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### NEARBY



#### CM to go on pilgrimage with aam aadmi

NEW DELHI  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and their families will join a fully government-paid pilgrimage for senior citizens to Vaishno Devi via train on July 20. The pilgrimage will cover the Delhi-Vaishno Devi-Jammu corridor from July 20 to 24.

CITY PAGE 5

#### Boy scolded for ordering earphones found dead

NEW DELHI  
A 17-year-old boy was found dead at his house allegedly after his father scolded him for ordering Bluetooth earphones, on Wednesday evening in south-west Delhi's Vasant Vihar. The family said that the boy was an extremely talented sketcher and was also good in studies.

CITY PAGE 3

#### 'New report on zoo irregularities a cover-up'

NEW DELHI  
Former Member Secretary of the Central Zoo Authority D.N. Singh, whose report in 2016 had found multiple irregularities in the Delhi zoo, told *The Hindu* that a new report on the irregularities in the zoo is a "cover-up".

CITY PAGE 4

#### FRIDAY REVIEW

8 PAGES (TABLOID)

# Economic Survey sets out blueprint for \$5 tn economy

■ Projects GDP growth for 2019-20 at 7%, an improvement from last fiscal's pace of 6.8%

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey 2019 presented by Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian focusses on moving to a "virtuous cycle" of savings, investments and exports to transform India into a \$5 trillion economy in the next five years.

According to the survey, India's GDP is forecast to expand by 7% in fiscal 2019-20, slightly higher than the 6.8% in 2018-19.

In his preface to the survey, the CEA said the team had been guided by a "blue sky" thought process, an unfettered approach to thinking about the appropriate economic model for India.

"When the economy is in a virtuous cycle, investment, productivity growth, job creation, demand and exports feed into each other and enable animal spirits in the economy to thrive," the survey's authors wrote. "In contrast, when the economy is in a vicious cycle, moderation in these variables dampen each other and thereby dampen the animal spirits in the economy."

In his first Survey, Dr. Subramanian highlighted the fact that private investment was a key driver for demand, capacity, labour productivity, new technology adoption, and for job creation.

"What we have tried to

talk about is that investment is really critical; related to that is that investment by the private sector cannot happen unless there is no crowding out because of the government," the CEA said at a press conference.

Further, he said, implicit in the emphasis on private investment was the fact that the government had and would stick to its fiscal consolidation glide path. It has committed to a fiscal deficit of 3.4% of GDP in 2019-20, and 3% each in the subsequent two years.

**Fiscal glide path**

"Implicit in the emphasis on private investment, what we are also talking about is sticking to the glide path, which over the last five years we have done a very good job of," Dr. Subramanian said.

"And, therefore, we anticipate that is the path we will continue on. We will be sticking to the fiscal path."

Moving the economy into a virtuous cycle would require the adoption of certain practices and norms on data, legal reforms and policy certainty, and some micro-economic aspects such as boosting MSMEs and reducing the cost of capital, he said.

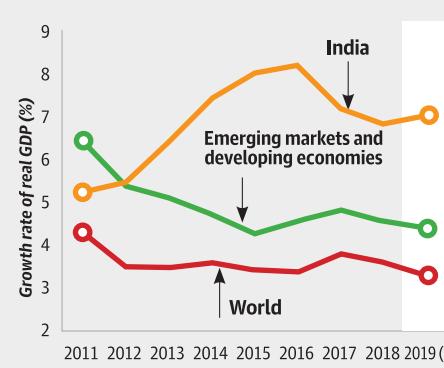
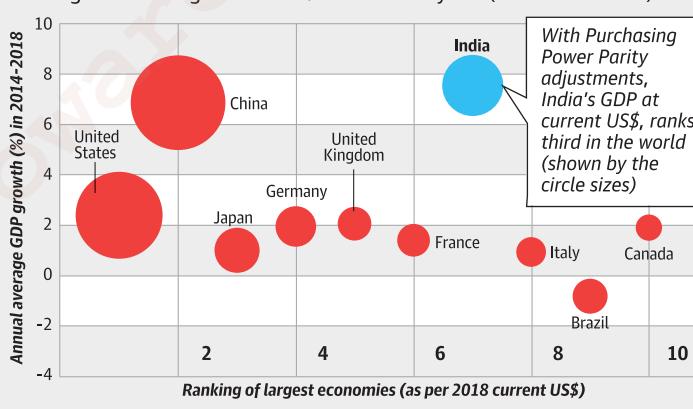
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

BLUE-SKY VISIONS ▶ EDITORIAL  
ONLY TALL CLAIMS, NO VISION,  
SAYS OPPOSITION ▶ PAGE 13

■ Bats for private investment to help propel growth in demand, jobs and productivity

#### Among the top

India is the seventh largest economy in terms of GDP. The average growth rate of India's GDP between 2014 and 2018 was higher than that of China and other top major economies (measured in terms of GDP at current US\$ terms). India's growth of real GDP has been high with average rate of 7.5% in the last 5 years (2014-15 onwards).



■ Suggests moving the economy into a 'virtuous cycle' of savings, investments and exports

#### Digital is the way forward

The Economic Survey has recommended that digital technology and the JAM troika – Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile – be expanded to other welfare schemes, citing their favourable impact on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. ▶ PAGE 15

#### 'Raise age for retirement'

India may have to raise the retirement age as the country sees a rapid increase in the size of the elderly population over the next two decades due to the slowing down of the population growth rate, according to the Economic Survey. ▶ PAGE 13

#### A 'Detroit of EVs' in India

With the right policies, one of India's cities could become the 'Detroit of electric vehicles (EVs)', the Survey said. The country is aiming at a sales of 60-70 lakh units of EVs, including cars and buses, by 2020. ▶ PAGE 15

# Govt. can sell PSU land, reduce majority stake to boost non-tax revenue: CEA

T.C.A. SHARAD RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI

The government can sell land held by PSUs and potentially reduce its majority stake in some companies to make up for the significant shortfall in tax revenues, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian said on Thursday.

According to the figures in the Economic Survey 2019, the government is expected to receive as much as ₹1.6 lakh crore less than what

was estimated in the interim Budget presented by then Finance Minister Piyush Goyal in February. Mr. Goyal's interim Budget pegged the government's receipts in 2018-19 at ₹17.2 lakh crore, while the Economic Survey's provisional actual figures show this will be only ₹15.6 lakh crore.

The main reason for this sharp downward revision is a commensurate reduction in the tax revenue the government expects to earn in

2018-19. This has been slashed to ₹13.16 lakh crore, from the ₹14.84 lakh crore estimated in the interim Budget.

#### Many avenues

There are several avenues for the government to increase its non-tax revenue, the CEA said, including selling land held by PSUs and increasing disinvestment. "The non-tax revenues have a significant potential to expand, especially because our

PSUs, many of them, are sitting on large pools of land which can be monetised," Dr. Subramanian told *The Hindu*. "There is also an opportunity for greater returns from divestment." Regarding disinvestment, Dr. Subramanian made the somewhat radical suggestion that the government could reduce its holdings in some PSUs to below the majority stake of 51% of direct control.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

# Kulbhushan Jadhav case verdict on July 17: ICJ

He was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI  
The Hague-based International Court of Justice on Thursday said it will deliver on July 17 its verdict in the case relating to Kulbhushan Jadhav, who is on death row in Pakistan.

Mr. Jadhav, a retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the ICJ in May 2017

against Pakistan for denying consular access to Mr. Jadhav. India challenged the "farcical trial" by the military court against Mr. Jadhav.

The ICJ said a public sitting will take place at 3 p.m. (6.30 pm IST) on July 17 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, during which the President of the Court will read out the verdict.

The court held a four-day public hearing in the case in February during which both

India and Pakistan submitted their detailed pleas and responses.

India based its case on two broad issues – breach of Vienna Convention on consular access and the process of resolution. It also urged the ICJ to annul Mr. Jadhav's death sentence and order his immediate release, saying the verdict by a Pakistani military court was based on a "farcical trial" and it failed to satisfy even the minimum standards of due process.

# Indrani allowed to turn approver in INX case

She will now record her statement before a metropolitan magistrate

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A special court here on Thursday allowed former director of INX Media, Indrani Mukherjee, to turn approver in a corruption case against the company.

She had moved an application to turn approver seeking pardon and promising help in the probe. Following the court's approval, she will now record her statement before a Metropolitan Magistrate which will be kept in a sealed cover to be opened in the trial.

Former Union Minister P.

band Peter Mukherjee in connection with the murder of her daughter, Sheena Bora.

#### Facing trial

They are facing trial for allegedly conspiring to kill Bora, Ms. Mukherjee's daughter from an earlier relationship, in April 2012.

The CBI had last year arrested Mr. Karti Chidambaram in the INX case. He was later granted bail.

The probe agency had in 2017 lodged an FIR in the case alleging irregularities in the Foreign Investment

Promotion Board's (FIPB) clearance to the INX Media for receiving overseas funds to the tune of ₹305 crore in 2007 when P. Chidambaram was the Finance Minister.

Later, the Enforcement Directorate lodged a money laundering case in the matter under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The probe agency's allegation against Mr. Karti Chidambaram is that he demanded and accepted \$1 million for scuttling a possible probe against INX Media for violation of FIPB's conditions in 2007.

#### ArcelorMittal's bid for Essar Steel approved

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal on Thursday approved steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal-led ArcelorMittal's ₹42,000 crore bid for the acquisition of bankrupt Essar Steel.

The tribunal, however, modified the 'Resolution Plan' submitted by ArcelorMittal to safeguard the rights of the 'Operational Creditors' and other 'Financial Creditors' of Essar Steel. It said the sale proceeds are to be shared among creditors.

A Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process was initiated in 2017 against Essar Steel to recover ₹54,547 crore of unpaid dues of financial lenders and operational creditors.

The tribunal said that any profits of Essar Steel generated during the insolvency proceedings would also be distributed to the creditors.

It said the profit cannot be given to ArcelorMittal as it had not invested any money during the insolvency process.

REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 16

Granted bail to appeal against conviction in 2015 case of beating up man

#### NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI  
A Delhi court on Thursday awarded six months of rigorous imprisonment to Sadar Bazar AAP MLA Som Dutt for beating up a man with a baseball bat while campaigning for the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections. The MLA was also fined ₹2 lakh.

The court, however, granted him bail on furnishing a personal bond of

₹10,000, with the surety of a like amount to permit him to file an appeal against his conviction.

Dismissing Mr. Dutt's plea for a lenient punishment, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal said: "When an influential person breaks the law, there is an impression in his mind that he may break through it [sic], in one way or the other. But that is not the case al-

ways... Nobody has more sacred obligation to obey the law than those who make it... I do not find it expedient to grant the benefit of probation to the convict."

Mr. Dutt was convicted under Section 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) of the Indian Penal Code. The man he had attacked was left with a fractured fibula. The court observed that the incident did not take place on

the spur of the moment but was a "premeditated assault" carried out with a baseball bat.

Of the ₹2 lakh fine imposed on the MLA, the court ordered ₹1 lakh be paid to the complainant as compensation under Section 357 of CrPC. "In default of payment of fine, the convict shall undergo a further simple imprisonment of two months," said the magistrate.

A case under Section 307 (attempt to murder) was registered against him.

**FIR filed**  
According to the first information report filed by the

victim, the councillor, Mangilal Kadel, allegedly attacked him following an altercation in front of the victim's house, said Sachin K. Atulkar, Ujjain Superintendent of Police.

Former State Cabinet Minister Paras Chandra Jain told *The Hindu*: "The victim is a history-sheeter and sold illicit alcohol in the area. During the scuffle, the councillor was also injured."

The Superintendent of Police clarified that the other cases registered against the victim in the past had no relation to the current incident.

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MORNING BATCH **16 JULY**, 7:30AM

GS WEEKEND **07 JULY**, 4:00PM

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RISE 07:57	SET 21:49
SATURDAY, JULY 06	
RISE 05:29	SET 19:23
RISE 09:05	SET 22:34
SUNDAY, JULY 07	
RISE 05:30	SET 19:23
RISE 10:11	SET 23:16

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Saifdarganj	39 31
Palam	40 31

**Delhi Palam Today**  
36°C Humidity is likely to increase. Fall in temperatures is likely. Warm and humid weather will prevail.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C A comfortable and dusty morning lies ahead. Day will be warm and humid. Spell of rain are likely.

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### Air quality of Delhi-NCR

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Noida	<b>104</b>	Greater Noida	<b>118</b>

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

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

### DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Discussion on Mandira Ghosh's volume of verses, "Poetry and Science - Opposites Meet". Speakers: Alexey Shaposhnikov, Head, Science and Technology Section, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Nirmal Kapoor, Head - Science Films Division, Vigyan Prasar; Dr. Rita Malhotra, poet and mathematician; and the author who will read poems from the book. Chair: Gautham Raza, scientist and Urdu poet at Conference Room - I, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Vibhor's VIBGYOR", a solo art show by Vibhor Gupta at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
**Exhibition:** "A Traveller in Abstract Universe", a solo painting show by Yashwant Singh at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Screening:** Two films will be screened today as part of the ongoing 24th edition of European Film Festival. The first, Italian film "Drive Me Home", will be screened, followed by Maltese film, "Of time and the Sea" at Instituto Cervantes, 48, Hanuman Road, 4 p.m.-6 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at [citiedtordelhi@thehindu.co.in](mailto:citiedtordelhi@thehindu.co.in))

## DU's second cut-off prompts withdrawals, new admissions

College help desks flooded with queries on eligibility criteria

### PALLAVI KESWANI NEW DELHI

Release of the second cut-off list to undergraduate courses at Delhi University on Wednesday prompted withdrawal of nearly 2,000 admissions on Thursday.

Through the day, help desks of most colleges staffed with student volunteers fielded queries about the change in cut-offs and whether new applicants would be eligible.

According to university officials, there have also been 26,692 "unique admissions" till Thursday night, compared to 23,266 at the close of the first list.

At Kirori Mal College, student volunteers reported that many applicants inquired about the 1% reduction announced for women students at selected colleges of the university and whether it applied there. Others were especially disappointed to find out that their marks exceeded the first cut-off at colleges they now wished to apply to.

### Steady rush of students

Colleges such as Lady Shri Ram saw a marginal crowd, after seats in most courses had been filled up in the first cut-off list itself.

"I had taken admission into B.Com after the first list but the second cut-off has made me eligible for B.Com (Hons.) in the same college, so I am here to change my course," said 18-year-old Shivani Goel who had come to seek admission in Kamala Nehru College.

"I had taken admission in B.A. Programme as a standby, but in the present cut-off, I am eligible for political



Admission seekers at a Delhi University college on Thursday.

■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Other colleges, including Kamala Nehru and Gargi, saw a steady rush of students who were eager to cancel their admission after popular courses at other colleges saw a marginal dip in the second cut-off list.

"I had taken admission into B.Com after the first list but the second cut-off has made me eligible for B.Com (Hons.) in the same college, so I am here to change my course," said 18-year-old Shivani Goel who had come to seek admission in Kamala Nehru College.

"I had taken admission in B.A. Programme as a standby, but in the present cut-off, I am eligible for political

science in Janki Devi Memorial College, so I am withdrawing my admission from here," said Meenal Gupta, 17, waiting at Gargi College.

Students were faced by a slowed-down process as some colleges handled a high number of applications with limited resources, after categories such as SC and ST saw a significant decline in the cut-off percentage.

### ABVP protests

Meanwhile, students' union ABVP held demonstrations at Arts Faculty over increase in the fees at several colleges and certain issues faced by applicants during the admission process.

'Submit report on forest area encroachment' NGT raps govt. for inaction, directs Chief Secretary to comply

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

chairperson Justice Aradhar Kumar Goel noted that an order passed in December 2015 in the matter had not been complied with.

The Bench took note of a status report filed by the SDM, Mehrauli, that said removal of encroachments was to begin in August 2017 but there were "difficulties"

as approximately 3,000 people had encroached into the forest land.

The Bench said, "Let a status report about the compliance of the order of this tribunal be furnished by the Chief Secretary, Delhi, after gathering relevant information from the officers concerned."

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ASI suspended for firing from service pistol

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police ASI posted at Keshav Puram police station in North-West district was suspended after allegedly firing from his service pistol on Wednesday night, officers said on Thursday.

DCP (North-West) Vijayanta Arya said that Jeetha Ram was on night duty when he fired from his service pistol. The matter came to light on Thursday morning and he was suspended following a preliminary inquiry. The police said that the medical examination of the policeman could not be done as the matter was brought to the knowledge of senior officers late on Thursday. They are trying to find out as to why he fired from his pistol.

## Boy found dead hours after being scolded by father

17-year-old had ordered Bluetooth earphones online

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 17-year-old boy was found dead at his house allegedly after his father scolded him for ordering Bluetooth earphones, on Wednesday evening in south-west Delhi's Vasant Vihar.

The deceased's maternal uncle said that the boy had ordered the earphones while he was at home, on Wednesday evening.

His father received a message on his mobile phone regarding the order. "When he received the message, he called him [the boy] and scolded him for spending money unnecessarily. The father also told him that he

**G** The father called him [the boy] and scolded him for spending money unnecessarily. He also told him that he should concentrate more on his studies instead

DECEASED'S MATERNAL UNCLE

should concentrate more on his studies instead," the uncle claimed.

A few minutes later, he was found hanging in his room by other family members. "The body was sent for a post-mortem examination. It was handed over to

the family after the conducting the post-mortem. Inquest proceedings are under way," said a senior police officer.

The uncle said that the boy's father works at a government college as a peon and had no idea that the boy could end his life after being scolded.

The victim is survived by two sisters and parents.

The family said that the boy was an extremely talented sketcher and was also good in studies.

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

## Man's body with head injury found in Dwarka

Steel tumblers found at spot; 1 held for questioning

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old man was found dead in Dwarka's Jafarpur Kalan on Thursday morning, the police said. They have registered a murder case and begun a probe.

A senior police officer said that the victim has been identified as Vikram alias Vicky, a resident of Isapur village.

"The police control room received a call around 9 a.m. regarding a person lying dead on a street. When the police reached the spot, they found that he was murdered. The body had an injury on the head," the officer said, adding that the body was then sent for a post-mortem examination.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the body was found near the house of a man who was an acquain-

**G** It is suspected that the victim and his acquaintance were drinking together on Wednesday night. A fight might have ensued between the two leading to the murder

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

tance of the victim. Steel tumblers were also found from the spot.

"It is suspected that the victim and his acquaintance were drinking together on Wednesday night. A fight might have ensued between the two leading to the murder. However, the exact sequence of events will become clear once the accused is arrested," the officer said.

The police have picked up one person for questioning in connection with the case.

## Youth threatens shopkeepers with knife, flees

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was seen brandishing a knife and threatening shopkeepers in northwest Delhi's Welcome, the police said on Thursday. The incident took place on Tuesday, they said.

In a video that has surfaced online, he can be seen intimidating shopkeepers with a knife in an open market. Accused Salman is absconding, while his accomplice, Maroof, who was with him during the incident has been arrested. They were under the influence of alcohol, the police said. A case was filed and a manhunt is on.

## Geography

By : Neetu Singh  
Optional / 10th, July  
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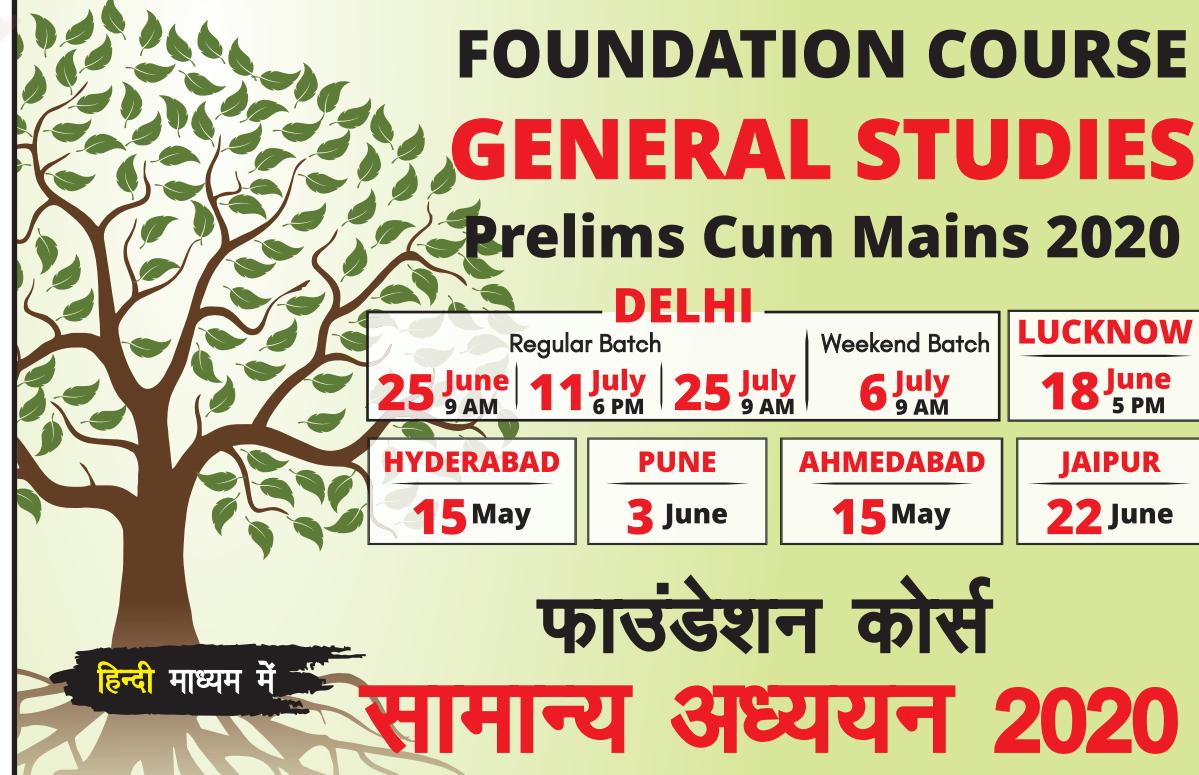
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## IN BRIEF

## Property tax office to remain open on weekend

NEW DELHI

Property tax office will remain open on Saturday and Sunday to facilitate payment before the end of the extended rebate period of July 15, the civic body said. The North corporation had recently announced extension of the last date of payment. The South and East corporations too extended the dates. The offices will remain open during regular working hours.

## WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

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Dy. Chief Engineer (Br. Line), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for & on behalf of the President of Union of India, invites Open Tender (E-Tender) from the contractors only for the following works:-  
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रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हुई 138 पर एवं सुक्षम हुई 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

# New report on zoo irregularities a cover-up: ex-member secretary

Junked many irregularities, including false post-mortem reports of animals'

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

Former Member Secretary of Central Zoo Authority (CZA), D.N. Singh, whose report in 2016 had found multiple irregularities in the Delhi zoo, told *The Hindu* that a new report on the irregularities in the zoo is a "cover-up".

The new report by a five-member high-level committee, accessed by *The Hindu*, has junked many irregularities found by Mr. Singh, including false post-mortem reports of animals.

**'Waited for retirement'**

"The [new] report is a cover-up. They waited for me to retire and took more than one-and-a-half years to come up with the [new] report," Mr. Singh said adding that he had submitted his report in December 2016.

When asked about who is trying to cover up the is-



A 2016 report said that a sample of a horn of a female rhinoceros went missing from the Delhi zoo in 2015.

\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sues at the zoo, Mr. Singh said, "Directly or indirectly, the Ministry [MoEF&CC] is also responsible for the irregularities."

When reached out, M.S. Negi, Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) of MoEF&CC, who was the Chairman of the committee, refused to comment.

Though the 2016 report

by Mr. Singh said that a sample of a horn of a female rhinoceros 'Maheshwari' went missing from the Delhi zoo in 2015. However, the new report states, "no horn is missing."

**Rhino horn missing?**

Mr. Singh in his report said that a sample of the horn collected on July 11, 2015, by A. Bhawal of the Delhi

zoo had gone missing. "Not taking the permission of the Director and not weighing the sample and recording it in register raise doubts about the intention of Dr. Bhawal behind sample collection" Mr. Singh noted in the report.

The high-level committee's finding that "no horn is missing" was also the finding of former Delhi Zoo Director, Amitabh Agnihotri, during whose tenure the alleged incident took place.

But the new report said that casual approach in the collection can lead to "misuse".

"Such casual approach in collection of sample from animal body parts like rhino horn may lead to a possibility of misuse of such costly body parts of animals." The new report has also recommended disciplinary action against officers of the zoo.

## Delhi zoo initiates action against erring officials

Move comes after Ministry's rap

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi zoo has initiated disciplinary action against at least five officials after a report by a five-member high-level committee flagged irregularities in the National Zoological Park (NJP), commonly known as Delhi zoo, during the tenure of the previous zoo director.

In a letter sent by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to NJP Director Renu Singh in June, the Ministry had ordered to take action against at least five officers.

In a different letter, accessed by *The Hindu*, the Ministry had ordered the zoo to carry out a slew of measures, including filling up of vacant posts and carrying out annual inspection on the lines of CZA.

"I have initiated the process of taking action against officials who are under my appointing authority. It would take a month to complete it," said Ms. Renu.

Ms. Renu also said that she is making efforts to fill up vacant posts and is carrying out inspections.

"Currently, we are carrying out inspections, but it is not exactly in line with the CZA methods," Ms. Renu added.

## Chadha moves HC, challenges Bidhuri's win

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

AAP leader Raghav Chadha on Thursday moved the Delhi High Court challenging the results of Lok Sabha election to South Delhi constituency in which BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri emerged as the winner.

The petition contended that Mr. Bidhuri suppressed information in his affidavit as a candidate with regards to an FIR lodged against him in a police station in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

It said the election of Mr. Bidhuri was vitiated by the "corrupt practices of undue influence committed by the candidate inasmuch as by failing to disclose material particulars regarding his antecedents..."

"The BJP candidate wilfully and intentionally concealed the factum of registration of an FIR against him in police station... Muzaffarpur, Bihar, under Sections 504, 506, 153 and 153(a) of the IPC," it added.

## Classroom row: BJP files complaint against Deputy CM, PWD Minister

Accuses AAP Ministers of 'corruption', demands enquiry

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP which had alleged a "scam" in the construction of classrooms in government schools filed a complaint with the Delhi Lokayukta on Thursday against Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and PWD Minister Satyendar Jain.

**Inflated cost**

The complaint filed by party leaders on behalf of Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari accused the Ministers in the Aam Aadmi Party government of "corruption" and "abuse of position" in the construction of over 12,000 classrooms of government schools.

"Construction of around 12,748 classrooms at a very high and inflated cost is being carried out by the Delhi government through various agencies," read the complaint.

Mr. Tiwari in his complaint, has also demanded an enquiry against public functionaries involved.

**RTI query**

Based on a response to a Right To Information (RTI) query related to the cost incurred for the construction of schools as well as rooms on the school campuses, Mr. Tiwari and other BJP leaders on Monday had alleged that a single room had cost the state ex-chequer an estimated

₹24.85 lakh.

Responding to the allegations, Mr. Sisodia had challenged the BJP to "arrest" him if he had done wrong or apologise to the people of the Capital for levelling such allegations.

Delhi BJP leaders, including spokesperson Harish Khurana, maintained that the party will "expose corruption" in the matter and stick to its ground.

"The legal and media team of Delhi BJP filed a complaint against the same in construction of classrooms by Delhi government. We promise to the people of Delhi that the BJP will take this case to a logical end," Mr. Khurana said.

## Rain washes away Gurugram officials' monsoon-ready claim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

More than 30 minutes of heavy rain led to waterlogging and traffic jams in several parts of the Millennium City on Thursday afternoon, washing away the claims of the administration regarding their preparedness for the monsoon. It, however, brought a welcome relief from the sweltering heat.

A heavy spell of rain that started around 3 p.m. led to waterlogging at several pe-

rennial flooding points in the city such as Hero Honda Chowk, Subhash Chowk, IFFCO Chowk, Sector 15 Part-II, Sohna Road and Old Delhi Road. It slowed down traffic resulting in snarls and jams.

**Traffic police tweets**

Soon after the rain, the Gurugram Traffic Police tweeted from its official handle informing the residents about the waterlogged roads and asking them to plan their travel according-

ly. "waterlogging has been reported from Hero Honda Chowk to Himgiri Chowk. Our officials are on the spot to facilitate traffic flow. Commuters are requested to plan their travel accordingly," said one such tweet from the Gurugram Traffic Police.

The rain also resulted in power outages in many parts of the city, forcing the residents to take to Twitter to vent their ire.

Referring to a newspaper report quoting Haryana

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar saying that Gurugram's flooding has been taken care of, a tweet said: "Gurgavan/Gurgaon/Gurugram flooded in one short spells of rain. No electricity as well. (sic)".

Claiming that 90 mm rainfall in an hour was not moderate, Deputy Commissioner Amit Khatri said the preparedness of the administration was much better in many aspects and there was no flooding of underpasses this time around. He

added that there was waterlogging on Delhi-Jaipur carriage of Delhi-Gurugram Expressway near Narsinghpur due to three non-operative pumps of the NHAI. It was, therefore, decided to double the capacity. He said that four more water pumps would be installed by the MCG at this point.

"The second critical point was Sohna Road. We were limited in our preparedness on this road due to ongoing construction," he added.

## BJP leaders demand probe into Hauz Qazi incident

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A delegation led by BJP MP Vijay Goel met Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik on Thursday demanding a thorough probe into the Hauz Qazi incident.

The Delhi BJP has also written a letter to L-G Anil Baijal seeking directions to the force to move court to seek permission to try juveniles allegedly involved in the incident.

## Rath yatra passes off peacefully

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Amid high-security, Jagannath Rath Yatra passed off peacefully through the walled city on Thursday where communal tension took place earlier this week. Around 200 devotees participated in the procession that started from Red Fort.

A police officer said that

the incident as adults.

A temple was vandalised after a fight broke out on Sunday night over parking of a vehicle in Lal Kuan area.

The delegation submitted a memorandum to the police chief while asking him to probe AAP MLA Imran Hussain's alleged role in the incident. On Wednesday, Mr. Goel had accused Mr. Hussain of being "involved" in the incident.

Meanwhile, the police on Thursday nabbed three more persons in connection with the alleged vandalism of a temple in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazar area.

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Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Suitable Private Sector Operator for Upgradation, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Industrial Hygiene Laboratory and Safety Demonstration Centre at Ranchi, Jharkhand

Department of Labour, Employment and Training (DLET) intends to select Suitable Private Sector Operator for Upgradation, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Industrial Hygiene Laboratory and Safety Demonstration Centre at Ranchi, Jharkhand. Detailed RFP Document can be downloaded from the authority's website [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) from 05.07.2019 (01:00 PM). Last date of Online Bid submission is 06.08.2019 by 05:00 PM.

PR210781 (Labour Employment and Training)19-20-D

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General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), Name : Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : about 35 years, Height

# CM, deputy and kin to join Vaishno Devi pilgrims

Delhi government to fund 'tirth yatra' for senior citizens

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and their families will join a fully government-paid pilgrimage for senior citizens to Vaishno Devi via train on July 20.

The pilgrimage is a part of 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana', under which the government will fund the pilgrimage of citizens aged above 60, to different places in India, including their travel, stay, and food. The pilgrimage will cover the Delhi-Vaishno Devi-Jammu corridor from July 20 to 24.

Mr. Kejriwal will flag off the first trip under the scheme for Golden Temple-

**C**The Opposition is trying to politicise this issue. But I want to tell them that I will continue spending money on the elderly

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
Chief Minister

Wagah Border-Anandpur Sahib corridor on July 12. The beneficiaries are selected on a first come, first served basis and 77,000 people – 1,100 from each Assembly constituency – will be sent on pilgrimage every year.

On Thursday, Mr. Kejriwal made the announcement at Delhi Secretariat Auditorium while interact-

ing with people slated to go on the tirth yatra in batches – first on July 12 and second on July 20. "To all the elderly citizens of Delhi, I want to say, this son of yours will send you on at least one 'tirth yatra' in your lifetime," he said.

Attacking the Opposition, the Chief Minister said, "The Opposition is trying to politicise this issue. But I want to tell them that I will continue spending money on the elderly."

The other three routes under the scheme are Delhi-Mathura-Vrindavan-Agra-Fatehpur Sikri-Delhi, Delhi-Haridwar-Rishikesh-Neelkanth-Delhi, Delhi-Ajmer-Pushkar-Delhi.

On Thursday, Mr. Kejriwal made the announcement at Delhi Secretariat Auditorium while interact-

Two minor boys held for assault on five-year-old

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two minor boys – aged 10 and 11 – have been apprehended for sexually assaulting a five-year-old girl in south-west Delhi's Kapashera on Monday, the police said on Thursday.

A senior police officer said that the victim and the accused are residents of the same colony and the incident happened when the girl was playing in a nearby park.

"The accused caught hold of her and took turns to sexually assault her. Meanwhile, the mother of the victim reached the park to check on her. Seeing her, the accused fled," the officer said.

The mother then called the police who reached the spot and took the victim to a hospital where her medical examination was conducted. The victim was discharged the next day.

The accused were also apprehended on Tuesday and sent to juvenile home, the police said.

A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act has been registered and further investigation into the matter is under way, the police added.



The accused in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

liquor and marijuana. Later, he, along with Lal, started working for them, the DCP added. They used to smuggle liquor from Haryana to Bihar and drugs from Odisha to Delhi-NCR, he said.

Rajkumar was arrested at Masrol in Bihar last year for smuggling liquor and was in jail for three months, the police said. The arrested accused disclosed that they had built a secret chamber in the truck to conceal narcotics. The chamber has an iron wall between the driver's cabin and the container of the truck. The cavity was designed to hide or camouflage the narcotics.

Interrogation revealed that the accused are relatives. Rajkumar lives in Faridabad and has been driving trucks for the last seven-eight years. Last year, he had come in contact with two persons who smuggled

## Truck driver, helper in police net for smuggling drugs

Over 200 kg of marijuana found in vehicle's secret chamber

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested a driver and his helper on Thursday for allegedly smuggling over 200 kg of marijuana in their truck, officers said.

The accused, Rajkumar and Kanhaiya Lal, were smuggling marijuana from Odisha to Delhi-NCR, the police said. "After getting a tip-off, the police laid a trap near Okhla Estate Road and arrested them around 2.30 a.m.," said DCP (South-East), Chinmoy Biswal.

During search, 11 gunny bags containing 205.10 kg of marijuana were found concealed in a secret cavity

of the vehicle, Mr. Biswal said.

Interrogation revealed that the accused are relatives. Rajkumar lives in Faridabad and has been driving trucks for the last seven-eight years. Last year, he had come in contact with two persons who smuggled

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- Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi



Varavara Rao remanded in 2-day police custody

**PAVAGADA**  
A Tumakuru court remanded Telugu poet and activist Varavara Rao in two-day police custody on Thursday. He was produced before the Pavagada JMFC court in Karnataka in connection with the 2005 naxal attack case in the taluk, in which he was charged but shown absconding for nearly a decade-and-a-half.

**Basanth Kumar is TTD joint executive officer**

**TIRUMALA**  
Augmenting facilities for visiting devotees and providing a clean administration will be accorded a top priority, P. Basanth Kumar said after assuming office of the joint executive officer of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams on Thursday.

**Sabarimala Karma Samiti to launch 'rath yatras'**

**PATHANANTHITTA**  
The Sabarimala Karma Samithi has decided to launch 'rath yatras' across Kerala and in other south Indian states spreading awareness among the people on the importance of protecting the custom and practices attached to the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala.

**Girl forced to marry rape accused, rescued**

**HASSAN**  
The case of a 13-year-old girl being allegedly raped by a 19-year-old in Arkalgud taluk and forced to marry him after she got pregnant only to avoid a police case has come to light following a call to the child helpline. The helpline staff rescued the girl with the help of the Arkalgud police and produced her before the Child Welfare Committee on Tuesday. The accused had married her in June.

Addressing presspersons

## IN BRIEF

# H.K. Kumaraswamy named JD(S) Karnataka president

CM's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy will head youth wing of the party

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**BENGALURU**

Putting at rest all speculation, five-time legislator H.K. Kumaraswamy was appointed Janata Dal (Secular) Karnataka president on Thursday. He replaces A.H. Vishwanath, who tendered his resignation following the party's debacle in the Lok Sabha polls and has since been vocal in his criticism of the coalition government.

The party appointed former legislator Madhu Bangarappa as the working president of the party. In a surprise move, Nikhil Kumaraswamy, son of Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, has been appointed the youth wing president.

Mr. Vishwanath, who headed the party for one year, handed over the par-



A.H. Vishwanath handing over the JD(S) flag to H.D. Deve Gowda, in the presence of newly appointed office-bearers in Bengaluru on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

t's flag to Mr. Kumaraswamy. While the party leaders, including supremo H.D. Deve Gowda and Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, has tried to convince Mr. Vishwanath to withdraw his resignation, he remained firm.

Thanking the party for reposing faith in him, Mr. Kum-

araswamy, who represents Sakleshpur in the State Assembly, said: "Despite losses, we will work towards strengthening the party and providing support to the Chief Minister. Defeat is not permanent."

Meanwhile, Mr. Vishwanath, who had expressed displeasure over the functioning of the coalition government and its leaders said: "The new president should be independent and get the responsibility as well as resources at his disposal. I'm confident that the party will be organised well."

The JD(S) has decided against appointing four working presidents. It has also appointed former Minister N.M. Nabi and legislator K. Gopalaiah as senior vice-presidents.

## Orthodox Church lambasts Kerala government's inaction

### Will execute order: CM

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Endorsed by Supreme Court's strictures on the Chief Secretary for the Kerala government's failure in implementing its order of July 3, 2017, the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church is contemplating legal action against the government for delaying the implementation of the order. In its 2017 verdict, the Supreme Court had held that 1,100 parishes and their churches under the Malankara Church should be controlled by the Orthodox faction as per the 1934 Malankara Church guidelines.

Addressing presspersons

factions on the management of parish churches in Malankara. The State is duty-bound to implement the July 3, 2017 order or any other being issued by the Supreme Court in this connection, the Chief Minister said while replying to a submission by Antony John.

On Thursday, Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II, head of the Church, accused the government of siding with the Jacobite faction. It had not only remained insensitive to the court order, but also continued lending support to the Jacobite faction, he said.

bite faction. It had not only remained insensitive to the court order, but also continued lending support to the Jacobite faction, he said.

### Meet to discuss revolt against Alencherry

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**KOCHI**

The permanent synod of the Syro-Malabar Church will meet here on Friday to discuss the repercussions of an open revolt by 250 priests against the reinstatement of Cardinal George Alencherry as head of the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese. The meeting is likely to discuss action to be taken against the priests, who had also protested against the removal of auxiliary bishops Sebastian Adayanthrath and Jose Putthenveettil.

Those supporting Alencherry have demanded action against the priests.



Green ride: Tomasz Kozlowski during the launch of the electric 'Namma Auto' in Chennai. ■ R. RAGU

## EU expertise for wind energy plants

Ambassador visits Chennai

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**CHENNAI**

Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to India Tomasz Kozlowski, who was on a two-day visit to the city, said India's first major offshore wind energy power plant would be set up soon in Gujarat with the cooperation of EU nations and private companies.

Mr. Kozlowski was here on an official visit to highlight cooperation on clean energy, research, innovation, education and culture under the EU-India strategic partnership.

Sharing ongoing developments in the partnership with preservers, Mr. Kozlowski said the EU had extended cooperation to India in developing offshore wind energy projects in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

"A few years ago, we launched the project to assess the capacity and now it is in the process of implementation. We have shared our experience and regulatory framework for offshore power plants. The first offshore wind energy plant in Gujarat is in the implementation stage. The Indian government's plan is very ambitious. By 2022, India wants to have a capacity of 5

giga byte of offshore wind energy in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu," said Mr. Kozlowski, while adding that Tamil Nadu has resources for tapping offshore wind energy.

**'Namma Auto'**

The EU Ambassador showcased the environment-friendly, EU-funded electric rickshaw 'Namma Auto' by riding it. The 'Namma auto project' was launched early in this year to promote the shift to less polluting autorickshaws in Bengaluru and Chennai. Mr. Kozlowski said electrification of vehicles helps reduce the dependence on non-renewable resources and creates cleaner cities.

The overall idea of this project is to create awareness on switching to electric public transport and introduce as many electric vehicles as possible, he added. EU officials have already introduced the first set of electric auto-rickshaws in Chennai in collaboration with Chennai Metro Rail to pilot electric rickshaws as a feeder service.

The Ambassador further said that each year, around 50,000 Indian students go to study in over 4,000 universities across Europe.

## SC refuses TikTok plea to transfer cases

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused a plea by Chinese company Byte-Dance, which owns the short-form TikTok mobile video application, to transfer cases relating to its ban from the Madras High Court to itself for speedy disposal.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for the company, highlighted the larger issue of right to free speech and expression and protection afforded to intermediaries under the Information Technology Act. He said the petitions pending before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court should be transferred to the Supreme Court for final disposal.

However, the company withdrew its plea after the Bench said it was not inclined to transfer the case from the High Court to itself.

The Supreme Court had directed the High Court to decide on April 24 the plea of TikTok seeking interim relief of lifting the ban imposed by it. The High Court on that day lifted its ban on the social media app with the condition that the platform should not be used to host obscene videos. On April 3, the High Court directed the Centre to ban TikTok as it voiced concern over "pornographic and inappropriate content" being made available through such apps. Though the High Court did not object to TikTok being used in jest, it pointed out how the application could be used for crude humour against innocent parties and lead to violation of the fundamental right to privacy.

## Mullaperiyar: Kerala gets 15 days to respond to plea

Car park planned in water spread area

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on July 4 gave 15 days for Kerala to respond to a contempt plea filed by Tamil Nadu on the construction of a "mega car parking" in the water spread area of the Mullaperiyar dam.

A Bench, led by Justice S.A. Bobde, gave Kerala time to reply, while orally cautioning the State's officials to stay in line.

Tamil Nadu has contended that the construction was in violation of the top court's order and aimed at preventing the restoration of the storage level of the reservoir to the original level of 152 ft.

Tamil Nadu had earlier submitted that the project was located in the area leased to it. The project, which involves various supplementary construction

activities, would environmentally affect the catchment area, the water spread area of the dam and consequently the waters of the reservoir, used for drinking and irrigation purposes by the people of five districts in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has been arguing that Kerala encroached into about 2.5 acres, and through this project, proposed to take over about 20 acres in the water spread area of the dam for parking tourist vehicles and construction of reception blocks, cafeteria, a sewage treatment plant, eco-shops complex, toilets, dining block, office block, road work, and road work for battery operated vehicle, developing different thematic arboreta, landscaping, etc., intended for tourism and commercial activities.

Tamil Nadu had earlier submitted that the project was located in the area leased to it. The project, which involves various supplementary construction

## Hot potato



Seeking showers: Shortage of rainfall has become a cause of concern for the farmers who grow Chinese potato at Mattumantha near Palakkad in Kerala. They say the crop will crash if it doesn't rain copiously in July. ■ K. K. MUSTAFAH

## A Japanese touch to Telangana green drive

Forest Department to introduce the famous 'Miyawaki' method in 'Haritha Haaram' programme

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**KHAMMAM**

Having been entrusted with the huge task of planting around 3.29 crore saplings under the fifth phase of the Telangana Haritha Haaram (TKHH) in the district, the Forest department has introduced the famous Japanese "Miyawaki" method of afforestation in the Velugumata urban park here on a pilot basis to supplement the green drive.

**Popular technique**  
The Forest department has drawn up a plan to harness the popular technique, developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, to grow urban forests and



Priyanka Verghese and District Collector R.V. Karan inspecting Velugumata urban park. ■ G.N. RAO

expand the district's green cover as well as to meet the stipulated plantation target under the TKHH, sources said.

Thanks to the initiative of

Collector R.V. Karan, the department has decided to grow native plant species on about one hectare in the Velugumata urban park on the outskirts of the town on

a pilot basis.

The move is aimed at creating natural green spaces by gradually extending the method, well-known for growing mini urban forests in limited spaces in a relatively less time, to other areas in the district, sources added.

Officer on Special Duty (TKHH) at Chief Minister's Office Priyanka Verghese planted saplings at the urban park at Velugumata in adherence to the Miyawaki method of afforestation on Thursday.

Efforts are under way to plant saplings in the areas which received the initial spell of rains in the current monsoon season.

She exhorted all sections

of people to collectively strive to make the fifth phase of TKHH a success and help improve Telangana's green cover.

Earlier in the day, Ms.

## Polavaram project's deadline extended by three years

Coffer dam is the first priority, says project authority CEO

**STAFF REPORTER**

**VIJAYAWADA**

The Polavaram multi-purpose project, considered a lifeline for Andhra Pradesh, is likely to be completed only by 2022.

An indication to this effect was made by Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) Chief Executive Officer Rajendra Kumar Jain after emerging from a review meeting here on Thursday. The PPA team will visit the site on Friday.

Mr. Jain said work on the coffer dam was partially completed, and a target had been set to complete it before floods hit the area. It was estimated that about 10,000 cusecs of flood water would reach the coffer dam

this year. The coffer dam, however, would not be affected, he added.

The Estimates Committee had to examine the increase in project expenditure. The Committee has asked the State government to submit the State government to submit a few more details. The Central government had already released ₹6,700 crore for the project, he said.

### Audits pending

Mr. Jain said the State government was yet to complete certain formalities with regard to the submission of bills to the Centre, which initiated an audit into the expenditure incurred on the project in 2014. An audit relating to the expenditure

of ₹1,300 crore on relief and rehabilitation was still going on. The audit relating to the expenditure incurred by the State government on the project before it was declared a national one was also yet to be completed, he said.

To a question, Mr. Jain said he had no information on reverse tendering for the project. The PPA was in no way concerned with the tenders. The State government would take a call on it, he added. The previous government had announced that water would be released through gravity by December 2018 and the project would be completed in December 2019.

## IN BRIEF



## Govt orders SFIO probe against Jet Airways

The government has ordered an SFIO probe into the affairs of the now defunct Jet Airways after finding instances of fund diversion and large-scale irregularities, sources said on Thursday. Besides, the government would oppose airline founder Naresh Goyal's plea in the Delhi High Court seeking lifting of his travel ban. The sources said Mr. Goyal is likely to be summoned by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), which comes under the Corporate Affairs Ministry. PTI

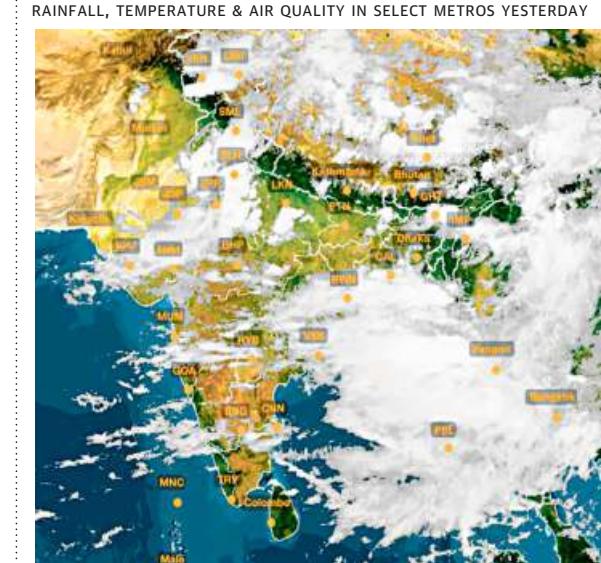
## Amid runway mishaps, DGCA starts special audit

NEW DELHI The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said on Thursday that it had started a special audit of all airlines as well as airports located in monsoon-affected areas following a spate of runway mishaps recently. The DGCA has also grounded 12 pilots involved in six recent incidents, which included tail strikes and planes overshooting the runway. The audit of airlines will focus on pilot licence currency training or requirements for recent experience that demonstrate that one's skills and flight experience are "current."

## Suspense over BJP action against Vijayvargiya

BHOPAL Suspense prevailed about BJP's action against its MLA Akash Vijayvargiya as the party's Madhya Pradesh unit chief said no decision on the matter had been taken yet. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday disapproved of the conduct of Mr. Akash, who had assaulted a civic official in Indore, triggering speculation that the party may act against the son of its powerful national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya. PTI

## WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)  
**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy rainfall likely at Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, east and west Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, east Rajasthan, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... - 35.4 ... 26.7	... - 35.4 ... 26.7	... - 35.4 ... 26.7
Ahmedabad	1.7 ... 32.3 ... 27.2	1.7 ... 32.3 ... 27.2	1.7 ... 32.3 ... 27.2
Aizawl	... - 27.8 ... 20.1	... - 27.8 ... 20.1	... - 27.8 ... 20.1
Allahabad	0.6 ... 39.7 ... 28.8	0.6 ... 39.7 ... 28.8	0.6 ... 39.7 ... 28.8
Bengaluru	1.5 ... 30.3 ... 21.6	1.5 ... 30.3 ... 21.6	1.5 ... 30.3 ... 21.6
Bhopal	1.1 ... 27.5 ... 23.8	1.1 ... 27.5 ... 23.8	1.1 ... 27.5 ... 23.8
Bhubaneswar	3.5 ... 32.0 ... 25.6	3.5 ... 32.0 ... 25.6	3.5 ... 32.0 ... 25.6
Chandigarh	29.0 ... 31.5 ... 25.3	29.0 ... 31.5 ... 25.3	29.0 ... 31.5 ... 25.3
Chennai	... - 40.4 ... 30.0	... - 40.4 ... 30.0	... - 40.4 ... 30.0
Coimbatore	... - 33.5 ... 24.0	... - 33.5 ... 24.0	... - 33.5 ... 24.0
Dehradun	48.3 ... 26.7 ... 22.6	48.3 ... 26.7 ... 22.6	48.3 ... 26.7 ... 22.6
Gangtok	1.0 ... 23.3 ... 19.0	1.0 ... 23.3 ... 19.0	1.0 ... 23.3 ... 19.0
Goa	3.9 ... 30.5 ... 25.7	3.9 ... 30.5 ... 25.7	3.9 ... 30.5 ... 25.7
Guwahati	... - 35.0 ... 26.9	... - 35.0 ... 26.9	... - 35.0 ... 26.9
Hubballi	... - 27.0 ... 22.0	... - 27.0 ... 22.0	... - 27.0 ... 22.0
Hyderabad	32.6 ... 24.6	32.6 ... 24.6	32.6 ... 24.6
Imphal	... - 32.5 ... 22.5	... - 32.5 ... 22.5	... - 32.5 ... 22.5
Jaipur	... - 39.2 ... 29.4	... - 39.2 ... 29.4	... - 39.2 ... 29.4
Kochi	49.6 ... 30.6 ... 23.4	49.6 ... 30.6 ... 23.4	49.6 ... 30.6 ... 23.4
Kohima	20.4 ... 25.0 ... 18.6	20.4 ... 25.0 ... 18.6	20.4 ... 25.0 ... 18.6
Kolkata	0.1 ... 34.8 ... 27.8	0.1 ... 34.8 ... 27.8	0.1 ... 34.8 ... 27.8
(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)			

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	56	170	84	86	—	—
Bengaluru	17	54	84	—	117	—
Chennai	—	7	21	42	139	—
Delhi	15	19	29	252	—	—
Hyderabad	10	47	11	40	60	—
Kolkata	12	43	76	90	—	—
Lucknow	—	3.7	27	49	133	—
Mumbai	30	23	103	22	71	—
Pune	62	8	29	52	52	—
Vishakhapatnam	19	52	43	128	52	—

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI so far. Sulphur Dioxide: Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.)

NO<sub>x</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

## Sea of devotees



**Pull of faith:** Devotees pulling chariots during the annual Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha, on Thursday. Two persons were killed and seven injured when they came in contact with a live wire while readying a chariot at Kaliapani in Jajpur district. ■ PTI

## MLA's men pour mud on engineer

Legislator later surrenders to police

## STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

Days after a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from Madhya Pradesh beat up a government official with a cricket bat, a Congress MLA from Maharashtra watched on as his supporters on Thursday were caught on camera throwing buckets of mud at a road department official for not repairing potholes.

MLA Nitesh Rane, who represents Kankavali in Konkan, later turned himself in at the Kankavali police station and was arrested along with some of his supporters.

**Threatens official**  
A video shows Mr. Rane, son of former Maharashtra CM and BJP Rajya Sabha MP Naren Rane, threatening the official.

The official to suffer was Prakash Shedekar, engineer with the National Highways Authority of India (NHA). The incident occurred when



Nitesh Rane, right, watches as his supporters pour mud on Prakash Shedekar. ■ PTI

Mr. Rane was inspecting repairs on the Mumbai-Goa highway, in his Assembly constituency. The video shows Mr. Rane pointing to the condition of the road and telling Mr. Shedekar "to suffer today in a manner common citizens are suffering every day."

His supporters then emptied buckets of mud on the officer and also tie him to the railing of a bridge on the highway. "Now do you get it? Who has given you the right to sink this area under slime," he asked the officer.

Dhalai district police officers said the case is under investigation.

## Tribal man lynched in Tripura

## STAFF REPORTER

AGARTALA

A tribal man was lynched by a mob on suspicion of theft in a remote village in Tripura's Dhalai district on Tuesday night. The police confirmed the incident on Thursday.

The man was attacked around 11.30 p.m. in Noarpampa, a tribal hamlet, under the jurisdiction of the Rasyabari police station near the Bangladesh border. The police registered a murder case after the family of the deceased, Budhiram Tripura (36), filed a complaint, but they are yet to make any arrests.

The police said Budhiram was beaten to death by fellow villagers after he was caught breaking into a house. Some reports said the victim had earlier been accused of stealing cattle in the village. The police have not confirmed whether the lynching was related to cattle theft.

Dhalai district police officers said the case is under investigation.

## Newly wed couple hacked to death in T.N.

Kin opposed marriage as they were from different SC groups

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THOOTHKUDI

A couple were murdered by an armed gang in the early hours of Thursday in front of their house near Kulathur in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.

The police have picked up the girl's father in connection with the double murder, as he was against the marriage. T. Solairaja, 24, a salt pan worker from Thanthai Periyar Nagar under the Kulathur police station limits in the district, was in love with his co-worker A. Petchiammal alias Jothi, 21, police sources said. As they belonged to different groups of Scheduled Caste, the girl's parents opposed the affair.

**Stiff resistance**  
Despite stiff resistance, Solairaja married Jothi in April at a temple, reportedly with his family's support.

After marriage, the couple started their life in a small house with a single



Solairaja married Jothi in April at a temple, reportedly with his family's support.

room at Thanthai Periyar Nagar. Solairaja's mother was staying at a relative's house nearby.

On Wednesday night, owing to a power cut they slept on the small courtyard in front of their house. As there was no compound wall around the house, an armed gang entered the courtyard and hacked Solairaja and Jothi to death.

When the girl tried to protect herself from the attackers, her left wrist was chopped off.

Superintendent of Police Arun Balagopal visited the spot and sent the bodies to the Thoothukudi Government Medical College Hospital for post-mortem.

Police suspect that Jothi's family, who vehemently opposed her marriage with Solairaja, might have orchestrated the double murder.

Demanding the arrest of the suspects, relatives of Solairaja, cadre of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi and members of the Untouchability Eradication Front staged a dharna in front of the mortuary of the Thoothukudi Medical College Hospital.

## Warning issued against insulin pumps

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A week after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned about cybersecurity risks attached to some models of insulin pumps manufactured by American medical equipment supplier Medtronic, India's apex drug regulator, the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has also issued an alert.

CDSCO noted that some models were vulnerable to hackers and an unauthorised person with technical skills and equipment could potentially connect wirelessly to a nearby insulin pump to change the settings and control insulin delivery.

CDSCO has advised that patients and caregivers should check and see if the model and software version of their insulin pump is affected, keep the insulin pump within their control and not share their pump serial number and be attentive to pump notifications, alarms and alerts.

## Woman complains of harassment on train

Konkan Railway has registered a case

## R. AKILESH

COIMBATORE

The Konkan Railway filed a case on Wednesday following a complaint by an IT employee from Coimbatore regarding harassment by a group of men allegedly in an inebriated state.

The 27-year-old woman, who had been working in Coimbatore for about a year, told *The Hindu* that the incident occurred on Sunday night when she boarded the Coimbatore-Jabalpur Superfast Special train at Thivim near Goa. A man allegedly beckoned her to sit near him and his

friends, which led to an argument. The woman shifted to the general compartment from the AC berth following the incident.

Responding to her tweets, the Konkan Railway said that a case had been registered under Section 145 (drunkenness or nuisance) of the Railways Act against the "suspected passengers" and that "the enquiry is under progress."

The Konkan Railway sent some pictures for identification of the suspects but none of them matched with the identities of the group of men, she said.

## Delight your customers

'Mind your Marketing' is a brand initiative by The Hindu BusinessLine to profile marketing professionals from across India.

**How do you define a 'competitive brand'?**  
Competitive brands mirror agile tribes – with strong belief in their core philosophy, they continue to recalibrate and reinvent to stay relevant. They have to dream, discover, develop, demonstrate and deliver new value to outlast their peers.

By accepting, accommodating and adjusting the course, brands can successfully navigate rough seas and exploit changes in today's business environment.

**Yadvinder Singh Guleria**  
Senior Vice-President  
Sales and Marketing  
Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd



You can read the full interview in *The Hindu BusinessLine* today or scan the QR Code.

## KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

# 49, East Wing, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Khan



## Blue-sky visions

The ambitions of the Economic Survey depend on the implementation of its ideas

The Economic Survey for 2018-19 reflects the views of its principal author, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian. And the CEA has made bold to use the new government's first economic assessment-cum-agenda setting exercise to posit a range of ideas that he attributes to "blue sky thinking". From an embrace of a "world that is in constant disequilibrium", and the need therefore to adapt to it, to the stress on drawing upon Richard Thaler's work in the behavioural economics of 'nudge' for addressing issues including gender equality, savings and tax compliance, the survey attempts to reset multiple paradigms. The broad goal is to help drive economic strategy to achieve sustained real GDP growth of 8% so as to enable fulfilment of the government's grand vision of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. For that, the first task is to take stock of the economy's current state. The CEA is cautiously confident that the slump in investment, which he rightly identifies as the key driver of growth, jobs and demand, has bottomed out. Setting the huge electoral mandate for the government as an enabler that would "push the animal spirits of the economy", the survey projects real GDP growth to rebound to 7% in 2019-20. But the CEA doesn't shy away from flagging 'consumption' as being crucial in determining the growth trajectory in the current fiscal year, and in pointing out its vulnerability to the health of the monsoon-dependent rural economy. With rainfall as on July 3 about 28% less than average and large parts of southern and western India in the grip of a crippling drought, clearly the circumspection appears well warranted.

On the fiscal front, the survey is even less optimistic. It lists several challenges to achieving the fiscal deficit target of 3% of GDP by March 2021: the "apprehensions of slowing of growth" and the implications for revenue collections; the shortfall in GST collections and the imperative that it places on revenue buoyancy this year; the hunt for resources to fund the expanded PM-KISAN scheme, Ayushman Bharat and other government initiatives; and the impact on oil purchase prices due to the U.S. sanctions on import of crude from Iran. It is, however, on the policy prescriptions front that the CEA comes into his own. Central to the recommendations is the focus on triggering a self-sustaining "virtuous cycle" of savings, investment and exports. To achieve which, he suggests, presenting data as a 'public good', ensuring policy consistency and reducing the cost of capital. Micro, small and medium enterprises must be nourished, especially firms that are most likely to boost both job creation and productivity, and labour laws made flexible. Ultimately, it is the implementation that may well decide how "blue sky" these ideas are.

## Raising the bar

Rahul Gandhi has forced a churn in the Congress that might lay the basis for a revival

With Rahul Gandhi stating categorically that he would not continue as Congress president, one uncertainty that had gripped the party has ended. But this culmination does not end the disorder and chaos in the party, which is in a state of paralysis since its rout in the parliamentary election. Mr. Gandhi's letter of resignation is part self-reflection, about the Congress in general and his own personal role in it, and part a critique of the state of affairs of Indian politics. Mr. Gandhi felt the need for introspection and accountability, and restated his long-held position that he was in politics not for power but social change. By sticking to his decision to quit as party chief, he has thrown a challenge at his colleagues to find a life outside the shelter of the Nehru-Gandhi family. The coterie that flourished around his mother and predecessor Sonia Gandhi had reduced politics to manipulation and turned the party into an instrument of vested interests. A small club of self-seekers who reinforce one another and don't face the electorate had taken over the Congress years before Mr. Gandhi came on the scene. His letter is an indictment of these leaders, whose personal fortunes never waned, even as the party's plummeted.

Mr. Gandhi's limitation is not in his understanding of the challenges before the party or the country, or in his vision for both. His inexact articulation is not reflective of any insurmountable weaknesses. His real failure has been his inability to free the party from the clutches of what his father Rajiv Gandhi had famously called power-brokers. In calling for accountability, he is effectively asking a group to self-destruct for the larger cause of the party, which in turn must fight for the larger cause of the country. By refusing to be the façade for their parasitical existence, Mr. Gandhi might have forced a productive churn at all levels. Any moral appeal could only have had a limited impact on the seasoned veterans, but the example Mr. Gandhi set by accepting responsibility for the defeat while reiterating his commitment to the larger cause might help inspire a resuscitation of the party. But questions abound. Mr. Gandhi himself will remain active in politics, as he has made clear, but how much authority he would want to exercise remains an open question. His insistence on stepping aside also comes from a realisation that the dynasty tag is more a drag than a booster for his politics, and the party, in the current environment. The process of reducing the Congress to a family enterprise had started with Mr. Gandhi's forbears and their supporters as much as their opponents. Only a family member could have sought to challenge the notion that the Congress cannot survive without the dynasty. If the absence of a Nehru-Gandhi at the helm was a precondition for the reconfiguration of the Congress and the formation of a viable alternative to Hindutva, Mr. Gandhi has created that situation.

# Expanding India's share in global space economy

ISRO should embrace a civilian identity and, aided by legislation, form partnerships with the industry and entrepreneurs



RAKESH SOOD

**F**rom a modest beginning in the 1960s, India's space programme has grown steadily, achieving significant milestones. These include fabrication of satellites, space-launch vehicles, and a range of associated capabilities.

Today, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s annual budget has crossed ₹10,000 crore (\$1.45 billion), growing steadily from ₹6,000 crore five years ago. However, demand for space-based services in India is far greater than what ISRO can supply. Private sector investment is critical, for which a suitable policy environment needs to be created. There is growing realisation that national legislation is needed to ensure overall growth of the space sector. The draft Space Activities Bill introduced in 2017 has lapsed and the government now has an opportunity to give priority to a new Bill that can be welcomed by the private sector, both the larger players and the start-ups alike.

### ISRO's thrust areas

Since its establishment in 1969, ISRO has been guided by a set of mission and vision statements covering both the societal objectives and the thrust areas. The first area was of satellite communication, with INSAT and GSAT as the backbones, to address the national needs for telecommunication, broadcasting and broadband infrastructure.

Gradually, bigger satellites have been built carrying a larger array of transponders. About 200 transponders on Indian satellites provide services linked to areas like telecommunication, telemedicine, television, broadband, radio, dis-

aster management and search and rescue services.

A second area of focus was earth observation and using space-based imagery for a slew of national demands, ranging from weather forecasting, disaster management and national resource mapping and planning.

These resources cover agriculture and watershed, land resource, and forestry management. With higher resolution and precise positioning, Geographical Information Systems' applications today cover all aspects of rural and urban development and planning. Beginning with the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) series in the 1980s, today the RISAT, Cartosat and Resourcesat series provide wide-field and multi-spectral high resolution data for land, ocean and atmospheric observations.

A third and more recent focus area is satellite-aided navigation. The GPS-aided GEO augmented navigation (GAGAN), a joint project between ISRO and Airports Authority of India, augmented the GPS coverage of the region, improving the accuracy and integrity, primarily for civil aviation applications and better air traffic management over Indian airspace. This was followed up with the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), a system based on seven satellites in geostationary and geosynchronous orbits.

It provides accurate positioning service, covering a region extending to 1,500 km beyond Indian borders, with an accuracy greater than 20 metres; higher accuracy positioning is available to the security agencies for their use. In 2016, the system was renamed NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).

With growing confidence, ISRO has also started to undertake more ambitious space science and exploration missions. The most notable of these have been the Chandrayaan and the Mangalyaan missions, with a manned space

mission, Gaganyaan, planned for its first test flight in 2021. These missions are not just for technology demonstration but also for expanding the frontiers of knowledge in space sciences.

None of this would have been possible without mastering the launch-vehicle technology. Beginning with the Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) and the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), ISRO has developed and refined the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) as its workhorse for placing satellites in low earth and sun synchronous orbits. With 46 successful missions, the PSLV has an enviable record.

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) programme is still developing with its MkIII variant, having undertaken three missions, and is capable of carrying a 3.5 MT payload into a geostationary orbit. Compare this to the French Ariane 5, which has undertaken more than 100 launch missions and carries a 5 MT payload, with an Ariane 6 in the pipeline for 2020.

Over the years, ISRO built a strong association with the industry, particularly with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited and large private sector entities like Larsen and Toubro, Godrej and Walchandnagar Industries. However, most of the private sector players are Tier-2/Tier-3 vendors, providing components and services. The Assembly, Integration and Testing (AIT) role is restricted to ISRO, which set up Antrix, a private limited company, in 1992 as its commercial arm to market its products and services and interface with the private sector in transfer of technology partnerships.

Today, the value of the global space industry is estimated to be \$350 billion and is likely to exceed \$550 billion by 2025. Despite ISRO's impressive capabilities, India's share is estimated at \$7 billion



lion (just 2% of the global market) covering broadband and Direct-to-Home television (accounting for two-thirds of the share), satellite imagery and navigation. Already, over a third of transponders used for Indian services are leased from foreign satellites and this proportion will rise as the demand grows.

Developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data analytics has led to the emergence of 'New Space' – a disruptive dynamic based on using end-to-end efficiency concepts. A parallel is how the independent app developers, given access to the Android and Apple platforms, revolutionised smartphone usage. New Space entrepreneurship has emerged in India with about two dozen start-ups who are not enamoured of the traditional vendor/supplier model but see value in exploring end-to-end services in the Business-to-Business and Business-to-Consumer segments. However, these start-ups have yet to take off in the absence of regulatory clarity.

### 'New Space' start-ups

The New Space start-ups discern a synergy with government's flagship programmes like Digital India, Start-Up India, Skill India and schemes like Smart Cities Mission. They see a role as a data-app builder between the data seller (ISRO/Antrix) and the end user, taking advantage of the talent pool, innovation competence and technology know-how. They need an enabling ecosystem, a culture of accelerators, incubators, Venture Capitalists and mentors that exists

in cities like Bengaluru which is where most New Space start-ups have mushroomed.

Equally, clear rules and regulations are essential. ISRO can learn from its 1997 SatCom policy which neither attracted any FDI in the sector nor a single licensee. A similar situation exists with the Remote Sensing Data Policy of 2001, amended in 2011, which too has failed to attract a single application. The 2017 draft Bill raised more questions because it sought to retain the dominant role of ISRO/Antrix as operator, licensor, rule-maker and service provider.

Another revolution under way is the small satellite revolution. Globally, 17,000 small satellites are expected to be launched between now and 2030. ISRO is developing a small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV) expected to be ready in 2019. It is a prime candidate, along with the proven PSLV, to be farmed out to the private sector. This requires giving it responsibility for AIT activities.

Years ago, ISRO launched the idea of Village Resource Centres to work in collaboration with local panchayats and NGOs but only 460 pilots have begun. Expanding this for rural areas is a formidable challenge but has the potential to transform rural India if properly conceived as a part of the India Stack and the Jan Dhan Yojana.

With the Ministry of Defence now setting up a Defence Space Agency and a Defence Space Research Organisation, ISRO should actively embrace an exclusively civilian identity. A new Space law for India should aim at facilitating growing India's share of global space economy to 10% within a decade which requires a new kind of partnership between ISRO, the established private sector and the New Space entrepreneurs.

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## Talking sanctions, endangering peace

The Trump administration's successive punitive actions against Iran can only be interpreted as a desire for direct conflict



SUVRAT RAJU

**M**ore than a year ago, the U.S. unilaterally abrogated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and began to squeeze the Iranian economy using sanctions. The latest round of sanctions were announced in June. Iran announced a week later that it had exceeded a limit set by the JCPOA on its stockpile of nuclear fuel.

The U.S.-Iran conflict is often portrayed in the media as one that involves two flawed actors struggling for supremacy on a complex West Asian stage. But a closer look reveals a simpler underlying reality: the Donald Trump administration is using the U.S.'s clout in an old-fashioned attempt to assert the country's hegemony; Iran is just doing whatever it can to resist U.S. pressure.

### The Shah connection

The roots of this dispute can be traced back to 1953, when the Central Intelligence Agency orchestrated a coup to remove Iran's elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadegh. After instituting the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the U.S. encouraged him to establish a nuclear programme.

The U.S. built Iran's first nuclear reactor in 1967. The Shah was clear that his ambitions went beyond nuclear energy, and extended to nuclear weapons. In 1974, he explained that Iran would acquire nuclear weapons "without a doubt, and sooner than one would think." Nevertheless, the West continued to provide nuclear technology to his government.

After the Shah was toppled in 1979, the new government, under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, cancelled his plans for a large nuclear-energy sector, retaining only those facilities that had already been established. Khomeini also declared that nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) were *haram* – forbidden in Islam. Whatever one may think about Khomeini's government, his spiritual injunctions were taken very seriously. When Iraq attacked Iran with chemical weapons, with the tacit support of the Ronald Reagan administration, Tehran refrained from responding in kind despite having the requisite technology.

It is possible that during the Iran-Iraq war, some elements within the Iranian establishment started exploring the possibility of developing a nuclear deterrent. Even if this was the case – and the evidence on the matter is far from conclusive – these activities were definitely stopped by 2003. In the same year, Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, issued an

leading to the JCPOA. The JCPOA recognised Iran's right to maintain a civilian nuclear programme, but placed significant restrictions on its size and scope for 10 to 15 years. Most importantly, Tehran reiterated that "under no circumstances" would it "seek... nuclear weapons." The IAEA was granted unprecedented powers to inspect Iran's nuclear activities, and has repeatedly verified Tehran's compliance.

Soon after invading Iraq on the false pretext that it had WMDs, the U.S. attempted to build a similar narrative around Iran, which had established a modest programme to enrich uranium to fuel its existing reactors. The U.S. alleged that the fuel was intended for a bomb. These allegations were undercut by U.S. intelligence agencies themselves who reported that "in fall 2003 Iran halted... nuclear weapons... activities". In 2015, after a multi-year investigation, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) went further, declaring that "activities relevant to... a nuclear explosive... did not advance beyond feasibility and scientific studies" and, as a "coordinated effort", were only carried out "prior to the end of 2003".

In spite of these facts, successive U.S. administrations imposed sanctions on Iran, demanding that it completely halt uranium enrichment. It was only during President Barack Obama's second term that the U.S. sought a temporary truce, to

unambiguous fatwa against nuclear weapons.

India's investments in Iran's Chabahar port are nominally exempt from U.S. sanctions, but they have been damaged anyway since suppliers are reluctant to deliver equipment. The sanctions have also prevented ONGC Videsh, which discovered the Farzad B gas field off Iran's coast, from pursuing its investments there.

Further, New Delhi has refused to explore several available strategies that could ameliorate the impact of sanctions. China has maintained some commercial ties with Iran by routing transactions through the Bank of Kunlun. U.S. sanctions on this bank have been ineffective since it is carefully insulated from the U.S. financial system. European countries have attempted to bypass sanctions through a special mechanism called INSTEX.

It is revealing that India has failed to join any of these initiatives or to develop its own solution. A few months ago, Prime Minister Modi boasted that India's foreign policy had become "fearless, bold and decisive". Is this fearlessness restricted to India's interactions with its smaller neighbours, or is his government also willing to stand up to the biggest bully in the room and protect India's interests from Washington's destructive policies?

Suvrat Raju is a physicist associated with the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace. 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.

### Rahul bows out

Rahul Gandhi's resignation as Congress president is a rare instance of a leader accepting responsibility for his party's defeat in elections (Page 1, "Rahul Gandhi formally quits as party chief, makes letter public," July 4). The fact that his party won 19% of the national vote share attests to its political relevance. The need of the hour for the party is to choose a strong successor to Mr. Gandhi, someone who can help Congress regain the trust of the voters. Indira Gandhi lost the 1977 election following

the Emergency, but made a strong comeback in 1980 by winning back the people's confidence. Mr. Gandhi's successor can take a leaf out of Mrs. Gandhi's book.

JAYANT MUKHERJEE,  
Kolkata

■ The Congress should learn to sail through difficult times even without a captain from the Nehru-Gandhi family. It should go back to the leadership system it followed in the pre-Independence period, by electing presidents for a year and conducting sessions in different parts of the country. The party should

stand for the principles of truth and non-violence. The next president should also put all his efforts to bring back the breakaway parties like Trinamool Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party and the YSR Congress Party back into the Congress's fold. Finally, it should utilise the popularity of Mr. Gandhi to consolidate its presence across the country.

K. MUHAMMED ISMAIYL,  
Koduthurai, Kerala

Petition to EC

It is laudable that a group of former senior civil servants have listed out serious irregularities in the conduct

of the 2019 elections (News page, "Ex-officials cast doubt on poll result," July 4). The common man was a witness to blatant violations of the Model Code of Conduct by leaders and parties, transgressions ignored by the Election Commission. The poll body also did not make public the dissenting opinion of Ashok Lavasa. However, one wonders whether the petitioners can expect an honest reply from the EC.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,  
Chennai

Rayudu retires

Ambati Rayudu's decision to retire, after being snubbed

twice for the World Cup, does not come as a surprise. Mr. Rayudu, a reliable middle-order batsman, was all along tipped to fill the crucial No. 4 spot in the team and should have found a place in the original squad. But it was shocking that he was not considered even

after two players got injured. Of course, he is not the first victim of the cricketing body's whimsical selection process and, one fears, he will not be the last either.

N. VISWANATHAN,  
Coimbatore

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:  
[www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters](http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters)

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>The report about Telugu poet and activist Varavara Rao being brought to Karnataka – "Karnataka police take Varavara Rao into custody in 2005 case" (South page, July 4, 2019) – talks about the 2005 naxal attack in Pavagada taluk of Kolar district. It should be Tumakuru district.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by telephone: +

# Can the government help create jobs?

PARLEY

Expansion of public employment and a national skilling programme could boost employment

*Data released by the Labour Ministry show that the unemployment rate in 2017-18 was 6.1%, arguably the highest in 45 years. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) findings have been the subject of intense scrutiny and debate ever since a leaked report in January revealed a surge in joblessness as well as a drop in the labour force participation rate. In a conversation moderated by Suresh Seshadri, Jayati Ghosh and Ajit Ranade discuss the issue. Edited excerpts:*

**Dr. Ranade, how much confidence do you place in the PLFS data and what do you draw as the key conclusions from it?**

**Ajit Ranade:** This was started as a pilot project about two years ago and the purpose was to get a much more granular and in-depth understanding of the labour market. And there was a change in methodology, from sampling based on expenditure categories, which was done by the National Sample Survey (NSS), to education status. So, of course this is a very welcome initiative, because we need better data on the labour market. As far as how much confidence we have, since this is the best we've got, I think we have to use this data. I'm sure it will be fine-tuned and perhaps the numbers will become more reliable, but as such the numbers do tally with other indicators of the labour market conditions or the economy's condition.

**Dr. Ghosh, you had in a blog post pointed to how the PLFS data coheres with other estimates including those of the CMIE. How do you then view opinions that posit that the unemployment rate is painting an inaccurate picture when viewed in the backdrop of rising school and college enrolment?**

**Jayati Ghosh:** Many of the criticisms of the PLFS survey are actually not very well informed because they are suggesting that the results are not comparable with the earlier

large sample surveys of the NSS. The sampling method has not changed; it's never been a stratified sample, it's always been a random sample of households and it always tries to capture as many different forms and levels of education, occupation and so on and so forth. That's the point of the sample.

The PLFS is different because it was trying to get quarterly data: that is, how does the employment of the same family vary across every quarter, and that is very important and would have been very useful. However, what the earlier NSS used to do was to take just one quarter for each household and extrapolate to that for the whole year. If you take the same PLFS data and do that, you get completely comparable data. The PLFS will give us slightly better estimates of how the same family, the same household, responds over a period – over four quarters of the year: do they stay in employment, do they lose employment, does it go from casual to regular and so on and so forth. In that sense, it's a better survey. The trouble is that it was really meant to be continuous. We were not supposed to have any gaps in it at all. So, not only did we get only one year's data but we then didn't get that for a very long time because it was suppressed.

But, essentially, what it is showing us fits very well with all the other unfortunate indicators, which are that there is a real problem of divergence of output growth and employment in the country. Unemployment actually reflects those who are in the labour force. If you are in education, you are simply not in the labour force. Those who say, "Oh, it doesn't capture the fact that more and more people are in education" don't know what they're talking about. Because the unemployment rate is the ratio of those who are actually seeking work to all of those who are either employed or seeking work. If you are in education or training, you are not in the labour force. The high unemployment rate, however, does possibly reflect the impact of previous education, which is, and that shows in the data, the more educated you are, the more likely you are to be unem-



REUTERS

ployed. The highest unemployment rates are found among the tertiary educated, that is, those who have done beyond high school, and that reflects the fact that you're then not willing to take just any job; that you will actually try and wait and hope to get something that, at least, is vaguely related to your qualifications.

**If one accepts the premise that improved access to education has led to a more aspirational youth segment, which in turn is loath to work in low remuneration jobs, how do we tackle the problem?**

**AR:** This is a very big key challenge to having adequate, good-quality, well-paying jobs and this is a very large agenda. But since you asked me what would help, then one can think of multiple things, each of which is probably a small step but it does help. For example, setting up an enterprise. As you know, in India there are perhaps 60 million odd enterprises, and mostly in the unregistered sector. And out of the 60 million only about one, one-and-a-half million, 1.2 million actually contribute towards Provident Fund or ESI [Employees' State Insurance]. So, a very large proportion is in the unregistered or informal sector. So, as a first step, perhaps we can make it easy for these firms to get registered, or to comply. So, the big challenge is in the ease of doing business, setting up businesses, getting them registered. You have multiple registrations – you need to register for GST, for ESIC [ESI Corporation], for Provident Fund.

**C The PLFS data will be fine-tuned, but as such the numbers do tally with other indicators of the labour market conditions or the economy's condition.**

There are probably dozens and dozens of registrations. This just makes it very hard for the whole process, to set up and start employing people. Then, you have this thing about on-the-job training, that workers need to be skilled but employers don't want to invest in skilling. We need a portable national programme where you acquire apprenticeships in one firm, you solve this problem of underinvestment in skilling by individual firms, so that is a very big agenda. But this is a huge challenge, how to get firms to hire in bigger numbers and how to get them a little more into the formal, registered sector.

**Dr. Ghosh, is the situation decades-high joblessness more a result of the economy's trajectory or an outcome of government policies?**

**JG:** It's clearly both. This is a process that's been ongoing for about 15 years, this separation of economic activity and job creation. So, I think it's a deeper structural problem and part of the difficulty that I am having with the current government is that whenever you talk about joblessness, they seem to see this as a political attack, whereas this is really an issue of economic policy that has deeper roots.

Now, in terms of what you do about it, I think some of the issues

that Dr. Ranade mentioned are certainly valid, but I would argue that you also need a very large push in terms of the expansion of public employment. And there are two reasons for this. One, public employment has very obvious, standard multiplier effects, which are fairly pronounced in a country like India, and we know that we are hugely lacking in terms of the public services that we provide our people.

If you look at the average of public employees per population, which is a kind of indicator of what public services you're providing: globally the average is 3.5 per 100 people, in Europe it's more like 6 per 100, in Scandinavia it's as high as 8 per 100, in India it's less than 2 per 100. We are under-providing public services. It's not just in health and education. If you actually bring public services up to a minimum level that is required of, let us say, even a lower middle-income country, Kenya, you would require a tripling of public employment. That, in turn, has massive multiplier effects. All these people who you pay will get incomes that they will go out and spend, and when they spend they will create demand; there's a huge paucity of demand in the economy. With that demand, you will get the emergence of new activities, which will then generate the kind of entrepreneurs that Dr. Ranade was talking about and then if there are start-ups, if there are micro entrepreneurs, they will have a market to cater to. In other words, you really have to have a big employment push from the government.

**Dr. Ghosh, this talk about the need for reforms to labour legislation, has it been a little wrong-headed? Instead of focusing on easing restrictions on hire and fire and contractual hiring norms, should we move towards ensuring more formalisation, say of high-volume job-creating sectors like construction, with more supportive laws? There are some laws, but I think it's at the State level and not all of them have been implemented well.**

**JG:** You put your finger on it. None of them is enforced. We have actually pretty good legislation for construction workers; we have a num-

ber of laws and regulation for various other workers. Mostly they are not implemented. On the other hand, you do have inspector raj of a most terrible kind for small and micro-entrepreneurs. It's a peculiar combination of the worst of all possible worlds, whereby the legislation and things that would actually protect workers are simply not enforced, and all the kinds of things, the flexibilities that small producers do need are not allowed to them or rather they'd have to pay massive bribes to be able to take advantage of any kind of flexibility.

Whether it is your street vendor or it is a small person running a small factory or a small service provider, all of them have to face the rather oppressive hand of the state in different ways, which doesn't really help them in terms of improving their productivity. Now, does that mean that we should just allow the freedom to hire and fire? I frankly think that's a red herring. I mean, factories do what they want anyway, this is all nonsense that they cannot expand. I will take you to factories in the National Capital Region where more than half of their workforce are actually daily wagers and do not have a permanent contract. So, this notion that factories can't expand, or employers can't expand because of labour laws, I think it's completely off track.

**AR:** On labour laws, I think we have to move towards a system where the laws protect the worker but not the job. So, worker protection is paramount but not job protection.

**JG:** I would argue that at the moment they protect neither.

**Lastly, if there's one single key intervention that the government can do to create jobs, what would be your prescription?**

**JG:** Fill the vacancies [in the government sector], but expand good quality public employment.

**AR:** I would support filling up the vacancies, which are more than two million. But also, a national-level apprenticeship programme with portability, subsidised and well-defined accreditation, which you can take to any part of India.



**Jayati Ghosh**  
is Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University



**Ajit Ranade** is Chief Economist with the Aditya Birla Group



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## An upbeat tone amid tensions

The gushing rhetoric between India and the U.S. says something about the strength of the relationship

MICHAEL KUGELMAN

In recent weeks, amid an upsurge in U.S.-India tensions, the rhetoric on both sides has remained remarkably upbeat. While there has been ample criticism from senior U.S. and Indian officials, it has largely been directed at policies rather than the partnership. Even U.S. President Donald Trump's India-directed taunts tend to target the issues that aggrieve him rather than the relationship.

**Gushing rhetoric**

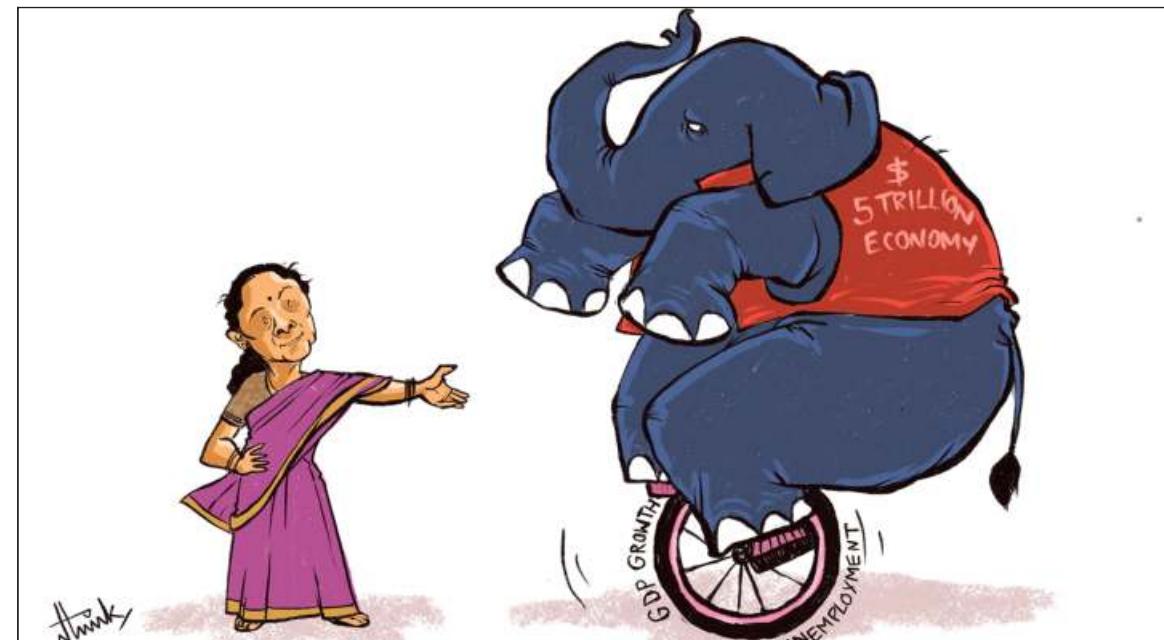
Witness, for example, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's effusive praise for the partnership in June. "We've come a long way," he said. "And now the Trump administration and the Modi administration have an incredibly unique opportunity to take advantage of this special partnership. We can move further." Mr. Pompeo and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar expressed similar sentiment about the relationship and expressed hope that they could overcome its obstacles when they held a joint press conference in New Delhi several days ago. And President Trump himself said of the relationship at the G20 meeting in Osaka: "We have become great friends and our countries have never been closer. I can say that with certainty."

Given that the U.S.-India relationship is suffering through one of its most challenging periods in years, it's natural to dismiss such happy talk as a mere ploy to mask the serious strains in the partnership. In reality, the gushing rhetoric is more significant than it may seem – and it says something about the continued strength of the relationship.

For one thing, it is a reminder of just how much worse things could be. The last time the relationship faced a particularly bad stretch was in 2013, when India's deputy consul general in New York, Devyani Khobragade, was arrested in New York, subjected to a strip search, and briefly jailed. During that tense period – much tenser than today – there was no happy talk, only angry words. One



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## NOTEBOOK

### The many ways of watching a movie

One man's abuse is often entertainment for many

NAMRATA JOSHI

Sometimes it's not a movie but the experience of watching a movie that stays in the mind – and not entirely for the right reasons. For me, the popular *Once Upon A Time In Mumbai* franchise will always be about grandiloquent lines. There is one exchange in *Once Upon A Time In Mumbai Dobaara!* between Akshay Kumar and Sonakshi Sinha in which Kumar tells his lady-love: "Paanch minute mein izzat uttar sakta hoon (I can rape you in five minutes)." I don't know what hit me more: the obnoxiousness of the hero and his expression of so-called love or the catcalls and whistles of the audience in reaction to this statement. The insensitivity and inappropriateness of the response made me feel vulnerable, disgusted and angry in turn.

That was in 2013. Six years later, the story re-peated itself with *Kabir Singh*. The majority of viewers rolled in laughter as a deplorable scene of abuse – a house help being ill-treated and threatened on screen – played out. There was evident approval when the heroine was slapped; I flinched. It's not to do with women alone. In *Badrinath Ki Dulhania* the assault on a man evoked big laughs. I couldn't understand what the joke was.

Are these scenes and responses a reflection of the inherent conservatism and toxicity of our society or are they indicative of cinema's role in the formation and acceptance of newer and more insidious themes being played by role models? The eternal debate rages on.

Meanwhile, for a film critic, watching a film 'first day, first show' all alone on a Friday morning often feels like being marooned on a choppy sea, holding

on to your own little raft of personal opinions in the face of tidal waves threatening to drown you. I choke on my coffee often, feeling the sheer solitariness of being at a tangent from the larger film audience universe. But more often than not, my digressive beliefs strengthen in the process and I feel the urgency to state them candidly and vigorously. It makes me dive deeper into the personal. The consensus around fires up the contrarian in me.

Simultaneously there is also the wonderment at the many possible ways of seeing. I often wonder whether I am watching the same film as the people around me. And it's not just to do with gender representation, it's also about humour and how it is perceived. A Mehmood in *Padosan* may have brought the house down in north India, but was the character perceived as anything like a convenient caricature in the south? Was the Kantaben track in *Kal Ho Naa Ho* about homosexuality or was it a joke about homophobia? Be it the *balatkaar* (rape) gag in *3 Idiots* or the ageing one in *Sanju* about a 91-year-old woman, what may have been offensive and politically incorrect to a small section is also the kind of broad and adolescent humour that has more ready takers than you can even begin to imagine. One woman's abuse is often entertainment for many.

But on some rare occasions there is harmony. I don't think I would have been able to sit through the inanity of *Race 3* were it not for the manner in which the audience was laughing at its cheesiness. They sang the ditty written by 'Bhai', "Ik baar baby, selfish hoke, apne liye jeeyo na", in unison, deliberately out of tune. My heart couldn't help but sing along.

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1969

### Decade of Disappointment (From an Editorial)

The disappointments of the first Development Decade that is ending this year are writ large in the report of the 18-member United Nations Committee on the goals and strategy of developmental planning for the Second Development Decade commencing next year. Apart from emphasising the responsibility of the advanced nations to set apart one per cent of their gross national product for economic assistance to the developing countries, the report suggests that "developed countries should attempt to supply at least 80 per cent of their financial assistance in the form of grants by 1975". It is indeed true that the volume of net aid has thinned considerably from year to year, what with debt charges (on repayment of principal and payment of interest) mounting and the quantum of total aid steadily going down. A larger element of grant in the assistance given will no doubt help. But more lasting help would be opportunities for increasing trade and this would call for the advanced nations lowering their trade barriers. The trade picture, however, remains unchanged despite the much-boosted Kennedy Round of tariff concessions.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1919.

### Gold Theft at Mint.

Mr. Aston, Chief Presidency Magistrate, on Thursday [July 3, in Bombay] disposed of a case in which Harold Durham, head minter of His Majesty's Mint in Bombay, stood charged at the instance of the C.I.D. with disposing of gold on three occasions, valued at nearly Rs. 6,000 and on attempting on the 9th May to dispose of through an agent a gold bar valued at Rs. 3,594, when he knew it to be stolen. At the opening of the case the Crown Prosecutor, Mr. Campbell, stated that Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Harkar on receipt of information that gold was being smuggled from the Mint through one Kashiram, a subordinate of the Mint, and sold to one Rahimtullah in the city, laid a trap and arrested Kashiram while he was disposing of a gold bar weighing 112 tolas at Rahimtullah's shop. Kashiram implicated Durham. Mr. Campbell further stated that they were unable to show from the Mint records that there was any shortage in the gold and the only suggestion that they could make was that it was just possible that very small amounts might have been taken at a time which in the course of time, when accumulated must have made up the full amount.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Survey sets out blueprint for \$5 tn economy

Notably, the Survey made the point that data must be viewed as a public good and used in a concerted way to deliver services.

It said that as data of societal interest is generated by the people, it can be created as a public good within the legal framework of data privacy.

The government must intervene in creating data as a public good, especially of the poor and in social sectors.

Interestingly, the Survey talked about merging the distinct datasets held by the government into a single dataset, which would generate "multiple benefits."

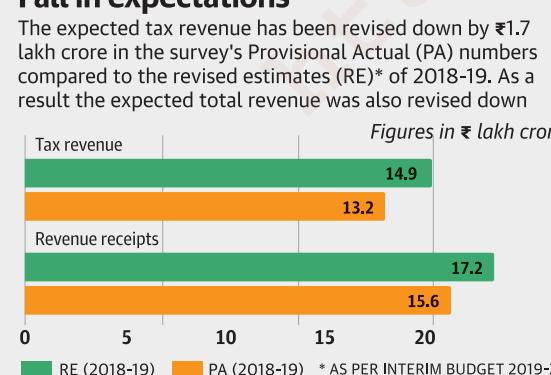
Another key area of focus for the Survey was the MSME sector and how to make it grow so as to boost profit creation, job creation, and enhance productivity.

It noted that 'dwarf' firms (with less than 100 workers), accounted for more than 50% of all organised firms in manufacturing by number.

Despite this, their contribution to employment was just 14% and to productivity a mere 8%. Large firms, on the other hand, are just 15% in number but account for 75% employment and close to 90% of productivity. Therefore, there is a need to "unshackle" MSMEs and enable them to grow into large firms.

## Govt. can sell PSU land, says CEA

### Fall in expectations



"This is something that can be thought about as well, that the 51% majority stake of the government... instead of looking at it as 51% only of the government, you can look at a situation where it is 40% of the government and 11% of LIC, that is also 51% effectively," he said. "And that change can enable you to raise a lot more money from divestment as well. The divestment targets are expected to fill in some of the gaps that the tax revenue is creat-

ing." The subdued tax receipts were mainly due to slower economic growth, he said.

"Tax revenues themselves depend on growth," he said. "Last year, we clocked 6.8% and the buoyancy in the indirect taxes has not been that great because of a lot of tax concessions that were given over the last year. Once that is streamlined, the tax buoyancy for indirect tax should improve."

At the weekly media briefing, Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson of the Ministry, said Islamabad should take irreversible steps against the groups responsible for incidents such as the 26/11 Mumbai attack.

Pakistan claims that they have taken steps against terrorists and terrorist outfits, but when it comes to taking action against the people that we have demanded, they go into a denial mode, they even deny that they exist in their country. On the other hand

(With PTI inputs)

**Centre banks on Kashmir panchayats for political dividend**

Attempt to have village-level set-ups with enough funds

### NISTULA HEBBAR

Srinagar

The conduct of panchayat elections in Jammu & Kashmir in November-December last year, despite boycotts by prominent regional outfits such as the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), has had an interesting spin-off however, with the coming release of ₹2,600 crore granted by the 14th Finance Commission as the State's share for devolution to panchayats.

Apart from this amount, an outreach to 9 lakh people with government programmes in the next six months has been set for the administration of the State. This would involve a disbursement of nearly ₹1,600 crore under various heads such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Integrated Child Development Scheme. "Since Kashmir did not have local body polls from 2011, the grant from

the 14th Finance Commission could not be released or disbursed," said a government official.

The attempt is to shore up the panchayats by infusing the village-level set-ups with enough money for infrastructure such as panchayat buildings and small works, the bigger plan is to create some traction for devolution of powers at the grassroots, and an alternative space for political activity. Whether or not the experiment will pay off is still to be seen, but devolution, as witnessed in other parts of the country, is a process that creates its own possibilities. A fact that the Centre is counting on.

### Sticking points

While the fund situation is likely to ease post budget, the political questions, however, remain. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Shaheen Parveen, elected sarpanch from Bijbehara, the pocket borough of the PDP's Muftis, says that security remains an

## Cong. begins search for chief

Ahmed Patel reaches out to senior leaders to decide on Rahul's replacement

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

A day after the formal resignation of Rahul Gandhi as the Congress president, senior Congress leaders on Thursday intensified their informal discussions on a possible replacement for Mr. Gandhi even as his sister, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, endorsed her brother's decision.

Congress treasurer Ahmed Patel has once again emerged as a key leader who is reaching out to senior leaders including Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States to arrive at a consensus candidate.

Party insiders say like Mr. Gandhi, his mother and Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi too turned down suggestions from her party colleagues that she should involve herself in the selection of the next party chief.

The Gandhi family, claimed sources, didn't want a new Congress chief to be viewed as the family's nominee. But she is learnt to have conveyed her 'full support' to look for Mr. Gandhi's successor.

Congress general secretary, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, too supported her brother's decision when she tweeted,



**Business as usual:** A day after making public his resignation letter, Rahul Gandhi was in Mumbai on Thursday to attend court proceedings. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

"Few have the courage that you do, @rahulgandhi. Deepest respect for your decision."

Mr. Gandhi's decision to go public also prompted former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat to follow in his footsteps. He tweeted that he had stepped down as the party's general secretary in charge of Assam for the poor showing in the State.

With the next round of Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana coming up around October-November, time

seems to be running out for the Congress and its highest decision-making body, the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

Though no official announcement has been made, the CWC could be meeting as early as the next week to zero in on the successor

Names that are doing the rounds include former Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, former Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, general secretary Mukul Wasnik, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

and his deputy, Sachin Pilot.

A section of the Congress said former PM Manmohan Singh could easily emerge as a consensus candidate if Dr. Singh agrees to shoulder the responsibility.

The Congress constitution mandates that in the event of an emergency including the president's resignation, "the senior most General Secretary will discharge the routine functions of the President until the Working Committee appoints a provisional President pending the election of a regular President by the AICC."

## Rahul, Yechury plead 'not guilty' in libel case

Court grants bail, waives appearance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury pleaded "not guilty" before the Mazgaon court on Thursday in a criminal defamation case filed against them by a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker for making allegations against the Sangh after the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh in 2017 in Bengaluru.

Metropolitan magistrate P.I. Mokashi granted bail to Mr. Gandhi on the surety of former MP Eknath Gaikwad and Mr. Yechury was granted bail on the surety of CPI (M) party worker Shantanu Mankuamare.

Advocate Kushal Mor, representing Mr. Gandhi told *The Hindu*, "both have also been granted permanent exemption from appearance in the case and the matter will be heard on September 21."

Former MP Sanjay Nirupam, Mumbai Congress president Milind Deora and Congress leader Naseem Khan were present with Mr. Gandhi during the hearing. Addressing the media after the hearing, Mr. Gandhi said, "I am with the poor,

the farmers and the labourers. This is a fight of ideologies, and it will continue."

Complainant advocate Dhrutiman Joshi alleged that while speaking to a reporter outside Parliament, Mr. Gandhi, had linked the RSS with Gauri Lankesh's murderer.

Mr. Yechury had also allegedly made a statement that it was the RSS ideology and RSS men who had killed Lankesh. The two leaders are also facing a civil defamation case for a similar statement made by them outside Parliament.

## Don't punish southern States: Jairam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh sought an assurance from the government in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that the five southern States will not be punished by reducing their representation in Parliament just because they managed to control their population.

The six States that have total fertility rates in excess of the replacement level of 2.1 are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, he pointed out.

"Even the much-heralded model State of Gujarat would have reached this landmark 20 years after undivided Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, 25 years after Tamil Nadu and 30 years after Kerala," Mr. Ramesh said.

By 2050, population in the five southern States will decline from the present level of about 15% to around 12% while the share of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will increase from about 40% to about 44%.



Hafiz Saeed

they try to show the international community that they are taking some action against terrorist groups operating from their soil. They stand completely exposed as far as their claim of taking steps against terrorist groups in Pakistan is concerned," said Mr. Kumar, saying that Pakistan's announced financial crackdown on banned militant groups is not sufficient.

The steps against the terror outfits were undertaken just days after Pakistan faced the heat at the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) and barely escaped from being blacklisted.

(With PTI inputs)

## Penalty, jail term to private entities storing Aadhaar data

LS clears Aadhaar amendment Bill amid stiff opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha cleared the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 by a voice vote on Thursday. The Bill replaces an Ordinance promulgated on March 2 and provides for a stiff ₹1 crore penalty and a jail term to private entities for storing Aadhaar data.

It also makes the use of Aadhaar voluntary for opening a bank account, securing a mobile phone connection, or receiving treatment in hospital.

**Data protection**  
Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad, speaking about the Bill, assured the House that the government is also working on a data protection Bill, which will be brought in at a later date to ensure data privacy for all Indians.

"Aadhaar is voluntary. It is a wholesome amendment in compliance with the Supreme Court order and it is also a mark of the trust that

SC to hear case today

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench led by Justice S.A. Bobde is scheduled to hear on Friday a writ petition challenging the new Aadhaar Ordinance and Regulations, saying they will create a "surveillance state" and enable the Aadhaar database to be exploited by private players for commercial gain.

The petition said through the new regulations, the Unique Identification Authority of India seeks to commercialise personal data of citizens and use of Aadhaar database by private entities.

the common man has in this government," he said.

"There is a clear injunction that data or biometrics cannot be stored. The benefits of the scheme will not be denied to someone who does not have Aadhaar. If privacy is the question being raised, I want to ask: if the people of the country are happy, why are some members of the House unhappy? We have ensured safeguards for the protection of data of all Indians.

"Aadhaar is voluntary. It is a wholesome amendment in compliance with the Supreme Court order and it is also a mark of the trust that

ment has been given power to frame laws, and we are not violating the Supreme Court judgment."

"This is my Aadhaar card [Mr. Prasad held up his card in the House]. This has my name and some very basic information about me but what it does not have is my race, religion, caste. My biometric details, which are in the system, cannot be accessed under any provision."

Trinamool Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mahua Moitra said the Bill strikes at the very heart of an individual's privacy.

## Enhance prestige of Parliament

Amit Shah appeals to first-term MPs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday told first-term MPs of the Lok Sabha that they must work to enhance the prestige of Parliament, pointing out his own agreement with the view that legislatures had "weakened" over time ceding space to the judiciary and executive.

Addressing first-time Lok Sabha members at an orientation programme, Mr. Shah said the blame for it lay with the legislature and cautioned that a continued skewed balance between the three pillars of democracy could be devastating and even imperil democracy.

"Over a period of time, this is everybody's complaint and rightly so that the legislature has weakened a bit, and the judiciary and executive have dominated it a little. For this, we sometimes blame judiciary and executive, saying that bureaucrats do not hear us or judiciary has encroached on

## Protesting veterans meet Rajnath Singh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A group of veterans of the Indian Ex-Servicemen Movement met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh earlier this week to apprise him of their protest demanding the "rightful implementation" of One Rank, One Pension (OROP) and the ongoing case in the Supreme Court over the issue.

"He is new to the defence ministry; so we were keen to brief him at the earliest on our main issue, OROP," Major General Satbir Singh (retd), Chairman ofIESM, told *The Hindu*. "He listened to us very patiently. He was non-committal as he has to go through the whole correspondence and go through a process. He said he will speak to us again after that," Maj. Gen. Singh added.

"This is our duty to strengthen it," Mr. Shah said. He asked them to use the MPLAD funds allocated to them annually as per prescribed guidelines, and said many MPs had received a bad name by not doing so.

Jantar Mantar since OROP was notified in 2015.

## Mahua Moitra moves privilege motion

TV channel accused her of 'plagiarism'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra on Thursday moved a breach of privilege motion in the Lok Sabha against a private Hindi news channel and its Editor for reporting that her first speech in Parliament was plagiarised.

When she raised the issue during Question Hour, Speaker Om Birla informed her that he had received a notice and the matter was under his consideration.

However, when she named the channel and the Editor, Mr. Birla didn't allow it as the journalist was not a member of the House. After drawing praise on social media for her speech, the Trinamool MP was trolled on allegations of plagiarism.

"The reason there is so much of mudslinging and lies sold as news to the unsuspecting public all over is because the perpetrators are allowed impunity by the powers that be," Ms. Moitra tweeted.

Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh told the House that Puducherry Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi had expressed her 'deep regret' over her tweet on the water crisis in Chennai and urged it to put the matter to rest.

The Minister said the Home Ministry had taken notice of Ms. Bedi's remarks – in which she blamed the 'corrupt politics' of Tamil Nadu for the water crisis in Chennai – and the matter was also raised in the House by DMK leader T.R. Baalu on Wednesday.

When Mr. Baalu raised the issue, Mr. Singh said Ms. Bedi had apologised and the matter should be treated as closed.

CM YK

**Economic Survey presented signals towards worrying signs for our economy. GDP growth rate is virtually stagnant and all indicators point that we are in a slowdown**

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
Delhi Chief Minister

**The Survey provides a comprehensive and clear picture of economic trends and challenges ahead. The measures to accelerate investments, especially from the private sector, to give a push to growth are the steps in the right direction**

RAJIV KUMAR  
NITI Aayog vice chairman

**There is a lot of information on good governance in those texts and the Survey needs to be complimented for not just quoting Kautilya but also Kamandakiya Nitisara**

BIBEK DEBROY  
Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

**From the highest level of economic policy uncertainty in 2011-12, India has made a leap into the era of high economic policy certainty. The graph of Indian growth story is on an upward trajectory**

ARUN JAITLEY  
BJP leader

**Economic Survey is pessimistic about the economy and makes a feeble attempt to wake up the ruling party from its deep slumber of inaction on the economic front**

RANDEEP SURJEWALA  
Congress leader

**We should focus on a virtuous cycle – increase in investments leads to higher productivity and this, in turn, leads to higher exports and more jobs**

KRISHNAMURTHY SUBRAMANIAN  
Chief Economic Adviser

# 'Greying India must delay retirement'

Survey says the elderly population is expected to nearly double from 8.6% in 2011 to 16% by 2041

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

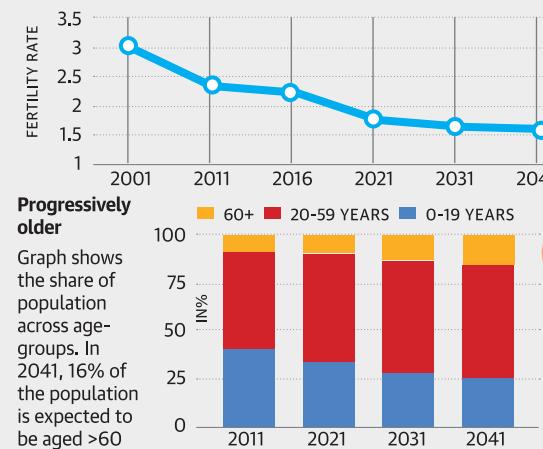
India may have to raise the retirement age as the country sees a rapid increase in the size of the elderly population over the next two decades due to the slowing down of the population growth rate, according to the Economic Survey 2018-19.

It is forecast that the population rate will grow less than 1% from 2021 to 2031 and under 0.5% from 2031 to 2041. This is primarily due to the fall in the total fertility rate (TFR), which is projected to decline between 2021-2041 and fall below replacement level fertility at 1.8 as early as 2021.

The total fertility rate of 2.1 is called the replacement level fertility below which populations begin to decline. For India, the effective replacement level fertility is slightly higher than the normal benchmark due to the skewed gender ratio and is at 2.15-2.2. The current TFR in 14 out of the 22 major States

## Ageing India

With decreasing fertility rates and increasing life expectancy numbers, India is set to witness an increase in its aged, based on projected figures. First graph shows India's total fertility rate



is already below the effective replacement level fertility.

At the State level, southern States as well as West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh have below replacement level fertility and will see TFR decline to 1.5-1.6 by 2021. And

by 2031, all States are likely to see below replacement level fertility.

The size of the elderly population, 60 years and above, is expected to nearly double from 8.6% in 2011 to 16% by 2041, whereas the population size of those be-

tween 0-19 years, which is on the decline, is likely to drop from as high as 41% in 2011 to 25% by 2041.

This will throw new policy challenges such as provision for health and old-age care, access to retirement-related financial services, public

pension funding, and retirement age, states the survey.

"Increasing the retirement age for both men and women going forward could be considered in line with the experience of other countries. This will be key to the viability of pension systems and would also help increase female labour force participation in the older age-groups," it suggests.

Many countries such as the U.S., Germany and France have already raised the retirement age to reduce the burden on pension funding. The working-age population is expected to see a large increase leading to India's demographic dividend peaking around 2041, when the share of those in the age group of 20-59 is expected to hit 59%. The survey highlights that this will mean additional jobs will have to be created to keep pace with an annual increase in working-age population of 9.7 million during 2021-31 and 4.2 million during 2031-41.



the law did not discriminate between men and women, analysis of different wages showed a bias.

"For instance, women dominate in the category of domestic workers while men dominate in the category of security guards. While both these occupations fall within the category of unskilled workers, the minimum wage rate for domestic workers within a State is consistently lower than that for the minimum wage rates for security guards," the survey said.

Apart from increasing the ambit of the minimum wage system, it recommended deciding minimum wages on the basis of skills and split across geographical regions. With the government in the process of bringing the Code on Wages Bill in Parliament, the survey said the rationalisation of minimum wages proposed by the Bill should be supported.

The survey suggested the government should notify a "national floor minimum wage" across five regions, after which the States can fix their own minimum wages, but not lower than the floor wage.

This, it said, would bring uniformity and make States "almost equally attractive from the point of view of labour cost for investment as well as reduce distress migration."

The floor wage is currently non-statutory.



**Sordid state:** Garbage clogging a drain near the Seelampur area in New Delhi. • R.V.MOORTHY

## Private funds needed for Swachh Bharat

100% safe disposal of waste targeted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With the Centre claiming that 99.2% of rural India is now open defecation-free, the next big goal on the Swachh Bharat journey is the 100% safe and scientific disposal of solid and liquid waste, according to the Economic Survey 2018-19.

However, it emphasises that the large resources needed to reach this milestone will need to be met through crowd and corporate funding, private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms along with government allocations.

### 'Positive impact'

Progress in the first phase of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, focussing on toilet construction and use, had a positive impact on the health, economy and environment of rural India, said the report, citing a number of studies. However, these benefits will not be sustainable if solid and liquid waste management is ignored.

"Currently, many States are not concentrating enough on this aspect which could pull us back to where we were a few years ago. Scientific techniques for the safe and effective disposal of waste should be the next on the agenda for this mission," says the survey.

According to it, the scientific disposal of waste has a noticeable impact on "social development", referring to the sanitation workers and manual scavengers who now work to dispose of waste, mostly in unscientific and unsafe ways.

Some of the areas which

must be dealt with in this next phase are sewer construction and water availability, scientific techniques for waste disposal, treatment of industrial effluent, drain bio-remediation, river surface cleaning, sustained rural sanitation and monitoring of villages, says the survey.

As the resource requirements are large, there is a need to facilitate and sustain innovative financing mechanisms by exploring the suitability of various financial instruments in specific contexts and interventions," it says.

Some examples are micro-financing, concessional loans, private partnerships, corporate social responsibility, and crowd funding aligned with local government financing.

While these can ensure a smooth flow of funds for the procurement of various scientific technologies for waste disposal and mass awareness, governments must also "assign significant weight to the allocation of adequate resources as improvement in sanitation is one of the key determinants for the wider economic development," says the survey.

**Mindset change**  
Apart from financial resources, mindset change is the other major ingredient required for sustained progress in sanitation. The swachhagrabis or village level ambassadors who have already been recruited for Phase 1 of the programme are key to maintaining momentum, it says, in keeping with its thrust on leveraging behavioural economics.

## Zero train collisions, 46 derailments

But incidents related to fire go up to 6



The total number of train accidents came down from 104 in 2016-17 to 59 in 2018-19, the Survey said. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
NEW DELHI

While the incidents of train collisions came down to zero and those of derailments declined to 46 during last year, occurrence of fire in trains went up to six, according to data provided in the Economic Survey 2018-19.

The category-wise breakdown of consequential train accidents shows that the incident of collisions has come down to zero in 2018-19 from three in 2017-18, while those of derailment declined to 46 from 54 in the previous year. However, incidents related to fire in trains increased to six in the year 2018-19 as against three in 2017-18, the survey said.

The total number of train

accidents came down from 104 in 2016-17 and 73 in 2017-18 to 59 in 2018-19.

Additionally, the survey said that in 2018-19, Indian Railways carried 1221.39 million tonnes of revenue earning freight, an increase of 61.84 million tonnes or 5.33% over 2017-18.

The revenue earning freight loading by Indian Railways during 2017-18 was placed at 1159.55 million tonnes as against 1106.15 million tonnes during 2016-17, 4.83%.

"There is an increase of 2.09% in the number of passengers carried by railways during 2017-18 as compared to 2016-17 and 0.64% increase in 2018-19 as compared to 2017-18," the survey said.

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Contract enforcement remains the single biggest constraint to improve India's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) ranking, which currently stands at 163 in the world ranking, the Economic Survey 2018-19 said.

It remarked that in spite of a number of actions to expedite and improve the contract enforcement regime, economic activity was affected by the long shadow of delays and pendency across the legal landscape.

Noting that the relationship between economic governance and the rule of law (Dandaniti) is the key to prosperity, and a bulwark against Matsyanyaya (law of the fish/jungle), the survey said two key issues need to be dealt with in order to make the judiciary more efficient and to clear the 'legal logjam'.

Firstly, the courts must achieve a 100% case clearance rate (CCR) so that there is zero accumulation to the existing pendency. Secondly, the backlog of cases already present in the system must be removed.

CCR is the ratio of the number of cases disposed of in a given year to the number of cases instituted in that year.

In order to reach 100% CCR in 2018, the D&S courts needed 2,279 additional judges. This is within the

(D&S) courts, which account for the bulk of pendency, received 1.5 crore additional cases in 2018 and had a backlog of 2.87 crore (as on January 1, 2018).

But it managed to dispose of 1.33 crore cases in the year, thus, closing 2018 at 3.04 crore.

There are currently 17,891 judges compared to the sanctioned strength of 22,750. On average, a judge disposes of 746 cases.

"Given the potential economic and social multipliers of a well-functioning legal system, this may well be the best investment India can make," it said.

District and Subordinate Courts

\*\*High Court Supreme Court

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India's economic growth, according to the survey, is expected to register 7% this year from a five year low.

The economic survey flags (1) slowing growth, (2) shortfall in revenue, (3) finding resources without compromising the fiscal deficit target, (4) impact of oil prices on the current account and (5) recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission on central government finances.

I am afraid, none of these is positive or encouraging," he said.

Mr. Chidambaram said chapter 02 of Volume 2 of the survey came closest in terms of describing the 'Outlook for 2019-20'.

"It appears to me that the government, speaking through the Economic Survey, is pessimistic about the economy," he said.

The first economic survey of the new government under Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, claimed Mr. Chidambaram, opens with self-congratulatory references about the economy performing well in the past five years and had a 'bland' outlook for the year ahead.

"I looked for the Outlook for 2019-20. It is in Volume-2, Chapter 01, but there is only a bland statement that growth of the economy is expected to be 7% in 2019-20. There are no growth projections sector wise," he said.

Mr. Chidambaram said chapter 02 of Volume 2 of the survey came closest in terms of describing the 'Outlook for 2019-20'.

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CM YK

AN-NDE

## Needed: a well-designed minimum wage system

Survey calls for streamlining the complex mechanism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A well-designed and streamlined minimum wage system is required to reduce wage inequality in the country, the Economic Survey says.

Currently, the minimum wage system, under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in India is complex, with 1,915 different minimum wages defined for different job categories across States, the survey said.

Many countries such as the U.S., Germany and France have already raised the retirement age to reduce the burden on pension funding. The working-age population is expected to see a large increase leading to India's demographic dividend peaking around 2041, when the share of those in the age group of 20-59 is expected to hit 59%.

"One in every three wage workers in India is not protected by the minimum wage law," it said, citing the International Labour Organisation.

For instance, the survey stated, domestic workers were covered under minimum wage laws in only 18 States and Union Territories. It also pointed out that while

fuzzy about the government's vision. "Spent three hours this afternoon, speed reading the two volumes of the #EconomicSurvey2019. It's a cloudy, overcast afternoon in Delhi. Enough said," Mr. O'Brien tweeted.

### Stagnant growth

The Economic Survey showed that India's growth rate was stagnant, Aam Aadmi Party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said.</

## IN BRIEF

Amid Ukraine crisis,  
Pope, Putin hold talks

VATICAN CITY

Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked Pope Francis for "very substantive" talks on Thursday, a day before Ukraine's Catholic leaders were due at the Vatican. "It was a very substantive, interesting discussion," he said. A statement from the Vatican stated that the talks concentrated on the situations in Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela. REUTERS

## Tehran fumes as Britain seizes Iranian oil tanker

LONDON/DUBAI

British Royal Marines seized a giant Iranian oil tanker in Gibraltar on Thursday for trying to take oil to Syria in violation of EU sanctions, a dramatic step that drew Tehran's fury. Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the British ambassador to voice "its very strong objection to the illegal and unacceptable seizure" of its ship. The diplomatic gesture lifted any doubt over Iran's ownership of the vessel. REUTERS

## U.S. is hell-bent on sanctions, says N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS

North Korea has accused the U.S. of being "hell-bent on hostile acts" days after the country's leaders agreed to resume denunciation talks. Pyongyang's delegation to the UN on Wednesday said the U.S. continues to be "obsessed with sanctions". It complained that while Mr. Trump invited Mr. Kim Jong-un to hold talks, the U.S. had also sent a letter to all UN members urging them to send back North Korean workers. AFP

## China says U.S. tariffs must be lifted for a trade deal

Talks to break deadlock to begin next week, says Washington

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

U.S. tariffs against China must be lifted for the two sides to reach a deal to end the trade war, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said on Thursday.

Trade teams from the world's top two economies "have maintained communication", Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said, days after Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping agreed at the G20 in Japan to revive negotiations.

"The United States' unilateral tariff increase on China's exports to the United States is the starting point for the Sino-U.S. economic and trade frictions," Mr. Gao said at a weekly press briefing. "If the two sides can reach an agreement, the tariffs imposed must be completely eliminated. China's attitude toward this is clear."

## China signals Xi won't bow to Hong Kong protesters' demands

Storming of legislature has prompted the sharpest denunciations in Beijing so far

STEVEN LEE MYERS

BEIJING

When protesters in Hong Kong became more forceful on Monday, the *People's Daily* reprimanded recent speech of China's leader, Xi Jinping, calling on party cadres to carry forward the struggle of the communist revolution fought 70 years ago.

"We must overcome all kinds of difficulties, risks and challenges," he said.

It was the latest signal that Mr. Xi has no intention of bowing to the protesters' demands for greater rights. On the contrary, the storming of Hong Kong's legislature on Monday night seems to have given ammunition to hardliners and prompted the sharpest denunciations in Beijing so far, suggesting the ruling Communist Party's patience was wearing thin.

"I think they have realised it is time to take measures" to restore order, Song Xiaozhuang, a professor in the Center for Basic Laws of Hong Kong and Macao at Shenzhen University, said in a telephone interview, referring to authorities in Beijing. "This does not mean there is no patience, or that they want to get it done promptly, but it does mean that they cannot wait for long."

Mr. Xi has not publicly addressed the political tumult in Hong Kong. Nor have officials disclosed any options they might be considering. But there is little doubt about Mr. Xi's convictions, which are shaped by history and a deeply felt sense of the perils of popular uprisings.



Writing on the wall: A July 3 photo of the Hong Kong Legislative Council lobby, which was damaged by protesters. ■ AP

"I have heard him talk at length, and passionately, about the challenges of governing China, and the need to maintain order in order to keep the country together," said Ryan L. Hass, who served in the Obama administration.

He noted that the mass protests that toppled authoritarian governments in North Africa and West Asia in 2011 coincided with Mr. Xi's ascent to the presidency and were "seared into his brain".

## Sense of destiny

Mr. Xi's stance is not without risks, but he has governed with a millenarian sense of destiny, regularly exhorting the Communist Party to return to its original mission to transform the nation into the global power.

While the events in Hong Kong have generated considerable sympathy for the protesters, forcing the city's leader to back down and sus-

pend a deeply unpopular extradition Bill, Mr. Xi still has most of the advantages of power on his side.

Those include time and influence. The central government can still mobilise a vast network of supporters in Hong Kong, including civil servants and business people beholden to the central government, economically or politically.

In a last resort, there is also the Chinese military. Few analysts expect Mr. Xi intends to use force, but few doubt that he would if security significantly deteriorated in the city.

The People's Liberation Army disclosed on Tuesday that troops from its Hong Kong garrison had conducted training exercises last week.

One photograph accompanying an article in the official military newspaper showed soldiers aboard a gunboat in Victoria Harbor, weapons drawn, with the ci-

ty's skyline in the background.

After weeks of relative restraint, officials in Beijing have also begun to warn of grave repercussions. A spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office warned that the defacing of the legislature was "a blatant challenge" to Beijing's red line: its sovereignty over the territory. The *Global Times*, a nationalist tabloid controlled by the Communist Party, called for a "zero-tolerance policy", warning that more violence could open a Pandora's box.

That the protests in Hong Kong took place shortly following the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests and other cities in China has only hardened official views. This year is also the anniversary of the popular movements that swept Eastern Europe in 1989, toppling not only the Berlin Wall but also, ultimately, the Soviet Union itself two years later.

"There has also been a tendency to present these struggles – and Tiananmen was presented this way – as not being spontaneous expressions of the popular will," Jeffrey Wasserstrom, a professor of history at the University of California, Irvine, wrote in an email, "even in cases when that is clearly what they are." Rather, he wrote, Beijing describes such protests as "illegitimate efforts by small sets of malcontents spurred on by mysterious foreign forces."

■ NY TIMES

## STF, police personnel acquitted over Lanka students' murder

Five persons were shot dead at Trincomalee in 2006

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

A magistrate court in Sri Lanka has acquitted Special Task Force (STF) and police personnel accused of killing five students in Trincomalee in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province, in 2006.

According to the State-run *Daily News*, the Trincomalee Chief Magistrate on Wednesday released 13 suspects, including 12 STF members allegedly linked to the gruesome killings, after clearing them of "all charges".

Local human rights organisations and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights cite the students' killings as an "emblematic case" raising difficult questions about war crimes and accountability in Sri Lanka.

Even as the STF's possible role in the murder was widely speculated by those familiar with the developments

in the island's eastern district, a U.S. State Department cable from October 2006, which was later released by WikiLeaks, quotes Basil Rajapaksa, brother and advisor of then President Mahinda Rajapaksa, as telling the then U.S. Ambassador Robert Blake: "We know the STF did it, but the bullet and gun evidence shows that they did not. They must have separate guns when they want to kill someone. We need forensic experts. We know who did it, but we can't proceed in prosecuting them."

**Charged for murder**  
The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probing the case charged the STF suspects for murder, for "shooting the students", who had gathered to meet near the Gandhi roundabout in Trincomalee. While the

CID had named 36 witnesses, eight of them failed to appear in court and who had migrated abroad were absent, according to local media reports.

University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna), a group of academics that documented rights violations committed by state forces, the LTTE, and the IPKF, in 2007 published a report on the incident, pointing to "lapses" in investigations.

"It was a shocking case in which the State has operated with blatant impunity; its disregard for the rule of law has been offensive and insidious. Numerous exposés and statements by human rights agencies have been released on the subject that provide overwhelming evidence of state complicity, but as usual the case has stalled," the UTHR said in the report.

## New EU chief seeks 'smart advice'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BRUSSELS



Ursula von der Leyen

cooked up by EU national leaders over three days of tortuous summit wrangling.

"My priorities will be to seek smart advice, listen to all parliamentary groups and together work out the best plan for the future of Europe," she tweeted, a day after talks with MEPs at the Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France. The multilingual von der Leyen sent out the message in English, French and German after a warm welcome from Mr. Juncker at Commission headquarters in Brussels.

plan for the next five years.

She must win the approval of the highly fragmented European Parliament, where there have been grumblings about the deal to appoint her, which was

## New Tirupur Area Development Corporation Ltd.

"PolyhouseTowers" I Floor, No: 86, Mount Road,

Guindy, Chennai - 600 032

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following :

## Brief Description of Goods

## Quantity

Disposal of Surplus MS &amp; DI Pipes

1250 MT

of various sizes from 700 mm to 1450 mm

(Approx)

Bid Documents (free of cost) may be obtained from:

M/s. Mahindra Water Utilities Limited,

MBR Campus, Poondi Ring Road, Poovalupatti, Tirupur 641 602.

Tel:0421-2476170 / 71 / 72. Email: purchase@mwul.com

Location of Pipes : Tirupur &amp; Perundurai

Sale of Bid Document : 05.07.2019 to 25.07.2019

Date for Inspection of Pipes : 11.00 AM - 4:00 PM

by bidders (any working day) : 25.07.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs

Last Date and Time for receipt of Bids : 25.07.2019 at 15:30 Hrs

Opening of Bid Document : 25.07.2019 at 15:30 Hrs

Description of material for disposal: Disposal of Surplus MS &amp;

DI Pipes on "As is where is" "Whatever is" and on "One lot basis"

## BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE/South Divn/Ten/2640/T-638/2019-20/Call-2 Date: 03.07.2019

## NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>)  
Tenders are invited through GoK e-Procurement platform for the following work in two cover system by the Executive Engineer, South Division, BDA Complex, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 70 on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru from eligible tenderers. Name of the work: Proposal for BDA Shopping Complex at BSK 6th Stage, Bengaluru under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

For further details, please log on to <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or call e-Procurement Help desk on 080-22371090 / 22340060.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, South Division, BDA, Bengaluru

## KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER

## ABRIDGED NIT

C-ICMP (Supply), KMC invites tender online in two bid systems for following work :

E-NIT No. : KMC/C-ICMP(S)/45/A314/2019-2020

Name of the Work : Tender for procurement of different types of bearings for MDPS for the F/Y- 2019-2020. Estimated Cost : Nil. Earnest Money : Rs. 15,000.00. Last Date and Time of Submission of Bid : 13.07.2019 at 2.00 p.m. The Tender will be open on : 15.07.2019 at 2.00 p.m. Tender documents will be available on and from 05.07.2019 from 1.30 p.m. from the website: <https://etender.wb.nic.in>

195/19-20

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagar Division, 7th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 001.

No. : BBMP/EE(SGN)/E.Proc/Tend/05/2019-20 Date : 01-07-2019

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Sarvagnanagar Division), East Zone, BBMP, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the constructions of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains in Ramaiah Layout in Ward No. 29, Kacharakanhalli	87.00	1,74,000/-
2.	Providing RCC Drain and Asphaltig to Vinayaka Temple Road in Ward No. 29, Kacharakanhalli	100.00	2,00,000/-

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the GOK from 08-07-2019. (2) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is 15-07-2019 upto 4.00 p.m. (3) Date of Opening of Tender is on 16-07-2019 if possible or Next Working Day 4.30 p.m. (4) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 11-07-2019 at 4.00 hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, 18th Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, BBMP to Clarify the issue and to answer question on any matter that may be raised at the stage as stated in instructions to Bidders of the Bidding Document.

The Details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by logging on to : <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagar Division

Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru

## Submarine reactor safe, Putin told

REUTERS

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin disclosed on Thursday for the first time that a secret military submarine hit by a fatal fire three days ago was nuclear-powered, prompting the Defence Minister to assure him its reactor had been safely contained.

Mr. Putin revealed that the submarine had been nuclear-powered by asking Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu during a Kremlin meeting about the reactor's condition after the fire.

"The nuclear reactor on the vessel is completely isolated," Mr. Shoigu told Mr. Putin, according to a Kremlin transcript. "All the necessary measures were taken by the crew to protect the reactor, which is in complete working order."

CM YK



## MARKET WATCH

	04-07-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,908	0.17
US Dollar	68.50	0.56
Gold	33,210	-0.49
Brent oil	63.58	0.80

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	414.90	0.00
Asian Paints	1359.70	7.70
Axius Bank	808.85	2.65
Bajaj Auto.	2894.80	-2.95
Bajaj Finance	8537.55	10.10
Bharti Airtel	362.75	9.55
BPCL	380.00	-1.20
Britannia Ind	2841.35	46.65
Cipla	551.55	-1.70
Coal India	251.10	0.15
Dr Reddys Lab	2602.40	5.70
Eicher Motors	19825.40	175.30
GAIL (India)	307.80	2.55
Grasim Ind.	941.60	13.70
HCL Tech	1040.75	-10.45
HDFC	2280.25	3.05
HDFC Bank	2483.80	-5.85
Hero MotoCorp	2606.15	18.65
Hindalco	206.90	-1.80
Hind Unilever	1793.60	8.90
Indiabulls HFL	703.85	12.90
ICICI Bank	436.20	0.25
IndusInd Bank	1493.10	22.50
Bharti Infratel	263.10	-2.55
Infosys	733.80	2.50
Indian Oil Corp	156.55	0.40
ITC	277.65	0.95
JSW Steel	275.05	-2.35
Kotak Bank	1497.80	22.80
L&T	1571.70	-6.35
M&M	672.15	2.90
Maurti Suzuki	6544.45	10.65
NTPC	143.45	0.20
ONGC	167.10	0.80
PowerGrid Corp	210.20	1.25
Reliance Ind	1284.00	1.45
State Bank	367.40	1.25
Sun Pharma	392.10	-3.60
Tata Motors	165.20	2.90
Tata Steel	495.30	-15.00
TCI	2242.65	5.00
Tech Mahindra	700.60	-0.50
Titan	1290.35	-38.10
UltraTech Cement	4645.35	84.20
UPL	698.35	46.55
Vedanta	171.05	-1.65
Wipro	283.85	1.00
YES Bank	96.25	-3.50
Zee Entertainment	356.45	-4.45

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.31	68.63
Euro	77.11	77.48
British Pound	85.90	86.30
Japanese Yen (100)	63.38	63.68
Chinese Yuan	9.94	9.99
Swiss Franc	69.30	69.62
Singapore Dollar	50.37	50.62
Canadian Dollar	52.26	52.51
Malaysian Ringgit	16.53	16.62

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI
July 04 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)..... 40.5..... (40.7) 22 ct gold (1g)..... 3255..... (3274)

Source: Indian Bank

## INTERVIEW | KRISHNAMURTHY SUBRAMANIAN

# 'FDI needed to spur the virtuous cycle in India'

Foreign savings can start investment, boost jobs, says CEA

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

Foreign investment in India is needed to spur the domestic private investment cycle, says Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian. Excerpts from a Q&A session:

Could you elaborate on what you mean about treating data as a public good?

Let me start with an example. Imagine a woman in a village accessing on her smart phone all the hospitals that are there in her vicinity. Not only can she access the hospitals but she can click on a particular hospital and get the quality of emergency care, let's say, of that hospital. And suppose, she can get this in the local language. Now, if someone falls ill in her village, she knows very well where to go. This is an example of ease of living that can be generated by bringing in data.

That is possible today and it can't happen without viewing data as a public good. While you have companies like Amazon, Google, etc. which utilise data, they do it in a particular area. They will only do it where there is profit, they are private entities.

Much like the government invests in public goods such as roads, ports, etc., these [data for public use] are areas where the private sector will not make investments. It can reduce inclusion and exclusion errors as well via Aadhaar.

That's the basic idea. And it can be created within the framework of the privacy laws in the country because

Banks have cleaned up their balance sheets and credit to large firms has started going up

nues for investment.

If you have an economy that is going to grow at 8% growth rates, this money finds it profitable to be invested there.

In order to trigger this virtuous cycle, we have to rely on some of these foreign savings. They can come in and start investment, and once this happens, that will enhance productivity, which creates jobs, fosters exports and thereby, demand.

In the Survey, you have missed out on focussing on the banking sector or the problems affecting the NBFC sector. Why is that?

As I articulated, we wanted to focus on the big picture. We will be writing another Survey in six months, that will be presented on January 30. So, we had to make a choice. One thing we knew very well when we started working on the Survey is that this will be the Survey of a new government and therefore, a government that potentially has five years to implement policies.

Third, which I think is a very important opportunity that we have not tapped enough, is that if you look at the global environment in terms of liquidity and the surplus and the interest rate environment that has been prevailing, it is as benign as it ever was. There is a lot of flush liquidity that is looking for ave-



## + India could host 'Detroit' of EVs

The country sold 54,800 electric two-wheelers in 2018

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

With the right policies, it's possible that one of India's cities could become the 'Detroit of electric vehicles,' the Economic Survey said in a chapter on enabling inclusive growth through affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

India has a "National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020 (NEMMP)" in place to "achieve sales" of 60-70 lakh units of electric vehicles (that includes buses, two-wheeler and cars) by 2020.

In 2015, the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme was launched to fast-track the goals of NEMMP with an outlay of ₹795 crore.

FAME India Phase II, with an emphasis on electrification of public transport, was also launched from April 1,

2019, with a total outlay of ₹10,000 crore over the next three years. Several states, had drafted EV policies.

Globally, the sales of electric cars have grown from just over 2,000 units sold in 2008 to over 10 lakh in 2017.

More than half of the sales were in China. The market share of electric cars is around 2% in China while it is around 39% in Norway. Electrification of two-wheelers and buses has also picked up. Global sales of electric buses were about one lakh and sales of two-wheeler were estimated at three crore, according to the chapter note.

In India, electric two-wheelers have been the major part of EV sales with sales of around 54,800 in 2018. Compared to this, sales of electric cars have been only around 2,000 in 2017, Indian market share in electric cars

is only 0.06%. According to the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV), Uttar Pradesh topped the list of the States with highest EV sales of 6,878 units in 2017-18, followed by Haryana at 6,307 units and Gujarat at 6,010 units. Maharashtra reported a sales of 4,865 EVs while West Bengal came in fifth with sales of 4,706 units.

India's adoption of electric vehicles, the report said, was part of its larger thrust towards increasing the share of renewable energy and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The share of renewables (excluding hydro above 25 MW) in total power generation was around 10% in 2018-19 compared with around 6% in 2014-15. India stands fourth in wind power, fifth in solar power and fifth in renewable power installed capacity.

Going forward, the Survey recommends that digital technology and the JAM troika – Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile – be expanded to other welfare schemes.

The Survey cites data on the timeliness of wage payments, worker turnout, demand and supply of work under the scheme before and after Aadhaar-linked payments (ALP).

Were implemented as a proof for its benefits.

Data show that in 2014-15, less than 27% of wage payments were generated within 15 days. Direct benefit transfers were introduced two years later. By 2018-19, more than 90% of wage payments were generated within 15 days. "Payment delays drive away farmers in genuine distress, while others not in distress take the benefits. A person undergoing economic distress needs immediate and certain liquidity. Working for uncertain promised wages, which are likely to be realised with a substantial lag, presents an unattractive proposition for a person in distress as delayed payments effectively imply zero wages

in adverse times," says the Survey. The Survey also compared the MGNREGS performance in blocks affected by drought versus other blocks, using drought as a proxy for distress. In drought-affected blocks, the number of persons demanding work increased more than 20% after the implementation of ALP, while there was no effect in other blocks. A similar trend is seen in the supply of work. Muster rolls, which are work site attendance registers, show a 19% increase after ALP implementation in most blocks. In drought-affected blocks, muster rolls increased by 44%.

"It appears that before the implementation of ALP, the rural poor treated MGNREGS as an option to earn additional income during good times rather than a shock absorber during bad times. This ac-

tually defeated the purpose of the programme. Post implementation of ALP, there is a reversal of trend, wherein an increase in demand for work under MGNREGS is observed in drought-affected areas," says the Survey, arguing that effective targeting has been possible because of ALP.

The Survey suggests that going forward, "demand for work under MGNREGS may be used to develop a real-time indicator of distress at the granular district or panchayat level." The Survey also recommends that other welfare schemes implement the lessons learnt from Aadhaar linkages in MGNREGS.

Scholarships, pensions, and subsidies for food, kerosene, and gas cylinders should be next in line to implement Aadhaar-based payments, it said.

## Reward top taxpayers, shame defaulters'

Allowing fast-lane access, naming of roads, buildings after top taxpayers mooted

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

Rewarding top taxpayers with 'diplomatic' type privileges, fast-lane access, expedited boarding at airports and even naming of building and roads after them are some of the suggestions laid out in the Economic Survey 2018-19 to put tax compliance in the country.

The Economic Survey advocates the application of the behavioural principles to enhance tax compliance "as people often indulge in conspicuous consumption to convey their social status."

The Survey recommended that top 10 highest tax payers within a district can be highlighted and accorded due recognition. "This may take

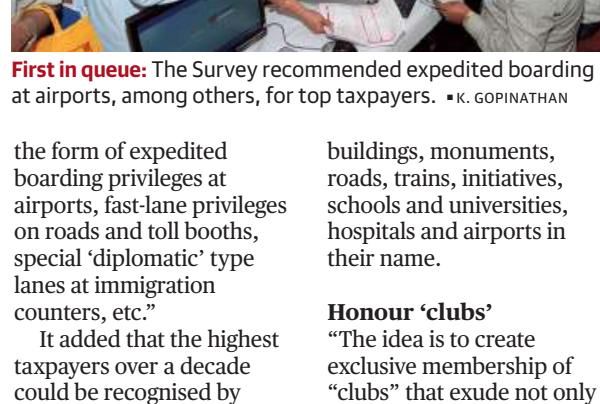
the form of expedited boarding privileges at airports, fast-lane privileges on roads and toll booths, special 'diplomatic' type lanes at immigration counters, etc."

It added that the highest taxpayers over a decade could be recognised by naming important

buildings, monuments, roads, trains, initiatives, schools and universities, hospitals and airports in their name.

**Honour 'clubs'**

"The idea is to create exclusive membership of 'clubs' that exude not only social status but also



## 'Shift focus to water productivity'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Economic Survey 2018-19 has said as far as agriculture is concerned, the country should shift its focus from land productivity to irrigation water productivity and on devising policies to incentivise farmers to adopt efficient ways of water use.

This should become a national priority to avert a looming water crisis.

Agriculture remains the predominant occupation in terms of number of people employed. Also, agriculture is dependent highly on water. So, appropriate mechanism needs to be framed for economical use of water and the need to re-align cropping pattern in India is highly skewed towards crops that are water-intensive. The incentive structures like minimum support price, heavily subsidised electricity, water and fertilizers have played a significant role in the misalignment of crop patterns in the country," said the Survey.

"The cropping pattern in India is highly skewed towards crops that are water-intensive. The incentive structures like minimum support price, heavily subsidised electricity, water and fertilizers have played a significant role in the misalignment of crop patterns in the country," said the Survey.

The Survey said States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, which have high land productivity, tend to have very low irrigation water productivity, reflecting inefficient use of water and the need to re-align cropping pattern.

"Adopting improved methods of irrigation and irrigation technologies will have a critical role in increasing irrigation water productivity," it said.

Yes Bank gets 9.47% stake in Eveready

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Yes Bank has acquired 9.47% stake in Eveready Industries by invoking pledged shares, the lender informed the exchanges.

The pledged shares were invoked since one of the group companies, McLeod Russel, defaulted.

"Shares have been acquired pursuant to invocation of pledge of shares of Eveready Industries India Limited subsequent to default/breach of terms of credit facilities sanctioned by Yes Bank to McLeod Russel India Limited which is a group company of BM Khatan Group," Yes Bank said.

Eveready had a consolidated turnover of ₹1,541.86 crore in FY 2018-19.

**Adani Power buys GMR unit for ₹4,792 cr.**

PIYUSH PANDEY  
MUMBAI

Adani Power has signed a definitive share purchase agreement with GMR Infrastructure Ltd. (GIL) to buy its 47.62% stake in GMR Chhattisgarh Energy Ltd. (GCEL), held by its wholly owned subsidiary, GMR Generation Assets Limited (GGAL).

The company will buy the remaining stake from lenders as the consortium of lenders of GCEL adopted "change in management" as a resolution plan (RP) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. The deal was executed at an enterprise value of ₹4,792 crore. The lenders followed a detailed bidding process.

## ArcelorMittal bid for Essar Steel okayed

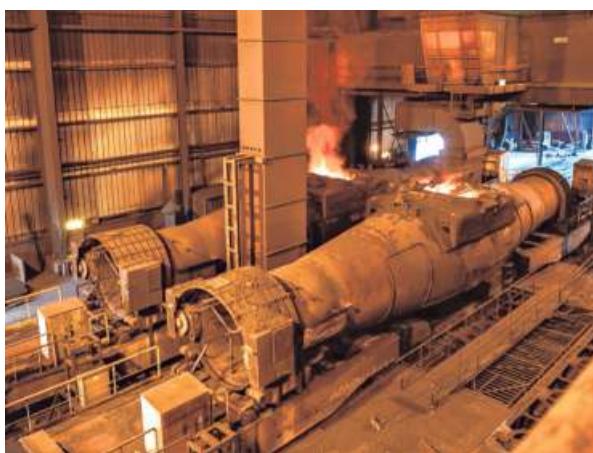
NCLAT rejects Ruia plea challenging eligibility; proceeds of the sale to be shared among creditors

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal on Thursday approved steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal-led ArcelorMittal's ₹42,000-crore bid for the acquisition of bankrupt Essar Steel.

**Resolution plan tweaked**  
The tribunal, however, modified the Resolution Plan submitted by ArcelorMittal to safeguard the rights of the operational creditors and other financial creditors of Essar Steel. It said the proceeds of the sale were to be shared among the creditors.

A Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process was initiated in 2017 against debt-ridden Essar Steel Limited to recover ₹54,547 crore of unpaid dues to financial len-



Profits generated during pendency of insolvency proceedings can't be given to ArcelorMittal, the NCLAT said. ■ AFP

ders and operational creditors. The tribunal also clarified that any profits of Essar Steel generated during the pendency of the insolvency proceedings would al-

so be distributed among the creditors on a pro rata basis.

It said the profit cannot be given to the successful resolution applicant ArcelorMittal as it had not invested any

■ An issue settled by the Supreme Court [eligibility of ArcelorMittal] can't be re-agitated again and again

JUSTICE S.J. MUKHOPADHAYA

money during the insolvency process.

The tribunal also rejected the application by Prashant Ruia, the promoter, and Essar Steel Asia Holdings Limited, challenging the eligibility of ArcelorMittal as a bidder.

"An issue which has been settled by the Supreme Court i.e., eligibility of ArcelorMittal India Pvt. Ltd. as a resolution applicant for Essar Steel India Ltd., cannot be re-agitated again and again," the tribunal headed by Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyaya said.

Mr. Ruia had challenged the March 8, 2019 order of the Ahmedabad Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal approving ArcelorMittal's bid for the takeover of Essar Steel.

He had contested ArcelorMittal's eligibility on the ground that it had suppressed facts by stating that Mr. Lakshmi Mittal had completely exited from the Indian businesses of the Mittal family, more specifically, Gontermann Peipers India Ltd., GPI Textiles Ltd., and Balasore Alloys Ltd.

ArcelorMittal had argued that it was a mala fide attempt to derail the corporate insolvency resolution process. It also submitted that Mr. Ruia had no locus standi as his settlement plan was disallowed.

Ineligibility under Sec. 29A not considered: Essar

May move SC against NCLAT order

PIYUSH PANDEY  
MUMBAI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) decision to approve ArcelorMittal's bid for debt-laden Essar Steel has not gone down well with Essar Group promoters.

The group's promoters made a last minute bid of ₹54,389 crore to pay all creditors, financial and operational, compared with ArcelorMittal's ₹50,000 crore, which includes funds that it promised to pump into the Indian steel maker.

An Essar spokesperson said, "It appears that new facts regarding ineligibility under Section 29A, which emerged only after the previous judgment of the Supreme Court, have not been

given due consideration. We are awaiting the detailed order and will decide our course of action thereafter."

Essar's promoters can still move the Supreme Court against the tribunal's order, a source in the know of the development told *The Hindu*. "We can decide our course of action only after getting the detailed copy of the order." Essar promoters contested that the proposal of ArcelorMittal India was in violation of IBC code as the proposal if approved negates the right of 'Subrogation' of the Guarantor.

An ArcelorMittal spokesperson said, "We need to review the full written order to understand any implications on completion of the transaction."

## Patel admits RBI was slow to take timely steps

Current capital buffers not enough to tackle huge amount of stress, he says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI



Urjit Patel

tel listed out the areas of concern for the country's banking sector, including high non-performing assets (NPAs), especially with state-run lenders, and current capital buffers being "overstated" and insufficient to tackle the huge stress.

Speaking at an event in Stanford University, Mr. Patel said banks indulged in over-lending while the government did not 'fully play' its role.

He also conceded that the regulator should have acted earlier.

Speaking at an event in Stanford University, Mr. Patel said banks indulged in over-lending while the government did not 'fully play' its role.

How did we get here? Plenty of blame to go

around! Prior to 2014, all stakeholders failed to play their role adequately. Banks, the regulator and government," he said in the presentation.

It can be noted that after 2014, which saw a change of guard in government, the RBI, under the governorship of Raghuram Rajan, started an asset quality review that led to the recognition of the huge pile of hidden stress in the system and an attempt at resolution through the introduction of bankruptcy laws.

**Sagging growth**  
These actions led to a sharp decline in banks' ability to fund the needs of the economy, where growth had been sagging.

Mr. Patel, who spent over five years at the RBI, including in his role as the Deputy

Governor, advised stakeholders to stay the course even in the face of difficulties.

"Temptation to reset 'back to the past' should be eschewed," Mr. Patel said, adding that "epidemic concerns" on stability are possible if there is "foot dragging, or worse, back-peddalling".

"Short-cuts/sweeping the problem under the carpet is unlikely to work, but will only delay unlocking of capital, and come in the way of financing future investment efficiently," he warned.

On the Supreme Court striking down the February 12, 2018 circular, which was also a major bone of contention between him and the government, Mr. Patel said only time will tell whether a system of 'extend and pretend' will make a comeback.

## CCI to probe Maruti Suzuki for discounting practices

Resale price maintenance banned as it affects competition

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI

India's antitrust body on Thursday said it had ordered an investigation into how Maruti Suzuki, the country's biggest carmaker, controlled discounts its dealers could offer.

Reuters reported in May that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) was looking into allegations that Maruti forced its dealers to limit the discounts they offer, effectively stifling competition among them and harming consumers.

Carmakers, at times, set a limit on discounts to ensure there is no price war among dealers but Indian law says the practice, described as



Pricing battles: Carmakers, at times, set a limit on discounts to ensure there is no price war among dealers. ■ REUTERS

by Maruti as the "allegations, prima facie, reveal a fit case for investigation in respect of the alleged resale price maintenance arrangement".

Maruti, majority-owned by Suzuki Motor Corp., did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

### OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

#### DEATH

#### SAD DEMISE



We regret to inform the sad demise of  
**C.R. SREENIVASAN (RASAPPAN)**  
(21/12/1934 - 4/7/2019)  
Who passed away peacefully on  
4th July, 2019 in Bangalore.  
Deeply mourned by family  
members and friends.  
Contact: 948104100 / 9845066677

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### UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

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Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Dehradun invites e-tender for following as detailed below:-

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1	11KV XLPE Cable 3x50 Sq mm		15 Km						
2	11KV XLPE Cable 3x70 Sq mm		25 Km						
3	11KV XLPE Cable 3x185 Sq mm	CCP-I /13/ 2019-2020	10 Km	7,60,90,000.00	11.41 crore	15.22 Lac	23,600.00	22.07.2019 upto 17:00 hrs	23.07.2019 at 15:30 hrs
4	11KV XLPE Cable 3x400 Sq mm		30 Km						
5	11KV XLPE Cable 1x630 Sq mm		2 Km						

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Zone No.1: MQP to LC No. 250 A(Both In.) Chaupla colony, Bareilly city colony. Cost of Tender Forms: ₹ 5,000/- Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 30.06.2020

1. On line e-tender can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs of dated 26.07.2019.

2. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREP's website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

CPRW/W-133 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Itzatnagar About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955 "Never travel on roof and foot boards"

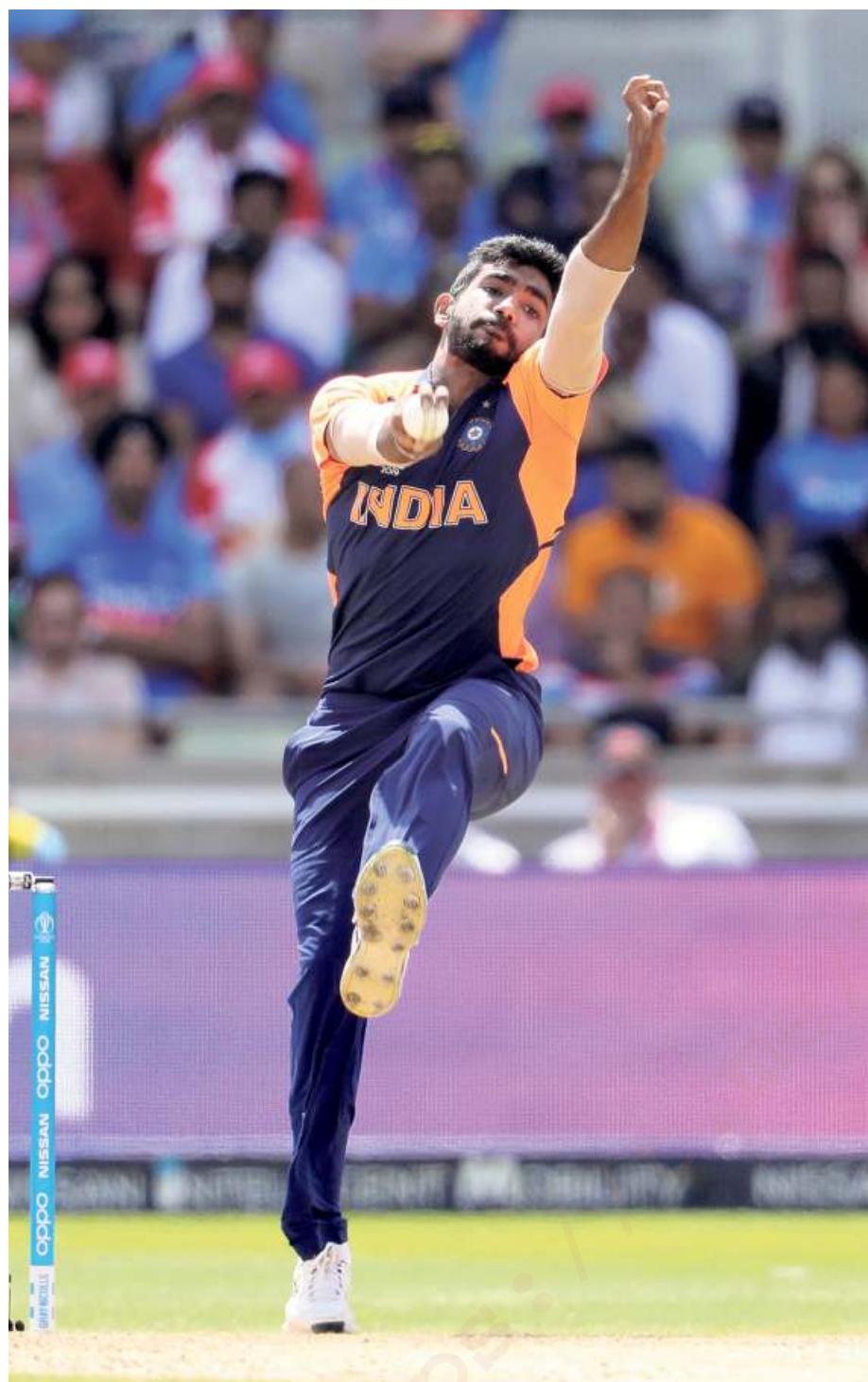
#### North Eastern Railway

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 01/PSC/2019 Dated 28.06.2019 On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-Procurement Tenders:

S.	Open Tender No./Due on	Description of Materials	
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# In Bumrah, India has unearthed the real deal

From a conveyor belt that has thrown up trundlers and express-quicks, the pacer's unconventional action stands apart



**One of a kind:** Jasprit Bumrah's bowling action may be quirky, but top batsmen from across the board agree that he is one of the best in the business. •AP



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

LEEDS

Discussions about Indian cricket's lineage are often centred around wristy batsmen and wily spinners. It is as recurrent as water-melon slices sold on Indian streets during summer.

But India does have a tradition of fast bowling. It may be muted when compared to the riches in batting and the slow art of turn but there were purveyors who dispensed the red cherry at high velocity. When the weather-beaten pages of history are flipped, there are stirring references to the fast-men.

Former England captain Walter Hammond said this about Amar Singh, who bowled in India's inaugural Test at Lord's in 1932: "He is as dangerous an opening bowler as I have ever seen, coming off the pitch like the crack of doom". Interestingly, Amar Singh was partnered by the equally fiery Mohammad Nissar.

**Varied range**  
As the years rolled by, the conveyor belt threw up a varied range. Some trundled in with a gentle rhythm, others bowled medium-pace and a few were express-quick. Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath and Zaheer Khan lit up the legacy that Amar Singh and Nissar first shaped.

And in this digital age of Twitter-brevity, it walks Jaspit Bumrah with his lopsided grin and whirring arms that hypnotise willow-wielders. A series of rapid steps explodes into the shortest of sprints and then Bumrah leaps, his back arches in an exaggerated fashion and as the non-bowling arm leads the way, the right hand is a blur.

At the other end, a nervous batsman tries to counter whatever Bumrah can come up with, be it a delivery hovering temptingly around the off-stump, a yorker threatening toes and timber, a bouncer or even a slower-ball. It isn't easy squaring up to Bumrah's thunderbolts and none are spared, even his team-mates at nets. Virat Kohli vouched for this trait and some paid a price too like Vijay Shankar did with a fractured toe while Bumrah's preamble remains constant: "If I practise better, I bowl better."

**Drastically abridged**  
Bumrah's method isn't part of the conventional grid. The long looping run gaining pace before it culminates in the leap and delivery, the usual attribute of fast bowlers, has been drastically abridged in his case. He could be inflicting bio-mechanical stress upon his torso while generating all that pace from his shoulder but so far it has worked wonderfully well for him and India reaped the rewards.

It wasn't supposed to be this way because unconventional merchants of lightning were supposed to be found only in Sri Lanka. We still have Lasith Malinga, who with his slinging action is still raging against the light in his

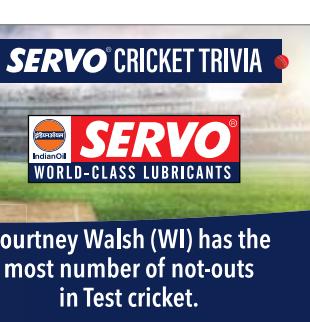
last World Cup. It is sheer serendipity that both Malinga and Bumrah turn out for Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League. Obviously notes have been exchanged and surely the baton has been passed as Bumrah's skills, especially in the death overs, has won universal acclaim.

Through this World Cup, stars ranging from Chris Gayle to Aaron Finch have referred to Bumrah as the number one bowler. The words were uttered with respect and while his peers treat him with awe, the man in the vortex of attention, takes all this lightly. Wickets are taken, scoring-rate is slowed down but there are no exaggerated mannerisms. He is never rushed on the turf except while scampering in the deep to stop a four.

**Astounding economy**  
While India sealed its semifinal spot, Bumrah deserves

much needed triumph and qualified for the last-four. When the great Waqar Younis did duty for Pakistan, in the neighbouring land there was always this yearning for an equivalent hero, someone who could scatter stumps with regularity. Zaheer did his bit but in Bumrah, India has unearthed the real deal. Shami isn't far too behind either.

It isn't as though Bumrah had an easy World Cup. In



**Kohli's men opt to rest**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LEEDS

The Men in Blue opted to rest here on Thursday, preferring to be in their rooms besides sweating at the team hotel's gym. Initially a round of optional nets at an alternate venue was considered since Headingly got busy with the World Cup game between the West Indies and Afghanistan. But the plan was shelved while Sri Lanka, India's opponent for Saturday's match, trained at the Leeds University Ground.

**Rijiju wishes team ahead of semifinals**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday sent his wishes to the Indian cricket team ahead of its ICC World Cup semifinals.

Rijiju conveyed his wishes through a letter.

Rijiju wrote, "The whole nation is inspired by your team's performance. Your passion, skills, togetherness and sportsmanship have been commendable throughout all the matches.

"A billion cheers galore as you go into play in the semifinals, hoping that this success continues through to the final, and you bring home the World Cup."

## 'Universe Boss' Gayle — omnipresent as ever

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

LEEDS

The World Cup scripts fresh chapters and equally ushers in the last curtain. It is a cycle that repeats every four years where some teams gain fresh wind and veteran stars bid the long good-bye.

**All eyes on Gayle**  
As the West Indies and Afghanistan clashed in an inconsequential game at Headingly here on Thursday, all eyes were on Chris Gayle.

This was supposed to be the last outing for the Universe Boss until he revealed plans of perhaps bowing out after the home series later against India.

Yet, one thing is certain; the big-built Jamaican will not be seen in another World

Cup. He is 39 and his best years have lapsed.

The belligerent opener failed to fire, falling cheaply for just seven but when Afghanistan commenced its pursuit, Gayle was omnipresent.

The southpaw lumbered at first slip, often appealing in hope, arms flung wide and topped with a longing gaze at the umpire. As always, the crowd rooted for him.

Later, he tumbled from his great height as Rahmat Shah popped a catch off Carlos Brathwaite. Gayle moved a touch gingerly and as the shot dipped, he dived and snapped up just before the ball grazed the grass. He just lay there, like a huge ship that ran aground.

Yes, he scored massive runs clipped at a break-neck speed, be it Tests, ODIS or Twenty20 leagues. And he also suffered notoriety with his damning streaks of mis-

gony.

But above all, Gayle would remain the last of those players with a distinct style,

who refused to be slotted. Importantly, he always connected with the fans, not for him the ivory tower.

speed, be it Tests, ODIS or Twenty20 leagues. And he also suffered notoriety with his damning streaks of mis-

gony.

But above all, Gayle would remain the last of those players with a distinct style,

who refused to be slotted. Importantly, he always connected with the fans, not for him the ivory tower.

Shimron Hetmyer (39).

Gayle was caught behind after a slash against Dawlat Zadran for just seven and remained 10 short of Brian Lara's all-time West Indian record of 10,348 ODI runs.

Pooran picked up where he left off against Sri Lanka, hitting 58 to add to his century. Holder hit a quickfire 45 while Carlos Brathwaite lashed 14 off four balls.

In reply, Ali Khil put on 133 for the second wicket with Rahmat Shah (62) and there were notable contributions by Najibullah Zadran and Asghar Afghan, but ultimately the team did not have the batting firepower to get over the line.

Zadran run out 31 (38b, 1x4, 1x6), Asghar Afghan c Holder b Brathwaite 40 (32b, 4x4, 1x6), Mohammad Nabi c Allen b Roach 2 (6b), Samiullah Shinwari c Hetmyer b Roach 6 (9b), Rashid Khan c Holder b Brathwaite 9 (16b, 1x6), Dawlat Zadran c Cottrell b Brathwaite 1 (2b), Sayed Shirzad c Allen b Thomas 25 (17b, 2x4, 2x6), Mujeeb Ur Rahman (not out) 7 (5b, 1x4); Extras (lb-2, w-10, nb-2); Total (in 50 overs): 288.

**WEST INDIES BOWLING**

Cottrell 7-0-43-0, Roach 10-

23-7-3, Thomas 7-0-43-1,

Holder 8-0-46-0, Allen 3-0-

26-0, Brathwaite 9-0-63-4,

Gayle 6-0-28-1.

**Toss:** West Indies.

West Indies won by 23 runs.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

West Indies won by 23 runs.

We beat England in the Test

series and we drew the one-

day series but it doesn't

mean that we are going to

leave our shore and be the

same," Lara said.

**Revival**

West Indies, one of the two

teams that entered the World

Cup through a qualification

tournament, started on an

impressive note but fizzled

out as the campaign pro-

gressed. Lara hoped its re-

cent success in white flannels

against England will pave

way for a revival of sorts.

"What I am excited about

is the fact that we are now

starting to be good at home.

We beat England in the Test

series and we drew the one-

day series but it doesn't

mean that we are going to

leave our shore and be the

same," Lara said.

"And India is a country ve-

ry similar to that. Back in

1980s and 1990s, you come

to India, you could not beat

them, but the minute India

travelled, they did not look

the same team. But today, at

home they (West Indies) are

bad and away from home,

they are even badder (worse), as we would say in

Jamaica."

The legendary batsman

the early games, he bowled a touch short and was vulnerable to the cut and pull. But as the campaign warmed, his radar was back in the zone.

As India gears up for its last set of contests in the World Cup, Bumrah will have to do what he does best, pushing the speed-gun and gifting trepidation to the opposition.

Against Bangladesh when its tail-enders targeted a miracle, Bumrah fired his yorkers and India secured its

## Mission impossible

SHAYAN ACHARYA

LONDON

The last time Pakistan faced Bangladesh in a World Cup fixture, it faced shock defeat against the minnows. That was in 1999.

While Bangladesh has crashed out, Pakistan has a mathematical chance of reaching the last-four. However, for that to happen, it has to win the toss at Lord's on Friday and then defeat

Bangladesh by a 316-run margin.

"It is very difficult. 316 runs is a big margin. Only if you're batting first, you can score 500 or 600," said Sarfaraz. "We're just interested in finishing the tournament on a high and doing our best against Bangladesh."

Bangladesh, which has won its last four matches against Pakistan, will play its maiden ODI at Lord's.

THE FACE-OFF

Pakistan vs Bangladesh

LORD'S

SARFARAZ

HEAD-TO-HEAD

MORTAZA

Overall 36 31 5 0 0

World Cup 1 0 1 0 0

LIVE ON STAR STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

## West Indies wards off Afghan challenge

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LEEDS

Chris Gayle removed Afghanistan top-scorer Ikrak Ali Khil with his off-breaks as the West Indies secured just its second win of a chastening World Cup campaign on Thursday.

The Caribbean side scored 311 for six in its 50 overs and although the Afghans put up a brave fight, they ultimately went down by 23 runs.

Gayle, almost certainly playing in his final World Cup match at the age of 39, failed with the bat but struck with the ball, trapping Ali Khil lbw for 86 in the 36th over to put a dent in Afghanistan's slim hopes of victory.

### SCOREBOARD AFGHANISTAN VS WEST INDIES

**WEST INDIES**  
Chris Gayle c Ikrak b Dawlat 7 (18b, 1x4), Evin Lewis c Nabi b Rashid 58 (7b, 6x4, 2x6), Shai Hope c Rashid b Nabi 77 (92b, 6x4, 2x6), Shimron Hetmyer c sub b Dawlat 39 (31b, 3x4, 2x6), Nicholas Pooran run out 58 (43b, 6x4, 1x6), Jason Holder c sub b Dawlat 45 (34b, 1x4, 4x6), Carlos Brathwaite (not out) 14 (4b, 2x4, 1x6), Fabian Allen (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-4, w-9); 13; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 311.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

# Nadal overcomes Kyrgios; Federer cruises

Davis dethrones Kerber even as Isner & Cilic's campaigns end; Djokovic and Gauff keep delighting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON  
Rafael Nadal defeated Nick Kyrgios 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(3) in a stormy and bad-tempered Wimbledon second round encounter on Centre Court on Thursday.

It was Nadal's 50th win at the tournament as he continues his push for a third Wimbledon title and 19th Major.

Kyrgios twice served underarm on game point, was handed a code violation for unsportsman-like behaviour and waged a bitter war of words with umpire Damien Dumusois. Nadal will face France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga for a place in the last 16.

Earlier, eight-time champion Roger Federer eased into the third round beating British wild card Jay Clarke 6-1, 7-6(3), 6-2 to equal American legend Jimmy Connors' record of 17 appearances in the last 32.

On the women's side, there will be a new name adorning the trophy as defending champion Angelique Kerber went out to lucky loser Lauren Davis 2-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Federer and Nadal's half of the draw lost two of the potentially more awkward customers in big serving duo John Isner and Marin Cilic.

Ninth-seeded Isner fell to unseeded Kazakh Mikhail Kukushkin 6-4, 6-7(3), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in just over three hours of play, while Cilic, the 13th seed and finalist in 2017, lost in straight sets to Portugal's Joao Sousa, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

## Scare for Serena

There was a scare for seven-time champion Serena Williams, who dropped the first set against 18-year-old Slovenian qualifier Kaja Juvan before prevailing 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Ashleigh Barty's bid to become the first woman since Serena in 2015 to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year stayed on track with a 6-1, 6-3 second round victory over Belgium's Alison van Uytvanck.

## Moving ahead

On Wednesday, four-time champion Novak Djokovic reached the third round for the 11th successive year while 15-year-old Cori Gauff aimed to write another episode in her history-making All England Club debut.

Top seed Djokovic hit 13 aces and 37 winners as he eased past Denis Kudla of the United States, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Coco Gauff reached the third round by beating 2017 semifinalist Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia 6-3, 6-3 under the new Court One roof.

The American schoolgirl is the youngest player in the last 32 since Jennifer Capriati, also 15, went all the way to the semifinals 28 years ago.



**Memorable win:** Lauren Davis bounced back to knock out Angelique Kerber. ■ AP



**Who is 'Coco' Gauff?**

**Age:** 15  
**Born:** Atlanta, Georgia  
**Currently ranked:** 313  
**Coach:** Corey Gauff

■ **Youngest ever girls' finalist, US Open 2017**  
■ **Second youngest winner of the junior's title, Roland Garros, 2018**  
■ **Youngest player in the Open Era to qualify for the main draw at Wimbledon 2019.** She is yet to drop a set in her five matches in the tournament, including three qualifiers

## IMPORTANT RESULTS

**Men: Second round:** John Millman (Aus) bt 31-Laslo Djere (Srb) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; Dan Evans (GBR) bt 18-Nikoloz Basilashvili (Geo) 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(2).

8-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) bt Cameron Norrie (GBR) 6-4, 6-4, 6-0; Steve Johnson (USA) bt 25-Alex de Minaur (Aus) 3-6, 7-6(4), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; 33-Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) bt Taylor Fritz (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(2); Sam Querrey (USA) bt Andrey Rublev (Rus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

2-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Jay Clarke (GBR) 6-1, 7-6(3), 6-2; Joao Sousa (Por) bt 13-Marin Cilic (Cro) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Mikhail Kukushkin (Kaz) bt 9-John Isner (USA) 6-4, 6-7(3), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Denis Kudla (USA) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Corentin Moutet (Fra) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Fernando Verdasco (Esp) bt 30-Kyle Edmund (GBR) 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(3), 6-3, 6-4;

4-Kevin Anderson (RSA) bt Janko Tipsarevic (Srb) 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-4; 26-Guido Pella (Arg) bt Andreas Seppi (Ita) 6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1.

3-Rafa Nadal (Esp) bt Nick Kyrgios (Aus) 3-6, 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(3); 17-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) bt Marcos Baghatis (Cyp) 6-1, 7-6(4), 6-3.

27-Lucas Pouille (Fra) bt Gregoire Barrere (Fra) 6-1, 7-6(4), 6-4; Jo-Wilfred Tsonga (Fra) bt Ricardo Berankis (Ltu) 7-6(4), 6-3, 6-3.

**Doubles: First round:** Wesley Koolhof (Ned) & Marcus Daniell (NZ) bt Rohan Bopanna (Ind) & Pablo Cuevas (Uru) 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6(7).

**Women: Second round:** 11-Serena Williams (USA) bt Kaja Juvan (Slo) 2-6, 6-2, 6-4; 13-Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt Kaia Kanepi (Est) 6-3, 6-1.

Magda Linette (Pol) bt 25-Amanda Anisimova (USA) 6-4, 7-5; 18-Julia Gorges (Bel) bt

Varvara Flink (Rus) 6-1, 6-4.  
19-Johanna Konta (GBR) bt Katerina Siniakova (Cze) 6-3, 6-4; 4-Kiki Bertens (Ned) bt Tanya Townsend 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-2.

1-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) bt Alison Van Uytvanck (Bel) 6-1, 6-3; 15-Wang Qiang (Chn) bt Tamara Zidansek (Slo) 6-1, 6-2; 9-Sloane Stephens (USA) bt Wang Yafan (Chn) 6-0, 6-2; 6-Petra Kvitova (Cze) bt Kristina Mladenovic (Fra) 7-5, 6-2.

Lauren Davis (USA) bt 6-Angelique Kerber (Ger) 2-6, 6-2, 6-1; 24-Petra Martic (Cro) bt Anastasia Potapova (Rus) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 1-Danielle Collins (USA) bt 12-Anna Seastova (Lat) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Polona Hercog (Slo) bt 17-Madison Keys (USA) 6-2, 6-4; Coco Gauff (USA) bt Magdalena Rybarikova (Svk) 6-3, 6-3; 14-Caroline Wozniacki (Den) bt Veronika Kudermetova (Rus) 7-6(5), 6-3.

## PASSING SHOTS



**Nadal could have been a fantastic footballer: Mourinho**

Jose Mourinho believes Rafael Nadal would have made "a fantastic footballer" had he chosen tennis. "He's incredible. He could

have been a fantastic footballer with his physique, mentality and skill," said the Portuguese, who worked with Nadal's uncle, Miguel Angel when he was on the coaching staff at Barcelona. "I am happy that he isn't a footballer. In tennis he is what he is."

### Tomic docked for tanking

Australia's Bernard Tomic was stripped of his entire £45,000 Wimbledon prize money for tanking his first round match which was over in just 58 minutes, officials announced.

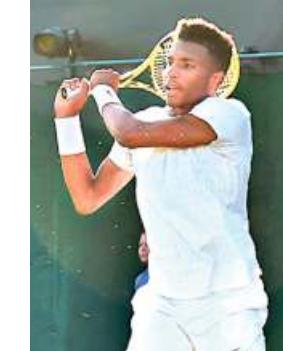
The controversial Tomic, who had been accused of not trying previously in his

career, lost 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 to France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

### Legend Ashe benchmark for Auger-Aliassime

Canadian teenager Felix Auger-Aliassime has been compared to Arthur Ashe, the only black man to win three Grand Slams, and he said on Wednesday he would love to emulate the American legend. The 18-year-old, the youngest in the men's singles, said Ashe, who won Wimbledon in 1975 to add to his US Open (1968) and Australian Open (1970), was to be admired not only for what he achieved on court but also off it.

"Obviously, he's a big model



for me but also many players. But he was just a great human and he kind of changed things in a sport and in his life, and he changed a lot of people's lives."

20 Electronic watch allowed to cover the fugitive (7)

22 Clog boats at sea (5)

24 Soldiers hurry, worker finds it offensive (9)

26 Fresh group of people leave for the city (9)

27 Subject discussed in the meeting (5)

28 A deposit that makes child fat (7,6)

■ **DOWN**

2 Hang if a criminal gets money (7)

3 Complaint heard about girl's voice (9)

4 Surveillance as one comes under bill of rights all around (5)

5 Correct one – honest, as it should be... (2,3,4)

6 ...or Queen announces knighthood for Root (5)

7 Anti revolutionary checks way to subvert... (7)

8 ...or rubs Bengalii the wrong way calling for a bandh (6-7)

9 New best seller, let it become a literary work in French (6,7)

15 Compound interest? One lodges a complaint (9)

17 Climb from bottom to top, a system goes up (9)

19 Erect single silo for missile launcher, reduce weight (7)

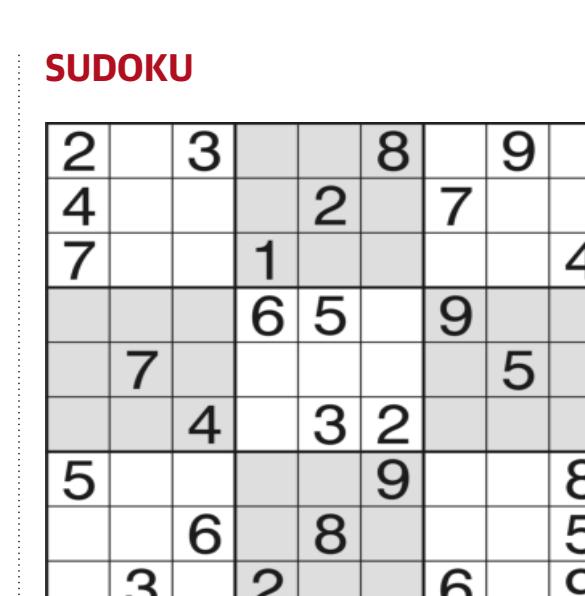
21 Level off on gold disc (7)

23 Ship's first mate is soaked in gin (5)

25 Fold in with a simple attachment (5)

(set by Arden)

**SUDOKU**



**DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★**

**Solution to puzzle 12669**

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

## FAITH

### The greater avatar

While the Supreme One incarnated many times, ten avatars of His are usually spoken of elaborately. And of these ten, the Rama avatar and Krishna avatar are considered pura avatars, that is the most complete avatars. And of these two, the Krishna avatar is superior, thereby making it the best of all the Lord's avatars, said Kidambi Narayanan, in a discourse. Rama showed the importance of adherence to dharma. The word dharma itself is, however, hard to define, often being different in different situations. That is why we talk of sadharana dharma and visesha dharma. We are asked to be merciful and forgiving. But what if someone is a ruler? Can he forgive mistakes and move on? Will that not harm his subjects? He is in the position of having to punish. So, the sadharana dharma of forgiving does not hold good in his case. His visesha dharma is to punish. Given the difficulties in properly defining what dharma is, Rama's constant keeping to dharma is an admirable trait of His.

But why is it then that the Krishna avatar is said to be even greater than the Rama avatar? It is because of Krishna's leelas. Rama is not known for His leelas. In just ten slokas, Valmiki talks of His birth, His being named, His education, etc. He says the four sons of Dasaratha studied the Vedas, and so they always abided by dharma. Rama's childhood is covered very quickly. But Krishna's birth itself is a leela – born in a prison and carried away the same night to Gokulam. Every leela has a message. The lifting of the Govardhana hill gives us the message that He will always save us, if we trust Him. Brahma Mohanam shows us that we should shed our ego, for in this leela, Brahma is taught a lesson because of his ego. Rasa leela shows that we can serve Him only if He wills it.

## IN BRIEF

### Steve Waugh to mentor Aussies during Ashes

SYDNEY  
Australia's hopes of winning an Ashes series in England for the first time in 18 years have been boosted by former Test captain Steve Waugh agreeing to mentor the side.

Waugh was enlisted by coach Justin Langer, who has made a point of bringing in former greats to help rebuild the team's image. Ricky Ponting is currently assisting him at the World Cup. The first Ashes Test starts at Edgbaston on August 1. AFP



**Australia opener Burns back after fatigue disorder**

SYDNEY  
Australia Test opener Joe Burns has been cleared to play again after being diagnosed with a fatigue disorder which threatened his chances of being part of the Ashes series against England. The 29-year-old was diagnosed with "post-infectious fatigue disorder", stemming from an October 2018 viral infection. Burns has spent the past fortnight training, including sessions with Darren Lehmann. AFP



**Lampard returns to Chelsea as head coach**

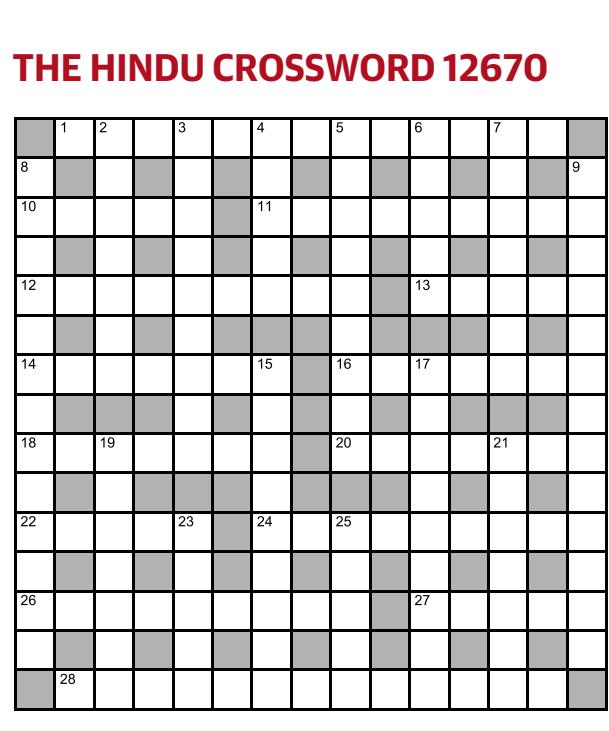
LONDON  
Frank Lampard was appointed Chelsea head coach on Thursday. Lampard has signed a three-year contract with the Premier League club, where he spent 13 years and became the team's all-time leading scorer with 211 goals. The former England midfielder succeeds Maurizio Sarri after just one season in management, having led Derby to the Championship play-off final in May. Lampard made 648 appearances for Chelsea, winning three Premier League titles, four FA Cups and two League Cups, as well as the Europa League and the Champions League. AFP



**Buffon back 'home'**

ROME  
Former Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has returned to Juventus on a one-year contract after a season spent at PSG. The 41-year-old, who will be number two to Polish keeper Wojciech Szczesny, previously spent 17 seasons with the Turin club, winning nine Serie A titles and playing three Champions League finals. AFP

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12670



### ACROSS

1 For a bounder, it's nothing – in short you can get instant justice here (8,5)

10 Arranging help, at the core there is an investor (5)

11 Calculate the time in crossing a river (9)

12 Fish by the lake, consume right in the restaurant (9)

### DOWN

2 Hang if a criminal gets money (7)

3 Complaint heard about girl's voice (9)

13 Cloak worn by husband breaking laws (5)

14 Best example of a short story book (7)

16 Anonymous nonsense about unity (7)

18 Not

## TV PICKS

**ICC World Cup:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.  
**Wimbledon:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 5.15 p.m.; SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



**Willian to miss Copa final with hamstring injury**  
RIO DE JANEIRO Brazil's attacking midfielder Willian will miss Sunday's Copa America final against Peru after injuring his hamstring, the tournament host said on Wednesday. A Brazil football federation (CBF) spokesman said Willian had felt "pain in his hamstring" and was sent for tests on Wednesday afternoon where it was found that he had a "pulled muscle." Brazilian media said he was injured during Tuesday's match. AFP



**City gets Angelino back from PSV Eindhoven**

MANCHESTER CITY re-signed Spanish defender Angelino from PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday after the Premier League champion activated his £5.3 million buy-back clause. Angelino left City last year but boss Pep Guardiola was impressed enough with his progress in the Netherlands to decide to bring him back. AFP

## Arjen Robben hangs up his boots

THE HAGUE Dutch winger Arjen Robben announced his retirement from professional football on Thursday at the age of 35 after a 10-year spell with German giant Bayern Munich. AFP

## Jamshedpur FC ropes in 18-year-old Jitendra

JAMSHEDPUR Jamshedpur FC on Thursday announced the signing of 18-year-old defender Jitendra Singh from I-League side Indian Arrows. The youngster has penned a three-year deal. IANS

**Annual recognition procedure for NSFs introduced**  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday gave assurance in the Lok Sabha that steps have been taken to ensure transparency and accountability in the functioning of the national sports federations (NSFs).

Replying to a question from Tukaram Godse, MP, Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "From 2010, the Government has introduced a system of annual recognition procedure for the NSFs, under which annual recognition is granted to those NSFs which comply with the provisions of the National Sports Development Code of India."

Regarding details of the elections conducted in these associations, the Government said information was being collected from the NSFs.

The Government, while giving details of the 56 NSFs functioning in the country, also said model election guidelines have been formed to be followed by the NSFs with instructions on democratic and healthy management practices, age and tenure limits of office-bearers.

In response to a question from Sunil Kumar Mondal, MP, the Sports Ministry said the

"The NSFs have been notified to ensure transparency and accountability in their functioning, adopt and follow the basic universal principles of good governance in sports, prevent age fraud and sexual harassment of women and comply with the provisions of Right To Information."

## Inspired Peru dethrones Chile

Will now face Brazil, which had thrashed it 5-0 in the group stage, in title clash

## COPA AMERICA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PORTO ALEGRE

Peru stunned defending champion Chile 3-0 to reach the final of the Copa America for the first time in 44 years.

Goals from Edison Flores, Yoshimar Yotun and Paolo Guerrero handed Peru a deserved win which sends it into a final against Brazil at the Maracana Stadium on Sunday.

Little was expected of Peru in the knock-out stages after it ended the group phase with a humbling 5-0 thrashing by Brazil.

**Riding its luck**  
But after riding its luck – and being saved by VAR three times – to beat Uruguay on penalties in the quarterfinals, it was a completely rejuvenated outfit in Porto Alegre.

Goalkeeper Pedro Gallese saved a penalty and made a number of other vital stops.

From the start Peru dominated the reigning champion, with Christian Cueva wastefully shooting wide two mi-



**Stunner:** Edison Flores, left, lets fly a left-footed volley to open the scoring for Peru. AP

nutes in after he was teed up in space by his captain Guerrero.

Flores took advantage of an Erick Pulgar slip in midfield to dart towards goal but he dragged his weak shot woefully wide.

But a minute later he was alone at the back post to lash home left footed from an Andre Carillo flick on from Cueva's cross.

Yotun doubled the lead on 38 minutes after punishing Chile goalkeeper Gabriel

Arias's rush of blood to the head.

Guerrero put the icing on the cake in injury time after rounding Arias.

**The results:** Chile 0 lost to Peru 3 (Flores 21, Yotun 38, Guerrero 90+1).

## Mohun Bagan rekindles the idea of a unified league

Suggests formation of a 'way-forward committee'

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan has suggested the formation of a 'way-forward committee' to explore the possibility of a unified League as the future of Indian football.

Debasish Dutta, the club's finance secretary who attended the meeting hosted by AIFF president Praful Patel to hear the I-League clubs on Wednesday, said a solution could well be a possibility, now that all those who mattered in the "impasse" have decided to shed their egos and converged on the discussion table.

"We need to have a unified league but that needs to be structured. You cannot ignore club-based football but again you need a patron like FSDL to secure the future of Indian football," Dutta said while attending a panel discussion hosted by the Calcutta Sports Journalists Club

on Thursday.

"The way-forward com-

mittee will have representation from the national federation, FSDL and the clubs to effectively find a way to have a league structure that conforms to the FIFA statutes," he added.

Subrata Dutta, senior vice-president AIFF, said the clubs are quintessential to the growth of Indian football.

"Football is club-based all over the world. The sport would not grow if the club-based system is obliterated.

"We need a strong league in the country and in order to make it happen every unit involved in developing football, including the state associations, need to have a development plan," Dutta said.

The statement assumes significance ahead of the AIFF executive committee meeting, which among other things will discuss the future of I-League, on July 9.

tain Manoranjan Bhattacharya.

Noted footballer and coach Subhash Bhowmick also insisted on finding the right balance that would help nourish the Indian football ecosystem.

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## Real to open season away at Celta

## LA LIGA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MADRID

Eden Hazard is set to make his Real Madrid debut against Celta Vigo and Barcelona will begin its title defence away at Athletic Bilbao, according to the La Liga fixture list announced on Thursday.

The opening games are scheduled for August 18, but Hazard will have to wait for the second round to play his first Madrid match at the Santiago Bernabeu. ■ REUTERS



**The new home boy:** Eden Hazard will have to wait for the second round to play his first Madrid match at the Santiago Bernabeu. ■ REUTERS

boosted by what appears a kind early set of games. After Celta and Valladolid, it plays away at Villarreal and at home to Levante before a tougher trip to Sevilla, where former Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui is now in charge.

Barcelona's introduction looks more awkward. After Bilbao, the reigning champion is at home to Real Betis and away to newly-promoted Osasuna. Then it hosts Va-

lencia, who it lost to in the Copa del Rey final in May, before travelling to Granada, also just up from Segunda.

Atletico Madrid, last season's runners-up, begins at home to neighbour Getafe, which came fifth last term. Atletico faces Real Madrid in the first city derby at the Wanda Metropolitano on September 29 and Barcelona, also at home, on December 1.

## Mona, Reema, sharing a bond beyond the field

The duo played for India in Asia Cup, T20 World Cup and the World Cup in 2013

## CRICKET

BHRIGU BAGGA NEW DELHI

Playing a sport together builds partnerships that go beyond the field. Cricketers Mona Meshram and Reema Malhotra share such a bond.

Mona is a member of the Indian women's cricket team and plays for Railways under Mithali Raj. Reema, who retired from international cricket early this year, is now exploring the world of broadcasting.

## In ups and downs

After the National Cricket Academy camp at Bangalore, Mona travelled to Delhi to spend some quality time with her mentor-cum-friend. "A friend who keeps you motivated and grounded... Reema has been there with me in my ups and downs, having someone like her is really

precious," says Mona. The duo played for India in the Asia Cup, T20 World Cup and Reema's last World Cup in 2013.

Reflecting on her career, Mona says, "Initially when I was playing for Vidarbha, I never thought of the India jersey." "The idea was to enjoy playing. Then I started scoring at junior levels and got recognised by the BCCI. After that, I chose cricket as a

profession." Leagues like the Kia Super League, Women's Big Bash League, Women's Indian Premier League, etc. are gradually bringing about a revolution in women cricket. Some big names from India are part of these global leagues.

"There is no team which is perfect, and England has started to look dangerous. Once again, the host could be tough customers," she says.

Reema is looking forward to a possible India-England final in the World Cup. "Rohit has struck a purple patch. Look at Bumrah, he seems to be at a different level. I'm also highly impressed by Mohammad Shami," says Reema.

"Earlier, I had a bat in my hand. Now, it's a microphone. It was more about physical activity and now it's more mental. It is good to be sharing my experiences," says the former batting all-rounder.

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## Kashyap and Sourabh in last 16

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CALGARY

Former Commonwealth Games champion P. Kashyap and reigning National champion Sourabh Verma progressed to the pre-quarterfinals in a mixed day for India at the \$75,000 Canada Open Super 100 tournament here.

Kashyap defeated France's Lucas Corvee 21-12, 21-17, while Sourabh Verma bt B.R. Sankeerth 21-14, 21-11; Rajiv Ouseph bt Ajay Jayaram 21-19, 21-17; Koiki Watanabe (Jpn) bt H.S. Pranesh 21-16, 21-10; Weng Hong Yang bt Lakshya Sen 21-7, 21-13.

The results: P. Kashyap bt Lucas Corvee 21-12, 21-17; Sourabh Verma bt B.R. Sankeerth 21-14, 21-11; Rajiv Ouseph bt Ajay Jayaram 21-19, 21-17; Koiki Watanabe (Jpn) bt H.S. Pranesh 21-16, 21-10; Weng Hong Yang bt Lakshya Sen 21-7, 21-13.

Regarding details of the elections conducted in these associations, the Government said information was being collected from the NSFs.

The Government, while giving details of the 56 NSFs functioning in the country, also said model election guidelines have been formed to be followed by the NSFs with instructions on democratic and healthy management practices, age and tenure limits of office-bearers.

In response to a question from Sunil Kumar Mondal, MP, the Sports Ministry said the

## Neelash Saha continues to lead

## U-17 CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

West Bengal's second-seeded Neelash Saha hung on to his top spot after signing a peace treaty with top-seeded Statemate Aronyak Ghosh in the eighth round of the 30th National under-17 open chess championship at the Oberon Mall here on Thursday.

**Arjun in second spot**  
Saha has seven points from eight rounds while Delhi's Arjun Gupta (6.5) is second.

In the girls' section, Odisha's top-seeded Saina Saloni and Tamil Nadu's L. Jyothsna were at the top of

the heap with 6.5 points each from eight rounds.

**The results (eighth round):**  
**Open:** Aronyak Ghosh (WB, 6) drew with Neelash Saha (WB, 7).

Jayachandra Srinivas (TN, 6) drew with R. Sibi Visal (TN, 6); Arunachalam Shiva (TN, 5.5) lost to Arjun Gupta (Del, 6.5).

Wairagade Khush (Mah, 5) lost to Ayush Sharma (MP, 6); Vrandas Parekh (Guj, 5.5) drew with M. Mohammed Anees (TN, 5.5).

**Girls:** B. Kalyani (AP, 6) drew with Saina Saloni (Odi, 6.5); L. Jyothsna (TN, 6.5) bt V. Nanditha (TS, 5).

Samridhha Ghosh (WB, 6) bt Yuti Mayur Patel (Mah, 5).

M. Benasir (TN, 5) drew with Sneha Bharathakoti (TS, 5.5); Diya Chowdhury (WB, 5) drew with Shanya Mishra (Del, 5).

said Elavenil, who is being groomed under Project Leap of Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation.

## Pat from Gagan Narang

"I am proud of Elavenil. She is a great shooter and I believe she has all the ingredients to become a champion," said Gagan Narang.

## The results:

**10m air rifle: Women:** 1. Lucie Brazdova (Cze) 250.3 (UR) 628.1; 2. Elavenil Varalivan 249.0 (630.8 UR); 3. Ying-shin Lin (Tpe) 225.2 (629.8).

10. Aayushi Gupta 624.8; 62. Nina Chandel 610.6.



"I am thrilled by the achievement and want to thank all my coaches who have trained me so well,"

## Ramkumar moves up

## SPORTS BUREAU RECANATI (ITALY)

Ramkumar Ramanathan fired eight aces while sailing past Matteo Viola of Italy 6-4, 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals of the €46,600 Challenger tennis tournament here on Thursday.

**Other results:**  
**\$15,000 ITF men, Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal:** First round: Omni Kumar (US) bt Terence Das 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-2.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarca, Spain:** Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Vasilisa Apolonasenko (Rus) & Kerstin Peckl (Aut) bt Carina Marina Petrosan (Rou) & Radhika Yadav 6-0, 6-0.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Hu Hin, Thailand:** Pre-quarterfinals: Zeel Desai bt Sowjanya Bavisetti 1-0 (retd.).

Ridhima Dilawari shot

**Caught up in colour**

 When I ask Claude about the colour palette chosen for SMFFH, he smiles and holds up swatches of muted hues and fans them out for me to see. "There is one thing that is clear when we look at these tones: no red, a colour we associate with Spider-Man. We create everything around these actors, and working with visual effects elevated that." As shown in the trailer between the subdued shades of the stationary European buildings, Spider-Man is a bright red, dynamic dart.

 Additional challenges, though interesting, came about when they had to recreate certain European environments on a set. "We'd recreate Venice on the back-lot complete with imported gondolas and taxi-boats. Our visual effects department could then bring Venice to life. Special effects also had to recreate the blue-green water of Venice in our tank which was very challenging. With the cinematography team, there was a constant exchange of ideas, keeping in mind the lighting and such."

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI



French-Canadian production designer Claude Paré, who worked on *Spider-Man: Far From Home* and *Dark Phoenix*, talks about what it takes to create chaos



# Whole new worlds



What do *It*, *Dark Phoenix* and *Spider-Man: Far From Home* (SMFFH) have in common? Claude Paré is the production designer for the three films.

Over a Skype interview, the French-Canadian, currently in Montréal, looks relaxed after the non-stop work over the last few years with different crews.

Production designers are some of the unsung heroes behind the visual concept of a film. They essentially identify a design style for sets, locations, graphics, props, lighting, camera angles and costumes, while working closely with many other departments. Paré shares that he was working with different moods – from the tension and fear in *It* to the conflict and struggle in *Dark Phoenix*.

"The last few years, I have been working back-to-back on *It*, *Dark Phoenix* and SMFFH (the latter, directed by Jon Watts, released in the United States on July 2 and yesterday in India). I was on a roll, but at the end of SMFFH, I realised how much of a journey it was." He chuckles, "Getting these jobs is not easy; these are movies everyone wants to work on. So you have to adapt to the different moods of these films and crews."

He also needed to adapt to different genres and storylines. "The story was in the continuity of the other films so I had to learn about the whole franchise," Claude recalls, "Similarly, before doing *It*, I was not a fan of horror movies. The learning curve of apprenticeship is always very steep for any movie. With *Dark Phoenix* (which was shot in Montréal), there are sets we are familiar with like Cerebro and Hank's lab, although, we actually recreated Hank's lab for the film."

Claude has fulsome praise for Simon Kinberg who made his directorial debut with *Dark Phoenix*. "Simon has known the X-Men franchise very well having written *Apocalypse*, *Days of Future Past* and *Dark Phoenix*. His brief was to give a personality to the environments of all these characters and I was working on how to put everything together visually. I want each other to be happy, which is what I try to establish with every director."

SMFFH's trailer reveals Peter Parker, travelling around Europe as part of a school trip, fighting crime as per Nick Fury's orders,



**The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is incredibly secretive, you sign detailed Non Disclosure Agreements at the start of anything**

before running into super-villain Mysterio (played by Jake Gyllenhaal). For Claude, this meant several recces and working with international crews and departments.

Claude shares the process wasn't linear. "We and the core crew, which I formed (art directors, illustrators, a set decorator and a property master) were based in London. In January, I went on a recce to the Czech Republic, Spain and Italy. In the beginning, we didn't know in which country we'd shoot so I was scouting more locations than those finally used. That said, we didn't have a completed script till much later. Lots of ideas were on the table as to where and how we could do particular scenes but they weren't written down per se. I had built up a catalogue of locations and we'd coordinate with the script pages as they came in and distribute the scenes to the catalogue. It is back-

wards but that is how it was done."

Claude adds that some of what you may have seen in the trailers won't be in the film, adding, "For example, some trailers show Spider-Man arresting mobs in a restaurant; but it is not in the film. It was tricky to work backwards by splicing and assembling the visuals we had, to make it transparent. It keeps you on your toes; especially the fact that we were dealing with five countries and five art departments. There was an art director for each of the other countries... probably a total of 11 art directors including those in the UK."

**Covert globe-trotting**

With such mammoth moves underway, how do you keep a project with international fan-following under wraps? "The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is incredibly secretive, you sign detailed Non Disclosure Agreements at the start of anything," Claude admits, adding, "As they were putting together *Endgame* and *Infinity War*, there were so many things happening in those films which had to be reflected in ours. We were learning as those Marvel movies progressed. For director Jon Watts, it was tricky to reveal things and there were even moments we were asked to do things we didn't fully understand. It became clear as other films developed and were released. That was the nature of the beast. Sometimes we had to build sets two weeks before a shoot (design, construction and everything)."

Needless to say, SMFFH and *Dark Phoenix* have their fair share of chaos and destruction; that is a given with any MCU project. So what goes into designing chaos? "I always make a joke now; when we work on a budget, we make a line for the set and a line just below that for the 'destruction' because there is so much work going on and many resources. There is a moment in the trailer where Spider-Man meets Mysterio in a desolate location. It took forever to build this set. This intended location is a small town in ruins in Spain which is actually retained as a tourist spot. So much had to be observed and noted: the colour and texture of the rubble, the people walking about and the distress of the area. You have to build stuff up to break it apart so that it doesn't look like it has been broken by special effects. It is a huge job."

It is safe to say it requires the energy of the Avengers and espionage-like capabilities of S.H.I.E.L.D to pull off an MCU project.

## + FOOD SPOT



RAHUL VERMA

Two little words – chicken patties – and they open up a magical world. I wonder if any other people like their chicken patties as much as we Indians do. I, for one, am greatly fond of these buttery and fluffy chicken-filled puffs. Generally I like lamb a lot more than I enjoy chicken, but somehow chicken patties hit a spot that the lamb ones don't.

My first encounter with chicken patties was at Wenger's in Connaught Place eons ago. I think they still make the best patties, but there are other eateries in different parts of the city where you can get some excellent puffs, too. For instance, just a few days ago I had a chicken puff from a tiny place called Coffee Break in central Delhi, and was quite impressed by its taste, size and price.

Coffee Break is in the Constitution Club of India. The club, sandwiched between VP House (where I lived for many years) and Mavlankar Hall (where I saw a great many films and plays), is on Rafi Marg. You enter the club, walk down the corridor in front, and you will find this well-lit, cheerful-looking place, with a small sitting area. You can sit there at high tables and have a light



## Chicken-patty crush

The easily accessible Coffee Break, located in the Constitution Club of India, has a comprehensive menu of sandwiches and pizzas, apart from pastries and tarts

meal and coffee, or pack something to take back home.

The menu is pretty comprehensive, for such a tiny place. They have various kinds of sandwiches: Egg and Mustard (₹110), Chicken Ham and Cheese (₹110); Tomatoes, Cucumber and Cheese (₹100) and American Coleslaw (₹50). I had the

Egg and Mustard sandwich, which I thought was delightfully creamy.

They can rustle up a pizza for you, too (though, sadly, the pizza that I had been hearing good things about – with wild mushroom – has been taken off the menu). The Paneer Tikka Pizza costs ₹90, while the Herbed Chicken Pizza and Bar-

becue Chicken Pizza are at ₹100 each. They have added wraps to the menu now, with Falafel and Hummus Wrap (₹70), Chipotle Veggie Wrap (₹70), Chicken Shawarma Wrap (₹80) and Butter Chicken Wrap (₹80).

There are various kinds of pastries and tarts. And, yes, you can

**Wrap and roll** At the Constitution Club of India • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

have your chicken patties, too. The patties are big enough to be cut into two. The casing is flaky (a bit too flaky perhaps), but the mildly spicy chicken stuffing is delicious. I had it with my tea, and loved it. I also tried out the chicken sausage roll – a sausage wrapped in a small loaf (₹70) – and that wasn't bad either. I had some of their Focaccia (₹75) and Garlic Loaf (₹75) for dinner (with home-cooked Cajun chicken, I may as well add). The breads came with a small jar of salsa.

Coffee Break is open to all, seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (phone: 23711849, 2327337). It's humming with life, with a lot of young people stopping by for a cup of tea or coffee. The beverage list includes Masala Tea, Lassi, Latte, Flavoured Latte, Smoothies and Milkshakes. The shakes and flavoured cappuccino cost ₹70.

There is a restaurant next to it, too, but I shall write about it another day. All that I can tell you right now is that their three-bean salad deserves three cheers.

*The writer is a seasoned food critic*

## + PRODUCT

## Stay comfortable



Feminine hygiene brand Pee Safe, has launched a Period Care Box that takes a woman through three months of menstruation. The box includes 15 regular pads, 15 overnight ones, 16 panty liners, and what they call a cramp-relief roll-on. All products are organic cotton and hence biodegradable. Works well for the office and for the guest room.

Available at [peesafe.com](http://peesafe.com) and [Amazon.in](http://Amazon.in); ₹999

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



TALK

**Health**

Dr Nandita Shah, Nari Shakti Award recipient and founder of SHARAN, an organisation dedicated to holistic health awareness, will deliver a lecture titled, *Conquering Cancer*. In her talk, she will shed light on chemotherapy and radiotherapy and explain why cancer is common these days, and ways to prevent it.

**VENUE:** Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre

**TIME:** 7 p.m.



FOOD

**Special menu**

Titled Golden Triangle, this new menu at Indus Express is an amalgamation of dishes from Rajasthani, Mughlai and Awadhi cuisines. In addition to their regular dishes, this special curation offers Rajma Ki Gilawat, from Agra; Machhlai Jaisamandi from Jaipur; and Laccha Tokri Chat, from Delhi.

**VENUE:** Indus Express, Vivanta New Delhi

**TIME:** 7:30 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.



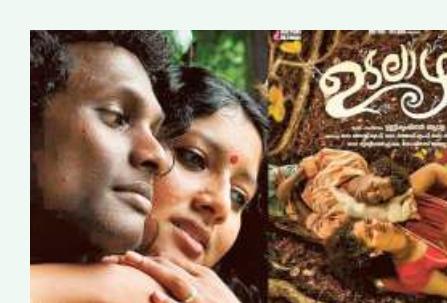
LECTURE

**Culture**

To mark the launch of its latest volume, Gandhara: A Confluence of Cultures, MARG has organised a series of four lectures, delivered by art curator, Prof. Naman P. Ahuja. In these richly illustrated lectures, Prof. Ahuja will use a series of 30 objects, to narrate a story of conflict and coexistence through history.

**VENUE:** Multipurpose Hall, IIC

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.



FILM

**Malayalam film**

Two films will be screened today as part of the ongoing Malayalam Film Festival. The first *Kanthan - The Lover of Colour*, directed by Shareef Easa, is a recipient of the Kerala State Award for best film. The second film *Body Deep (Udalazham)* is by director Unnikrishnan Avala.

**VENUE:** C. D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, Lodhi Road

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



DESSERT

**Ice Cream Social 3.0**

The third edition of Ice Cream Social, a two-day summer fiesta hosted by DLF Promenade, starts this Saturday. It brings to visitors the best ice creams, and will showcase an array of flavours. This include handcrafted dondurmas, Hong Kong waffles, ice cream tacos, and flavoured Kulfi from across ten brands.

**VENUE:** The Atrium, DLF Promenade, Vasant Kunj

**TIME:** 11:30 a.m. onwards

FILM REVIEW



Raising the bar A scene from the film ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has a lot riding, read: flying, on *Spider-Man Far from Home*. For one, it's the last film of the third phase, completing The Infinity Saga. Then there's the colossal fact that it follows the pop cultural phenomenon that is *Avengers: Endgame*. In the aftermath of the demise of several superheroes, the *Spider-Man* franchise not only had to hold on to its bubble-gum innocence but also push the character's boundaries.

The film, a sequel to 2017's *Homecoming*, also has to deal with last year's *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* that successfully brought the nostalgia of comic books to the big screen with path-breaking animation and an even better manipulation of the superhero's succession theories. Could 2019's Marvel Spidey live up to these challenges? The resounding answer is yes.

Rather than give audiences an Avengers-style mission, *Spider-Man: Far from Home* perfectly utilises its teenage playground to deliver several emotional punches with plenty of knee-slapping zingers and lots of unexpected twists. It's a classic Marvel enterprise, and yet director Jon Watts and writers Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers make *Far from*

beit aunt May (Marisa Tomei) has other ideas. But trouble has a way of finding the weary, in this case it's Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) with all his hard charisma and caustic one-liners. Giant monsters called Elementals, from other dimensions are wreaking havoc and Spider-Man has to step up. All help is welcome when Quentin Beck (Jake Gyllenhaal) a benevolent superhero from another dimension shows up to the fight.

Battle sequences, a watermark of the MCU takes a backseat in *Far from Home*. Instead, the film is a growing-into-his-own field for Spider-Man. Sure he messes up, which teen wouldn't. But it's up to Parker to let

his 'Spidey Tingle' lead the way. When the film's twist surfaces, it won't entirely be unpredicted. But *Far from Home* has other ideas to lasso in viewers, namely Holland's vulnerability and sincerity as Parker. Of course, kudos to Gyllenhaal who, as always in top form, makes character transitions appear seamless. But the real winner of the film - like it has been with every single Marvel outing - are the spectacular special effects that blur the lines between fantasy and reality. In this case, the audience, like Spider-Man is on tenterhooks waiting for the real to be revealed.

*Far from Home* could never and wasn't really intended to outperform or trump *Avengers: Endgame*. But it's a definitely earned a place in the MCU while being a fantastic sequel for *Homecoming*.

## Another swinging WIN FOR MARVEL

*Spider-Man: Far from Home* is a worthy sequel to the superhero's origins with lots of teenage fun

### POOCH CAFE



### PEANUTS



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



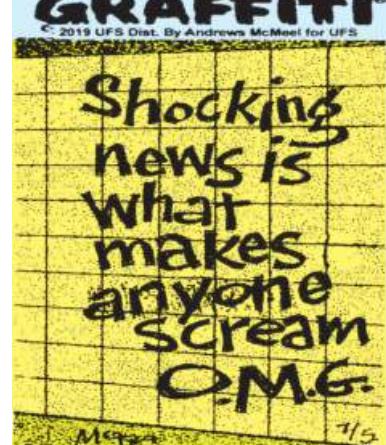
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



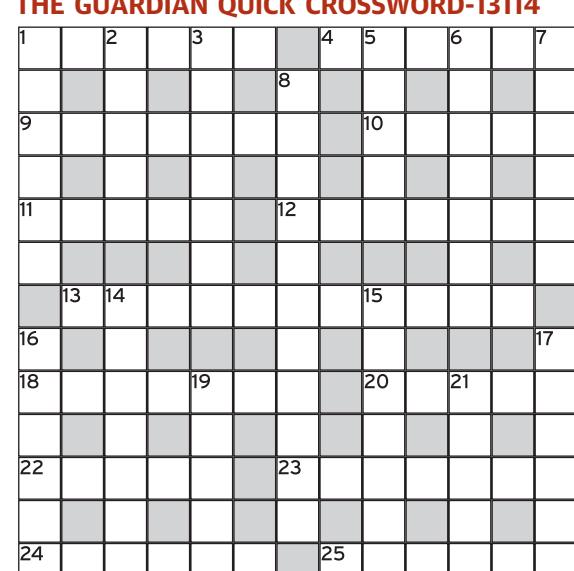
### TIGER



### GRAFFITI



### THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13114



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

- 5 Path around (5)
- 6 Gin and vermouth (7)
- 7 Hold close, affectionately (6)
- 8 Humiliating (11)
- 14 Embodiment (7)
- 15 Crate used by orators at Speakers' Corner? (7)
- 16 Deceive – lead on (6)
- 17 Painted or sculpted band running round under the ceiling (6)
- 19 External (5)
- 21 Tropical fruit with yellow skin and pink pulp (5)

Solution will appear in *The Hindu* dated July 6, 2019.

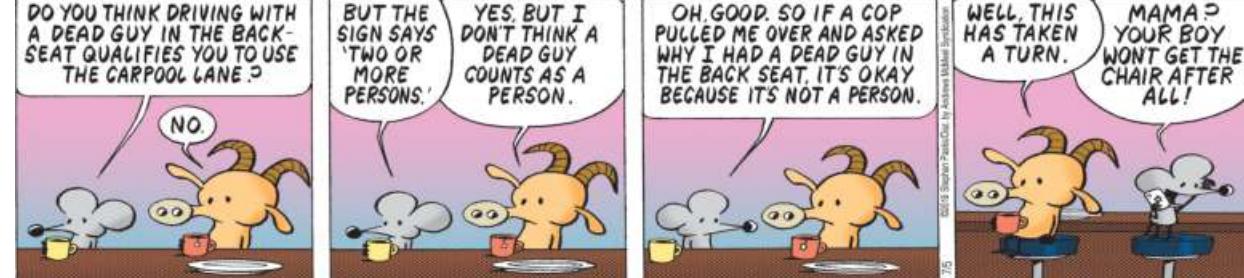
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### WUMO



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HOW MANY B VITAMINS ARE THERE?  
A VITAMIN B COMPLEX SUPPLEMENT INCLUDES ALL OF THIS VITAMIN B IN ONE PILL.  
THE VITAMIN B COMPLEX HAS EIGHT CONSTITUENTS, INCLUDING: B1 (THIAMINE), B2 (RIBOFLAVIN), B3 (NIACIN), B5 (PANTOTHENIC ACID), B6 (PYRIDOXINE), B7 (BIOTIN), B9 (FOLATE) AND VARIOUS FORMS OF B12 (COBALAMINS).  
Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic or therapeutic aid.

■ Across

- 1 Remove weapons from (6)
- 4 Large – universal (6)
- 9 Sturdy 'British' dog (7)
- 10 Fed up (5)
- 11 Staunch (5)
- 12 Undergoing court process (2,5)
- 13 Dinner jacket worn with a white shirt (informal) (7,4)
- 20 Irk (5)
- 22 Perch (5)
- 23 Anger at having been offended (7)
- 24 Work by Keats or Shelley, say (6)
- 25 Breathe out (6)

■ Down

- 1 Try something briefly and superficially (6)
- 2 Preposterous (5)
- 3 Sign of danger (or socialism)? (3,4)
- 18 Kenyan capital (7)

## IN BRIEF



## Greece's Acropolis shut down due to heat

ATHENS  
Greece's most famous archaeological site, the Acropolis, was shut to visitors for four hours on Thursday because of hot weather. The monument would remain closed in the afternoons if temperatures in Athens rose above 36°C, as the temperature on the Acropolis hill would be even higher, authorities said. AP



## YouTube's new policy bans hacking videos

SAN FRANCISCO  
Video-sharing giant YouTube has banned "instructional hacking and phishing" videos citing them as harmful or dangerous content under its recent policy update. The move has puzzled content creators who say that there is a lack of clarity on how the policy will be applied. IANS



## Volcano erupts in Sicily, one tourist killed

MILAN  
A volcanic eruption on the Sicilian island of Stromboli sent about 30 tourists jumping into the sea for safety on Wednesday as molten material ignited a series of fires. Authorities said that a hiker was killed during the eruptions. Italy's two other active volcanoes are Etna in Sicily and Vesuvius near Naples. AP

# Scientists find new gene linked to schizophrenia

Collaborative effort between Indian and Australian team aims to shed more light on the mental illness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MELBOURNE

After 18 years of research, Indian and Australian scientists have identified a new gene directly linked to schizophrenia.

Scientists from the University of Queensland (QBI) in Australia and a team of Indian researchers analysed the genomes of over 3,000 individuals and found those with schizophrenia were more likely to have a particular genetic variation.

The team of Indian re-



R. Thara

searchers was led by R. Thara, co-founder and director of the Chennai-based Schizophrenia Research Foundation.

Bryan Mowry from QBI said such studies had predo-

minantly been done in populations with European ancestry, with more than 100 schizophrenia-associated variants identified previously.

"Looking at other populations can highlight different parts of the genome with a more robust association with the disease," Dr. Mowry said.

"This study identified a gene called NAPRT1 that encodes an enzyme involved in vitamin B3 metabolism – we were also able to find this

gene in a large genomic data-

set of schizophrenia patients with European ancestry," he said.

#### Function in the brain

"When we knocked out the NAPRT1 gene in zebrafish, brain development of the fish was impaired – we are now working to understand more deeply how this gene functions in the brain," Dr. Mowry said.

"Our studies aim to shed more light on what makes people susceptible to schizophrenia and possible treat-

ments for the future," Dr. Mowry added. According to a statement released by the university, Dr. Mowry and Dr. Thara met in the late 1990s when they discussed studying a population in India.

"Thara is a driving force for research into schizophrenia in India and her team in Chennai has been central in recruiting patients, while QBI has been able to fund the processing of blood samples they've collected," Dr. Mowry said.

# Four tons favour the brave!



**Amul**  
**Super butter for super batter!**

daCunha/AB/562

# Arctic mission to 'trap' researchers in ice to study climate

Teams from 17 nations will take part in the year-long programme, where a research ship will allow itself to get stuck among floes in the ocean

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BREMERHAVEN

In a couple of months, the German icebreaker *RV Polarstern* will set out for the Arctic packed with supplies and scientific equipment for a year-long mission to explore the planet's frigid far north. The icebreaker will be the base for scientists from 17 nations studying the impact of climate change on the Arctic and how it could affect the rest of the world.

Scientists plan to sail the ship into the Arctic Ocean, tether it to a large piece of sea ice and allow the water to freeze around them, effectively trapping themselves in the vast sheet of white that forms over the North Pole each winter.

The organisers say that the project is unprecedented in scale and ambition. As temperatures drop and the days get shorter, the scientists will build temporary winter research camps on the ice, allowing them to perform tests that wouldn't be possible at other times of the year or by satellite sensing.



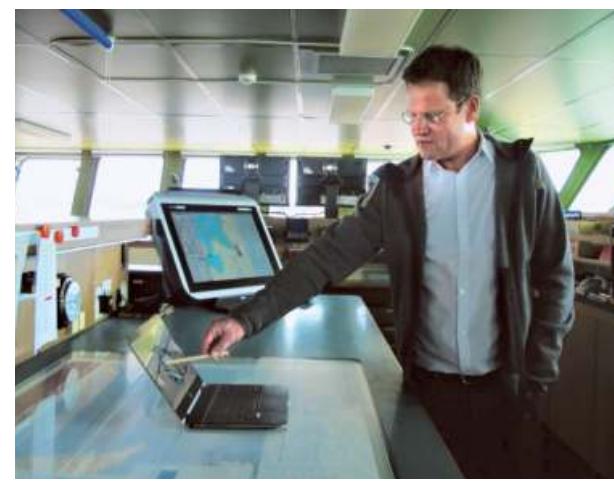
The mission's aim to un-

derstand global warming means there's no time for national rivalry, said Mr. Rex. Scientists from United States, China, Russia and other countries will be rotating every two months as other icebreakers bring fresh supplies.

By combining measurements on the ice with data collected from satellites,

scientists hope to improve the increasingly sophisticated computer models for weather and climate predictions.

"We can do a lot with robotics and other things but in the end the visual, the manual observation and also the measurement, that's still what we need," said Marcel Nicolaius, a German sea ice



**Sea fever:** The German Arctic research vessel *Polarstern*, left, is docked for maintenance in Bremerhaven, Germany, while atmospheric scientist and leader of the MOSAiC expedition Markus Rex, above, inspects maps on the bridge of the ship. • AP

physicist who will be part of the international mission.

#### Fully funded

The mission has received funding from U.S. institutions such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA.

Once the *Polarstern* is carried into the depth of the Arctic night, far off the coast of northern Greenland, the scientists will be on their own, making any emergency evacuation almost impossible.

Nonetheless, the ship has a fully equipped medical station to avoid any calamity on board, said Verena Mohaupt, a logistics expert who

has prepared elaborate safety measures for the ship.

The MOSAiC mission, which stands for Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate, comes about 125 years after Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen first managed to seal his wooden expedition ship, *Fram*, into the ice during a three-year expedition to the North Pole.

Scientists now believe that the cold cap that forms each year is key to regulating weather patterns across the Northern Hemisphere.

"The dramatic warming of the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic. We as scientists, I think, have the obligation to produce the robust scientific basis for political decisions," Mr. Rex said, adding that understanding the processes is crucial for world leaders to tackle climate change effectively.

# King Tut's statue sold amid protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

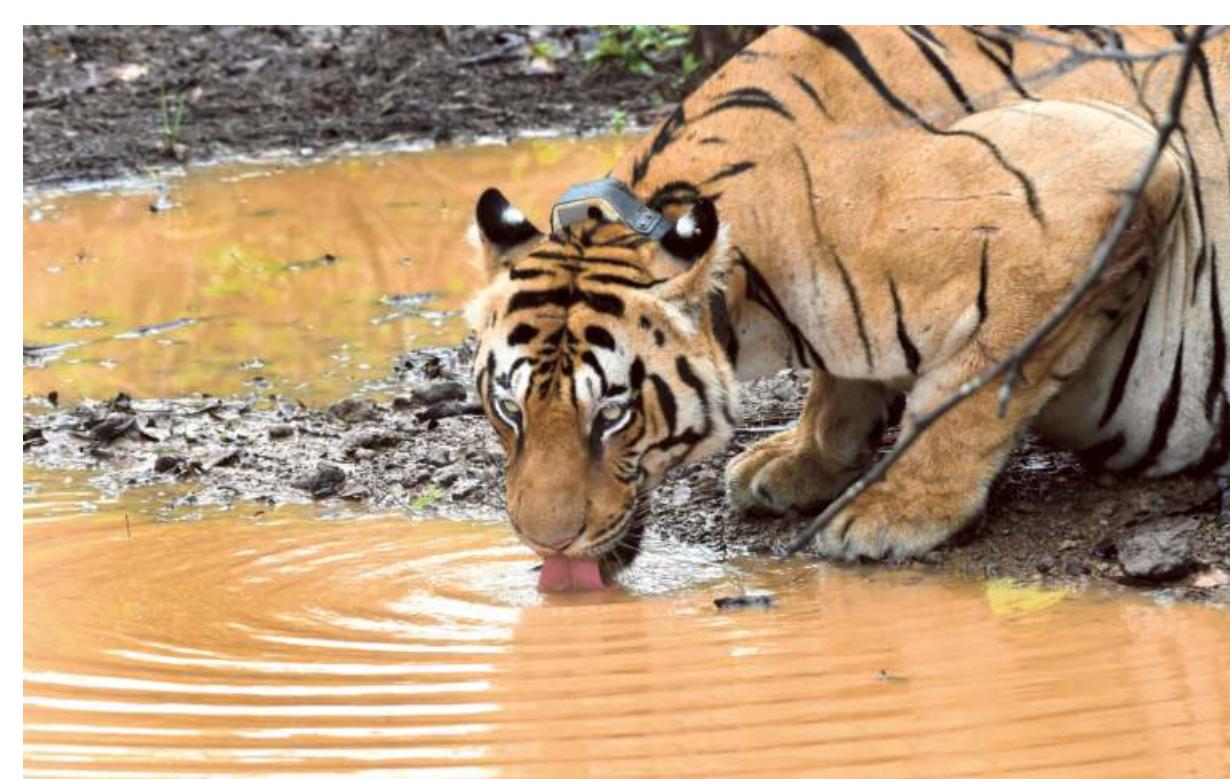
Christie's, a British auction house, has gone forward with the auction of a 3,000-year-old stone sculpture of the famed boy-pharaoh Tutankhamun despite protests from the Egyptian government.

The brown quartzite head depicting King Tut, one of the most prominent symbols of Egypt's history, was sold for more than \$5.9 million on Thursday evening.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry had demanded that the auction house provide documents proving the statue's ownership and said Egypt holds rights to the piece based on its current and previous laws.

But the auction house defended the sale saying that it carried out "due diligence" to verify the provenance of the statue.

# Circle of life



**Cooling off:** A tiger, named Chota Matka, making a brief appearance at a pool in the Tadoba National Park after concealing a partly-eaten kill in a nearby culvert on Thursday. • C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

# Man files cheating case against Hrithik over gym advertisement

Claims false promises were made by fitness company

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HYDERABAD

Actor Hrithik Roshan has been named in a charge of cheating along with three representatives of a health and wellness start-up, for which he was a brand ambassador.

The Hyderabad police registered the case based on a complaint by a customer who said that "false promises" were made by the company's advertisement on its fitness centre.

The complainant alleged that he was not given daily workout sessions at Cult.Fit wellness centre although he had paid the fee for "unlimited" classes. The company claimed that the customer had behaved "inappropriately and violently" with its staff and that he was wrong to drag the brand ambassador into the issue.



Hrithik Roshan

Bengaluru-based CureFit operates its chain of fitness centres under the brand 'Cult.Fit'.

The client lodged the complaint with police here on June 22 stating that in November 2018 he had enrolled at the fitness centre/gym paying ₹17,490 as mem-

ber for 10 months of unlimited classes, but was "cheated by not getting workout sessions daily".

"Most of the time the workout session is not available which is denying good health benefits," he said.

Following the complaint, a case under IPC sections 420 (cheating) and 406 (criminal breach of trust) was registered against the actor, being the firm's brand ambassador and three senior officials of the company, police said.

In a statement, Cult.Fit said it was cooperating with authorities "as per due process and evaluating remedial action". "The customer against whom we were constrained to take action had behaved inappropriately and violently with our staff," it said.

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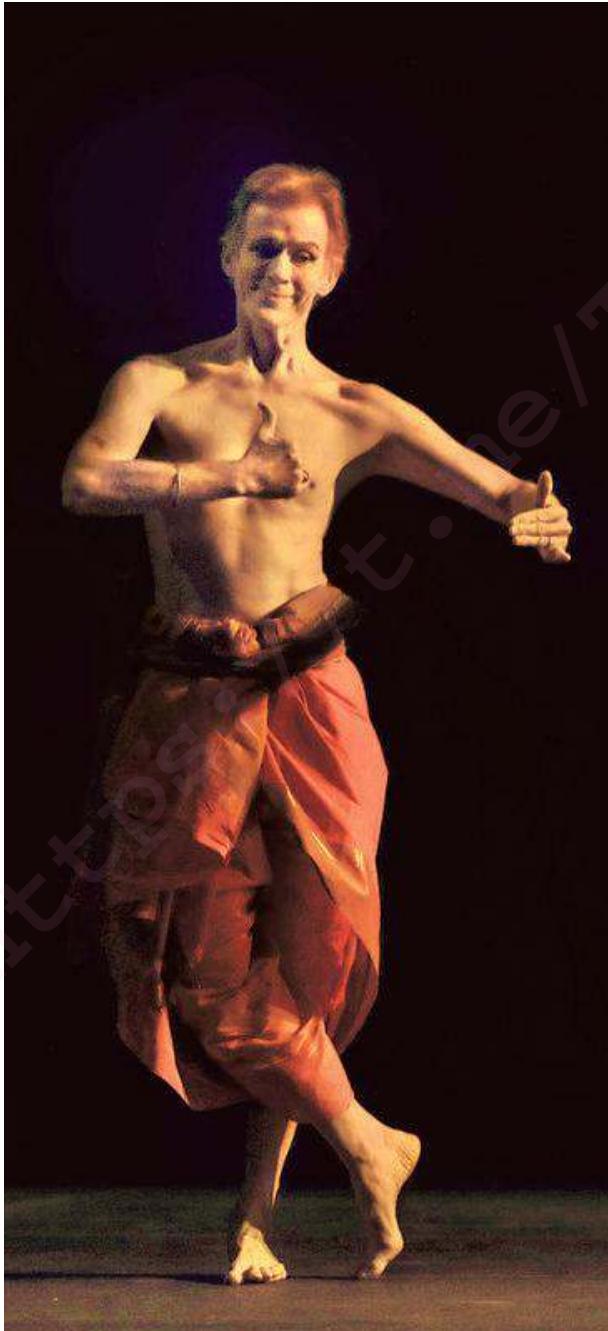
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# FRIDAY REVIEW



## Art and Identity

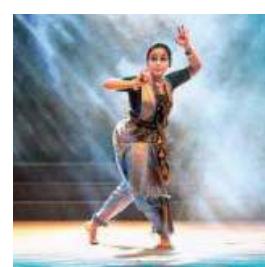
Four seasoned dance exponents of foreign origin trace their journey into Indian classical tradition **Pages 4 & 5**

### INSIDE



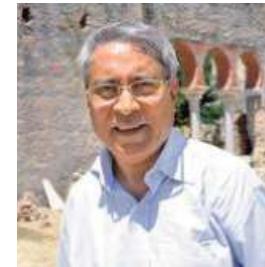
#### Dancing in devotion

In 'Samagama Leela', Geeta Chandran gives us a glimpse of her evolving relationship with bhakti **P3**



#### Class and classical

Prateesha Suresh is advocating for Borgeet of Assam to be recognised as a classical art **P7**



#### Beauty and beyond

Benoy K. Behl's "Grandeur Of The Lord" explores how splendour and spirituality was carved in stone during the Chola period **P8**



Talented trio Milan, Mahima and Rishi Upadhyay

## Celebrating a rich tradition

The torch bearers of Pt. Vasudev Upadhyay's legacy presented the nuances of the unique blend of dhrupad and pakhawaj

MANJARI SINHA

Music lovers witnessed an array of impressive performances last week, by talents representing rich legacies of Hindustani classical vocal and instrumental music. If Milan, Mahima and Rishi Upadhyay represented the dhrupad and pakhawaj tradition of Pt. Vasudev Upadhyay Parampara with a remarkable lecture-demonstration (lec-dem), Waseem Ahmed Khan the gifted vocalist of Agra Gharana gave a rousing recital for the Raga Dopahari concert of Sangeet Natak Akademi and young Saumitra Thakur, featured in the 'Legends of Tomorrow' series of Pracheen Kala Kendra, brought a whiff of Vishnupur and Maihar Gharanas in his Sitar recital.

The exceptionally talented Milan, Mahima and Rishi Upadhyay, were featured in the monthly Baithak of IHC Music Club, organised with an aim to 'Listen, Share & Discuss'; in this case, the contribution of Pt. Vasudev Upadhyay Parampara to dhrupad and pakhawaj. The gifted children and disciples of Malati and Pt. Ravi Shankar Upadhyay from Pt. Vasudev Upadhyay Parampara, Milan is trained in dhrupad whereas Mahima and Rishi Shankar Upadhyay play pakhawaj. They took turns, deliberating upon the history and salient features of this tradition, known for both dhrupad gayan and pakhawaj vadan.

The originators of this four hundred years old tradition were two brothers from Rajasthan named Ugan and Budhan Upadhyay, one was a dhrupad singer and the other was a mridangam player. Invited as court musicians by the king of Behat Estate, they settled in Gaya thus the gharana carried forward both, the dhrupad *gayan* and pakhawaj *vadan* from the very beginning. The parampara was named after Pt. Vasudev Upadhyay in view of his significant contribution to the age old tradition. This introductory deliberation was followed by a dhrupad recital by Milan Upadhyay in raga Bageshree, set to Chautala "Tum ho Karuna-nidhan...", accompanied on pakhawaj by Mahima and Rishi Upadhyay. Milan later explained that the four part introductory alaap had vilambit, jod, gamak and the fast speed fourth segment of 'Nom-tom'.

### Story of pakhawaj

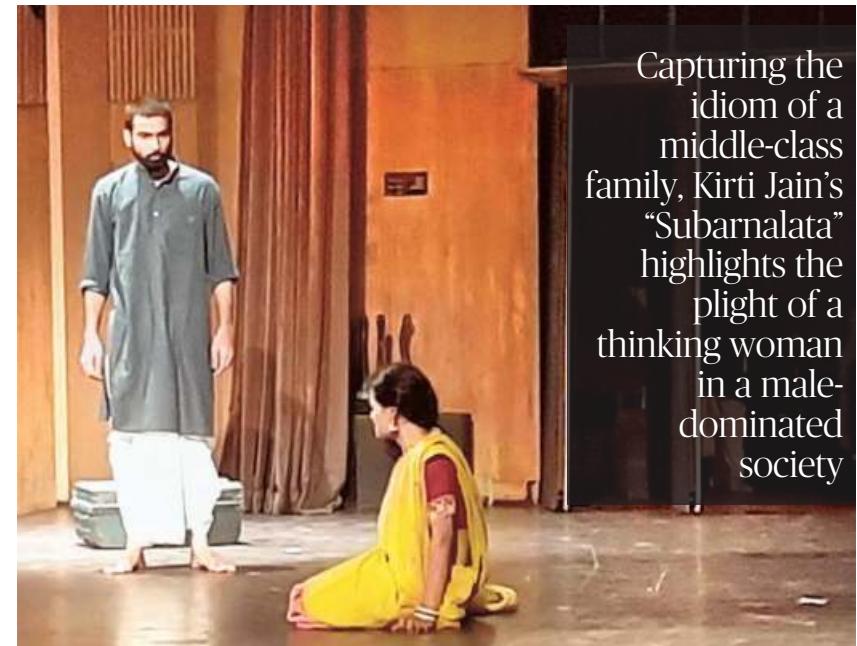
Rishi underlined the importance of pakhawaj sangat that goes hand in hand with the dhrupad singing and demonstrated it evoking Veer rasa since this tradition comes from the Khandar Bani. Rishi also talked about how Pakhawaj was created by Lord Shiva and played first by Ganesha, reciting the famous Paran of his gharana, "Shravan Sundar naam Ganapati...". He also recited the Ganesh Paran of Pt. Kishan Maharaj that refers to "Brahma Vishnu Mahesh Taal dai Dhurpad gavain, Ati-vichitra Gananaath aaj Mirdanga bajavain..." He explained how the application of atta, the wheat flour on the left side of Pakhawaj adds to the grandeur of its sound. He then talked about the special features of pakhawaj compositions of his grandfather Pt. Ram Ji Upadhyay, his father and Guru Pt. Ravi Shankar Upadhyay and how he himself and his younger sister Mahima have added to the wealth of compositions in family tradition. The special work of Pt. Ram Ji Upadhyay in off-beat 'aad laya', especially in Tisra Jati were demonstrated, adjusting four in three i.e Kahrawa Ang in dadra, on pakhawaj. Milan talked about dhrupad and explained how they refrain from the lighter ornate like khatka-murki and use meend instead, by practically demonstrating it. Her totally tuneful renditions of dhrupad were mesmerising. There was also a question-answer session with active floor participation before Milan concluded with a Sooltala Bandish in raga Adana.

## Old story, novel treatment

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

The dominant theme of Kirti Jain's oeuvre is to portray deep-rooted malaise in Indian society to make the members of the audience aware of social antagonism. A former director of the National School of Drama and recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi award, Kirti's revival of "Subarnalata", which she directed for Kshitij and was staged at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, recently, reinforces her social commitment as an artist. An austere production, the focus is to unravel threads of the tormented world of a woman in a seamless manner.

Adapted by Geetanjali Shree, novelist, short-story writer and a playwright, from Ashaporna Debi's celebrated novel in three parts, the play traces the growth of Indian feminism from colonial to post-colonial India. We have seen the stage adaptation of Geetanjali's novel "Hamara Sheher Us Baras" which was directed by Kirti Jain not long ago. Its spectacular design projected the vast canvas of the novel by exploring the theatrical space vertically and horizontally. In the Hindi adaptation of "Subarnalata", Geetanjali has captured the language and idiom of a middle class family in which women are treated as commodity. Her dialogues are simple and are laced with disparaging remarks that are made against women. Like "Ladki Ka Asli Ghar Sasural Hi Hota Hain" - (daughter's true home is in-law's house) and "Biwi Ka Ghulam" - (henpecked husband) - reserved for one who treats his wife with respect. These dialogues betray the inhuman treatment meted out to women in a patriarchal society.



Moving experience A scene from the play; (below) Kirti Jain

The play's opening scene is set in the centre downstage with Subarnalata sitting underneath a near-worn out table. She takes out her dolls from an old-fashioned trunk and plays out the game about her life as a child. Suddenly, an old woman enters and sits on the table. Though conceived and enacted in an unaffected manner with a touch of spontaneity, it assumes the significance of a prologue, setting the tone for unravelling the past, present and future of the struggle for women's emancipation.

While depicting the time and suffering of Subarnalata, the production provides a historical perspective of Indian women's struggle to achieve their dignity as human beings.

### Face-off

Called Majhili Bahu, the wife of the second son, there is already a stigma attached to Subarnalata on account of her mother who has the courage to revolt against the suffocating middle class family's conventions and for starting a school for girls.

Subarnalata dares to face her domineering and cruel mother-in-law. In fact, the middle class in which Subarnalata lives is the large joint family ruled by the mother-in-law. Nobody could dare to oppose her dictatorial decisions.

The house in which the joint family lives has no verandah and windows that could be opened to

the outside world. The ladies of the house are confined within these terrifying four walls. Initially, Subarnalata's husband shares some happy moments with her but her loving attitude towards his wife angers the mother-in-law and other family members and gradually he shows his true colour and leaves no stone unturned to humiliate Subarnalata. He finally forces her to leave for her father's house where she is not welcomed because she has come alone. Where she should go now? Her father insists that she should go to her true home - the house of her in-laws but the in-laws want her to stay with her father.

Subarnalata has inherent thirst for knowledge and keen desire to visit new places and see vast ocean. Since the married woman is strictly prohibited to read and write, she would surreptitiously get books from her friend next door. Once she gets caught reading a book, she is beaten black and blue. The tortuous world she lives in is like a prison from which she is trying hard to escape.

### Intense drama

As the narrative moves forward, the past and the present converge. She joins the Swadeshi movement, burning foreign goods publicly. Her children also join her. Again, through the device of letter, she encounters her rebel mother and exchange views on brutal

Capturing the idiom of a middle-class family, Kirti Jain's "Subarnalata" highlights the plight of a thinking woman in a male-dominated society

functioning of patriarchy. The sensitive direction and the performer's ingenuity to internalise the dilemma of their characters create the right ambience transforming the production into an intense drama. The music by Anuradha Kapur, which is blended with other expressive theatrical elements, is remarkable for its subtlety and intricacy which produced emotional impact on the audience. These days such artistic treatment of stage music is rarely seen on the Delhi stage.

The denouement where Subarnalata is highly elevated to see her book in print but her moment of triumph turns into utter shock and humiliation shaking her entire being when she hears the disdainful and mocking comments of her husband and son on her book. The dramatic power with which the scene is enacted leaves you stunned.

Lovely Raj as Subarnalata gives a brilliant performance, internalising the emotional and psychological wounds inflicted by her husband and mother-in-law. Her Subarnalata is candidly frank and humane as she faces sustained torture.

Bharti Sharma as the cruel and domineering mother-in-law makes her scenes pulsate with life. Anurag Thakur as the mean, greedy and brute husband of Subarnalata and Prabhat Mishra as the kind hearted son-in-law, fit the parts.

In 'Samagama Leela', Geeta Chandran gives us a glimpse of her evolving relationship with *bhakti*

SHRINKHLA SAHAI

Bhakti has been the central theme of several Bharatanatyam presentations, yet it is rare to see a performer's story unfold through this lens. In 'Samagama Leela', the recent production by dancer, choreographer and guru, Geeta Chandran, bhakti emerges as the thematic foundation for reflection into her own life journey. The autobiographical solo performance takes a refreshing stance by delving into the deeply personal. It braids the artistic and spiritual journeys together to step away from a routine recital and present a *margam* of life.

Conceptualised by Geeta Chandran and Sudhamahi Regunathan, the performance moves through six compositions, most of which may be familiar to a discerning audience, and have been hand-picked carefully to mark milestones in the dancer's life. The audience get a glimpse of the artist's evolving relationship with bhakti through subtle story-telling before each composition, narrated by Rajaiv Chandran.

"Everybody's journey in dance is very different," says Geeta Chandran, "to talk about bhakti through my own life journey is the most simple and personal connection." She developed the performance when invited to participate in the international conference on Bhakti at Yale, New Haven, United States, earlier this year. While the scholars speaking at the conference focused on the historical and aesthetic aspects of bhakti, the idea to present an autobiographical take emerged as a way of exploring the topic more experientially as an artist.

#### Early impressions

For Chandran, bhakti has been a way of life since childhood. The opening invocatory shloka 'Kripa samudram' is also symbolic of her initiation into the world of dance at the age of five. Deeply impacted by the iconography at the Nararaja Temple in Chidambaram, the dancer reflects that her early moorings established both dance and spirituality as the essential pillars of life. "My first guru (Swarna Saraswathy) belonged to the temple tradition. For her, dance was an offering. At home as well,



Refreshing stance Geeta Chandran in performance ■ SARABJIT SINGH DHILLON

the environment was ritualistic and spiritual, forming a continuum of sorts where my artistic and spiritual understanding started evolving together."

The experience of devotion and engagement with bhakti transformed over time for the dancer. "Initially, it was about imitating my teachers, seeing them soaked in a certain tradition," recounts Chandran. At this point, music played a major role in leading her into the nuances of the bhakti tradition. "I enter dance through music.

#### Sense of peace

As a student and practitioner of Carnatic music it is ingrained in my life and I was able to access the lyrics, poetry and multiple meanings through music." She recalls the strains of Bhakti compositions rendered by great maestros playing at home all the time, since her father was a devoted music connoisseur. "The music used to make me emotionally charged and I would feel it intensely." The powerful "Shiva Mahapanchakshara Shlokam" signified this discovery of form and content of bhakti through dance and poetry in the dancer's life.

Reflecting on the experience of bhakti during the early days as a student of music and dance, Chandran says, "I used to feel a sense of peace after listening to, dancing to or singing an intense bhakti

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It was difficult to capture the essence of what bhakti was, but it was experienced in certain moments...

composition. It was difficult to capture the essence of what bhakti was, but it was experienced in certain moments - where I left aside thoughts about daily life, and felt deeply connected, vulnerable and charged."

#### Artistic search

Moving further in her journey, as a young artist, bhakti emerged as a tool for aesthetic exploration, curiosity and critical thinking. Texts, stories and narratives posed the primary artistic challenge for Chandran. Her interpretation of various characters from epics and mythology also placed her at a precarious position, poised at the brink of traditional training and discovery of her own individuality as a choreographer. Marking this shift, she presented a Haveli Sangeet rendition. The 'Govinda Vandana' depicts the twin sides of Vishnu - as Jishnu, the invincible, and Trishnu, the fearless one.

"Historically, bhakti has also been deeply political and subversive," Chandran points out. Eventually, she began exploring the primary texts, studying the myriad interpretations of various scholars and delineating her own perspective through new works. Citing one of her landmark productions, 'Kaikeyi', Chandran reflects, "It is really important to question. Mostly, Kaikeyi has been seen as a uni-dimensionally dark character. When I read the Ramayana, I felt there was a lot more to her and decided to explore another dimension of her character."

The oft-performed and well-known composition "Krishna nee begane baro" was presented in the evening's performance in this vein - of questioning, exploring, and

arriving at a different interpretation. Mostly the composition is essayed through the eyes of Yashoda, searching, calling and cajoling mischievous child-Krishna. "Who is really calling out to Krishna here?" asks the dancer. "Why, only a mother calling out to her son? It could also be Radha seeking her lover, or the devotee searching for their lord," she says. The composition was presented with Chandran portraying all three roles, one after the other, the most riveting one being the devotee where she lays out an ambit of emotion, from restlessness, curiosity and fervour to devotion and gratitude.

#### New paths

The penultimate Kabir bhajan resonated with shifting ideologies and coming of age as an artist - a journey towards interiority and quietude. Reflecting on her artistic experiments over the years, she says, "Interpretations are just perspectives. We must keep approaching and discovering them in different ways that suit our rational, contemporary minds. Context is most important, it keeps changing and provides new insights for understanding human nature."

When Chandran set up Natya Vriksha, her dance institute in Delhi, she was mostly teaching first-generation learners whose home environment was vastly different from her own early initiation into dance.

Continued on page 7

## In memory of the master

Ahead of his performance in Shimla, sitarist Shakir Khan talks about his rich lineage and the importance of hard work

SHAILAJA KHANNA

Shakir Khan, the 8<sup>th</sup> generation musician of the Imdadkhani gharana, will be playing at the first memorial festival dedicated to Ustad Vilayat Khan in Shimla. The Himachal Pradesh government has taken the welcome, though much belated, decision to commemorate Ustad Vilayat Khan's stay in Shimla in the late 1960s and early 1970s. (His home was called "Parimahal")

The event will feature the inaugural concert on 5<sup>th</sup> July by Ustad Vilayat Khan's son and musical heir Ustad Shujaat Khan. The festivities will conclude with a recital by Shakir Khan, the legendary Ustad's grand nephew on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Shakir, who has just returned from a series of concerts in Europe, talks about his craft.

#### Tell us about your rich lineage.

Yes, without doubt, ours is the premier family of sitar, but it doesn't end there. Unless one can learn the difficult techniques, we are known for, play to perfection the iconic compositions of my ancestors, it's no use saying I belong to this tradition. I have never found it a burden to say I am so and so's descendant, rather I regard it as a responsibility which I am proud to shoulder. It does mean practising hard with one pointed focus, but I am ok with it. One learns how to make the best use of time - hang out with friends less, limit one's time on social media.

In today's world, there are many issues that my generation has to deal with - marketing oneself, trying to remain in the public eye, but my father (Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan) has always maintained that true artists come up because of their undeniable talent, not because of marketing skills. I also believe that in the world of music, there are no age limits. Someone may be a mature musician at 25, another at 35. One has to just keep at it.

But surely, as a musician, mere hard work is not enough?

No doubt, one needs musicality and correct training. By God's grace, music is in my DNA, and I have been taught by the best teacher, my father.

Continued on Page 7



# Tales of immersion

Sharon Lowen, Justin McCarthy, Marie Elangovan and Carolina Prada on how they merged into the ocean of Indian classical dance

RANEE KUMAR

**T**hey were drawn to *natya* from different parts of the world. India, the source of classical dance and music, became their chosen destination. They arrived here like brave hearts, clueless about the country, its climate and its living conditions. Today, Delhi is home to them in more ways than one. In the decades they have been here, they have enhanced themselves as artistes of calibre, set up their life, evolved into revered gurus and established an identity through their art.

Meet Odissi guru and a Manipuri and Chhau practitioner Sharon Lowen, Bharatanatyam exponents-gurus Justin McCarthy and Marie Elangovan and Mayurbhanji Chhau wizard Carolina Prada. Hailing from diverse backgrounds such as the US, French-Canada and Columbia, they converged here to merge into the ocean of Indian classical dance. All of them were naturally inclined towards performing arts, especially dance and they all did learn Western dance or ballet or music initially on their home turfs. In course of time, each one of them came across an Indian classical dance performance that set the ball rolling. Like Columbus, they steered towards Indian shores with a flame in heart to pursue Indian classical dance through whatever means was available, such as cultural exchange programmes or scholarships on offer.

Let's rewind:

**Sharon:** Right from childhood in Michigan, that's where I belong to, I've had this innate love for dance but could not come to terms with my



Though I knew that in the US there would be a more secure and economically comfortable life, I felt that my art would be tangential to the mainstream

Sharon Lowen

ballet teacher when I was 7, because I was too scared of him. (laughs). By 13, a sort of realisation dawned on me that my multi-various interests in puppetry, theatre, literature, human rights had to be harnessed into pursuit of just one and that would be dance! I credit my mother for her active participation to further my passion.

**Justin:** Like Sharon, I'm from Michigan too. I initially loved music, especially the Baroque and Renaissance. I guess and began taking piano lessons like many others of my age there. I loved ballet music and dance too but then dance was a sort of anathema for a boy to pursue those days. I'm talking of the '70s in the US. So I had to be content watching ballet videos secretly and trying to emulate those movements. I could only envisage learning dance after college when I would be on my own.

**Marie:** I too was interested in dance and began learning ballet in Quebec at the age of seven.

**Carolina:** I inherited this passion to learn dance from my mother but unlike Sharon or Marie, I didn't start the ballet till I was all but 19.

All four of them were attracted to the Indian dance scene after watching a Indian dance performance.



Though I knew that in the US there would be a more secure and economically comfortable life, I felt that my art would be tangential to the mainstream

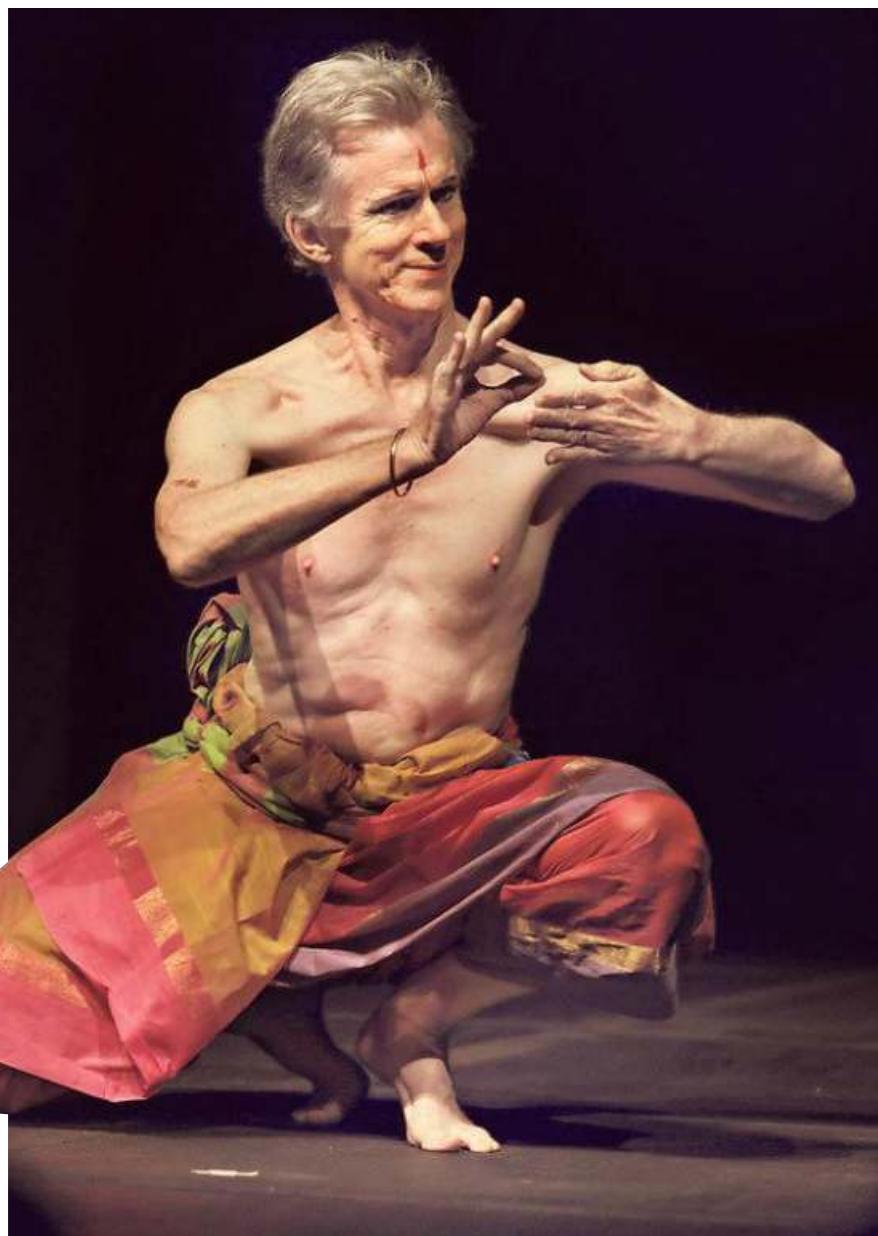
Sharon Lowen

**Marie:** My course on Religious Studies at the Universite de Montreal (1990) sowed the seed of interest in spirituality in relation to dance (Bharatanatyam). One thing led to another and I got closer to the Indian community in Montreal, attending Indian classical music and dance performances. And then the course of my life changed when I met Guru K.J.Govindarajan who was on a work visit to Kala Bharati (Montreal). His advice to me was simple: 'it's vital to immerse in the Indian ethos and culture in order to master the art form.' Following my heart, with no strings attached, I set off to India on a five-year student visa to learn Bharatanatyam under his tutelage here in Delhi. To be honest, I did initially feel homesick, being cut off from my roots. I miss my loving family and my swimming pool (with a wink).

**Carolina:** With me, it was a more or less divinely-ordained thing. My interest in Eastern practises egged me on to learn Tai Chi Chuan, Aikido, Capoeira, and Colombian swordplay. But it was a video of Gotipua, Odissi and Mayurbhanji Chhau presented to me by a Mexican Odissi dancer with whom I was initially training in Odissi that put the map in place. I had a natural love and inclination for martial arts. It seemed impossible at the time (2005) to find dance scholarships to India, for South Americans. But somehow I managed to secure an ICCR scholarship by 2008, landed in Delhi to pursue Odissi dance in Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra. There, I met my guru Janmeyjoy Sainabhu who was also teaching Chhau from whom I began taking lessons simultaneously. It's ten years now and I'm committed to my dance form and my guru. In Chhau, I find a perfect combination of a dance language and martial attitude with display of movement.

**Sharon:** I was pursuing my BA (Hons) with Fine Arts in '69 as one of the subjects when I was learning Manipuri from Minati Roy there. Armed with a Fulbright scholarship, I joined Triveni Kala Sangam in 1973 to learn from Guru Singhajit Singh. During my second year of Fulbright study, I took an intensive workshop in Odissi offered at Triveni Kala Sangam with Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra and studied Mayurbhanji Chhau with Guru Krishna Chandra Naik at the Bharatiya Kala Kendra.

**Justin:** Unlike them, I landed in India on impulse and that too in Chennai with no due diligence what-



Perfect synchronisation Justin McCarthy; Carolina Prada; Marie Elangovan; (below) Sharon Lowen

soever. Earlier I had explored the Western dances but wasn't happy. Then I joined Bharatanatyam classes under two American lady dancers who had learnt under the illustrious Balasaraswati on her US sojourn. In India, I went straight to Kalakshetra and then trained under Subbaraya Pillai, Alarmel Valli's guru for a year at her place. He charged ₹.200 a month for classes every day. I would have continued but for multiple health issues that cropped up making it impossible for me to continue in the place. Then on better advice and sense, I came to Delhi and literally stood in front of Leela Samson's door. She gave me everything a guru could to a shishya for more than a decade (1978-90). She got me an ICCR scholarship too when I ran out of money.

But Sharon couldn't take a decision that fast to settle down for good as she was married and the couple had to make number of trips up and down, taking up teaching jobs in the US while the other three had lesser hassles. Marie went ahead to become the daughter-in-law of her guru by marrying his musician son Elangovan. Carolina decided to take her guru's legacy forward by being here and making several trips to Odissa villages where different forms of Chhau was being practised. She

Yes, there is little money in dance but then when you love something so deeply, the peripherals no longer matter

Justin McCarthy

picked these up with alacrity. Justin decided to forgo his American citizenship and become an Indian citizen for he "just wanted to be here all his life."

**Justin:** My liking for dance and India is very irrational. Back home, my large family can make no sense of my decision. But they are all there for me. So I decided to forgo my American citizenship in 1997 and settle down here for good (chuckles).

Down the decades, how does it feel now?

**Marie:** More than the others, it's me who has had a total makeover in personal life and I'm so happy for it. I'm into a South Indian Tamil joint family who are fourth generation Carnatic music practitioners and nattuvanars (dance gurus). My husband Elangovan's grandmother is Kiranoor Jayalakshmi, the first woman flautist to play in public concerts. In our home here, we breathe music

and dance all through the day. Being in such an environment, I've been able to imbibe more than I ever dreamed of. I have been moulded into a purist performer and a choreographer with ample sense of music and its nuances. Though I can read and write Tamil and cook South Indian dishes, I'm not confident in conversing (laughs). My mother-in-law tried to teach me and ended up learning to speak fluent English, much to the amazement of her sons. Now we all speak English!

**Sharon:** During the three winters from 1983-85, I travelled to India along with my little daughter Tara on tourist visas. I used to make the best of the time on hand performing on Doordarshan (national and regional), pick up new repertoire from guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, go back to the US and get busy with performances of Manipuri, Odissi, and Chhau. It was a perennial feat for my husband and me. During 1986-87, I was in India with my husband as accompanying spouse as I held an American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Faculty Fellowship, for research on "Medieval Text and Modern Context of Odissi Dance" which got published by the University of Heidelberg, Germany. I decided to stay back in India after that. Though I knew that in the US, there would be

a more secure and economically comfortable life, I felt that my art would be tangential to the mainstream.

**Justin:** I've been here for four decades and I should say the going has been pretty good. Yes, there is little money in dance but then when you love something so deeply, the peripherals no longer matter. Thanks to the unquestioning support by art patron Sumitra Charatram and the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra (now under Shoba Deepak Singh), I've been given a free hand to train students in my style of Bharatanatyam and unquestioning which I have developed on my own after the 10-year stint with my guru.

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The driving point that keeps me here is the spiritual connection to dance, its complex isolation, its intricate technique, the mind-body connection through symbols, stories... Carolina Prada

They are confident about the road ahead

**Sharon:** My work expanded to setting up my own school to take my

point that keeps me here is the spiritual connection to dance, its complex isolation, its intricate technique, the mind-body connection through symbols, stories and the emotive quotient. Dance is not empty movements. I have visited many villages in Odissa where this dance abides in different styles. I have studied and researched on the existing gharanas and got a clear picture of the grammar and techniques of the dance form. My Kalaripayettu training has given me strength and flexibility.

**Carolina:** I'm here for more than a decade. I have no plans to leave India for the time being. I need to be here alongside my guru. The driving

point that keeps me here is the spiritual connection to dance, its complex isolation, its intricate technique, the mind-body connection through symbols, stories and the emotive quotient. Dance is not empty movements. I have visited many villages in Odissa where this dance abides in different styles. I have studied and researched on the existing gharanas and got a clear picture of the grammar and techniques of the dance form. My Kalaripayettu training has given me strength and flexibility.

**Marie:** The spiritual connect and the guru-shishya parampara is what makes Indian classical dances a her-

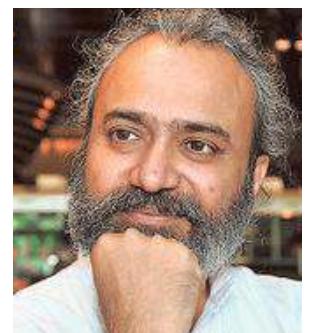
itage treasure trove vis-a-vis western dance forms. The mind opens up to the body and your creativity unfolds as you delve deeper into dance. And as the layers open up, you are able to establish a oneness with the spirit as they say immersing yourself in bliss.

**Carolina:** My path has just opened. It's still a long way to go; in fact as I'm delving deeper, I feel it will take many more births to reach the ultimate in dance; it is so complex and so divine. I'm committed to this end, God-willing.

Not just this quartet; there are many more such as Ileana Citaristi, Nikolina Nikoleski and Liesbeth Pankaja Bennink to name a few who have chosen the art as their identity.



The spiritual connect and the guru-shishya parampara is what makes Indian classical dances a heritage treasure trove vis-a-vis western dance forms



## Mind Your Yoga

## Listen to your breath

Feel it, observe it... for health benefits

A.G. MOHAN AND DR. GANESH MOHAN



The effort of breathing is the essence of life. When breath changes, there are immediate effects at every level of the body and mind. Ancient hatha yoga shows asana as the pathway to change and control the inner experience of the breath; it is not meant to be just exercise or a posture of the body. To achieve this, we should connect to our breath and develop breathing skills in the asana itself. Then we can deepen them in pranayama. This is a key factor in the yoga path that is not always sufficiently emphasised in modern yoga – coordination of body and breath in a structured pathway.

Breathing well for good health needs greater skill and subtlety than working with the body. The breath is not as obvious as say the hips or hamstrings in its movement! It is easier to see and feel the body than the breath. What is more, breathing is mainly involuntary. We only have partial control over the breath. In other words, we do have control over many of our movements in complex ways, whereas, breathing mostly takes care of itself. However, in modern life, our natural breathing patterns are often not healthful, because of acute stress, poor posture and erratic lifestyle.

## Learn to feel it

There is a pathway to working with the breath intelligently, guided by yoga knowledge and wisdom. The first skill to work with the breath is learning to sense or feel it. This is an ongoing process where we observe the breath in different ways – in various areas of the body, during inhalation and exhalation and the pauses, and stay in touch with breath sensations through the day.

As the next step, we try to let our breath become smoother and easier. If we cannot feel the breath well, or breathing is strained,

breathing practices will not lead to



good health. Then we must approach the different patterns of breathing – for instance, breathing into the abdomen, lower ribs, upper chest, back and combinations of these areas.

As we work on these parameters, we can also observe the inhalation, exhalation, and pauses, and gradually begin lengthening the breath. The ability to breathe long is important for good health in multiple ways and it also leads us to the capacity to suspend the breath. Suspending or pausing the breath offers the psychological benefits of bringing stillness to the body and mind, and also physical health benefits to the body.

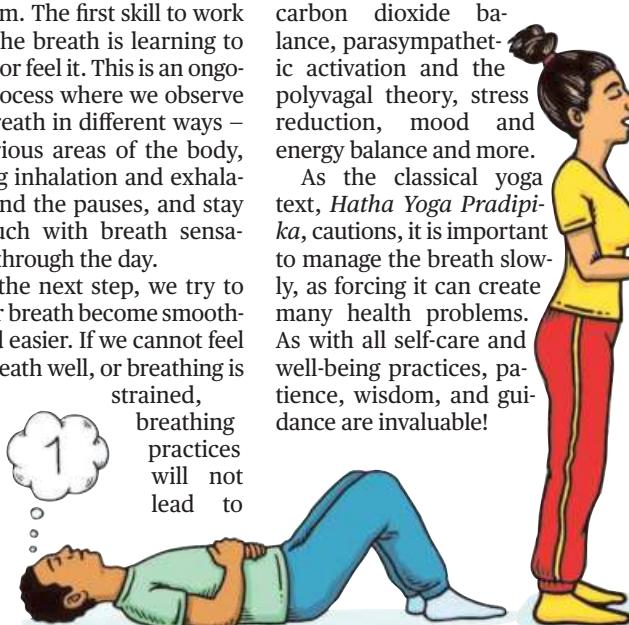
Then, in classical yoga, we progress to doing the bandhas in the appropriate asanas – for example, bridge pose, tadaga mudra, downward dog, inversions and more.

We also simultaneously learn the important techniques of pranayama such as nadishodhana and sheethali. In time, we are able to combine the bandhas in pranayama also.

As we progress in this pathway, we always keep our attention on deepening the skill of sensing the breath and watching the effort of breathing. Gradually, this will lead us to feel our inner or subtle body through the breath experience – this is described in the ancient yoga texts using the system of prana, nadis, chakras and more.

There are profound health benefits at every step of this pathway from the modern medical angle too – efficiency of breathing and the oxygen-carbon dioxide balance, parasympathetic activation and the polyvagal theory, stress reduction, mood and energy balance and more.

As the classical yoga text, *Hatha Yoga Pradipika*, cautions, it is important to manage the breath slowly, as forcing it can create many health problems. As with all self-care and well-being practices, patience, wisdom, and guidance are invaluable!



breathing practices will not lead to

## Theatre Talk

## The walls are coming down!

Have an idea, come to us, says Aditya Birla Group's Aadyam

DEEPA GAHLOT



Mumbai has an overactive theatre scene, but most groups suffer from a severe shortage of funding, which then results in working around available and often, inadequate resources. Which is why, when Aadyam was introduced by the Aditya Birla Group in 2015, it was a boon to those theatre groups that had the ideas and the people, but lacked the financial backing to bring their productions to the stage. Aadyam gave the projects selected all support, including lavish marketing, for nine shows, after which the groups could run the shows on their own. For those who had the ability and ambition to run with their production, Aadyam was a great springboard.

The Aadyam mandate for the selection of plays was: the troupes have the content and production values to attract bigger and newer audiences. So, the shows on stage were accompanied by imaginative touches in the foyer décor to match the milieu of the play, live music, food, photo booths, games, prizes, discounts at restaurants in the vicinity, all of which enhanced the theater-going experience. Over the past few years, the productions have been a mixed bag, some ran successfully, some scaled down to be able to tour and some simply packed up. The genres have included comedy, musicals, classics, new writing and, one year, two experimental plays for smaller venues.

In the fifth season, the opening play is 'A Few Good Men', written by American playwright and screenwriter, Aaron Sorkin (which was turned into a Hollywood movie in 1992 by Rob Reiner, with Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise and Demi Moore heading the cast) and directed by Nadir Khan – a tense legal drama set against a military backdrop. Shernaz Patel, who has been Artistic Director for two years, says that it is not imperative for the productions to be Indian. This year, of the four plays picked, two in English and two in Hindi, only one is original. "Aadyam is really looking for big shows for a proscenium stage, which would be appreciated by large audiences. And far as possible, the genres are mixed, and there is something exciting that will allow it to run for nine shows. Last year we had had a nice mix, something completely original like 'Hello Farmash' and also a massive musical like #SingIndiaSingh – so we have had a range."

Shernaz has been associated with theatre for several years, as an actress as well as a part of the production company Rage, so she un-



'A Few Good Men' is the opening play in the fifth season; (Below) Shernaz Patel, artistic director, Aadyam

derstands things from both sides of the fence – as producer-performer and curator-administrator. "We get a lot of entries, a lot of people pitch shows, I put it out to the entire community. We are very clear that we are looking primarily for big shows.

I was hoping we would do some of the smaller shows as well, but didn't get the go-ahead. In my ideal world I'd like to be able to do both, because you can try something more out of the box, and push the envelope further. Some people in Mumbai just want to do the small shows."

## Good writing

The building block for a good production is a story, which is what she looks for first. "If there was fabulous writing coming out of India for the commercial stage, then we would not have to look anywhere else, but most of the writing we have is experimental in nature. The absolute blockbuster kind of shows which we have in Marathi, we don't seem to have in other languages."

Those who get selected for the Aadyam season, do not have to cut corners. "The With the support given by Aadyam, a group does not have to be afraid of having large cast plays and superior productions. They don't have to bring clothes from home, they can design costumes. They can plan sets. Otherwise who is giving you money to do theatre? Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla takes such interest himself, meets people, comes to shows. But we don't interfere with the creation of the work, we are facilitators. We don't want to be seen as financiers either, then you are only creating a show for Aadyam. We say, 'Do you have a play you

are working on already for which you'd like support? Then we will be happy to help in any way.' Being a theatre person, I contribute in any department that they need help for."

With an eye on developing "theatre addicts" of the future, Shernaz is putting together a package for schools. "Students will be given a background of the play, we will do workshops; they will get to meet the team. If they want to do reviews of the plays, we will guide them. The wall between the performer and audience should be broken. Some schools have shown interest, so I hope that happens. I would like to do more in terms of development for the community, because that's where it all begins. There is a need to do more development work."

Is there any lacuna in the effort undertaken by Aadyam? "Directors!" says Shernaz. "We don't have enough, and most have very limited vision. I really want to do a proper structured training programme for directors. Where is the idea? We need ideas and directors who are equipped to embrace all kinds of spaces, be it a library or a large auditorium. At the same time, because there is so much devising work happening, where are the script writers? There should have been ten direction courses in Mumbai by now. And designers – the good ones gravitate towards films and ad films," she adds.

Of the 21 plays performed under the Aadyam banner so far, not all have succeeded.

"That can happen in any creative process," she says. "Some work resonates more than others. But, what Aadyam set out to do so, it is on the right path. Slow and steady, the audience base is growing."



Prateesha Suresh is advocating for Borgeet of Assam to be recognised as a classical art

ANJANA RAJAN

**D**iscussion continues over whether certain Indian dance and music forms warrant the term 'classical'. With a bewildering variety of genres, it seems the conventional English vocabulary of classical folk, ritual and tribal, etc. falls short. Hindi uses the equivalent of *shastriya* and *lok* to refer to classical (related to *shastras* or art treatises) and folk (of the people, or *lok*). But to call India's *lok kalas* folk forms would be to ignore that many of these are indeed intertwined with *shastras*.

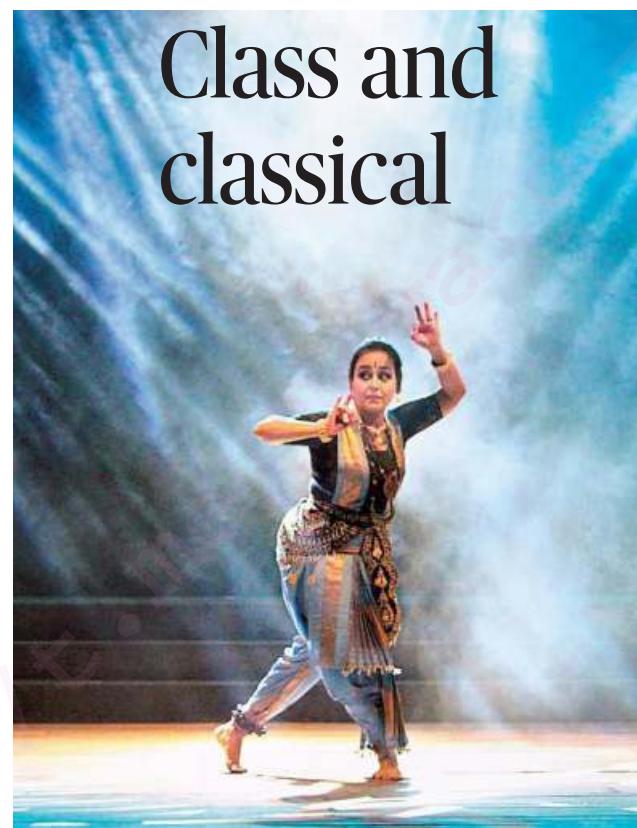
The national Sangeet Natak Akademi, set up in 1952 by the Government of India, is accepted as the authority whose nomenclature sets the norm. The SNA gives awards under specific performing art names grouped under the broader 'Dance', 'Music' and 'Theatre'. These are not specified as classical, but instead of fitting all performing arts under these three broad categories, it has a seemingly umbrella term, 'Traditional/Folk/Tribal/Dance/Music/Theatre and Puppetry'. There is also a field 'Other Major Traditions'. It is evident from its website that the SNA has grappled with shifts in perception over the years.

Take Odissi music, which artists and scholars have advocated for decades as deserving of being listed alongside Hindustani and Carnatic music as a classical genre. Till 2009, Odissi musicians like Balakrushna Das and Bhubaneswar Misra were identified as receiving the award under the 'Traditional/Folk/Tribal...' heading. But Gopal Chandra Panda (2011) and Bankim Sethi (2013) received it under 'Other Major Traditions'.

The vocabulary is not fool-proof. If Yakshagana is one of the Other Major Traditions of Theatre in 2007, it comes under Traditional/Folk/Tribal in 2008 and 2011, shifting back to 'Other Major' from 2014.

More recently, Mumbai-based Sattriya dancer Prateesha Suresh, who has been engaged in propagating Sattriya and allied arts of Assam for over two decades, has been advocating for the recognition of Borgeet of Assam as a classical music genre.

As a part of this effort, Pra-



**Forward movement** Prateesha Suresh ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

teesh was in New Delhi the other day to present a performance under the auspices of her

Pratishruti Foundation, which she explains she founded in 2008 to work for Sattriya Music, Dance, Theatre, etc.

Edited excerpts from an interview:

**Before Sattriya was designated 'classical' by the SNA, the eminent scholar Dr Kapila Vatsyayan once stated from the stage after a performance, "Of course it is classical," apparently reminding us how clearly it met the criteria. Audiences could see that Sattriya was highly structured, codified, and required a high degree of training to execute. What principle features of Borgeet qualify it to receive similar acceptance?**

Yes, I remember that performance. That was in 1999 when I had performed with Barbayan Ghanakanta Bora at Triveni Kala sangam where Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan was the chief guest.

Borgeet is a collection of devotional songs set to raga and tala composed by Shrimanta Shankardev and his chief disciple Shri Madhavdev. The technique of Borgeet follows the Prabandha Gana tradition. According to Dr Pabitra Pran Goswami,

geet is performed in a group and it is called 'Proxongiya' tradition which literally means singing in a group (Hindi equivalent can be 'prashang'). Dr Goswami, who has researched Borgeet, says, "In fact, there is no musical tradition either contemporary or prior to *Bargit* alive today anywhere in India. Even *Dhrupada* and *Kirttana* evolved at a later stage. The differences between the *ragas* of *Bargit* with their modern counterparts in Hindustani and Carnatic music may be understood in that context".

Similarly in respect to tala, he says, "*Bargit* exhibits its speciality through the uniqueness of its *talas* too. There are *talas* from eight *matras* to thirty-two *matras*, all comprising three parts of proportionate length, viz., *Gaman*, *Ghat* and *Cok*. These *talas* are different in structure, rhythmic pattern as well as playing style from the *talas* now played with Hindustani and Carnatic music. A few like *Rupaka*, *Ektali*, *Yati*, *Bisam*, etc. are mentioned not only in the *Sangita Sastras* like *Sangit Ratnakara* but also in Jayadeva's *Gita-Govinda*". The tala-pattern definitely also brings in the percussion instrument used in Sattriya dance and music, the *Khol*.

This instrument has also not received its classical status. It is very important to understand that if a dance style is considered classical then automatically the percussion is also a classical instrument. The two are complementary.

**What other people/organisations are trying to**

draw the SNA's attention to give Borgeet classical status?

I don't have any idea about other organisations. There may be but I don't know. I have been working on this for a long time. It became important for me to present this outside Assam to draw attention. However, I have presented this in Guwahati also. I am working with Shri Krishna Goswami who has been trained under his father late Kushakanta Deva Goswami who was the Sattradhikar in Chamaguri Sattra, Majuli. He has been working on it for years and training his students.

He has also made notations for more than 60 Borgeets and published books on the same. Borgeets did not have any notations as it is an oral tradition and this led to confusion. As an artist I can understand his passion for his art and therefore I have come forward to do whatever I can for Borgeet.

**What has been the response of the Akademi - central or state - so far?**

Akademi always wakes up after the work is done by dedicated artists like us and then chooses to ignore us. I had done a lot of work on Sattriya dance before it was given classical status. I continue to do so but the Akademi has never acknowledged the hard work.

**What are your thoughts on similar debates, like conferring classical status on Odissi sangeet and Gauḍiya Nritya, etc.?**

There should be an open discussion and meeting of all these arts. Any art does not need a "classical" tag but unfortunately the arts are at the mercy of a select few. All artists are equal and everyone is working hard to keep the traditions alive, some known and some unknown. We cannot take that hard work away from these artists. We have to acknowledge and welcome them.

**A moot point seems to be the adoption of 'classical' and 'folk' as mutually exclusive.**

Classical definitely means following a structure. They are more technical in following set patterns and that is how the style becomes more defined. However, classical has drawn a lot from the folk, which is the case in Sattriya. I would say that folk is like the flowers in the garden and classical is like when you pick them up and string them together into a garland with beautiful patterns. Folk has always been a part of us, till we decided to stylise our dance and music.

## Dancing in devotion

**Continued from page 3**

This called for new methods of teaching. Synthesising the artistic search with a commitment to pedagogy, Chandran opines, "Dance has changed so much in the present scenario, but pedagogy has not changed to that degree. For instance, we see a lot more group choreographies these days as opposed to the solo performances that dominated earlier. As artists, students and also as teachers, it is important to learn and unlearn."

The performance concluded with a Sankeertan, evoking the dancer's present focus of devotion - regular visits to Vrindavan to pay reverence to her spiritual guru. Aesthetically and spiritually, presenting dance as a *sewa*, is also where Chandran arrives back to her own beginnings, where dance was seen as an offering in the vast ocean of devotion.



## ...In memory of the master

**Continued from page 3**

But I do believe mere innate talent goes nowhere without practice. Technique helps to attain perfection, but it's practice that achieves it. What is the point of having a musical idea, if you can't execute through your fingers?

**You are known to be open to trying new things**

Yes, I do believe it's important to get out of one's comfort zone musically. Solo concerts are obviously the easiest to do; it's what we train for. From the age of 5, average of minimum two hours practise every day - it adds up! Engaging with someone's else's musical thoughts in concert, to present something cohesive and pleasing, that is the challenge. I am not competitive on stage; my aim is to present something aesthetic, not to show I am the superior musician. I have been happy to play with as diverse musicians as Arshad Ali, sarodiyas Abhishek Borkar and violinist Tejas Upadhyay. I have shared the stage with seniors such as vocalist Pt Sanjeev Abhyankar and Pt Kaivalya Kumar. My father has taught me to absorb what is good from wherever it comes.

I am also part of jazz bands Taalism and Human Evolution; that's a different type of engagement but I find it equally stimulating as a musician. At the same time, it's important not to lose the intrinsic quality of one's instrument.

**Tell us about your forthcoming concert at the festival in memory of Ustad Vilayat Khan, your grand uncle.**

I am really privileged to perform in his memory. Without doubt, he was one of the most important instrumentalists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and his music has influenced generations after him. For me, he is the God of sitar.

(Shakir will perform at Gaiety Theatre Shimla, 6th July, 6 p.m.)

## New kid on the block

ATIF KHAN

**A**dding to the list of débutantes this year, Meezaan is starting his career with "Maalaal" opposite another débutante Sharmin Segal. Produced by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and directed by Mangesh Hadwale, the romantic drama is a remake of Tamil hit "7G Rainbow Colony". "I am playing a character who is totally different from me and it was a difficult one to play. He is a normal Marathi boy living in a chawl and I am sure people will definitely relate to this character," says the seasoned actor Javed Jaffery's son.

## Excerpts-

**Was it an obvious decision for you to become an actor?**

I will say Sanjay Leela Bhansali was the only reason for me. Acting just came to me when Sanjay sir told me that he wants to introduce me. I can say that I was not able to understand my own capabilities but when it came from the master, I thought, why not? Before that I was a student of business studies in United States but midway I changed my course to filmmaking.

**Did the filmmaking course and assisting Sanjay Leela Bhansali on "Padmaavat" help you in acting?**

When I was changing from business studies to a course in cinema, my father advised me to take film making. Because according to him, acting is not something which you can learn. He asked me to focus on editing, production and understand the craft which goes into films. My father even insisted Sanjay sir for letting me finish education but I had to drop out in between as I joined the Padmaavat shoot. One learns more on the sets!

**Having born in a house of actors, what has been your relationship with the cinema in your growing up years?**

I was obviously influenced by my family. As my whole family is fan of Amitabh Bachchan and Dilip Kumar, I too became a die-hard fan. I always saw my father and grandfather (Jagdeep) acting, dancing, doing television and the knowledge got ingrained in me subconsciously. I realised that when I was doing the film.

**Both your father and grandfather were not typical Hindi film heroes...**

I am happy that I came in a time when the audience is accepting different kinds of films and that gives me a space for doing so much more. My father was restricted to a particular kind of roles and even my grandfather was offered one kind of roles. They both were extremely talented but there was no place for them to show their creativity and versatility.

I am playing the lead in a film that is a good package - a good story, good music and singing and dancing. But I will take it as a character role because I think I am playing a regular character, not a larger than life hero. I really admire Ayushmann (Khurana) for what he is doing.

**But your mannerisms are being compared to Ranveer Singh and Ranbir Kapoor.**

I think people are judging the book by its cover. I have a very long way to go. Once the film is released, I am sure the people will change their perspectives and understand what I am and as I have my own personality.

## Beauty and beyond

Benoy K. Behl's "Grandeur Of The Lord" explores how splendour and spirituality was carved in stone during the Chola period

S. RAVI

**R**egarded as great repositories of art and architecture, temples in India provide a wealth of information on the era they were built in. These aspects come out spectacularly in the Chola temples and sculptures in south India. Noted historian and filmmaker, Benoy K. Behl's documentary, "Grandeur Of The Lord", screened recently at the India Habitat Centre, captures them in great detail. Tracing briefly the history of the temples in the region, the film comprehensively brings to fore their evolution during the Chola rule.

According to Padma Shri Dr. Sharada Srinivasan, professor at National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, "The art of the Cholas represents a watershed in architecture and sculpture, demonstrating mastery of engineering skills in working with stone masonry culminating in the amazingly symmetrical, tiered and towering vimana of the Brihadisvara temple built by Rajaraja Chola and an astonishing ability to sculpt a hard and intractable stone, granulite, into the most life-like and animated forms of deities and other forms." Observes Behl, "The sculpture created, took the devotee to the deepest realms of the peace to be found within."

Bringing to light the extraordinary quality of early Chola sculpture, the film focuses on the Brahmapurishvara at Pullamangai. "It sees the Chola architectural and sculptural idiom coming into its own and out of the shadow of Pallava sculpture from which it richly borrowed initially,"



Aesthetic masterpiece Nataraja at Mooverkoil, Kodambur

■ BENOY K. BEHL

observes Srinivasan. The temples of this period were not very large. "The purpose was not to inspire awe through size and grandeur. It was to take us to the world of peace which can be found within us," says Behl. According to him, "It presents a tradition which developed further in later Chola temples. The deities are carved in niches on the walls and attendant figures are made in adjoining niches. The same high quality of art and the inward look is seen in the deity and in the attendants. Every part of the temple wall has dressed stones. Small, yet extremely detailed relief, adorn sections of the temple, along with the larger sculptures. A favourite motif in Indian art, from north to south, is seen here: a human figure riding on a vyala or leogryph."

## Stress on devotees

Highlighting the role of devotees, Brahmapurishvara has several figures of Ganas, an example of finest expressions of Chola art. Being devout, they have the eternal right to be close to Lord Shiva. "In Indian art, the entire range of emotions and human life is given a place...be it glee, sorrow or mischief. Ganas are seen lost in devotion to the Lord. We can relate most easily to them as they play their musical instruments or dance with elation," explains Behl.

Drawing attention to the panel where the Ganas sit atten-

human feelings and emotions, making them relatable." Stating that his Nataraja art works have several elements of Chola art, he adds, "The sculptures are the best of south India. They are energetic, with the figures being extremely stretched and elongated - from realism to best of idealism. Stylised, the postures are relaxed and easy, reflecting no strain or effort even while standing or moving."

The beginning of 11<sup>th</sup> Century heralded a dramatic shift in the scale of temples. While in ancient India art was patronised by the people, with sculptures and stupa railings sponsored by farmers, fishermen, shopkeepers, housewives, monks and nuns, kings began to do so directly by 8<sup>th</sup> Century. Royal patronage began to change the shape and art on the temples. In 1010, Rajaraja Chola completed the Brihadisvara. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, it is the tallest and largest temple which had been made in India. "It was made to express his power and military might as much as the grandeur of the Lord," states Behl. Five times the size of previous Chola temples, its vimana or tower stands 216 feet tall, while the monolithic stupa or crowning element weighs 80 tonnes. "It is believed that an earthen ramp, six kilometres long, was made to take it up to its position," he adds.

Interestingly, the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century witnessed temple building during Sembian Mahadevi's reign, the widowed queen of Gadaraditya Chola. A great patron of art, the Umamaheshvara Temple at Konerirajapuram has her portrait seated in devotion before a Shiva linga. "The temples of her time were made on a modest scale with emphasis on a very personal devotion to the divine," says Behl.

Describing her as a remarkable patron, Srinivasan adds, "as testified by inscriptions, she built and renovated a large number of shrines in the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century with rich endowments, and was revered to the point of having a town, Sembian Mahadevi, named after her. It seems that it is in her temples that the full blown Nataraja image in stone really comes into vogue such as at Konerirajapuram and Aditurai."

The 22-minute film's informative content and well shot frames are bound to spark viewers' interest.

