of the season. ▪ AP

Stranglehold

Trapped: Raider Shrikant Jadhav of UP Yoddha catches a Haryana Steelers player in the PKL at Panchkula on Saturday. Yoddha won 37-30. Gujarat Fortunegiants beat Tamil Thalaivas 50-21 in the other match. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

Good news for India

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

In a sudden development, FIBA, the international basketball federation, has decided to include India in the FIBA pre-qualifying Olympic tournament.

As per the tournament rules, India would not have made the cut, having finished eighth and last in Division A of the FIBA women's Asia Cup basketball tournament here.

The top seven teams of Division A, and the winner of Division B were initially marked to make it to the pre-qualifiers.

But since the Division B tournament was not held – due to non-availability of a host – India takes a spot in the pre-qualifiers, a FIBA official stated.

This decision was taken on Friday morning, shortly before India took on Philippines in the seventh-place playoff, the official stated.

FIBA pre-qualifying Olympic draw: Group A: Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, China. **Group B:** Japan, Australia, Chinese Taipei, India.

Motohashi powers Japan past Australia

China rides on Xu, cruises to victory against Korea

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

An outstanding performance from Nako Motohashi (22 points, 6 assists) helped defending champion Japan defeat Australia 76-64 in the semifinal of the FIBA women's Asia Cup Division-A basketball tournament at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Saturday.

Diminutive point-guard Motohashi used her speed to stun the Australians, regularly zooming past the defence for the lay-ups. She was in good shooting form as well, making three crucial three-pointers. The 25-year-old, the engine of the team, used the pick and roll well to keep the rivals out of position.

Solid support

Forward Yuki Miyazawa (19 points, 15 rebounds) also played a big role, excelling on both ends of the court. Miyazawa sunk five of 10 shots from beyond the arc, and muscled out the Aussies to collect the rebounds.

The Australians started brightly, taking a 23-15 lead at the end of the first quarter. Things fell apart in the second period, with the team managing to score only five points. The taller, stronger Australians missed a trick by not employing the post position often enough. The Aussies unwisely tried to match the Japanese in speed, and were clearly outmatched.

"You can't score five points in the second quarter and expect to win a match. We made bad decisions," said experienced Australia coach Sandy Brondello.

Pleased as punch

A pleased Japan coach Tom Havasse stated, "We had a poor start, but once a few shots started going in, everyone calmed down. Going into half-time with a 35-28 lead gave us the confidence."

Japan will take on China in the final on Sunday. China cruised to a 80-52 win over Korea in the second semifinal. Chinese centre Xu Han, a second round pick in the 2019 WNBA draft, dominated under the board to score a game-high 17 points.

The results:

Semifinal: Japan 76 (Nako Motohashi 22, Yuki Miyazawa 19, Ramu Tokashiki 10) bt Australia 64 (Jenna O'Hea 12, Leilani Mitchell 10, Bec Allen 11); China 80 (Xu Han 17, Liwei Yang 16, Yueru Li 11) bt Korea 52 (Hyeyoon Bae 10).

Fifth-place playoff: New Zealand 71 (Micaela Cocks 18, Natalie Taylor 12) bt Chinese Taipei 56 (Huang Ping-Jen 13, Tsai Pei-Chen 10).

The architect: Nako Motohashi was in the thick of things for Japan. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

TV PICKS

Badminton: Korea Open, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
India vs South Africa women, third T20I, Star Sports 3 HD, 7 p.m.
IAAF World Championships: Star Sports 3, 10.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Sabalenka beats Riske, keeps Wuhan cup

WUHAN

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus became the first player to claim back-to-back titles in Wuhan thanks to a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 victory over American Alison Riske in the final on Saturday. The 21-year-old improved her record at the event to a perfect 12-0 and joins Petra Kvitova as the only two-time Wuhan Open champions. In a rematch of their final in Shenzhen last January, Sabalenka utilised her supreme power game once again to overcome Riske in 114 minutes. She unleashed 18 aces and won 79 percent of her first-serve points. AFP

Halep to play in China Open

BEIJING

Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep on Saturday said she would play the China Open after retiring from the recent Wuhan Open due to a back problem. Seeded sixth this year here, Halep said she felt OK about her back that forced her to withdraw from the Wuhan Open on Wednesday. IANS

Honda tweets desire to play for Man United

TOKYO

Japanese football star Keisuke Honda on Saturday marketed himself to Manchester United in an unusual and apparently desperate Twitter plea. "Give me an offer," the former AC Milan striker tweeted from his verified account, tagging United's official Twitter account. "I don't need money but I need to play with great team and great team mate!," said the 33-year-old. Honda is trying to find a new club in Europe after leaving Australia's Melbourne Victory in May. AFP

Joshna shocks King, moves into semifinals

SAN FRANCISCO

Joshna Chinappa, the eighth seed, made a big impact with an 11-9, 6-11, 11-3 win over fourth-seeded Joelle King of New Zealand for a place in the semifinals of the Oracle Netsuite women's squash open, a world tour gold event here on Friday. Joshna is set to meet the top seed and World No. 1 Raneem El Welily of Egypt on Sunday.

Mercedes engines for McLaren from 2021

MADRID

Mercedes announced on Saturday it would provide Formula One McLaren team with engines from 2021 in a deal that will last for at least three years. McLaren, which will continue using the Renault power units for the next season, renewed its partnership with Mercedes which came to an end in 2014. "This agreement is an important step in our long-term plan to return to success in Formula 1," McLaren Racing CEO Zak Brown *(in pic)* said. IANS

Vijay Shankar guides Tamil Nadu home

Aparajith lends able support; Bihar skipper Babul's ton goes in vain

Back with a bang: Vijay Shankar, returning to the Tamil Nadu squad after injury, played a key role in the side's win over Bihar. ▪PTI

HAZARE TROPHY

S. DIPAK RAGAV
JAIPUR

Vijay Shankar, coming back from yet another injury and playing his first game of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, produced an allround performance with an unbeaten 91 (88b, 6x4, 1x6) and one for 17 to help Tamil Nadu post its third win in as many matches, defeating Bihar by seven wickets in the Elite Group C match on Saturday.

Electing to bat, Bihar made 217 for seven led by skipper Babul Kumar who made a valiant 110 (136b, 12x4, 1x6) after Bihar was reduced to three for two in the second over.

Cautious start

Chasing the target, TN openers Abhinav Mukund and N. Jagadeesan made a cautious start before the former took charge. The left-hander played some glorious shots off his pads with flicks and drives through square-leg and mid-on.

However, Bihar pulled things back with three leg-before dismissals in quick succession. Leg-spinner Samar Quadri first trapped Abhinav before left-arm spinner Sachin Kumar Singh did the same to Jagadeesan and C. Hari Nishanth as TN slumped from 59 for no loss to 75 for three in the space of five overs.

Vijay Shankar then took control and played some delightful shots. He started with a backfoot punch and followed it up with a cover-drive of off-spinner Shasheem Rathour. He also hit a lofted drive for six over the same region off pacer Kamlesh later in his innings.

Deft placements

He was well supported by B. Aparajith (52 n.o., 66b, 1x4) at the other end, who relied more on deft placements than forceful shots.

The duo added 143 for the unbroken fourth-wicket partnership with only 34 of those runs coming in boundaries as they chipped away at the target without any risks and took their side home from a spot of bother.

Earlier, Vijay Shankar opened the bowling and struck in his first over getting Shasheem Rathour before K. Vignesh removed the other opener Vikash Ranjan in the very next over, both caught behind.

However, TN let the initiative slip with some ordinary bowling and not making use of the favourable conditions.

Vignesh gets the stick

Babul went after Vignesh, who after two good overs started to pitch it shorter than required. In one over, the Bihar captain went after the TN pacer scoring 14 runs with two superb pull shots, a six and four over mid-wicket and another boundary through covers.

At the other end, Rahmat Ullah too kept finding the boundaries with ease. His knock of 38 had seven hits to the fence. The duo added 89 for the third wicket.

TN, however, pulled things back in the second half of the innings, with spinners M. Ashwin, B. Aparajith and M. Mohammed cutting the flow of boundaries.

A flurry of wickets towards the end did not help Bihar's cause and it could not get the final push for a competitive total.

The scores: Bihar 217 for seven in 50 overs (Babul Kumar 110, Rahmat Ullah 38, Keshav Kumar 35, Mohammed three for 33) lost to Tamil Nadu 218 for three in 46.5 overs (Vijay Shankar 91 n.o, B. Aparajith 52 n.o., Abhinav Mukund 37).

Harmanpreet helps India thrash Spain

In the women's Test, Gurjit's strike stuns Great Britain

HOCKEY

SPORTS BUREAU
ANTWERP

Dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as the Indian men's hockey team routed European runner-up Spain 6-1 in their Test match on Saturday.

Skipper Manpreet Singh opened the scoring in the 24th minute before strikes from Nilakanta Sharma, Mandeep Singh and Rupinderpal Singh sealed India's biggest win against Spain.

After the first half drew a blank, India went on the offensive in the second. After Manpreet's goal, Harmanpreet doubled the lead in the 28th minute off a penalty corner. However, Pau Quemada reduced Spain's deficit to 1-2 in the very next minute.

Three minutes later, Harmanpreet sounded the boards with a drag flick. Nilakanta made it 4-1 in the 39th from open play while Mandeep added another in the 56th. In the 60th, Rupinderpal's drag flick completed the rout.

At Marlow (United Kingdom), Gurjit Kaur's last-minute effort saw the Indian women beat Great Britain 2-1 in a thrilling opening encounter of the five-match series.

It was a brilliant come-from-behind victory for India after trailing 0-1. Sharmila Devi got India's other goal.

After a barren first half, India took control of the game and won a couple of penalty corners in the first few minutes forcing smart saves from custodian Maddie Hinch. At the other end, Britain was also thwarted by goalkeeper Savita Punia.

Britain broke through first in the final quarter, with Emily Defrond scoring in the 46th minute. India mounted pressure and soon reaped the dividends with Sharmila restoring parity.

The match looked like ending in a draw but with 48 seconds left, India won a short corner and Gurjit successfully converted it.

The results:
Men: At Antwerp: India 6 (Harmanpreet 2, Manpreet, Nilakanta, Mandeep, Rupinderpal) bt Spain 1 (Quemada).
Women: At Marlow: India 2 (Gurjit, Sharmila) bt Great Britain 1 (Defrond).

Vijay Hazare Trophy scores

GROUP A (BENGALURU)

- Mumbai 317 for five in 50 overs (Aditya Tare 90, Surya Kumar Yadav 81, Shreyas Iyer 50) lost to Chhattisgarh 318 for five in 49.5 overs (Amandeep Khare 117 n.o., Jiwanjot Singh 44, Shams Mulani three for 33)
- Hyderabad 252 for five in 50 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 79, Tilak Verma 65) bt Saurashtra 131 in 39.1 overs (Sheldon Jackson 39, B. Sandeep five for 26)
- Karnataka 294 in 49.5 overs (K.L. Rahul 131, Manish Pandey 50, K.M. Asif three for 59) bt Kerala 234 in 46.4 overs (Vishnu Vinod 104, Sanju Samson 67, Ronit More three for 42)

GROUP B (VADODARA)

- Delhi vs Himachal Pradesh; Odisha vs Punjab; Baroda vs Vidharba. *Matches washed out*

GROUP C (JAIPUR)

- Bihar 217 for seven in 50 overs (Babul Kumar 110, Rahmat Ullah 38, Keshav Kumar 35, M. Mohammed three for 33) lost to Tamil Nadu 218 for three in 46.5 overs (Vijay Shankar 91 n.o., B. Aparajith 52 n.o.)
- Gujarat 281 for nine in 50 overs (Parthiv Patel 90, Bhargav Merai 69, Ishwar Pandey four for 46, Gourav Yadav three for 46) bt Madhya Pradesh 246 in 50 overs (Rajat Patidar 71, Arzan Nagwaswalla three for 50)
- Services 276 for six in 50 overs (Nakul Verma 52, Ravi Chauhan 49) lost to Bengal 277 for six in 49.4 overs (Abhishek Raman 106, Wriddhiman Saha 43)

PLATE (AT DEHRADUN)

- Uttarakhand 172 in 46.4 overs (Dhanraj Sharma 76, Sagar Trivedi six for 50) vs Puducherry. *Abandoned*
- Manipur 120 in 30.4 overs (Yashpal Singh four for 22, Iqbal Abdulla three for four) vs Sikkim zero for two in 1 over. *Abandoned*
- Meghalaya vs Arunachal Pradesh. *Abandoned*

SUNDAY'S MATCHES (9 A.M. START)

Group B (Vadodara): Delhi vs Odisha; Maharashtra vs Punjab; Vidarbha vs Haryana

Group A (Bengaluru): Andhra vs Chhattisgarh; Goa vs Jharkhand; Hyderabad vs Kerala

Kashyap bows to Momota

KOREA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INCHEON

P. Kashyap's impressive run at the Korea Open Super 500 tournament came to an end after he lost to World No. 1 Kento Momota of Japan in the semifinals here on Saturday.

A former World No. 6, Kashyap, who was the lone Indian left in the fray, was beaten 21-13, 21-15 by the two-time reigning World champion in 40 minutes.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medallist last played Momota four years ago at the Indonesia Open.

The 33-year-old from Hyderabad, who had reached the Canada Open final this year, showed the intent to hang on in the rallies.

However, he had no answers to Momota's precision.

Diljith rises to the occasion on day one

Gaikwad makes the most of Muzammil's misfortune

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Smooth drive: T.S. Diljith leading the Dark Don Racing pack in the Formula LGB4 class. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

T.S. Diljith of Dark Don Racing pulled the best out of his bag when it mattered most to finish on top in the opening race of the Formula LGB4 class in the JK Tyre FMSCI National racing championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Saturday.

Diljith is a fighter but he has been overshadowed by both Raghul Rangasamy, the championship leader, and Vishnu Prasad. The duo had called the shots so far but, this time around, Diljith did one better and, with it, collected ten points.

His teammates A. Sandeep Kumar and Ashwin Datta had to rest content for the second and third places.

In the JK Tyre Suzuki Gixxer Cup, Pune's Tanay Gaikwad made the most of Bengaluru's Muzammil Ali's misfortune. The two riders, tied at the top of the leaderboard at the start of the round, were engaged in a keen tussle in Race 1 before Muzammil fell off the bike to clear the path for his closest rival.

In the JK Tyre Novice Cup, it was Mohammed Ryan of MSport all the way.

He won both the races in a commanding manner.

The results (provisional, day one):

JK Tyre Novice Cup (Race 1): 1. Mohamed Ryan (MSport) 12:15.739; 2. Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsports) 12:19.626; 3. Mihir Avalakki (Birel Art) 12:25.387.

Race 2: 1. Mohamed Ryan (MSport) 14:15.956; 2. Himanshu Thukral (MSport) 14:18.548; 3. Kishore (DTS Racing) 14:19.647.

JK Tyre Suzuki Gixxer Cup (Race 1): 1. Tanay Gaikwad 14:11.820; 2. N. Jagadeesh 14:16.047; 3. Sidharth Sajan 14:17.570.

JK Tyre Formula LGB4 (Race 1): 1. T.S Diljith (Dark Don Racing) 20:52.145; 2. A. Sandeep Kumar (Dark Don Racing) 20:52.462; 3. Ashwin Datta (Dark Don Racing) 20:55.619.

Nagal storms into final

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
BUENOS AIRES

Seventh seed Sumit Nagal was in explosive form as he demolished 108th-ranked Thiago Monteiro of Brazil 6-0, 6-1 in the semifinals of the $54,160 Challenger tennis tournament here on Saturday.

Sumit won the first eight games before allowing the Brazilian a token game, in a match that lasted 55 minutes. Sumit won 54 points to 23 by his opponent, and did not face a single break-point.

After winning his three earlier rounds in tough three-setters, it was a big change in fortunes for the 22-year-old Sumit, ranked 161st in the world.

In the final, Sumit will play the winner of the match between third seed Leonardo Mayer and eighth seed Facundo Mena of Argentina. **The results:**

$54,160 Challenger, Buenos Aires: Semifinals: Sumit Nagal bt Thiago Monteiro (Bra) 6-0, 6-1; **Quarterfinals:** Nagal bt Francisco Cerundolo (Arg) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Nanchang: Doubles (final): Vladimir Ivanov (Est) & Yan Sabanin (Rus) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-4, 7-5.

Vishnu outplays Atharva

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Former National champion Vishnu Vardhan outplayed second seed Atharva Sharma 9-2 in the first qualifying round of the Fenesta National tennis championship on Saturday.

Vishnu is scheduled to meet Ihsan Mahmood in the second qualifying round.

In a tight contest, Ritik Rana pipped Aakash Ahlawat 9-8(4) to set up a second round clash against top seed Lakshit Sood. Fourth seed Abhishek Gaur beat Joseph Khuma 9-3 to set up a second round against Alex Solanki. B.R. Nikshep will have an interesting second round against Anvit Bendre, a 9-5 winner over Sivadeep Kosaraju.

In the women's section, third seed Salsa Aher will play Reshma Maruri in the second round after a bye in the first.

Rashmikaa Shrivalli Bhamidipaty warmed up with a 9-2 win over Ishwari Matere, and will play seventh seed Adrija Biswas.

In the under-18 boys' event, Rhythm Malhotra outplayed fourth seed Ashish Bawra 9-0. Harsh Raghav beat sixth seed Amit Dahiya 9-7, while Ananth Muni accounted for seventh seed Tushar Mittal 9-3.

In the girls' event, Niharika Deshmukh fought her way past Sweta Rana 9-8(6) while Aarti Jain battled hard with Drishti Jain before prevailing 9-8(5).

Anish Shetty rules in Pro-Stock

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Bengaluru-based fitness trainer Anish Damodara Shetty (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) posted his sixth win in a row to clinch the Pro-Stock 201-300cc title in the fifth and final round of the MRF-MMSC fMSCI National motorcycle racing championships here on Saturday.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Mohamed Mikail from Chennai chalked up his sixth consecutive win and seventh from eight starts in the NSF 250R (FIM Moto3-spec bikes) category of the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup. Finishing second behind Mikail was 12-year-old Sarthak Shrikant Chavan from Pune.

Also scoring a decisive win was Abhimanyu Gautam (Sparks Racing) from Jind, Haryaya, in the Novice (Stock 165cc) category to move to the top of the leaderboard in this class.

Experienced Sarath Kumar (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) eked out a close win over TVS Racing's Jagan Kumar to jump into championship lead in the Pro-Stock 165cc category. He leads teammate Rajiv Sethu by six points.

In command: Anish Shetty sealed the championship in the Pro-Stock 201-300cc. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results (Provisional, all 6 laps unless mentioned):

National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc (Race-1, 4 laps): 1. Karthik Mateti (Gusto Racing India) (07:43.694); 2.Rahil PIllari Shetty (Sparks Racing) (07:45.529); 3. KY Ahamed (TVS Racing) (07:45.650).

Pro-Stock 201-300cc (Race-1, 4 laps): 1. Ansih D Shetty (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) (08:02.611); 2. S. Mathana Kumar (Honda Erula Atomic Racing) (08:04.556); 3. P.K. Mithun Kumar (Honda Erula Atomic Racing) (08:06.279).

Pro-Stock 165cc (Race-1, 4 laps): 1. S. Sarath Kumar (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) (08:05.465); 2. K Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing) (08:05.639); 3. K. Kannan (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) (08:06.066).

Novice (Stock 165cc) Race-1: 1. Abhimanyu Gautam (Sparks Racing) (13:05.011); 2. Manoj Y (Team Motomaniacz Racing) (13:08.802); 3. Annish Samson (Team Speed-Up Racing) (13:08.970).

One-Make Championship organised by MMSC: Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup – NSF 250R (Race-1): 1. Md Mikail (Chennai) (11:07.289); 2. Sarthak Shrikant Chavan (Pune) (11:10.531); 3. Kritik Vasant Habib (Gadag) (11:10.624). **CBR 150 (Race-1):** 1. Lal Nunsanga (Aizwal) (13:11.576); 2. AS James (Chennai) (13:14.024); 3. Samuel Martin (Bengaluru) (13:15.938).

TVS Open (RR 310) Race-1): 1. P.M. Soorya (Chennai) (11:56.038); 2. R. Anand (Chennai) (11:57.899); 3. Sivanesan Sethu (Chennai) (12:00.715). **Novice (RTR 200) Race-1:** 1. Anish Samson (Bengaluru) (13:13.028); 2. V. Manoj (Chennai) (13:13.061); 3. Ullas Santrupt (Bengaluru) (13:13.188).

Girls (RTR 200) 5 laps: 1. Lakiya Lee (Chennai) (11:29.416); 2. Nivetha Jessica (Chennai) (11:39.457); 3. Haritha Muralikrishnan (Chennai) (11:40.534).

Ready to rock at Rome

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

After having proved their mettle in the karting challenges, Suriyavarathan Karthikeyan and Shravanthika Lakshmi are now keen to take on the best in the Karting Slalom Cup at the inaugural FIA Motorsport Games in Rome in November.

They know it's going to be a huge task but sounded confident of doing well for their country in this competition that features 17 nations. India and Thailand will represent the Asian continent that will see a mixed pair (boy & girl) tackle an obstacle course using a relay format.

The children taking part are all aged between 14 and 16 and they will compete with the identical electric-powered karts.

Suriyavarathan, a class eleven student of the Vivekalaya Prakriya, is the senior of the two and is more experienced, having finished third in the junior category of the X30 karting championship and the Rotax Max National karting championship in 2018. He also went on to win the JK Tyre Formula 1300 Novice Cup the same year.

Suriyavarathan.

Shravanthika.

But an accident in May stopped him from taking further part as he suffered multiple fractures on his arm. He has recovered well and is now ready to play his part in Rome.

Shravanthika is equally fluent in her driving. A class 10 student of C.S. Academy, the girl, an accomplished singer, was scared when she made her motorsport entry in 2017. Today, she is scaring even the big boys with her daredevilry on the track! She says she learnt it all from Akbar Ebrahim, the former F3 champion. Her father Shyam Kumar, an experienced racing steward, is also a guiding force; so was Sajeev M. Rajan, chairman, FMSCI Karting Commission.

"I am prepared. We are also going a day in advance to Rome to get used to the conditions," said Shravanthika, who finished on top in the Sodi Kart four-stroke Junior open and second in ladies class of the JK Tyre National karting championship in Bengaluru last month.

Mary Kom nervous about expectations

The record, six-time gold medallist heads to Russia next week for the World Championships

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

She is the most successful boxer in the history of the amateur World Championships, but India icon M.C. Mary Kom said she was a shade "nervous" heading into her ninth appearance at the showpiece event, not because of the competition but due to the overwhelming expectations at home.

Mary Kom has to her credit six gold medals and a silver in eight World Championship appearances, the last of which was in New Delhi in 2018.

Statistically, she is the most successful boxer in the event and has also earned the moniker 'Magnificent Mary' from the International Boxing Association (AIBA).

In the upcoming edition, from October 3 to 13 in Ulan-Ude, Russia, the seasoned Manipuri spoke about the nerves that can get triggered by expectations despite her wealth of experience.

Here I come! Mary Kom will be eager to make the big leap in the 51kg division where she is yet to win a World crown. ▪PTI

No guarantee

"I say it all the time, I will give my best but cannot guarantee a medal. I tell myself that too but the pressure is always there and so is the stress of handling it. It can make you nervous," the 37-year-old said.

Mary Kom and the rest of the Indian team will leave for the mega-event early on Sunday.

"The World Championship is a familiar space for me but the competition is always new. I am looking forward to it," she said.

The mother of three will be competing in the 51kg category, which is on the Olympic roster. Her last World title came in the 48kg division.

She has dominated 48kg like no one else and has also managed to get the results even in the higher category, the best being the 2012 London Olympics bronze and the 2014 Asian Games gold.

Rare blemish

But none of her World titles have been in the 51kg division. In the 2012 and 2016 editions, she competed in the 51kg category and lost in the quarterfinals on both occasions. That's one rare record she would be aiming to improve next week.

"I have good results in both (48kg and 51kg) and in 51kg, the challenge has always been strength. That's been my focus even for the upcoming World Championships and I am ready for it. It's not a new category for me, but again the results can never be predicted," was her assessment of how the tournament might pan out.

"I just want to give my best and if I am able to do it, gold is never a problem," she added, breaking into a giggle.

This year, Mary Kom won gold medals in the India Open and President's Cup in Indonesia. She skipped the Asian Championships to prepare for the World event.

"I have a good feeling about it. My body feels better than before and the training trip in Italy has also helped immensely. I am keeping my fingers crossed," she said.

Most memorable?

With a soon-to-be nine appearances at the premier event, which one of them would she count as her most memorable?

"I think the one last year. I won a gold, in front of my family, friends and supporters, and proved so many critics wrong. It was quite special," she said.

"But, yeah, that kind of emotionally overwhelming experience makes you realise how much people expect from you. I hope I can deliver this time too," she said. "The rest of the things, I will speak after the World championships," said Mary.

TNCA has no option, but to modify its Constitution: Rai

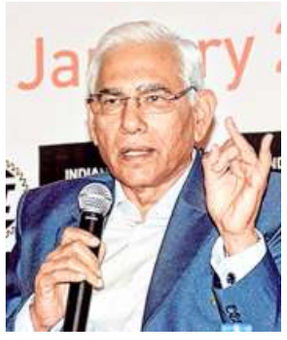
CoA had pointed out 21 diversions with reference to two apex court orders

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Even as many BCCI member associations went through their elections during the week-end to enable them to take part in the election at the annual general meeting of the BCCI here on October 22, the cricketing fraternity in the country is watching the response from the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) after it was told by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) that there are 21 diversions in its amended Constitution and hence the State is not compliant of the Supreme Court judgement of Aug. 9, 2018 and Sept. 20, 2019. Both orders relate to the Justice Lodha Reforms In Cricket Report.

After examining the TNCA Constitution sent to the CoA by former secretary R.I. Palani on Sept. 25, the CoA said that "various amendments have been made by the TNCA on a deliberate misinterpretation of the order of 20th Sept. 2018" and that it needs to accurately amend its Constitution.

The CoA told the TNCA to revert with a registered Constitution compliant with the two Supreme Court orders, before Oct. 4.



Vinod Rai ▪FILE PHOTO

Responding to current situation that the TNCA is in, the head of the CoA, Vinod Rai told *The Hindu* that "the TNCA has no option, but to modify its Constitution" in order to be in terms with the two apex court orders.

Rai further said: "If 30 odd other members can do it, why not TNCA?"

In the event of the TNCA disagreeing to amend its Constitution as directed by the CoA, Rai said: "We can only take the horse to the water, but can't make it drink.

"If the TNCA does not agree, it can go to the Court."

Participation in AGM

When asked if the TNCA would be allowed to take part in the AGM, Rai said: "That will be decided by the Electoral Officer. Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Mr. N. Gopalaswami, who is the BCCI Electoral Officer, has stated in the election schedule note that he will only entertain BCCI members who are determined to be BCCI Constitution-compliant by the CoA.

Following the Supreme Court order of Sept. 20, the TNCA conducted its election on Sept. 26 and elected Rupa Gurunath as its president, unopposed.

The TNCA elected two vice-presidents, an anomaly the CoA has noted and said the Supreme Court order only allowed it to elect an assistant secretary in addition to the other five office-bearers.

The CoA defined office-bearers as president (1), vice-president (1), secretary (1), jt. secretary (1), treasurer (1) and assistant secretary (1).

Paes all praise for Nagal

Calls for consistency from young crop

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI

Sumit Nagal's US Open main draw debut was a fantastic achievement, says tennis ace Leander Paes. Contemporaries like Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran need to come up with quality performances on a consistent basis, he says.

Paes was speaking on the sidelines of an event linked to the second Tennis Premiere League, featuring eight teams and to be played here in December.

Nagal is one of the young Indians on the circuit, whose big chance came at the US Open opposite Roger Federer.

Paes said: "To qualify for the US Open is fantastic. Going up against Federer on the main court at Arthur Ashe Stadium is a daunting task.

"I thought he handled himself very well. The challenge will be to sustain that performance consistently."

The Indian lost, in four sets, but earned appreciation from the Swiss ace for composure on court.

Leander Paes. ▪FILE PHOTO

A veteran of multiple Grand Slams in singles and doubles, Paes pointed out that the 22-year-old also plays in Challengers and has been part of Davis Cup squads.

"Likewise, if you look at Nagal's contemporaries, Ramkumar Ramanathan for example had a great run in Newport last year, did decently in the Challengers and in the Pune Open.

Pranjesh also is developing well, a big, tall left-hander with a big serve. For all these talented, hard-working boys, consistency is the way forward."

> **For all these talented, hard-working boys, consistency is the way forward**

TPL mentor and co-owner of city franchise team Leon Army, Paes dwelt on the difficulties faced by youngsters competing on the pro circuit.

"Indian boys and girls are going out there, on tour week after week and spending from their own pockets to get the right coaching.

"Spending money to travel internationally to tournaments is not an easy task. These athletes, who are self-employed, are out there spending more money than they earn," he said.

On TPL's role, he said: "It's our job to get them the marketing, the publicity, the limelight and motivation to maximise their careers."

Players confirmed for TPL-2 include internationals Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, Saketh Myneni, Purav Raja, Vishnu Vardhan, Ankita Raina, Y. Pranjala and Rutuja Bhosale.

Cycle Polo League from Nov. 5

Plan is to bring the game to the masses

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

The first ever Cycle Polo League(CPL) will be played at the Rajasthan Polo Club in Jaipur starting from November 25 to 29. Five teams will be playing in the inaugural edition which includes 40 Indian and 10 foreign players. The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Cycling Polo Federation of India's member State associations will help in bringing the game to the masses.

Cycle Polo, an exhibition sport in 1908 London Olympics, was played in summer months by Royal families of Jaipur, Baria and Patiala, to name a few.

Air Marshal P.P. Bapat pointed towards India's performance in the World Cycle Polo Championships and the importance of this league, "It's a very important development for the game of cycle polo in India. After participating and winning medals in seven World Cycle Polo Championships it was high time that the game got its due recognition. I believe the Cycle Polo League is the first step in that direction."

Let's do it: Assarudeen Sha, who switched from football to cycle polo, pleaded for government support.

Veteran cycle polo promoter, Yashwant Singh of Alwar, was delighted. "This is great development for this exciting sport. I am so happy there is money to be made by the players now. I am sure it will catch up with the masses because the equipment is not expensive."

There is a lot of difference between polo and cycle polo. In polo it's all about controlling the horse and hitting the ball. However, in cycle polo, the challenge is to ride and control the bicycle on your own. Popular player Assarudeen Sha shared his experience of playing cycle polo.

"I was a national football player from Kerala but when I played this game I fell in love with it. It's all about balance, agility and mental sharpness. Our feet are in the air, we have to control the cycle and manage to make our shots. We need to be in action all the time." Sha also pleaded for government support.

An Indian team will travel to Argentina in December to participate in the World Championship.

Mendiratta on the mark

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU
ALMATY

Bhowneesh Mendiratta beat Li Siwei of China 44-41 for the junior men's trap gold in the ninth Asian Shotgun championship here on Saturday.

It was a double delight for Bhowneesh, as he won the team gold with Vivaan Kapoor and Vishwa Kundu, who also made the finals but placed fourth and fifth respectively, behind the Chinese. It was a memorable day for Bhowneesh, a student of Sri Venkateshwara College, who lives in Faridabad, as he qualified on top with 116, following rounds of 25, 21, 23, 24 and 23. Vishwa Kundu had shot 115 in qualification, the same as Li Siwei of China, but the latter shot up to the silver, leaving the bronze to compatriot Zhai Jiongyan.Kirti Gupta had won the individual gold in junior women's trap earlier and the girls had won the team silver.

Earlier, Indian juniors had won two individual skeet bronze medals, and the team silver.

The results: Junior men: 1. Bhowneesh Mendiratta 44 (116); 2. Li Siwei (Chn) 41 (115); 3. Zhai Jiongyan (Chn) 30 (110); 4. Vivaan 25 (110); 5. Vishwa 22 (115). **Team:** 1. India 341; 2. China 322; 3. Kuwait 288.

Champions: Vivaan Kapoor, Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Vishwa Kundu won the team gold ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Paes, Krishnan to guide CLTA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Chandigarh Lawn Tennis Association (CLTA), at its annual general meeting here on Saturday, constituted a technical committee comprising Leander Paes and Ramesh Krishnan to guide in the growth of the game.

Vishwajeet Khanna was elected president, while Sudhir Rajpal and Gurkirat Kirpal Singh were elected secretary and treasurer respectively for a four-year period.

The newly-formed technical committee will take inputs from internationally acclaimed players as well as distinguished individuals associated with the sport in the region.

In another important decision, it was finalised to have 44 more rural trainees from Punjab. Thus, there will be one boy and one girl chosen from each of Punjab's 22 districts. These children will be supported by the Punjab government and their training, housing and education will be arranged by CLTA.

The CLTA also has a tie up with Montemar Academy in Alicante, Spain.

Gujarat CA drops president from polls

Nathwani's choice as VP raises eyebrows

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

For reasons not known, the Gujarat Cricket Association did not elect its president to succeed the outgoing GCA president, Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister.

At its AGM in Ahmedabad on Saturday, its members chose Dhanraj Nathwani as vice-president.

Nathwani, according to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) website, is the president of the Gujarat State Football Association. Even the GSFA website says so. Nathwani is the son of Parimal Nathwani, the outgoing GCA vice-president and an independent Rajya Sabha member from Jharkhand.

In an election notice served to its members on Sept. 11, the former joint-secretary of the GCA Bharat Dudhia and Electoral Officer Varesh Sinha had clearly said that a candidate can file nomination for election if he/she "does not hold any office or post in a sports or athletic association or federation apart from cricket."

Justice Lodha's reforms in cricket report, accepted by the Supreme Court, highlighted the above point and Ahmedabad locals who follow cricket are clueless as to how Nathwani was elected.

Apart from Nathwani, others elected were: Ashok Brahmbhatt (secretary), Anil Patel (jt. secertary) and Bharat Zaveri (treasuer), all unopposed.

Jay Shah, son of Amit Shah, is expected to represent the GCA at the BCCI AGM on Oct. 22. The AGM was also attended by Dhiraj Jogani, who is on the payrolls of the GCA, and according the associations account books, he is the GCA's CEO.

Delhi Hurricanes makes it a hat-trick

Trumps Bombay Gymkhana in final

RUGBY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Delhi Hurricanes completed a hat-trick of titles downing former champion Bombay Gymkhana 26-6 in the final of the 86th all-India and South Asia Rugby XVs at the CC&FC here on Saturday.

Hurricanes, a late entrant in the premier inter-club rugby tournament, dented the pride of 15-time champion Bombay Gymkhana with a powerful show in the second half. With rain turning the turf slushy, the opening half saw Gymkhana enjoying more possession as Hurricanes found it difficult to adjust to the conditions.

Odisha women triumph

Earlier, Odisha RFC had spoiled Hurricanes chances of a grand double when it beat the women's team 5-0 in the final.

Finalists in all the four editions since the tournament began in 2016, Odisha women have won the title thrice.

The result: Men's final: Delhi Hurricanes 26 (Deepak Punia 1 try, 3 conversions) bt Bombay Gymkhana 6.

Women: Odisha 5 (Hupi Majhi 1 try) bt Delhi Hurricanes 0.

Haria — enamoured by classical billiards

Awestruck by Advani's allround skills

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Dhvaj Haria firmly believes one can make a career in any sport, not just cricket, chess and badminton.

The man from Gujarat, employed by Indian Oil, swears by traditional billiards, which he says is a very pure form of the green baize sport. He counts legends like Wilson Jones, Michael Ferreira, Geet Sethi and Pankaj Advani among those who inspired him to take up cue sports.

Haria prefers billiards, but does not altogether neglect snooker, which has a bigger base and fan following.

"I prefer billiards and the long format as against the 150-up. The 150-up is like a T20 match, it's fast and attacking, while the longer format is like a Test match that brings in tactics and involves playing all the shots," he says.

"In the 150-up, every visit counts. You cannot relax. Now a lot of snooker players play the 150-up. There is more of potting, safety and accuracy. The longer format is all about stamina and how you play. I prefer billiards, it's given me better results. Snooker is a harsh game," says Haria.

Dhvaj Haria. ▪FILE PHOTO

Applauding Pankaj Advani's success in all formats – billiards, snooker and Reds – Haria said: "He plays back-to-back, billiards and snooker. I don't know how he does it. He gets to know the table quickly. And in any given condition, he performs. Once you know the environment, get a feel of it and play in it, you perform. Pankaj does that."

Haria has wins against some of the greatest billiards players like Mike Russell and Peter Gilchrist.

I struggled to hold back my tears: Chahal

Leggie recalls turning emotional after Dhoni's dismissal in WC semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The World Cup semifinal loss to New Zealand in July still fresh in his mind, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal said he struggled to hold back his tears when M.S. Dhoni got out in that match at Old Trafford.

Chasing 240, Chahal walked into bat after Dhoni fell in the 49th over against New Zealand in the rain-affected semifinal, which India lost by 18 runs.

Dhoni stitched a 116-run stand with Ravindra Jadeja to get India close after it was tottering at 92 for six at one stage. But Dhoni's dismissal, run out on 50, crushed India's hopes of reaching the final.

Depressing

"It was my first World Cup and when Mahi *bhai* got out and I was going in (to bat), I was trying to hold back my tears. It was so depressing," Chahal said at the 10th edition of *India Today* Mind Rocks Youth Summit here.

Yuzvendra Chahal. ▪REUTERS

"We played so well for nine games but suddenly we were going out of the tournament. Rain wasn't in our hands and so it won't be right to say anything (about the interruption). It was the first time that we really wanted to go back to the hotel as soon as possible from the ground."

India had earlier topped the league stage with seven wins from nine games.

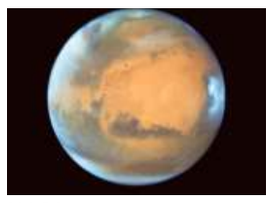
Since the 50-over World Cup, Chahal has played only one ODI and has also been ignored from India's T20 scheme of things ahead of next year's T20 World Cup.

IN BRIEF

Stormy Daniels wins $450,000 payout

WASHINGTON

American porn star Stormy Daniels, who claims to have had an affair with Donald Trump before he became U.S. President, has won $450,000 in a settlement with the city of Columbus, Ohio, over what she termed a false arrest last year at a strip club. AFP



NASA to send microchip full of names to Mars

NEW YORK

NASA is inviting people around the world to submit their names on its website so as to etch them on a microchip that will be sent to Mars. The chip will be placed aboard the Mars 2020 rover. The names can be submitted before September 30.

Metallica postpone Australia, NZ tour

WASHINGTON

Metallica are postponing their upcoming tour of Australia and New Zealand after lead vocalist James Hetfield re-entered rehab for his addiction, the American band has announced. The band tweeted that it will fully refund all tickets. AFP

Spider-Man gets another swing with Marvel

LOS ANGELES

Spider-Man is not leaving the Marvel Cinematic Universe. After a public fallout last month, Sony Pictures Entertainment and The Walt Disney Studios have found a way to work together to produce a third *Spider-Man* film starring Tom Holland. AP

Mark Twain enthusiasts discover Sam Clemens' sign on cave wall

The place appears in the classic *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* published in 1876

ASSOCIATED PRESS

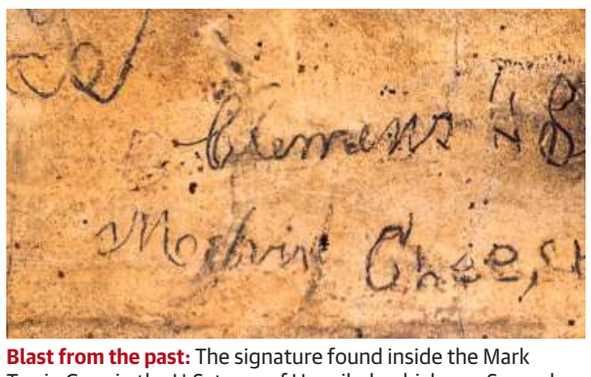
A pair of Mark Twain enthusiasts say they have found what appears to be Samuel Clemens' signature from his youth scrawled on the wall of the Missouri cave he made famous in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

In the mid-1800s, long before he took on the pen name Mark Twain, Clemens and his young pals romped around the cave near river Mississippi on the outskirts of Hannibal in the U.S.

As a group of Twain scholars toured what is now known as the Mark Twain Cave this summer, Linda Coleberd, Cindy Lovell and two others broke off in search of the elusive signature, which was believed to be among the thousands of names signed on the cave's limestone walls.

As Ms. Coleberd waved the group's lone flashlight around an otherwise dark area of the cave, Ms. Lovell says she happened to catch the beam of light as it shone on a signature – "Clemens" – written in pencil.

Ms. Lovell, former director of Hannibal's Mark Twain Museum who now works in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, couldn't contain her excitement. "I started yelling, 'Clemens! Clemens! I see Clemens!'" she recalled. It wasn't until weeks later that a high-resolution photo of the signature revealed "Sam" etched at the same place, indicating the signature was that of the famed author and not a relative.



Blast from the past: The signature found inside the Mark Twain Cave in the U.S. town of Hannibal, which was Samuel Clemens' boyhood home. ▪ DAVID LEANING/AP

The signature was discovered in July, but details weren't announced until this week, only after several Twain experts were able to study the signature.

Clemens was born in Florida, Missouri, in 1835, but his family moved to Hannibal when he was four. He stayed until he was 17, and the people and places he knew from the rough-hewn river town were fodder for his most famous works.

The cave itself became a tourist destination after the 1876 publication of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, as people flocked to the place that inspired some of the book's key adventures where Tom and Becky got lost, where Tom and Huck found the treasure box, and where Injun Joe died.

Today, the cave, which is five km long, is among the most popular tourist sites in the town.

2,50,000 names

The cave's size and popularity made finding any hint of Clemens' signature difficult because the brown walls are covered with an estimated 2,50,000 names scrawled in everything from pencil to candle wax to berry juice. It wasn't until 1979, after the cave was named a U.S. National Historic Landmark, that writing on the walls was prohibited.

On July 26, Ms. Lovell and Ms. Coleberd decided to search again.

They had wandered for only a few moments when Ms. Lovell says she made her startling discovery. She took cellphone photos and immediately began sharing them with experts to authenticate the signature.

Ms. Lovell meanwhile took her brother-in-law, David Leaning, to the site with his high-resolution camera. His photos showed the word "Sam" or "Saml" (a common abbreviation for Samuel in the mid-19th century) etched, but not written, at the same site. Ms. Lovell believes Clemens likely started to etch his name, found it difficult, and wrote his last name "in a beautiful cursive" in pencil.

Two leading experts on Twain have agreed that the signature is likely authentic.

Kevin Mac Donnell, who owns a large collection of Twain first-edition books, letters, photos and artifacts, said the signature traits including rounded humps on the "m" and a short tail on the "s," match up with Clemens' signature from 1853, the year he moved away from Hannibal.

Making strides: Daisy-May Demetre presenting a creation by designer Eni Hegedus-Buiron in Paris. ▪ REUTERS

Double amputee girl catwalks on the Eiffel

9-year-old makes debut in Paris show

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

A British girl who lost both her legs when she was just 18 months old has made her Paris catwalk debut on the Eiffel Tower.

Nine-year-old Daisy-May Demetre from Birmingham walked for a luxury French children's brand in the show high on the Paris landmark on Friday and said the experience "makes me feel pretty and special".

Daisy-May was born with fibular hemimelia, where part or all of the bone in the lower leg is missing.

She had to have the double amputation while still a baby and later received prosthetic legs on which she learned to walk.

The Paris show was her third appearance as a model for the label Lulu et Gigi, after New York and London fashion weeks.

Her father Alex Demetre said the disabled community were behind his daughter.

And he said he was not surprised at all the attention.

Role model

"I'm not surprised because I know what Daisy is like, she's an exceptional young girl proving that disability doesn't hold you back and she's a great role model for anybody trying to pursue their dreams.

"Any goal she has in her head I think she can achieve, anything she chooses to do. That's a great feeling as a parent," Mr. Demetre added.

Oxford varsity plans diversity drive in U.K.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

The University of Oxford is planning to issue a new 'family guide' translated into Hindi, Urdu and Bengali to reach out to the U.K.'s ethnic minority households in order to address the challenge of attracting students from all backgrounds.

The diversity drive follows research which found that the extended family can play a crucial role in youngsters' decision making about the university, especially from South Asian backgrounds.

"In the past we have thought about mum and dad. The research has made us think more widely, about grandad, grandma, aunts and uncles," Dr. Samina Khan, Oxford's director of undergraduate admissions, told *The Daily Telegraph*.

Oxford's new family guide will include information on what it is like to study at the university and what support is available for students. A number of colleges have started piloting "family days" where prospective students and their relatives are invited to meet tutors. Earlier, Oxford University announced it will offer places with lower grades to students from disadvantaged backgrounds for the first time in its 900-year history.

Palaeo-artist breathes new life into ancient fossils

Viktor Radermacher describes his work as 'the closest thing that we have to time travel'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JOHANNESBURG

It measures up to 10 metres from snout to tail, has four stumpy legs and – most noticeable of all – boasts a jaw lined with scary, jagged teeth.

Even in pastel colours, this depiction of a rauisuchian – a forerunner of today's crocodiles that roamed the world more than 200 million years ago in the Triassic period – causes a shiver to run down the spine.

Yet the drawing of the dino-chomping terror is not part of a teen sci-fi magazine, but an illustration to accompany a deeply serious scientific study published by South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand.

Watchful gaze: Even in pastels, this depiction of a rauisuchian sends a shiver down the spine. ▪ VIKTOR RADERMACHER

It is the work of Viktor Radermacher, a South African who is half scientist and half artist.

He is a "palaeo-artist" – his job is to give the world an idea of what these long-extinct species looked like, but rooted in scientific scrutiny of their fossilised remains.

"Palaeo-art is... trying our best to reconstruct what these animals look like and try to breathe some life into these old stone bones," said Mr. Radermacher.

Realism and drama

"Whenever I'm doing these artworks I'm trying to inject some realism but still inject some sort of drama and some sort of exciting composition that shows off these animals behaving naturally, but also showing off the scientific relevance." He added: "For me, palaeo-art really is the closest thing that we have to time travel."

Jonah Choiniere, a professor of palaeontology at the university, said researchers had submitted a 30-page study to describe their findings about a exceptionally preserved rauisuchian fossil, found in Rosendal, central South Africa, in 2015.

"The artwork Viktor is doing summarises those 30 pages in about a quarter of a page worth of space," he said.

Global fame: Visitors walk through the exhibition titled *Heidi in Japan*, held in Zurich. ▪ AFP

How little Heidi conquered Japan

Character started an anime revolution

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ZURICH

Heidi and Super Mario may not seem to have much in common but anime and video game aficionados will detect the signature style of Japanese character designer Yoichi Kotabe in both.

Far from the Swiss Alps, the cherished 19th century storybook character Heidi has played an unlikely role in the creation of Japan's now booming anime industry.

The story of the little orphan girl who goes to live with her gruff grandfather in the mountains took Japan by storm in the 1970s with the animation series *Alps no Shojo Heidi* (*Heidi: A Girl of the Alps*).

The 52-part TV show, which became a worldwide hit, marked a turning point in the careers of its creators, including Mr. Kotabe.

He was subsequently recruited by video game pioneer Nintendo to redesign a host of characters in Mario.

Heidi also boosted the standing of director Isao Takahata, best known for the animated war film *Grave of the Fireflies*, and Hayao Miyazaki, creator of films *Spirited Away* and *My Neighbour Totoro*. The two joined forces to set up the celebrated anime Studio Ghibli.

Heidi's Japanese adventure is explored in an exhibition at the Swiss National Museum in Zurich, running until October 13.

Mr. Kotabe has been invited to take part in the event to explain the genesis of the character he first began sketching nearly four decades ago.

"The goal was to have a little girl who was 'kawaii', as cute as possible," he said, describing how he had first drawn her with large eyes, a big smile, but also "little braids".

Short hair

But he said that when he presented his first sketches, a specialist on the 1880 novel by Johanna Spyri pointed out that "Heidi is a five year-old girl who lives in the mountains with her grandfather, who is not very friendly".

"He is not going to do her braids every morning."

Kotabe was prompted to rethink her image and gave Heidi the ruffled, short, dark locks that fans of the series saw from the first episode in 1974.

Honey heals wounds of war in Colombia

Families of Chengue thankful to bees

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHENGUE

Covered from head to toe in a protective suit, Yina Ortiz peers through a veil to check in on her beehive.

It is one of hundreds that form a lifeline for her remote village, helping to heal the wounds of one of the Colombian conflict's most brutal atrocities.

Rightwing paramilitaries stormed the village in the dead of night and used machetes to hack 27 people to death, accusing them of collaborating with leftist guerrillas.

The attack 18 years ago was one of the conflict's worst atrocities.

Ms. Ortiz, a young girl then, survived the attack on her village of Chengue in the northern Montes de Maria region. But she lost several members of her family as well as close friends.

Now 33, her memories are still clear, particularly of "the dead lying in the streets the next day".

More than a hundred families fled in the wake of the atrocity, leaving behind a ghost village.

But nearly two decades later, life has slowly returned to the dusty village, in part because of the lure of bees. A programme initiated by Ortiz and a group of industrious local women helped bring apiculture to Chengue and it hasn't looked back.

Bees on a honeycomb frame in Chengue.

A homecoming

"Thanks to beekeeping, people have united, returned, they enjoy taking care of the bees," she said.

For the past year, the 159 families of Chengue alternate between agricultural work and caring for the 500 hives donated by the government and the United Nations, as part of a collective programme for survivors of armed conflict.

"We used to be all over the place, some people were in Ovejas, others in Sincelejo, but we need to heal wounds and now, thanks to the beekeeping, people have come back, they like to be with the bees, to study the life of the bees."

For Ms. Ortiz, apiculture also represents a hope of survival for farmers whose mixed crops of tobacco, yam and cassava are gradually drying up because of global warming.

The daredevil strikes

No building too high: French urban climber Alain Robert scaling the 153.8 m tall Skyper building in Frankfurt on Saturday. When he came down, he was escorted by police and faces a fine for his daredevil act. ▪ AFP

Caught in the act: a black hole rips apart an unfortunate star

NASA's telescope captures rare phenomenon

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Scientists have captured a view of a colossal black hole violently ripping apart a doomed star, illustrating a extraordinary and chaotic cosmic event from beginning to end for the first time using NASA's planet-hunting telescope.

The U.S. space agency's orbiting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, better known as TESS, revealed the detailed timeline of a star 375 million light-years away warping and spiralling into the unrelenting gravitational pull of a supermassive black hole.

The star, roughly the same size as the sun, was eventually sucked into oblivion in a rare cosmic occurrence that astronomers call a tidal disruption event, they added.

Astronomers used an international network of telescopes to detect the phenomenon before turning to TESS, whose permanent viewing zones designed to hunt distant planets caught the beginning of the violent event, proving effective its unique method of watching the cosmos.

Stroke of luck

"This was really a combination of both being good and being lucky, and sometimes that's what you need to push the science forward," said astronomer Thomas Holoien of the Carnegie Institution for Science, who led the research published in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

Such phenomena happen when a star ventures too close to a supermassive black hole, objects that reside at the centre of most large galaxies including the Milky Way. The black hole's tremendous gravitational forces tear the star to shreds, with some of its material tossed into space and the rest plunging into the black hole, forming a disk of hot, bright gas as it is swallowed.

"Specifically, we are able to measure the rate at which it gets brighter after it starts brightening, and we also observed a drop in its temperature and brightness that is unique," Mr. Holoien said.

Observing the oscillation of light as the black hole gobbles the star and spews stellar material in an outward spiral could help astronomers understand the behaviour of black holes.