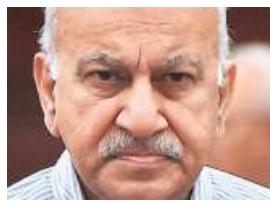


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## NEARBY



Editor of paper founded by Akbar defends him

NEW DELHI

Editor of *The Sunday Guardian* Joyeeta Basu, who appeared before a court here on Friday in support of a criminal defamation case filed by M.J. Akbar, said she had "no personal knowledge" of the alleged sexual misconduct claimed by Priya Ramani against the former Union Minister.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Kapil Mishra disqualified under anti-defection law

NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday disqualified rebel AAP MLA Kapil Mishra under the anti-defection law.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

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## Tourists, pilgrims told to exit J&K amid security concerns

Landmine with Pak. ordnance factory marks recovered on route to Amarnath'

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
SRINAGAR  
Tourists and the Amarnath pilgrims were directed to "curtail their stay in Jammu & Kashmir" on Friday, as the Army said the Pakistani Army and terrorists were "planning to upscale violence" and tried to "target the yatra recently."

Meanwhile, several civilian installations were evacuated in the Valley for troop accommodation, sparking a fresh wave of panic.

"Latest intelligence inputs suggest specific threat to the yatra," read the advisory issued by Shaleen Kabra, principal secretary in the State's Home Department.

**Searches on routes**  
Earlier in the day, General Officer Commanding (GOC), 15 Corps, Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillon, revealed that an anti-personnel landmine was found during the searches on the twin routes to the Amarnath shrine, "following specific intelligence inputs."



Weapon seized: Soldiers displaying a sniper rifle recovered from an Amarnath Yatra route in Srinagar. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

"The landmine bore the marks of a Pakistan ordnance factory. A U.S. (M-24) sniper rifle was also in the cache of arms recovered. The Pakistan Army and terrorists are desperate to disrupt peace in J&K. Searches on the trek routes and the highways are going on," Lt. Gen. Dhillon said, without divulging any further details.

The Army officer warned Pakistan of "serious action" in case it resorted to ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) or infiltration bids in the State.

REIN IN STONE THROWERS,  
SAYS ARMY ▶ PAGE 13  
CENTRE CONFIRMS AUGMENTING  
OF FORCES ▶ PAGE 13  
VALLEY OF FLAWS ▶ EDITORIAL

## Mehbooba meets Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Former Chief Minister and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti met Governor Satya Pal Malik on Friday night and sought to dispel rumours fuelled by the order asking tourists and Amarnath pilgrims to leave as soon as possible.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## India rejects U.S. offer yet again

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday again rejected the U.S. offer to mediate on Kashmir when he met Secretary of State Michael Pompeo on the sidelines of an ASEAN conference in Bangkok. The U.S. President on Thursday made a renewed offer to mediate. ■ PAGE 13

## SC to hear Ayodhya appeals from Aug. 6

Mediation attempts have failed: CJI

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Efforts to mediate a final settlement between the Hindu and Muslim parties in the Ayodhya title dispute cases had failed, a Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, said on Friday.

Now the court will commence hearing the appeals from August 6 on a day-to-day basis. The Bench said the appeals of Nirmohi Akhara and deity Ram Lalla would be heard first.



Mahant Dharamdas Ji Maharaj after the hearing on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

**20 days sought**  
Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for the Muslim parties, objected. He asked why the Bench chose to hear these two parties first. He said some of the Muslim parties had filed first.

But the court did not relent. Mr. Dhavan then submitted that he would need 20 days to argue his case and his submissions should not be curtailed. "We will see about it... Let us start hearing the appeals," Chief Justice Gogoi replied.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12  
AYODHYA ISSUE WAS CLOSE TO SETTLEMENT ▶ PAGE 12

U.P.'accident' case won't be moved to Delhi

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday suspended its decision a day before to transfer outside Uttar Pradesh the CBI case on the car-truck collision that left the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer critically injured and killed two of her relatives.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi and Deepak Gupta urgently assembled late in the afternoon to hear Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submit that the immediate transfer of the 'accident' case to Delhi would raise jurisdictional hiccups for the Judicial Magistrate, CBI, Lucknow, to remand the accused and to grant permission to the CBI for custodial interrogation of the accused persons.

Allowing the plea, the Bench modified its decision to the extent of keeping in abeyance the transfer of the case to a CBI court in Delhi till the investigation is completed.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## 3 booked in different States for triple talaq

Affected women invoke new law

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI/CHANDIGARH

A day after President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Triple Talaq Bill passed by Parliament on Tuesday, three men have been booked under the new law.

Maharashtra on Thursday registered its first case, with the Mumbai police booking a Vikhroli resident for allegedly sending his wife a triple talaq message on WhatsApp. The other two cases were in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Mumbai police said Jannat Patel on Thursday filed a complaint against her husband on Thursday.



Jannat Patel filed a complaint against her husband on Thursday.

though the incident occurred in November, she approached the police on Thursday. Police in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, registered a case against Ikram for pronouncing triple talaq on his wife, Jumirat.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

LAW CHALLENGED ▶ PAGE 9

## Maldives leader stays put on boat off T.N. coast

India rejects Adeeb's asylum plea

HARIPRASAD RADHAKRISHNAN  
THOOTHUKUDI/DELHI

Former Maldives Vice-President Ahmed Adeeb Abdul Ghafoor, who fled his country and was detained by Indian authorities off the Thoothukudi coast on Thursday afternoon, stayed put on the boat anchored near the old harbour for the second day on Friday.

Further orders were awaited from the government. Meanwhile, a law firm representing him has confirmed that he was seeking asylum in India.

However, an official aware of the developments told *The Hindu* that India was "working out the details" for Mr. Adeeb's repatriation, which is likely to be done in the next two days.

Mr. Adeeb could be es-



The boat with Ahmed Adeeb in Thoothukudi on Friday. ■ N. RAJESH

corted back to Male by air or sea, but the decision that he would not be allowed to stay in India seems final.

The 37-year-old fled the Maldives after he was summoned for questioning over the theft of \$90 million from state coffers.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## DU among institutions named for eminence tag

Five private institutes among those denied the status due to absence of rankings

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

IIT Madras and Kharagpur, Delhi University, University of Hyderabad, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and VIT are among the 20 institutions recommended for the grant of Institutions of Eminence status by the University Grants Commission on Friday.

However, the UGC denied the tag to five private institutions – Azim Premji University, Ashoka University, KREA University, Indian Institute for Human Settlements and the Indian Institute of Public Health – on the ground that they have not been placed in any global or national rankings.

Since their exclusion left a vacant slot on the list of private universities given the tag, the Satya Bharti Foundation – telecom major Airtel's philanthropic arm – became the second greenfield institution to be given IoE status, af-



The chosen universities will be given greater autonomy and freedom to decide fees and course durations. ■ FILE PHOTO

ter Jio Institute which is backed by the Reliance Foundation.

"We considered two types [of institutions], those which are already ranked well and those which are potential institutions. We might have felt something has potential, but the government may feel something else, they may have felt that if an institution is not ranked at all, it cannot be considered. It is entirely justified," said N. Gopalaswami,

former Chief Election Com-

missioner, who headed the expert panel which initially identified the list of IoEs.

The IoE scheme is aimed at developing 20 world-class institutions which would put India on the global education map.

Those selected will be given greater autonomy and freedom to decide fees, course duration and governance structure.

Five public universities did not make the cut. Tezpur, Panjab and Andhra universi-

ties were left out as they were not ranked. Savitribai Phule Pune University and Aligarh Muslim University are both in the same 801-1,000 slab in the QS World rankings as Banaras Hindu University; however, BHU squeaked through as it was higher placed than the other two in the India rankings.

Anna University and Jadavpur University have been given the IoE tag on a conditional basis as they are State universities. Their status will be finalised only after the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal governments issue an official communication allocating their share of funds (up to 50%).

The other institutions which have been recommended for IoE status are Jamia Hamdard, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, OP Jindal Global University and Shiv Nadar University.

## UAPA Bill gets Rajya Sabha approval

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 that empowers the Union Home Ministry to designate individuals as terrorists was passed in the Rajya Sabha on Friday with the Congress and the BSP supporting the legislation. In the 240-member House, 147 members voted in favour of the Bill and 42 against.

Parties such as the Trinamool Congress, CPI(M), CPI, DMK, TDP, SP, AAP and the RJD opposed the Bill. It was passed in the Lok Sabha on July 24. With the Rajya Sabha giving its assent, the Bill will soon be notified as a law. Home Minister Amit Shah said gathering evidence against terrorists was a complex process, and the law would help security agencies remain two steps ahead of them.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Disappointed burglar leaves a note behind

Was it justified to leave an empty cash chest when he had risked his life, he asked

S. PRASAD  
CUDDALORE

Burglars often leave some evidence at the scene after pulling off a successful heist. But one burglar, who broke into a grocery shop in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district only to come upon an empty cash chest, left behind a handwritten note with a lesson on risk and reward for the shop owner.

According to the police, the burglar gained entry into the shop in the Mandarakuppam locality by removing the tiles on the roof of the premises on Thursday. He then proceeded to look for the cash chest, but to his dismay, found that it was empty.

Frustated by the experience, he ransacked the shop and wrote a note in Tamil on a piece of



Failed mission: Articles lie strewn in the shop, left, and the handwritten note from the perpetrator. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Failed mission: Articles lie strewn in the shop, left, and the handwritten note from the perpetrator. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

paper that he took from the shop. In it, he asked the owner, "Is it justified on your part to keep the cash chest empty when I had come to steal risking my life?" He went on to add: "To express my disappointment I have performed this 'monkey'

complaint with the Mandarakuppam Police.

The incident left the police baffled as thieves, if they leave behind clues, do so unwittingly.

### Handwritten clue

"This is the first time we have come across such a case in our jurisdiction," said a police officer in Cuddalore, referring to the burglar's handwritten note on the cash chest.

The handwriting could eventually help the police conclusively prove the involvement of the culprit as and when he is traced.

In the past, there have been instances in Tamil Nadu of burglars, after breaking into homes, having cooked a meal or watching television, dozing off, and then leaving without any hurry at the break of dawn.

They don't seem to be in the current scheme of things, at least while the exercise is on to publish the final list of citizens by August 31, a date fixed by the Supreme Court.

The draft NRC published on July 30, 2018, had excluded 40,07,707 people out of a total of 3,29,91,284 applicants. Another 1,02,462 were filtered out of those who made it to the draft NRC and put in an exclusion list on June 26.

Officials handling the NRC exercise said 36,12,019 out of the 40,07 lakh in the first exclusion list had reappeared. There is no data on how many of those excluded in the

second list have reappeared. The State government indicated a plan would be worked out for the non-applicants once the NRC dust settles. "The State Coordinator for NRC is yet to share the details [about those who did not apply]," said Ashutosh Agnihotri, Assam's Home Commissioner and Secretary. Prateek Hajela is the Supreme Court-appointed State Coordinator of NRC.

### Different categories

A university teacher in Assam who did not wish to be named and has been tracking the NRC exercise classifies the non-applicants into four categories: poor migrants, poor indigenous people, indigenous people who have been indifferent to the entire process, and indigenous people living outside Assam who

applied for inclusion in the NRC but did not follow up. People belonging to the last two categories are believed to be very few and not among those who did not reapply. Studies have revealed that majority of the poor tribal people do not possess or have not preserved legacy data – sets of documents that include the 1951 NRC and electoral rolls up to the midnight of March 2



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**3  
AIR**

**JUNAID  
AHMAD**

**7  
AIR**

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**10  
AIR**

**VASHISTHA SHARMA**

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### IN BRIEF

#### Singers maiden recipients of Urdu promotion award

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday announced a new award for the promotion of Urdu literature, art and culture to popularise the language. The first recipient of the award will be ghazal singers Ahmed Hussain and Mohammed Hussain for their contribution to promoting Urdu internationally.

#### Teej Bazaar to be held at three Dilli Haats

NEW DELHI

Delhi Tourism has announced that the INA, Pitampura, and Janakpuri Dilli Haats will be hosting a Teej Bazaar to usher in the festival. There will be stalls for artificial jewellery, handicrafts and handloom products. Delicacies such as ghevar and Rajasthani thalis will also be on offer.

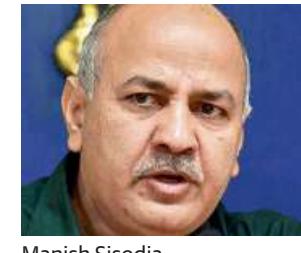
#### Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi

84 Gurugram 60  
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# Sisodia urges businessmen to engage with students

'Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum producing job creators'



government had reached out to entrepreneurs to engage with children on a regular basis. Around 200 entrepreneurs who responded to the call were present at the meeting. Mr. Sisodia encouraged the entrepreneurs to share their journey so students develop the mindset of entrepreneurship.

Mr. Sisodia said that India's best students get placed at the best companies across the world but the only value this adds to the economy is the salaries Indians earn and the taxes they pay.

"It is a matter of pride that Indians are running these large firms, but we can never achieve our potential on this path. We will grow as an economy when people around the world begin to work for and at Indian companies, launched by Indian entrepreneurs," Mr. Sisodia said.

## Review revised syllabi, DU teachers tell V-C

Syllabus-forming process 'non-inclusive'

#### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Members of the Academic Council of Delhi University on Friday wrote to the Vice-Chancellor objecting to the revised syllabus for four undergraduate courses which had been sent to an oversight committee for review.

Terming the syllabus-forming process "very selective and non-inclusive", the members once again called for a "comprehensive review" with the involvement of more teachers and other stakeholders, including students.

#### First semester

They proposed that the syllabus of only the first semester be approved so as to allow classes of the courses to take place, while the remaining study material undergo further review.

The letter, which was written by eight members of the National Democratic Teachers' Front, also called for the formation of an "independent inquiry committee... to expose persons behind the conspiracy against academics, Indian culture and the Indian State".

The letter, which was written by eight members of the National Democratic Teachers' Front, also called for the formation of an "independent inquiry committee... to expose persons behind the conspiracy against academics, Indian culture and the Indian State".

AC member Rasal Singh, one of the signatories, said: "These departments are playing 'hide and seek' with the statutory bodies and stakeholders. Their changing versions are designed to mislead us and get their syllabi passed with cosmetic

corrections... comprehensive revision is required."

With regard to the process itself, the teachers demanded that after review of the syllabus, the document should be placed before the Standing Committee on Academic Matters and the Academic Council so it can be discussed before being approved.

**'Deeply dissatisfied'**

"We are deeply dissatisfied with the fact that proper participation of teachers of different colleges, specialisations, and ideological thinking has not been ensured again even in the process of revision and teachers are not given any platform, opportunity or reasonable time to critically analyse content of the syllabi," they said.

The letter, which was written by eight members of the National Democratic Teachers' Front, also called for the formation of an "independent inquiry committee... to expose persons behind the conspiracy against academics, Indian culture and the Indian State".

The letter, which was written by eight members of the National Democratic Teachers' Front, also called for the formation of an "independent inquiry committee... to expose persons behind the conspiracy against academics, Indian culture and the Indian State".

A call was made to our 24-hour rescue helpline and a team was deployed immediately, said animal conservation NGO Wildlife SOS.

The snake, along with

another four-foot-long cobra rescued from a farmhouse on Gadaipur-Mandi Road are under observation and will be released back into their natural habitat soon, said the NGO.

Wasim Akram, deputy director (special projects) of Wildlife SOS, said that with heavy rain hitting Delhi, a large number of reptiles struggle to find shelter in the urban jungle.

## DELHI TODAY

**Music:** A tabla solo performance by Amitava Sen and sitar recital by Debabrata Moitra. This will be followed by classical and semi-classical vocal recitals by Prema Dey Mukherjee at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Dance:** India International Rural Cultural Centre (IRECN) presents a Kuchipudi dance recital by Sree Veena Mani at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, No. 1, Sector-2, R. K. Puram, 9 a.m. and Navjeevan Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Begumpur, 11 a.m.

**Exhibition:** "Parvaaz", a group show of paintings, photography, crafts and sculptures, curated by Erum Khan at All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

**Exhibition:** "An Archaeology of a New Identity", a solo exhibition by Sunil Yadav at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

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# Kapil Mishra disqualified under anti-defection law

Rebel leader says he will move HC against Speaker's order

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday disqualified rebel AAP MLA Kapil Mishra under the anti-defection law.

Mr. Goel said the Karawal Nagar MLAs' campaigning for the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the recent Lok Sabha election indicated that he had "given up the membership of his original political party".

## Two more MLAs

Delhi government sources told *The Hindu* that two more rebel MLAs – Anil Kumar Bajpai and Devender Sehrawat – are likely to be disqualified by next week as proceedings related to the disqualification of the Gandhi Nagar and Bijwasan legislators, respectively, were completed on August 1.

As per an order issued by Mr. Goel, Mr. Mishra's disqualification takes effect from January 27 this year, when he shared the dais with Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari and the then Union Minister Vijay Goel against AAP.

Mr. Mishra, who will not



Kapil Mishra

"Whether he has formally resigned from AAP or taken the membership of the BJP formally is immaterial for a decision on his disqualification under Para 2 (1) (a) of the Tenth Schedule," it added.

Mr. Mishra argued the Speaker's order "illegal" and "undemocratic" arguing that sharing the dais with leaders from other political parties could not be construed as an anti-party activity. "I will challenge this order on Monday...as far as sharing the dais with leaders of other political parties is concerned even Kejriwal has shared the stage with several political leaders in the past...by this logic, even he should be disqualified," Mr. Mishra said.

## Karawal Nagar seat

According to AAP sources, the party is likely to field long-time Arvind Kejriwal aide Durgesh Pathak from Karawal Nagar in the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls.

"His [Mr. Mishra's] various tweets, press conference, campaign etc. in favour of Modi and the BJP leave no one in doubt that the respondent [Mr. Mishra] has voluntarily given up the membership of his original political party," the order stated.

Mr. Mishra, who will not

Monsoon session to begin from August 22

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The monsoon session of the Delhi Assembly will commence on August 22 and conclude on August 26, the Delhi government said on Friday.

The decision was taken on Friday at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The session, if not extended by the government, will have three sittings with Saturday and Sunday falling on August 24 and August 25 respectively.

## Part II of 8th session

"The Delhi Cabinet approved the convening of the second part of the VII-IX session of the Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi from August 22-26," a government statement read.

An official said that during the session, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators are likely to discuss and praise the government's recent moves on regularisation of unauthorised colonies, proposed free travel for women in buses and metro, and its decision to waive electricity charges of consumers using up to 200 units, among others.

## Will corner govt?

On its part, the BJP Opposition will attempt to corner the government on the same issues, especially on alleged corruption in the education sector as well as across various government departments, said Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta.

"The Opposition will corner the government on the issue of gross corruption across various departments and issues related to public interest," he added.

# CM office receives 'death threat' emails

No text in message but subject line reads 'kill, kill, kill'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's office received emails with death threats on two occasions last week.

Delhi Police Special Cyber Cell has been tasked with the investigation, said officials.

A senior officer said the emails were received from an anonymous ID on July 25 and then again on July 30.

It did not contain any text but only had 'kill, kill, kill' in the subject line.

The police received a formal complaint in the matter after which a non-cognisable report was registered under Section 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

"Permission to investigate the case has been obtained from the court and investiga-

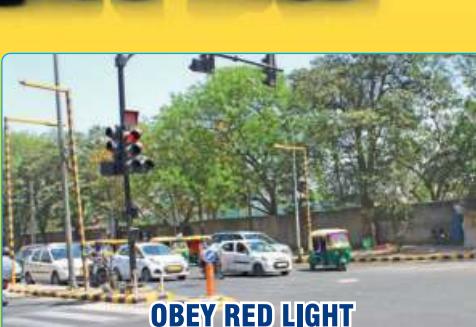
tions has begun. Details of the ID have been sought from the service provider," the officer added.

In January 2019, Mr. Kejriwal received a death threat call in which the caller named a man saying that he is planning to kill him.

A week before the call, Mr. Kejriwal received an email threatening that his daughter would be abducted.

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## Labourer mowed down by speeding truck; manhunt on for driver

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 55-year-old labourer was mowed down by a speeding truck in north-west Delhi's

Azadpur on Thursday night, the police said on Friday.

A senior officer said Moolchand from UP's Azamgarh was waiting to load a truck in

Mandi when the incident happened. "A PCR call was received around 12 a.m. regarding the accident. Moolchand was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared

brought dead," the officer said. Preliminary enquiry revealed that the offending vehicle sped off after the

incident. A case on charges of rash driving and causing death due to negligence has been registered.

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Name:** Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, **Age:** approx 30 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Brown colour T-shirt and blue colour pajama, who was found dead at Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 26A dated 26.07.2019 has been registered at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO  
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-24106345  
DP/7015/SW/19



**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
(e TENDER NOTICE)  
STATE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY  
5-CIVIL LINES SAGAR (M.P.)  
No. FSL /STORE/PMS 2018-19/2019  
Dated 08/08/2019  
"ONLINE TENDER NOTICE"  
Online tender are invited by Director State Forensic Science Laboratory, Sagar on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following on website https://mpntenders.gov.in/nicgeplapp

S.No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	FMD Pad Criteria Through nicgeplapp.gov.in	Tender Fees (Rs.)
1	Genetic Analyzer with all accessories	01	320000.00	12500.00
2	PCR machine	04	40000.00	5000.00
3	Real Time -PCR Machine with accessories	01	70000.00	5000.00
4	Table top Refrigerated High Speed Centrifuges	04	64000.00	5000.00
5	Table top Refrigerated Centrifuges	04	48000.00	5000.00
6	Table top Refrigerated Mini Centrifuges	04	32000.00	2000.00
7	Table top Refrigerated Centrifuges with Plate Rotar	02	24000.00	2000.00
8	Ultra Water Purification System with softener & prefilters	02	40000.00	5000.00
9	Deep Freezers (-80°C)	04	64000.00	5000.00
10	Deep freezers (-30°C)	06	36000.00	2000.00
11	Digital Shaking water bath	06	30000.00	2000.00
12	Vertical high pressure Autoclave	04	32000.00	2000.00
13	Table top High pressure autoclave	02	8000.00	2000.00
14	Bio Medical Refrigerator	02	10000.00	2000.00
15	Ice Flaking machine	02	12000.00	2000.00
16	Horizontal submarine mini electro-ephoresis with power supply	04	12000.00	2000.00
17	Liquid Nitrogen Containers -50 lt.	04	24000.00	2000.00
18	Automated DNA extraction machine	01	40000.00	5000.00
19	Bio safety cabinets	04	32000.00	2000.00
20	Micro pipettes	20	48000.00	5000.00
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22	Freezer mill (Cryo grinder)	02	20000.00	2000.00
23	PCR hood	02	12000.00	2000.00
24	Fume hood	02	12000.00	2000.00
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27	Dry baths	04	4000.00	2000.00
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32	Rotary Mixer	06	2400.00	2000.00
33	Research Microscope PC based	02	20000.00	2000.00
34	Entry- exit Safety Security System with computer control.	01	4000.00	2000.00
35	Digital pH - Meter	04	4000.00	2000.00
36	Vortex Shaker	16	6400.00	2000.00
37	Magnetic Stirrer Hot Plate	08	4000.00	2000.00

- Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mpntenders.gov.in/nicgeplapp/>.
- Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mpntenders.gov.in/nicgeplapp/>
- Critical Date Sheet:

Published Date	08 - 08 - 2019 (11:00 am)
Bid Document Download Start Date	08 - 08 - 2019 (11:00 am)
Pre bid meeting	19-08-2019 (11:00 am)
Bid Submission Start Date	08-08-2019 (11:00 am)
Bid Submission End Date	07-09-2019 (05:30 pm)
Bid Opening Date	11-09-2019 (11:00 am)

G-14823/2019

Director  
F.S.L. SAGAR

## Murder convict on the run for over a year arrested

He had killed a man in Nangloi in 2006

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old murder convict, who had jumped parole and was on the run for the past one and half years, has been arrested, the police said on Friday.

A senior officer said Arvind Kumar from Bihar's Madhubani was nabbed on Wednesday following a tip-off. "On Wednesday, at 11.45 p.m., information was received at Najafgarh police station that a man who had jumped parole was coming to meet someone. A trap was laid and he was held," the officer said.

He added that Arvind was arrested on charges of murder in 2006 and was convicted in 2011 by a Delhi court. He was released on parole in 2016 wherein he said his mother needed treatment but two weeks later, when he was due to return, he jumped parole, the officer said.

In April 2006, a man's body was found in Nangloi after which a mur-

der case was registered.

During investigation, it was found that Arvind, then 22-years-old, had killed him. He was employed as a house help and the owner had a fight with a neighbour over water. A few days later, the fight happened again and the man was stabbed to death by Arvind who was arrested four days after the crime," the officer said.

After the trial, Rohini court convicted him and awarded him life imprisonment with a fine of ₹10,000.

### Pistol recovered

On Wednesday, after his arrest, the police claimed to have recovered a countrymade pistol along with one live cartridge from his possession. He had bought the weapon from Ut-

tan Prades's Muradabad.

"Arvind is being interrogated about where he was for the past year and a half. Other criminal involve-

ments are also being looked into," the officer said.

The Delhi Transport Depart-

ment told the Bench that it would file an affidavit on the issue by August 13.

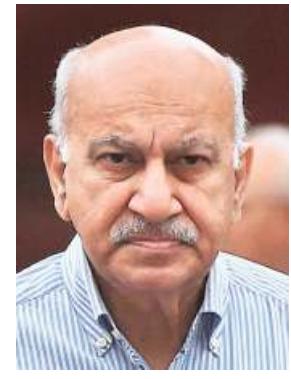
The SC was hearing a plea filed by Bajaj Auto seeking removal of the cap on the number of autorickshaws.

In its report, the EPCA stated that as CNG fuel is available in Delhi and in most districts of

## Editor of paper founded by M.J. Akbar defends him

Scribe says she has no personal knowledge of sexual misconduct

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI



He [M.J. Akbar] was a tough taskmaster in office... everyone held him in high esteem. Due to Priya Ramani's malicious tweet, the reputation of Mr. Akbar was destroyed and irreparably harmed

JOYEETA BASU  
Editor, Sunday Guardian

taskmaster in office" and everyone in office held him in "high esteem". She said due to Ms. Ramani's "malicious" tweet, "the reputation of Mr. Akbar was permanently destroyed and irreparably harmed".

During the day's hearing, the court concluded the cross-examination of Ms. Basu and another witness Manzar Ali, who is Mr. Akbar's personal assistant.

The court has posted the next hearing in the case for August 23.

## AAP govt. supports removal of cap on autorickshaws plying in Capital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government supported the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority's suggestion of removing the cap on the number of autorickshaws plying in the city, during a hearing in the Supreme Court on Friday.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government told the court that it agreed with the EPCA's report that the present cap of one lakh autos in Delhi may be removed provided that the vehicles are "BS-VI" CNG/petrol/LPG etc (positive ignition based technology) or battery operated".

The Delhi Transport Depart-

ment told the Bench that it would file an affidavit on the issue by August 13.

The SC was hearing a plea filed by Bajaj Auto seeking removal of the cap on the number of autorickshaws.

In its report, the EPCA stated that as CNG fuel is available in Delhi and in most districts of

## HC refuses to order Centre to cap transactions at ₹10K

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday said it cannot issue any direction to the Centre to cap cash transactions at ₹10,000 as it will lead to a contradiction with the income tax law, which has set a limit of ₹2 lakh.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar made the observation

during the hearing of a petition seeking directions to the Centre and the city government to cap cash transactions at ₹10,000.

BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who filed the petition, withdrew his petition following the court's remark.

Help curb terrorism

Mr. Upadhyay had sought the limit on

cash transactions, saying it would help curb illegal activities like terrorism, corruption and use of black money.

"Cash transactions in high denomination currency is used in illegal activities like terrorism, naxalism, separatism, radicalism, smuggling, money laundering, kidnapping, extortion and bribery," the petition had claimed.

Boy kills friend in Shakarpur

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old boy was shot dead allegedly by his friend in east Delhi's Shakarpur on Friday morning, the police said.

A juvenile has been apprehended in the case. DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said the accused, along with the victim and another friend were sitting inside a shop when the incident happened. "The three were sitting inside the property dealer's shop where the accused does small chores. An argument broke out between the two after which the accused pulled out a pistol and shot at the teenager," Mr. Singh said, adding that the duo was friends and lived in the same rented accommodation in Mandawali.

After the incident, the owner of a neighbouring shop alerted the police while the accused remained inside the shop. "The PCR call was made around 10.30 a.m. after which the police apprehended the minor. The weapon of offence has also been recovered," Mr. Singh said.

The police said they are yet to ascertain the reason behind the argument. The pistol was illegal, the police said, adding that a murder case has also been registered," Mr. Singh said.

## Minister reviews price of tomatoes, onions

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain on Friday reviewed the situation of retail prices of tomatoes and onions in Delhi.

The Minister met with the Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies, senior officers of the Food and Civil Supplies Department, APMC and Mother Dairy/Safal. At the meeting, the APMC and Mother Dairy officers informed him that the retail prices of tomatoes have started showing a downward trend. The supplies of tomato have increased from Himachal Pradesh.

The agencies informed that retail prices of these commodities are under check. "Mr. Hussain also directed the various agencies to take effective action against any hoarding activity," the statement added.

### CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

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1	HPGCL	PTP/POM-222084 (EVENT NO. 100941)	START DATE 04-10-2018 AT 13:00 HOURS & LAST DATE 07.08.2019 AT 13:0

<b>DELHI</b>	<b>Timings</b>
SATURDAY, AUG. 03	
RISE 05:44 SET 19:11	
RISE 07:55 SET 21:11	
SUNDAY, AUG. 04	
RISE 05:44 SET 19:10	
RISE 09:02 SET 21:52	
MONDAY, AUG. 05	
RISE 05:45 SET 19:10	
RISE 10:07 SET 22:30	

<b>Delhi Weather</b>	max	min
Delhi City	35	28
Safdarjung	35	28
Palam	34	28

**Delhi Palam Today**  
34°C Few spell of rain and thundershower would occur. Day will remain uneasy and humid.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C Short spell rain and thundershower would continue. Sky will be cloudy.

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## IN BRIEF

### DCW rescues 7-year-old girl from G.B. Road

NEW DELHI  
The DCW on Friday said it has rescued a seven-year-old Assamese girl from G.B. Road. The DCW acted on a complaint moved by the minor's mother who had approached the commission. "Pooja [named changed] and her daughter were brought to the city a month ago by a man on the pretext of providing them jobs. They were asked to stay at Majnu Ka Tilla and later shifted to G.B. Road. When Pooja was forced into flesh trade, she escape with her husband while the traffickers kept the girl," the DCW said.

### North civic body floats plan for stray cattle

NEW DELHI  
The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Friday said that it has developed a new strategy to catch cattle, which is turning out to be "successful". Deputy Mayor Yogesh Verma chalked out a strategy to pounce on stray cattle early in the morning when their owners would be caught unaware.

### Elderly woman found dead in Gurugram

GURUGRAM  
A 72-year-old woman was found dead inside her house in DLF Phase-I on Friday. The police suspect robbery as the motive. Indira Khanna was found strangled in her house, said the police. Ms. Khanna was unmarried and had been staying alone.

### Court reserves order on Ratul Puri's bail plea

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI  
A Delhi court on Friday reserved order on the anticipatory bail plea of Ratul Puri, the nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in a money laundering case connected with the ₹3,600 crore VVIP chopper deal.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar reserved the order for August 6 on the conclusion of arguments by the counsel for the accused and for the Enforcement Directorate.

The judge also extended protection from arrest to Mr. Puri till the next date.

Counsel for the accused sought bail submitting that his client would not tamper with evidence or influence witnesses if granted the relief, while the probe agency opposed it arguing that as Mr. Puri was not cooperating in the probe, the court should not deny tool of custodial interrogation to them by granting him anticipatory bail. The accused's counsel argued that there was no requirement for custodial interrogation of Mr. Puri as he had been cooperative and appeared 25 times before the ED.

The NGT has directed the DPCC to look into a plea, which alleged that a flour mill on Dabri-Palam Road is operating violating previous orders passed by the green tribunal.

The NGT said, "As per the applicant, the flour mill is

# Kant Enclave ready to be razed as last 23 families vacate houses

Demolition will be carried out before August 23 to adhere to apex court order

**ASHOK KUMAR**  
FARIDABAD

Paving the way for the complete razing of Kant Enclave, a 400-acre township housing bungalows of retired Army officers, former bureaucrats, senior advocates and entrepreneurs in Sector 40 here, the remaining 23 families have also vacated their residences – adhering to the July 31 deadline fixed by the Supreme Court.

The demolition would be carried out before August 23, the date for submission of compliance report to the Supreme Court in this matter. A total of 20 structures have been demolished, including a film studio belonging to the developer, so far. While 13 structures were demolished during a two-day demolition drive in April, seven houses were razed on July 15.

The drive has been carried out in adherence to the SC's order in September last year, which stated that the houses were built illegally in the protected forests of the Aravallis and the developers had caused irreversible ecological damage to the hills.

The Haryana government had amended the Punjab Land Preservation Act,

## House of cards

September 11, 2018

The Supreme Court fixes December 31 as deadline for the demolition of the houses built illegally in Kant Enclave, in the protected forests of the Aravallis, noting that ecological damage done to the ancient hills is irreversible



December 11, 2018

The apex court extends the deadline to March 31, 2019. The house owners are told to file undertakings, stating that they will vacate the premises on or before the deadline

April 1-2, 2019

Twelve houses and a film studio are demolished by the Faridabad district administration in compliance with the Supreme Court orders.

Thirty families give undertakings to vacate their premises by July 31

February 27, 2019

The Haryana government brings a Bill in the Assembly to amend Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900, but does not pursue it further in the wake of stiff opposition by the court, political parties and environmentalists

July 15, 2019

Seven more houses demolished

July 31, 2019

The remaining 23 families vacate their houses

1900, in March this year in a bid to provide relief to the affected families, but the SC took a stern view of the development as an attempt to overrule the judiciary. The move also met stiff opposition from environmentalists and the Opposition. The Haryana government did not pursue the matter further.

A senior official of the Department of Town and Country Planning told *The Hindu* that the report regarding the houses being vacated was sent to the Chief Secretary, who has been monitoring the matter. Further orders

are awaited to fix the demolition schedule. He said the demolition was not likely to happen before August 15 on account of preparation for Independence Day.

**No compensation yet**  
Meanwhile, a few of the families have offered to demolish their houses on their own. "A few of the families have sought permission to carry out the demolition on their own. It has also been conveyed to the Chief Secretary," said the official.

Most of the families have rented houses in and around

Faridabad. Sanjay Basu, who vacated his house on July 24, said they were yet to receive the compensation fixed by the Supreme Court for the construction cost incurred by the house owners.

Though the SC has directed the developer, R. Kant and Company, to give full refund of investment to all plot owners along with interest at 18% per annum from the date of investment, the residents have been demanding that the government acquire their plots under the Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

# Wall collapses as rain lashes Gurugram

Mehrauli-Gurugram Road damaged, waterlogging reported at several points

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GURUGRAM

Heavy rain on Friday afternoon wreaked havoc in the Millennium City.

While the wall of a plot collapsed in Udyog Vihar here – damaging three cars, the right-turn underpass on the Mehrauli-Gurugram Road suffered structural damage and reports of waterlogging poured in from across the city.

More than an hour of heavy rainfall in the afternoon led to the collapse of a wall at a plot in Udyog Vihar Phase-III where a basement was being constructed.

Three cars parked along its boundary fell inside it, while another remained hanging dangerously.

The building adjacent to the plot was evacuated fearing collapse.

"Due to lack of parking space, the cars are parked along the plot. The wall built around the plot to prevent the soil from caving in collapsed due to the rain and three cars fell in. There was, however, no injury or loss of



The wall of a plot in Udyog Vihar Phase-III collapsed following heavy rain on Friday. Three cars parked along its boundary fell in the pit. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

life," said Rakesh, who works at an office in the area.

The newly constructed right-turn underpass on M.G. Road was flooded due to heavy rain damaging the drain causing a cave-in.

The road along the underpass also caved.

National Highways Auth-

ority of India project director Ashok Sharma said the pump to flush out the water could not handle the sudden rush of water.

He said the underpass would be reopened to traffic after repair. The underpass had been inundated with water this past month as well

following heavy rain.

Golf Course Road, AIT Chowk and Genpact Chowk also got flooded.

Waterlogging was reported at Sheeta Mata Road, Railway Road, Hanuman Chowk, Ghata T-point Power House and Krishna Chowk (Rezang La Road).

# Plea alleges operation of illegal factories in Vikaspuri, DPCC told to look into matter

Residents' association says units are adding to pollution

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging operation of illegal factories in Vikaspuri, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to look into the allegations and take action.

The directions came when a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was hearing a plea moved by a residents' welfare association of Gupta Colony in Vi-



kaspuri, Vikas Nagar, in Vikaspuri. The factories are causing air pollution, noise pollution and [pollution from] traffic in the area," the Bench observed while noting the allegations.

While disposing the applications after directions to the DPCC, the Bench added, "Needless to say that the order of the NGT is binding as a decree of court and non-compliance is actionable by way of punitive action including prosecution, in terms of the NGT Act."

kas Nagar that alleged that illegal industries were contributing to the air pollution in the city.

"The allegation is that 30

factories and two godowns are being operated in the agricultural land at Gupta

Colony, Vikas Nagar, in Vikaspuri. The factories are causing air pollution, noise pollution and [pollution from] traffic in the area," the Bench observed while noting the allegations.

The NGT had in Septem-

ber last relief, "Having regard to relief sought by the applicant and affidavit filed by the DPCC, we deem it proper to dispose of this application with the direction to SDMC, that in view of the recommendations made by the DPCC, they should proceed as per law."

# Submit report on petition claiming pollution by flour mill, NGT tells DPCC

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The NGT has directed the DPCC to look into a plea, which alleged that a flour mill on Dabri-Palam Road is operating violating previous orders passed by the green tribunal.

The NGT said, "As per the applicant, the flour mill is

## कार्यालय, नगर निगम, हिंदूरा

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मार्च 2017 अवधि वाहन की दो ओरोंसे अथवा समानक ए.सी. सहित जो 24x7 के उपलब्धता होने से 2500 लक्ष में से अधिक कर्मी, वाहन तो इनकी नियमसंगत अवधियों की जारी है। 2500 लक्ष से अधिक कर्मी, वाहन तो इनकी नियमसंगत अवधियों की जारी है। इन्हें पर्याप्त कार्यालय वाहन नियम हिंदूरा में दिनोंका 05:00 बजे 22:00 बजे तक नगर मोहरबंद कोटेने जाना करवाया जा सकता है। नियमसंगत वाहनों के भीतर प्राप्त कोटेने तक नगर नियम वाहन नियम वाहनों की जारी है।

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Sidhu skips session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Former Minister and Congress MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu on Friday skipped the first day of Punjab Assembly session.

Mr. Sidhu, who has been at loggerheads with the Chief Minister, had resigned as Minister from the Punjab Cabinet last month after his portfolio was changed.

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THE HINDU

## Ex-Ministers to pay ₹10,000 per day

Rent for occupying govt. houses

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPOUR

The Rajasthan Assembly on Friday passed a Bill amending the provisions for payment of rent by the former Ministers for the government houses allotted to them if they continued to occupy them beyond two months after demitting office.

The former Ministers will now be required to pay ₹10,000 a day in such a situation.

#### New allotment

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dharwali said during the debate on the Bill that it was meant to facilitate allotment of official residences to new Ministers in time after they took over the office.

The Bill's statement of objects and reasons clarified that the ex-Ministers' failure to vacate official residences after their term was over caused difficulty in allotment of suitable residences to the newly-appointed Ministers.

The former Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2019, tabled by the Congress government on July 22 during the ongoing Budget session of the State Assembly, was passed by a voice vote.

The BJP MLAs opposed the Bill's provisions and said the penalty of ₹10,000 per day was exorbitant.

## Issue notice to Assam govt. on NRC data disclosure, SC urged

Petition contends that it interferes with and obstructs the administration of justice

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The Supreme Court has been urged to initiate contempt proceedings against the Assam government for disclosing district-wise data on the National Register of Citizens (NRC) being updated in the State.

The apex court has been monitoring the exercise to update the NRC whose final list is scheduled to be published by August 31.

Providing the data of inclusion and exclusion of applicants across the 33 districts, the BJP-led State government had focussed on some Muslim-dominated districts to press for re-verification of documents by extending the deadline for publishing the NRC.

Parliamentary Affairs Mi-



NRC officials verifying documents in Morigaon district of Assam on Friday.

• RITU RAJ KONWAR

by Muslims perceived to be mostly of Bangladeshi stock.

"The district-wise data placed in the Assembly constitutes contempt of court as the Supreme Court had specifically directed Prateek Hajela, the SC-appointed Coordinator of NRC, not to share any information pertaining to the ongoing updating exercise with any executive, legislative or judicial authority of the State without leave of the Supreme Court considering its sensitivity," said Suhas Chakma, director of Rights and Risks Analysis Group on Friday.

The apex court, he pointed out, had on September 19, 2018 rejected the Centre's plea to share the draft data and the confidential reports provided by Mr. Hajela to it in sealed covers.

"The data presented and prepared by Mr. Hajela has not been finalised. Therefore, the disclosure of the draft data interferes with and obstructs the administration of justice, and further scandalises and lowers the authority of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court should *suo motu* initiate contempt proceedings," Mr. Chakma said.

The Congress in Assam also criticised the disclosure calling it politically motivated. "There should be an end to delaying the publication of the final NRC," a spokesperson said.

"We will go to court seeking action against the State government for disrespecting the apex court," its Legislature Party leader Debabrata Saikia said.

Submit final report on Kunduli rape in four weeks: HC

#### PRADIP DAS

CUTTACK

In a significant ruling, the Orissa High Court on Friday ordered the State Crime Branch to submit the final report within four weeks in the 2017 Kunduli gang rape case.

The High Court also suggested setting up of a special investigation team to probe the incident in case the Crime Branch fails to meet the deadline.

A minor girl was allegedly gang raped by four security personnel on October 10, 2017, in the Kunduli jungles near Musaguda village in Koraput district. Alleging torture and harassment by the police, the rape survivor had committed suicide on January 22, 2018. The victim's brother had moved the High Court seeking a CBI inquiry.

#### Request rejected

A Division Bench headed by Chief Justice K.S. Jhaveri also turned down a State Government request when the Advocate-General pleaded with the Bench to allow another three months to complete the investigations. Posting the matter for September 4, the Bench asked the AG to ensure that the final report is filed before the next date of hearing or else, the SIT will take over the investigations.

## Shift to Madhya Pradesh, Nath tells Unnao rape victim, kin

#### STAFF REPORTER

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath appealed to the Unnao rape survivor's family to shift to his State, where they would be provided complete security.

"We appeal to the mother and the family of the survivor to settle in Madhya Pra-

desh. Our government will provide the entire family complete security," he tweeted.

"We'll take care of the girl like the State's daughter.. We will provide better treatment to the girl. We will also take complete responsibility for her education," he tweeted. Stating that the appeal

showed the hypocrisy of the State government, State BJP media chief Lokendra Patrashar said: "It's laughable that Mr. Nath is inviting the survivor and her family to a State where the law and order situation is in a shambles. Doesn't he remember what happened to a three-year-old boy in Bhopal who

was missing for several days. His charred body was found near his house on July 16."

#### CM showed sensitivity

State Congress media chief Shobha Oza said Mr. Nath showed sensitivity in contrast with the insensitivity of the Uttar Pradesh government. "It appears they are

trying to protect the accused, destroy evidence and kill the family of the survivor," she added.

The 19-year-old girl, who was allegedly raped by BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar in 2017, was travelling with her family on July 28 when their car was hit by a truck, leaving her critically injured.

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# Opposition parties unite against EVMs

MNS, Congress, NCP and others to hold march in Mumbai on August 21 to demand paper ballots

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Demanding that the Maharashtra Assembly elections be held using paper ballots instead of EVMs, opposition parties on Friday announced a protest march on the issue in Mumbai on August 21.

Taking centre stage, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray brought together State Congress president Balasaheb Thorat, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leaders Ajit Pawar and Chhagan Bhujbal, farmers' leader Raju Shetti, and representatives of left and socialist parties to address a press conference.

Last month, Mr. Thackeray had met the Chief Election Commissioner in Delhi, demanding elections using paper ballots. He met UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi to discuss the matter four days ago, and also met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to invite her to join the anti-EVM protests.

On Friday, Mr. Pawar said, "We are not expressing distrust of anyone, but doubts are being raised over the use of EVMs. Any election must be fought in a transparent manner. A number of developed countries have stopped the use of EVMs."



**Common ground:** (From left) State Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat, MNS president Raj Thackeray, NCP leader Ajit Pawar and Swabhiman Shetkari Sanghatana chief Raju Shetti at a joint press conference in Bandra on Friday. ■ VIJAY BATE

The demand to go back on ballot isn't of any one particular party, but it is coming from the people and we will try to raise it at the appropriate level."

Mr. Thackeray said using ballot papers will instil trust for the poll process among people. "People in the U.S. had raised suspicions over Donald Trump's election as their president. The chips installed in the EVMs come from the U.S.," he said.

The MNS chief, whose

party did not contest the general elections, said the opposition parties will seek citizens' views on ballot papers and submit these forms to the Election Commission. He said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena, too, should join the August 21 protest march. "There will be no party flag at the protest," he said.

He asked what the harm was to switch to paper ballots if the ruling parties were

225 Assembly seats. When asked about the BJP pointing towards its loss in the Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh Assembly polls despite the use of EVMs, Mr. Thackeray accused the party of "creating an illusion." He said that the BJP's target was to retain power at the Centre and not in these States. "So, all these results were only for the satisfaction of you all," he said, suggesting the BJP lost these polls to deflate the opposi-

## Pawar should brace himself for more shocks: Chandrakant Patil

BJP State chief says no 'terror tactics' used to poach leaders

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar should brace himself for more political shocks in the coming days, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Maharashtra unit president Chandrakant Patil said on Friday, dismissing Mr. Pawar's claims of the ruling party using investigative agencies to hound and poach leaders from the NCP and Congress.

Hinting that the NCP and Congress would witness another exodus by important leaders in the coming days, he said there was no question of the BJP deploying 'terror tactics' to break the Opposition.

Mr. Patil said there was no reason to doubt any rift between the BJP and Shiv Sena. "Even if the BJP has the capacity to win 200 Assembly seats on its own, we will still jointly contest the elections in alliance with the Sena," he said. An agreeable seat-sharing arrangement would be worked out with the Sena come what may, he said.

### 'Not desperate'

"The Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department authorities prepare themselves well before commencing raids and searches... So, where is the question of the BJP influencing them? Today, the BJP has more than 1.5 crore mem-

bers, the maximum membership that any political party has in Maharashtra. We are hardly desperate for any leaders or party workers from the Opposition. Members of the Opposition who are demoralised by their leadership are joining us in droves," Mr. Patil said.

He wondered if the NCP chief had himself not resorted to such tactics (misusing probe agencies) to bring in leaders like Chhagan Bhujbal and Narayan Rane, both formerly with the Sena, into the NCP-Congress fold.

Mr. Patil also dismissed suggestions of BJP loyalists being ignored in lieu of incoming defectors from the NCP and the Congress.

"The law is a ploy on part of the government to cause schisms within the Muslim community. "The law is a ploy on part of the government to cause schisms within the Muslim

## Triple talaq Act ploy to create schisms in community'

Muslim, Dalit outfits say law an attempt to criminalise men rather than emancipate Muslim women

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

Muslim and Dalit organisations staged protests against the controversial legislation criminalising triple talaq, in Pune on Friday.

Hundreds of minority community women from the Mulnivasi Muslim Manch and the Bhim Army, along with corporators from the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), burnt copies of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, alleging that the Centre's real intent was not to ensure justice for Muslim women but to divide the minority community.

"The law is a ploy on part of the government to cause schisms within the Muslim



**To ashes:** Protesters burn copies of the triple talaq Act in PUNE on Friday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

community," the NCP's Haseena Inamdar said. She said there are enough laws to deal with issues faced by minority community women.

Ms. Inamdar said the Act

groups and religious leaders had met the Prime Minister to dispel misconceptions about triple talaq. But this government was never interested in holding consultations or seeking advice from civil society members and community leaders."

Anjum Inamdar, founder of the Mulnivasi Muslim Manch, said the government was fundamentally ill-disposed towards Islam, and questioned why it had not mooted a strict law to prevent mob-lynching of men from the minority community with the same zeal.

AIMIM corporator Ashwini Landge alleged that sections of the media were disseminating false stories about the trauma of minority community women.

Neelam Gaikwad of Bhim Chhava, an Ambedkarite organisation, said, "Several

sident of the Republican Yuva Morcha, a Dalit outfit, criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government's stance on the entry of women in the Sabarimala temple. "In that matter, the BJP stages vehement protests and says the Supreme Court has no right to intervene as it is hurtful to Hindu sentiments. Yet the government meddles in the matter of triple talaq and attempts to defame it without understanding it. So, a divorce in a Hindu family is a matter for the civil court, but one in a Muslim family is a matter of the criminal court," he said.

He said this clearly showed the government was less interested in the uplift of Muslim women than the criminalisation of men of the minority community.

## 50:50 seat sharing will have some hurdles, admits CM

'Confident BJP, Sena will find mutually acceptable solution'

SHARAD VYAS

MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Shiv Sena are likely to face difficulty in applying the 50:50 seat-sharing formula for the Assembly polls in some regions, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis conceded on Friday.

On Thursday, Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer Baldev Singh had said EVMs are technically secure and can never record a false vote. He said these machines have a very robust security protocol and can't be tampered with or manipulated.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is on a tour of the State, slammed the opposition over the demand. "Accusations against EVMs reflect a mistrust of voters. Instead of blaming EVMs, the opposition should introspect why it has lost connect with the people," he said at a press conference in Wardha on Friday.

Mr. Fadnavis said the opposition parties, too, have ruled the State and country on the basis of EVMs. They should instead admit their wrongs to the people and tell them how they would rectify their mistakes if given a chance again, he said.



**On home turf:** Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis takes part in a rally at Chinchbhaban in Nagpur on Friday. ■ SUDARSHAN

## Fadnavis misleading people on drought: Cong.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The Congress on Friday accused Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of misleading the people by promising to make the State drought-free if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is voted to power again. Mr. Fadnavis had given the assurance to voters at a rally in

Amravati on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference here, State Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant said The CM had earlier promised to make 5,000 villages drought-free every year. "In 2017, he promised to make the State drought-free in two years. He had announced the same last year too," he said.

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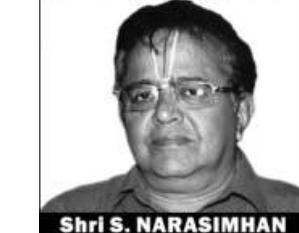
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## IN BRIEF



**Police get post-mortem report on Siddhartha**

MANGALURU  
The Government Wenlock District Hospital on Friday submitted to the police a preliminary report of the post-mortem conducted on the body of Café Coffee Day founder V.G. Siddhartha, who was found dead in Netravati river on Wednesday. Doctors refused to divulge the contents of the report.

**Sajan's widow hands over memorandum to Minister**

KANNUR  
Beena Sajan, widow of Sajan Parayil, NRI investor who ended his life on June 18 allegedly under strain from Anthoor municipality's denial of permits for his newly constructed convention centre at Bakkalam here, has submitted a memorandum to Local Self-Government Minister A.C. Moideen seeking relaxation of the direction to relocate the water tank of the building.

## Indian students win World Debating Championship

Five-member team from Chennai, Mumbai and Jaipur underwent gruelling preparation with varied research

**STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI**

An Indian team emerged world champion at the World Debating Championships 2019, defeating Canada, with Tejas Subramaniam of the Padma Seshadri Bal Bhavan (PSBB) School, Chennai, adjudged the best speaker.

The five-member Indian team included Tejas Subramaniam (PSBB School), Bhavya Shah (a visually impaired student from the Rao Junior College of Science, Mumbai), Manya Gupta (Neerja Modi School, Jaipur), Saranya Ravindran (also from PSBB School, Chennai) and Prithvi

Arun (Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Chennai). The tournament, which was held in Thailand, saw 600 participants from 64 nations, and the Indian team reportedly did not lose a single round. After an elaborate selection process, the five students were chosen by the Indian Schools Debating Society (ISDS) and trained for months.

Tejas Subramaniam, a Class XII student says, for seven months, they attempted 140 debates on various topics. "We had to research feminism, sports and environment, sit for training in video calls, and listen to lectures



**Winning team:** Saranya Ravindran, Bhavya Shah, Tejas Subramaniam, Prithvi Arun and Manya Gupta won the World Schools Debating Championships 2019 held in Thailand. ■ RAGU

on finance and developmental economics. It was gruelling training but everything paid off in the end," he said.

For Bhavya Shah, a Class

XII student and the first visually impaired debater in an Indian team, the world of debating, rebuttal, reasoning and arguments were rather

becoming a dominant global power'. When a member of the Pakistan team said they supported China as it was the Avengers of the global south, Mr. Shah, known for his humour, shot back, "If you think China are the Avengers, I marvel that."

P.R. Venketrama Raja, Chairman of the Ramco Group, which sponsors the ISDS, said: "There should be reason rather than rhetoric and emotions. Debaters may have opinions, but since they have been trained to have both points of view, they may never get offended because someone is differing from their opinions."

## Four in shortlist for The Hindu award

Winner will be known on Aug. 14

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI**

Four playwrights – Ajay Krishnan, V Balakrishnan, Deepika Arwind and Deepro Roy – have been shortlisted for their entries submitted for The Hindu Playwright Award 2019.

The award, instituted in 2008, carries a citation and prize of ₹2 lakh for the best original, unpublished and unperformed play script in English.

Meanwhile, heavy rain continued to lash parts of Belagavi district. As many as 14 bridges and barrages continue to remain under water.

Heavy rain and water release from reservoirs have affected 32 villages fully and 37 villages partially. The district administration estimates around 3.26 lakh people in these villages to be affected in some way.



Roy's Azad Theatre is a "close examination of the personal and artistic choices that enable two distinct schools of theatre-making and the inevitable consequences."

Ajay's Gajram the Great is a dark comedy about Gajram, a king, who is terrified of losing his throne and comes up with hare-brained ideas to cling to power. "The play was a response to the way power is getting increasingly centralised in India and the world," he says.

Bengaluru-based Deepika's Phantasmagoria, is set at the dangerous intersection of politics, media and fear, with two smart women leaders on opposite sides of the ideological fence confronting each other and themselves."

The winner will be announced on August 14, at the launch party of the 15th edition of The Hindu Theatre Fest in Chennai.

## Youth Cong. murder: HC quashes order for CBI probe

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI**

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Friday set aside a single judge's verdict ordering a CBI probe into the murder of S.P. Shuhaila, a Youth Congress worker in Kannur. Shuhaila was mur-

dered allegedly by CPI(M) workers at Mattannur in Kannur on February 12, 2018. It was a sequel to a clash between local CPI(M) workers and Congress workers over the vandalisation of a local Congress party office by the former.

## Varsities to write to UGC on Hindi

**STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU**

Various State-run universities in Karnataka have decided to write to the University Grants Commission (UGC) stating it is not practical to make Hindi mandatory for all students. This assertion follows an admission by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in Parliament about seeking the opinion and suggestions of universities regarding teaching Hindi.

A senior official in the Higher Education Department said that the issue would be discussed at the next meeting of the Karnataka State Higher Education Council, and Vice Chancellors will be told to submit their opinions in writing to the UGC.

There has been opposition to imposition of Hindi by several southern States, including Karnataka.

## Technical snag delayed payment of salary, says A.P.

Government denies rumours that fund crunch is the reason

**STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA**

Barely three months into its term, the Andhra Pradesh government is faced with criticism that salaries and pensions are not paid on time. Social media platforms were agog on Friday following reports that the government could not pay the salaries due to paucity of funds.

A couple of news channels too picked up the issue, creating confusion among employees and giving credence to the little-tattle being circulated on social media.

The employees' associations, in private, feel that the paucity of funds was in fact the reason, though there was also a technical snag in the system.

"A majority of employees did not receive salaries.

Same is the case with pensioners," said an association leader on condition of anonymity. The associations said salaries were being credited from 8.30 a.m. and a clear picture would emerge by Saturday.

The State government, in a damage control exercise, issued a statement saying, "Some TV channels and social media are spreading rumours that the salaries for government employees have not been paid due to lack of funds, but it is not correct."

**Standard practice**  
The Finance Department, in the statement, clarified that paucity of funds was not the reason. Usually, payments are made through 'e-kuber' or the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the first day of every month. The details were sent to the RBI on July 31.

Following the same practice, all files related to salaries and pensions of all districts were sent to the RBI by July 31 itself. By the noon of August 1, all pensions and salaries of some employees were paid.

Later, there were some technical snags. The certificates issued through e-Mudra did not function. That caused a delay in the payment of salaries of some files. All measures were taken to resolve the snag.

There are more than 4.61 lakh employees in the State. Of this, 3.51 lakh are government employees and the remaining work in judiciary, gram panchayats, municipal administration and other agencies.

The Andhra Pradesh government spends ₹33,470 crore on salaries and ₹16,639 crore on pensions annually.

## Go green Ganesh



**One with nature:** Eco-friendly Ganesh idols are being readied at a store in Vijayawada for the Ganesh Chaturthi which falls on September 2 this year. Natural biodegradable materials are used to avoid pollution during the idol immersion. ■ V. RAJU

## A simian pupil in a Kurnool school

*It came from nowhere, has joined the students, befriended them and turned out to be an 'obedient student'*

**TADI VIDURA  
KURNool**

The government primary school in Vengalampalli in Peapully mandal has been getting an unusual visitor for the past 12 days. It is not the District Education Officer or the School Inspector on a surprise visit.

While the classes were in full swing, a female grey langur was found attending classes, along with the students.

While the students and the faculty were uncertain in the beginning, after a few days the primate became an integral part of the primary school.

"The students have also given it a name, Lakshmi,"

said S. Abdul Lateef, headmaster of the school.

**No monkeying around**  
Lakshmi, strangely doesn't indulge in its natural behaviour – of monkeying around. Instead, it's a well-behaved, disciplined and obedient student and follows the school rules. "In the morning Lakshmi attends the assembly prayers, then she attends the classes, has lunch with the students, and plays with them after classes," said the headmaster.

The faculty, however, noticed that students were slightly distracted by Lakshmi's presence in the classroom. So, they started



closing the door while the classes were ongoing. But Lakshmi still peeks through the windows and listens attentively to all the teachers. Narrating Lakshmi's tale Mr. Lateef said she had become slightly

sick on Thursday. "The doctor said junk food might have given her an upset stomach," he said.

However, Lakshmi bounced back by Friday, after the school called in a veterinarian to treat it.

Now Lakshmi is on a strict diet of fruits. The staff purchase a dozen bananas every other day to feed it.

Some universities in the developed world have opted for petting zoos as stress relievers for their burdened students. Lakshmi has also been playing a similar role in the Vengalampalli school. The headmaster claims that the school has been registering almost 100% attendance every day since Lakshmi's arrival.

Would allowing pets into school make students more productive? Mr. Lateef believes as long as the pet does not interfere with the education of the students, it could prove productive.

## One more held in Omassery jewellery robbery case

Third suspect in the 3-member gang tracked to Bangaon

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOZHIKODE**

The Koduvally police have arrested one more person in connection with the theft at a jewellery shop at Omassery in Kerala's Kozhikode district.

A three-member gang had robbed the jewellery at gunpoint on July 13.

The police claimed that Alamgir Rahman Mondal was arrested from his home town Abjan Nagar in North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal and brought to Koduvally on Thursday.

**One in custody**  
This is the second arrest in

the case. First accused Nayem Ali Khan, 25, a native of Bangladesh, was overpowered by the staff of the jewellery.

He is now in custody. Police had seized a revolver from him.

**Revolver seized**  
After the incident, his two accomplices had fled with 14 sovereigns of gold valued at ₹3.2 lakh.

A police squad led by Koduvally Sub Inspector Prajeesh had gone to West Bengal on July 20 after tracking the mobile tower location of the two suspects.

The third accused, identi-

fied as Azad Mondal, hailing from Chinchali, Ghansoli near Navi Mumbai, managed to flee to Bangladesh. He was tracked to Bangaon near the India-Bangladesh border. By the time the police reached the location, he had crossed the border.

**Interpol aid to be sought**  
The Bureau of Immigration has been apprised of the case, sources said.

Local police have requested the Kerala police headquarters for Interpol aid to obtain more details about the first suspect arrested in the case as he was a native of Bangladesh.

## IN BRIEF



## Doctors to resume emergency services

**NEW DELHI**  
Doctors protesting against the recently passed NMC Bill have decided to resume emergency services from Saturday. Following a meeting, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan told reporters that he had cleared the doctors' misunderstandings about the legislation.

## Chandrayaan-2 receives fourth orbit raise

**BENGALURU**  
Lunar lander spacecraft Chandrayaan-2 was given its fourth orbit raise on Friday afternoon. With this, the spacecraft goes around earth in an elliptical orbit of 277 km x 89,472 km. "All its parameters are normal," Indian Space Research Organisation said in an update. It will undergo another orbit manoeuvre on August 6.

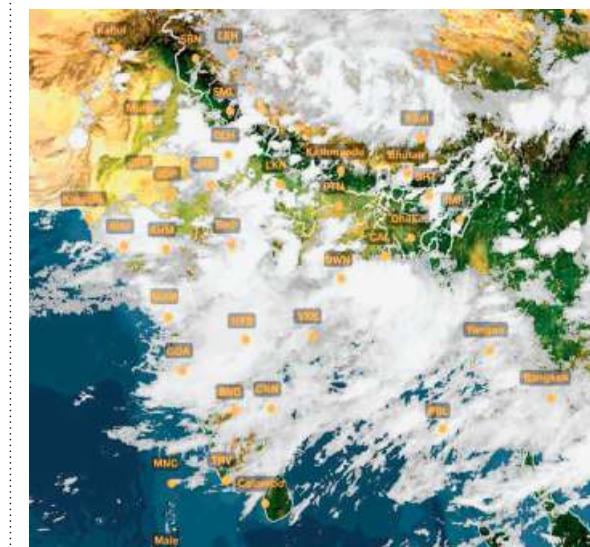
## Rasoolan Bibi, widow of Abdul Hamid, dies

**GAZIPUR (U.P.)**  
Rasoolan Bibi, widow of 1965 Indo-Pak war hero and Param Vir Chakra awardee Abdul Hamid, passed away in her native Dhampur village here on Friday afternoon. Abdul Hamid was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest military honour, for displaying exemplary courage during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. 90-year-old Rasoolan Bibi had been unwell for some time. PTI

## Death toll mounts to 7 in Vadodara floods

**AHMEDABAD**  
Flood waters began receding from residential localities in Vadodara, where the death toll climbed to seven on Friday. While the authorities resumed operations at the airport, schools and colleges and the courts remained shut for a third day. Except low lying areas along the river Vishwanuti, flood waters receded in other parts of the city, providing major relief to the administration.

## WEATHER WATCH



**Forecast for Saturday:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Goa, central Maharashtra, east Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, west Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	35.6	26.2	26.2	Kozhikode	...34.0	26.6	26.6
Ahmedabad	0.3	25.4	25.2	Kurnool	27.9	23.6	23.6
Aizawl	1.0	28.2	23.2	Lucknow	...34.3	27.6	27.6
Allahabad	5.2	35.3	27.6	Madurai	...39.8	25.4	25.4
Bengaluru	-	27.0	20.5	Mangaluru	...27.0	20.5	20.5
Bhopal	0.8	27.5	23.8	Mumbai	43.4	27.7	24.2
Bhubaneswar	0.7	30.0	25.6	Mysuru	...28.8	19.6	19.6
Chandigarh	-	29.5	25.9	New Delhi	...34.6	28.3	28.3
Chennai	0.3	33.4	26.8	Patna	1.1	35.0	26.6
Coimbatore	-	32.8	23.6	Port Blair	3.9	29.7	26.0
Dehradun	5.5	28.9	23.6	Puducherry	...33.4	25.7	25.7
Gangtok	27.2	22.2	18.0	Pune	18.8	25.2	22.0
Goa	20.6	29.3	25.5	Raipur	...27.2	25.2	25.2
Guwahati	0.1	35.6	26.2	Ranchi	...31.8	22.5	22.5
Hubballi	-	24.0	21.0	Shillong	0.7	24.8	16.8
Hyderabad	15.2	29.9	22.2	Shimla	25.0	20.2	16.2
Imphal	27.1	31.9	23.5	Srinagar	1.0	30.6	16.8
Jaipur	20.8	33.0	25.1	Thiruvananthapuram	...31.5	25.6	25.6
Kochi	-	30.6	26.4	Tiruchi	...37.4	28.0	28.0
Kohima	23.8	26.2	17.0	Vijayawada	63.7	30.6	24.9
Kolkata	-	34.1	27.4	Visakhapatnam	6.3	29.5	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	66	45	79	106	127	■■■■■
Bengaluru	9	40	69	-	99	■■■■■
Chennai	6	33	49	106	-	■■■■■
Delhi	18	73	27	68	193	■■■■■
Hyderabad	22	32	13	24	22	■■■■■
Kolkata	3	27	51	27	25	■■■■■
Lucknow	-	27	74	117	-	■■■■■
Mumbai	10	18	103	16	41	■■■■■
Pune	74	8	67	22	22	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	19	41	53	33	62	■■■■■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■■ Moderate ■■■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.)

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

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

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

## Census may skip caste count

A large number of caste names are difficult to tabulate, says official

VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Census 2021 is unlikely to collect "caste wise" data as a similar exercise conducted in 2011 by another ministry threw up about 40 lakh caste names that were difficult to tabulate, a senior government official said on Friday.

The decennial exercise would involve 31 lakh trained enumerators, with data collected digitally using Android based mobile phones.

The Census data would be available by the year 2024-25 as the entire process would be conducted digitally and data crunching would be quicker, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The 2011 caste data, collected as part of the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), is yet to be released by the Centre. As per the National Commission for Backward Classes, there are 2,479

## Mapping the populace

The census enumeration exercise will be done in three phases

**HOUSE LISTING:**  
Comprising 34 categories, it will be done from April to September, 2020

**ENUMERATION:**  
Comprising 28 categories, it will be held between February 9 and 28, 2021

**REVISION:** It will be done from March 1 to 5, 2021



**THE OUTLIERS:** There are around 45,000 villages in the country with no Internet connectivity. For them, data can be gathered on paper

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- There will be a "third gender" category this time
- Government teachers will conduct the enumeration exercise
- Data will be collected on a web-based application developed under the Registrar General

**MANDATORY CLAUSE:** Every citizen is compelled by law to participate in the Census exercise, and denial could lead to criminal action

entries in the Central list of the Other Backward Classes (OBC).

"The caste data is difficult to enumerate as last time when it was collected, we got as many as 40 lakh names of castes," said the official. "For example, a person belonging to the Yadav caste wrote Yadau, Yaduvanshi, etc. in the form; there is no standardi-

sation. People sometimes confuse caste with gotra," added the official.

The Census would restrict itself to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes data.

The official said that last time, the Census was recorded on paper, with the information then scanned and later fed into the database, leading to the publication of

various datasets.

The dataset on migration, culled out from the 2011 Census, was published last week.

"The digitisation will ensure there is not much delay and most parameters will be available by 2024-25. In many countries, census is collected in one day," the official said.

## Seventh Economic Census launched in UT.

Mobile application to be employed for data collection and processing

STAFF REPORTER  
PUDUCHERRY



Going digital: Minister A. Namassivayam launching the mobile app for the economic census on Friday. ■■■■■

sus provided disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all establishments of the country," a release from the Department said.

According to the sixth Economic Census, 59,152 establishments were found to be operation in the Union Territory of which 17,759, were in rural areas and the remaining 41,393 in urban areas. The establishments together employed 2,19,378 persons. Out of the total employed, 68,744 were working in rural and 1,50,634 in urban localities.

Secretary, Economics and Statistics, Padma Jaiswal, Deputy Director General, NSO, Government of India S. Durai Raju and Vinod Kurikose, Head Operations, CSC, were among those present.

every five years. The survey was to find out the economic activity in a specific area, he added. The seventh census would witness the use of Information Technology for data collection. The enumerators and supervisors engaged by the Common Service Centres have been

trained to collect data on a mobile application developed for data gathering, validation, report generation and dissemination.

"Economic census is the complete count of all establishments located within the geographical boundary of India. The economic cen-

tralised to the extent of triple talaq law challenged in Supreme Court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Samastha Kerala Jamiathul, one of the biggest religious organisations of the Sunni Muslim scholars and clerics in Kerala, on Friday moved the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the triple talaq law, saying its only objective is "to punish Muslim husbands".

The Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act of 2019 makes triple talaq a penal offence. It imposes a maximum sentence of three years imprisonment when a Muslim husband pronounces triple talaq. The offence is cognizable and non-bailable.

The petition contends that the Supreme Court has already declared the utterance of triple talaq "null and void". The marriage continues despite the utterance. If it has thus no legal effect, why should the government go ahead and make it an offence now?

It argued that a truly welfare-oriented legislation would promote amicable resolution of matrimonial disputes, regardless of community.

## Not reasonable

"If the motive is to protect a Muslim wife in an unhappy marriage, no reasonable person can believe that the means to ensure it is by putting an errant husband in jail for three years and create a non-bailable offence for merely saying 'talaq, talaq, talaq'."

Further, the offence is confined only to Muslim husbands.

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It argued that a truly welfare-oriented legislation would promote amicable resolution of matrimonial disputes, regardless of community.

## Dead man comes back to life in Assam morgue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A middle-aged man allegedly declared dead came back to life in the 'morgue' of a hospital in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district.

Suffering from an unknown disease, the man identified as Mohammed Hussain was admitted to the Tinsukia Civil Hospital on Wednesday.

"The hospital authorities told us he had died. We found him alive when we went to collect his body today [Friday]," the man's wife, declining to be named, said.

Hospital superintendent

N.C. Mahanta denied lapses on the part of his medical team. However, locals raised slogans and demanded a probe into the alleged negligence.

## Patient mix-up

"First of all, we do not have a morgue. We have an isolated ward where we keep patients brought by the police. Secondly, one of the three patients who died today was also named Md. Hussain. Our staff thought he was the other Md. Hussain," he said.

The confusion arose because the hospital also keeps dead bodies in the isolation ward.

## P.V. NARASIMHA RAO TELANGANA VETERINARY UNIVERSITY

Administrative Office, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

## FIRST CONVOCATION NOTIFICATION



## Valley of flaws

New Delhi will have to engage with all stakeholders in finding a solution in Kashmir

The Jammu and Kashmir State government's decision to abruptly end the Amarnath pilgrimage, at least a fortnight ahead of schedule, citing terror threats, is intriguing. The announcement came close on the heels of an unexplained troop surge in the State, already one of the most militarised regions of the world. Governments usually tend to be miserly with information, and on questions related to national security they are more stridently so. By the very nature of the security apparatus, it is impossible for Parliament, the media or the general public to access information that is not voluntarily provided by the executive. Hence, it is imperative to accept the State government's position that the decision on curtailment of the yatra season was taken "keeping in view the latest intelligence inputs of terror threats, with specific targeting of the yatra, and given the prevailing security situation in the Kashmir Valley". There could be valid professional and tactical reasons for the limited transparency in security management. But the Narendra Modi government has stretched this principle to intolerance to request for transparency in general, often questioning the patriotism of those seeking meaningful information.

This government has been unequivocal and outspoken about its intentions to push forward with annulling the special status that Jammu and Kashmir is accorded in the Constitution through Articles 370 and 35A. The government is clear that there is nothing to negotiate with anyone in the Valley or about the Valley with anyone. An interlocutor appointed by the Centre is defunct. The BJP and the Centre have also been pursuing a policy of undermining the mainstream political parties in the State through administrative measures and political rhetoric. True, the governance track record of the Peoples Democratic Party and the National Conference falls far short of inspiring; nevertheless, these parties have been integral to the ways in which New Delhi engaged with the Valley. Pakistan may be puppeteering the separatist Hurriyat, but New Delhi will have to engage with all stakeholders in resolving the conflict in the Valley. Unfortunately, the first BJP government with a majority of its own in the Lok Sabha has instead upended the policy of the first Vajpayee-led BJP government which sought to strengthen the regional parties, engage the separatists and Pakistan to make progress towards peace. In recent years, the situation in the Valley has worsened and tensions between India and Pakistan have become aggravated. New Delhi quite rightly rebuffed U.S. President Donald Trump who, evidently in search of an arena for peacemaking after failing to make headway with North Korea, offered to mediate. But while dealing directly with the challenge in Kashmir, it must realise any misstep can be costly.

## At a crossroads

India's transport sector needs reform; changes to the Motor Vehicles Act are a start

India's Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 has remained in hibernation, unable to meet the needs of a large economy that is witnessing rising travel demand, fast-paced motorisation, major shifts in technology and deteriorating road safety. The amendments to the Act voted by Parliament seek to address some of these challenges, notably in forming a National Transportation Policy and a National Road Safety Board, providing for stiffer penalties for violation of rules, and orderly operation of new-generation mobility services that use mobile phone applications. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has countered the charge that the changes are anti-federal in character – the proposed amendments were reviewed by 18 State Transport Ministers, and the Bill reflects the modifications they suggested. Also, the Rajya Sabha introduced last-minute changes, making concurrence of, rather than consultation with States necessary when issuing fresh schemes for national, multimodal, and inter-State transport. This new provision also includes last mile connectivity, accessibility, mobility as a whole and rural transport. There is a dire need for reform in these areas, and State governments have tended to ignore these aspects. During the previous NDA government, Mr. Gadkari blamed obstruction by a 'corrupt' Regional Transport Office system for the delay in amending the MV Act. An amendment in the Rajya Sabha allows for RTOs to visit dealerships to register vehicles. This is not much of a change over the practice of dealers taking vehicles to RTO offices. The onus is on States to show that the purchaser will not have to pay a bribe.

Going forward, the Centre must deliver on its promise that the amended Act will help reduce dependence on personal vehicles, and present its National Transport Policy without delay. States must be incentivised to provide clean, comfortable and affordable services for all users, including people with disabilities. It is relevant to point out that the National Urban Transport Policy of the UPA failed to achieve this. Mr. Gadkari's emphasis is on structural reform and an upgrade to subsidised electric buses for low-cost air-conditioned travel. But State Transport Corporations must adopt modern management practices. New regulation can certainly shake up the status quo, facilitating transparent investment by any intending operator and removing vested interests, particularly in inter-State and multi-State coach services. But some of the other amendments are less promising. A sharp increase in fines has little chance of improving safety. Studies show that sustained, zero tolerance enforcement of even small fines reduces violations, while stringent penalties are either not enforced or lead to more bribery.

# Explaining the Asian rate cuts wave

Policy makers across Asia should ensure enough ammunition to manage a prolonged economic downturn



RAMKISHEN S. RAJAN

The latest International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Economic Outlook update in July 2019 has confirmed a growing belief that global growth has decelerated and dark clouds seem to be looming in the near term. Specifically, the IMF has downgraded global growth multiple times since October 2018 and now projects it to be 3.2% compared to 3.6% in 2018.

### The China factor

While the deceleration in economic activity is broad-based among both the advanced and developing economies, particular attention should be paid to China. The country has faced strong headwinds to growth both because of the ongoing supply-side reforms, including dealing with financial risks (reining in of shadow banking and hidden debt of local governments), as well as the negative effects of escalating tariffs and their consequent impact on its exports and investment. It is noteworthy that China is one of the few major economies that is expected to continue to decelerate into 2020 (along with Japan which is faced with acutely unfavourable demographics and seems unable to escape persistent deflationary pressures).

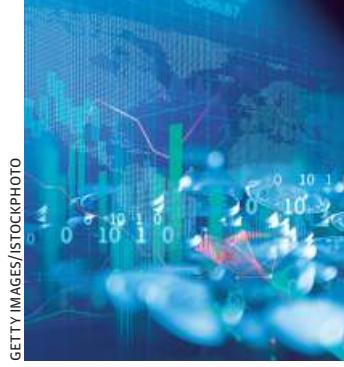
As corporates look to reconfigure their China-centric supply chains (both in response to the ongoing policy uncertainties and rising protectionist sentiments), many export-dependent Asian economies that are a part of the intricate production networks have also inevitably been hard hit. While there have been some short-term beneficiaries of the export and trade diversion from China to

countries such as Vietnam, the global external demand slowdown has more than outweighed these gains. For instance, given Singapore's small size and acute openness, it has often acted as a recession barometer for the rest of Asia. Latest data show that exports from the city state have collapsed and the Singapore economy is expected to face stagnation in 2019 on the back of a sharp slowdown in the manufacturing sector. This does not bode well for other trade-dependent economies in the region.

### Asian banks to the rescue?

In response to the global economic slowdown as well as generally subdued inflationary pressures, many Asian central banks (India, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea) have begun to ease monetary policy. However, this generalised loosening has happened largely following the recent signals from the U.S. Fed that it is set to embark on a new round of rate cuts in response to the slowdown in the United States and the rest of the world. In fact, in his congressional testimony on July 10, 2019, chairman Jerome Powell emphasised the slowdown in global growth as the main reason for the Fed moving towards a more accommodative stance, leading some to suggest that he has become the "world's central banker".

The recent wave of rate cuts in Asia is consistent with research which suggests that emerging economies tend to be cautious about lowering interest rates when the base country (usually the U.S.) does not do so as they are concerned about potential capital flight and sharp currency depreciations which in turn could have negative repercussions on domestic firms and other entities with unhedged external borrowings in foreign currencies. However, when interest rates in the base country decline, while emerging



economies may experience massive surges in capital inflows if they stand pat on interest rates, they can maintain monetary policy autonomy via a combination of sterilised foreign exchange intervention (leading to sustained reserve accumulation) as well as tightening of capital controls and/or use of macro prudent policies (MPAs).

Alternatively, if the emerging economies are themselves faced with an economic slowdown, they are comfortable lowering their interest rates along with the base country, as is the case currently in Asia. This said, it is wise for Asian policy makers to ensure that they have enough ammunition to manage a prolonged downturn given that 2020 is "precarious" with many downside risks, as the IMF's chief economist, Gita Gopinath, put it.

### RBI's monetary policy stance

Where does all of this leave India? On the one hand, since India has not been well-integrated with the Asian and global supply chains, it has not been as impacted directly by the China-U.S. trade war. On the other hand, given existing acute domestic bottlenecks, policy missteps and ongoing structural challenges, India has not been able to reap significant benefits as an alternative production and export platform to China.

On the back of a prolonged downturn in the capex cycle, the IMF has downgraded projected growth for India to 7% in 2019.

This is broadly in line with the forecast range by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). While this growth is admirable relative to other major countries, it is well below the country's likely potential growth of 7.5% and 8%.

In view of this "growth recession" and subdued inflation, along with a lack of fiscal space, and with the government having been distracted by the general election, the RBI moved much earlier than most of its Asian counterparts in taking steps to lower interest rates, having cut rate multiple times by 25 basis points since October 2018 to a nine-year low in nominal terms. The concerns here however have been threefold.

One, despite the rapid interest rate cuts, India's real interest rates are still higher than most other countries, though it remains unclear what the neutral real interest rate consistent with India's potential output actually is. The statement by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das following the June 2019 interest rate cut that the RBI's policy stance "has again changed... from 'neutral' to 'accommodative'" presumably suggests that he views current real interest rates to be below equilibrium. This is rather odd in view of the fact that real rates have actually risen in recent times.

Two, more than most other countries in the region, an ongoing concern for India is that interest rate policy transmission to bank rates tends to be rather slow and limited. This is likely due to a combination of factors: the banking system has been faced with a deterioration in asset quality and remains saddled with bad debts; there has been anaemic deposit growth; and there is limited scope to reduce deposit rates.

Three, despite the interest rate cuts, India's real effective exchange rate (REER) has actually appreciated somewhat (around 7%) since October 2018, consistent with the fact that real interest rates have not declined. This lack of

price competitiveness boost is especially of concern given that external demand is expected to remain subdued and uncertain and other regional currencies may themselves face deprecations pressures following the dovish policy stances by their central banks which could possibly translate to further REER appreciation in the rupee.

### Sovereign bond issue

Going forward, if India is to succeed in its ambition of becoming a \$5-trillion economy by 2024-25, there can be no substitute for undertaking the necessary structural reforms needed to jump-start private investments and longer-term growth. However, in the short term, in all likelihood, monetary policy will have to remain accommodative (more so than what it is currently) and much greater attention will be needed to be paid on how to revive public capex without raising the cost of capital further.

In the face of constraints in raising revenues in a slowing economy, the government's preferred solution seems to be to issue overseas sovereign bonds rather than streamline subsidies and revenue expenditures. The proposed \$10 billion sovereign issuance is manageable *vis-à-vis* the countries stock of foreign reserves, while India's sovereign external debt (as share of GDP) is modest at present. However, increases in external borrowings add an additional element of risk to the economy. Such a move also likely complicates monetary policy further as any adverse exchange rate movements will lead to a ballooning of interest payments on government debt which is already eating up around a quarter of budgetary spending. It is not clear that the current policy mix is ideal for India.

Ramkishen S. Rajan is a Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

## The taproot of conservation justice

Cutting down the Forests Right Act will only weaken the conservation regime and affect the rights of forest dwellers



RAVI CHELLAM

I have had the good fortune to work in, visit and learn about protected areas and wildlife habitats across India since 1980. Beginning in the late 1980s, I have written and spoken about the ecology and conservation of Indian wildlife to numerous and varied audiences. One question that is invariably asked by foreigners is how India has managed to conserve such a diversity of wildlife given its large population and development challenges. To me it has always been clear that the tolerance and, in many cases, the reverence that local communities have for Nature has been absolutely vital for the sustained success of the conservation efforts of the government and other agencies. Not to forget the widespread and long conservation track record of the local communities; the state of sacred groves is a very good example.

The Forest Rights Act (FRA) is a

piece of social legislation which aims to address the historical injustice that our forest dwelling communities have had to face for nearly 150 years by providing them with security of tenure over land for cultivation and habitation through individual rights. It also provides access to a variety of resources through more than a dozen types of community forest rights. The FRA also empowers forest dwelling communities to protect, regenerate, conserve and manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use. It has the provision for creating critical wildlife habitats within protected areas which currently is the strongest conservation provision among existing laws of the country.

### Legal challenges

It is extremely unfortunate that the very constitutionality of the FRA was challenged in the Supreme Court in 2008 by about half a dozen conservation organisations. The court has tagged many other cases including from several High Courts which are currently being heard jointly. The court's order of February 13, 2019 since put in abeyance by its order dated Fe-



bruary 28, 2019 highlights the very tardy implementation of the FRA by the State governments.

One of the key arguments of the petitioners has been that it is beyond the legislative competence of Parliament to enact the FRA as 'land' is a state subject. Tenuous as this is, if this argument of the petitioners is accepted, the Wildlife Protection Act and the entire architecture of forest laws will have to be dismantled as *ultra vires* as all of them deal with 'land', including the Indian Forest Act and the Forest (Conservation) Act.

The February 13 order of the Supreme Court directs the eviction of lakhs of forest dwellers whose claims have been rejected under the FRA. With recent media reports showing that many State governments have admitted to the Supreme Court that their implementation of the FRA has been incomplete and flawed – with due

process not having been followed especially while rejecting claims – the misguided and unmeritorious nature of this whole legal challenge becomes very clear.

### What the FRA is

The FRA has been savagely criticised as a land distribution legislation, which it is not. The FRA very clearly states that forest dwellers who are either Scheduled Tribes or Other Traditional Forest Dwellers are only entitled to claim both individual and community forest rights through a clear process of submitting a claim and after its verification and subsequent approval or rejection. For the rejected cases, an appeal process has been outlined. The FRA aims to only confirm tenure and access rights which in some sense the forest dwellers have been exercising de facto but under severe restrictions and control especially by the forest department.

In fact, it is the failure of the state to settle pre-existing rights under existing forest and conservation laws that created the situation of historical injustice. The FRA does not sanction any fresh clearance of forest, as individual rights over land will only be granted if the forest dweller was in possession of that parcel of land

on December 13, 2005. It also limits the extent of land that can be granted to the area that was occupied on December 13, 2005 and places an upper limit of four hectares per claimant for individual rights. These provisions are often overlooked or deliberately suppressed by those who criticise FRA.

The FRA, by design, has tremendous potential to strengthen the conservation regime across India by recognising rights of forest dwellers over land and community forest resources, a key factor for conservation to succeed as shown both by research and practice in many countries. By democratising forest governance and conservation through the provision of rights and authority to local communities and gram sabhas for conservation and management of forests, the FRA will empower gram sabhas of the forest dwelling communities to halt the destruction of forests, as especially highlighted in the Niyamgiri case. Implementing the FRA in letter and spirit with empathy for forest dwellers will be a decisive step by India to achieve conservation justice.

Ravi Chellam is the CEO, Metastring Foundation

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Late intervention

The Supreme Court has finally intervened, but only after the Unnao survivor almost lost her life due to an 'accident' (Front page, "SC transfers Unnao cases to Delhi court," August 2).

The Yogi Adityanath government failed miserably to bring justice to the girl and erred by not distancing itself from the accused MLA. The girl's situation reflects the helplessness and vulnerability of those who dare to wage a legal battle against the mighty. The Centre, meanwhile, seems to have no time to reprimand the State government. The Mahatma's statement that India would have achieved Independence only when women "can walk freely on the roads at night" seems wishful thinking more than seven decades after Independence. India has

not just failed the 19-year-old rape survivor but all its women as laws have not taken effect.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,  
Coimbatore

**More troops in Kashmir**  
The Centre's decision to deploy more troops in Kashmir reflects its insecurity and will only alienate the Valley's people more (Front page, "25,000 more troops being deployed in J&K," August 2). The pluralistic ethos of Jammu and Kashmir has been harmed not just by the ineffectiveness of successive State governments but also by the overbearing authority of the Centre. It is no coincidence that the new Unlawful Activities Prevention Act has been passed at a time when discontent among the Kashmiris is at a high. Neither guns nor ballots

will work in this scenario and the need of the hour is to create a forum where lives can be discussed instead of bodies.

MADHUR MOHAN SHARMA,  
Jammu

**Tipu's legacy**  
The writer has laid out her case with honesty and persuasion (Editorial page, "Marking Tipu's legacy to foster historical temper," August 2). It has been amply documented in relation to the actions of many kings, emperors and chieftains of the past that political opportunism and economic considerations had a bigger part to play than pure bigotry. Even the plunder of Somnath temple was more due to its wealth than its idolatry. As the writer says, understanding multiple perspectives and narratives of the past and learning from them would be a more intelligent way of

making peace with history than waging a perennial war with the era gone by.

ANILKUMAR KURUP,  
Thiruvananthapuram

**■ Haider Ali**, who wrested power of the Mysore kingdom from the Wodeyars and later offered strong resistance to the British forces, was a harsh dictator but was secular by temperament and mindful of the Kannadiga Hindu majority, its tradition and culture. His son Tipu, on the other hand, alienated the majority by his imposition of Persian language and Islamic culture. His finance regulations were in favour of Muslims and his officials were corrupt, extracting their pound of flesh from the poor. As for the treatment of women he forcibly brought into captivity, the less said the better. In the end, it was his tyranny and bigotry that led to his downfall.

NAGESH HAVANUR,  
Bengaluru

**boycott the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games**, to protest against the exclusion of shooting events, is a blunder and should be reconsidered. Such a decision will ruin the career of many budding/young sports personalities. Petty ideological differences, which led to some countries boycotting the 1980 Moscow Olympics and 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, had a negative impact on the career of many sporting legends. India's decision not to send its Cricket teams to the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games also affected its medal tally. Being the biggest Commonwealth country, India should pressure the federation to change its decision rather than make the hasty move of withdrawal.

VASISHT M.C.,  
Kozhikode

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# The registry test of citizenship

The chaos surrounding the National Register of Citizens is yet another example of Assam's long and difficult relationship with migrants. **Rahul Karmakar** reports on the many fault lines in the State that complicate the process

**T**he sword did not get Ayesha 36 years ago but the judicial pen that launched the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise just might. Ayesha was five months old on February 18, 1983, when hundreds of people armed with machetes, spears, and guns descended on her village, Matiparbat, an hour after midnight. Matiparbat was the last of 14 villages, beginning with Nellie on National Highway 37, that a mob had laid siege to that night. Official records say the 1983 Nellie massacre claimed the lives of 2,191 people, mostly women and children. Survivors claim the figure would be no less than 6,000.

Matiparbat is about 8 km north-west of Nellie, now almost a small town 70 km east of Guwahati. Nellie, earlier in Nagaon district, is now in Morigaon district. "They set fire to the houses and chased our people with all kinds of weapons. I had nowhere to run but escaped by pretending to be dead. I smeared blood from the body of a woman and lay still next to it," says Iman Ali, 65.

The screams stopped two hours later and Ali mustered the courage to look around for survivors. He found his wife Manowara Begum and daughter, Ayesha, emerging from Basundhara Beel, a 2 km-long wetland beside which Matiparbat is located. Five other members of his extended family and a few neighbours lay dead, some with their heads smashed, some with their throats slit, some with bullet marks.

"The mob did not spare those who hid amid the water hyacinths in the beel. My wife had her nostrils above the water level while holding our baby's face up just enough to let her breathe. She controlled her urge to scream but it was a miracle that the baby did not cry as some members of the mob kept spearing the beel and slashing the water hyacinths around them," Ali says.

Ali believes Ayesha, a mother now, will need more than a miracle to be included in the final list of the Supreme Court-monitored NRC with an August 31 deadline for publication. "Convincing the authorities about the citizenship documents we possess is tougher than appeasing God," he says. Ayesha is one of the six members in Ali's family belonging to the list of 40.07 lakh people excluded from the draft NRC published on July 30, 2018. Ali's younger daughter Hazara Bibi too is among the excluded. A barely literate farmer, Ali fails to understand why the same set of documents that established his citizenship did not work for his daughters.

At Basundhara, another of the 14 villages attacked on that fateful day, Azeemuddin lost seven members of his family, including his wife, sister, and daughter. On June 26, when an additional list of 1.02 lakh people found ineligible for inclusion in the NRC was published, he felt history was repeating itself with a non-violent but a "deadlier" twist. Azeemuddin, now 64, relocated to Nellie soon after the carnage although Nellie is closer to where the assailants had allegedly come from – the hills across NH37. Most of his kin stayed back to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. "We are a large family of 93. Just seven of us were included in the draft NRC only to be put in the new reject list. This is as if the clock has turned back to those horrific days. This time, not to kill us but erase our existence as Indians."

## Already a dead man

There is no debate over why the Nellie bloodbath happened. The violence was seen as the fallout of the government's decision to hold the election to the 126-member State Assembly in 1983 during the peak of the Assam Agitation seeking the ejection of illegal immigrants. Organisations such as the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) that spearheaded the agitation saw the "forced election" as then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's bid to legitimise "millions of immigrants from Bangladesh" as voters.

The turnout at the controversial election was 32% and most of the voters were believed to have been Bengal-origin Muslims, usually referred to by the pejorative 'Miya' for distinguishing them from the "acceptable" Assamese Muslims. Another set of migrants, the Bengal-origin Hindus, living within a 10 km radius of Nellie, did not feel the heat in 1983. "We knew something bad was going to happen when, ahead of the 1983 election, groups of people kept visiting our area telling us not to vote. Given the situation, we thought it best to stay away from the polling booths," says 83-year-old Pradip Das of Ganesh Valley.

The Hindus-only Ganesh Valley was established in 1951 to settle 80 families who had fled present-day Bangladesh in August 1947. The colony now has about 170 houses, the increase attributed to the descendants of the refugees. Ganesh Valley is about 2 km beyond the Nellie market on the southern flank of NH37, almost opposite Shilchang Ward No. 1 on the highway's northern flank from where the Muslim areas start along a road – much of it submerged under waist-deep water – arcing westward to Matiparbat. Houses of a dozen Gorkha



"The agitation, some say, may continue in a different form if the National Register of Citizens turns out to be flawed." NRC officials verify documents as security personnel stand guard at a NRC centre in Morigaon district of Assam on August 2, 2019. (Below): Girin Biswas of Soru Matiparbat with his family. Biswas is among four in a family of six to have been excluded from the NRC. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR / RAHUL KARMAKAR



people separate Matiparbat from Soru Matiparbat, a Hindu Bengali village from where the road turns southward to meet the highway beyond Borkhal, another Hindu Bengali village.

Das recalls how members of his community had undergone a difficult phase during the Bhasha Andolan (Language Movement) in 1961. Bengali people of southern Assam's Barak Valley had that year opposed the Assam government's move to make Assamese the official language. Their movement had a backlash in the Assamese-dominated Brahmaputra Valley. The anger had resulted in Ganesh Valley's Gopal Krishna Lower Primary School, a Bengali medium school, being set ablaze.

"All schools here are in Assamese medium. Hindus and Muslims are products of these schools. We speak our mother tongue at home, but that is peppered with Assamese words. It is time people started referring to us as Bengal-origin Hindus and not Bengali Hindus," says Jadhav Biswas, a 28-year-old tyre trader from Ganesh Valley.

Often a synonym for the abusive 'Bangladeshi', Miya refers to a dialect that has evolved into a literary form pursued by Bengal-origin Muslims who resent being called Bengali Muslims. The attempts at shedding the baggage of the past mean nothing for officials handling the NRC fieldwork. "Only documents that can establish citizenship matter," says a disposing officer at an NRC service centre in Morigaon district.

"Unlike people considered indigenous inhabitants, some of whom did not even submit relevant documents, our papers are scrutinised over and over again. Our original documents, including a land deed of 1947, were burnt along with our house in 1983. We collected certified copies of some of the documents from the district authorities, but their tendency is not to believe these," says 70-year-old Moslemuddin of Bhogdabbeel village, whose daughter has been excluded from the NRC.

His younger sister Noorjehan too is in the list of NRC rejects despite having won a legal case three years ago after being served notice as a 'D' or doubtful voter. At Kumarbori village, about 2 km west of Nellie, Surjya Kumar Das has almost given up on proving his citizenship. The son of Nanda Lal Das who settled down in the village in 1964, he has been checkmated by a clerical input in the voters' list that he had not given much thought to.

"I have virtually lost everything fighting a legal battle four times to prove I

am not a suspected foreigner. In 2018, the High Court cleared my case but my family and I were excluded from the NRC. This was all because my name Surjya Lal Das was entered as Surjya Kumar Das in the voters' list of 1995 and I have been voting since with 'Kumar' as my middle name," he says. A fortnight ago, Das, his wife, and daughter spent a week in the Morigaon district jail allegedly for trying to cheat his way through to the NRC. "People say I will have to spend a longer time in jail after August 31. I will probably not survive there, but then I am already a dead man," he says.

**No house unaffected**  
The family of Jadhav Biswas is among the fortunate in Ganesh Valley to be included in the NRC. More than 40% of people in his area have missed out; they might be re-included or continue to be excluded after the exercise to update the list is concluded, says Biswas.

One understands that everything boils down to the possession of documents, although some admissible documents have not passed the test mainly because of the attitude of some NRC officials.

How else do you explain the fact

that there's at least one member in almost every family in villages of Bengal-origin Hindus and Muslims in the rejection list?" says Suleiman Ahmed Kasimi, the Maulana of Nellie's Masjid-e-Umar.

In Matiparbat village, a person or two in each of some 700 houses are not on the draft NRC besides the families of 40 people who have been marked as D-voters or suspected foreigners. Between the Hindu villages of Soru Matiparbat and Borkhal, 27 families have little hope of making it to the NRC because of cases pending in the Foreigners' Tribunal 1 in the district headquarters, Morigaon. There are an average of two persons in each of the 420 houses in these two villages on the NRC rejection list.

Soru Matiparbat's Girin Biswas is among four in a family of six to have been excluded from the NRC. He had received a notice from the Foreigners' Tribunal on October 13, 2016, asking him to appear before it to prove his citizen-

ship. It was then that the marginal farmer began digging up documents, most of which were shredded by rats. A certified copy signed by A.C. Bhuyan, the Electoral Registration Officer of Nagaon district (from which Morigaon was carved out in 1989), says Biswas's grandfather Meghali Biswas figured in the voters' list of 1965. The problem, he discovered, was in the name of his father who was listed as Kristo in the voters' list, Kisto in the NRC legacy data he had downloaded from a service centre for application, and Krishna in the notice that the Foreigners' Tribunal had served him. Even his name in the notice was Girindra, not Girin. "My lawyer says we had a favourable judgment four months ago. But we have not received the copy," he says.

Girin Biswas, a 30-year-old assistant teacher at the State-run Borkhal Anushuchita Jati Prathamik Vidyalaya (SC primary school), is the only one excluded from the NRC in his family. All other members, who drew their lineage from his grandfather Ganga Charan Namasudra, were included, but he was not.

"My father Dhiren Biswas was the youngest of four siblings. The others sailed through because they had voted before 1971, but I was stuck. I got tired of explaining that Namasudra is the name of a lower caste to which the Biswas belong. I hope my claim is accepted," he says.

The NRC updating process is that of enlisting the names of people or descendants of people whose names appear in any of the electoral rolls up to 1971, the NRC of 1951 or any of the other stipulated documents such as land and tenancy records, citizenship certificate, refugee registration certificate, and permanent residential certificate. The exercise is being done as per the Assam Accord of 1985 that ended the Assam Agitation of 1979-85. The accord prescribes the midnight of March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for detecting foreigners or illegal immigrants.

"We want an error-free NRC. But it appears only people of Bengal origin, Hindus or Muslims, are being targeted and there is an attempt to disregard



documents in a bid to convey that most of them have entered Assam after 1971. And there seems to be a policy to target people who came between 1966 and 1971 too," says Utpal Dey, a leader of the All Assam Bengali Youth Students' Federation. The All Assam Minority Students' Union agrees, but feels the Muslims would be worse off if the Bharatiya Janata Party pushes the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill to let non-Muslim immigrants who entered India till December 31, 2014, to stay.

Dey says the Bill is a sham, and if it materialises, will require a beneficiary to first declare himself/herself as a foreigner and then get proof that he/she has been a victim of religious persecution in the country escaped from. Former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, who was president of the AASU during the Assam Agitation, says a global campaign has been on to malign the Assamese people by painting the Bengali-speaking people in the State as victims of some kind of purge programme.

"I had suggested to the government that verification of citizenship is necessary only in the case of those who speak Bengali because Assam has borne the brunt of several waves of migration from present-day Bangladesh, first because of the British who brought them for agriculture, clerical jobs and petty trade. Partition of India and developments leading to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 brought more people to put pressure on the land," he said after the draft NRC was published in 2018.

There was no logical reason to verify the people who speak Hindi or variants and the people from Nepal and Bhutan who are fewer in number than those from Bangladesh and who are bound by treaties with India, Mahanta says. Two cases in point are that of BJP leaders – Rajasthan-origin Pawan Kumar Rathoi and Gujarat-origin Shantanu Naik, both of southern Assam's Silchar – who have been excluded from the NRC.

A majority of those in the two NRC-excluded lists speak Bengali. Many are Nepali-speaking, some originally from the Hindi-speaking States and a few belong to indigenous communities who are expected to get in by virtue of being 'original inhabitants', a category many have contested by arguing that Assam has become home for several streams of migrants over time. One such community comprise the tea plantation workers or 'tea tribes' that the Supreme Court recognised as 'original inhabitants'.

**Colonial legacy**  
The perception of the outsider as a cultural threat and a usurper of land and its resources began in Assam towards the end of the 19th century when people from other parts of British India, specifically Bengal, came in waves to work in the paddy fields, tea plantations and the timber industry. In 1920, the British rulers introduced the Line System to segregate the indigenous people from settlers taking up shrinking tracts of vacant or

**C** The NRC appears to be an unfinished business of the Assam agitation. It is just that the proverbial pen has taken over the job of the sword – to be a mightier eliminator of foreigners.

**SULEIMAN AHMED KASIMI**  
Maulana of Nellie's Masjid-e-Umar

forest lands. But what fuelled the fears that the indigenous communities would be marginalised by the settlers was British civil servant C.S. Mullan's observation in 1931. "Probably the most important event in the province during the last 25 years, likely to alter permanently the whole structure of Assamese culture and civilisation, has been the invasion of a vast horde of land-hungry Bengali immigrants, mostly Muslims from the districts of eastern Bengal," he wrote after conducting the 1931 census. Inadvertently, or otherwise, he gave a religious identity to the migrant threat.

Assam's former Director General of Police Harekrishna Deka, also a poet, blamed the British for sowing the seeds of distrust between the Assamese and Bengali people. "Apart from encouraging continuous migration of people from Bengal, they added Sylhet, a populous district of undivided Bengal, to Assam in 1874. This led to the Bengalis becoming the majority until Partition," he says. Sylhet went to Pakistan in 1947, but its addition to Assam increased the insecurity that the Assamese felt when the British introduced Bengali as the language of official correspondence, in court and for education, until the Baptist missionaries intervened to give Assamese its rightful place in 1873. If that were not enough, Basanta Kumar Das, an elected leader from the Bengal-dominated Barak Valley, demanded a change in Assam's name in the 1930s. The distrust of Bengalis, Deka points out, coincided with the friction between Muslim migrants from eastern Bengal and nationalist Assamese, particularly after the Muslim League had in the 1940s made serious efforts to include Assam in Pakistan.

Large-scale migrations into Assam, as indicated by the Census of 1961 and 1971, worked on the psyche of the indigenous people culminating in the anti-foreigners agitation. "The NRC appears to be an unfinished business of that nightmarish agitation. It is just that the proverbial pen has taken over the job of the sword – to be a mightier eliminator of foreigners," Maulana Kasimi says.

Current AASU general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi says "vested interests" are trying to derail the NRC process. "All we want is an error-free NRC," he says.

The agitation, some say, may continue in a different form if the NRC turns out to be flawed. This is a possibility given the fact that politics in Assam revolves around the issue of immigrants, illegal or otherwise, who usually call the shots during elections.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## SC to hear Ayodhya appeals from Aug. 6

Questions about the efficacy of the mediation process came under the spotlight after an application was filed by Gopal Singh Visharad, an original claimant to the disputed land who filed a title suit way back in 1950, through his survivor Rajendra Singh, on July 9, claiming that the Justice Kalifulla committee was making no progress.

The application urged the court to stop mediation and start adjudication on the pending Ayodhya appeals.

On March 8, the Bench initially sent the dispute for mediation. At that time, it expressed the hope that this step would spell a peaceful

end to the volatile dispute between the members of the two religious faiths.

During the Friday hearing, an application filed by M. Siddiq, through his legal heirs, which pointed out several "discrepancies" in the translations done by the Uttar Pradesh government of the case records, also came up.

The application, filed on July 15, claimed there were "glaring errors" and illustrated a few examples of them.

It said verification of the translations was a Herculean task. "But let the hearing in appeals start..." CJI Gogoi said.

## U.P. 'accident' case won't be moved to Delhi

On Thursday, the court gave the CBI seven to 14 days to complete its probe in the case.

Earlier in the day, counsel for the family of the rape survivor informed the Supreme Court that the girl's mother was reluctant about shifting the victim from the Lucknow hospital where she is on ventilator support. "Our primary concern is health of the victim," CJI Gogoi said.

The Bench agreed when advocate D. Ram Krishna

Reddy sought the indulgence of the court to make an urgent mention whenever it becomes imperative to shift the girl out of Lucknow for advanced medical treatment.

The court listed the case for Monday to get a further update on her medical condition.

Meanwhile, the court allowed the transfer of the victim's uncle from the Rae Bareli jail to the Tihar jail in Delhi for security reasons. He is a witness in the Unnao cases.

## Maldives leader stays put on boat off T.N. coast

Earlier in a press statement law firm Guernica 37 International Justice Chambers, which claims to represent Mr. Adeeb, said he had sought asylum in the country. "The Indian authorities are therefore under an obligation to consider his request and to ensure that he is not arbitrarily handed over to the authorities of the Republic of Maldives, where he is at the risk of ill-treatment," the statement read.

Further, it said that Maldivian enforcement officials were expected to arrive in

Chennai soon.

If India were to return him to his home country, it would be against the principle of 'non-refoulement', which makes it "unlawful" for a country to return an asylum-seeker to a place where their life or freedom would be threatened, the firm said. It claimed that earlier, the Maldivian Security Services sought to coerce him into signing documents that would amount to a false admission of guilt and put his life, and those of his family members, in danger.

## Mehbooba-led team meets J&amp;K Governor

Ms. Mufti arranged late evening meetings with rival National Conference (NC) president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone, CPI(M)'s M.Y. Tarigami and J&K Peoples Movement head Shah Faesal. Later, Ms. Mufti led a joint delegation of these parties to meet Mr. Malik.

**Plea to dispel rumours**  
"After a brief discussion, we called on Mr. Malikji and requested him to dispel rumours that have caused a sense of panic in the Valley," said Ms. Mufti.

Mr. Faesal, while questioning the government advisory, said, "Should Kashmiris also migrate to other

places or is it that our lives do not matter?" Sources said NC patron Dr. Abdullah extended support to Ms. Mufti. Dr. Abdullah is likely to convene an all-party meet in Srinagar after NC vice-president Omar Abdullah returns to the Valley.

The Governor informed the delegation that there were serious and credible inputs regarding terrorist attacks on the Amarnath yatra. "It is the responsibility of the State to provide security to all its citizens. Unnecessary panic is being created by linking this to all kinds of other issues. The political leaders should ask their supporters to maintain calm," he said.

## 3 booked in different States for triple talaq

The police said Ms. Patel, an MBA, married Imtiaz in 2015. In her complaint, she has alleged that her husband also pronounced triple talaq on phone. She claimed that Mr. Patel, his mother and his sister had repeatedly harassed her for dowry for three years, even assaulting her when she refused. "We have also booked all the three accused for harassment for dowry," Mr. Kad said.

In the second incident, Ikram, a resident of Haryana's Nuh district, had married Jumirat about two years ago and was demanding ₹1

lakh as dowry from his in-laws, who stay in Mathura.

The victim had returned to her maternal home following harassment.

Ikram later pronounced triple talaq on his wife – as the duo stepped out of a police station where they were called for reconciliation – after his mother-in-law expressed inability to fulfil his dowry demand.

In the third case, Salaudin, 23, also from Haryana's Nuh district, was booked for allegedly pronouncing triple talaq on his wife over phone. (With PTI inputs)

## UAPA Bill gets Rajya Sabha nod

Congress, BSP back legislation cleared by the Lok Sabha on July 24

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 that empowers the Union Home Ministry to designate individuals as terrorists was passed in the Rajya Sabha on Friday with the Congress and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supporting the legislation.

In the 240-member House, 147 members voted in favour of the Bill and 42 against.

Parties such as the Trinamool Congress, CPI(M), CPI, DMK, TDP, SP, AAP and the RJD opposed the Bill.

It was passed in the Lok Sabha on July 24. With the Rajya Sabha giving its assent, the Bill will soon be notified as a law.

Home Minister Amit Shah said gathering evidence against terrorists was a complex process, and the law would help security agencies remain two steps ahead of them.

He said the Samjhauta Express, Mecca Masjid and the Ajmer Dargah blasts in which former Rashtriya Swayamsevak (RSS) member Aseemanand and others were acquitted recently were registered due to "political vendetta" and there was an attempt to link it to a particu-

## Hard line

The UAPA Bill, 2019, amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Some highlights:

**TERRORISM:** Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is involved in terrorism. The Bill additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds

**SEIZURE OF PROPERTY:** Under the Act, an investigating officer must obtain prior approval of the DGP to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. If the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General, NIA is mandatory

**INVESTIGATION:** Under the Act, investigation of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of DSP or ACP or above. Officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, can also investigate cases

SOURCE: PRS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

lar religion. "The Samjhauta chargesheet was filed in 2012 and 2013. We only argued the case. Judge did not find anything, so the accused were acquitted. Who brought political agenda here?" Mr. Shah said.

This is the third contentious legislation that has been cleared in the Rajya Sabha despite the ruling party not having a majority.

Mr. Shah said it was important to identify terrorists

vision for appeals had been prescribed when individuals are declared terrorists.

Mr. Shah said all countries had laws to designate individuals as terrorists.

Elaborating on the track record of the National Investigation Agency, he said out of 278 terror cases registered by the agency, chargesheets had been filed in 204. Of the 54 cases where judgments had come, conviction has been made in 48. He said 221 persons were convicted and 92 acquitted by the courts. A total of 131 chargesheets had been filed from June 1, 2014 to July 2019.

Congress leader P. Chidambaram said his party was not against the law but was opposed to some amendments. He said the issue was that of liberty of an individual and if the law was passed, it would be struck down by courts. He asked why an individual should be named a terrorist when the organisation he belonged to has already been banned.

Digvijaya Singh said the Congress did not have faith in the government's intent. Rejecting the charge, Mr. Shah took a swipe at Mr. Singh saying, "Digvijaya Singh seems angry. It is natural, [as] he has just lost an election."

## Cong. chief out of Jallianwala Bagh Trust

Lok Sabha passes Bill amid acrimony and a walkout by the Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Friday passed the Wage Code Bill that seeks to enforce minimum wage among both formal and informal sector.

Speaking at the conclusion of the debate, Union Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said the reports quoting the minimum wage as ₹160 were wrong and the figure would be decided by government after due consultations with the Tripartite Minimum Wage Advisory Board.

The Bill was passed by a division of votes in which 214 members voted in favour while 30 were 'against' even as the Congress walked out in protest.

Earlier, the debate witnessed sharp and personal exchanges between members from Punjab. Shiromani Akali Dal member and Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal alleged that a close relative of the Punjab Chief Minister had lauded General Dyer, who had ordered the shooting at Jallianwala Bagh

manages the memorial included the Prime Minister as the chairperson, with the president of the Congress, Culture Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Punjab Governor and the Punjab Chief Minister as its members.

But now, the Congress chief is being removed while the leader of the single largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha is being added as a member of the trust.

Opposing the Bill, Congress member Gurjeet Aujla said: "This government wants to distort history, destroy history. You cannot remove the sacrifice of the Congress to the country's freedom struggle".

"No political party can claim hold over a trust like the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial," Mr. Patel said.

Hitherto, the trust that

manages the memorial included the Prime Minister as the chairperson, with the president of the Congress, Culture Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Punjab Governor and the Punjab Chief Minister as its members.

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"No political party can claim hold over a trust like the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial," Mr. Patel said.

Hitherto, the trust that

report in court dated May 7 saying they were making "progress." The court had then extended the time till August 15, saying it did not want to "short-circuit" the mediation efforts.

**Sudden turn**  
However, things took a sudden turn when an application was filed by Gopal Singh Visharad, an original claimant who had filed a title suit in 1950, through Rajendra Singh.

The application claimed the committee was making no progress and asked the Bench to commence hearing the long-pending Ayodhya appeals.

## LS passes Dam Safety Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 by a voice vote.

The Bill seeks to provide for institutional mechanism for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams across the country.

Speaking in the House, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the Centre had no intention of taking over the powers of States through the draft law, adding that "Water is a State subject."

The association alleged that Justice Kureshi's elevation

## Congress walks out during Zero Hour

Adhir not allowed to complete speech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress walked out of the Lok Sabha during Zero Hour on Friday when the party's leader in the House, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, was not allowed to complete his speech on a Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) report that was critical of the government's preparation with regard to the Goods and Services Tax rollout.

Congress leader P. Chidambaram said his party was not against the law but was opposed to some amendments. He said the issue was that of liberty of an individual and if the law was passed, it would be struck down by courts. He asked why an individual should be named a terrorist when the organisation he belonged to has already been banned.

Mob lynching figured prominently among the host of issues raised in the Lok Sabha during Zero Hour on Friday.

Ravikumar of the DMK cited National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data to argue that recent years had seen a spike in the number of cases of mob lynching and honour killing. "Such incidents (mob lynching and honour killing) should



LS Speaker Om Birla

be treated like terrorist acts," said the MP who spoke in Tamil.

Danish Ali of the BSP raised how some Central universities such as Jamia Millia Islamia were not holding elections to their student unions and other such bodies. "It is injustice as several future leaders can aspire to come to this House through hard work but polls are not being held," he said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked members to focus on improving nutrition of children and mothers of underprivileged households during the month of September. Union Women and Child Welfare minister Smriti Irani suggested that MPs sponsor midday meals in government schools on special occasions such as their family members' birthdays.

## Another SP Rajya Sabha MP quits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party MP Surendra Singh Nagar resigned from the Rajya Sabha on Friday amid intense speculation that he too may be on his way to join the BJP. This brings down the Samajwadi Party numbers from 12 to 11.

The Opposition had suffered two consecutive defeats in the House – the RTI Act and the triple talaq Bill – as they could not get the numbers to oppose them.

Neeraj Shekhar, son of former Prime Minister Chandrashekhar, was the first to quit the SP and join the BJP on July 15. Mr. Nagar's term was till 2022.

Seven members have so far joined the BJP bringing down the Opposition strength in the House.

## Call on Justice Kureshi after Parliament session

Place decision before court: CJI

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it would take a call on the Collegium recommendation to appoint Bombay High Court judge Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court once the Parliament session was over.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on Friday to place the government's decision, whatever it may be, on Justice Kureshi before the Supreme Court. It scheduled the hearing, which is based on a petition filed by the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association, for hearing on August 14.

In the previous hearing, senior advocate Fali Nariman had highlighted the unexplained delay from the government in taking a call on Justice Kureshi. He had said that the government should act as a "distinguished communicator" and could not resort to what seemed "deliberate inaction" in a recommendation made by the Collegium as way back as May 10. The Centre should clarify whether it had sought any feedback from the Madhya Pradesh government.

It said the May 10 recommendation was made by the Collegium in accordance with the law laid down in the Second Judges Case and Memorandum of Procedure. The "recommendation is rendered moot by the arbitrary inaction... in withholding the appointment."



The Supreme Court Collegium recommended Justice Kureshi's appointment in May.

tion was singled out for uncertainty while those of other judges, who were recommended along with him, had sailed through.

"The deliberate inaction of the respondent [Centre] in not appointing Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court impinges and diminishes the primacy of the judiciary in the matters of appointment and transfer of judges to High Court and Supreme Court," the petition filed by the association through its president and senior advocate Yatin Oza submitted.

It said the May 10 recommendation was made by the Collegium in accordance with the law laid down in the Second Judges Case and Memorandum of Procedure. The "recommendation is rendered moot by the arbitrary inaction... in withholding the appointment."

AN-ND-ND

## RS to take up four more Bills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government has proposed to bring four more Bills to the Rajya Sabha during the last three days of the budget session of Parliament which ends on August 7.

# Centre confirms augmenting of forces

Says 32,000 personnel posted for Amarnath Yatra will continue to be deployed in the Valley

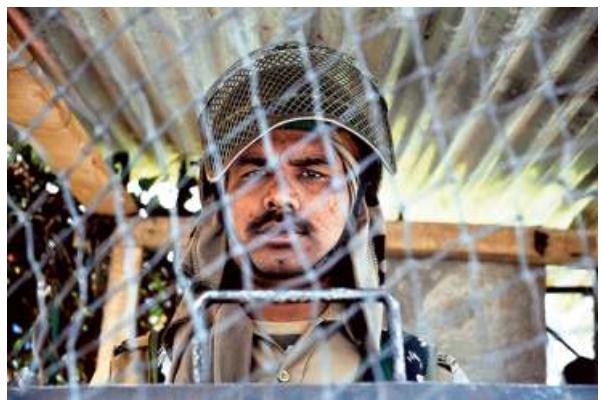
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has confirmed that it issued orders for deployment of 10,000 additional paramilitary personnel in Jammu and Kashmir "about a week ago", but insisted that it had "never been the practice" to discuss deployment details in public.

In all, around 25,000 additional central armed police forces are being inducted in the Kashmir Valley.

The Ministry's clarification came following reports that an additional 25,000 Central paramilitary personnel were being sent to Kashmir.

Nearly 32,000 Central armed police forces deployed for securing Amarnath Yatra that was "cur-



**Tight security:** A CRPF jawan standing guard in Srinagar on Friday, after additional troops were deployed. • NISSAR AHMAD

tailed" on Friday following terror threats from Pakistan would continue to be deployed in the Valley for security-related duties, an official said.

The 'yatra' was to conclude on August 15. There

are another 50,000 Central forces deployed there, apart from the Army and the State police.

This is the first time in two decades that the 'yatra'

is being curtailed for security reasons.

Asked about the Jammu and Kashmir order asking tourists and the Amarnath Yatra pilgrims to leave the Valley, a top government official said, "It is not an ordinary advisory."

According to the Home Ministry, the deployment of 10,000 Central forces last week apparently led to speculation about the dispatch of additional security forces to the Valley.

"Based on [the] assessment of the internal situation, training requirements, the need for paramilitary troops to be rotated for rest and recuperation, induction and de-induction of Central forces is a continuous and dynamic process," a source in the Ministry said.

Earlier, Mir Mohammad Fayaz of the Peoples Demo-

cratic Party, while participating in a debate in the Rajya Sabha, said people in Kashmir were terrified after 25,000 troops moved there.

## DGCA directive

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation advised airlines on Friday to remain ready to operate additional flights from Srinagar if the need arises, according to a source.

"Around 8.45pm, the situation at the Srinagar airport was checked by the DGCA and it was found to be normal. It was found that there is no need to run extra flights right now. But if the need arises later on, the airlines have been advised to remain ready to run extra flights," the source said.

(With PTI inputs)

**Rein in stone throwers, says Army**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
SRINAGAR

Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillon, General Officer Commanding (GOC), 15 Corps, said here on Friday that improvised explosive device (IED) attacks were emerging as "pronounced threat" in Kashmir of late.

Lt. Gen. Dhillon warned local youth against resorting to stone throwing, and appealed to mothers to rein in their wards. "83% of local terrorists killed this year were once stone-pelters. If your son is throwing stones today for ₹500, then he is tomorrow's terrorist; 64% local militants get killed within a year of joining militancy," he added.

Police sources said civilian installations such as a drug de-addiction centre here, polytechnics and the J&K Cements building were asked to keep their premises on standby for the stay of the forces.



**Change in plans:** Tourists getting ready to leave Srinagar following the security advisory issued to them. • NISSAR AHMAD

ment move to shift pilgrims and tourists out of J&K. "State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) buses are being deployed to bus people out from Pahalgam and Gulmarg. If there is a threat to the yatra, why is Gulmarg being emptied?" he asked.

She said the PDP always believed that any concession or a final solution on J&K had to come from India. "But today, the same country seems to be preparing to rob J&K of whatever little is left to protect its unique identity," she said.

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah questioned the govern-

removal of Article 35A was to change the demography of the State. "The provision was negotiated by the regional electoral parties and is an article of faith, which should not be breached. Such measures will not change the reality that Kashmir is an issue and has to be resolved. The word is asking India and Pakistan to resolve it and there are also offers to mediate," he told a Friday congregation in Srinagar.

**Do not precipitate a crisis: Cong.**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the deployment of troops in Kashmir, a Congress strategic group on Kashmir, headed by Manmohan Singh, asked the Centre on Friday not to take any action that would "precipitate a deep crisis".

The group, which includes P. Chidambaram, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ambika Soni and Karan Singh, met to discuss the latest situation in Kashmir.

"There was deep concern at the continuous reports emanating from both the Union Home Ministry and the State government which were creating an atmosphere of panic," Mr. Azad said. They [the leaders] reiterated the considered view of the Congress and asked the government to maintain the special Constitutional guarantees given to the State, he said.



India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday. • AP

## Defence team in U.S. for talks

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

India and U.S. have made progress in finalising the last of the foundational agreements, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement, and the Industrial Security Annex for closer defence industry cooperation and collaboration. This will be reviewed by both the sides.

ic partnership.

"The two discussed [their] shared commitment to upholding the rule of law, freedom of navigation and democratic values in the Indo-Pacific region," the statement added.

# India wants unimpeded consular access to Kulbhushan

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

the orders of the International Court of Justice.

Their response was awaited, said a source familiar with the discussion conducted through diplomatic channels.

While Pakistani reports suggested that consular access was to be granted to Indian diplomats at 3 p.m. on Friday, India had declined to confirm the time and date of the meeting.

Sources said India had not yet set a deadline for Pakistan's response.

"They offered us consular access to Jadhav on Friday. In response, we have sent a note verbale conveying our position," said the source hinting that the negotiation on securing normal consular access is expected to continue.

On July 17, the ICJ asked Pakistan to provide consular access to Mr. Jadhav. In a judgment that was seen as a setback to Pakistan's trial of him, the ICJ asked for consular access to him "without further delay."

**Soldier and militant killed in Shopian**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
SRINAGAR

One militant and a soldier were killed in a fierce gunfight in Shopian of south Kashmir on Friday.

An Army spokesman said the militant Zeenat-ul-Islam from Shopian's Mender was killed in the operation launched around 1.30 a.m. at Pandushan.

"One soldier also died in the operation. Weapons and war-like stores were recovered from the operation site. Combing operation is still on," the Army spokesman said.

**'DNA tests not done in 731 rape cases'**

**SIDHARTH YADAV**  
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh police have informed the High Court in Jabalpur that DNA tests were not conducted in 731 cases of 4,359 cases of rape registered between July 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 in the State.

The police submitted the figures in a report to the court on July 18, after it was directed by the court on April 2 to furnish a list of cases where DNA tests were not conducted during the period and names of investigating or supervising officers in the cases so that action could be taken against them.

However, the police had not disclosed the names in the report.

Justice J.P. Gupta directed the police to disclose the names within 10 days.

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (N-II) NEAR TRANSPORT AUTHORITY MAIN BURARI ROAD DELHI-14 NIT. No.24 (Item No. 1.2.3) (2019-20) E.E. (North)-II						
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money	Tender fee (Non-refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Providing and laying 300 mm dia sewer line Shyama Mukhri Park B-Block to H-2/5 Model Town to Stop sewerage flow into the storm water drain AC-18, Model Town Constituency under E.E.(North)-II I.D. 2019_DJB_177478_2	41,00,563/-	31.07.2019 06 PM. onward	82100/-	500/-	Technical bid will be received 21.08.2019, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank
2	Providing and Laying Sewer line to trapping of sewerage from Chaudhary Sweet to UTS, Shakti Nagar, AC-18, Model town Constituency under E.E.(North)-II I.D. 2019_DJB_177478_3	42,64,405/-	31.07.2019 06 PM. onward	85300/-	500/-	Technical bid will be received 21.08.2019, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Issued by P.R.O. (Water)

Adv. No. J.S.V. 231/2019-20

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(N-II)

ANNA UNIVERSITY CHENNAI - 600 025			
TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Ref No. 6829/PPA/ET/LSRIM & UTMDPR/MIT/RPT/RPT/2019			
On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for Supply and Installation of following equipment for the Professor and Head, Department of Rubber and Plastics Technology, MIT Campus, Anna University, Chennai - 600 044.			
S.I.No.	Tender Ref. No.		Name of the equipment
1.	6829/PPA/ET/LSRIM & UTMDPR/MIT/RPT/RPT/2019	"Lab Scale Rubber Internal Mixer (Kneader type) with Accessories".	Qty. Approx. cost ₹ 15,00,000/-
2.	6829/PPA/ET/LSRIM & UTMDPR/MIT/RPT/RPT/2019	Universal Testing Machine for Dynamic Properties of Rubber with Accessories	Qty. Approx. cost ₹ 60,00,000/-

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://ttntenders.gov.in> using Digital Signature Certificate and E-Token from 05.30 p.m. on 03.08.2019. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 03.00 p.m. on 20.08.2019 and will be opened at 03.00 p.m. on 21.08.2019. For EMD and other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://ttntenders.gov.in>) and any press advertisement will not be published in this regard.

DIPR/2657/Tender/2019

REGISTRAR i/c

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LTD. Corporate Identity Number : (CIN)-U40109RJ2000SPG016483 Regd. Office: New Power House, Jodhpur-342003 Phone No: 0291-510660 / Fax No : 0291-2741772 E-mail : <a href="mailto:sjdvnl@jdvnl.com">sjdvnl@jdvnl.com</a> Web site : <a href="http://www.jdvnl.com">www.jdvnl.com</a>						
<b>E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE</b>						

E-procurement tenders are invited from eligible bidders for "Implementation of Real Time Data Acquisition System (RT-DAS)" in jdvnl for measurement of SAIFU(SAIF) of Non SCADA towns under IPDS" under TN-IT-19 (UBN No. JV/JV1920WL0B0076).

Details regarding work, Tender cost, Earnest money, Date of tender opening etc. are available at our website [www.jdvnl.com/](http://www.jdvnl.com/) energy.rajaasthan.gov.in/jdvnl & sppp.rajaasthan.gov.in. The bidders, in their own interest are requested to carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line on website [www.eproc.rajaasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajaasthan.gov.in).

-sd-

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (IT)**

Raj Samwad/C/1772/2019-2020

Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru

No. : BBMP/EE/RI-MPURA/TEND/COR/01/2019-20 Date : 01-08-2019 ADDENDUM

**Notification No.: BBMP/EE/RI-MPURA/TEND/06/2019-20, Dated : 31-07-2019** is Printed in News Papers as the Packages are belongs to Mahadevapura Division, but the Works are belongs to K.R. Pura Constituency of Mahadevapura Road Infrastructure Division. So, Please read as R.I. K.R. Pura Division and all other conditions are same as Notification issued.

**Sd/- The Executive Engineer,  
Road Infrastructure,  
Mahadevapura (K.R. Pura) Division, BBMP**

For any clarifications, kindly contact the Executive Engineer, Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
CIN : U85110KA1970



## MARKET WATCH

	Sensex	37,118	% CHANGE	0.27
US Dollar	69.60	40.50	-0.78	
Gold	35,630	35,630	-0.46	
Brent oil	62.32	62.32	-1.73	

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	375.45	+4.35
Asian Paints	1545.20	+40.50
Axius Bank	673.85	+4.55
Bajaj Auto	2600.55	+62.80
Bajaj Finance	7063.70	+18.30
Bharti Airtel	343.55	+19.65
BPCL	324.45	+1.20
Britannia Ind	2594.40	+6.50
Cipla	516.10	+3.65
Coal India	197.20	+5.25
Dr Reddys Lab	2529.20	+4.55
Eicher Motors	16905.00	+342.20
GAIL (India)	127.65	+9.95
Gasim Ind	778.00	+3.45
HCL Tech.	1010.50	+11.05
HDFC	2124.80	+38.00
HDFC Bank	2214.35	+7.45
Hero MotoCorp	2401.95	+33.40
Hindalco	180.40	+2.35
Hind Unilever	1737.45	+6.15
Indiabulls HFL	489.65	+32.30
ICICI Bank	410.60	+6.45
IndusInd Bank	1382.90	+15.75
Bharti Infralet	251.40	+0.45
Infosys	775.60	+6.75
Indian Oil Corp	135.25	+1.70
ITC	264.50	+3.05
JSW Steel	225.15	+0.10
Kotak Bank	1507.60	+11.80
L&T	1370.25	+12.20
M&M	556.45	+7.90
Maruti Suzuki	5689.35	+116.75
NTPC	123.10	+3.75
ONGC	134.35	+2.55
PowerGrid Corp	210.55	+3.45
Reliance Ind	1184.35	+4.10
State Bank	308.45	+8.70
Sun Pharma	420.65	+4.45
Tata Motors	130.70	+1.15
Tata Steel	409.10	+10.90
TCS	2205.30	+25.25
Tech Mahindra	636.15	+10.50
Titan	1064.70	+7.40
UltraTech Cement	4299.05	+67.35
UPL	573.50	+3.30
Vedanta	143.00	+2.45
Wipro	263.65	+6.75
YES Bank	88.30	+0.10
Zee Entertainment	341.50	+5.35

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.39	69.71
Euro	76.94	77.29
British Pound	84.17	84.56
Japanese Yen (100)	64.88	65.19
Chinese Yuan	10.00	10.05
Swiss Franc	70.38	70.72
Singapore Dollar	50.37	50.61
Canadian Dollar	52.35	52.59
Malaysian Ringgit	16.68	16.78

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

	August 02 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)	44.3... (44.7)
22 ct gold (1g)	3383... (3333)

## RBI penalises eight banks for violations

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI  
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on eight banks for violating various norms.

Seven banks – Allahabad Bank (₹2 crore), Bank of Baroda (₹1.5 crore), Bank of India (₹1.5 crore), Bank of Maharashtra (₹2 crore), Indian Overseas Bank (₹1.5 crore), Oriental Bank of Commerce (₹1 crore) and Union Bank of India (₹1.4 crore) were fined for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on current accounts, end use of funds, etc. Corporation Bank, another PSB, was fined ₹1 crore for non-compliance with RBI directions on cybersecurity framework in banks and frauds classification and reporting.

## ITC first-quarter profit rises 12.6% to ₹3,174 cr.

Hotel segment revenue up by 15%

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA  
ITC Ltd. closed the first quarter with a ₹3,173.9 crore profit for the period, which was 12.6% higher than for the year-earlier period. This came on the back of a nearly 6% rise in its operational revenue to ₹1,502.8 crore.

Revenue from 'FMCG-Others' increased by around 8% amid sluggish demand conditions, ITC said in a release.

Hotel segment revenue increased by 15%, driven by robust performance of new properties. ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata, commissioned on June 1, had received a good response, the company said.

Construction of an ITC Hotel in Ahmedabad and WelcomHotels in Amritsar, Guntur and Bhubaneswar is

## SBI net at ₹2,312 crore, slippages rise

Slippages to bad loans zoom 62% to ₹16,212 crore; bank signs 38 pacts for stressed asset resolution

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, reported a net profit of ₹2,312 crore for the April-June quarter, as compared to a net loss of ₹4,876 crore during the same period of the previous year, on account of lower provisions.

Slippages to bad loans, however, rose sharply to ₹16,212 crore during the quarter as compared to ₹9,984 crore reported during the same period of the previous year.

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar listed three reasons for the higher slippages.

One was a regular account of a Maharashtra company that was classified by another bank as NPA since the required documentation for

## Profitable growth



We have signed inter creditor agreement in 38 cases, of which 18 cases are already NPAs and 52% provided for

**RAJNISH KUMAR**  
SBI Chairman



Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth (%)
Total income (₹cr.)	70,653.0	65,492.0	7.8
Net profit (₹cr.)	2,312	(4,876)	
Earnings per share (₹)	2.6		
Gross NPA (%)	7.5	10.7	

resolution could not be completed. Hence, other banks had to classify it as NPA.

"The situation could be corrected very quickly. The amount is ₹2,000 crore," Mr. Kumar said.

Second is a spike in farm loan NPA from one State due

to waiver. Sources said the State concerned was Maharashtra.

The third reason, according to Mr. Kumar, was some benefit in terms of asset classification of debt restructuring of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) last year,

which was not there this year.

"So, there are the three major factors. Otherwise slippages are in normal trend," Mr. Kumar said.

Net Interest Income growth was only by 5.23% on year for the quarter. This was mainly due to higher base as one large account was resolved during the same period of the previous year. The bank reported domestic net interest margin of 3.01% for the quarter.

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KRUTIKA BEHRAWALA

Last year, Mumbai's well-known wedding planner Aditya Motwane pulled off a coup in Monaco. He got the authorities to close Monte Carlo's Casino Square for a *baraat*. The only other time this tourist spot in the South of France is cordoned off is for the Grand Prix. "High-profile Indian weddings have always been about glamour, flair and showmanship," says the founder of Motwane Entertainment and Weddings, which managed the Priyanka Chopra-Nick Jonas wedding at Jodhpur's Umaid Bhawan Palace last December. "But the guest lists at destination weddings are reducing to an average of 300. So, there's more focus on elegance and style."

The millennial generation is also more value-conscious. "They are happy to spend money, but for a unique and novel experience rather than just grandeur," adds Kunal Rai, VP of Tamarind Global Weddings, a luxury wedding planner in Mumbai. In March, they brought alive a private beach in Doha with a high-energy *rangon ki holi* for 500 guests. The event had plates of organic colours, a dance floor, and eclectic music performances. It included zorb football.

#### Getting personal

Rather than replicating the 'big, fat Indian wedding' formula, weddings are leaner. "Intimate functions, with close family and friends on the guest list, not only help couples cut down their budget, but also leave them with enough to spend on maximising their guests' experience," says Tina Tharwani, co-founder of Mumbai-based Shaadi Squad, which planned the 'Virushka' wedding in Tuscany in 2017.

Personalisation is key: whether it's designing a mobile app where guests can RSVP, share photos and watch live updates during functions, or offering monogrammed linen and customised

# 2019's 'small' Indian weddings

The guest list has become shorter, the menu more compact, yet everything else — from interactive ceremonies to bridal entries captured on VR — remains larger than life

**Vintage wheels**

A handsome Hudson 8 circa 1933, a Cadillac Series 75 manufactured in 1947 or a restored Bentley from the 1930s... vintage and classic cars are becoming prominent guests at weddings across the country. "Two years ago, we got the bride to make an entry in a vintage car at a wedding in Goa. None of the guests had seen anything like that before," says Bagri, of A New Knot.

Last year, 33 cars from the Vintage and Classic Car Club of India (VCCI) travelled for weddings. "About 10 years ago, one in 20 weddings would see the presence of a vintage car. Today, one in three weddings has a requirement," says Nitin Dossa, President, VCCI, which includes a roster of over 150 high-profile collectors. Mumbai-based Dossa's Cadillac 1947 has been part of weddings in the city and outskirts, such as Lonavala, Ambay Valley, Mahabaleshwar as well as Pune and Goa.

leather items as wedding gifts. Themes are also becoming more interactive and experiential. Guests get to play life-size Jenga, dance performances explain each segment of the ceremony, and 3D mapping technology helps teleport them to far-off locales. "This can be used on heritage facades, sand dunes and other interesting outdoor backdrops to create a spectacle," says Rai.

A recent wedding also had a GIF corner. "We put an iPad on a stand against a backdrop. Guests could click their own images, turn them into GIFs and email to themselves on-the-spot," says Nitya Bagri, co-founder of A New Knot, a Mumbai-based wedding planner.

#### Time to take off

The Indian destination wedding industry is reportedly expected to reach ₹45,000 crore by next year, with a projected annual growth rate of 25-30%. "These are popular because they lend an air of exoticness, exclusivity and enable a smaller guest list. And even here, the trend is to provide a customised experience that integrates the location, food, décor and entertainment," says Rai. Of the 12 that his company managed this season, eight were out of India (many in Doha). Azerbaijan and Jordan are among the newer hotspots. "Within India, five-star properties in Chandigarh, Hyderabad and Mussoorie are finding takers," says Parthip Thyagarajan, CEO, WeddingSutra, a digital resource on Indian weddings.

In March, Mussoorie witnessed the wedding of fashion designer Anita Dongre's son, Yash, with image consultant Benaisha Kharas. The couple was keen on a destination that paid homage to India's un-tapped beauty and picked the hill station "for its beautiful, uninterrupted backdrop of the Shivalik mountains".

They opted for a minimalist décor, with the Himalayas forming a backdrop for the *phasas*. "Benaisha and I had discussed some of her inspira-



#### 'I do' on a cruise?

Couples are warming up to the sea. Of the five Indian destination weddings hosted by The Royal Caribbean International Cruises, the most recent, a Sikh wedding last year, aboard the Voyager of the Seas, saw the wedding party sail from Singapore on a three-night cruise. The *baraat* danced to the beats of the *dhol* in the Royal Promenade, one of the busiest hubs on the ship, flanked by bars, restaurants, shopping and entertainment venues. "The landscape, the novelty and the scale of things add a little 'extra'. A cruise wedding is also cost-effective. Everything — from the guests' accommodation and food, to the wedding planning, décor and service — is taken care of in the package," says Varun Chadha, CEO, Tirun, the Indian representative of Royal Caribbean Cruises. Prices for Asia sailings start from \$500-\$600 per head and go up to \$1,000 - \$1,200.

tions for the décor," says Dongre. "To my surprise, the spring-summer vibes of my Lakmé Fashion Week show and the campaign shoot we did in Coorg, which featured benches decorated with flowers set in the midst of a forest backdrop, were part of her mood board. We worked from there."

#### Candid and casual

With the Instagram feed replacing the photo album, images that spell 'expressive' have become

#### Upcycling invites

The trend for zero-plastic décor and invites that can be upcycled is picking up, courtesy eco-conscious couples. "Clients ask us to create elements [as part of the invites] that can be used post the wedding," says Delhi-based invitation designer Ravish Kapoor. One such had a 3D picture frame of Lord Krishna. "Invites with movement, sound and audio-visual elements are in bigger demand, too," he says, adding that 3D-printed invites will become the next big thing. Meanwhile, wedding planning resources like WeddingSutra and Wedding Wishlist have charity registries (featuring a list of NGOs that a couple can choose from) for guests to make online donations as their wedding gift.

the new cool. Who hasn't seen the viral BBC video of the couple from Kerala sitting in a copper vessel in a pond, with artificial rain creating the 'ambience'? Couples are encouraging photographers to push creative boundaries and are even willing to pay up to ₹10 lakh or more for a day's shoot.

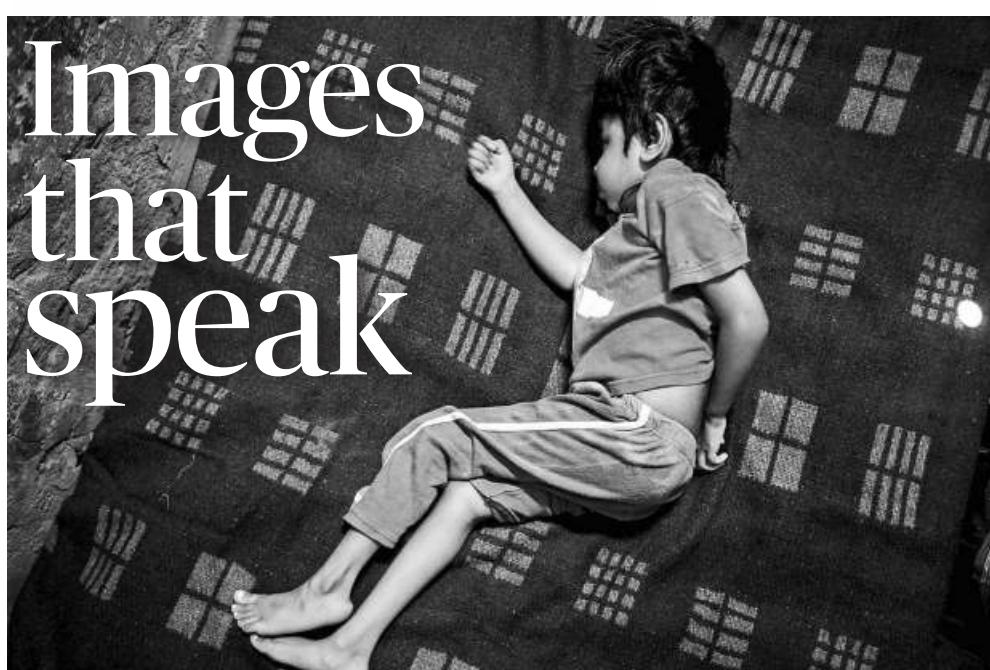
At another wedding in Kerala, photographer Siddharth Sharma managed to get the bride to shoot a goofy video (pouting, smirking and sticking out her tongue) right after the ceremony. "I was hesitant because it's usually when most brides are teary-eyed, but she was relaxed. That's also because the wedding photographer has become a couple's friend. They seek our inputs on how to structure the event flow and light the venue," says Sharma, founder of House on the Clouds, a Bengaluru-based wedding photography and videography studio.

Social media is also changing their deliverables. "It has such a powerful hold on the families that they want pictures and videos instantly," says Raja Jain, co-founder of Badal Raja Company, a Delhi-based photography and videography outfit. Their latest offering is an Insta Film shared with the client within 10 hours of the wedding.

Many wedding films have started including original compositions recorded in professional studios and sometimes, with brides singing the tracks. Remember the music video from hell (*Pride and Bridezilla*) in Amazon Prime's *Made in Heaven*? New equipment is coming into play, too. Like, the Virtual Reality (VR) cameras. "We shot a bride's entry using VR cameras last year. It helps couples relive the memories in an immersive way," says Vishal Punjabi, filmmaker and founder of The Wedding Filmer.

That said, VR and other emerging technologies haven't been able to steal the charm and power of wedding photographs. "All of us look back through rose-tinted glasses. Explicit memories in videos can spoil the romance associated with nostalgia. On the other hand, wedding photographs become the core of a bride's memory 20 years later," says Joseph Radhik, the popular Mumbai-based photographer who's clicked Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas and Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya on their wedding day.

Radhik also sends more than 50 images to each couple as old-school, 5x7 inch prints. "It's a long-lasting medium that transcends all ages."



Bindi Sheth, an Ahmedabad-based photographer, talks of her ongoing exhibition and how the process of shooting children with special needs changed her

MADHUR TANKHA

Bindi Sheth lives and works in Ahmedabad, exploring the world, and capturing its nuances with her Nikon D600. One day in 2013, Keshav Chatterjee, the Director of Prabhat Education Foundation, walked into her show on Jewish heritage, titled 'I am a seed of the tree'. The foundation works with children with special needs –

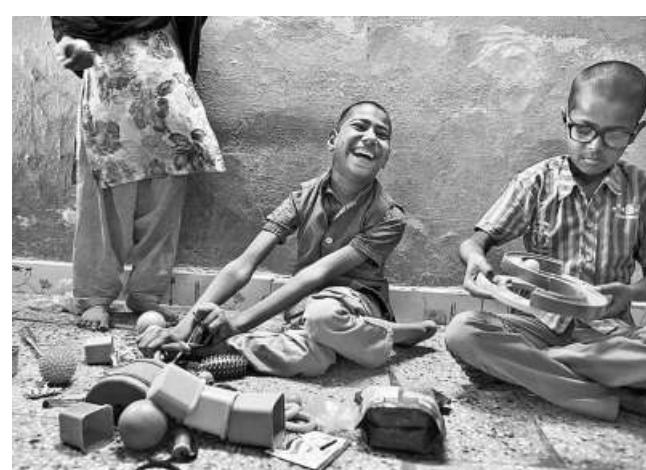
those with cerebral palsy, autism, down syndrome, speech and hearing impairment – providing both care (physical and mental) and opportunities for learning and growth.

"I didn't pick the subject. It happened accidentally," says Bindi, as she oversees her 88 black-and-white works, being hung on the wall, for the exhibition. Titled Like Us, it emphasizes her belief that all children

deserve equal treatment. "We never thought we would have an exhibition. I hope I have done justice to these stories," she says, asking that her own picture not appear, wanting the spotlight on the children, all from low-resource families from different parts of Ahmedabad. Bindi first photographed the children in December, 2015, and again from 2017 to 2018. Excerpts from an interview.



**Batting for inclusivity**  
(Clockwise from left) A child taking a nap, a child reflecting, kids playing with toys; all on display at the exhibition



children with special needs I realised that kids handle special children more easily.

#### What were the challenges?

It was an emotionally challenging experience for me. When I sat in front of the computer, I would stare at the images for a long period. It was different from other photoshoots, when you forget after the job is wrapped up. Here, it stays with

you and changes your thought process.

#### Describe your process.

I visited Prabhat centres across Ahmedabad. I also visited homes. In the Eastern part of Ahmedabad, parents are generally dye makers, toy sellers or make a living out of stitching. I had to take images in a way that when people see them they don't show pity. So, the images convey a positive message of hope and resilience.

#### From the first picture to the last, how it has changed you as a person?

When a special child is born, the entire family revolves around the child. Now, I want these children to come into the mainstream of society. It is important to know that Foundation is helping these children without any prejudices. Irrespective of their faith or economic background, these kids are welcomed and provided a secure and safe environment. Humanity is not lost.

#### What has the most cherished reaction to your photos been?

A wheelchair-bound child told me that she liked my pictures. When I asked her the reason, she replied they were in black and white. It eloquently described her world.

*The exhibition at IIC is on till August 11*

## PRODUCE

### Corn on the cob



Flint corn, a type of maize, with blue, orange, yellow and black kernels, is more than an ornamental addition to your table. Alicia, who blogs at Eatyourwayclean.com, says that it is one of three types originally harvested by Native Americans, and has been cultivated for centuries in China, South America and India. "Once the kernels have been removed from the cob, they can be used to make popcorn, or ground into meal for a variety of dishes including grits, polenta, masa cakes, tamales, papas or gorditas. Basically, it can replace anything you use cornmeal for," she says.

## PRODUCT

### Groom room



Inspired by the tradition of conditioning the moustache with *malai* or cream, Muchchad, a men's grooming company has infused hydrolysed milk protein, with argan, jojoba, olive, and sandalwood oils to make a desi-modern moustache and beard oil called Mooth Malai. This leave-in beard moisturiser is non-sticky they say, in time for the humid monsoon.

*Available on muchchad.com, ₹499*

**Contact us at** delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

#### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



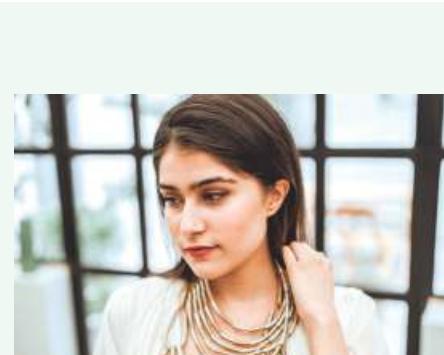
#### CARNIVAL

##### Books & publishing

Jash Event Management & Promoters are organising their annual Literature Carnival this afternoon. The one-day carnival will bring together authors, poets, editors, storytellers and publishers to share their experiences with each other. The event will also feature a talk show, panel discussion, and book launches.

**VENUE:** India International Centre

**TIME:** 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.



#### FASHION

##### Pop-up

Curator Sadhana Mehta is hosting her annual show called The Festive Wishlist. This one-day event will bring together a mix of Indian artisans and designers across practices. Some of the labels that will be showcased include Anju & Harleen, Ekan Jewels, Kunwarani Ritu Sinhji, Ritu Kedia and Ramona Singh.

**VENUE:** Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road

**TIME:** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



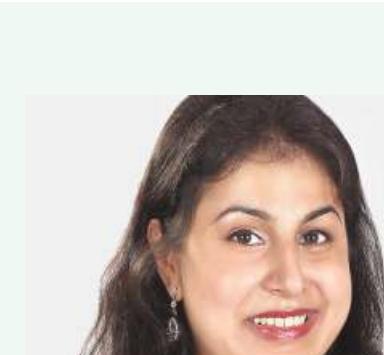
#### FOOD

##### Special menu

Olive Qutub, a Mediterranean-styled restaurant, has a new menu, which is divided into three categories: Flora, Fauna, and Marine. Flora comprises of appetizers such as Rose Argio Dolce, Cayote Squash. Fauna offers meats and poultry, and Marine consists of a variety of dishes made of fresh seafood.

**VENUE:** Olive Qutub, One Style Mile, Mehrauli

**TIME:** 12 p.m.-3.30 p.m.; 7.30 p.m.-12 midnight



#### MUSIC

##### Vocal with piano

IIC will host a classical voice-and-piano recital concert titled A Brief History of Musical Time. This features soprano singer Ashwati Parameshwar, accompanied by pianist Dinaibo Renna in a short recital of opera, covering various periods of musical history. The duo will cover iconic arias of each period and genre.

**VENUE:** C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.



#### THEATRE

##### Hindi drama

Akshara Theatre will stage the play *Verdict*, based on Reginald Rose's "12 Angry Men" written by Swati. Directed by Swati, the play is a courtroom drama about 12 people serving on a jury. They have to decide on the life of a teenager, who is being prosecuted for the murder of his father.

**VENUE:** Akshara Theatre, Baba Kharak Singh Marg

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.

FILM REVIEWS

# It's all about loving your family

**Hobbs & Shaw** is one of the most Bollywood of films that hasn't even been made in Mumbai

NAMRATA JOSHI

Hollywood has done it all when it comes to action and special effects, or so you'd think. And then comes yet another film that renders the fights and fisticuffs, and stunts and chases ridiculously over the top and redefines the meaning of an adrenaline rush in unimaginable ways. All you have to do is consume the impossible unquestioningly, with lots and lots of cheese over popcorn.

The plot (what's that?) doesn't matter; the narrative meanders along, not just when it comes to the story itself getting thin and needlessly stretched but also in terms of the geographical locations it has to span. The film borders on the silly, but thankfully doesn't take itself seriously at all and is unapologetic in its almost cartoon-like feel. Tom and Jerry for Hobbs and Shaw anyone?

The spin off of *Fast and Furious* series has agents Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) and Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham), who otherwise can't see eye to eye, reluctantly join hands to save the world from the deadly virus Snowflake and the villainy of Brixton Lore (Idris Elba). All kinds of improbable technological marvels happen on the side. Besides the cyber-genetically enhanced Brixton, there's Shaw's sister and MI6 agent Hattie (Vanessa Kirby), who injects Snowflake into herself, and becomes a carrier to save the rest of the humanity. Now what to do with her and the virus? Neutralise her to stop global contamination or wrench it out using



**Gravity-defying action** David Leitch's film borders on the silly, but thankfully doesn't take itself seriously at all ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

an extraction device which lies in a factory in Ukraine.

There are eye-popping, gravity-defying action set-pieces that pile on. Brixton walking vertically down the high-rise with a much-prized Hattie for company, the mind-bending chase on London's streets and, to cap it all, an insane helicopter versus cars/jeeps face-off in the climax. *Hobbs & Shaw* sets a new gold standard for our own Rohit Shetty, of the smashing cars fame, to emulate.

But, the film belongs as much to Karan Johar as it does to Shetty. It is a complete masala package. Along with action there is comedy, romance and emotion as well. It's one of the most Hollywood-esque Hollywood films I have seen, that hasn't been made in Mumbai. And that has to do with the fact that *Hobbs & Shaw* eventually is all about loving your fa-

mily. The Shaw siblings huddling together, Hobbs reuniting with the extended family in Samoa and more so with his estranged brother Jonah – the only one who can repair the smashed virus extraction device and in turn mend the family's dynamics.

Eventually, it is about coming home after spending a lifetime running away from it. There is an assortment of characters on the side in this wholesome package. A mysterious woman in Russia who supplies information and arms, the scientist who created Snowflake and starry cameos by the likes of Ryan Reynolds, Kevin Hart and Helen Mirren.

Eventually it's the trio of Nietzsche-quoting Johnson, deadpan Statham and lightning-quick Kirby that holds things in good stead, sparing off and squabbling with each other in just the right measure, making the silly

## Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw

**DIRECTOR:** David Leitch  
**STARRING:** Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba, Vanessa Kirby

**STORYLINE:** The spin off of the *Fast & Furious* series has agents Luke Hobbs and Deckard Shaw, who otherwise can't see eye to eye, reluctantly join hands to save the world from the deadly virus, Snowflake, and the villainy of Brixton Lore.

sublime. Johnson and Kirby also have a little romantic banter sparkling on the side. In all the masti, masala, mindlessness and mayhem, it's Elba who gets a bit sidelined. One would have wanted to see more than his mere "Black Superman" side; a complexity to his menace as well.

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# Love and transitions

**Ash Is Purest White**, an intimate story of romance and betrayal, is framed against an epic backdrop of radical, socio-economic changes in China

NAMRATA JOSHI

Somewhere in the middle of the film, observing a dormant volcano from a distance, 'jianghu' crime syndicate gangster Bin (Fan Liao) and his girlfriend Qiao (Tao Zhao) talk about how the ash of the volcano is the purest; having burnt at that high a temperature, it gets refined. It becomes a metaphor for Qiao's own journey in life – how intense travails, betrayals and losses burnish and strengthen her. Like an inner distillation of sorts to find herself.

Qiao, who is devoted to Bin, ends up serving a five-year-long sentence for his sake and comes back to realise that everyone, including Bin and China itself, have changed and moved on. The film then comes full circle for Qiao who starts off as a typical gangster's moll but eventually becomes the boss of the gambling den. From always being his pretty arm candy, she turns into the support that a vulnerable Bin is left seeking as time passes by.

In scene after scene Jia Zhangke frames the petite and fragile Tao Zhao as a lone female presence in the mercurial male world of smoke-filled gambling dens, street violence and shooting guns. Zhangke offers an interesting feminist twist to what has essentially been considered a male genre. Even as men talk of brotherhood and loyalty in the gang, it's Qiao who looms large.

The personal in Zhangke's work can't be seen independent of the nation's history. Qiao's intimate story of rebuilding her own life after a five-year pause in the prison is set against a sweeping, epic backdrop of the radical, socio-economic changes in China. The intimations of them were in the air when she was still out and some



**Of elegant mobsters** The film offers a feminist twist on what's essentially been a male genre ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

have happened during her confinement. There is the future of coal mines and its workers at stake in Datong with Qiao's father symbolising an old order getting lost. "We must fight the capitalists until the end," he says on a microphone. But is anyone listening? The not-so-picturesque, modern landscape tells its own story of supposed progress and rough transitions – the ugly powerplants, the shiny train sta-

## Ash Is Purest White (Chinese with English subtitles)

**DIRECTOR:** Jia Zhangke  
**STARRING:** Tao Zhao, Fan Liao  
**STORYLINE:** Qiao, devoted to mob boss Bin, ends up serving a sentence for his sake and comes back to realise that everyone, including Bin and the nation itself, have changed and moved on.

**RUN TIME:** 138.30 minutes



but Zhangke creates some quirky characters along the way, bordering on the funny. The elegant mobster who loves animal documentaries and ballroom dancing; the sex-obsessed motorcyclist who gets conned by Qiao; or the ardent UFO believer with whom she finds a moment of intimacy on a train ride. But it's Fan 'Bin' Liao, and more so Tao Zhao who owns *Ash Is Purest White*. Her Qiao is luminous and admirable in her pride and self respect. A compelling personification of changes and continuities.

## POOCH CAFE



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



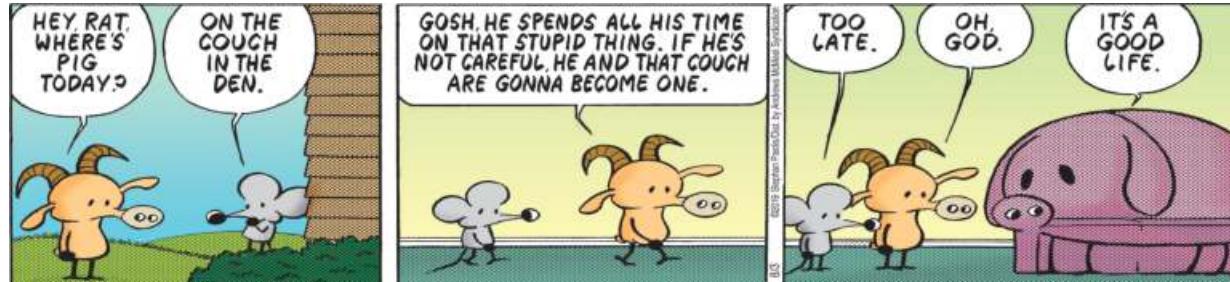
## TIGER



## WUMO



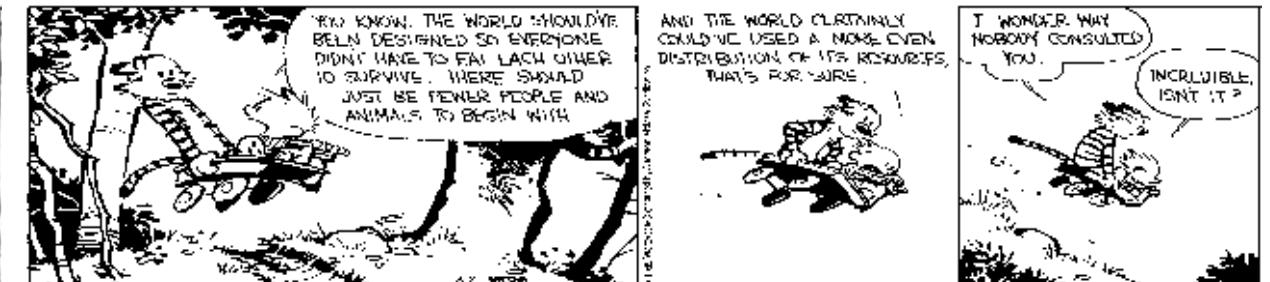
## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



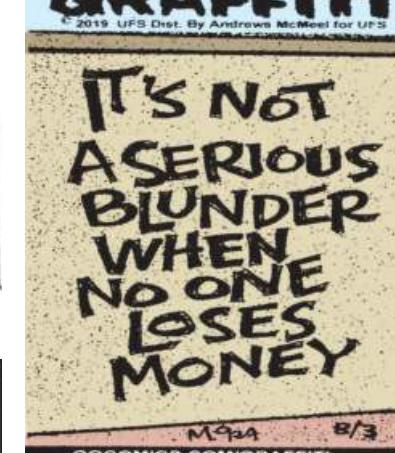
## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBES

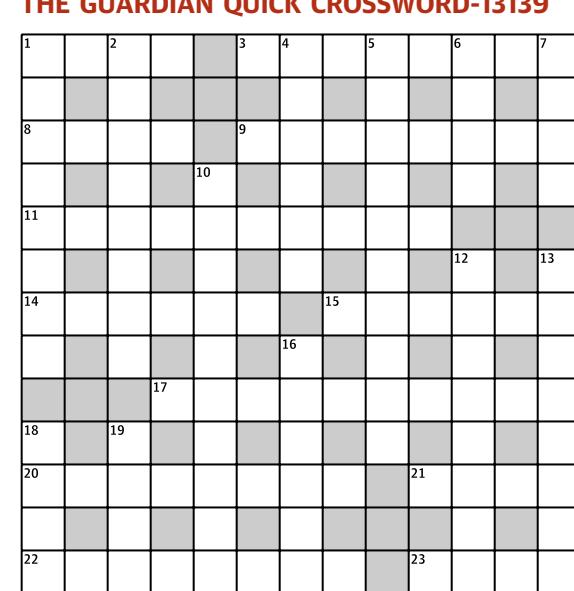


## GRAFFITI



**HEALTH CAPSULES** by Aron Smith  
WHAT'S THE RECOMMENDED DAILY ALLOWANCE FOR VITAMIN D?  
AN ESTIMATED 40% OF AMERICANS ARE DEFICIENT IN VITAMIN D.  
GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES RECOMMEND 600 IU OF VITAMIN D DAILY BEFORE AGE 70, AND 800 IU AFTER THAT. MANY EXPERTS RECOMMEND TAKING 1,000 IU DAILY WITHOUT MUCH UNPROTECTED SUN EXPOSURE. THE BODY MAKES VERY LITTLE VITAMIN D.  
Health Capsules is an editorial by Dr. Aron Smith.

## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13139



- 7 Clothing (4)
- 10 Not smart (4-6)
- 12 Use new ideas (8)
- 13 Used a blue pencil (8)
- 16 Bitterness – organ of the body (6)
- 18 Welsh national emblem (4)
- 19 Restore to good health (4)

Solution will appear in *The Hindu* dated August 5, 2019.

Solution No. 13138

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| DEAD          | AND      | BURIED |
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| DERMATOLOGIST | ROOK     |        |
- 17 Fine and translucent (10)
  - 20 Ordinary shares (8)
  - 21 Just – bland (4)
  - 22 Working dough (8)
  - 23 Vendetta (4)
  - Across
  - 1 End piece written for a piece of music (4)
  - 3 Strikebreaker (8)
  - 8 Note written as a reminder (4)
  - 9 Roller-shaped object (8)
  - 11 Dreamy – our UN goals (anag) (10)
  - 14 Rough-and-tumble (6)
  - 15 Alteration (6)
  - Down
  - 1 Finished (8)
  - 2 Portray as evil (8)
  - 4 Strata (6)
  - 5 Lapdogs from Mexico (10)
  - 6 Eye covers (4)

## Premier League season guide

August 9, 2019 - May 17, 2020

The 28th season of the English Premier League kicks off, with Manchester City aiming for a third successive title after an intense battle for the trophy with Liverpool last season. Champions League qualification, fierce rivalries and, ultimately, glory and relegation will all be decided over 380 highly anticipated matches.

### Roll Call of Champions

Solid sterling silver trophy created by Crown Jewellers Asprey of London, with crown cast from 24-carat silver gilt and semi-precious malachite plinth base. Manchester United has hoisted the trophy most often, winning 13 PL titles

### OPENING WEEKEND

Aug 9-11

Liverpool	vs. Norwich City
West Ham	vs. Manchester City
Bournemouth	vs. Sheffield United
Burnley	vs. Southampton
Crystal Palace	vs. Everton
Watford	vs. Brighton
Tottenham	vs. Aston Villa
Leicester City	vs. Wolves
Newcastle	vs. Arsenal
Manchester Utd	vs. Chelsea



### The Contenders

#### Manchester City

Last season: 1st | 98 points | 95 goals scored | 23 goals conceded  
In: Rodri, Angelino

Out: Vincent Kompany, Fabian Delph, Douglas Luiz  
Strengths: A squad full of match-winners. An injury-free Kevin De Bruyne steering an attack that was the league's best last season. A unit that seems to function in the same effortless fashion regardless of personnel changes

Weaknesses: Rodri has arrived as cover for 34-year-old Fernandinho, but replacing the latter will not be easy. Laporte and Stones seem to be City's best centre-back pairing now; neither plays with the authority of a van Dijk or inspires the confidence he does

Forecast: A third successive Premier League crown



#### Liverpool

Last season: 2nd | 97 points | 89 goals scored | 22 goals conceded  
In: Harvey Elliott, Sepp van den Berg

Out: Alberto Moreno, Daniel Sturridge, Adam Bogdan

Strengths: The same power and relentless energy across the pitch that propelled the team to European glory and to within an inch of the Premier League title last season. A rock-solid defence that was the league's best last season. An attack that plundered 89 goals

Weaknesses: None that are glaring. But midfield did not always convince last season. Keita, Fabinho, Henderson, Milner, and Wijnaldum were good but inconsistent. And there is an over-reliance on van Dijk at the back

Forecast: Another thrilling title race with City; could fall short again



#### Chelsea

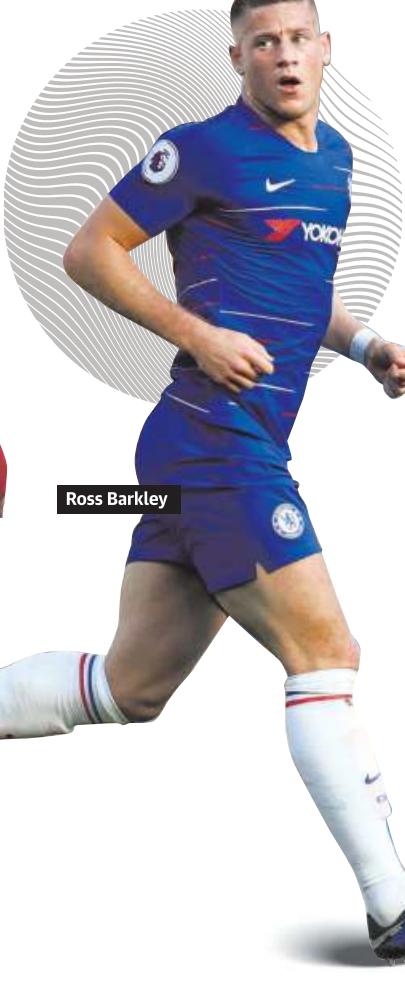
Last season: 3rd | 72 points | 63 goals scored | 39 goals conceded  
In: Mateo Kovacic (loan made permanent), Christian Pulisic (January transfer, coming in after loan spell at Dortmund)

Out: Eden Hazard, Alvaro Morata

Strengths: A midfield of Kante, Jorginho and Barkley in front of a defence that on its day can be reasonably good

Weaknesses: A lack of cutting edge in attack. For a team that scored the fewest goals of all the top-six teams last season, Hazard's departure is a huge blow. The transfer ban will test Frank Lampard in his first season at this level

Forecast: A battle to remain in the top four



#### Tottenham

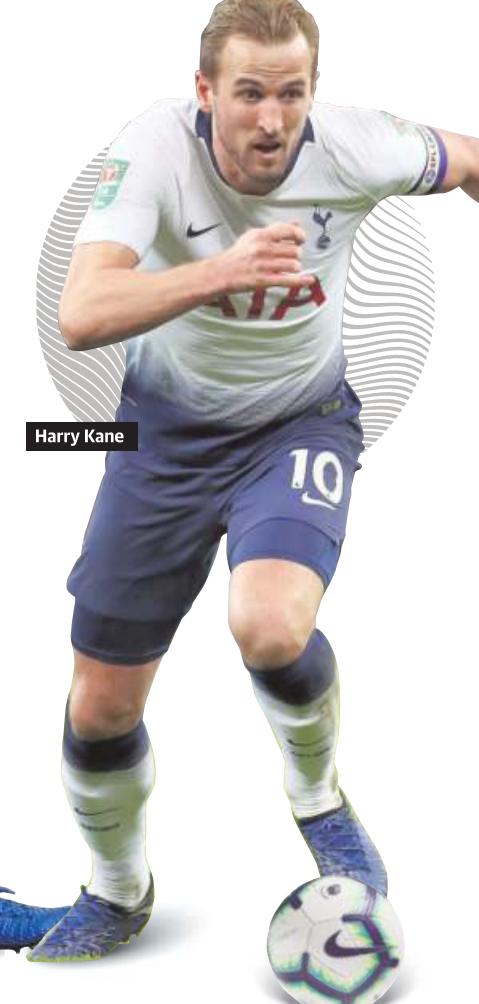
Last season: 4th | 71 points | 67 goals scored | 39 goals conceded  
In: Tangy Ndombele, Jack Clarke (loaned out)

Out: Kieran Trippier, Vincent Janssen, Michel Vorm

Strengths: A steady, well-drilled unit. Kieran Trippier's departure is a loss but Ndombele will bring some much-needed class to midfield. When on song, Harry Kane, Heung-min Son, and Lucas Moura can be a handful

Weaknesses: A thin squad. A lack of speed and vigour in moving the ball up the field. Alderweireld, who could leave, and Vertonghen need replacing

Forecast: A top-two spot is unlikely; front-runner to finish third



Manchester United: 13 titles 1993, 94, 96, 97, 99, 2000, 01, 03, 07, 08, 09, 2011, 13

Chelsea 5 2005, 06, 2010, 15, 17

Manchester City 4 2012, 14, 18, 19

Arsenal 3 1998, 2002, 04

1 Leicester City 2016

1 Blackburn Rovers 1995

### MOVING ON UP

Newly promoted Aston Villa and Norwich City back in top flight after three-year absence. Sheffield Utd returns to the PL for the first time since 2007

FEB 2020

35 of 80 promoted teams relegated in first season

### WHAT'S NEW

Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system to be used in the Premier League for the first time after being deployed at the 2018 World Cup in Russia



43.8%

Short mid-season break to help players cope with the hustle and bustle. Only five matches to be played on successive weekends, ensuring rolling one-week hiatus for all teams

# Man City and Liverpool look to pick up where they left off

After last season's breathless title race, the sides clash in Sunday's Community Shield, a precursor to the 2019-20 Premier League which kicks off on Friday

This Sunday at Wembley, Manchester City and Liverpool reprise the rivalry that lit up the Premier League last season. They meet in the Community Shield.

English football's traditional season-opener between the Premier League champion and the FA Cup winner – league runner-up Liverpool features this time because City won both trophies last season – occupies a curious spot in the game's hierarchy.

Jose Mourinho estimated it to be "more than a friendly" but "not as important as a Pre-

mier League game" in 2015, just before his Chelsea side was beaten by Arsenal. Two years later, when he claimed to have completed a 'treble' as Manchester United coach, he placed the Community Shield on a par with the League Cup and the Europa League. Clearly, it's a little more valuable when you win it.

Whatever the Community Shield's inherent worth, there's no doubt that both sides would dearly love to win this early-season skirmish and lay down a marker ahead of the Premier League, which kicks

off on Friday night (Liverpool v Norwich).

After missing out by just a point last season, Liverpool is tipped to be City's strongest challenger. But the Reds' pre-season results haven't been encouraging, leading some critics to question whether the club was suffering the effects of an emotionally draining year during which it also won the Champions League.

"I don't want to find excuses before we play [City] but we had a completely different pre-season," said Jurgen Klopp after his side went four

successive friendlies without a win. "We played it without six players. From a freshness point of view, the games came at the wrong moment. The good thing is if the opponents want to analyse us now then and think 'easy job', we will be a different animal [when the season starts]."

#### Quick getaway needed

Liverpool has missed goalkeeper Alisson and its fearsome attacking trio of Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah because of international commitments. Naby Keita and Xherdan Shaqiri have been injured. The club will need to manage their fitness and returns expertly; it can't afford a slow start.

City certainly has

ambitions of a hot start. Despite playing without Sergio Aguero, Ederson, Gabriel Jesus, Fernandinho, Nicolas Otamendi and Riyad Mahrez during its pre-season tour, it had little trouble creating chances and scoring.

But are City's players hungry after an incredible two-sea-

son run in which the side has scored 198 points out of a possible 228? "Yeah, definitely they are," said Pep Guardiola, who is eyeing a rare hat-trick – achieved only by Alex Ferguson's Manchester United in the Premier League era. "I know them better so now I don't have any doubts what they can do," Guardiola added, "We will be ready again."

One possible distraction, some experts point out, is City's burning desire for European glory. Guardiola was brought in to deliver the Champions League. "I know we will be judged at the end on whether we win the Champions League," Guardiola said after last season's domestic successes. "I know unless we do that it will not be enough.

This comes with me [my profile]. Will that dilute the club's focus on the Premier League? Or will Guardiola's famed intensity and City's squad depth prove too strong?

Beneath City and Liverpool in the pecking order, the four other clubs that make up the Premier League's 'big six' appear tightly bunched together – as they were in 2018-19, just six points separating them.

Tottenham Hotspur seems best placed of the four, its run to the Champions League final proof of its big-game quality.

Wins over Juventus and Real Madrid in pre-season were further signs that the club is on the right path. It looks stable after moving stadiums, with manager Mauricio Pochettino and Spurs' core group of players offering the sort of continuity required to hit the ground running.

Tottenham also broke its transfer record recently, paying Lyon £53.8m for midfielder Tanguy Ndombele. But it still is punching above its weight, in terms of financial muscle.

"It's not that City [started spending] when Guardiola arrived, or Liverpool when Klopp arrived, or Chelsea when [Antonio] Conte or [Maurizio] Sarri arrived, or Manchester United when Mourinho or now

## WORD PLAY

### Dink

• What is it? It's an onomatopoeic term for a controlled, off-pace stroke in tennis. The 'dink' can be hit off either flank and from anywhere on the court, but it needs exceptional touch to pull off consistently. It may not win a point outright, but it can set up the 'kill shot'.

• How is it used? In a variety of ways. It can be used by the net-rusher as an approach shot that draws the opponent into no-man's land or as an unexpectedly soft volley. It can also be used against the net-rusher: a 'dink' that dies at the feet is a nightmare to volley effectively.



• Why does it work? The lack of pace can catch opponents by surprise and disrupt their hitting rhythm. A slow, low shot, the 'dink' can be challenging to attack. One-dimensional power-hitters have been known to suffer meltdowns when confronted by a set of frustrating 'dinks'.

• Where has it gone? Nowhere. It's still common in recreational tennis. At the highest level, the 'dink' – unlike the 'drop', which is spinnier and more deceptive – doesn't work as well. Top players move better to it and hit it with controlled power and heavy topspin.

## ON THE BOX

### STACKING UP



■ Ultimate TT: SAT: Pune v Mumbai, 7.10 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1, STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD.

SUN: Delhi v Kolkata, 7.10 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1, STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD.

■ Badminton: SAT: Thailand Open, 11.30 A.M.; STAR SPORTS 1 & HD.

■ Pro Kabaddi League: SAT: Patna v Jaipur, 7.15 P.M., Kolkatta v Bengaluru, 8.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 2 & HD. SUN: Haryana v Chennai, 7.15 P.M.; Patna v Pune, 8.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 2 & HD.

■ Hungarian GP: SAT: Qualifying, 6.20 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD. SUN: Race, 6.35 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 2 & HD.

■ ATP 500 Washington Open: SAT: 4.30 A.M.; SONY ESPN & HD. SUN: 4.30 A.M.; SONY ESPN & HD.

■ Cricket: SAT: West Indies v India, 1st T20I; 8 P.M.; SONY TEN 1, 3 & HD. SUN: West Indies v India, 2nd T20I; 8 P.M.; SONY TEN 1, 3 & HD.

■ Football: SAT: DFL-Supercup, Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munich, 11.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD. SUN: FA Community Shield, Liverpool v Manchester City, 7.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.

CM YK

### ICC Test Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	32	3,631	113
2	New Zealand	23	2,547	111
3	South Africa	27	2,917	108
4	England	36	3,778	105
5	Australia	27	2,640	98
6	Sri Lanka	37	3,462	94
7	Pakistan	27	2,263	84
8	West Indies	29	2,381	82
9	Bangladesh	22	1,438	65
10	Zimbabwe	9	140	16

### ODI Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	England	54	6,745	125
2	India	56	6,807	122
3	New Zealand	43	4,837	112

## Arsenal

**Last season:** 5th | 70 points | 73 goals scored | 51 goals conceded  
**In:** Dani Ceballos (loan), Gabriel Martinelli, Nicolas Pepe  
**Out:** Aaron Ramsey, Petr Cech, Danny Welbeck, Stephan Lichsteiner, David Ospina  
**Strengths:** A potentially top-class attacking trident in Aubameyang, Lacazette, and Pepe. Should blow weaker sides away. Ceballos could turn out to be a smart signing  
**Weaknesses:** Defence. Koscielny's future is uncertain and Mustafi is hardly reliable. Will be exposed against top teams  
**Forecast:** Fourth place within reach, but far from guaranteed



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

## Manchester United

**Last season:** 6th | 66 points | 65 goals scored | 54 goals conceded  
**In:** Daniel James, Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Harry Maguire  
**Out:** Ander Herrera, Antonio Valencia  
**Strengths:** For all the criticism, Pogba is arguably United's only world-class out-field player at the moment. In Solskjaer's early days, the Frenchman showed what he was capable of producing, in combination with the likes of Rashford and Martial. If he stays, Pogba is the man to build the team around  
**Weaknesses:** A lack of squad depth. Wan-Bissaka's arrival and Maguire's signing were much-needed, but the defence is a work in progress. Herrera needs replacing. And a top striker is sorely missed  
**Forecast:** A few additions to the squad – Paulo Dybala has been linked with a move from Juventus – would make top four attainable



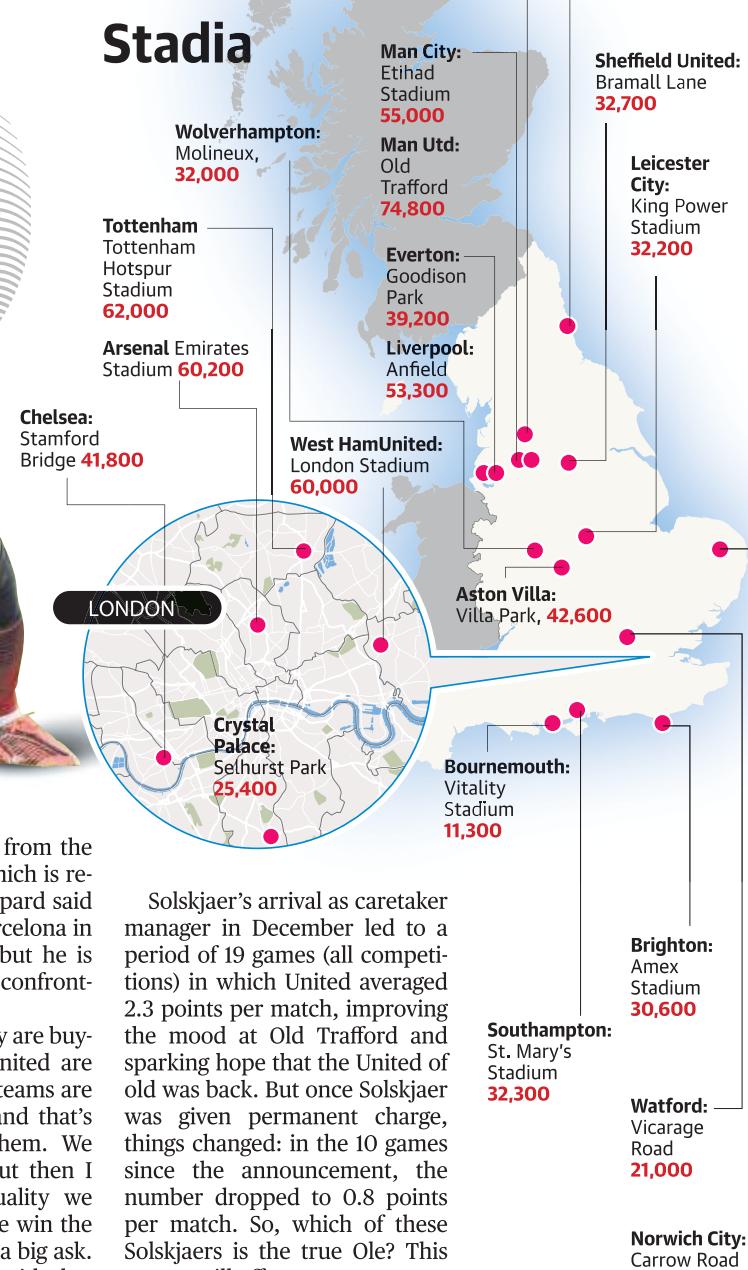
Marcus Rashford

## TOP SIX CLASHES 2018-19 result

	Jan 1	Arsenal	Man Utd	2-0
Aug 11	Man Utd	Chelsea	1-1	
Aug 17	Man City	Tottenham	1-0	
Aug 24	Liverpool	Arsenal	5-1	
Sep 1	Arsenal	Tottenham	4-2	
Sep 22	Chelsea	Liverpool	1-1	
Sep 30	Man Utd	Arsenal	2-2	
Oct 19	Man Utd	Liverpool	0-0	
Oct 26	Liverpool	Tottenham	2-1	
Nov 9	Liverpool	Man City	0-0	
Nov 23	Man City	Chelsea	6-0	
Dec 3	Man Utd	Tottenham	0-3	
Dec 7	Man City	Man Utd	3-1	
Dec 14	Arsenal	Man City	0-2	
Dec 21	Tottenham	Chelsea	3-1	
Dec 28	Arsenal	Chelsea	2-0	

All fixtures subject to TV schedule changes

## Stadia



SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS

[Ole Gunnar] Solskjaer arrived," said Pochettino. "It's in their history – in the last 10 years – all the money they were spending to arrive here. We are far away from that. We are so competitive with less, we are doing a lot more than our rivals."

Spurs' North London rival Arsenal has the firepower, but is yet to convince critics that it has the defence or the staying power needed to win the league.

Unai Emery's second season as manager will paint a clearer picture of his vision. His players have now had a year and two pre-seasons of training-field work. The performances this pre-season – Arsenal beat Bayern Munich and led Real Madrid by two goals before being held to a draw at full-time – suggest Emery's players have improved at implementing some of his plans.

But it remains to be seen whether his tactical ideas can close the gap to the top two or even secure a top-four spot, something Arsenal hasn't managed for three years now.

"I want good positioning, combinations between the play-

ers ... and a big intensity," said Emery. "I like the energy, I like to be the protagonists. We need to improve defensively, but with no loss offensively. Sometimes we struggled defensively and to get the balance. Sometimes we got [it right]. Our challenge is to keep producing that."

### Legends in charge

Chelsea, which did well to finish in the top three after having looked out of it at one stage, is faced with a testing season. It will have to deal with a two-window transfer ban (for breaking FIFA rules pertaining to the signing of foreign under-18 players) and the departure of its best player, Eden Hazard.

After a dalliance with Sarri-ball, the club has handed Chelsea legend Frank Lampard the top job – a gamble, given his lack of managerial experience at the highest level. Under Lampard in pre-season, the side appears to have moved on from the intricate build-up play of his predecessor to a more direct style. How will this hold up in the heat of competition?

Solskjaer's arrival as caretaker manager in December led to a period of 19 games (all competitions) in which United averaged 2.3 points per match, improving the mood at Old Trafford and sparking hope that the United of old was back. But once Solskjaer was given permanent charge, things changed: in the 10 games since the announcement, the number dropped to 0.8 points per match. So, which of these Solskjaers is the true Ole? This season will offer some answers.

Another club banking on a legend is Manchester United, where Solskjaer is attempting a transformation of style. Mourinho had set United up to counter-attack, unlike most modern top teams which play a more proactive brand of football. For this, Solskjaer felt the side needed to improve its fitness. "We've been working on intensity and pressing," said Solskjaer. "We've got players who like to be on the front foot and we want that to continue."

SOURCE: SPORTS BUREAU

## GAME THEORY

### Swimming's finest

Sarah Sjöström, Simone Manuel and Caeleb Dressel had a profitable time at the 18th FINA World Championships in Gwangju, winning five, seven and eight medals respectively. Where do they rank on the list of all-time medal-winners at the Worlds?

**WOMEN** Sjöström's medals, barring one, have come in the individual events while Manuel, who completed the 50m-100m freestyle double this edition, has collected 12 of her 16 medals from the relays. Katie Ledecky, who won one gold and two silver in Gwangju and sits atop the all-time lists, won't be easy to surpass, given she is still just 22

Rank	Swimmer	Country	From	To	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Katie Ledecky	United States	2013	2019	15	3	-	18
2	Simone Manuel	United States	2013	2019	11	3	2	16
3	Missy Franklin	United States	2011	2015	11	2	3	16
6	Sarah Sjöström	Sweden	2009	2019	8	6	3	17



Simone Manuel

The medal tally of Manuel includes one relay in which she swam in the heats but not in the final

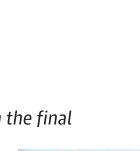
Rank	Swimmer	Country	From	To	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Katie Ledecky	United States	2013	2019	11	2	-	13
2	Katinka Hosszu	Hungary	2009	2019	9	1	5	15
3	Sarah Sjöström	Sweden	2009	2019	8	5	3	16



Sarah Sjöström

Manuel, with 3 gold and 1 bronze in the individual events, is outside the top 10

Rank	Swimmer	Country	From	To	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Michael Phelps	United States	2001	2011	26	6	1	33
2	Ryan Lochte	United States	2005	2015	18	5	4	27
3	Caeleb Dressel	United States	2017	2019	13	2	-	15



Caeleb Dressel

The medal tallies of Phelps and Lochte include two relays in which they swam in the heats but not in the final

Rank	Swimmer	Country	From	To	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Michael Phelps	United States	2001	2011	15	5	-	20
2	Sun Yang	China	2009	2019	11	2	1	14
3	Ryan Lochte	United States	2005	2015	10	3	3	16



Sun Yang

The medal tallies of Phelps and Lochte include two relays in which they swam in the heats but not in the final

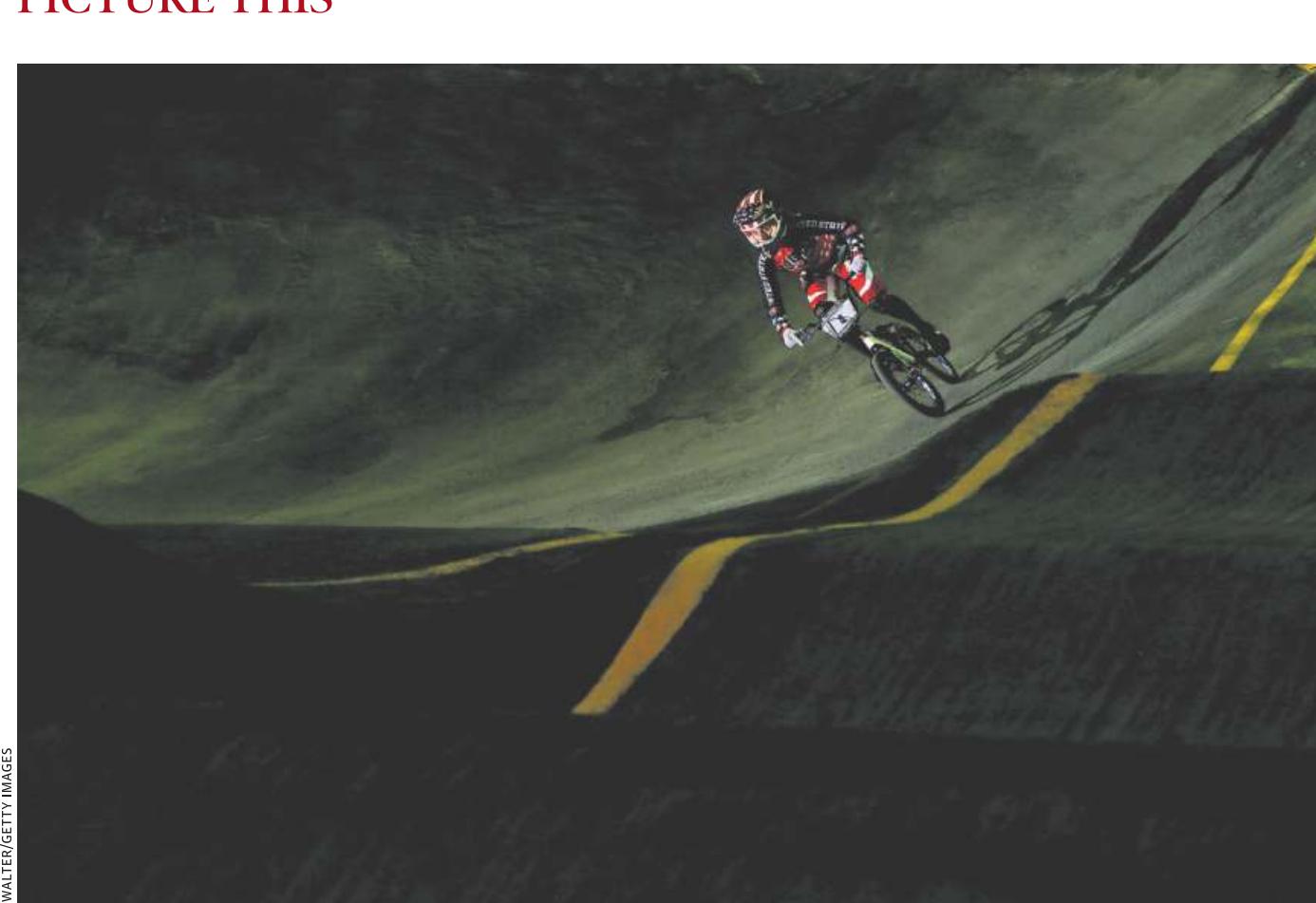
Rank	Swimmer	Country	From	To	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Caeleb Dressel	United States	2017	2019	7	-	-	7
2	Ryan Lochte	United States	2005	2015	13	2	-	15
3	Michael Phelps	United States	2001	2011	15	5	-	20



Michael Phelps

The medal tallies of Phelps and Lochte include two relays in which they swam in the heats but not in the final

## PICTURE THIS



PHIL WALTERS/GETTY IMAGES

# India's fringe players get an opportunity to stake a claim

Three-match T20I series against West Indies begins today; the return of Pollard and Narine bolsters the hosts; injured Russell pulls out

## INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAUDERHILL (USA)

Back on the road following its unfulfilled World Cup wish, India will begin its preparations for the T20 showpiece event next year with a three-match series against the West Indies here on Saturday.

As captain Virat Kohli pointed out before leaving for the Caribbean tour, the main objective of the T20Is and the subsequent ODI series against the West Indies is to try out the fringe players who are on the selectors' mind.

It will be a crucial couple of weeks for Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey, who are back in the mix after being sidelined for the World Cup. With India looking to solidify its middle-order, both have a good opportunity to make a case.

### Back in the swing

Spin all-rounder Washington Sundar and pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Deepak Chahar are also back in the T20 squad while speedster Navdeep Saini and Deepak's brother Rahul are in line to make their India debut.

**Will aspire for India coach job in future, says Ganguly**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

Former skipper Sourav Ganguly on Friday said he aspires to be India's cricket coach some time in the future, but has no interest in the high-profile position at this point.

Ganguly said he's definitely interested in the India coach's job but not at the moment as his plate is full.

"Definitely, I'm interested but not at this point of time. Let one more phase go then I will come into the fray," Ganguly said.

The 47-year-old is currently the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president, besides being associated with IPL franchise Delhi Capitals as the team advisor. He also does commentary and is the host of a popular Bengali quiz show.

"Currently, I'm associated with too many things – IPL, CAB, TV commentator. Let me complete this. But I will definitely put my hat into the ring at some stage," Ganguly said.



**Sweet memories:** Rahul will look forward to Saturday's outing as he scored an unbeaten 110 in his last innings at the venue. ■ AP

With Rohit Sharma and a fit-again Shikhar Dhawan set to open, the No. 4 spot is likely to be occupied by K.L. Rahul, who has fond memories of the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium, having scored an unbeaten 110 in his

last innings here almost three years ago.

### Mohammed for Russell

The explosive Kieron Pollard and spinner Sunil Narine are back in the side though Chris Gayle will only be seen in the

ODIs. Jason Mohammed was named as the replacement for the injured Andre Russell.

### The squads (from):

**West Indies:** Carlos Brathwaite (Capt.), John Campbell, Evin Lewis, Shimron Hetmyer, Ni-

cholas Pooran, Kieron Pollard, Rovman Powell, Keemo Paul, Sunil Narine, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas, Anthony Bramble, Jason Mohammed, and Khary Pierre.

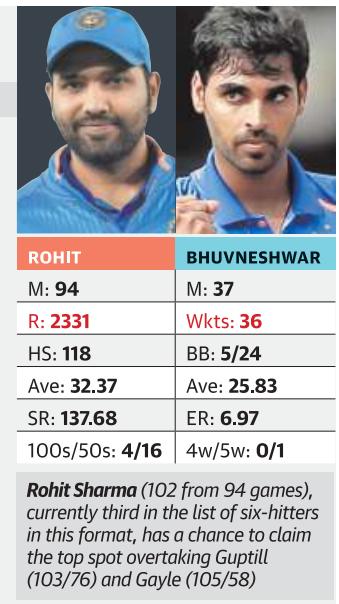
**India:** Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, K.L.

## STAT SPHERE

How India and West Indies stack up in T20Is

Overall	P	W	L	NR
West Indies	110	51	55	4
India	115	71	41	3
H2H	P	WI	Ind	NR
11	5	5	1	

VIRAT KOHLI	POLLARD	NARINE
M: 94	M: 59	M: 48
R: 2331	R: 788	R: 50
HS: 118	HS: 63*	BB: 4/12
Ave: 32.37	Ave: 19.70	Ave: 20.68
SR: 137.68	SR: 127.50	ER: 6.02
100s/50s: 4/16	100s/50s: 0/2	4w/5w: 1/0



**Rohit Sharma** (102 from 94 games), currently third in the list of six-hitters in this format, has a chance to claim the top spot overtaking Guptill (103/76) and Gayle (105/58)

## T20Is schedule

Aug. 3: Lauderhill (Florida)

Aug. 4: Lauderhill (Florida)

Aug. 6: Providence (Rhode Island)

All games at 8 p.m. IST

Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant, Krunal Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar, and Navdeep Saini.

Match starts at 8 p.m. IST.

"unmatched" work ethic.

"For me, Cristiano is above everyone else. His commitment and work ethic is unmatched. He wants it that bad – you can see it every game. I support every club at which he plays. He inspires me," Kohli told *FIFA.com*.

## 'Ronaldo inspires me'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ZURICH

An avid football fan, India cricket captain Virat Kohli says he draws inspiration from Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo as he successfully took up more challenges than his iconic Argentine contemporary Lionel Messi with an

unmatched work ethic. "For me, Cristiano is above everyone else. His commitment and work ethic is unmatched. He wants it that bad – you can see it every game. I support every club at which he plays. He inspires me," Kohli told *FIFA.com*.

## Gowtham wrecks WI-A



**Telling spell:** Krishnappa Gowtham's five-for brought India-A back into contention. ■ FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

## Burns digs deep to frustrate Australia

Skipper Root provides able support as England makes a strong reply

### THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BIRMINGHAM

Rory Burns' unbeaten maiden Test century saw him defy Australia for more than six-and-a-half hours as he led a determined England batting effort in the Ashes opener at Edgbaston on Friday.

England was 267 for four at stumps on the second day of the first Test, just 17 runs behind Australia's first-innings score of 284.

### Standing ovation

Ashe debutant Burns was batting on 125 and he received a huge ovation from the crowd as he walked off. England vice-captain Ben Stokes was 38 not out, having helped Burns add an unbroken 73.

England resumed on 10-0 with Burns four not out and Surrey teammate Jason Roy on six.

But Roy never looked comfortable on Friday and, on 10, edged fast bowler James Pattinson low to Smith at second slip, with England then 22 for one.

Skipper Joe Root had returned to No. 3 in a bid to lead from the front.



**Rory's day out:** Burns was solid in defence and assured in strokeplay. ■ GETTY IMAGES

But he was almost bowled leaving off-spinner Nathan Lyon's first ball.

The star batsman had an even luckier break on nine when given out caught behind of Pattinson only for his review to reveal the ball had hit the off-stump without dislodging a bail.

Meanwhile, Burns was content to pick off anything loose, including an overpitched ball from Pat Cummins he on-drove for four.

Root had another moment of good fortune when given out lbw to recalled pa-

ceman Peter Siddle on 14.

But in a match already full of overturned decisions, his immediate review revealed an inside edge.

Root cashed in as he too, but fell soon afterwards when he chipped a Siddle slower ball back to the bowler, who took a fine one-handed catch to end a second-wicket partnership of 132.

Then, Joe Denly and Jos Buttler fell cheaply after tea to leave England 194 for four, before Stokes helped revive the innings.

### SCOREBOARD

**Australia – 1st innings:** 284.  
**England – 1st innings:** Rory Burns (batting) 125, Jason Roy c Smith b Pattinson 10, Joe Root c & b Siddle 57, Joe Denly lbw b Pattinson 18, Jos Buttler c Bancroft b Cummins 5, Ben Stokes (batting) 38; Extras (b-5, lb-7, w-2); Total (for four wkts. in 90 overs): 267.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-22, 2-154, 3-189, 4-194.

**Australia bowling:** Cummins 21-6-65-1, Pattinson 17-2-54-2, Siddle 21-5-43-1, Lyon 28-4-79-0, Wade 1-0-7-0, Head 2-1-7-0.

## Maguire in record transfer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Harry Maguire is set to become the world's most expensive defender after Manchester United agreed to pay Leicester City \$97 million, according to media reports on Friday.

Maguire's fee outstrips Dutch international Matthijs de Ligt who, in July, moved to Juventus from Ajax for a combined fee of €75 million plus €10.5 million of add-ons.

van Ligt's compatriot Virgil van Dijk cost Liverpool £75 million when he moved from Southampton in January 2018.

Maguire becomes United's third summer signing following full-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James, who arrived from Crystal Palace and Swansea respectively.



Harry Maguire. ■ REUTERS

## UP Yoddha, Telugu Titans in a thrilling tie

PKL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR  
MUMBAI

UP Yoddha and Telugu Titans played out a thrilling 20-20 tie in the ProKabaddi League Season-7 second leg.

In a clash between evenly matched sides at the NSCI indoor stadium, the final minute produced unexpected twists and turns.

Siddharth Desai launched into the final raid for Titans, shuffled across the mat forcing the defence to shift positions. Sumit at left corner lost his balance and fell beyond the line.

Siddharth took his time to return, waiting for seconds to run out and at 20-19 his teammates leaped in joy in anticipation of a victory. The mood gripped the team bench, resulting in captain Abozar Mighani rushing in to join the others in the celebrations.

Titans were docked a technical point for jumping the gun, the tie had not finished by then. A review of the decision also did not go in their favour.

Titans suffered a double blow when rival skipper and catching specialist Nitesh



**Note the point!** Siddharth Desai returns from a successful raid. ■ COURTESY PKL

Kumar showcased his craft with a Super Tacke on Siddharth with five minutes left, followed by a successful raid by Shrikant Jadhav for Yoddha as the match raced to a climax, 18-all and 19-all.

Rishabh Devadiga and Siddharth are two familiar faces for kabaddi fans at the NSCI, from their U Mumba days and drew cheers even though they were in opposite camps.

The Yoddha defence took time to execute their plan for

Siddharth, trapping the big man in the fourth and fifth raids. Ashu Singh and Sumit were involved, getting their target on the left corner and in the middle respectively.

However, the teams returned with a point each.

### The results:

Telugu Titans 20 (Siddharth Desai 5, Farhad Milagharden 4, Abozar Mighani 4) tied with UP Yoddha 20 (Shrikant Jadhav 4, Amit 4, Nitesh Kumar 4).

U Mumba 32 (Surinder Singh 9, Abhishek Singh 6) bt Gujarat Fortunegiants 20 (G.B. More 3, Ankit 3).

## Amalraj sets it up, Archana seals it

Shruti pulls off a game against Szocs, invigorates the Challengers

### UTT

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

The depth in the Goa Challengers line-up came to the fore as it bounced back to register an 8-7 win over defending champion Dabang Delhi in the Ultimate Table Tennis league here on Friday.

Though the teams are virtually assured of a place in the semifinals, the battle for supremacy was fought on an even keel with Goa claiming the bragging rights.

### The points position

After three rounds, Goa leads with 26 points, followed by Chennai Lions and U Mumba (24 each), Dabang Delhi (23), RP-SG Mavericks (20) and Puneri Paltan (17).

Goa suffered a setback before the start of the match when World No. 9 Cheng I-Ching had to be rested owing to indisposition. Her replacement Shruti Amrute, making her debut, was expected to be blanked by Bernadette Szocs, the Romanian ranked 14th in the

world. But after losing the first two games, Shruti pulled off the third on 'golden point.'

The point given by Shruti spurred her teammates on, making them believe that they could come out stronger. Eventually, given the margin of Goa's victory, Shruti's contribution did prove crucial.

In mixed doubles, World championship medalist Alvaro Robles and partner Archana Kamath bounced back from 0-5 to take the first game on golden point. But G.

Sathian and Szocs were not to be denied as they claimed the next two, putting Dabang 5-4 ahead.

However, Sathian could not add to the advantage as his opponent Robles took the first two games before Sathian restored parity (6-6).

This left Archana looking to seal the tie for Goa against Krittika. "Krittika has always been a tough rival for me," Archana was to confess later.

When Krittika, playing aggressively, won the first game, Dabang sighted victory. But Archana bounced back to race away with the second.

The tie-deciding finale witnessed a close battle between Archana and Krittika before the former stamped her authority.

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TV PICKS

**Badminton:** Thailand Open, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 a.m.  
**The Ashes:** 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**TNPL:** Star Sports 3, 7.15 p.m.  
**UTT:** Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**West Indies vs India:** 1st T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.  
**Global T20:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF

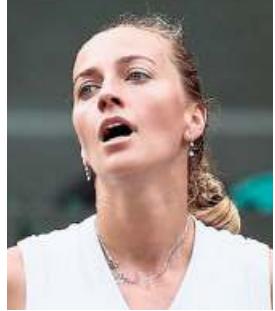


Referee Frappart about to make history

PARIS  
Stephanie Frappart will take charge of the UEFA Super Cup between Liverpool and Chelsea in Istanbul on August 14, becoming the first woman to referee a major men's match in European competition. France's Frappart, 35, refereed the Women's World Cup final between the United States and the Netherlands in July, and last season became the first woman to officiate a Ligue 1 match. AFP

Anderson packs off Chotra

KUALA LUMPUR  
L. Anderson of England ended the hopes of Veer Chotra, defeating him 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7 in the quarterfinals on Friday in the World junior individual squash championship here. The junior women's team championship will be held from August 5 to 9.



TORONTO  
Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova has withdrawn from next week's Rogers Cup here after failing to recover from an arm injury which has dogged her season. Tennis Canada said in a statement on Friday the 29-year-old Czech star's withdrawal would mean former World No.1 Serena Williams is now given a top eight seed. Venus Williams will take the available space in the main draw while a wild-card spot would be handed to Svetlana Kuznetsova. Kvitova said in a statement she had pulled out after the left-arm injury that forced her to withdraw from the French Open flared up again. AFP

Indian GP shifted to Patiala

K. KEERTHIVASAN  
CHENNAI  
The fifth and final Indian Grand Prix will not be held in Chennai, but in Patiala on August 16.

The Chennai Grand Prix was scheduled on September 1, but Athletics Federation of India (AFI) decided against it as it felt two back-to-back events in Patiala followed by the National Inter-state meet from August 27 to 30 in Lucknow will definitely give the athletes a better chance to qualify for the Doha World championships to be held between September 27 and October 6.

"We decided to organise the event in Patiala based on the request from players and coaches," C.K. Valson, Secretary of AFI, told *The Hindu* here on Friday. The events scheduled in the competition:  
**Men:** 100m, 400m, long jump, shot put, discus, javelin, pole vault; **Women:** 100m, 400m, long jump, shot put, discus, javelin.

# Satwiksairaj-Chirag make the semifinals

Sai Praneeth loses to Tsuneyama

THAILAND OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BANGKOK

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty qualified for the men's doubles semifinals but B. Sai Praneeth crashed out of the men's singles event at the Thailand Open here on Friday.

While Rankireddy and Shetty registered a hard-fought win over qualifiers Choi Solgyu and Seo Seung Jae of Korea, Sai Praneeth suffered a straight game defeat against seventh seed Kent Tsuneyama of Japan.

After posing some challenge in the first game, Sai Praneeth, who reached the semifinals of last week's Japan Open, lost 21-18, 21-12 in the quarterfinals. With Sai Praneeth's exit, the Indian challenge has ended in the singles event.

However, the unseeded Indian combination of Rankireddy and Shetty fought

valiantly for exactly an hour to get past the Korean rivals 21-17, 17-21, 21-19 in a quarter-final duel.

The win was Rankireddy and Shetty's maiden victory over the Korean pair.

The 16th-ranked Indians will take on another Korean combo of Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheol in the semifinals on Saturday.

However, it was curtains for Rankireddy in the quarterfinals of the mixed doubles event as he and Ashwini Ponnappa lost 13-21, 15-21 to third seeds Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino of Japan in a lopsided encounter that lasted just 28 minutes.

**The results (quarterfinals):**

**Men:** B. Sai Praneeth lost to Kent Tsuneyama 21-18, 21-12.

**Doubles:** Satwiksairaj



Valiant stand: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty kept the Indian hopes alive in Bangkok. ■ FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

## TVS Racing's Sivanesan and Ahamed to start from front row

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Sivanesan Sethu came up with a stunning lap to complete a 1-2 starting line-up for TVS Racing in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category qualifying session in the third round of the MRF-MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle racing championship here on Friday.

Sivanesan, clocked a sizzling 1min, 54.325s, followed by teammate and fellow Chennai rider K.Y. Ahamed (1:54.871). Hyderabad's Rahil Shetty of Sparks Racing (1:55.001) completed the front row for Saturday's race.

Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing, led by Bengaluru riders Anish Shetty (1:57.384), and Abhishek Vasudev (1:59.890), and Chennai's Aravind Balakrishnan (2:00.969), qualified for the



Scorching the track: Sivanesan Sethu took the pole position in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

top three spots in that order in the Pro-Stock 201-300cc class.

Ryhana impresses

Championship leader Ryhana Bee of Sparks Racing (2:11.216), teammate Ann Jennifer (2:12.189) and Speed Demonz Racing's Lani Zen Fernandez (2:14.007) were the top three qualifiers in the girls' category.

Lighting up the day's pro-

ceedings was a bunch of teenagers, led by 15-year-old Mohammed Mikail from Chennai.

He scorched the track in the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup riding the FIM Moto3-spec NSF 250R bikes to take pole position in 1:48.949.

Jagan, a seven-time National champion, had a disappointing run with a 2:03.413 and came in ninth.

Aided by a neat back-line and an active midfield, led

## Sonam grabs gold, Komal in final

WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

India's Sonam Malik dished out a dominating performance and conceded just three points on her way to a second successive gold medal at the World Cadet Championship while Komal assured herself at least a silver in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Sonam trounced China's Binbin Xiang 7-1 in 65kg final.

In the 40kg final, Komal will fight it with American Sterling Blayne.

Hanny Kumari is in contention for a bronze in 46kg and she is up against Mexico's Adriana Berenis Hernandez Sanchez while Bha-

gashree Fand will clash with Sweden's Eva Olivia Linnea Forsberg in 61kg bronze medal bout.

Madhuri Patel, though, lost her bronze medal clash 8-0 to Aida Keryanova from Ukraine.

In men's freestyle, four bronze medals were grabbed by the Indians. Udit defeated Azerbaijan's Javid Javadov 11-2 in the 48kg bronze bout while Aman got the better of Turkey's Muhammet Karavus 10-6 in 55kg.

Manish Goswamy bagged bronze in 65kg with a 5-2 win over Azerbaijan's Kurdrobek Nurullaev while Anirudh Kumar defeated Salar Said Habibehsani 8-1 in 110kg.

Young Adarsh Singh, the reigning national champion, gave further hints about the bright prospects for India in the event, as he won both the men's and junior gold in the 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Masters shooting championship which concluded at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Friday.

Young Adarsh Singh, the reigning national champion, gave further hints about the bright prospects for India in the event, as he won both the men's and junior gold in the 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Masters shooting championship which concluded at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Friday.

After stumbling to an indifferent start in the final, when the first series fetched him one out of five, Adarsh strengthened his hold over the pistol by shooting only in the range of 3-5 in the rest of the competition, in the

men's and junior sections put together.

With each shot of 9.4 or more getting one point, and zero otherwise, it was accuracy with speed, as five targets had to be hit in one fluent motion within four se-

## Neeraj stuns Mesiano, enters final

Solanki and Sahani confirm two more medals

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Reigning India Open gold medalist Neeraj stunned 2016 World champion Alessia Mesiano to enter the final of the Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial international boxing tournament in Kaspiysk, Russia on Friday.

Neeraj, a bronze medalist at the Strandja Memorial, eked out a narrow 3-2 win over Mesiano in the 57kg category to assure himself at least a silver.

It was a neck-and-neck fight, but a series of clear punches from the Indian in the final round sealed the tie in his favour.

Earlier, Commonwealth Games gold medallist Gaurav Solanki and 2019 India Open silver medallist Go-

wind Sahani assured two more medals for India by entering the semifinals.

Solanki defeated Russia's Maksim Chernyshev 3-2 in the 56kg category on Thursday. Also, Sahani outboxed Tajikistan's Shermukhammad Rustamov in the 49kg category to earn an RSC win.

However, it was curtains for Ashish Insha in the quarterfinals of the 52kg, losing 1-4 to Russia's Islamidin Ali-soltanov. The match was in the balance till the last round before Ashish conceded a few clear punches in the dying minutes.

2018 India Open gold medallist Sanjeet had to concede his bout against Russian counterpart Daniel Lutai after suffering a cut on his forehead in the first round of the match.

## Chamorro's brilliant brace sinks Sporting

Bagan's organised approach puts its rival under pressure from the outset

DURAND CUP

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Amidst bouts of heavy monsoon showers, Salvador Chamorro's brilliant brace enabled Mohun Bagan to record a 2-0 win over Mohammmedan Sporting in the inaugural match of the Durand Cup football tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Friday.

Bagan's organised approach put Sporting under pressure from the outset of the Group B encounter.

It seized initiative by scoring in the second minute through Spaniard forward Chamorro's header off Joseba Betia's free-kick.

Fine coordination

Mariners' fine coordination and passing in the season opener spoke a lot about its preparations.

Aided by a neat back-line and an active midfield, led



Double delight: Mohun Bagan's Salvador Chamorro is pleased after scoring his and the team's second goal. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

by Betia, Bagan consistently pressed hard as most of the part of the action in the opening period happened in the Sporting half.

Sporting doubled its lead when Ashutosh Mehta's precise cross from right was slotted in by Chamorro with another header in the 22nd

minute. The Jose Vicuna-coached side had two more attempts. Chamorro's blind header with his back to the goal off S.K. Sahil's pass went wide, while Sohrabuddin Mallik's long ranger flew over the bar.

Sporting got its first real chance at the stroke of half-

## Upgrade gives India a bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Seven years after India missed a podium place at the IAAF World race walking cup in Russia, the country was on Friday handed a bronze medal upgrade following disqualification of a member of the second-placed Ukrainian team for dope violation.

The Indian team of K.T. Irfan, Babubhai Panucha and Surinder Singh had finished fourth in the men's 20km team event behind China, Ukraine and Australia in May 2012 at Saransk.

Ukrainian race walker Ruslan Dmytrenko was disqualified after seven years on the basis of his biological passport analysis, giving India a bronze.



Impressive show: Champion Adarsh Singh is flanked by Gurmeet Singh and Anhad Jawanda. Baljit Singh and NRI joint-secretary Pawan Singh are also seen. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

conds. Timing is the key, and the staccato shots, fired with a mesmerising rhythm hinted at the boy's command.

Army's Gurmeet Singh matched the Haryana lad shot for shot in the second half of the men's final, but Adarsh had established a one-point lead by then.

Former secretary-general of NRI, Baljit Singh Sethi, presented the medals. The championship is being held in the memory of Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi, the father of Baljit Singh and the first administrator of the shooting range.

**The results:** 25m rapid fire pistol: **Men:** 1. Adarsh Singh 27 (584); 2. Gurmeet Singh 26 (575); 3. Anhad Jawanda 22 (575); **Juniors:** 1. Adarsh 30 (584); 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 27 (572); 3. Ayush Sangwan 21 (569).

## Need to better my turns, kicks off the wall: Srihari

The 18-year-old is hopeful of achieving the Olympic Qualifying Time

SWIMMING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Srihari Nataraj is hopeful of achieving the Olympic Qualifying Time ('A' standard) in the 100m and 200m backstroke races for next year's Tokyo Games.

Srihari's personal best in the shorter event is 55.49, which while being a whisker away from the 'B' time (55.47) is some distance away from the 'A' cut (53.85). In the 200m, the Bengaluru swimmer's best of 2:02.08 – a national record clocked at the World Championships in South Korea last week – needs bettering if he is to match the 'A' (2:01.03) or even

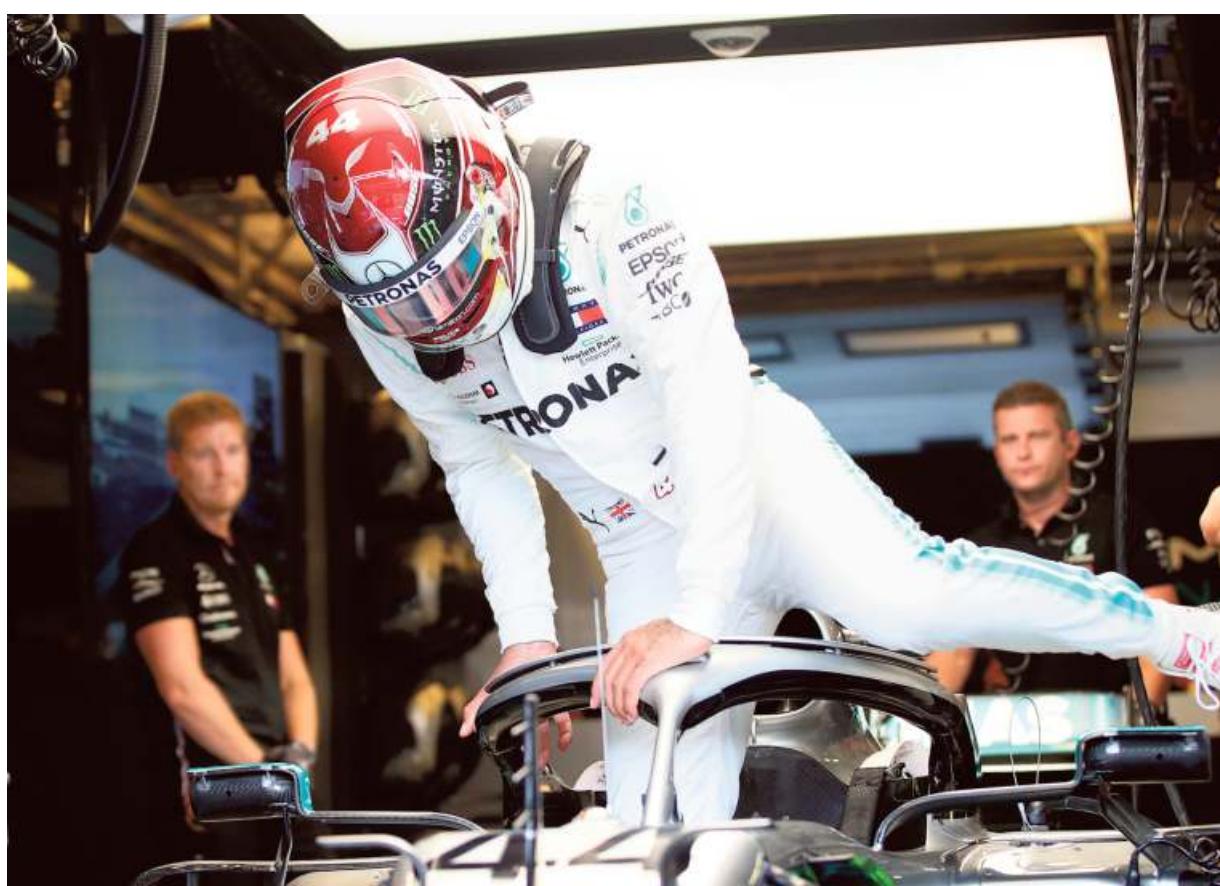


26.2 in the first 50, I can come back for 27.5. That is 53.7, inside the 'A' cut. I'm now doing 28.1 on the back leg, so bringing that down to 27.5 is going to be harder than opening with 26.2.

"Even in the 200m, I need to go faster in both races. "In the 100, I need to go faster in the first 50. Right now, I feel I'm very conservative in the first 100 be-

cause I'm worried about tiring out in the second half," he said.

Srihari is leaving for the FINA World Junior Swimming Championships in Budapest later this month, before returning for the Senior Nationals in Bhopal. But the 10th



**Stepping up:** Lewis Hamilton morning lap of one minute 17.233 seconds was the day's best during practice. •REUTERS

## Hamilton fastest in first session

Red Bull one-two on wet afternoon

### HUNGARIAN GP

REUTERS  
BUDAPEST

Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton lapped fastest overall for Mercedes in Hungarian Grand Prix practice on Friday as rain limited meaningful track action in the afternoon.

With soggy fans huddled under plastic ponchos and umbrellas, Red Bull's Pierre Gasly and Max Verstappen ended the day one-two on the timesheets in the drizzly second 90-minute session with Hamilton third.

The Briton's morning lap of one minute 17.233 seconds was still the day's best, with Gasly producing a 1:17.854 effort on the fastest soft tyres in the afternoon when the

track was still suitable for slicks.

Toro Rosso's Alexander Albon crashed soon after the first spots of rain, the Thai acknowledging driver error after going onto the grass at the last corner.

The incident brought out the red flags briefly.

#### Bottas misses first session

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas had to sit out the opening session while his mechanics changed the car's power unit but returned after lunch to post the fourth fastest lap.

The lost track time was still a setback for the Finn, who crashed out at a wet Hockenheim last weekend just when he looked likely to

make inroads into Hamilton's overall lead and ended up 41 points adrift.

Bottas set his best time on a medium tyre, while five times World champion Hamilton used the slower hard rubber in the second session.

Hamilton, who had said he could not wait to be back in the car after recovering from a bug that laid him low in Germany last weekend, has won a record six times in Hungary including last year from pole. The championship leader is eager to go into the August break with an eighth win in 12 races after a dismal performance in Germany last weekend.

Verstappen, the in-form driver of the moment with two victories from the last

three races, was second on the morning timesheets but only a thousandth of a second ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

The Dutch youngster, who spun twice in that opening session, is expected to go well in Hungary, a track that should suit his car's characteristics with dry conditions expected at the Hungaroring on Sunday.

Gasly was fourth fastest in the morning, with Danish driver Kevin Magnussen fifth for Haas and Charles Leclerc sixth for Ferrari.

The Monegasque Leclerc dropped to seventh after lunch on medium tyres, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo fifth for Renault and Kimi Raikkonen sixth in an Alfa Romeo.

+ **Gambhir's role challenged, DDCA in a spot**

Complainant seeks his removal since he is an MP and holds a public position

VIJAY LOKAPALLY  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) finds itself in a quandary following a complaint over its inclusion of former Test opener Gautam Gambhir in cricket affairs.

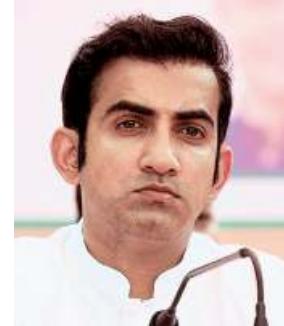
Gambhir is part of the DDCA Executive Committee which will further appoint a Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) to pick the coaches, selectors and support staff for all State teams for the coming season.

However, the complaint filed by Sanjeev Gupta, a life member with the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, to the Committee of Adminis-

trators (CoA), has sought his removal since Gambhir is a Member of Parliament and as such holds a public position.

#### Breach of rule

In the complaint, Gupta has claimed that "DDCA has breached Rule 6(5) of the BCCI constitution as they have elected/appointed Gautam Gambhir, former India player, as a member of the board. He is working as an observer and taking all key cricketing decisions, in breach of Rule 6(5)(d) since he is an elected MP from Delhi. Since he is holding public office from May 23, he stands disqualified to be part of any committee, council, repre-



•FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Sharma disqualified on the same ground since he is a sitting MLA of Delhi.

The DDCA has sought advice from BCCI ombudsman on the issue. But while appointments related to cricket affairs have been put on hold pending a formal decision, it is learnt that a faction of the ruling body has already identified candidates for various committees with Bantu Singh, Chetnya Nanda and Nischal Gaur set to become senior selectors.

The CoA confirmed the development and insisted no individual holding public office can be part of any committee in either BCCI or its affiliated units.

**HCL bridge from Aug. 5**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A new event, Team of Four Bronze, for relatively new players, will be introduced in the 17th HCL International bridge championship scheduled to be held here from August 5 to 10.

The championship, with Team of Four Gold, Team of Four Silver events, apart from Open pairs event, MP Pairs Strata-II, IMP Pairs event, and IMP Pairs Strata-II, played in the Swiss league at the initial stage and knockout thereafter, will offer a total prize purse of ₹1.8 crore.

There will be more than 185 teams from about 15 countries. The event has been consistently held over the years, thanks to the involvement of Ms. Kiran Nadar, Director of HCL Corporation, who herself is a renowned international player.

Kiran was part of the team that won the fifth Commonwealth Nations bridge championship and the bronze in the Asian Games last year.

"The HCL bridge is our flagship initiative in sports and I have seen it grow, in

terms of scale, participation, prestige and competitiveness. Like previous years, the best teams from top bridge playing nations like US, Israel and Australia will join us in the National Capital," said Kiran.

**Gold event open to all**

The Team of Four Gold event is open to all. The qualifying round consists of Swiss league of 10 rounds, with 10 board each on first two days. The top 16 teams will advance to the knockout stage, which will be played over four sessions of 14 boards each.

The Team of Four Silver event is open to Indian players and will follow the same pattern as the Team of Four Gold.

The Team of Four Bronze will be open only to Indian players. A team can have a maximum of two players with a maximum of 200 total MPs (Master Points as per the national federation). The remaining players should not have more than 100 total MPs. The qualifying event will feature Swiss league of 10 rounds, followed by the knock-out for top eight teams.

## Divij-Erlich duo makes it to the semifinals

### INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
LOS CABOS (MEXICO)

Divij Sharan and partner Jonathan Erlich of Israel made the semifinals with a 62, 64 victory over wild cards Hans Hack Verdugo of Mexico and Dennis Novikov of the United States in the \$858,565 ATP tournament on Thursday.

In the \$135,400 Challenger in Chengdu, the unseeded pair of Arjun Kadhe and Saketh Myneni sailed into the final with a 75, 61 victory over the Chinese combination of Runhao Hua and Di Wu. **The results:**

**\$858,565 ATP, Los Cabos, Mexico:** Doubles (quarterfinals): Jonathan Erlich (Isr) & Divij Sharan bt Hans Hack Verdugo & Dennis Novikov (US) 6-2, 6-4.

**\$135,400 Challenger, Chengdu, China:** Doubles (semifinals): Arjun Kadhe & Saketh Myneni bt Runhao Hua & Di Wu (Chn) 6-1, 7-5.

**€46,600 Challenger, Liberec, Czech Republic:** Doubles (quarterfinals): Jonas Forejt & Michael Vrbensky (Cze) bt Sriram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan

**6-4, 6-2; Pre-quarterfinals:** Sriram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan bt Sadio Doumbia & Fabien Reboul (Fra) 6-4, 3-6, [10-6]; Jiri Lehocka & Jiri Vesely (Cze) bt Tuna Altuna (Tur) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-4, 6-1.

**\$25,000 ITF men, Xativa, Spain:** Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Imanol Lopez Morillo (Esp) bt Aryan Goaveas 6-2, 6-3.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Woking, England:** Singles (quarterfinals): Myrtille Georges (Fra) bt Ankita Raina 6-3, 7-5.

**Doubles (quarterfinals):** Naiktha Bains (GBR) & Ankita Raina bt Ali Collins (GBR) & Joanna Garland (Tpe) 6-2, 6-2.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Chinese Taipei:** Doubles (semifinals): Ramu Ueda (Jpn) & Riya Bhatia bt Nudni Luangnam (Tha) & Mai Minokoshi (Jpn) 6-4 retd.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi, Thailand:** Singles (quarterfinals): Mananchaya Saengkaew (Tha) bt Rutuja Bhosale 6-1, 6-4.

**Doubles (semifinals):** Erika Seima (Jpn) & Mei Xu Wu (Chn) bt Mana Ayukawa (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale 6-2, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia:** Doubles (quarterfinals): Sovjanya Bavisetti & Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi bt Andreina Pino & Gala Squarcialupi (Ita) 6-3, 6-3.

"The HCL bridge is our flagship initiative in sports and I have seen it grow, in

## Team bosses split over F1 expansion plans

Rising costs and the strain on staff are major concerns

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BUDAPEST

Team chiefs are divided over plans to extend the Formula One season to a possible record 22 Grands Prix next year following the Catalan Government's announcement that it supports an extension for the Spanish event.

Rising costs and the strain on staff and resources are expressed as the major concerns with Williams team principal citing them as her reasons for opposing any extension for the existing 21-race calendar.

The subsequent signing guarantees the 30th consecutive event at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, in Montmelo.

**Dutch GP on cards**

Despite staging a tumultuous and dramatic race at Hockenheim last Sunday, the German Grand Prix is likely to be dropped while a Dutch Grand Prix, back after a 35-year absence, and a new event in Vietnam, are considered.

A statement by the Catalan government on Thursday, however, confirmed its back-

ing for the event.

"The executive council has today authorised the Circuits de Catalunya, SL society, to sign a one-year extension of the contract for the organisation of the F1 Spanish Grand Prix for the year 2020 with the Formula One World Championship Limited company," said the statement.

"The subsequent signing guarantees the 30th consecutive event at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, in Montmelo."

**Work-life balance**

The mooted changes require the support of the teams whose greatest concern is costs and, notably, engine supply.

The regulations permit driver to have three engines each for the season.

"We need to keep it to three," said Haas team boss Guenther Steiner. "If we go to a fourth engine, it cannot make any sense for us, financially. Actually, it would be negative..."

He said the manufacturers would need to be confident that they could complete a 22-race season with three engines.

"If they are confident that we can do it, then I am fine

for that," he added.

Williams deputy team chief Claire Williams was less enthusiastic.

"I would like to see fewer races," she said.

"If you put too many races on the calendar, it is too much for people to consume, when there is so much competition in the market."

"The other consideration is personnel. If you increase it, the pressure it puts on your team from a performance perspective and their work-life balance is difficult."

"For smaller teams, it is very difficult to think about how we manage a calendar with north of 21 races..."

Williams cited the costs of extra staff numbers, to permit rotation of engineers, and the cost of global freight transportation.

"You have to think about how much are those races being sold for? Do they put a huge amount in the pot?"

## Lee: numbers on shirts ridiculous

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MELBOURNE

Former Australian pacer Brett Lee doesn't mind the ICC exploring ways to popularise Test cricket but says it's "ridiculous" to see players wearing names and numbers on their white flannels.

Lee's critical opinion comes a day after Adam Gilchrist, the 42-year-old's former teammate, called the latest innovation "rubbish".

"For what it's worth I'm strongly against the players numbers & names appearing on the back of Test cricket shirts!

I think it looks ridiculous. @ICC I love the changes you've made to cricket in general, but on this occasion you've got it wrong," Lee tweeted.

"In fact, I'll take my apology back. The names and numbers are rubbish. Enjoy the series everyone," Gilchrist said on Thursday while wishing the players luck for the Ashes series.

In another tweet, the former wicketkeeper-batsman said, "Outstanding. We are underway. Sorry to sound old fashioned but not liking the names and numbers."

## Swimmer vows to clear her name

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BRISBANE

Drug-tainted Australian swimmer Shayna Jack met anti-doping chiefs on Friday after testing positive to a banned substance and defiantly vowed: "I won't stop until I clear my name."

The 20-year-old, part of Australia's 4x100m freestyle team that set a World record last year, is facing a lengthy ban after Ligandrol, which helps build muscle mass, was detected in an out-of-competition test in late June.

It proved hugely embarrassing for Australian swimming, with the result emerging just days after Olympic champion Mack Horton's high-profile protest against Chinese rival Sun Yang over alleged testing violations at the world championships in South Korea.

Jack has denied knowingly taking the drug and met with officials from the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) in Brisbane for a briefing on the test results.

"I am not going to stop until I prove my innocence, and I am going to fight to get myself back in the pool because that's my dream and I'm never going to let that go," she told reporters afterwards.



**Stand by me:** Kylian Mbappe said Neymar was a key player for the French league-winners who are desperate for success in Europe next season. •AFP