





# Congratulations Deoli!

**Laying of Water Pipeline in  
13 Unauthorised Colonies of  
Deoli Assembly Constituency starts**

## Inauguration Ceremony

Sunday, 4 August, 2019 at 4:00 PM

Venue: Shri Ram Barat Ghar, Bandh Road, Sangam Vihar, Delhi

**"We will make Delhi the best city in the world"**

**- Arvind Kejriwal**  
Chief Minister, Delhi

## Highlights of the project:

- The project will benefit about 2 lakh residents of the area
- Total Cost of the project is Rs. 14.4 Crores

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>DELHI</b>            | <b>Timings</b> |
| SUNDAY, AUG. 04         |                |
| RISE 05:44              | SET 19:10      |
| RISE 09:02              | SET 21:52      |
| <b>MONDAY, AUG. 05</b>  |                |
| RISE 05:45              | SET 19:10      |
| RISE 10:07              | SET 22:30      |
| <b>TUESDAY, AUG. 06</b> |                |
| RISE 05:45              | SET 19:09      |
| RISE 11:11              | SET 23:09      |

|                      |     |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Delhi Weather</b> | max | min |
| Delhi City           | 33  | 27  |
| Safdarjung           | 33  | 27  |
| Palam                | 33  | 26  |

**Delhi Pali Today**  
34°C A warm and humid weather with cloudy sky to prevail. Spell of rain would occur over parts of the city.

**Delhi Pali Tomorrow**  
30°C Fall in temperature. Moderate spells of rain or thunderstorms will affect the city.

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| <b>Air quality of Delhi-NCR</b> |         |                       |     |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-----|
| Delhi                           | 89      | Gurugram              | 61  |
| Ghaziaab                        | 78      | Faridabad             | 48  |
| Noida                           | 80      | Greater Noida         | 100 |
| Good 0-50                       | 51-100  | Satisfactory 101-200  |     |
| Poor 201-300                    | 301-400 | Very poor >401 Severe |     |

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

## IN BRIEF

Meeting held on security measures ahead of Aug. 15

**NEW DELHI**  
Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sanjay Singh interacted with officers and other 450 members enrolled under various schemes of Delhi Police in view of security arrangements for Independence Day.

## DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Panel discussion on the book, "Mahatma Gandhi: Trust with Satyagraha," authored by Mandira Ghosh. Panellists: Dr. Amarendra Khattar, Retd. Secretary MEA, K. Jayakumar, Retd. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Kerala, Ranjan Chatterjee, Expert Member, National Green Tribunal, Chair Dipankar Shri Gyan, Director, Gandhi Smriti at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Music:** Kolkata-based singer Sudip Basu presents an evening of late Hemant Kumar's acclaimed compositions, opening the year-long celebrations marking his birth centenary. Narration by Dilbagh Banerjee at Amalata Hall, IHC, 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** Image-In-Side-Out, an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Sayam Bharat and Yamini Mohan at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** A solo show of paintings, drawings and graphics by Suraj Ghai at All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Screening:** Bhag Milkha Bhag, a Hindi film directed by Rakesh Omprakash Mehra will be screened. This biopic explores the journey of Milkha Singh, one of the greatest Olympians of India at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

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

# AAP begins process of vetting candidates for Assembly polls

Disqualification of rebel MLAs expected to be announced next week

JATIN ANAND  
NIKHIL M. BABU  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party has begun the process of zeroing-in on potential candidates for the Delhi Assembly elections due next year, said sources.

With the disqualification of its Karawal Nagar MLA Kapil Mishra on Friday and the likely disqualification of two more rebel legislators – Gandhi Nagar's Anil Kumar Bajpai and Bijwasan's Devender Sehrawat – expected to be announced next week, the process of selecting candidates is currently at the stage of choosing their replacements, claimed insiders.

**Monsoon session**  
AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal is likely to begin the process of vetting candidates to be fielded across the Capital after the Monsoon session of the Del-



Durgesh Pathak has been tasked to coordinate the developmental works in the area [Karawal Nagar] with Ministers and departments

SAURABH BHARADWAJ,  
AAP Chief Spokesperson

hi Assembly which will commence on August 22 and conclude on August 26, they said.

An AAP leader said the party has decided that long-time Arvind Kejriwal aide Durgesh Pathak, who was in-charge of the party's affairs on half of the total 70 Assembly segments in the Capital during the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections, will contest from the seat.

AAP Chief Spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "Durgesh has been tasked to coordinate the developmental works in the area [Karawal Nagar] with Ministers and departments."

"Soon we will appoint someone for Alka Lamba's Assembly constituency also to do the groundwork in the area for the party," a leader said.

Sources claimed that the party's Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha candidate Pankaj

Gupta and its 2013 candidate for the Assembly elections from the Chandni Chowk Assembly Constituency Vikram Badhwar were both in the reckoning to replace Ms. Lamba.

The leader further added that the party has not decided on who they will field from Bijwasan. "But the party is open to the Lok Sabha candidates [also for the Assembly election], but the details have not been finalised," the leader added.

Sources, however, claimed that Kishan Kumar Sehrawat who joined AAP in late-April this year could replace the sitting MLA Devender Sehrawat, after his likely disqualification which is expected to be announced next week.

The party's East Delhi Lok Sabha candidate, Atishi, sources claimed, could be fielded either from Gandhi Nagar or Vishwas Nagar.

## BJP accuses govt. of putting ₹68 crore burden on Metro

Vijender Gupta says it is due to the hike in power tariff, which has gone up by 50 paise per unit

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday criticised the Delhi government for allegedly financially burdening the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) by ₹68 crore per annum due to a hike in power tariff.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembl Vijender Gupta said on the one hand Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had been "chanting for free travel" for women on the Delhi Metro and

public buses while on the other, they are hiking the power tariff which puts an additional financial burden of ₹68 crore per annum on the Delhi Metro.

"What a contradiction in the Kejriwal government's policy. This additional financial burden on the Delhi Metro will have to be borne by Delhiites ...with effect from August 1, 2019. The power tariffs have been raised from ₹8 to ₹8.50 per unit for the Delhi Metro and from ₹5.75 to ₹6.25 per unit

for the Delhi Jal Board," Mr. Gupta alleged, adding that a hike by 50 paise per unit for other public utilities will impact Delhiites directly.

**Raised fixed charges?**  
Instead of reducing power tariff for agriculture and mushroom cultivation, the Kejriwal government had created a new category for mushroom cultivation and raised fixed charges for this category from ₹125/KW/month to ₹200/KW/month

and power consumption charges by almost five times from ₹1.50 to ₹6.50 per unit thereby "discouraging" cultivation, the LoP said.

"Similarly, the power tariff for those consuming more than 1,200 units per month has also been hiked from ₹7.75 to ₹8.00 per unit. We demand that the Kejriwal government withdraw the hike in power tariff for public utilities as directly, or indirectly, it will burden Delhiites," he added.

## Man held for kidnapping 4-yr-old boy

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A four-year-old boy was rescued on Saturday after being kidnapped allegedly by a 40-year-old man in south Delhi's Neb Sarai on Friday, the police said.

The man has been arrested, they said. Additional DCP (South) Parvinder Singh said Mannu from Sangam Vihar was kidnapped by Kamal Kishore as he was alone and

childless. On Friday, Mannu's father Rajesh Kumar approached the police stating that his son was playing outside the house at 4.30 p.m. when he went missing. A kidnapping case was then registered.

"At 4 a.m. on Saturday, a CCTV footage from Sangam Vihar was found which suggested that the boy was taken by an unknown person near Devli village," Mr. Singh

said. "The footages led the team to a dead-end in Durga Park where photographs of the suspect were shown to people," the officer said.

One Deep Chand identified the suspect as his maternal uncle. Kishore had taken the child to his other sister's house in Tigri, the family told the police after which a raid was conducted and the child was rescued from the house.

## Constable on duty to check bootlegging 'heckled' by locals

He fired in the air and ran away

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A police officer, who was patrolling in south-east Delhi's Madanpur Khadar to check for bootlegging, fired in the air and ran to save his life after he was allegedly heckled by residents who surrounded him, the police said on Saturday.

A video of the incident which went viral on Saturday shows the officer firing in the air and walking back ward before he flees the spot. The residents could be seen following him.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Gyanesh Kumar said at 12.30 a.m. on Saturday, constable Ramkishan reached Madanpur Khadar's JJ Colony to check bootlegging activities when the incident happened. "Two women – identified as Guddi and Kusum – started arguing with the constable when he was checking for bootlegging in the area. They started assaulting him and also damaged his motorcycle

the spot.

"He informed senior officers about the incident after a team reached the spot and found the bike to be damaged. A crime team was called to the spot for inspection. The constable's medical examination was also done," Mr. Kumar said.

**Two arrested**  
Based on Mr. Ramkishan's complaint, a case under relevant sections was registered at Kalindi Kunj police station and two persons including a minor were nabbed.

"Raids are being conducted to arrest those who were part of the unlawful assembly. Most of them have locked their houses and fled off. Meanwhile, anti-bootlegging patrolling is also being conducted in the area," the Additional DCP added.

Following this, the residents gathered around the officer who then fired in the air to disperse the crowd. He then fled off, the police said, adding that Mr. Ramkishan left his bike on

Garwal Bhawan, Opp. Metro Pillar 44, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chakkar.)

**WAZIRPUR** A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)

**JANAKPUR** B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543. Adj. Umang Palace,

**NOIDA** Nirula's Sec-2, C-135, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP

**LAJPAT NAGAR** 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand, Crossing, Delhi

Economy Sales: 9212758425

PUNCHKIAN ROAD

CM

YK



## Illegal scrap plastic market on defence land cleared

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee on Saturday cleared an illegal plastic scrap market on a 10-acre defence land in Jahangirpur.

"The Defence authority had left the land unprotected with any boundary walls and about 400 people were working in segregation and selling of scrap plastic in the land," a DPCC official said.

"Through a drive during which 50 persons and 200 officers were deployed and about 225 tonnes of plastic waste dumped in the open ground has been sent to waste to energy plant at Bawana," a statement read.

## DU teachers condemn 'attack' on syllabus

Syllabi of four subjects referred back to respective depts.

AARUSHI AGGARWAL  
NEW DELHI

Over 80 English teachers across Delhi University colleges issued a statement on Saturday over what they termed a "politically motivated attack on a democratically drafted syllabus".

### Draft policy

Stating that the draft policy involved faculty participation from over 40 colleges, the statement read, "More than 3,000 working hours have been spent on it. It is a matter of sorrow and deep academic concern that the syllabus is now being ma-

ligned and is sought to be scuttled by certain political groups at the University."

The syllabi of four subjects, including English, were referred back to the respective departments by the Executive Council of DU following protests from a section of teachers who alleged that they were "pro-Left".

The teachers, in the statement issued, said that their syllabus introduces new areas of study and was "consciously decolonised to introduce students to a wide variety of writings in English", an effort for which

they "received positive feedback from both national and international experts".

### Fair exchange of ideas'

"At every point, discussions were minuted and circulated to ensure a continuing of the democratic spirit in which the entire exercise was undertaken. We are thus deeply dismayed that deliberations which have been marked by an open, free and fair exchange of ideas, are being described as "Leftist" and "partisan". Nothing can be further from the truth," the statement read.

## Family of accident victim gets ₹11.81 lakh

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has awarded a compensation of ₹11.81 lakh to the family of a Nepali citizen who was killed in a road accident in Uttarakhand in 2017.

The victim was pillion-riding a motorcycle when the truck hit him from behind. The man on the wheels was also injured in the mishap. Since the victim was from Delhi, his wife filed the claim petition here.

The driver and the owner of the truck in reply to the petition said that their vehicle did not cause the accident.

"The total compensation payable to the claimants would be ₹11,81,567," said presiding officer of the Tribunal Hardeep Kaur.

## Senior citizen killed in road accident; driver on the run

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 61-year-old man was killed when his two-wheeler was hit by an unknown vehicle in Dwarka on Saturday morning, the police said.

A senior officer said Virender Singh from west Delhi's Hari Nagar who worked as a manager in a private firm was on his scooter when he was hit by a vehicle at 11.30 a.m. The accused driver fled the spot, the police said, adding that Singh was declared brought dead at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital.

A case charges of rash driving and causing death by negligence has been registered and teams are examining CCTV footage from the area to identify the vehicle and the accused. The victim is survived by his wife and three children.

## Man found dead with head injury

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A man was found murdered with a head injury in east Delhi's Ghazipur on Saturday morning, the police said.

DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said the man is

yet to be identified yet but there are a few clues. "There is a tattoo reading 'Sunny S' on his right forearm and another tattoo on his right hand, which reads 'Suroor'," Mr. Singh said.

The body was found

by patrolling staff at 8 a.m. on a deserted road near Ghazipur Mandi. It appears that he was hit with a sharp object, the police said.

Mr. Singh said a murder case has been registered and a probe is underway.

**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
कार्यालय विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, बिजली भवन, बाजपुर रोड काशीपुर  
दूरभाष: 05947-276520 कारपोरेट आईडी. संख्या U40109UR2001SG25867  
Email: sse\_ksp@edlifmail.com, Website: www.upcl.org

| विद्युत वितरण मण्डल कारपोरेशन की विवरणों के अनुसार आपका क्या है? |                 |  |  |                 |                         |  |
|--|-----------------|--|--|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| क्र. सं.   | ई-निवाया संख्या | सम्पर्कीय का नाम                               | निवाया प्रत्र का मूल्य और संस्करण का नाम | धरोनर राशि (₹.) | अनुपालित लागत राशि (₹.) | ई-निवाया आवधानिक एवं अवधानिक अवलोकन एवं अवलोकन के अन्तर्मित लागत राशि (₹.) |
| 1.   | 08/ (2019-20)   | क्र.प्र. नं. 33/11 के अन्तर्मित लागत राशि (₹.) | 11,800/-                                 | 2,22,000/-      | 1,10,35,567/-           | 26.08.2019 (15.00 बजे) 27.08.2019 (12.00 बजे)                              |
| 2.   | 09/ (2019-20)   | क्र.प्र. नं. 33/11 के अन्तर्मित लागत राशि (₹.) | 11,800/-                                 | 2,25,000/-      | 1,12,12,788/-           | 26.08.2019 (15.00 बजे) 27.08.2019 (12.30 बजे)                              |
| 3.   | 10/ (2019-20)   | क्र.प्र. नं. 33/11 के अन्तर्मित लागत राशि (₹.) | 11,800/-                                 | 2,23,000/-      | 1,11,38,252/-           | 27.08.2019 (15.00 बजे) 28.08.2019 (12.00 बजे)                              |
| 4.   | 11/ (2019-20)   | क्र.प्र. नं. 33/11 के अन्तर्मित लागत राशि (₹.) | 11,800/-                                 | 2,27,000/-      | 1,13,17,704/-           | 27.08.2019 (15.00 बजे) 28.08.2019 (12.30 बजे)                              |

निवाया से संबंधित सार्वत्रिक विवरण दिनांक: 05.08.2019 से वैध साइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर अपलोड किया जा सकता है।  
गोप्यहित में विद्युत वितरण, विद्युत वितरण के 24x7 अनलाइन प्राप्ति होती है। Customer Toll Free No. 18004190405  
प्रकाश - 2004 दि. 2.8.19 अधीक्षण अधिकारी, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, काशीपुर

### Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads Chief Engineer (Kangra Zone) HPPWD Dharamshala H.P., 176215

#### BHARAT NIRMAN UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice

The Government of India has received a loan/credit number "P124639" under PMGSY (Rural Road Project) Rural Roads Financing towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

The Chief Engineer (Kangra Zone) HPPWD Dharamshala-176215 on behalf of Governor Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Chamba as detailed in the Table below from the eligible contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD/P&T, Railways/other state govt/Central Govt agencies. Non-registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

| Division | Package No | Name of the Work   | Estimated Cost (₹ Lacs) | Total Cost (₹ Lacs) |                  | Period of completion (Months) | Bid Security (₹ Lacs) |
|----------|------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
|          |            |  |                         | Constr-<br>uction   | Mainte-<br>nance |                               |                       |
| Chamba   | HP-02-289  | Upgradation Chamba Saru Road Km 0/0 to 4/0                           | 177.35                  | 32.19               | 209.54           | 12                            | 4.19                  |
| Chamba   | HP-02-288  | Upgradation of Chamba Bhantoa Road Km 0/0 to 4/0.                    | 148.55                  | 24.09               | 172.64           | 12                            | 3.45                  |
| Bharmour | HP-02-299  | Construction of Durali to Sadoon Road (up to GP Brehi) Km 0/0 to 8/0 | 319.46                  | 36.13               | 355.60           | 12                            | 7.13                  |
| Bharmour | HP-02-318  | Upgradation of Luno to Chatrai Road Km 0/0 to 8/0                    | 429.33                  | 48.18               | 477.51           | 12                            | 9.55                  |
| Bharmour | HP-02-319  | Up gradation of Bharmour Hadsar Road Km 0/0 to 13/0                  | 680.11                  | 78.29               | 758.40           | 12                            | 15.16                 |

Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Submission of all physical documents will be accepted only up to or before the time and date of submission of bids. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/ Time and place for receipt of bids through e-procurement:-

Bids can be submitted online from Date 08 Month 08 Year 2019 to Date 28 Month 08 Year 2019 upto 1700 Hours and will be opened on Date 30 Month 08 Year 2019 at 1130 Hours in the office of Superintending Engineer, 7<sup>th</sup> Circle, HPPWD, Dharamshala.

For further details please log on to <https://pmgsytendershp.gov.in>

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of.

SD/-  
Chief Engineer,  
Kangra Zone, H.P.P.W.D.  
Dharamshala-176215.  
Fax: 011892-223100.  
Tel: 011892-224948.

HIP/1321/19-20

CORRIGENDUM TO NOTICE NO. 24-CECNMS-19-20-TBMCG-13  
DT : 16-07-2019

CLOSING DATE AS 08/08/19 PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER  
MAY BE READ AS 09/08/19

For further details, please refer to website portal [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Chief Engineer, (Construction),  
Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

## One dead, two injured as truck falls off flyover

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man died while two others were injured when the truck they were travelling fell off a flyover in central Delhi's IP Estate on Saturday.

"During investigation, it came to light that the driver was speeding when he lost control of the vehicle near the Ring Road and the truck fell off the flyover," said the police.

The deceased has been identified as Jallaluddin from Mewat and the injured as Sarukh and Wazid.

The victims were on their way to Azadpur Mandi when the incident happened. The police said that a PCR call was received at 2 a.m. on Saturday and on reaching the spot, the officers saw that a truck with Rajasthan registration number plates had fallen off the Salimgarh bypass flyover.

"We had to use gas cutters to rescue the victims," said an officer.

A case has been lodged under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

## Class VI boy found dead in pond

His father lodged complaint after he did not return from school

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 12-year-old boy was found dead in a pond in south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri on Saturday morning, the police said.

No injury marks were found on his body, they said.

Additional DCP (South) Parvinder Singh said Shubham Kumar Arya Nagar was a

Class VI student of a government school. His father approached the police on Friday night stating that his son did not return from school. "A case under Section 363 of the IPC was registered and an intensive search was launched," Mr. Singh said.

During the search, the body of a boy was found in the

Government of Jharkhand  
**Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute,**  
(Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Department)  
Ranchi-834008

Phone No. 0651-2551824, E-mail-tri.directorate@gmail.com/dir-triran@gov.in  
Ref. no. 865 Ranchi, Dated 02.08.2019  
Expression of Interest

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi during the year 2018-2019:

**TOPIC: TAMAR REVOLT /FROM YEAR 1767 TO SARDARI MOVEMENT: ARCHIVAL, NON ARCHIVAL AND ORAL SOURCES BASED COMPIILATION AND ANALYSIS**

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by registrar of universities (all colleges)/Department of Universities only along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 19/08/2019 by 4.30 P.M. The price should be all inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: TAMAR REVOLT /FROM YEAR 1767 TO SARDARI MOVEMENT: ARCHIVAL, NON ARCHIVAL AND ORAL SOURCES BASED COMPIILATION AND ANALYSIS (Please specify name of the concerned work)"** written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008.

TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post.

Technical Bid will be opened on 21/08/2019 at 2.00 P.M. in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

6 CITY

# DU college principal in plagiarism spotlight

Delhi University Teachers' Association demands independent probe into complaint filed against Aryabhatta College principal by whistle-blower

SIDHARTH RAVI

NEW DELHI  
During the six months before applying in 2014 for the post that he currently holds, Aryabhatta College principal Manoj Sinha published five books and 11 journal papers.

A complaint filed by a whistle-blower with the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University claims at least eight of these and four other works are heavily plagiarised, casting doubts over the eligibility of his appointment. At least six of these claims have been verified.

**Minimum API**

The appointment to the post of principal of colleges is based significantly on the "Academic Performance Indicator" or API of a candidate. These are points allocated to an individual based on multiple factors such as the amount of teaching hours put in, extracurricular activities engaged in and the number of books and research papers published, among others. The system is meant to help incorporate a "transparent, objective and credible methodology of analysis of the merits and credentials of the applicant..." read the UGC's guidelines from 2013. To be eligible for the post of principal, a candidate requires a minimum API of 400 points.

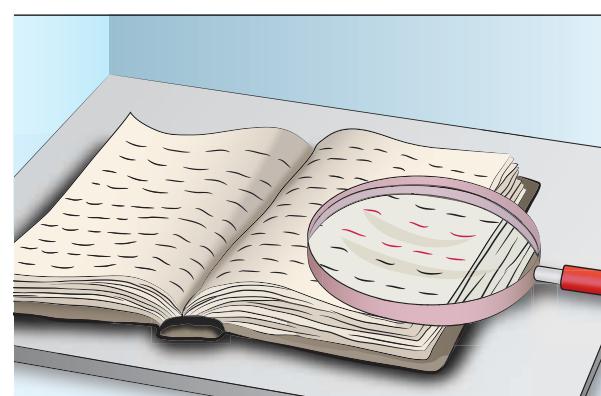
In an application for the post of principal of Hindoo College that Mr. Sinha submitted in 2017, out of a total API score of 660, he claimed 170 points from a total of 12 publications against which plagiarism (including self-plagiarism) charges have been raised.

**Turnitin plagiarism check**  
Verified "originality reports" of the six publications generated by "Turnitin" plagiarism check software show that they have a "similarity index" (the percentage similar to another publication published earlier) ranging from 60% to 90%.

The software is currently used by several central universities to check Ph.D dissertations before their final submission.

The plagiarised works include three books published in 2014 by Bonfring Publishers based in Coimbatore, two papers also published in 2014 in Global Journal for Multidisciplinary Studies and a book published by JTS Publications in 2017. The report also details sources of the matching text.

For instance, according to the report, *Indian Government and Politics*, published by Bonfring, which has a similarity index of 89.5%, is nearly 50% similar to sources from Wikipedia.com apart from other sources including 45.5% from student papers. *The New Dimension of Public Administration*, also a Bonfring publication, has a similarity index of 80% with 74% of it coming from Internet sources. Apart from this *"Public Policy and Democracy"* by Bonfring has a similarity index of 79%, with extensive citations also copied from a paper published in 2001 and *Citizenship and Governance*, published in 2017, has a similarity index of 62.4%. Turnitin reports generated by *The Hindu* in July confirm these results and in fact showed a slightly



higher similarity index.

**Word for word**

A comparison of the plagiarised research papers with the sources also showed that several sections in different papers were lifted verbatim and not quoted or cited as reference. For instance, "An analysis of the political economy of government responsiveness" published in 2014 in GJMS by Mr. Sinha, which has a similarity index of 98%, was lifted, word for word, in large parts from a paper titled "The political economy of government responsiveness: theory and evidence from India" published in 2002 and available on academic digital library JSTOR.

Similarly, in "Regional Disparities in India: Structural Inequality of Public Policy", also published in GJMS in 2013, at least four consecutive paragraphs are lifted from "Public Policy Making In India" (as well as other sources) also available on JSTOR. Manual analysis of two other papers by the whistle-blower also reportedly shows that they were similarly copied word for word.

Apart from this, the complainant has also highlighted the publishing of the same material in two places and attempts to take credit for it twice. This is seen in two papers in the application to Hindoo College where Mr. Sinha has claimed points for "Ecological Aspects of Social and Environmental Changes in India and Canada" and "Globalization and Consumerism: A study of its impact", first published in books by Mittal Publications in 2003 and 2004, and later in the journal Research Reformer in 2014. Additionally, two other papers listed in the application were not found in the online table of contents of the particular issue they were claimed to have been published in.

**Independent inquiry**

Taking cognisance of the complaint, the Delhi University Teachers' Association, which also received a 243-page dossier detailing the allegations, wrote on June 25 to the Vice-Chancellor calling for an independent and speedy inquiry into the matter. "For a reputed university such as ours, probity and in-

tegrity are principles not open to compromise," it said. Sources in the governing body of Aryabhatta College said that a committee would be looking into the complaints.

**Principal's defence**

Defending his case, Mr. Sinha, who has been teaching for 29 years and is up for reappointment for another five-year term as principal of the college on November 22, told *The Hindu* that the plagiarism may have taken place inadvertently given the immense pressure during years of syllabus revisions to churn out textbooks in time for students to have study material – which was the case when the three books published by Bonfring Publishers were written.

He said he had issues with what was finally published, including poor copy editing, and had even written to the publishers to make sure more books didn't get printed.

Mr. Sinha also said that at the time, the pressure to build up one's API score was a factor; however, he maintained that his score would have been above the 400 points required to be eligible for the post of principal. Regarding the charge of self-plagiarism, he said the paper was published in a book without his knowledge by the organisers of a conference he presented at in Allahabad.

Asked about the paper published in GJMS which had a Turnitin score of 98%, he said he couldn't remember under what circumstances it was written.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI  
All universities in India, public and private, have been given trial access to anti-plagiarism software Urkund August 2.

Final subscription to access the Swedish software will begin from September 1, 2019, according to a notice from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Departmental and institutional-level panels be set up to deal with plagiarism complaints, and set up four severity levels of offences with appropriate penalties for students – only from Masters level and above – as well as faculty. All theses, dissertations and academic papers meant for publication must be checked using plagiarism software.

**K. SUBRAHMANYAM**  
Human Resource Development Secretary

stration for that programme being cancelled.

In case of plagiarism in academic and research publications, a level 1 offence will result in being asked to withdraw the manuscript. In case of level 2, the offender will also be denied the right to one annual increment, and will not be allowed to supervise any Masters, M.Phil or Ph.D student for a two year period. A level 3 offence will result in denial of two annual increments and debarment from research supervision for three years.

Repeated offences will result in higher level penalties, including suspension and termination. If plagiarism is detected after a degree or credit has been awarded, that will be suspended for a set period.

A UGC panel on improving research culture, headed by former Indian Institute of Science director P. Balaram, warned that such central regulations could not replace the need for institutional vigilance.

"Institutions must take the responsibility for ensuring academic standards and for emphasising, to both students and faculty, the importance of maintaining the highest standards of integrity in academic research," said the report submitted by the panel last month.

## Indian universities get free access to Urkund software

Swedish software was chosen through a global tender process

for that programme being cancelled.

In case of plagiarism in academic and research publications, a level 1 offence will result in being asked to withdraw the manuscript. In case of level 2, the offender will also be denied the right to one annual increment, and will not be allowed to supervise any Masters, M.Phil or Ph.D student for a two year period. A level 3 offence will result in denial of two annual increments and debarment from research supervision for three years.

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## Discom told to reimburse employee's mediclaim

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed BSES Rajdhani to reimburse a former employee's medical claim of over ₹2.65 lakh.

The medical claim raised by the complainant had earlier been rejected as he received treatment from a hospital that was not empanelled with the CGHS.

Citing the order as an exception, the NCDRC said, "We find force in the contention of the complainant that taking into consideration his age and that he was suffering from prostate cancer and also keeping in view of previous judgments, we find it a fit case to direct the respondents to reimburse the amount under the CGHS scheme. We also hold that this decision is confined to this case only."

## NDMC, DJB plant 1.35 lakh saplings

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Saturday planted one lakh saplings and shrubs in 28 different locations across the city, said officials. The saplings include, jamun, ficus panda, crotton, gardenia, murria, bougainvillea, and hibiscus.

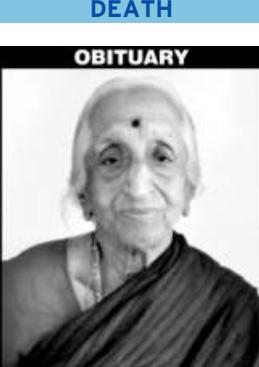
DJB Chairman Kishan Kumar started the drive in which around 8,000 DJB officials took part. The plantation was done mainly on the premises of the Water Treatment Plants and Sewage Treatment Plants of the board. He said, "Protection, conservation and restoration of our natural environment is the need of the hour. The DJB is striving to set forth an example in creating heightened environmental consciousness and much needed behavioural change towards green and eco-friendly existence."

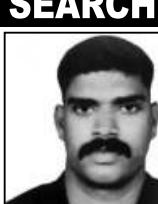
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**EDUCATIONAL**  
**ESSAY**  
(Essay paper makes huge difference in Mains Score)  
By DR. RAMASWAMY Pro vice chancellor  
Pioneer in Essay Course  
Last Batch: 10<sup>th</sup> August Sharp at 6:00 pm  
**DR. RAMASWAMY IAS ACADEMY**  
Flat No. 22, Rajendra Park, Old Rajinder Nagar, Near Rajender Place Metro Station Gate-3  
Contact No. 9350933144, 9958589406, 9958589106  
Online/Offline Admission [www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org](http://www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org)

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I, SHARAD Dominic Gaur, have lost my original passing certificate of B.Sc. year 1996, JNU. If found please contact: 9741562200  
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**DEATH**  
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**Founders Day**  
Dr. A. Ganesan, M.A. Ph.D., Former Vice Principal Sarawathi Narayanan College, Madurai.  
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**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**  
  
General public is hereby informed that one person namely Hav. Shiju P No. 157761771 Unit 140AD Regt (SP) S/o Sh. Madhavan C P R/O Polpanathil House, NIT Via Vellalassery, P.O. Pollacode, Kozhikode, Kerla. Age: 36 yrs., Height: 6', Sallow Complexion, Oval Face & Normal Build. Wearing multi colour brown T-Shirt, Blue Jeans pant, has been missing Near Karan Palace Lodge, Opposite New Delhi Railway Station since 29.05.2018 at about 06:00 am. In this regard a case FIR No. 208/19 dated: 19.07.2019 U/s 365 IPC has been registered at PS Paharganj, New Delhi. The person Shiju P above came at New Delhi Rly. Station on the evening of 28.05.2018 for his treatment at Army Base Hospital of Mental Illness alongwith the escorting, but missing in dubious condition. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.  
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph: 011-24368638  
011-24368641  
DP/6479/CD/19  
**S.H.O., P.S., Paharganj, New Delhi**  
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**THE HINDU**

**Office of The Superintending Engineer Civil Circle PWD, Devpura, Haridwar**  
Phone/Fax 01334-221407  
Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Engineering Consultancy Service  
**INVITATION NOTICE**  
Letter No.: 1630/111(1)Camp/P.H./19  
Expression in Interest(EOI) for Engineering Consultancy work for Construction of Approximate 400M span two lane, heavy motor vehicle bridge of class AA loading over River Kali to connect Khaladhunga(India) and Sirsa(Nepal) at Indo-Nepal border in District Champawat of State Uttarakhand, India.  
**Description of work is as below**  
Preliminary and detailed survey work site selection proposal, Geo Technical Investigation, Hydrological Investigation, Detailed Structural Design, Vetting from anyone of these Institute IIT Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, BHU Varanasi. Design of Launching Scheme, Preparation of Detailed Drawing with Proof Checking, Preparation of DPR, Preparation of Forest Land Diversion Prposal, Obtaining NOC from any other department if necessary and also other necessary work for Engineering Consultancy Service for Construction of Approximate 400M span 2 lane, Class AA Loading Bridge Over River Kali to Connect Khaladhunga(India) and Sirsa(Nepal) at Indo-Nepal border in District Champawat of state Uttarakhand, India.  
Expression of Interest(EOI) for Engineering Consultancy Service work, Design work, invited from Reputed International firms and National Firms/Organization/Joint Venture.  
The Expression of Interest(EOI) Document/details shall be available online on PWD website <https://pwd.uk.gov.in> and <https://uktenders.gov.in> from date 16.08.2019 at 17:00hours.  
Interested International Firms/National Firms/Organization/Join Venture shall submit their Expression of Interest(EOI) as address below or E-mail on or before 16.09.2019, 15:00hrs. and the received EOI will be opened on date 16.09.2019, 15:30hrs.  
DIPR/UK/8699

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Man thrashed on suspicion of being a child-lifter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHHATTIPUR (M.P.)

A mob thrashed a man in Chhattipur, Madhya Pradesh, on Saturday on suspicion of being a child-lifter.

This is the third such mob attack in the district in the past three days, an official said.

"Rakesh Khatik, 37, was going by train from Bandha to Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh. He deboarded the train for a break but was assaulted by people who thought he was a child-lifter," said Harpalpur police station official B. Sharma.

Mr. Sharma said Rakesh suffered minor injuries.

A case has been registered and efforts are on to nab those who attacked the man, said the policeman.

On Friday, a mob had beaten up a differently-abled person in Garroli on suspicion of being a child-lifter, said Inspector Rakesh Sahu. On Thursday, a differently-abled woman was assaulted in Naugaon over the same suspicion, he added.

# Odisha attempts to improve work participation under MGNREGS

State govt. to form Shramik Sanghs to ensure 65 days of employment annually

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

In light of drought-like conditions in many districts of western Odisha and distress migration of labourers appearing imminent, the government is trying to improve the average number of days of employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) – from 38 to 65 days.

The government has decided to mobilise all active job-card holders to form informal groups, which will be called 'Shramik Sangh'. There will be one such group for every 50 beneficiaries in each revenue village.

The move is aimed at ensuring job for each active card holder through close coordination with government officials at the block level. One member in each group will be assigned as a 'mate' and will be responsible for providing jobs to others in the sangh.

"With a mandate to arrest



Odisha is currently struggling to provide 38 days of employment annually under the scheme. ■ FILE PHOTO

migration and ensure effective convergence for sustainable livelihood development... we must relook at strategy for implementation [of MGNREGS]. We need to focus on active job-card holders and provide them at minimum average 70 days of wage employment," wrote Panchayati Raj secretary D.K. Singh in a letter to all collectors.

Mr. Singh said that work participation needs to be raised from 33% to 65%, and average number of days of employment from 38 days to

65 days. All collectors have been asked to ensure formation of Shramik Sangh, selection of mates, their training and meeting with government officials between August 20 and 25.

## Welfare schemes

The government has also announced that it will include card holders in welfare schemes and skill upgradation schemes; and extend insurance coverage and other economic benefits to them.

In the past few years, the government has floated sev-

eral strategies to arrest distress migration from Odisha's poverty-stricken districts.

A few years ago, entitlement of employment was increased from 100 days to 150 in migration-prone blocks.

"While the entitlement of employment is 100-150 days, the government is now focusing only on 70 days. The scheme says whoever demands unskilled work will be provided. There cannot be a selective target. There is also no strategy to end late payment of wages. Delay in payment is one of the key factors in people distancing themselves from MGNREGS," said Umi Daniel, an expert on migration issues.

To arrest seasonal migration, there should be seasonal targets for providing employment during lean period such as drought, which is looming over Odisha," he said, adding that even 10 years after MGNREGS, Odisha was struggling to provide average 38 days of employment.

# Activists in Assam slam NGT for 'nod' to 2,000 MW dam

Work on Subansiri lower dam was stopped following protests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Anti-dam organisations in Assam have slammed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for virtually paving the way for a mega dam that was left incomplete in 2011.

The NGT had earlier this week dismissed petitions seeking reconstitution of a six-member expert committee that they claimed was biased towards environment-threatening big dams.

Former All Assam Students' Union (AASU) leader Tularam Gogoi, and president of NGO Assam Public Works Aabhipjit Sarma had filed the petitions.

Anti-dam groups said that the dismissal of the pleas was a move by the Centre to resume work on the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri Hydro-power Project (LSHP) at Gerukamukh on the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border.

The National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) had started work on the project in 2009 but had to stop after a series of protests by local organisations.



The Lower Subansiri Hydropower Project is being built on the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border. ■ FILE PHOTO

The NHPC officials said they have been losing ₹10 crore daily since 2011 because of non-completion of the project. This committee's legality was thus challenged," said Akhil Gogoi, leader of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti that has been opposed to the dam.

"The people of Assam will not accept the NGT order. How can a committee with questionable legality submit a report, based on which an expert appraisal panel approve environment clearance," he asked.

The AASU said the Centre should first ensure the safety and security of the people living downstream of the dam before giving its nod.

## Locals build cell phone tower for connectivity

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

Tired of climbing trees and trekking hills for better mobile connectivity, locals in Odisha's Kandhamal district have erected a tower for cash-strapped BSNL, the State-run telecom service provider, to instal its signal system.

The residents of 20 villages under Dadaki panchayat of Phulbani block now look forward to uninterrupted connectivity in their homes for the first time.

Cell phone connectivity has been missing in Dadaki panchayat, located barely 10 km from the district headquarter town of Phulbani, even two decades after introduction of cell phone services in the State.

Protests demanding connectivity were often rebuffed by State government officials on the grounds that the issue fell under the jurisdiction of telecom service providers.

During one such agitation earlier this year, Phulbani BDO Subrat Kumar Jena held informal discussions with BSNL officials and asked them to spell out their basic requirement to operationalise connectivity.

"We found the tower handy for installation of a low-power signal station," said BSNL Sub-Divisional Officer R.K. Behera.

The tower could last for the next three to four years.



The tower has been built with unused pipes.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Move to name varsity after CM's grandfather stirs row

Akalis want govt. to revoke decision

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The decision to name a proposed sports university in Punjab as 'Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Sports and Science University', after Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's grandfather has evoked sharp criticism.

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Saturday accused the Congress Ministers in the Punjab Cabinet of sycophancy for suggesting that the university be named after the grandfather of Capt. Singh.

The decision to name the university after the Capt. Singh's grandfather was taken by the majority of Ministers, overruling the Chief Minister's objections, during the Cabinet meeting held earlier this week. The Cabinet also gave its nod to the tabling of the Punjab Sports University legislation in the ongoing monsoon session.

## WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CHIEF WORKS MANAGER  
WAGON REPAIR WORKSHOP KOTA  
NIT NO. S129-1-RSP3000-TWINPIPE-5  
DATED: 31.07.2019

For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Works Manager, Wagon Repair Shop, Kota invites E-Tenders for following works: Tender No.: S129-1-RSP3000-TWINPIPE-5

**Description of Work:** Retrofitment of twin pipe brake system in 3000 (600 B C N A + 1 2 0 0 B O X N + 1 0 0 BRNA/BRN+300 BOST + 700 BTPN+100 BVZC CLASS) air brake wagons at WAGON REPAIR SHOP, KOTA.

**QTY:** 3000 Wagons **Approx. Cost of the Work:** ₹59,08,6851.60/- **Cost of tender form:** ₹1000/- **Earliest money:** ₹4,45,400/- **Completion period:** 18 months **Time and date of closing/ opening of tender:** Closing 11.00 hrs. on 09.09.2019 & Opening at 11.30 hrs. on 09.09.2019. E-Tender notice complete details are available on the website: <http://www.irsp.gov.in> and also available on the tender notice board of progress section in CWM office, Kota. Offers are acceptable through E-tender only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such offer received shall be ignored.

**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/West Central Railway, Kota**

During Rail Journey Dial 138 for general complaints & Dial 182 for security complaints

## Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and OBC Welfare Department

Ref no. 867

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all colleges)/ Department of Universities/ Govt. Organization/ Educational Institute/ Research Institute/ NGOs for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2019-20:

**TOPIC:** Study of History of Singhbhum from Ancient to British Period.

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by registrar of universities (applicable Universities (all colleges)/ Department of Universities only) along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 19/08/2019 till 4.00 P.M. The price should be all-inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open-ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in a sealed envelope clearly written in BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: Study of History of Singhbhum from Ancient to British Period" on or before the due date. (Please specify the name of the concerned work) written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post.

Technical Bid will be opened on 21/08/2019 at 2.00PM in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

**Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for the presentation of the project.**

Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website [www.prdjharkhand.in](http://www.prdjharkhand.in) or through E-mail [tri.directorate@gmail.com](mailto:tri.directorate@gmail.com) by specifying the topic & details of Institution /Organization Interested.

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOIs at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empire one or more firm depending on requirements.

SD/ Director

## Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and OBC Welfare Department

Ref no. 869

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all colleges)/ Department of Universities/ Govt. Organization/ Educational Institute/ Research Institute/ NGOs for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2019-20:

**TOPIC:** Study of the Tribal Dynasties in India Special reference of Madhya Pradesh, North East, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra etc.

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by registrar of universities (applicable Universities (all colleges)/ Department of Universities only) along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 19/08/2019 till 4.00 P.M. The price should be all inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open-ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in a sealed envelope clearly written in BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: Study on the Tribal Dynasties in India Special reference of Madhya Pradesh, North East, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra etc. on or before the due date. (Please specify the name of the concerned work)" written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post.

Technical Bid will be opened on 21/08/2019 at 2.00 PM in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

**Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for the presentation of the project.**

Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website [www.prdjharkhand.in](http://www.prdjharkhand.in) or through E-mail [tri.directorate@gmail.com](mailto:tri.directorate@gmail.com) by specifying the topic & details of Institution /Organization Interested.

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOIs at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empire one or more firm depending on requirements.

SD/ Director

## Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and OBC Welfare Department

Ref no. 870

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all colleges)/ Department of Universities/ Govt. Organization/ Educational Institute/ Research Institute/ NGOs for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2019-20:

**TOPIC:** A Study on the Tribal History of Rajmahal (Sahebganj District) as a gateway of Bengal and other aspects from the ancient period to the British period.

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by registrar of universities (applicable Universities (all colleges)/ Department of Universities only) along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 19/08/2019 till 4.00 P.M. The price should be all-inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open-ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in a sealed envelope clearly written in BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: A Study on the Tribal History of Rajmahal (Sahebganj District) as a gateway of Bengal and other aspects from the ancient period to the British period" written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post.

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**Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for the presentation of the project.**

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SD/ Director

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT WATER WAYS DIVISION, KHUNTI

### Corrigendum

e-procurement Notice  
e-procurement Reference no. EEWWDNIT No. 1 khunti

The following correction has been done in the above e-procurement notice published by water ways division, khunti with e-procurement Reference no. EEWWDNIT No. 1 khunti and PR No. -212305 (Water Resource) 19-20

1. Name of Work: P.C. Lining and Renovation of earthen canal of Tajna Barrage and Irrigation scheme.

5. Date of opening Tender: 17.08.2019 at 12:30 PM

Other terms and condition will remain unchanged.

## IN BRIEF



## Motorcycle ride to mourn CCD founder's death

BENGALURU  
More than 50 riders, including members of Riders Republic Motorcycle Club on Sunday, will be paying a tribute to Cafe Coffee Day founder V.G. Siddhartha by undertaking a 400 km ride from Bengaluru to Penukonda, Andhra Pradesh. They plan to stop at important CCD outlets to remember and honour the late coffee baron.

## Salary of BSNL staff in Kerala delayed

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
For the first time ever, the salary of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. employees in Kerala has been delayed. Though leaders of employees' unions have reached out to top officials, no convincing explanation or an expected date of payment of the salary for July has come forth.

## IAS officer held for scribe's death in accident

Inebriated Kerala officer rammed victim's motorbike; at least three eyewitnesses identified him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



**Crash and controversy:** IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman, and right, the motorbike of Muhammed Basheer at the accident site. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Kerala police on Saturday arrested high-profile IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman on the charge of alcohol-impaired, reckless driving resulting in the death of K.M. Basheer, a journalist.

The car allegedly driven by 33-year-old Mr. Venkitaraman slammed Basheer's motorbike in front of the Public Office Complex around 1 a.m. The victim, bureau chief at the Malayalam newspaper *Siraj*, was flung off his bike and killed almost instantly.

## Returning from party

Mr. Venkitaraman was reportedly returning from a party and was accompanied by a woman friend. He was arrested from a private hospital, where the police had admitted him after the accident, and charged under Section 279 (rash driving)

and 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the IPC.

An officer said an attempt by the IAS officer to blame the accident on his co-passenger had perhaps compelled the woman to depose against him.

In her statement to a local magistrate, the woman said she had picked up Mr. Venkitaraman after a party at a private club in Kowdiar and

he had insisted on taking the wheel though she had cautioned him that he was drunk.

At least three eyewitnesses identified him as the driver. An examination indicated a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit, officers said.

Mr. Venkitaraman, a medical doctor and Fulbright scholar, was feted by the media as an anti-encroachment

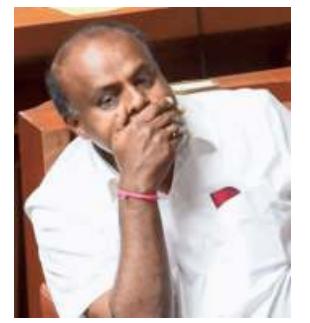
crusader when he was sub-collector, Devikulam. However, his actions pitted him against the political leadership and he was transferred. He took a sabbatical from government service for higher studies and went on to earn a master's in Public Health from Harvard.

He was due to take charge as Director, Surveys and Land Records, on Monday. (With PTI inputs)

## I want to step back, says Kumaraswamy

'Politics today is not for good people'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU



Over a week after his coalition government collapsed, former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said on Saturday that he wants to "step back" from politics.

Expressing unhappiness at the current state of politics, the JD(S) leader said it was dominated by hatred and caste. "Today's politics is not for good people," he said.

Some eyewitnesses said the officers who showed up at the spot failed to photograph or videograph the accident scene or collect evidence. The officers are reported to have taken the driver away in a police van to the General Hospital without questioning him at the spot. They did not immediately identify him or record his statement, and also did not promptly record the accounts of at least three persons who had witnessed the accident.

day's politics, I would like to step back from it.... I came into politics accidentally, I became Chief Minister accidentally...."

Mr. Kumaraswamy rejected reports that his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy was likely to be the JD(S) candidate from K.R. Pet, where by-election is necessitated following the disqualification of rebel party MLA Narayagowda.

## 'Govt. for modernisation of armed forces'

Rajnath says focus will be on indigenously developed weapons systems

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The government is committed to modernisation of armed forces and most of it will be done through indigenously developed weapons systems. Only when there is dire need will import be resorted to, said Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday.

Participating in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) at Kanchanbagh, Mr. Singh lauded the public sector unit for producing close to one lakh missiles for the armed forces in the last few decades. "The government is committed to indigenous development of weapons



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handing over the MRSAM missile model to Air Force's Vice-Chief Air Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria in Hyderabad on Saturday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

systems for self-reliance and also to tackle unemployment and promote entrepreneurship. So there will be more orders coming to BDL," he said.

The government is keen to

export the systems and hoped that by 2025 it will see appreciable growth. Indian defence architecture and principles were based on "restraint, balance and then get offensive". This was also

reflected in missile names of Prithvi, Agni, Nag, he said. He contrasted it with Pakistan missiles such as Ghauri, Ghani and so on, named after invaders which indicated 'aggressive' intent.

"The challenge for defence scientists is now to make hypersonic missiles and comprehensive air defence systems," he added.

BDL Chairman and Managing Director Commodore Siddharth Mishra, disclosed that the firm was working on 'Amogh' missile with own R&D on a small scale.

It also makes Prithvi and Akash as part of Missile Development Programme in partnership with 1,500 vendors.

## Telugu students shifted out of NIT Srinagar

They have sent messages to TRS working president seeking help to get back home

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY  
HYDERABAD



**Mounting tension:** NIT students leaving the campus in Srinagar on Saturday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Around 135 Telugu students, including 30 girls, pursuing B.Tech course at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, were shifted from the city on Saturday and are likely to reach New Delhi by bus late in the night.

The students had sought help from the authorities in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Earlier in the day, several students from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh sent messages to Telangana Rashtra Samiti working president K.T. Rama Rao seeking help to leave the campus in view of rumours that the Central government may take a

huge decision on Kashmir, leading to possible violence in the Valley. The rumours were further fuelled by a reported advisory from the go-

vernment to NIT to suspend classes. Telangana Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi also spoke to the Telangana officials in New Delhi and asked them to coordinate with the students. Meanwhile, the Telangana BJP leaders said the students were in touch with them and the Union Minister of State for Home, G. Kishan Reddy, personally directed the officials to help the students after they sought assistance.

Nizamabad MP Arvind Dharmaipuri and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay were coordinating the safe return of students, a message from the BJP said.

Three NIT students Shriya, Jayanth and Ratna Sagar, who were in touch with the officials, said the classwork was suspended and they were asked to leave in view of the "volatile situation".

## + Birthday fete photos in prison go viral

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
DHARWAD

The Dharwad Central Prison is in the news for the wrong reason after photographs that reportedly showed the birthday celebrations of a history-sheeter in the prison went viral on social media recently.

In the photographs, Ganesh Jadhav, a history-sheeter, is seen cutting a cake in jail along with other inmates. What is surprising is that the inmates had photographed the celebrations and posted them on social media.

On an earlier occasion, during a raid at the prison, narcotics, arms and cellphones were seized. Subsequently, mobile jammers and CCTV cameras were fixed at the prison. However, the latest incident has exposed the state of surveillance and security at the prison.

## Classic touch



**Old and beautiful:** A bullet nose Studebaker displayed at the vintage car show in Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu. Eighty cars were displayed in the show organised by the Nilgiri Vintage Car and Classic Cars Association on Saturday. ■ M. SATHYAMOORTHY

## Kurukshetra to hit screens in five languages on August 9

The film, based on Mahabharata, tells the story of 18-day war

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ  
BENGALURU

The much awaited *Kurukshetra*, Kannada film based on the Mahabharata, with a multilingual ensemble cast led by Darshan will hit the screens in five languages (all south Indian languages and Hindi) on August 9. This will be the second Kannada film to have a national release after *KGF Chapter 1* in 2018.

While there have been many lavishly mounted period films, such as *Padmaavat*, *Bajirao Mastani* or the *Bahubali* franchise in the past few years, a mythological is a rarity. *Kurukshetra*, in the making for over two years now, seems inspired by the *Bahubali* franchise.

"People who have seen the film are saying it's like *Bahubali*, the scale and making of it," producer Munirathna said. "To add to the scale, it is in 3D. Seeing a mythological in 3D is a different experience," he said. The film was shot twice - once in 2D and later in 3D - dragging the shoot for over 230 days, said director Naganna.

Scripted by G.K. Bharavi of hit Telugu period films like *Annamayya* and Kannada lyricist V. Nagendra Prasad, the film tells the story of the 18-day war from the perspective of the eldest Kaurava, Suyodhana, a role essayed by Mr. Darshan.

"I played the role of San-

golli Rayanna earlier. Playing a mythological role was challenging. My training at Ninam came to my aid," Mr. Darshan said. The film also happens to be the last of actor Ambareesh, who plays Bhishma. A surprise casting has been V. Ravichandran as Krishna. The film also stars Arjun Sarja as Karna, Sonu Sood as Arjuna, Sneha as Draupadi, Danish Akthar Saifi of *Jai Hanuman* fame as Bhima. Actor Nikhil K. plays the role of Abhimanyu.

"We gave the actors a bound script months before we began shooting and did a workshop, where they were given an orientation of the body language and dialogue delivery," said Mr. Naganna.

## Passion for farming made her a YouTube sensation

Annie Yujin was felicitated as one of the most prolific Malayalam content creators on farming

M.P. PRAVEEN  
KOCHE

It was in 2012 that Annie Yujin uploaded all her amateur pictures and photographs on plants and farming on YouTube.

A simple piece of advice from her elder brother Yujin Bobby, who runs a web-designing and hosting firm, to protect her farming photos and videos from a hard disk breakdown was what brought her aboard the video streaming website.

An encouraging comment under one of those videos motivated Ms. Yujin to take her hobby more seriously. Seven years down the line, Ms. Yujin, who lives with her husband Stephen and son Stefin at Vytila, is now a celebrity. Her YouTube channel, 'Krishi Lokam', has a subscription base of more than three lakhs. And YouTube recently felicitated her in the city as one of the most prolific Malayalam content creators on farming.

"It was a huge surprise and my first impulse was to turn down the invitation



**Huge subscription base:** Annie Yujin shooting a video for her YouTube channel 'Krishi Lokam'.

ideos shot in an amateurish way in the past, she has now moved on to lengthier videos, shot and edited in a much more professional way, with the help of editing software and a better camera.

## Subscribers' suggestions

Ms. Yujin now posts once in two days and the topic is often dictated by the suggestions made by her legion of subscribers in the comments section of her channel. "The posts are mostly about farming and visits to farms and interactions with farmers. Till now, such visits were restricted to the immediate neighbourhood of my husband's home at Angamaly, where we stay during weekends. Now I want to expand the scope of such visits and help farmers earn better in-

come through my channel," said Ms. Yujin. That her husband is also passionate about farming helped her.

She would have dedicated more time to her passion had she not been entrusted with running her brother's office in Kochi since he suffers from muscular dystrophy.

But that has not stopped her from running another YouTube channel - Tips for Happy Life - which commands over six lakh subscribers.

Though it has more subscribers than Krishi Lokam, YouTube finds the former as more unique since popular Malayalam content on farming.

Ms. Yujin now earns a sizeable income as YouTube shares 55% of the ad revenue with the content creator.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE &amp; AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.08.2019)

**Forecast for Sunday:** Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Goa, central Maharashtra, Gujarat, east Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

| CITY        | RAIN     | MAX  | MIN  | CITY               | RAIN     | MAX  | MIN  |
|-------------|----------|------|------|--------------------|----------|------|------|
| Agartala    | ... 32.2 | 26.2 | 26.2 | Kozhikode          | ... 7.7  | 33.5 | 26.8 |
| Ahmedabad   | 1.4      | 31.1 | 26.2 | Kurnool            | 12       | 27.1 | 23.2 |
| Aizawl      | 30       | 28.7 | 20.7 | Lucknow            | 2.2      | 35.6 | 27.6 |
| Allahabad   | ... 35.9 | 28.1 | 26.3 | Madurai            | ... 40.0 | 40.0 | 26.3 |
| Bengaluru   | ... 28.8 | 20.8 | 26.2 | Mangaluru          | ... 31.2 | 26.2 | 26.2 |
| Bhopal      | 2        | 28.4 | 24.0 | Mysuru             | ... 28.3 | 20.6 | 20.6 |
| Bhubaneswar | 6.6      | 30.2 | 25.4 | New Delhi          | ... 32.9 | 27.4 | 27.4 |
| Chandigarh  | 7.1      | 32.9 | 26.0 | Patna              | 0.2      | 36.2 | 28.0 |
| Chennai     | ... 33.0 | 27.9 | 27.9 | Poil Blair         | 10.8     | 29.0 | 22.8 |
| Coimbatore  | ... 33.0 | 24.5 | 24.5 | Puducherry         | ... 34.0 | 25.6 | 25.6 |
| Dehradun    | 6.3      | 31.4 | 23.7 | Pune               | 20.4     | 26.8 | 21.5 |
| Gangtok     | 27.2     | 21.2 | 18.0 | Rajpur             | 9.4      | 26.7 | 23.4 |
| Goa         | 22.8     | 29.1 | 24.2 | Ranchi             | 6.4      | 32.0 | 27.2 |
| Guwahati    | 2.2      | 36.0 | 26.2 | Shillong           | 18.4     | 26.6 | 17.3 |
| Hubballi    | ... 22.0 | 21.0 | 21.0 | Shimla             | 0.4      | 22.4 | 16.2 |
| Hyderabad   | 48       | 25.7 | 22.1 | Srinagar           | ... 29.4 | 19.1 | 19.1 |
| Imphal      | ... 30.1 | 22.4 | 22.4 | Thiruvananthapuram | 1        | 32.0 | 25.3 |
| Jaipur      | 0.4      | 33.2 | 25.1 | Tiruchi            | ... 37.0 | 27.5 | 27.5 |
| Kochi       | ... 30.0 | 26.4 | 26.4 | Vijayawada         | 10.1     | 31.6 | 24.5 |
| Kohima      | 60.2     | 25.2 | 15.5 | Visakhapatnam      | ... 29.0 | 26.0 | 26.0 |
| Kolkata     | 4.3      | 33.2 | 26.9 |                    |          |      |      |

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

| CITIES        | SO <sub>2</sub> | NO <sub>x</sub> | CO   | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE   |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|------|-------|------|--------|
| Ahmedabad     | 50              | .34             | .70  | .77   | .115 | GREEN  |
| Bengaluru     | .8              | .49             | .46  | .28   | .65  | GREEN  |
| Chennai       | 6               | .64             | .58  | .95   | —    | GREEN  |
| Delhi         | 19              | .56             | .30  | .70   | .193 | ORANGE |
| Hyderabad     | 3               | .33             | .29  | .10   | .14  | GREEN  |
| Kolkata       | .3              | .28             | .56  | .28   | .29  | GREEN  |
| Lucknow       | .4              | .23             | .50  | .101  | —    | GREEN  |
| Mumbai        | 16              | .17             | .102 | .54   | .28  | ORANGE |
| Pune          | 74              | .8              | .67  | .10   | .10  | ORANGE |
| Visakhapatnam | 16              | .51             | .59  | .33   | .46  | GREEN  |

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

SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 212 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gulbarga, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 14.

Incessant rain that lashed the city since Friday night threw life out of gear again. Commuters on the central railway line were the worst affected, while other forms of commute, too, witnessed disruptions.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded 52.2 mm rainfall at the Colaba observatory and 83.8 mm at the Santacruz observatory till 8.30 p.m. on Saturday. The city witnessed 35.67 mm rainfall, while the eastern and western suburbs recorded 64.88 mm and 68.20 mm rainfall respectively. The Corporation declared a holiday for all public and private schools in light of the rain.

The Mithi swelled in size, crossing the "danger mark" of 3 m and going up to 3.3 m on Saturday afternoon. The authorities evacuated hundreds of people from the Kranti Nagar area in Kurla as a precautionary measure.

The rains had a direct effect on commuters with rail, road and air travel being affected. A spokesperson for the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport said delays of up to 38 minutes in arriving flights and up to 49 minutes for departures were observed on Saturday, but no flights were cancelled.

Civic officials said the Mithi crossing the danger mark, combined with the high tide of 4.9 m, resulted

in severe waterlogging on the tracks between the Kurla and Sion stations.

## Trains suspended

Train services were completely suspended from 1.55 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., after which trains were run up to Kurla and from Dadar to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, before services could limp back to normal. Several trains stopped midway and commuters, after waiting for over two hours, started jumping off the trains and walking on the tracks till they reached the nearest railway station.

The Western line did not witness much delays. However, on the Harbour line, a part of the footover bridge between Chembur and Govandi stations collapsed on the overhead wires, resulting in services being suspended till 6.32 p.m.

Water logging was recorded in Sion, Wadala, Chembur, Vidyavihar and Ghatkopar in the central and eastern suburbs, and in the Andheri subway, Milnay subway, Meghwadi, National College, Bandra, Akriti Mall, Andheri, and Reliance Junction in Borivali in the western suburbs.

Traffic at King's Circle, Anant Hill, Hindmata junction, Samajmandir Hall, Pratiksha Nagar, Vihar lake, Sheetal Cinema, Kurla, Oberoi junction, Malad and several other areas had to be rerouted.



In line: Aircraft waiting in queue for taking off at the Mumbai airport on Saturday. Heavy rain lashed Mumbai, Thane and Palghar districts on Saturday. ■ VIJAY BATE

# Heavy rain brings Mumbai to its knees, again

Commuters were the worst-hit as rail, road and air travel came to a halt

Four students drown in Pandavkada

## STAFF REPORTER

NAVI MUMBAI

Four students, including three from SIES, Nerul, drowned in the Pandavkada waterfalls near Kharghar on Saturday. Three bodies were recovered by rescue workers before search operations were called off for the day.

For seven students, a last-minute plan to bunk college and go on a picnic turned into a tragedy when three girls drowned. Workers recovered the bodies of Aarti Nair, 18, and Shweta Nand, 18, while a search is on for Neha Dama.

# South Gujarat battered by heavy rain

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD

After Vadodara, it's now the turn of Surat and other southern Gujarat districts to be battered, prompting the State administration to deploy an NDRF team in Bharuch and shift people from vulnerable locations as extremely heavy rain is predicted.

Mangrol in Surat received 269 mm rainfall in the 24 hours till 8 a.m. on Saturday, as per the State Emergency Operation Centre data. The downpour resulted in several areas getting water-logged and the Kim and Auranga rivers flowing near the danger mark, officials said.



Unlikely visitor: A crocodile being rescued by an NDRF team from Vadodara, Gujarat on Saturday. ■ ANI

# 'Martyrs week' passes off peacefully this year

Security personnel continued strikes on their hideouts

## SIDHARTH YADAV

BHOPAL

Maoists organised a 'martyrs week', an annual drive to entice tribal youths into joining their ranks, but there were no incidents of violence, said the police.

In Chhattisgarh, despite the monsoon, the security forces continued striking at their hideouts and deploying personnel along highways in Bastar, Dantewada, Bijapur, Sukma, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Kanker and Rajnandgaon districts between July 28 and August 3.

"The week went off peacefully," said Deputy Inspector General (Anti-Naxal operations), Chhattisgarh, Sundarraj P. "For the past three years, we've made it a



Annual call: A banner commemorating Maoists killed in encounters put up during the Martyrs Week in Balaghat.

point to operate in sensitive areas despite the monsoon or the week. Around 15 Maoists were killed during the week. However, there is no correlation between the killings and the week."

In Balaghat district, Maoists distributed pamphlets glorying Leelabai

Markam, alias Jamuna, killed in an encounter on March 19.

Abhishek Tiwari, Balaghat SP, said, "In the past few years, no recruitments happened in Balaghat, which has only four-five members.

They highlight 'wrongs' against tribal people to entice youth to join them."

# M.P. peon hits students, gets suspension

## ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL

KATNI

A peon posted at a government school in Katni was suspended on Friday after a video showing him mercilessly thrashing students inside the classroom in the presence of a teacher went viral on social media.

"A video of this incident was brought to our notice. The peon has been suspended with immediate effect," said R.S. Patel, assistant education officer.

The peon, identified as Jai Prakash Mishra, is seen in the video sitting on a bench and the students huddled on the floor in fear.

# Assam man gets death penalty for killing friend

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

A local court on Saturday awarded the death penalty to a man convicted of murdering his girlfriend, who was a Class 12 topper, 20 months ago.

The court also sentenced the man's mother, Kamla Devi, and sister Bhawani to

life imprisonment for abetting him in the murder of Shweta Agarwal on December 4, 2017. The trio was convicted on July 30.

Shweta was found dead at the house of Govind Singh, her boyfriend.

After investigation, the police concluded that Singh had murdered her.

# Seven Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh

Rifles, other weapons recovered

## STAFF REPORTER

BHOPAL

Seven Maoists were gunned by the police on Saturday in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh.

Based on intelligence inputs, District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel, part of a special operations team of the Rajnandgaon police, around 7 a.m. attacked 40 Maoists in Sainpur forest in Sitagota village, close to the Maharashtra border, said Deputy Inspector General (Anti-Maoist Operations)

Sundarraj P. "One AK-47, a .303 rifle, a 315 bore rifle and quite a lot of muzzle-loading weapons have been recovered," he said.

Two personnel suffered minor injuries and were out of danger. Bodies of the slain Maoists were yet to be identified.

On July 28, seven Maoists were killed at Tiriya in Bastar district by a DRG and special task force team. A day later, two Maoists were killed at Kanneguda in Sukma district.

# Odisha delta site is 3,600 years old

Remains reveal rural settlement with proto-sun worship, domesticated cattle

## SATYASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR

The Archaeological Survey of India, which had discovered ancient artefacts and grain during excavations at Bharati Huda in Jallarpur village in Odisha's Cuttack district last year, said a rural settlement had thrived at the site about 3600 years ago.

The age of the settlement was arrived at after radiocarbon dating of charcoal samples found at the site by the Inter University

FROM PAGE ONE

## Uncertainty grips Kashmir Valley

Mr. Abdullah said Mr. Malik "assured him that there was no initiative to remove Article 35A, start delimitation or trifurcate J&K".

"However, the Centre needs to assure the people of the State on the floor of Parliament. Kashmir is in a grip of panic. No one has a clue why such security measures are being taken," he said. "Kashmir is in a grip of panic. No one has a clue why such security measures are being taken," said Mr. Abdullah.

The 43-day Machail yatra in Chenab Valley's Kishtwar was also suspended due to security reasons, Deputy Commissioner Angrez Singh Rana said. The yatra to the goddess Durga shrine in Kishtwar district had commenced on July 25.

Following the security alert, hundreds of pilgrims, tourists and even students of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) decided to flee the Valley. Hundreds of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

personnel are stationed in areas like government hostels, colleges and government buildings in the Valley. The local police stations were augmented with fresh troops from outside, said a top police official.

Police sources said satellite phones and closed group mobile phone sets were distributed among the security officials to deal with the law and order situation in the event of the downing of the communication network in the State.

One of Kashmir's main hospitals, the Bones and Joint Hospital, directed staff not to leave station "in view of prevailing situation".

Owners of petrol pumps in Srinagar asked the government to provide security as locals swarmed the outlets. "Petrol pumps, ATMs and shops are running dry due to panic," said a spokesman for the Valley's top traders' body, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## Nod for terror cases peaked in June

The sanction is given to file a charge sheet against suspects in terror offences. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can take up to 180 days after the arrest to file the chargesheet and seek a further extension from the court.

The maximum number of sanctions in a month, 44, was in June, followed by 38 in July 2016. Amit Shah took charge as Home Minister on June 1. Mr. Shah informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday that the nodal counterterrorism agency, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), registered 278 terror cases since its inception in 2008, of which charge sheets were filed in 204 cases. He said 221 persons were convicted and 92 acquitted by the courts in these cases. Of the 204, as many as 131 charge sheets have been filed since June 1, 2014.

Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019, on Friday, allowing individ-

duals to be designated as terrorists. The UAPA, enacted in 1967, was first amended in 2004 and subsequently in 2008, 2013 and now in 2019. The 2004 amendment was to enable the imposition of a ban on organisations for terrorist activities, a provision under which 34 outfits were banned. The proposal for designating an individual as a terrorist would come from intelligence agencies and the entire process would be non-judicial. The designations would be decided by officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the "burden of proof" would be on the government to prove the charges, an official claimed.

Opposition parties have raised concerns about the new law saying it could also be used against political opponents and that civil society activists, who speak against the government, may be branded as "terrorists".

Mr. Azad, who has been a former Chief Minister of the State, claimed that never be-

## Despite the outrage, Unnao bats for Sengar

The Sengar family's writ runs large here despite the criminal charges against him. Sengar allegedly raped the victim in June 2017 after she was taken to his house by a woman identified as Sashi Singh on the pretext of helping her get a job. She was also allegedly abducted and gangraped later by the MLA's aides, including Sashi Singh's son.

Amid allegations and counter-allegations, residents spoke of the long association of the Sengar family with that of the survivor – both are from the same caste and her uncle, who has many criminal cases against him, was once a right-hand man of the Thakur leader.

The association which turned to acrimony seems the stuff of cinematic plots and is narrated by the villagers in graphic detail.

The fallout happened around 2000, after political disagreement over the post of gram pradhan (village head). Soon thereafter, Atul Sengar, the MLA's brother,

accused the uncle of shooting at him. The uncle then shifted to Delhi and returned only in 2015.

Fresh tension surfaced after the survivor's family decided to contest the pradhan polls again, challenging the writ of the Sengar family, locals said. Atul Sengar's wife eventually won but the episode created a rift between the two sides, which worsened just before the 2017 Assembly polls when the uncle, villagers say, distributed pamphlets deriding the MLA as a rapist.

Incidentally, the uncle of the survivor is serving prison time, since February in Rae Bareli jail, for allegedly shooting at the Atul Sengar, who has a notorious reputation in the village. He is also in jail for the assault on the survivor's father which led to his death last year. Both sides have lodged criminal cases against each other.

However, those sympathetic to the survivor's uncle were reluctant to speak on the feud.

## Another man held in M.P. under NSA for adulteration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GWALIOR

A 38-old-year trader was arrested in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday under the National Security Act for alleged milk adulteration. The trader, Ummed Singh Ra-

wat, was arrested and sent to jail on Saturday morning. District Collector Anurag Choudhary said. He is the second trader to be arrested under the NSA in the last three days. An Ujjain trader was held on Thursday.

## 6,000 yatris fly out of Srinagar

Over 5,800 leave by scheduled flights; others moved by IAF after security alert

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



**Valley of fear:** People queuing up to stock up on petrol in Srinagar on Saturday. ■ AFP

Nearly 6,000 pilgrims were flown out of Srinagar on Saturday by commercial airlines and the Indian Air Force after the Centre called off the Amarnath yatra and asked devotees to return home, citing security concerns.

As many as 6,216 people turned up at the Srinagar International Airport, out of which 5,829 pilgrims travelled by 32 scheduled flights. The remaining 387 persons were flown on four IAF aircraft to destinations such as Jammu, Pathankot and Hindon, according to a statement from the Airports Authority of India.

**Airfares shoot up**  
The Civil Aviation Ministry has asked airlines to rein in the surge in airfares to help the pilgrims return. Travel portal yatra.com showed airfares in the range of ₹11,000-₹18,000 for a Srinagar-Delhi flight on Sunday.

"Yatris will get special flights and controlled fares but what will happen to pa-

tients, students and other people who have to travel," National Conference leader Omar Abdullah posted on Twitter, urging Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri to take remedial steps.

Earlier various airlines, including Air India, IndiGo and Vistara, announced a full waiver on cancellation and rescheduling of flights from and to Srinagar following an advisory from the Di-

rectorate General of Civil Aviation.

### Militant killed

Meanwhile, a militant was killed in a gunfight with security forces in Sopore on Saturday morning. One soldier was injured. The gunfight began at Malmanpora after a team of the Army, the police and the CRPF launched a search.

(With inputs from Peerzada Ashiq)

### U.K. issues alert message

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

The U.K. government on Saturday updated the travel advisory for its citizens travelling to J&K, warning them to "remain vigilant". Its Foreign and Commonwealth Office had already warned against travel to J&K.

## Governor has allayed fears: Omar

Show patience, NC leader tells people

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Saturday said Governor Satya Pal Malik "assured him there is no initiative in progress to dilute Article 35A of the Constitution, start delimitation or trifurcate [the State]."

**C** The Governor assured us no such move is under way whether it's Article 35A, delimitation or trifurcation

**OMAR ABDULLAH**  
Former J&K Chief Minister

promises made to J&K when it acceded to India should be respected."

He asked people to "show patience". "There are elements who want people to take law and order in their hands so that they go ahead with their designs. We need to ensure it does not happen," he said.

Mr. Abdullah asked the Centre to come up with a statement in Parliament. "The leadership in the Centre should come up with a statement and assure the people of J&K. The Governor does not have a final word on the issue but the Central leadership has. And it should speak up," he said. "The NC believes that the

## India thwarts attack on LoC, 7 Pakistanis killed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Pakistan made fresh bids to attack forward posts in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday and around seven members of its Border Action Team were killed in retaliatory fire, the Army said.

Mr. Chidambaram, who had been a Home Minister, said the "Union Home Ministry is up to some misadventure". Asked to comment on rumours of a possible trifurcation of the State, he said, "I won't anticipate what misadventure they are up to, but the Home Ministry is preparing for a misadventure."

Mr. Anand Sharma, who is the Congress Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha, told *The Hindu* that the Opposition would seek the Prime Minister's statement on Monday.

The Army said a number of attempts were made by the Pakistan Army to attack forward posts and disturb peace in J&K in the past 36 hours.

Meanwhile, the Army also killed four Jaish-e-Mohammed militants in encounters in Shopian and Sopore.

The Pakistan Army had earlier accused the Indian troops of using "cluster ammunition" to target civilians across the LoC, resulting in the death of two persons. The Indian Army rejected the charge as "pure propaganda".

(With PTI inputs)

## CBI officials question Sengar in U.P. jail

Rape survivor is in a critical condition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

The CBI on Saturday questioned expelled BJP MLA and rape accused Kuldeep Singh Sengar in Sitapur jail in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the accident in which the survivor and her lawyer were critically injured and her two aunts killed.

The agency has deputed several teams to speed up the probe following the Supreme Court's orders on Thursday that the probe be completed in a fortnight.

### Develops pneumonia

The 19-year-old rape survivor, who is on ventilator support, remains critical as she has developed pneumonia, doctors at the King George's Medical University here said. The University's Trauma Centre in-charge Dr. Sandeep Tiwari said due to pneumonia, the rape survivor has also developed fever. Her lawyer has been taken off the ventilator, but is still not out of danger.

While officials said a three-member CBI team grilled Sengar for several hours in Sitapur district jail, a CBI team visited the rape survivor's uncle, lodged in a Rae Bareli prison, on Friday.

Later in the night, the Rae Bareli administration, in compliance with a Supreme Court directive, shifted the rape survivor in Unnao on



Kuldeep Singh Sengar

Saturday. No member of her family was present in the village during the visit, officials said. In Rae Bareli, a CBI team probing the accident, recreated the sequence of events and also questioned the driver and the cleaner of the truck that had rammed into the car in which the survivor, her aunts and her lawyer were travelling.

### Support for Sengar

Meanwhile, the BJP's Hardoi MLA Ashish Singh 'Ashu' voiced his sympathies for Sengar in his "difficult times".

Speaking at a panchayat meeting in Unnao, Mr. Singh said, "Our brother Kuldeep Singh could not be here among us today as he is going through difficult times. Our best wishes are with him. We hope that he will overcome the bad times... and be with all of you to lead you." A video clip, in which Ashu also wished that Sengar walks out of jail soon, has gone viral on Saturday.

The BJP, however, distanced itself from Ashu's remarks.

## Be a worker at heart, Modi tells MPs

'BJP is growing because of its ideology, not due to the legacy of a family'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told BJP MPs on Saturday that the party was an "organic entity", not an "assembled" one, and asked them to keep the *karyakarta*, or worker spirit, alive after becoming MPs or Ministers.

Mr. Modi was speaking on day one of a two-day workshop for the MPs organised by the party here.

Speaking to presspersons after Mr. Modi's address, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the Prime Minister told the MPs that the party was growing because of its ideology and not the "legacy of a family".

Mr. Modi, he said, told the

MPs to keep the "worker spi-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the inauguration of a training programme for BJP parliamentarians in New Delhi on Saturday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

rit alive in their hearts" even after becoming MLAs, MPs and Ministers. The Prime Minister said the BJP was "an organic entity, not an assembled entity", Mr. Joshi said.

He said Mr. Modi spoke of the BJP's recent victory in

the panchayat elections in Tripura where it won 98% of the seats, saying if the organisation was strengthened, it could win such elections.

**First-hand experience**  
Mr. Modi referred to a similar workshop conducted after the 2014 election, when he was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time, and said it had been very beneficial for him, particularly the training on the House procedures, Mr. Joshi said.

The party was starting another initiative for MPs' training by sending them in groups of 20-25 to meet Ministers over dinner to learn about government functioning, he said, adding that this would become a monthly feature.

## Centre destroying economy: Rahul

He cited comments by business leaders of an economic slowdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Responding to comments by business leaders of an economic slowdown, outgoing Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that the Centre can "only destroy" what had been built over decades with passion and hard work.

RAHUL GANDHI, CONGRESS MP

From a comment by Larsen and Toubro chairman A.M. Naik warning of a slowdown to government telecom companies such as the BSNL and the MTNL failing to pay July salaries and the Railways planning to hivve off employees, several business reports were attached to his tweet.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, in a similar tweet, mentioned news reports of the auto and steel sector slowing down.

"Car sales down from 15% to 48%! 30 steel companies

down shutters! Ind. leaders Rahul Bajaj, Adi Godrej, Narayana Murthy warn of societal fissures, hate crimes & slowdown. Yet Modi 2.0 remains concentrated on 'jibes not jobs', 'division not development'. New India?" Mr. Surjewala said.

Former Mumbai Congress chief Milind Deora quoted an interview of HDFC chief Deepak Parekh who said banks were reluctant to lend. "India's most respected banker validates what I've been saying since 2017 – economy is slowing down," he said.

A ND-NDE

IN BRIEF



MEA working for early release of 18 Indian crew

NEW DELHI  
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday said the Indian government was working for the early release and repatriation of all the 18 Indian crew members on board the British-flagged tanker which has been detained by the Revolutionary Guards of Iran (IRGC) in the Strait of Hormuz. ANI

Adhir shares stage with CPI(M), calls for unity

KOLKATA  
The Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and Communist Party of India (Marxist) Polit Bureau member Mohammed Salim on Saturday shared the stage at an event where the Congress leader gave a call of unity with the Left parties. Speaking at a seminar on "Is there an end to brutal intolerance?", Mr. Chowdhury gave a call of unity with Left parties to save the "secular character of the nation".

# U.S. bans ground handling by Air India

National carrier says order will not affect operations in the five airports it flies to now

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

The United States has banned Air India from carrying out ground handling operations on its own at all five airports in the country connected by the airline. The decision is not expected to affect the national carrier's operations.

On July 30, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT) served an order amending Air India's foreign air carrier permit, which now reads, "The holder may not perform its own ground-handling functions (self-handle) in the United States."

Ministry for talks

The DoT on April 19 issued a show-cause notice warning that it may impose a ban on self-handling by Indian carriers because of India's failure to allow U.S. carriers to "exercise their bilateral right to perform their own ground handling (to 'self-handle') at Indian airports".

Though India did not in-

## Trouble in the air

Air India's foreign air carrier permit in the U.S. does not allow it to perform its own ground-handling functions in that country



This will not affect any of our flights because we outsource ground handling services at most international stations through a transparent bidding process. AIR INDIA OFFICIAL

form the U.S. on how it would address these concerns, the Civil Aviation Ministry sought discussions on the matter in a letter dated May 9, the order notes.

Air India flies to San Francisco, Washington, Newark, and Chicago.

"This will not affect any of our flights because we outsource ground handling services at most international stations through a transparent bidding process," an air-

line official said. Ground handling includes boarding, baggage handling, refuelling and catering.

The problem between the two countries over the issue of ground-handling surfaced after India amended its ground handling regulation in 2017, barring all foreign airlines from conducting self-handling at defence airports and preventing them from carrying out these functions beyond the security hold area at airports, where passengers undergo frisking

beyond the security hold area at airports where passengers undergo frisking.

2005 agreement

These regulations however, disregarded the Air Service Agreement signed between the two countries in 2005. As per the agreement, "each designated airline shall have the right to perform its own ground-handling in the territory of the other Party (self-handling), or, at its option,

select among competing agents for such services in whole or in part. The right shall be subject only to physical constraints resulting from considerations of airport safety."

A senior official of the Civil Aviation Ministry had earlier said it was working with the External Affairs Ministry to address these "aberrations". The official, however, did not comment on the latest U.S. order.

All U.S. carriers flying into India have outsourced their ground handling as well.

While the order will not affect Air India's operation, which uses local ground handlers in the U.S., it puts a further strain on Indo-U.S. trade ties, that have reached an impasse in the past few months.

Officials have been working on resolving a series of issues, including tariffs and counter-measures, Washington's concerns over India's data protection laws, and other issues that led to trade talks collapsing last November.

# India protests over UN chief's report

New Delhi says it politicises agenda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
UNITED NATION

India has strongly expressed its disappointment over UN chief Antonio Guterres for including in a recent report situations in India that are neither armed conflicts nor a threat to international security, and said such attempts to expand mandate in a selective manner to certain situations only politicise the agenda.



Antonio Guterres

General Assembly, speaking at a Security Council open debate on children and armed conflict on Friday, pointed to the importance of credible, impartial and transparent implementation of the mandate given to the UN system.

"In spite of the clear mandate by the Council, we are disappointed that the Report of the Secretary-General includes situations which are not armed conflicts or of threat to maintenance of international peace and security," she said.

# Knew Ayodhya mediation was futile: U.P. CM

Adityanath  
confident people's sentiments will be respected by SC

## Live-stream hearings: plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A plea was filed on Saturday for live streaming of the Ayodhya title dispute hearings that will begin on August 6 before a Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

The petition, filed by

activist K.N. Govindacharya, reminded the court of its September 2018 judgment that ordered the live-streaming of hearings in the cases of national importance. The order is yet to be implemented.

The petitioner said the case has created large-scale interest across India.

of mediation," he said at a gathering of seers. "But it is good. If there is an effort, it is a good thing. There had

been mediation before the Mahabharata as well. But the effort failed," he said.

The Chief Minister was at

tending an event to mark the 16th death anniversary of Paramhans Ramchandra Das, a prominent advocate of Ram Temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will hold day-to-day hearings from August 6 to decide the temple-mosque land dispute as efforts to arrive at a settlement through mediation had failed.

The apex court had appointed a three-member mediation committee headed by a former Supreme Court judge F.M.I. Kalifulla in March.

Reacting to the apex court's decision to begin day-to-day hearings, Mr. Adityanath said he was confident that the sentiments of the people will be respected.

**People's movement'**  
The Chief Minister said the campaign to build the Ram temple in Ayodhya was a people's movement, and lavished praise on Paramhans Ramchandra Das.

"We are developing Ayodhya in this *Kalyug* as Ayodhya was in *Treta Yug*," he said, referring to mythical times. He inspected projects worth ₹130 crore in the city.

# Doctors told to return to work or face action

IMA to meet today to decide on the next course of action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Safdarjung Hospital and others on Saturday directed their doctors on strike to resume work immediately or face disciplinary action.



On protest: AIIMS doctors rallying against the NMC Bill. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Sunday to decide on the next course of action, said: "The Bill is 'anti-poor', 'anti-student' and 'undemocratic' and promotes quackery. Section 32 of the NMC Bill provides for licensing of 3.5 lakh non-medical persons or Community Health Providers to practise modern medicine. This is unacceptable."

Speaking about the provision, the Minister noted: "There is no question of quackery. The Commission may grant limited license to practice medicine for Community Health Providers (CHP). This concept is recognized worldwide and this concept has also been highlighted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the *Lancet* Journal. Many countries follow a similar arrangement."

Doctors, patients, medical students and society and added that the Bill was one of the biggest reforms in medical education in India.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on Thursday.

In a statement, the Indian Medical Association, which is now scheduled to meet on

On Friday evening, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan met the doctors and asked them to end the strike in the interest of patients. He maintained that the legislation was in the interest of

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On Friday evening, Union Health Minister Harsh



Erdoğan lays foundation stone for new church

ISTANBUL  
President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the first new church in Turkey since it became a modern republic in 1923. The church in the Istanbul suburb of Yesilkoy will serve the 17,000-strong Syriac Christian community, which is also paying for the new building. AFP

**685 detained in Russia crackdown on Opposition**

MOSCOW  
Russian police detained 685 people attending a protest in Moscow on Saturday to demand free elections, including prominent activist Lyubov Sobol. Police removed Ms. Sobol from a taxi and bundled her into a van minutes before the start of a march. REUTERS

**Namibia inaugurates China-built port terminal**

WINDHOEK  
Namibia has inaugurated a new China-built port terminal, which doubles its container capacity and is also to give tourism a boost. The 40-hectare platform reclaimed from the sea at Walvis Bay, some 400 km west of Windhoek, is to become a strategic gateway to emerging markets of southern and west Africa. AFP

**Blast kills 12 regime fighters at Syria airbase**

BEIRUT  
A blast of unclear origin killed 12 regime forces at a military airport in central Syria on Saturday, a war monitor said. State news agency SANA reported that a "technical fault during the transport of expired ammunition" had killed an unspecified number of victims. AFP

# Hong Kong hit by fresh protests

Tens of thousands of anti-govt. demonstrators march through the city's Mong Kok district

REUTERS  
HONG KONG

Stores in the heart of Hong Kong's Kowloon shopping area shut their doors on Saturday and black-clad activists blocked thoroughfares as the Chinese-controlled city was again rocked by anti-government protests.

Tens of thousands marched through the crowded Mong Kok district in the afternoon, with many then dispersing to different parts of the Kowloon peninsula, where they defaced police station signs and set up barriers across busy streets.

**Targeting police station**

Police said a large group of protesters had marked the Tsim Sha Tsui police station, in one of Kowloon's shopping districts, with paint and damaged a vehicle inside the station. The police said in a statement that officers had warned them "to stop their illegal act at once and disperse peacefully".



Unrest spreads: A demonstration by civil servants in Hong Kong on Friday. AP

Riot police could be seen outside the police stations in Tsim Sha Tsui and Mong Kok. Protests against a proposed Bill allowing people to be extradited to stand trial in mainland China have grown increasingly violent since June, with police accused of excessive force and failing to protect protesters from suspected gang attacks.

Protesters, their faces covered with masks or bandanas and wearing helmets and goggles, have adopted increasingly sophisticated tactics. On Saturday, many carried hiking sticks and some held home-made shields. "We don't stay in the same place. We are using hit-and-run tactics," said a construction worker who was among protesters in the Mong Kok area of Kowloon and called himself "Water". "If the police

are too strong, we will leave. They are a rock, so we must be like water," he added, echoing a refrain of Hong Kong martial arts legend Bruce Lee that has been taken up by activists. Organisers put the size of the crowd for the rally at 1,20,000. Police had yet to release their estimate.

**Officials join protest**  
On Friday evening, in central Hong Kong, thousands of civil servants had defied a warning from authorities to remain politically neutral and joined anti-government protests for the first time since they started two months ago.

In Washington on Friday, a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers called on the Donald Trump administration to halt future sales of munitions and crowd-control equipment to Hong Kong's police force, which has been accused of using excessive force against protesters.

# China braces for a long trade war

Accuses U.S. of violating 'consensus'

ATUL ANEJA  
BEIJING

China is bracing for a long trade war with the U.S. which could last at least 15 years, in tune with Beijing's push to emerge as the world's leading economy by 2035.

On Friday, China made it explicit that it was prepared

China does not accept any maximum pressure, threat or blackmail

HUA CHUNYING  
Foreign Ministry spokesperson

sue, threat or blackmail," Ms. Hu stressed.

China's hard line on trade negotiations, with little prospects of an early resolution, signals Beijing's intent to play the long game with the U.S., which is likely to last long after Mr. Trump's exit from the presidency.

China's intent to dig in for a lengthy back-and-forth has been glaring in the past few

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

months. On May 22, State Council Information Office fielded Zhang Yansheng, chief researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges. During a media conference, he predicted that China and the U.S. will simultaneously "negotiate" and "fight" till 2035. That year is significant, because it aligns with a goal, spelt out during the 19th Party Congress in 2017, of China achieving "socialist modernisation". Analysts say that the term implies China's intent to emerge superior to the U.S., both economically and technologically, by 2035. With no limits set on longevity of Mr. Xi's term in office, it is likely that he will have a much longer time to achieve his goals than Mr. Trump.

The Chinese side also made it plain that the latest decision had cast doubts on whether the next round of trade talks will take place at all in September, as earlier scheduled. "China does not accept any maximum pres-

missiles and maintained its assessment even after the North described them as a newly developed "large-calibre multiple launch guided rocket system."

Ms. Hu further asserted that in case the U.S. enforced additional tariffs, "China will have to take necessary countermeasures to uphold its core interests and the fundamental interests of the Chinese people. The U.S. will be responsible for all related consequences."

The Chinese side also made it plain that the latest decision had cast doubts on whether the next round of trade talks will take place at all in September, as earlier scheduled. "China does not accept any maximum pres-

missiles and maintained its assessment even after the North described them as a newly developed "large-calibre multiple launch guided rocket system."

North Korea said those tests were designed to deliver a "solemn warning" to South Korea over its purchase of high-tech, U.S.-made fighter jets and the planned military drills, which Pyongyang calls an invasion rehearsal. The North also tested short-range missiles on May 4 and 9.

North Korea said that in case the U.S. enforced additional tariffs, "China will have to take necessary countermeasures to uphold its core interests and the fundamental interests of the Chinese people. The U.S. will be responsible for all related consequences."

Since early May, the message from China has been clear – rather than compromise with a flawed deal, Beijing would prefer a long campaign to win the trade war with Washington.

# Kim supervised test-firing of rockets, claims N. Korea

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SEOUL



Military vision: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un supervising the test-launch of a rocket on Thursday. AP

North Korea said on Saturday that its leader Kim Jong-un supervised another test-firing of a new multiple rocket launcher system that could potentially enhance the country's ability to strike targets in South Korea and U.S. military bases there.

The report by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) came a day after South Korea's military said it detected North Korea firing projectiles twice into the sea off its eastern coast in its third round of weapons tests in just over a week.

Experts say the North's in-

creased testing activity is aimed at ramping up pressure on Washington and Seoul over stalled nuclear negotiations with the U.S. and planned U.S.-South Korea military exercises, and that its weapons displays could intensify in the coming

firmed the system's "altitude control level flight performance, track-changing capability, accuracy of hitting a target and warhead explosion power of the guided ordnance rocket."

The report didn't include any direct mention of the U.S. or South Korea.

**Short-range missiles**

South Korea's presidential office had said the U.S. and South Korean militaries shared an assessment that Friday's launches were likely of short-range ballistic missiles. South Korea's military had also concluded that the weapons North Korea tested on Wednesday are ballistic

missiles and maintained its assessment even after the North described them as a newly developed "large-calibre multiple launch guided rocket system."

On July 25, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles that Seoul officials said flew 600 km before landing in the sea.

North Korea said those tests were designed to deliver a "solemn warning" to South Korea over its purchase of high-tech, U.S.-made fighter jets and the planned military drills, which Pyongyang calls an invasion rehearsal. The North also tested short-range missiles on May 4 and 9.

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Since early May, the message from China has been clear – rather than compromise with a flawed deal, Beijing would prefer a long campaign to win the trade war with Washington.

# Trump invited Zarif to U.S.: report

Iran Foreign Minister turned down offer, says magazine

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON



Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. AP

President Donald Trump invited Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to the White House last month at the height of tensions between the two countries, a magazine has reported. The invitation, extended by Senator Rand Paul with permission from the President, was turned down, *The New Yorker* reported on Friday.

The report quoted a U.S. and Iranian sources and what the magazine called a well-placed diplomat. Mr. Zarif told the magazine he would not want a White House meeting that yielded just a photo opportunity and a two-page statement afterwards, *The New Yorker* said.

Mr. Trump has said publicly several times that he is

willing to hold talks with the Iranians even as he lambasted the Iranian state as a corrupt, incompetent and dangerous regime that is a threat to regional security and U.S. interests.

Mr. Paul had been working for weeks on setting up a meeting with Mr. Zarif and on July 15, conferred with him in New York, passing on an invitation from Mr.

to him to come to the White House, the magazine said. At the one hour meeting, Mr. Zarif suggested ways to end the nuclear impasse, said the magazine.

Also, Mr. Zarif said on Saturday that Iran will take another step to reduce its compliance with the landmark 2015 nuclear deal, according to parliamentary news agency ICANA.

"The third step in reducing commitments to (the nuclear deal) will be implemented in the current situation," he said. "We have said that if (the deal) is not completely implemented by others then we will also implement it in the same incomplete manner. And of course all of our actions have been within the framework of (the deal)."

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# RCEP must fix trade deficit, China told

At Ministerial meet, India flags need to address trade imbalance; it has a deficit with 11 member nations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

India has told China that the proposed mega free trade agreement RCEP should address the causes of high trade imbalances among the member countries, the Commerce Ministry said on Saturday.

The matter was among the issues raised by Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan in his meeting with Wang Shouwen, the Vice Minister of China's Commerce Ministry, on the sidelines of RCEP inter-sessional ministerial meeting in Beijing on Friday.

The Secretary "emphasised on the importance of an RCEP agreement that would duly address the causes of existing trade imbalances," the Ministry said in a statement. Mr. Wadhawan is in Beijing for the eighth RCEP inter-sessional ministerial meeting.



India has sought greater market access from China for its products to narrow the high trade deficit. ■ GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

A joint statement, issued after the two-day RCEP ministerial meeting, said that the Ministers noted that over two-thirds of market access negotiations have reached mutually satisfactory outcomes, and that work on the remaining areas were being intensified through constructive engagements.

Determined to keep the

momentum towards achieving the Leaders' mandate to conclude the RCEP negotiations by the end of the year, the Ministers "called on all members to find pragmatic and solution-oriented approaches to narrow divergence on the various remaining issues", it added.

In 2018-19, India's trade deficit with China stood at \$50.2 billion.

global economy, 29.1% of global trade, and 32.5% of global investment flows in 2018, the Ministers emphasised that RCEP is the most important trade agenda in the region, supportive of an open, inclusive, and rules-based trading system, and an enabling trade and investment environment.

The RCEP bloc comprises 10 ASEAN group members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam), and their trade partners India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. India registered a trade deficit in 2018-19 with 11 RCEP member countries of the 16 nations that have been negotiating a mega trade pact since November 2012.

Speaking at the Financial Market Conclave organised by CII here, he said these practices should be discontinued in the interest of listed companies, promoters and related parties. Mr. Singh said fraudulent related-party transactions were being used for "siphoning of funds." Mr. Singh added that regarding corporate governance, there had been a decline of trust for which the SEBI had already initiated steps.



of company failures. Corporate governance is aimed at keeping the trust of various stakeholders. Learning from the global financial crisis, this was far from satisfactory," Mr. Singh said.

## Non-disclosure concerns

There had also been instances of non-disclosure of valuation reports, he said, adding that the companies resorted to complex structures to hide the risk from siphoning funds. In this context, he said the SEBI was enhancing monitoring of compliance, along with the stock exchanges. "SEBI had prescribed standard operating procedures for dealing with non-compliances, which can lead to freezing of shareholding of promoters and suspension of trading in stocks", he said.

## Lenders extend Jet sale deadline by a week to Aug. 10

Extension is to ensure objectives of IBC are achieved

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI  
The lenders to the defunct Jet Airways on Saturday decided to extend the deadline for submitting expression of interest (EoI) by a week to August 10.

Late last month, the resolution professional (RP) Ashish Chhawchharia had floated EoIs for selling stake in the airline that had stopped flying since mid-April.

Today [Saturday] was the deadline to put in the EoIs and so far, preliminary interest has been received from four parties.

"On the basis of requests received from credible, interested resolution applicants for some additional time, the deadline for submission of EoI is being provisionally extended by a week to August 10," the lenders said in a regulatory filing.



The lenders, who have 51% stake in the airline, had, on June 17, sent the carrier – which stopped flying on April 17 – to the NCLT as they could not get a buyer.

As of July 4, the RP had received claims worth over ₹25,500 crore, including over ₹200 crore from founder Naresh Goyal, submitted by the holding company of the airline JetAir.

## Union Bank Q1 net up 73%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Union Bank of India reported a 73% increase in net profit to ₹225 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2019 due to lower provisioning for bad loans.

Provision for bad loans fell to ₹1,431 crore during April-June 2019, from ₹1,803 crore in the year-ago quarter.

The state-owned refiner posted the loss on a 33.66% fall in revenues to ₹11,175.6 crore. MRPL operates a 3-lakh barrels per day (bpd) coastal refinery in Karnataka.

The company reported negative earnings per share (EPS) of ₹2.57 compared to EPS of ₹1.35 in the year-earlier period.

MRPL is gearing up to upgrade the fuel quality to BS VI standard as mandated by the Union Government, to

## MRPL reports Q1 net loss of ₹450.53 crore

Refiner's revenue falls 33.66%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Managalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) reported a net loss of ₹450.53 crore for the first quarter compared to a net profit of ₹237.47 crore a year earlier.

The state-owned refiner posted the loss on a 33.66% fall in revenues to ₹11,175.6 crore. MRPL operates a 3-lakh barrels per day (bpd) coastal refinery in Karnataka.

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MRPL is gearing up to upgrade the fuel quality to BS VI standard as mandated by the Union Government, to



become effective on April 1, 2020.

MRPL is likely to be merged with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) after ONGC bought 51.11% in HPCL for ₹36,915 crore in January 2018.

While HPCL has 16.96% stake in MRPL at present, ONGC holds 71.63% stake.

## Godrej Security unveils robotic locker 'Autovault'

Lockers go high-tech, need less space

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Godrej Security Solutions (GSS) has introduced a robotic locker 'Autovault.'

"The robotic locker is modern and sophisticated. It easy to install and requires less space," said Pushkar Gokhale, vice-president-head, B2B, Godrej Security Solutions. "Currently, the technology is being imported from Japan," he said.

**'One above the other'**  
"It does away with the need for an aisle as lockers are stacked one above the other like the storage system. In a span of 800 sq. ft., at least 1,000 lockers can be stacked. One can access the

## Numeric sets sights on Bangladesh for exports

Firm aiming at ₹70 crore in shipments

N. ANAND

CHENNAI

Numeric, a group company of Legrand, has set its sights on Bangladesh market to boost export volumes, according to a top official.

"Currently, our export revenue is very small and we want to double it by end 2020," said Palash Nandy, chief executive officer, Numeric.

The city-based firm, a manufacturer of uninterrupted power supply (UPS) systems and a power solutions provider, has been exporting products in small quantities to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Nigeria.

"Now is the time to focus on the Bangladesh market.

We entered the country six months ago. It is growing and will continue to do well. There is demand for good quality products there, especially for 3-phase UPS systems," he said.

By end-2020, Numeric expects to clock export revenue of ₹60 crore to ₹70 crore from Bangladesh and ₹50 crore from Nigeria. Currently, the Bangladesh market is served from Kolkata and Numeric plans to have its own office there.

On the Nigerian market, he said it was largely driven by single-phase UPS systems meant for micro data centres. It was also witnessing an uptick in demand for 3-phase UPS systems.

## SEBI voices concern over related-party transactions

"There has been a decline of trust in corporate governance"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Saturday expressed concern over related-party transactions, a method "frequently" employed by corporates for diversion of funds.

The capital markets regulator also said another means of such diversion was extension of loans.

"Related-party transactions are being frequently used for diversion of funds by corporates. Another instance is extension of loans of companies to related parties. The list is endless. This really bothers the regulator," SEBI's Executive Director Amarjeet Singh said.

Speaking at the Financial Market Conclave organised by CII here, he said these practices should be discontinued in the interest of listed companies, promoters and related parties. Mr. Singh said fraudulent related-party transactions were being used for "siphoning of funds."

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"Serious corporate governance issues witnessed a linear rise causing a number

of company failures. Corporate governance is aimed at keeping the trust of various stakeholders. Learning from the global financial crisis, this was far from satisfactory," Mr. Singh said.

## Non-disclosure concerns

There had also been instances of non-disclosure of valuation reports, he said, adding that the companies resorted to complex structures to hide the risk from siphoning funds. In this context, he said the SEBI was enhancing monitoring of compliance, along with the stock exchanges. "SEBI had prescribed standard operating procedures for dealing with non-compliances, which can lead to freezing of shareholding of promoters and suspension of trading in stocks", he said.

## Trade finance firm Drip raises \$25 mn

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA

COIMBATORE

Drip Capital, which extends finance to small and medium-scale exporting industries, has raised \$25 million, taking the total amount raised by it so far to \$100 million.

Drip Capital said the total funding includes \$45 million in equity and \$55 million in debt.

Pushkar Mukewar, co-founder and co-CEO of the company, told *The Hindu* that Drip Capital started operations in India in 2016 and had ventured into Mexico six months ago. It recently entered the UAE market. "The funds will be used to launch services in emerging countries in southeast Asia and to strengthen presence in countries where the company is present," he said.

## Coffee Day wants more time to finalise first quarter results

Firm attributes delay to 'unexpected developments'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

V.G. Siddhartha-promoted Coffee Day Enterprises said due to "certain unavoidable circumstances", the board of directors shall not consider the financial results of the company and its subsidiaries for the quarter ended June 30 at the meeting scheduled for August 8.

In a stock exchange filing, the company said it had taken adequate steps to complete the quarterly review before the stipulated time line. However due to recent developments which were disclosed to the exchanges from time to time, the review and subsequent preparation of the quarterly financial results for the quarter ended June 30 to the stock exchanges.

The revised date of the meeting to consider the said quarterly financial results



shall be communicated expeditiously, said company secretary and compliance officer Sadananda Poojary, in a filing.

The company had also informed the stock exchanges that Sulakshana Ragavan, an independent director on the board of Coffee Day Enterprises, had resigned with effect from August 1.

"We wish to clarify that Ms. Ragavan has resigned for personal reasons and has confirmed that there are no further reasons for her resignation," said the company in another filing.

## Sun shuts two units in Vadodara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Drug major Sun Pharma on Saturday said it was discontinuing operations at two clinical pharmacology units (CPUs) that conduct bio-equivalence studies, the company is discontinuing operations at two centres at Tandalja and Akota in Vadodara, a Sun Pharmaceutical spokesperson said.

To ensure optimal utilisation of clinical pharmacology units (CPUs) that conduct bio-equivalence studies, the company is discontinuing operations at two centres at Tandalja and Akota in Vadodara, a Sun Pharmaceutical spokesperson said.

RITES Ltd.

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

BHUBANESWAR-751024

CIN No.: L74899DL1974GOI007227

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
The Group General Manager (Civil), RITES Ltd., Bhubaneswar, invites on behalf of M/s. MCL, Jagannath area, Talcher, online combination of item rate & percentage rate bids, on two packet system for the following work:

NITN.No. RITES/BBSR/MCL/SPUR384-LTR/R-02/2019  
Name of Work : Earthwork in Formation, construction of RUB with approaches, Retaining wall & Drains, Supply of PSC sleepers, Turnouts sleepers, Supply of Ballast, PW way fittings & Track linking works, construction of building and allied works for proposed Rail connectivity of Spur no. 384, Jagannath washery under Jagannath Area, Talcher. Estimated cost: Rs. 37,90,67,904.00, EMD: Rs. 25 Lakhs, Completion date: 11 (Eleven) months, Last time and date of submission of bid: 02/08/2019. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app/Addendum/Comendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

Dated 02.08.2019

Notice INVITING e-TENDER

02.08.2019

LDCL invites E-Tender/Sealed tender for Protection and Indemnity Insurance from IG and Non-IG Insurance Companies approved by the DG Shipping (Government of India) for our 28 vessels for a period of (20.08.2019 to 20.08.2020) in two bid systems. For details on e-tender please visit website: www.tenderwizard.com/UTL and sealed tender visit our website : www.lakshadweep.gov.in. Due date for e-tender and sealed tender is extended to 07.08.2019 at 11 am. Bidders may opt either e-tender or sealed quotation method (should not be both the options). Help Desk (e-tendering): 0840482000/+919686115318 for clarification contact O/A : 0842323448/458, Web: www.lakshadweep.gov.in

E-mail : amindiv@asianetindia.com

Tender No.LDCL/SHIP/P&X/2019

02.08.19

LDCL invites E-Tender/Sealed tender for Protection and Indemnity Insurance from IG and Non-IG Insurance Companies approved by the DG Shipping (Government of India) for our 28 vessels for a period of (20.08.2019 to 20.08.2020) in two bid systems. For details on e-tender please visit website: www.tenderwizard.com/UTL and sealed tender visit our website : www.lakshadweep.gov.in. Due date for e-tender and sealed tender is extended to 07.08.2019 at 11 am. Bidders may opt either e-tender or sealed quotation method (should not be both the



## Lower rates the growth key?

What does the government need to do to stimulate the economy? Is cutting interest rates enough?

K. BHARAT KUMAR

**The story so far:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lowered the repo rate to 5.75% in the Monetary Policy Review in June. This was a level last seen nine years ago. Despite three rate cuts aggregating to 75 basis points in this cycle beginning February, economic growth has failed to pick up and, in fact, has been slowing down even more. There is clamour for another big cut from the RBI in the upcoming monetary policy announcement this week. This is because the transmission of the earlier cuts by banks to borrowers has been poor. By the RBI's own assessment, only 21 basis points have been passed on to borrowers by banks in this cycle.

### What are the repo and reverse repo rates?

The RBI uses the repo rate to influence the interest rate structure in the economy and to manage inflation. Technically, the repo rate is the rate at which commercial banks would borrow from the RBI, and the reverse repo is the rate of interest they would earn when they deposit funds with the central bank.

### What is the stand worldwide as far as governments are concerned on cutting rates?

The traditional argument is that the lower the interest rate, the better for businesses as it brings down the cost of capital, making investments more attractive. Any government would love this as the country would then draw higher investments leading to higher growth and more job creation. Governments abhor higher interest rates as, theoretically, these push up project costs and keep investors away.

A case in point is U.S. President George H.W. Bush's election loss in 1992 to Bill Clinton. The former President actually pointed fingers at Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan as the reason for the defeat. The argument was that had Mr. Greenspan lowered rates, it would have made the economic recovery that the U.S. was going through more visible and hence (purportedly) leading to a re-election of Mr. Bush.

One view on this tug-of-war is that the government of the day typically has a relatively short-term view when it comes to growth but that as an institution, a central bank has the long-term view where low inflation would eventually lead to high growth scenarios.

In this context, nothing comes more quickly to mind than the tussle between P. Chidambaram as Finance Minister and Duvvuri Subbarao as RBI Governor. Despite the best

attempts of the government to get the RBI to cut rates, and thus stoke growth, Mr. Subbarao insisted on higher rates in order to keep money supply and inflation low. In his book, *Who Moved My Interest Rate?: Leading the Reserve Bank of India Through Five Turbulent Years*, the former RBI Governor makes this very point: that to experience sustained high growth, a low-inflation scenario is a pre-requisite.

This view is supported by a paper,

'Reconsidering Monetary Policy: An Empirical Examination of the Relationship Between Interest Rates and Nominal GDP Growth in the U.S., U.K., Germany and Japan', published in 2018 in the journal *Ecological Economics*. The authors, Kang-Sook Lee and Richard A. Werner, found that nominal interest rates are consistently positively correlated with growth.

A central bank also keeps an eye on the fiscal deficit maintained by the government. A high fiscal deficit usually makes it difficult for the central bank to rein in inflation, hence causing it to be hawkish and raising interest rates. The late economist and former RBI Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn's was a voice that was constantly egging the government of the day to keep the deficit under control.

### Why aren't Indian commercial banks passing on the RBI's rate cuts to consumers quicker?

Deposits from the public form a chunk of funds that commercial banks use to lend to borrowers. Deposit rates have remained high; only last week, the State Bank of India lowered its rates citing improved liquidity. If deposit rates remain high, then the cost of funds for a bank remains high no matter where the RBI pegs its repo rate. Deposit rates have remained high for two reasons. One, competing interest rates in the government's small savings schemes have remained high – even after a cut in late June, the Public Provident Fund and the National Savings Certificate yield 7.9%. Compare this with the 6.8% or so that one would get at SBI, the nation's largest bank.

The other reason that deposit rates have remained high is the liquidity crunch triggered by the sudden inability of the non-banking finance company IL&FS to pay back loans since last September. The RBI intervened to infuse liquidity soon after but these interventions were not enough.

However, the liquidity position has improved in the last two months following consistent market operations by the RBI under its new Governor Shaktikanta Das. This is reflected in the falling yields on government securities. The environment is, thus, conducive for banks to pass on the benefit of lower interest rates to borrowers.

### Will lower rates spur economic growth?

Capital is one of the three main factors of production, which are critical to the growth of a commercial entity, the other two being land and labour. But capital is only a necessary, not sufficient, condition. Land, unless allocated by the local government, is too costly for investors seeking to set up shop. On labour, even if adequate hands are available for a job, the skill quotient is still low. Training graduates to be job-ready is a form of tax that companies pay. Also to be taken into account is the market environment and demand. If end users are seeing lesser money in hand than earlier, demand will certainly be impacted.

Therefore, in an environment where the other factors of production are not favourable for an investor, low interest rates by themselves may not prove attractive enough. Any revival of economic activity will be contingent on joint efforts by the government on the fiscal front to stimulate demand, and the RBI, to keep interest rates low.

A rate cut in the upcoming monetary policy announcement this week has to be backed with some positive measures from the government. To hope that a rate cut will suffice to re-ignite economic activity would be naive.

## What are the guidelines on migrant camps?

Why is the government keen that States set up detention centres for illegal immigrants? Where should they come up?

VIJAYA SINGH

**The story so far:** On Wednesday, the Delhi Police told the Supreme Court that nearly 500 illegal Bangladeshi migrants have been deported from the capital in the past 28 months. Last month, the Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, informed the Lok Sabha that State governments have been instructed from time to time to set up detention centres. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also drawn up a manual for States and Union Territories. At present, there are six detention centres in Assam, the highest among the States. At least 10 more are set to come up before the final publication of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) on August 31.

### What are detention centres?

Detention centres are set up to house illegal immigrants or foreigners who have completed their jail sentence but their deportation process to the country concerned has not been initiated or completed. It is also set up to accommodate foreign convicts in criminal cases who have completed their jail terms and await deportation. According to the MHA, these holding camps are also "to restrict the movement of foreigners staying back illegally and thereby ensure that they are physically available at all times for expeditious repatriation or deportation".

### What does the Home Ministry manual say?

The MHA framed a 'Model Detention Centre/Holding Centre/Camp Manual', which was circulated to all States and Union Territories on January 9. Mr. Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha on July 2 that State governments have been instructed from time to time (2009, 2012, 2014 and 2018), to set up detention centres. Under Section 3(2)(c) of The Foreigners Act, 1946, the Central Government has the powers to deport foreign nationals staying illegally in the country. These powers have also been entrusted to State governments under Article 258(I) of the Constitution and under Article 239(I) for administrators of Union Territories.

Some centres already exist in some States and Union Territories. The intention is to standardise the camps, and the States and Union Territories have been asked to implement the orders.

### What triggered the move?

On September 20, 2018 activist Harsh Mander filed a petition in the Supreme Court to highlight the plight of families languishing in six detention centres in Assam; members of the families who were declared foreigners were put in camps separated from each other.

The top court sent a notice to the Centre and Assam government seeking their response. In the petition, Mr. Mander compared the situation of these families with the family separation policy imposed on illegal immigrants in the U.S. by the Trump administration. The petition itself was based on a report submitted by Mr. Mander when he, as Minorities Monitor for the National Human Rights



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Commission, had visited detention centres in Assam from January 22-24 in 2018.

The first major finding of the mission led by Mr. Mander was that the "State does not make any distinction, for all practical purposes, between detention centres and jails; and thus between detainees and ordinary inmates". It found there was no clear legal regime governing the rights and entitlements of detainees. The report said, "Consequently, the jail authorities appear to apply the Assam Jail Manual to them, but deny them even the benefits, like parole, wage work etc., that the inmates get under the jail rules."

It was in this context that the Home Ministry framed the guidelines for detention centres across the country; a manual for jail inmates was drafted in 2016.

The State

government officials had also informed the mission that they were not aware of any "specific guidelines or instructions from the Central or State government to guide the treatment and rights of the detainees." The detention centres are therefore de facto, if not *de jure*, administered under the Assam Jail Manual, and the detainees are treated in some ways as convicted prisoners, and in other ways are deprived even of the rights of convicted prisoners, it was found.

It was in the context of this petition that on November 5, 2018, the Centre informed the Supreme Court that it was framing new guidelines for keeping foreign nationals in detention centres across the country.

### What are some of the guidelines?

There are 39 points in the manual. The manual says that States require "no specific approval" from the Home Ministry to set up "detention centres /holding centres/ camps". It lays down that centres should be set up outside the jail premises and their numbers and size should be decided by the States keeping in view the actual number of foreigners to be housed as

well as the progress in deportation proceedings.

The manual says: "On completion of the sentence of the foreigner, the jail authorities concerned may hand over the foreign national to the authority in charge of the detention centre." There should also be a provision to facilitate the stay of such foreigners in "metro" cities during the waiting period between their interview with the embassy concerned and issuance of travel documents.

The MHA has said the detention centres should be designed for inmates to maintain standards of living in consonance with "human dignity". Well-lit, airy rooms adhering to basic hygiene standards and equipped with electricity, water and communication facilities are to be provided at the centre. Other than CCTVs and round-the-clock security personnel, the manual adds, the centre's boundary wall should be at least 10 feet high and ringed with barbed wires with strict access control measures. There should also be a periodic security audit by the appropriate authorities. The order says that detention centres should also have open spaces for detainees to move around and segregated accommodation for men and women. "It should be ensured that members of the same family are not separated and all family members are housed in same detention centre." Mr. Mander's report had highlighted how men, women and boys above six years lodged in detention centres in Assam were separated from members of their families. It says: "Many had not met their spouse for several years, several never once since their detention, since women and men were housed in different jails, and they were never given parole or permission to meet." The MHA manual has addressed these concerns saying no restrictions shall be imposed to meet family members. It also asks States to pay special attention to the needs of women, nursing mothers, transgenders and open a crèche in the camp. The manual says, "Children lodged in [a] detention centre may be provided educational facilities by admitting them in local schools."

### How many detention centres are there?

Assam has six detention centres, the highest among the States. At least 10 more are to come up in the wake of the final publication of the NRC by August 31. The NRC is being updated as per directions of the Supreme Court to segregate Indian citizens living in Assam from those who had illegally entered the State after March 25, 1971. Nearly 41 lakh people were excluded from the final draft. Of these, 36 lakh have filed claims against the exclusion.

Since 1985, when Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) were first set up in Assam, till February 28 this year, as many as 63,959 persons were declared foreigners through ex parte proceedings. The Assam government informed the State Assembly last week that 1,145 people declared foreigners by 100 FTs across the State were lodged in detention centres till July 9 this year. Of them, 335 people who have spent more than three years in these centres were to be released following a Supreme Court order. The Central government had informed the Supreme Court in February that of thousands of persons declared foreigners by the FTs in Assam, only 162 could be deported to Bangladesh. In 2016 and 2017, 39 Bangladeshi nationals were deported from detention camps in Assam, according to what the MHA informed Parliament in January 2018.

## Why is India pulled to deep-sea mining?

What is the country's Deep Ocean Mission all about? What are the metals that can be extracted?

ASWATHI PACHA

**The story so far:** India's ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission' is all set to be launched this year. Dr. Madhavan Rajeevan, Secretary, Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, announced on July 27 that the ₹8,000-crore plan to explore deep ocean minerals will start from October. He said, "We finally have the in-principle approval to go ahead with the mission. Now expenditure plans will be drawn up and circulated to various institutions affiliated to the Ministry for executing programmes and we hope to launch by October 31."

**What will be mined from the deep ocean?** One of the main aims of the mission is to explore and extract polymetallic nodules. These are small potato-like rounded accretions composed of minerals such as manganese, nickel, cobalt, copper and iron hydroxide. They lie scattered on the Indian Ocean floor at depths of about 6,000 m and the size can vary from a few millimetres to centimetres. These metals can be extracted and used in electronic devices, smartphones, batteries and even for solar panels.

### Where will the team mine?

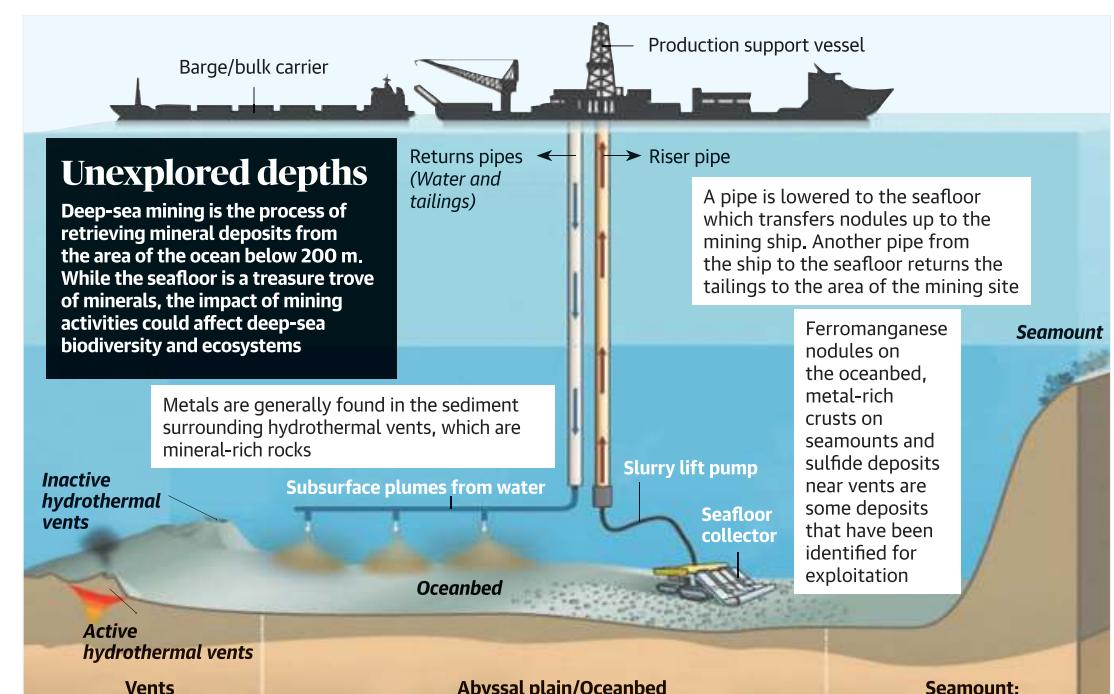
The International Seabed Authority (ISA), an autonomous international organisation established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, allot the 'area' for deep-sea mining. India was the first country to receive the status of a 'Pioneer Investor' in 1987 and was given an area of about 1.5 lakh sq km in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) for nodule exploration. In 2002, India signed a contract with the ISA and after complete resource analysis of the seabed 50% was surrendered and the country retained an area of 75,000 sq km.

According to a release from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the estimated polymetallic nodule resource potential in this area is 380 million tonnes (MT), containing 4.7 MT of nickel, 4.29 MT of copper, 0.55 MT of cobalt and 92.59 MT of manganese. Further studies have helped narrow the mining area to 18,000 sq km which will be the 'First Generation Mine-site'.

### Which are the other countries that are in the race to mine the deep sea?

Apart from the CIOB, polymetallic nodules have been identified from the central Pacific Ocean. It is known as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone.

According to the ISA's website, it has entered into 15-year contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the deep seabed with 29 contractors. Later it was extended for five more years till 2022. China, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Russia and also some small islands such as the Cook Islands, Kiribati have joined the race for deep



Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature, Nature Journal

sea mining. Most of the countries have tested their technologies in shallow waters and are yet to start deep-sea extraction.

### When will India start mining?

India's mining site is at about a depth of 5,500 metres, where there is a high pressure and extremely low temperature. Explains Dr. G.A. Ramadas, head of the Deep Sea Technologies Group, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, "We have developed and demonstrated the mining technology

with artificial nodules at 500 metres depth. We have also deployed Remotely Operated Vehicle and In-situ Soil Tester in the depth of 6,000 metres and have a thorough understanding of the mining area at the Central Indian Ocean Basin." He adds, "The mining machine newly developed for 6000 metres depth was able to

move about 900 metres and will be deployed soon at 5,500 metres. We hope to test it in October this year. Weather conditions and availability of ships also play a role. More tests are being conducted to understand how to bring the nodules up to the surface. A riser system comprising an umbilical cable or

electromechanical cable and a hose is being developed."

### What will be the environmental impact?

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), these deep remote locations can be home to unique species that have adapted themselves to conditions such as poor oxygen and sunlight, high pressure and extremely low temperatures. Such mining expeditions can make them go extinct even before they are known to science. The deep sea's biodiversity and ecology remain poorly understood, making it difficult to assess the environmental impact and frame adequate guidelines.

Dr. Ramadas adds that though strict guidelines have been framed, they are only exploration guidelines. A new set of exploitation guidelines are being worked out and discussions are on with the ISA. Environmentalists are also worried about the sediment plumes harming the filter feeders in the upper ocean layers. Additional concerns have been raised about the noise and light pollution and oil spills.

### Is deep sea mining economically viable?

The latest estimate from the ISA says it will be commercially viable only if about three million tonnes are mined per year. More studies are being carried out to understand how the technology can be scaled up and used efficiently.

CAPSULE



**Elephants and carbon**  
If forest elephants go extinct, it can seriously increase carbon dioxide levels, a study published in *Nature Geoscience* claims. Elephant populations in African forests encouraged the growth of slow-growing trees which had a high wood density and sequestered more carbon, it found. This is because they preferentially eat fast-growing varieties leaving slow-growing ones.



**Habitable world**  
TESS, NASA's mission to search for exoplanets, may have found the first potentially habitable world. The super-Earth exoplanet is named GJ 357 d, which is only 31 light years away, was discovered earlier this year. The exoplanet orbits a diminutive dwarf star and is 22% larger than the Earth. There are two other exoplanets in the system. The super-Earth has a thick atmosphere and may possess water.



## Extreme weather and humans

+ Study finds European heat wave was made more likely, intense by human-induced climate change

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL

The extreme heat waves that enveloped parts of Western Europe last month were made much more likely and intense by human-induced climate change, a study has found.

A recent report from the World Weather Attribution group has suggested that the continuous days of extreme heat that hit countries like France and Netherlands would have been a once-in-a-millennium occurrence without climate change but were made up to 100 times more probable as a result of it.

In the U.K. and Germany, the event is less rare (with estimated return periods of around 10-30 years in the current climate) and the likelihood is about ten times higher (at least 3 times) due to climate change, the study added.

Though in all these countries, the temperature would have been 1.5 to 3 degrees Celsius lower without climate change.

The said group has analysed all seven heat waves in the 21st century in Europe (2003, 2010, 2015, 2017, 2018 and June 2019), and found that each one was made more likely and more intense due to human-induced climate change.

"The July 2019 heatwave was so extreme over continental Western Europe that the observed magnitudes would have been extremely unlikely without climate change," the report concluded.

## NCBS study shows how stress can affect fear memory

It may be possible to reverse fear memories that have been abnormally strengthened by severe stress

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Fear memories formed before and after experiencing chronic stress can have very different behavioural effects. They also affect the brain morphology differently, finds a study. The researchers, based in National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Bengaluru came to this conclusion by studying male Wistar rats.

The researchers find that it may be possible to reverse fear memories that have been abnormally strengthened by severe stress. This is because, they find, the process of fear memory reversal itself is not impaired by stress. "This is the good news emerging from our study. Of course, these ideas need to be tested in human subjects in great detail before therapeutic relevance can be fully assessed," says Sumantra Chattarji of NCBS in

## Tigers in India face lurking threat from virus

There is heightened risk of disease transfer from dogs to tigers, leopards in Ranthambore National Park

ASWATHI PACHA

The Prime Minister's announcement that tiger numbers have increased in the country may be good news. But the loss of habitat, a decline of prey and poaching continues to be a threat to tigers' survival. Along with these, a potential virus – Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) – that can be transmitted from CDV-infected dogs living in and around wildlife sanctuaries has started to raise concern among wildlife biologists.

Canine distemper is a contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of puppies and dogs.

Risk of disease transfer

A recent study published in *Threatened Taxa* notes that 86% of the tested dogs around Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan carried CDV antibodies in their bloodstream. This means that the dogs are either currently infected or have been infected sometime in their life and have overcome the disease. This finding points out that there is an increased risk of disease transfer from the dogs to tigers and leopards that live in the park.

Last year, over 20 lions from the Gir forest succumbed to the viral infection and now a guideline has been prepared by the National Tiger Conservation Authority to prevent the spillover of the disease to wild animals.

"The main aim should be to vaccinate the free-ranging and domestic



**Loss prevention:** Last year, over 20 lions from the Gir forest succumbed to the canine distemper virus infection, and now a guideline has been prepared by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

dogs in the area around national parks. A lot of NGOs have started animal birth control programmes. They need more support from the government," says Dr. Jimmy Borah, Consultant, Species Conservation and Law Enforcement, Panthera, and the corresponding author of the paper. "The disease needs to be recognised and more targeted studies need to be initiated to collect baseline data on CDV from wherever they are reported from in wild carnivores. Understanding the role of domestic animals as contribu-

tors to a local CDV reservoir is imperative precursor in considering control measures."

Blood samples

The study was done from July to August 2015 when the team visited villages (in a 4 km radius) around the Ranthambore National Park and collected blood samples from over 100 dogs. The results showed that 86% of the studied dogs had CDV antibodies in their blood. These dogs wander into the forest along with the humans, and there

have been cases where leopards have hunted these dogs. "Studies from Russia and Africa have shown that small, isolated wildlife populations are more susceptible and when the virus transmits from one species to another the disease manifestation is worse," adds Dr. Borah.

Easier route

"The easy way out is prevention. Managing any disease in a wildlife population is extremely difficult. Most dogs are free ranging and not owned by any particular person in the village. The government should take the initiative to vaccinate the dogs around wildlife sanctuaries in the country. This would be a good time to vaccinate against rabies as well. It is an investment that requires time and effort but increasing herd immunity will reduce chances of disease spillover to wildlife," says Nadesha Sidhu, first author of the work. She was a researcher with the World Wide Fund for Nature-India when the work was done and is now a consultant for Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru.

Ms. Sidhu says there were only a few CDV suspected cases in India when she started her work in 2015, and so was considered not important. But with the CDV confirmed deaths of lions in Gir, more attention has been drawn to the disease. She hopes more studies are conducted to get countywide data on the disease prevalence so that necessary prevention guidelines can be laid out.



**Bonding:** Eye contact has an important role in dog-human relationships. ■ S. RAMESH KURUP

## Eyes of the beholder and the beheld

It is not how the dog looks, but how he 'puppy looks' at his owner



### SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

A recent report described the remarkable prowess of a female dog in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. She could sniff the presence of poachers of the rhinoceros and tigers and warned the forest officials about it. The officials named it Quarmy since she was equal to a quarter of an army. Likewise two dogs named Nirman and Myna sniffed the presence of tigers and their poachers in the Madhya Pradesh forests.

Keen senses

Dogs belong to the wolf family and have inherited a keen sense of smell and vision from them. Wolves have over 300 million smell receptors compared to just 6 million in humans and can smell the presence of someone 3 kilometres away. And they have sharper vision and hearing – they can hear their prey 10 km away. Dogs have inherited these senses of smell, sight and hearing. We know of how dogs sniff malaria and even cancer in humans (see earlier article on 9-12-2018). Happily enough, dogs are tamer than wolves and can be domesticated. A recent report by a team of researchers from UK and USA describes yet another feature of dogs, namely how a dog's facial muscles have evolved over the years as they were domesticated and that their ability to raise their eyebrows resembles ours. This ability, argue the researchers, have triggered their nurturing by humans, making dogs our "best friends" (Kaminski et al., Evolution of facial muscle anatomy in dogs, *PNAS*, 116: 14677-81, July 16, 2019).

Dogs were domesticated about 33,000 years ago. As they were domesticated by us, we started selecting and preferring those that better matched our relationships. Such selections have involved the ability of dogs that are able to read and use our communications better than other animals are not able to. As the authors point out: "dogs are more skilful in using humans communicative cues like pointing gestures or gaze direction even than human's closest living relative chimpanzees."

Eye contact has turned out to be an important contribution to the dog-human relationship. A Japanese group points out that mutual gaze between dogs and human leads to biochemical changes both in the owner and the pet dog, and an attachment akin to that between a mother and her infant! To quote the researchers again: "The most likely evolutionary scenario is that dog's ancestor must have, to some extent, expressed characteristics that elicited care-giving response from humans. Humans then consciously or unconsciously favoured and therefore selected for those characteristic leading to the analogous adaptations in dogs today".

Mutual gaze

And of these, mutual eye contact and gazing has been an important contribution. Dog owners know only too well how moving the gaze of their pet is – sometimes so sad that they need to be hugged, and some other time so upsetting that you want punish them. The UK-USA group has done particular research on how the facial muscles and the anatomy of dogs have been selectively evolved to contribute to this mutual eye contact and the "language" expressed in such gazes. We humans favour dogs that show "paedomorphic" (infant-like) features like large forehead, large eyes and so on. The team has also shown that a particular set of facial muscles make the eyebrows raise and lower, which is appealing to us humans.

In order to determine whether domestication has shaped facial muscles to facilitate dog-human communications, the researchers compared in detail the facial anatomical features of domestic dogs on the one hand and grey wolves on the other. Compared to dogs, wolves are unable to raise the inner part of their eyebrows. Also, while dogs have a muscle that pulls the eyelid towards the ear, wolves are not able to. Dogs are also able to produce eyebrow movements that are more frequent and expressive. These are what people call the "Puppy Dog" eye movements – sad, happy, don't care, and other expressions remarkably similar to human infants. There is no such "Puppy Wolf" movement of the eyebrow. And this puppy dog movement of the facial muscle anatomy has come about thanks to selection pressure in breeding based on human preferences.

The best dog need not be the cutest or the most beautiful. It is the one that looks at you and you return. The look is mutual affection. In the California annual contest called the World's Ugliest Dog, the winner in 2019 is "Scamp the Tramp", one with beady eyes, no teeth, short stubby legs, and his owner Ms Yvonne Morones is justly proud of him. It is not how the dog looks, but how he "Puppy Looks" at his owner and she at him. Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder and the beheld.

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**Spiny neurons:** Pyramidal neuron from the medial prefrontal cortex of a rat, showing the dendritic spines.

first day. The control groups in both cases were not subjected to the stress treatment and were only given the fear formation and extinction treatments.

The results showed that when fear memories were formed after stress treatment, both acquisition and overcoming the fear were impaired.

In a separate experiment, the morphological effects of stress were studied by studying eight rats. Four of these were controls and four were subjected to stress. After 10 days, the rats were sacrificed and thin slices of their brains were examined.

The researchers studied and counted the dendritic spines on specific neurons in the two sets of animals. Dendritic spines are contact points where a neuron communicates with other neu-

rons. "We found that due to stress, the number of dendritic spines increases in the amygdala [where fear memory is formed], but decreases in the infralimbic area [where memory reversal happens] of the medial prefrontal cortex," explains Prabham Chakraborty from NCBS and the first author of the paper.

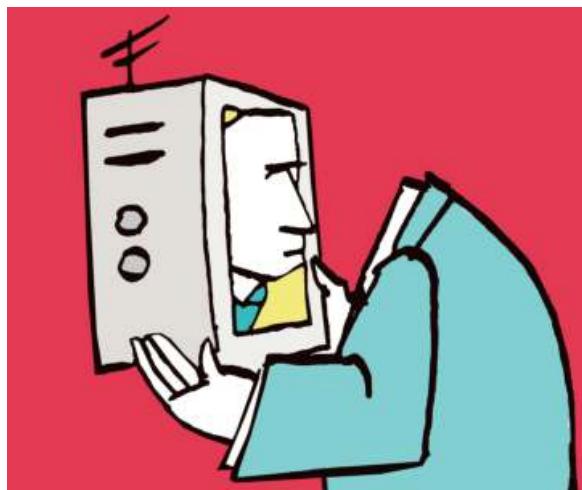
**Effect on neurons**  
An increase in the number of dendritic spines is seen as an increase in the capacity of the neuron to communicate with other neurons. This strengthens the functioning of that neuron. So the above morphology experiment shows that stress acts in two ways. It not only increases the capacity of neurons involved in fear memory formation but also decreases the capacity of the neurons involved in memory reversal, thereby making it

doubly difficult to erase the fear memory.

"While these results are pretty novel and add an entirely new dimension to earlier research, we feel that our findings are quite robust for several reasons," says Dr. Chakraborty. According to him, an important reason is that the analysis of cells in different brain regions involved in these behaviours also undergo structural changes that are consistent with the results of the behavioural experiments.

One of the main challenges was to train the animals and execute the experiments flawlessly over a long time. "Experiments in animal behaviour are often susceptible to the finest fluctuations in something as trivial as handling the animals. Extreme care was needed to avoid unnecessary experimental confounds," says Mr Chakraborty.

whose lab the study was conducted. The results are published in the journal *Psychopharmacology*. In a pair of experiments that studied the behavioural aspects, the rats were taught to fear a 20-second-long tone of approximately 70 decibels. Later, they were subjected to same stress for 10 days but here the fear memories were formed. Another group was subjected to same stress for 10 days but here the fear memories were formed on the



## Unreal spectacle on the screen

Reality TV projects false values

DIVYA GRACE

Drama, jealousy, tears, overrated comedy and underrated values – reality TV has it all. Nothing seems to bring viewers greater joy than to watch fellow human beings being humiliated and reduced to tears in front of millions. Does reality TV have a negative impact on the younger generation? Should it be banned?

First, reality TV shows are usually far from reality. People take advantage of the word “real” and use it as a green flag to say and do whatever they want on TV. It may seem like a peek into real human nature, but all the drama shown on screen is simply a result of clever editing. One cannot be natural when being filmed. Modern technology has distorted the lines between what is real and what is not, and reality TV is the finest example of it.

Reality TV projects false values and standards. The people, especially teenagers, who watch such shows may be influenced into rethinking their own values and strive to change their lifestyles, aiming for an unattainable and fake benchmark. This may, in turn, cause them to starve themselves to become thinner or try to squeeze their legs into a pair of jeans that is at least three sizes too small. These efforts not only harm them physically but also mentally and emotionally, when they realise that they can't meet the standards on TV and resign themselves into thinking that they are not “good enough”.

**Inappropriate ideas**  
A “no boundaries” reality TV show can illustrate some inappropriate and uncomfortable ideas. Most of these shows start and end with bad language, and the “behind the scenes” gossip, which is supposed to give you an insight into a character, is just an excuse for gossip. This type of behaviour can influence the younger generation who are always anxious to seek out role models. These shows manipulate them into thinking that such behaviour is acceptable, leading to many social problems among their peers.

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In conclusion, reality TV shows encourage people to chase after false hopes and dreams, all in bad taste. Without such shows, society will be happier and healthier with a broader outlook towards life.

Was it when we made our children feel like a failure when they scored less in a

test and seeded the thought that life was a competition?

Was it when we taught our boys that it was shameful to be human and cry their feelings out?

Was it when we gave our pride and ego more priority over a relationship with a loved one?

Was it when we portrayed that to succeed in life meant

to hoard loads of money and give up on every other aspect of life?

Was it when the real learnings and experiences in life didn't matter anymore unless you had a degree from one of the top universities?

Was it when we started believing that everyone else's lives was better by looking at the social media stories and statuses?

Was it when we were taught too much science and logic, that we forgot we are emotional beings?

As we are in the age where we are told to “live our lives

to the fullest” or “to follow our passion” or “to be happy and positive no matter what”...

Somewhere along the way, we forgot to love without expectations, to care without demands and to give without getting.

As the lines between right and wrong and black and white blur and merge into grey, the grey matter of my mind pushes me further into the whirlwind of thoughts and I end up asking the most dreaded, unanswerable question: “What is the purpose of this life?”

Before I reach my breaking point, the ringtone of my phone brings me back to reality. As I pick up and hear his sleepy voice at the other end, all my worries on existential crisis vanish. I realise, at the end or beginning of the day, all we need to survive is a little more love than the previous day until it begins to overturn all the hate in the world.

Personal space is important. Never breach this barrier when man is in “commune” with nature lest you regret it for the rest of your life. It could even change the course of life. For instance, in Hindu mythology, if Sita had not crossed the Lakshman Rekha (the boundary of her personal space drawn by her brother-in-law, which may lead to controversy if done today), we would have had a different story alto-

gether without the war and other legendary exploits.

That is not to say that personal space can never be breached. There is the matter of consent. You cannot invade a person's space without permission. People often fail to understand the significance behind personal space. Often, the violators do not know that they are violating. Even worse is when the person whose personal space is being breached, does not know it. This often happens to children. So they need to be taught how to identify the breaches. The same goes for cyberspace.

The invasion of a person's privacy is caused by ignorance, thoughtlessness, spite or stupidity. The earlier people know this, the better the virtual world will become.

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

W

hy do couples decide to separate after 25 years of marriage? Why do so many teenagers run away from home every year? What do modern, advanced nations compete for? What holds all matter together, gives it shape, size and feel?

One of the definitions of space is “an unoccupied expanse or area”. In another use, the word is found in “I think I need some space”, “I have no space at all” and other such declarations. But can you imagine a world without space, in any of its connotations? And what about a world without personal space? I am sure most teenagers might just lose their minds if asked just to think about it.

Personal space is important. Never breach this barrier when man is in “commune” with nature lest you regret it for the rest of your life. It could even change the course of life. For instance, in Hindu mythology, if Sita had not crossed the Lakshman Rekha (the boundary of her personal space drawn by her brother-in-law, which may lead to controversy if done today), we would have had a different story alto-

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The invasion of a person's privacy is caused by ignorance, thoughtlessness, spite or stupidity. The earlier people know this, the better the virtual world will become.

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## Toothsome kachoris with a stuffing of serendipity

When the mind plays games with you, it can sometimes be for a little side trip to fortune

SUDHIR VOMBATKERE

I make a “to-do” list whenever I go out so that I don't miss out any chores, which may, otherwise, necessitate additional trips. You know, “bank”, “vegetables” and such.

We love Gujarati snacks such as papri, ganthia and khakra, and stock these purchased from Mansukhlal's shop not far from home. Asha had asked me to buy papri, four 100-gram packets, and I dutifully wrote “Mansukhlal” on my list.

There were other tasks, each involving searching for a parking space and walking to the place of business. In the day's planned “circuit”, I parked some distance from Mansukhlal's and ambled

across. There were some customers at the counter, and it took a little time to meet the proprietor and exchange pleasantries with him. He asked what I would like to buy. I could not for the life of

**Forgetfulness is ‘normal’ with advancing age...**

me recall what it was I had come for, and noticing my confusion, he gently said, “Don't worry, take your time. This happens to all of us.”

I took the “to-do” list from my pocket, but all it said was “Mansukhlal”.

There were others waiting, so after a minute or two I told him I would do some other chores and come back

when I recall what it was I needed. And off I went to the bank where I got my passbook updated after waiting in the longish queue at the updating machine. After that I went, passbook in hand, to meet the manager to remind her I needed Form 16 to file my return.

When I eventually got back to Mansukhlal's, I discovered that I had left my passbook on the bank manager's table. Damn! I'll pick it up the next time I go there, if it doesn't get misplaced or lost, I thought. I entered Mansukhlal's and without hesitation ordered four kachoris. These packed and paid for, I drove home.

As I was parking, I received a jolt as papri suddenly came to mind. Gosh, now

Asha is going to give me a lecture!

I went up to our flat, let myself in with my key, and quietly placed the purchases on the kitchen counter before announcing my return.

Asha's response was, “You didn't take my call! What were you doing?” I apologised, “I put my phone on 'silent' yesterday at the music performance, I forgot to restore the ring. Sorry I didn't

take your call.”

She said, “I was calling to tell you we already had papri in the cupboard. Now I don't know what we'll do with so much papri.” I smiled to myself. Asha loves kachoris!

Forgetfulness is “normal” with advancing age, but thankfully, kachoris are every bit as tasty as papri.

Pushing 80, I once told my visiting son that I must remember to get some things urgently done, because I did not know how much longer I had to live.

Prompt came his reply:

“No hurry, daddy, you'll live to be a hundred. Only the good die young.”

And we laughed together for a long time.

sg9kere@live.com



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

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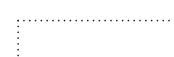
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### More on the Web

thehindu.com/opinion/open-page

**Why the apathy towards cleanliness?**

A culture of cleanliness and tidiness must be inculcated from an early age

D.B.N. MURTHY

**When diet eats the mind**

The big debate at homes these days is what to eat.

SEETHA JAYAKUMAR

**A thought for talent**

An education policy should identify, nurture and capitalise on the nation's talent

AJAY CHANDRA  
ARKALGUD RAMAPRASAD



## Unreal spectacle on the screen

Reality TV projects false values

DIVYA GRACE

As instant noodles, “instant stars” are all the rage now. The standards of acting and clean, fun television have dropped drastically. The people who appear on reality TV are usually unprofessional and though this may seem to make the whole thing more real, it couldn't be further from the truth. Since these people are not used to the spotlight, they don't know how to handle stressful situations and how to cope with

**Reality TV has taken away the real purpose of watching television – breaking away from the harsh reality**

The group makes my birthday extra special. I am elated to receive over 40 messages when I check my phone in the morning, and by night, the figure touches 100. But my happiness is short-lived as I am confronted with a difficult question: how do I thank everyone? My heart wants to acknowledge all who wished me, but I am lazy.

A friend suggested that we need software to help us write everyone's name with ease, élan, speed and dexterity. Just click a button and all the names pop up. But can software really help us do this?

Then, there is a chatterbox in the group, but I don't know her name. I wish to call another batch mate to ask her name. But I know his frivolous suspicions. He may post openly on the group – hey, what's the plan?

Several Sanjays and Viveks are there in the group. How do I address each of them individually? Use the first name for one Sanjay and the last name for another? But I feel offended when an acquaintance addresses me by my last name.

Then, there is a chattybox in the group, but I don't know her name. I wish to call another batch mate to ask her name. But I know his frivolous suspicions. He may post openly on the group – hey, what's the plan?

And my dear room mate in the academy's hostel hasn't wished me. Last year, I was the first to wish him. Two months ago, when an article of his was published in a national daily, I didn't wish him. I wonder if he is upset. But I decided

to err on the side of caution and included his name on the list. But again, I thought – acknowledging an article is different from wishing on a birthday. You would write 10 articles a year and expect me to wish you 10 times a year. However,

you would wish me only once a year on my birthday. Not fair.

And that beautiful girl, she is a silent spectator. She won't wish me ever. But she never wished anyone; I am no exception. That is my solace.

But there are many other known-anonymous fellows. They love to be in the game but don't want to play.

And that one. He was the first one who I met at the academy. I was shy but he was full of warmth. I was hesitant but he shared all his personal details at the very first meeting. But he just wrote HBD. What does this abbreviation mean – Hyderabad? Thank God, he wrote my full name after HBD. Maybe, he would have abbreviated my name too. He has changed. But let him change. I would include his name too on the thanks list.

And this lazy bum. He was nowhere till I laboured to make the list. But just after I posted it, he writes his best wishes on the group. He rather needs to be ignored for being lazy in wishing me. But, I am confused. Software won't really solve my birthday problems.

tajendraluthra@rediffmail.com

to the fullest” or “to follow our passion” or “to be happy and positive no matter what”...

Somewhere along the way, we forgot to love without expectations, to care without demands and to give without getting.

As the lines between right and wrong and black and white blur and merge into grey, the grey matter of my mind pushes me further into the whirlwind of thoughts and I end up asking the most dreaded, unanswerable question: “What is the purpose of this life?”

Was it when we started believing that everyone else's lives was better by looking at the social media stories and statuses?

Was it when we were taught too much science and logic, that we forgot we are emotional beings?

As we are in the age where we are told to “live our lives

to the fullest” or “to follow our passion” or “to be happy and positive no matter what”...

Somewhere along the way, we forgot to love without expectations, to care

# Saini sizzles on debut as India draws first blood in T20I series

After restricting the Caribbean side to 95, the Men in Blue make heavy weather of the small target before scampering home in the 18th over

## INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAUDERHILL (USA)

Debutant pacer Navdeep Saini claimed three wickets in an impressive spell as India restricted the West Indies to a paltry 95 for nine and in reply, kept losing wickets at regular intervals before crossing the finish line in the 18th over, in the first T20I here on Saturday.

After losing Shikhar Dhawan cheaply, Rohit Sharma and skipper Virat Kohli added 28 before the vice-captain fell to Sunil Narine. Rishabh Pant was out off the next delivery, going for a big hit.

However, Kohli (19), Manish Pandey (19) and Krunal Pandey (12) chipped in before Ravindra Jadeja (10 not out) Washington Sundar (eight not out) took the team home. Washington finished the match in style with a six off Paul.

### Bowlers to the fore

Opting to field, all the six Indian bowlers got at least a wicket, with Saini returning figures of three for 17 on his debut. India was also helped by the reckless approach of the West Indies batsmen.

There was no substantial partnership in the West Indies innings, the highest being 34 between captain Carlos Brathwaite (nine) and top-scorer Kieron Pollard (49) for the sixth wicket. Nicholas Pooran (20) was the only other West Indian to touch double digits.

### Miserable start

India opened the bowling with off-spinner Washington (one for 18) and got a wicket

off the second ball when John Campbell slapped straight to Krunal Pandya at deep midwicket.

The other opener, Evin Lewis, fell in the second over as Bhuvneshwar Kumar (two for 19) beat him with a knuckle ball and rattled his timber. Both the openers failed to open their account as the West Indies was reduced to eight for two.

### Aggressive approach

Despite this, West Indies continued to be aggressive in its approach and Saini exploited the situation by claiming two wickets off two balls in the fifth over.

Pollard and Brathwaite curbed their attacking instincts for a while and played some sensible cricket, adding 34 runs.

Brathwaite and Sunil Narine were dismissed in the 15th and 16th overs as West Indies could not even reach 100 despite Pollard's 49.

## SCOREBOARD WEST INDIES VS INDIA, 1ST T20I

### WEST INDIES

John Campbell c Krunal b Washington O (2b), Evin Lewis b Bhuvneshwar O (4b), Nicholas Pooran c Pant b Saini 20 (16, 1x4, 2x6), Kieron Pollard lbw b Saini 49 (4b, 2x4, 4x6), Shimron Hetmyer b Saini 0 (1b), Rovman Powell c Pant b Khaleel 4 (5b, 1x4), Carlos Brathwaite c & b Krunal 9 (24b), Sunil Narine c Khaleel b Jadeja 2 (4b), Keemo Paul c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 3 (11b), Sheldon Cottrell (not out) 0 (1b), Oshane Thomas (not out) 0 (3b); Extras (w-8); Total (for nine wkt., in 20 overs): 95.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Campbell, 0.2 overs), 2-8 (Lewis, 1.6), 3-28 (Pooran, 4.4), 4-28 (Hetmyer, 4.5), 5-33 (Powell, 5.6), 6-67 (Brathwaite, 14.2), 7-70 (Narine, 15.1), 8-88 (Paul, 18.1), 9-95 (Pollard, 19.3).

### INDIA BOWLING

Washington 2-0-18-1, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-19-2, Saini 4-1-17-3, Khaleel 2-0-8-1, Krunal 4-1-20-1, Jadeja 4-1-13-1.

### INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Pollard b Narine 24 (25b, 2x4, 2x6), Shikhar Dhawan lbw b Cottrell 1 (7b), Virat Kohli c Pollard b Cottrell 19 (29b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant c Cottrell 0 (1b), Manish Pandey b Paul 19 (14b, 2x4), Krunal Pandya b Paul 12 (14b, 1x4), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 10 (9b), Washington Sundar (not out) 8 (5b, 1x6); Extras (w-5); Total (for six wkt., in 17.2 overs): 98.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Dhawan, 1.6), 2-32 (Rohit, 6.3), 3-32 (Pant, 6.4), 4-64 (Pandey, 11.4), 5-69 (Kohli, 13.5), 6-88 (Krupal, 15.6).

### WEST INDIES BOWLING

Thomas 4-0-29-0, Cottrell 4-0-20-2, Narine 4-0-14-2, Paul 3-2-0-23-2, Brathwaite 2-0-12-0.

### Toss:

India. **Man-of-the-Match:** Saini.

**India won by four wickets with 16 balls to spare and leads three-match series 1-0.**



Jump of joy: Navdeep Saini is on cloud nine after breaching the defence of Shimron Hetmyer.

## STAT SPHERE

1 Saini is the first Indian bowler, and fourth overall, to bowl a 20th over maiden in a T20I. Jeetan Patel (NZ), Mohd. Amir (Pak) and Janak Prakash (Singapore) are the others to have achieved the feat earlier. Janak, too, did it on his debut.

1 The first time

India got both

the opposition

openers for a duck in T20Is

2 Saini is the

second Indian

to claim two

wickets in his first over in T20Is after Pragyan Ojha (vs Ban, Trent Bridge, 2009)

2 Number of times the West Indian openers have been dismissed for ducks in T20Is. The earlier instance involved Gayle and Walton (vs NZ, Mount Maunganui, 2018)

3 This is the third successive sub-

100 total posted by West Indies

45/10 (11.5) vs England, Basseterre, St. Kitts

71/10 (13) vs England, Basseterre, St. Kitts

95/9 (20) vs India, Lauderhill

9 Number of occasions India has dismissed/restricted an opponent to a sub-100 total in T20Is

Pollard (49) missed a chance to score his first T20I half-century since 2012



## KOHLI SAYS...

Saini is a raw talent, has raw pace. He is one of them who can bowl 150 clicks. He is someone who can build a name for himself and he is hungry as well. Hopefully he builds on from here

Our bowling and fielding were right up there but the pitch wasn't great. With the rain around, you could not do much. They did well to start the game on time

We would have liked to chase it four down, but we wanted to take risks and [keep] the scoreboard moving. As the ball got older, strike rotation became key

# Australia on the backfoot at Edgbaston

Looks to Smith to bail it out again; Woakes-Broad stand frustrates the visitors

## THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BIRMINGHAM

Australia was left hoping for another major innings from Steve Smith as England took charge of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston on Saturday.

When bad light cut short the third day's play, Australia was 124 for three in its second innings – a lead of just 34.

Former captain Smith, who had made a superb 144 in the first innings, was batting on 46 along with Travis Head (21), their stand worth 49.

Australia, looking to win its first series away to England in 18 years, was struggling at 27 for two after openers David Warner and Cameron Bancroft both fell cheaply.

Smith, on 41, was struck on the side of the head after missing a pull off a Stokes bouncer, but was passed fit to bat on by the Australia team doctor.

### The slump

Earlier, England opener Rory Burns batted for nearly eight hours for 133 – his maiden Test hundred – in an innings of 374 featuring half-centuries from captain Joe Root (57) and vice-captain Stokes (50).

England lost three wickets



Big boost: Woakes and Broad's ninth-wicket stand gave England a 90-run lead. ■ ACTION IMAGES

## SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS ENGLAND

### Australia – 1st innings: 284.

England – 1st innings: Rory Burns c Paine b Lyon 133, Jason Roy c Smith b Patterson 10, Joe Root c & b Siddle 57, Joe Denly lbw b Patterson 18, Jos Buttler c Bancroft b Cummins 5, Ben Stokes c Paine b Cummins 50, Jonny Bairstow c Warner b Siddle 8, Moeen Ali b Lyon 0, Chris Woakes (not out) 37, Stuart Broad c Patterson b Cummins 29, James Anderson c Cummins b Lyon 3, Extras (b-10, lb-11, nb-1, w-2): 24; Total (in 135.5 overs) 374.

### Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-154, 3-189, 4-194, 5-282, 6-296, 7-300, 8-300, 9-365.

### England bowling: Broad 6-26; Woakes 6-1-20-0; Moeen 9-0-47-1; Root 3-0-12-0; Stokes 7-2-18-1.

### Australia bowling: Cummins 33-9-84-3, Patterson 27-8-2, Siddle 27-8-52-2, Lyon 43.5-8-112-3, Wade 1-0-7-0, Head 2-1-7-0, Smith 2-0-9-0.

### Australia – 2nd innings: C. Bancroft c Buttler b Moeen 7, D. Warner c Bairstow b Broad 8, U. Khawaja c Bairstow b Stokes 40, S. Smith (batting) 46, T. Head (batting) 21; Extras (b-1, nb-1): 2; Total (for three wkt., in 31 overs): 124.

### Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-27, 3-75.

### England bowling: Broad 6-0-26-1; Woakes 6-1-20-0; Moeen 9-0-47-1; Root 3-0-12-0; Stokes 7-2-18-1.

# India-A makes it 2-0 with seven-wkt. win

Mayank, Panchal, Abhimanyu and Anmolpreet come up with good knocks

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PORT OF SPAIN

Openers Mayank Agarwal and Priyank Panchal struck fine half-centuries as India-A registered a comfortable seven-wicket win over West Indies-A in the second 'Test' here on Saturday.

Chasing 278, Mayank made 81 off 134 balls while Panchal scored 68 off 121 de-

liveries to set up the victory on the final day of the four-day match.

### Opening stand

Mayank and Panchal shared 150 runs for the opening wicket to set the platform for India-A's chase.

Abhimanyu Easwaran also chipped in with an unbeaten 62 while Anmolpreet

Singh contributed an undefeated 51 as India-A reached 281 for three in 79.1 overs to win the match and take a 2-0 lead in the series.

India-A didn't lose any wicket in the first session and was just 33 shy of victory at lunch.

India-A resumed the final day at 185 for three.

Earlier, off-spinner Krish-

nappa Gowtham took five wickets as West Indies-A was bowled out for 149.

### The scores:

West Indies-A 318 & 149 in 39.5 overs (S. Ambris 71, Sandeep Warrier three for 43, Krishnappa Gowtham five for 17) lost to India-A 190 & 281 for three in 50 overs (Mayank Agarwal 81, Priyank Panchal 68, Abhimanyu Easwaran 62 n.o., Anmolpreet Singh 51 n.o.).

## Tyagi, Jaiswal star for colts

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHELMSFORD

The India under-19 team edged out England under-19 by one wicket in their tri-series match here on Saturday.

Put in to bat, England was all out for 204 in 49.5 overs with pacer Purnank Tyagi producing a fine spell (five for 33).

India chased down the target with 13.3 overs to spare as opener Yashavini Jaiswal top-scored with 78 off 82 deliveries. Hamidullah Qadri took five for 61 for England.

The scores: England under-19 204 in 49.5 overs (George Hill 46, Purnank Tyagi five for 33) lost to India under-19 205 for nine in 36.3 overs (Yashavini Jaiswal 78, Hamidullah Qadri five for 61).

India under-19 205 for nine in 36.3 overs (Yashavini Jaiswal 78, Hamidullah Qadri five for 61).

## No way out



Overwhelmed: Jang Kun Lee of Patna Pirates is swamped by Jaipur Pink Panthers defenders. Panthers posted a 34-21 win in the first match of the Patna leg of ProKabaddi League Season-7. In the second match, Bengaluru Bulls pipped Bengal Warriors 43-42. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

# U Mumba books semifinal berth, pushes Paltan to the brink



The propeller: Kirill Gerassimenko caused a flutter when he stunned Chuang Chih-Yuan.

COURTESY UTT

## UTT

### RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

# Satwiksairj and Chirag create history

First Indian duo in final of Super 500

## THAILAND OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BANGKOK

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Saturday became the first Indian team to enter the summit clash of a BWF Super 500 tournament with a 22-20, 22-24, 21-9 win over Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheol in the Thailand Open semifinals here on Saturday.

The World No. 16 Indian team prevailed over the 19th-ranked Koreans after battling for 63 minutes.

It is the first final of the 2019 season for Satwiksairaj and Chirag, men's doubles silver medallists at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The unseeded Indian combination will face third seeds Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen of China in the summit clash on Sunday.

### Slow start

Satwiksairaj and Chirag were slow off the blocks, but kept pace at 11-10 at the break. After the break, the

Indians lifted their game and drew parity at 13 apiece before surging ahead 20-18.

But Hyun and Cheol pocketed two consecutive points to draw level at 20-20.

The Indians kept their composure and earned two crucial points to take the first game.

It was the other way round in the second game as the Indians took a 3-0 lead.

### Smart play

The Koreans, however, fought back with some smart play at the net and overhead smashes to lead 11-9 at the break, which they later extended to 19-12.

But the Indians looked in no mood to surrender as they clawed back to make it 20-20.

The pairs fought tooth and nail before the Koreans eventually pocketed the second game 24-22.

In the final game, it was a cakewalk for the Indians as their Korean rivals failed to sustain the tempo.



**Keeping the flag flying:** Chirag Shetty, left, and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy will hope to become the first Indian combination to win a Super 500 title. • FILE PHOTO

# Verstappen clinches maiden career pole

Bottas second and Hamilton third; Leclerc hits barriers but will still start fourth



**Raging bull:** Verstappen's success sparked celebrations among his large following of Dutch fans in the grandstands. • AFP

## HUNGARIAN GP

REUTERS  
BUDAPEST

Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrated a long-overdue first Formula One pole position at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Saturday, with championship leader Lewis Hamilton qualifying third for Mercedes.

Instead of Hamilton taking a record-equalling seventh pole in Hungary, and 88th of his career, the Dutch 21-year-old wrote his name in the record books as the sport's 100th driver to secure a pole.

"This feels good, this feels really good," he shouted over the team radio after a roar had gone up from his massed supporters.

Finland's Valtteri Bottas, 41 points behind Hamilton after 11 of the races, qualified alongside Verstappen on the front row of the grid.

### 'Incredible'

After stepping out of the car, Verstappen said: "It's incredible. This one was still missing. For me, today was an important one, a very nice

### Max's day out

■ Verstappen's maiden career pole, in his 93rd attempt. Becomes the first Dutchman to take pole

■ Red Bull's pole position is its fourth in almost six years, and the first time this season

■ Verstappen is the 100th driver to take pole in F1 history. It comes 11 years to the day since Heikki Kovalainen became the 100th man to win a Formula One race, at the same track!

■ It is the first pole for a Honda-powered engine since 2006

one and a great one for the team."

The youngster has already savoured seven career victories, including two in the last three races, and the pole came on his 93rd attempt.

Already the only Dutch driver ever to win a championship Grand Prix, he became the first to take a pole – which was also a first for a Honda-powered car since Australia 2006 with Britain's now-retired Jenson Button.

"It's an incredible feeling to get your first pole so I'm

really happy for him," said Hamilton, who won in Hungary last year from pole.

### Damages

Charles Leclerc was the quicker of the two Ferrari drivers in fourth place, despite smashing backwards into the tyre wall during the first phase and damaging his car's rear wing, forcing a quick change.

Teammate Sebastian Vettel will line up fifth, with Red Bull's Pierre Gasly sixth and McLaren's Lando Norris the best of the rest in seventh.

### STARTING GRID

Front row: Max Verstappen and Valtteri Bottas; Second: Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc;

Third: Sebastian Vettel and Pierre Gasly; Fourth: Lando Norris and Carlos Sainz; Fifth: Romain Grosjean and Kimi Raikkonen.

Sixth: Nico Hulkenberg and Alexander Albon; Seventh: Daniil Kvyat and Antonio Giovinazzi; Eighth: Kevin Magnussen and George Russell.

Ninth: Sergio Perez and Daniel Ricciardo; 10th: Lance Stroll and Robert Kubica.

# It's Exclusivenorthwind vs That's My Class

HYDERABAD: Exclusivenorthwind and That's My Class may fight out the finish in the Air Command Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Sunday (August 4).

1. VIKARABAD PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 11:00 p.m.; 1. N R I FLAME (Div. II), 11:00 p.m.; 2. BRAVE WARRIOR (5) Rohit Kumar 59.5, 3. Limousine (I) Afroz Khan 59.5, 4. Shivalik Sand (3) Deepak Singh 59.5, 5. Mossad (2) Ajith Kumar 59. 6. Adamant And Rising (4) G. Naresh 52 and 7. Tuf Emperor (7) Umesh 51.5.

1. N R I FLAME, 2. BRAVE WARRIOR, 3. MOSSAD.

2. SILVERADO PLATE (Div. II), (2,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1:40; 1. Explosive (7) R. Ajinkya 56, 2. My Journey (9) Ashhad Asbar 56, 3. Premier Action (6) Umesh 56, 4. Secret Command (4) N. Rawal 56,

5. Stepper (3) S.G. Prasad 56, 6. Unstoppable (5) Kiran Naidu 56, 7. Carmella (1) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 8. Lesley (2) Ajith Kumar 54.5, 9. Light Music (8) Nakhat Singh 54.5 and 10. Shooter (10) A.A. Vlakrant 52.

1. UNSTOPPABLE, 2. PREMIER ACTION, 3. EXPLOSIVE.

3. TANASHA PLATE (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), (No whips), 2:10; 1. Gusty Look (7) Suraj Narredu 61, 2. Cincia Azzurra (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Et Voici (1) Ajith Kumar 60, 4. Buttonwood (2) Abhay Singh 59.5, 5. Soul Empress (3) R.S. Jodha 57, 6. Moka (5) Jitendra Singh 53.5 and 7. Honourable Guest (5) Afroz Khan 50.

1. SOUL EMPRESS, 2. GUSTY LOOK, 3. CINCIA AZZURRA.

4. WAPANARTHY CUP (Div. II), 4-y-o & over, rated, 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2:45; 1. Southern Crown (4) Surya Prakash 57, 2. Desert Moon (8) Rohit Kumar 54.5, 10. Safra (10) N. Rawal 54.5 and 11. Shivalik Valley

(4) Rohit Kumar 54.5.

1. LINEWILER, 2. SHIVALIK VALLEY, 3. SAFRA.

C AIR COMMAND CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 75 & above (Cat. I), 3:45; 1. Highly Acclaimed (4) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Exclusive Wind (1) Santosh Raj 58, 3. Exclusivenorthwind (2) Koushik 57.5, 4. That's My Class (5) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 5. Moondance (6) Rohit Kumar 56 and 6. Chase Your Dreams (3) Gopal Singh 54.

1. EXCLUSIVENORTHWIND, 2. THAT'S MY CLASS.

7. WANAPARTHY CUP (Div. I), (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4:15; 1. Ashwa Raftar (6) Kunal Bunde 62, 2. Super Dart (9) Suraj Narredu 61.5, 3. Shaquille (7) Kiran Naidu 59, 4. Star Gazer (5) C.P. Bopanna 58.5, 5. King Maker (4) Surya Prakash 57, 6. Platinum (1) G. Naresh 56.5, 7. Desert Moon (8) Rohit Kumar 54.5, 8. The Special One (10) Ak-

shay Kumar 54, 9. Dunkirk (3) Afroz Khan 53.5 and 10. Exclusive Striker (2) Abhay Singh 53.5.

1. SUPER DART, 2. THE SPECIAL ONE, 3. DUNKIRK.

8. NIZAM SAGAR PLATE (2,000m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4:45; 1. Wings Of Eagles (5) B.R. Kumar 60.5, 2. Ashwa Arjun (9) Gaurav Singh 58, 3. Alt Vita (7) Afroz Khan 56.5, 4. Lancashire (3) P. Sai Kumar 55.5, 5. Royal Style (4) R.N. Darshan 55.5, 6. Mr. Shanghai (8) Kuldip Singh 55, 7. Call Of The Blue (2) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 7. Ajmal Birju (6) Gopal Singh 53 and 9. Royal Avenger (1) Ajit Singh 52.5.

1. WINGS OF EAGLE, 2. CALL OF THE BLUE, 3. AJMAL BIRJU.

Day's best: UNSTOPPABLE.

Double: DURANGO – SUPER DART.

1. 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 3, 4 & 5; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

# Lovlina and Neeraj clinch gold in Russia

Solanki gets silver; Indians fetch six medals

## BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Lovlina Borgohain and Neeraj clinched gold medals while Gaurav Solanki bagged a silver as Indian boxers ended their campaign with a rich haul at the Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial International boxing tournament in Kaspiysk, Russia.

The Indian boxers fetched six medals at the tournament, including two golds, one silver and three bronze.

Reigning Asian Championships gold medallist Pooja Rani suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat against home fa-



**Take that!** Lovlina was on guard throughout but never shied away from raining a flurry of punches. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vourite Anna Anfinogenova in the middleweight (75kg) semifinals.

Govind Sahani (49Kg) and Jony (60Kg) also grabbed bronze medals after their scoreline.

# Equestrian Federation fails to meet compliance deadline

The body has sought an exemption but could be de-recognised by the Sports Ministry

## EQUESTRIAN

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

With the passing of the August 3 deadline, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) could join the Indian Golf Union (IGU) as the second army-dominated sports body, in five weeks, to be de-recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

In February, the Ministry made it clear that "without recognition to Equestrian Federation of India is subject to their compliance of Sports Code within the time frame allotted to them i.e. latest by 03.08.2019, failing which their recognition status will be reviewed and action taken as per extant guidelines."

Explaining the EFI's stand to *The Hindu*, its secretary-general Col. R. K. Swain said, "Equestrian cannot be equated with other sports, and hence the parameters applied to other National Sports Federations cannot be applied to EFI."

Swain elaborated, "Since the sport includes an equine athlete [horse] and a human [rider], it is not possible to find them in every district or state."

"In view of the non-availability of horses and riders, the EFI has not been able to downgraded it to associate member status.

"If the Ministry thinks otherwise, it could prove to be a death knell for equestrian in the country."

state associations with 50% of district associations affiliated to them [as stipulated in the Sports Code].

### Club-based sport

"Unlike other disciplines, equestrian is a club-based sport. We have 15 state associations most of them inactive besides over 300 clubs and army units as affiliates of EFI, with two votes each."

"Without the army's support and structure, the sport will die. Private stakeholders can hold dressage and show-jumping. But eventing is something only the army is capable of hosting," declared Swain.

Reinforcing its stand, in the letter to the Ministry, the EFI has mentioned that disciplines like rowing, yachting and winter sports could find it difficult to follow the guidelines of the Sports Code.

"How can you have winter sports in Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh? Is it possible?" asked Swain and continued,

"The Ministry guidelines seek facilities for yachting and rowing in all states. That's not possible. Therefore, till the Sports Code is appropriately revised, the EFI's recognition should continue."

However, given the EFI constitution that allows individual members to vote in contravention of the International Olympic Committee charter, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has already downgraded it to associate member status.

"We have presented our case and now it is up to the Ministry," said Swain.

"If the Ministry thinks otherwise, it could prove to be a death knell for equestrian in the country."

# Three in a row for Rajiv Sethu

Rahil holds nerve to win the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category

## MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER  
CHENNAI

International rider Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing) notched up his third win in a row in the Pro-Stock 165cc class, while Hyderabad's Rahil Shetty (Sparks Racing) held his nerve to pull off a brilliant victory in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category in the third round of the MRF MMRC FMSCI Indian National motorcycle racing championship at the MMRRT here on Saturday.

Impressive wins

Also scoring impressive wins were Bengaluru-based Anish Shetty, who led a podium sweep for Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing in the Pro-Stock 1300cc, and Venkatesan, who topped the Novice (Stock 165cc) race.

Sethu, who missed the first round due to international commitments, is playing catch up as his hat-trick of wins has now taken him to the third position (7

TV PICKS

**Badminton:** Thailand Open: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 a.m.  
**The Ashes:** 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**Formula One:** Hungarian GP: Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.  
**TNPL:** Star Sports 3, 7.15 p.m.  
**UTT:** Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**FA Community Shield:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**West Indies vs India:** 2nd T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.  
**Global T20:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Diksha misses cut at British Open

WOBURN  
Young Indian golfer Diksha Dagar missed the cut at the AIG Women's British Open after carding a disappointing seven-over 79 in the second round, here on Saturday. While she was dejected at missing out on weekend action, Diksha said she was richer in experience after playing two Majors in three weeks. She will tee up at the Scottish Open next.

Interestingly, also missing the cut at 12-over was former World No. 1 Lydia Ko. Ashleigh Buhai of South Africa was on top at 12-under 132. PTI



Learn to deal with scrutiny: Klopp

LIVERPOOL  
Jurgen Klopp says Liverpool must learn to deal with its standing as European champion as it kicks off its campaign against Premier League winner Manchester City in Sunday's Community Shield at Wembley. "I want to be completely focused on a new season. It's very important and we will learn it. But no one gives you a book 'How To Deal With a Champions League win'. You have to do it by yourself and we will do that," he said. AFP



Newcastle signs Maximin and Willems

LONDON  
Newcastle swooped for promising Nice forward Allan Saint-Maximin (in pic) and also signed Eintracht Frankfurt defender Jetro Willems on loan on Friday. Saint-Maximin, a French Under-21 international, moved to the Premier League club on a six-year contract for a fee reported to be £20 million. Newcastle has the option of signing Willems on a permanent basis at the end of the upcoming season. AFP



Rashid withdraws from Yorkshire squad

YORKSHIRE  
England spinner Adil Rashid on Friday withdrew his name from Yorkshire's Vitality Blast due to a shoulder injury. Rashid trained at Emerald Headingley on Thursday and declared himself unfit for a game against Worcestershire on Friday, due to the worsening of the condition of his shoulder. ANI

**Brathwaite to lead St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots**  
BASSETERRE (SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS)  
West Indies T20 skipper Carlos Brathwaite will lead St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the upcoming season of the Caribbean Premier League. Brathwaite will captain the team after former skipper Chris Gayle moved to Jamaica Tallawahs. "I'm very excited! This year is about trying to continue that same thought process," Brathwaite said. ANI

# Looking forward to World Test Championship: Rahane

CAB's Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Arun Lal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

India Test team vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane made the most of a short gap between his stint for Hampshire and the country's two-match Test series in the West Indies by training at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

Rahane, who played his last county match for Hampshire between July 13 and 16, moved to Bengaluru to train under the guidance of his idol Rahul Dravid and prepare for the West Indies Test series, starting on August 22.

"I was doing my fitness. The reason for going to Bengaluru was because it was raining heavily in Mumbai. I trained under Rahul Dravid, he has been one of my role models," said Rahane, who was the chief guest at the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) annual awards function here on Saturday.

Rahane said India could not take the Caribbeans lightly. "We all know they are an unpredictable team. It is important to respect them and play our game. I am looking forward to giving my best."



**Reward:** Ajinkya Rahane presenting a ceremonial jacket of the Lifetime Achievement Award to former Bengal captain Arun Lal as Sourav Ganguly and CAB joint secretary Abhishek Dalmia look on. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

The middle-order batsman was excited about the World Test championship.

"This is something we all are looking forward to. Every Test match and every series

is special and the best thing about Test cricket is you have to follow your routine day in

and day out," he said.

International Arun Lal, who was presented the Kar-

## Semenya's human rights should come before science

It is not an accident that the IAAF refers [only] to unlawful discrimination: Schwab

N. SUDARSHAN  
BENGALURU

For two-time Olympic champion Caster Semenya, the European Court of Human Rights may well be the last court of appeal to overturn the restrictions placed on her by the IAAF to compete as a woman.

The case may come to rest on whether the IAAF's stricture that the South African should medically reduce her testosterone levels to continue competing in select races is a human rights violation.

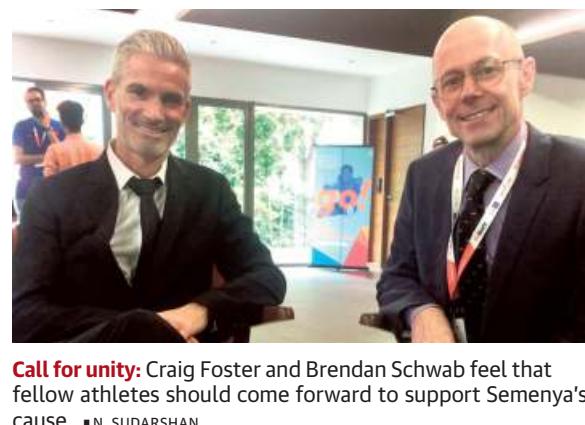
### Starting point

But what's gaining ground is the view that athletes' human rights should be the starting point and not the last resort. It found support at the GoSports Foundation Sports Law & Policy Symposium on Saturday through Brendan Schwab, Executive Director of World Players Association and a leading human rights lawyer, and Craig Foster, a former Australian footballer, whose stellar role helped free Hakeem al-Araibi, an Australian citizen of Bahraini descent who was on the verge of being extradited to Bahrain by Thailand on the basis of dodgy criminal charges.

"There should be a policy commitment to internationally recognised human rights," said Schwab.

### Unethical

"The rights against cruel and inhumane treatment are absolute. If you apply that test, I don't possibly see how the regulations that were pro-



**Call for unity:** Craig Foster and Brendan Schwab feel that fellow athletes should come forward to support Semenya's cause. ■ N. SUDARSHAN

posed to Semenya would be upheld. The World Medical Association said afterwards that it was unethical to prescribe that treatment. That should have been picked up before the regulations were passed."

The fact that the IAAF said it was not subject to any universal declaration of human rights as it was a "private body" hasn't gone down well.

"The CAS can just decide cases with reference to the rules that are there before them. But rules are deliberately narrow," said Schwab.

"It is not an accident that the IAAF refers [only] to unlawful discrimination, because discrimination is not an absolute right. That's their level of commitment.

The term human right does not appear in their constitution and that is not a accident."

"We need constitutional commitments that respect human rights. FIFA has done that, Commonwealth Federation will soon do. If this case had been heard in foot-

ball, I am sure there would have been a very different outcome, irrespective of the science. Because the inquiry will be broad enough that even if some athletes were to be excluded, we could be confident that it would be human rights compatible."

According to Foster it is that legal human rights framework embedded in a small number of sports, including football, that helped secure Hakeem's release.

"Hakeem had the entire international system of law on his side," explained Foster.

"In the IAAF case with Semenya, the notion that a sport can say that it feels no obligation to respect the human right of an individual is staggering."

"We were successful with Hakeem because we united fans and players and they forced the authorities to act. In Semenya's case where are her fellow athletes, the brethren, male or female? If they say 'if you breach her rights, you breach ours,' it would be very different."

## A gold medal is not everything: Bindra

You need to find the right balance, says the ace shooter

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

Winning the men's 10-metre air rifle gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics was the crowning glory of Abhinav Bindra's illustrious career, but it came at a cost.

The shooter believes that he sacrificed his mental peace to achieve this success, and that "gold medal is not everything in life".

Bindra spoke at a discussion titled 'Athletes and mental health', at the 'The Sports Law & Policy Symposium', organised by LawNK and GoSports Foundation here on Saturday.

Bindra was joined on the panel by Sanjeev Jain, NIMHANS professor, and Anisha Padukone, golfer and Direc-

tor, The Live Love Laugh Foundation. The session was moderated by sports journalist Sharda Ugra.

**Mental toll**  
On the mental toll it took to achieve the gold medal dream, Bindra said, "I definitely would not do it over again, and I would not recommend my way to anybody else. I was very passionate about my sport, but I abused my passion. I had a single-minded focus, and while this approach got me success, it is not the right way to do it. A gold medal is not everything in life. I tell athletes that you can abuse talent and passion by not giving it anything, and you can also abuse it by giving too much. If you can find

the right balance, you can deliver to the best of your ability."

Anisha, daughter of badminton legend Prakash Padukone, spoke about handling failure in the face of high expectations. "I grew up in a sporting family. Even though it was not explicitly stated, being exceptional was an in-built, underlying emotion – right from performing menial tasks all the way to our professional careers. One of the challenges for me was to accept that it was okay to fail," Anisha said.

Anisha explained that the

The Live Love Laugh Foundation, founded by her sister and actor Deepika Padukone, aims to help de-stigmatise mental illness.

Messi handed three-month ban

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ASUNCION

Argentina star Lionel Messi was banned from playing for his national team for three months and fined \$50,000 on Friday by CONMEBOL after he heavily criticised the South American football governing body during the Copa America. The 32-year-old Barcelona forward had accused CONMEBOL of "corruption" after he was sent off against Chile during the third-place play-off during the tournament in Brazil, which ended last month.

Messi was angered by two incidents during the June-July Copa hosted by bitter rivals Brazil. Argentina was denied two penalty claims in its 2-0 semifinal defeat to the host, after which Messi claimed Brazil was "managing a lot in CONMEBOL these days." And when he was dismissed in the next game, which Argentina went on to win 2-1, he couldn't contain his anger. "Corruption and the referees are preventing people from enjoying the football," Messi said.

Bose Lifetime Achievement Award, said it was an emotional moment for him.

"The only thing that comes to mind is gratitude. As an outsider, I was embraced immediately. I have got more than I bargained for and more than I deserved," he said.

CAB president Sourav Ganguly said Arun Lal, who played for the Bengal Ranji Trophy-winning side in 1989-90, was an inspiration for every cricketer.

"Under you (as coach), I hope Bengal can win the Ranji Trophy again," said Ganguly.

The State women's team and women's under-23 and under-19 sides – which won National championships – were also felicitated.

**Other award winners:** Cricketer-of-the-Year: Abhimanyu Easwaran.

Fast bowler: Mukesh Kumar;

Under-23 cricketer: Ritwik Roy Chowdhury;

Under-19 cricketer: Karan Lal;

Best woman cricketer: Deepti Sharma;

Best women's under-23 cricketers: Deepti Sharma and Tanushree Sarkar, Best women's under-19 cricketer: Mouli Mondal.

## Divij & Erlich crash out; Kadhe-Myneni win title

SPORTS BUREAU  
LOS CABOS (MEXICO)

Divij Sharan and Jonathan Erlich of Israel lost 6-2, 3-6, [10-3] to Dominic Inglot and Austin Krajicek in the doubles semifinals of the \$858,565 ATP tennis tournament here.

Arjun Kadhe and Saketh Myneni won the doubles title in the \$135,400 Challenger in Chengdu, China, with a 6-2, 3-6, [10-3] win over Koreans Nam Ji Sung and Song Min-Kyu (Kor) 6-3, 0-6, [10-6].

**\$25,000 ITF women, Woking, England:** Final: Sarah Beth Grey & Eden Silva (GBR) bt Naiktha Bains (GBR) & Ankita Raina 6-2, 7-5. **Semifinals:** Naiktha Bains & Ankita Raina bt Vivian Heisen (Ger) & Diana Marcinkewica (Lat) 7-5, 4-6, [10-8].

**The results:** \$858,565 ATP, Los Cabos, Mexico: **Semifinals:** Dominic Inglot (GBR) & Austin Krajicek (USA) bt Jonathan Erlich (Isr)

& Divij Sharan 6-2, 3-6, [10-3].

**\$135,400 Challenger, Chengdu, China:** Final: Arjun Kadhe & Saketh Myneni bt Nam Ji Sung & Song Min-Kyu (Kor) 6-3, 0-6, [10-6].

**\$25,000 ITF women, Chinese Taipei:** Final: Ramu Ueda (Jpn) & Riya Bhatia bt I-Hsuan Cho & Yi Tsien Cho (Tpe) 7-5, 6-2.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Woking, England:** Final: Sarah Beth Grey & Eden Silva (GBR) bt Naiktha Bains (GBR) & Ankita Raina 6-2, 7-5. **Semifinals:** Naiktha Bains & Ankita Raina bt Vivian Heisen (Ger) & Diana Marcinkewica (Lat) 7-5, 4-6, [10-8].

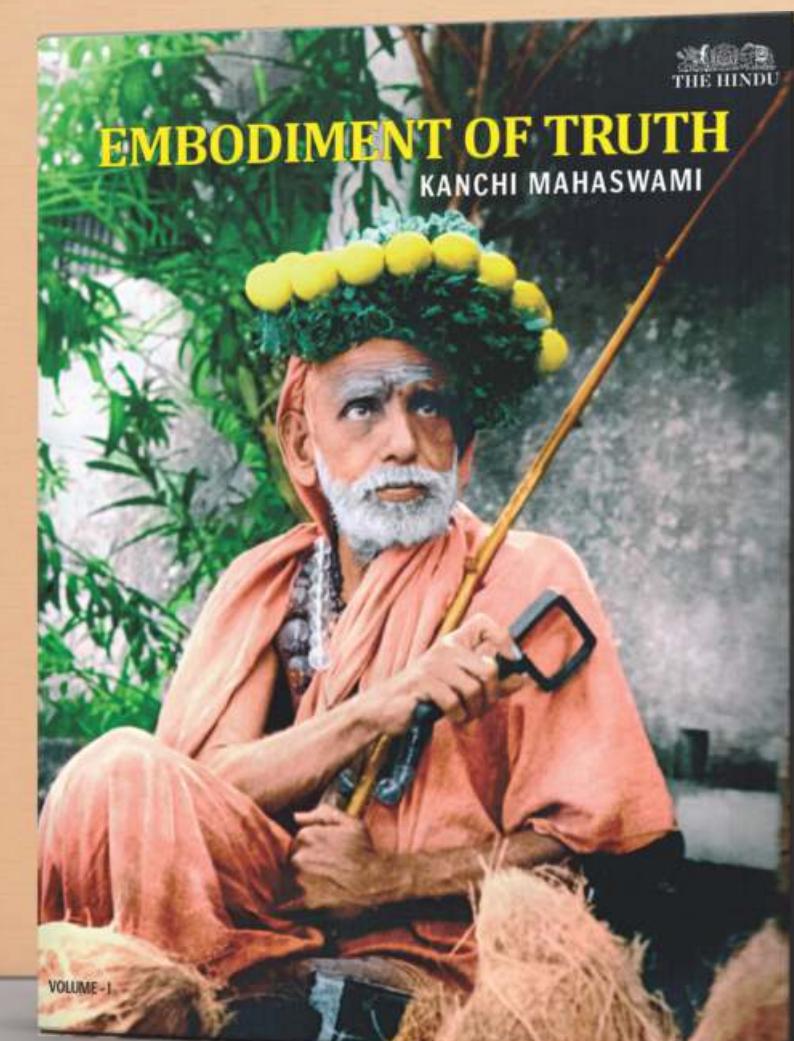
**\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia:** **Semifinals:** Sowjanya & Sravya bt Adelina Baravi & Victoria Mikhaylova (Rus) 7-5, 3-6, [10-6].



Winners: Arjun Kadhe and Saketh Myneni were champions in the \$135,400 Challenger in Chengdu. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## TRANSCENDING TIME

The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters



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## IN BRIEF



**Elvis biopic to release in October 2021**

LOS ANGELES Warner Bros will release the yet-untitled film on legendary singer Elvis Presley on October 1, 2021. Directed by Australian filmmaker Baz Luhrmann, the biographical film will feature Austin Butler in the role of Presley and Tom Hanks as his iconic manager Colonel Tom Parker. The project will be shot at Queensland in Australia. PTI



**Original Lion King animator flays remake**

LOS ANGELES David Stephan, one of the original animators of *The Lion King* (1994), has blasted the remake of the classic Disney film, calling it "cheap". "Disney's now taken the cover off, and it's now in your face: 'Yeah, we just want to make money'. That's disappointing," the animator said. PTI



**Facebook to add name to WhatsApp, Instagram**

SAN FRANCISCO In a step towards merging all its platforms into one unified experience for users, Facebook is adding its name to Instagram and WhatsApp. Instagram will soon become "Instagram from Facebook" and WhatsApp will turn into "WhatsApp from Facebook" and the new titles will be displayed in app stores. IANS

# Canadian iceberg hunter follows 'white gold' in the Atlantic

Chunks of ice are melted and the water sold to local traders who make products for wealthy clients in Europe, Singapore and Dubai

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BONAVENTURE

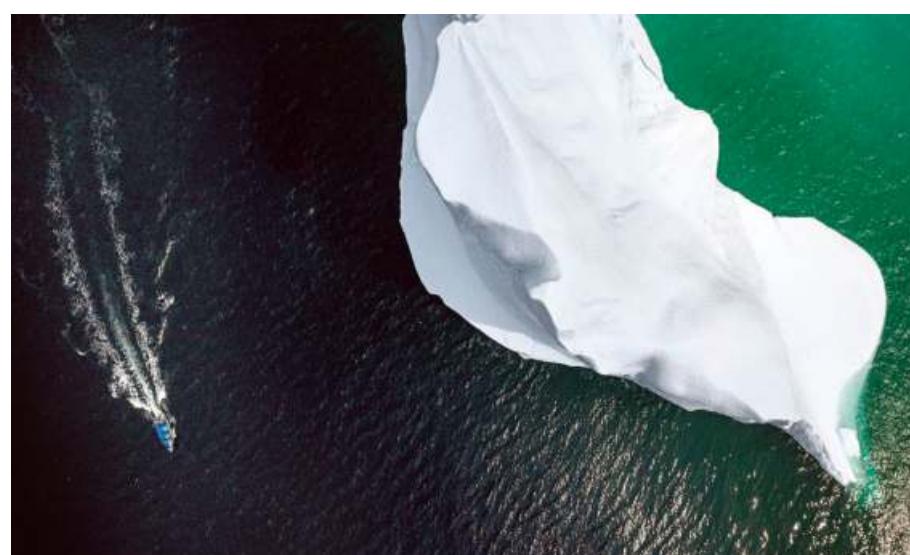
It's midday and Edward Kean, a Canadian fisherman who now scours the North Atlantic for icebergs that have broken off from Greenland's glaciers, is positively beaming.

Using his trusty binoculars, the rotund, 60-year-old captain of the fishing boat *Green Waters* has spotted his next prize – it's several dozen metres tall and floating just off the coast of Newfoundland.

"It's a very fine piece of ice," Mr. Kean proclaims.

Every morning at dawn, Mr. Kean sails out with three other crew members to hunt what has become his own personal white gold: icebergs.

For more than 20 years, he has hauled in the mighty ice giants and then sold the water for a handsome profit to local companies, which



**Sea story:** (Clockwise from left) Edward Kean's fishing boat passing an iceberg in Bonavista Bay; a hook is sharpened to 'catch' chunks of ice; bits of ice being axed for melting and the water finally getting bottled for a premium range. • AFP

then bottle it, mix it into alcoholic products or use it to make cosmetics.

Business has soared in tandem with the warming of the planet, especially quick

in the Arctic, meaning that more and more icebergs find their way south.

But it's a tough gig. The days are long and the "harvest" isn't easy.

Arriving at the foot of the massive wall of floating ice in Bonavista Bay, which opens into the Atlantic, he shoulders a rifle and blasts away in the hopes that some of it will

break off. But the ice does not split. "Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't," said Mr. Kean.

As summer gets under way, time is of the essence in

harvesting the icebergs. "They come here and they melt so fast," noted the captain, adding that once they are floating off the coast of Newfoundland, it is a real race against the clock.

"In Newfoundland, it's like a fallen leaf. They're going to die in a couple of weeks and be gone back to nature anyway," he said.

"So we're not here hurting the environment, we're not taking nothing away – we're just utilising the purest water we can get."

Two members of his crew set out on a motorboat, circling the iceberg, even brushing against it, to find blocks of ice that may be bobbing next to it.

Armed with a pole and net, they laboriously wrap up the precious fragments, each one weighing a tonne or two, and fasten them to a hook at the end of a crane on the fishing boat's deck, with our glass bottles."

## Infant milk substitute: clinical trial under probe

ICMR asked to get the issue examined

AFSHAN YASMEEN  
BENGALURU

A prominent manufacturer of infant milk substitute is now under the Union Health Ministry's scanner for sponsoring a research titled "Multicentric Observational Study to Observe Growth in Pre-term Hospitalised Infants" in alleged violation of rules in five hospitals across the country.

The manufacturer, Nestle India Ltd., conducted clinical trials on 75 premature babies in five hospitals on substitutes for breast milk in complete contravention of the The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation Of Production, Supply And Distribution) Act 1992 and Amendment Act 2003 (IMS Act).

The alleged violation was found by the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) on screening the trial registry of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The BPNI complained to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on July 17 alleging that the company had violated Section 9(2) of the IMS Act.

Responding to the allegations, a spokesperson for Nestle India emphasised that the company always complied with all laws and regulations including the IMS Act.

In a statement, the spokesperson said the objective of the clinical study was to encourage science-based research and all Institutional Ethics Committee approvals had been obtained from the participating sites.

"The letter from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has requested the Indian Council of Medical Research to examine the matter. Nestle India will provide all its support on this issue to ICMR and we are confident of our position," the statement said, noting that the IMS Act does not discourage dissemination of scientific information.

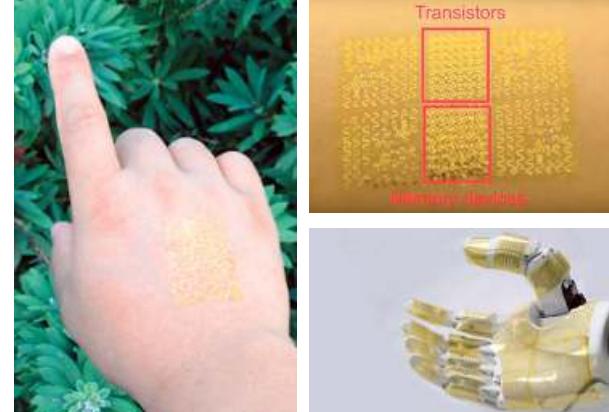
Following the complaint, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan on Friday directed ICMR Director Balram Bhargava to "get the trial examined and take necessary action to comply with the provisions of the IMS Act".

She has also directed

the Indian Council of Medical Research to examine the matter. Nestle India will provide all its support on this issue to ICMR and we are confident of our position," the statement said, noting that the IMS Act does not discourage dissemination of scientific information.

## Wearable device to link man and machine

It can collect and relay information



**At the cutting-edge:** (Clockwise from left) A smart patch worn on the back of the hand; a close-up of the patch and a robotic hand covered with prosthetic skin. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the study published in the journal *Science Advances* the development of a ultra-thin patch.

The device allows the

wearer to move naturally and is less noticeable than wearing a Band-Aid, said Cunjiang Yu, the lead author for the paper. "Everything is

very thin, just a few microns thick. You will not be able to feel it," said Mr. Yu.

It has the potential to work as a prosthetic skin for a robotic hand or other robotic devices, with a robust human-machine interface that allows it to automatically collect information and relay it back to the wearer.

That has applications for health care as well as for situations such as inspecting chemical spills, which are risky for humans but require human decision-making based on physical inspection.

"What if when you shook hands with a robotic hand, it was able to instantly deduce physical condition?" Mr. Yu asked. While current devices are gaining in popularity, the

researchers said they can be bulky to wear, offer slow response times and suffer a drop in performance over time. More flexible versions are unable to provide multiple functions – at once sensing, switching, stimulation and data storage, for example – and are generally expensive and complicated to manufacture.

The patch, which is worn on human skin to capture multiple physical data and also on a robot to offer intelligent feedback, forms a closed-loop interface. The multifunctional soft stretchy device is based on a one-step formed, gel-on-polymer processed indium zinc oxide semiconductor nanomembrane electronics, the researchers wrote.

The manufacturer, Nestle India Ltd., conducted clinical trials on 75 premature babies in five hospitals on substitutes for breast milk in complete contravention of the The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation Of Production, Supply And Distribution) Act 1992 and Amendment Act 2003 (IMS Act).

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## + U.S. rapper A\$AP Rocky released pending verdict

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
STOCKHOLM

A Swedish court released U.S. rapper A\$AP Rocky on Friday pending the verdict of an assault trial that has outraged his fans. The court's decision was quickly welcomed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

The 30-year-old rapper, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, hugged his mother in the courtroom after the Stockholm district court's presiding judge Per Lennartsson announced he would be released pending the verdict, which would be delivered on August 14.

Mr. Mayers has been held in Sweden since July 3 when he was arrested following a brawl in Stockholm on June 30, which saw him and his crew embroiled in a fight with a 19-year-old plaintiff.

He and two others had been held in custody ahead of their trial because the court deemed him a "flight



risk". His detention has sparked a campaign for his release by his fans and fellow artists, with an online petition called #JusticeForRocky garnering more than 6,40,000 signatures. Social media campaigns have even urged fans to boycott Swedish brands such as IKEA.

The New York-born rapper thanked his fans in an Instagram post after his release.

Mr. Trump tweeted, "It was a Rocky Week, get home ASAP A\$AP!"

## Ghostly tale



**Traditional rites:** A giant paper statue of Chinese deity 'Da Shi Ye' or 'Guardian God of Ghosts' during the Chinese Hungry Ghost Festival in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The deceased are believed to visit the living during the festivities. • REUTERS

## Fan Bingbing talks of comeback after scandal

In a rare interview, the actor opens up about her fall from grace and her determination to keep going

STEVEN LEE MYERS  
BEIJING

For more than half her life, Fan Bingbing was an icon of China's booming film and television industry, who evolved from girl-next-door roles into an international star and fashion celebrity.

Then last year, her career was convulsed by a tax scandal that precipitated her spectacular fall from public grace and tarnished an entire industry – one that the Chinese government is eager to put under even tighter creative control.

"No one can have smooth sailing throughout the journey," Ms. Fan said, during a rare interview, the first to touch on the scandal since it erupted. For four months last year, Ms. Fan dis-



**Ups and downs:** Fan Bingbing. • AFP

peared, and the unexplained absence of China's most famous movie star distressed millions of her fans and spread fear among her film-making colleagues.

No one knew it then, but she was being held under a

type of house arrest while tax authorities scoured the records of her long and lucrative career as an actor, a luminary of the red carpet, a face of luxury brands and a successful businesswoman.

Now Ms. Fan, who turns

38 next month, is dipping her toe back into the waters of a society that once revered her. "It may be a trough I encountered in my life or in my work, but this trough is actually a good thing," she said. "It has made me calm down and think seriously about what I want to do in my future life."

She recently posted her first updates to her 62 million followers on Weibo, China's version of Twitter, promoting charity events and announcing her breakup with her fiance, Li Chen, an actor and director.

She also appeared last month in a teaser on Instagram for 355, a film shepherded by actor and producer Jessica Chastain. Ms. Fan's role in the film – an ac-

tion thriller featuring women playing foreign agents from around the world – had been in limbo since the scandal.

In October, China revealed that Ms. Fan had been fined nearly \$70 million in unpaid taxes and penalties, while her eponymous studio was hit with a tax bill exceeding \$60 million. That same month, in her first public statement since June, Ms. Fan expressed her remorse.

She was spared criminal charges, but her manager at the time, among others, was arrested. Ms. Fan said she was ready for the next scene, no matter what it brought.

"There are regrets, pain and fragility," she said. "But I still feel that I need to keep on living." NY TIMES

## Racoon rescue goes viral

The animal had got stuck in a sewer grate in a U.S. town

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

He may lack the poise of *Guardians of the Galaxy* superhero Rocket Raccoon but this little adventurer is becoming an Internet star in his own right.

The mischievous mammal became popular on the Internet after he was photographed by U.S. firefighters during a bungled escape from a sewer on Thursday.

"He had been stuck for a while but we are happy to report he is free!!!," the local government animal control experts, who sedated the raccoon, calming it enough to pull its head out of the grate.



The raccoon before it was rescued. • NEWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

head and tiny paws visible through the metal struts. "We sent a fire truck and we tried to remove his head from the sewer grate with soap and water," said Newton Fire Lieutenant Michael Bianchi. When that failed, the firefighters called in local government animal control experts, who sedated the raccoon, calming it enough to pull its head out of the grate.