



कर्मण्येवाधिकरणे मा फलेषु कदाचन ।  
मा कर्मफलहेतुभूमा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥

You have a right to do your Karmas / duty but have no right to the fruits of action or the end results. Do not let the outcome be the motive of your Karma and do not be attached to inaction.

At FIITJEE, we follow this & such eternal doctrines of Lord KRISHNA. Being detached from Results gives us the motivation to work on each Student, irrespective of his / her chances of qualifying JEE Main or Advanced. Not just Toppers, every Student undergoes a transformation at FIITJEE. We have been rewarded with overwhelming success of our Students in JEE Advanced year after year. **This consistency is loud & clear in**

## JEE Advanced 2019

2 in Top 3 and 5 in Top 15 All India Ranks from FIITJEE's Long Term Classroom Programs

*"Zero Stress !*

*Top Success !*

*What else could*

*I ask for?*

**Thank You FIITJEE"**



All India Rank

**2**

& IIT Delhi Zone Topper  
in JEE Advanced 2019

Himanshu Gaurav Singh

Three Year Classroom Program (X-XII) at **Delhi (South) Centre**

Qualified RMO, NSEP, INMO, INCHO & INPhO | NTSE Scholar |  
495/500 in XII Board | Bronze Medal in APMO | KVPY Fellow : AIR 4 (SA Stream), AIR 8 (SX Stream)

I, Himanshu Gaurav Singh, joined FIITJEE in 2016-17 for Three year Classroom Program.

What encouraged me to join FIITJEE was its amazing regularity of producing excellent results as well as the feedback which I got from my friends and seniors about its relaxed yet effective approach towards preparing students for JEE.

Today I am proud to say that I made the best decision of my life by joining FIITJEE. "Zero Stress! Top success! What else could I ask for? Thank You FIITJEE!"

FIITJEE's teaching methodology, curriculum, uncomplicated academic environment and top-class study material are aimed to create Excellence. This is how I secured AIR 2 in JEE Advanced and achieved other milestones as well.

FIITJEE is the only institute that can mould students into real achievers. FIITJEE helped me live my dream... Now its your turn. I am indebted to FIITJEE for its role in my success. *Himanshu*

*"These seven years*

*with FIITJEE*

*have set me on a path to Life Long*

*Excellence!"*



All India Rank

**3**

in JEE Advanced 2019

Archit Bubna

Four Year Classroom Program (IX-XII) + UDAYA - Two Year Classroom Program (VII-VIII) + LITTLE Genie Foundation (VI) at **Delhi (South) Centre**

Qualified RMO, NSEP, NSEA, NSEC, INAO (Jr), INAO, INOI, INCHO & INPhO | Gold Medal in IJSO | Silver Medal in APHO | 485/500 in XII Board | KVPY Fellow : AIR 8 (SA Stream), AIR 2 (SX Stream) | Representing India in International Physics Olympiad (IPhO), 2019

I, Archit Bubna, joined FIITJEE South Delhi in class 6 in the Little Genie Classroom Program and since then my journey has been nothing short of exciting, empowering and fulfilling. In these seven years I got the BEST of everything. The best faculty, best study material, best classroom environment, best test series and the best guidance.

This period of seven years was a period of transition as my understanding of the concepts and my ability to think out of the box while solving problems underwent a significant improvement. The teachers were extremely knowledgeable, dedicated and supported me throughout the journey, clearing all my doubts and addressing my weaknesses.

Regular quizzes, phase tests, AITS, monthly tests helped me to assess where I stood amongst others. All this has enabled me to achieve AIR 3 in JEE Advanced.

*"These seven years with FIITJEE have set me on a path to Life Long Excellence."*

To any one aspiring for a great rank in JEE Advanced, I would recommend FIITJEE only! Thank you FIITJEE!! *WT*

All India Topper (among Girls)

All India Rank  
**10**  
in JEE Advanced 2019

Shabnam Sahay

Intensive Contact Program at Vadodara Centre



Manan Aggarwal  
Two Year Classroom Program at **Delhi (Punjabi Bagh) Centre**

Haryana State Topper

All India Rank  
**14**  
in JEE Advanced 2019

Prashant Pandey  
Intensive Contact Program at **Delhi (East) Centre**

E. Shreepranav Varma  
Four Year Classroom Program at **Hyderabad Centre**

All India Rank  
**15**  
in JEE Advanced 2019



### 21 FIITJEE Students in Top 50 All India Ranks

AIR 18	AIR 22	AIR 26	AIR 28	AIR 29	AIR 30	AIR 33	AIR 34	AIR 35	AIR 37	AIR 38	AIR 41	AIR 42	AIR 46	AIR 48	AIR 49
Rankers Study Material at Mumbai Centre	Four Year Classroom Program at Amritsar Centre	Computer Based All India Test Series at Ghaziabad Centre	Intensive Contact Program at Kolkata Centre	Rankers Study Material at Ranchi Centre	Three Year Classroom Program at Ranchi Centre	SUPREME - Four Year Integrated School Program at Chennai Centre	Computer Based All India Test Series at Mumbai Centre	Intensive Contact Program at Delhi (Punjabi Bagh) Centre	Four Year Classroom Program at Delhi (East) Centre	Rankers Study Material at Delhi (South) Centre	Rankers Study Material at Delhi (Dwarka) Centre	Three Year Classroom Program at Durgapur Centre	Computer Based All India Test Series at Amritsar Centre	Four Year Classroom Program at Durgapur Centre	Computer Based All India Test Series at Ghaziabad Centre

38 FIITJEE Students in Top 100 and 70 FIITJEE Students in Top 200 All India Ranks (All our Results are from General Category only)

**FIITJEE - THE PREMIER INSTITUTE FOR IIT-JEE and More...**

To see our Results from Delhi & NCR Centres and more details...

please turn over

# JEE Advanced 2019 Results – FIITJEE Delhi & NCR Centres

8<sup>th</sup> Year in a row, Delhi State Topper is a FIITJEE Student | 14 in Top 100 All India Ranks

All India Rank

**2**



Himanshu Gaurav Singh  
Three Year Classroom Program  
at Delhi (South) Centre

Qualified RMO, NSEP, INMO, INCHO & INPhO | NTSE Scholar  
Scored (495/500) in XII Board Exam | Bronze Medal in APMO |  
KVPY Fellow : AIR 4 (SA Stream), AIR 8 (SX Stream)

All India Rank

**3**



Archit Bubna

Four Year Classroom Program +  
UDAYA - Two Year Classroom Program +  
LITTLE Genie Foundation at Delhi (South) Centre

Qualified RMO, NSEP, NSEA, NSEC, INAO (Jr), INAO, INOI, INCHO & INPhO | Gold Medal in IJSO | Silver Medal in APMO | Scored (485/500) in XII Board Exam | KVPY Fellow : AIR 8 (SA Stream), AIR 2 (SX Stream) | Representing India in International Physics Olympiad (IPhO), 2019

Haryana State Topper



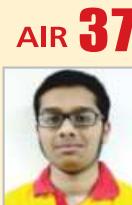
**AIR 14**  
Manan Aggarwal  
Two Year Classroom Program at Delhi (Punjab Bagh) Centre



**AIR 26**  
Harshit Gupta  
Computer Based All India Test Series at Ghaziabad Centre



**AIR 35**  
Pranshu Pandey  
Intensive Contact Program at Delhi (Punjab Bagh) Centre



**AIR 37**  
Abhinav Jain  
Four Year Classroom Program at Delhi (East) Centre



**AIR 38**  
Rajdeep S. Dhingra  
Rankers Study Material at Delhi (South) Centre



**AIR 41**  
Chirag Jain  
Rankers Study Material at Delhi (Dwarka) Centre

Other FIITJEE Delhi & NCR Students in Top 500 AIR

S.No.	Name	A.I.R.	FIITJEE Program	FIITJEE Centre
15	Shivam Raj	<b>101</b>	Computer Based All India Test Series	Delhi (South)
16	Kaustubh Miglani	<b>106</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Dwarka)
17	Harsh Agrawal	<b>120</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Delhi (East)
18	Aryan Mundada	<b>121</b>	Computer Based All India Test Series	Delhi (South)
19	Dhairya Gupta	<b>141</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
20	Ramneet Singh	<b>146</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Faridabad
21	Niket Jain	<b>175</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Faridabad
22	Prabhanshu Katiyar	<b>187</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Ghaziabad
23	Athar Singh Paltan	<b>189</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Gurgaon
24	Devanshu Singla	<b>191</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Faridabad
25	Bhagwat Garg	<b>197</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Gurgaon
26	Jasraj Singh	<b>200</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Dwarka)
27	Hardik Sharma	<b>201</b>	Computer Based All India Test Series	Faridabad
28	Sarthak Rout	<b>202</b>	Computer Based All India Test Series	Delhi (South)
29	Karan Aggarwal	<b>236</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
30	Kanishk Singhal	<b>237</b>	Rankers Study Material	Delhi (South)
31	Yash Agarwal	<b>250</b>	Computer Based All India Test Series	Delhi (South)
32	Tushar Singla	<b>255</b>	PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
33	Aaditya Agrawal	<b>260</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Dwarka)
34	Aditya Goel	<b>262</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
35	Ayush Pattnayak	<b>263</b>	Computer Based All India Test Series	Delhi (South)
36	Japneet Singh	<b>268</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
37	Vibhu Goyal	<b>284</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
38	Nishant Kumar	<b>288</b>	Rankers Study Material	Delhi (South)
39	Apar Ahuja	<b>297</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Janakpuri)
40	Ayushman Tripathy	<b>298</b>	Rankers Study Material	Delhi (South)
41	Gagan Sharma	<b>303</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Rohini)
42	Varun Gupta	<b>305</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Ghaziabad
43	Rajdeep Das	<b>308</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
44	Samiksha Das	<b>313</b>	Rankers Study Material	Delhi (South)
45	Shlok Goyal	<b>329</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
46	Suhas Jain	<b>338</b>	Rankers Study Material	Delhi (South)
47	Parth Jindal	<b>363</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
48	Shashvat Gupta	<b>376</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
49	Pranav Partap Singh Chawla	<b>378</b>	Rankers Study Material	Delhi (South)
50	Tanmay Aggarwal	<b>383</b>	Computer Based All India Test Series	Gurgaon
51	Chirag Wadhwa	<b>385</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
52	Aryan Yadav	<b>388</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Gurgaon
53	Aryan Singh Nagar	<b>413</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Faridabad
54	Prashant Mishra	<b>427</b>	One Year Extended Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
55	Ritvik Gupta	<b>430</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
56	Subhan Akhtar	<b>444</b>	Three Year Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
57	Siddhant Sharma	<b>451</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
58	Tushar Singh	<b>456</b>	Computer Based All India Test Series	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
59	Aryan Gupta	<b>459</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
60	Ananya Gupta	<b>479</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Delhi (South)
61	Yash Gupta	<b>480</b>	Two Year Classroom Program	Delhi (Punjabi Bagh)
62	Arpit Maheshwari	<b>487</b>	Four Year Classroom Program	Ghaziabad

Attention  
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**JEE 2020 !**

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Flaws and get  
the Remedy to  
Succeed

**Xtra**  
**RAY**  
EDGE TEST

23rd June 2019

Who should appear ?

- Those who were not able to realise their dream in JEE 2019 and wish to succeed in JEE 2020.
  - Those who have appeared in FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam (2nd June 2019) but were not able to qualify it and wish to capitalize on this opportunity to excel in JEE 2020 .
- For more details, visit [www.xret.fiitjee.com](http://www.xret.fiitjee.com)

Why FIITJEE ?

1. Hostel – You will get Good Food, Environment Conducive for Studies, Academic Support at hostel - Faculty goes for academic care including doubt clearing.
2. Overall Contact Hours – Generally contact hours are 450 hrs (One Year Extended Program) but time is not a constraint if the batch requires that.
3. We hold classes in reasonable size batches so that you don't feel lost. We never hold classes in batches of 100 or 200. Large classes are the reasons why students are unable to master concepts & feel stressed and develop despondency & take extreme steps.
4. You get a doubt clearing cell, and Library facility with presence of faculty for guided studies.
5. Unparalleled FIITJEE All India Internal Test Series with exacting JEE Main & Advanced Environment – We are the pioneers of AITS, Test Analysis and Rank Prediction – We can almost always predict your potential JEE Rank.

in Top 200 AIR	in Top 500 AIR	in Top 1000 AIR
<b>26</b> FIITJEE Delhi & NCR Students	<b>62</b> FIITJEE Delhi & NCR Students	<b>113</b> FIITJEE Delhi & NCR Students

Total number of FIITJEE Delhi & NCR Students qualified JEE Advanced 2019 from General Category

<b>1206</b> from Long Term Classroom / Integrated School Programs	<b>1376</b> from all Programs
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Delhi State Toppers in JEE Advanced / IIT-JEE in previous years !			
Exam & Year	Name of the Student	Result Significance	FIITJEE Program & Centre
JEE Advanced, 2018	Kalash Gupta	<b>Delhi State Topper &amp; AIR - 3</b>	Four Year Classroom Program at Delhi (South) Centre
JEE Advanced, 2017	Ananya Agarwal	<b>Delhi State Topper &amp; AIR - 3</b>	Three Year Classroom Program at Delhi (South) Centre
JEE Advanced, 2016	Animesh Bohara	<b>Delhi State Topper &amp; AIR - 19</b>	Four Year Classroom Program at Delhi (Punjab Bagh) Centre
JEE Advanced, 2015	Anjishnu Bose	<b>Delhi State Topper &amp; AIR - 26</b>	Two Year Classroom Program at Delhi (East) Centre

Delhi State Toppers in JEE Advanced / IIT-JEE in previous years !			
Exam & Year	Name of the Student	Result Significance	FIITJEE Program & Centre
JEE Advanced, 2014	Srajan Garg	<b>Delhi State Topper &amp; AIR - 21</b>	PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program at Delhi (South) Centre
JEE Advanced, 2013	Kartikay Gupta	<b>Delhi State Topper &amp; AIR - 4</b>	Two Year Classroom Program at Delhi (South) Centre
IIT-JEE, 2012	Arpit Agrawal	<b>All India Topper &amp; AIR - 1</b>	Two Year Classroom Program at Delhi (South) Centre

All our Results are from General Category only

## JEE Advanced 2019 Results – FIITJEE Nationwide Centres

Number of FIITJEE Students Topping their IIT Zone / State / City	In Top 500 AIR	In Top 1000 AIR	Total number of FIITJEE Students who qualified JEE Advanced, 2019
<b>2</b> IIT Zone Toppers	<b>9</b> State Toppers	<b>16</b> City Toppers	<b>3877</b> from Long Term Classroom & Integrated School Program

This is the Highest number for any Institute in the Country for 23rd Consecutive Year.

This is the Highest number for any Institute in the Country for 22nd Consecutive Year.

All our Results are from General Category only

We thank our Students & their Parents for Bringing Glory to us !



National Admissions Office : FIITJEE House, 29-A, Kalu Sarai, Near Hauz Khas Metro Station, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi - 110 016 Ph: 011 - 49283471 / 73 / 75

Ph. (South Delhi: 46106000), (East Delhi: 43002500), (Punjab Bagh: 45634000), (Dwarka: 28035964), (Rohini: 47064000), (Janak Puri: 45616600), (Noida: 4754800), (Greater Noida: 9871113448), (Gurgaon



NCRB, Centre differ  
on West Bengal  
political murders  
page 13



CBI files case against  
Lawyers Collective, its  
president Anand Grover  
page 13



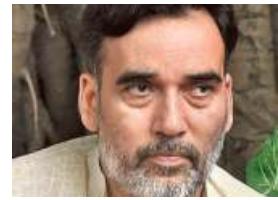
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ENGLAND & WALES vs  
New Zealand  
South Africa  
VENUE Edgbaston  
Live on STAR Sports 1, 2  
(SD & HD), 3 p.m.



Morgan leads from  
the front as England  
crushes Afghanistan  
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## NEARBY



90% support free Metro rides for women: AAP

NEW DELHI  
The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday said that over 90% of the 71,592 people the party surveyed supported the Delhi government's plan to allow free rides for women in metro trains and government-run buses. AAP Delhi in-charge Gopal Rai said the party had reached out to people and 64,972 respondents had supported the scheme.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

## 6-year-old girl sexually assaulted by neighbour

NEW DELHI  
A six-year-old girl was sexually assaulted allegedly by her 45-year-old neighbour in Outer North Delhi's Bawana on Tuesday, the police said. The accused was nabbed and thrashed by the locals, they said. A senior officer said the Class II student had gone to buy something when she went missing.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 17

# Kota MP Om Birla named as NDA's choice for Speaker's post

He will assume office today after being elected by Lok Sabha members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Two-term BJP MP from Rajasthan Om Birla will be the new Speaker of the Lok Sabha, after he was nominated by the ruling NDA for the post.

Mr. Birla has been a three-term MLA in the Rajasthan Assembly, and represents the Kota constituency in the Lok Sabha. He will assume office on Wednesday after being elected by the MPs.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said that apart from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Roads and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari were the proposers of Mr. Birla.

"The Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the Shiv Sena, the National People's Party, the Mizo National Front, the Akali Dal, the Lok Janshakti Party, the YSRCP, the Janata Dal (United), the AIADMK and the Anna Dal have signed the proposal," said Mr. Joshi.

**Congress to back him**  
The BJP also reached out to the Congress during the day, and by evening, the newly appointed leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, said his party too would support Mr.



A happy lot: Om Birla being greeted by his wife, second from right, and family in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Birla's candidature. While it is the norm for experienced MPs to be considered for the position, it will not be the first time that a second-term MP will be appointed.

Before this, Balram Jakhar was Speaker between 1980 and 1989 in his first and second terms respectively. Mahanar Joshi of the Shiv Sena was appointed Speaker in his first term in the Lok Sabha, while the late G.M.C. Balayogi of the TDP got the position in his second term.

The choice of Mr. Birla, although disclosed at the last moment, is not surprising, with the BJP sending out several signals with one approach.

A man with an RSS background, Mr. Birla is also an

influential member of the Agarwal community, a bedrock of the BJP's support.

A BJP man from the beginning, he has also been parliamentary secretary with the rank of Minister of State in the Vasundhara Raje government between 2003 and 2008.

In State politics, he is not considered very close to the Raje camp, but enjoys the confidence of Mr. Modi. He has been popular among partymen for much generosity, lending out his official bungalow to indigent party workers and helping out those in need of medical assistance.

A LONG-TIME ASSOCIATE  
OF MODI AND SHAH ▶ PAGE 12

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is Cong. LS leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will be the party's leader in the Lok Sabha. K. Suresh from Kerala will be designated as the Chief Whip.

Though the Congress did not make any official announcement, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi was seen informing other Opposition leaders of the choice on the floor of the House, including Sudip Bandopadhyay of Trinamool Congress.

The decision came after an early morning meeting of Congress MPs, at which president Rahul Gandhi was present. Though there were reports that Mr. Gandhi could lead the Congress in the Lok Sabha, he seemed to have turned down any such suggestion. In the 16th Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge was the Congress leader and Jyotiraditya Scindia was the Chief Whip.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

An unrelenting scourge



Worrying numbers: A boy with symptoms of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome, which has claimed the lives of 109 children so far, being shifted to a hospital in Bihar's Muzaffarpur on Tuesday. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ran into a protest when he visited a hospital. ■ PTI (PAGE 9)

# Owner of car used in Pulwama attack among 2 JeM men killed

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Two Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants, including a member of its suicide squad whose vehicle was used to carry out the Pulwama attack on February 14, were killed in an operation of the security forces in Anantnag on Tuesday.

A soldier also died in the

gunfight. The police said the militants, identified as Sajad Ahmad Bhat and Tauseef Ahmad Bhat from Bijbehara, were surrounded by the forces around 4 a.m. at Marhamat village in Anantnag, "following a tip-off about their presence." In the exchange of fire, both militants were killed," said the police.

Sajad Bhat, according to

the police, was wanted in the Lethpora car blast in Pulwama, which left 40 CRPF jawans dead.

The investigation revealed that the Maruti Eco vehicle, used to carry out the suicide attack, was owned by him," said the police.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

# Uptick for India on sanitation in UN report

Major drop seen in open defecation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India has made great gains in providing basic sanitation facilities since the start of the millennium, accounting for almost two-thirds of the 650 million people globally who stopped practising open defecation between 2000 and 2017.

However, a monitoring report by UN organisations released on Tuesday shows that there has been absolutely no growth in the population with access to piped water facilities over that period, while large inequalities remain between rural and urban areas.

As for drinking water, the Joint Monitoring Programme report by UNICEF and WHO shows India has increased the percentage of



Inequalities remain in piped water supply between rural and urban areas.

its population with access to a protected drinking water source less than 30 minutes away, from 79% in 2000 to 93% in 2017.

However, the percentage of households getting piped water has remained stagnant at 44% over the 17-year period.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

# Delhi goes looking for giraffes in Thailand zoos

Zoo director asks for the animal in exchange programme

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The National Zoological Park, better known as Delhi zoo, has not had a single giraffe for the last four years. The zoo authorities have now written to three zoos in Thailand for the animal through an exchange programme.

Thailand has 24 giraffes in seven of its zoos and the NZP has asked for five of them, an official privy to the development said.

In 2015, Delhi zoo's last giraffe, eight-year-old Ankit, died after suffering a heart attack and kidney failure.

Since then multiple attempts have been made for the zoo to acquire a giraffe. "In the past two years since I



Ankit (left), the last giraffe at Delhi zoo, died in 2015. ■ FILE PHOTO

took charge, we have written to several other zoos for giraffes in exchange programmes," NZP director Re-

nun Singh told *The Hindu*. Earlier this month, they wrote to zoos in Mysuru and Patna for giraffes and are still awaiting their response.

"To maintain the animal collection and fulfil the objective of imparting education, I hereby propose an animal exchange programme with your esteemed institute," read Ms. Singh's letters sent to the three zoos in Thailand on Tuesday. The letters have been sent along with a list of Delhi zoo's surplus animals, including blackbucks and spotted deer.

"We have an enclosure ready for the giraffes. It has been cleaned and prepared," the zoo director said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

# A Pakistani fan video that tickles all

23-year-old Lahore man, who is based in London, trolls the fitness levels of the team

NAMRATA JOSHI  
MUMBAI

One of the biggest takeaways of the India-Pakistan CWC 2019 match on Sunday was the show of self-deprecating humour by Pakistani fans, manifesting most prominently in their sporting tweets in the face of defeat.

The blockbuster of the day, however, was 23-year-old London-based Lahore man Momin Saqib's "burger-pizzey-Hico ice cream" gig about a Pakistani fan's pain at the abominable fitness levels of the team.

The hyper melodramatic comic tone and the relatable "Punjabis" of the act made it go viral on social media in India as well, and it is still regaling many online. "People are happily sharing the video and editing clips



Comic relief: Momin Saqib's meme on the Pakistani cricket team has gone viral.

into other relevant memes as well," Mr. Saqib told *The Hindu* in an email exchange.

Shot outside Old Trafford, Manchester, the meltdown of the fan is set up like a spontaneous interview. While Momin vents his feelings on the 'betrayal' by captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and how the world came crashing down at the score

of 119, his elder brother, Bilal bin Saqib, wipes his simulated tears with the country's flag. "Everything that happened [in the video] was spur-of-the-moment and totally impromptu," he said.

Mr. Saqib's cricket videos have been popular in Pakistan for a while but this one worked in both sides of

the border. People in Pakistan have been able to relate to it due to the shared disappointment and displeasure that he expressed whereas in India it is the humour that has attracted the audience.

## Part of the game

The fun has come as a refreshing relief in the "war zones" that India-Pakistan cricket matches seem to have become of late. Mr. Saqib thinks that cricketing rivalry is equally prevalent in India and Pakistan and both the nations know that winning and losing is part of the game. "Since the emergence of social media's meme trend, we have been able to handle defeat with humour for quite a long time now and that beautifies the game itself," he says.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 9

## Life term for 4 in Ayodhya terror attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ALLAHABAD

A special court here has sentenced four persons to life imprisonment and acquitted one in connection with the 2005 terror attack on a makeshift temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid complex in Ayodhya in which two locals were killed and seven CRPF personnel injured.

Special judge Dinesh Chandra, who announced the verdict inside the Naini Central Jail where the accused are lodged, also imposed a fine of ₹2.4 lakh on each of the four. Public Prosecutor Gulab Chandra Agrahari told reporters here. He said those who got life imprisonment were Doctor Irrfan, Shakeel Ahmed, Asif Iqbal and Mohammed Naseem.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 9

# Many Oppn. leaders to skip Modi's meet

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

Leaders of many Opposition parties are likely to skip the meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss his "one nation, one election" proposal.

They include Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam president M.K. Stalin, Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee, Telugu Desam Party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar.

The issue was discussed at the first floor coordination meeting chaired by Con-

gress Parliamentary Party leader Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday evening. Though Congress chief Rahul Gandhi attended the coordination meeting, he refused to answer whether he would take part in Mr. Modi's meeting.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

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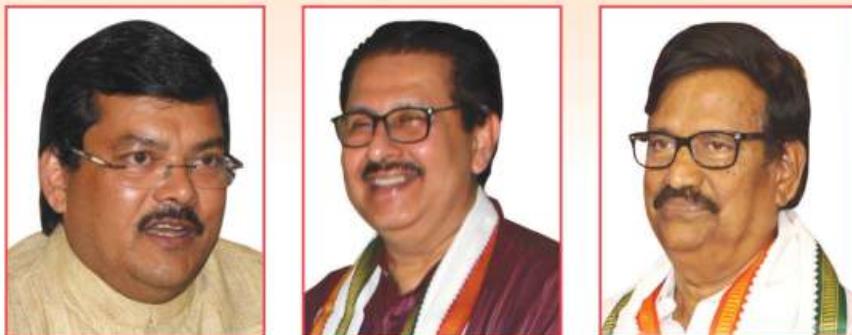
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JUNE 21	सामाजिक मुद्रे एवं सामाजिक न्याय
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## IN BRIEF



## Canara Bank to offer only 3 free deposits a month

MUMBAI  
Canara Bank customers can deposit cash for free only thrice a month and from the fourth transaction there will be a charge from July 1. Cash deposits of up to ₹50,000 are free for 3 transactions in a month. After that there will be a service charge of ₹1 per thousand, with a minimum of ₹50 and a maximum of ₹5,000-plus GST.

## Water crisis is being exaggerated, says CM

CHENNAI  
Seeking the cooperation of the people in tackling the severe water scarcity, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Tuesday said water was being supplied to people in such a way as to make do with the available resources till the onset of monsoon. He indicated that the situation was being "exaggerated". "In case of any issue somewhere, it should not be blown up to create an impression that the entire State is reeling under scarcity," he said.

## Weakened cyclone triggers rain in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD  
Cyclone Vayu weakened and crossed Gujarat's Kutch district on Tuesday morning, causing rainfall at some places, a Met official said. Rain is likely to continue till Wednesday in Kutch, Saurashtra and north Gujarat, she said. "Warning for ports has been lowered but the advisory for fishermen will continue till Wednesday morning. The low pressure system is going to further weaken," an IMD official said. PTI

## Woman Naxal killed in encounter with police

CHHATTISGARH  
A woman Naxal was gunned down in an encounter with the police in Chhattisgarh's Dhamtari district on Tuesday, a senior official said. The incident took place around 6 a.m. in a forest near Katti village, Deputy Inspector General (anti-Naxal operations) Sundarraj P. said. After the encounter, security personnel recovered the body of a woman Naxal and a self-loading rifle from the spot, he said. The killed cadre is yet to be identified. PTI

## Nitish feels the heat over AES deaths

As toll rises to 109, CM faces protest outside hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had to face people's protest, on Tuesday when he visited the government-run Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) here to meet patients admitted with symptoms of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

The disease has so far claimed the lives of 109 children since its outbreak in Muzaffarpur more than two weeks ago.

## Forces deployed

When Mr. Nitish Kumar, accompanied by his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi, reached the hospital, protesters waved black flags and shouted "Nitish Kumar wapas jao [Nitish Kumar go back] and Nitish Kumar murdabad."

They later told presspersons that they wanted to meet the Chief Minister to apprise him of the pitiable conditions at the hospital, but policemen refused to allow them inside.

"There should be 24-hour medical facility in the hospital and more doctors must be made available," he told hospital superintendent Sunil Kumar Shahi.

The Chief Minister left the hospital without speaking to the media.

Soon after Mr. Kumar's vi-

hour. He directed Health Department officials to identify areas affected by AES and get an "environmental study" done to analyse its nature and take preventive measures.

He directed that SKMCH be made a 2,500-bed hospital and a waiting hall be built for the relatives of the sick children.

"There should be 24-hour medical facility in the hospital and more doctors must be made available," he told hospital superintendent Sunil Kumar Shahi.

The Chief Minister left the hospital without speaking to the media.

Soon after Mr. Kumar's vi-

sit, Chief Secretary Deepak Kumar told presspersons in Patna that eight more doctors would arrive in Muzaffarpur by Tuesday evening. Free ambulance facility was also being arranged.

Earlier, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, his junior in the Cabinet Ashwani Kumar Chouhan and State Health Minister Mangal Pandey had to face the people's wrath when they visited the hospital.

## Ex gratia announced

On Monday, soon after returning from Delhi, Mr. Kumar held a meeting with top State and Health Department officials at his official

residence. He directed officials to visit families and villages of the victims to record their social and medical history. He announced an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh to the families of those who died.

The death toll from suspected AES has gone up to 109, with the death of five children on Tuesday. Many more are undergoing treatment – 138 at SKMCH and 24 at the Kejriwal Maternity Hospital.

On Dr. Harsh Vardhan's direction, a team of doctors from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, is likely to reach Muzaffarpur soon to monitor the situation.

## PIL filed in SC seeking an expert team

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Even as the death toll of children due to the outbreak of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) was rising, a public interest litigation petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking to urgently constitute a team of medical experts for treatment of children suffering from the disease.

The petition filed by advocates Manohar Pratap and Sanpreet Singh Ajmani has stated that there is complete failure of State machinery to deal with the outbreak of AES or 'Chamki Bukhar'.

"There is no availability of doctors, beds, intensive care units, medical professionals to deal with an epidemic level situation which has resulted in more than 126 reported death of children in Bihar," the plea said.

The petition stated that the disease is completely curable and that most of the deaths are occurring due to lack of medical facilities. It also sought a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the family members of the deceased.

**Seething anger:** People shouting slogans against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as he was visiting a hospital in Muzaffarpur district on Tuesday. ■PTI

## Educational norms for drivers may be eased

Govt. wants to provide job opportunities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government is likely to waive mandatory educational qualification for truckers and bus drivers for seeking a driver's licence in what it says is an attempt to provide employment opportunities.

Under Rule 8 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, a transport vehicle driver needs to have passed class 8.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said on Tuesday that it would amend this rule and issue a draft notification

## SC seeks Centre's view on Haj private tour operators' plea

Service providers oppose fixed pricing for 10,000 seats

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's response on a plea by the Federation of Haj Private Tour Operators of India opposing a fresh condition imposed on private tour operators to charge applicable rates of Haj Committee of India (HCOI) on additional quota of 10,000 seats allotted to them.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs on June 3 issued a circular allotting an additional quota of 10,000 seats to

of additional quota of 10,000 seats whereby HGOs have to offer and charge additional quota seats as per HCOI rates," the plea said.

"The condition imposed by the respondent [the government] is practically not executable," and will result in confusion and mismanagement of the petition said.

A vacation Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant posted the case to June 24. In the meantime, it asked the Federation to make their representation before the concerned Ministry.



A file photo of a woman leaving for Haj. ■AP

## Four get life term for Ayodhya attack

Makeshift temple targeted in 2005

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ALLAHABAD

A special court here has sentenced four persons to life imprisonment and acquitted one in connection with the 2005 terror attack on a makeshift temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid complex in Ayodhya in which two locals were killed and seven CRPF personnel injured.

## Slapped fine

Special judge Dinesh Chandra, who announced the verdict inside the Naini Central Jail where the accused are lodged, also imposed a fine of ₹2.4 lakh on each of the four, Public Prosecutor Gulab Chandra Agrahari told reporters here.

Mr. Agrahari said the four who got life imprisonment were Doctor Irrfan, Shakeel Ahmed, Asif Iqbal and Mohammed Naseem. Mohammed Aziz was acquitted for lack of evidence.

## Yogi hails ruling

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath welcomed the verdict.

On the sole acquittal in the case, he said the State government would take appropriate action after examining the ruling.

"The judgment is wel-

come. For one person who has been acquitted necessary action will be taken after seeking legal opinion. The government will keep an eye on the case," he said in a statement.

Five heavily-armed terrorists attempted to carry out a suicide attack near the makeshift temple at the disputed site on July 5, 2005. After blasting the outer barricade of the complex, they tried to move towards the inner barricade where troops of the 33rd battalion of the CRPF were deployed.

The terrorists fired heavily at the troops and lobbed grenades in order to storm the *sanctum sanctorum*.

Mr. Agrahari said Naseem procured a mobile SIM card using documents attested by Aziz, and on the direction of Pakistan-based terrorist Kari. He said the vehicle, having a Jammu registration number, used to carry weapons for the attack, was owned by Shakeel Ahmed.

The verdict in the case came nearly 14 years since the attack and after 371 hearings and testimonies by 63 people.

While Irrfan belongs to Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur, the four others are from Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Lunar orbiter spacecraft arrives in Sriharikota

Launch of Chandrayaan-2 on July 15

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The orbiter was despatched from the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre here late last week and reached the launch port of Sriharikota from Bengaluru and will soon be joined by its lander and rover companions, the ISRO said on Tuesday.

Their epic journey of 3.84 lakh km to Moon, to land on it and explore its surface will begin on July 15.

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## SC defers doctors' plea for security

Says there is no urgency in the matter as their strike has been called off

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred the hearing on a plea seeking protection for doctors in government hospitals, in view of doctors having called off their strike in West Bengal and other States.

A Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant said there was no urgency in the matter as the strike had been called off. It, however,

## Grey wolf from India killed in Bangladesh

Rare animal may have crossed over

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

An Indian grey wolf that was recently killed by farmers in Bangladesh, where the carnivore was believed to have been wiped out eight decades ago, could have been the one that was caught on camera in a part of the Sundarbans in West Bengal two years ago.

The grey wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) was killed in the first week of June by farmers near the Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans because it had attacked their livestock.

In April 2017, a wildlife photographer had shot a photograph of a lone wolf in the Indian part of the Sundarbans.

"It is possible that the one

that was killed in Taltali town

near the Sundarbans. ■AFP

is the same wolf spotted in West Bengal two years ago, as both individuals were male," Yadavendradev V. Jhalia of the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) told *The Hindu*.

Zoologists collected DNA samples from the animal to confirm it as a grey wolf.

The Indian grey wolf that was killed in Taltali town near the Sundarbans. ■AFP

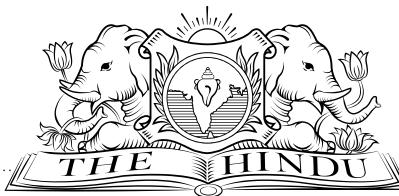
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## Preventing violence

A law to protect doctors is good, and a health-care upgrade is essential

All it took West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to end the week-long strike by junior doctors in the State was a meeting with the agitating medics and a credible assurance that their safety was a priority for her government. The attack on a junior doctor on June 10 over the death of a patient had sparked the agitation, which spread to other parts of the country when it appeared that the State government was reluctant to negotiate with the striking doctors. Now that Ms. Banerjee has reached out to young doctors and conceded that their demands are genuine, the government, in West Bengal and elsewhere, must focus on addressing the deficiencies afflicting the health-care system as a whole. Reprisal attacks on doctors by agitated relatives of patients who die during treatment are known to happen. Such violence is invariably the result of systemic problems that adversely affect optimal attention to patients, such as infrastructural and manpower constraints. It is apparent that doctors work in stressful environments, sometimes under political pressure with regard to admissions. Several States have enacted laws to protect doctors and other health-care personnel from violence. Last week, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan wrote to State governments highlighting the need for stringent action against anyone who assaults doctors. He asked States that do not have a law to protect doctors against violence to enact one, and circulated a 2017 draft of a law that envisaged imprisonment besides recovery of compensation from perpetrators for loss or damage to property.

However, is such a law really effective? Ironically, West Bengal, the epicentre of a strike that involved nearly the entire medical fraternity across the country, has such a law too. Like the law in most other States, the West Bengal Act provides for a three-year prison term and a fine, which could go up to ₹50,000, to anyone indulging in violence against any "medicare service person", which covers doctors, nurses, medical and nursing students and paramedical staff. The offence is cognisable and non-bailable. It also provides for recovery of compensation for loss. Many other States have similar laws, with the one in Tamil Nadu providing for a prison term that could go up to 10 years. It is clear that having this law did not prevent the incident that sparked the latest agitation. There are no figures available on how many times the medical service person protection law has been invoked. In any case, causing simple or grievous injuries to anyone is a criminal offence under the Indian Penal Code. Treating the issue as a law and order problem is just one way. The real solution may lie in improving health infrastructure, counselling patients about possible adverse treatment outcomes, and providing basic security in medical institutions.

## Organisation men

J.P. Nadda's elevation as BJP working president reveals the party's long-term goals

The appointment of J.P. Nadda as the Bharatiya Janata Party's working president is proof yet again that it does not leave anything to chance in the relentless pursuit of its politics. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will continue as party president until his term ends in December 2019, when Mr. Nadda is expected to succeed him. Mr. Shah has been Prime Minister Narendra Modi's close confidant and strategist for several years, and an architect of the party's Lok Sabha victories in 2014 and 2019. The decision to appoint a working president, as Mr. Shah would not be always available for party work, is a sign of the importance the BJP and its ideological mother ship, the RSS, attach to organisation. Except for the communist units, this is in contrast with the general nature of all other parties, which give limited attention to organisation-building. The RSS had meticulously assigned distinct roles to the multiple outfits that it floated over the decades, all converging into the larger stream of Hindutva politics. The BJP's emergence as the primary pole of Indian politics through sweeping victories in two consecutive general elections could strain the organisational edifice of the Sangh Parivar, but not immediately. The orderly, clinical manner in which Mr. Nadda was selected, with the concurrence and prompting of the RSS, demonstrates the Parivar's ability to be clear-eyed in its priorities.

Hindutva politics does not see power as an end in itself but as a tool to advance its ideological goals. Also, individual ambitions are expected to be subordinate to organisational priorities. The rise of Mr. Modi with Mr. Shah alongside, and their combined role in the party's outstanding electoral performances in recent years, have inspired commentaries that put them on a pedestal. Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah will remain in command of the overall scheme of things, and Mr. Nadda, by all accounts, is a proven loyalist to both of them. At the same time, by promoting a new power centre the BJP is also demonstrating that individuals are not indispensable despite the commanding authority and presence of the two big leaders. Mr. Nadda is not as combative as Mr. Shah but is as disciplined, a trait that he imbibed through his long association with the RSS. His elevation is also a continuation of the BJP's efforts to promote leaders who have spent more time in the States than in Delhi - Himachal Pradesh in Mr. Nadda's case. The selection of Thawar Chand Gehlot as the BJP's leader in the Rajya Sabha is also remarkable in this context. A Dalit who came up from a small town through the trade union wing of the RSS, he is an outlier in the Upper House's general character, which is metropolitan, upper class and usually upper caste. Mr. Shah recently stated that the BJP has not yet peaked. The organisational changes are evidently being made in that belief.

# An idea whose time may not have come

But the debate on simultaneous elections is useful — it could throw up other reforms to cleanse the electoral process



S.Y. QURAISHI



**N**ot even a month after the world's largest elections in history were over, the debate around "one nation, one election" has been resurrected. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had continued to flag the issue for the last five years, has now called for a meeting on the subject with leaders of other political parties.

The 2014 manifesto of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) read: "The BJP will seek, through consultation with other parties, to evolve a method of holding Assembly and Lok Sabha elections simultaneously. Apart from reducing election expenses for both political parties and Government, this will ensure certain stability for State Governments."

### Constant campaigners

In an interview with a news channel in January 2018, the Prime Minister had rightly highlighted the demerits of the country being in constant election mode. "One election finishes, the second starts," he said. He argued that having simultaneous Parliament, Assembly, civic and Panchayat polls once every five years and completed within a month or so would save money, resources and manpower. This, he pointed out, happened on account of a large section of the security forces, bureaucracy and political machinery having to be mobilised for up to 200 days a year on account of electioneering.

The BJP's 2019 manifesto also mentions that simultaneous elec-

tions for Parliament, State Assemblies and local bodies to "ensure efficient utilisation of government resources and security forces and... effective policy planning". It goes on to say that the party "will try to build consensus on this issue with all parties". It is in this spirit of reform and consensus building that the Prime Minister has revived this debate, calling an all-party meeting for discussions on June 19.

The re-elected Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, has already welcomed the idea, saying, on June 15, that frequent elections affect the development climate, and hence it is better to have simultaneous elections in the country.

The Law Commission had recommended simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and the local bodies as far back as in 1999. The BJP's L.K. Advani also supported the idea back in 2010 in an eloquent blog post. The matter was examined by a Parliamentary Standing Committee in December 2015, and was also referred to the Election Commission of India (EC). Both supported it in principle.

### Genuine concerns

The concerns raised are indeed genuine, and the idea is worth debating. First, it is becoming more and

more difficult to contest elections. The 2019 general election was the most expensive on record; a whopping ₹60,000 crore was reportedly spent on the whole exercise. Given that there is no cap on the expenditure incurred by political parties, they spend obscene amounts of money in every election. It is argued that simultaneous elections would help reduce this cost.

Second, frequent elections hamper the normal functioning of the government and disrupt civic life. This happens because the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into operation as soon as the EC announces the election dates. This means that the government cannot announce any new schemes during this period. This results in what is often referred to as a policy paralysis. The government cannot make any new appointments or transfer/ appoint officials. The entire government manpower is involved in the conduct of elections.

I would also like to add that elections are the time when communalism, casteism and corruption are at their peak. Frequent elections mean that there is no respite from these evils at all. This has directly resulted in the souring of the political discourse, something that was on full display during the 2019 general election.

From the point of view of EC, simultaneous elections make perfect sense because the voters for all three tiers are the same, polling booths are the same and staff/security is the same – the suggestion of "one nation, one election" seems logical.

### The hurdles

The idea, however, has some hurdles. First, how will "one nation, one election" work in case of premature dissolution of the Lok Sabha, for instance, as happened in late 1990s when the House was dissolved long before its term of five years was over? In such an eventuality, would we also dissolve all State Assemblies? Similarly, what happens when one of the State Assemblies is dissolved? Will the entire country go to polls again? This sounds unworkable both in theory and in the practice of democracy.

Second, as for the implementation of schemes of the government during the MCC period, only the new schemes are stopped as these could be tantamount to enticing/bribing voters on the eve of elections. All ongoing programmes are unhindered. Even new announcements that are in urgent public interest can be made with the prior approval of the EC.

Additionally, frequent elections are not so bad for accountability after all. They ensure that the politicians have to show their faces to voters regularly. Creation of work opportunities at the grass-root level is another big upside. The most important consideration is undoubtedly the federal spirit, which, inter alia, requires that local and national issues are not mixed up.

Now, as the debate has been rekindled, wider deliberation on the need for a range of reforms must be considered. Till the idea

achieves political consensus, there are two alternative suggestions to deal with the problems that arise due to frequent elections.

First, the problem of uncontrolled campaign expenditure can be remedied by introducing a cap on expenditure by political parties. State funding of political parties based on their poll performance also is a suggestion worth considering. Private and corporate fund collection may be banned.

Second, as I have suggested elsewhere, the poll duration can be reduced from two-three months to about 33 to 35 days if more Central armed police forces can be provided. The problems associated with a multi-phased election have been getting compounded, with more issues being added to the list with every election. Violence, social media-related transgressions and issues related to the enforcement of the MCC which are unavoidable in a staggered election will vanish if the election is conducted in a single day. All that needs to be done is to raise more battalions. This will also help in job creation.

### A healthy debate

To conclude, it is undeniable that simultaneous elections would be a far-reaching electoral reform. If it is to be implemented, there needs to be a solid political consensus, and an agenda of comprehensive electoral reforms should supplement it. The pros and cons need to be appropriately assessed and practical alternatives sincerely considered. It is good that the government continues to encourage a debate on the subject rather than forcibly pushing it through.

S.Y. Quraishi is a former Chief Election Commissioner of India and the author of *An Undocumented Wonder – the Making of the Great Indian Election'*

# Building confidence, BIT by BIT

Indian bilateral investment treaties need to strike a balance between foreign investor interests and those of the state



PRABHASH RANJAN

**A**s Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman gets ready to present the first budget of the 17th Lok Sabha, she faces enormous challenges. The GDP growth rate is at a five-year low, domestic consumption is sinking, the business confidence index has plunged, and India has recorded its highest unemployment rate in the last 45 years. To add to this list of woes is a claim made by Arvind Subramanian, India's former Chief Economic Adviser, that India's GDP has been overestimated. Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows to India in 2018-19 contracted by 1%, according to the government's own data. After an increase of 22% and 35% in 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively, FDI equity inflows began tapering off since 2016-17 with the growth rate falling to 9% and then to 3% in 2017-18.

### Lost opportunity

This contraction in FDI inflows comes at a time when global supply chains are shifting base as a re-

sult of the ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China. India has failed to attract firms exiting China. Many of these supply chains have relocated to Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia. India is clearly not the natural/first option for these firms for a host of reasons, such as poor infrastructure, rigid land and labour laws, a deepening crisis in the banking sector and a lack of structural economic reforms.

The decline in the FDI growth rate, despite the well-advertised improvement in India's ease of doing business rankings, interestingly, has coincided with India's decision, in 2016, to unilaterally terminate bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with more than 60 countries; this is around 50% of the total unilateral termination of BITs globally from 2010 to 2018. Unilateral termination of BITs on such a mass scale projects India as a country that does not respect international law. India also adopted a new inward-looking Model BIT in 2016 that prioritises state interests over protection to foreign investment.

In the absence of empirical evidence, one cannot conclude that termination of BITs and adoption of a state-friendly Model BIT adversely impacted FDI inflows. Nonetheless, since studies have shown that BITs positively impact-

ed foreign investment inflows to India, an examination of the link between the two should be a high priority for the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs – the nodal body dealing with BITs.

The decision to terminate BITs and adopt a state-friendly Model BIT was a reaction to India being sued by several foreign investors before international arbitration tribunals. The government concluded that these claims were an outcome of India's badly designed BITs, signed in the 1990s and 2000s that were based on a laissez faire template.

**Bad regulation**  
True, India's BITs gave extensive protection to foreign investment with scant regard for state's interests – a characteristically neoliberal model. This design flaw could have been corrected by India negotiating new balanced treaties and then replacing the existing ones with the new ones instead of terminating them unilaterally, which has created a vacuum. Im-

portantly, the design flaw was not the real reason for the increasing number of BIT claims. A large number arose either because the judiciary could not get its act together (an example being inordinate delays in deciding on the enforceability of arbitration awards) or because it ruled in certain cases without examining India's BIT obligations such as en masse cancellation of the second generation telecom licences in 2012. Likewise, the executive – the Manmohan Singh government – got the income tax laws retrospectively amended in 2012 to overrule the Supreme Court's judgment in favour of Vodafone and cancelled Devas Multimedia's spectrum licences in 2011 without following due process, thus adversely impacting Mauritian and German investors.

These cases are examples of bad state regulation. They also reveal an absence of full knowledge of India's obligations under BITs by different state entities. Thus, the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs should invest extensively in developing state capacity so that the Indian state starts internalising BITs and is not caught on the wrong foot before an international tribunal.

In correcting the pro-investor imbalance in India's BITs, India went to the other extreme and

created a pro-state imbalance as evident in the Model BIT.

### For a four point plan

Correcting this imbalance should be high on the reform agenda of the government. 'Progressive capitalism' (channeling the power of the market to serve society, as explained by Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz) provides the right template. Indian BITs should strike a balance between interests of foreign investors and those of the state. A certain degree of arrogance and misplaced self-belief that foreign investors would flock to India despite shocks and surprises in the regulatory environment should be put to rest. Clarity, continuity and transparency in domestic regulations and a commitment to a balanced BIT framework would help India project itself as a nation committed to the rule of law, both domestically and internationally, and thus shore up investor confidence. As the 2019 World Investment Report confirms, since India is fast becoming a leading outward investor, balanced BITs would also help in protecting Indian investment abroad.

Prabhash Ranjan teaches at South Asian University and is the author of *India and Bilateral Investment Treaties: Refusal, Acceptance, Backlash'*

## 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.

### Bihar deaths

If proved to be true, the dereliction of health-care duties in Bihar is unpardonable as it has resulted in over 90 precious lives being lost (Editorial, "The litchi link?", June 18). In India, life is cheap and the underprivileged are almost like the cat with nine lives. It is shocking that simple treatment is not delivered. Even more appalling are the flimsy excuses being used in defence such as the heat wave. Such lapses harm the credibility of the medical fraternity and the outcome is ugly episodes of the West Bengal hospital-type.

DEEPAK SINGHAL  
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

■ Undernourishment is a major problem in India, with alarming data on underweight, stunted and wasted children in Bihar. The POSHAN Abhiyaan, which is a multi-ministerial

convergence mission with the vision to ensure attainment of malnutrition-free India by 2022\*, must reach every corner of India. On the lines of the Right to Education, a 'right to nutritious food' should also be implemented for children below five.

BALAJI AKIRI,  
Hyderabad

■ It is unfortunate that announcements made in 2014 about improving the infrastructure in health facilities have still not been met. There are large gaps in the infrastructure. The doctor-patient ratio is way below what is required. It is the same situation for paramedical staff. Technical facilities too are below par, a reflection of the apathy towards the poor in a region known for health-care issues. A long-term strategy must also include special investigative procedures (including autopsy) to reach

the causes of such events quickly. The government needs to increase public spending on health.

Ds. ARUN MITRA,  
Ludhiana, Punjab

**GM farming**  
We should not forget that farmers' fields are not botanical gardens (Editorial page, "Serious concerns about Bt brinjal", June 18). Farmers do practise artificial ways and means to grow crops. Brinjal has the one of the most diverse germplasms in the plant world, so fears about its gene erosion appear to be misplaced. As far as nutrition issues are concerned, it may be incorrect to say that GM crops will have low nutrition. The WHO itself is taking an active role in exploiting biotechnology. One should also not forget that there are proper guidelines that have been set by the Codex Alimentarius guidelines on safety assessment of GM

foods. We should at least consider the success of the U.S. where 93% of soybean and maize that is used is GM.

ARJUN SHARMA,  
Bathinda, Punjab

**Chennai's water woes**  
The water problem in Chennai began around the late 1950s with the installation of public taps, often below ground level. Then came the hand pump followed by small borewells. Fortunately the groundwater level was by and large satisfactory. Trouble began to brew when the population crossed the five-lakh mark. The 'water history' of Chennai for the past 50 years can be characterised by good rains, floods and a few droughts in between. But the response to the drought this year is a reflection of apathy, inaction, lack of imagination and a total lack of planning. Of course, water tanker owners have hit a gold mine. What is shameful is the

absence of a sustainable plan to reverse this disgraceful situation.

S. RAJAGOPALAN,  
Chennai

■ In some of the extensive coverage being given to the 2019 water crisis in Chennai (Chennai city pages), I disagree with the opinion expressed (June 14) that rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems alone could have saved the city; we have not had even a drop of rain in the last six months. I say this as a former director of the IMD. Lack of periodic maintenance of RWH systems is essentially about

cleaning rainwater filter systems (less than a cubic metre) and replacing the blue metal and sand, which costs a fraction of the total initial cost of a RWH system. This must be done by the dedicated maintenance group. If all RWH installations in the city are kept in working condition during the next six months and if the North East monsoon does not disappoint us, we can hope for a fairly comfortable summer next year.

D.V. SUBRAMANIAN,  
Chennai

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

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**  
The second deck headline in the report, "Priyanka's outburst panned, but party men back her" (June 16, 2019, some editions), erroneously referred to byelections due in 11 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh. The text, however, correctly talks about a clutch of by-elections to the Assembly that are due.</p

# Averting deaths in Muzaffarpur

All it could have taken was to ensure that the children had a meal at night



T. JACOB JOHN

Along with my colleagues, I had investigated the so-called mystery disease in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, during its outbreak in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The local name for it was acute encephalitis syndrome, but we found that the disease was not encephalitis but encephalopathy. This distinction is important. Encephalitis results from a viral infection, unless proved otherwise. The pathology is primarily in the brain. Encephalopathy is a biochemical disease, unless proved otherwise. The primary pathology is not in the brain. Specific treatment is scanty for viral encephalitis, but encephalopathy is eminently treatable.

Hypoglycaemia (when the level of glucose in the blood falls below normal) is usually due to an overdose of insulin in children with diabetes. It is easily corrected with oral sugar or intravenous glucose. The easily available 5% glucose solution suffices. Hypoglycaemic encephalopathy, however, is different from simple hypoglycaemia.

#### The disease pathway

We found that the disease broke out during the months when litchi was harvested, i.e. April, May and June. Muzaffarpur is full of litchi orchards. The illness started suddenly – children were found vomiting, displayed abnormal movements, were semi-conscious, and were convulsing between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. The disease progressed fast – children went into coma and died within a few days. When sick children were tested, the blood glucose level was always below normal.

This disease was reminiscent of the Jamaican Vomiting Disease, a form of hypoglycaemic encephalopathy. It is triggered when unripe ackee fruits are eaten. These fruits contain a substance, methylene cyclopropyl alanine, which blocks a biochemical process called fatty acid oxidation, or gluconeogenesis.

There are two essential steps: gluconeogenesis is turned on and is then blocked midway by methylene cyclopropyl alanine. The back-up molecules of the unfinished process are certain amino acids that are highly toxic to the brain cells. Ackee and litchi belong to one plant family. My toxicology colleague, Dr. Mukul Das, found generous



quantities of methylene cyclopropyl glycine in litchi fruit pulp.

The disease affected only malnourished children between the ages of two and 10. A majority of them were from families camping in orchards for fruit harvesting. No child from the nearby towns fell ill. Children of well-to-do families never fell ill.

Litchi harvest usually begins by 4 a.m., which means that families are awake before that. They go to sleep early. If children go to sleep without dinner, parents usually do not wake them up and feed them. Litchis are collected in bunches and sent to the collection points, but single fruits fall to the ground. Children are free to collect and share the fruits with their friends.

With this information we made the hypothesis that the disease was hypoglycaemic encephalopathy. Along with my paediatric colleague, Dr. Arun Shah, we conclusively showed that the disease was indeed hypoglycaemic encephalopathy. With all the pieces in hand, we reconstructed the disease pathway.

After prolonged fasting, malnourished children slipped into hypoglycaemia in the morning. Since they had very little reserve glycogen in their livers, they were unable to mobilise glucose from liver glycogen, unlike well-nourished children. The brain needs glucose as a source of energy. As a result of lack of liver glycogen, gluconeogenesis was turned on. Had there not been litchi methylene cyclopropyl glycine, the glucose levels would have been maintained, and the children would have come to no harm. As the children had consumed litchis the previous day, gluconeogenesis had been blocked, aminoacidaemia had developed, and brain functions had been affected. Hypoglycaemic encephalopathy had set in.

We were unable to demonstrate aminoacidaemia in children with hypoglycaemic encephalopathy, but that was done by investigators from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The only missing piece in our

studies was filled in by CDC colleagues.

The disease can be prevented if children are well nourished, but that is not possible in the immediate term. It can also be prevented by ensuring that children eat a meal at night. All families were taught to provide a cooked meal to children before going to sleep at night. Preventing children from eating litchis is not easy, but the quantity of the fruit can be restricted with parental supervision. With all this health education, I was told that the disease number had come down drastically in 2016-18 compared to what it was in 2014-15. I don't know what went wrong this year.

In 2015, all primary health centres were supplied with glucometers to check the blood glucose levels of sick children. Doctors were instructed to take a blood sample for glucose estimation and, irrespective of the results, infuse 10% glucose intravenously. To correct mild hypoglycaemia, 5% glucose is enough, but here the problem is not hypoglycaemia alone, but aminoacidaemia as a result of blocked gluconeogenesis. To prevent any further back-up amino acid from accumulating, the fatty acid oxidation process has to be turned off quickly. That requires raising blood glucose level to abnormally high levels so that insulin secretion is stimulated, and that in turn turns off the gluconeogenesis.

#### No sustained health education

What Dr. Shah and I found was that if ill children are infused with 10% glucose within four hours of onset of brain dysfunction, recovery is fast and complete. If only 5% glucose is given, or if 10% glucose is not administered within four hours, recovery is unlikely. I do not have detailed information from the field, but there seem to have been some human slip-ups this time.

Glucometers have not been maintained well. Health education was not sustained. New doctors are not familiar with all the information. Instead of 10% glucose, 5% is given. Children are taken mostly to private clinics and are then referred to the Sri Krishna Medical College in Muzaffarpur city since ambulance services are free of cost and easily available. Ambulances take more than four hours to reach the city hospitals from many rural clinics. We might think each error is minor, but when all the errors add up they contribute to deaths that should have been averted.

*T. Jacob John is a retired professor of virology from CMC Vellore*

# Doctors and patients deserve better

Violence against doctors is a symptom and not the disease. Structural and policy changes in India's hospitals, and not increased security, may help in controlling it



SANJAY NAGRAL

Yet another chapter in the sickening saga of violence against doctors in India is coming to an end. It mostly ran a predictable course: junior doctors in a state-run hospital in Kolkata were attacked by the angry relatives of a patient who died there; junior doctors across West Bengal went on strike, outraged senior doctors paid lip service to their cause, medical associations went on a token strike, and there were calls for stricter laws and for increasing security for doctors. It was the usual narrative involving lumpen mobs, allegations of political instigation, unrealistic expectations from patients, overworked doctors, and calls for increased security, which included bizarre demands for bodyguards and even bouncers. Perhaps the only novelty was the rather knee-jerk and insensitive response by a Chief Minister suffering from a poll hangover, which seems to have acted as further provocation.

Will punitive action, new laws or increased security change this scenario? Will we never see an incident like this if such measures are taken? As someone who participated in a strike by junior doctors as long back as 1985 in response to an assault by a corporator in Mumbai and continues to witness such events in the public hospital where I work, I can only dismiss these as rhetorical questions. But is there something beyond this customary discourse that springs from the debris of such a fracas that we should recognise? In medical parlance, is there a disease that is producing these symptoms in recurring fashion? These are questions worth examining.

#### Examining the setting

The setting in which a majority of such incidents have taken place offer some clues. The most common scenario is that of a patient being brought to the casualty ward of a public hospital in a critical condition by family members or neighbours. If the patient does not survive, there is the reality or perception that treatment was not administered to him or her in time. The tipping point is when the staff in hospitals display insensitivity when they are questioned



about delays. It is true that the emergency wards of India's public hospitals are chaotic, disorganised and resemble conflict zones. While there are several factors that contribute to this, the complete absence of the globally recognised protocol of 'triage' is a big reason. Triage involves a rapid examination of a patient to determine whether he or she needs instant care, early care, or care that can wait. The absence of this protocol means that emergency wards are often occupied by patients with all sorts of minor injuries. Data from a study at our hospital showed that more than 90% of patients frequenting the casualty ward over a two-year period had minor injuries which could have been easily treated in a smaller setting. In India, when people go to the police with a complaint of an assault, they are advised to go to a government hospital even if they have very minor injuries, to record them to strengthen their legal case. All these patients come to the casualty ward adding to the crowd and the burden of the hospital staff. If the staff have to treat only 10% of the load of critical patients, they would do a much better job and perhaps even save lives.

The huge workload in large teaching hospitals in cities, such as in Kolkata's Nil Ratan Sarkar Medical College and Hospital, is also the result of the poor capacity of suburban and rural hospitals to handle sick patients. This uneven scenario is due to excessive centralisation of funds, staff and equipment.

#### A growing chasm

A dangerous argument that is put forth in the aftermath of such attacks is that people's expectations have increased. I am not sure what this means in a system where the bar has been set very low. Are people who see huge delays, rickety ambulances and lack of equipment or malfunctioning equipment not supposed to respond? Isn't it possible

that common citizens who see swanky private hospitals delivering quick, organised care wonder why they get such a raw deal? That they now realise that just putting an oxygen mask on an individual who is gasping for breath is not enough, a ventilator is needed? In other words, is the realisation that there is a more effective way of care, which the common man is being denied because of his or her inability to pay for it, the cause for anger which periodically explodes in a perverse manner?

One reason why laws are unlikely to work is that patients and their families or friends do not come to a hospital with a plan to attack. Attacks are impulsive responses in an emotional moment. What may work instead is softening the blow on families by examining how, where and who delivered the bad news to them. If family members in moments of intense grief are now regularly donating organs to their near and dear ones, there must be something that we are doing right. This is happening probably because the news is broken to them in a planned and organised manner by a trained transplant coordinator, usually in the sanitised setting of an intensive care unit of a large private hospital.

#### Demanding change

As members of a profession who have been trained in the method of science, we can do better than imitate the impulsive, inappropriate responses of those who attack the first doctor in sight, as well as the political class. We can certainly do better than come up with ludicrous demands such as appointing bouncers or bodyguards in hospitals. Several structural and policy changes in the way India's hospital systems work can reduce, if not eliminate, the perception that there is negligence in caring for patients. Medical associations who swing between fawning over politicians when they need favours to faux militancy after an incident, such as the one that took place in Kolkata, need to take the lead in demanding policy change.

In the heat of this debate it is worth remembering that in spite of being caught in the pincer of a tottering public health sector and an unaffordable private sector, a large majority of our patients show tremendous tolerance, resilience and trust in their interaction with us. We all deserve better.

*Sanjay Nagral is a Mumbai-based surgeon*

## SINGLE FILE

### Linking civilisation, culture and religion

We need to make sense of these terms in less exclusive ways

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

The words civilisation and culture are bandied about a lot these days. We are defensive about the first and protective of the other to a point where insulation becomes exclusion. Add religion to the two and we have a venomous plait that is near impossible to undo. Collectively we need to step back and look at these terms in perspective, if only to make sense of them in less exclusive ways and appreciate the common thread that runs through them. This is more important now as majoritarian points of view are being mistaken for, or are being passed off as, voluntary consensus.

Let's take religion first. Is mine better than yours? This is a question that has no answers, no sensible ones in any case. However much we may argue, there is much to commend in each faith and a lot to condemn in every one of them. The great philosopher, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, observed: "To admit the various descriptions of God is not to lapse into polytheism. When Yajnavalkya was called upon to state the number of gods, he started with the popular number 3306, and ended by reducing them all to one Brahman. 'This indestructible enduring reality is to be looked upon as one only.' So where is the big difference between the many faiths in India? I, for one, am proud of the juxtaposition of a temple, a mosque and a church at Palayam in my home town Thiruvananthapuram, and hail the Holkar queen of the Maratha Malwa kingdom, Ahilyabai Holkar, for preserving the Gyanvapi Mosque even as she rebuilt the Kashi Vishwanath Temple. There is a lot to learn from our past.

Culture is more problematic than religion. It is an omnibus term that hints at something good. But in the way it is deployed, it is a loaded and sinister term seeking to establish the superiority of one way of life and the inferiority of another. In his thoughtful book, *The Seduction of Culture in German History*, the sociologist Wolf Lepenies suggests a direct relationship between the German understanding of culture, which "has remained the catchword by which the Germans tried to distinguish themselves from the rest of the civilized world", and the rise of Hitler. Totalitarianism has deep roots in the collective minds of people. To be aware of it and keep it in check is a task cut out for civilisation.

As a term, civilisation is somewhat ambiguous but it strongly suggests harmony, unity, tolerance, enlightenment and confidence. But civilisation can be easily destroyed, as the renowned art historian Kenneth Clark cautions, "by cynicism and disillusion just as effectively as by bombs". That happens when, quoting Yeats in his book *Civilization*, he claims, "The best lack all conviction, while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity." How true.

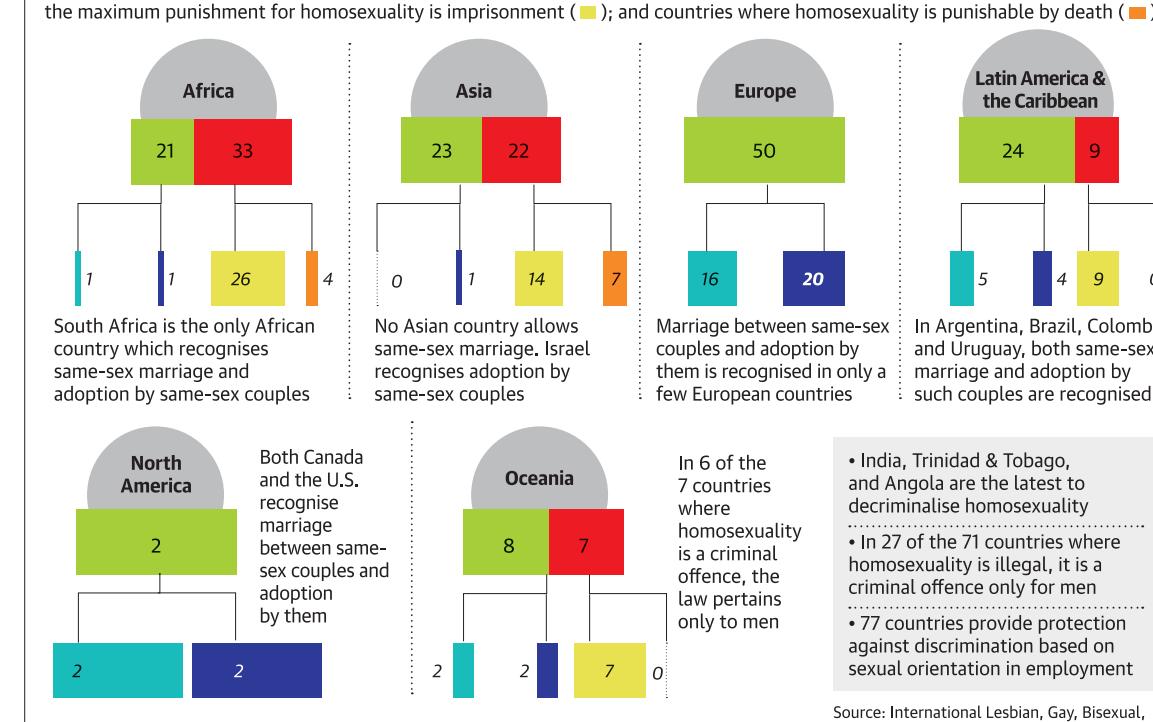
*The writer teaches at IISc, Bengaluru*



#### DATA POINT

### Not a free world yet

**How to read the graph\*** | The first rung of the flowchart shows the number of countries in each region where homosexuality is not a criminal offence (■) or is a criminal offence (■). The second rung breaks down the countries further into four groups – countries which recognise same-sex marriage (■); countries which recognise adoption by same-sex couples (■); countries where the maximum punishment for homosexuality is imprisonment (■); and countries where homosexuality is punishable by death (■).



Source: International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

#### FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1969

### P.M.'s choice of Giri not fully supported

All day to-day [June 18] and until late to-night, there was hectic political activity in the capital [New Delhi] with an endless series of high-level consultations between the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and her senior Cabinet colleagues and the principal Congress party's nominee for the Presidential election. But even after these intensive discussions, it was not clear whether Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her close supporters will be able to have their way in getting Mr. V.V. Giri nominated as the Congress candidate. The party leaders led by the Congress President, Mr. Nijalingappa, were still opposing Mr. Giri's nomination on the ground that a tried and trusted Congressman – which clearly meant one of them – should be chosen for this key post in view of the many political uncertainties ahead.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1919.

### Swadeshi Campaign

Another swadeshi cloth store to sell purely indigenous cloth was opened last night [June 18] at Morariji Goculdas Market [in Bombay] by Mr. Gandhi. One of the organisers of the movement, Mr. Narandas Poshrotamdas, in opening the proceedings said that the necessity of opening the stores arose from the fact that there had been promulgated two swadeshi vows, the pure swadeshi vow and the mixed swadeshi vow. Those who had taken the first vow found it difficult to obtain such goods from the existing stores. The stores they were opening would sell only goods manufactured from Indian yarn charging only five per cent on the cost price so that the buyers would get clothes at the cheapest rate. Mr. Gandhi in declaring the stores open, said that the swadeshi vow was necessary for the progress of a nation and if they took a vow to use swadeshi clothes only, they would achieve truth.

#### CONCEPTUAL Epistocracy

POLITICS

This refers to a form of political governance where the votes of people who are well informed about politics are weighed more heavily than the votes of people who have very little political knowledge. This is in contrast to democracy where everyone's vote is given the same weight despite the large differences in the political knowledge possessed by individual voters. The idea of epistocracy was first proposed by American political scientist Jason Brennan in his 2016 book *Against Democracy*. Supporters of epistocracy believe that such a system will incentivise people who are ignorant about politics to educate themselves in order to vote.

#### MORE ON THE WEB

Watch | The Hindu Explains: Why is the Strait of Hormuz important?

<http://bit.ly/HormuzStrait>

M ND-NDE



## MARKET WATCH

	18-06-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,046	0.22
US Dollar	69.70	0.30
Gold	33,720	19.40
Brent oil	62.71	1.78

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	421.40	-1.45
Asian Paints	1380.05	-21.90
Axis Bank	775.75	-1.95
Bajaj Auto	2855.60	19.40
Bajaj Finserv	8246.25	124.95
Bajaj Finance	3509.30	42.80
Bharti Airtel	345.15	1.15
BPCL	385.55	7.40
Britannia Ind	2867.25	-31.95
Cipla	547.60	2.45
Coal India	260.35	5.05
Dr Reddys Lab	2591.25	37.10
Eicher Motors	19731.85	4.00
GAIL (India)	308.05	2.10
Grasim Ind	879.65	0.30
HCL Tech	1089.60	14.70
HDFC	2153.00	-20.00
HDFC Bank	2417.25	-4.75
Hero MotoCorp	2667.80	19.55
Hindalco	189.95	-3.65
Hind Unilever	1809.60	-8.45
Indiabulls HFL	609.80	-44.90
ICICI Bank	422.15	7.95
IndusInd Bank	1409.00	9.35
Bharti Infratel	270.10	-2.05
Infosys	750.15	9.60
Indian Oil Corp	157.65	2.35
ITC	275.10	0.10
JSW Steel	263.55	3.35
Kotak Bank	1461.85	1.50
L&T	1505.30	6.55
M&M	625.90	0.85
Maruti Suzuki	6439.00	-142.65
NTPC	132.40	0.15
ONGC	166.15	1.75
PowerGrid Corp	197.80	3.75
Reliance Ind	1281.00	-1.30
State Bank	340.05	2.20
Sun Pharma	378.45	-4.45
Tata Motors	158.30	-0.45
Tata Steel	472.30	-0.80
TCI	2250.85	1.65
Tech Mahindra	741.55	5.00
Titan	1257.50	1.45
UltraTech Cement	4511.45	56.15
UPL	999.70	4.75
Vedanta	168.10	4.05
Wipro	298.00	-1.15
YES Bank	109.30	-6.85
Zee Entertainment	339.35	1.25

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.50	69.82
Euro	77.76	78.11
British Pound	86.98	87.41
Japanese Yen (100)	64.19	64.49
Chinese Yuan	10.04	10.09
Swiss Franc	69.51	69.86
Singapore Dollar	50.68	50.92
Canadian Dollar	51.77	52.01
Malaysian Ringgit	16.61	16.73

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

June 18 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)..... 40.1..... (39.9)

22 ct gold (1 g)..... 3145..... (3132)

## Investor sentiment lowest since 2008'

Fund managers stay away from equities and banks, prefer bonds and cash, says BofAML survey

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Concerns related to an escalating trade war, possible recession and ineffective monetary policy have made fund managers bearish to a level last seen during the sub-prime crisis of 2008.

According to the latest global fund manager survey by Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofAML), fund managers are moving away from placing bets on equities and banks and preferring bonds and cash with the cash levels with fund managers seeing the biggest jump since the 2011 U.S. debt crisis.

... pessimism driven by concerns over trade war/recession, monetary policy impotence, low strike prices for policy puts; tactical 'pain trade' is higher yields and



**Bleak future:** Cash levels with fund managers have seen the biggest jump since the 2011 U.S. debt crisis. • AFP

higher stocks, especially if Fed cuts 25 bps [basis points] Wednesday," stated the survey report released on Tuesday.

The survey, based on responses of 230 fund managers, who collectively manage assets worth \$645 billion, al-

so revealed that the global growth expectations of fund managers plunged by the largest quantum since November 1994 when the Mexican peso crisis led to an international financial crisis.

Further, the cash levels – a higher level signifies lack of

conviction – saw its biggest jump and is currently at 5.6%, which is one percentage point higher than the 10-year average of 4.6%.

The survey also showed

"huge June rotation to

bonds, cash, staples, utili-

ties, and huge rotation away

from equities, banks, Euro-

zone, tech."

Incidentally, the survey saw the second biggest ever month-on-month drop in terms of equity allocation even as growth expectations collapsed by a record 46 percentage points month-on-month to net 50% investors expecting global growth to weaken over the next 12 months.

While the survey did not specifically look at India-specific issues, the record bearish stance is likely to af-

flect equities across the world.

## China impact

The recent past has seen the equity markets in the emerging market pack, including that of India, fall on account of concerns related to the ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China.

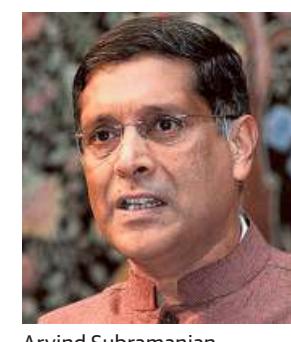
Further, the slowdown in

China has impacted markets across the world, clearly showing that no single market or economy is insulated from the global economic concerns. Incidentally, the India VIX index, which is

looked upon as a measure of

near-term volatility, has

been on the rise in the last few trading sessions as investors remained jittery over the trade war happening between India and the U.S.



Arvind Subramanian

'Ex-CEA's paper does not consider key indicators'

'Agri-, services-related metrics ignored'

## Lenders move NCLT against Jet Airways

Remaining directors Ashok Chawla and Sharad Sharma quit carrier's board

## SALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI)-led consortium of lenders on Tuesday started insolvency proceedings by dragging defaulter Jet Airways (India) Ltd. and its promoters to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

Jet, 51% owned by Naresh Goyal and 24% by Etihad Airways, owes about ₹8,000 crore to a consortium of lenders.

The airline has a total liabilities, including bank loans, of about ₹25,000 crore. A petition had been filed in the Mumbai bench of NCLT to recover the dues, lenders confirmed. The petition is expected to come up for hearing on Wednesday.

Reacting to the news, the Jet Airways stock plunged



54% intraday to finally close the day at ₹40.45, down 40.78% on the BSE.

Meanwhile, the two remaining directors on its board, Ashok Chawla and Sharad Sharma, resigned.

In a regulatory filing, Jet Airways said they left "in view of the board continuing to be in non-compliance

with the provisions of the Companies Act and no additional directors being appointed and the process of bank-led resolution plan not moving forward."

Mr. Goyal, who was eased out by the banks in March along with his wife Anita Goyal to facilitate the entry of a new buyer, expressed sadness over the development which landed Jet in NCLT after complete erosion of value.

"I feel sad and deeply distressed mainly for our loyal employees, who have waited for months and hopefully awaiting for a positive outcome to the bank-led resolution plan," Mr. Goyal said in a statement.

"I can only hope and pray that even now a solution can emerge and Jet can fly and

fulfil the needs not only of the employees but for air travellers who feel the absence of the Joy of Flying," he said.

## Etihad's response

In an e-mailed response to a query by *The Hindu*, Etihad Airways said it did its best to salvage the airline and would continue the efforts in the rescue plan.

Jet Airways employees expressed shock on the development and said it was too late to revive the airline.

"What is left now of Jet?... The NCLT process will take time and all the value will be wiped out. Even if a bidder comes, there will [be] no pilots, engineers and employees left to fly any plane if," said Rohit Chaudhary, senior commander, Jet Airways.

The central bank added that the examination in this regard revealed violations of the RBI directions on KYC/AML norms and on reporting of frauds.

## RBI slaps ₹1 cr. penalty on HDFC Bank

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a ₹1 crore penalty on private sector lender HDFC Bank for violating know your customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering (AML) norms, the central bank said on Tuesday.

"RBI had received a reference from customs' authorities regarding submission of forged bill of entries (BoEs) by certain importers to the bank for remittance of foreign currency," the RBI said.

The central bank added that the examination in this regard revealed violations of the RBI directions on KYC/AML norms and on reporting of frauds.

## Industrial output

"You could say, perhaps, that the variable used is im-



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CMYK

M ND-NDE

Also flag data provisions in draft e-commerce policy

## TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

NEW DELHI

E-commerce companies on Monday voiced their concerns about the Reserve Bank of India's data localisation norms with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

They also highlighted the data-related provisions of the draft e-commerce policy during the meeting. Mr. Goyal asked them to submit their concerns in writing within 10 days and assured them that his Ministry would take them on board.

**Towards a framework</**

## IN BRIEF



## SEBI allows futures on commodity indices

MUMBAI The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed exchanges with commodity derivatives segment to launch futures contracts on commodity indices. The capital markets regulator further said that exchanges wanting to launch such futures contracts would have to take its approval and submit at least three years' data of the index constructed along with certain other data.

## Essel fiasco: HDFC AMC stock tanks 6.3%

NEW DELHI Shares of HDFC Asset Management Company dropped 6.32% to close at ₹1,807.75 on the BSE on Tuesday after it decided to provide liquidity to some fixed maturity plan schemes of HDFC MF that have exposure to Essel Group firms. The move assumes significance with the mutual fund industry grappling with liquidity crisis after concerns over the ability of Essel Group and IL&FS to meet their debt obligations. PTI

## Cognizant to buy Irish firm Zenith Technologies

BENGALURU Cognizant has agreed to acquire Ireland-based Zenith Technologies for an undisclosed value. The buy will strengthen Cognizant's Internet of Things capabilities and life sciences domain expertise. Zenith Technologies specialises in implementing digital technologies to manage and optimise drug and medical device production for operational efficiency and regulatory compliance.

# Bajaj Holdings acquires majority control in Maharashtra Scooters

Tussle ends; BHIL's holding in MSL rises to 51%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

After a long legal battle, WMDC (Western Maharashtra Development Corporation), a Government of Maharashtra undertaking, has transferred its 27% stake in Maharashtra Scooters Ltd. (MSL) to Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd. (BHIL) for ₹71.58 crore plus 18% interest from January 2006.

WMDC has transferred 3,085,712 shares at a price of ₹232 a share compared with ₹151.63 which BHIL was willing to pay previously.

BHIL said it had made the necessary payment to WMDC by way of cheques on January 14, 2019 and the



Piecing together: WMDC has transferred about 3.1 million shares at ₹232 apiece. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

shares had been transferred.

Upon the acquisition of 27% stake of MSL from WMDC, BHIL's holding has increased to 51% in MSL and thus, MSL has become a subsidiary of BHIL with effect from June 17, 2019, the company said. MSL, which was incorporated on June 11, 1975 as a joint sector company promoted by Bajaj Auto Ltd.

(BAL) and WMDC Ltd., started manufacturing geared scooters from August 13, 1976, in technical collaboration with the erstwhile BAL.

WMDC, in 2003, offered to sell its 27% shareholding in MSL and Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd. had confirmed its willingness to buy these shares. But since WMDC and BHIL could not agree on a price, the price at which the shares were to be sold was jointly referred to a sole arbitrator that valued MSL at ₹151.63 a share. But the WMDC challenged it in the Bombay High Court and filed a special leave petition.

The Supreme Court ordered the revised price.

## Readymade garment exports rise in May

'Government scheme aids industry'

M. SOUNDARIYI PREETHA  
COIMBATORE

Export of readymade garments has increased 9.25% in April-May this year compared to the corresponding period last year.

"This is clearly because of the support announced by the government in March 2019 for garments and made-ups," said Sanjay K. Jain, chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry. The Centre announced a Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) in March.

"There has been pick up (in exports) during these two months (in April and May). We are awaiting operationalisation of the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies," ac-

cording to Chandrima Chatterjee, adviser, Apparel Export Promotion Council.

Garment exports grew 14.15% in May compared with the same period at last year. Garments worth \$1,528.02 million were exported in May this year compared with \$1,338.57 million in May last year. Mr. Jain said. However, textile exports dropped 1.94% in May this year compared with last May. "We are just two months into this financial year. As we go along, export of textiles will pick up."

"There is a slowdown in China and so, export of yarn and fabric to this market was down," said Siddhartha Rajagopal, executive director, Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

## Tea Board, injunction in pact for tea e-marketplace

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The Tea Board has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with injunction Ltd. for introducing a new e-marketplace for tea.

The initiative is expected to improve cost-effectiveness and price-discovery. The new system is expected to be in place by September.

The MoU is to design, develop, implement and maintain the e-auction platform at Jorhat, Assam and injunction has been appointed as the system integrator.

"[The] Tea Board will be provided an inclusive e-marketplace platform that will help in cost effectiveness and time management and secondary and tertiary buyers from all over the country are expected to get on board," injunction said. Though Assam grows the largest quantity of tea in India, it has only one auction centre and the process of production-to-payment takes over a month. injunction plans to shorten this cycle with features like automated catalogue management.

Tea Board officials said that they were introducing the platform to push price discovery. The platform is likely to initially handle about 200 million kg of tea which is grown in the vicinity of Jorhat.

injunction MD and CEO Vinaya Verma said that the upcoming tea e-marketplace in Jorhat would help the company make a difference to a large number of buyers and sellers, giving them access to a wide range of services from a single platform.

## Revolt unveils its first electric bike

Promises mileage of 156 km on a single charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler start up Revolt Intellicorp on Tuesday unveiled its first electric motorcycle – the RV400.

The company, founded by co-founder of Micromax Rahul Sharma, will roll out the bike in Delhi initially, followed by the national capital region, Chennai, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Nagpur and Ahmedabad in the next four months.

The bike, which comes enabled with artificial intelligence features, promises to give a mileage of 156 km on a single charge. The pre-bookings for the bike start from June 25 via the company's website as well as Amazon's.

"The RV400 is the first step towards providing sus-



Charged up: Pre-bookings for the RV400 start from June 25 via the company's website and Amazon's. ■ KAMAL NARANG

tainable, affordable mobility to every Indian home," Mr. Sharma said.

To give customers options for charging, the Gurugram-headquartered firm will also set up "swapping stations,"

initially across Delhi where riders can swap their batteries. The rider can "easily remove" the portable battery to charge at home or office, the company said in a statement.

## Cotton imports may rise to 22 lakh bales during the current season

Lower international prices lead to surge in shipments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
COIMBATORE

Import of cotton in the 2018-2019 cotton season is expected to be 22 lakh bales, almost seven lakh bales higher compared with the previous season.

The Cotton Advisory Board, which met on Tuesday, estimated (provisional) cotton production this season (October 2018 to September 2019) to be 337 lakh bales of 170 kg each.

"Though the area under cotton has been almost the same for the last two years, productivity has dropped. The board, in its previous meeting, estimated production in the current season to be 361 lakh bales. However,



"In our estimate, the actual imports can be between 28 lakh bales and 30 lakh bales when the season ends. The board has estimated it to be 22 lakh bales," he added.

The international price of cotton is lower compared to the domestic price. It is not just the mills, but traders are also importing, especially African cotton. There are offers for American cotton too, added J. Thulasidharan, president of Indian Cotton Federation.

Meanwhile, cotton consumption (total demand) during the current season is expected to be lower at 361.5 lakh bales as against 386.65 lakh bales last season.

## A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU  
IN SCHOOL

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WRITTEN BY A.S. GANESH

ILLUSTRATED BY CHIDANAND SEKAR

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# SMALLER, QUICKER, SHARPER

Digital advertising is blending with the traditional, to create an interesting jugalbandhi, where the giants must be light and nimble

SHUBHO SENGUPTA

I jumped into digital advertising about 10 years ago, after a longish stint in traditional advertising (TV and print-driven, mostly). Digital those days was mostly website banners with offers, spammy mailers and brochure-type websites, and clients would normally allocate 2-3% of the marketing budget, to the medium.

Today, digital advertising is set to grow at 31.96% CAGR, according to a Dentsu Aegis Network Digital Report released earlier this year. The Indian advertising market itself is estimated to grow at 10.62% CAGR until 2021. So while digital has about 17% of the market share now, this is only going to rise. Last year, a report by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Kantar IMRB put down this growth to the trust people were beginning to have in online advertising.

Increasingly, digital jobs are replacing older, traditional roles: at the Dentsu Aegis Network (a top Japanese-held network of ad agencies), 1,600 out of a total 3,500 employees now exclusively work on digital, contributing to nearly 50% of revenues. A creative director in digital at a mid-sized agency gets about 25 lakh upwards, annually. And a top digital agency could charge ₹8 lakh a month as just creative fees, unheard of 10 years ago.

As we go to press, Webchutney,

the digital agency, has got more award nominations than traditional ad agencies at the 2019 Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, held every year in France. Webchutney also won 14 awards at the recently held Kyoorius Creative Awards. Meaning they were neck to neck with the bigger, traditional Ogilvy's 15. "This is the most definitive indicator that the digital vs mainline agency battle is over. They are now pean in a pod, birds of a feather," says Siddharth Rao, the co-founder of Webchutney. One of the most recognised digital faces in the country, he held up his agency's winning entry Haggie Bot, as an example of this.

Webchutney and Google Zoo Australia (the Google creative think tank) worked for over four months on Haggie Bot, which let Flipkart customers 'haggle' online during its Big Billion sale. Such partnership was impossible to even think of a few years ago, when a digital agency would typically 'execute' the big, traditional agency's work. (A lot of my work as digital lead at a famous



cola brand was uploading TV ads on YouTube.)

"Yes, it's true digital is center-stage, but look closer and you'll realise there are a lot of traditional agencies that have started doing good digital work," says Anant Rangaswami, Kyoorius advisor, an author and journalist. "In 2011, I had asked if traditional 'brand' agencies would do digital or would it be vice versa, and I think the answer is emerging now." Here a few top creative leaders from cities that are advertising hotspots, on what's going on in India, good, bad, ugly.

## Delhi

Satbir Singh, co-founder of Thinkstr, the writer of the much-loved and awarded Incredible India campaign, says not much disruptive work has come out of Delhi in the past one year; odd, considering the bigger clients and bigger budgets were here.

Barring a few, like the BJP campaign. "Unlike most brand campaigns that release one piece across media to become 'integrated,' the BJP and their creative teams used all media touchpoints brilliantly. Ten out of ten." Incidentally, Thinkstr is the start-up that launched the #StartupIndia project a few years ago, with a fresh, bold approach.



## Mumbai

Malvika Mehra, the two-time Cannes Gold Lion and D&AD pencil winner points out how large-network agencies are investing in smaller 'intellectual' specialist hubs. Malvika, after longish stints at Ogilvy and Grey, had started Tomorrow Creative Lab, a design innovation lab that married design and technology. The country's biggest advertisers (such as Hindustan Unilever) quickly approached her with work, and soon the big networks came calling. Last month, Dentsu picked up a stake and it's now Dentsu India Tomorrow Lab.

A clutch of new 'integrated marketing', digital-driven agencies have come out of Mumbai, and Harshil Karla's Schibang leads the pack with 50 new accounts and 28 awards in the past year. Harshil feels the future is all about the creative use of technology.

Ashish Khazanchi, ex-Ogilvy, and the founder of the very successful Enormous Brands agrees the biggest disruptor has been tech. "In the past, it was one strategy for all of India; now thanks to technology, we can have as many strategies as number of people." He loved the Carvaan (digital radio player) work out of Mumbai, by The Womb. The idea for the product itself was the agency's. Also noteworthy is the Enormous campaign for Motorola, an on-ground campaign that focused on reviving small, travelling cinemas in Maharashtra, through the 'projector', a Moto phone.

Finally, DDB Mudra's 'Free Period', where the agency partnered with Stayfree to create a vocational-training programme for sex workers held during the days the women have their menstrual periods. Such brilliance.



## FOOD REVIEW

# Going with the gut

Nut and Bowls is a vegan delivery service and cafe, run by a strictly vegan husband-wife duo

my house-made almond mylk (which they say is 30% almonds as opposed to packaged mylk the nut content of which is in the single digits), with organic cacao, peanut butter, banana and dates blended in. The neat strips of cacao nibs, house-made granola, shaved coconut toppings, and a couple of frozen strawberry slices add just enough texture if you're not into drinking your breakfast.



If you're a millennial, you definitely want to give into the stereotype here for their Smashed Avocado Toast. The tang of lime and tomato is just right, and the garnish of pomegranate and microgreens makes the fresh dish even fresher.

Also, their Zoodles with the Creamy Basil Pesto, especially if you look down upon gluten-free pasta. They make the zucchini noodles (just as anything else on the menu) only upon order, in the kitchen nook that's right in front of

**A happy tummy** A view of the toasts at Nut and Bowls, including the Smashed Avocado Toast (below) and a housemade mint and chilli dip (top right)

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the tables. The hot and creamy cashew-based "white sauce" might convince you that you don't really need butter to make things better.

Buy their Bliss Balls off the counter before you pay and leave. The classic vegan and paleo-friendly snack, made of dates, cacao, and nuts is easy to carry on-the-go, for that post-lunch, pre-dinner dip in blood-sugar levels.

**Skip:** The Quinoa Beetroot burger. The patty of sprouted quinoa, beetroot, and black-beans is interesting, but the multigrain bun is thick and makes the experience is thick and makes the experience

**Go with:** A book, laid-back friends, a relaxed date; or a parent or older cousin, if it's for a post-shopping recharge smoothie.

**Space bar:** 15 covers in a just over 250-square-foot space; child-friendly, but not for kids of the running-around age, given the open kitchen and space crunch

**How much?** ₹900 for two

**Reach:** Best to drive. Chirag Delhi on the Magenta Line is the closest metro station, but that's still a 10-minute car ride away.

## PRODUCTS

### Li'l girl power



In their 20th year now, the Powerpuff Girls, high-energy pint-size superheroes with slightly squeaky voices, but big courage, are on apparel and accessories available on the POPxo online store. Sweatshirts, phone covers, wall clocks, notebooks, the collection is based on Cartoon Network's animated crime-fighting trio Bubbles, Blossom and Buttercup. Even on the products, they confront arch-rivals Mojo Jojo, HIM and Fuzzy Lumpkins.

Available at popxo.com, ₹399 upward

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



### EXHIBITION

**On Joel Rendón**  
The Embassy of Mexico in India in collaboration with India International Centre is presenting an exhibition titled Joel Rendón: Mexican Master Engraver. Considered one of the best engravers in Mexico, Rendón has devoted his life to generate a movement that will revalue engraving in Mexico and abroad.  
**VENUE:** Art Gallery, IIC Annex  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### FOOD

**Breakfast menu**  
Anglow Whisky Bar and Anglo Indian Kitchen is curating a special breakfast with Poached Eggs, Bacon Devilled Eggs, Classical Scrambled Eggs, Baked Beans and Gunpowder Scrambled Eggs, Malabar Paratha. The Vegetarian menu includes Healthy Oat Upma, Power Up Kedgeree and Spinach and Brie Cheese Crepes.  
**VENUE:** 57, Khan Market  
**TIME:** 9 a.m. onwards

### FILM

**A Sticky Wicket**  
Directed by Yasmin Kidwai and Fazal Kidwai, A Sticky Wicket will be screened today. The film shows how sports empowers, irrespective of gender, and sets one free, physically, mentally, and emotionally. The screening of the film, which is set in an urban slum of Delhi, will be followed by a discussion.  
**VENUE:** C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.

### MUSIC

**Blues night**  
Lost Radio duo Sushant and Diyatoma will play a set titled Big Bang Blues. The duo, known for performing all-acoustic acts featuring a wide genre of music including blues, country and classic rock-retro covers, will entertain audiences with hummable tunes.  
**VENUE:** Saints N Sinners, GF-21 Global Foyer, Golf Course Road, Sector 43, Gurugram  
**TIME:** 8:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

### ART

**Polish posters**  
The India International Centre and the Polish Institute is holding Between Art Deco and Modernism - Polish posters from 1918-1939, an exhibition of archival posters from the collection of the Poster Museum at Wilanow. Poster design is a source of national pride in the larger Polish artistic tradition.  
**VENUE:** Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, IIC  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

# Preparing your car for the MONSOON

Get your car rain-ready by sending it for service and ensuring these must-dos are followed



JAIVEER MEHRA

As the monsoons near, we begin to prepare for it – umbrellas are brought out from storage, rain coats are purchased. In the same way, your car also needs to be prepared for the onset of the rainy season.

Here are some points that should be looked into while readying a car for the monsoon months.

## Tyres

With the onset of the monsoon, having a set of tyres with a good amount of tread is a must. Wet roads have heavily compromised traction, made worse by water occasionally mixing with leaked oil and other vehicular fluids. The treads on your tyres help in channelling this mix away from contact surfaces, thereby improving grip. Today, most tyres have tread-wear indicators – a small rubber bar between the grooves on a tyre – built into them. As your tyre rubber wears down, the tread indicator starts thinning out, too. Once the tread indicator wears off, it's definitely time to replace the tyres.

## Wiring and battery

Water and electrics are two things that don't work well together. You don't just

**Be equipped** Learn how to better protect your car from the elements  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## POOCH CAFE



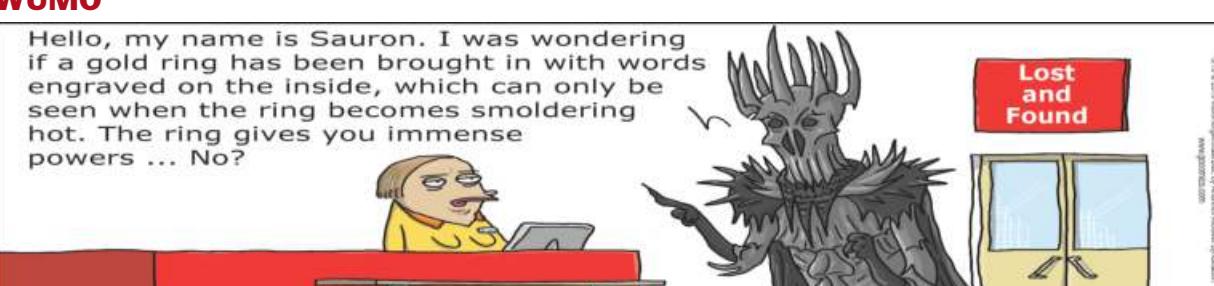
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## TIGER



## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



JAIVEER MEHRA

need to make sure that your car's electrics are in good working order, but you also need to check the condition of the maze of exposed wiring running around your car. Improper wiring or those with the insulation peeling off have a good chance of shorting, especially when they come into contact with water, and that can be a safety hazard to you and others as well.

Take a patient look at visible cables and also make sure any aftermarket electrical fittings are wired using high-quality cables. If they aren't, it wouldn't be unrealistic to expect a short circuit with highly unpleasant consequences – least of which will be a void warranty.

It is also advisable to make sure your battery is in proper working shape. Have it replaced if required, as monsoons generally require heavier use of electrical components such as lights, wipers, etc.

## Running lights

Working headlamps, tail-lamps and turn signals are a minimum requirement, no matter what the weather. However, heat-



crease braking distances, and there is also a chance of failure. You can test your brakes at home by starting the engine, letting your car idle for a while and pressing the brake pedal with uniform

moisture, as it will be an indicator of the car having a leak.

Rusting too is a major issue, and it's best to have the rusted areas treated or replaced before it spreads. Cars tend to be more prone to rusting in the wet season, given the higher levels of moisture and variations in temperature.

## Paint and body work

While leaks in the rubber seals around the car can cause rusting, another area of concern is places where the paint coat has been damaged. Exposed metal is more prone to rusting, and it's best to get these areas repaired at the earliest, as rusting can make the problem worse.



force – if the pedal continues to sink, there might be a leak in the system. Also, if you feel a judder in the brake pedal during your daily driving, it could mean the pads have worn out and need to be replaced.

Make sure your car's braking system is properly inspected by a professional, and change worn-out components as soon as possible. A well-maintained set of brakes is one of your biggest friends in the rains – particularly so, as braking distances are longer on wet roads.

## Wipers and washers

Check your wiper blades to see if they leave behind any smudges or lines of water on the windscreen. If they leave either, it is time to have them changed, as during the monsoons you will be required to use them almost every day. Owing to infrequent use throughout the year, and particularly in the summer, the rubber on the blades tends to crack, making the wipers ineffective for when you need them the most.



It is also important to keep the wiper-washer fluids topped up with soap water (or wind-shield water fluid) as sticky debris can be difficult to clear from the wind-shield and might also damage it. Make sure to keep an eye on the washer reservoir level and top it up as and when it runs low.

## Leaks and rust

Given our weather conditions, it isn't uncommon for rubber seals around panels such as sunroofs, windows or wind-shield to begin to leak over the years. Also, a rather common occurrence is the clogging of drain holes located around the car, that can cause rust if water accumulates in the area.

It is best to identify the source of leaks as soon as possible and have them rectified; the drain holes can be unclogged after proper service and cleaning. Check around the windows, sunroof, door sills and carpets for signs of

Also, keep the underside of your car clean, as well as clear of the road's grime and dirt; these are what lead to chassis corrosion. A coat of polish after a wash is highly recommended, as it not only makes your car look shiny, but also forms a protective layer on the body.

## Pre-monsoon service

Sending your car for servicing is essentially a one-shot opportunity at having most of the above issues identified and fixed, including those that you may miss or are unable to rectify yourself.

You can also opt for professional cleaning and polishing packages, as part of the service, to better protect your car from the elements.

## Spares

The monsoons can be incredibly unpredictable at times, with spells of bright sunshine making way for heavy rains and vice versa. It is a good idea to keep a few items handy in your car, especially at this time of the year. While unrelated to the car itself, keep spares like an umbrella, a set of clothes and a spare towel in the car, in case you do get caught out and it starts to rain. Those aside, it's also convenient to have spares for components such as the wiper blades and fuses on hand. For car emergencies, have phone numbers handy.

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13100

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- 3 War (5,8)  
4 Tricky question (6)  
5 Scottish dance (8,5)  
6 French president (6)  
7 Liverpool's river (6)  
12 Pound, American poet (4)  
14 Shakespearean king (4)  
15 Cower (6)  
16 One who fails to arrive (2-4)  
17 Elder (6)  
19 Courageous (5)  
20 Adversary (5)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated June 20, 2019.

Solution No. 13099

- Across  
1 Small dried seedless grape (7)  
8 Meater (anag) – Qatar, for example (7)  
23 One of Harpo's brothers (7)  
24 Mischievousness – rascally tricks (7)  
■ Down  
1 Banter – corn husks (5)  
2 Cook in an oven (5)

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## TV PICKS

**ICC World Cup:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.  
**FIFA Women's World Cup:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

## Veteran coach Lingappa passes away

## SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU  
Veteran athletics coach N. Lingappa, 95, passed away due to age-related illness on Tuesday here. Lingappa, who had trained several international athletes during the course of his over 60-year career, received the Dronacharya Award in 2014.

## Lakshmi Sahithi stuns Yubrani

## SPORTS BUREAU

CHANDIGARH  
Qualifier Lakshmi Sahithi Reddy beat top seed Yubrani Banerjee 7-6(6), 6-1 in the women's pre-quarterfinals of the ₹200,000 AITA ranking tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

**Pre-quarterfinals: Men:** Mohit Mayur bt Udayan Bhakar 6-3, 6-1; Neeraj Yashpal bt Garry Tokas 6-4, 6-0; Suraj Prabodh bt LR Balaji 6-2, 6-0; Hardeep Singh Sandhu bt Athvara Sharma 6-4, 6-2; Jagmeet Singh bt Shubham Malhotra 7-6(5), 6-4; Dalwinder Singh bt Sai Kartee Reddy 7-5, 6-3; Puru Upadhyay bt Karan Singh 6-3, 3-0 (retired); VM Ranjeet bt Kavin Masilamani 6-2, 6-3.

**Women:** Lakshmi Sahithi Reddy bt Yubrani Banerjee 7-6 (6), 6-1; Preerna Bhambrat Sarah Dev 6-1, 6-1; Sravya Shivani bt Akanksha Nitture 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(4); Avika Sagwal bt Shilpi Swarupa Das 4-1 (retd.); Renne Singhal bt Rashi Malviya 6-4, 6-4; Kashish Bhatia bt Aana Almas 6-3, 6-1; Bhargavi Kalaga bt Rutuparna Choudhary 6-3, 6-1; Salsa Aher bt Ayush Singh 6-0, 6-0.

## + Heartbreak for Sasi Kumar

## SPORTS BUREAU

FERGANA (UZBEKISTAN)  
Fifth seed Sasi Kumar Mukund lost his way from the brink of victory and was beaten 3-6, 7-6(2), 6-2 by Altug Celikbilek of Turkey in the second round of the \$54,160 Challenger tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

**The results: \$54,160 Challenger, Fergana, Uzbekistan: Singles (second round):** Altug Celikbilek (Tur) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 3-6, 7-6(2), 6-2.

**First round:** Sidharth Rawat bt Vladislav Manafov (Ukr) 7-6(2), 6-2.

**\$25,000 ITF men, Harare: Singles (first round):** Takanyi Garanganga (Zim) bt Rishi Reddy 6-2, 6-2; S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Constantine Bitoun Kouzmine (Fra) 6-1, 6-2; Guy Orly Iradukunda (Bdi) bt Dhruv Sunish 6-4, 6-4; Simon Yitbarek (Swe) bt Ishaque Eqbal 7-5, 6-4.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Muzi Sibanda (Zim) & Dhruv Sunish bt Niklas Johansson (Swe) & Anurag Nenwani 6-3, 7-5.

## ATK signs Roy Krishna

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA  
Former champion ATK drafted in Fijian striker Roy Krishna as its first international signing ahead of the sixth season of Indian Super League, on Tuesday.

R Krishna, who has captained the Fiji national side, had the best part of his club career in New Zealand.

He last played as a striker for Wellington Phoenix FC, which competes in the Australian A-League, and became the top-scorer of A-League scoring 18 goals in 25 appearances.

ATK, which has recalled the Spanish coach Antonio Habas after two failed seasons under English coaches, will be hoping that Krishna continues with his form in his first Asian assignation.

## Divij Sharan looks to step on it

He's happy to have qualified for the ATP-500 event in Halle

## TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

Divij Sharan is totally devoted to his tennis, travelling across the globe. Despite not having regular partners, he has managed to get good results in the professional circuit, in which he feels "doubles is crazy, especially on grass".

Happy to have qualified for the ATP-500 event in Halle, Divij said that he would be partnering Marcelo Demoliner of Brazil till Wimbledon.

"Earlier, players used to make a team for the whole year. Now, in a few weeks or maybe two to three months, players in the top-30 to 40 rankings change partners if things do not work well," said Divij from Halle.

## Different world

"It is a different world. We are travelling all the time. Only when I come home briefly,

once in a while, I get to know what is happening," said the 32-year-old Divij, who made it to the Wimbledon quarterfinals last year.

He did start the season well by winning the Pune ATP event with Rohan Bopanna apart from the Davis Cup doubles rubber against Italy in Kolkata. Then, the two opted to part ways in pursuit of higher goals, after the Phoenix Challenger in the second week of March, and ended up facing each other in the first round of the ATP event in Munich.

## Quick changes

"In the match tie-break, we were up 8-2 or so and then Bopanna and partner were leading 9-8."

"We managed to pull it off at 12-10. Doubles matches change very quickly," recalled Divij, who went on to make the final in that event with Demoliner, in only their



New arrangement: Divij Sharan will partner Marcelo Demoliner of Brazil till Wimbledon. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

fourth tournament as a pair.

"In Stuttgart, we had 10 match points against Denys Molchanov and Artem Sitak. Eight of them were on their serve. Not that we played bad. We had two match

points on our serve, and they played great points. I take it in my stride. But Demoliner is quite serious about his tennis and feels the loss more," said Divij.

With Jeevan Nedunchezhi-

yan, Purav Raja, Leander Paes, Sriram Balaji, Vishnu Vardhan being regular on the doubles circuit, there is a strong Indian presence from Challengers upwards.

## Good sign

"It is good that we have so many of our players in the tournaments. We get along well. Singles is hard, but Sumit Nagal is getting good results now after being a bit down," said Divij.

"Somdev (Devvarman) had the best fitness and did a great job at this level. Looking at Rafael Nadal, it is amazing how he has been able to cope with it despite all the injuries and still find a way to win the French Open," said Divij.

With the World Cup cricket on, Divij said that he would like to catch up with the action once in England as it was difficult to watch cricket on television in some of the European countries.

## IOA heaves a sigh of relief

Sports Ministry guarantees participation to all athletes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The confusion and threat around international sporting events to be hosted by India seems to have abated after the Sports Ministry categorically reaffirmed that all qualified athletes from all recognised countries would be allowed participation regardless of political issues.

## Clarifies position

In a letter to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Tuesday, the ministry clarified its position and guaranteed participation to all athletes.

"It is the policy of the government that India will hold international sporting events and will permit all qualified athletes belonging to any NOC recognised by IOC, or any national federation affiliated to the International Federations concerned, to participate.

"Such participation of athletes shall be without prejudice to our principled positions and policies on other political matters, including issues such as international recognition or otherwise of

## Positive

"The Sports Minister and sports secretary were extremely positive and helpful for an urgent and immediate resolution for this issue. My sincere thanks to the office-

bearers, executive board and all members of the IOA for their unconditional support and trust which motivated and encouraged me," IOA president Narinder Batra said.

It may be noted that India had lost quota places in two events at the shooting World Cup earlier this year due to lack of visas for Pakistani shooters, followed by loss of hosting rights for the Junior Asian wrestling championship in March.

"Last year, there had been trouble after a Kosovan boxer was denied visa for the Women's World Championships.

However, things had eased a bit after the IOC clarified to *The Hindu* in March this year that there was no blanket ban on India's hosting rights in an important sporting year with several Olympic qualifying events scheduled and that every international federation was free to assess the impact and act accordingly regarding events in India.

Nevertheless, IFs and IOC had been insisting on government guarantees for international events.

Neveretheless, IFs and IOC had been insisting on government guarantees for international events.

The youngsters were in energetic form, and endured

## Kiran Jadhav trumps strong field for air rifle gold

## SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Kiran Jadhav of Navy beat a strong field, that included the Asian Games gold medalist Deepak Kumar, to win the gold in men's air rifle in the 19th Kumar Surendra Singh shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range in Tughlakabad on Tuesday.

The brilliance of Jadhav was such that he not only won the gold with a 2.2 point margin over Youth Olympics silver medalist Shahu Tushar Mane, but had also topped qualification with 631.2 ahead of Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, in a field that had 322 shooters.

The youngsters were in energetic form, and endured



On target: Kiran Jadhav struck it rich. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

back-to-back three finals with ease.

Mane looked to have preserved the best for the youth competition, as he beat Dhanush Srikanth by 0.5 point with a fine last shot.

In the women's rifle 3-position, Olympian Gurpreet Singh won the gold, with a 581, beating Achal Pratap Singh Grewal and Vijayveer Sidhu by six points.

**The results: 10m air rifle: Men:**

Shahu Tushar Mane 250.1 (629.2), 3. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 228.7 (631.0).

**Junior men:** 1. Dhanush Srikanth 252.5 (627.1), 2. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 251.9 (631.0), 3. Surya Pratap Singh 229.0 (623.3).

**Youth men:** 1. Shahu Tushar Mane 251.1 (629.2), 2. Dhanush Srikanth 250.6 (627.1), 3. Surya Pratap Singh 229.0 (623.3).

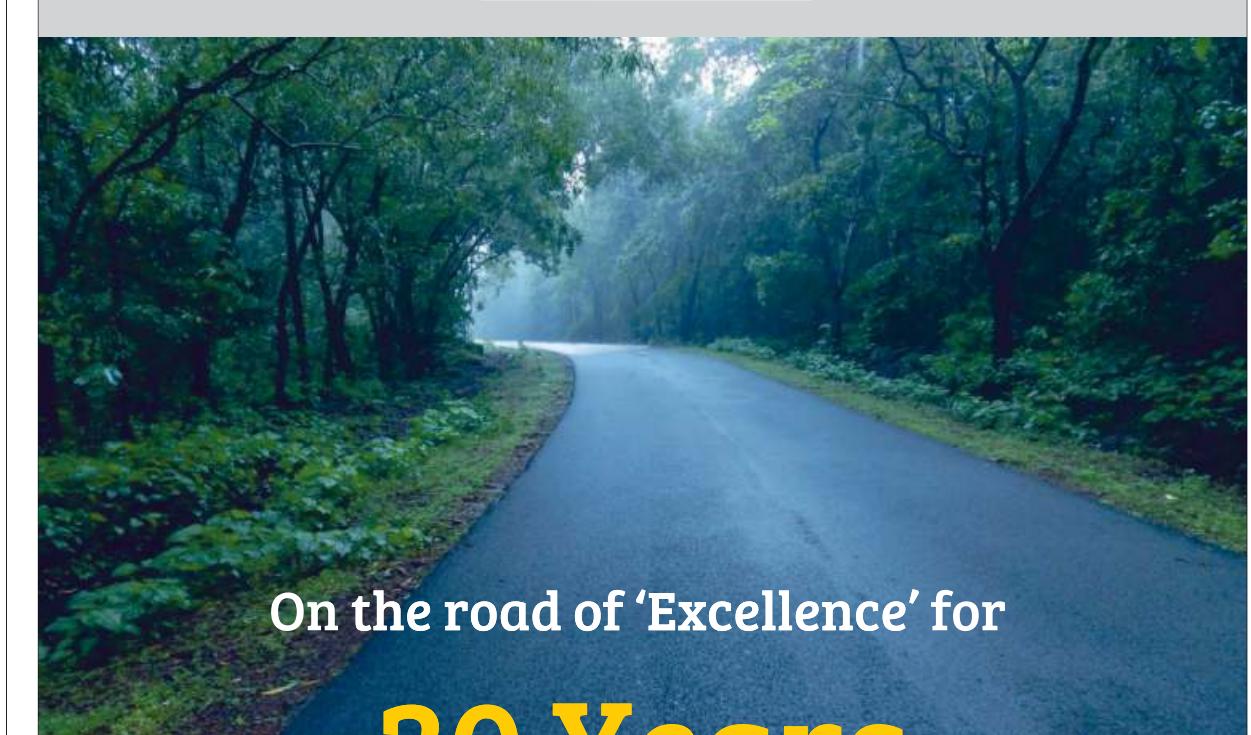
**50m rifle 3-position: Women:** 1. Tejaswini Sawant 455.7 (1155), 2. Lajja Gauswami 451.0 (1149), 3. Anjali Bhagwat 439.3 (1150).

**Junior women:** 1. Nischal 454.5 (1159), 2. Zenab Hussain Bandookwala 446.8 (1136), 3. Yashika Shinde 432.9 (1126).

**25m standard pistol: Men:** 1. Gurpreet Singh 581, 2. Achal Pratap Singh Grewal 575, 3. Vijayveer Sidhu 575.

**Junior men:** 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 575, 2. Dilshaan Kelley 572, 3. Anish Bhanwala 569.

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