



R.K.S. Bhaduria appointed the next chief of Indian Air Force page 12



Pompeo says U.S. backs Saudi Arabia's right to defend itself page 14



Sale of Air India is truly under way, says Hardeep Singh Puri page 15



Sindhu loses to Ponnappa in pre-quarterfinals of the China Open page 21

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NEARBY



Alka Lamba disqualified from Delhi Assembly

NEW DELHI
Rebel AAP Delhi MLA Alka Lamba was on Thursday disqualified by Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel under the anti-defection law. The Speaker took the decision based on a disqualification petition moved by AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

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FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 8 PAGES
(TABLOID)

'Hug each Kashmiri, build new paradise'

Prime Minister Modi sees attempts from across the border to spread violence in the State

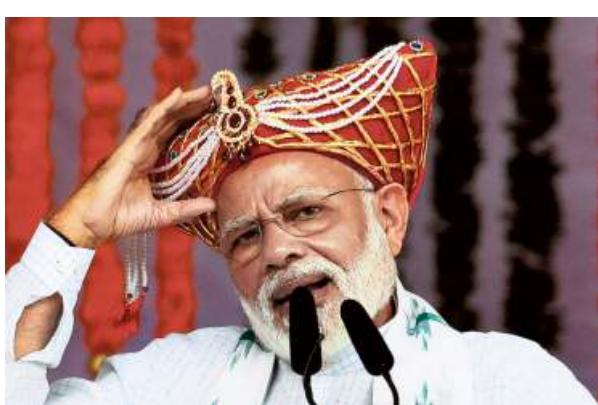
STAFF REPORTER

NASHIK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it was time to build a new Kashmir after the scrapping of Article 370, and the country should unite as one towards this.

"Earlier, the slogan used to be *Kashmir hamara hai* [Kashmir is ours]. This must now change to *Naya Kashmir banana hai* [We must make a new Kashmir]. We have to once again build a paradise [in Kashmir]... hug each Kashmiri," he said at the last rally of the Mahajadash Yatra that was launched by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on August 1.

The scrapping of Article 370 would help to remove Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh from the vicious cycle



New slogan: Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a rally in Nashik on Thursday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

of militancy, violence and corruption. "We had promised the country that we will make fresh attempts to resolve the issues affecting Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. I can happily say today that the country is working

towards fulfilling those dreams." It was not the decision of one government, but the wish of 1.3 crore Indians, he said.

The first 100 days of the government, he said, were marked by "promise, perfor-

mance and delivery". "In the first 100 days, we have given a clear picture of what is to come in the next five years."

Attempts were being made from across the border to spread violence in Kashmir and the Opposition was trying to gain political mileage from an issue which was for the larger good of the country, he observed.

Swipe at Pawar

Taking a swipe at Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar for his remarks on the scrapping of Article 370, Mr. Modi said, "I can understand the Congress's confusion. But Sharad Pawar? A leader as experienced as him makes wrong statements just to gain votes and it hurts me. Mr. Pawar likes our neighbouring coun-

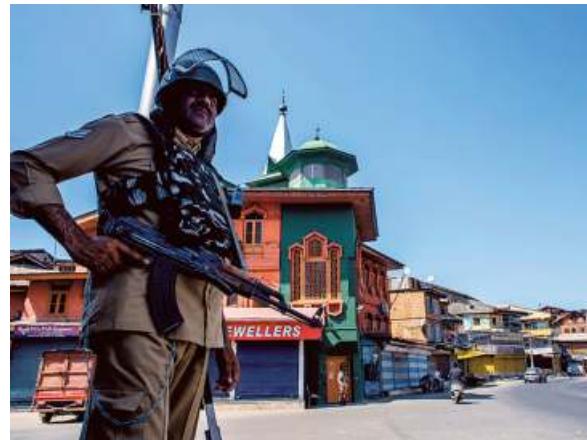
try. The whole of Maharashtra, India and even the world knows where is the factory of terrorism located."

Mr. Modi praised the Maharashtra government, led by Mr. Fadnavis. He said scores of people had blessed the Chief Minister during the course of his 4,000-km State-wide tour, and he had given a stable government despite the BJP not having full majority. He criticised those opposing the national animal disease control programme. He said, "Cattle don't vote." The programme aimed to vaccinate 50 crore livestock across the country, which the Opposition had called a political move.

TRUST JUDICIARY: PM ▶ PAGE 12
NO SCOPE FOR THIRD-PARTY
ROLE: INDIA ▶ PAGE 13

5 leaders, including Mirwaiz, sign bonds to secure release

They undertake not to indulge in any political activity after they are freed



On alert: A soldier maintaining vigil at the commercial hub of the old city in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Protest armada



Fears over livelihood: Country-boat fishermen staging a protest at Morepannai in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu on Thursday against the laying of pipelines for seawater intake for the Uppur thermal power plant. ■ L. BALACHANDAR

In liquidity push, PSBs plan 'loan melas' in 400 districts

Customers can take any type of loan: Finance Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

In a bid to dispel the notion that only the banks have liquidity and it is not flowing to the NBFCs and the customers, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced that all scheduled banks would hold large gatherings in 400 districts, where customers can take any type of loan they want from the banks and the NBFCs partnering with them.

The Finance Ministry, in a release, said banks had entered into 14 tie-ups with



Nirmala Sitharaman.
■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

NBFCs for co-originating loans, with another 36 tie-ups in the pipeline.

She said no MSME-stressed loan would be classified as non-performing as

set until March 31, 2020.

"The perception is that the banks have the liquidity, and this is not going to the NBFCs and from there to the end-customers," she said at a press conference, after meeting the heads of public sector banks. "We have decided that in 200 districts, between now and September 29, there will be gatherings organised by banks of the NBFCs they have partnered with," she added.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
GST COUNCIL MAY REVIEW RATES FOR AUTO SECTOR ▶ PAGE 15

Qualitative change in attitude of hospitals necessary

Panel awards ₹20 lakh compensation

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI

The State consumer disputes redressal forum has ordered a city hospital to pay ₹20 lakh to a couple as compensation for medical negligence which led to the death of their son 16 years ago.

"Awarding compensation to bring about a qualitative change in the attitude of hospitals for providing services to human beings is necessary," observed the consumer forum while hearing a complaint of medical negligence against Shanti Mukund Hospital in east Delhi.

The forum ruled that the

hospital failed to provide "effective treatment" to the patient, which led to his death in 2003, and directed it to pay the sum to his parents, B.D. Sharma and Om Sharma. The hospital was directed to compensate the complainants within two months for the "suffering, mental pain and agony" caused to them.

"Human touch is necessary; that is their [hospital's] code of conduct and that is their duty. The present case is not a complicated surgery or a case of transplant of limbs and organs in the human body," the forum held.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Transport strike leaves commuters stranded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Commuters were left stranded on Thursday as several transport unions organised a day-long strike in the Capital. Several schools re-

mained shut and transportation hubs like the New Delhi railway station and ISBT at Kashmere Gate bore a deserted look as autorickshaws, private buses, app-based cabs and other taxis stayed off the roads.

The strike was called to protest the "hefty" fines being levied under the amended Motor Vehicles Act.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 4

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Keeladi findings traceable to 6th century BCE: report

Carbon dating suggests that the cultural deposits may be 300 years older than believed

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN

CHENNAI

In a major turning point in the cultural historiography of the ancient Sangam Age, the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that the cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district could be safely dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE.

This is the first time the date has been officially announced by the TNAD. The new findings in the report, released on Thursday by



Hoary past: One of the samples collected at the depth of 353 cm goes back to 580 BCE. ■ G. MOORTHY

collected at the depth of 353 cm and sent for carbon dating test in the U.S. "goes back to 580 BCE," Commissioner of Archaeology T. Udayachandran said.

The report titled, 'Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai,' was published by the TNAD. The results from the fourth excavations suggested that the "second urbanisation [the first being Indus] of the Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in the Gangetic plains."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

The report also spelt the site as Keeladi as against the erstwhile widely used Keezhadi. The recent scientific dates obtained for the Keeladi findings pushed back the date of the Tamil-Brahmi script to another century, i.e., 6th century BCE.

"These results clearly ascertained that they attained literacy or learned the art of writing as early as 6th century BCE," the report stated.

It said no object of worship was found at the site.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

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IN BRIEF



LIC celebrates its 64th year of incorporation

NEW DELHI

The Life Insurance Corporation of India on Thursday said that in its 64th year of incorporation, it had assets of over ₹31,11,847 crore with Life Fund to the tune of ₹28,28,320 crore while it started with an initial capital of ₹5 crore in 1956. LIC said it started with 168 offices and today with over 4,851 offices, it has over one lakh employees.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	66	Gurugram	78
Ghaziabad	61	Faridabad	38
Greater Noida	63	Noida	51
Good	50-100	Satisfactory	Moderate
Poor	101-200	Very poor	Severe
201-300	301-400	>401	

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

Delhi govt. to release booklet on Guru Nanak

NEW DELHI

Delhi government's Art, Culture and Language Department announced on Thursday that it would be releasing a booklet on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak on the occasion of his 550th birth anniversary. Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said the Delhi govt will publish the book in three languages which are Punjabi, Hindi and English.

DELHI TODAY

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Talk: A round-table discussion on 'Perspectives on India-China Relations and Trends in Indo-Pacific Development' by various speakers at Conference Room - II, India International Centre (IIC), 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Music: Sindhi Academy Delhi presents Yaadain, an evening of old and classic Hindi film songs and ghazals by Delhi-based singer, Uma Lalla. Narration by Pavan Naidu at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Teltale Marks", an exhibition of paintings by Jaspreet Gujral at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Apparently Real", a solo paintings exhibition by Sabya Sachi Ghosh at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Screening: "A Midsummer's Okinawan Dream" a Japanese film will be screened with English subtitles at The Japan Foundation, 5A Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, 6.30 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Alka Lamba disqualified from Delhi Assembly

Speaker's decision based on plea moved by AAP leader



has joined the Congress.

Congress ticket

For the past couple of months, Ms. Lamba has been maintaining the stand that she will contest on a Congress ticket if the party approaches her, else she will contest as an Independent from Chandni Chowk.

In December 2018, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had sought disciplinary action against Ms. Lamba for being at the forefront of criticism against a demand by some AAP MLAs to recall the Bharat Ratna conferred on late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This rift between Ms. Lamba and the party has been growing ever since, but she has not formally resigned from the party. She has been vocal against AAP for the last couple of months and has not been called for party meetings.

Former Jharkhand Congress president Ajoy Kumar joins AAP

'Party will decide whether my role will be in Jharkhand or Delhi'

signed from the post of Congress president of Jharkhand.

"I have just joined the party, we will decide whether my role will be in Jharkhand or Delhi," Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu* when asked about his role in the party.

Mr. Kumar said that he was impressed by the work done by the AAP government in Delhi and had known senior AAP leaders including Mr. Sisodia for a long time.

Mr. Kumar, a former IPS officer, did not comment whether he will contest in the upcoming Assembly elections in Jharkhand or Delhi. In August, he had

participate in today's politics. The idea of alternative politics should be strengthened and new people should be welcomed for this," he said.

"The changes brought by the Delhi government in the field of education and health are revolutionary. I am so happy to see the work done for 24x7 water and power by the AAP-led government," he added.

Mr. Kumar met Arvind Kejriwal and the Chief Minister later said in a tweet, "I welcome former IPS officer and popular leader of Jharkhand Dr Ajoy Kumar to the Aam Aadmi Party. His joining will strengthen our struggle to create a corruption-free, prosperous India."

New norms proposed for trade, storage licences

Subcommittee formed by North civic body suggests changes to simplify the policy

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A subcommittee formed in 2017 to look into the general trade and storage licence policy of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation submitted its report to the Standing Committee on Thursday.

Wide-ranging changes to help with the simplification of the policy have been recommended. The suggestions are likely to be passed in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Major recommendations include, reducing the number of documents required from 11 to four, said Deputy

EASY TRADING

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED REDUCED FROM 11 TO 4

- 1. Proof of legal occupancy
- 2. Photograph of establishment with geolocation
- 3. ID proof
- 4. Site plan (self-attested)

PROPOSED HIKE IN RATES FOR PROPERTIES BETWEEN 1 AND 20 SQ M



Chairperson of the Standing Committee Vipin Malhotra. Now, traders applying for store licences will be required to submit a proof of tenancy, ID proof, a photograph of the establishment and geolocation and a self-

attested site plan which may be hand-drawn, said Mr. Malhotra. A declaration built into the online application form will also be required.

The subcommittee has also recommended the rates of the licence for different

categories of property. Councillors of the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, who were also part of the subcommittee, welcomed the proposals but opposed the increase in rates. Justifying the increase, Mr. Malhotra said that various costs involved in the drawing up of multiple documents earlier would now be reduced.

The entire process including, fee payment will be online, thus, reducing chances of corruption and "licence raj" said Mr. Malhotra. Measures taken to streamline the process include curtailing of inspection powers of licence inspectors.

Green tribunal directs DIAL to take steps to curb noise pollution

Measure and display noise level prescribed for aircraft: NGT

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) to measure and display the prescribed noise levels for aircraft at the international airport.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel took note of a notice issued by the Airports Authority of India, pertaining to the use of reverse thrust used by pilots while landing.

"We suggest that DIAL not only measure and maintain the prescribed noise levels but also display the same in public domain," the Bench said.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea which alleged that residents living near the

sures for reducing noise pollution.

Green belt

The tribunal in its order had said, "The official respondents shall ensure providing of a green belt around the boundary wall of the airport



Spectacular aerial photos of China's scenery

Picturesque aerial views across the country are to some degree a testimony to China's extraordinary progress in building ecological civilization, as China will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China this year.



Aerial photo taken on Oct. 30, 2018 shows larches at the Qinglongwan reservoir in Ningguo City, east China's Anhui Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Shi Yalei)



Aerial photo shows people airing the newly-harvested wild jujube in Yinan County, east China's Shandong Province, Sept. 6, 2018. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Du Yubao)



Aerial photo taken on April 10, 2019 shows the scenery of the Mutianyu Great Wall in Beijing, capital of China. (Xinhua/Wang Jianhua)



Aerial photo taken on Nov. 3, 2018 shows farmers airing rice in Paogong Village of Hengyang City, central China's Hunan Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Cao Zhengping)



Aerial photo taken on March 28, 2019 shows a view of the Qutang Gorge, one of the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River, in southwest China's Chongqing. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Wang Quanchao)



March 26, 2017 shows tourists resting at the Fenghuanggou scenic spot in Nanchang County, east China's Jiangxi Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Wan Xiang)

AUTUMN

SPRING

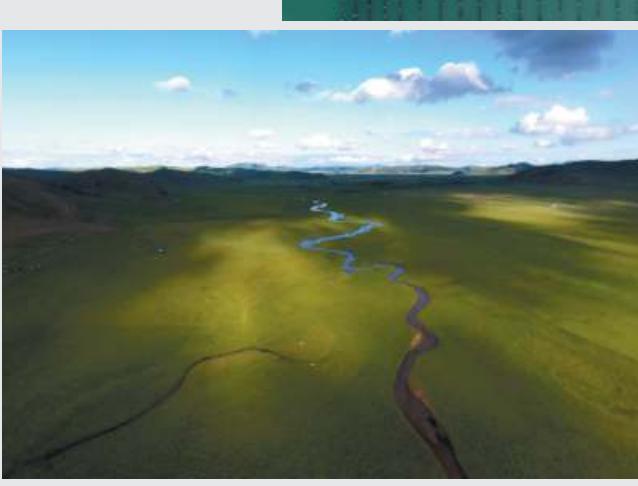
SUMMER

WINTER

Aerial photo taken on May 23, 2019 shows a kelp farm near the coast of Daqin Island of Changdao County, Yantai, east China's Shandong Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Zhu Zheng)



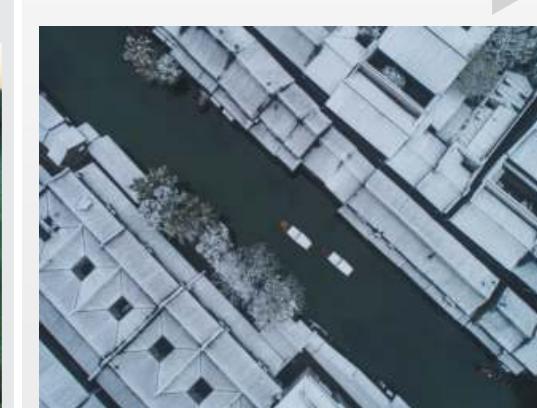
Aerial photo taken on July 23, 2019 shows the pasture scenery in West Ujimqin Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Liu Lei)



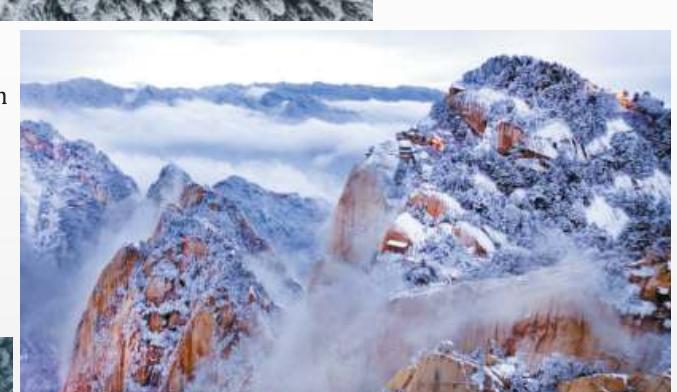
Aerial photo taken on June 13, 2019 shows the view of Guanshan Grassland at Longxian County in Baoji, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Tao Ming)



Aerial photo taken on Nov. 17, 2018 shows the snow scenery of the Mount Huashan scenic area in northwest China's Shaanxi Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Tao Ming)



Aerial photo taken on Feb. 4, 2018 shows a police car patrolling on a road in Meihua Mountain, southwest China's Guizhou Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Tao Liang)



Aerial photo taken on Dec. 9, 2018 shows winter scenery of the Wuzhen scenic area in Tongxiang, Zhejiang Province. A selection of aerial photos across China shows the country's picturesque scenery at all seasons. (Xinhua/Xu Yu)

IN BRIEF



Awareness programme on MV Act conducted

NEW DELHI
Mansa educational and charitable trust in collaboration with Delhi traffic police held an awareness programme at ITO traffic signal in which Manoj Chandek, chairman of the trust, along with other volunteers educated motorists about the safety benefits of the new Motor Vehicles Act.

NDMC reconstitutes governing body

The governing body of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) was reconstituted on Thursday and Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal administered oath to NDMC Chairman and members. The governing body consists of elected representatives, including CM Arvind Kejriwal and MP Meenakshi Lekhi. Four more members are yet to be added to the governing body, according to officials.

DCW notice to Justdial seeking details of spas

The DCW on Thursday issued notice to Justdial seeking information pertaining to the registration of spa centres on its portal. The move follows an inquiry that the women's commission has launched in a bid to curb alleged sex rackets that are operating from spa centres across the city. "The commission has also sought details related to the procedures adopted by the company for registrations of these spas on their portal and whether any scrutiny is conducted before displaying them on their domain."

Ola drivers to get healthcare benefits under Ayushman Bharat

First phase will see a pilot project in NCR; to be extended later

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Government's healthcare scheme – Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) – has partnered with Ola, a mobility platform, to extend the welfare to its drivers.

"Aimed at easing their financial burden, the partnership will provide comprehensive health insurance for secondary and tertiary care to tens of thousands of drivers working with the cab aggregator and their families. Beginning from drivers in NCR, the partnership's im-

Transport strike hits Delhiites hard as autos, cabs stay off roads

Several schools shut, impact felt in markets too; commuters switch to DTC buses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Commuters across the Capital were left stranded on Thursday as several transport unions under the larger banner of United Front of Transport Associations (UFTA) organised a day-long strike in the Capital.

Several schools remained shut and transportation hubs like the New Delhi Railway Station and ISBT at Kashmere Gate bore a deserted look as autorickshaws, private buses, app-based cabs and other taxis stayed off the roads.

The strike was called to protest the "hefty" fines being levied for traffic violations since the introduction of the amended Motor Vehicles (MV) Act. With reduced options, commuters had to switch to Delhi Metro and DTC buses for their travel.

Blames Kejriwal govt.

Shyamal Gola, general secretary, United Front of Transport Associations (UFTA) said that over 50 transport associations and unions in Delhi-NCR were taking part in the strike to demand withdrawal of the steep hike in road traffic penalties and certain other provisions of the amended MV Act.

The unions blamed the AAP government for not providing any relief to motorists from the stringent provisions of the amended MV Act like many other States had done.

Airlines had warned their passengers to plan ahead due to the strike and several passengers complained of long waiting hours for their app-based cabs to arrive.



Several auto drivers and cab drivers were reluctant to take their vehicles out as there were reports of unions trying to enforce the strike.

Nineteen-year-old auto driver, Mohammad Sonnoo said he usually starts his day at 7 a.m. but he had to observe the strike. But around 11.30 a.m., he got a call from a fellow auto driver who told him that he can ride the three-wheeler around the locality.

"My friend called and said that we can just ride around the locality. Currently, I am not taking any passengers outside my jurisdiction as I know the auto drivers around here. Even if they catch me riding my vehicle, they will at the most tell not to do it. But if I take rides to other places it would be a risk. They can even vandalise my auto. So for today I will work around my place," said Sonnoo.

Cashing in on strike
On the other hand, bus drivers were happy with the increased passenger load. "Today, we have more pa-



(Above) Autorickshaws parked at a stand near New Delhi railway station as transport unions go on a day-long strike in the Capital on Thursday; vehicle parking lot at the New Delhi Railway Station wears a deserted look. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

sengers taking the bus because of the limited choice. More the passengers, more the money," said Trimod Triyagi, 52, a bus driver.

The impact of the strike could be felt at busy markets in the city as well. At the bustling Okhla Mandi, vendors complained that customers had not arrived.

Thirty-five-year-old Mohammad Imran, who sells fruits in Okhla Mandi, said he is depressed and calls it an unfortunate strike. "Usually the Mandi is packed with people but to-

day the roads are deserted because of the strike," he said. Imran has sold nothing till noon and was sitting idle.

However, a Delhi Metro official said that there was no significant rise in the ridership due to the strike. "We had made arrangements like increasing manpower to issue tokens at major stations. But we did not have to deploy them as things went smoothly," a spokesperson from the Delhi Metro said.

(With inputs from Sheik Saqib)

AAP attacks BJP on illegal colonies' regularisation

Party to expose BJP's false promises

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday attacked the BJP for making "false" promise to the people of Delhi on regularisation of unauthorised colonies within six months.

Addressing a press conference, chief spokesperson of AAP Saurabh Bharadwaj said that in July, Union Minister Hardeep Puri had said that the Centre can regularise the unauthorised colonies. "They have said that the Centre will do it within a month and now they cannot say that Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal did not allow

them to work on the matter," he added.

Dhoka Diwas'

"This promise was as fake as the promise of stopping the sealing drive in the national capital. Before September 22, when Manoj Tiwari [BJP Delhi chief] will visit the unauthorised colonies, AAP will reach out to the people of these colonies a day before and observe 'Dhoka Diwas' and tell people about the fake promises of the BJP. We will tell the people the reality so that next day they can ask the questions to Mr. Tiwari," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

3 more arrested in fake toll plaza sticker case

9 held so far; gang printed 1,200 stickers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Three more persons have been arrested by the Gurugram Police in connection with the fake toll plaza sticker case taking the total number of accused arrested to nine. The investigation has revealed that the gang had printed 1,200 fake stickers of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and sold 700 to unsuspecting cab drivers at a concessional rate.

The scam came to light on September 3 when the MCD toll staff on Delhi-Gurugram border found that the barcodes of monthly stickers of six cabs were fake. Five cab drivers – Balram, Vijay Singh, Shiva, Salu and Aashiq – were arrested on September 4 after a case was registered at Udyog Vihar Police Station.

Though the cost of monthly passes for the cabs is ₹3,000, the drivers had bought the passes at a concessional rate of ₹2,700 from a toll supervisor and a cab aggregator's office.

Police officer suspended after video of him training 2 persons surface

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An Inspector rank officer of Delhi Police has been suspended after a video of him training people known to him at a shooting range in north-west Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar surfaced.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West) Vijayantha Arya confirmed that Reserve Inspector Dinesh Kumar, in-charge of district

lines, has been suspended and a departmental inquiry has been initiated into the matter.

A video surfaced, in which, officer Kumar can be seen training two persons at the shooting range, who are suspected to be his son and daughter. The weapons used were sophisticated. The video is said to be captured on September 13.

Ms. Arya said that it is not

yet confirmed whether the persons are his son and daughter and whether the incident took place on September 13. "The details will come forth after the inquiry," she said.

The police said that the shooting range is hired for annual target practice of officers and is not to be used by public. District Lines Unit is in-charge of organising the target practice, they said.

Dengue fight: CM urges citizens to be 'champions'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday launched "Champions Campaign" to fight dengue and urged citizens to become 'champions' and encourage 10 friends to check their homes for mosquito larvae.

"Lakhs of Delhiites are joining the #10HaftelOBaje10Minute campaign against Dengue. This Sunday, after inspect-

ing your home at 10 AM, call 10 of your friends and encourage them too to inspect their homes and be a Champion in the fight against Dengue! [sic]," the Chief Minister said in a tweet.

"Dengue is a disease that can only be defeated when people of Delhi come together. We are already seeing the phenomenal impact of this public movement," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Haryana, U.P. not taking steps to curb pollution

EPCA chief says many industries in these States have not switched to cleaner fuels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority on Thursday said authorities in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have not been taking enough steps to keep industrial sources of air pollution in check and many units in the two states have "not switched to cleaner fuels".

AAP govt. moots distribution of anti-pollution masks via schools

Plan to deliver saplings to homes also being reviewed: officials

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government is exploring the idea of distributing about 50 lakh anti-pollution masks through schools, said officials.

The government is also reviewing its decision on home delivery of saplings as the tree planting season (monsoon) is almost over, the officials said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had on September 13 announced the distribution of anti-pollution masks and saplings to residents as part of a seven-point plan to fight air pollution.

The Hindu had reported on Thursday that the government had not consulted the environment and forest departments before making the announcement on masks and saplings.

While announcing measures to curb air pollution during winter, Mr. Kejriwal had said that "50-60 lakh" N95 anti-pollution masks



tion channel is currently being considered. We are also reviewing the plantation drive as the planting season is over

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

No other distribution channel is currently being considered. We are also reviewing the plantation drive as the planting season is over

will be procured and distributed in October. He had also said that a 'Delhi Tree Challenge' would be started under which people can call on a phone number provided by the government and ask for a sapling to be delivered to their doorstep, free of cost.

The CM had sought suggestions from the public on how to fight pollution during winter and received around 1,200 emails, based on which the seven-point 'Parali Pradushan Action Plan' was designed, stated an official statement.

2,700 dairy farms to get notice for pollution

Closure notice issued to 31 farms

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has sent closure directions to 31 dairy farms in the city for causing water pollution following an NGT order on July 8, officials said. Also, the DPCC has initiated the process of sending show cause notices to around 2,700 dairy farms in the city for not treating the waste generated and causing water pollution.

OFFICIAL

the farms now. They can open only after paying the fine and making arrangements for waste treatment," the official added.

Of the 31 farms, ones with 50-75 cattle were issued ₹2 lakh fine, farms with 75-100 cattle issued ₹3 lakh fine and the ones with over 100 cattle were fined ₹4 lakh.

"The owners should have biogas plants individually or jointly to treat the dung at the farms or come up with some other method to treat it," the official said.

It is through the strategic proposition and determined steps that 95% of the oil-driven industry has shifted its operations to CNG operated systems. The information regarding a large and substantial shift in the industry has been gathered by a report submitted by the Delhi Dialogue Commission to the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on his directions," an official statement said.

"With the efforts of the Delhi government, air pollution in Delhi has decreased by 25% in the last three years. Delhi is the only State in the country where the reduction in air pollution has been recorded," said the Chief Minister.

Civic bodies gear up for anti-plastic drive, announce several measures

Over 150 buildings in North corporation declared plastic-free

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The municipal corporations here have declared various measures being undertaken to reduce the use of plastic in its jurisdictions, on Thursday.

At a meeting of the standing committee, the commissioner of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, Varsha Joshi said that 155 buildings in its jurisdiction had been declared "plastic-free zones." Boards declaring the same would soon be put up at these sites, she said, adding that these boards and advertisements erected by the corporation will be made out of environment-friendly material and not flex.

Besides this, single-use



plastic won't be allowed to use at events held at the civic body's community halls. A change in the application have been made in this regard, she said. The North DMC will soon tie up with NGOs to produce bags made out of used clothes to be distributed in place of

₹3.18 lakh.

SDMC on its part said that it had identified 40 sites, 10 in each of its four zones for the collection and disposal of plastic waste. Citizens are being informed of the ban on single-use plastic through information campaigns as well. To assist the disposal of such material, the civic body is also making arrangements for bulk collection of plastic waste, it said.

Apart from this, in its efforts to confiscate polythene bags, it has collected up to 3,554 kgs of plastic bags and issued fines worth ₹3.18 lakh.

He said garbage, plastic and rubber-burning incidents in Delhi have reduced considerably. "However, in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, we have found that industries have not been taking precautions or switching to cleaner fuels to reduce air pollution. We have also clicked pictures of places where plastic and rubber were being burnt," he said.

IN BRIEF



Delhi HC refuses to set aside DUSU poll results

NEW DELHI

The Delhi HC has refused to set aside the results of the recently held elections of Delhi University Students' Union on a plea by several law students who were allegedly prevented from casting their votes. The court said no direction can be issued for setting aside the election at this stage as the polls have already been held and asked the Grievance Redressal Cell to act in accordance with the J.M. Lyngdoh Committee's report on the complaints received by the students within 24 hours.

Foreigner held at IGI with 5 kg gold worth ₹1.9 cr.

NEW DELHI

A foreign national was apprehended at the Delhi airport while on his way to Mumbai for allegedly smuggling six gold bars weighing 5 kg and worth ₹1.9 crore, CISF officials said on Thursday. Pucheng Yao arrived at Terminal-3 of the IGI airport from Hong Kong by an Air India flight on Wednesday.

Constable dismissed from service for raping minor

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A minor girl lodged a complaint alleging that a constable posted at New Umanpur police station raped her, following which he was arrested and dismissed from service, the police said on Thursday.

A senior police officer said that constable Vishram was arrested and dismissed from service. The girl's statement was recorded after information was received on the matter around noon on Thursday, they said.

A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered, the police added.

Wanted criminal held in murder case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 31-year-old criminal, with a bounty of ₹50,000 on his head, was arrested for allegedly killing a woman in Dwarka in 2018. He is involved in eight criminal cases, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said that the accused identified as Jagdeep Deswal alias Sonu had allegedly killed Kamlesh, live-in partner of Rajiv alias Monu Ishapur. The latter had allegedly killed Jagdeep's brother Sandeep alias Mental.

The police said that in May 2018, Sandeep was allegedly killed by Monu over a land deal. Sandeep's family believed that Monu's partner Kamlesh was involved in the murder after which they decided to avenge the murder and eliminate him.

The police claimed to have arrested Jagdeep following a tip-off from Dwarka Sector 6 where he had come to meet his friend to collect money to move to a safe place.

Two khadi silk saris each for women staff on facilitation desk

Policewomen allotted the garment may not be transferred frequently, says circular

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Increasing demand for khadi silk saris for women staff on facilitation desk duty has pushed Delhi Police to cap the allotment of the garment at two each for two personnel at each police station.

The proposal for procurement of khadi silk saris has been sent to the police headquarters.

A September 13 circular, issued by DCP (provision and logistics) to all districts/units of Delhi Police, mentions: "The life span of these saris is two years and two saris per individual to be issued."

Procurement process

The process of procurement of 836 saris will take three-four months, thereafter the current requirement of all district units will be fully



Proposal for procurement of khadi silk saris has been sent to the police headquarters. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

met, states the circular.

"The police districts/units may issue the sari to only those women officials who have been assigned the duties to work on the facilitation desk for a longer period, at least one year," the circular reads.

It further states that the staff posted on the facilitation desk may not be trans-

ferred frequently, since the saris cannot be handed over to another officer.

Justification required

"The districts/units should send their annual requirement of khadi silk saris to provisioning and logistics unit, in the Annual Indent of Clothing Articles with full justification. It will help con-

solidated procurement and subsequently issued well in time to each district/units in future," the circular reads.

The circular also specifies that the saris may be issued to the women police staff after making proper entry in the 'clothing articles issue book' maintained by all districts/units, so that the article can be reissued to the staff only after the expiry of its life span.

A senior police officer said that they are ensuring that all police units and police stations get adequate supply of saris. "It is not a rule or guideline that a new sari will be issued only after two years. It can be replaced at any time according to the demand. We cannot spend government money exorbitantly from day one. We have ensured no facility gets misused," said the officer.

3 held for cheating actor of ₹3 lakh

Accused impersonated Australian tax officials: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly duping actor Isha Sharvani, an NRI living in Australia, of ₹3 lakh by pretending to be Australian tax officials, the police said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Anyesh Roy said that the accused have been identified as Bhannu Berry (24), Pneet Chadha (34) and Rishabh Khanna (23).



Isha Sharvani

stayed with her on the call for more than three hours until the transaction was over," Mr. Roy said, adding that she later realised that she had been duped after which she approached the police.

Transaction details

During investigation, the police sought the transaction details from Western Union and RIA Money Transfer and reached the accused after which they were arrested.

The police said that the accused used to call up people in Australia, pretending to be from her accountant's office. The caller allegedly told her that there was an error while filing her tax returns and they didn't tell her about the intimations sent by the Australian government. They said they would reimburse the amount, AUD 5,700 as she was not at fault, the police claimed.

"The accused persons intimidated the victim into transferring money to them through Western Union [3,500 AUD] and RIA Money Transfer [2,500 AUD]. They

caller claimed to be from her accountant's office. The caller allegedly told her that there was an error while filing her tax returns and they didn't tell her about the intimations sent by the Australian government. They said they would reimburse the amount, AUD 5,700 as she was not at fault, the police claimed.

"The accused persons intimidated the victim into transferring money to them through Western Union [3,500 AUD] and RIA Money Transfer [2,500 AUD]. They



Each capsule carried around 10 grams of heroin.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Five foreign nationals arrested at IGI for smuggling drugs

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a joint operation with Delhi Police, the Customs Department busted a module of international drug cartel and arrested five foreign nationals trying to smuggle drugs into the country.

Joint Commissioner of Customs Anubha Sinha said they had received a tip-off that an international gang of smugglers was attempting to

smuggle suspicious material into India.

Tip-off

"On September 14, five Afghan nationals arrived at T3 of IGI Airport from Kandahar-Kabul-Delhi flight. Based on specific Intelligence, we came to know that these five passengers had ingested capsules containing a narcotic substance," Mr. Sinha said.

The passengers were interdicted in a joint operation by officers of the air intelligence unit and preventive branch, IGIA Customs and special cell of Delhi Police.

They were taken into custody and produced before the Duty Magistrate.

370 capsules extracted

The accused were admitted to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and doctors have been able to extract 370 capsules filed with white powder.

"The narcotics testing has indicated that this substance is heroin of high purity. The capsules have been seized and all five passengers have been placed under arrest in accordance with relevant provisions of the NDPS Act," an officer said.

The officer told that each capsule weighs around 10 g of heroin.

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**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
REVENUE DEPARTMENT (HQ)
5, SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI- 110054**

F. No.1(90)/DDMA(HQ)/Appoint/PC/2014/304 Dated :11/9/19

Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) intends to hire eligible individuals for the following posts, on contractual basis for period upto 28.02.2020

Name of post:-Project Officer	No. of Posts:-
DDMA(HQ)	- 01
District Shahdara	- 01
District South	- 01
District South-west	- 01
District Central	- 01
District North	- 01
Salary Offered :	Rs. 25,000/- per month consolidated
Age:	Not above 35 years as on date of publication of Advertisement
Essential Qualifications :	Master Degree in Social Work / Disaster Management / Town Planning / Social Sc. from a recognised University Institution
Desired Qualifications :	Should have good oral and writing skills, should have good communication skill.
Experience :	One year experience in Disaster Management

Name of post:-Project Coordinator	No. Of Posts:-
DDMA(HQ)	-02
District Shahdara	-01
District North-West	-01
District North-East	-01
Salary Offered :	Rs. 20,000/- per month consolidated
Age:	Not above 32 years as on date of publication of Advertisement
Essential Qualifications:	Graduate in Social Work / Disaster Management / Town Planning / Social Sc. from a recognised University Institution.

The application form & other relevant details could be viewed /downloaded from <http://ddma.delhi.gov.in>. Duly filled application in the prescribed Proforma with self attested scanned copies of relevant documents & forms may be uploaded to ddma.delhi@nic.in not later than 07.10.2019. Applications received after the due date will not be accepted. Applicants may apply district wise posts specifying their preferences and applications can be given for maximum 02 districts. However, selected candidates are liable to be transferred any of the districts or at Hrs. as and when required at the direction of competent authority.

(P.C. Thakur
SDM/DDMA)

DIP/SHADBARTH/0678/19-20

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.W. SPECIAL PROJECT DIVISION,
AAREY, MUMBAI 400 065
INVITATION FOR TENDERS
DETAILED TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender Notice No. 6 for 2019-20

Online percentage rate e-tenders in 'B-1' Form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Special Project Division, Aarey, Goregaon (E), Mumbai 400 065 for the following works on Government of Maharashtra e-Tender Management System website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from the P.W.D Registered Contractors in appropriate class of the Public Works Department of Maharashtra State. The right to cancel or reject of the above said e-tender without assigning any reason rests with the competent authority. Conditional Tender will be summarily REJECTED.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Reinforcement cement concrete compound wall on the Peripheri of proposed International Zoo at Aarey Colony, Goregaon East in Sanjay Gandhi National Park Borivali East.	Rs. 8977120/-	Class4 & Above
2	Engaging Pump Drivers to operate pumps at various pump house in Aarey premises Goregaon mumbai for one year	Rs. 5326395/-	Class4 & Above

Start	Expiry
Stage	Date Time
Tender Download	23/09/2019 10.00 am
Tender Bid Submission	23/09/2019 10.00 am
Pre-bid Meeting	-- --- -- --
Date and Time of Opening the Tender (If Possible)	22/10/2019 12.00 am

Note :- The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal www.mahapwd.com on sub portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in> as under.

No.EE/PWSPD/Aarey/TC/1808
Office of The Executive Engineer,
P.W.Special Project Division, Aarey,
Goregaon (E) Mumbai-400065
Phone No.& Fax No.022-29272447
Date: 16-09-2019

DGIPR/2019

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Prof. Dr. P. S. SOMASUNDARAM
Principal (Retd.) D.G. Vaishnav Coll.
Founder PCMC Hosp., Pallavaram
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044-22661012 / 9840569062

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DOB: 21-6-1932 & DOD: 18-09-2019

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

20TH ANNIVERSARY



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Punjab plans ordinance route for CM's advisers

Move aims to shield MLAs from the ambit of 'office of profit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Amid the ongoing controversy over the appointment of six Minister-rank advisers to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, the Punjab government on Thursday decided to bring in an ordinance to exclude adviser (political and planning) from the ambit of the Punjab State Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1952.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held at Dera Baba Nanak that was presided over by the Chief Minister.

No disqualification

An official statement said the ordinance will amend the law to add these posts to the list of posts that are not considered office of profit for the purpose of disqualification of MLAs. With the amendment, these MLAs will not be disqualified.



CM Amarinder Singh

count the complexity of modern day governance. Further, these amendments to the said Act have not taken into account the reports and studies of various parliamentary committees which addressed the issue of office of profit. Therefore, the Cabinet felt the need to amend Section 2 of the Punjab State Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1952," said the statement.

The Cabinet also authorised the Punjab Governor to approve and recommend the draft ordinance for promulgation, said the statement.

Six advisers

The Punjab government had earlier this month appointed six Minister-rank advisers to the Chief Minister. Five Congress MLAs were given the status of Cabinet Ministers while the sixth was given the rank and status of a Minister of State.

Court frames charges against Sunny Deol

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A railway court here has framed charges under the Railways Act against Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol and film actress Karisma Kapoor in a 22-year-old case of alleged chain pulling in a train at Naraina station in Rajasthan during the shooting for a film.

The two actors challenged the order through a revision petition in a sessions court on Wednesday.

Mr. Deol and Ms. Kapoor had allegedly entered the Naraina railway station, near Phulera Junction, in 1997 and stopped the 2413-A Uplink Express by pulling its chain, which delayed the train by 25 minutes.

The Assistant Station Master said in his complaint that a few persons from Mumbai shooting for a movie in a nearby village had illegally stopped the train.

After framing the charges earlier this week, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (Railways) summoned three witnesses on bailable warrants for the next hearing on September 24.

The actors have been accused of violating Sections 141 (needlessly interfering with the means of communication in a train), 145 (drunkenness or nuisance), 146 (obstructing a railway servant in his duties) and 147 (trespass and refusal to desist from trespass) of the Railways Act.

The revision petition filed in the sessions court stated that the railway court had framed the same charges for the second time after its charges read out earlier in 2009 were set aside in 2010. A.K. Jain, counsel for Mr. Deol and Ms. Kapoor, contended that the September 17 order for framing of charges was against the law.

The film unit was shooting for the movie, "Bajrang", in 1997 at Sanvarda village near Phulera in Jaipur district.

Protests are planned in the university on Friday.

Bengal Governor 'rescues' Babul Supriyo from JU campus

Students had held up the Union Minister after event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

Union Minister of State Babul Supriyo, who was confined on Jadavpur University campus by students, was rescued on Thursday night by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar, who is also the Chancellor of the university.

The students had surrounded Mr. Supriyo and did not allow him to leave the campus. Mr. Dhankar managed to rescue the Union Minister finally at night, but not before his convoy was stopped for an hour in front of the university gate with Mr. Supriyo on board.

Mr. Supriyo visited the

campus to address the freshers and attend a seminar on governance in India. Even while entering, students formed a barricade to stop his entry.

Mr. Supriyo managed to enter but the commotion began as he came out of the K.P. Basu Memorial Auditorium.

The students stopped him and demanded an apology for his security men allegedly manhandling students. "His security men manhandled the students, including girl students, and the Minister used choicest words to abuse us," a student alleged.

The university campus later turned into a battle-

ground in the evening with students affiliated to left-leaning and right-wing outfits clashing with each other. The students' union offices were ransacked by alleged supporters of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and Durga Vahini members.

"We have always opposed political leaders entering the campus. We don't know how the Minister was allowed to hold a programme," a student said.

Both Trinamool Congress and CPI(M) leaders independently said both the Minister and the students are "responsible" for the flare-up.

Protests are planned in the university on Friday.

No riots in U.P. since BJP came to power: Yogi

'All festivals celebrated peacefully'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

There has 'not been a single riot' in Uttar Pradesh in the 2.5 years since the BJP government came to power, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed on Thursday.

Agra communal flare-up
Incidentally, Mr. Adityanath's assertion came a day after a communal flare-up was reported in Semra village in Agra after a girl was allegedly kidnapped on Tuesday by a boy from another community. A few shops of the minority com-

munity were also burnt down in the incident. About 200 unidentified persons have been booked for rioting, wrongful assembly and promotion of disharmony, a police officer said.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Adityanath produced a report card of his government's achievements in the first 30 months of its tenure. He said the BJP government had vastly improved the law and order in the State and that since 2017 March all festivals were celebrated in a peaceful manner.

While hearing a petition, a division Bench headed by Justice Anil Kumar Upadhyay observed that there

Patna HC concern over piling prohibition cases

Bihar govt. told to reduce pendency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA

The Patna High Court on Thursday expressed concern over 2.7 lakh pending prohibition cases in lower courts across the State and asked the State government to explain how it proposed to dispose them. The court also observed that due to the mounting pressure of such cases working of the lower judiciary was being "adversely affected".

State Advocate-General Lalit Kishore told the court that the matter was already being considered by the State government.

Woman's murder puts focus on security arrangements in courts

Rajasthan High Court had directed State govt. to take steps

der, the victim, Sheela Devi, was rushed to the district hospital where she was declared dead.

Amar Chand had filed a case in 2013 against his wife and brother-in-law with the allegation that they had forcibly married off his deaf and dumb daughter. Police said the accused, who had planned the murder, had come to the court with a dagger after enquiring about the judgment's date and time and attacked the woman sitting on a bench outside the courtroom.

The woman was stabbed by her estranged husband just before a sessions court was to pass the judgment in a case related to their missing daughter.

Stabbed to death
The accused, Amar Chand, was overpowered by the lawyers and court officials and handed over to the police. While the accused was arrested on charges of mur-

dering the victim, Sheela Devi, was rushed to the district hospital where she was declared dead.

Policemen misbehaved
Dausa Bar Association president Avdhesh Sharma made a written complaint to the Chief Judicial Magistrate alleging that some policemen had misbehaved with the lawyers when they struggled with Amar Chand and tried to overpower him. "When one of my colleagues tried to save the woman, a policeman manhandled him."

Shocked by the incident, lawyers in the town, situated 57 km away from here, boycotted the court work and demanded strict measures for security of advocates, judges and the court staff as well as the people visit-

ing the courts. Lawyers said the situation in which anyone could come with weapons to the court warranted immediate action.

Diversion Bench
A Division Bench of the High Court had in July this year directed the State government to take suitable steps for safety in the court complexes.

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. : TRS/HWH/10/OT/58C, dated : 16.09.2019.

Following E-Tender is invited by Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS), Eastern Railway, Howrah in prescribed form from the tenderers for the following work :-

Description of work : Painting of Electric locomotive body with PU paint and its accessories with paint at electric loco shed, Howrah.

Approx. Cost : ₹ 82,04,969;

Earnest Money : ₹ 1,24,100;

Closing date and time of tender :

23.10.2019 at 14.00 hrs. The details of e-Tender is available at website :

www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted.

(HWH-170/2019-20)

Tender Notices are also available at Eastern Railway's website : www.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PHUSRO NAGAR PARISHAD

Request for Proposal/E-Procurement Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO.UDD/PNP/04/2019-20 Date:19.09.2019
Request for Proposal are invited on behalf of **Phusro Nagar Parishad (PNP)**, Jharkhand for work on DBOT basis from reputed and eligible companies / firm/ Consortium/Joint Ventures having sound Technical and Financial capability for the following works:

No.	Description of Package	Estimated Capital & O&M Cost (Rs. in lac)	Earnest Money(Rs . in lac)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Completion Period
1	Door to Door Collection, Transfer, Transportation, Developing and operating an integrated Municipal Solid Waste Processing Facility and Engineered Sanitary Landfill Facility in municipal area as per SWM Rules 2016, for Phusro town in Jharkhand, on a long-term Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) basis for Municipal Solid Waste with 20 years O&M	1029.32 & 13201.82	10.30	25,000/-	16 Month Construction & 20 Yrs. O&M
2	Issue of RFP			23.09.2019	
3	Last date for receiving queries			03.10.2019	
4	Pre bid meeting			10.10.2019	
5	Proposal due date			19.10.2019 By 4:00 PM	
6	Opening of technical bid			21.10.2019 By 3:00 PM	
7	Official Inviting Tender			Executive Officer, Phusro Nagar Parishad	
8	Mobile Number			7644004023	
9	E-mail			nppphuro@gmail.com	
10	Helpline Number of E-Procurement Cell			0651-2491232 / 790325693	

Only e-tenders are acceptable. Further details can be seen on website

<http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

बूँद - बूँद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूँद का नहसेंगे

PR 217330 (Urban Development and Housing)19-20*D **EXECUTIVE OFFICER PHUSRO NAGAR PARISHAD**

DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER, TECHNICAL EDUCATION and SKILL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

Request For Proposal (RFP) For Selection of Training Partner for Providing Training on Internet of Things (IoT) & analytics in Polytechnic Institutions in Jharkhand

Notice

e-Tender Ref. No: DHTE&SD/TE/01(R)/2019-20

Project: Director ,Technical Education, Department of Higher, Technical Education and Skill Development, Government of Jharkhand invites Proposal from reputed Private Sector Entities (Companies incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/ 2013 formed under the Applicable Laws) for Selection of Training Partner for Providing Training on Internet of Things (IoT) & analytics in Polytechnic Institutions in Jharkhand.

Selection Procedure: An open competitive Single stage two folder e-bidding process shall be adopted for selection of suitable Private Sector Partner(s).

Eligibility Criteria: For eligibility criteria and other Project Parameters, please refer to Volume I of the RFP document.

Procurement of RFP Document: RFP documents can be viewed and downloaded from <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> from 19.09.2019. A non refundable Demand Draft of Rs 10,000/- drawn in favour of "Assistant Director-cum-DDO, Directorate of Technical Education, Department of HTE&SD, Government of Jharkhand" payable at Ranchi must be deposited as bid purchase fee at the address mentioned below on or before date and time as mentioned. Scanned copies of the bid and relevant documents must be uploaded online . The last date for uploading of bid is on 30.09.2019 by 5:00 PM at the website address as given above.

Sl. No	Event	Date
1	Date of Publication	19 September 2019 (3:00PM)
2	Online Bid submission start date	20 September 2019 (3:00PM)
3	Pre-Bid Query submission	25 September 2019 (5:00PM)
4	Pre-bid Meeting	26 September 2019 (3:00PM)
5	Online Bid submission end date(Bid due date)	30 September 2019 by 5:00 PM
6	Technical Bid Opening date & Presentation	01 October 2019 at 11:00 AM & 02:00 PM respectively
7	Demonstration By Technically Qualified bidders	03 October 2019 at 11:00 AM
8	Financial Bid opening date	03 October 2019 at 05:00 PM
9	Office Inviting Tender	The Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Department of Higher, Technical Education and Skill Development, Govt of Jharkhand, Nepali House, Ranchi

Dr. Arun Kumar
Director (Technical Education)
DHTE&SD, Ranchi

PR 217399 Higher Education, Technical Education and Skill Development Department (19-20)_D

CSIR-NORTH EAST INSTITUTE

IN BRIEF



Plea by Saritha Nair not maintainable: Rahul

KOCHI
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday informed the Kerala High Court that the petition filed by Saritha S. Nair, challenging his election from the Wayanad Lok Sabha Constituency, was not maintainable as she was convicted and sentenced in two cases.

Man booked for triple talaq in Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA
A case has been registered here against a 44-year-old man employed in Dubai for allegedly giving triple talaq to his wife. Mustafa Beig, a resident of Shivamogga, had married Aisha Siddiqui 20 years ago. In the complaint, the woman alleged that her husband pronounced triple talaq through WhatsApp.

Sekar Reddy back in TTD Board

In 2016, the A.P. govt. sacked him citing seizure of cash from his house by the CBI

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday nominated industrialist Sekar Reddy as a special invitee to the Board of Trustees, Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams (TTD). He was also made president of the Local Advisory Committee of TTD in Tamil Nadu.

In December 2016, the Andhra Pradesh government had sacked Mr. Reddy from the TTD Board stating that the CBI had seized over ₹100 crore cash and huge amount of gold from his house in Chennai. The order had, however, said, he was not involved in any irregularity concerning TTD matters.

Rajnath takes to the skies on Tejas

Becomes the first Defence Minister to experience the homegrown fighter aircraft

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Rajnath Singh became the country's first Defence Minister to get a first-hand feel of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas when he co-piloted a trainer version in Bengaluru on Thursday. The sortie, lasting about 30 minutes, took off from the LCA hanger at the defence airport run by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. around 10 a.m.

The pilot, Air Vice Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari of the National Test Flight Centre, later said Mr. Singh, 68, co-piloted the aircraft as it flew up to a height of 13,000 feet; he also pulled about 2.5 g but the flight was so smooth that the Minister apparently did not feel its high speed of nearly 1 mach.

Mr. Singh's flight was a morale booster for the decades-long LCA programme



Thrilling ride: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on LCA Tejas in Bengaluru. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

and the efforts of their respective agencies, said G. Satheesh Reddy, Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, which is developing the LCA;

HAL, which produces the planes.

On his return, the Minister told the media, "I am thrilled by this very special experience in my life. It was a smooth and comfortable

flight. I did whatever my pilot asked me to." He said he was keen to experience Tejas for himself. "I wanted to know the conditions under which our pilots fly the aircraft," he said.

Shivakumar shifted to Tihar jail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday opposed Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar's bail plea, saying he could not be absolved of his alleged liability under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act merely by paying the income tax. The matter has been posted for hearing on Saturday.

Mr. Shivakumar, currently in judicial custody, has been shifted to the Tihar Jail.

The case is based on a chargesheet filed last year by the IT Department, alleging tax evasion and "hawala" transactions running into crores.



A file photo of Alfa Serene flats, one of the apartments which has come up in violation of the CRZ norms, in Maradu.

Maradu: Kerala unlikely to seek extension in SC

Govt. to list out preparatory works in court

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

Kerala may not seek extension of time in the Supreme Court to pull down the Maradu apartments. Instead, it will list out the preparatory works undertaken for implementing the verdict.

As the court-set deadline for the demolition of H2O Holy Faith, Alfa Serene, Jain Coral Coves and Golden Kayaloram, the four apartments that were built in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines, ends on Friday, a few senior officials are in New Delhi finalising the affidavit to be filed in the court on the day.

The Supreme Court had on September 6 asked Chief Secretary Tom Jose to demolish the buildings and file a report on September 20. The court will consider the case on September 23.

Mr. Jose, who is away in the U.S., will reach New Delhi on Friday. The contents of the affidavit will be finalised after a round of discussion with him, said a senior official.

Elaborate groundwork
After the September 6 order, the Maradu municipality has undertaken elaborate groundwork, including serving of eviction notices to the residents of the apartments, floating of the Expression of Interest inviting agencies for pulling down the structure and gathering information on the number of people who may need rehabilitation. These aspects will feature in the affidavit, sources said.

Meanwhile, the demolition impact assessment study

municipality. The petitioner and other similarly placed residents should have been informed by the authorities before ordering eviction as to what was the mistake they had committed.

Besides, they should have been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. The petitioner sought a directive to the municipal secretary not to evict him forcefully without adopting the due process of law.

buildings, is groping in the dark on the implementation of the court order.

"There has not been any specific directions from the State government regarding the way forward. The local body will implement the directions of the State government," said T.H. Nadeera, chairperson.

In order to provide relief to the passengers and their dependents hurt in railway accidents, the Ministry of Railways has taken a big step and decided to open the Railway Claims Tribunal Bench in Prayagraj. In this regard, on 12.09.2019, the Hon'ble Railway Minister made a formal announcement in Mumbai and the notification in the Gazette of the Government of India was issued late Thursday.

Dr. M. Ravi Kanth, CMD, HUDCO, planted saplings



Tree plantation drive, as part of a series of events planned to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi under the Swachh Bharat Mission. On the occasion, a mass awareness campaign rally was also organized by HUDCO.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways, expresses satisfaction over infrastructure efforts and praises the overall cleanliness standard of the stations.



Hon'ble Minister of State (Railway), Shri Suresh C. Angadi on his way to Varanasi by 22436 New Delhi - Varanasi, Vande Bharat Express inspected the first Make in India trainset and territory of North Central Railway over ALLAHABAD division. It was indeed a rare occasion for North Central Railway when Hon'ble Minister of state first time traveled in AC chair car of this engineless trainset which runs for more than 80% of its journey on Allahabad division of North Central Railway.

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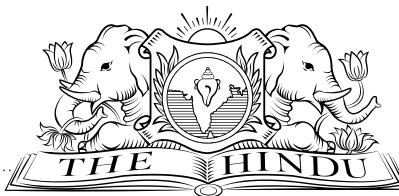
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Smoke of the vaper

The ban on e-cigarettes will require rigorous implementation to be effective

When alternatives are peddled as ‘the lesser evil’, virtue is artificially added as a measure of degrees. The evil is often clear and present, as in the case of electronic cigarettes, in all forms – Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS), vapes, and e-hookahs. The Centre’s move to ban these products shows a welcome intolerance of anything that impacts negatively on the health and wellness of the people of the country. The Cabinet recently cleared the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance, 2019. Now, any production, import, export, sale (including online), distribution or advertisement, and storage of e-cigarettes is a cognisable offence punishable with imprisonment or fine, or both. E-cigarettes, which were to aid smokers kick their habit, do not burn tobacco leaves. Instead these battery-operated devices produce aerosol by heating a solution containing among other things, nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive substance that may, according to studies, function as a ‘tumour promoter’ and aid neuro-degeneration. Some other compounds in the aerosol are toxic substances that have known deleterious effects, and might just be less harmful than cigarettes, not harmless. Seven deaths have been recorded in the U.S. – the largest consumer of e-cigarettes in the world – where, New York recently banned the sale of flavoured e-cigarettes.

There is ample evidence on the harm of nicotine addiction – the reason that it is only approved under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for use only in nicotine gums and patches. As the WHO’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) outlines, these devices can only be believed to succeed if smokers have moved on to an alternative nicotine source, and then stopped using that too; and the recruitment of minors into nicotine dependence eventually wanes to zero. There is evidence now that vaping, dangled as a cool, fun, activity, lures youngsters, and ironically, serves to introduce them to smoking. The FCTC also records that e-cigarettes are unlikely to be harmless, and long-term use is expected to increase the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and possibly cardiovascular disease and other diseases also associated with smoking. The urgency to act on this front is also justified by the number of users. As per figures submitted to Parliament earlier this year, e-cigarettes and accessories valued at about \$1,91,780 were imported to India between 2016 and 2019. The government, already on the right path, must go all out to ensure that its ban is implemented earnestly in letter and spirit, unlike the patchy execution of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act. It is essential to ensure this progressive ordinance does not go up in smoke.

Israel undecided

Netanyahu must step aside to allow Israel to get a new stable government

Once again, Israel is poised for protracted coalition talks between the country’s two main parties. Tuesday’s election, the second this year, is shaping to be as inconclusive as the poll in April. The ambition to win a fifth term in office could elude Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the conservative Likud party. If anything, his appeal to hard-line Jewish parties to the right helped Israeli Arabs, under the rubric of the Arab Joint List, to coalesce as a more cohesive force ahead of the polls. Mr. Netanyahu also burned his bridges with potential centrist allies in recent months. With about 96.5% of the ballots counted, Israeli media says the Likud party has won 31 seats. Blue and White, the Opposition of former Army chief Benny Gantz, has reportedly won 33 seats. In the 120-seat Knesset, neither is thus anywhere near securing a clean majority. Between the two of them, Mr. Netanyahu’s position appears more precarious. Having failed to forge a right-wing coalition after the inconclusive April election, he opted to return to the people rather than allow Mr. Gantz to try and break the deadlock. Predictably, the latter has offered to establish a unity government with Likud, but without Mr. Netanyahu at the helm. Israel’s longest serving Prime Minister could not even contemplate such a scenario, as the country’s chief prosecutor is scheduled to begin a probe within weeks into bribery and fraud against him.

Reports indicate that given Mr. Gantz’s openness to work with other parties, Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin may be inclined to invite him first to form a government. The other dilemma Mr. Netanyahu faces is from the Israel Our Home party, headed by his former Defence Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who has relentlessly campaigned to remove the exemption of ultraorthodox Jewish communities from enlisting in the armed forces. The issue was a major obstacle to the two parties coming together earlier this year. Israel Our Home and the Arab Joint List are expected to improve on their tally in this election. But to anticipate a working arrangement between them and the Blue and White Opposition may be stretching optimism too far. After all, Mr. Gantz has resorted no less to the rhetoric about expanding Israel’s borders deep into the Palestinian territory. But in Israel’s increasingly fragmented polity, the imperatives of forming a government oblige parties to strike compromises. That endeavour ought to be underpinned by a recognition of the two-state solution as the only viable course to accord dignity and sovereignty to the Palestinian people. Foremost, Tel Aviv needs a government. Mr. Netanyahu could facilitate the process by stepping aside. That would be the statesmanlike act.

Over the hills and far, far away

Integration of the mountains with the mainstream is unlikely under a unitary dispensation that promises a ‘green bonus’



ANIKET ALAM

In the last week of July this year, 11 Himalayan States of India met in Dehradun demanding a “green bonus”, or a payment for environmental services they provide to the nation. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, 15th Finance Commission Chair N.K. Singh and Niti Aayog Deputy Chairman Rajiv Kumar were present. The assembled Chief Ministers argued that the Himalayan States, stretching from Jammu and Kashmir (which was still a State then) to Tripura (which most people would not really include in the Himalayan region) paid a developmental price for maintaining forests, rivers, and other environmental goods which helped the rest of the country.

This meet was organised with much fanfare, and was meant to showcase the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP’s) commitment to its general election manifesto which had promised a financial package to address the special developmental needs of the Himalayan States. The States asked for help to develop hydropower resources, subsidies for their environmental protection measures which deny them normal ‘development models’, and recognition of their efforts to meet human development parameters.

Unique needs

There was perhaps nothing exceptional about much of this, and within a week, the meagre media attention this received was overshadowed by the abrogation of J&K’s special status under Article 370 and the massive clampdown on civilian life in the Kashmir val-

ley. However banal the demands of the Himalayan States seem in comparison to what has been happening in Kashmir since August 5, both are actually part of the same problem that India has historically had: its inability to come to terms with the specificity of the Himalayan region, whether political, social, or ecological-economic.

The problem of integrating the northern mountains to the national mainstream is not specific to India. If one takes a look at the entire mountain zone stretching from Balochistan, through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nepal, Sikkim and Gorkhaland, to Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, it is easy to see that each of these regions has had problems when it comes to integration of the hilly regions with the nation states that are primarily anchored in the plains. (Himachal Pradesh is the only exception, which perhaps proves the rule.)

One could also further argue that this ‘integration problem’ is not just a South Asian phenomenon – China is struggling to integrate its mountain people and their homelands with its national mainstream, as are Myanmar, Thailand, and other countries.

Scholars have for long been acutely aware of this problem. Seventy and more years ago, Owen Lattimore wrote extensively about the exceptionalism of the “Inner Asian Frontiers of China” and, a decade back, James C. Scott argued persuasively about ‘Zomia’ as the mountain zone of South-East Asia (and South Asia) which deliberately kept itself independent of the plains. Scholars in India too, from Verrier Elwin to D.N. Majumdar and Y.S. Parmar, Gerald Berreman and Ramachandra Guha, have written, even if in less ambitious terms, about how structurally different are the Himalayan



The Kalka-Shimla highway in Himachal Pradesh. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

regions from the Indian mainstream in terms of their social and economic structure. Yet, this research has not really percolated to political understanding, whether at the level of policy formulation or popular conceptions.

Legacy of the colonial era

To appreciate this point, we need to move back by a couple of centuries when the geography of the colonial state was being made. There is a long, complex and surprisingly unpredictable history to the establishment of Pax Britannica’s border lines along India’s northern mountains.

For most regions in the Himalayas, this was the first time that a ‘nation state’, anchored in the society and political economy of the plains, was able to reach so deep into the Himalayas and control them in a way which was historically unprecedented. In brief, the Himalayas successfully provided a barrier to Russian colonial expansion but were unsuccessful in providing a trade route into China.

By the end of the 19th century, keeping the mountains politically quiet and socially peaceful was both a desirable aim and a hopeful description. The idyll of the ‘hill station’ and the war-like strategies towards the northern tribesmen were both creations of this policy. This is not only a social-psychological feature but has direct practical consequences as policies and programmes are devised with the ‘national norm’ in mind, which almost always have unintended con-

The postcolonial nation states of Asia, be it India, Pakistan, China or Myanmar, have not been able to break out of this difficult relation with their mountain regions. These independent nation states have all imagined themselves to be the inheritors, in the high Himalayas, of the geopolitical stakes of their colonial predecessors.

Even their national imaginations have been framed – despite all their other variations – on the social, political and economic specificities of the communities based in the riverine plains. It is the village or town of the Ganga plains, or along the Narmada or Krishna and Cauvery rivers, which has defined what it means to be ‘Indian’. The norms of what an ‘Indian village’ is, how its society is structured, how its economy is backward or in what ways does its political life work make no reference to the specificities of the mountain regions. These are at best imagined by the national mainstream as idyllic ‘hill stations’ peopled by ‘noble savages’, or, at worst, as wild regions inhabited by irrigation-thirsty tribesmen.

This is not only a social-psychological feature but has direct practical consequences as policies and programmes are devised with the ‘national norm’ in mind, which almost always have unintended con-

sequences on the hilly regions. The mountains are in a permanent state of exception.

Resources as commodities

Seen in this light, there is a direct, and short, link between the demands of the Himalayan States seeking a special ‘green bonus’ – which the BJP supports – and the autonomy incorporated in the late, lamented Article 370 – which the BJP opposes. In India, specifically, the massive expansion of the national economy over the past three decades now allows for commodification of mountain resources (forests, water, labour, tourism, horticulture and even agriculture) in ways that are unprecedented. It has led to changes in the class structure and the emergence of a new middle class with national aspirations that finds the geographical specificity of the Himalayas at once a hindrance and the main commodity in its exchanges with the nation state. Thus, the variation from secessionist movements in J&K and Nagaland to active integrationist movements in Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur expresses the same conundrum – how do these regions and people reach a fair pact with the Indian nation state and become part of the national imagination?

History tells us that almost all Asian nation states have found such a coming together very difficult, if not impossible. With its ideological militarism, ethnic sectarianism and a rapidly shrinking economic base, the present dispensation in New Delhi may well be able to throw a few crumbs but seems unlikely to be able to find a way to meet the special demands of the Himalayan people. A ‘green bonus’ will remain a charade.

Aniket Alam teaches history in the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad

Maths helped Einstein; it can help the economy too

The theory of relativity is regarded as the pinnacle of mathematical elegance, more than a century since its formulation



PAREMSEWARAN AJITH

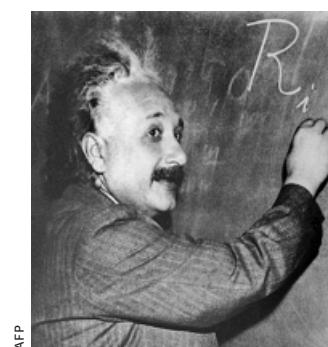
Can policymakers plan to make India a \$5 trillion economy in five years without worrying about the basic mathematics of economic growth? Some of our leaders seem to think that wishful thinking can take us there. Albert Einstein’s discovery of gravity has been invoked as a successful example for achieving seemingly unattainable goals through “out-of-the-box” thinking. Two obvious questions arise. First, did Einstein indeed explain relativity sans any inputs from mathematics? And, two, can economic growth models be devoid of mathematics?

Einstein’s general theory of relativity is the most accurate theory of gravity available to us at present. True, Einstein was certainly not the first one to make contributions to our understanding of gravity. More than two centuries prior to him, Isaac Newton had proposed a universal law of gravitation. However, Newtonian theory of gravity, though remarkably ac-

cute most of the times, had its limitations. When gravity was extremely strong or when the motions involved were extremely fast, the calculations became imprecise. For example, the theoretical calculation of the orbit of Mercury – the planet closest to the Sun – turned out to have a small disagreement with the actual observations of Mercury’s motion. Einstein’s theory not only predicted the orbit of Mercury accurately, but also predicted a number of interesting phenomena not anticipated earlier.

A theory of space-time
Einstein’s description of gravity was radically different from that of Newton. Newton assumed the existence of an absolute space and universal time. According to Einstein, space and time are part of a single entity called ‘space-time’. What we identify as space or time heavily depend on the frame of reference of the observer. However, space-time is universal. And gravity is the manifestation of curved space-time. Any massive object would curve the space-time around it.

It is hard to imagine a curved space-time, an entity that spans four dimensions – three spatial dimensions and the time. Typically



we can see the curvature of a surface when we have access to a higher dimension. For example, we see the curvature of the surface of a football because we have access to a third spatial dimension. It is impossible to directly observe the curvature of the space-time since we don’t have access to a fifth dimension. However, it is possible to infer the curvature of a space without accessing extra dimensions. All the familiar axioms of Euclidean geometry cease to be valid on curved spaces. For example, according to Euclidean geometry, two parallel lines always remain parallel. However, this is not true, for example, on the Earth’s surface. Consider lines of constant longitude: on the equator, meridians are parallel to each other; but on the poles all of them meet.

Thus, one could do a measurement to check whether lines that are originally parallel remain parallel. If they don’t, this is an evidence that the space-time is curved. Several astronomical observations conducted in the last century confirm that space-time is indeed curved in the presence of massive objects.

Einstein himself was not well-versed in the geometry of curved spaces. Here, Einstein turned to his friend, mathematician Marcel Grossmann, to master the necessary techniques and tools. Armed with these tools, and driven by some unique physical insights which are marks of a genius, Einstein was able to construct an elegant mathematical theory of space-time.

However, mathematical elegance is not the primary touchstone of a theory of nature. The key yardstick of success is the theory’s ability to describe the natural phenomenon that it seeks to describe – in this case, gravity. General relativity remained inaccessible to most of the scientists during its initial years. However, Einstein and many others were able to extract specific observable consequences of the curved nature of space-time by mathematically solving the equations. Even

though space-time itself is not directly observable, all of these observable predictions were verified by a variety of astronomical observations and laboratory tests.

Is math useful?

Not all areas of sciences are able to construct theories or models that have the level of mathematical rigour that theories of physics enjoy. This is due to the highly complex nature of the phenomena they seek to describe. Most of the social sciences are in this end of the spectrum, due to obvious reasons. However, economics is probably one notable exception, where models and techniques employing higher mathematics have proven to be highly fruitful.

However, “math” is also commonly used as shorthand for quantitative reasoning, which is the backbone of all scientific enquiry. Ideally, planning and policy should be largely informed by quantitative reasoning, including the purported goal of doubling the size of Indian economy in five years. Wishful thinking and ideological propaganda are poor substitutes to quantitative reasoning.

Parameswaran Ajith is a physicist at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bengaluru. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Ban on e-cigarettes

The Central government’s concern is commendable but one wonders why e-cigarettes alone are prohibited; why not ban normal cigarettes, other tobacco products and alcohol? (Front page, “Cabinet approves ban on e-cigarettes”, Sept. 19). Neither are e-cigarettes as widely available as the conventional tobacco products nor are they consumed as much. If the government is really concerned about public health, it should ban cigarettes and beedis. Failing that, the present ban will serve more as a token measure and could even end up boosting the sales figures of the country’s tobacco industry.

KSHIRASAGARA BALAJI RAO,
Hyderabad

■ Smokers have a wrong perception that e-cigarettes are a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes. On the contrary, test results have shown that they could cause potential health problems, including cancer, as they contain chemicals and toxins that are addictive. When you stop using them, you could feel depressed, and incorrigibly tetchy. Research has also proved that the use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) has not been effective in stopping smoking. Tobacco-related toxins have also been found in the aerosol vapour of ENDS products. There is also evidence that inhaled nicotine from ENDS damages lung tissues and lowers the body’s natural resistance to infections and to cancers. In fact, research suggests that youngsters who use ENDS

are more likely to start smoking conventional cigarettes.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

A costly withdrawal

U.S. President Donald Trump’s withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal was a big mistake which has taken West Asia to a dangerous situation. The Gulf is bearing the brunt of Mr. Trump’s ill-thought-out decision. In spite of, until recently, complying fully with the nuclear deal, Iran was unfairly squeezed by economic sanctions with “maximum pressure”. Now, other parties of the nuclear deal should come ahead to bring the U.S. and Iran back to the negotiating table. Otherwise, the imminent threat of “lose-win” war will loom large in the region. The

Aramco attack could be followed by further breach of the terms of nuclear deal if sanctions against Tehran are not relaxed (Editorial page, “Obama was right about Iran”, Sep. 19).

MD. EHTESHAMULLAH,
Malappuram, Kerala

Afghan peace process

The collapse of talks between U.S. and Taliban marks a new phase in the Afghan crisis with the ground situation deteriorating further and attacks on civilians becoming more frequent (Editorial, “The Taliban problem”, Sept. 19). Unfortunately, this phase coincides with the campaigning period for the upcoming presidential elections in Afghanistan and people attending the campaign rallies could become easy targets for the

Language parity

The belated clarifications by Shah on Hindi are short on the question of English continuing as an associate official language at the Centre, between the Centre and the States and between the States. It is now necessary to amend the Constitution to provide a level-playing field for all the languages in the country and ensure parity.

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>The entry corresponding to “A hundred years ago” – “Help the Punjab: An appeal”, (“From the archives” column, early editions, Sept. 19, 2019) had been erroneously dated Sept 19, 2019. It should have been Sept. 19, 1919.

>>The headline of the lead story (Sept. 18, 2019) “Government to peg MGNREGA wages to inflation in bid to hike incomes” should have instead read: “Government to update inflation index linked to MGNREGA wages in bid to hike incomes”.

The Readers’ Editor’s office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28756300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Can Hindi unite India?

PARLEY

Discarding diversity for a purely majoritarian reason will be disastrous

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement last week that Hindi can unite the country once again evoked sharp disapproval from political parties, especially in south India. Mr. Shah later clarified that he meant Hindi as a second language. G.N. Devy and Yogendra Yadav speak on the perils of monolingualism in a country as linguistically diverse as India in a conversation moderated by Anuradha Raman. Edited excerpts.

Is Hindi everyone's language?

G.N. Devy: The name 'Shah' is of Persian origin. Our languages are interlinked and we have many languages in the country. The 2011 Census listed 1,369 'mother tongues' in the country. Hindi is only one among them.

So, even in a majority of Hindi-speaking States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, what is spoken is not Hindi as we understand it?

GND: I will go back to the Census data. When the languages were enumerated, Hindi subsumed Bhojpuri, which is spoken by a little over five crore people. The Census has put Bhojpuri as a subset of Hindi. So, it may be true that Hindi is spoken by a large number of people in India, but it is equally true that it is not spoken by a majority of Indians.

And I don't think thinking in numerical terms alone is correct. It does not matter how many speak Hindi. The issue that Mr. Shah was talking about was what connects the country. His argument is not sound. What connects the country is the Constitution, which has made space for 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule. It upholds the language diversity principle. How can Mr. Shah say that one particular language of the 22 languages should be brought forward to connect Indians? What connects Indians is the Constitution, our history and some epoch-making phenomena, whether it is the Buddha, the Bhakti movement or the freedom struggle. So, Mr. Shah's comment is not historically sensible, nor is it constitutionally right.

Yes, many leaders in the national movement visualised a special role for Hindi. Most of them supported Hindustani, a mixed language, not the pure Hindi being pushed today. But all of them were clear that it could not be imposed.

Professor Devy, you had written that levels of migration were low when Indian States were created on a linguistic basis. For the last seven decades, you have observed that there have been large inter-

beyond its semantic-carrying capacity, it starts breaking up. It happened to Latin in the past. It happened to Sanskrit. And it is now happening to English as well. So, if Mr. Shah is genuinely interested in preserving the Hindi language, he should let the Hindi speakers alone. The government should not interfere with the linguistic behaviour or choices of people.

Yogendra Yadav: I will take off from where Professor Devy stopped. To be fair, I think Mr. Shah knows that Hindi is not everyone's language. In his speech and formal statement, he talks about India's multilingualism. He seems to be encouraging people to use Hindi. To begin with, it looks like a benign gesture coming from a non-Hindi speaker. The real problem is his belief that notwithstanding this multiplicity, we need one language to unite the country and that language can only be Hindi. I suspect this is his genuine belief and not something put out for political expediency. That to me is an attempt to copy a failed idea. 'One nation, one language, one culture' is a 19th century European idea that failed to create unity. Instead, it caused a lot of bloodshed in the world. Just when the world is moving away from this preposterous idea, our rulers wish to copy it. This is the real curse of the colonised mind. Our tragedy was not just that we were colonised, but also that we were colonised by linguistically challenged islanders who could not think beyond one language. This idea is not in tune with our history, culture and civilisation. We are a multilingual society. Speaking more than one language comes naturally to us.

A united nation has to have space for diversity. India is united in its diversity. Diversity is a great philosophical idea and should never be seen as a cultural burden. We cannot discard it for a purely majoritarian reason. Any idea of one link language, whether Hindi or English, will be economically disastrous for India. It will slow down migration



ISTOCK/ GETTY IMAGES

State migrations, perhaps creating the need for a common linguistic vehicle for communication, education and governance. Hindi would emerge at the top of the pack if one were to choose among languages. Is that not so?

GND: We started creating linguistic States in 1955-56. Today nearly 35% of people are migrating daily for work. In such a situation, we have to conceptualise a new form of language identity for our States. Our cities must be recognised as multilingual entities. This will help us in unhinging the education policy for some large metropolises. The current practice of clubbing together multilingual spaces with monolingual habitats is not fair to the large cities today. For instance, in Maharashtra, one may argue that a child should be instructed only in Marathi. This is a good argument for a linguistic State. But it is not a good idea to impose this universally in Mumbai as well. So, the language choice of citizens should be widened and not narrowed by the state. If there is a mechanical and monolithic idea of unity followed by any entity, such an entity generally generates great hostility beyond its immediate borders. If India were to remain obsessed with this kind of a deeply flawed idea of nationalism, Indians will never have a happy relationship with their neighbours.

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and reduce the ease of capital flow. It will not be wrong to say that all these emotive issues thrown in the country's face by the current dispensation keep diverting attention away from the economy, which has hit an alarming low.

Is it time to rethink the three-language policy?

YY: There are no two opinions on what is good from the point of pedagogy. When a child goes to school, her initial language of instruction should be as close to the language spoken by her mother or home language. If it is Konkani or Bhojpuri, the primary schools must use that as a medium of instruction. Then, gradually, the child should be shifted to the State's official language, say, Marathi or Kannada. English can and should be taught from the beginning as a language but not as a medium of instruction. Those who need higher-level skills in English for higher or technical education should be given that, but everyone need not be burdened with that. Hindi should be introduced in non-Hindi-speaking States from an early stage and the Hindi-speaking States should introduce a non-Hindi Indian language. That was the three-language formula. For a country like ours, this was a reasonable solution worked out by all Chief Ministers and backed by educationists in the Kothari Commission.

Sadly, the formula was sabotaged

from two ends. While most non-Hindi speaking States did introduce Hindi, unfortunately the Hindi-speaking States bypassed the requirement to teach a non-Hindi language (preferably a South Indian language, said the original formulation). Instead of learning Tamil or Telugu – languages that are older and richer than Hindi – they fulfilled the third language requirement with perfunctory Sanskrit. What was a move to encourage national integration began to look like an imposition of Hindi.

The other violation was that our elites started shifting to English-only education with perfunctory knowledge of an Indian language. The three-language formula exists just on paper now. While Mr. Shah's remarks have triggered a debate about a possible Hindi imposition, we have all slipped into collective amnesia about the reality of English imposition. I feel depressed when I see rural children boarding the bus to go to an 'English medium school' as neither the students, nor the parents and not even the teachers know any English. This is pedagogic barbarity.

Mr. Devy, you had written about how a child learns one language. Is it possible for a child to learn other languages too?

GND: I agree with Dr. Yadav's views. When a child learns a language she forms a world view. Every language has a unique world view. If the child is confused with a lot of languages in infancy, her cognitive facilities will not develop in a natural way. It is not healthy for a child to be victimised during the preschool years with many languages. But a child needs to cope with the world. Learning new languages in middle school widens her horizon. Everyone needs access to the outside world other than their own linguistic zone and, therefore, the need for learning one of the world languages. The three-language formula is a sound formula, but it is not the three-language determined by the Government of India but chosen by the parents of the child.

Let us look at where the linguistic disaster has happened in our country. All tribal languages are rapidly disappearing. That is because there are not enough livelihood opportunities in those languages. Liveli-

hood possibilities for tribals are diminishing; languages are not encouraged and people are getting assimilated in some larger language. This may appeal to some rabid pseudo-nationalists. But there is a huge loss entailed in the process, both economically and culturally. So far we have not monetised the loss caused. If we do that, the results would be shocking. Language diversity is a great economic proposition. India is uniquely gifted in that out of the world's 6,000 languages, we have close to 10% of the spoken languages. Our pride will get dented if we had only one language or become only a bilingual nation. I think the English speakers and the Hindi speakers are relatively privileged than those who speak tribal languages. All of us have the collective responsibility to think about this and worry about the less privileged languages. Therefore, the Home Minister, who is in charge of the Indian language policy, must ensure diversity. That will bring about unity in the country.

Language freedom is a hugely emotive issue. Every 15 days, if an emotive issue keeps dividing the country, soon there will be no country left to divide any further. In the 1970s, West Pakistan and East Pakistan were separated on the language issue. So, how much more close does Mr. Shah want to drive India to becoming like Pakistan?

Is this a diversionary tactic to divide the country?

YY: I think that the BJP is unlikely to push the language divide in the same manner in which it has pushed the communal divide. The BJP needs to grow in south India. With Hindi chauvinism, it cannot walk into south India. But the basic mindset with which the BJP works, and it has now spread to other parties including the Congress, is that you need sameness in order to become a nation. The BJP will keep pushing this agenda in one form or another – today Hindi, tomorrow NRC, and then Kashmir.

GND: I just want to ask you a question about the 'Make in India' slogan: how is it said in Hindi? There may be semantic areas where English works but Hindi fails and vice versa. We need both; we need all Indian languages. Together they make our nation.



G.N. Devy
is Chairman,
People's Linguistic
Survey of India



Yogendra Yadav
is an academic and
the national
president of Swaraj
India



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Being mindful of diversity

There is no congruence between Amit Shah's desired outcome and the incentives to learn Hindi

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

Home Minister Amit Shah recently asserted that the nationwide adoption of Hindi is the only way India can be united. Among the non-securitised routinely dished out by our politicians this must rank very high indeed. In this case there is also the issue of 'incentive compatibility', which pertains to congruence between the desired outcome and the incentives individuals face. The attempt to impose Hindi on the entire country by the Congress in 1965 had led to parts of the country literally burning, with instances of self-immolation in erstwhile Madras State. It left a deep scar on the people of southern India who saw the thrust as an attempted cultural cleansing no less. They are unlikely to forget this episode in a hurry, but this is not the only reason why they would reject the Home Minister's homily.

Crass majoritarianism

The people of southern India hold strongly to the idea that they are Dravidian language speakers. Hindi belongs to the group of Indo-European languages and is no less foreign in their reckoning than English is to them. This view is independent of the fast-growing evidence from population genetics that Indo-European language speakers are very likely the most recent migrants into the sub-continent. It is not dependent on an assertion that the Dravidians themselves are the 'original inhabitants' of this land. It is also independent of any fondness for English. It is based purely on the principle that privileging any one Indian language would be discriminatory. Privileging one on grounds that it is spoken by the largest number is no more than crass majoritarianism.

We find in history many instances of the adoption of the language of societies that are the object of admiration by the natives. Thus, French was the language of the Tsarist court in Russia because of the political, cultural and scientific advances made in France. For Hindi to be adopted by the people of southern India today they must hold a similar view of the

While there may have been some of this during the national movement, as its pre-eminent leaders came from the north, there is little to command the region to them today. Uttar Pradesh is perceived as an area of backwardness with mob lynchings erupting on the watch of a complicit state. Why would the culture of such a region be the object of desire elsewhere in the country?

Finally, there is the economics. Some young researchers at one of our IITs recently employed machine learning techniques to identify the skills that determine wages in five large slums of Bengaluru. Of close to one hundred skills they considered, 'knowledge of English' and 'Internet access' turned out to be the most significant. Gender, caste and knowledge of Hindi did not matter.

Already connected

It is a fallacy to imagine that we need a common language to feel connected. Indians already feel connected due to a shared history of several millennia. In an extraordinary phase of history India had the ruler Ashoka of the Maurya dynasty trying to unify the peoples of his far-flung kingdom through ideals. Ashokan edicts range from the advice that you should respect the dharma of fellow citizens to being compassionate towards sentient beings. The language used in the edicts found in the eastern part of the subcontinent is a type of Magadhi, likely the language of Ashoka's court; the language used in the edicts found in the western part of India is closer to Sanskrit; and a bilingual edict in Afghanistan is written in Aramaic and Greek. Ashoka was clearly aware of the bigger prize and had not allowed himself to be held back by narrow linguistic nationalism.

Now, two millennia later, Mr. Shah could unite India via the Internet, and if Jammu and Kashmir is to be considered "an integral part" it cannot be left out either. He may dispense with the rock carvings but would yet have to be mindful of the linguistic diversity.

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



NOTEBOOK

The gift curse in business journalism

The practice has taken subtle forms, but it is still unethical

K. BHARAT KUMAR

"Isn't it enough?" the timid voice asked. The public relations executive on the phone had just offered me my first 'gift coupon' as a journalist and was incredulous when I refused. At the peak of the initial public offering season in the mid-90s, given that it wasn't uncommon for corporates to extend high-priced wining, dining and gifting privileges to business journalists, publishing houses had to bring out written guidelines for staff. The dictat was that journalists must not accept anything more than a pen or a notepad at media conferences and a box of sweets during the festive season.

As I aged in the profession, I got used to seeing boxes of 'gifts' stacked up near the exit at business press conferences. PR executives sent some journalists on their way with just a

goodbye and others with the surreptitious passing on of a box. Journalists who had no qualms in accepting gifts quietly did so.

What took the cake was when one scribe lectured me on the 'necessity' of the habit. An electronics major had ferried us to the foundation stone-laying ceremony of a factory in Karnataka that ultimately never came up. A tape recorder was the 'token of appreciation' passed around. A senior journalist noticed some of us refusing the gift and took us to task. "You should not have declined. The PR person will take home the gadget meant for you and his records will show you have accepted it. You must not encourage such bad practices," he said.

Nowadays, gifting has taken more subtle forms. For instance, the PR person arranging a meeting could offer a ride from your office

or house to the meeting venue. Of course, these same folks then get cornered by journalists who ask for a cab, use it to attend the meeting, and then retain the car through the day.

Corporate honchos who have the best of intentions do not realise when they cross the line. After my interview with the CEO of a popular broadband provider, I told him I rated their complaint resolution mechanism very highly as a customer. The CEO immediately offered to upgrade my tariff plan. I refused. He argued that I was already a paying customer and that an upgrade wouldn't cross the line of ethics. I had to explain that an upgrade meant a higher tariff which he would have charged a non-journalist client. He piped down.

This is not to tar all PR and corporate folks with the same brush. Many have set more stringent rules for

themselves than media houses have. One PR person told me, "I notice you bring your own pens to press conferences. Good. If you didn't have such ethics, I wouldn't have felt comfortable letting you meet my clients."

Then there are times when you commit a gaffe yourself. At the end of a conversation with the CEO of a car-maker, journalists were offered a model of the car. We refused but the PR person insisted. To avoid unending "please" and "no's", I said I would take it as it was not expensive. I didn't quite understand the PR person's confused expression till I got home. What I'd thought would be a toy car, like the ones you see in pavement shops, was a sophisticated model costing several thousands of rupees. I called the PR person and arranged for it to be delivered back to the showroom.

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 20, 1969

SC's ruling on original jurisdiction

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has held that the terms of Article 131 of the Constitution dealing with original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in any dispute between the Union Government and a State Government excluded the idea of a private citizen, a firm or a corporation as a disputant either alone or even along with a State or with the Government of India "in the category of a party to the dispute". Mr. Justice Mitter (who disposed of a number of connected miscellaneous petitions) held that nine suits – filed by the State of Bihar (as plaintiff) in the Supreme Court (under Article 131 of the Constitution) against the Union of India (as first defendant) and the Hindustan Steel Limited and the Indian and Iron Steel Limited (these two companies, as second defendant), in the suits concerned, claiming damages for alleged short delivery of iron and steel ordered by the plaintiff to the various sites in the State in connection with construction work of Gandak project – were not maintainable in the Supreme Court, as being outside the scope of Article 131.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 20, 1919.

Travancore's new Council.

When Dewan Rama Rao established for the first time the Legislative Council of Travancore, he had hardly any idea that the Council would ever attain its present development. In these days there was no attempt to more than imitate the models introduced in British India. The administrative system of Travancore was devised in order to secure order and efficiency. The Legislative Council, when first established, was modeled on the Council of the Madras Presidency with limited functions. It was but a Council in name intended merely to register the will of the executive. The discussion of the Budget, interpellations and resolutions, were not thought of nor was there an expression of any popular ambition to participate in the serious business of the State.

Although the new Legislative Council sanctioned under the new regulation consists of so many as 24 members, the constitution of the Council has not been materially advanced. There is no more power or privilege conceded to the people than before, only a larger number of representatives will be admitted to the Council.

CM YK

FROM PAGE ONE

5, including Mirwaiz, sign bonds to secure release

In August, close to 3,000 detentions were made but subsequently two-thirds were released.

"So, effectively, around 1,000 persons are still detained and that includes troublemakers and habitual pelters of stones who have more than five-six cases registered against them," said another government official.

He added that restrictions in most parts of the

Valley had been lifted and plans were afoot to operationalise connections of post-paid mobile numbers of the BSNL by next week.

A shopkeeper in Srinagar said they had shut business in protest against the government's move to revoke the special status.

"No militant has threatened us, we are not opening shops as a mark of protest," said Abdul Rahim in Srinagar.

PSBs to organise 'loan melas' in 400 districts

Another 200 districts will see these gatherings organised between October 10-15.

The programme, which will be headed by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, is meant to encourage customers to avail of not just retail, agriculture, and MSME loans, but also loans for vehicles and housing, and Mudra loans.

"In public, the banks will show that they are pushing

liquidity into the system," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The Finance Minister said she has asked banks to try to get five new borrowers for every existing customer availing of a loan.

"There are several MSMEs that want a one-time settlement of their dues," she said.

"We have instructed the banks to give us the number of such cases between July 1 and September 30."

Accessing Internet is a basic right: Kerala HC

She contended that restrictions on the use of mobile phones amounted to a violation of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

The Internet, accessible through mobile phones or laptops, provided an avenue for the students to gather knowledge.

The Judge said the action of the college authorities infringed the fundamental freedom as well as privacy and would adver-

sely affect the future and career of students who want to acquire knowledge and compete with their peers.

Such restriction could not be permitted to be enforced, she said.

The court said the hostel authorities were expected to enforce only those rules and regulations required for discipline.

Enforcement of discipline shall not be by blocking the ways and means of the students to acquire knowledge, it said.

Keeladi findings traceable to 6th century BCE: report

Six carbon samples collected from the fourth season (2018) of excavations at Keeladi were sent to Beta Analytic Lab, Miami, Florida, U.S., for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating.

After analysing the AMS dates obtained, noted archaeologist Prof. K. Rajan felt the recent excavations at Keeladi presented strong evidence for some of the hitherto held hypotheses.

The samples of skeletal fragments were sent to Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute in Pune, and it identified them of species such as cow/ox (*Bos indicus*), buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), sheep (*Ovis aries*), goat (*Capra hircus*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and peacock (*Pavo cristatus*).

"This finding suggests

that the society in Keeladi had used animals predominantly for agricultural purposes," Mr. Udhayacharan said.

Fifty-six Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds were

recovered from the site of excavation conducted by the TNAD alone, the report stated.

Weaving industry

Pottery specimens from Keeladi sent to the Earth Science Department of Pisa University, Italy, through Vellore Institute of Technology for mineral analysis, confirmed that water containers and cooking vessels were shaped out of locally available raw materials.

"Recovery of 10 spindle whorls, 20 sharply pointed bone tip tools used for design creations, hanging stones of the yarn, terracotta spheres, copper needle and earthen vessels to hold liquid clearly attest to the various stages of weaving industry from spinning, yarning, looming and weaving and later for dyeing," the report added.

While three excavations were undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India, the fourth excavation was undertaken by the TNAD. The fifth excavation by the latter is under way.

'Qualitative change in attitude of hospitals necessary'

It is allegedly a case of improper and unconventional method of treatment and delay done in attending to the patient and affording him treatment," the forum held.

'Clear dengue symptoms'

While noting the allegations in the complaint, the panel observed: "From the records it is manifestly clear that there existed symptoms of dengue but no test was done to see the platelet count, although

the condition of the patient when brought to the hospital was critical. Secondly, the doctor under whose supervision the patient was assigned, never examined the patient, aggravating their negligence."

The complainants also contended that the hospital had maintained there was "nothing to worry" when they offered to take their son elsewhere if it lacked the infrastructure or expertise to treat him.

For the sake of Ram, trust judiciary: PM

It is seen as a criticism of Uddhav Thackeray, who has been raising Mandir issue in the past few weeks

STAFF REPORTER

NASHIK

In a veiled attack on Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray for his comments on building the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that some *bayan bahadur* and *badbole* (loudmouths) were making flippant statements on the dispute in the past few weeks.

He urged them to stop this as the Supreme Court was hearing the matter.

"Every citizen has a lot of respect for the Supreme Court. They too should have faith in the judiciary. I would like to request all the *bayan bahadur* and *badbole* with folded hands... for God's sake, and for the sake of Lord Ram, please trust the Indian judiciary," he said.

Mr. Thackeray has been raising the Ram Mandir issue over the past few weeks dur-



Election stop: Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tribute to Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji during the Vijay Sankalp rally in Nashik on Thursday. ■PTI

ing seat-sharing talks with the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the Assembly election in Maharashtra.

Earlier this week, the Sena chief reportedly said the par-

ty cadre was preparing to lay the foundation stone for the temple in Ayodhya.

Mr. Modi's remarks, without naming the Sena or its leaders, came at the end of

parks being set up in the State. In his address at the rally, Mr. Fadnavis said Maharashtra would contribute \$1 trillion to the \$5 trillion economy plan of the Union government.

Mr. Fadnavis, who had started this yatra in August, said people from the drought-hit Marathwada had donated ₹3.5 crore for relief work in flood-hit western Maharashtra.

Modi's appeal

Mr. Fadnavis thanked the Prime Minister for giving him the opportunity to become Chief Minister, despite his not fitting into the "social engineering of Maharashtra politics".

Mr. Modi ended the rally by sounding the poll bugle, urging the thousands of people who turned up at the meeting to vote the government back to power.

No change in stance: Sunni Waqf Board

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board on Thursday denied reports that it was diluting its stand in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case. It said "unequivocally affirms its full faith in the ability and competence" of senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan, who is arguing for the Muslim side.

Mr. Dhavan was "doing a commendable job" and the Board "shall ever remain indebted to him," Board chairman Zufar Ahmed Faruqi said.

The clarification came a day after a faction of the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind accused Mr. Faruqi of engaging in activities that raised "suspicion" in the case and warned him against entering into any "secret deals" that harmed the Muslims.

Muslim parties' lawyer loses cool at Ayodhya hearing

Case against octogenarian closed

"Mr. Dhavan, people who come from the North West Frontier do not get frightened. We are impressed by the history," the CJI observed with a smile.

On Wednesday also, Mr. Dhavan described as "conjecture" the court's observation that Hindus believed in some divinity in the central dome of the disputed structure which made them offer prayers at the railings put up by the British in 1858. He had quickly apologised.

At the outset on Thursday, Mr. Dhavan referred to the testimonies of various witnesses produced by the Hindu side in the High Court, to drive home the point that there was a Babri mosque at the site, and they failed to prove the place under the central dome to be the exact birthplace of Lord Ram.



Chidambaram's custody extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday extended for another 14 days the judicial remand of former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram in the INX Media graft case.

Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar extended the custody till October 3, saying there was no change in the circumstances since the first time he was sent to judicial custody.

"This court has considered the grounds for police custody and thereafter for judicial custody and granted remand accordingly. There is no change in the circumstances as such. The investigation is still in progress. The accused has already applied for the bail before the Delhi High Court. Therefore as per understanding of this court, the judicial remand of the accused has to be extended. Accordingly, the judicial remand of the accused is extended till October 3," Mr. Kuhar said.

Earlier, the Central Bureau of Investigation produced Mr. Chidambaram before the court on expiry of his judicial remand.

The court had on September 5 dismissed his release plea on expiry of his police remand and sent him to the Tihar jail.

Later, it had also dismissed his application to surrender in the INX Media money laundering case.

R.K.S. Bhaduria to be next Air Force chief

He played a key role in Rafale talks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The government has named Air Marshal R.K.S. Bhaduria as the next Chief of the Air Staff.

Mr. Bhaduria, now the Vice-Chief, will take over on September 30 and will have a two-year tenure. He had played a key role in the negotiations for the deal with France for 36 Rafale jets.

Mr. Bhaduria was commissioned into the fighter stream in June 1980, and has held various command, staff and instructional appointments at various levels, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. He has over 4,250 hours of experience on 26 types of fighters and transport aircraft with the unique distinction of being an experimental test pilot, a Cat A-qualified flying instructor and a pilot attack instructor.



R.K.S. Bhaduria

In an acknowledgment of Mr. Bhaduria's role in the negotiations, the first Rafale, which made its maiden flight in France, is designated RB-008 after his name.

The present Air Force

Realty development licence of Vadra's firm to be cancelled

Haryana govt. official cites disputed nature of land title

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government has completed the formalities to cancel the real estate development licence granted to Sky Light Hospitality Private Ltd., owned by Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. The licence had been later transferred to real estate major DLF Universal Ltd.

A final decision, though,

is likely to be taken in the next 15 days, according to a government official.



Robert Vadra

provisions of the Haryana Development and Regulation and Urban Areas Act, 1975 have been completed. The Department had served them notices. We are currently examining their arguments and replies," he said.

Haryana Town and Country Planning Department's Director K.M. Pandurang on Thursday told *The Hindu* that "the reason for the cancellation of the licence is disputed title of land." "We are in the process of cancellation. Formalities under the

the disputed land was set aside by the then director-general of land consolidation and land records, thus affecting the title of the land.

It was the 1991-batch IAS officer Ashok Khemka who had, in 2012, cancelled the mutation of a land deal between Sky Light Hospitality and DLF.

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij, reacting to the development, said that during the previous regime of the Congress led by Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, several irregularities were committed in various land deals. "It was during this period that Mr. Vadra's company allegedly purchased around 3.5 acres for ₹7.5 crore, and it was later sold to DLF for ₹58 crore after getting a licence to develop a colony," he said.

'Howdy, Modi!' may reveal 'mini-deal'

Trump and Modi may announce a limited package of trade-related agreements at Houston event

SUHASINI HAIDAR
WASHINGTON DC

India and the U.S. are expected to announce the resolution of some of their trade-related differences on medical equipment caps, ICT (information and communication technology) tariffs and market access for agricultural produce. They are in discussions on restoring India's GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) status and a future free trade agreement (FTA).

Despite the positive momentum, sources said no "comprehensive trade deal" was expected during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit from Sunday and only a limited package of announcements were likely.

Sources aware of the negotiations said that on Wednesday, Indian officials handed over their version of an agreement and it was being vetted by United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer. They hoped that Mr. Modi and

What the 'mini-deal' will contain

Likely

- India addressing some of the U.S. concerns on ICT tariffs and data localisation rules, price caps or trade margin rationalisation on medical equipment such as knee implants, and agricultural market access for select produce
- The U.S. rolling back some of the tariffs that it had imposed on India in 2018, when it began its GSP review

Unlikely

- Lifting the price caps on coronary stents, announced by India in 2017 to make healthcare affordable, and major ICT concessions

Still a blur

It is unclear if the two sides have made headway on the U.S. demand for market access to dairy and pork products

the Modi government in 2017 as a move to make healthcare affordable, and shying away from major ICT concessions owing to worries over opening the market for Chinese products.

Hopes on FTA

Business chamber officials who had keenly followed the talks since trade negotiations broke down last year say that an announcement on starting formal discussions on an FTA would be significant.

"For many years, there has been a search for the next 'big deal' [like the civil nuclear deal] in the U.S.-India relationship. The FTA talks, if they were to start, could potentially become that," Ridhika Batra, director, FICCI-USA, said here.

According to the sources, the USTR and Commerce Ministry officials have been discussing how to restore India's GSP status in "some form or entirely". Despite the government announcing that it was not deeply affect-

ed by the U.S. decision to review and then revoke the GSP, the latest export figures have shown a slump, indicating that Indian exporters have lost out on contracts due to the decision. Several U.S. companies doing business in India and at least 44 lawmakers have made a case for India with Mr. Lighthizer on the GSP issue as well.

Industry insiders said any trade agreement at this point will be welcomed in both Washington and New Delhi.

"For the Trump administration, which has not made much headway in its other trade tussles, including with China, the deal with India is a much needed break. For the Modi government, which has faced so much bad economic news, this will be a boost that will hopefully reopen channels of investment," a business representative closely involved in the talks, who preferred not to be named, told *The Hindu*.

(With inputs from Sriram Lakshman in New York)

President Donald Trump would make an announcement of a "mini-deal" after their bilateral meeting in New York next week. The sources would not confirm, but did rule out, the possibility that the leaders would reference the "mini-deal" during their joint public appearance at the "Howdy, Modi" event in Houston on Sunday, if finalised then.

The draft agreement addresses some of the U.S. concerns on ICT tariffs and data localisation rules, price caps or trade margin rationalisation on medical equipment such as knee implants, and agricultural market access for select produce

Sex workers in Silchar not in NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An activist in Silchar of southern Assam has asked the authorities to find ways to include hundreds of sex workers who could not apply for inclusion in the updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) because they were being shunned by their families.

Some of the sex workers in Silchar town - trafficked as children - do not know where they came from, while others had second thoughts about identifying their families through the family tree necessary for inclusion in the NRC, activist Tuhina Sarma said.

"There are hundreds of sex workers, and many have children. We cannot let them become stateless because of the profession most of them were forced into," Ms. Sarma said.

Mamata raises NRC with Amit Shah

CM says it's not needed in West Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday told Union Home Minister Amit Shah that genuine Indians belonging to Bengali, Bihari, Gurkha and Assamese communities were excluded from the NRC in Assam and sought his intervention to ameliorate their miseries.

Ms. Banerjee had her first meeting Mr. Shah here after he assumed office about three months ago.

"I have come to meet the Home Minister to discuss the NRC in Assam and told him that many genuine Indians were excluded from the list. I have requested him to do the needful so that they can be included in the NRC as they are in distress," she told



Mamata Banerjee after meeting Amit Shah in Delhi.

presspersons.

"The Home Minister has assured that he would look into it," she said. Asked if there was any discussion on an NRC in West Bengal, Ms. Banerjee said no, adding it such an initiative was not required in the State.

"Even Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that the NRC was not required in his state," she said.

Cheating case against ex-SC employee closed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has closed a cheating and criminal intimidation case against a former woman employee of the Supreme Court who had levelled allegations of sexual misconduct against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

In May, the top court's three-member inquiry committee, headed by Justice S.A. Bobde, gave a clean chit to the CJI as it "found no substance" in the allegations by the woman.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Manish Khurana accepted the closure report filed by the Delhi police after the complainant, Naveen Kumar, a resident of Jhajjar in Haryana, said he had no opposition to the plea and that he did not want to pursue the case.

"The complainant stated that he is satisfied with the investigation conducted by the police. He also stated that he does not want to file any protest petition and therefore, the closure report may be accepted as he does not want to pursue the present case," the magistrate said. "In view of the facts and circumstances, the statement by the complainant and the police investigation, the closure report is hereby accepted."

The court on September 6 dismissed a plea for cancelling bail of the former woman employee. The police sought cancellation of the bail after the complainant said he was being threatened allegedly by the former Supreme Court staffer and her associates.

J&K global investors' summit put off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government has shelved the global investors' summit scheduled for October.

Governor Satya Pal Malik on Thursday reviewed the preparedness for holding the summit, and decided "to reschedule it to 2020 in consultation with the Union government".

"This is to give the Industries and Commerce Departments reasonable time for preparations to secure robust participation of investors in the summit," a spokesman said.

The new dates will be finalised in consultation with the Centre keeping in view the policy work completion, logistics including schedule of roadshows, climatic conditions and the schedule of Parliament, the official added.

No scope for third party role in Kashmir, says India

Gokhale says PM made this clear to Trump at Osaka meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India reiterated on Thursday that there was no scope for third party intervention in the Kashmir issue.

Announcing the details of Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. from September 21 to 27, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the Prime Minister would meet U.S. President Donald Trump in New York and Houston and pitch for a greater role for India at the international level.

"The Prime Minister has made it very clear in front of the media during his meeting with President Trump in Osaka. India does not see a role for anybody in this matter," Mr. Gokhale said.

Mr. Trump hinted at his role while highlighting the reduced India-Pakistan tensions in recent days.

He has said that a big announcement is expected during the "Howdy, Modi!"



Vijay Gokhale

event, which, however, was not confirmed by the External Affairs Ministry.

Mr. Modi's special outreach with the leaders of 16 U.S. energy majors such as Exxonmobil, Total S.A. and Dominion Energy is expected to be on September 21, which will be followed by a CEO roundtable on September 25. Mr. Gokhale said Mr. Modi would highlight India's aspiration for shaping global political and socio-economic agenda.

Apart from the official

meet with Mr. Trump, Mr. Modi's other confirmed meeting will be with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New York. He will hold interactions with leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean.

UN speech

Apart from the speech at the UN General Assembly, he will address the Climate Summit on September 23 and participate in a special leaders' dialogue on terrorism co-organised by the King of Jordan.

"Our intention this year is to participate in all the plenaries to showcase our achievements in climate change, universal health coverage and sanitation. Multilateralism is at the centre of global politics and should remain so," said Mr. Gokhale elaborating on India's agenda for interacting with the world community.

Now, schools turn recreation centres

With students not returning, Kashmir children given access to playgrounds



The school has seen poor attendance of students till now.

"Local children can use the campus for sports activity from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.," the notice reads at the school.

"The idea is to allow the children, living under a sense of siege since August 5, to come out of their homes and interact. They are constantly exposed to the negative cycle of news, with little interaction outside. Even the spaces of entertainment like

sports grounds are sealed with concertina wires and many are sealed by the security forces," a staffer of the school said, on condition of anonymity.

The government's bid to reopen 4,000 primary and middle schools in the Valley has failed to see any spike in attendance.

According to the official figures, the attendance hovered around 10%, even if staff presence has improved "significantly."

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED VIJAYAWADA e-TENDER NOTICE

The APTRANSCO (Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited) invites on-line Bids under e-procurement for supply of following equipment:

Sl. No.	Specification No.	Description of Equipment	Quantity
1.	PMM 33-e - 23/2019	0.25 Class ABT meters for railway traction feeders at both ends i.e EHT substations of APTRANSCO and RTSS	81 Nos

Tenders can have further details and download the tender schedule from e-procurement market place i.e., tender.approcurement.gov.in (AP state)

Contact Nos: Chief Engineer/ Transmission-0866-2429230 Extn:2014,2034, 2042, 2706 Website: www.aptransco.gov.in Sd/- No. 17/19 Chief Engineer/Transmission

NMDC Limited

(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN: L13100TG1958G0101674

10-3-31/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028

Telephone: 091-40-2358713 to 2358721 Ext: 371/372/249, 2358710

Email: pswetha@nmdc.co.in; kvbaskar@nmdc.co.in; ksmurthy@nmdc.co.in

Global Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode Only)

Tender No. HGMM/4005-16/18B062/86 Dtd. 18/9/2019

Global Tenders are invited through e-procurement mode for the following item from reputed manufacturer/s directly or through their accredited agents in India required for NMDC Limited, Diamond Mining Project, Majagawan Mine, Panna, Madhya Pradesh-488001.

Description **Display of Tender Documents** **Last Date & Time for submission of Tender through online**

Design, Manufacture, Supply and Supervision of Erection & Commissioning of 2 nos. Single Deck Vibrating Screens (1 no. Float Screen & 1 no. Feed Preparation Screen)

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from our website www.nmdc.co.in under tender section, www.eprocure.gov.in and www.mstecommerce.com Any corrigendum to the tender notices will be uploaded in tender section on our website www.nmdc.co.in only and will not be published in newspapers. Prospective bidders may visit the NMDC website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any.

Jt. GM (Materials)

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division, Amruthnagar, Konakunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bangalore-62.

No.BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/11/2019-20 Date: 19-09-2019

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Single & Two Cover Tender)
(Only Through E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, (Bangalore South Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPVD/CPWD/BWSS/B/Railways/MES/National Highways or any State Govt. Organizations for the construction work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Approx. value of work (₹ in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹)	No. of Works	Category
Single Cover System					
1	192 (Call-2)	50.00	50,000/-	1	SC
2	192 (Call-2)	50.00	50,000/-	2	ST
3	192 (Call-3)	20.00	50,000/-	2	Other
4	192 (Call-2)	15.00 to 50.00	37,500/- to 1,00,000/-	3	Other
5	194 (Call-2)	20.00	50,000/-	1	Other
6	196 (Call-2)	49.99 to 50.00	49,990 to 50,000/-	3	SC
7	196 (Call-2)	50.00	50,000/-	2	ST
8	196	50.00	50,000/-	2	ST
9	196 (Call-3)	40.00 to 50.00	80,000/- to 1,00,000/-	3	Other
10	185	50.00	50,000/-	2	SC
11	185	50.00	50,000/-	1	ST
12	185 (Call-3)	25.00 to 50.00	50,000/-	1	Other

U.S. backs Saudi's 'right to defend itself'

Iranian regime's threatening behaviour will not be tolerated, says Secretary of State Pompeo

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Thursday that America backs Saudi Arabia's "right to defend itself" after a weekend attack targeted the heart of its oil industry, comments coming after he described the assault as an "act of war".

The attacks have reignited fears over a wider conflagration in the region, as tensions remain high over Iran's collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Mr. Pompeo's comments on Twitter came as he was in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, after meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom's Defense Minister. The Saudis on Wednesday displayed missile and drone wreckage at a press conference, and cited other evidence they alleged shows the raid was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran".



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo being greeted by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah. ■ AFP

Iran, which has denied involvement in the attack, warned the U.S. it will retaliate immediately if it is targeted. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif separately accused U.S. allies and officials of trying to "deceive" President Donald Trump into entering a war against Tehran.

Mr. Pompeo wrote his tweet early Thursday after his meeting with Prince Mo-

hammed over Saturday's drone and cruise missile attack on a crucial oil processing facility and oil field. Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have claimed the attack, but the U.S. alleges Iran carried out the assault.

Mr. Pompeo called the attack "unprecedented."

"The U.S. stands with Saudi Arabia and supports its right to defend itself," Mr. Pompeo said. "The Iranian

regime's threatening behaviour will not be tolerated."

President Donald Trump has been noncommittal on whether he would order U.S. military retaliation. He separately said on Wednesday that he is moving to increase financial sanctions on Tehran over the attack, without elaborating. Iran already is subject to a crushing American sanctions program targeting its crucial oil industry.

The UAE announced on Thursday it had joined a U.S.-led coalition to protect waterways across the Mideast after an attack on Saudi oil installations.

The state-run WAM news agency quoted Salem al-Zaaferi of the Emirati Foreign Ministry as saying the UAE joined the coalition to "ensure global energy security." Saudi Arabia joined the coalition on Wednesday. Australia, Bahrain and the U.K. are also taking part.

Attack will trigger all-out war: Iran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran's Foreign Minister has said a military strike on Iran would trigger "all-out war," as the U.S. and its Gulf allies accuse Iran of being behind attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

Asked about the consequence of "an American or Saudi military strike on Iran" in an interview with CNN aired on Thursday, Mohammad Javad Zarif responded: "An all-out war."

"We don't want war, we don't want to engage in a military confrontation," he said, warning it would lead to "a lot of casualties". "But we won't blink to defend our territory."

U.S. drone strike kills 30, injures 40 in Afghanistan

Attack aimed at IS hits farm workers



Villagers carrying the coffin of one of the victims after a drone strike in Khogyani district on Thursday. ■ Reuters

REUTERS
JALALABAD/ KABUL

A U.S. drone strike intended to hit an Islamic State (IS) hideout in Afghanistan killed at least 30 civilians resting after a day's labour in the fields, officials said on Thursday.

The attack on Wednesday night also injured another 40 people after accidentally targeting farmers and labourers who had just finished collecting pine nuts at Wazir Tangi in eastern Nangarhar province, three Afghan officials told Reuters.

"The workers had lit a bonfire and were sitting together when a drone targeted them," tribal elder Malik Rahat Gul said.

Afghanistan's Defence Ministry and a senior U.S. official in Kabul confirmed the drone strike, but did not share details of civilian casualties. "U.S. forces conducted a drone strike against Daesh (IS) terrorists in Nangarhar," said Colonel Sonny Leggett, a spokesman for U.S. forces. "We are aware of allegations of the death of non-combatants and are working with offi-

cials to determine the facts."

About 14,000 U.S. troops are in Afghanistan, training and advising Afghan security forces and conducting counter-insurgency operations against insurgents.

Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor of Nangarhar, said at least nine bodies had been collected from the site. Haidar Khan, who owns the pine nut fields, said about 150 workers were there for harvesting, with some still missing as well as the confirmed dead and injured.

Taliban attack

Meanwhile, a Taliban mini-truck bomb killed at least 20 people and wounded 95 when it exploded near a hospital in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, a provincial official said, with casualties expected to rise.

The militants wanted to target a training base for Afghanistan's powerful National Directorate of Security, but parked the vehicle laden with explosives outside a hospital gate nearby, said another defence ministry source.

Gantz says he should be PM

He refuses Netanyahu's call for support to form a unity govt.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEL AVIV

Benny Gantz, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's main opponent in the country's general election, said on Thursday he should be Prime Minister in a unity government.

Mr. Gantz spoke to journalists after Mr. Netanyahu called for them to join together in a unity government as results from Tuesday's vote showed neither with an obvious path to form a majority coalition.

Mr. Gantz's centrist Blue and White is nevertheless two seats ahead of Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing Likud, ac-



Benny Gantz

cording to results published by Israeli media with 97% of the vote counted.

The ex-military chief said his alliance had the most seats and he should lead the next government.

"The public voted clearly in favour of unity," Mr. Gantz said.

"Blue and White has at the time I am speaking won 33 seats, while Mr. Netanyahu has not obtained a sufficient majority to form a coalition as he hoped."

He went on to say that "we will listen to everyone, but we will not accept mandates imposed on us."

Mr. Netanyahu has been seeking to find a way to remain in office and continue his reign as Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister.

He also faces the possibility of corruption charges in the weeks ahead.

Is the reign of 'King Bibi' over?

Deadlock continues as main parties fail to reach consensus

STANLY JOHNY

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suffered a major political setback on Tuesday when results of parliamentary election were out. Mr. Netanyahu, Israel's longest serving Prime Minister who was in power for 10 consecutive years and was hoping to win a fifth term in office, failed to win a majority in the 120-member Knesset.

When almost all of the votes were counted, Mr. Netanyahu's right-religious coalition won 55 seats, six short of majority. His Likud party's performance was worse than the last election. The Likud won 31 seats, down from 35 in April. The Likud's main rival, the Blue and White, led by former army chief Benny Gantz, emerged as the single largest party with 33 seats. Mr. Gantz's centrist coalition has 44 seats.

Does it mean the reign of Mr. Netanyahu, who is called "King Bibi" by his supporters, finally over? It's too early to reach any such conclusion. Based on the results, there are different possibilities. For now, no coalition has majority. And it's not clear who President Reuven Rivlin will call to form the government. Mr. Netanyahu hopes that he will get the first-mover advantage as his coalition has 55 seats. But Blue and White is the largest party, and if the Joint List, the Arab parties' alliance that has won 13 seats, backs Mr. Gantz, his bloc will have 57 MPs.

The king-maker

While both main parties are in a deadlock, Avigdor Lieberman, whose right-wing secular party Yisrael Beiteinu has won eight seats, has emerged as the king-maker. Mr. Lieberman, a former al-



Political gridlock: Benjamin Netanyahu. ■ Reuters

ly-turned-rival of Mr. Netanyahu, is not part of any coalition. After the April election, he refused to back Mr. Netanyahu, forcing the Prime Minister to recommend the second poll. If Mr. Lieberman backs the Likud now, Mr. Netanyahu could so called for a unity government – he wants the Blue and White to join his right-religious coalition, not him joining a Blue and White-Yisrael Beiteinu alliance. On Thursday, leaders of all the parties in his right-religious bloc have signed a document backing Mr. Netanyahu for Prime Minister. But Mr. Gantz has ruled out any alliance with the religious parties. There are three in Mr. Netanyahu's bloc – the ultra-orthodox UTJ and Shas and the religious nationalist Yamina. If either of the two leaders changes their stance, a unity government is possible. Otherwise, the deadlock will continue.

Another possibility is of Mr. Gantz forming the government with support from the Yisrael Beiteinu and the Joint List (Arab parties). But Mr. Lieberman has said he won't sit in a government with the Arab parties ("not in this universe and not in a parallel universe"), while Ayman Odeh, leader of the Joint List, has said he's looking to become the first Arab opposition leader in the Knesset. Despite their initial protestations, a Blue and White-Labour-Yisrael Beiteinu government with outside support from the Joint List can't be ruled out.

And if no leader manages to form a coalition, there will be a third election.

Abolish executive presidency: Ranil backers

The proposal, made by the Prime Minister's allies, did not find many takers at Cabinet meeting

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Backers of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday proposed abolishing the country's highly-controversial executive presidency, but with few takers in the Cabinet it was thwarted, according to those present at the discussion. The move comes a day after Sri Lanka's Election Commission announced that presidential poll will be held on November 16.

President Maithripala Sirisena convened an "emergency Cabinet meeting" at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday afternoon, where Minister Rajitha Senaratne and Ravi Karunanayake, both known to be supporting

Mr. Wickremesinghe's candidacy, made a case for abolishing executive presidency, sources told *The Hindu*.

However, other Cabinet ministers, including Mangala Samaraweera, Kabir Hashim and Mano Ganesan, have opposed the idea, arguing that it was not the right time for such a move, given that the poll date has been announced. "Several of us voiced the opinion that this must not be done now, it will seem like we are afraid to contest the polls," Mr. Mano Ganesan told *The Hindu*.

The issue of executive presidency has dominated Sri Lankan elections since 1994 with several candidates campaigning on the platform for abolishing it, but none keep-

ing the promise. The leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) representing minority Tamils have consistently demanded the abolition. Mr. Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) in 2014 adopted a motion to abolish executive presidency.

More leverage However, other minority parties argue that an executive presidency gives minority communities more leverage in influencing national policy. Thursday's development comes in the wake of a heightening clash within the UNP on the candidate for the presidential race. Party leader and Prime Minister Wick-

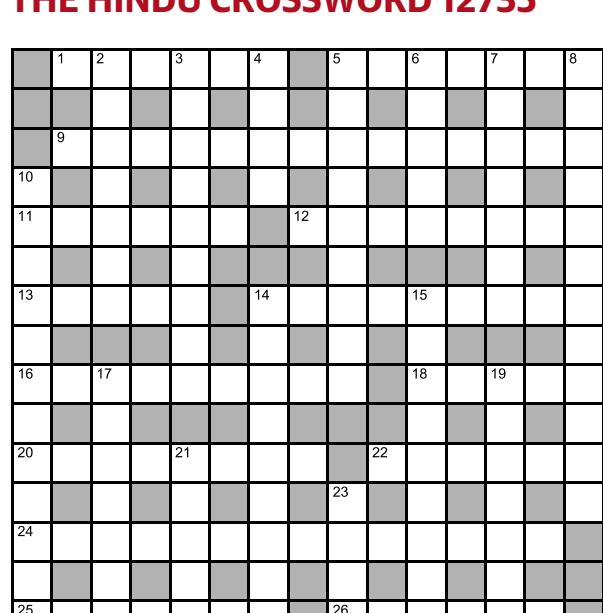
remesinghe, deputy leader and Minister Sajith Premadasa, and Speaker Karu Jayasuriya are contenders.

Many of the Ministers who opposed the proposal on Thursday are known to be backing UNP deputy leader Sajith Premadasa for candidacy. Mr. Jayasuriya recently announced that his candidacy was contingent on possible support from progressive forces for the abolition of executive presidency, while Mr. Premadasa has said there has been no "scientific survey" confirming that the people of the country were for abolition.

TNA spokesman M.A. Sunmahan tweeted on Thursday: "Disappointed with the 'Yahapalanaya'" good governance, as the ruling coalition pitched itself in 2015 who oppose the move to abolish EP. Selfishness and opportunism at its worst. Abandoning your promises and mandates got over quarter of a century? @TNAmediaoffice will support abolition at whatever time based on policy and not expediency."

Sri Lanka will go to polls in less than two months. The controversial former Defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, is contesting from the SLPP, and the JVP is fielding its leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake. All eyes are on the UNP for its choice of candidate.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12735



ACROSS

- Opposed beating of thug (6)
- Critically examine young man about offence (7)
- Fear of cast was noticeable around director (2,2,1,4,5)
- Who oversees world peace or wrecks? (6)
- Bury conflict in and unite (8)

(set by Buzzer)

- End of prayer period to reflect on (5)
- Hope Dylan made megabucks (1,3,2,3)
- One recounting going round area in RV as tourist (9)
- Fight chills and fever getting better in the end (5)
- Seeing score after 12 came off over, it's all right (8)
- Station say, one in Madras as an alternative/second to Central (6)
- Apology from one opposed to rich player? (4,10)
- Small feeds Times editor posted (7)
- Revising any clue endlessly is madness (6)
- Outstanding bowling unit of proper quality (7)
- Drink American soldier and general ordered (6,3)
- Rest behind wheels (2,2)
- Caught a cold sharing foodstuff (4)
- Majesty's special grant for us (9)
- Burning gas, good going for sun? (5)
- Moulded institute into training cadets (3-4)
- Say a more blunt knife? (6,6)
- Quiz pretentious man wearing tee shirts upside-down (3,2,3,4)
- City of UP had a ball hosting mela ultimately (9)
- Ape is a nut running after fruit mostly (9)
- Breathtaking day when storm set off at regular intervals (7)
- Knowing song scales, a habitual thing (7)
- Cricket for one shedding conservative image (5)
- Rest behind wheels (2,2)

SUDOKU

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	6	4	3					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12734

R	E	G	A	D	A	L	L	E	R	G	I	C
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H	N	R	A	T	L	N	U					
M	U	S	T	A	G	E	L	E	A	N	T	
O	A	I</td										

MARKET WATCH

	19-09-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,093	-1.29
US Dollar	71.34	-0.14
Gold	38,454	-0.70
Brent oil	64.50	0.67

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	361.90	-4.45
Asian Paints	1553.90	6.15
Axis Bank	638.10	-10.20
Bajaj Auto	2738.85	-38.20
Bajaj Finance	7188.65	-66.40
Bharti Airtel	337.60	2.00
BPCL	379.85	-2.25
Britannia Ind	2621.80	7.95
Cipla	452.05	-6.60
Coal India	193.45	1.10
D Reddys Lab	2732.55	-11.10
Eicher Motors	1575.50	-27.90
GAIL (India)	133.05	-1.90
Grasim Ind	699.90	-3.20
HCL Tech.	1049.55	-8.90
HDFC	1974.60	-13.70
HDFC Bank	1101.05	7.18
Hero MotoCorp	2532.25	-43.85
Hindalco	195.95	-2.05
Hind Unilever	1812.75	-16.45
Indiabulls HFL	394.75	-24.50
ICICI Bank	386.60	-12.75
IndusInd Bank	1282.25	-48.15
Bharti Infratech	249.40	-4.10
Infosys	820.70	-9.15
Indian Oil Corp	126.20	-1.95
ITC	236.70	-2.55
JSW Steel	219.55	-1.85
Kotak Bank	1452.60	-12.15
L&T	1300.70	-17.30
M&M	519.30	-7.70
Maruti Suzuki	5971.75	-123.30
NTPC	121.70	-0.80
ONGC	124.30	-2.70
PowerGrid Corp	201.15	-0.90
Reliance Ind	1179.05	-26.65
State Bank	274.05	-6.35
Sun Pharma	411.15	-5.65
Tata Motors	124.20	2.45
Tata Steel	344.65	-13.60
TCS	2101.95	-36.60
Tech Mahindra	703.35	-13.40
Titan	1153.20	-7.50
UltraTech Cement	3866.30	-36.50
UPL	562.05	5.00
Vedanta	146.15	-3.55
Wipro	241.50	-2.80
YES Bank	54.10	-10.00
Zee Entertainment	308.85	-26.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 19

CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL

US Dollar..... 71.12 ... 71.44

Euro..... 78.71 ... 79.10

British Pound..... 88.64 ... 89.05

Japanese Yen (100)..... 65.88 ... 66.18

Chinese Yuan..... 10.02 ... 10.07

Swiss Franc..... 71.73 ... 72.09

Singapore Dollar..... 51.65 ... 51.89

Canadian Dollar..... 53.56 ... 53.80

Malaysian Ringgit..... 16.96 ... 17.05

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

September 19 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)..... 49.8 ... (50.2)

22 ct gold (1 g)..... 3580 ... (3600)

GST Council may review rates on auto sector

Easing annual return filing procedure and rationalising rates on lottery may also be on the agenda at today's meeting

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is likely to discuss the viability of a tax rate cut for the automobile sector, easing the annual return filing procedure for small businesses and possibly rationalise the two different rates on lotteries at its 37th meeting to be held in Goa on Friday, according to tax analysts.

"The auto industry is demanding a GST rate cut from 28% to 18%", said Ankit Agarwal, MD, Alankit Ltd.

Lower levy on FMCG

"The concerns related to the automobile industry will be taken up in the upcoming Council meeting. The Council may also lower levies on items such as biscuits," he



Tough times: There seems to be no clarity if the slump in the automobile sector is due to high taxes. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

said. There is, however, no consensus on whether the Council will actually reduce the GST rates on automobiles since it is not clear that the downturn in the industry is due to high rates of tax.

"While the auto industry is pushing for a GST rate-cut

at the meeting, the chances of the Council considering the same do not seem very likely as there are several factors contributing to the slump in auto sales, besides GST," said Archit Gupta, founder and CEO, ClearTax.

"The declining GST reve-

nue collections also do not provide much hope at the moment, either, for rate cuts in this sector. Further, the view is that a rate cut given to boost one particular sector will lead to other sectors also demanding the same treatment," said Mr. Gupta.

The other major decision that is likely to be taken is exempting small business from filing the GSTR-9 annual return forms.

These forms have come under much criticism for being too complex and asking for data that businesses, especially smaller ones, cannot furnish.

"The Council may exempt small taxpayers with annual turnover up to ₹2 crore or up to ₹5 crore from filing annual returns for a year or so," Mr. Agarwal said. "The proposed

step would ease compliance burden and subsequently help tax authorities focus on big assesses."

"The industry is also hopeful that the government would provide the road map and corresponding timelines with regard to implementation of the new GST returns and e-invoicing which should further ease the compliance under the GST regime," Mahesh Jaising, partner, Deloitte India, said.

Mr. Gupta, however, said the government should instead focus on easing the annual return filing procedure and forms rather than doing away with them.

GSTR-9 complexities
"We strongly feel the complexities of filing form GSTR-9 should be reviewed,"

Mr. Gupta said. "The filing deadline has been extended for the fourth time. We are expecting the Council to consider a simplified version of the form which will rationalise several parts of this annual return."

The other aspects that could come up for discussion may be distribution of taxes between the Centre and the States, and also the possibility of combining the two existing rates of 28% and 12% for vehicles into a single rate.

"The GST Council will interact with the Finance Commission during the September 20 meeting and will suggest the formula for the distribution of taxes between the Centre and the States for a five-year period starting April 1, 2020," Mr. Agarwal said.

Nifty falls to seven-month low

Bank majors drag; selling by foreign investors continues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices lost more than 1% each on Thursday with the broader Nifty falling to a seven-month low and the Sensex on the verge of wiping all of its gains in the current calendar year.

The Sensex lost 470.41 points or 1.29% to close at 36,093.47 – only a tad above the December 31, 2018 close of 36,068. This is also the lowest close for the index since March 1, when it ended at 36,063.81.

Banking heavyweights were the worst hit with Yes Bank shedding 15.52% to a multi-year low of 54.15 after a report from Moody's said that among the banking majors, Yes Bank and IndusInd Bank have the largest expo-

sure to commercial real estate and could face issues related to asset quality. While IndusInd Bank lost 3.59%, Sensex constituents – Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, SBI, Reliance Industries and ONGC – lost in excess of 2% each.

Meanwhile, the 50-share Nifty lost 135.85 points or 1.25% to close at 10,704.80, which is its lowest close since February 19. As many as 43 constituents of the Nifty declined on Thursday.

No more rate cuts?
Market participants attributed the day's fall to a combination of negative factors including low tax collection, U.S. Federal Reserve cutting rates, but more importantly hinting at no further rate cuts and unabated selling by

foreign investors. Provisional data showed that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net sellers at nearly ₹900 crore on Thursday.

Further, data from National Securities Depository Limited showed that FPIs have sold shares worth ₹4,833 crore in the current month. On the other hand, domestic institutional investors, which include banks, insurance companies and mutual funds, have been net buyers on most days with Thursday's buying pegged at ₹646 crore.

The market breadth was weak with nearly 70% stocks on the BSE ending the day in the red. As many as 1,828 stocks declined, as against only 686 gainers. All the broader indices lost over 1% each on Thursday.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

With consumer price inflation projected below 4% over the next one year, there is room for further lowering of interest rates, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

"Today, when we see that the price stability is maintained, and inflation is much below 4%, and is expected to be so in the next 12 months' horizon, there's room for a rate cut, especially when growth has slowed down," Mr. Das said at the Bloomberg India Economic Forum.

The central bank reduced the repo rate by 110 bps during February and August to boost economic growth. The GDP growth for the first quarter of the current financial year dropped to a 25-

quarter low of 5%. The repo rate is currently at 5.4% and there is an expectation that RBI will further lower the interest rate in the next policy review scheduled in the first week of October.

The central bank has a mandate to keep inflation at 4%, within a band of +/- 2%.

The RBI Governor said there was little scope for fis-

cal expansion by the government. There has been demand from the industry for an expansionary fiscal policy to support growth, which would mean missing the 3.3% fiscal deficit target for 2019-20.

Observing that the government had remained prudent on the fiscal side, he said, "I think government's fiscal space is itself very limited. The fiscal deficit is at 3.3%. There is little space for fiscal expansion."

On the external sector, Mr. Das said the outlook was one of cautious optimism, albeit with some downside risks accentuated at this juncture.

"Volatile international crude prices also continue to pose potential risks to the viability of the current account balance through trade

and remittances channels," he said. On the recent spurt in domestic fuel prices following a rise in crude oil prices after the drone attack on Saudi oil plants, Mr. Das said so far the quantum of price rise would not impact inflation in a significant way.

Mr. Das said banks had to take larger haircuts in cases where NBFCs were facing governance issues.

"The resolution process will have to be marketed and banks and other lenders will have a major role to play. NBFCs, where there are major governance issues, there, (the banks) need to take a larger haircut. There are business failures but there is also an element of administrative or governance lapses. So banks will have to take a balanced call," he said.

+ Vodafone Idea may gain from IUC levy extension

A third of earnings is from the charge



Siemens sets up medical imaging unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Munich-based Siemens Healthineers has set up a 'future-ready' medical imaging manufacturing facility in the city.

For this, Siemens AG has made a fresh commitment of ₹20 crore in addition to the ₹2,500-crore investment it made in setting up its largest global R&D centre here.

The next-generation manufacturing facility, co-located with the R&D centre, will manufacture diagnostic imaging and advanced therapy solutions such as computed tomography (CT) systems, based on the company's Somatom go.

Siemens will also make mobile C-arm radiology systems and Cios Fit.

Gerd Hoefner, MD and president, Siemens Healthcare, said, "The co-location of manufacturing with R&D centre is important as it will enable us to deliver value to customers faster."

Telecom body okays ₹8,500 cr. for mobile towers, optical fibre laying

BharatNet in T.N., Telangana among approved projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Digital Communication Commission, the highest decision-making body in the Department of Telecom, on Thursday approved multiple projects worth over ₹8,500 crore for setting up mobile towers and laying of optical fibre, with an aim to provide improved connectivity.

The commission also approved a special scheme to cover close to 12,000 uncovered villages in aspirational districts, a senior official said on Thursday.

The approved infra projects include laying of BharatNet fibre in Tamil Nadu and Telangana, at an estimated cost of ₹1,815 crore and ₹2,065 crore, respectively. Additionally, approval was given for setting up 1,917 mobile towers for uncovered villages in the North East.

For Meghalaya, the commission has approved ₹2,132 crore for 1,593 mobile towers. These proposals will be now sent to the Cabinet for approval. The Commission

also approved 'in-building access' by telecom service providers, in which they will be allowed to share their infrastructure. "We will request the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to issue suitable guidelines to owners or residential welfare associations to provide access to all TSPs in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner," he said.

IN BRIEF



CIL's executive hiring set to jump this fiscal

KOLKATA
Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is set to hire 7,000 people during the current fiscal, up by about 17% from an average hiring of 6,000 a year as the miner plans to recruit more executives, a top company official said. The world's largest coal miner expects roles of executives becoming important with more modern, automated and environment-friendly mining activities, according to the official. PTI

Tata Communications partners Cisco

MUMBAI
Tata Communications has expanded its partnership with Cisco to offer enterprises a secure, cloud-based Cisco Webex Contact Center solution. "This joint offering is an end-to-end managed solution with global reach enabled by Tata Communications' global digital infrastructure and managed services expertise, which companies of all sizes can now leverage for competitive advantage," said a company statement.

Zifo opens centres in Chennai, Shanghai

CHENNAI
Global scientific informatics services firm Zifo RnD Solutions has expanded its operations by opening centres in Chennai and Shanghai as part of its growth plans, said a top official. "Currently, we employ 500 people in Chennai and 100 overseas," said Raj Prakash, co-founder and CEO, Zifo RnD Solutions. "This number will be doubled to 1,200 by 2023," added Mr. Prakash.

Tata Motors unveils EV tech to power cars

Company to launch first product based on 'Ziptron' in the fourth quarter of current fiscal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Tata Motors has unveiled a new electric vehicle (EV) technology named 'Ziptron' that will power its electric cars.

Ziptron, the EV power train technology, can be deployed on any platform of Tata Motors to produce sustainable and durable e-mobility solutions, which will be specifically designed for Indian conditions.

Successful tests

The first product using this technology will be launched in the fourth quarter of this financial year. Extensive tests conducted over one million km has been successful, top executives said.

The company is yet to disclose whether the first product, based on the new tech-



Space for both: ICE vehicles and EVs will co-exist for the next decade, says Guenter Butschek (right). ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nology, would be a sport utility vehicle or a passenger car. The company said that the Ziptron EV power train technology, developed by a team of 350 Tata Motors engineers over four years, will be a "building block towards Tata Motors' consistent striving for commonality, to drive

economies of scale and to make new technologies affordable for Indian consumers."

Addresses all concerns

The technology addresses 'all concerns' for an EV and comes with an efficient high-voltage system (over 300

volts), high performance, long range of 250 km per charge, fast-charging capability, battery with an eight-year warranty and adherence to IP67 standard which is the best dust and water-proof battery system in the industry, according to the company.

Executives said that Ziptron technology comprised a highly efficient permanent magnet AC motor providing 'superior performance on demand'. It also utilises smart, regenerative braking to charge the battery while on the drive.

Guenter Butschek, CEO and MD, Tata Motors, said, "Our state-of-art technology brand Ziptron has been designed in-house while utilising our global engineering network. At the heart of our

future EV line-up, this technology will deliver a thrilling driving experience to our customers aspiring to go green." He added, "Being an Indian company, we want to lead the new wave of electrification in the country. Both ICE vehicles and EVs will co-exist for the next decade or beyond. We are working to bring the EV into the mainstream."

Currently, EVs are hardly

any match to vehicles with internal combustion engines.

Out of the 3.3 million

passenger vehicles sold in

2018, the contribution of EVs

was only 2,027 units.

With the Ziptron technology, Tata Motors said it was hoping to usher in a new wave of e-mobility in India and accelerate faster adoption of EVs.

RBI revises norms for concurrent audit in banks

'Risk-sensitive areas must be covered'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised norms for concurrent audit in banks and said lenders should ensure that risk-sensitive areas identified by them are covered under the audit.

Concurrent audit aims at shortening the interval between a transaction and its independent examination.

"Care may be taken to ensure that all centralized processing centres (business origination and monitoring) are covered under concurrent audit," the RBI said.

With regard to appointment of auditors, it has been left to banks whether concurrent audit should be done by bank's own staff or external auditors.

"The head of internal audit in the bank should participate in selection of concurrent auditors where such function is outsourced and should be responsible for the quality review of the work of the concurrent auditors reporting to her/him,"

RBI said adding that banks should ensure if any partner of a chartered accountant firm is a director of the bank, no partner of the same firm should be appointed as concurrent auditor in the same bank.

The RBI said the tenure of external concurrent auditors with a bank should not be more than five years on continuous basis. The age limit for retired staff engaged as concurrent auditors has been capped at 70 years.

Google services in India get more local flavour

Search in 3 more Indian languages'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Aimed at getting more people in India to use its services, technology giant Google on Thursday announced addition of more local languages such as Tamil, Telugu and Bengali for products including Search, Lens, Discover and Bolo. It added that it will extend Search to three more Indian languages by the this year end.

Google also said that it will roll out the 'interpreter mode' in the Assistant on Android phones in the coming months. This will help users translate from one language to another in real-time, enabling two people who do not know each other's language to converse.

Another application Bolo, a speech-based app that helps children learn how to read, will get Bangla, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu as additional languages.

Google to set up AI research lab

It will focus on solving problems in healthcare, agriculture

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

U.S.-headquartered Google on Thursday announced the setting up of a research lab in Bengaluru that will work on advancing artificial intelligence-related research with an aim to solve problems in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture and education.

"... we announced Google Research India – a new AI research team in Bangalore that will focus on advancing computer science and applying AI research to solve big problems in healthcare, agriculture, education and more," Sundar Pichai, CEO, Google, tweeted.

Caesar Sengupta, vice-president, Next Billion Users Initiative and Payments at Google, added that this team

would focus on advancing fundamental computer science and AI research by building a strong team and partnering with the research community across the country.

The company said it will also be applying this research to tackle problems in fields such as healthcare, agriculture, and education.

The new lab will be a part of and support Google's global network of researchers.

"We're also exploring the potential for partnering with India's scientific research community and academic institutions to help train top talent and support collaborative programmes, tools and resources," Jay Yagnik, vice-president and Google Fellow, Google AI, said.

Google Pay

The technology giant announced a host of additions to its UPI-powered digital payments app Google Pay which, the company said, had grown more than three times in the last 12 months to 67 million monthly active users, driving transactions worth over \$10 billion on an annualised basis.

TNPL to invest ₹2,520 cr. in plant expansion

Company to boost paper capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd. (TNPL) has embarked on a ₹2,520-crore, two-phased expansion programme at its Tiruchirappalli plant, said a top official.

"TNPL has embarked on a mill expansion plan in its second unit to produce 1.65 lakh tonnes of paper per annum. The company will also set up a hardwood pulp mill with chemical recovery boiler, captive power plant and a waste-water treatment plant," said N. Muruganandan, chairman, while addressing the shareholders.

"The first phase, involving the setting up of a hardwood pulp mill, captive power plant and waste wa-

ter treatment, will be completed by January 2021. The second phase for making paper will be ready by 2023. After expansion, the overall paper and packaging board production capacity will increase to 7.65 lakh tonnes per annum from the existing 6 lakh tonnes per annum," said S. Sivashanmugaraja, managing director, TNPL.

He said TNPL would have a capacity to produce 400 tonnes per day of hardwood pulp, which was scalable to 500 tonnes per day.

"The project cost will be met through a mix of debt and equity. We will borrow ₹880 crore from banks and the rest will be funded by internal accruals," said Mr. Sivashanmugaraja.

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THE HINDU GROUP

Game for fun, relatable CHARACTERS

Sonam Kapoor on playing real women on screen and working with *The Zoya Factor* author Anuja Chauhan



SUCHETA CHAKRABORTY

When producer Aarti Shetty called Sonam Kapoor to ask if she would consider playing the lead in the screen adaptation of Anuja Chauhan's debut novel *The Zoya Factor*, Kapoor responded with a prompt "I don't think anybody but me should be playing this role".

Bookish bonds

The actor has had a long-standing relationship with the author. "I have known [Anuja] for the past seven-eight years. I own [the rights to her] book *Battle for Bittora*. I launched *Those Pricey Thakur Girls* in Delhi," she says. While a love for Chauhan's writing has led her to wholeheartedly support the author's works, she explains that it is her female characters that she finds especially

attractive. "They are fun, relatable, ordinary. They have a very typical modern Indian girl vibe to them – I really like that," she admits, noting that the regular girl with a messy work and love life is hardly ever represented on screen, being pushed out more often by the ubiquitous small-town girl or the hyper Yash Raj or Dharma city girl. Moreover, having known the author personally, she points out, "When you meet Anuja, you'll understand that all her charac-

C When you meet
Anuja, you'll understand that all her characters are inspired by her. She's spunky and has this self-deprecating way of looking at herself.

In 2010, Kapoor worked on another screen adaptation of a literary work when she played the eponymous heroine in *Aisha*, a film that was based on Jane Austen's *Emma*. But adapting Chauhan's novel for the screen involved new methods. Kapoor says that in *The Zoya Factor* rather than conveying her thoughts through voiceovers which was an approach used extensively in *Aisha*, it was decided that they would use piece to camera moments, episodes where her character breaks the fourth wall and speaks to the camera directly.

Entertainment unlimited

Kapoor describes *The Zoya Factor* as quirky and easy-going, a film that concerns itself with how superstitious cricketers are and how affected by cricket India is. "When something is result-based, you need to repeat it," she says alluding to the central theme of the film. It is the kind of film that she has not done in a while. "The last one that I did was *Khoobsurat*," she says.

While expressing that she can only work with people she enjoys being around, Kapoor shares that she felt the need to make a light and entertaining film because of the present atmosphere in the world. "I gravitated towards it because I wanted something that was simple. This is the kind of commercial film I'd do where you can

forget about the stressful situations in life," she elaborates. She believes that most young people in India now need a temporary break from everything going on around them and the film will offer that respite. It is a film that, "I would like to go to with my girlfriends and eat popcorn. And where I will not have to think about global warming and divisive politics for two hours of the day," she states.

But preparing for the film brought its share of challenges. The actor recalls an incident where she ended up getting her hair burnt when she went to get it permed for the role.

Weighty issues

She explains that one is meant to apply a protector on the hair before putting the perm solution, a step that was neglected by the hairstylist. Although some of it has grown back since the incident, she points to the bit that still carries the damage. "My hair was my pride," she says sadly.

The actor also gained 10

kilos for the role to match the character's description in the book and shares that although she generally has a hard time keeping the weight on when stressed or working, it has been difficult losing it this time.

Kapoor hopes to work in the future with directors like Shimit Amin and Imtiaz Ali while also wishing to return to filmmakers she has already collaborated with. "I really hope to do a horror film one day," she says between laughing while talking about her desire to scream and get scared on screen as she has not done that yet.

Book to screen:
Sonam Kapoor describes *The Zoya Factor* as quirky and easy-going

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



POP-UP

Karavalli comes to Varq

On the 11th anniversary Taj's Delhi restaurant, a Bengaluru favourite comes to celebrate



Last year, chef Naren Thimmaiah, along with a few fellow chefs went to Kasargod, in north Kerala, to learn what a women's self-help group was doing with jackfruit. Inspired, they came back to introduce several new items on the menu at Karavalli, ranging from an evening snack of a steamed batter of rice-rava, jackfruit pulp, jaggery, coconut bits, cardamom; to a jackfruit-seed stir-fry.

"That's what we do – homestyle cooking, with minimal garnish and plating," says Naren, who was on the founding team of Karavalli, the 29-year-old Bengaluru restaurant that came into being with a push by Camellia Panjab, who has set up and run some of the most iconic places that serve Indian food.

"In those days Indian food meant a 'restaurant-safe' menu: dal makhni, chicken tikka, and maybe a chicken Chettinad, and then you'd find a vegetarian option with baby corn or mushroom, whether it suited the dish or not," says Naren. So bringing coastal cuisine from the South-West coast was considered both an experiment and a risk. It proved to be a success, and over the years, the repertoire has expanded to include cuisines from about 100km inland, so those from Coorg and Central Kerala as well as community-based food.

What has encouraged them along the way, says Naren, is when people would come, eat the food at Karavalli and say, 'This is great, but my aunt makes it better,' after which the team would get on the phone with the aunt to learn how she did it.

This is what Delhi eaters can expect from the pop-up: There's no modernisation, tweaking, toning down, or ostentatious plating (though the restaurant that will host it, Varq, does just this). What helped the restaurant at the time of its birth will probably help it today: people who have started travelling and eating different kinds of foods. Last year they did pop-ups in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Hyderabad.

The reason it hasn't been easy to replicate it anywhere else before is that every ingredient for the 80+ dishes on the original menu is picked carefully. "I was just on the phone with my chefs from Mumbai and Delhi, discussing how to source Kundapur coconut (known for its thick, fleshy coconuts that give great body to gravies)," he says, explaining that even when a fast-food chain that mass-produces its food enters a new market they take a few years to understand how to source to get just the right flavour and consistency.

Some of the star dishes of 46 to expect are: Crab Milagu Fry (with pepper masala), Tiger Prawns Roast (in a Kerala spice mix), Koli Barath (chicken with Coorg masalas and vinegar, the chef's mother's recipe), Ogganade Aritha Pundi (steamed rice dumplings flavoured with coconut and cumin), and more.

At Varq, The Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road; September 21st-28th; lunch 12:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.; dinner 7 p.m.-11:45 p.m.

SUNALINI MATHEW

UNDER THE HAMMER

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5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



IHC MUSIC CLUB
Sumeet Anand Pandey

PERFORMANCE

Dhrupad music
Sumeet Anand Pandey, a renowned Dhrupad vocalist, will deliver a lecture-demonstration on Gauhar Vani, a Dhrupad tradition of Darbanga Gharana this evening. Dhrupad is the oldest surviving genre of Hindustani classical music. Gauhar Vani tradition of Dhrupad is about spirituality more than musical virtuosity.
VENUE: Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.



SCREENING

F.R.I.E.N.D.S fest
DLF Cyberhub along with LBB, a local discovery platform, are jointly hosting a three-day fest dedicated to honour the completion of 25 years of F.R.I.E.N.D.S., a popular television show from the '90s. Starting today the festival will screen 10 selected episodes of the show. The fest ends on Sunday.
VENUE: Amphitheatre, DLF Cyberhub
TIME: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.



LECTURE

Music appreciation
Tomasz Pajak, a Poland-born violinist who teaches at the Delhi School of Music, will deliver an illustrated lecture titled 'Western Classical Music in the Mirror of Time' this evening. Pajak will introduce and talk about the distinctive styles of each musical era, interspersed with musical recordings.
VENUE: Lecture Room-II, Basement Annex, IIC
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



THEATRE

Hindi drama
The NSD Repertory Company will stage a Hindi play called *Jaat Hi Pucho Sadhu Ki*, this evening. Directed by Rajinder Nath, this is a Hindi adaptation of Vijay Tendulkar's Marathi play *Pahije Jatiche*. It depicts the broken dreams of the young protagonist, Mahipat Babruvahan, who belongs to a so-called low caste.
VENUE: NSD, Bhagwandas Road
TIME: 6:30 p.m.



GIG

Bollywood songs
Saints N Sinners is hosting the Delhi-based Bollywood fusion band, The Toll Road. Previously known as Zephyr, the band consists of Sahil Nagpal as the lead vocalist, Karan Bedi on the guitar, and Sparsh Sangam on the drums. Hindi music forms the band's core repertoire, as they dabble in rock, acoustic, and pop.
VENUE: GF-21 Global Foyer, Sector 43, Gurugram
TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

India not unbeatable, says Bavuma

Feels that South Africa can take a lot of positives from the second T20I

SA IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
MOHALI

Taking responsibility surely comes easily for a not-so-young T20 debutant Temba Bavuma. Minutes after South Africa's seven-wicket defeat in the second T20I match, the 29-year-old minced no words in owning responsibility for the team's sub-par total on a good batting surface.

Coming in at No. 3 in the fourth over, Bavuma looked good until he failed to rotate the strike in the later part and eventually departed for a 43-ball 49 in the 18th.

"When David (Miller) came in at No. 5, I think in the 13th over, we were in a very strong position. That's where we probably fumbled a bit in our batting cause. At the halfway stage, I was thinking 180 at least – that could be a very competitive score. But yeah, we just weren't able to get going."

"I'm the one to be blamed. I wasn't really able to get the momentum. I thought the platform was really set for the boys to go and do their thing."

Talking about the Indian



Blowing it away: Debutant Temba Bavuma, who scored 49, took responsibility for South Africa's inability to sustain the momentum after the 12th over. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

team, the first black African to score a Test century for South Africa said, "They're a formidable team but I don't think they're not an unbeatable side. With our batting, it was just one phase where we

let ourselves down and a quality side like that would make us pay."

Looking ahead, Bavuma said, "I think there's always a moment in the game where we can win. For us, it's more

about being aware of those moments and making sure we're in the right mental space to win those moments. It's something that we can work on. I don't think we were completely outplayed

IPL brand valued at \$6.8 billion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The US-based consultancy company Duff & Phelps has said that the Indian Premier League's brand value has registered a 7% growth – from \$6.3 billion (\$41,800 crore) in 2018 to \$6.8 billion (\$47,500) in 2019. This is the company's sixth edition of IPL's annual study.

The study also put Mumbai Indians' value at ₹809 crore, reflecting an 8.5% growth in 2019 and Chennai Super Kings at ₹732 crore reflecting a 13.1%. Kolkata Knight Riders' (₹630 crore) and Royal Challengers Bangalore's (₹595 crore) value has declined by almost 8%, the report said.

The report also said that Sunrisers Hyderabad has made steady gains over the years in terms of its brand value while Delhi Capitals, on the back of its on-field performances in 2019, saw an appreciation of 9% on brand value.

Shock wins for Manav, Ayhika

ASIAN TT

SPORTS BUREAU
YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

Manav Thakkar and Ayhika Mukherjee created a flutter at the Asian table tennis championships on Thursday. While Manav, ranked 163rd in the world, defeated Japanese Kazuhiro Yoshimura (world ranking 34) 10-12, 11-13, 16-14, 11-4, 11-9 in the third round, Ayhika scripted a 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9 win over Chen Szu-Yu of Taipei, ranked 23rd in the world.

Sharath Kamal and Harmeet Desai, however, bowed out. In doubles, G. Sathiyan and Sharath made it to the last eight, beating Mahfoud Sayed Murtadha and Rashed Rashed of Bahrain 11-8, 11-6, 11-3. In the mixed event, both the Sharath-Manika and Sathiyan-Archana pairs lost.

Other results: Men (third round, round-of-64): G. Sathiyan bt Dominic Song Jun (SGP) 11-6, 11-4, 11-5; A. Amalraj bt Mohammed Alsharif (KSA) 11-4, 11-5, 11-4.

Women (second round, round-of-64): Manika Batra bt Al Xin Tee (MAS) 11-8, 11-9, 11-8; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Sikka Suwal (Nep) 11-4, 11-3, 11-6; Madhurika Patkar bt Regeine Kim (Uzb) 11-3, 11-8, 11-3; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Chen Szu-Yu (Tpe) 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9; Archana Kamath bt Cruz Kheith Rhynne (Phi) 11-7, 11-6, 11-5.

Markram, Mulder toy with Indian attack

SA-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
MYSURU

Aiden Markram (161, 253b, 20x4, 2x6) and Wiaan Mulder (131 n.o., 230b, 17x4, 1x6) got into the groove ahead of the Test series, with authoritative knocks on the penultimate day of the second 'Test' between India-A and South Africa-A here on Thursday.

The duo powered South Africa-A to 400, 17 runs short of India-A's first-innings total. The home side moved to 13 for no loss, before rain forced play to be called off.

Markram and Mulder, both expected to play central roles for the senior team, toyed with the India-A attack. The duo put on 155 for the sixth wicket, and save for a couple of leg-before shouts, never looked in trouble.

The entertaining stand was eventually broken by pacer Mohammed Siraj, when Markram edged one onto the stumps. Markram, 83 overnight, brought up his 11th First Class century with a textbook cover-driven 4 off Siraj.

Mulder, touted as the heir to Jacques Kallis' all-rounder throne, was a picture of elegance. Much like Markram, he neatly moved his front



Going great guns! Aiden Markram made the Indians toil, hitting 20 fours and two sixes. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

foot to the pitch of the ball and presented a straight bat.

As the Markram-Mulder partnership grew, the Indians began to lose focus. Siraj and Umesh Yadav often strayed in line, drifting onto the pads to offer easy runs.

The short balls carried no bite, resulting in ferocious pulls.

Chinaman bowler Kul-

deep Yadav – named in the senior India Test squad – picked up four wickets, but was largely unimpressive. He frequently overpitched outside off, allowing the batsmen to free their arms.

Kuldeep was left shaken in the afternoon session, when Markram and Mulder smashed him for one straight six each in the same

over. Later on, tailender Dane Piedt hoicked Kuldeep for a six over mid-wicket, but this time, Kuldeep came back strongly to dislodge Piedt's stumps off the next delivery.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem kept it tight, and finished with figures of three for 76 in 31.3 overs.

The scores:

India-A – 1st innings: 417.

South Africa-A – 1st innings: Aiden Markram b Siraj 161, Pieter Malan c Saha b Siraj 6, Theunis de Bruyn b Nadeem 41. K. Zondo lbw b Nadeem 5, Suren Muthusamy b Kuldeep 12, Heinrich Klaasen c&b Kuldeep 2, Wiaan Mulder (not out) 131, Vernon Philander c Karun b Dube 21, Dane Piedt b Kuldeep 11, Lutho Sipama lbw b Kuldeep 0, Lungi Ngidi lbw b Nadeem 0; Extras (nb-1, b-5, lb-4): 10. Total (in 109.3 overs): 400.

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-102, 3-118, 4-136, 5-142, 6-297, 7-356, 8-395, 9-399.

India-A bowling: Umesh 18-3-73-0, Siraj 18-2-72-2, Nadeem 31.3-6-76-3, Kuldeep 29-3-121-4, Saxena 5-1-13-0, Dube 8-0-36-1.

India-A – 2nd innings: Priyank Panchal (batting) 8, Abhimanyu Easwaran (batting) 5; Total (for no loss in 5.1 overs): 13.

South Africa-A bowling: Pieter Malan 2-11-0, Ngidi 2-0-10-0, Dane Piedt 1-0-2-0, Muthusamy 0.1-0-0.

Kuldeep in transition mode

Need to make the most of available chances, says spinner

ASHWIN ACHAL
MYSURU

Not too long ago, the India team management backed wrist-spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav to carry the mantle of the white-ball spin attack.

Both have since fallen out of favour, finding no place in the squads for the last two T20I series.

Challenge

Kuldeep, however, has a chance to make a mark with the red ball, having been named in the Test squad to face South Africa. The change in format presents a challenge to Kuldeep, who has played little First Class cricket in recent times.

The Rajasthan bowler was quick to acknowledge the confidence he got from the IPL. "It benefited me. Whenever you do well in a match, you get confidence."

Chahar, among the aspirants for place in Indian team for the 2020 T20 World Cup, said, "I take every match as my last match. At this time, Indian cricket is at the top and if you want to find a spot, you will have to do very good and, that too, in every match because there is a lot of competition."



Finding his rhythm: Kuldeep Yadav has to make up for the lack of First Class exposure before the Test series begins. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

tive spirit.

"I did well in white-ball cricket; my stats are good. Maybe the selectors feel they need to give me a break in Twenty20s, and that some changes are required. I respect that, and I have no complaints. I see this as an opportunity to do well in Tests," Kuldeep said.

Earning a spot in the playing eleven for the Test side is not guaranteed, as Kuldeep is competing with Ravindra Jadeja and R. Ashwin.

"When three spinners like Ashwin, Jaddu (Jadeja) and I are in the squad, it's challenging to pick the right

combination. You need to be ready to grab your chance. Of course, there is pressure because you only get a few chances, and you have to make full use of them," he said.

Honing his batting

One of the possible reasons for Kuldeep's ouster from the shorter format squads is his lack of batting prowess. It is a shortcoming that Kuldeep is working on.

"I've been working on my batting with (previous India batting coach) Sanjay Bangar. I feel my batting is good at the Test level," he said.

Sri Lanka to go ahead with Pakistan tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka Cricket on Thursday said it would go ahead with the tour of Pakistan despite fears that players could be targets of terror attacks during the six-match visit.

SLC secretary Mohan de Silva said they received the all-clear from the defence ministry to leave for Pakistan on Tuesday. "We have the green light from the defence ministry," de Silva said.

"The tour is on as we planned. I myself and our office-bearers will also be accompanying the team," he said.

Dananjaya banned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya was, on Thursday, handed a 12-month ban by the ICC for an illegal bowling action. The decision was taken after an independent assessment.

The 25-year-old was assessed after the legality of his action came under question during the first Test against New Zealand in Galle in August.

He subsequently underwent an independent assessment in Chennai on August 29, which revealed that he bowled with an illegal bowling action.

Mirabai finishes fourth

SPORTS BUREAU
PATTAYA

Former World champion S. Mirabai Chanu bettered her own record as she lifted a total of 201kg to finish fourth in the women's 49kg of the World weightlifting championships on Thursday. The performance boosted her Tokyo Olympics chances significantly.

Mirabai lifted 87kg in snatch and 114kg in clean and jerk to get past the 200kg-mark for the first time in her career. Her previous best was in the Asian championships in Ningbo City, where she had done 86kg, 113kg in April.

"We are satisfied with Mirabai's performance. We achieved our target of going past 200kg without exerting too much pressure. She can improve from here in the run-up to Tokyo," said National coach Vijay Sharma.

Maninder delivers for Warriors

Contributes 18 points in the team's win over Steelers

PKL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
PUNE

Bengal Warriors rode on the strong shoulders of captain Maninder Singh (18 points from 19 raids) to sweep away the challenge from Haryana Steelers 48-36 at the Pro-Kabaddi League tie at the Balewadi indoor complex on Thursday.

Warriors placed second, behind Dabang Delhi, and moved closer to a semifinal berth.

Vinay boosted Steelers' hopes with a superb display

of agility and balance to slip away from three catchers, the Super Raid, slipping out of the grasp of three defenders, as Warriors enforced the second all-out in the first half.

The only moment when Steelers were on a high was when last raider Vinay tried to climb above the catchers in an acrobatic leap, but could not escape.

The result: Bengal Warriors 48 (Maninder Singh 18, K. Prapanjan 7, Baldev Singh 6) bt Haryana Steelers 36 (Vinay 14, Vikas Khandola 9).

Friday's matches: Telugu Titans v Patna Pirates; Puneri Paltan v Bengaluru Bulls.



On the prowl: Vinay did his bit for Steelers, but couldn't alter the script. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Juventus denied, PSG beats Real



In the nick of time! Hector Herrera, second left, scores the 90th-minute equaliser. ■ REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MADRID

Atletico Madrid produced a typically spirited comeback from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Juventus in a thrilling finale to Wednesday's heavyweight Champions League Group D opener.

Mexico midfielder Hector Herrera levitated in the 90th minute with a thumping header from a corner after defender Stefan Savic had pulled a goal back for the Spaniards in the 70th with a header from close range following a free-kick.

Lokomotiv Moscow tops Group D after beating Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 away.

Manchester City eased to

a 3-0 win at Shakhtar Donetsk in Group C at Ukraine.

Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski scored a landmark 200th goal for the club as it beat Red Star Belgrade 4-0.

The performance boosted her Tokyo Olympics chances significantly.

Mirabai lifted 87kg in snatch and 114kg in clean and jerk to get past the 200kg-mark for the first time in her career. Her previous best was in the Asian championships in Ningbo City, where she had done 86kg, 11

Wolff explains the rationale behind Bottas, Ocon decision

'The swinging argument for me is that putting the French driver against Hamilton is not good for the former'

FORMULA ONE

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

The Formula One driver market is falling in place with news of Romain Grosjean staying at Haas for 2020 alongside Kevin Magnussen on Thursday. This leaves Nico Hulkenberg without a drive, a result of Esteban Ocon, the current Mercedes team third driver, moving to replace the former at Renault next year.

Ocon has been backed by Mercedes, which facilitated his F1 debut with Manor and then put him in Force India before he was forced out of a drive this year due to circumstances.

However, the reigning

champion opted to stick with Valtteri Bottas for 2020 and decided to put Ocon at Renault.

Potential champion
The 23-year-old French driver is widely considered as a potential world champion material and was close to signing for the Renault last year as well before Daniel Ricciardo made a surprise move from Red Bull to the French manufacturer that left Ocon without a drive.

Explaining his decision in a chat with *The Hindu* during the Italian Grand Prix, Wolff said, "The swinging argument for me was, putting Ocon against Hamilton, who has been with Mercedes for seven years and is at the peak



Right choice: Manager Toto Wolff, centre, is fully convinced that sticking with Bottas, right, at Mercedes and having Ocon, right extreme, at Renault for the 2020 season is justified. ■ AFP

of his game, is not good for him, especially after sitting out one year. We might find

the story exciting and probably he(Ocon) would have done well but there is only



one guy who ever did well against a superstar and that was Lewis Hamilton himself

(in 2007 vs double champion Fernando Alonso at McLaren). All the other (drivers) needed time.

So I don't want to risk his (Ocon) career and I don't want to risk him trying to do something to win against Lewis. That was the tipping point."

Perfect place to grow
The move to Renault, Wolff felt, gave Ocon the perfect place to grow, saying, "He can progress and benchmark himself against Daniel Ricciardo in a works team environment. He will be in the French team and it is very positive."

When asked about Bottas, Wolff felt that the Finn had also improved his game and

brought harmony to the team. "We have seen great performances from Valtteri and his improvement slope is impressive. And you have to give him that because he is going against the best driver of modern time and he is able to put a fight quite often, especially in qualifying."

"It is a very good mix we have. Both are very good drivers and the dynamic is positive. We are able to develop the team and develop critically while the exchanges between drivers are good."

Harmony is something Toto Wolff would want especially after the three acrimonious years with Nico Rosberg and Hamilton finding themselves in some con-

troversy or the other during 2014-16.

Handling two stars

Talking about those years, Wolff shares the challenge of handling two stars. "The problem was we didn't understand the dynamics between them. They knew each other longer than we knew them. They were childhood companions. Racing from karting against each other and going through junior formulae together. So there was a lot of baggage from back then."

"For us, it was very difficult to understand the dynamic. So from a rivalry, it escalated to controversy and that was not a good situation within the team."

Mission Olympic quota

Annu targets two Asian medals and Tokyo berth

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Olympian Annu Raj Singh has two chances to win medals apart from another chance to win the Olympic quota place in the Asian Championship in Doha in November.

Annu Raj will participate in the air pistol and sports pistol events in Doha. The 14-year-old Esha Singh who had tied on averages with Annu Raj in women's air pistol, has been fielded in the junior section.

Since, Yashaswini Deswal and Manu Bhaker have already won the two Olympic quota places in air pistol, India will only be gunning for the sports pistol quota to add to the one won by Rahi Sarnobat.

In women's trap, former National champion Shreyasi Singh got the nod after she was in fourth place, 0.02 points behind Soumya Gupta. Recent good scores of 116 and 117 must have weighed in favour of Shreyasi, who will be looking for the Olympic quota along with Kirti Gupta and Rajeshwari Kumari.

The onus will be on Olympians Manavjit Singh Sandhu and Kynan Chenai, apart from Prithviraj Tondaiman, to secure the quota in men's trap.



Annu Raj Singh.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

trap. In skeet also, the responsibility will be in the hands of able men, Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Asian champion Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Smit Singh.

Second Olympic quota
Deepak Kumar along with Yash Vardhan and Kiran Ankush Jadhav will try to win the second Olympic quota in men's air rifle.

Olympian Chain Singh, the young Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar and Parul Kumar will go for the second Olympic quota, to the one won by Sanjeev Rajput in Rio, in the rifle 3-position event.

India has bright chances

in men's rapid fire pistol, thanks in particular to the efficiency of Anish Bhanwala and Adarsh Singh.

India will also be fielding junior and youth shooters in all the events meant for them.

The team in Olympic events:
Men: Air pistol: Saurbab Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma, Sharvan Kumar.

Rapid fire pistol: Anish Bhanwala, Bhavesh Shekhawat, Adarsh Singh.

Air rifle: Deepak Kumar, Yash Vardhan, Kiran Ankush Jadhav. **MQS:** Divyansh Singh Panwar, Sanjeev Rajput.

Rifle 3-position: Parul Kumar, Chain Singh, Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar. **MQS:** Sanjeev Rajput.

Trap: Manavjit Singh Sandhu, Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Tondaiman.

Skeet: Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Smit Singh, Mairaj Ahmad Khan.

Women: Air pistol: Yashaswini Singh Deswal, Manu Bhaker, Annu Raj Singh.

Sports pistol: Annu Raj Singh, Chinku Yadav, Neeraj Kaur. **MQS:** Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker.

Air rifle: Anjum Moudgil, Apurvi Chandela, Elavenil Varaviran. **MQS:** Mehuli Ghosh.

Rifle 3-position: Tejaswini Sawant, Gaayathri Nithyanandam, Kajal Saini.

Trap: Kirti Gupta, Rajeshwari Kumari, Shreyasi Singh. **MQS:** Soumya Gupta.

Skeet: Ganemati Sekhon, Saniya Sheikh, Darshna Rathore.

Ramkumar advances

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
GLASGOW (UNITED KINGDOM)

Ramkumar Ramanathan cruised past Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals of the 46,600 Challenger in Glasgow on Thursday.

The fifth-seeded Ramkumar converted four of five breakpoints that he forced, and did not face a breakpoint, in reaching the quarterfinals.

Prajnesh bows out

Meanwhile, second seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran was beaten 5-7, 7-5, 6-4 by Enrique Lopez Perez of Spain in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$162,480 Challenger tennis tournament in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.

Prajnesh collected \$2,580 and 10 ATP points.

In the ATP Tour event in St. Petersburg, Divij Sharan and Igor Zelenay of Slovakia beat the third seeds Marcelo Demoliner and Matwe Middelkoop 3-6, 6-2, 10-5 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals.

The results: \$1,248,645 ATP, St. Petersburg, Russia: **First round:** Igor Zelenay (Svk) & Divij Sharan bt Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Matwe Middelkoop (Ned) 3-6, 6-2, [10-5].

\$186,140 ATP, Metz, France: **First round:** Gerard Granollers & Marcel Granollers (Esp) bt Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela

(Mex) & Purav Raja 6-3, 6-4.

\$162,480 Challenger, Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei: **Second round:** Enrique Lopez Perez (Esp) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 5-7, 7-5, 6-4.

Doubles: **First round:** Chun-Hsin Tseng & Tung-Lin Wu (Tpe) bt Sri Ram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 7-6(6).

\$46,600 Challenger, Glasgow, United Kingdom: **Second round:** Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Al-Taqi Celikbilek (Tur) 6-4, 6-2.

Doubles: **Quarterfinals:** Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Pol Wattanakul (Tha) & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Nanchang, China: **Second round:** Ryota Tanuma (Jpn) bt Prithvi Sekhar 6-0, 6-0; Kaza Vinayak Sharma bt Pol Wattanakul (Tha) 6-0, 6-4; Dusty Boyer (Us) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar 6-1, 7-5.

Doubles: **Quarterfinals:** Luca

Castelnuovo (Sui) & Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Pol Wattanakul (Tha) & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: **Second round:** Edoardo Lavagno (Ita) bt Dhruv Sunish 6-3, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Antalya, Turkey: **Quarterfinals:** Kelsey Stevenson (Can) & Adil Kalyanpur bt Lasse Muschies & Sebastian Prechtel (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, [10-7].

\$25,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: **Second round:** Emily Appleton & Emily Arbutnott (GBR) bt Julia Terziyska (Bul) & Prarthana Thombar 6-4, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Anning, China: **Doubles:** **Quarterfinals:** Oleksandra Olynykova (Cro) & Sowanya Bavasetti bt Jiaxi Lu & Dan Ni Wang (Chn) 3-6, 6-3, [10-3].

'The beginning of a very exciting era for Australia'



Way to go, mate! Australia captain Tim Paine, right, was all praise for the injured Peter Siddle's work ethic. ■ AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Captain Tim Paine has predicted a "very exciting era" for Australian cricket after the team retained the Ashes against England, while revealing he broke his thumb in the final Test.

"I'm looking forward to Australia seeing how far we've come this summer," Paine said in a column for *The Australian* newspaper, referring to upcoming home Tests against Pakistan and New Zealand.

"Last year we were a bit lost and were finding our way," he said after the side struggled in the wake of the

ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

"I know we have found it now and I am confident this group is the beginning of a very exciting era in Australian cricket."

"We've got the best bowling attack in the world and the basis for a great batting line-up."

"He has coped a bit of criticism for not bowling as well as... we know he can, but the team knows just how heroic he was. A lot of other people wouldn't have bowled again in the match, but he pushed on because he didn't want to leave Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to do extra work," he said.

Vikram in last eight

Ashique Kuruniyan – fast and furious

Skipper Sunil Chhetri feels India has a potential superstar in its ranks



Making a mark: Though a natural athlete, Kuruniyan became a footballer only by chance. ■ M. VEDHAN

C My brothers helped me a lot. My family supported me fully. Even minor financial troubles, they helped out

play tough. There are no red cards there. Only yellow. The referee doesn't even have a red card. It is very rough and you get hit a lot. Initially there was a lot of fear – of getting hit by the elbow, etc. So I had to become stronger."

Different pressures

The pressures in the ISL, though, will be of a different kind. A potential attacking trident at BFC featuring him, Sunil Chhetri and Udanta Singh, has already raised expectations. It is something fans have already had a glimpse of in the Indian National team, where Kuruniyan has been capped close to a dozen times.

Luck to the opponents

"I can just say all the best to all the full-backs who are going to play against us," Chhetri says. "Ashique is naive... in the sense that he doesn't understand what pressure is. Tell him 'do this, this, this,' and he will do that. As raw as he is, he is just pure talent."

"He is fast and powerful and is scared of no one."

"He just plays with the motive of going forward. If he does what we think he can do and learns quickly, you will see a proper superstar for the country."

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Three Indians in quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANDALAY

Pankaj Advani scored a 5-2 win over Pakistan's Zulfiqar Qadir to enter the quarterfinals of the IBSF World 6-red snooker championship on Thursday.

Earlier, Advani beat another Pakistani Muhammad Ahsan Javaid with a 5-1 victory in the last

TV PICKS

Badminton: China Open, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Rugby World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
World wrestling: Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
T20 tri-series: Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 6 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF

Genzebe Dibaba out of Worlds

PARIS
Genzebe Dibaba, the 2015 champion and World record holder in the women's 1,500m, will miss the World Championships, to be held from Sept. 27, due to a foot injury, the Ethiopian said on Instagram. AFP

Kohli to stay as RCB captain

BENGALURU
Mike Hesson and Simon Katich, the Director of Cricket Operations at Royal Challengers Bangalore and the head coach respectively, made it clear here on Thursday that Kohli would continue as leader despite the team's poor showing over the last three seasons.

Suraj stops Kunal, meets Ishaque in final

LUDHIANA:
Suraj Prabodh brought an end to the fine run of qualifier and top seed Kunal Anand with a 6-1, 7-6(4) defeat in the semifinals of the ₹250,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Harvest Tennis Academy, Jassowal, on Thursday. In the final, Suraj will play second seed Ishaque Eqbal who beat fourth seed Jatin Dahiya 6-1, 7-5.

In the doubles final, top seeds Mohit Mayur and Ishaque Eqbal beat the Sood twins, Chandril and Lakshith, 10-5 in the super tie-break.

TN, Railways in last four

PASIGHAT (ARUNACHAL)
Kamala Devi slotted in six goals as Railways thrashed Himachal Pradesh 12-0 in the quarterfinals of the senior National women's football on Thursday. A brace each by R. Ranjitha and R. Pandisveli enabled TN beat MP 4-2.

India slips to 104th spot in FIFA rankings

ZURICH
The Indian football team slipped a place to 104th spot in the latest FIFA rankings released on Thursday.



Oh no! Sindhu squandered a one-game advantage against Pornpawee. ■ REUTERS

Sindhu loses her way

Sai Praneeth enters the quarterfinals

CHINA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANGZHOU

Reigning World champion P.V. Sindhu made an early exit from the China Open but B. Sai Praneeth kept the Indian flag flying with a hard-fought straight-game win to reach the quarterfinals here on Thursday.

Sindhu, an Olympic silver medallist, squandered a first-game advantage to go down 12-21, 21-13, 21-19 to Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in a women's pre-quarterfinals that lasted 58 minutes here.

Praneeth, who had claimed a bronze medal at Basel, edged out China's Lu Guang Zu 21-19, 21-16 to set up a meeting against Indonesian seventh seed Antho-

nisa Sinisuka Ginting.

Ginting beat India's P. Kashyap 23-21, 15-21, 21-12 in a thrilling contest.

Double whammy

Doubles specialist Satwiksairaj Rankireddy also had a dismal day as he suffered twin defeats, losing both the men's doubles and mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals.

In men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag Shetty, ranked 15th in the world, ran out of steam after a decent start against fourth-seeded Japanese pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda and went down 19-21, 8-21.

Satwik then paired up with Ashwini Ponanappa but the duo couldn't get past Yuki Kaneko and Misaki Matsutomo, losing 11-21, 21-16, 12-21 to the Japanese pair.

Ashwini also tasted defeat with N. Sikkki Reddy, 12-21, 17-21, to second-seeded Japa-

nese pair of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi.

Sindhu, who came into the match with a 3-0 head-to-head against Pornpawee, dominated the first game as she lead 7-1, but the Thai reduced the deficit to 10-11 at the break.

However, Sindhu reeled off eight straight points after the interval to jump to 19-10 and eventually sealed the first game comfortably.

Changing gears

In the second game, Pornpawee changed gears and came up trumps. The decider started on an even note, but Sindhu held an 11-7 cushion at the break.

However, Pornpawee kept breathing down Sindhu's neck and slowly moved to 15-19. From there, the Thai shuttler blasted six points to leave the Indian shocked.

Peerless inches closer to the crown

CFL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

Peerless SC moved another step closer to claiming its first crown in the Calcutta Football League's premier division 'A', downing Bhowanipur FC 2-0 in its eighth outing of the league on Thursday.

The win took Peerless to 17 points from eight matches, giving it a point's lead ahead of its closest challenger Mohammedan Sporting, which beat defending champion Mohun Bagan 3-2.

Sporting has 16 points but has played a match more than Peerless. Having beaten both Bagan and East Bengal earlier, Peerless' final big challenge will be against Sporting.

With just two rounds to go for most teams in the top half of the standings, the chances of any team nudging Peerless out of the title race is dwindling. East Bengal, which lies fourth with 14 points from eight matches, remains the only side with a realistic chance of catching up with Peerless which has three games on hand.

Peerless took command early, hoisting the lead in the 14th minute through its Ghanaian attacker Edmond Peprah. The second-placed Bhowanipur, too, had its share of chances, but Peerless goalkeeper James Kithan made quite a few saves in the second half. Jiten Murmu scored the second in the 58th minute.

The result: Peerless SC 2 (Edmond Peprah 14, Jiten Murmu 58) bt Bhowanipur Club 0; Mohammedan Sporting 3 (Kareem Omolaja 7, Tirthankar Sarkar 10, John Chidi 6) bt Mohun Bagan 2 (Joseba Beitia 24, Salva Charro 70).

1. SAFE BET, 2. AYAHUASCA, 3. GOLDEN CRUISE

4. H.H. SRI. NARASIMHARAJA WADIVAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-0 & over: 1. Imitation Game (C. Umesh) 1, Top Striker (I) C. Umesh 62, 2. Gintoki (I) Srinath 58.5, 3. Star Atrium (3) Vipin Kumar 56.5, 4. Lucky Pineapple (9) 1. Chisty 54, 5. Wonder Story (8) Adarsh 54. 6. Beat The Odds (4) R. Shiva Kumar 52, 7. Order Order (7) S. Shareef 52, 8. Arak (2) Shivnath P 51.5, 9. Electricity (5) Trevor 51, 10. Heroine (6) Chotu Jaiswar 50 and 11. Naval Glory (1) Shiva Kumar 50.

1. GINTOKI, 2. ELECTRICITY, 3. LUCKY PINEAPPLE

5. MAHARAJA'S CUP (1,600m), 4-5 y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. My Opinion (3) A. Imran 60, 2. Psychic Force (7) Zervan 60, 3. Kambaku (6) Srinath 57, 4. Mr Handsome (8) Suraj 57, 5. Star Baron (5) Darshan 57, 6. Steinlight (1) N. Jodha 56, 7. Script Writer (4) Arshad 54.5 and 8. She'smyscript (2) Trevor 54.5.

1. PSYCHIC FORCE, 2. MR HOMESOME, 3. SHESMYSCRIPT

6. HAVERI PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 5-0 & over, 4-30: 1. Imitation Game (4) Madhu Babu 60, 2. Australis (4) Trevor 59.5, 3. Super Smart (3) Suraj 59.5, 4. Standout (2) Srinath 57.5, 5. Starry Wind (7) Zervan 57, 6. Wild Wild Angels (6) Vaibhav 56.5, 7. Aaron The Baron (1) Antony 56, 8. Reanna (9) Dhebe 56 and 9. Masada (5) Arshad 55.5.

1. STANDOUT, 2. SUPER SMART,

7. RANGANATHITTU PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-0 & over: 1. Amazing (12) J. Paswan 60, 2. Princeazem (8) T. S. Jodha 59.5, 3. Aerospes (6) Nazerul 59, 4. Chamarel (7) Janardhan P 59, 5. Incredibile Star (1) Sat Kumar 59, 6. Sadagat (10) Antony 59, 7. Habanero (3) A. Imran 58.5, 8. Industrialist (5) Suraj 58.5, 9. She's Superb (4) S. Shiva Kumar 58.5, 10. Engelberg (9) N. Jodha 58, 11. Ruler Of Nation (2) Jagadeesh 57 and 12. Paradiso (1) Arshad 55.5.

1. SADAQAT, 2. HABANERO, 3. INDUSTRIALIST

Day's best: THE CORPORAL Double: OZARK – SADAQAT

Jkt 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Psychic Force well tuned for a repeat in the Maharaja's Cup

MYSURU: Psychic Force, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the Maharaja's Cup (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Sept 20).

False rails (width about 3m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1. RANGANATHITTU PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 25, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Power Of Shambhala (12) Rayan 60, 2. Sky Jasmine (8) Rajesh K 59, 3. Florencia (9) Chetan G 58.5, 4. Papadokia (5) Arshad 58, 5. Birthday Babe (2) Sai Kiran 57.5, 6. Chilly Breeze (10) Darshan 57, 7. Hananahia (3) Shareef 57.8, Intrepid Warther (7) 1. Chisty 57, 9. Ispellangertall (1) Janardhan P 57, 10. Masters Mind (6) L. Prashant 57, 11. The Corporal (4) Zervan 57 and 12. Cashmere (11) M. Naveen 56.5.

1. THE CORPORAL, 2. PAPADOKIA, 3. BIRTHDAY BABE

2. SHIMSHA PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Aromatic (3) Nazar Alam 62.5, 2. Ayahuasca (1) S. Shareef 62.5, 3. Poker Queen (11) Madhu Babu 60.5, 4. Brave Admiral (8) Rajesh K 59, 5. Honey Queen (5) Sai Kiran 58, 6. Swiss Bay (12) R. Anand 58, 7. Safe Bet (10) I. Chisty 57, 8. Velvet Rose (9) H. Rahul 57, 9. Golden Cruise (4) Arshad 55, 10. Jamais Vu (7) Chotu Jaiswar 52.5, 11. Oro Plaza (6) Irvan 50.5 and 12. Amazing Beauty (2) Shivnath P 50.

1. SAFE BET, 2. AYAHUASCA, 3. GOLDEN CRUISE

4. H.H. SRI. NARASIMHARAJA WADIVAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-0 & over: 1. Maybe Forever (8) Rajesh K 62.5, 2. Stars In His Eyes (3) Mark 62, 3. Varcsava (10) S. Shareef 62, 4. Birchwood (9) Kiran Rai 60.5, 5. Donna Rossa (7) T.S. Jodha 60.5, 6. Animal Queen (1) Suraj 60, 7. Moraine Gabriella (12) R.

5. MAHARAJA'S CUP (1,600m), 4-5 y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. My Opinion (3) A. Imran 60, 2. Psychic Force (7) Zervan 60, 3. Kambaku (6) Srinath 57, 4. Mr Handsome (8) Suraj 57, 5. Star Baron (5) Darshan 57, 6. Steinlight (1) N. Jodha 56, 7. Script Writer (4) Arshad 54.5 and 8. She'smyscript (2) Trevor 54.5.

1. PSYCHIC FORCE, 2. MR HOMESOME, 3. SHESMYSCRIPT

6. HAVERI PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 5-0 & over, 4-30: 1. Imitation Game (4) Madhu Babu 60, 2. Australis (4) Trevor 59.5, 3. Super Smart (3) Suraj 59.5, 4. Standout (2) Srinath 57.5, 5. Starry Wind (7) Zervan 57, 6. Wild Wild Angels (6) Vaibhav 56.5, 7. Aaron The Baron (1) Antony 56, 8. Reanna (9) Dhebe 56 and 9. Masada (5) Arshad 55.5.

1. STANDOUT, 2. SUPER SMART,

7. RANGANATHITTU PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-0 & over: 1. Amazing (12) J. Paswan 60, 2. Princeazem (8) T. S. Jodha 59.5, 3. Aerospes (6) Nazerul 59, 4. Chamarel (7) Janardhan P 59, 5. Incredibile Star (1) Sat Kumar 59, 6. Sadagat (10) Antony 59, 7. Habanero (3) A. Imran 58.5, 8. Industrialist (5) Suraj 58.5, 9. She's Superb (4) S. Shiva Kumar 58.5, 10. Engelberg (9) N. Jodha 58, 11. Ruler Of Nation (2) Jagadeesh 57 and 12. Paradiso (1) Arshad 55.5.

1. SADAQAT, 2. HABANERO, 3. INDUSTRIALIST

Day's best: THE CORPORAL Double: OZARK – SADAQAT

Jkt 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

8. T. DOUGALL MEMORIAL PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-0 & over: VIJAYA ARJUN (C. Umesh) 1, Eudora (Irwan) 2, Veni Vidi Vici (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Momotaro (Madhu Babu) 4. Not run: Even Money and Star Holiday. 2-1/2, 4 and 3, Im, 36.46s. ₹30 (w), 14, 31 and 17 (p), SHP: 99, THP: 42, FP: 285, Q: 180, Trinella: 1,03 and 358. Favourite: Psychic Force, who has won the last two editions of the race.

9. S. HAJEE MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: HONEY TRAP (John) 1, Swiss Tigress (Rajesh) 2, King Star (Ramandeep Bal) 3 and Blackhawk (S. Shareef) 4. Not run: Jersey Storm, Hd, 5, 10 and 19 (p), SHP: 135, THP: 32, FP: 35, Q: 299, Trinella: 1,727 and 516. Favourite: Honey Trap, Owners: M/s. Haider Soomar & Gurpal Singh. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

10. SIDAPUR PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-0 & over: MEMORITER (Chetan) 1, Cuban Pete (Akshay) 2, Girl With Pearl (Arshad) 3 and Nagada (Sai Kumar) 4, 3-4, 1-4 and NK, Im, 22.56s. ₹31 (w), 12, 12 and 16 (p),

SHP: 32, THP: 45, FP: 52, Q: 26, Trinella: 221 and 185. Favourite: Cuban Pete. Owner: Mr. S.T. Kalappa. Trainer: Azhar Ali.

11. S. HAJEE MEMORIAL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: ULTIMATE POWER (Darshan) 1, Desert Angel (Noornabi) 2, Spir-

Indian boxing looking up again

Panghal and Kaushik bring in fresh hope

Y.B. SARANGI

KOLKATA

Twenty-three-year-old soldiers Amit Panghal and Manish Kaushik – who advanced to the semifinals to ensure medals and help the country achieve its best-ever performance in the

IN BRIEF



Dust cloud from collision triggered Ice Age: study

WASHINGTON Scientists have found that dust spawned by a gigantic collision in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter 400 million years earlier triggered an Ice Age on Earth that ushered in a significant decline in marine biodiversity. The research was published in *Science Advances*. **REUTERS**



Amazon to film LoTR series in New Zealand

WELLINGTON Amazon has announced that it will film its upcoming television series *The Lord of the Rings* in New Zealand, marking a return of the orcs, elves and hobbits to the country they became synonymous with over the course of six movies directed by Peter Jackson. The studio said pre-production has already started. **AP**



Holy hand-grenade up for grabs at film auction

LONDON Jurassic Park dinosaur skulls, a Star Wars stormtrooper helmet and Monty Python's holy hand-grenade are among movie memorabilia going under the hammer in London this month at an auction that organisers expect to exceed £6 million pounds. Also on sale will be Jack Nicholson's axe from *The Shining*. **REUTERS**

Catch a cold and help scientists make new vaccines

Under a new model, volunteers will be infected with viruses or bacteria

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is close to finalising three projects worth ₹135 crore, involving Indian and European scientists, to develop new influenza vaccines.

What will make these projects unique is that they involve a Controlled Human Infection Model (CHIM): volunteers who take part in trials will be infected, under expert supervision, with infectious viruses or bacteria. Such studies, which are being employed in vaccine development in the United States, the United Kingdom and Kenya, are being considered in India.

Ethics and guidance



Two sides: The Controlled Human Infection Model is useful but brings with it ethical challenges. **ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES**

guidance document that will elaborate upon the circumstances under which CHIM trials may be conducted, facilities needed, the profile of potential volunteers, the informed-consent forms they would need to sign and the

compensation that can be offered.

Post the availability of guidance documents, there needs to be approval from the Drug Controller-General of India. "Any such trial will have to comply with the

rules governing clinical trials in India. The influenza trials will be performed outside India, but what we are hoping to get out of this is learning," said Gagandeep Kang, Director, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute of India (THSTI). Scientists at the THSTI are involved in establishing protocols for the trials.

gators trained in vaccine development.

The Hyderabad-based biotech company, Bharat Biotech, relied on a CHIM approach to establishing that its conjugate typhoid vaccine – while already licensed in India – was effective in a large population. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the international consortium GAVI, the vaccine's potency was evaluated by infecting human volunteers at Oxford University in the U.K. with a typhoid parasite. The results encouraged scientists to test the vaccine in Nepal, Bangladesh and Malawi among 1 lakh children. The vaccine was over 80% protective when tested on the field, claimed Andrew Pollard, leader of the UK vaccine

trials and professor at Oxford University. The findings are to be published in a forthcoming issue of the peer-reviewed *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Vaccines traditionally are made of a weakened form of a disease-causing virus or bacteria and injected into the body to coax the immune system into making antibodies that create immunity against future infection. Years of vaccine development has shown that frequently vaccines that work in small groups of people may not always work in large populations, or those that are effective in one country may not be in another. CHIM models help vaccine-makers decide whether they should go ahead with investing in expensive trials.

UNICEF warns of emerging threats that young people face

Climate change, mental illness, misinformation are listed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Protracted conflicts, the worsening climate crisis, a rising level of mental illness among young people, and online misinformation are some of the most concerning emerging global threats to children, cautions UNICEF.

In an open letter issued by the organisation's executive director Henrietta Fore marking 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF sounds the alarm on major growing and future challenges facing children.

The letter outlines eight growing challenges for the world's children including prolonged conflicts, pollution and the climate crisis, a



Young people are grappling with new challenges.

decline in mental health, mass migration and population movements, statelessness and online misinformation.

"The children of today, are facing a new set of challenges and global shifts that were unimaginable to your parents," writes Ms. Fore.

"Our climate is changing beyond recognition. Inequality is deepening. Tech-

nology is transforming how we perceive the world. And more families are migrating than ever before. Childhood has changed, and we need to change our approaches along with it."

The letter also expresses concern that the majority of children will grow up as natives of a digital environment saturated with online misinformation. For example, so-called 'deep fake' technology uses artificial intelligence techniques to create convincing fakes of audio and video content, relatively easily.

The letter warns that an online environment where truth can become indistinguishable from fiction has the potential to totally undermine trust in institutions and information sources.

Race begins for international Emmys

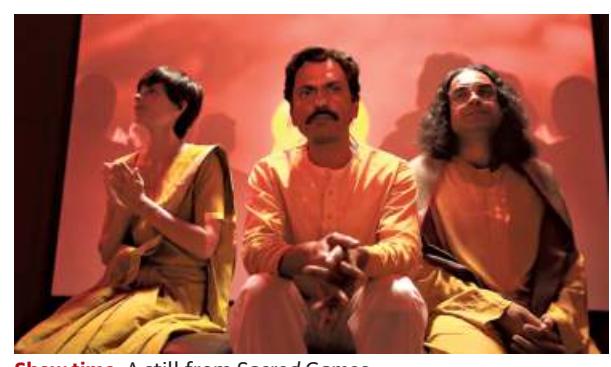
Sacred Games, *Lust Stories* and *The Remix* from India receive nominations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Netflix's India Original series *Sacred Games*, anthology film *Lust Stories* and Amazon Prime Video's *The Remix* have received nominations for the International Emmy Awards.

The second season of *Sacred Games*, starring Saif Ali Khan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, has been nominated in the best drama category alongside Brazil's *Contra Todos* (Season 3), Germany's *Bad Banks* and U.K.'s *McMafia*, which also features Siddiqui in a key role.

Anurag Kashyap and Neeraj Ghaywan directed the second season of *Sacred Games* while Vikramaditya Motwane served as a show-runner. Kashyap, who shared the news on his Instagram page, was also one of the directors of *Lust Stories*



Show time: A still from *Sacred Games*. **NETFLIX**

with Zoya Akhtar, Dibakar Banerjee and Karan Johar.

Lust Stories has been nominated for the best TV movie/mini series with Brazil's *Se Eu Fechar Os Olhos Agora*, Hungary's *Trezor* and Australia's *Safe Harbour*.

Actor Radhika Apte, who features in the *Lust Stories* segment directed by Kashyap, is competing in the best

performance by an actress category with Jenna Coleman.

The Remix is competing in the non-scripted entertainment category with nominees from Argentina, Belgium and the U.K.

Nominees this year span 21 countries across 11 categories.

ries with Brazil and the U.K. leading the list. Other countries with more than one nod include Germany, Australia, Belgium, Argentina, Hungary and India.

"The diversity, geographic spread and quality of this year's nominees is a testament to the increasing wealth of outstanding television being created on a global scale," Bruce L. Paisner, president and CEO of the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, said on Thursday.

"What a day. 3 Emmy Nominations. 1. Lust Stories 2. Sacred Games 3. Radhika Apte," Kashyap shared on Instagram, tagging International Emmy, Netflix and other collaborators.

The 47th International Emmy Award ceremony will be held on November 25 in New York.

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TOTAL SAVINGS (UP TO)*	₹65,000	₹65,000	₹50,000	₹77,700	₹1,01,200	₹55,000	₹84,100	₹65,000	₹50,000	₹40,000

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