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NEARBY



Vasant Vihar triple murder case solved, two held

NEW DELHI
A woman and her live-in partner were arrested from a Gurugram hotel on Wednesday for allegedly killing an elderly couple and their caretaker in Vasant Vihar on June 23. The accused, identified as Preeti Sehrawat and Manoj Bhatt, had been staying in the hotel near their house after committing the crime, the police said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

DU first cut-off list to be out tomorrow

NEW DELHI
Delhi University is expected to release its first cut-off list for its undergraduate courses on Friday. Going by previous years' trend, the cut-offs are expected to be some of the highest in the country. Last year, the highest cut-off was for BA (Programme) at Lady Sri Ram College – 98.75%.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Indore BJP MLA assaults civic official, arrested

INDORE
BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya's son and a party MLA from Indore in Madhya Pradesh was on Wednesday arrested for attacking a civic body official with a cricket bat after a heated argument over a demolition drive. A video of the assault went viral on social media, after which the police filed an FIR against Akash Vijayvargiya and 10 others, an official said.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

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54 nations back India for UNSC non-permanent seat

Pakistan and China also come out in support

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON DC

India has won the unanimous support of all countries in the 55-member Asia-Pacific Group at the United Nations in support of its bid for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term in 2021-22.

The development is particularly significant given that Pakistan and China, both countries with which India has had diplomatic challenges at the UN, supported the move.

"Humbled by the show of solidarity by the Asia-Pacific Group in endorsing India's candidature," India's Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the UN Syed

Pride of place

The earlier instances of India being elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council

- 1950-1951
- 1967-1968
- 1972-1973
- 1977-1978
- 1984-1985
- 1991-1992
- 2011-2012

A unanimous step. Asia-Pacific Group @ UN unanimously endorses India's candidature for a non-permanent seat of the Security Council for 2 year term in 2021/22
— SYED AKBARUDDIN, INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS: CHINA, FRANCE, RUSSIA, THE U.K. AND THE U.S.

Akbaruddin told *The Hindu*. "We accept the responsibility with humility and will now seek support from the broader UN membership at the elections in General Assembly next year."

The 55-member Asia-Pacific Group gets to nominate

one of its members for the June 2020 elections to a non-permanent seat on the UNSC. Estonia, Niger, Tunisia, Vietnam and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were elected earlier this month.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

India and U.S. resolve to work through their trade differences

Secretary of State Pompeo meets Jaishankar, says hurdles can be negotiated

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. resolved to "work through" their differences which have led to an impasse on trade issues as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hosted U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Delhi ahead of a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump in Osaka this week.

"If you trade with somebody, and particularly if they are your biggest trading partners, it's impossible that you don't have trade issues. But I think the sign of a mature relationship is that ability to negotiate your way through that and find com-



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

mon ground," Mr. Jaishankar said at the end of their meeting on Wednesday, although neither side announced any positive outcomes from the discussions. Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Jaishankar are understood to have thrashed out issues, including tariffs and counter-tariffs imposed

by New Delhi and Washington on each other in the past year, as well as the U.S.'s specific concerns with India's proposed laws on e-commerce and data localisation, on price caps and market access.

"The U.S. is clear that it seeks greater market access and the removal of trade barriers in our economic relationship, and today I addressed these differences in the spirit of friendship and I think we will be able to resolve these issues in the interests of our two countries," said Mr. Pompeo.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
STAND UP FOR RELIGIOUS RIGHTS, SAYS POMPEO ▶ PAGE 13

Drowned dream



A Salvadoran migrant and his 23-month-old daughter drowned in Rio Grande river in Mexico while trying to cross into the U.S. The searing image of Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and Valeria has renewed the debate on the plight of migrants. ■ REUTERS
(REPORTS ON PAGE 14)

1.02 lakh more people excluded from Assam NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUAHATI

The office of the Coordinator for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam on Wednesday published an "additional draft exclusion list" consisting of the names of 1,02,462 people.

This list is different from the one containing the names of 40.07 lakh people

excluded last year from the 3.29 crore applicants.

This additional list also contains names included in the draft NRC published on July 30, 2018, but subsequently found ineligible for three reasons. "People found to be declared foreigners or doubtful (D) voters or with cases pending at Foreigners' Tribunals dis-

closed after publication of the draft NRC are in the additional list. So are their descendants, as applicable," a government spokesperson said. The other categories in the extra list are those found ineligible while appearing as witnesses during claims and objection hearings.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Four die while cleaning septic tank in Rohtak

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Four people died reportedly of asphyxiation in Haryana's Rohtak on Wednesday after inhaling toxic fumes while cleaning a septic tank, the police said.

The police said the four included an official of the Public Health Department, who had reportedly arranged the other three for cleaning a

drain-cum-septic tank.

"All the four were aged between 25 and 30 years and had gone to clean the septic tanks without any protective gear or masks," DSP, Rohtak, Gorakhpur told *The Hindu* over phone. "We have registered a case against officials of the PHD under Section 304 of the IPC and relevant provisions of the SC/ST Act," he said.

Titanic hero tweets on Chennai drought

Leonardo DiCaprio cites BBC report, highlights plight of the residents

K. LAKSHMI

CHENNAI
Now, everyone seems to love a good drought. As Chennai reels under a dire water crisis, it seems to have grabbed eyeballs across the world. Twitter's big news for the city on Wednesday was actor Leonardo DiCaprio tweeting about the Chennai water crisis, citing a report on the issue. He had tweeted: "Only rain can save Chennai from this situation."

Citing BBC News, Mr. DiCaprio, a United Nations Messenger of Peace with a special focus on climate change, has written about wells that are empty and a

city that is without water. He also highlighted the plight of Chennaiites who are scrambling for water and waiting in queues for long hours to fetch water.

"As the water levels depleted, hotels and restaurants started to shut down temporarily; and the air con was turned off in the city's metro. Officials in the city continue to try and find alternate sources of water—but the community continues to pray for rain," read his post.

Interestingly, Mr. DiCaprio, probably known best for his role in the Oscar-winning *Titanic*, and

released documentary *Ice on Fire*, which he produced and narrates, received rave reviews. He said the documentary focussed on never-before-seen solutions to the environmental crisis. But that was not all. Earlier last week, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders too highlighted a BBC report on Chennai running out of water in a social media post.

Several people took to social media to thank Mr. DiCaprio for his concern and called the crisis an example of political tension within the country. Some Instagram users like Mahesh Manoj blamed it on

residents who were not keen on rainwater harvesting in their houses; this had led to a decline in groundwater levels and a serious water scarcity.

Back at home, though, it is clear that the water crisis has certainly been rendered political. Saidapet MLA and former Chennai Mayor Ma. Subramanian, who staged a protest seeking a solution for the water crisis, noted that the issue was making headlines in several international newspapers, but charged that "the State government was yet to realise the gravity of the situation".



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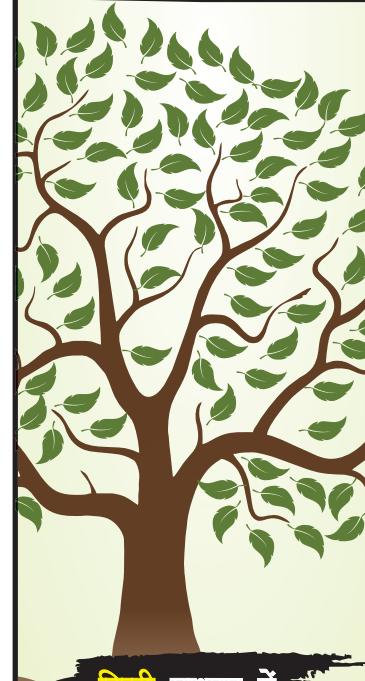
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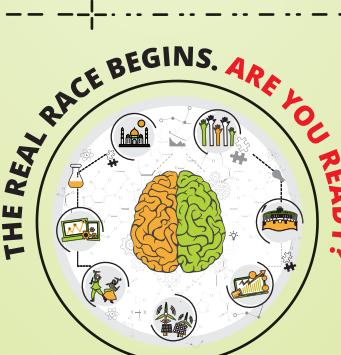
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JAIPUR: 22 June

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- अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास
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18th June | 1 PM

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DU first cut-off list tomorrow

More seats and fewer applications may impact percentage requirements

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi University is expected to release its first cut-off list for its undergraduate courses on Friday.

Going by previous years' trends, the cut-offs are expected to be some of the highest in the country. Last year, the highest cut-off was for BA (Programme) at Lady Sri Ram College – 98.75%.

This year, in order to accommodate EWS quota, the university increased its intake by 10%. Last year there were approximately 56,000 seats up for grabs, this year that number has gone up to around 63,000. The number of students that have applied to DU also dropped by over 20,000 this year.

These factors may have an impact on the cut-offs.

BA English continues to be the most-sought after course, followed by BA Political science, BA Programme, BA Economics, BA History and others.

ADMISSION GUIDE

STEP 1 Cut-off eligibility

After the cut-off list is announced, applicants must check whether they meet the requirement for the course they have applied to. Following this, they need to log in to the admissions portal on DU's website and select the appropriate course and college they are eligible for to generate the admission application form.

STEP 2 Document verification and approval of admission

After the first list is out, students will have time till July 1 to approach the college and carry out the application process. In case the documents are not verified online, students will be given provisional admission and they must submit the documents within a week after the admissions end. All candidates who meet the cut-off requirement will be admitted, but late arrivals – outside the prescribed duration – will not be entertained.

Documents required (originals and photocopies)

Class 12 marksheet | Class 10 marksheet | Three passport size photos

Community certificate if applicable for SC/ST/OBC/EWS/CW/KM category

NOTE: Students who do not have the EWS or OBC certificate yet may submit the acknowledgement slip. They will have to sign an undertaking and submit the certificate at a later date

STEP 3 Fee payment

A link to the fee payment gateway will be made available to the applicants on the admissions portal. The payment can be made through net banking, debit or credit card. Fees will be paid till 3 a.m./p.m. of the day after approval.

Counselling programme for PG students

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

IIT-Delhi holds workshop on air quality

The Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air at IIT-Delhi, in association with the US Embassy in India, organised a workshop on air quality to discuss how to reduce fine particulate matter (PM) concentrations. The delegates stressed on the need for India to develop a PM-monitoring network. US Science Envoy James Schauer also spoke at the event.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	162	Gurugram	130
Ghaziabad	164	Faridabad	155
Noida	156	Greater Noida	211
Good	51-100	Moderate	101-200
Poor	201-300	Very poor	301-400
		Severe	>401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

DELHI TODAY

Dance: An Odissi recital by Manisha Manaswini, disciple of Rajolini Mohapatra at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Exhibition: Between Art Deco and Modernism - Polish Posters from 1918 - 1939, an exhibition of archival posters from the collection of the Poster Museum at Wilanów, Main Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. onward.

Exhibition: Bahaa-e-dilli, a solo exhibition by Bahaa Jain and calligraphy in Urdu by Dr. Touseef Sheikh at Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: Assemblage '19, an exhibition by the students of the Delhi School of Photography at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

students from economically weaker sections, SC/ST and OBC categories, Kashmiri migrants, and wards of ex-servicemen, seeking admission in MA, M.Com and M.Sc courses.

The sessions will be held between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at various departments of the university. Contact information and addresses of department coordinators are available on the website.

A total of 1,31,129 people have applied for the university's PG courses. This year, the entrance test will be held at 18 centres across the country. In a first, the test is being carried out by the National Testing Agency.

The sessions will be held on Wednesday and Friday.

It is being organised for

fused to stay the interview process after three teachers of the college filed a petition against the inclusion of a member of the institution's Supreme Council on the interview panel for the selection of Christian students.

The petitioner, N.P. Ashley, who is a teacher and a member of the college's Governing Body, withdrew his plea. He had sought an urgent hearing as the admission interviews were scheduled to begin from Friday.

On July 12, the HC had rejected the petition.

by the Supreme Council at its meeting on March 12.

They had submitted that the Supreme Council had decided to have an additional Christian member nominated by it or the Governing Body to be part of the interview panel. The Supreme Council is higher in authority than the Governing Body of the college, comprising members from the Church of North India and also those nominated by it.

The teachers have contended that the "interference" of the church in the admission process was against the norms of the college. The college, however, claimed that the petition was not maintainable as neither any fundamental right nor any statutory or legal right of the petitioners was violated.

No compulsion on universities to teach any particular subject: UGC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Universities are autonomous bodies and there is no compulsion on them to teach any particular subject, the University Grants Commission (UGC) said on Wednesday.

The UGC's comments come in the wake of a row triggered by allegations from Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU), which on Monday had said that the university was trying to impose Hindi by making it a compulsory subject at the undergraduate BA and B.Tech courses.

Amid JNUSU allegations, the university had on Tuesday asserted that it is "unfortunate" that such "misinformation" has been circulated and had said the discussion on the matter has been deferred.

The idea behind the letter sent to universities in October 2018 was to seek suggestions about teaching of Hindi in universities and not to mandate it," said UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain.

'Need a movement to curb lynching'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Video of man doing stunts on 'Delhi Police' car goes viral

Man in clip not a cop; vehicle belongs to private contractor hired by the force: police

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A video of a man performing a stunt on a vehicle that had 'Delhi Police' written on it went viral on social media on Wednesday.

In the video, which was uploaded on a popular video-sharing app, a man is seen performing a dangerous stunt on top of the vehicle, which has a beacon light mounted on the top and 'Delhi Police' written on the bonnet. The police said they have initiated a probe.



A grab from the video.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 15-second video shows a man getting out of the driver's seat of the moving vehicle, getting on top of the car and doing a few push-ups before hopping down and getting back in the vehicle.

"We are going through the profile of the user who has uploaded the video on Tik-Tok app, in order to get more details," said a police officer.

Madhur Verma, DCP (New Delhi) and Delhi Police PRO, said that it has been confirmed that the vehicle in the

video belongs to a private contractor and it had been hired by the Delhi Police.

Show-cause notice
Mr. Verma, who said that the incident appears to be old, added: "The person in the video is not a policeman. He has been identified as the friend of a private driver of the vehicle. The private contractor has been issued a show-cause notice for the violation, and necessary legal action will be taken against him."

Joint Commissioner of Police (Security) will conduct an inquiry into the matter, they said.

Two minors among 7 hurt in Narela fire

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Seven people, including two children, were injured after a fire broke out at a general store in outer Delhi's Narela on Wednesday.

Delhi Fire Service (DFS) officials said that eight-year-old Ayush and four-year-old Vijay suffered 20% burns.

Twenty-three-year-old Amarjeet suffered 80% burn injuries and is stated to be in a critical condition.

The other victims are Madesh (16) and Raju Ram (15), who both sustained minor wounds. Bhagwan Swarup (25) suffered 35% burns while Satpal (22) suffered 40% burn injuries.

Report sought on cop's comments against Sikhs

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI

The fire department said they received a call about the blaze at 4.39 a.m. Two fire tenders brought the blaze under control by 6.45 a.m. It is suspected that the fire started from one of the power metres installed in the general store.

Another incident

In another fire, seven persons were rescued after a fire broke out at a building on Shanker Road in Ranjeet Nagar on Wednesday.

"A fire broke out at an office located on the second floor of the building," a senior fire officer said. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

tain members of the community allegedly beat up some police personnel while staging a protest against alleged bashing up of a driver and his son belonging to the minority group last week.

The police have lodged cross FIRs in the incident.

Before moving the court, Mr. Chugh lodged a complaint with the local police and later submitted a copy of it to the Commissioner but no action was taken, the complainant said.

He has sought lodging of a case against the constable for various offences, including for promoting enmity between classes.

CCTVs to help women step out without fear: Gopal Rai

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi Development Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said that women in the city are currently afraid of stepping outside their houses, adding that CCTV cameras can resolve the issue. The Minister made the comment after inaugurating the installation process of CCTV cameras in his Babarpur constituency.

"Women can now step outside their houses with confidence, knowing [CCTV] cameras installed by the Delhi government are out there for their security. If anyone misbehaves with women, the person will be nabbed immediately with the help of CCTV footage," the Minister said.

He said that the Station House Officer of the area will get a live feed of all cameras to avoid any delay in accessing the footage. It is part of the Delhi government's project to install 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras across the city.

"The security of the people of Delhi is something the government is actively working to achieve. It is an important day for Babarpur as the installation of CCTV cameras begins today. This was a key promise of our government to the people and is being fulfilled today," the Minister said.



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2018 Batch : 715 placements 2019 Batch : 700* placements (still in progress)	Sponsored Research Projects
Premium Salary Rs. 18.00 Lakhs	Completed : 35 Nos. Rs. 3.521 Crore
57 Students got Salary Rs. 10.00 Lakhs and more	Ongoing : 29 Nos. Rs. 10.00 Crore

SIT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

All the students seeking admission to SIT during the academic year 2019-20 with a CET rank up to 1000 (B.E.) and CET rank up to 25 (B.Arch.) are awarded scholarships. The scholarship amount is equal to the tuition fee. Scholarships are awarded for these students during subsequent years also, provided they secure CGPA ≥ 8.5 in the previous academic year without backlogs. Students are informed to make best use of this facility.

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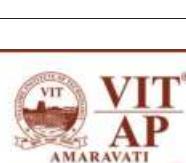
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IN BRIEF



NGT refuses to unseal Haj House in Ghaziabad

NEW DELHI
The NGT on Wednesday refused to unseal the Haj House in Ghaziabad for failing to set up a sewage treatment plant. The Haj House in U.P.'s Arthala village is an under-construction seven-storey building located near the Hindon river and it was sealed last year. PTI

Fire at Noida Authority office, no casualty

NOIDA
A fire broke out at the Noida Authority office here on Wednesday morning with some documents being gutted in the flames, officials said. Around half a dozen fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the flames doused within an hour, a fire department official said. PTI

4 shops sealed, 3 held for selling acid illegally

NOIDA
Four shops were sealed and three persons arrested in Greater Noida on Wednesday over illegal sale of acid, officials said. A campaign was carried out by the district administration to check the open sale of acid at local shops in Dadri which resulted in the action. PTI

Woman, partner held for Vasant Vihar triple murder

Duo nabbed from Gurugram hotel; robbery motive behind the crime, say police; accused is daughter of old family friend

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A woman and her live-in partner were arrested from a Gurugram hotel on Wednesday for allegedly killing an elderly couple and their caretaker in Vasant Vihar on June 23.

The accused, identified as Preeti Sehrawat (42) and Manoj Bhatt (39), had been staying in the hotel near their house after committing the crime, the police said. On June 23, bodies of Vishnu Mathur, 78, his wife Shashi, 75, and their caretaker Khushboo, 22, were found in their two-bedroom flat on the first floor of Vasant Apartments.

While preparing the list of people who recently visited the elderly couple, their daughter revealed that one Preeti Sehrawat had visited them after a gap of several years, the police said.

She was the daughter of Shashi Mathur's colleague and knew the family since childhood. She had even stayed overnight with them during her visit.

Cell phones and location
"In the meantime, Vishnu Mathur's mobile phone that had gone missing since the murder was switched on for



In the net: Preeti Sehrawat and her live-in partner Manoj Bhatt in police custody on Wednesday.

■ PHOTO SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

IMPORTANT LEADS

June 22: While scanning a CCTV footage, the police spot a couple (face covered) roaming around the Vasant Apartments

June 23: The same couple is spotted entering and leaving the building in another footage; their entry and exit match the time when the murder is suspected to have been committed

June 24: Vishnu Mathur's mobile phone is

switched on for a few seconds

June 25: Police trace Preeti Sehrawat and Vishnu Mathur's mobile locations to the same spot in Gurugram. Sehrawat was already on the list of people who had recently visited the flat

June 26: Preeti Sehrawat is found staying at a hotel near her house in Gurugram with her partner. Both are arrested

a few seconds and its location was traced to Gurugram. When mobile details of all suspects were cross-checked, we found Sehrawat's mobile location at the same spot in Gurugram," a police officer said.

The police said Sehrawat had also switched off her phone. However, they managed to trace her house in Gurugram and also the hotel where she was staying with her live-in partner.

Financial losses
Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Satish Golchha said during investigation it was revealed that the accused were going through a

period of financial losses and also had unstable marriages.

Vulnerable targets

"We have recovered the ₹86,000 cash and gold ornaments that was robbed from the Vasant Vihar flat on the disclosure of the accused. They had planned the crime after suffering losses in their

period of financial losses and also had unstable marriages.

Misled investigation

The accused first killed Khushboo and then the elderly couple. To mislead police investigation, they planted a glass of liquor, a cigarette, a condom below the caretaker's bed, left ₹6,300 kept in a purse on the table. They stabbed the elderly couple just twice but slit Khushboo's throat more

than 35 times," said a police officer.

They tried to frame someone who was close to Khushboo and staged the crime scene. The culprits made it appear as a crime of passion and not that of robbery. They initially succeeded in their plan as the district police arrested three suspects, including Khushboo's boyfriend.

As part of the plan, Sehrawat had visited the Vasant Vihar flat on June 17 and stayed overnight with the elderly couple.

She befriended Khusboo in order to get friendly entry in future. The accused again visited the Vasant Apartments on June 21 to do a recce and also check CCTV cameras in the area.

On June 23, they reached the flat on a motorcycle. Being aware of the CCTV camera locations, they covered their faces. Sehrawat went inside the flat first and Bhatt followed her after waiting for a few minutes.

Mr. Golchha added that Sehrawat and Bhatt have been arrested under murder charges. The missing mobile phones and murder weapons is yet to be traced.

The police said that Bhatt had recently come out on bail after serving five years in jail for murdering his wife in 2010.

Sehrawat had met him at her birthday party over three years ago and they were in a live-in relationship since then. She had been married twice and has three children.

Period of financial losses and also had unstable marriages.

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Punjab CM for preventive detention of repeat offenders in drug trade

Warns colluding officials, policemen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday mooted preventive detention of repeat offenders in smuggling and trading of drugs, amid reports that there were around 200 such criminals identified by the Punjab Police.

Pointing out that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act provides for preventive detention of such criminals, the Chief Minister reiterated his government's "zero tolerance" policy on drugs and against colluding government officials, including policemen.

Capt. Amarinder was presiding over a meeting of the consultative group on drugs here.

Taking cognisance of complaints of collusion of police officers with drug smugglers/traders/peddlers, the Chief Minister directed the Director-General of Police to bring out a comprehensive postings and transfers policy to break the nexus between police and drugs criminals.

He said: "Those involved would be liable for dismissal and compulsorily retirement. Criminal cases under under Section 29 of the NDPS Act



Amarinder Singh

will be registered, wherever involvement and wrongdoing is established."

During the meeting, DGP Dinkar Gupta informed that the Chief Minister's letter to the Prime Minister seeking a national drugs policy had evoked positive response from the Centre, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah directing his officers to ensure better coordination in the matter.

"The Narcotics Control Bureau has drawn about two dozen officers from other parts of the country and deputed them in Punjab to carry forward the anti-drugs fight in Punjab," the DGP said.

It was also announced that Punjab would host the next meeting of the Chief Ministers of the neighbouring States for more effective coordination of the drug enforcement efforts across States.

Congress failed to curb drug menace, say parties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party and the Punjab Ekta Party have accused the ruling Congress government in Punjab of failing to curb the problem of drug menace in the State.

Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly and senior AAP leader Harpal Singh Cheema said the menace continues unabated while the Congress was in deep slumber.

"Recent deaths of two youths in the border town of Ferozepur due to alleged drug overdose should be a wake-up call for those at the helm of affairs," he said.

The AAP leader alleged that free flow of drugs in the State was not feasible without the tacit support of the political masters offering protective cover to the drug mafias.

Accusing the State government of renegeing on its poll promise to end the menace within four weeks after assuming power in 2017, he said nothing on the ground has happened even as two and a half years have passed.



Harpal Singh Cheema

In a statement, Punjab Ekta Party president Sukhpal Singh Khaira said the rising number deaths due to reported drug overdose was alarming and the government needs to step up to the situation.

"Immediately an all-party meeting should be called by the government to take stock of the situation in Punjab," he said, adding that deaths reported from various districts were not the actual figures because many deaths go unreported due to social stigma and tendency in police to hide figures.

Mr. Khaira said the de-addiction campaign has failed completely since adequate staff is not posted at the de-addiction centres.

Right to Health Bill likely to be tabled in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

The Right to Health Bill, guaranteeing access to high-quality health care services, is likely to be among the Bills and amendments which will be tabled in the budget session of the Rajasthan Assembly beginning here on Thursday. The Opposition has identified several issues to attack the Congress government during the session.

The State Cabinet, which met at the Chief Minister's Office here on Wednesday, deliberated on the subjects to be taken up during the session and took nine decisions. The decisions included allotment of land to the families of five Central Reserve Police Force personnel from the State killed in the February 14 Pulwama terror attack.

Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi also convened an all-party meeting to ensure smooth functioning of the House.

The session is likely to be stormy, as the BJP will try to corner the State government on issues such as the law and order situation, paucity of water in several regions, changes made in school textbooks, 'bajir' (riverbed sand) mafia operating without fear, lacunae in the loan waiver scheme and delay in releasing unemployment allowance.

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-I, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp, ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

1. NIT No. EE/CD/I/DB/2018-19/163 (ID No. 2019_1FC_174631_1) H.O.A-2217-Plan (MLALAD), **Name of Work:- Providing and fixing Security gates (100Nos), streets in AC-37 Palam.** E.C. Rs. 83,65,486/- Earnest Money Rs. 1,67,310/- period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 28.06.2019 at 3:00P.M. & 3:05PM respectively.)
2. NIT No. EE/CD/I/DB/2019-20/10 (ID No. 2019_1FC_174690_1) H.O.A-4225-Plan (SC/ST), **Name of Work:- Construction of additional floor on existing Julaha Chaupal at Palam village AC-37.** E.C. Rs. 24,99,257/- Earnest Money Rs. 49,185/- period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 28.06.2019 at 3:00P.M. & 3:05PM respectively.)
3. NIT No. EE/CD/IB/2018-19/263 (ID No. 2019_1FC_174211_1) H.O.A- 4711-Plan (Other Drainage Works), **Name of Work:** Resurfacing of inspection path on right bank of Najafgarh Drain from Kakraula regulator to Pankha Road drain outfall Drain Point, **Sub work Resurfacing of existing road by providing and laying dense bitumen concrete on right bank of Najafgarh Drain from Kakraula Regulator to Baprola Bridge (from RD 30380m to 31880m).** E.C. Rs. 92,16,715/- Earnest Money Rs. 1,84,334/- period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 28.06.2019 at 3:00P.M. & 3:05PM respectively.)

4. NIT No. EE/CD/IB/2018-19/263 (ID No. 2019_1FC_174211_1) H.O.A- 4711-Plan (Other Drainage Works), **Name of Work:** Resurfacing of inspection path on right bank of Najafgarh Drain from Kakraula Regulator to Pankha Road drain outfall Drain Point, **Sub work Resurfacing of existing road by providing and laying dense bitumen concrete on right bank of Najafgarh Drain from Kakraula Regulator to Baprola Bridge (from RD 30380m to 31880m).** E.C. Rs. 92,16,715/- Earnest Money Rs. 1,84,334/- period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 28.06.2019 at 3:00P.M. & 3:05PM respectively.)
5. Note :- 1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
6. Amendment(s)/alteration(s)/corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(CD-I)
DIP/Shabdharth/0279/19-20

COLLEGE OF ART GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI (Affiliated to University of Delhi) 20-22, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI- 110 001 Phone Nos.: 23383612, 23387485, 23387571 Website: <http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in> E-Mail: prcoa.delhi@nic.in

Corrigendum

This is with reference to release of Admission Notice/Advertisement dated 02 June 2019, published in various newspapers and uploaded Admission prospectus data of BFA and MFA on college website.

It is informed to all applicants that due to the implementation of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) vide order No. F. DHEJ (119) Estt/2018-19/2549-76 dated 17.06.2019, issued by the competent authority, the revised seat matrix of BFA & MFA Intake Capacity for Admission 2019-20 is uploaded and applicants may refer or download for their reference from the college website "<http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in>".

Hence, the following schedule may please be noted by all applicants.

1. **Admission in EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category in BFA (Master of Fine Arts):** The date for submission of Application Form by hand has been extended upto Wednesday, 11 July, 2019, 4.00pm, only for applicants belonging to EWS category. Eligibility list of EWS category will be displayed on Friday, 12 July, 2019 4.00pm.

NOTE: There is NO CHANGE in Dates of Interviews/Viva for all streams of MFA. Admission will be held as per schedule, as mentioned earlier.

2. **Admission in EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category in BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts):** Application form for BFA along with requisite fees, supporting documents, duly completed, should be submitted by hand, from Wednesday, 10 July, 2019 4.00pm to Friday, 26 July, 2019 4.00 pm, and by Registered/Speed Post/Courier on or before, Friday, 26 July, 2019 4.00 pm, only for applicants belonging to EWS category. Eligibility list of EWS category will be displayed on Tuesday, 30 July, 2019 4.00pm.

NOTE: Entrance Test for applicants of EWS category will be held on Sunday, 04 August, 2019. Result of EWS category will be declared and uploaded on college website on Tuesday, 13 August, 2019 4.00pm.

The Applicants are advised to check the college website for all details. No separate intimation/letters will be sent for the above purpose ibid.

(Prof. B.S. Chauhan)
Officiating Principal

DIP/Shabdharth/0281/19-20

DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY, BHIWANI Requirement of Various personnel under NHM

Last Date for Apply : 02.07.2019 (till 05:00 pm)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for various personnel (Account Assistants, District Account Manager, Nutrition Counselor, Pharmacist, RBSK Coordinator, Audiologist & Speech Therapist, District Programme Coordinator, Clinical Psychologist, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Senior DOTS Plus TB-HIV Supervisor, Ayush Medical Officer (Male), Adolescent Health Counselor, Fleet Manager, Eye Donation Counselor, District PPM Coordinator, STLS, TBHV, Case Registry Assistant, Psychiatric Social Worker, Trained General Nurse, Community Nurse, Staff Nurse and MPH (F) under NHM Programme. Bhiwani purely on contract basis. Interested candidates may submit the application form along with necessary documents to- The Dy. Civil Surgeon-NHM, Room No. 225, O/o Civil Surgeon, Bhiwani.

For more details regarding no. of posts, category, essential/desirable qualification, experience, schedule of written test/interview etc., applicants are advised to regular visit: www.nrhmharyana.gov.in (no additional correspondence will be made individually).

Civil Surgeon-cum-Chairman (E)
DH&FWS Bhiwani

For more details contact
Deputy Civil Surgeon (NHM)
O/o Civil Surgeon, Bhiwani
Phone No:- 70278-17641
Prdh_77126

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER No. GM/ET/118-Pt/1266 Dated Guwahati, the 24.06.2019

The Directorate of Geology & Mining, Assam invites tender papers in two bid system affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only from reputed manufacturers, authorised dealer, firms or any others suppliers for supply of items, (A) Arc GIS software,(B) Materials for upgradation of Coal Laboratory (C) Petrological Laboratory items.

Separate tender papers for various groups can be collected from this office of the undersigned on any working day w.e.f 28.06.2019 to 04.07.2019 against submissions of IPO of Rs. 500.00 (Rupees five hundred) only as cost tender papers for each group in favour of the Directorate of Geology & Mining, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati -19. The technical bid and financial bid may be submitted separately for its tenders and entered in a sealed envelope superscribed as " tender for various article under group....." in the top right hand cover of the envelop.

The last date of submission of tender papers is 15.07.2019 up to 1.00 P.M. In case of last date of submission of tender papers will be declared as a govt. Holiday / Bandha the tender will be opened next day at the same time & venue.

Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Geology & Mining, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/C/1516-A/19

EDUCATION ROUND UP

Galgotias University : Miles ahead in Campus Placements



Galgotias University moves ahead proudly with record placements this year. The highlights of campus placements for this year are : 90% of students from B. Tech, CSE/IT, 71% of students from all the branches of B. TECH and 92% of students from MBA received their job offers. The present placement season for Galgotias University came with great enthusiasm, where within the first 15 days, students secured 1000+ job offers. The employers mainly being MNCs like Infosys, Cognizant, Wipro and TCS.

Apart from this, 34% of the students received multiple job offers as well. Students of Galgotias University got the opportunity to participate in the process of hiring with more than 400 companies like Sonalika Tractors, Ashok Leyland, Samsung R&D, Amazon, UltraTech Cement, VIVO Mobiles, PNB Housing, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Havells, Future Group, Flipkart, Ericsson, LG Electronics and many more. 90% of the students pursuing their studies receive their placement in sectors like Hotel Management, Logistics & Supply Chain Management, Law and Pharmacy.

Galgotias University is pledged in pursuit of its student's bright career and success. Towards this mission, Galgotias University has tied up with companies like Infosys, Cognizant, Wipro, Ericsson, Tech Mahindra, and other corporates. Galgotias University is working towards "Professional Skills" and creating "Global Professionals". Galgotias University is renowned for its modernized campus, strategic learning and global conduct. With modern facilities, the learning environment is designed in a way, which promises to turn students into Global Corporate Personality.

The students of Galgotias University are nurtured by highly experienced faculties and provides equal, fair and optimal opportunities of placements. Students are trained not only in academics but also in personality development & soft skills. It provides excellent career opportunities for their students.

Be the Brightest & Best in the World, be a Chartered Accountant.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body set up under an Act of Parliament to regulate the Profession of Chartered

LPU opens Counselling & Admission offices in Karnataka



Every year hundreds of students from Karnataka get enrolled at Lovely Professional University in different programs. Considering the same and the constant demand of the parents & students, LPU has opened counselling & admission offices in Karnataka. These offices will help students, parents and guardians to get information about university & programs easily while being in their own home-areas. LPU Counselling offices are in working at Mangalore, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Hubli, Mysore, and Bellary. In order to ensure that students make the right decision in choice of their programs, a team of highly qualified LPU professionals is also available for proper guidance. Here, people can converse face to face with LPU counsellors, get prospectus and even submit their filled in admission applications. Moreover, students will be able to have details about prestigious scholarship program of the university which enables meritorious students to get scholarship up to Rs 3 lakhs per student. These scholarships will be helpful for particularly those students who are not able to get quality education due to lack of resources.

The result of most prestigious engineering exam of the country, JEE Advanced has been released by IIT Roorkee. Students of Allen Career Institute have once again proved their superiority in the results. ALLEN Classroom Student Kartikey Gupta has topped JEE Advanced 2019. Sh. Brajesh Maheshwari, Director of ALLEN Career Institute said, ALLEN 2 year Classroom Student, Kartikey Gupta has created a history by securing AIR-1 in JEE Advanced 2019. ALLEN Classroom student have secured 3rd All India Rank 1 in IIT-JEE in last 6 Years. Earlier, Allen Classroom student secured AIR-1 in JEE Advanced 2014 and Aman Bansal topped JEE Advanced 2016. The students of ALLEN have proved their excellence by delivering the best results this year. ALLEN Classroom Student Nalin Khandelwal secured AIR-1 in NEET-UUG 2019 while Arunangshu Bhattacharya topped JIPMER 2019.

Along with this ALLEN Classroom Student Nishant Abhangi has secured AIR 6 and Kaustubh Dighi has secured AIR 7 in JEE Advanced 2019. Whereas Aditya Badola secured AIR 11, Parth Jain AIR 16, Jayesh Singhal AIR 17 and Parth Gupta secured AIR 20.

All of them are ALLEN Classroom Students. Apart from this ALLEN Distance learning program Student Aditya Bhaskar secured AIR 18. ALLEN student Sambit Behera secured AIR 1 in SC Category. 3 Students have secured a position in Top 10 AIR while 38 have obtained a position in Top 100 AIR. This includes 24 students of ALLEN Classroom and 14 of ALLEN Dip.

Office of District Engineer (District Board, Ramgarh)

Corrigendum

Due to some unavoidable circumstances the Revised schedule of Short Tender e-Procurement NIT No. ZP/RMG/04/2019-20(Construction of view Gallery on Ranchi to Hazaribag National Highway at Chutupala Valley) Date of Publication 12/06/2019, PR -208624, District (2019-20) is as follows :-
(1) Date of uploading tender in website :- 26.06.2019 at 03:00 PM
(2) Last Date/Time of receipt of Bid :- 01-07-2019 up to 05:00 PM
(3) Date of submission of EMD/Cost of BOQ (In Hard Copy):- 02-07-2019 up to 03:00 PM
(In the Campus of Police Station, Ramgarh)
(4) Date of Opening Tender: 03-07-2019 at 04:30 PM
(In the office of District Engineer, District Board, Ramgarh)

Note: Further details can be seen on the official website: Jharkhandtenders.gov.in

District Engineer
District Board, Ramgarh

Tripura panchayat polls to be held on July 27: SEC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Elections to the three-tier panchayats in Tripura would be held on July 27, State Election Commissioner G. Kammeswara Rao announced on Wednesday. Ballot papers would be used in the polls, the SEC said.

The model code of conduct came into effect in the respective panchayat areas from Wednesday itself. "Elections of 6,111 gram pan-

chayat seats, 419 panchayat samiti seats and 116 zila parishad seats will be held on July 27," Mr. Rao told a press conference here.

Altogether, 12,03,070 voters, including 6,16,893 males and 5,86,176 females, would be eligible to exercise their franchise. The filing of nominations would start from July 1 and will continue till July 8. The last date for withdrawal of nomination is July 11, Mr. Rao said.

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बैच प्रारंभ 27/28 June 3:30 PM

By अभय कुमार सर

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DELHI	Timings
THURSDAY, JUNE 27	
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23	
RISE 01:21 SET 14:02	
FRIDAY, JUNE 28	
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23	
RISE 01:54 SET 14:57	
SATURDAY, JUNE 29	
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23	
RISE 02:30 SET 15:56	

High Court judgment on Maratha reservation today

Court to decide on petitions for and against Bill granting 16% quota

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court will deliver its judgement on reservation for Marathas on Thursday.

On November 29, 2018, the Maharashtra Assembly had passed the Maratha Reservation Bill on 16% quota in government jobs and education for the Marathas, declared a "socially and educationally backward class". This raises the reservation in the State from 68% from 52% and crosses the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court.

"This is a compelling, extraordinary situation demanding extraordinary solutions within the constitutional framework," the draft Bill says, while suggesting "expedient" reservation for the Marathas.

In February, an HC division bench comprising Justices Ranjita More and Bharati Dangre started hearing a bunch of petitions by the State government as well as those for and against the reservation. While deciding on the quota, the government had considered recommendations made by the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission (MSBCC).

1,035-page report
In its 1,035-page report, Justice M.G. Gaikwad-headed, nine-member Commission said it took into consideration several parameters before recommending reservation. The commission took note of the Khatri Commission and Bapat Commission and said, "The Khatri Commission had recommended inclusion of Maratha-Kunbi and Kunbi-Maratha in the list of Other Backward Classes as

Caste certificate not a must for SEBCs: Tawde

Cites shortage of staff as reason for waiver

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Higher and Technical Education Minister Vinod Tawde announced on Wednesday that caste validity certificate for the Socio and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) category students was not mandatory for admissions to engineering and other professional courses.

Mr. Tawde made the announcement in the Assembly when Jayant Patil (Nationalist Congress Party) raised the issue after question hour.

"The meeting of the admission controlling authority was held on Wednesday morning under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The issue of caste validity

a sub-caste of Kunbi, but had not recommended inclusion of Marathas in the OBC list."

It also observed that the Bapat Commission was also against the inclusion of the Maratha community in the OBC bracket, which the Maharashtra government did not accept.

The commission said in April 1942, a government resolution was issued by the then government of Bombay with a list of backward classes, which included the Maratha community for the purpose of education. But in 1950, when the Central government prepared a list of

certificate for the newly-created SEBC was discussed during the meeting. There was a shortage of staff for providing the caste certificates. As a result, if a student from SEBC category has already applied for caste certificate, then it will not be mandatory on the student to submit the caste validation certificate," he said.

Mr. Tawde informed that this will be applicable to engineering and other professional courses, the admission process for which has already started for the academic year 2019-2020.

"Caste validity certificate for SEBC category students should not be insisted till further instructions," Mr. Tawde said.

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs, the Maratha community disappeared from the list, the commission said.

Quantifiable data
In one of the arguments made before the court, former Attorney General of India, Mukul Rohatgi had said, "We have quantifiable data to show that the Maratha community is backward and hence, we had to go beyond 50%."

He said the State government has the power to make special provisions for the advancement of backward

classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Senior counsel V.A. Tharwat, also appearing for the State, had said, "Marathas are known as warriors but the last time we fought a war was 200 years back, so what are the Marathas doing since then?"

He had also said, "We do not want political reservation, only educational and social."

An advocate supporting the quota had said, "Till the time Shivaji Maharaj was alive, he took care of the Marathas and ensured a healthy balance (for them) socially and financially. But after him, there has not been any Maratha leader or king. The status of Marathas has been deteriorating, therefore reservation is needed."

The MSBCC had relied on the survey results of only 43,000 Marathas, who constitute around 30% of the State's total population.

Former Advocate General Shreehari Aney had said, "The Maharashtra government has given the Marathas reservation because it has failed to provide adequate education and jobs for them." He also said the State government has destroyed the concept of equality and violated Article 14 (equality before law) of the Indian Constitution and given Marathas permanent crutches which they will never be able to shed.

An advocate opposing the reservation had said, "The legislation is unconstitutional and is against the principle and philosophy of reservation. It violates the cap of 50% reservation. Only 32% remains for the open pool."

Ex-Congress MLA meets Uddhav Thackeray

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Expelled Congress MLA Abdul Sattar met Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday, fuelling speculations that he

may join the Sena.

Mr. Sattar, who represents Sillod constituency in Aurangabad district, said his 30-minute meeting with Mr. Thackeray at the latter's residence here was a "cour-

tesy meeting". "There was no discussion about joining the Shiv Sena. I am independent leader now and free to meet a leader of any party," Mr. Sattar said.

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No. 8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road,
Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax : 080-22024000
email : cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in

No. KRDCL/IFB/2019-20/03

Dated : 26.06.2019

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(on e-procurement)

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), invites bids from reputed Consultants for the following Services based on Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).

Name of Work	Estimate cost for construction (Rs. in Crores)	EMD Amount	Period of Services
Consultancy Services for Authority Engineer for the work of "Development of Outer Ring Road for Hassan Town connecting Nelamangala - Mangalore Road (NH-75), Arasikere Road (SH-71), Halebidu Road and Belur Road (NH-373) in Hassan District, Karnataka" on EPC basis.	158.88	Rs.3,20,000/- through e-proc	Construction period of 30 months + 48 months of DLP & Maintenance period with reduced man power

- a) Interested applicants can view and download the complete proposal document from Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 28.06.2019 onwards.
- b) Bid Security (EMD) shall be paid as mentioned in the document.
- c) Pre-bid Queries shall be submitted on or before 12.07.2019 upto 17.00 hours through e-portal/e-mail : cekrdcl@gmail.com
- d) Pre-bid meeting will be held on 15.07.2019, 15.30 hours at KRDCL office.
- e) Bids must be submitted online only through e-procurement portal on or before 29.07.2019 upto 17:00 hours IST.
- f) Technical Bids will be opened on 31.07.2019 at 11.30 hours IST.
- g) Any changes will be uploaded to e-portal website only and will not be published in news papers.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, KRDCL

Government of Jharkhand Office of the Executive Engineer, Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.

Corrigendum

T.Reference No.: Shifting of pipe line of RWSS Silli & muri/Ranchi East-07/2019-2020 date 07.06.2019
Second Call PRN Number :- 208429
Name of Work:-Shifting of Pipe Line of Rural Water Supply scheme Silli & muri due to Road widening from Ranchi to Muri.

SL.No.	Particulars	पुरावे में प्रकाशित	वर्तमान में प्रकाशित
1	Estimated Cost (in lakh)	184,91645 Lakh	174,11169 Lakh
2	Earnest Money (in Lakh)	3,69900.00 Lakh	3,66300 Lakh
3	Cost of BOQ (in Rs.)	10,00,000	10,00,000
4	Time of Completion	180 Days	180 Days
5	Date of Tender uploading on website	15.06.2019/02.00 PM	24.06.2018/10.00 AM
6	Document down load /Sale start date	15.06.2019/02.00 PM	24.06.2018/10.00 AM
7	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	17.06.2019 (Time 12.30 PM) in the office of the Regional Chief Engineer, D.W & S. Department, Ranchi	26.06.2019 (Time 12.30 PM) in the office of the Regional Chief Engineer, D.W & S. Department, Ranchi
8	Bid Submission start date	17.06.2019/03.00 PM	26.06.2019/03.00 PM
9	Document download /Sale End Date	24.06.2019/05.00 PM	03.07.2019/05.00 PM
10	Bid Submission End Date	24.06.2019/05.00 PM	03.07.2019/05.00 PM
11	Last date of Submission of cost of BOQ and EMD (in Hard Copy)	25.06.2018/05.00PM in the Office of Executive Engineer D.W & S. Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.	05.07.2019/05.00 PM
12	Date of Opening of Tender	26.06.2019/02.00 PM	06.07.2019/02.00 PM

PR 209887 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)19-20#D

D.W & S. Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand, Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878, CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id:judco@jdcilimited@gmail.com

NIT No: JUDCO/PMAY/Vertical-III/2019/254

Date: 25-06-2019

e-procurement (Tender)

1.	(a) Name of the work	Construction (including structural design) of 90 dwelling units in 5 number of G+3 blocks (5 blocks with 20 dwelling units each) at Bholakali Plot-4093, Koderma under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). (Package-I)
	(b) Scope of Work	Scope of work include Architectural Planning & Design, Engineering Procurement, preparation of detailed structural design & drawing project execution & Construction, after obtaining approval from municipal bodies including water supply and sanitation, sewer network, electrification work, storm water drainage, rain water harvesting, landscaping, barred wire fencing, street lighting, construction of internal roads and parking area of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana at Bholakali Plot-4093, Koderma on EPC cum turnkey basis.
	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs.5,62,25,000/- (Rupees Five Crore Sixty Two Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only)
	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Thousand Only) Non-Refundable Bid Security: Rs. 5,62,250/- (Rupees Five Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Two Hundred And Fifty only).
5.	Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website	26.06.2019 17:00 Hrs
6.	Last Date/ Time of Bid Submission	17.07.2019 17:00 Hrs
7.	Last Date / Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	17.07.2019 17:00 Hrs
8.	Date of Bid Opening	18.07.2019 17:30 Hrs
9.	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, 3 rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi - 834001
10.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 2225878

Note: Only e-Tenders shall be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-Procurement website and can be seen on the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUDCO Limited, Ranchi

PR 209907 (Urban Development)19-20*D

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Tender No. GM/ET/801/1267

Directorate of Geology & Mining, Assam invites bids for the Procurement of Groundwater Rig (DTH) by e-tender with a validity of 180 days from the date of opening of the tender from the Registered and Approved vendors. Detail particulars may be seen at website <https://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Geology & Mining
Government of Assam.

Janasanyog/C/1519/19



WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



IN BRIEF



Rahul to meet Congress leaders in Wayanad

KALPETA
Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi has convened a meeting of party leaders of the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in New Delhi on Friday to chalk out a plan for the overall development of the constituency. Apart from district and Assembly segment leaders in Wayanad, Kozhikode, and Malappuram districts, a few State leaders have also been invited to attend the meeting.

Police issue lookout notice for Binoy Kodiyeri

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Mumbai police have issued a lookout notice for Binoy Kodiyeri, son of CPI(M) Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, whom they claimed had not responded to summons for questioning by the investigating officer. The police have instructed check-post officials at airports, seaports and land borders to prevent any attempt by Binoy to exit the country.



Then and now: Praja Vedika at Undavalli near Vijayawada when it was inaugurated, and, right, after officials razed major portions of the structure on Wednesday. ■ CH.VIJAYA BHASKAR & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Hall built by Naidu demolished

HC declines to stop removal of building put up on Krishna river bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AMARAVATI
Mangalagiri MLA Alla Rama Krishna Reddy, who has been crusading against unauthorised constructions on the waterfront, in general, and former A.P. CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's official residence, in

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Praja Vedika, an auditorium built by TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu to hold meetings at Undavalli, near here, was demolished as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy acted on his resolve to remove it citing flagrant violation of the River Conservancy Act.

About 50 workers and at least two earth movers were deployed to pull down the structure.

The facility was demol-

ished in mission mode under the supervision of top officials of the A.P.-Capital Region Development Authority amid tight security.

Mr. Jagan ordered its demolition as it was an unauthorised construction built on the banks of the Krishna.

TDP leaders described it as a "foolish act" and demanded that the government crack the whip on all such illegal constructions.

The High Court refused to grant an injunction on the demolition. It concurred with Advocate-General Sub-

rahmanyam Sriram's view that governments were supposed to abide by the "public trust doctrine" that mandated State action for effective management of resources.

No justification

The court asserted that when petitioner P. Srinivasa Rao, who had sought the stopping of the demolition, agreed that the structure was illegal, there was no justification on public interest in his plea. However, it said the appeal for recovering the cost of construction from those who got the hall built in alleged violation of rules would be looked into. The hearing was adjourned by two weeks.

Vital project
The Polavaram project is important for Andhra Pra-

shram. It will irrigate 3 lakh hectares, produce 960 MW of power and provide drinking water to 540 villages. The Modi government had given it a national project status and is sharing the cost. We gave one-year extensions since 2015. This time we have given two years. I've signed the order," Mr. Javadekar told reporters.

The project is a controversial one with the Odisha go-

vernment long having objected to it on the grounds that there is a stay by the Environment Ministry. The key grievance is that the project violates the provisions of the Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal award of 1978. Moreover, it has long held that tribal populations in both Chhattisgarh and Odisha would be affected. These disputes are still being argued in the Supreme Court.

IN BRIEF



Protests against Sterlite orchestrated: Vedanta

CHENNAI

Vedanta Limited has told the Madras High Court that the 2018 protests against its Sterlite plant were orchestrated by NGOs and activist groups "operating for profits and with ulterior motives".

Notice to nurses for recording videos in SNCU

BERHAMPUR

In a display of irresponsible behaviour, a group of nurses shot and uploaded 'TikTok' music videos inside the Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of the district hospital in Odisha's Malkangiri. In the videos, three on-duty nurses were seen dancing while newborns under treatment could be seen in the background. A show cause notice was issued to the nurses by the district administration.

AES claims one more life, Bihar toll rises to 154

MUZAFFARPUR

The Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) claimed one more life in Muzaffarpur on Wednesday, raising the toll in the north Bihar district to 132, while the number of casualties across the State was 154, officials said. The death in Muzaffarpur was reported from the privately-owned Kejriwal hospital, where 21 of 165 AES patients admitted since June 1 had died. The previous casualty at the hospital was reported on June 20.

All coins must be accepted as legal tender, says RBI

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appealed to the public to accept all coins as legal tender in wake of rumours resulting in reluctance on the part of some traders, shop-keepers and public to accept coins. Currently, coins of 50 paise, ₹1, ₹2, ₹5 and ₹10 denomination are in circulation.

Centre set to roll out 'Jal Shakti' scheme for water-starved areas

The campaign will ramp up conservation efforts in 255 districts from July 1

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

The Centre is set to initiate the Jal Shakti Abhiyan to ramp up rainwater harvesting and conservation efforts in 255 water-stressed districts from July 1, in line with the government's promise to focus on water.

Though water is a State issue, the campaign will be coordinated by 255 central IAS officers of Joint or Additional Secretary-rank, drawn from ministries as varied as Space, Petroleum and Defence, according to a notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on Wednesday.

The campaign seems to follow the model of last year's Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, where central officials monitored the implementation of seven flagship development schemes in 117 aspirational districts across the country.

The campaign will run from July 1 to September 15 in States receiving rainfall during the south-west monsoon, while States receiving rainfall in the retreating or north-east monsoon will be covered from October 1 to November 30. Overall, 313 blocks with critical groundwater levels will be covered, along with 1,186 blocks with

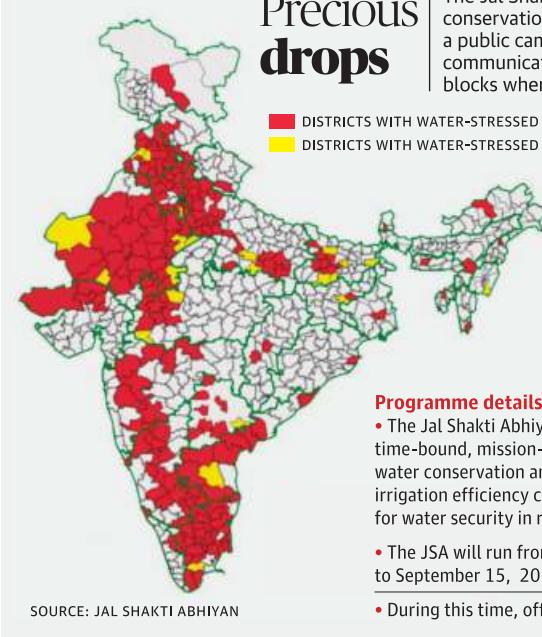
over-exploited groundwater

and 94 blocks with low groundwater availability.

Progress monitored

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan would aim to accelerate water harvesting, conservation and borewell recharge activities already being carried out under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme and the Integrated Wa-

Precious drops



SOURCE: JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan aims at making water conservation and promotion of irrigation efficiency a public campaign through asset creation and communication campaigns. The map shows districts/blocks where the measures will be carried out

Programme details:

- The Jal Shakti Abhiyan is a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation and irrigation efficiency campaign for water security in rural India.
- The JSA will run from July 1 to September 15, 2019
- During this time, officers,

groundwater experts and scientists will work together with State and district officials in the country's water-stressed districts for water conservation, resource management and irrigation efficiency

Intervention areas:

- Water conservation and rain water harvesting
- Renovation of water bodies
- Renovation of borewell recharge structures
- Watershed development
- Intensive afforestation

tershed Management Programme of the Rural Development Ministry, along with existing water body restoration and afforestation schemes being undertaken by the Jal Shakti and Environment Ministries.

Progress would be monitored in real time through mobile applications and an online dashboard at indiawater.gov.in

A major communications

campaign on TV, radio, print, local and social media will be carried out, with celebrities mobilised to generate awareness for the campaign.

Teams led by 255 Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary-rank officers and 550 Deputy Secretary-level officers from various central ministries would fan out across the country, making at least three trips of three days each to cover districts and blocks.

Indore BJP MLA assaults civic official, arrested



On the wrong-foot: A videogram of Akash Vijayvargiya attacking a civic body official in Indore. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Akash Vijayvargiya was opposing a demolition drive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

INDORE

BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya's son and party MLA from Indore in Madhya Pradesh was on Wednesday arrested for attacking a civic body official with a cricket bat after a heated argument over a demolition drive.

A video of the assault went viral on social media, after which the police filed an FIR

against Akash Vijayvargiya and 10 others, an official said.

Mr. Akash went about beating up the officer even as media persons surrounded him and recorded the incident. Justifying his action, Mr. Akash said, "In the BJP, we have been taught, *pehle aavedan, phir nivedan aur phir danadan* [first request and then attack]."

Eyewitnesses said locals were protesting against the razing of a house when Akash, part of the protest, warned the civic body staff of consequences if they did not leave the spot.

Mr. Akash started hitting the officer who was talking on his phone. The MLA's supporters also attacked the officer and abused him while the police tried to intervene.

Assam woman wrongly jailed as foreigner set free after 3 years

The retired teacher was picked up due to a 'clerical error'

RAHUL KARMAKAR

GUWAHATI

Almost three years after she was wrongly arrested, a 59-year-old woman was on Wednesday released from a detention camp for foreigners in western Assam's Kokrajhar.

Her freedom came less than 24 hours after officials started the process of correcting a clerical error that made a retired teacher in southern Assam a 'D', or doubtful voter 22 years ago, thus depriving her of inclusion in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) being updated.

Mistaken identity

Madhubala Mandal was released after the police admitted before a Foreigners' Tri-



Madhubala Mandal

bunal that they had erred in picking her up instead of Madhumala Das in 2016. Both belong to the same village - No 1. Bishnupur in western Assam's Chirang district. "An inquiry revealed she was the victim of mistaken identity. She was set free after a police officer was sent to the Kokrajhar detention camp with a copy of the court's order for her re-

lease," Sudhakar Singh, Chirang's Superintendent of Police, said.

Officials in the Assam police's border wing - tasked with detecting suspected foreigners - declined to say if any action would be taken against the investigating officer who had wrongly identified the woman. There was also no clarity on whether Ms. Mandal would be compensated for her wrongful detention.

Relatives and NGOs who fought for her case refused to buy the apology. "Madhumala Das, the woman the police had come for died long ago. But they still picked up another woman," a spokesperson of the All Assam Bengal Youth Students' Association said.

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Scoring on health

States, now with greater resources at their command, must upgrade primary health care

The Health Index 2019 released by NITI Aayog makes the important point that some States and Union Territories are doing better on health and well-being even with a lower economic output, while others are not improving upon high standards. Some are actually slipping in their performance. In the assessment during 2017-18, a few large States present a dismal picture, reflecting the low priority their governments have accorded to health and human development since the Aayog produced its first ranking for 2015-16. The disparities are stark. Populous and politically important Uttar Pradesh brings up the rear on the overall Health Index with a low score of 28.61, while the national leader, Kerala, has scored 74.01. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra join Kerala as the other top performers, with the additional distinction of making incremental progress from the base year. The NITI Aayog Index is a composite based on 23 indicators, covering such aspects as neonatal and infant mortality rates, fertility rate, low birth weight, immunisation coverage and progress in treating tuberculosis and HIV. States are also assessed on improvements to administrative capability and public health infrastructure. For a leading State like Tamil Nadu, the order of merit in the report should serve as a sobering reminder to stop resting on its oars: it has slipped from third to ninth rank on parameters such as low birth weight, functioning public health centres and community health centre grading.

For the Health Index concept to spur States into action, public health must become part of mainstream politics. While the Centre has devoted greater attention to tertiary care and reduction of out-of-pocket expenses through financial risk protection initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat, several States remain laggards when it comes to creating a primary health care system with well-equipped PHCs as the unit. This was first recommended in 1946 by the Bhore Committee. The neglect of such a reliable primary care approach even after so many decades affects States such as Bihar, where much work needs to be done to reduce infant and neonatal mortality and low birth weight, and create specialist departments at district hospitals. Special attention is needed to shore up standards of primary care in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Assam and Jharkhand, which are at the bottom of the scale, as per the NITI Aayog assessment. The Health Index does not capture other related dimensions, such as non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases and mental health. It also does not get uniformly reliable data, especially from the growing private sector. What is clear is that State governments now have greater resources at their command under the new scheme of financial devolution, and, in partnership with the Centre, they must use the funds to transform primary health care.

RCEP next steps

India cannot afford to fall out of the free trade agreement negotiations

Leaders of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations have resoundingly committed to conclude negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership free trade agreement by the end of 2019. Some like the Malaysian Prime Minister went a step further, suggesting that countries not ready to join the RCEP, notably India but also Australia and New Zealand, could join at a later date, allowing a truncated 13-member RCEP to go ahead. Others insist that all 16 members must agree on the final RCEP document. It is clear that ASEAN, which first promoted the RCEP idea in 2012, is putting pressure on all stakeholders to complete the last-mile negotiations. The ASEAN summit, which ended in Bangkok on Sunday, agreed to send a three-member delegation to New Delhi to take forward the talks. RCEP includes ASEAN's FTA partners – India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand – and the FTA would encompass 40% of all global trade among economies that make up a third of global GDP. India has been keen to join. But six years into negotiations, its concerns remain: opening its markets for cheaper goods from countries like China and South Korea; and ensuring that RCEP countries open their markets for Indian manpower (services).

India has a trade deficit with as many as 11 of the RCEP countries, and it is the only one among them that isn't negotiating a bilateral or multilateral free trade agreement with China at present. As a result, although negotiators have agreed to New Delhi's demand for differential tariffs for its trade with China *vis-à-vis* the others, India has also made tagging the "Country of Origin" on all products a sticking point in RCEP negotiations. Despite its misgivings, however, the government has reiterated that it is committed to making RCEP work, and any attempt to cut India out of the agreement was "extremely premature". In the next few months, India will be expected to keep up intense negotiations, and most important, give a clear indication both internally and to the world that it is joining RCEP. To that end, the Commerce Ministry has begun consultations with stakeholders from industries that are most worried about RCEP, including steel and aluminium, copper, textile and pharmaceuticals, and has engaged think tanks and management institutes to develop a consensus in favour of signing the regional agreement. Giving up the chance to join RCEP would mean India would not just miss out on regional trade, but also lose the ability to frame the rules as well as investment standards for the grouping. Above all, at a time of global uncertainties and challenges to multilateralism and the international economic order, a negative message on RCEP would undermine India's plans for economic growth.

Negotiating the forks in the road of diplomacy

India needs a substantive and defined account of its own objectives to steer its strategic course in these stormy times



SUHASINI HAIDER

Seldom in the recent past has the impact of one month meant more in Indian foreign policy than the present one. And rarely have meetings on the sidelines around one summit carried as much import on India's future policies as the G-20 summit in Osaka (June 28-29), where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with at least eight world leaders (most notably U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin), and participate in two parallel trilaterals, the Russia-India-China (RIC) and Japan-U.S.-India (JAI). Two weeks ago, in June, he also held a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek.

In a few months, he will meet the three world leaders again for more substantive meetings: with a visit to Vladivostok (the Eastern Economic Forum in September), a possible dash to Washington during the UN General Assembly, again in September, and the Wuhan return-visit by Mr. Xi to India in October. Between these two sets of meetings, Mr. Modi has his work cut out on a number of issues, each of which represents a fork in the road, depending on India's decision on them: a fork where the U.S. holds one prong and the Russia-China axis holds the other.

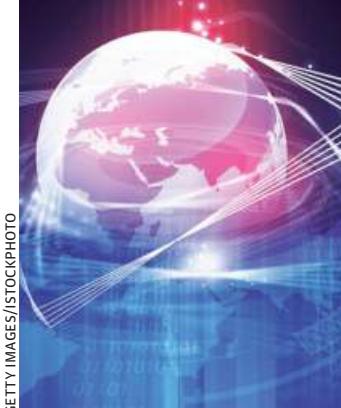
Trade concerns

On trade, the tussle is evident. Many in India had rejoiced when the U.S. first declared a trade war on China, given India's long-standing concerns about China's unfair

trade practices. However, as Mr. Trump trained his guns on India next, the joy evaporated, and choices for the Modi government changed. At Osaka, Mr. Modi will meet Mr. Trump in an effort to give trade issues another try, but he also plans to attend the RIC trilateral as well as a meeting with leaders of BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa), both of which will focus on countering the U.S.'s "unilateralism" on trade. In the months ahead, New Delhi must make another choice, on whether to sign up for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a trade grouping that has taken centrestage after the U.S. walked out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. If trade issues with the U.S., India's largest trading partner, remain intractable, it is not hard to see that the RCEP bloc, with China in it, will become more prominent in India's trade book.

Energy and communications

The choice on energy, and in particular on Iran, comes next. When the Trump administration pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement in May 2018, but granted India and a few other countries a waiver to continue oil imports (as well as one for Chabahar trade), the government had assumed it could muddle through the Iran-U.S. confrontation. Instead, it has lost on both principle and profit. After accepting U.S. sanctions on oil imports, India's intake of cheaper, better Iranian crude will dip from about 23.5 million tonnes in 2018-19 to zero in 2019-20. The waiver for Chabahar turned out to be a red herring as banks, shipping and insurance companies have declined to support India-Afghan trade through the Iranian port for fear of sanctions affecting their other businesses. What follows now will be more difficult for New Delhi, as the U.S. has sanctioned the top rungs of Iran's government and the Is-



lamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Having meekly submitted to U.S. sanctions, will India now also abjure contact with the Iranian leadership or reject the U.S.'s demand? And where will India's investments and its dreams of larger connectivity via Chabahar and the Russian-led International North-South Transport Corridor go, in the event of a full-scale confrontation between the U.S. and Iran? Willy-nilly, the forks in the road are presenting themselves and choices must be made.

Another choice New Delhi will be forced to make in the next few months is on telecommunications and building its 5G network, for which trials are due to begin in September. The U.S. has made it clear that it expects the Modi government to exclude the Chinese telecom company, Huawei, over security concerns, and threatens to withhold intelligence and security cooperation if India allows this company to control its 5G networks. China has made it equally clear that India must make an "unbiased" choice and will oppose any move to cut Huawei out of the trials. On the Russian S-400 missile system deal too, its a black-or-white decision for the government to make as the U.S. makes it clear that going ahead with the deal won't just invoke sanctions but will close the door to American high-tech and advanced aircraft deals.

The next contestations will come from the maritime sphere. The U.S. and China are pitted against each other in the South China Sea, which is now spilling over into South Asia through the Indo-Pacific. While India has focused on China's encroachment in subcontinental waters, it is clear that the U.S. too is seeking a role here. The signing of an updated Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) which was put off, along with a cancellation of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Colombo at the last minute this week, will be one of many such military and security upgradation plans for the U.S. in the region. Having strenuously objected to one, will India continue to be complacent about the other's military build-up in South Asia?

Transformed alignments

The tussle between the U.S. and Russia-China is not new and India has negotiated these in the past few decades with considerable success. However, there are several reasons why this does not hold in the present, and why New Delhi will need more than nimble footwork to navigate the choices that their contestations present. To begin with, the Russia-China bond today is firmer than it has been at any point since the 1950s, cemented by the Xi-Putin friendship. The Trump administration has crystallised that bond by marking out "revisionist" Russia and China as the U.S.'s "central challenge" in its National Defense Strategy published in 2018. As a result, both sides are imposing an "either/or" choice on countries that are not already strategically or economically riveted to one side or the other. In a world where the rhetoric is increasingly about interoperability and there is a 'buffet' of options, a la carte choices that New Delhi had hoped it could make may no longer be on the menu. India's pivot within this period, away from "non-alignment" to "multi-alignment" or "is-

sue-based alignment", therefore, is unsustainable.

India needs a substantive, more clearly defined account of its own objectives to steer its strategic course in these stormy times.

It is necessary to stay rooted in India's own geographical moorings within Asia and within South Asia in particular. An India that carries its neighbourhood is a formidable force at any international forum, compared to one mired in sub-regional conflicts. Second, India needs its own list of "asks" from its relationships with big powers. The recent success with listing Masood Azhar as a globally designated terrorist is an example of how focussed persistence and quiet diplomacy pays off. However, India needs to move beyond asking for punitive measures against Pakistan or its constant demand for more visas for Indians to live and work abroad and think in terms of long-term strategic needs instead. Third, India needs to embrace non-alignment as it was envisioned, not as the Non-Aligned Movement grouping, which is now in disarray. Former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao wrote in 1989 that "Standing on our own feet and not being a plaything of others was the essence of the policy of non-alignment... a means of safeguarding India's own national self-interests, that also constituted an earnest attempt to democratise international relations."

In order to do this, it is necessary to reject the "tactical transactionalism" that has currency today for a more idealistic view of the world that India wishes to shape in the future. It would be a mistake, as Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said recently, if we become "nothing more than the sum of our deals". It would be a greater misfortune, however, to be trapped in the 'zero sum' of our deals.

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Taking firm steps to emancipation

The 2019 election mandate should make the Muslim community ponder over its future



MARKANDEY KATJU

The results of the elections to the 17th Lok Sabha and the scale of the mandate for the Bharatiya Janata Party have made many Muslims in India despondent. But perhaps it is a blessing in disguise.

Since Independence, Muslims have been treated as a vote bank by the Indian National Congress and other so-called secular parties; the community has only been used by the political class with very little having been done for them.

As the Justice Rajinder Sachar Commission has reported, most Muslims in India are still relatively poor and backward. They have been in the grip of reactionary maulanas and crafty politicians with their own vested interests in mind and who have propagated the idea that no government at the Centre and in many States could be formed without their help. This

illusion has now been shattered by the result of the 2019 general election. The recent interview by Karan Thapar with former Union Minister Arif Mohammed Khan illustrates this.

The number of seats won by Muslims in this election could now force the community to ponder over their welfare, how to remedy the situation and improve their lives.

The main cause of their sorry plight is their backwardness, which in turn is due to the reactionary and feudal mindsets of some leaders who claim to represent them both from the clergy and the political class.

Path to progress
In order to change this, the community will have to take three radical steps. The first is demanding a uniform civil code for all Indian religious communities. This, by implication, means an abolition of the outdated feudal Sharia law. The law is a reflection of social conditions at a particular historical stage of a society's development. So as society changes, the law too must change. How can a medieval law be applicable in the 21st century? The abolition of Sha-

ria will not mean the abolition of Islam. Almost the entire old non-statutory Hindu law was abolished by the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 – but Hinduism has not been abolished by that.

Sharia treats women as inferior. It permits talaq (verbal) only to Muslim men, not women, and is thus a Damocles sword over the latter. It gives only half as much to daughters as to sons in inheritance. It sanctifies the backward-looking rule of nikah halal. All this has helped keep the community backward; when women who constitute half the Muslim population are not treated as equals, it obviously and adversely affects the

entire community.
The second is a demand to abolish the burqa as it constricts the freedom of women. However, many have said it should be the women's choice whether to wear a burqa or not. But, surely, no such choice should be given as it constitutes a 'negative' freedom. There should be no freedom to continue backward feudal practices and they should be suppressed if the country (including Muslims) is to progress, as was done in Turkey by the leader, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. A heavy fine should be imposed on women wearing the burqa, as has been done in parts of Europe.

The third is a demand to abolish the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), a non-statutory body set up in 1973 in the time of Indira Gandhi, whose eye was on the Muslim vote bank. The AIMPLB comprises reactionary clerics and other people most of whom have reactionary mindsets whose aim is to protect and continue the outdated feudal reactionary Sharia law, which in fact harms Muslims. The AIMPLB strongly opposed the progressive and humanitarian Shah Bano judgment (1985), which granted maintenance to divorced Muslim women,

and which led to the Rajiv Gandhi government getting the judgment legislatively annulled. Recently, the AIMPLB took another reactionary step by advocating the setting up of Sharia courts in every district.

A note for youth

Atrocities on Muslims such as lynching or hate speeches, or framing of false charges should be condemned. But there can be no support for backward practices, whether among Muslims or Hindus (such as the caste system or looking down on Dalits). It is time now for Muslims, particularly the youth, to rise and demand putting an end to feudal reactionary practices which are the biggest cause of backwardness in the community. This is the only means to their salvation. As Maulana Azad said to Muslims in 1947 at the Jama Masjid: "Nobody can drown you unless you drown yourself. Nobody can defeat you unless you defeat yourself. The moment you realise this, you develop the confidence that this country is ours, along with others."

Justice Markandey Katju is a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India

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.

Word of caution

The report that the Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) has written to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, cautioning him about the growing view that the Trump administration appears to be coercing India on various fronts rather than negotiating with it is a welcome development (June 26). There is perhaps a realisation that this could have grave repercussions for U.S. diplomacy. India, Russia and China could make common cause with each other, which could be detrimental to the U.S. Given that the HFAC has oversight responsibilities over the U.S. State Department, one hopes that the visiting U.S. Secretary of State will heed the words of wisdom.

**NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,
Thiruvananthapuram**

Indian prisons

The rot in India's prison system cannot be glossed over (Editorial page, "The state of Indian prisons", June 26). In addition to this, the subject of the 'New Prison Manual 2016' is important. It includes provisions such as access to free legal services, additional provisions for women prisoners, rights of prisoners sentenced to death, inspection of prisoners and modernisation of prisons. Whether the prison authorities are following the manual or not is the moot point. If the answer is negative, then this too is another violation of the basic rights of prisoners.

**SUSHANT DHEKALE,
Kolhapur, Maharashtra**

exaggeration to say that undertrials are caged like birds for years due to poor legal options and the penurious condition of inmates. That there is ignorance of legal privileges such as Section 436 A of the Code of Criminal Procedure is unacceptable.

**ARYA S.T.,
Ashti, Wardha, Maharashtra**

■ The data on prisoners reflect the scant interest evinced by many governments in dealing with the issue. It would be no

the custodians of the law (Editorial, "Lynching redux", June 26). Such incidents happen time and again as the perpetrators have political backing. Though such incidents come to light, one is sceptical whether the victims get justice. One waits for the day when the spirit of brotherhood is rekindled.

**LEELA KALLARACKAL,
Chennai**

■ It is India's image that gets affected as the foreign media sifts through such deplorable episodes, portraying India in a bad light and insinuating political patronage. These perpetrators need to be given exemplary punishment. Also the religious chanting in Parliament is unwanted. Our lawmakers have been given the mandate to legislate and govern the country and not to portray themselves as the champions of any religion.

**DEEPAK SINGHAL,
Noida**

■ Why is the Prime Minister failing to find the time to consistently condemn mob lynching? Doesn't his idea of an inclusive India include the minorities? Silence is the greatest enemy of justice. Tolerance and cultural relativism have always been India's virtues but it looks as if these are being eclipsed. The government cannot abdicate its constitutional responsibility to uphold human rights especially when the world is watching.

**MEENA YADEM,
Hyderabad**

scarcity in plenty (Editorial, "A city gone dry", June 26). Sheer mismanagement and a lack of planning are what have resulted in this state of affairs. Groundwater levels in the city are at a historical low and short-term measures will not suffice. The Tamil Nadu government needs to invest in watershed management in rural areas, focus on a targeted rejuvenation of water bodies and ensure that there is smart urbanisation with a prime focus on water recycling and conservation across households.

**SOURJYA RAY,
Tiruchi**

Water management
The water scarcity in Chennai is a good example of

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
Late correction: The report, "Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is Congress Lok Sabha leader" (June 19, 2019), erroneously described Mr. Chowdhury as a Member of Parliament representing *Murshidabad*. Actually, he represents *Baharampur*.

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: +91-44-28418297/285526300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552633; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

INTERVIEW | K. KASTURIRANGAN

'The education system needs change, not fine-tuning'

The Chairman of the committee which finalised the draft National Education Policy, 2019, on Board exams, teacher training and improving the quality of research

SHUBHASREE DESIKAN

The K. Kasturirangan Committee, which submitted the draft National Education Policy to the Ministry of Human Resource Development in May, has invited comments on the document till June 30. Mr. Kasturirangan, chairman of the committee and former head of the Indian Space Research Organisation, talks about the features of the policy. Edited excerpts:

How was the committee constituted?

■ The work on the present policy started in Smriti Irani's time [when she was Union Minister of HRD]. After eliciting opinions from a cross-section of society, the T.S.R. Subramanian committee was set up. In parallel, there was a report from the MHRD. I was called by Prakash Javadekar, who was the [HRD] Minister then. There were some issues with the Subramanian report which we were asked to revisit. We also had the MHRD report. We were asked to use all this and come up with a report which did not have issues and which could withstand the next 20 or even 30 years of India's development. But when we studied it, we felt that what was needed was not a fine-tuning of the existing policy but a re-look. So, we started with a clean slate.

While the idea of school complexes sounds good in urban and semi-urban areas, what about areas where access to schools is a problem?

■ Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan had put forth [the idea] that within a specified distance there should be a school. Schools have come up, but there are many schools which have only six students or only one teacher. This is not the idea of school education. There is no playground, there is no idea of a societal interface with the child.

Wherever we have a cluster of schools, we can move to this concept of school complexes a little faster. School complexes will grow

SINGLE FILE

Cinema as education

'Virus' is a reminder of the role of cinema in spreading social good

KUNAL RAY



Aashiq Abu's recently released Malayalam film, *Virus*, is captivating. The film is a chilling document of the deadly Nipah virus outbreak that affected parts of Kerala last year and how the State machinery mounted an impressive defence to tackle the grave situation. It records in laborious de-

tail the meticulous planning undertaken by many individuals to solve the crisis, saving many lives that could have been further endangered. This is a prime example of cinema that is educative. I am no lover of socio-realistic films which can sometimes be pedantic and preachy, but *Virus* is an important moment in the history of contemporary Indian cinema, which is increasingly assailed with propaganda films. To me, this film is a reminder of the role of cinema in spreading social good.

Fiction films on medicine and public health are rare in India. Cinema has often been used to critique the lack of medical facilities, poor healthcare, infrastructure and illustrate people's suffering. Most of these films only present the problem without offering any solutions or follow-up to the crisis. While these issues cannot be marginalised, *Virus* shows how to deal with adversity using public knowledge and the workforce. It also depicts the positive role played by the local media in preventing panic and effectively disseminating information. Cinema is a documentation of our times and the knowledge that this film has archived will be available to a large populace for future action if needed. Furthermore, it makes no attempt to glorify the powers that govern the state or peddle any ideology that, for example, the filmmaker might favour. It is a lesson in objective storytelling.

Besides, the film involves several key members of the Women in Cinema Collective, which has attracted much consternation since its formation in a heavily male-dominated industry. I am hopeful that the film will further bolster their position as purveyors of content-driven and socially relevant cinema. *Virus* places women at the core of its narrative. The film is unimaginable without them because women were the key players under the leadership of the remarkable K. K. Shailaja, Kerala's Minister of Health and Social Welfare.

But how does contemporary Malayalam cinema manage to do this? Here is an example of a rare mainstream film practice that merges excellent storytelling with riveting performances. The distinctions between art-house cinema and commercial cinema dissipate. The film shows patients suffering, with concerned families by their side. It eschews melodrama completely without foregoing its humanism. At the end of the day, cinema ought to help us recognise characters as fellow human beings with their vulnerabilities. *Virus* does that. It is the triumph of good storytelling coupled with the right intent.

The writer teaches literary and cultural studies at Flame University, Pune

CM YK



opportunities. What opportunities? Access to education – you can go to nearby places and study as well as others. Second, Dalits will get 100% scholarship. Many small concessions given by the government will be retained and, if necessary, upgraded.

The policy suggests several Board exams each semester for eight semesters. Isn't the load a lot more than it is now?

■ Students can take the Board exams as soon as they are thorough with a particular subject. In case they are not happy with the outcome of that exam, they can take it again in another six months. There is nothing sacrosanct about writing the exam at a particular time and doing well. [It is not as if] their future is ruined if they don't perform well in the exam.

Once exams are completely digitised, the student can give the exam. And if he finds he has scored well, he has completed the exam. Another aspect is that as he gets more and more credits as he passes more exams, these credits can be carried forward. So we think this system provides minimal pressure. And we do away with rote learning; it is a formative test.

The draft policy advocates an extreme degree of centralisation. Even though education is in the Concurrent List now, State autonomy is not really considered in this.

■ We are aware that education is in the Concurrent List. States have a major responsibility. They have the school. Every State will have its regulatory body set up by the school. Accreditation will be separated from regulation,

Can this not be achieved within the existing system?

■ The existing system has intrinsic issues. There are several thousand schools with merely six or eight students. Or only one teacher. What kind of satisfactory model can you develop around this for school education?

The school exam system has to be changed. The exam system is difficult because youngsters are stressed by the rote learning approach. Teachers have to be re-trained or new teachers have to be brought in because the pedagogy is going to be very different. The whole system has to undergo a change, so fine-tuning the existing system to achieve the level of aspiration projected here doesn't seem to be feasible.

The draft policy advocates an extreme degree of centralisation. Even though education is in the Concurrent List now, State autonomy is not really considered in this.

■ We are aware that education is in the Concurrent List. States have a major responsibility. They have the school. Every State will have its regulatory body set up by the school. Accreditation will be separated from regulation,

but the accreditation process will lead to some aspects of regulation.

Whereas the national frame-setting will provide the guidelines for framing the curriculum, and a pedagogy for that, it is up to the State to decide what will be the curriculum and pedagogy. Similarly, like the national accreditation authority, you have the State accreditation authority. This policy will enable the State to considerably innovate, bring in new ideas, and try to create dynamic changes. There is always a consultation process that is available with the Centre with respect to the four or five bodies which will control education. But that in no way will put direct control on what is happening at the State level.

You are talking about public education. But there is an advisory to shut down standalone teacher education institutions across the country as soon as possible. Your comments?

■ Teacher education institutes have mushroomed in the thousands. I don't want to talk about how they have operated, what kind of degrees have been given and what the outcomes have been. School teachers are going to build the youth of tomorrow. We think school teachers should come from higher education institutions. Transfer them to higher education institutions, give them a four-year B.Ed. They can be given liberal education for two years followed by areas in which they will be teaching. They have to be given comprehensive knowledge, learn pedagogy and communication skills. And make sure that they can frame curriculum.

What is the time period over which this transformation can happen?

■ Existing Anganwadi teachers can be trained in six months. Those with two-year education degrees can be transformed in a year. And for the future you have a four-year course. So, within four years we should be able to get people. But we also need a throughput – it is a large number. We think we need to put this on a priority.

There is extreme centralisation of research in higher education.

■ I think centralisation and decentralisation have meaning when there is a scale in which they operate. In India, research is 0.69% of the GDP. Compare this with the U.S. where it is 2.4% or 2.5% of the GDP. So, centralisation has no meaning when you are talking about this kind of money. There is no question of any "isolation". Currently, if you look at the outcome in terms of papers, it is just improving because of the university support being given by the Department of

Science and Technology (DST). If you look at the number of patents, it is 30,000 or 40,000 compared to 6,00,000 and 7,00,000 in the U.S. and even more in China. Even in this, about 70% of the patents come from NRIs. So, if you look at the overall scenario of industrial outcomes, social outcomes, strategic outcomes, and the kind of money that is going into this, and the number of papers, patents and such parameters, India is not at all in a happy situation.

The research foundation will enable research grants from government institutions. This is the third element.

There are industrialists. They always say we are ready to give money, but we don't get any output. So, create a tighter system of monitoring. The government will help with this kind of monitoring, evaluation and mid-term correction. This can improve the confidence of industry. This will create a new generation of researchers who will teach the next generation of learners. With this nexus between teachers and learners, the university will have a different kind of atmosphere.

What does the policy say about reservations?

■ We have no authority to tamper with that. But what we have done is, there are people who need to be supported because financially or otherwise they are underprivileged. We need to make sure that this is strictly enforced. And that there is no room for misuse of that kind of thing by institutions. And suggest if there are any inadequacies in the implementation that need correction.

First of all, the competitive grant from DST and other institutions... we will [have a] similar thing with respect to the university system, primarily. But it does not stop other institutions from asking for money, and it will be done on a competitive basis.

The second is seed capa-

A longer version of the interview is available on www.thehindu.com



DATA POINT

Dry run

Close to 72.5% of the country's districts received less than normal* rainfall in the first 24 days of the ongoing monsoon season. In six States, more than 50% of districts received largely deficient rainfall. Parts of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Odisha and J&K are exceptions to this trend. By Siddarth Rao T. & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The map depicts the difference between the rainfall received and the Long Period Average rainfall between June 1 and June 24 in 2019 for all districts

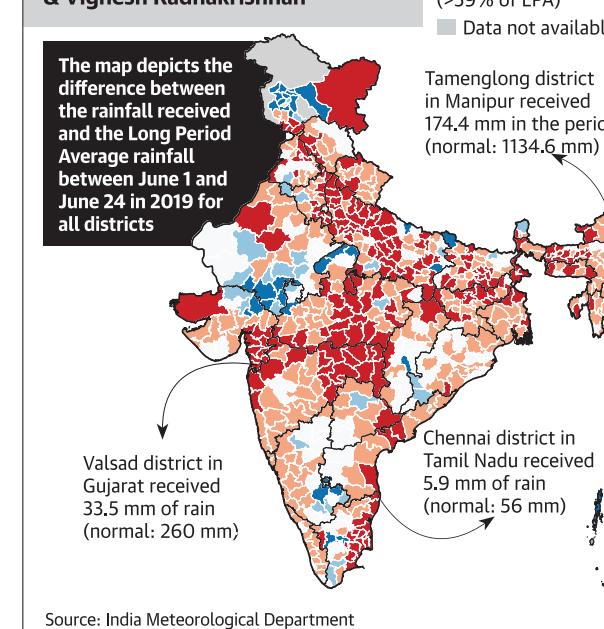


Table shows the % of districts in each State across rainfall categories

- LD: Largely deficient (-60% to -99% of Long Period Average rainfall)
- D: Deficient (-20% to -59% of LPA)
- N: Normal rainfall (-19% to +19% of LPA)
- E: Excess (+20% to +59% of LPA)
- LE: Large excess (>59% of LPA)
- Data not available

STATE/ U.T.	LD	D	N	E	LE
Delhi	88.89	11.11	0	0	0
Manipur	66.67	33.33	0	0	0
Haryana	57.14	33.33	0	9.52	0
Uttar Pradesh	56	21.33	8	2.67	2.67
Maharashtra	52.78	44.44	2.78	0	0
Jharkhand	50	41.67	8.33	0	0
W.B.	42.11	57.89	0	0	0
Bihar	42.11	36.84	15.79	2.63	2.63
Himachal	41.67	41.67	16.67	0	0
M.P.	41.18	39.22	7.84	3.92	7.84
T.N.	40.63	21.88	18.75	6.25	6.25
Meghalaya	37.5	50	12.5	0	0
Assam	34.62	46.15	19.23	0	0
Gujarat	33.33	36.36	12.12	12.12	6.06
Overall	32.89	39.62	15.94	5.12	4.53
Arunachal	31.25	50	18.75	0	0
Punjab	30	35	30	5	0
Tripura	25	50	25	0	0
Sikkim	25	50	0	25	0
Uttarakhand	23.08	76.92	0	0	0
J&K	22.73	9.09	0	9.09	50
A.P.	13.95	60.47	23.26	2.33	0
Mizoram	11.11	66.67	11.11	0	0
Chhattisgarh	11.11	44.44	33.33	7.41	3.7
Nagaland	9.09	54.55	36.36	0	0
Rajasthan	6.06	30.3	27.27	21.21	15.15
Odisha	3.33	43.33	46.67	6.67	0
Goa	0	100	0	0	0
Kerala	0	80	20	0	0
Karnataka	0	46.67	33.33	13.33	6.67

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 27, 1969

New types of sounding rocket

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, told Pressmen here [Trivandrum] to-day [June 26] that a three-stage Centaure rocket, capable of reaching an altitude of 350 kms, would be fabricated in India by the end of this year. This completely Indian-made rocket would be an "improved version" of the two-stage French Centaure rocket, which could carry payloads only to heights of about 160 km. The two-stage Centaure rocket is already being made in India under an agreement with Sud-Aviation, France, the entire rocket hardware being manufactured at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay. The rocket has been used at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station for measurement of electron density in the upper atmosphere.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 27, 1919

Death Sentences in the Punjab.

(From an Editorial)

We cannot but profoundly regret the decision of the authorities not to postpone the carrying out of the death sentence passed on several accused tried by Martial Law tribunals in the Punjab pending appeal to the Privy Council. The prisoners should be given every opportunity of establishing their innocence and it passes our understanding why they should be denied this elementary right. There are also other very weighty considerations why, in bare justice to the condemned men, this request, preferred by various public bodies and distinguished Indians, should be acceded to without any hesitation or delay. The proclamation of Martial Law, the measures of repression taken under that authority and the sentences passed against the alleged offenders have caused as great, if not greater, horror as the circumstances which, in view of the authorities, necessitated such drastic action.

CONCEPTUAL Motivated tactician PSYCHOLOGY

This refers to an individual who alternates between sloppy thinking and more careful analytical thinking depending on his level of motivation. The idea of the motivated tactician has been used as a model in social psychology to better understand common social behaviour. In some cases, it might make sense for an individual to use cognitive short-cuts to arrive at

FROM PAGE ONE

54 nations back India for UNSC seat

No challenges to India's candidacy are expected with regard to acquiring the support of other UN members. India will need the vote of two-thirds of the 193 UN General Assembly members to win a non-permanent seat on the UNSC.

India has already held a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for seven terms: 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and 2011-2012. It announced its candidacy for the 2021-22 seat at the end of 2013, with Afghanistan, a potential contender, withdrawing its nomination to accommodate India's candidacy based on the "long-

standing, close and friendly relations" between the two countries, as per what Afghanistan's UN mission had said at the time.

India has been keen to hold the seat in 2021-22 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Independence in 2022.

It will be hosting the G-20 meeting in New Delhi that year.

"Quiet diplomacy always works even in places where megaphones are easily available," Mr. Akbaruddin said of the support India had received from all countries in the Asia Pacific group, including Pakistan and China.

India, U.S. resolve to work through trade differences

He clarified that the U.S. decision to withdraw India's GSP preferential trade status this month had not come up for discussion.

Mr. Jaishankar said both sides had come away with a "better understanding" of each other's concerns on a wide variety of issues besides trade, including energy, defence, investment concerns and people-to-people contacts, as well as the growing conflict in the Gulf with Iran and the peace process in Afghanistan.

Rejecting calls by the United States and the threat of sanctions under its CAATSA law, Mr. Jaishankar said that India will take its decision on the purchase of the Russian S-400 Triumf anti-missile system in its own "national interest", and conveyed this to his American counterpart during talks here on Wednesday.

"On the CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act) issue I explained to Secretary Pompeo in some detail that we have many relationships with many countries, and many of them have some standing and they have a history," said Mr. Jaishankar, referring to India's traditional relationship with Russia.

Mr. Jaishankar also raised

India's concerns over growing U.S.-Iran tensions and their impact on India's energy security.

While India has zeroed out all oil imports from Iran since the U.S. sanctions deadline ran out on May 2, it has maintained a cordial and close relationship with the Iranian government. In response, Mr. Pompeo lashed out at the Iranian government, which he called a "terrorist regime", adding that India and the U.S. had a "shared understanding" of the terrorist threat emanating from Iran.

"We know that Iran is the world's largest state sponsor of terror, and the Indian people have suffered from terror around the world. So I think there is a shared understanding of the threat and a common purpose to ensuring that we keep energy at the right prices and deter this threat," Mr. Pompeo said.

The MEA declined to comment on whether it supported Mr. Pompeo's remarks, which were made in Mr. Jaishankar's presence.

Mr. Pompeo, who leaves for Osaka on Thursday morning, also met with Mr. Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Wednesday.

Mr. Jaishankar also raised

PM says he is pained by Jharkhand lynching

He was rescued by the police but later died of his wounds.

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, while referring to the incident, had said a day ago in the Rajya Sabha that Jharkhand had become a den of mob lynchings and mob violence.

Mr. Modi said the country's future and unity was linked to the National Register of Citizens (NRC). "Credit is a big issue over here. Look at NRC, won't you take credit for it? As per the Assam Accord (1985) Rajiv Gandhi agreed to NRC and the Supreme Court intervened only much later. Our country's unity and future is linked to it. And we are following the court's order," he said.

Replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, Mr. Modi said there was a limit to the arrogance of the Opposition party as it had put voters in the dock by questioning their verdict.

1.02 lakh more people excluded from NRC

The additional list also contains names of those found ineligible during the process of verification carried out by the local registrars.

According to the office of the NRC Coordinator, the additional list was prepared under the provisions contained in Clause 5 of the Schedule of The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and

"After such a big mandate, you say you (BJP) have won, but the country has lost...If the Congress loses, does the country get defeated. Does the Congress mean the country and the country the Congress. There is a limit to arrogance," he said.

Going by such arguments, he wondered whether the victory of the Congress in Wayanad and Rae Bareli seats too were "defeat of the country."

Noting that the Congress was not able to win even a single Lok Sabha seat in 17 States, he said it was time for the Congress to introspect. The PM also hit out at the Congress for questioning EVMs.

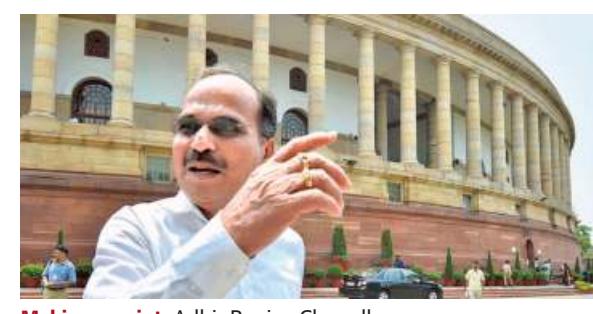
Mr. Modi said, "We are seeing this same attitude when it comes to discussing One Nation, One Election. Yes, people may not like the idea or have inputs on this. But, it is important to present these ideas and have discussions on the subject."

The Speaker, too, opted to sit through the proceedings, which prompted Trinamool leader Saugata Roy to say: "I congratulate you on how you have forgotten your hunger pangs so that younger members get a chance to speak. You are an example on how work should be con-

Centre gagging media: Cong.

Adhir says government is 'undemocratic' and suffers from 'megalomania'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Making a point: Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. ■ P.T.

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday accused the government of using "suppressive" tactics against the media by using its power over government advertisements.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Mr. Chowdhury said the government was being "undemocratic" and suffered from "megalomania".

He said that from March, the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) had been ordered to stop giving advertisements

to publications such as *The Hindu* for the critical reports that the newspaper carried on the Rafale fighter aircraft deal.

Mr. Chowdhury said that though the DAVP had started

following a transparent digital system whereby media publications were given passwords, these were deactivated for some media houses critical of the government.

Apart from *The Hindu*, Mr. Chowdhury alleged that the government had stopped giving advertisements to *The Times of India*, *Economic Times*, *The Telegraph* and the Ananda Bazaar Patrika group.

The allegations by the Congress leader drew sharp reactions from the Treasury benches who protested his remarks. When Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla called the name of the next member to raise his issue during Zero Hour, the Congress members started protesting as Mr. Chowdhury wanted more time to speak.

Make promises that can be kept: Anand Sharma

Cong. MP asks govt. to give account

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre should make only those promises that it could deliver on, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma suggested on Wednesday, observing that the government's goal of turning India into a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 required 12% annual growth.

Participating in the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Sharma said India was a two-trillion-dollar economy when the BJP-led government took over from

the UPA in 2014 and over the next five years, it had expanded by \$0.8 trillion.

During that period, GDP growth had slowed to 5.8%, the unemployment rate had risen to the highest level in the past 45 years and the agriculture and industry sectors were in shambles with both private and public investments not forthcoming.

Participating in the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Sharma said India was a two-trillion-dollar economy when the BJP-led government took over from

BJP MP counters Telecom Minister

Free services bone of contention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Rajiv Pratap Rudy

heard saying Mr. Rudy should handle the Ministry for better services.

Water scarcity

Raising the issue of water scarcity in Chennai, DMK leader T.R. Baalu said the Centre should explore the possibility of supplying water by rail tankers to overcome the crisis.

DMK member Dayanidhi Maran raised the issue of safe disposal of reactor waste from the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu.

Minister for State for Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh replied that the plant followed safe practices of disposing off waste underground as is the practice worldwide.

Trolls can't have enough of two MPs

Nusrat Jahan, Mimi Chakraborty face flood of comments on social media

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI



In the limelight: Trinamool Congress MPs Mimi Chakraborty, right, and Nusrat Jahan in New Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

think it's for the people to keep their peace of mind and not fall for anything negative."

West Bengal has been on the brink since the May 23 election results. She does not openly blame the BJP which won 18 seats in the State for the situation.

"I am not naming any political party but anybody coming from outside and trying to hinder peace is not welcome. Nobody wants violence. What we have to do is not think about any other political party but think only on grounds of humanity," Ms. Jahan said.

On the recent incidents of lynching, including the latest one in Jharkhand, she steers clear of stoking controversy. "Lynching can't be entertained. Everyone has the right to choose their religion and rituals. And no one can impose anything on any one," she said.

Ms. Jahan made her maiden speech in Parliament on Wednesday. "People forget that religion does not come before nationality. I am an Indian and I am a very secular person. We all have the right to choose our spouse," she told *The Hindu*.

Marrying Mr. Jain for her does not mean giving up her "Muslim" identity. "Getting married to a Hindu does not really mean that I will convert. I was born a Muslim and will remain so. There is no harm respecting the ri-

Minorities safe under PM Modi: Alphons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP leader and former Union Minister K.J. Alphons on Wednesday said that minorities were safe in the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, Mr. Alphons asked, "What was the case before the 2014 elections? What were Christians told?

They were told, you would all be beaten up and all your churches would be burnt [if the BJP came to power]. Sir, 2014 onwards, has even one Christian been beaten up? Has even one church been burnt in India?" He said fake videos against Mr. Modi were being circulated.

SEZ Bill cleared amid protests

Opposition questions the hurried manner of promulgating the ordinance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Stiff resistance: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor speaking in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. ■ PTI

business environment," Mr. Goyal said, introducing the legislation. "To this effect, we want to add alternative investment funds trust in the definition of persons," he added.

Opposition parties, ho-

wever, questioned the manner in which the Bill had been brought in, with Congress MP Shashi Tharoor stating, "As per rule, an ordinance can be promulgated only when the President deems it necessary in emer-

gency situations and when issues of extreme urgency arise and when it's not possible to wait for Parliament to convene."

"The Minister has to explain the urgency in this matter," Mr. Tharoor said.

"The PM must not treat this House as a rubber stamp for his political agenda," he added.

Questioning the government for the urgency in passing an ordinance, DMK leader D.N.V. Senthilkumar said: "Large chunk of trusts owned by minorities have been shut down under the previous Act. There are suspicions that the government has a hidden agenda to favour a selected few who are close to the government and have vested interests."

Lok Sabha Speaker generous with time for first-time MPs

Om Birla extends Zero Hour and delays lunch break

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Om Birla

happening in the country where in the most recent case the victim was kept in the police station and taken to the hospital almost half dead. This is nothing but cold-blooded murder. This is a blot on humanity."

In her maiden speech, Mimi Chakraborty sought the blessings of the House and spoke of the need for infrastructure development in her constituency.

Heena V. Gait highlighted the need to curb ragging, saying it allegedly caused the death of a medical student in Maharashtra.

"It is important for us to work together. This is for a greater interest," Ms. Banerjee said in the West Bengal Assembly. She said her Trinamool Congress would extend all help to both the Left and Congress in fighting the BJP.

While the Chief Minister has often advocated Opposi-

Left, Congress and Trinamool should unite, says Mamata

Promises to address complaints of takeover of party offices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA



Mamata Banerjee

tion unity against the BJP at the Centre, this is the first time she has openly – and on the floor of the Assembly – given a call for the Left, Congress and the Trinamool to unite. Her call has generated much curiosity in political circles as she has never advocated unity with adversaries formally.

In the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the BJP's vote share increased by 23% with the saffron party winning 18 out of 42 seats in West Bengal, while Trinamool's seat share dropped from 34 to 22.

Stand up for religious rights: Pompeo

Rule of law, importance of civil society will allow Indians to flourish, says U.S. Secretary of State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said here on Wednesday that it was necessary to speak strongly in favour of freedom of religion. Delivering a major policy speech at the end of his visit to India, Mr. Pompeo emphasised the rule of law and importance of civil society that would allow Indians to "flourish".

"India is the birthplace for four major world religions. Let's stand up together for defence of religious freedom for all. Let's speak up strongly together in favour of those rights. For whenever we do compromise those rights, the world is worse off," he said at the speech delivered at the India International Centre here.

He pointed out that both India and the U.S. had regard for ideas such as the rule of law and "respect for human dignity" as important for themselves. He referred to the common heritage of free-



Walking a tightrope: Mike Pompeo at the India International Centre in New Delhi. ■ AP

dom struggle of both nations as an inspiration for both.

"India-U.S. relationship is based on solid foundation, rule of law and the importance of civil society. These ideals – they allow people to flourish. The Indian people

believe in them and Americans believe in them as well," said Mr. Pompeo, arguing that both countries were meant to protect fundamental rights that he described as "inalienable".

The speech comes just

days after the annual report of the State Department pointed out that the actions and inflammatory speeches by members of the BJP at the Centre and various States had led to undermining of rights of the religious minor-

ties. Mr. Pompeo said he shared his vision with the Indian leadership during his conversations.

Mr. Pompeo had introduced and launched the report on religious freedom in the State Department and had described freedom of religion as a personal priority for himself. The report had pointed out that repeated mob attacks and lynching, however, did not draw high-level political condemnation.

In the policy speech on Wednesday, the Secretary of State referred to the Preamble of the Constitution and how the phrase "We the People" refer to the struggle that led to the creation of the modern Indian state.

He used President Eisenhower's comments to show that India and the U.S. were separated by thousands of miles of land and ocean but had similarities of conviction and ideas about what democracy should be.

India in talks to restore U.S. concession: Goyal

Minister says Indian businesses can compete globally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday told the Lok Sabha that the government was negotiating with the U.S. the issue of withdrawing the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) status to Indian business houses.

The Minister said the process of negotiations should be left to "those in the room who are handling the talks", but he also said the U.S. move was a sign that Indian businesses had grown and could compete globally.

"It was largely a non-discriminatory and unilateral concession that the U.S. started giving to the less developed or the least developed countries to the developing countries which, at that point of time, were in great deal of difficulty," Mr.



Piyush Goyal

Goyal said.

"Over a period of time, that has certainly helped India also to export more products to the United States. But as we have seen in the last few years, the Indian industry is standing on its own feet, is becoming competitive and is able to compete with the rest of the world on its own terms, on the strength of its competitiveness and comparative advantages," he said.

The Minister said while India exported over \$50 billion or about ₹4 lakh crore, GSP benefits were given to an export basket worth ₹42,000 crore. From time to time, such issues like withdrawal of GSP may arise during trade negotiations but Mr. Goyal stated India had a strong and healthy relationship with the U.S. that would ensure stronger diplomatic and trade engagement.

Congress MP Manish Tewari, however, asked why the government failed to prevent the Trump administration from withdrawing the trade concessions.

"When this had been festering since 2016 and you had a number of rounds of negotiations with the U.S. Trade Representative, why was your government not able to handle the situation?" he asked.

Patel's plea on respondents rejected by HC

Says he is willing to work 24X7 for the Congress but not as its president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat High Court on Wednesday rejected Congress leader Ahmed Patel's plea seeking deletion of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani as respondents in a petition challenging his election to the Rajya Sabha in 2017.

It rejected his application, saying that Mr. Shah and Ms. Irani, who are now members of Lok Sabha and Union Ministers, were respondents from the beginning of the petition and just by vacating their Rajya Sabha seats, they don't cease to be respondents.

SANDEEP PHUKAN

NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday rejected the pleas made by his fellow Lok Sabha members to stay on as the party chief.

During a floor strategy meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party, chaired by Sonia Gandhi, in the morning, Tiruchirappalli MP Subramanian Thirunavukkarasar first raised the issue of his leadership and asked him to continue.

Chorus of appeals
Soon it turned into a chorus with leaders such as Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari arguing why Mr. Gandhi

should continue in his position. Ms. Gandhi, however, remained silent on the demand.

The Congress chief was, however, adamant and asserted that someone has to take responsibility. When Congress leaders argued about the party requiring his leadership, Mr. Gandhi said, "I am willing to work 24 hours for the Congress but not as the party chief."

The attempt to persuade Mr. Gandhi came a day before he meets leaders from Haryana and Maharashtra, where Assembly polls are scheduled around October this year.

On Wednesday, Mr. Gandhi



Rahul Gandhi

hi to plead that he should stay on as the party president.

On May 25, two days after the Lok Sabha results, the Congress chief had announced to the Congress Working Committee (CWC) that he would step down as the party president.

Since then, for almost a month now, he refused to meet any party leader or office-bearer in his capacity as the Congress president, except Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu who was having an open battle with Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. However, last week, Mr. Gandhi started meeting party leaders and Chhattisgarh

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was the first to meet him to analyse the poll debacle in the State. As *The Hindu* had reported on May 29, Mr. Gandhi could stay until the party starts the restructuring exercise.

Restructuring process

On Monday, the restructuring process picked up pace as the party dissolved all the committees in Uttar Pradesh where the party managed to win just Rae Bareli out of the 80 Lok Sabha seats.

Earlier, the party had dissolved the Karnataka Congress Committee but retained its State president Dinesh Gundu Rao.

On maiden J&K visit, Shah's focus is security not outreach

Home Minister reviews arrangements for Amarnath Yatra

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday on a two-day visit to J&K, with the thrust of the visit clearly focussed on security rather than any effort at political outreach.

Mr. Shah, who is on his maiden visit to the State as Union Home Minister, chaired a meeting of top security officials in Srinagar to review the arrangements made for the upcoming Amarnath yatra.

Governor Satya Pal Malik, also chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, attended the meeting.

Officials said the Minister was briefed about "foolproof arrangements and multi-tier security in place to ward off any attack" during the yatra.

Mr. Shah is set to take



J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik welcomes Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Srinagar on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

stock of the overall security situation, infiltration on the Line of Control and anti-militancy operations at a meeting of the Unified Headquarters, comprising top officials of all security wings, on Thursday.

The Minister also met the BJP's top leadership in the Valley. The families of BJP

leaders who were killed by militants met Mr. Shah. He is also likely to visit the home of a slain police officer.

Mr. Shah's visit comes against the backdrop of a fresh offer of talks made by Hurriyat Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, which was subsequently welcomed by Governor Malik.

He is a recipient of the President's Police Medal for

Balakot air strike planner named by govt. as RAW chief

Arvind Kumar will be the new head of the Intelligence Bureau

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Wednesday approved the appointment of Arvind Kumar as the new head of the Intelligence Bureau and Samant Kumar Goel as the chief of the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW). Both are IPS officers of the 1984 batch.

Mr. Kumar will succeed Rajiv Jain, who retires on June 30. Mr. Goel will take over from A.K. Dhasmana, who completes his tenure on June 29. Mr. Jain and Mr. Dhasmana were due to retire in 2018 but were given extensions.

Mr. Kumar is currently a Special Director in the IB and his job involves supervising the administrative and personnel desks. Before this, he headed the 'X'

branch, the political wing in the IB. He has been working with the IB since 1991.

Mr. Kumar was accompanying Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Srinagar when his appointment was notified.

Mr. Kumar, who was due to retire on September 30, has now been appointed for a two-year term.

He is a recipient of the President's Police Medal for



Samant Kumar Goel, left, and Arvind Kumar. ■ ANI

Distinguished Service

Mr. Goel, who belongs to the Punjab cadre, is at present a RAW Special Secretary. He is said to have been involved in the planning of the Balakot air strike and played an important role in checking militancy in Punjab.

Mr. Goel, a recipient of the Police Medals for Gallantry and Meritorious Service, joined the RAW in 2001.

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T-05/19.06.19	Supply of Hand Held Metal Detectors	Rs. 1.65 lakhs
T-06/19.06.19	Supply of PU Seat Back Foam	Rs. 7.50 lakhs
T-07/19.06.19	Design and Development of NEKRTC online application portal (including design of on-line application format) for providing recruitment services	Rs. 16.50 lakhs

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Tender no. & date	Tender nomenclature	Approximate value
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T-02/19.06.19	Supply of General Items (Split pins & Hose Clips etc.)	Rs. 25.74 lakhs
T-03/19.06.19	Supply of General Items (Drill bits & Washers etc.)	Rs. 43.32 lakhs
T-04/19.06.19	Supply of G I Front Shape, FRP Grill for Eicher & Ashok Leyland Vehicles	Rs. 40.40 lakhs

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Mail to cospnkrct@gmail.com or eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com for further information if required. Further, any addendum / corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through e-procurement portal.

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'Lynching no lesser crime than terrorism'

Muslim community leaders demand swift action against perpetrators

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

SARAIKELA

Enraged at the lynching of Tabrez Ansari in Jharkhand, Muslim community leaders have demanded that lynching should be treated on a par with terrorism and the perpetrators should get the strictest possible punishment.

"Lynching is no lesser a crime than terrorism. It is going on across the country, especially in Jharkhand, where 13 to 14 people have lost their lives. However, the Central government is un-concerned," said Hafiz Anwar, secretary of the civil society body Jamilulamahid. Members of the body visited Tabrez's village on Wednesday.

Mr. Anwar. "The lynching case should be heard in fast-track courts and stringent punishment be awarded," he demanded.

"Even if he was accused of theft, there was a court of law to take care of it. Who gave the perpetrators the

right to take the law into their own hands?" asked the villagers.

If he was accused of theft, why was he made to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Jai Hanuman'? It was done only after he revealed his identity. As both the BJP and the RSS have spread hatred across the country, people on the ground feel encouraged to commit such heinous crimes. The doctor and jailer who neglected their duty should be terminated from service," Mr. Anwar said.

The Congress Jharkhand unit released the names of 18 victims of lynchings that had taken place between March 18, 2016 and June 17, 2019. Of the 18, 11 were Muslims.



ELSEWHERE

**Brazil court rejects request to free Lula**

BRAZILIA
Brazil's Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a request to free leftist icon Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from prison while they consider whether Justice Minister Sérgio Moro, who was the convicting judge, was biased. AFP

Iran never seeks war with the U.S.: Rouhani

TEHRAN
Iran "never seeks war" with the U.S., President Hassan Rouhani said as he sought to rein in soaring tensions on Wednesday between the two countries. "Iran has no interest to increase tension in the region and it never seeks war with any country, including (the) U.S.," the President said, quoted by state news agency IRNA. AFP

ICC to seek probe into crimes against Rohingya

THE HAGUE
The International Criminal Court (ICC)'s prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said she wants to open a full investigation into Myanmar's alleged crimes against Rohingya Muslims, including killings and forced deportations, the court said on Wednesday. AFP

Sirisena confirms signing death warrants for 4 drug offenders

They will be executed very soon, says Sri Lankan President

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

President Maithripala Sirisena has signed death warrants for four drug offence convicts, lifting a four-decade-long moratorium on capital punishment in Sri Lanka. They will be executed "very soon", he told reporters on Wednesday.

"I have signed the death warrants of four convicts. They have not yet been informed about it. We don't want to announce the names yet because that could lead to unrest in prisons," Mr. Sirisena said. "Once they are informed, it is within their rights to appeal for clemency," he added, addressing local media heads and foreign media representatives here.

His remarks come even as the 'National Drug Prevention Week' is being observed from June 23 to July 1. Mr. Sirisena, who has vowed to combat the menace of drugs, in March announced that he had fixed a date to execute drug offenders.

Observing on Wednesday

Trump vows to veto border aid Bill

Legislation seeks to provide a \$4.5 billion aid package to address migrant surge on the Mexico border

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a \$4.5 billion aid package to address the migrant surge along the U.S.-Mexico border, including new standards for migrants in custody following reports of poor conditions facing young children at overcrowded facilities.

The Democratic-led House voted 230-195, mostly along party lines, to pass the measure, but its future is uncertain.

The Republican-run Senate is working on its own version of the Bill, and President Donald Trump has vowed to veto the House legislation, with White House officials saying that such a move would hamstring the administration's border enforcement efforts.

Mr. Trump on May 1 requested the aid for programmes that house, feed, transport and oversee record numbers of Central American families seeking asylum in the U.S. and straining capacity at migrant shelters in border cities.

Attorneys raised alarms last week after finding more than 300 migrant children in an overcrowded Texas border patrol station, where they said some had been held for weeks in squalid conditions without adequate food and water. Amid the outcry, the acting commissioner of the Customs and Border Protection agency, John Sanders, said on Tuesday that he was resigning.

Democrats emphasised on Tuesday that while they were approving the border aid to address the humanitarian crisis, they were not ratifying the administration's attempts to restrict and discourage immigration.

"Our legislation is a vote against the cruel attitude toward children of this administration. This Bill does not fund the administration's failed mass detention policy. Instead it funds effective humane alternatives to detention that have a proven record of success," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said ahead of the vote.

Wooing progressives
But Democratic leaders had to work to secure votes for the Bill from progressive lawmakers worried that the Trump administration might use the funds for other purposes, such as deportation of migrants.



Heartbroken: Rosa Ramirez, whose son Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and granddaughter Valeria were found dead on Monday on the banks of the Rio Grande. AP

On Tuesday afternoon, Democrat lawmakers added provisions to better protect the health of migrants in the custody of U.S. Border Patrol agents, including standards for medical care and nutrition. They also added language to set a three-month limit for any unaccompanied child migrant to spend at an intake shelter unless notice is given.

Another amendment said shelters run by contractors must meet standards of care within six months or risk losing their contracts.

U.S., N. Korea in talks for a possible third summit

REUTERS
SEOUL

The U.S. is in behind-the-scenes talks with North Korea over a possible third summit and has proposed working-level negotiations that have been stalled since the second such meeting in February, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Wednesday.

Mr. Moon, in written answers to questions posed by visiting foreign journalists, said there was no reason to talk of a "stalemate" just because there had been no official dialogue, aimed at the denuclearisation of North Korea.

"Both sides have been engaged in dialogue in regard to a third summit," Mr. Moon said. It's noteworthy that the behind-the-scenes talks have been preceded by the mutual understanding of each other's position gained through the Hanoi summit."

The U.S. had made a proposal for working-level talks, Mr. Moon said, urging North Korea to return to the negotiating table "at the earliest date possible".

Mr. Moon said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had told him that he wanted to "finalise a denuclearisation process as soon as possible and to concentrate on economic development".

He called for the North to scrap the "passive stance" it has presented since the Hanoi summit and take action on its past promises.

Licence of fertility doctor revoked

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
OTTAWA

The Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) has been recording testimonies from top security officials, politicians, religious leaders and bureaucrats on the terror attacks. Days after some evidence pointed to serious lapses in the security establishment – accused of having failed to act despite prior warnings – Mr. Sirisena sought to stop proceedings. With the Speaker and the MPs on the panel resisting, the sittings have continued.

Dr. Bernard Norman Barwin's behaviour was deemed "appalling" and "reprehensible" by a College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario disciplinary panel, which also fined him Can\$10,000.

Dr. Barwin, 80, did not appear at the hearing, but through his lawyers pleaded no contest.

He had already given up his medical licence in 2014 after being disciplined in a prior case for artificially inseminating three women with the wrong sperm, which he had blamed at the time on simple errors.

By now revoking his licence, other medical regulators will be alerted if he seeks to practise medicine in other jurisdictions.

Dr. Barwin is also facing a lawsuit alleging 50-100 births with the wrong sperm, including 11 cases in which he used his own.

U.S. companies sidestep ban on selling to Huawei

Labelling provisions offer them leeway

PAUL MOZUR
CECILIA KANG
SHANGHAI

U.S. chipmakers are still selling millions of dollars of products to Huawei despite a Trump administration ban on the sale of U.S. technology to the Chinese telecommunications giant, according to four people with knowledge of the sales.

Industry leaders, including Intel and Micron, have found ways to take advantage of a provision on labelling U.S.-made goods, said the people. Goods produced by U.S. companies overseas are not always considered U.S.-made. The components began to flow to Huawei about three weeks ago, the people said.

The sales will help Huawei continue to sell products such as smartphones and servers.

U.S. companies may sell technology supporting current Huawei products until mid-August. But a ban on components for future Huaw-

Photo of dead migrant child fuels criticism

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A photograph of a Salvadorean man and his nearly two-year-old daughter drowned in Rio Grande river fuelled angry denunciations on Wednesday of the Trump administration's immigration policies.

"These families seeking asylum are often fleeing extreme violence," said California Senator Kamala Harris. "And what happens when they arrive?" she asked through a tweet. "Trump says 'Go back to where you came from.' That is inhumane. Children are dying. This is a stain on our moral conscience."

"This monster and his heartless Administration must be held accountable," tweeted Representative Rashida Tlaib.

Among those who also reacted to the photo was Pope Francis. "The Pope is profoundly saddened by their death, and is praying for them and for all migrants who have lost their lives while seeking to flee war and misery," said spokesman Alessandro Gisotti.

Mueller to testify publicly on Russia investigation

It's presidential harassment: Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Former U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller is to testify in public about his report into Russian electoral interference, paving the way for a historic television moment in which Democrats will attempt to make the case for President Donald Trump's impeachment before the American people.



U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller. AP

The Mueller report released in April outlined numerous contacts between Mr. Trump's 2016 election campaign and government-linked Russians, as well as evidence that the President tried on several occasions to stymie the investigation.

The Democrats have been split on whether to launch impeachment proceedings against the Republican President but – fearing that much of the country is unaware of the Mueller report's contents – have been asking major figures in the probe to testify in public on its findings.

But the President has asserted executive privilege to bar current and former aides from cooperating with several congressional investigations into his conduct.

THE HINDU GROUP

Number of prepositions in English

200

150

250

Number of words in the Oxford dictionary

1,71,476

81,476

2,51,456

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Rights groups issue report after probe



Gambia's ex-President Yahya Jammeh. AFP

according to their report, issued in Dakar, the capital of neighbouring Senegal. The "protocol girls" were overseen by his cousin, Jimbee Jammeh, who also procured other women for him, the report said. She fled with him to Equatorial Guinea.

Several women have gone on record with their experiences, it said.

Gambia has set up a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), modelled on South Africa's post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to shed light on Mr. Jammeh's reign.

Many women testify
An investigation was conducted by HRW and a Swiss NGO, TRIAL International, based on evidence from several women, eight former Gambian officials and several other witnesses. Mr. Jammeh had "protocol girls" who were required to be on call to provide him with sex,

MARKET WATCH

	Sensex	39,592	% CHANGE	0.40
US Dollar	69.15	69.15	0.30	
Gold	34,170	34,170	-0.87	
Brent oil	66.37	66.37	1.70	

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	414.95	9.30
Asian Paints	1359.95	-3.15
Axis Bank	788.60	6.95
Bajaj Auto.	2868.70	25.00
Bajaj Finance	8410.50	64.35
Bharti Airtel	345.55	-3.05
BPCL	391.40	-1.70
Britannia Ind.	2732.90	-74.80
Cipla	556.55	6.50
Coal India	260.30	-1.95
Dr Reddys Lab	2578.95	42.90
Eicher Motors	19151.85	35.00
GAIL (India)	309.25	-0.45
Grafix Ind.	919.15	17.00
HCL Tech.	1078.75	-0.25
HDPC	2168.10	-4.70
HDFC Bank	2467.90	39.20
Hero MotoCorp	2572.60	-11.05
Hindalco	208.35	5.85
Hind Unilever	1761.00	4.55
Indiabulls HFL	612.25	-9.30
ICICI Bank	438.65	5.00
IndusInd Bank	1434.80	-14.85
Bharti Infratel	271.20	1.40
Infosys	379.20	-8.90
Indian Oil Corp	154.95	0.35
ITC	277.40	-1.10
JSW Steel	277.15	10.10
Kotak Bank	1490.60	6.70
L&T	1551.20	16.20
M&M	643.50	1.85
Maurit Suzuki	6480.30	-42.20
NTPC	140.05	1.60
ONGC	167.55	1.35
PowerGrid Corp	209.65	8.05
Reliance Ind	1294.15	-1.70
State Bank	358.15	1.60
Sun Pharma	399.45	13.70
Tata Motors	161.10	0.65
Tata Steel	510.60	12.60
TCS	2254.20	-13.60
Tech Mahindra	718.10	-6.25
Titan	1309.05	-9.10
UltraTech Cement	4597.40	1.35
UPL	958.45	23.50
Vedanta	177.85	7.50
Wipro	286.15	0.85
YES Bank	113.05	3.00
Zee Entertainment	342.90	-0.30

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.95	69.27
Euro	78.34	78.70
British Pound	87.45	87.86
Japanese Yen (100)	64.04	64.34
Chinese Yuan	10.02	10.07
Swiss Franc	70.51	70.84
Singapore Dollar	50.91	51.15
Canadian Dollar	52.43	52.68
Malaysian Ringgit	16.61	16.71

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Rates	June 26 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)	40.8... (41.3)
22 ct gold (1g)	3247... (3265)

RBI begins monitoring HFCs

Liquidity, asset-liability gap, repayment schedules being reviewed on daily basis

MANOJ SAHA
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started monitoring the liquidity position, asset-liability gap and repayment schedules of housing finance companies (HFCs) on a daily basis after the liquidity crisis hit these firms, resulting in defaults.

Mortgage lenders are regulated by the National Housing Bank. But the central bank is of the view that the since the liquidity crisis of the HFCs could have a spillover effect on the other segments in the financial sector, including banks, and hence, could affect financial stability, it was necessary to monitor these entities on a regular basis.

For this purpose, a general manager in National Housing Bank has been asked to be in regular communication with a chief general manager in the department



Snowballing issue: In RBI's view, crisis in HFC sector could spill over to other segments in the financial sector. ■REUTERS

of non-banking supervision (DNBS) of the RBI, sources familiar with the development told *The Hindu*, adding that the process had started about a week ago.

The non-banking financial sector, particularly the mortgage lenders, are fighting a crisis of confidence with banks having stopped lending to these entities since the debt default by IL&FS in September last year.

Provides for 'faceless and anonymised' verification system

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has expanded the terms of reference (ToR) of the task force set up to come up with a new direct tax law, according to a notification issued on Wednesday.

The existing terms of reference include drafting an "appropriate direct tax legislation" keeping in view; the direct tax litigation in other countries; international best practices; the economic needs of the country; and other related issues.

The new additions in-

clude the creation of a "faceless and anonymised" verification and scrutiny system, and the sharing of information between GST, Customs, CBDT and the Financial Intelligence Unit.

Cross verification

Other terms of reference added include setting up a mechanism for cross-verification of financial transactions and reduction in tax-related litigation.

In light of the resignation of Arvind Subramanian from the post of Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), his special in-

vitation to the task force had been transferred to the current CEA Krishnamurthy Subramanian, the notification added.

Further, in light of the expanded terms of reference, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has decided to invite Ritvik Pandey, Joint Secretary (Revenue) as a member of the task force.

The Finance Ministry has clarified that the expanded terms of reference will not affect the July 31, 2019 deadline for the submission of the task force's recommendations.

Centre expands terms of reference of direct tax law body

This follows a clarification sought by payment system operators

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified on Wednesday that payment system providers need to store entire payments data in a system only in India.

Following clarifications sought by Payment System Operators (PSOs), RBI has released frequently asked questions (FAQ), in which it said data processed abroad would have to be brought back to the country within 24 hours.

"The entire payment data

shall be stored in systems located only in India," RBI clarified in the FAQ.

"The data should include end-to-end transaction details and information pertaining to payment or settlement transaction that is gathered/transmitted/processed as part of a payment message/instruction," the RBI said.

The data could be pertaining to customer data like name, mobile number, Aadhaar number, PAN; Payment-sensitive data like customer and beneficiary

account details; payment credentials like OTP, PIN and transaction data such as originating and destination system information amount, among others.

The RBI further clarified that in case the processing is done abroad, the data should be deleted from the systems abroad and brought back to India within one business day or 24 hours from the payment processing, whichever is earlier.

The central bank had issued a directive in April 2018 on 'storage of payment sys-

tem data' where it advised that all system providers to ensure that within a period of six months, the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India.

The FAQs further said there is no bar on processing of payment transactions outside India if so desired by the PSOs. "...the data shall be stored only in India after the processing.

The complete end-to-end transaction details should be part of the data," the RBI said.

This follows a clarification sought by payment system operators

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The ongoing U.S.-China trade war escalation could knock off 0.4 percentage points from world GDP growth by 2020, and possibly lead to the lowest growth since 2009, according to a notification.

The notification said in the case of radial tyres used in buses and lorries/trucks imported from China, the designated authority "has come to the conclusion that imposition of definitive countervailing duty is required to offset subsidisation and injury and has recommended the imposition of definitive countervailing duty on the imports of the subject goods from China PR".

"The countervailing duty imposed under this notification shall be levied for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the official gazette and shall be payable in Indian currency," the notification added.

The CVD ranges from 9.55-17.57% of the value of the tyres.

Will cut economic output by 0.4 percentage points: Fitch



Clash of titans: The effects are expected to spill over to other trading partners not directly targeted by the tariffs. ■REUTERS

by imposing a 25% tariff on \$20 billion of U.S. imports untouched by the trade war so far, and by raising the tariff rate on \$100 billion of U.S. imports already subject to new tariffs to 50%.

"For China and the U.S., the tariffs would initially feed through to lower export volumes and higher import prices, with the latter raising firms' costs and reducing real wages," the report said. "Business confidence and equity prices would also be dampened, further weighing on business investment and reducing consumption through a wealth effect."

The negative growth ef-

fектs from lower export demand would be magnified on upstream supplier industries and from lower incomes in the export sector, Fitch added.

These effects are expected to spill over to other trading partners not directly targeted by the tariffs. "Global growth would fall even allowing for the monetary policy easing response," Fitch said. "While falling short of a global recession, this would be the weakest global growth rate since 2009 and slightly worse than 2012, when the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis was at its peak."

THE HINDU

CM

YK

**Canara Bank to raise ₹1,500 crore via bonds**

State-owned Canara Bank on Wednesday said it had proposed to raise ₹1,500 crore through bonds, to fund business growth. The bank plans to raise the funds through Basel-III compliant additional tier I (AT-1) bonds, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing. It further said that the bank had floated bids for the appointment of merchant bankers or arrangers for the fundraising. PTI

Red Bloom sells 3.15% stake in ICICI Lombard

Red Bloom Investment Ltd, a part of Warburg Pincus group, has sold 3.15% stake in ICICI Lombard for over ₹1,576 crore through open market transactions. A total of 1,43,29,658 shares were sold at a price of ₹1,100.19 per scrip, translating into the ₹1,576.5 crore transaction, bulk deal data available on the NSE showed. As per the shareholding pattern on the BSE till the March quarter, Red Bloom held 5.86% stake in ICICI Lombard. PTI

Consider bids of Deccan; NCLAT to Amtek lenders

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday asked the lenders of Amtek Auto to consider the resolution plans submitted by Deccan Value Investors (DVI) along with others based on the original information memorandum inviting bids. The NCLAT bench slammed the committee of creditors (CoC) of Amtek Auto for issuance of fresh information memorandum, inviting new resolution plans.

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#ChampionsOfGrowth

Readers' Connect Initiative

How MSMEs hold the key to future growth

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, cannot be ignored by policy makers and regulators if they are serious about the progress of the country. With a contribution of almost a third to the country's GDP, it is hard to imagine inclusive growth if the MSME segment does not record healthy progress.

MSMEs complement the larger businesses, providing inputs, machine parts as well as other services, helping bring down import dependency and thus bolstering our external account.

Contribution to economy

Contribution of MSMEs to the country's GDP has remained steady, around 29 per cent over the years. This seems to imply that the policies of the government tend to impact both large and small units equally, thus keeping the contribution of MSMEs steady.

The contribution of this segment to employ-

ment creation is quite significant. As per the National Sample Survey (NSS) 73rd round, conducted by National Sample Survey Office, in 2015-16, there were 633.88 lakh unincorporated non-agriculture MSMEs in the country engaged in different economic activities (196.64 lakh in Manufacturing, 387.18 lakh in Trade and 362.82 lakh in Other Services). Micro sector with 630.52 lakh estimated enterprises provides employment to 1076.19 lakh persons, which accounts for around 97 per cent of total employment in the sector. This shows that the tiny shops, street vendors, road-side restaurants etc have the potential to provide an avenue of making a living to the country's multitudes.

How the numbers break-up

In other words, 31 per cent of the MSMEs were engaged in manufacturing activities, while 36 per cent were in trade and 33 per cent in other services. Out of 633.88 estimated number of MSMEs, 324.88 lakh were in rural area while 309 lakh units were in urban area.

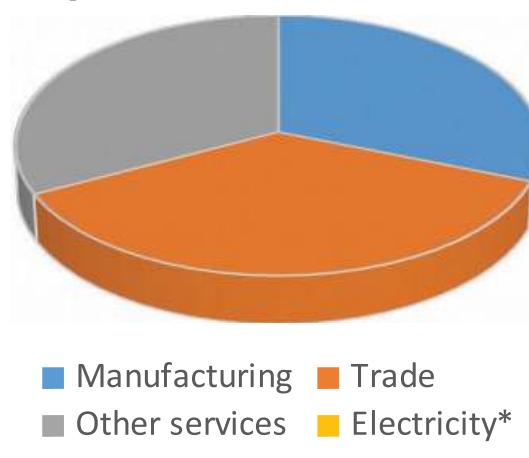
The Micro sector with 630.52 lakh estimated enterprises accounts for more than 99 per cent of total estimated number of MSMEs. Small sector with 3.31 lakh and Medium sector with 0.05 account for a relatively smaller portion.

Percentage distribution of enterprises in rural and urban areas during FY 15-16

(Male / Female ownership category wise)

Sector	Male	Female
Rural	77.76	22.24
Urban	81.58	18.42

Out of 633.88 lakh MSMEs, 608.41 lakh (95.98%) MSMEs were proprietary enterprises. There has been overwhelming predominance of male owners in proprietary MSMEs. Thus, for proprietary MSMEs as a whole, male owned 79.63% of enterprises as compared to 20.37%



Manufacturing Trade
Other services Electricity*

Estimated number of MSMEs (Activity wise) during FY 15-16 (In lakh)

Category	Rural	Urban	Total	Share (%)
Manufacturing	114.1	82.5	196.7	31.0
Trade	108.7	121.6	230.4	36.0
Other services	102.0	104.9	206.9	33.0
Electricity*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	324.9	309.0	633.9	100.0

MSMEs in the country, West Bengal comes as close second with a share of 14% again.

Defining MSMEs

According to the MSME ministry website, in accordance with the provision of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) are bucketed according to the investment made in plant and machinery and related equipment.

This is currently under review and there is a proposal to classify MSMEs according to their turnover. But until this proposal is accepted, classification of MSMEs is as follows,

In case of manufacturer

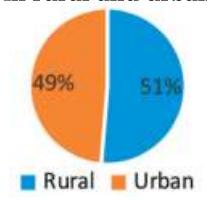
ing companies, enterprises where investment in plant & machinery does not exceed Rs twenty five lakh are classified as Micro enterprises. Those with investment between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 5 crore are classified as Small enterprises and those with investment between Rs 5 crore and Rs 10 crore are classified as Medium enterprises.

In the service sector, Micro enterprises are those with investment in equipment under Rs 10 lakh. Those with investment in equipment between Rs 10 lacs and Rs 2 crore are classified as Small enterprises and those with investment over Rs 2 crore are classified as Medium enterprises.

The primary responsi-

bility of promotion and development of MSMEs is

Distribution of MSMEs in rural and urban



of the State Governments. However, the Government of India, supplements efforts of the State Governments through various initiatives.

Automation: A Growth driver for MSMEs

A case study - Jaybee Tech Inc., Bangalore, a company engaged in Import of substitute machinery/components especially for chocolate manufacturing and food processing industry



Adith Shivakumar
Director (Operations). Jaybee Tech

Collaborative automation of small and medium business processes to boost the productivity. Adith Shivakumar, with an avid interest in machines and its components, started his entrepreneurial journey in 1992 with a loan of INR 6000 from his father to make metal printers for manufactured components. A major challenge that the industry faced was marking on the metal. Punches were used creating a permanent dent on the components.

However, a few punches could not be punched as they had hardened. Shivakumar came out with an innovative solution for this snag. He started providing solutions to Indian & multinational companies for import substitutes with innovative designs for imported machineries and their spares.

Mr. Shivakumar has also automated his daily business processes which has eased his way of running his company. Maintaining his accounting, inventory and compliance needs on Tally.ERP 9 not only has acted as a boon for him and his business but also proved to be beneficial for his accountants and auditors. Since

most of the compliance work is done in-house, the need for external auditors has reduced.

As a business owner, he is now aware of all the commercial taxes that he is paying. Inventory management and cash flow management have been simplified giving him a 360° view of his business.

The use of technology in making day-to-day business activities, of every small and medium business owner's life, effortless has clearly worked for

Adith and now, by automating his business process, he is able to focus more on boosting his company's productivity and scalability.

Today, Jaybee Tech Inc. is not only a well-known Indian industry but also an exporter to many Asian and European countries presenting quality solutions for import substitute of spares and machineries for their processes and also supply injection moulded components.

Starting from a loan of a few thousands, the current turnover of the company has scaled to a whopping 6.5 Cr and Mr. Shivakumar aims to multiply it to 15 Cr in the next 3 years.

Jaybee Tech is recognized in the industry for innovative ideas, where latest technology is implemented in the process line to upgrade the production quality and quantity.

The face of MSME in the country has been rapidly changing and for good. While traditionally most MSMEs were manufacturing set ups, with the startup culture on the rise quite a few of them are in technology and services businesses; there is a big change taking place.

Two fundamental shifts to be observed are their ability to attract talent and second being access to capital. A lot of technical graduates today prefer joining a start-up over a traditional corporate and this will cascade further. In comparison to earlier times access to Capital has eased out from traditional ways of raising money that made it tough.

Government Policies for

Incubator programs,

Start Up India along with Angel Investors, VCs & PE funding

and availability of Peer

to peer lending platforms

have been steps in positive direction.

Both these changes will go a long way in altering the MSME scene in India.

However, a significant belief that yet needs to be addressed is, that a great product or service alone

can ensure success. And this is a common thread that runs across the MSME spectrum.

The reality is that while a good product or service is hygiene, SMEs need to focus continually on how they can create value for their customers. Value can be generated from possibly making it easy for the customer to buy or deliver equipment.

Government Policies for

Incubator programs,

Start Up India along with Angel Investors, VCs & PE funding

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to peer lending platforms

have been steps in positive direction.

Both these changes will go a long way in creating a differentiation, from the competition, however this is continuously evolving.

Innovation is another significant point to look up to.

While traditionally it has been looked upon as introduction of new services or products.

However, in real terms MSMEs

can gain sustainable ad-

vantages by looking at two aspects; one being how do I step aside from product / solutions view to the capability set. With that capability set, how can I stay contextual keeping in mind the changed customer preferences, technology and market opportunities.

Then comes the importance of building a team beyond capability. Most MSMEs get established on their promoters' ability to be a specialist in an area. This becomes a bottleneck when an entrepreneur wants to move on to the next orbit. To illustrate this better imagine someone started a Lathe machine to manufacture a component and became an expert at it. The challenge that he or she may face is, how do I use cutting edge technologies to redefine business.

Innovation is another significant point to look up to.

While traditionally it has been looked upon as introduction of new services or products.

However, in real terms MSMEs

can gain sustainable ad-

This essentially is the role change from what they have been used to and requires them to transcend from day to day execution to taking up the mantle of being a visionary.

Having a mentor that not only understands the pulse of a MSME business, factors that contribute to its success and go out of the way to provide that much needed guidance will go a long way in taking the business to the next level of growth. To address this gap Tally has partnered with MSME focused organizations to address the various challenges faced by MSMEs and how to overcome them for better and enhanced growth.

Tally Xcelerators come in handy for these organizations and entrepreneurs, as they themselves have been entrepreneur and created successful businesses.

Tally Xcelerator program

is aimed at strengthening

the fabric of entrepreneurship

and creating strong

MSMEs in the country.

Vivek Kumar - Director
Platinum One
Business Services Pvt. Ltd

While trying to eliminate these problems, MSMEs are constantly struggling to establish themselves in local markets as well. The Standing Committee on Commerce submitted its report on 'Impact of Chinese Goods on Indian Industry' on July 26, 2018. Bilateral trade between India and China increased from \$38 billion in 2007-

08 to \$89.6 billion in 2017-18. Trade with China constitutes more than 40% of India's total trade deficit. Isn't that startling?

It was also noted by the committee that due to the reduced price and bulk availability of Chinese goods, "Made in China" is dominating the market.

While the product pricing might differ in a huge way, these small-sector industries deliver very high standards of quality. To cash in on the

booming MSME sector, we must endorse buying products from our local markets and contribute to further growth of the Indian economy. In fact, it has been suggested that import of finished goods should be taxed at the highest rate, and raw materials at the lowest, to boost domestic production.

It is startling to note that the price of Chinese goods is 10%-70% lower than Indian goods, and because Indians often buy cheap products irrespective of the quality, Chinese products emerge as winners.

Movements like 'Make in India' were targeted for local businesses which aim at balancing the economic condition.

Since India is emerging as one of the brightest economic spots in the new millennium, we must diligently focus on fulfilling MSME owners' aspirations and dreams. Being in a small-scale industry, their aspirations might not be sky-rocketing, but by collaborating with them and their business, we could change the face of the Indian MSME land-

scape. Indian government has also launched several schemes to motivate young talent to step in to the world of business.

Even women entrepreneurs are slowly coming to the forefront, donning the hat of a businessperson and making a huge difference in the society and economy at large. Such schemes have grown to a wider range covering tier 2 and tier 3 cities and small towns, instilling confidence in the youth and budding entrepreneurs. Now their idea is more than just an idea and there are ready opportunities to help nurture it further.

While the government is doing its bit to provide enormous scope and benefits to young entrepreneurs and MSMEs, we as consumers must also contribute towards making Indian products "GLOBAL" by "GOING LOCAL".

By: Jayati Singh, Global Head- Marketing, Tally Solutions.

Let's go local - Here's why buying from MSMEs is crucial



How many of you ask your friends or relatives to get you products when they go abroad? It's quite a normal phenomenon, right? The reason is simple: some products are cheaper in certain countries as compared to India. But, while shopping at a nearby mall, how many of us opt for a foreign brand instead of a local one, arguing within yourself about the quality? With increase in the demand for imported

DEEPA ALEXANDER

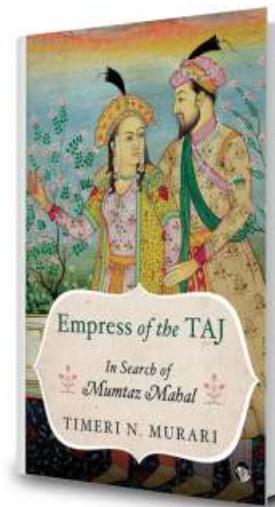
Victorian poet Rudyard Kipling called the Taj Mahal "the embodiment of all things pure, all things holy, and all things unhappy". For the millions who visit India's famed monument at Agra, the first sight of it is almost always one of pure theatre. It stays as a residual part of your heart, emblematic of the love that built it, the culture that nourished it and the geography it finds itself in – a Persian *charbagh* desiccated with water that mirrors its many moods.

Chennai-based Timeri N Murari has been a prolific writer – of novels, young adult books, non-fiction, plays, films and television scripts – especially of things past. In *Empress of the Taj* (published by Speaking Tiger), Murari once again looks through the prism of love, the life of Mumtaz Mahal whose death inspired the building of the mausoleum. Constructed from research notes jotted down while writing *Taj, A Novel on Mughal India* in the 1980s, the recent book, a blend of travel and history waited 30 years to be published. It sketches Mumtaz as she followed the drum, moving across the expanse of central and western India accompanying her husband Shah Jahan on his conquests.

When we meet at Murari's 1910-built ancestral bungalow, its cool halls lined with curios and

Under a marble sky

Timeri N Murari on the writing of his latest, *Empress of the Taj*, which melds the story of a fabled queen with travels in an India that no longer exists



Looking back Timeri N Murari at home; (above) his latest book • R RAVINDRAN

knew little. For my book *Field of Honor*, the publisher used an image of the Taj on the jacket although it had no connection with the story. His stand was that the Taj best represented India. It spurred me to write a book following the trail of the Mughals."

Murari boarded trains, buses, autos, the odd taxi and boat in the company of Maureen and, sometimes, his sisters to reconstruct the story of Mumtaz, the woman who captured an emperor's heart.

From their first meeting at Meena Bazaar when Shah Jahan was still a prince to Mumtaz's tragic death at Burhanpur in the badlands of Central India, Murari brushes aside the mothballs of legend to construct the story of a "brave woman who could've lived a comfortable life at Agra but journeyed everywhere leaving touches of her influence."

Extraordinary journey Murari says you need to travel, spend time in a place, to get the landscape. Some of the experiences are now the stuff of lore – filling out forms in multiplicate to buy train tickets, drinking smoky tea on small-town platforms, taking the two-lane highway to Agra

and walking through the labyrinthine library of Aligarh Muslim University. Murari meets a cross-section of people – young-old, rich-poor, royal-commoner as he traverses through Delhi, Ajmer, Jaipur, Udaipur and Ratlam. In between, he researches at the British Library and New York where he fills in the gaps by reading the *Akbarnama*, *Shahjahanama* and the accounts of Mughal India by European travellers like Manucci.

A changed world

"You are not thinking of the fiction you are about to write – you need to get the history and locations right. It took me over a year to figure out how to tell the story. I wanted to tell it in her voice and it came to me one early morning when I was home, listening to the sweep of the broom in my courtyard," says Murari. "I finished the book in four months, writing on a typewriter. The manuscript was forgotten till I found it and Ravi Singh of Speaking Tiger decided to publish it as a record of 'an India of the past'."

Murari vividly describes Mughal India in beautiful prose without reducing the novel to mere hagiography at a time when the dynasty has been getting bad press. "It depends on who is giving them the bad press," he laughs. "It is not an attempt to defend the Mughals, it is about how I saw them. You cannot deny history. It's a record of a disappearing India, a book for people who want to understand who we were even a short while ago."

The book is also an example of how to research a historical novel. "I'm not a very good tourist. I go to a place for a reason, looking for someone. London is a favourite place," says Murari, some of whose books are now being turned into web/television series and films.

"There are more Britons writing on India than Indians themselves. It helps to have the voice of an insider tell the story. Journeys come to you; for this book, I didn't mean to take one at all."



PROTECTIVE GEAR
In 1942, the government erected scaffolding over the Taj Mahal to disguise the building in anticipation of air attacks by the Japanese Air Force during the Second World War.

books, it is easy to see why the writer is always in hot pursuit of history. "When you research something you look in the present and try to imagine the past," says Murari, whose childhood was

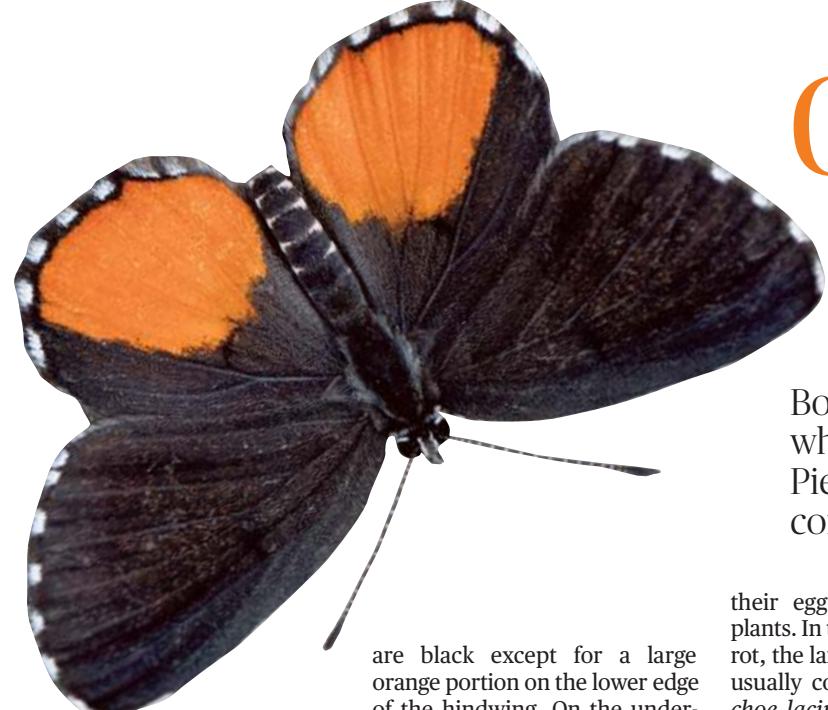
spent on the move thanks to his Army officer-father. An old boy of Bishop Cotton's Bangalore, Murari's academic and career arc took him to Canada, the UK (where he was among the first In-

dian journalists on Fleet Street) and the US (the New York Public Library is where he discovered a treasure trove of information on the Mughals).

When he stumbled upon the

notes, Murari decided to publish them, keeping the tenor of the time. "When Maureen and I visited the Taj after our wedding, I was keen to explain the nuances of Mughal culture but found I

IN OUR BACKYARD



ABHISHEK GULSHAN

The Red Pierrot is a small but striking butterfly found in the Indian subcontinent. Apart from jungles, they are found in various types of habitats, including urban settlements. The Red Pierrot is often fluttering in our backyards on flowers of plants like the Periwinkle or the Sadabahar (*Caranthus roseus*) as it's known in Hindi, or on the Jatropha, as these butterflies prefer open-petaled flowers.

The upperside of their wings

are black except for a large orange portion on the lower edge of the hindwing. On the underside, the wings are a colourful mix of white, black and orange, with strikingly beautiful markings. They usually perch with their wings closed to display the bright markings on the underside.

The Red Pierrot is a weak flyer. It flies in short bursts and flutters close to the ground. They usually bask with half-open wings and prefer shade to the sun.

They fly during most parts of the day, and settle on the undersides of leaves and twigs at night.

Butterflies almost always lay eggs on the underside of leaves.

This is to protect them from predators. The plants that they lay

their eggs on are called host plants. In the case of the Red Pierrot, the larval host plants that we usually come across are *Kalanchoe laciniata* (family of succulents) and *Pattarchatta* (*Bryophyllum pinnatum*).

The caterpillar of this species is a leaf miner by habit. As soon as it hatches, it bores into the leaf and will spend the rest of its life as a caterpillar between the layers of these leaves. This serves as a defence mechanism, protecting it from other predators. It does occasionally go to another leaf, once it is finished eating one. When it moves inside the leaf, it leaves a black trail at the back which is a trail of droppings. The caterpillar also turns into a pupa on this plant before finally emerging as a butterfly.

Butterflies are the second most

Chasing butterflies

Boring through leaves in many a garden when it's still a caterpillar, the Red Pierrot or the *Talicada nyseus* is a common sight in the city

important pollinators in the world (after bees) and are indicators of a healthy ecosystem. They are cold-blooded animals that cannot regulate their body temperature, and hence depend on external source (sun) for heat and energy.

Extensive use of chemical insecticides and pesticides is leading to a decrease in their populations. Use of organic means is vital in protection of these insects that help us sustain globally.

The writer is the founder of the NINOX - Owl about Nature, a nature awareness initiative. He formerly led a programme at WWF-India as a naturalist and is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds in the region



Common flutter (Clockwise from top left) The upperside of a Red Pierrot; the butterfly showing its underside, perched atop a Jatropha; two Red Pierrots mating on a Sadabahar

• ABHISHEK GULSHAN

POP-UP

Propping up art

Two college students in Delhi are driving a community that provides a platform for local artists and performers



For Varun Ahuja, a student of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, and Krishn Sharan, of Delhi Technological University, spoken-word poetry has been important. After performing for a year or so, the duo started Forbidden Verses in October 2018, to create a community that appreciates all forms of art and expression. In keeping with their interest in poetry, the community would initially gather for readings and jams only. Over time, the group has started including music, art, and photography in order to help local artists perform and sell their work.

Now, at their upcoming event called An Almost Open Mic 3.0, the team invited musicians and poets to perform original work as well as covers. Also invited for the first time, are beat-boxers. Forbidden Verses isn't just for performers. Each of their sessions has displays by aspiring photographers and other visual artists.

When they launched, they hit the ground running with their first event happening in November, at goStops, a hostel in Daryaganj. Since then, Varun and Krishn have also taken the community to art studios, but they avoid cafés. "Usually cafés charge money, for which we didn't have any financial support," says Varun, adding that "we always wanted to create a long-term relationship with whichever place we choose for our events."

Their last event, which happened earlier this month, saw over 160 registrations.

Next session on 30th June, at 5 p.m., People Places Art, B-7A Basement, Kalkaji. Closest metro: Nehru Enclave on the Magenta line. To register, check @forverses on Instagram.

SONAKSHI GOEL

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



LITERATURE

Draupadi and Her Pancala

A discussion on Neera Misra and Rajesh Lal's book "Draupadi and Her Pancala: Re-asserting their Place in History", will feature Amarendra Khatua, former Secretary and Director General, ICCR; Arif Mohammad Khan, former Minister. It will be chaired by Bibek Debroy, seasoned economist.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FOOD

Healthy eats

Greennr Cafe's new menu introduces dishes across categories including starters, smoothies, desserts, and bowls, along with locally grown black beans. Vietnamese inspired Saigon Rice Paper Rolls, Tulum Zucchini Boat, Baja Black Bean Nachos are included.

VENUE: Spin X Greennr Cafe, Shed no. 20, Dhan Mill Compound, 100 Feet Rd, Chhatarpur

TIME: 12 noon - 10 p.m.



MUSIC

Desi Roots live

Desi Roots, an amalgamation of seasoned professional artists who have been active in the music industry for over a decade, will perform popular Bollywood songs. The members of the band are primarily influenced by composers like Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy and Amit Trivedi, and bands like Indian Ocean.

VENUE: Hard Rock Cafe, DLF Place, Saket

TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



SNACKS

Pav Bhaji in a cone

Decode Air Bar, a popular pub, is out with its Pav Bhaji Cone. In this dish, the classic street snack has been given a twist, in line with modern, playful gastronomic interpretations. The cone will have vegetables in the form of Mumbai-style Bhaji, all poured in a cone-shaped pav and topped with white butter gel.

VENUE: SCO 39, 1st Floor, Sector 29, Gurgaon

TIME: 12 noon-12 midnight



THEATRE

Hindi play

Theatre Research Unit for Stage Tools will put up *Nani Jaan ke do Haath*, a play reflecting the many truths of society. It exposes the true face behind the mask of civilization. The play is a mix of humour, irony, emotion and drama.

VENUE: Studio Safdar, May Day Bookstore & Cafe

2254/2A, Ground Floor, Shadi Khampur, New Ranji Nagar

TIME: 7 p.m.

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Pride flags flutter outside The Stonewall Inn in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. The door proudly showcases pride written across it in bold letters. After all, this is where Pride began, 50 years ago. The Stonewall Uprising led to the gay rights movement and eventually pride parades around the globe.

The Inn, started by Vincent Bonaia, was often raided by the police. But on June 28, 1969, homeless LGBTQ teens, trans women, lesbians, drag queens, gay men, and allies decided to take a stand. What started out as a routine police raid turned into an uprising on the streets of Greenwich Village. It pioneered a mass movement that spread across the US and the world.

Commemorating the golden jubilee, New York is garbed in hues of pride. Bright rainbow colours have taken over streets, shops and even buildings: from Barclays Center and Madison Square Garden to the Empire State Building and One World Trade Center, everything is lit up.

"New York City is the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ rights movement and has played a significant role in the progress the global movement has made. This month, our city hosts WorldPride to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Lighting our skyline will remind LGBTQ people around the globe that the city will always be a beacon of hope and a place to call home," says Bill de Blasio, Mayor of NYC.

All are welcome

According to NYC & Company, the official destination marketing organisation for the five boroughs of New York City, approximately four million visitors, in addition to locals, will witness the events across the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.

Of the visitors NYC & Company surveyed during the event in 2018, 36% said they travelled from outside (with 30% coming from other US states and 6% travelling from outside of the US). Eighty per cent of survey participants reported that they came primarily for Pride-related reasons.

"Around 150k people will be participating in the march. The crowd is incredibly diverse and vibrant, with a lot more international participation this year," says Cathy Renna, Principal of Target Cue, a public interest com-

Somewhere OVER THE RAINBOW

June 28 marks 50 years of the Stonewall Uprising, a landmark event that led to the gay rights movement. A look at the vibrant pride parades around the globe



Accepting sexual diversity (Clockwise from left) The Empire State Building in NYC lit up in colours of Pride; the Stonewall Inn where it all began; parade in Tel Aviv; Canal Parade at the Amsterdam Gay Pride ■ NYC AND COMPANY AND ISTOCK/GETTYIMAGES



gay pride in 1993. It started off when activist Avi Soffer and his partner Avi Robinstein got 14 vehicles, replete with rainbow flags, to honk past Dizengoff Street up to Sheinkin Garden, where a group of LGBT members got together to participate in the event.

"This year's parade, that took place on June 14 along with large floats, marked the end of a month-long festival, which included TLVFest, the city's international gay film festival, an LGBTQ cultural line-up of events, drag shows, a special show at NYX (the official Tel Aviv Pride hotel) by the Israeli Opera, and tributes to key historical figures in the LGBTQ community," says Sammy Yahia, Director, Israel Ministry of Tourism, India and the Philippines.

Pride ambassador

American actor, writer, producer, Neil Patrick Harris was this year's 'International Pride Ambassador'. He participated in his first-ever pride parade, along with his actor-chef husband David Burkta.

Over the last decade, Tel Aviv Pride has earned a reputation for the right reasons. It is said to be the largest Pride parade in West Asia. "2017 witnessed 200,000 people from around the world, while in 2018 and 2019 over 250,000 participated," says Yahia. It has also been voted the world's 'Best Gay City' by GayCities.com and 'The Most Gay-Friendly City in the World' by Wow Travel, adds Yahia.

It's interesting to note that some of the travellers make these events the central focus of their trips. Like Thijs Knoeff, a young Dutchman who travelled for this event, while Offer Nissim, internationally acclaimed DJ and gay-icon, was present to extend his support. And it is not just the LGBTQIA+ community that revels. The colours of Pride are inclusive and reach out to everyone who supports and believes in love, unfettered.



munications firm focussing on LGBT-related issues.

The first march in NYC took place in 1970 and was known as the gay liberation march. "This is the 49th pride march here. It has changed very much in size, but the spirit remains the same, bringing the LGBTQIA+ community together, in both celebration and resistance as we continue the fight for equality," says Renna. This year, the WorldPride Opening Ceremony that took place at the Barclays Center on June 26

and was hosted by Whoopi Goldberg, saw performances by Cyndi Lauper, Billy Porter, Ciara and Daya among others. The other events – such as the NYC Pride March, Stonewall50 Commemoration Rally, Youth Pride – lined up till the Closing Ceremony at Times Square on June 30, will have performances by Princess Nokia, The Veronicas, Melanie C, Sink the Pink, Deborah Cox, and DJ Nandi among others.

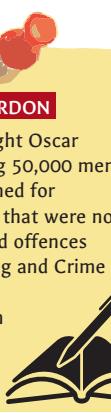
In San Francisco – that gave the US one of the first gay neigh-



bourhoods with Castro District – Pride month is a big, colourful party, with millions coming in from across town, the US and the world, to partake in the festivities. There are a host of quirky parties, educational talks, the march, and events such as San Francisco Strips, where, as the name suggests, singers and dancers go The Full Monty, all for a cause.

One of the latest entrants into the Pride parade scene is Tel Aviv, the first city in Israel to host the

HISTORICAL PARDON
In 2017, playwright Oscar Wilde was among 50,000 men who were pardoned for homosexual acts that were no longer considered offences under the Policing and Crime Act 2017, informally known as the Alan Turing law.



POOCHE CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



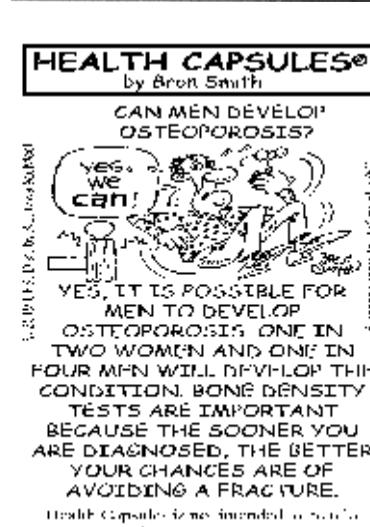
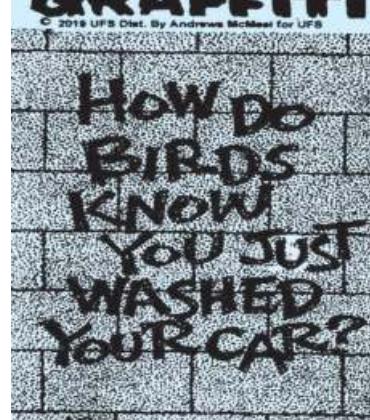
CALVIN AND HOBBES



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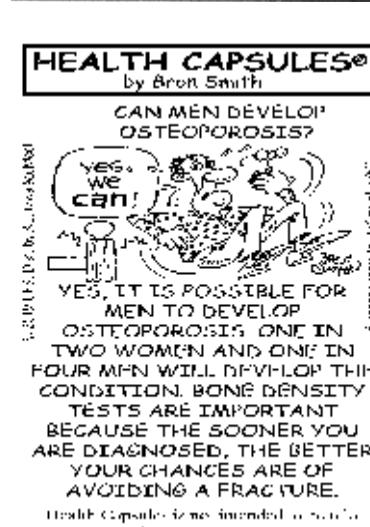
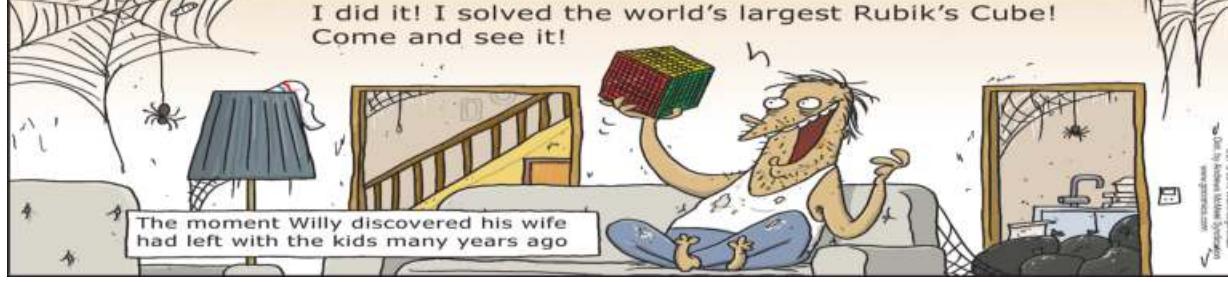
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- (5) 4 Stop waffling! (3,2,3,5)
- 5 Lovers' secret rendezvous (5)
- 6 Fooled – assimilated (5,2)
- 7 Prescribed amount (4)
- 8 German emperor (6)
- 13 Direct (8)
- 15 Connected row of houses (7)
- 16 Number puzzle (6)
- 18 Horse-drawn vehicle (5)
- 20 Interrogate (5)
- 21 Skin complaint (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated June 28, 2019.

Solution No. 13106

WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



- 19 Doctrine to be accepted without question (5)
- 20 Loud resonant noise (5)
- 21 Faint notion (7)
- 22 Time without end (8)
- 23 Conspiracy (4)
- 24 Decisive confrontation (8)
- 25 Make tea (4,2)

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India in good space, but Windies has the firepower to test the best

Bhuvneshwar seems to have recovered from injury but Shami may get the nod after his stellar showing in the Afghanistan clash



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

In Manchester where its denizens dote on football, like it is in the rest of England, and are acrimoniously split between two clubs carrying the town's name as prefix – United and City, the ICC World Cup has been at best, a pleasant distraction. Even the tabloids slot cricket from page 12 in the sports supplement while newsprint is largely devoted to the women's football World Cup.

Restricted hype

The hype around cricket here at Old Trafford has largely been restricted to the sub-continental diaspora and the sheer interest that Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis have collectively displayed. Into this theatre of local indifference and the migrant's love for a British game, India and the West Indies will step in for Thursday's clash.

Virat Kohli's men are in a good space, having defeated rivals ranging from the established to the minnows. Even though the skirmish against Afghanistan busted nerves at Southampton's Hampshire Bowl, India, like all efficient units, had the last laugh. Currently placed third on the table, the Men in Blue seem set to finish in the top four but the team-manage-



Seasoned pro: Dhoni is experienced enough to shed the baggage of criticism over his laboured batting in the last match. ■ AFP

ment refused to think too far ahead.

Pervading mantra

Taking it one contest at a time and considering the joust featuring the men from the Caribbean Islands as another essential incremental step is the prevailing mantra. Surely, a triumph against Jason Holder's men will strengthen the lone foot that has already sneaked past the semifinal's door.

The lone lingering question was about Bhuvneshwar Kumar's fitness but the medium-pacer seems to have recovered from his hamstring strain. On a bright Wednesday, the seamer bowled on the practice pitch and did ex-

aggerated jumps while physio Patrick Farhart observed. The final word will be known at the toss but, after Mohammed Shami's hat-trick against Afghanistan, the think-tank may be tempted to rest Bhuvneshwar.

Losing momentum

The West Indies, meanwhile, has lost the momentum it gained from the opening win over Pakistan. Subsequently, it lost four and the defeats to Bangladesh and New Zealand have been soul-sapping. If Holder and company tuck into the venue's history, they might draw some inspiration. The great West Indian captain Clive Lloyd played for close to two decades with

the home county Lancashire and his was a magnetic presence.

Explosive batsmen

Holder has explosive batsmen in his arsenal, be it a Chris Gayle or a Carlos Brathwaite and is equally bolstered with the fresh quotient of Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran. The bowling too, relying on pace and bounce, has had its moments but beyond Sheldon Cottrell's cute salute after bagging a wicket or pouching a catch, nothing else lingers. Still, this is a team that can test the very best and, additionally, familiarity breeds awareness.

Thanks to the Indian Pre-

mier League and the notes being exchanged, quite a few West Indian players are aware of the strengths and the rare quirks of this Indian team. There is respect too.

No comment

When Gayle was asked about M.S. Dhoni's circumspect approach against Gulbadin

India vs West Indies - a World Cup timeline

1979, EDGBASTON: On the opening day of the second edition, Michael Holding's four-wicket burst restricted India to 190. Gordon Greenidge slammed an unbeaten 106 as West Indies cruised home

1983, OLD TRAFFORD: Yashpal Sharma's 89 and three-wicket hauls from Roger Binny and Ravi Shastri helped India win by 34 runs. It was the side's first ever loss in a WC match

1983, THE OVAL: Viv Richards hammered 119 as WI posted 282. In reply, India could only manage 216. Mohinder Amarnath played lone-ranger, scoring 80

1983, LORD'S (FINAL): When India was bowled out for 183 - K. Srikkanth top-scored with 38 - many were convinced that the mighty Caribbeans will complete a hat-trick of titles. However, Kapil's Devils had other ideas. Once Madan Lal got rid of the rampant Richards, thanks to a brilliant catch by the skipper, Mohinder took three in quick time as India won by 43 runs to script history

1992, WELLINGTON: Despite a good start, Anderson Cummins took four wickets as India was shot out for 197 with Mohd. Azharuddin the only batsman to make a half-century (61). Brian Lara's sizzling start as an opener and an unbeaten 58 from Keith Atherton ensured a smooth chase

1996, GWALIOR:

It was West Indies which was bundled out for 173 this time as Manoj Prabhakar and Anil Kumble picked up three each. Sachin Tendulkar made the most of an early reprieve to score a quick 70 and set up a comfortable five-wicket win

2011, CHENNAI: Yuvraj Singh's magnificent 113 and Virat Kohli's useful 59 piloted India to 268 despite Ravi Rampaul finishing with a five-for. West Indies was in the hunt as opener Devon Smith made a valuable 81 but the chase was derailed after Zaheer Khan removed Smith, triggering a collapse from 154 for two to 188

2015, PERTH: In a low-scoring encounter, West Indies recovered from 85/7 to reach 182, thanks to Jason Holder's 57. India's reply, too, did not take off smoothly, but skipper M.S. Dhoni's unbeaten 45 steered the side home



SERVO CRICKET TRIVIA

SERVO
WORLD-CLASS LUBRICANTS

Chris Gayle is the only batsman to hit a six off the first ball of a Test match.

We are aware of the challenges, says Arun

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

India's bowling coach Bharat Arun squared up to the media at Old Trafford here on Wednesday and answered a volley of questions dealing with the imminent World Cup clash against the West Indies and the Arsenal under his command. He also neatly side-stepped a controversial query on India's orange jersey for the game involving England. Excerpts:

The West Indies note: They are an outstanding side and play positive cricket. We are aware of the challenges and our plans are in place. It's a big challenge for the bowlers, especially when they come after you. But whenever batsmen like Chris Gayle or Carlos Brathwaite come after you, there is a chance in it for the bowlers too.

The Afghanistan recap: If



Cool quandary: India has an embarrassment of riches in the pace department, says Bharat Arun. ■ AFP

you look at our first three games, we put up big scores, but in the Afghanistan match, the wicket was sticky. It was tricky to bat and it was

a question of understanding those conditions and adapting to that.

Pandya's growth: Over a period of time, it was a big

challenge for him to bowl 10 overs but he realised that he needed to develop a certain armoury. He has worked on his slower balls and slow bouncers and all this has given him the confidence to go through those 10 overs.

Dhoni's sedate knock: Had we probably lost a wicket at that stage (when Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav stitched a partnership against Afghanistan), then things would have turned out differently. So I don't think it's too much of a concern. There is always a constant dialogue between the batsmen, the support staff, the batting coach and the head coach Ravi Shastri. I can't really get into the details but there is a constant dialogue for us to improve.

Bhuvneshwar's fitness: His injury (hamstring) is not of any great concern. It is just a niggle but it gave us an opportunity to plug (Mo-

hammed) Shami into a game. The fact that he has done exceptionally well means that we have an embarrassment of riches and we would take a (selection) call as per the conditions.

Shami's evolution: Shami was in a totally different mindset (previously when he was dropped) and we – head coach and I – had to speak to him and draw a future map for him and had to convince him regarding that. He was also going through certain personal problems. We made him focus on his cricket and the rest is there for everybody to see.

The orange jersey: To be honest, we are not aware of what colours we are going to be wearing. So we have not given any thought to that and our focus is on the match.

We bleed blue, right? Blue is going to be our predominant colour and that's it.

'Our aim is to win all matches'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANCHESTER

When it comes to the West Indies, hope floats and then it turns sour.

Having commenced its World Cup campaign on a winning note against Pakistan, the men from the Caribbean Islands subsequently lost to Australia, England, Bangladesh and New Zealand while the game involving South Africa was washed out.

Boxed into a tight corner and set to face off against India at Old Trafford, the West Indies skipper Jason Holder spoke to the media here on Wednesday. Excerpts:

Big game: Everybody's upbeat and playing India is always a big game. We need to finish the campaign as best as we can and our objective is to win all three games. We have shown glimpses here and there about what we can



Jason Holder. ■ AFP

make sure that learning takes place. There's no point to drop our heads.

Workers that sizzle: Length bowling has worked pretty well in this tournament. And guys who have also been able to execute yorkers have had success as well. I guess it depends on the venue and how the conditions play.

Stay long, score runs: Shai (Hope) has done a reasonable job. Hetty (Shimron Hetmyer) has shown glimpses of brilliance, as well as Nicholas (Pooran).

It's up to them to take it deeper. They have got to be the rock and soul for our team and they have got to set up games and learn to close them out.

A guy who has done that through the tournament is Kane Williamson. He sets it up, goes big and bats down to the very end.

Problem of plenty calls for tough decisions



Dean Jones
SELECT DUGOUT CORNER

Bhuvneshwar Kumar is a quality bowler, but I'll stick with Mohammed Shami for the West Indies outing. Shami was outstanding against Afghanistan. The stats, too, work in Shami's favour. He has a superb ODI record against West Indies, with 24 wickets in 11 games.

When you have a wonderful amount of resources at your disposal, you have to take tough decisions, for which you need tough leaders. India have that in Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri.

There has been a debate recently on M.S. Dhoni's strike rate, but you won't hear me utter a single negative thing about him. Dhoni reads the game better than

Universe Boss keen to linger longer

Gayle revises his retirement plan, to sign off after the home series against India



Twist in the tale: Chris Gayle's announcement not only surprised the media but also his skipper Jason Holder. ■ AFP

The flummoxed reporters were wondering if he uttered those words in jest.

Incidentally, India's tour

of the Caribbean islands during August and September will feature three T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests. of the Caribbean islands during August and September will feature three T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests.

I am up there with the greats'

India match: Hopefully, it will go down to the wire and West Indies will win.

The pantheon: I am definitely up there with the greats, without a doubt.

Batting advice: When you get those starts, you have to convert the fifties into hundreds and be consistent.

Brian Lara's health: Hopefully, he will have a speedy recovery and be back on the park as soon as possible.

The Bumrah effect: Bumrah is the No. 1 bowler, but I just have to take that into the stride and play according to the situation.

Career highs: Two triple centuries in Test cricket and a double century in the World Cup are right on top.

Young guns for the future: Nicholas Pooran is going to be a world-record beater, he is going to be a savage youngster, trust me. And Shai Hope is a guy who actually may be a future captain.

Lara discharged



Brian Lara.
■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MUMBAI

West Indies batting legend Brian Lara was given the all-clear and discharged from a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday, a day after he was admitted because of chest pains.

"He was discharged at 12 noon. His condition is normal," hospital spokesman Parag Dhurke said.

Lara was rushed to hospital on Tuesday in India's financial capital where he is currently working for Star Sports, the official broadcasters of the ongoing Cricket World Cup.

The 50-year-old Trinidadian underwent an angioplasty "as a precaution", Dhurke said. "His health is good," he added.

Classy Azam pilots Pakistan to a crucial win

Sohail plays perfect foil; Neesham and de Grandhomme rescue Kiwis after Shaheen rips through the top-order



Stroke-filled: Babar Azam hit 11 boundaries during his match-winning knock. ■ REUTERS

WORLD CUP

SHAYAN ACHARYA BIRMINGHAM

Babar Azam's unbeaten century powered Pakistan to a six-wicket win against New Zealand and helped it stay on course for a semifinal berth.

Chasing a target of 238 at Edgbaston on Wednesday, Pakistan rode on Azam's power-packed innings and Haris Sohail's 68 to cross the line with five balls to spare.

Kiwis' first loss

After the openers fell cheaply, Azam strung together two partnerships – 66 with Mohammad Hafeez and 126 with Sohail – to help Pakistan end New Zealand's unbeaten run in this edition.

In the morning, young pacer Shaheen Afridi had laid the foundation for the win. Born eight years after Pakistan won its first and the only World Cup title in 1992, the left-arm ripper ripped through the New Zealand top-order to leave it tottering at 83 for five.

However, a fighting partnership between Jimmy Neesham (97 not out) and Colin de Grandhomme (64), who added 132, took the Kiwis to 237. The duo first rescued the side before bludgeoning the bowlers as 85 came off the last 10 overs.

Azam's feat

■ Babar Azam (68 innings) is the second quickest to notch up 3,000 ODI runs, after Hashim Amla (57).

The seasoned Mohammad Amir had provided the early breakthrough, castling Martin Guptill for five.

Shaheen then took over, bowling with verve to pick up three for nine in his first six overs.

Sarfraz's stunner

While New Zealand captain Kane Williamson stood firm at one end, Shaheen sent back Colin Munro and Ross Taylor, who was brilliantly caught behind by Sarfraz Ahmed.

Williamson built a 37-run partnership with Neesham before he was dismissed by Shabab Khan for 41.

Neesham and de Grandhomme fought back, taking advantage of Sarfraz's reluctance to go for the kill.

However, it did not hurt Pakistan as Azam and Sohail ensured a facile win.

Next assignment

PAKISTAN: June 29 vs Afghanistan, Headingly, 3 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND: June 29 vs Australia, Lord's, 6 p.m.

SCOREBOARD PAKISTAN VS NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

Martin Guptill b Amir 5 (4b, 1x4), Colin Munro c Sohail b Shaheen 12 (17b, 2x4), Kane Williamson c Sarfraz b Shabab 41 (69b, 4x4), Ross Taylor c Sarfraz b Shaheen 3 (8b), Tom Latham c Sarfraz b Shaheen 1 (14b), James Neesham (not out) 97 (112b, 5x4, 3x6), Colin de Grandhomme run out 64 (71b, 6x4, 1x6), Mitchell Santner (not out) 5 (5b); Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-4): 9; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 237.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Guptill, 1.1 overs), 2-24 (Munro, 6.2), 3-38 (Taylor, 8.6), 4-46 (Latham, 12.3), 5-83 (Williamson, 26.2), 6-215 (de Grandhomme, 47.4).

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Hafeez 7-0-22-0, Amir 10-0-67-1, Shaheen 10-3-28-3, Wasim 3-0-17-0, Shabab 10-0-

Toss: NZ; MoM: Babar Azam.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia (Q)	7	6	1	0	12	0.906
New Zealand	7	5	1	1	11	1.028
India	5	4	0	1	9	0.809
England	7	4	3	0	8	1.051
Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
Pakistan	7	3	3	1	7	-0.976
Sri Lanka	6	2	2	2	6	-1.119
West Indies	6	1	4	1	3	0.19
South Africa (E)	7	1	5	1	3	-0.324
Afghanistan (E)	7	0	7	0	0	-1.634

*Till the New Zealand-Pakistan match on June 26; Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated

Vismaya bags bronze

GOLENIOW (POLAND): V.K. Vismaya ran a personal best 52.58s as she won the women's 400m bronze at the Goleniow Athletics Park international meeting here on Wednesday.

It was the Kerala girl's

first run under 53s with her previous best being 53.27 (in Patiala in March). M.R. Poomavamma was fifth with 53.71.

Poland's Iga Baumgart-Witan (51.74s) and Cuba's Roxana Gomez (51.97) won the gold and silver.

Dutch break Japanese hearts

Last-gasp penalty sees the Netherlands through to quarters



The clincher: Lieke Martens scores the Netherlands' second goal from the penalty spot. ■ REUTERS

Federer seeded ahead of Nadal at Wimbledon

Defending champion Djokovic, Roland Garros winner Barty get pride of place

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Roger Federer has been seeded second ahead of great rival Rafael Nadal for Wimbledon despite trailing the Spaniard in the World rankings.

Nadal complained earlier this week that Wimbledon's unique formula for seeding that combines ranking points with form in grass-court competitions was disrespectful.

World No. 1 and defending champion Novak Djokovic is the top seed.

Eighteen-time Grand Slam winner Nadal, ranked No. 2 in the world, is therefore guaranteed to be in the same half of the draw as either Federer or Djokovic.

"Obviously it would be better to be two than three but if they think I have to be three I will accept three and fight to win the matches I have to win," Nadal had told

a Spanish TV channel on Monday.

Odd one out

"The only thing that doesn't seem right about this issue is that it is only Wimbledon that does it."

"If they all did it, it would seem more correct."

South Africa's Kevin Anderson is seeded fourth, well ahead of his ranking of eighth, after reaching the final for the first time last year, with

Dominic Thiem, Alexander Zverev and Stefanos Tsitsipas all bumped down one position.

The women's seedings do mirror the rankings with Roland Garros champion Ashleigh Barty top of the pile for the first time at a Grand Slam ahead of Naomi Osaka.

Defending champion Angelique Kerber is seeded fifth with seven-time Wimbledon champion Serena Williams down in 11th.



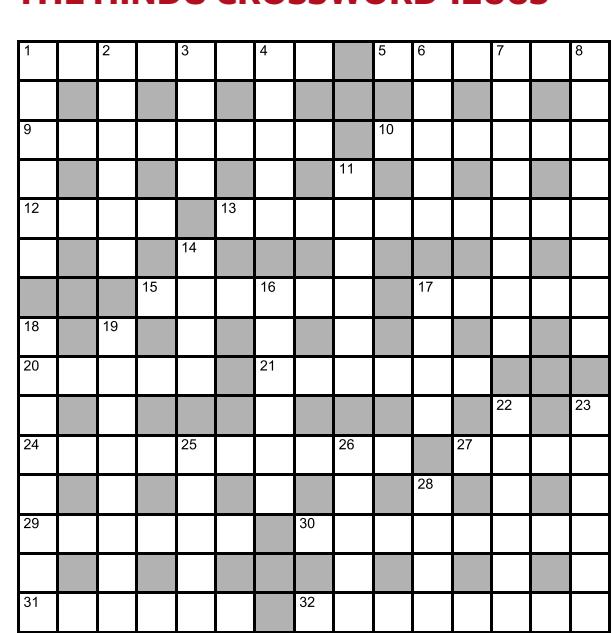
Tough luck: Nadal, right, is guaranteed to be in the same half of the draw as either Federer or Djokovic. ■ AFP

The seedings



Position	Men	Women	Position	Men	Women
1	Novak Djokovic	Ashleigh Barty	17	Matteo Berrettini	Madison Keys
2	Roger Federer	Naomi Osaka	18	Nikoloz Basilashvili	Julia Goerges
3	Rafael Nadal	Karolina Pliskova	19	Felix Auger-Aliassime	Johanna Konta
4	Kevin Anderson	Kiki Bertens	20	Gilles Simon	Anett Kontaveit
5	Dominic Thiem	Angelique Kerber	21	David Goffin	Elise Mertens
6	Alexander Zverev	Petra Kvitova	22	Stan Wawrinka	Donna Vekic
7	Stefanos Tsitsipas	Simona Halep	23	Roberto Bautista Agut	Caroline Garcia
8	Kei Nishikori	Elina Svitolina	24	Diego Schwartzman	Petra Martic
9	John Isner	Sloane Stephens	25	Alex de Minaur	Amanda Anisimova
10	Karen Khachanov	Aryna Sabalenka	26	Guido Pella	Garbine Muguruza
11	Daniil Medvedev	Serena Williams	27	Lucas Pouille	Sofia Kenin
12	Fabio Fognini	Anastasija Sevastova	28	Benoit Paire	Hsieh Su-wei
13	Marin Cilic	Belinda Bencic	29	Denis Shapovalov	Daria Kasatkina
14	Borna Coric	Caroline Wozniacki	30	Kyle Edmund	Carla Suarez Navarro
15	Milos Raonic	Wang Qiang	31	Laslo Djere	Maria Sakkari
16	Gael Monfils	Marketa Vondrousova	32	Dusan Lajovic	Lesia Tsurenko

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12663



ACROSS

- 1 In Mumbai suburb carefully select a servant (8)
- 5 Waited for first-class offer by newspaper editor (6)
- 9 One news editor found among friends in early performances (8)
- 10 Angry outburst on seeing an enlarged photo (6)
- 12 Already cut, 27 rearranged (4)

(set by Gridman)

- 13 Troop group in separation (10)
- 15 Saw half-a-dozen covered with morning moisture heading off (6)
- 17 20 push son to right extreme causing worries (5)
- 20 17 pull son back, causing alarm (5)
- 21 Indian bread placed back in French city (6)
- 24 Dumps – you're advised to eliminate them (5,5)
- 27 Bird sees a change of heart in 12 (4)
- 29 Work I rated off-road is calmer (6)
- 30 Place of seclusion costlier to reconstruct (8)
- 31 Being non-committal, leader leaves frame (6)
- 32 Father takes three directions to reach where uncle does business (8)
- 33 Section in the cradle of Polynesia for a snack from India (6)
- 34 Involved in getting directions for rich part of a city (6)
- 35 Bond 28 smashed (4)

SUDOKU

4		3	7		8			
9		6						
3	1		2	6		9	2	5
						6		
4	9	8						
5		1		8	4			
7		9					6	
6	5	9						

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12662

B	O	M	B	A	Y	A	V	E	R	A	G	E	D
R	E	P	I	E	U	I	E	U	I	E	U	I</	

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
FIFA Women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

Batra elected IOC member



Narender Batra. ■ PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAUSANNE

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narender Batra was on Wednesday elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee securing 58 votes out of 62.

The FIH chief now has a rare distinction of becoming a member of the IOC, while heading a National Olympic Committee as well as an international federation. He is the first Indian to have this distinction.

Reliance Foundation chairperson Nita Ambani was elected as a member of the IOC in 2016, while former IOA secretary-general Randhir Singh, who served as a member of the IOC from 2001 to 2014, is a honorary member.

Indian teams impress

SPORTS BUREAU DHAKA

The Indian boys and girls had the unique distinction of winning their matches 3-0, against Pakistan and Bhutan respectively, without dropping a single game, in the league phase of the ITF Asian under-12 tennis tournament, a South Asian qualifying event, on Wednesday.

Semifinal line-up: Boys: India v Sri Lanka; Bangladesh and Nepal. **Girls:** India v Bangladesh; Sri Lanka v Nepal.

The results (league):

Boys: India bt Pakistan 3-0 (Rathin Pranav Senthilkumar bt Muhammad Hussain Ali Rizwan 6-0, 6-0; Manas Dhamne bt Muhammad Haider Ali Rizwan 6-0, 6-0; Manas Dhamne & Arnav Paparkar bt Muhammad Haider Ali Rizwan & Ahtesham Humayun 6-0, 6-0).

Girls: India bt Bhutan 3-0 (Riya Sachdeva bt Tenzin Dorji Yangkey 6-0, 6-0; Samiksha Dabas bt Norbu Lhatso Jurnney 6-0, 6-0; Ika Raju Kanumuri & Riya Sachdeva bt Tenzin Dorji Yangkey & Jigme Wangmo 6-0, 6-0).

Neeraj injured, out of Amir bout



Neeraj Goyat ■ REUTERS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA
Professional British boxer Amir Khan's fight with WBC Asian champion Neeraj Goyat in Jeddah next week was cancelled after the latter met with a road accident on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old was travelling from Yamuna Nagar to Mohali for a sparring session.

"We are very sad to inform you that our star Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat, who was preparing for his mega fight against Amir Khan, met with a car accident last night that has caused him severe injuries on his head, face and left arm. He is currently in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery," said promoter Bill Dosanjh.

"We are in the process of looking for Neeraj's replacement. Please bear with us till we announce the new opponent of (ex-World champion 32-year-old) Amir Khan," said Dosanjh.

When the manager flouted Board rules

I gave permission for the players' wives to stay in the hotel, says Man Singh

'83 MEMORIES

VIJAY LOKAPALLY HYDERABAD

He is a treasure trove of cricket tales and P.R. Man Singh cannot resist sharing his side of India's 1983 World Cup win. "I know much has been written and said about June 25 and all but I have a collection which can delight our cricket fans for eternity," said Man saab, as he is fondly known.

At 81, Man saab can vividly recall stories from the epic journey which began when he was appointed manager of the World Cup team.

"I was assistant manager when we went to Pakistan in 1978. So this was my first full-fledged assignment as the team manager.

"And I flouted many Board rules in my capacity as manager," he confessed to *The Hindu* here on Wednesday.

Honour

"It was an honour to be co-opted in the committee which was to appoint the captain for the World Cup. We had stalwarts in the selection committee - Ghulam Ahmed, Chandu Borde, Chandu Sarwate, Bishan Singh Bedi and Pankaj Roy. The meeting was held at Hotel Taj Man Singh in Delhi but for some reason Roy did not attend," remembered Man saab.

Kapil Dev's appointment was "smooth" and he was co-opted along with the manager to select the squad. "The team was picked on merit and we left a week before the World Cup," he added.

"We lost three of the four warm-up matches but recovered to stun the world."

But what Board rule did he flout? "I allowed wives to accompany the players," Man saab chuckled.

Tales to cherish: Manager P.R. Man Singh cannot resist sharing his side of India's 1983 World Cup win. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

"We had four players with their wives and I gave them permission to stay in the hotel.

"I also allowed them to travel in the team bus when going to venues out of London. This was unthinkable then. Good the Board today allows the players to bring their families for some time."

The well-documented triumph has another fascinating story. "The next morning

I was so happy to see the team keep its (prior) commitment to play the benefit match for (fast bowler) T. Govindraj.

Chaotic

"We were the world champions now and it was chaotic at the (venue) Indian Gymkhana. After a while, the crowd invaded the field and the match had to be abandoned. But Govindraj had

his benefit game."

Eating his words

An unforgettable memory was Man saab making a top English journalist feel embarrassed for mocking India's participation. "After we won, I wrote to him. And he was sporting enough to publish his picture in the magazine with paper in his mouth and a caption - I eat my words."

Archers Rai, Das, Jadhav, Verma included

₹34 lakh in six sports cleared as financial assistance

TOPS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI



■ FILE PHOTO

Youth Olympics, World Cups and World championships; performance of competing international counterparts (athletes) in the last three years; high performance age of a typical Olympic medalist specific to each event and performance of Indian athletes in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and their progression chart.

A total of ₹34 lakh in six sports was also cleared as financial assistance.

In wrestling, financial support for training and par-

ticipation in tournaments overseas were sanctioned for Pooja Dhandha, Bajrang Punia, Utkarsh Kale and Vinesh Phogat. The committee also sanctioned the purchase of sports gear for Pooja Dhandha.

The committee approved the proposal of Amit Saroha to hire a physiotherapist at SAI Sonepat, where he is currently training. The committee also approved the proposals of athletes Sreeshankar and Jinson Johnson to participate in competitions overseas.

Foreign coach for Tajinder

Tajinder Toor was given permission to hire a foreign coach, Ireneusz Bukowiecki, for a period of two months.

In table tennis, Manika Batra was given permission to purchase sports kit while A. Sharath Kamal's proposal to

TOPS is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to provide assistance to India's Olympic probables.

Rohan Bopanna and Pablo Cuevas were beaten 6-3, 6-3 in the doubles quarterfinals by Maximo Gonzalez and Horacio Zeballos of Argentina in the ATP tennis tourna-

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU EASTBOURNE

Rohan Bopanna and Pablo Cuevas were beaten 6-3, 6-3 in the doubles quarterfinals by Maximo Gonzalez and Horacio Zeballos of Argentina in the ATP tennis tourna-

ment here.

Seeded second, Divij Shan-

ran and Marcelo Demoliner

of Brazil also went down in

the quarterfinals in the Anta-

lya ATP event.

In the Challenger in Italy,

Sumit Nagal cruised into the

pre-quarterfinals with a se-

cond round victory over

Laurynas Grigelis of Lithua-

nia after getting a bye.

The results:

\$745,880 ATP, Eastbourne,

England: Doubles (quarter-

finals): Maximo Gonzalez &

Horacio Zeballos (Arg) bt

Pablo Cuevas (Uru) & Rohan Bopanna

6-3, 6-3. Pre-quarterfinals:

Cuevas & Bopanna bt Marco Cecchinato (Ita) & Dusan Lajov-

Sreeja, Anusha excel

Manav and Amalraj stay on course

NORTH ZONE TT

RAKESH RAO SONEPAT

Unseeded Sreeja Akula and Anusha Kutumbale knocked out two seeds each to gate-crash into the women semi-finals following a day of sensational upsets in the National-ranking table tennis tournament (North Zone) here on Wednesday.

The bottom half of the draw witnessed a series of surprises with Sreeja accounting for sixth seed Divya Deshpande and third seed Sugandha Mukherjee. Anusha, who took out seventh seed Krittika Sinha Roy in the round of 32, ousted second seed Madhurika Patkar in a seven-set thriller to advance.

Contrasting routes
In the men's section, Manav Thakkar and A. Amalraj stayed on course of their much-anticipated final after taking contrasting routes to the semifinals.

Manav had to bounce back from a 0-3 deficit to get the better of youngster Payas Jain 9-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-11, 11-4; Akula 11-9, 11-6, 12-10, 12-10, 11-7, 11-5; Sanil Shetty 11-7, 11-7, 11-5, 11-11, 11-7; Jeet bt Arjun Ghosh 3-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8; Sudhanshu bt Sourav Sa- ha 6-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-4, 14-12, 11-9; Harmeet bt Kiranjoy Pushital 11-5, 11-8, 11-7, 11-8; Sudhanshu bt Sourav Sa- ha 6-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8; Anusha Kutumbale bt Madhurika Patkar 7-11, 5-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-9, 11-11, 11-9; Archana Kamath bt Prapti Sen 11-4, 11-8, 11-11, 12-10, 11-3; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Diya Chitale 11-5, 11-9, 11-6, 11-4; Akula 11-9, 11-6, 12-10, 11-11, 11-9; Sugandha Mukherjee 11-5, 11-7, 11-8, 11-9, 11-10; Divya Deshpande 11-9, 11-8, 11-11, 11-9, 11-10; Soumyajit Ghosh 11-9, 11-8, 11-9, 11-10; Mihika Yadav bt Nihatak Banu 11-13, 11-3, 8-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-11; Madhurika bt Moumita Dutta 11-5, 4-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-11, 11-9.

ic Srb) 6-2, 7-5.

€507,490 ATP, Antalya, Tur-

key: Doubles (quarterfinals):

Denys Molchanov (Ukr) & Igor Zelenay (Svk) bt Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Divij Sharan

6-2, 7-5; Pre-quarterfinals:

Benoit Paire (Fra) & Leander Paes

bt Sander Arends & Matwee

Middelkoop (Ned) 6-3, 6-4;

Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Divij

Sharan bt Tuna Al Tuna & Cem

Ilkel (Tur) 7-5, 6-2.

€46,600 Challenger, Milan:

Singles (second round): Sumit Nagal bt Laurynas Grigelis (Ltu)

6-2, 6-3.

€25,000 ITF women, Naiman,

China: Singles (first round):

Zuzana Zochova (Svk) bt Jenifer Luikham 6-3, 6-4.

bt Babji Siva Atturu & Ansul Bhuyan 7-5, 6-2; Prajwal Dev & Rishi Reddy bt Thabo Ncube & Ethan Denzel Sibanda (Zim) 6-2, 6-2; Vasilios Caripis & Charl Morgan (RSA) bt Ishaque Eqbal & Anurag Newani 7-5, 6-4.

€25,000 ITF men, Jakarta: Sing-
gles (first round): Jessy Rom-
pis (Ina) bt Ashimtha Easwar-
amurthy 6-0, 6-2; Bhuvana Kalva
bt Sarah Pang (Sgp) 6-1, 7-6(2);

Likhitha Kalava bt Eun Se Jang (Kor) retired; Sakura Hondo (Jpn) 6-0, 6-1; Mihika Yadav bt Fitriani Sabatini (Ina) 7-5, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):

Anna Zhang (US) & Akanksha

Bhan bt Sara Jamal & Zeba Jam-

al (US) 6-1, 6-2; Lee Barnard

& Zani Barnard (RSA) bt Rifanty

Kahfiani (Ina) & Likhitha Kalava

6-2, 6-1; Fitriani Sabatini & Fi-

triana Sabrina (Ina) w.o. Eun Se

Jang (Kor) & Mihika Yadav.

Harveen gets the better of Esha

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

It required a Deputy Super-
intendent of Police (DSP) from Punjab,
Harveen Srao, to check Esha Singh's gold
hunt in the 19th Kumar Sur-
rendra Singh shooting champion-
ship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range here
on Wednesday.

It was a welcome return to
form for Harveen, as she