



Himalayan States demand green bonus, separate Ministry  
page 9



Army's Integrated Battle Groups concept close to implementation  
page 9



Afghan vice-presidential candidate Amrullah Saleh injured in blast  
page 14



Verstappen wins German GP, Vettel goes from 20th to second  
page 19

## NEARBY



Joyride turns tragic, two killed in accident

NEW DELHI  
Two persons, including a Delhi University student, were killed and three suffered serious injuries when their speeding car hit an electric pole in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar on Sunday. The victims were out on a joyride after a birthday celebration, the police said. An eyewitness said the impact of the collision was such that the vehicle smashed the grills on the divider and broke a pole.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Religious functions on roads banned in Aligarh

ALIGARH  
The Aligarh administration has put a blanket ban on holding of religious functions on roads. The decision came after some Hindutva groups planned the recital of Hanuman Chalisa to protest against the offering of namaz on roads. The administration has taken this step as a precautionary measure to prevent any disturbance, an official said on Sunday.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 5

## Now and Then

Ashok Kumar (69) was key to India lifting the men's hockey World Cup back in 1975. Ashok talks to us about hockey and his other loves.

PAGE 2

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ 4 PAGES

## U.P. rape survivor injured in accident

'Conspiracy to eliminate witnesses, family'

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

The survivor of the Unnao gang rape in which BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, now jailed, is an accused was seriously injured on Sunday after a truck hit the car she was travelling in with her relatives and lawyer.

The rape survivor, her two aunts and their lawyer Mahendra Singh were in the car, when it met with the accident in Raebareli district.

Taken to Lucknow

The aunts succumbed to their injuries, while the rape survivor and her lawyer were rushed to the Trauma Centre at KGMU in Lucknow.

The four were travelling to Raebareli jail from Unnao to meet the rape survivor's uncle, who is serving imprisonment in a separate case, when the accident happened near Gurbakshganj police station around 1 p.m. The two deceased are the wife of the jailed uncle and her (wife's) sister.

Raebareli Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar Singh said according to eyewitnesses and local villagers, an 'overspeeding truck' hit the car as it 'lost control'. It was raining at that time, the officer said.

The truck which collided with the car, while driving on the wrong side of the road, had its number plate smeared with black paint,

## Karnataka Speaker disqualifies 14 more MLAs before trust vote

Rebels camping in Maharashtra say they will approach the Supreme Court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Ahead of the trust vote to be moved by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday, Karnataka Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar disqualified 14 rebel MLAs on Sunday, taking the total number of disqualified MLAs to 17 in the last four days.

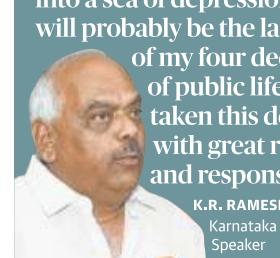
Now, the effective strength of the 225-member House stands at 208 – which gives an edge to the BJP (105 + 1 Independent) that has a numerical strength of 106 members.

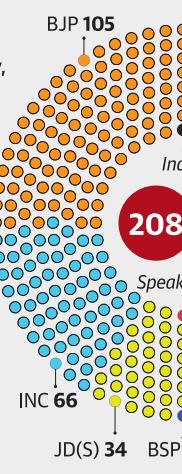
### Abstained from session

At a press conference, Mr. Ramesh Kumar announced the disqualification of 11 Congress rebels and 3 Janata Dal (Secular) legislators – all of

### House of cards

Of the 225 MLAs in the Karnataka Assembly, 17 were disqualified so far, bringing down the simple majority mark to 105

  
The present political crisis has pushed me into a sea of depression. This will probably be the last stage of my four decades of public life. I have taken this decision with great respect and responsibility.  
K.R. RAMESH KUMAR  
Karnataka Assembly Speaker



whom abstained from the session during which former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy lost the trust vote – with immediate effect and

till the end of the term of the 15th Assembly.

Their disqualification, he said, is based on four petitions – three by the Congress

and one by the JD(S) – filed before him. The disqualified legislators, camping in a resort in Maharashtra, announced that they would move the Supreme Court.

Acting on two petitions filed by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao, the Speaker disqualified Prathapgouda Patil (Maski), B.C. Patil (Hirekerur), A. Shivaram Hebbar (Yellapur), S.T. Somashekar (Yeshwanthpur), B.A. Basavaraj (K.R. Puram), B.S. Anand Singh (Vijayanagara, Ballari), R. Roshan Baig (Shivajinagar), Muniratna (Rajajeshwari Nagar) and N. Nagaraju (Hosakote).

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12  
SMOOTH SAILING ▶ PAGE 8

## Govt. must convince industry of RCEP's benefits: Australia

Envoy bats for agreement after India Inc. raised concerns

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Australia is leading diplomats from various countries involved in the negotiations for the 15-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement to convince India to commit to the deal by the end of the year. According to High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu, while there is "political will" that goes "right to the top" within the Indian government to go ahead with the FTA, the government's task is to ensure Indian industry will support the decision.

"The task at hand, which I am sure the Indian government is doing, is to explain that what the RCEP will do for them is to open the door



Harinder Sidhu ▶ V.V. KRISHNAN

for talks on concluding "substantial outcomes" by November 1, when the RCEP summit will be held.

Over the past week, Mr. Goyal has held a series of consultations with various industry members, most of whom are ranged heavily against the deal. They expressed serious concerns, including worries over the flooding of the market with Chinese goods, and the lack of access for Indian services in the RCEP countries, which include the 10-nation ASEAN and its five FTA partners – India, China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

(With inputs from TCA Sharad Raghavan)

INDUSTRY STILL CAUTIOUS ON RCEP TRADE DEAL ▶ PAGE 13

## Naga register will shield State from outsiders, says Dy. CM

We are consulting civil groups and NSCN(IM)'



VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Nagaland's Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton has defended the government's decision to compile a register of indigenous Naga inhabitants, arguing that it will help to safeguard the State from outsiders.

Mr. Patton, who also holds the Home portfolio, told *The Hindu*, "The Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) may take more time; we are consulting all civil society groups, including the National Socialist Coun-

cil of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah). It can be delayed by a few months."

In June, the State decided to compile a register to prevent issuance of indigenous inhabitant certificates to ineligible persons. The June 29 notification set December 1,

1963 – the day Nagaland gained Statehood – as the cut-off date.

Mr. Patton said there is a rethink on the cut-off date too: there has been a demand from a section that the date be April 28, 1977.

According to the 1977 notification, the indigenous inhabitant certificate should be issued to only those who had settled in Nagaland or had bought a property before 1963.

"Some are saying that the cut-off date should be 1963 or 1977, we have not decided anything but are contemplating on the date too. There is nothing wrong in compiling the list," said Mr. Patton.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Congress questions Centre's airport privatisation process

Why was Adani group given five airports, asks party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday attacked the Union government over its airport privatisation process and alleged that the Adani group was being favoured in the entire exercise.

The party made the charge after *The Hindu* reported on how the government had ignored the key recommendations of the NITI Aayog and the Finance Ministry that suggested a cap on the number of airports to be handed over to a single company and consideration of their prior experience in handling airport operations.

"There are 123 airports in the country operational today, and of these, only 14 are making profits. All the other airports are incurring a loss. Out of these 14 airports, five have been given to the Adani group," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said at a press conference.

### The highest bidder

After a bidding process conducted by the Airports Authority of India, Adani Enterprises Limited emerged as the highest bidder.

Mr. Khera said that though the Adani group might have emerged as the highest bidder in the tender-

ing process, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Finance Ministry had recommended a cap.

"During the UPA regime, one company, GMR, had qualified for both Delhi and Mumbai, but it was decided that one group will not be given more than one airport. Here too, the DEA had suggested that no company be given more than two airports," he said.

"The recommendations of the NITI Aayog and the DEA were set aside. We want to know why," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Jaipal Reddy passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Sudini Jaipal Reddy, 77, known for his oratorical skills and forthright views, passed away here early on Sunday following a brief illness. He is survived by wife, a daughter and two sons. Mr. Reddy was under treatment for pneumonia at a private hospital.

INDIRA GANDHI'S FEARLESS RIVAL IN MEDAK ▶ PAGE 12

## Security tightened in Jammu and Kashmir

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Enhancement of the security grid and fresh orders to local officers continued in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

While top government officials termed the measures "a routine contingency augmentation to counter any rise in militant attacks", regional parties, including the National Conference

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

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*Jaipal Reddy*

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## NOW AND THEN

UTHRA GANESAN

**S**itting in his living room in south Delhi's Nilgiri Apartments surrounded by family and many, many medals and trophies, Ashok Kumar holds forth. "My grandson (Amber, 13) doesn't talk about it, but he knows he can bank on me if he ever needs relationship advice," says the grandfather of three.

He looks back at 1975, probably the most important of his 69 years. It was a year of drama, uncertainty and triumph, both on and off the field, the kind generally reserved for superstars in movies. The excitement was tempered with the expectations that come from being the son of Major Dhyan Chand, the world's undisputed greatest hockey player of all time.

Not only did the wiry 25-year-old score the all-important goal that saw India edge past fierce rival Pakistan and lift its maiden Hockey World Cup, it also saw him get married, twice over, to the love of his life, Kamal. He says that's his greatest link with Delhi: it gave him a partner for life.

Kamal passed away in 2006 and he retired a year later from Indian Airlines as a manager but that hasn't dimmed his love for either her or hockey. "I cannot sit idle and spend time. It has nothing to do with wanting to work; I need to keep myself busy," says Kumar with a laugh. In fact, he hardly stays in the city for an extended period, travelling between Delhi, Jhansi and Ajmer frequently.

**Work-life, balanced**

After 10 years as coach with the Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy in Bhopal since its inception, he moved to the Ajmer Girls' Academy, a post he continues to hold. "At times, there is so much travelling that I lose track of where I am exactly. Jhansi, Delhi, Ajmer, Bithoor, Agra – for hockey or family, I keep moving around. I used to drive all over but now my kids insist against it to avoid accidents," he says.

Having first arrived in Delhi in 1969, as a student of Rajasthan University and part of the Combined Universities team at the Nehru Gold Cup, the Jhansi resident had no idea his life would become inextricably linked to the city.

"That was the first visit, but my first proper stint in Delhi was in 1970-71 as part of a national camp. By then, the India dream had already materialised at the 1970 Asian Games, where we got silver. Our camps used to be held at the National Stadium and we stayed in dormitories at the stadium it-



(Clockwise from left) Ashok Kumar at his residence in New Delhi; with his son Gaurav Singh, granddaughters Vrinda, Jhanvi and daughter-in-law Deepa; in action against the Netherlands in the final of the 1973 World Cup. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, FILE PHOTO



## 'I NEED TO KEEP MYSELF BUSY'

The still sprightly hockey player Ashok Kumar on the greatest loves of his life, and why retirement is not an option



self," Kumar reminisces. The same rooms were later used to house the trainees of the Air India Hockey Academy, which produced some of India's best players over the years, including the likes of Adrian D'Souza, Deepak Thakur and Gagan Ajit Singh.

His current residence may tick all the right boxes – location, facilities, accessibility – to qualify as an elite locality in the city but Ashok Kumar isn't one to forget the past. "We used to get ₹4 as daily allowance back then, with a month- or month-and-a-half-long camps. It wasn't easy to get the best diet within that amount even back then. So we used to walk down in groups to Pandara market, where we could get dal free if we ordered enough rotis, for lunch. Saving enough over a week

meant we could pool in and have chicken or mutton about thrice a week for dinner," he laughs.

Unlike today, players were simpler. "Some players from Punjab who had friends or families in the city would go occasionally to meet them. For others like me, the stadium was everything – because we knew nothing of the city and we didn't have money either. After morning practice, we would have lunch. Then I would pick up my stick and simply walk into the field and practise alone, trying to work out what I needed to do in the evening session. I had always heard from Dadda [as Dhyan Chand is fondly called even today] that you need to work on your game alone if you want to be the best," he remembers.

Away from hockey, Kumar has

only one hobby – singing. He never bothered to develop anything else, specially since it was his singing that brought him close to Kamal for the first time.

**Relationship-wise**

He spent the first three years in Delhi at friend Ranjit Singh's house in the Karol Bagh area. Ranjit played for India for a while before settling in Barcelona. He also worked with the Indian team as a penalty corner coach for a while. "Back then, it was a mohalla culture where people used to come out on the roads with their folding beds, talk and sing late into the night. Kamal used to stay nearby and would listen to my songs. It gradually developed into attraction and we would occasionally meet at Gurdwara Bangla

Sahib or Birla Mandir. I had moved into a rented accommodation in RK Puram by then and was also constantly in national camps across the country, so we hardly

**ASHOK KUMAR,  
69, FORWARD**

CAREER SPAN: 1970-1979

PLAYED: Olympics 1972 (bronze); 1976 (7th); World Cup 1971 (bronze), 1973 (silver), 1975 (gold); Asian Games 1970 (silver), 1974 (silver), 1978 (silver)

HONOURS: Arjuna award

KNOWN FOR: Speed and ball control

FOR THE RECORD: Scored the winning goal against Pakistan in the 1975 World Cup final, the only time India won the title

got time together, but it was enough," he smiles.

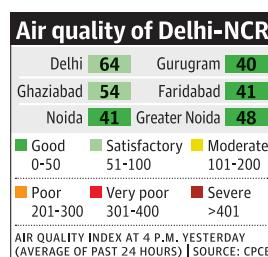
The climax came in 1975, soon after the team returned victorious from the World Cup. "We were overnight stars! Even though hockey was big back then and people knew all about even non-star players, with blanket coverage in the media, the World Cup took us all to a different level altogether." He landed in Delhi, to find Kamal and his mother at the airport – both had arrived separately; neither knew each other. "Introductions done, we went our separate ways. The national camp reassembled in Bangalore soon after but in between, we ended up marrying at an Arya Samaj temple with five witnesses and both families unaware of it," he says.

A fortnight later, he got a letter from Kamal saying her family was trying to get her married. "It was a shocker. I came to Delhi and convinced her to deboard at Subzi Mandi station on her way back from Amritsar. We spent a couple of nights at different friends' places before flying to Agra to my sister's place. We then moved to Jhansi and while my mother accepted the marriage, my father explained how it would be humiliating if her family filed a complaint."

So back he came to Delhi, to inform her parents, only to find they had left for Jhansi! "I rode back on my Jawa [motorcycle] all the way, about 450 km, had an accident in between and broke three toes, but finally they were cordial enough and only wanted a proper marriage with all rituals. That was in July and finally, on August 11, we tied the knot a second time," he says.

All these experiences have made him much wiser in terms of understanding and accepting people. "My daughter, Preeti, had a love marriage and I have a fantastic son-in-law. I have learnt to accept people without judging them because I understand everyone has some reason for behaving the way they do," he explains.

What he cannot accept is the fact that playing for the country seems not to be a priority anymore. "I am not against players earning money or stardom – they have to and they deserve it. But if it becomes more important than playing and winning medals for the country, then there is a disconnect somewhere. We can proudly claim we have 13 major medals in our family and nothing can ever beat that. Winning medals for the country can never be secondary but sadly, that seems to be the case now," he says.



## CCS rules inimical to intellectual inquiry, says JNU teachers' body

Implementation of rules in one university could lead to reverberations in others'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

**Talk:** A one-day conference on "Education for Equity and Social Responsibility" focusing specifically on school education. The keynote address will be delivered by Gopal Krishna Gandhi, former Governor of West Bengal; and the Valedictory Address will be delivered by Prof. Krishna Kumar at Multipurpose Hall, IIC, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Talk:** "Piloting Justice", a panel discussion on Delhi High Court's "Zero Pending Cases" project. The discussion will focus on the findings from this project, feasibility of carrying out pilot projects to study other facets of the judicial process, and what such an approach could mean to judicial reforms in the country. Panelists: Justice (Retd.) Madan B. Lokur, Supreme Court of India; Dr. Venkata Ramani, Senior Advocate; Supreme Court; and Mr. Arvind Datta, Senior Advocate, High Court of Madras, moderated by Harish Narasappa at Lecture Hall II, India International Centre Annex, 6 p.m.

**Dance:** Guruvam Namam 2019 – an evening of Kathak recitals. Kathak duet by Dheerendra Tiwari & Samiksha Sharma; Kathak solo by Dr. Shambhu Shukla Mishra; Kathak duet by Shashi Sankha & Dr. Geetanjali Singh at the Stein Auditorium, IHC, 7 p.m.

**Dance:** India International Rural Cultural Centre presents Bharatanatyam dance recital by Revathy Srinivasan from Mumbai at Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, E-Block, Nand Nagri, 9 a.m. and Govt. Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, A-Block, Nand Nagri, 11 a.m.

**Exhibition:** "Fontwala: Stone to mobile, what remains?" by Rajeev Prakash Khare & Shubhra Prakash at Digital Art Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Exhibition:** Celebrating Delhi's rich built heritage by Vidur Sodhani at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Theatre:** "Tuisem-e-Hoshruba", an Urdu drama will be staged as part of the ongoing Urdu Drama festival organised by the Ghalib Institute, at Ghalib Auditorium, Alwan-e-Ghalib Marg, 6:30 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at [citeditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:citeditor@thehindu.co.in))



The JNUTA said it will resist any attempt to impose CCS rules on teachers.

cation through a number of clauses that are inimical to intellectual inquiry.

The JNUTA said that it was "shocked" at the JNU administration's open defiance of the Human Resource Development Ministry's stated position on the non-applicability of CCS rules to the teaching

community.

The JNUTA said that "protests in the university over proposed amendments to the Ordinance pertaining to service conditions and tenure of JNU teachers forced the university Vice-Chancellor to withdraw his plans to impose CCS rules in the 276th meeting of the JNU Executive Council held on October 22, 2018, and publicly declare through a press release on the same day that no CCS rules have been incorporated in JNU ordinances."

The association said that they would resist any attempt to impose CCS rules on JNU teachers as they are "antithetical to the idea of a university and are thoroughly unsuited and inapplicable to activities that involve teaching and

research".

The JNUTA General Body Meeting notes that this arbitrary targeting of 48 teachers is the latest in a chain of arbitrary disciplinary proceedings being initiated against individual teachers, with the sole goals of harassment and intimidation. Inquiries are announced on the flimsiest of pretexts and conducted without even the pretence of due process and guarantee of natural justice," the JNUTA said.

The teachers also pointed out that former Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar, in a tweet on October 20, 2018, had said: "We have neither put any restrictions nor intend to put any restrictions on Freedom of Speech in JNU, DU or any other university."

The university has asked candidates and their parents to inform the Chief Vigilance Officer/Registrar, GGSIP University, in case they are approached by any tout or agent.

representatives of the university and promising to facilitate or give admissions in various programmes in the university or affiliated institutes, are demanding money," the university has asked.

The university has asked

## IP University extends deadline for M.Voc. courses

Asks candidates and their parents to be wary of touts promising seats

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

IP University on Sunday announced that the last date for submission of application form for Master of Vocation (M.Voc.) programme has been extended to August 20. The university offers M.Voc. in Automobile, Software Development and in Interior Design.

Admission to these courses will be given on the basis of last qualifying exams such as B.Voc. and other applicable degrees mentioned in the admission brochure available on the university's website – [www.ipu.ac.in](http://www.ipu.ac.in).

In a statement, the university said that admission to its various programmes are given purely on the basis of merit through a transparent process comprising either online or offline

counselling. It also warned students and parents to stay away from agents or touts promising them admission.

The counselling process provides facilities for proper display of seat matrix as well as admitted list of students along with their merit. However, it has come to the knowledge of the university that some agents/touts, claiming to be repre-

sentatives of the university and promising to facilitate or give admissions in various programmes in the university or affiliated institutes, are demanding money," the university has asked.

The university has asked candidates and their parents to inform the Chief Vigilance Officer/Registrar, GGSIP University, in case they are approached by any tout or agent.

The university has asked

## Teachers' groups buckle up, start campaigning for DUTA elections

Polling, counting of votes to be held on August 29

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Various teachers' groups have started campaigning for elections to the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), which will be held in late August.

Candidates will be fighting for various posts of the DUTA executive panel, including president and members, which places teachers' issues in front of the administration and the government.

teachers and employees. The DUTA's primary contender, the NDTF, has fielded former executive and academic council member A.K. Bhagi, from the Chemistry Department at Dayal Singh College. In a statement, the group highlighted its efforts to fight for teachers' rights by negotiating with the administration and agitating when required. Given that the present government at the Centre has a favourable attitude towards teachers' issues, it is critical to give rest to Left-affiliated groups that have taken recourse in protests, going to court and other routes that have kept teachers from working over the last several years, it said.

The AAD has fielded Anju Jain from the Department of Commerce at Shyam Prasad Mukherji College. She called for an "overhaul" of the educational landscape to motivate teachers to work.

The election will take place on August 29, with votes being counted on the same day.

## DUTA demands additional funds, posts

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has written to the University Grants Commission (UGC) demanding the sanctioning of additional funds and posts for teachers to DU on account of expansion due to the EWS reservation.

While the DUTA welcomed the UGC's recent move to initiate sanctioning of additional posts under the second tranche for the OBC expansion, it said that funds granted for EWS expansion were inadequate.

**Quality of education** "The DUTA has been repeatedly writing to you to take immediate steps so that the quality of education does not suffer," it said.

Introduction of the Choice-Based Credit System at the postgraduate level this year also warrants adequate number of teachers, it added.

The association stated that the release of the second tranche and posts for EWS expansion was crucial to mitigate the difficulties faced by those displaced by implementation of EWS reservation in teaching cadre.

DELHI Timings	
MONDAY, JULY 29	
RISE 05:41	SET 19:15
RISE 02:33	SET 16:43
TUESDAY, JULY 30	
RISE 05:42	SET 19:14
RISE 03:28	SET 17:45
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31	
RISE 05:42	SET 19:13
RISE 04:29	SET 18:43

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	34	26
Safdarjung	34	26
Palam	34	25

**Delhi Pilm Today**  
34°C A partly cloudy sky is likely to persist over the district. A warm day lies ahead. A warm night is expected.

**Delhi Pilm Tomorrow**  
36°C A partly cloudy sky is expected to persist over the district. The evening is expected to be warm.

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## Obscene video: BJP suspends two partymen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHIMLA

The BJP has suspended a party leader and an office-bearer of its youth wing in Kullu district after a video which purportedly shows them in a compromising position was circulated on social media.

**Case registered**  
The Himachal Pradesh police registered a case on Saturday under the Information Technology Act and warned people against sharing the video, officials said Sunday.

The 12.35-minute video was reportedly shot a few months ago by the two themselves. It is suspected that the now suspended BJYM leader's wife got her hand on the video after the woman sent it to her husband through WhatsApp in February.

## Oppn. parties all set to corner Punjab government in House

Session begins from Aug. 2; AAP to highlight 'no action' in sacrilege cases

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

With the Punjab Assembly session slated to start from August 2, the Opposition parties are all set to corner the ruling Congress government on the issues of unemployment, prevailing agrarian crisis and deteriorating law and order in the State.

Besides, the issue of closure report filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with sacrilegious cases is also likely to be at the center stage.

Aam Aadmi Party's Harpal Singh Cheema, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, said that his party would take up the issue of CBI closure report with the seriousness it merited.

"Also, we will raise issues of unemployment, drugs menace, farmers' loan and



Leader of the Opposition  
Harpal Singh Cheema

agrarian crisis among other public-centric issues," he said.

"It had been four long years since the incident of desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib and the police firing incident at Behbal Kalan-Kotkapura took place, but yet nothing had come out of the investigations. Investigating teams are yet to ascertain who were behind

the firing incidents at Behbal Kalan-Kotkapura and desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib," he alleged.

The Leader of the Opposition accused the Congress government of running away from deliberating on key issues concerning Punjab and its people. "It's for this reason that the session was restricted to a mere two sittings, which is unfortunate," he said.

The monsoon session of the Punjab Assembly will be held from August 2 to 6.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has also accused the Congress government of shying away from discussing the burning issues of the State and asked Assembly Speaker Rana K.P. Singh to hold a three-week session.

Senior Akali Dal leader Daljit Cheema on Sunday said that party would raise

the issue of deteriorating law and order in the State among other issues on the floor of the House.

The State government has completely failed to maintain law and order. People are not even safe in jails. The recent murder of a person in Nabha Jail and mysterious death of a drug smuggler accused in Amritsar jail, were the latest instances to prove the point," said Mr. Cheema.

### Farmers' suicide

"Earlier this month incessant rain resulted in flooding in Sangrur and Patiala districts but the government failed to deal with the situation aptly, letting people suffer. There are several issues that we will raise, including increasing farmers' suicide and rise in power tariffs," said Mr. Cheema.

## Manjhi in touch with NDA partner for Jharkhand polls

"Seat sharing arrangements will be decided soon"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GAYA/NAWADA

Former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Sunday disclosed that his Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM), a constituent of the opposition Mahagathbandhan in the State, would be contesting the upcoming Assembly polls in Jharkhand in collaboration with an NDA partner.



HAM chief Jitan Manjhi

his plans to return to the NDA in Bihar.

Mr. Manjhi had floated his own party after walking out of the JD(U) in 2015 after he was asked to step down as Chief Minister to make way for the return of his political mentor Nitish Kumar.

The Mahadalit leader went on to contest the Assembly polls held later that year as an NDA constituent, but his party fared poorly as only Mr. Manjhi managed to win one seat.

About six months after Mr. Kumar returned to the NDA in July 2017, Mr. Manjhi changed track and joined the Mahagathbandhan, which then comprised only the Congress and the RJD.

The RJD, which at present has the highest number of MLAs in Bihar, helped his son Santosh Manjhi get a berth in the legislative council.

## Dalit workers refused water in U.P.'s Shamli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

Several Dalits staged a protest after some sanitation workers were allegedly not allowed to drink water from a temple in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district, police said on Sunday.

The workers were cleaning a drain outside the temple in Thana Bhawan town on Saturday.

The priest refused to allow them to take water from a handpump inside the temple and closed the door, an officer said.

**FIR demanded**  
Several people belonging to the Valmiki caste staged a demonstration and demanded registration of an FIR against the priest. Police reached the spot and pacified the crowd by assuring an investigation, the officer said.

## Holy water



Kanwariyas gather at Har Ki Pauri to collect water from the Ganga in Haridwar on Sunday. ■ PTI

## Rain-related toll in Rajasthan touches 22

Flood-like situation in Kota due to heavy rain, affected people evacuated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

The toll in rain-related incidents in Rajasthan touched 22 on Sunday with nine more causalities reported from various parts of the State as Kota and its nearby areas faced flood-like situation due to heavy rain since Saturday night.

An elderly woman died in Bhilwara after the roof of her house collapsed, while a man was swept away in a swollen drain and three boys were drowned in another drain in Pali, an official said.

**Boys drown**  
In Bundi, a 17-year-old boy was drowned in a drain. In Jaipur's Sanganer area, two boys drowned in a waterbody while one death was also



State Disaster Relief Force personnel shifting people from inundated areas in Kota on Sunday. ■ PTI

reported from Jodhpur, the official said.

Kota is the worst-affected district in the State, where nearly 250 people living in low-lying areas were shifted to safer places by SDRF

"Many colonies are inundated. The trapped residents have been shifted to safer places," Kota District Collector Muktanand Agrawal said. Relief Secretary Ashotosh

Pednekar said with nine more deaths in different districts, the toll in rain-related incidents had increased to 22.

Kota recorded the maximum 151.8 mm of rainfall till Sunday morning while Sawaimadhopur registered 68 mm of rainfall.

Heavy rain occurred in isolated parts of the State, including Bundi, till this morning since Saturday, the meteorological department said.

Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, Ajmer, Gangapur, Kota registered 113.8 mm, 19.1 mm, 11.7 mm, 10 mm, 9.4 mm and 6.6 mm of rainfall respectively on Sunday. The weatherman has predicted heavy to extremely heavy rain in isolated places of the State till Monday.

## Nagaland Assembly session to begin on August 6

Election of Deputy Speaker, deliberations on Inner Line Permit on the agenda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOHIMA

The fourth session of the 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly will be held from August 6 to 8. Election of the Deputy Speaker, deliberations on the Registration of Indigenous Inhabitants of

Nagaland and Inner Line Permit will be taken up during the session.

The last date for filing nomination papers is August 1 while the date of withdrawal of candidature is August 3, he said. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio had inducted his brother, Zhaleo Rio, who was the Deputy Speaker of

the Assembly, as an advisor to the CM on July 23.

Laying of various reports, presentation of Assembly committee reports, introduction and adoption of government bills and resolutions, if any, will also be taken up during the session.

## Women-only coaches in NFR trains

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has provided exclusive coaches for women in two popular passenger trains between Guwahati and western Assam's New Bongaigaon town.

Such coaches have been marked with a pink strip.

"A coach each has been opened for women in two passenger trains to ensure their safety and security. Railway Protection Force personnel and a ticket collector have been provided specifically for these coaches," an NFR spokesperson said, adding such special coaches could be added to other trains operating within the railway zone.

The spokesman said that the pink colour will help women passengers to easily identify the coaches even during rush hours.

Differently-abled women will also be able to travel in the coaches, he said. (With PTI inputs)

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## Lawyers back demand for railway project

Berhampur-Sambalpur line would bring development to the region

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

Lawyers of four districts of Odisha – Ganjam, Kandhamal, Boudh and Sambalpur – have joined hands to strengthen the demand for the long-awaited Berhampur-Sambalpur railway track project.

Representatives of lawyers' associations of these districts met over the weekend to chalk out the future course of action to press upon the Railway Ministry to take up the project as the earliest. The meeting was convened by the Bhanjanagar Bar Association of Ganjam

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Date: AUG 16  
Time: 11:30am

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Date: AUG 02  
Time: 6:15pm

### BATCHES BEGIN WITH OPEN SESSION

POL. SCIENCE 29 JULY  
By C.K. SINGH 03:00pm

GEOGRAPHY 02 AUG  
By SACHIN ARORA 03:00pm

HISTORY 05 AUG  
By HEMANT JHA 03:00pm

SOCIOLOGY 05 AUG  
By DHARMENDRA 03:00pm

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CM YK

A ND-NDE

# 'Rehabilitate slain cadres' families'

They are going through tough times, ULFA general secretary Anup Chetia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The pro-talks faction of the extremist United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has represented the State government's indifference to the families of its slain members.

Seeking due recognition and rehabilitation of such families, the outfit's general secretary Anup Chetia wondered if the ULFA has to form a government on its own to ensure that the families of its members get their due after almost four decades of "struggle".

Addressing the group's martyrs' day at Dipila in

north-central Assam's Darang district on Saturday, Mr. Chetia said the government appeared disinterested in keeping its promise of providing assistance to the families of the slain members. These families, he said, were going through a tough time.

"We have almost 1,900 families of our martyrs, including those of 50 members who have been missing from Bhutan for years now," he said.

The armed forces of India and Bhutan had in December 2003 coordinated an operation to destroy camps of ULFA, National Democratic

Front of Boroland and Kama-tapur Liberation Organisation in southern Bhutan and flush out the extremists. Several extremists were killed, some surrendered while a few have remained untraced.

#### Five killed in 1991

Mr. Chetia said the outfit observed martyrs' day for the first time after 28 years at Dipila, where the paramilitary personnel had killed five of its members on July 28, 1991. The five were Keshab Deka, Ganesh Deka, Chandra Baruah, Pratap Kalita and Karun Kalita.

The pro-talks ULFA faction, headed by its chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa, has been holding peace talks with the Centre for more than five years.

Most of its leaders have been arrested in Bangladesh and handed over to India since 2009.

The other faction, ULFA-Independent headed by its military chief Paresh Baruah, continues to wage war against what it calls "occupational India". This group operates out of the camps of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) in Myanmar.

OSRTC stops bus service in three Maoist-hit districts

Services by private operators to continue

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

The Odisha State Road Transport Corporation has stopped plying its buses for a week in the Maoist-hit regions in the southern parts of the State from Sunday because of martyrs' week being observed by Maoists.

Security was also tightened in the Maoist activity-prone districts - Malkangiri, Koraput and Rayagada. The martyrs' week will continue till August 3.

According to authorities of the OSRTC's Berhampur division, buses operating

from Jeypore and Rayagada depots have been stopped completely.

Similarly, buses travelling to these districts from Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Bhanjanagar will have their services cancelled till the end of the week. However, private bus operators continue to run their buses in these districts.

According to sources, the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border in Malkangiri district has been sealed off and combing operations by security personnel have been intensified.

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**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Parthajeet Das, who intends to purchase & further mortgage the Entire First Floor of Property no. M-13 B, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi with our client Axis Bank Ltd. against the financial assistance. Whereas, out of the previous chain link documents one Sale Deed dated 08.06.2012 executed by Mr. Sunil Kumar Suri & Sukhinder Pal Thapar favouring Mrs. Nidhi Kochhar W/o Ashish Kochhar related to above mentioned floor was misplaced and a FIR No. 1187943/2019 lodged on 25.06.2019 with Police Station Delhi. If any person(s) having above mentioned Sale Deed or having objection regarding mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd. will proceed with the mortgage process.

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## IN BRIEF



## Inclement weather forces yatra suspension

JAMMU  
The Amarnath yatra from the three main base camps was suspended on Sunday due to widespread intermittent rains in Jammu and Kashmir for the fourth successive day, with the weather department predicting snowfall in the cave area later in the day, officials said. PTI

## Air ambulance for anti-Naxal operations

NEW DELHI  
An air ambulance service has been sanctioned for troops deployed in anti-Naxal operations and those posted at high-altitude border posts, officials said on Sunday. The ambulance will be on a Mi-17 helicopter platform of the Border Security Force and it will be stationed at Jharkhand capital Ranchi, a recent Union Home Ministry order accessed by PTI said.

## Idol found in locked room in police station

TIRUCHI  
A metal idol of Lord Perumal was found in a locked room at the Mannargudi Town police station in Tiruvarur district in T.N. on Saturday. Measuring 71 cm in height and weighing 30.5 kg, the idol was handed over to the tahsildar. There were no records at the Mannargudi town police station pertaining to the idol or its recovery.

## Minor raped, nude photos circulated

ALWAR  
A 14-year-old girl was raped allegedly by two men here on the same day and her nude photographs were circulated on social media, police said on Sunday. Police have detained one of the rape accused along with his wife for abetting the crime and arrested a man for circulating the pictures of the victim. PTI

## 2 policemen suspended over TikTok video

RAJKOT  
Two police constables were suspended in Gujarat for shooting and uploading a video on social media video app TikTok while on duty, an official said on Sunday. A former traffic warden had posed on the bonnet of the police control room van driven by a constable while another policeman was shooting the video. PTI

## Looking for clues



Villagers watching the rescue operation after a boat with 20 people went missing in the Bhada river at Lokahi village in Bahraich in U.P. on Sunday. ■ PRAMOD ADHIKARI

## Need to help boys disclose sexual abuse, say activists

NCRB will for the first time collect gender disaggregated data on children

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI  
The government informed Parliament last week that the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) will for the first time collect gender disaggregated data on sexual assaults against children. But activists say that for this to be a success, a lot will have to be done to ensure boys or transgender children open up about sexual abuse.

**Gender distinction**  
"I am informed by the officers who serve NCRB that earlier cases did not make a referral to the gender of the victim. Hence, to refine the data now, States are being implored to ensure that a distinction in terms of gender



Union Minister Smriti Irani had recently spoken about the issue in Parliament.

"Though the gender-wise data collection on victims of sexual abuse is a welcome move, the government needs to release the crime reports since 2017," said Prabhat Kumar, head of Child Protection.

He adds, "The need for gender-disaggregated data was felt following a nation-

wide study in 2007, which showed that the number of boys who were victims of sexual abuse was slightly more than those of girls."

## Reluctance to disclose

The Study on Child Abuse in 2007, commissioned by the government, surveyed 12,447 children in 13 States and found that 53.22% of them had faced one or more forms of sexual abuse. Of these, 52.94% were boys and 47.06% were girls. Only 5.69% of the victims had reported being sexually assaulted and most children did not report the matter to anyone.

The reluctance among children, especially boys, to disclose sexual abuse shows that the government needs to cover a lot of ground before the NCRB exercise can yield the desired results, say

activists.

"We have seen from data collected through RTI that there is hardly any reporting by boys of sexual abuse. The government must focus on ensuring a congenial environment for boys to disclose sexual assault and erode into the social constructs which deter boys from doing so. It must recognise in its messaging that all children, including transgender children, are vulnerable to sexual abuse," said Vidya Reddy, founder, Tulir-Centre for Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse.

During a debate in Parliament, MP Derek O'Brien spoke of how, at the age of 13 in a public bus, someone ejaculated on his shorts. Mr. O'Brien said he did not talk about the incident for six, seven years" before finally telling his parents.

## Audit report reveals irregularities within scam-hit Vyapam

Recruitments were carried out during two years under false premises

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

For at least two financial years after the Vyapam scam was uncovered in Madhya Pradesh in July 2013, administrative and financial irregularities running into crores of rupees continued unchecked within the examination board, reveals an audit report.

## Scam rekindled

The scam has been rekindled as State Home Minister Bala Bachchan recently said the government did not possess the anonymous letter received by the Indore Police on June 20, 2013, that blew the lid off the scam.

The scam involved 13 different examinations conducted by the Vyapam or the Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board for recruitment to government jobs and admissions to educational institutions in the State.



Testing times: The head office of the Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board in Bhopal. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

In August 2013, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government constituted a Special Task Force to probe the scam. The Central Bureau of Investigation took over in July 2015.

In the two years, while the STF was investigating the scam, several officials were recruited to the board on a false premise. "The board, a respectable organisation which recruits personnel in other Depart-

ments, itself has recruited personnel on fake SC/ST certificates, which shows the absence of vigilance within it," says the report.

## Against rules'

Moreover, the team noted that in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, the board hired volunteers and daily wage workers "against the rules and in an objectionable way" and paid them ₹1,21,94,751 as salary.

"It is unclear which work were the volunteers required for, in what numbers and of what category. It is unclear through which process they were recruited and for how long, whether there were vacancies and the work done by them monitored," says the report.

"In the absence of permission from the government to create posts for these volunteers, the payment made to these volunteers stands nullified and should be recovered from individual payers," says the report.

The report says ₹14,25,952 was paid to 23 volunteers in 2013-2014 and 13 in 2014-2015, although they had "not signed against their names" in the attendance records.

## Notes from officials

The volunteers received their salaries based on notes sent by higher officials. "In the records, in some places in front of their names 'Se-

cretary' or 'honourable Minister' was found to be written," the report reveals.

In 2013-2014, as much as ₹2,14,925 was paid to guards of Krishna Security, a Bhopal-based firm, from the board's coffers, but they were posted at private houses and bungalows.

## 'Neglect of duty'

Moreover, in the cash books of the financial years audited, says the report, several figures under the cash and bank columns had been changed using whitener or by overwriting, without being attested by the competent authority.

The team noted that the use of whitener "could make fraud possible and thereby damage the credibility of the board".

"The scam wouldn't have happened in the first place if there was an internal audit of confidential payments," said State Law Minister P.C. Sharma. He said he was not aware of the audit report.

## Himalayan States demand green bonus

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUSSOORIE

Himalayan States on Sunday came together at a conclave here to demand a separate Ministry to deal with problems endemic to them and a green bonus in recognition of their contribution to environmental conservation.

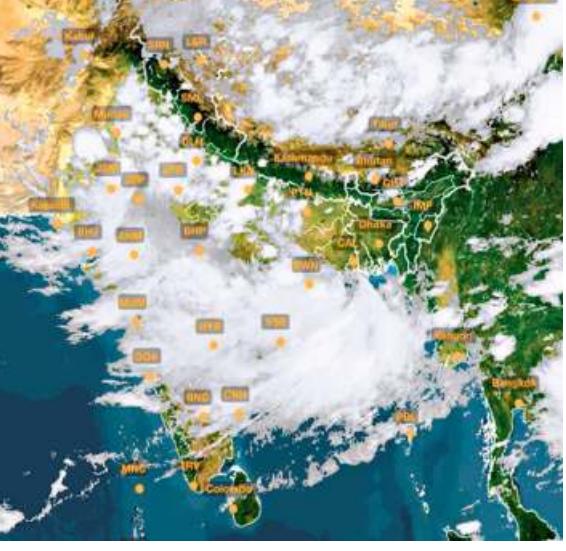
The twin demands formed part of a common agenda of the Himalayan States which was handed over to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Explaining the rationale behind the demand for a green bonus, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said most of the country's rivers originate in the Himalayas and therefore, the Himalayan States had to play the most significant role in the PM's water conservation initiative.

The States were also at a disadvantage because large swathes of land fell into ecologically sensitive zones where all sorts of development activities could not be carried out.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Goa, Gujarat, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan coastal Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Marathwada, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Assam and Meghalaya

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN

Agartala ...-36.0...25.6 Kozhikode ...0.2...32.8...24.0

Ahmedabad 21.2...32.7...26.5 Kurnool ...-30.1...24.3

Aizawl ...10.0...28.5...21.7 Lucknow 15.8...32.3...25.8

Allahabad 2.6...33.5...27.4 Madurai ...-38.3...26.4

Bengaluru ...-28.2...20.6 Mangaluru 1.9...30.7...23.8

Bhopal 120.9...24.8...22.6 Mumbai 27.7...30.1...24.5

Bhubaneswar 0.4...29.9...25.5 Mysuru ...-29.5...19.4

Chandigarh 1.4...31.4...26.2 New Delhi 3.2...34.4...25.8

Chennai ...-34.1...28.0 Patna 19.0...33.4...26.6

Coimbatore ...-34.3...22.8 Port Blair 27.8...30.9...23.0

Dehradun 29.9...32.2...23.6 Puducherry ...-36.1...24.9

Gangtok ...21.0...21.7...18.2 Pune 0.7...26.6...21.0

Goa 4.1...28.4...25.5 Raipur 0.5...29.6...24.0

Guwahati ...-35.5...26.0 Ranchi 5.6...29.2...23.9

Hubballi ...-23.0...21.0 Shillong 8.7...28.1...17.5

Hyderabad ...-26.4...23.2 Shimla 40.6...21.8...17.0

Imphal ...-30.7...22.7 Srinagar ...-22.6...18.8

Jaipur 21.8...33.0...23.4 Thiruvananthapuram ...-32.2...24.2

Kochi ...-30.4...25.2 Tiruchi ...37.4...26.8

Kolkata 4.9...33.0...27.1 Vijayawada 9.2...28.6...24.1

Visakhapatnam ...-28.2...25.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES SO NO CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE

Ahmedabad 95 .49 ...-60 ...-66 ...

Bengaluru ...9.51 ...61 ...32 ...66 ...

Chennai ...8.20 ...63 ...79 ...97 ...

Delhi ...9.19 ...55 ...24 ...27 ...

Hyderabad ...6.31 ...24 ...45 ...

Kolkata ...3.23 ...48 ...20 ...21 ...

Lucknow ...4.22 ...79 ...73 ...

Mumbai ...13.20 ...102 ...45 ...

Pune ...68 ...86 ...26 ...26 ...

Visakhapatnam ...18.53 ...54 ...42 ...52 ...

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall AQI index (AQI) score of 198

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

**SO:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, polluted coastal waters.

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

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

## T.N. CM cites 'farmer-friendly' policies of AIADMK govt. in Vellore campaign

of Army Headquarters; force restructuring which includes creation of Integrated Battle Groups (IBG); the cadre review of officers; and review of the terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks. The aim is holistic integration to enhance the operational and functional efficiency, optimise budget expenditure, facilitate force modernisation and address aspirations.

The overall transformation will also see a reduction in the size of the 1.3 million Army. "We are looking to reduce by about a lakh over 4-5 years," the source stated, while adding that actual reduction will be lesser as some numbers will be added for some new risings under way.

After the Parliament attack, the Indian military undertook massive mobilisation but the formations which were deep inside took weeks to mobilise losing the element of surprise.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat has initiated four major studies to undertake overall transformation of the force. These include restructuring

for strikes, defensive IBGs would hold ground at vulnerable points or where enemy action is expected. The composition of the IBGs would also depend on this.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat has initiated four major studies to undertake overall transformation of the force. These include restructuring

for strikes, defensive IBGs would hold ground at vulnerable points or where enemy action is expected. The composition of the IBGs would also depend on this.

Addressing voters at Kilvaithankuppam, Katpadi and K.V. Kuppam, he said vil-

agers in these areas were dependent on agricultural income. The government had launched a water management scheme, free distribution of cattle and poultry and 100-day employment for women from farmers' families to enhance the livelihood of the farming community, he said.

Referring to DMK leader M.K. Stalin's argument that his party had won more seats (13) than the AIADMK (9) in the April Assembly byelections, Mr. Palaniswami claimed that the DMK had won in those constituencies by making unethical and false assurances. "In contrast, the 9 seats the people gave the AIADMK were for good governance," he claimed.

He said the voters, by electing Mr. Shanmugam, can overshadow the DMK's victory in 37 Parliamentary constituencies. Mr. Shanmugam will bring all the welfare measures announced by the Union government to the State, he claimed.

Addressing



# It's time for India and Pakistan to walk the talk

Given the various breaches, the Simla Agreement could do with a makeover



V. SUDARSHAN



Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signing the Simla Agreement in July 1972. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

The Simla Agreement may be somewhat overrated. It could even be dead though we keep referring to it as a guiding light and take shelter behind it. Signed on July 2, 1972, by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Agreement has been observed mainly in its breach. It commits the two countries to "put an end to the conflict and confrontation that have hitherto marred their relations and work for the promotion of a friendly and harmonious relationship and the establishment of durable peace in the sub-continent". Pending "the final settlement of any of the problems between the two countries", it stipulates that "neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation and both shall prevent the organization, assistance or encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations". This is followed by a list of admirable, if ineffectual, exhortations. If these had been implemented effectively by New Delhi and Islamabad, Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar could well have been tourists in India rather than terrorists. Given the various breaches, the Simla Agreement could do with a makeover.

It took more than 10 years after Simla to group the subjects that India and Pakistan would sporadically talk about, and even then the two countries have been going around in circles. It is reasonable to assume that nowadays Pakistan talks more about India and Kashmir to the U.S. than to India. Terrorism was one of the subjects that the two nations emphasised they would bilaterally discuss, but the 2011 Mumbai blasts shattered that premise. Since then India has been talking about Pakistani terrorism not so much with Pakistan as with any country willing to listen. This is probably why U.S. President Donald Trump revealed at the Oval Office on July 22 that he and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan would be "talking about India". "I think maybe if we can help intercede and do what-

ever we have to do," he said. "But I think it's something that can be brought back together."

#### Clinton's role during Kargil

President Trump may have been overstating it, but when the Simla Agreement was violated in Kargil, it was an American President who helped push the Pakistani troops back into Pakistan. As the Kargil War began to get bigger, a worried President Bill Clinton, who called the region "the most dangerous place in the world", reached out to both Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, urging Mr. Sharif to pull back from the Line of Control (LoC) and Vajpayee not to widen the war front.

On July 2, 1999, the 27th anniversary of the Simla Agreement, when the Indian Army launched a three-pronged attack in Kargil, Mr. Sharif called up Mr. Clinton. He wanted the Americans to intervene. To make it happen, he was even ready to fly to Washington with his family in case he became a Prime Minister in exile. Two American diplomats in the Clinton administration, Bruce Riedel and Strobe Talbott, detail the developments in fascinating detail. They write that the Americans told Mr. Sharif not to come unless he was willing to agree to an unconditional withdrawal. Mr. Sharif told the Americans that he was coming anyway. Presi-

dent Clinton, who had been briefing Vajpayee every little step of the way, called him. Vajpayee was by then a sceptic of peace. He had made a high-risk bus trip to Lahore and the Pakistanis had rewarded him by violating the Simla Agreement in Kargil to seek to alter the LoC. Vajpayee did not tell Mr. Clinton that this was a bilateral affair and he should stay out of it. Instead, he warned the President that Mr. Sharif would take him on a merry ride, and he was afraid that Mr. Clinton would get co-opted. Mr. Riedel, who was present at all the meetings, writes in "American Diplomacy and the 1999 Kargil Summit at Blair House": "Sharif handed the President a document which he said was a non-paper provided to him early in the crisis by Vajpayee in which the two would agree to restore the sanctity of the LoC (a formula for Pakistani withdrawal) and resume the Lahore process. Sharif said at first India had agreed to this non-paper but then changed its mind".

Mr. Sharif wanted a withdrawal in return for a time-specific resolution of the Kashmir issue. President Clinton exploded saying he wouldn't be blackmailed. The meeting broke to take stock of the matter. During the break, President Clinton called a worried Vajpayee to brief him again. "What do you want me to say," Vajpayee asked when informed of what had gone on. President Clinton re-

ponded that he was holding firm. When they met again, Mr. Clinton told Mr. Sharif that if Pakistan didn't withdraw, he would issue a statement naming Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism as it had already readied nuclear missiles. Mr. Sharif said he feared for his life, but he reluctantly agreed to pull back troops. President Clinton called Vajpayee to give him the news. "That guy's from Missouri big-time," he said later. "He wants to see those boys get off that mountain before he's going to believe any of this" (*Engaging India*, Strobe Talbott). The U.S. helped boot out the Pakistanis from Kargil for India.

#### Trump's hint

Was what President Clinton did mediation? Or was it intervention? Or meddling? Or was this all a shining example of bilateralism envisaged in the Simla Agreement? President Trump gave India a preview on February 28, before Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was freed by Pakistan, of what was coming when he said: "We have some reasonably decent news. I think hopefully that's going to be coming to an end. It's been going on for a long time, decades and decades. There's a lot of dislike, unfortunately. So we've been in the middle trying to help them both out, see if we can get some organization and some peace, and I think probably that's going to be happening." Was that mediation or the Simla Agreement at work? Nobody pointed out to President Trump that only the Ministry of External Affairs or the Pakistani Foreign Office or the Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations were allowed to make such announcements.

We have to recognise that the world has changed since the Simla Agreement was signed. After the 1971 war, India returned land taken in battle on the western border, to create lasting peace. The LoC is now more firmly established than ever before. There is no talk any more of United Nations resolutions. Most of the subjects in the 'composite dialogue format' like Siachen, Sir Creek and Wular Barrage have been discussed threadbare. Some of them have been ready for political signatures for years. If the way forward is bilateral, then surely it is time to prove it?

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## Respecting reproductive choice

Regulation of commercial surrogacy rather than a blanket ban may be the way forward

VIJAYA SINGH

It is unfortunate that the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, approved by the Cabinet, bans and criminalises commercial surrogacy and only allows altruistic surrogacy. The Bill stipulates that a surrogate mother has to be a 'close relative' of the intending couple.

#### Imposing morality

The legislation shows that the government is eager to impose a certain morality on others as the Bill excludes gay couples, single men and women, and unmarried couples who want a child. In doing so, the government overlooks the needs of many same sex couples and single parents.

In its earlier form, the Surrogacy Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha on December 19, 2018. It was passed after a short debate of just two hours among only nine members of Parliament. It could not be introduced in the Rajya Sabha, however. At that time, the Health Minister, J.P. Nadda, said various political parties supported the Bill which was drafted "keeping the Indian ethos in mind". He said the "intention is to save the family" and if the family is not able to bear children, to help them bear children through facilities offered by modern science. A family, according to the Minister, consists of "a registered husband and wife." The 228th Law Commission India Report on Commercial Surrogacy too strongly recommended prohibiting commercial surrogacy. However, it said that "prohibition on vague moral grounds without a proper assessment of social ends and purposes which surrogacy can serve would be irrational."

How did the Health Ministry conclude that that all forms of commercial surrogacy are suspicious? If it relied on or conducted studies on commercial surrogacy, it would be helpful if it shared these with the public, especially since this Bill, if it becomes law, could affect the chances of many couples in India who are desperate for children and whose only ray of hope is often commercial surrogacy. Is there an inventory of clinics offering commercial surrogacy services? If yes, did the health inspectors carry out inspections?

Should there be a charter of regulations that these clinics must follow? Many questions remain unanswered.

The legislation allows surrogacy only through a close relative. However, the Bill doesn't define 'close relative'. Moreover, the surrogate, the Bill says, should be married, aged 25 to 35, and should have at least one child. This further brings down the number of eligible surrogate mothers.

Advocates of the ban have argued that commercial surrogacy is used for trafficking, and foreigners abandon children born through surrogates. Such violations should be addressed with an iron fist. However, has there been a comparison between the number of cases of misuse and those cases where families have benefited from surrogacy? Other practices are misused too, but they are all not banned.



#### Tightening regulations

The focus should be on the well-being of the surrogate. The intending couple should ensure financial enumeration, a sound insurance cover and regular health check-ups for the surrogate. The relevant parts of the process should be legally documented. To impose a ban where better regulation may have sufficed will only take the entire process underground. Tightening regulations would respect the interests of infertile couples who might have a chance to have a child through surrogacy. That would also respect the woman's choice about how she wants to bear a child.

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## FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

# Dialogue dividends

*The Hindu's* Open House ensures a free and frank exchange of ideas between readers and senior editors



The *Neiman Reports* recently explored the idea of 'dialogue journalism' in a piece titled, "Can dialogue journalism engage audiences, foster civil discourse, and increase trust in the media?" In that report, Chuck Todd, the moderator of NBC's *Meet the Press*, observed: "As a journalist, you can't just sit in the observation tower anymore and report that one side is saying this and the other side is saying that. Listening to community voices and encouraging them to listen to each other is not a new tactic in journalism, it's just more of a necessity than before." In polarised times, dialogue helps people listen to each other rather than emphasise their own points in echo chambers. In my experience, *The Hindu's* Open House has become a forum for engagement. It is a form of dialogue journalism.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO



Instead of being trapped in the binary of digital media and legacy media, readers understood the value of the process of news-gathering and news processing. Two young readers, Anna Kattampally and Chithra S. Nair, both graduate students from St. Teresa's College, said younger readers now wait for proper journalistic writing to know the act as social media forwards carry too much misinformation. They told us that there is a dramatic increase in the sharing of sensational, unverified content which is eroding trust in various institutions. They said that the fact that such messages come from known circles give them some form of credence. It is in this context that they have decided to become readers of *The Hindu*, a newspaper which makes central to its news coverage the act of verification.

#### A difficult balance

Many readers spoke of a balance of hyperlocal, local, state, national and international news. Diverse opinions indicated that any fixed formula would make someone unhappy, as the interests of each reader are different from another's. One idea that the Editor approved of was the creation of an edition-centric letters section to deal with local and civic issues. This can be a form of citizen journalism. He has promised to make the local letters section an interactive one: readers will raise issues and the newspaper will seek responses to these issues from the authorities concerned. One reader said that the official responses could become formulaic and wanted the newspaper to examine both the complaints and the responses, so that there is a system of accountability. This new section should be available within a fortnight.

In the era of digitisation, a question that was asked was, shouldn't news be free? When there are multiple sources of information, why should a publication have a paywall? Some argued that the paywall proposal was an attempt to turn news into a commodity that people are willing to pay for.

The answer is simple: news costs money, and credible news costs more money. It is our own democratic investment to pay a fair price for high-quality journalism. For nearly a century, the revenue model was driven by advertising, which is now getting fragmented across platforms.

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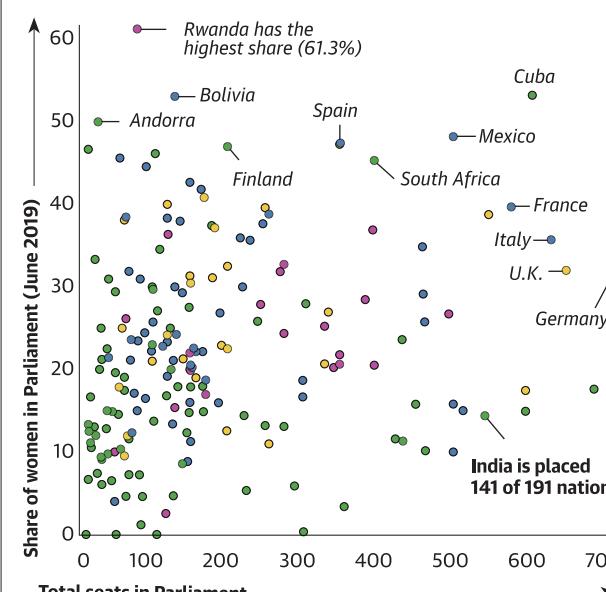
## DATA POINT

### Women in charge

Despite the share of women legislators in the Lok Sabha peaking at 14.39% as of June 2019, India is still worse than 140 countries in the representation of women in Parliament. The global average for the share of women parliamentarians stood at 24.6%. By Suman Sen

#### Global snapshot

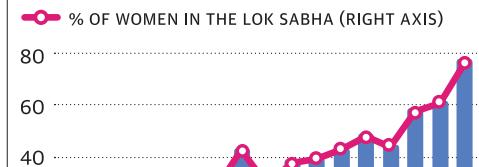
The graph plots the number of seats in Parliament against the share of women legislators in 191 countries. Each circle is a country. ● indicates countries that have a quota for women in Parliament; ● denotes countries where parties are mandated to field a certain % of women candidates; ○ depicts countries where parties give quota to women but are not mandated to do so; ● indicates no quota for women



**Slight up tick |** The graph shows the share of women lawmakers in the Lok Sabha from the first election to the latest. The % of women parliamentarians has gone up significantly in the last three terms of the Lower House

■ NUMBER OF WOMEN MEMBERS ELECTED (LEFT AXIS)

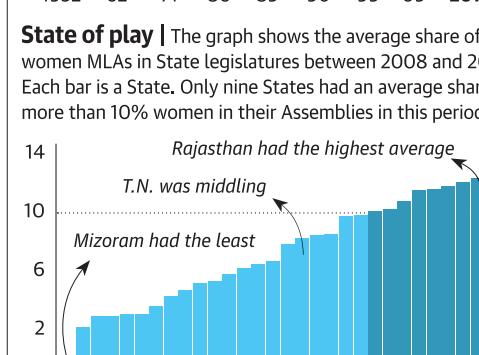
● % OF WOMEN IN THE LOK SABHA (RIGHT AXIS)



**State of play |** The graph shows the average share of women MLAs in State legislatures between 2008 and 2018. Each bar is a State. Only nine States had an average share of more than 10% women in their Assemblies in this period

■ NUMBER OF WOMEN MEMBERS ELECTED (LEFT AXIS)

● % OF WOMEN IN THE LOK SABHA (RIGHT AXIS)



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 29, 1969

#### Signs of ferment in Nepal

The suppression of three newspapers here [Kathmandu] last week, along with the arrest of student demonstrators and a prominent member of the National Assembly, focussed attention on the troubled political conditions in Nepal. The developments indicate that the Panchayat or Assembly system of limited representative Government inaugurated by King Mahendra nine years ago is running into serious new difficulties. One of the chief elements in the situation is a Communist movement looking mainly toward Peking that stands to profit if turbulence and repression continue. The latest flare-up of student restiveness results from recent student union elections. For years, Communist nominees have been winning the annual vote but this year non-Communists came out ahead. Demonstrations by rival factions centred on international issues, with the Communists attacking their opponents through anti-Indian slogans, denouncing the small Indian military liaison group in Nepal, Indian border watchers on the Tibet frontier and India's position over Susta, where location of boundary posts is in dispute.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 29, 1919.

#### Letter to Mr. Gandhi.

A portion of the correspondence that has lately passed between Mr. Gandhi and the Hon'ble Sir George Barnes, Commerce and Industries Member of the Government of India, in regard to the Asiatic Trading Amendment Act, passed by the South Africa Legislature, has been issued to the Press [in Bombay] by Mr. Gandhi. It consists of two letters, one written by Sir George Barnes to Mr. Gandhi on the 18th instant reviewing the position in South Africa at length, regretting that protests from the Government of India had been unavailing and assuring that the Government would consider most anxiously further action to be taken when the full text of the new statute is received, and the other being Mr. Gandhi's reply to Sir George Barnes. The following is the text of Sir George Barnes' letter to Mr. Gandhi: Dear Mr. Gandhi, I sent you only a very short note a few days ago in answer to your letter because I wanted to defer a fuller answer until I was able to deal with the subject at length. I told you, in my first note, that I felt certain that you needed no assurance from me that the events in South Africa which have led up to the passing of the new statute have caused the Viceroy and myself the deepest anxiety.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Speaker disqualifies 14 more rebel MLAs

Congress's legislator representing Kaghwad - Shrimanth Balasaheb Patil, who in filmy style sneaked out of the resort where the Congress had kept its flock together, has also been disqualified based on another petition.

### Petition by ex-CM

On another petition filed by former Chief Minister Kumaraswamy on behalf of the JD(S), the Speaker disqualified former JD(S) president A.H. Vishwanath (Hunsur), K.C. Narayan Gowda (K.R. Pete) and K. Gopalakrishna (Mahalakshmi Layout).

Like the disqualification of three legislators on Thursday night, the 14 disqualifications have been effected based on paragraph 2 (IA) of the tenth schedule of the Constitution read with article 191 (2).

The Speaker cited previous cases, including Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu's judgment in respect of Janata Dal(U) leader Sharad Yadav and the Tamil Nadu Speaker's related to the disqualification of 18 AIADMK legislators. "Monday the House is meeting to



H. D. Kumaraswamy

tackle two important issues - confidence motion being moved by Mr. Yediyurappa, and discussion and voting of the Appropriation Bill. Therefore pronouncement of order on resignation/disqualification had to be done today. There may not be time on Monday," said Mr. Ramеш Kumar, justifying his decision to order disqualification on Sunday though it's a public holiday.

### Working on weekend

He pointed out that due to the urgency, the Speaker's Secretariat and Assembly Secretariat had to work on weekend.

He said his office had received another disqualification petition by the BSP against its lone legislator N. Mahesh.

## Naga register will shield State from outsiders: Dy. CM

The RIIN is often called a variant of Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The only difference is the exclusion from the list will not make the people "illegal or stateless".

### RIIN opposed

The NSCN(IM), which signed a framework agreement with the Centre for finding a solution to the decades-old Naga problem, has opposed the RIIN.

It has called the list "a bid to divide and undermine the inherent rights of the Nagas, besides diluting

the peace process approaching a final settlement."

The NSCN(IM) has been fighting for Nagaland or 'Greater Nagaland' by bringing the Naga-dominated areas in Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh under Nagaland, thus uniting 1.2 million Nagas.

### Separate flag

It has also demanded a separate flag and a constitution for the Nagas.

The Centre has ruled out any division of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

## Airport privatisation process questioned

The Congress spokesperson also alleged that the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) refused to either work out the total projected cost of these airports or look at the prior experience of bidders.

"In effect, for the next 50 years the government will have no control over these

five airports as the Adani group will take over," Mr. Khera said.

**Consumer interests**  
"One by one, each condition placed to ensure protection of consumer interests were rejected," he added.

IN BRIEF



**RAW officer appointed BSF Director General**

IPS officer V.K. Johri, who is presently the Special Secretary in the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has been appointed as the next Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Johri has also been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union Home Ministry with "immediate effect." PTI

**Trial against Kathua rape case minor from Aug. 5**

SRINAGAR  
The trial against a juvenile among those accused in the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua will begin on August 5 as the Jammu and Kashmir High Court refused to entertain a plea for an early hearing of a petition challenging his status as a minor, officials said. The Juvenile Justice Board initiated the trial on July 15, but the Crime Branch said it was not ready to proceed with the case as the status of the accused as a minor was yet to be decided. PTI

**Former Meghalaya CM Donkupar Roy dead**

GURUGRAM  
Meghalaya Assembly Speaker and former Chief Minister Donkupar Roy passed away in a private hospital in Gurugram, Haryana on Sunday. He was 65. Mr. Roy, a seven-time MLA from Shella Assembly constituency in the East Khasi Hills district, was admitted to the hospital on July 18 due to an abdominal complication. A Meghalaya government spokesperson said he breathed his last around 2:50 p.m. "His demise is a great loss for the State. He was a leader we looked up to. We will miss his guidance," current Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said.

# Conflicting views pervade BRICS Ministers' meeting

Fight against terrorism, cooperation in areas of economy and people-to-people exchanges emerged as prominent themes in the one-day meet

**SHOBHAN SAXENA**

RIO DE JANEIRO

For a meeting set to articulate the voice of emerging countries, the BRICS Foreign Ministers' gathering here on Friday could not have started on a more discordant note.

Opening the meeting, Foreign Minister of Brazil Ernesto Araujo called upon fellow BRICS members – Russia, India, China and South Africa – to "act on Venezuela" in support of Juan Guaidó, who proclaimed himself interim president of the South American country on January 23. Brazil holds the rotating presidency of BRICS grouping for 2019.

"There is a cry of freedom coming from Venezuela. Brazil has heard this cry... Every member of international

community needs to hear this cry and act," said Mr. Araujo spelling out his country's vision for the BRICS Summit in November.

**Conflicting views**

However, following Mr. Araujo on the speaking list, Russian Foreign Minister and policy veteran Sergey Lavrov, who, also, spoke on Venezuela, took a diametrically opposite position.

"We need to use international law as the basis for reaching a solution by themselves without outside interference," said Mr. Lavrov, restating the Russian position.

He then called for a similar approach to the crisis in the Persian Gulf. The importance of his reference to Iran was not lost on anyone, as



(From left) Sergei Lavrov, Wang Yi, Ernesto Araujo, Naledi Pandor and V.K. Singh at the BRICS meeting. ■ REUTERS

two Iranian ships have been stuck in a port here for days, with Brazilian oil companies refusing to provide fuel because of U.S. sanctions.

Brazil's new government, led by far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, has closely allied itself with U.S. President Donald Trump's government.

tion of the developing world," said an Indian official who was a member of the official delegation.

The final statement released to the media reflected a commonality of purpose among the BRICS countries. "The Ministers agreed to further deepen BRICS three-pillar-driven cooperation in the areas of economy, peace and security and people-to-people exchanges," it said.

**Fight against terrorism**

The details of the statement reflect that the group of five emerging countries might now be looking for a bigger and different role in global affairs. A large part of the joint statement is devoted to "fight against terrorism," which emerged as a major theme of the one-day meet-

ing. In his address, General V.K. Singh (retd.), Union Minister of State for Transport, who stood in for External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar

said, "All our countries have been victims of terrorism and we need to support each other to end these groups and their supporters. The BRICS has to fight to end the financing of terrorist networks in all our territories."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi too during his speech called upon the BRICS countries to cooperate in combating terrorism.

The BRICS Working Group on Counter Terrorism – already in place – will hold a seminar on terrorism in Brazil from July 29 to August 2.

According to Indian officials, the inclusion of FATF in the statement is a positive

move as India has been pushing for Pakistan to be put on this list for financing terrorism in the region.

On the issue of terrorism in Afghanistan, India clearly got a shot in the arm as the BRICS statement reiterated support for "international and national efforts to achieve an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process".

With the Trump government working on a deal with the Taliban, India has been almost left out of the ongoing Afghan peace process. But with China and Russia two other major stakeholders in Afghanistan reaffirming their support to an "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned" process, India can hope to still play a role in a country it has invested heavily in.

## Industry cautious on RCEP deal

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal meets representatives from various sectors

**SUHASINI HAIDAR**

NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 15-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Free Trade Agreement ministerial talks in Beijing on August 2 and 3, Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal met with representatives from various Export Promotion Councils in the engineering, auto, chemical, pharmaceutical, dairy, copper, textiles and gems sectors among others in separate meetings in Mumbai and Delhi.

However, far from building consensus on the issue, industry sources at the meetings said they remain worried about the "detrimental" consequences of the RCEP agreement.

"From our past experience we have seen that whenever India has rushed into an FTA negotiation,

Indian negotiators like any good negotiators can get the best deal in their own country's interests. But the second part is that industry has to use the access that they gain from the agreement to extend their reach

HARINDER SIDHU

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

trade deficits have always widened after signing free-trade-agreements. The industry is apprehensive that the RCEP negotiations are also being hurried into without caution which may be suicidal for India," a member of the delegation explained.

Responding to the criticism of RCEP, Australian High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu said it was the industry's responsibility to use the FTAs well. Australia is leading diplomats from

various countries to convince India to commit to the deal by the end of the year.

"Indian negotiators like any good negotiators can get the best deal in their own country's interests. But the second part is that industry has to use the access that they gain from the agreement to extend their reach," Ms. Sidhu said, adding that at the last round of RCEP trade negotiations in Melbourne, the Australian government was "reasonably

optimistic that a conclusion on RCEP is achievable by the end of the year".

**Joining later**

Managing industry concerns is one challenge for the Centre ahead of the RCEP summit in Bangkok in November, which Prime Minister Modi will attend.

The other challenge would be if RCEP countries decide to go ahead without countries like India, and leave the door open for India to join later, something Ms. Sidhu said would be a "deeply disappointing" outcome.

Since 2011, India and Australia have also been negotiating a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which reached an impasse in 2015 after nine rounds of negotiation.

(With inputs from TCA Sharad Raghavan)

– were injured when they were hit by splinters from mortar shells in Shahpur sector. The injured were rushed to hospital amid intense shelling, he said adding that the shelling had started around 5 pm along with the Saujiyan sector, while the firing started in the

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

JAMMU

Three civilians, including a woman and her baby, were injured on Sunday as Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to intense mortar shelling and firing of small arms on forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Several residential houses

were also damaged in the cross-border firing, they said. A police official said three civilians – Mohammad Arif (40), Fatima Jan (35) and her about two-week-old son

– were injured when they were hit by splinters from

mortar shells in Shahpur sector. The injured were rushed to hospital amid intense shelling, he said adding that the shelling had started around 5 pm along with the Saujiyan sector, while the firing started in the

Mankote area of the Mendhar sector around 8 pm.

Heavy firing was going on in all the three sectors and there are reports of some damage to civilian houses as well, the official said.

Earlier, a Defence spokesman said the Army is retaliating befittingly to silence the Pakistani guns. "At about 1700 hours, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Shahpur and Saujiyan sectors in Poonch district," Jammu-based PRO of Army Lt Col Devender Anand said.

## 3 civilians injured as Pak. violates ceasefire along LoC in Poonch



the Pakistani guns. "At about 1700 hours, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Shahpur and Saujiyan sectors in Poonch district," Jammu-based PRO of Army Lt Col Devender Anand said.

**INTERVIEW | D. RAJA**

## 'RSS ideology is divisive, fascist'

New CPI general secretary sees a threat to Constitution and democratic polity

**B. KOLAPPAN**

CHENNAI

Born in a Scheduled Caste family at Chipachoor village in Vellore district, D. Raja, the new general secretary of the Communist Party of India, had to battle poverty and hunger. He attended college in Gudiyatham, a small town in the grip of political movements – Communist, Dravidian and Ambedkarite. His anger against poverty and injustice attracted him to the communist movement. He rose from the ranks, first as a student leader working with the All India Students Federation and later becoming general secretary of the All India Youth Federation and full-time worker of the party in 1975. "My parents were landless farmers. I studied in a Harijan welfare school and ate mid-day meal introduced by [Chief Minister] Karunagaj. I still remember the day when I had the opportunity to see him. I had no shirt to wear. I just touched him," recalled Mr. Raja. Excerpts:

You have become the general secretary of the CPI at a time when the BJP is at the helm of affairs. What are your challenges?

It is a challenging time not only for the Left, but for the people and the country as a whole because the right-wing forces have captured political power. The BJP is the political arm of the RSS whose ideology is divisive, communal, sectarian and fascist.

They try to impose their agenda aggressively. It poses a threat to the Constitution and the democratic polity of the country.

The government is completely committed to protecting the interests of the corporate and business



People know that if the Left gets weakened it creates a moral vacuum in Indian politics. The Left continues to be the hope of the people

houses. Its agenda is leading to mob lynchings and attacks on Dalits, Adivasis and minorities.

If somebody questions the government or criticises its policies they are being dubbed as anti-nationals and urban Naxalites.

Another important challenge is the unity of secular and democratic forces. It could not happen in the 2019 general election except in Tamil Nadu. It became a setback not only to the Congress, but other parties like the BSP, RJP, SP and to the Left.

How to unite the secular democratic forces is another big challenge. Left parties are considered to be the voice of the voiceless and the moral component of the Indian polity.

People know that if the Left gets weakened it creates a moral vacuum in Indian politics. The Left continues to be the hope of the people.

There is a view that the BJP capitalised on the "minority appeasement" by the Left and other parties...

The BJP has succeeded in creating a false narrative and spreading fake arguments. The party, in a way, succeeded in what can be called as

what led to the fall of the Left even in its traditional turfs?

Despite all its efforts in Kerala, the BJP was not able to win a seat. West Bengal has become a matter of concern.

The Trinamool Congress wrested power from the Left but in the fight against the Left, it provided conditions for the BJP to emerge. Now the Trinamool is also facing trouble since the BJP is trying to emerge as a contender for power. This is a serious situation and the Left is also thinking over its strategy and taking up people's causes and will be in the streets.

In the land of Tagore, Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Vivekananda, the slogan Jai Sri Ram is being used to divide people, and a Nobel laureate like Amartya Sen has come out openly against this.

While Communists always place thrust on class war, caste remains a factor to reckon with...

I have made it clear many times that the class war of the communists could not be confined only to economic issues. In the Indian context, class struggle is for social justice and against caste discrimination.

Even Dr. Ambedkar identified the bourgeois and Brahminism as the two enemies.

One has to address the social reality, one has to understand the dialectical relationship between the superstructure and the base. Unless we fight for social justice and fight against caste discrimination, we cannot accomplish the revolution. We cannot carry forward the revolutionary process only by addressing economic demands.

**A.P.STATE AGRO INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**

# 55-17-2 to 4, 5th Floor, Stalin Corporate, Industrial Estate, Autonagar, VIJAYAWADA-520007, Ph.No.0866-2556803, FAX:0866-2556804

Agros/VHT-TPT/PPP/19-20 Date:26-07-2019

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) Schedules are invited from reputed Firms for Operation & Management "Integrated Pack House & Vapour Heat Treatment System" facility as is where basis on Public-Private Partnership revenue sharing basis/on lease basis at Tirupathi, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Expression of Interest (EOI) Schedule may be obtained from the Website: [www.apagros.org](http://www.apagros.org) Sd/- Vice Chairman and Managing Director

**INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY**

**TENDER NOTICE No.MS/231/Fire Extinguisher/OT/2019-21**

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/ S-II, Shell Division, Integral Coach Factory, Chennai - 600 038 invites e-tender for the following the reputed contractors:

Name of the Work Maintenance for various types of Fire Extinguishers & Fire Alarm System in ICf.

1. Scope of Work 1554 Fire Extinguishers & 4 Fire Alarm Systems.

2. Approx. Tender Value ₹ 30,26,317/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred and Seventeen Only)

3. Earnest Money Deposit ₹ 60,500/- (Rupees Sixty Thousand and Five Hundred Only)

4. Cost of Tender Document ₹ 3,000/- (Rupees Three Thousand Only) (Non-refundable)

5. Contract Period Two Years

6. Tender Inviting Authority Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer / S-II, Shell Division, ICF, Chennai - 600 038.

7. Last Date and Time for Submission of E-Tender 21-08-2019 at 15.00 Hours.

Website for submission of offer: [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). The Tenderers are also advised to regularly monitor the website for any Amendments / Corrigendum issued.

GREEN ICF ! CLEAN ICF !</p

## IN BRIEF



Israel, U.S. successfully test missile interceptor

JERUSALEM  
Israel and the U.S. have successfully carried out tests of a ballistic missile interceptor that PM Netanyahu said on Sunday provides protection against potential threats from Iran. The tests of the Arrow-3 system were carried out in the U.S. state of Alaska. AFP

## Floods, landslips claim 113 lives in Nepal

KATHMANDU  
Floods and landslips triggered by incessant monsoon rains across Nepal have claimed at least 113 lives, while 38 people are still missing, officials said on Sunday. Parts of central and southern Nepal, including some areas of the Kathmandu valley, have been inundated due to incessant rains since last two weeks. PTI

## 13 killed in Myanmar jade mine landslide

YANGON  
At least 13 jade mine workers and security guards in northern Myanmar were killed in a landslide on Sunday, authorities said, as rescuers frantically searched for more victims. The fire services department said in a Facebook post the accident happened in the early morning in Hpakant township. AFP

## Iran strongly condemns Bahrain executions

TEHRAN  
Iran has strongly condemned the execution in Bahrain of two Shiite men convicted of terrorism, saying the Gulf state's crackdown on dissent was bound to fail. The two were executed by firing squad on Saturday, said officials in the kingdom. AFP

## Armed miners invade protected land in Brazil

ERNESTO LONDONO  
RIO DE JANEIRO

Several dozen armed miners dressed in military fatigues invaded an indigenous village in remote northern Brazil this past week and fatally stabbed at least one of the community's leaders, officials said on Saturday.

The killing comes as miners and loggers are making bold incursions into protected areas with the encouragement of Brazil's far-right President, Jair Bolsonaro.

Mr. Bolsonaro has said that indigenous communities are in control of vast territories that should be opened up to industries to make them profitable. Land invasions in indigenous territories are on the rise across Brazil, where indigenous leaders say they regularly come under threat by miners, loggers and farm-

# Ghani's running mate injured as Kabul blast kills two, wounds 25

Amrullah Saleh is the vice-presidential candidate in the upcoming Afghanistan poll

REUTERS  
KABUL

A powerful explosion hit central Kabul on Sunday, wounding Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's running mate on the first day of official campaigning for a presidential election and killing at least two others, officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which came as officials look ahead to resumption of peace talks between the Taliban and the U.S.

At least 25 civilians were injured in the blast near the private Ghalib University, Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said.

Immediately after the



On alert: Afghan security personnel securing the site of the attack in Kabul on Sunday. AP

blast, gunmen stormed a building belonging to vice presidential candidate Amrullah Saleh's Afghan Green Trend Party. Mr. Saleh was wounded on his right arm by shrapnel before being evacuated from the office.

Mr. Saleh, a former Af-

ghan spy chief turned politician, is an uncompromising opponent of the Taliban and other hardline Islamist groups.

Mr. Ghani, Mr. Saleh and over a dozen politicians, including Hanif Atmar, another former intelligence chief and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former warlord in the anti-Soviet Mujahideen, launched their two-month campaign on Sunday.

Mr. Ghani said in a tweet: "My brother, true son of the Afghan soil and first VP candidate of my electoral team, Amrullah Saleh has survived a complex attack by enemies of the state. We are relieved and thank the almighty that the attack has failed."

"Cumming (sic) District is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess," the President wrote, calling it "the worst run and most dangerous anywhere in the United States."

"No human being would want to live there," he said, in an attack ostensibly provoked by Cummings' criticism of the harsh conditions facing would-be asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border.

Former Vice-President Joe Biden – the Democratic frontrunner to challenge Mr. Trump in 2020 – called out the President directly on Twitter. "It is despicable for you to attack him and the people of Baltimore this way," Mr. Biden wrote. "Once again you have proved yourself unfit to hold the office. A President is supposed to lift this nation up. Not tear it down."



Democrat Congressman Elijah Cummings

congresswomen who are from ethnic minorities.

## 'Unfit to hold office'

The top Democrat in Congress, Nancy Pelosi, on Saturday accused Mr. Trump of a "racist" attack on a "champion... of civil rights and economic justice, a beloved leader in Baltimore, and deeply valued colleague."

"We all reject racist attacks against him," wrote Ms. Pelosi – who was born in Baltimore and whose father served as Mayor of the city.

Former Vice-President Joe Biden – the Democratic frontrunner to challenge Mr. Trump in 2020 – called out the President directly on Twitter. "It is despicable for you to attack him and the people of Baltimore this way," Mr. Biden wrote. "Once again you have proved yourself unfit to hold the office. A President is supposed to lift this nation up. Not tear it down."

In another tweet on Sunday, Mr. Trump said Pelosi is doing a bad job representing her district in California. "Speaking of failing badly, has anyone seen what is happening to Nancy Pelosi's district in San Francisco. It is not even recognizable lately. Something must be done before it is too late," he wrote.

# Trump defends attack on black lawmaker as criticisms mount

We all reject racist attacks against him, says Pelosi

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump defended on Sunday his latest attack on a prominent African-American lawmaker in comments that drew more accusations of racism.

In a series of tweets on Saturday, Mr. Trump took aim at Democratic Representative Elijah Cummings – a high-profile critic of Mr. Trump's administration whose district covers much of the majority black city of Baltimore, Maryland.

"Cumming (sic) District is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess," the President wrote, calling it "the worst run and most dangerous anywhere in the United States."

"No human being would want to live there," he said, in an attack ostensibly provoked by Cummings' criticism of the harsh conditions facing would-be asylum seekers at the US-Mexico border.

Mr. Trump's comments triggered a storm of criticism less than two weeks after the House of Representatives condemned Mr. Trump for "racist" comments targeting four first-term Democratic



In the crosshairs: Policemen firing tear gas shells at protesters in Sai Wan, Hong Kong, on Sunday. AP

## 1,400 arrested at Moscow poll protest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MOSCOW

The Russian police arrested almost 1,400 people as they gathered in Moscow on the weekend to demand free and fair polls, OVD-Info, an organisation that monitors protests, said.

It was the biggest crackdown on a rally in the country in years. Some 3,500 people took part in the unauthorised protest on Saturday, according to official estimates, after authorities barred prominent Opposition candidates from taking part in city elections.

The rally comes amid public frustration over declining living standards that has hit President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings. A week before, 22,000 took to the streets in a protest, calling on authorities to reverse their decision ahead of the September city council vote.

After that demonstration Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny was jailed for 30 days.

Mr. Navalny on Sunday was taken to hospital from jail after suffering what his press secretary said was a "severe allergic reaction", despite having never suffered from allergies.

ended in violent turmoil as riot police waded in to disperse crowds.

On Sunday, a peaceful park gathering in the city's central business district rapidly morphed into a march, as tens of thousands of black-clad protesters set off in several directions, clogging up major thoroughfares.

As the crowds surged, hundreds of riot police fired rounds of tear gas and rubber bullets at the protesters, sending clouds of acrid smoke through the streets.

"We call this Hong Kong's age of revolution," said K. Lee, a masked protester. "This has been sparked by China's refusal to respect Hong Kong's freedoms."

## Tehran says European fleet in Gulf would be 'provocative'

President Rouhani says it would make matters worse

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TEHRAN

Iran on Sunday slammed as "provocative" a British proposal for a European-led naval mission to escort tankers in the Gulf, amid tensions over the seizure of ships.

"We heard that they intend to send a European fleet to the Persian Gulf which naturally carries a hostile message, is provocative and will increase tensions," Mr. Rouhani said after talks in Tehran with Oman's Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi.

Britain said last Monday it was planning a European-led force to escort tankers through the world's busiest oil shipping lane, the Strait of Hormuz, in response to Iran's seizure of the U.K.-



The British-flagged vessel Stena Impero is seen at the Bandar Abbas port. Reuters

flagged Stena Impero on July 19. The capture came after British authorities detained an Iranian tanker – the Grace 1 – off Gibraltar, on allegations it was breaching EU sanctions on Syria.

The spokesman said on Sunday Iran believed that the security of the Gulf had to be maintained by countries in the region.

"We are the biggest agent of maritime security in the

### Meeting with parties to n-deal constructive'

VIENNA

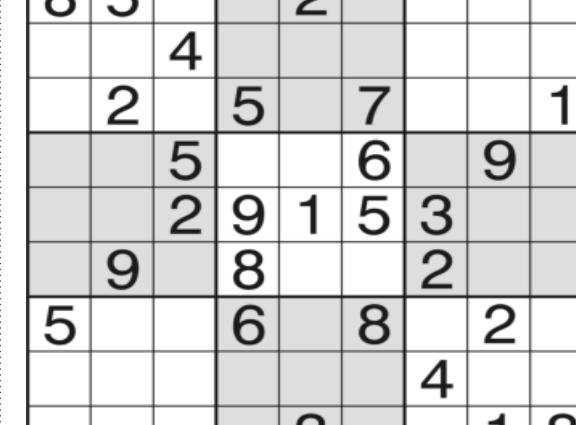
An emergency meeting with parties to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal was constructive but there are unresolved issues and Tehran will continue to reduce its nuclear commitments if Europeans fail to salvage the pact, Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday. Reuters

Gulf," Mr. Rabiei said.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said a force like that proposed by the U.K. would only make matters worse.

"The presence of foreign forces will not help the region's security and will be the main source of tensions," Mr. Rouhani said after talks in Tehran with Oman's Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi.

### SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

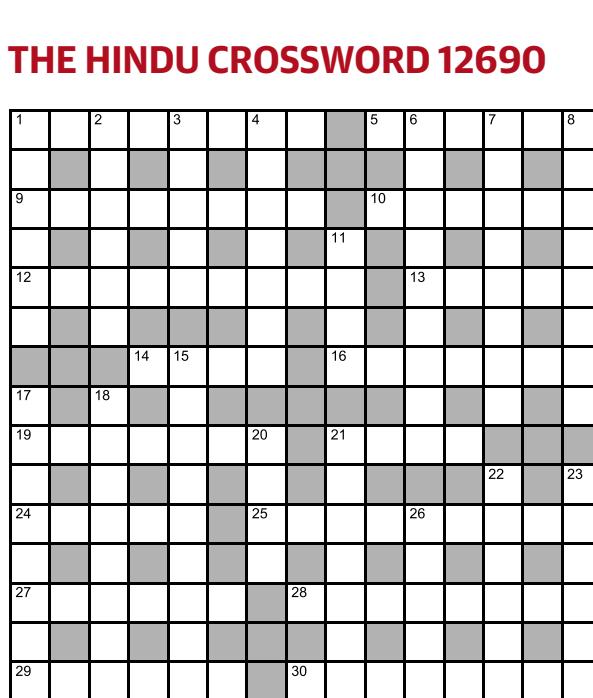
### Solution to puzzle 12689

B	I	A	S	E	D	S	E	W	I	N	G
A	R	L	V	S	M	E	T	U	R	O	P
T	R	U	E	I	S	C	P	O	S	H	A
G	N	G	C	A	R	O	T	H	E	E	Y
W	A	S	A	B	I	T	P	H	E	A	Z
I	S	N	C	I	E	T	S	A	R	S	R
J	E	N	S	E	R	E	T	S	A	R	R
B	E	G	U	N	D	O	M	O	D	O	M
E	C	O	N	S	E	R	P	L	A	S	H
G	U	N	S	O	M	E	R	S	P	L	A
P	A	I	C	B	A	C	O	P	I	E	A
A	M	I	S	N	O	R	E	S	P	L	A
M	I	S	N	O	R	E	S	P	L	A	A
F	U	N	D	R	A	I	S	E	R	R	M
R	O	L	I	S	V	R	O	M	R	R	R
R	O	L	I	S	V	R	O	M	R	R	R
E	N	N	E	A	D	F	E	D	F	E	D

### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	5	4	1	6	3	2	9	7
1	6	3	9	2	7	5	8	4
2	7	9	8	4	5	6	1	3
5	2	9	1	5	3	4	7	6
9	8	7	6	2	1	3	5	4
5	6	8	3	7	2	4	9	1
3	1	7	4	8	6	5	2	9
4	9	8	5	3	6	1	7	2
3	2	5	7	1	8	9	4	6

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12690



### ACROSS

- 1 Setter's job? Essentially work to cheat (8)
- 5 Car heading off to religious area – an ideal place (6)
- 9 Servant follows son to welcome daughter (8)
- 10 Wish for ripe bananas (6)
- 12 Very rare Lego set is too big (9)
- 14 Hide your initial anger (4)
- 16 Sierra Leone's boating crew demonstrates skill (7)
- 19 Deceitful guard returns one's valise after removing contents (7)
- 21 Name of German perfume (4)
- 24 Cause of irritation in mouth or nose (5)
- 25 Couple designing fine art near church (9)
- 27 Play small song, says Spooner (6)
- 28 "India matters" – boring book, quite irritating (8)
- 29 Pet butterfly, say (6)
- 30 Synonym for "rooms" could be found in this (8)

## ASK US



ARATI KRISHNAN

## Retiring early

**Q.** I am 41 years old and married with an 8-year old child. I am planning to retire in the coming months. I have no liabilities and have taken medical insurance with critical illness riders. I plan to sell property, create a corpus and invest the corpus in debt-based mutual funds with SWP for regular income. My corpus is 10 times my yearly expenses. Am I on the right track?

AKHILESH GOKARAJU, HYDERABAD

**A.** There are three financial factors you need to consider before fixing your retirement date. The first is longevity. Longevity decides the number of years of retired life that you will need to fund with the investments you made during your working years. The earlier you retire, the longer this period and bigger the corpus you need. If you retire at 60, the time you have to save for retirement (40 years or so) will hopefully be slightly longer than the time you'll live off it (say 30 years, with a longevity of 90). But if you retire at 41, you'll effectively have to fund 49 years of retired life with a corpus that you built in a mere 20 years of working life. That's a very tall order. If you have dependents, your task becomes more difficult.

Two, beating inflation with your investment income is the key challenge in retirement. Retiring early compounds that problem. At a modest 6% inflation rate, your expenses double every 12 years. If you retire at 41 and are spending ₹60,000 a month today, you'll probably require ₹1.8 lakh to fund the same lifestyle by the time you're 60, and ₹10.4 lakh (a month) by the time you turn 90. Those numbers may seem incredible but that's why inflation is a silent killer.

Three, retirement may not be the only goal you need to strive for and you may need to take care of your wife's living expenses if she outlives you, the education expenses of your child, an emergency fund covering two years expenses for yourself and wife and any medical contingencies too. All this will require further savings.

Given the above, an investment of 10 times your annual expenses will be very inadequate to see you through retirement. In fact, even the thumb rule of 25 times expenses is targeted at people retiring at 60 and is based on the American context where inflation levels are quite low and real returns are higher.

To make up for Indian inflation and returns, you may need to have about 30 times your annual expenses at 60 saved up in order to retire comfortably. Remember the expenses that we're talking of here are your inflation-adjusted expenses at 60, and not your current expenses.

It isn't clear from your query if the sale of property will fetch an additional amount beyond the 10 times expenses that you mentioned. We suggest you consult a financial planner. For your child's education, Sukanya Samridhi is a good debt option but will not be enough to match inflating education expenses. You need to supplement it with an investment in a multicap equity fund through the SIP route.

## Earning ₹1 crore

**Q.** I am 32. I want to set a target of ₹1 crore in 10 years. I have already started SIPs in SBI Smallcap Fund, SBI Midcap Fund, SBI Magnum Taxgain and SBI Banking and Financial Services Fund. Now I want to invest in the Nifty Bank index. Please guide me.

M. ROCKY, IMPHAL

**A.** To get to a ₹1 crore target in 10 years, at a 12% annual return, you need to invest roughly ₹43,470 a month. While we don't recommend specific funds, we would suggest SIPs in one multicap fund, one Nifty Next50 Fund and one mid/smallcap fund, each from different AMCs to meet your goals.

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

## Filing your I-T returns has never been easier

A range of options is now available for the taxpayer to file returns, including a do-it-yourself one

## PARYATHA VARDHINI C

Always been filing your tax returns through your neighbour-hood chartered accountant?

The extension of the return filing deadline to August 31 this year gives you time to explore other ways to do it. There are a few choices ranging from a do-it-yourself (DIY) option to approaching a tax return preparer or an online intermediary, depending on how knowledgeable you are in taxation and financial matters and what kind of services you look for.

## DIY approach

If you are Internet savvy and also know a bit about taxation, then a month's time is good enough to explore the tax department's e-filing website www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in and file returns on your own. You just need to register on this portal, obtain a user ID (which is your PAN) and a password to log in and then upload your return. And, the department doesn't charge you a penalty for the process.

If you have your income details ready, filing the return is not challenging. The website is quite convenient as it provides access to all the other information you will need, in one place.

A link to access your Form 26AS, which has details of the tax deducted at source (TDS)

and tax collected at source (TCS) from your income, links to e-pay self-assessment tax as well as to e-verify the return are available. You can also view your earlier returns, their processing status, outstanding tax demand if any, refund status and ITR V (acknowledgment) receipt status. To make the process less time consuming, some of the number crunching (i.e. tax calculation) is also automated. Also, partly pre-filled returns with details captured from the PAN database, e-filing profile, earlier ITRs as well as Form 26AS are available.

In the recent Budget, the Finance Minister promised to further expand the scope of pre-filling.

## Additional features

Over the last few years, additional features have been introduced.

For instance, to increase security, a second-level authentication for your log-in through a feature called the 'e-filing vault' is available. Once you enable this, you can choose to log in to your e-filing account

through options such as net banking and Aadhaar-based OTP, instead of just the user ID and password. Service requests such as requesting reissue of refund in case there are any problems in the process, etc. have been added recently.

In case you have any grievances, you can raise it and get it addressed through the e-

Nirvan facility in your window.

## Going with intermediaries

If tax is not your cup of tea and you'd rather have someone else file your return, you can use the services of several intermediary websites. These portals collect all required information from you, compile them, calculate your tax liability and file

the return in the income tax department's portal on your behalf. ClearTax, Taxsmile,

TaxSpanner, and myITreturn are examples of such portals.

The good news is that, most of these intermediaries offer free e-filing for simple returns. So, if you have only salary income, you just have to upload your Form 16 on the website of the chosen intermediary and then answer a few queries. Voila, your return will be filed.

Taxsmile, for instance, offers free return filing for those with income below ₹5 lakh. ClearTax promises to file such returns in less than 7 minutes. If you have income from multiple heads, you can go for assisted filing, where experts help you navigate your way through.

Depending on the sources of

your income, various websites

have different fee structures

for assisted filing. Tax-

Spanner, for example has assisted filing options from ₹599 to ₹5,500, based on the nature of service provided. Also, many websites offer several value-added services apart from filing return, which you can benefit from throughout the year. For instance, expert follow-up assistance to customers is available in case issues such as rectification, demand notice, and so on come up after return filing. Most portals offer a chat facility

## What is in I-T?

- Returns can be filed on tax department's website
- With 'e-filing vault,' you can log into your e-filing account through net banking, Aadhaar-based OTP
- Various websites offer assisted filing for a fee



## COVER NOTE: HOME INSURANCE

## Protect the roof over your head

Homing in on a simple policy can save you from financial disaster

## K. NITYA KALYANI

The safety of our home and its contents are paramount financially and psychologically.

A simple insurance policy can protect you from financial disaster if a fire or flood should damage or destroy your home, or a burglary put paid to your peace of mind.

Brand-named variously as Householders' Comprehensive policy by the public sector general insurers or Home Secure, My Home cover and Griha Suvidha by various general insurers, it is usually a package policy that goes beyond insuring your home and its contents thus offering ease of coverage and better premium rates.

The main cover in such a policy is fire and allied perils insurance for your house and its contents. Only the owner of a property can buy fire insurance for it. So, if you are renting, you can cover your belongings in the house against fire, and if you have rented out your house, it's your responsibility to cover the structure in your own interest. A fire policy is deceptively simple. In reality, it covers much more than fire, including lightning, explosion/implosion, aircraft damage, riot, strike and malicious damage, impact damage, storm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane,



In safe hands: A comprehensive policy has several other covers, including burglary and theft. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

## What's inside?

- The main cover in such a policy is against fire and allied perils
- Premium is highly reasonable
- Sum insured should be the replacement value

tornado, flood and inundation, subsidence among others. These are qualified by exceptions that are clearly spelt out.

## Reasonable premium

For this comprehensive cover, your premium is highly reasonable, at just ₹2,000 for covering a 1,500-square-foot house. In this example, I

have assumed a cost of construction of ₹2,500 per square foot for a concrete structure.

The important thing is that your sum insured (SI) should be, not the value of the building as incurred by you, but the replacement value. This is to enable you to rebuild with the claim money. The cost of land, of course, will not figure as part of the SI.

Let us see some of the exceptions. The exceptions to the fire cover are damage or destruction caused to the property by spontaneous combustion or burning of property insured by order of any public authority.

Riot, strike and malicious

damage loss will exclude that caused by burglary, housebreaking, theft and larceny (and this can be covered under a different section of the comprehensive policy).

Impact damage is covered only if it is by a vehicle or animal not belonging to or owned by the insured or any occupier or their employees, and by direct contact.

The cover against subsidence etc. will exclude coastal or river erosion, defective design, workmanship or use of defective materials, demolition, construction, structural alterations or repair of any property or ground works or excavations.

Cover for leakage from automatic sprinklers will exclude repairs to the buildings or of the sprinkler installation.

There is usually an excess on each claim under the policy, usually 1-2% of the SI.

The comprehensive policy has several other covers, including burglary and theft, jewellery and precious items, pedal cycles, breakdown of domestic appliances, damage to plate glass, loss of baggage and personal accident insurance among others.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

## TAX RETURNS DEADLINE

## Meeting tax deadlines helps

ANAND KALYANARAMAN

The taxman has extended the due date for filing income tax returns for FY 2018-19 (assessment year 2019-20) from July 31 to August 31. Now don't wait till August 31. File your tax return as soon as possible. Last minute dashes often result in mistakes. In any case, don't miss the August 31 deadline. Not filing the tax return by the due date has adverse consequences.

## Penalty

If you don't file your return by the due date, the taxman will impose a penalty of ₹5,000 for filing the return beyond the due date (after August 31) and ₹10,000 for filing it after December 31. But the penalty for late filing will be restricted to ₹1,000 if the taxable income is ₹5 lakh or less.

## Extra interest

If you have not paid your entire tax dues, you will have to pay not just the outstanding amount but also interest on this while filing the delayed return. The interest rate is 1% for each month of delay (part of a month is considered a full month for calculation).

So, if you still have to pay ₹50,000 as taxes for the year ended March 2019, and you file your return in December 2019 (instead of by August 31), you will have to pay ₹50,000 plus ₹2,000 as interest -- at 1% for four months (September to December).

## Carry-forward restriction

If the return is delayed beyond the due date, you will lose the benefit of carry-forward and set-off losses from business or capital gains. But



in case of loss from house property, the benefit is available, even if the return is delayed.

## Refund trouble

In case you are entitled to a refund, a delayed return will not just delay the refund, but will also fetch you interest for a shorter period. In case of a belated return, interest on your refund is calculated at 0.5% for each month from the month in which the return is filed. But if a return is filed by the due date, the interest is calculated from the beginning of the assessment year (April).

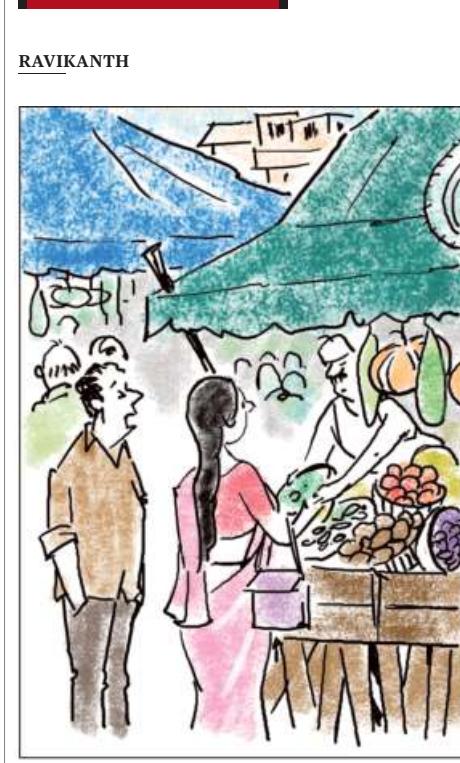
## Other hassles

Often, when you apply for a loan or a visa to travel to some countries, tax returns are asked for. Without this document, you will be at a disadvantage.

Finally, even if you miss the extended deadline, do file your return until the end of the assessment year -- the upper time limit to file your tax return (March 2020 for the year ended FY 2018-19). If you are supposed to file returns but do not, you could be prosecuted.

## LOOSE CHANGE

## RAVIKANTH



"Our financial adviser would say, 'Buy potatoes but hold the decision on tomatoes.'"

EDUCATION LOAN FOR STUDIES ABROAD						
Name of lender	Interest rate	Loan amount (₹)	Processing fee (₹)	Margin requirement	Maximum tenure	Moratorium period
Canara Bank	9.9%-10.6%	No limit	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
State Bank of India	9.65%-10.65%	Upto 1.5 crore	Upto 10,000	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + upto 1 year
Punjab National Bank	10.25%-11%	No limit	1% of loan amount (refundable after first disbursement)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
HDFC Credila	12.55% + Spread	1 lakh onwards	1-2% of loan amount	Upto 100% funding Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	12 years*	Course period + upto 1 year
Syndicate Bank	9.2%-11.45%	Upto 2 crore	NIL	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Avanse	12.65% + Spread	1 lakh onwards	1-2% of loan amount	Upto 100% funding	10 years*	6 months after course completion or 3 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Axis Bank	13.7%-15.2%	50,000-75 lakhs	Loan upto 20 lakhs: 15,000 (refundable) Loan above 20 lakhs: 0.75% of differential amount	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 15%	15 years	Course Period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier
Bank of Baroda	9.35%-10.6%	Upto 80 lakhs	Upto 1% of loan amount (refundable on first disbursement)	Upto ₹4 Lakh: NIL Above ₹4 Lakh : Upto 10%	15 years	Course period + 1 year
Union Bank of India	10.05%-11.7%					



# MASABA GUPTA'S 1 MILLION STORY



GAYATRI RANGACHARI SHAH

Does Masaba Gupta ever sleep? In the past month, the 30-year-old designer reported a \$1 million investment in her company, launched a line of lipsticks and nail polish with beauty retailer Nykaa Cosmetics, while Netflix announced a new series starring her and her mother, actor Neena Gupta. This was hot on the heels of collaborations for a capsule collection for the final season of *Game of Thrones*, a line of saris with Banaras brand Ekaya, and Africa-inspired tribal jewellery with Jaipur-headquartered jeweller, Amrapali – all of which debuted between February and May this year. Oh, and she also designs four collections a year.

"I won't lie, I feel like we did too much in the first half of 2019," Masaba admits with a laugh. "Some of it wasn't fun because I was stretched in all directions." She may be overworked, but it doesn't show: a combination of youth and daily exercise has her looking fresh. She wears no make-up, except for a light pink lip called 'Buzz Kill' from her new Masaba By Nykaa make-up line. She is oblivious to heads turning as she walks into lunch at the Asian restaurant at the Four Seasons hotel. Although a purveyor of print, she's wearing a below-the-knee black Moschino stretchy dress, with dangly white flower

With a big chunk of change coming in as investment for her brand, the young designer is ready to expand, innovate and become India's Tory Burch

earrings from Zara. "I can think in print, but I can't imagine it on me," she says candidly. "I make and wear black and white for myself because it centres me."

#### Masstige on her mind

For someone who started her label at the age of 19, creating a splash with her eye-catching prints and bursts of colour, this year is a turning point personally and professionally. Her brand marks a decade in the fashion business, and what better way to gain some cred than receiving a

chunk of change from Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal, Patni Group's Apoorva Patni, Apurva Salarpuria (whose other investments include Epigamia yoghurt and Bira beer) and Abhishek Agarwal of Purple Style Labs? "I wanted to be picky about who invested because unfortunately people here don't think of fashion as a serious business," Masaba says. "These investors got it. They understand scale." She notes that for a brand that has spent no money on marketing in the past 10 years, she's had considerable

growth. "It's all Instagram and organic. I don't even have a million followers yet."

Patni says, "We invested in Masaba because of Masaba herself: an excellent fashion entrepreneur and big digital influencer. She's playing in a very interesting bridge to the luxury segment which we believe possesses the potential for huge global scalability." The cash influx will go towards building an e-commerce team, strengthening the back-end supply chain, and expanding retail outlets, from 11 stores in 8 cities to 50 stores across India.

Masaba's vision? "To be the ultimate masstige brand in India. I don't just want to stop at clothes, I want it to be a beauty destination, with jewellery, accessories. I want to be the Tory Burch of India, never moving from my aesthetic, but offering a story, putting a print on whatever I can."

#### Cashing in on cool

It's hard to remember now, but in 2009, when she started out, the idea of putting cameras, cows and Tamil script on saris and Indian wear seemed madly modern. Young women loved it, and embraced the sari as a contemporary item of clothing.

"Masaba is a whirlpool within the fashion industry," says Nishim Shah, designer and friend. "Hers is a modern kitsch India which people want to wear with pride." *Vogue India* fashion director, Anaita Shroff Adajania, agrees. "She is so much more than the designer who started off popularising Indian iconography in her pop-art style. The brand speaks to real women. It's refreshing to see her celebration of curves, for example."

Anil Chopra, the former head of Lakmé, has seen her work since her student days at SNDT University. "She has a very clear thought process and when she puts out a collection, it embodies her design philosophy. She has a signature that is unique to her. You can spot someone wearing a Masaba instantly."

It helped that the label was – and continues to be – affordable. Entry price points start at ₹6,500 for a tunic or swimsuit, with an average price point of ₹15,000. Occasion wear only came about in 2015 and at its most expensive, retails at ₹70,000.

There's a unanimous belief in the designer's "cool," "experimental" bent. Tarang Arora of Amrapali, who did a collaboration with Masaba for his line Tribe, says, "Who better than Masaba to plan something funky, with a handcrafted ethnic look, that's accessible?"

#### On the outside

The child of Neena Gupta and former West Indies cricket captain Sir Vivian Richards, Masaba didn't have it easy while growing up in Mumbai. Because of the way she looked, she encountered all types of slights. Attending Jamnabai Narsee school in Juhu, she says the size of her backside was pointed out to her; people made fun of her hair texture. Her Indian grandfather would try to scrub her tan away. "I feel like I viewed my entire life from the outside – like watching this child who had an afro in a largely Gujarati school trying to cope. I couldn't understand her struggle because I never felt different. I ate the same food, I spoke the same language. I had the most loving home."

Sports was an outlet for the rage she experienced. From the age of eight to 14, she played intense tennis, for up to six hours a day. She played state level for Maharashtra, but she saw her shortcomings. "I had all this strength and anger that I didn't know how to channel, and I couldn't keep the damn ball in the court," she says. "It was tough. You don't overcome these things. They become a part of who you are. But as you grow, you find different ways of coping. Today I have learned how to channel my rage through fashion." She's also a huge music and dance buff, having learned Kathak and modern Jazz, as well as Hindustani and Western classical music.

#### Celebrating colour

An excellent time manager – she jokes that being single helps – she starts her day at 7 a.m., with an hour of exercise, alternating between yoga and strength training. In the office in Andheri by 10 a.m., the next eight hours are spent overseeing marketing, design, social media, hiring, production, and fabric sourcing. Design takes up most of her time, but she says marketing is her forte. Masaba has an active social

life – a cursory look at her Instagram feed reveals photos with Sonam and Rhea Kapoor, Shah, and Pernia Qureshi. She is very close to both her parents, even though her father is sometimes hard to get a hold of, since he doesn't own a mobile phone.

For a girl who grew up being bullied for the way she looked, launching a beauty line with Nykaa Cosmetics has been therapeutic. "Today I'm the captain of my own ship," she says with a grin. Two years in development, Masaba has been overseeing the colour palettes and packaging. "Masaba's design sensibility has always been ahead of the curve," says Reena Chhabra, CEO of Nykaa Cosmetics. "She has an ability to delve into a millennial consciousness, as well as create a completely new design story with vibrant colours and themes that connect with everyone." Currently offering 12 nail varnishes and lip colours, with quirky names like 'Nimbu Paani', 'Pataka', and 'Rawr', a full line of make-up and skin care will be introduced going forward.

Through this project and others, Masaba thinks India's ideal of beauty will evolve. She hopes her Netflix show – about which she can't say much right now – will help. "Dark skinned girls write to me every day, from small towns and big cities, rich and poor, and they tell me how they feel," she says. "In India we have hundreds of skin tones and don't we need to show that? I know kids who still haven't come out of their shell because they were made fun of for how they looked. I got lucky because I found fashion, and I found it early."

**Print perfect**  
(From top)  
Masaba with her mother Neena Gupta, and designs from her new festive line launch

## Quick six with Masaba

**Currently streaming:**  
On Netflix, I'm watching *Leila* and *What if*

**Currently reading:**  
Gail Honeyman's *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*

**Favourite food:**  
Chinese. And anything fried!

**Fashion icons:**  
Home and clothing designer Haseena Jethmalani, my mother Neena Gupta, and actor Tracee Ellis Ross

**Favourite go-to outfit:**  
A white shirt with pearls

**Currently inspired by:**  
"My anxiety. I'm irritable but it's very inspiring. I'm making a cool, wild new collection based on that and my new beginnings."



## DOWN MEMORY LANE



R V SMITH

Nazdika was born around the year 1840. Her great grandfather had been a secret priest of Isis, the Egyptian goddess. Her family had ostensibly converted to Islam but the old religion was still deeply ingrained in them. At the age of 16, she left home to stay near the pyramids' temple area of Abouthis, where she was initiated into the rites of the divine Sethi.

There were many mysterious sights that sometimes fascinated and sometimes terrified Nazdika: strange sounds, nocturnal birds with wide black wings that cast sinister shadows, and shadows that were explained as past High Priests coming from the underworld. Undaunted, Nazdika learnt the initial rites until she was kidnapped by a man besotted with her and taken away to Port Said. Here, she was forced to dance at the erotic temple dedicated to Cypris.

#### Great escape

The kidnapper was a member of the secret Egyptian Brotherhood waiting for the restoration of the discarded faith of the country. Nazdika bore a son but he died in infancy. Soon after her abductor met a violent end and she was able to escape to Cairo.

It was there that Nawab Ismail Khan of Datoli found her and brought her with him as the wet nurse of his son Fai-

yaz Khan, whose mother Bi Sahib could not lactate. He also brought an African woman, Mashruka and her son Almas from the slave market at Makkah, where he had gone on Hajj, though his regret was that he could not bring the father also as he had already been sold off to someone else.

#### The Delhi connect

The Nawab stayed both at Delhi and Agra, where his kothi was famous as "Faiyaz Manzil", named after his son. Faiyaz studied along with Sarojini Naidu in England and later became Nawab and member of the Central Legislative Assembly as a Muslim League leader.

Nazdika was alive then and known as Sabamma (mother of the family). She sat on a takhat (a roughly made di-

van) cross-legged, an ebony-complexioned slim woman with long black hair and sharp features, motionless like the Sphinx, a miniature image of which was placed by her side. A bundle of ancient papyrus texts served as her pillow though she did not sleep much. She would offer namaz alight but after midnight when the moon was up she would recite the prayers she had learnt on the banks of Father Sihor (the Nile).

Sheesh Khan, Nawab Ismail Khan's nephew, got up one full-moon night to hear strange music from the skies and Nazdika intoning a prayer and bowing down with folded hands. He did not know it that time but later learnt that it was the sistrum (a musical instrument) symbol of Isis that emanated that weird sound. One day he

asked her what was the ghostly music was. She told him what it was and asked him not to speak about it to anyone as it could bring a curse on a non-believer like him.

Nazdika was fond of dates,

honey, pickled locusts,

melons, and mangoes from Jang

baspur, near Bulandshar,

where Qadri Begum, wife of

Faiyaz Khan, had her ancestral estate. Nazdika kept water from the Nile in a bottle which was replenished whenever someone went on a Hajj.

When she saw the Yamuna

she remarked that it was not

as big and wide as Father Si-

hor, nor were there as many

boats on it. She ate fresh wa-

ter fish from the Yamuna but

longed for the ones back

home which she sometimes

got from returning Hajis.

When she died at the age

of 98, she was buried at the

Karbala, near the Syedna at

Agra, in a mud grave sans a

tombstone not far from Is-

mail Khan's grave. Bi Sahib's

grave isn't here; she passed

away in Mecca, where she'd

gone to secure the family pro-

perty from encroachers.

Fazlu Mian, her grandson,

who died at Rawalpindi in

1995, used to say that on the

night of Sabamma's death he

had heard the same ghostly

music as was heard by

Sheesh Khan, though he did

not know that it was the sis-

trum of Isis bidding adieu to

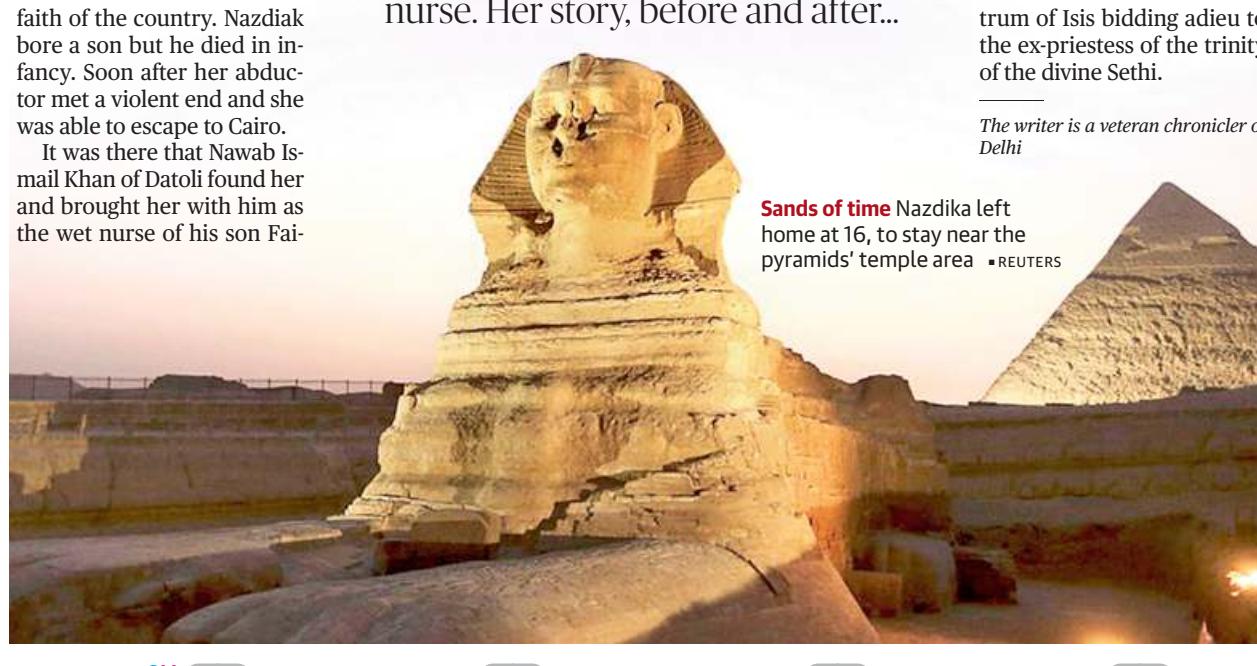
the ex-priestess of the trinity

of the divine Sethi.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

## An Egyptian priestess in India

Nazdika was brought to India by Nawab Ismail Khan of Datoli as a wet nurse. Her story, before and after...



Sands of time Nazdika left home at 16, to stay near the pyramids' temple area •REUTERS

## Introducing Miss Sargam

Classical vocalist Shubha Mudgal turns author with a collection of short stories set in the music industry

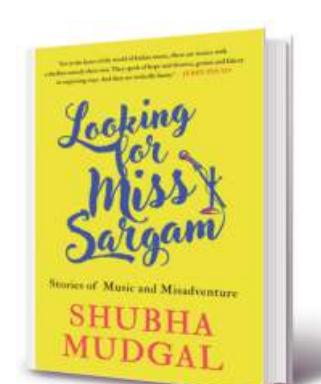
NEHA BHATT

As she makes her debut as a fiction writer, star classical vocalist Shubha Mudgal is nervous – more nervous than she was for her very first concert. "I have grown more used to the stage than to writing," she laughs, in her first interview about the book, titled *Looking for Miss Sargam: Stories of Music and Misadventure*. Mudgal need not be worried. Humorous and heart-breaking, the seven stories crafted from anecdotes she had "hanging around" in her head sparkle with an assured, sophisticated literary quality. The stories feel topical yet timeless, with several issues that have troubled Mudgal woven into the fabric of fiction. The experience of putting it all down, she says, was both fun and cathartic.

Mudgal – who shuttles between Mumbai and Delhi – spends most of her day surrounded by music, often reading and writing late into the night. A collection of short stories, however, was not on her to-do list. A chance encounter writing *Aman Bol* for theatre director Sunil Shanbag's production, *Stories in a Song*, is where it began for her. "Since 2009, it has been performed over 100 times and stood the test of time. I thought I could follow it up with more nuanced stories." She then showed her work to literary agent Kanishka Gupta, whose positive reaction was encouragement enough to continue.

**Inside an insider's head**  
A master of several forms of classical music, with Thumri and Khayal among her favourites, Mudgal has been performing since the 1980s. She retains an effortless youthful quality, an affinity for experimentation and collaborations that go beyond genres. Her most recent collaboration is the Indo-Australian album, *Bridge of Dreams*, composed and performed with husband and tabla player Aneesh Pradhan, saxophonist Sandy Evans, harmonium player Sudhir Nayak and tabla player Bobby Singh. In her repertoire are the unforgettable pop numbers 'Mann Ke Manjeere' and 'Ab Ke Sawan'.

Adding to this are her tongue-in-cheek columns through which she has turned the spotlight on issues such as ill-treatment of classical mus-



#### Shubha's reading list

Mudgal's second book, currently in the works, will be non-fiction. Once a voracious reader, she confesses to now having shifted to reading material focussing on music. "Currently I am reading *Padmavat*, and *Babu Bangladesh* is next on the list," she says.

cians and their instruments, blatant copyright infringement and a dismal government budget for culture. These themes, and more, find a suitable home in *Looking for Miss Sargam*, which took about three years to complete. "As an insider, choosing to write on this subject is an advantage, but on the other hand, you find yourself too close to the stories," she says. The result is a world which feels lived-in and authentic, accompanied by her wry, satirical commentary on how the media, music labels and so-called nationalists operate. Her characters do not necessarily find themselves in happy situations, but "I have tried to make light of the situation and laugh at the not-so-silver lining", she says.

**Eye for detail**  
The stories are quick to draw you into the lives of musicians from Indian cities big and small. In the first story, *Aman Bol*, star sin-

gers from Pakistan and India are brought together for a peace-breaking concert, till petty backstage drama threatens to upstage the music. In *Foreign Returned*, a Pune-based classical singer's long-awaited maiden trip abroad doesn't turn out quite as expected. And in *Taan Kaptaan*, a second-generation musician from Meerut is embroiled in a reality show scam. Over the course of the other stories, she explores the politics of winning a Padma Shri and the rocky road to musical st



SUNALINI MATHEW

When Sameera Reddy began posting pictures of her bump on Instagram in February this year (her account is @reddysameera), she did so, "Knowing I would be myself and I didn't need to please people," she says, acknowledging that she has, in the past, felt anxiety with people projecting the perfect life.

Her most recent posts, hashtagged #imperfectlyperfect talk about body image and self-love, and show untouched-up pictures of herself as an overweight, 'too-tall' 13-year-old (picture on the right), and her post-partum bump. She gave birth to a daughter two weeks ago and is still struggling with the physical pain of a C-section and breast feeding, and says as much online, with none of the Hallmark-style sentimentality we see so much on, especially when it comes to motherhood.

"In the beginning, you think you've done it once, you can do it again quite easily, but you need help all over again. You're much cooler with the second one though. Everyone had to sterilise their fingers and toes with Hans

## Sameera Reddy's MOM DIARIES

Second-time mom to a daughter, the former actor talks of the realities of pregnancy and motherhood

### FENUGREEK AND LACTATION

In India, women are given fenugreek, as it's said to help in milk production. This is not supported by research. "This isn't a clinical claim," says Manjari Chandra, a Delhi-based dietician.

"But there is some sense to eating foods that have prebiotic effects, especially soluble fibre. Lactation is a metabolic activity," she says. For oxytocin and progesterone to be at the right level, you want insulin, the master hormone, to perform well. For this, methi is one way to manage sugars and metabolic activity better, lending overall balance.

(her elder son). Right now, I have him coming in with his toys and his food. He's a part of the process – he's my little helper. He wants to get the diaper and the wipes," she says.

She wanted to have another baby though, despite her difficulty with her first pregnancy. She had prolactinoma (high levels of prolactin) and placenta previa (a low-lying placenta covering the cervix), keeping her bed-ridden. "I was hormonally challenged. Everyone saw me fall apart. I was scared, I didn't know what was happening, and I put on 32 kg," she says. After her son's birth, there was the post-partum depression to deal with.



Liked by 38,969 others  
reddysameera Guess who? Age 13. Tallest in her class and awkward as hell! more  
View All 887 Comments  
1 day ago

**Keeping it real** Sameera Reddy has been vocal on Instagram about body image, sharing a picture of herself with her daughter (above) and of her own 13-year-old self (left)

■ SUMER VERMA AND INSTAGRAM

don't-do-this kind of comments.

The difficult part has been with breastfeeding. "Someone should write a manual," she jokes. "I kept telling my husband I'm sure I'll be fine, but last week I fell apart. Sometimes to start the milk supply is hard, and people around you can either demoralise you or have your back," she says.

This time, her husband supported her, because "once you start a top feed, it's hard to get them (babies) off." The breast pump has worked for her: "Even if you're getting very little, the action seems to work," so she'll pump three times a day, between feeds.

Her trainer's wife had a box of gond-and-methi laddoos with her the moment she delivered. She's also eating methi with bajra roti.

The best part of the journey, for Sameera though, is seeing a relationship build between her son and yet-to-be-named daughter, now called Girlie, by Hans.

"He wanted a cricket set and has asked his grandmother for a bat for her too, imagining she's soon going to be playing with him very soon." The four-year-old asked where his sister had come from, and Sameera showed him her scar. "Now he thinks she's a superhero who's come out of a scar."



■ Hives, itching and watering of the eyes, wheezing – are all part of what is called a hypersensitivity reaction. This definitely needs a detailed medical evaluation, as a severe attack can potentially be life-threatening. While sometimes triggers such as certain foods, can easily be identified and avoided, it is strongly recommended that you be under the care of a medical professional for this issue.

Dr Renita Rajan is the Chief Consultant Dermatologist at RENDER Skin & Hair, a cosmetic dermatology clinic in Chennai

Nothing in this column is intended to be, and is not, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please seek independent advice from a licensed practitioner if you have any questions regarding a medical condition. Email us your questions at mp\_health@thehindu.co.in

### POOCH CAFE



### PEANUTS



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



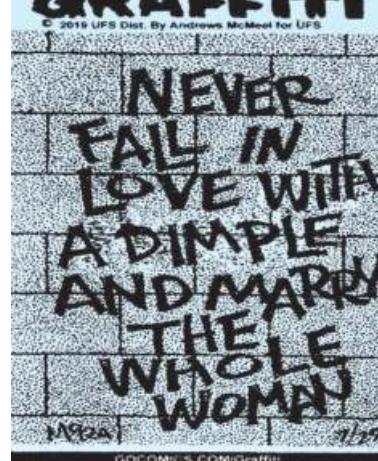
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



### TIGER



### GRAFFITI



### THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13134

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8		9				
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- 5 Peas (anag) – part of a church (4)  
6 Eventually (6,2,5)  
7 Handsome (7)  
12 Flimsy sandal (4-4)  
13 Use any office workstation, not having a permanent one (3-4)  
15 Running late (6)  
16 Composition for nine instruments (5)  
19 Morose (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 30, 2019.  
Solution No. 13133

### WUMO



### HEALTH CAPSULES

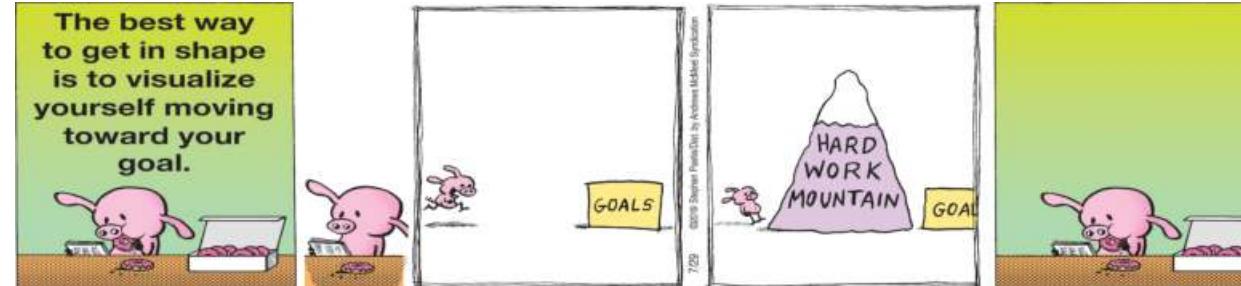
by Brian Smith  
CAN GINKGO BILOBA HELP MY SKIN?  
GINKGO BILOBA IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE MAIDENHAIR TREE.  
A RECENT STUDY REVEALED THAT GINKGO BILOBA SEED EXTRACT HAS ACHIEVED PROMISING RESULTS AS A HEALING THERAPY FOR SKIN INFECTIONS, INCLUDING ACNE, PSORIASIS, DERMATITIS AND ECZEMA. THE STUDY DEMONSTRATED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GINKGO EXTRACT AGAINST BOTH STAPH AND STREP BACTERIA, AS WELL AS CUTIBACTERIUM ACNES. Health Capsules is not intended to be a definitive treatment.

### THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13134

- 16 Hard work (4)  
17 Large German dirigible (8)  
20 Leader (9)  
21 Metal, Sn (3)  
22 Person with whom one shares common attitudes (7,6)  
13 Golfer who can't drive straight? (6)  
14 Author of Little Women, d. 1888 (6)  
4 Recalled (6)

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### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



The best way to get in shape is to visualize yourself moving toward your goal.

The secret behind the immortality of Keith Richards

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L	A	T	C	H	K	Y	I	K	D	S

## TV PICKS

**UTT:** Star Sports 1 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**GT20:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



Yuvraj's cameo sets up Nationals' win

**TORONTO** Yuvraj Singh scored a quickfire 21-ball 35 as Toronto Nationals chased down a 192-run target, with two wickets to spare, against Edmonton Royals in Global T20 Canada here on Saturday. India's 2011 World Cup hero, who hit three boundaries and as many sixes, looked fluent throughout his innings. Yuvraj had scored only 14 from 27 balls in the first match which his team lost to Vancouver Knights. PTI



Basilashvili retains Hamburg title

**HAMBURG** Georgian Nikoloz Basilashvili retained his title at the Hamburg Open on Sunday when he beat unseeded Russian Andrew Rublev 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. Basilashvili, who was seeded fourth at the clay-court event, is ranked 16th in the world but will lose points because last year he took the title after coming through qualifying. AFP



No regrets, says Iniesta on leaving Barcelona

Vissel Kobe's Andres Iniesta said he has "no regrets" over making a move from Barcelona to the J1 League side. "No, no regrets. It's a very strong word to label it as that. I've always said it. If I had felt the desire or the strength to continue playing in Barcelona I would've loved to come here a year later playing for Barca against Vissel, but my moment ended," Goal.com quoted Iniesta. ANI

## JP Atrey memorial cricket

## SPORTS BUREAU

CHANDIGARH The 25th edition of the JP Atrey memorial cricket tournament will be held at four venues here from September 1 to 10.

Top-rung cricketers like Kapil Dev, Chetan Sharma, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, M.S. Dhoni, Cheteshwar Pujara, Shikhar Dhawan have turned out for various State and corporate teams in the past editions of the tournament which is affiliated to the Punjab Cricket Association.

Sixteen teams will participate this year. The winner will get a cash prize of ₹2 lakh and the runner-up ₹1 lakh.

## Fardeen beats Faisal to title

**GURUGRAM:** Fardeen Qamar beat his brother Faisal Qamar 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in the final of the AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the Pradhan Tennis Academy in Sector-103 on Sunday. The results:

**Final:** Fardeen Qamar bt Faisal Qamar 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; **Semifinals:** Faisal bt Ashutosh Tiwari 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

## 'Getting in and out of the side not good'

Shreyas says it doesn't create pattern and you start disbelieving yourself

## CRICKET

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI** Every player wants a sense of security and Shreyas Iyer is no different as he believes that "getting in and out of the team doesn't create a good pattern" and dents a player's belief in the long run.

Indian Premier League's youngest captain, the 24-year-old Iyer, who guided Delhi Capitals to its first playoffs in seven years, is getting ready for the upcoming limited-over series in the Caribbean, having earned a recall after a disappointing World Cup snub.

## Second coming

This is his second coming and he wants a few more chances that will help him cement his place in the side. "If you are really a good talent, then you need a certain amount of chances to prove yourself and get acclimated to the conditions," Shreyas told PTI in an exclusive interview.

"If you keep coming in and going out (of the team), it doesn't really set a good pattern for one's self and you start disbelieving yourself. If you are a great talent, then you need some time," feels the talented Mumbaikar, who has played six ODIs and an equal number of T20Is.

## Only mantra

Having stacked up consistent performances at the domestic and 'A' level, Shreyas said that at times one tends to

lose patience but the only mantra is to perform.

## Not in your hands

"Yes, you tend to lose patience but selection is not in your hands."

"All you can do is perform, perform and perform and that's what I enjoy doing," he said when asked about times when someone is repeatedly ignored.

"You have to keep performing and keep showing people that you are capable of playing at the higher league. Once you get that sniff, you never look back," Shreyas, who enjoys 50-plus average (52.18) over 54 First Class games and a healthy 42.93 in List-A matches, said.

He is confident that he will certainly play a World Cup in future even as the 2019 exclusion rankles him.

"Yes, there was a lot of buzz about me before the World Cup selection because I was consistent and aware about the hardwork and smart work that I had put in. It will definitely reap benefits and help me in future when I play for India," he said.

Shreyas fully understands that it was a specific team combination that was the reason he was being overlooked and hence he always remained in high spirits.

"It was difficult to not get selected. It was my dream to play the World Cup for my country. "I know there are a few opportunities that I got but unfortunately the team combination was such that it didn't demand me to be there," said Shreyas.



A just wish: Shreyas Iyer wants a few more chances to help him cement his place in the Indian team. ■ FILE PHOTO: PRASHANT NAKWE

## Chandigarh finally gets BCCI affiliation

Decision welcomed by the city's cricket fraternity with an eye on the future

VIJAY LOKAPALLY  
NEW DELHI

SUSHIL KAPOOR

Veteran cricket official

Forty-seven years after seeking recognition from the Board, Chandigarh finally gained a slot to compete in domestic cricket.

The recognition granted to the Union Territory Cricket Association (UTCA) was welcomed by the city's cricket fraternity with an eye on the future.

For veteran cricket official Sushil Kapoor, the news meant "respect" for the game's fans and promoters in and around Chandigarh.

"I had attended the Board's AGM at Calcutta in 1972 and sought permission for players from Chandigarh to play for Haryana since the city was not getting any recognition. Even thought

"The city had a good infrastructure (stadium at Sector 16) and we had some talented players who were forced to either play for Haryana or Punjab. I am glad the local talent will serve Chandigarh now," Kapoor added.

Among the players from Chandigarh who played for India were Kapil Dev, Yograj Singh, Yuvraj Singh, Ashok Malhotra, Chetan Sharma, V.R.V. Singh, Dinesh Mongia and SiddhARTH Kaul. "I am happy for the young cricketers of Chandigarh," remarked Kapil.

## Reward for hardwork

For Vivek Atrey, a cricket-loving bureaucrat and senior vice-president of the UTCA, it was a reward for hard work

put in by many. "A very welcome development for cricket in this region," noted Atrey, who has been organising the JP Atrey cricket tournament for the last 25 years.

"Chandigarh should have got affiliation long ago. It is a matter of satisfaction that UTCA had finally received affiliation with BCCI and the boys and girls of Chandigarh will be able to play national-level tournaments in all age groups," said a delighted Atrey.

"With the merger of CCA Punjab into UTCA things became much easier and the process of affiliation was finalised by the BCCI. Henceforth, many more (local) cricketers will get the chance to play at higher levels and perhaps the highest level."

## Sarita shocks Pooja, books berth for World C'ships

## WRESTLING

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

2020 Tokyo Olympics, to be held in Kazakhstan in September.

In the women's trials for six Olympic weight classes held at Lucknow on Sunday, Sarita, an Asian championships silver medallist in 2017, defeated Pooja, who had a close shave against Anshu Malik in the semifinals, 2-1 in the final.

Sarita had earlier shocked

Pooja 6-5 in a keenly fought bout of the Pro Wrestling League in January last.

Seema beat the seasoned Nirmala 7-0 to claim the 50kg slot, while Divya Kakran, the current Asian bronze medallist, got the better of former Asian champion Navjot Kaur 6-3 to secure the 68kg spot.

Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik and Asian

Games and Commonwealth Games gold medal winner Vinesh Phogat outsmarted Reshma Mane and Pinki 13-2 and 9-0 in the 62kg and 53kg respectively. Kiran took the 76kg berth, overcoming Gursharanpreet Kaur 6-4.

The trials for four non-Olympic categories – 55kg, 59kg, 65kg and 72kg – will be held in the second week of August.

## Inter edges PSG on penalties

## FOOTBALL

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MACAU

Conte's side comes just days after it lost to Italian rivals Juventus on penalties in a friendly in China.

Neymar, linked with a move back to his former club Barcelona, remained in China's Shenzhen, PSG's pre-

vious stop on its Asian tour, while his team-mates flew to gambling enclave Macau.

During a scrappy game in sweltering Macau, Inter was quicker out of the blocks, forcing three fine stops from PSG's Alphonse Areola in the



The crucial kick: Joao Mario scored the final spot-kick as Inter Milan beat Neymar-less Paris Saint-Germain. ■ AFP

## Think Carey is going to be next keeper: Wade

Excited over being included in squad

## ANI

DUBAI

Australia's Matthew Wade thinks Alex Carey is going to be the team's next wicket-keeper and he is not pushing for the spot anymore.

"I don't feel like I'm pushing for that [wicket-keeper] spot too much anymore. I think [Alex Carey] is going to be the next wicket-keeper for Australia. I think everyone knows that, it's just a matter of time for that to happen," ICC quoted Wade as saying.

Wade has found a spot in the 17-member squad named for the upcoming Ashes. However, it will be skipper Tim Paine behind the wicket.

Wade expressed his excitement over being included in the squad and said he will do the wicket-keeping if something happens to Paine as Carey is not playing in the Ashes.

"It's just a luxury that I've

I see myself as a batter on this tour and if there is an opportunity to bat at five or six, wherever it is, I am comfortable to step into it.

played 20 Tests and a lot of one-dayers as a 'keeper that if something happens to Tim (Paine) on the morning of a Test, then I can stand in and keep. I've got no issues there. I've been away for a long time and I am excited to be back," he said.

Wade, who hasn't played international cricket since October 2017, stated that he sees himself as a batsman in the upcoming Ashes tour.

"I see myself as a batter on this tour and if there is an opportunity to bat at five or six, wherever it is, I am comfortable to step into it. Fingers crossed I get an opportunity," he said.



Clear thinking: Matthew Wade says he sees himself as a batsman in the Ashes tour. ■ RYAN PIERCE / GETTY IMAGES

## RACING

## Desert God claims Bangalore St. Leger

BENGALURU: S. Padmanabhan-trained Desert God (Sandesh) up

won the Tetrasoft Inc. Bangalore St. Leger, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (July 28).

The winner is owned by Radian Blood Stock Pvt Ltd rep by Mrs. Sharmila Padmanabhan and Mr. S. Padmanabhan & Col. Swapna Bhadra.

1 MANITOU PLATE (1,400m, maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): TENNO SHO (Trevor) 1, Cavaliere (Antony) 2, Legendary Princess (Sandesh) 3 and Silver Eclipse (Md. Asif Khan) 4. 3-1/2, 8-1/2, 1-3/4, 1m, 12.67s, £284 (w), 59, II and 19 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 43, FP: 806, Q: 269, Trinella: 6,855 and 3,672, Exacta: 39,418 and 12,670. Favourite: Treasure Delight. Owners: Mr. Sriram Komandur & Mr. Rakshit Shetty. Trainer: Srinam Komandur.

4 TETRAFORT INC. BANGALORE (2,800m, 4-y-o & over, (Terms): DESERT GOD (Sandesh) 1, Roberto (Trevor) 2, Point To Prove (Zervan) 3 and My Opinion (A. Imran) 4. 3/4, 4 and 1. 1. MANITOU PLATE (1,400m, 3-y-o, (Terms): TENNO SHO (Trevor) 1, Cavaliere (Antony) 2, Legendary Princess (Sandesh) 3 and Silver Eclipse (Md. Asif Khan) 4. Not run: Nawabzaada, 3-4, 4-1/2 and Hd. 1m, 10.55s, £40 (w), 17, 37 and 19 (p), SHP: 105, THP: 120, FP: 1,774, Q: 882, Trinella: 5,995 and 1,976, Exacta: 1,26,937 (carried over). Favourite: Fantastic App. Owner: Mr. Sharmin Rao. Trainer: Narayana Gowda.

2 LIVELY EMPREY PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 20, ARROGANCE (Yash) 1, Darahasi (John) 2, Show Girl (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Majestic Rajkumar (Md. Asif Khan) 4. Not run: Astron 2-1/2, I and 1-1/4, Im, 13.91s, £49 (p), 17, 12 and 105 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 285, FP: 120, Q: 46, Trinella: 3,360 and 2,057, Exacta: 19,673 and 5,059. Favourite: Darahasi. Owner: Mr. Daulat Chhabra. Trainer: Neil Darashan.

5 SMART CHIEFTAN CUP (DIV. I, 1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: DEPTH CHARGE (Kiran Rai) 1, Hafnium (Arshad) 2, She's Superb (S. Shareef) 3 and Simone (Rayan) 4. Not run: Nawabzaada, 3-4, 4-1/2 and Hd. 1m, 10.55s, £40 (w), 17, 37 and 19 (p), SHP: 105, THP: 120, FP: 1,774, Q: 882, Trinella: 5,995 and 1,976, Exacta: 1,26,937 (carried over). Favourite: Fantastic App. Owner: Mr. Sharmin Rao. Trainer: Narayana Gowda.

7 SMART CHIEFTAN CUP (DIV. II, 1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: DEPTH CHARGE (Kiran Rai) 1, Hafnium (Arshad) 2, Panama (Arshad) 3 and Decisive (A. Imran) 4. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 2. Im, 13.92s, £55, 59, II and 19 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 50, FP: 178, Q: 104, Trinella: 614 and 274, Exacta: 4,058 and 2,264. Favourite: Helenka. Owners: Mr. Y.B. Singh & Mr. Kunal Gupta. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

8 JACKPOT (₹7,44,296 (one tkt.); Runner-up: ₹21,266 (15 tkt.); Treble (i): 3,466 (six tkt.); (ii): 16,003 (three tkt.))

Be Sure favoured for feature

HYDERABAD: Be Sure, who has been well tuned, may score in the Sri Ramakrishnan Raju Memorial Cup (₹1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Monday (July 29).

1 REGENCY PLATE (DIV. II, 1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III, 1-30 p.m.): 1. On My Way (A) Aneel 61,