



## IAS FOUNDATION 2019-20 FREE WORKSHOP IAS 2019-20

WEEKDAY BATCH STARTS  
**5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019**  
MORNING : 7:00 AM TO 9:30 AM | AFTERNOON : 2:00 PM TO 4:30 PM  
EVENING : 5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

WEEKEND BATCH STARTS  
**20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019**  
SATURDAY : 3:00 PM TO 8:00 PM | SUNDAY : 9:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

**21<sup>ST</sup> JULY (Sunday) at 4.30 PM**

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### NEARBY



'Govt. has ignored benefits of cannabis'

NEW DELHI  
There is not a single document which shows that cannabis is lethal to humans, a social cause litigation has claimed before the Delhi High Court in its pursuit to bring an end to various existing laws in India that prohibit and criminalise its use.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

**GS TEST SERIES - 2020** **21<sup>st</sup> Starts July**  
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**HISTORY**  
**MALUKA IAS** C 9910133084  
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**FRIDAY REVIEW** ▶ 8 PAGES  
(TABLOID)

## Karnataka CM asked to prove majority by 1.30 p.m. today

Govt's fall appears imminent as Governor sets deadline; rebels to skip session

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

In what came as a shock to the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government in Karnataka, Governor Vajubhai Vala has directed Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to prove his majority by 1.30 p.m. on the floor of the Assembly on Friday.

With the rebel MLAs resolute in their stand that they will not attend the session, the fall of the 13-month-old government appears imminent.

The Governor's direction came after the House adjourned earlier on Thursday amid a heated debate without a vote on the confidence motion moved by the Chief Minister.



**Sleeping over:** B.S. Yeddyurappa sleeping in the Assembly Hall in protest on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This was despite the Governor sending a message to Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar, expressing a desire that the House complete the pro-

cess by the end of the day. The ruling party leaders, who had argued that the Governor's message was an infringement on their rights,

also opposed the deadline he set for the Chief Minister. However, the Opposition BJP, which had petitioned the Governor against the "delay" in putting the confidence motion to vote, welcomed his directive.

In the night, the entire BJP Legislature Party, led by Leader of the Opposition B.S. Yeddyurappa, slept in the Assembly, protesting against the delay in the motion being put to vote. Mr. Yeddyurappa called it a "diversionary tactic" to prolong the trust vote.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**  
**NEED TIME TO CLARIFY ISSUES RAISED BY REBELS: CM ▶ PAGE 8**  
**SC REMOVED WHIP-ISSUING POWER: CONGRESS ▶ PAGE 12**

## FinMin expects no flight of FPIs on higher tax

Companies won't be hit, she says

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The increase in tax on high net worth individuals, announced in the Union Budget, will not result in an outflow of Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The higher tax will only apply to individuals and FPIs registered as trusts, which are also treated as individuals. The FPIs that are registered as companies will

## SC to hear Ayodhya title dispute cases from Aug. 2

Mediation panel told to submit report by August 1

### LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, on Thursday fixed the Ayodhya title dispute cases for hearing from August 2.

It asked the Registry to keep the case records ready and the mediation committee, led by the former Supreme Court judge F.M.I. Kalifulla, to submit by August 1 a report on the outcome of the proceedings till July 31. The mediation is the court's initiative to amicably resolve the dispute. The order came after the court perused a progress report filed by the committee earlier this week. It was filed on the basis of a July 11 order.

"Taking into account what has been brought to

### Work in progress

**Jan. 8:** Supreme Court sets up a Constitution Bench to hear the case

**Jan. 29:** Centre moves court seeking permission to return the 67-acre acquired land around the disputed site to owners

**Feb. 26:** Court favours mediation, fixes March 5 for order on whether to refer matter to the mediator

**March 6:** Court reserves order on whether the dispute can be settled through mediation

**March 8:** Court reserves the dispute for mediation by a panel headed by former judge F.M.I. Kalifulla

**July 18:** A Constitution Bench fixes the cases for hearing from August 2. It also asks the mediation committee to submit by August 1 a report on the outcome of the proceedings till July 31

our notice by the report, we fix the hearing of the cases on and from 2.8.2019. The Bench will assemble again on the said date, i.e., 2.8.2019, at 2.00 p.m. Office to make the cases ready...

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

## Owner of Saravana Bhavan dies

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Owner of the Saravana Bhavan chain of restaurants P. Rajagopal, 72, who was ailing, died in a city hospital on Thursday. Last week, he surrendered in a sessions court to serve the life sentence awarded to him for abduction and murder of an employee in 2001. The court later allowed him to be shifted to a private hospital for treatment.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

## Stranded at home



Assam's 28 districts remained affected by the floods, which claimed nine lives on Thursday. The Kaziranga National Park is still under the Brahmaputra and its tributaries, forcing one-horned rhinos to take refuge on a mound of land. ■ REUTERS (PAGE 9)

## Wayanad's tribal hamlets one step from 100% literacy

### E.M.MANOJ

KALPETTA After making two successful forays into the tribal hamlets of Wayanad, Kerala's State Literacy Mission (SLM) is all set to earn the '100% literate' badge for the outlier region, which has the highest tribal population among all districts. Tribal pockets are among a handful of areas where full literacy remains elusive in the State.

As part of its efforts, the SLM drew up the Wayanad Literacy Equivalency and Attappadi Literacy Equivalency programmes, besides Samagra, a framework to develop effective schooling strategies. They addressed gaps in literacy programmes for marginalised people.

"The initiatives were a huge success and we were inspired to pursue 100% literacy among tribal people in Wayanad by end-2020," SLM Director P.S. Sreekala said.

So far, the literacy campaign has touched the lives of people in 483 remote tribal hamlets among 2,000 such habitations in the district. In 2017, when the first phase began, there were 4,309 learners from 283 hamlets.

Ahead of the second phase, the SLM surveyed 4,371 houses in 200 tribal hamlets and found that 5,342 individuals, including



Some residents of a tribal pocket in Wayanad working on lessons in class.

3,133 women, were illiterate. With help from educators, 3,179 residents, including 2,590 women, made progress and took the literacy test recently.

The project is now focussed on the remaining 1,517 hamlets in the third phase, and it has attracted wide public participation, Dr. Sreekala said. Classes will begin soon here.

**Instructors' role**  
Instructors play a key role in spreading literacy, and they are to be recruited from among the residents themselves.

The quest is to identify those who speak various indigenous languages as they get a good response from the learners.

"The programme has helped many tribal people," said M. Geethandanand, State coordinator, Adivasi Gothra Mahasabha.

"It has helped school dropouts continue their studies, and the SLM should have programmes for such aspirants," he added.

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**IN BRIEF**

'Sexual assault' on boys:  
DCW notice to police

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Commission for Women on Thursday issued notice to Delhi Police after it received a complaint pertaining to alleged sexual assault on three minor boys. The commission said that the complainant alleged that the victims, aged 15, 10 and nine were sodomised by boys from their neighbourhood.

**17 head of cattle die in roof collapse, 5 injured**

NEW DELHI  
Seventeen animals – 13 buffaloes, two cows and two calves – died after a tin roof collapsed due to heavy rainfall in Najafgarh's Prem Nagar in the early hours of Thursday. The police said that the terrace was loaded with fodder and grass which fell on the cattle. Five buffaloes have also sustained injuries.

**HC seeks list of banquet halls flouting norms**

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the civic bodies here as to why no action has been taken against the banquet halls which are unlicensed and lack adequate fire safety measures. The court gave a "last chance" to the three civic bodies and the government to come up with a list of all such halls.

**Snatchers who targeted women in west Delhi held**

NEW DELHI  
Two snatchers have been arrested for targeting women in west Delhi, the police said on Thursday. One countrymade pistol along with live cartridge and a motorcycle have been seized and two mobile phones have been recovered from their possession. The arrested accused were identified as Rajan and Golu.

**Meat shop owner shot dead in Punjab Bagh**

NEW DELHI  
A 34-year-old meat shop owner was shot dead allegedly by an acquaintance in west Delhi's Punjab Bagh, the police said on Thursday. Victim Saleem Qureshi lived in Nangloi. A senior police officer said he was shot around 7 p.m. on Wednesday, following which he was rushed to Balaji Hospital where he succumbed to injuries around 11 p.m. The police suspect personal enmity behind the murder.

## Officers stop to relieve themselves, accused flees

He was held in a cheating case

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 39-year-old man, who was arrested on Tuesday in a cheating case reported in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar in January, fled from police custody on Thursday.

DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh has confirmed the incident.

A senior police officer said that Nitin Nagpal was arrested on Tuesday on charges of breach of trust and cheating and taken on three-day police remand. "Investigating officer of the

## Aadhaar can take you places, but not to Nepal

Can't be construed as 'any other ID' issued by govt.: NCDRC

SHINJINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI

Following a complaint seeking compensation from an airline for refusing to accept Aadhaar card as a valid document for travel to Nepal, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission held that Aadhaar cannot be construed as "any other ID issued by the Government of India" for travel to the country.

The observations came after contentions put forth by the complainant that the Aadhaar card falls within the category of "any other" ID issued by the government that is required for identification purposes at the time of issuance of boarding passes.

"This argument is erroneous. As Aadhaar number is a 12-digit random number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India



to the residents of India after satisfying the verification process laid down by the Authority and [it] can in no manner be construed to be 'any other ID issued by the Government of India' in the specific context of it being an acceptable travel document to travel to Nepal," the consumer panel observed.

The directions came while the apex consumer disputes redressal forum was hearing an appeal moved by SpiceJet against orders of the district forum and state commission that had allowed the complaint against the airline.

dismissed the complaint while imposing cost on the complainant for moving a "frivolous" complaint.

"The complaint is dismissed with stern advice of caution to the complainant through the imposition of ₹10,000 to be deposited by the complainant with the Consumer Legal Aid Account of the District Forum... the objective being to emphasise that consumer protection forums are not meant to be tools for creating nuisance by filing frivolous and vexatious complaints," the consumer panel observed.

The directions came while the apex consumer disputes redressal forum was hearing an appeal moved by SpiceJet against orders of the district forum and state commission that had allowed the complaint against the airline.

## IIT disciplinary body told to decide on sexual harassment complaint

Allegation levelled against a professor of the institute

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the Disciplinary Authority of IIT-Delhi to decide on a complaint of sexual harassment against one of its professors, within eight weeks.

Justice Vibhu Bakheru clarified that the petitioner could approach the High Court again if she was aggrieved by the decision of the Disciplinary Authority.

The court's order came on a plea seeking directions to the Board of Governors of IIT-Delhi, to take action on a report submitted by the internal complaints committee (ICC).

The petitioner had made a complaint of sexual harassment against the professor serving in the Department of Mechanical

Engineering at IIT-Delhi.

In her petition, she said her complaint was examined by the ICC and it submitted an inquiry report, dated May 18, 2018, to the Disciplinary Authority.

She claimed that the ICC found that the allegations made by her, including that of stalking, were correct and accordingly, recommended that punitive should action be taken against the professor.

She later approached the High Court due to "inaction" on the part of Disciplinary Authority.

The counsel representing IIT-Delhi said that the Disciplinary Authority had examined the report submitted by the ICC and had expressed a "prima facie" view that the ICC report did not appear adequate for

charges of stalking".

"In view of the above, the Disciplinary Authority had considered it appropriate to give the accused a reasonable opportunity to submit a representation in accordance with Rule 15 of the Central Civil Services [Classification, Control & Appeal] Rules, 1965," the counsel said.

The counsel told the High Court that an informed decision would be taken in the matter on receipt of the representation from the professor.

In view of this, the High Court said, "The present petition is disposed of by directing respondent no.2 [Disciplinary Authority] to take a final view in the matter as expeditiously as possible and in any event, within a period of eight weeks."

## Woman constable found dead at residence

No note found; investigation on

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old woman constable was found dead at her house in Dwarka on Wednesday, the police said on Thursday.

The PCR received a call around 6.30 p.m. about the woman who lived in Dwarka Sector 16-B.

The police reached the spot and sent the body for a post-mortem.

"The deceased's husband is also a policeman. The couple had got married in 2014," said a police officer.

During the incident, the deceased's husband was on duty and their twins

were at home. The husband reached home and kept knocking on the door, but nobody responded. He then called the police.

No note has been left by the deceased, the police said.

**SDM informed**

"Since the woman was married less than seven years ago, the Dwarka Sub-Divisional Magistrate was informed. An investigation is under way," the officer said.

**Suicide prevention helpline:** Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health (011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

Construction material to be examined

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

A portion of the road on Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway caved in and a small chunk of the Rampura flyover on Gurugram-Jaipur Expressway near Manesar came off due to rain on Thursday.

The sizeable portion of the road on KMP Expressway that caved in near Panchgaon toll plaza have resulted in a huge crater. The damaged portion on Kundli-Palwal carriageway of the expressway was barricaded to prevent any untoward incident. It was later repaired. Haryana State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation spokesperson Surender Deswal said the cave-in happened near the Manesar, but it was

repaired soon.

The 83-km stretch of the expressway from Kundli to Manesar was opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November last. The expressway has been built at a cost of around ₹6,000 crore.

In a similar incident, a nearly two-square-foot chunk of the upper layer on the Rampura flyover on Jaipur-Delhi carriageway came off forcing the closure of one of the lanes for traffic. Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, Jaipur, N.N. Giri said the damaged portion was repaired and barricaded by evening. He said that it might take a week before it gets fixed. He said that a sample of the construction material would be sent for detailed examination.

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**5 सर्वोच्च रैंकर्स**

कक्षा कार्यक्रम से सफल हुए...

## IAS सामान्य अध्ययन

**सर्वाधिक 5 टॉपर (1st Rankers)**  
**हिन्दी माध्यम के ALS संस्थान से**



<b>09</b> Rank	<b>Jai Prakash Maurya</b> AIR 09 (2010)
<b>15</b> Rank	<b>Manoj Jain</b> AIR 15 (2006)
<b>33</b> Rank	<b>Ganga Singh</b> AIR 33 (2017)
<b>46</b> Rank	<b>Mithilesh Mishra</b> AIR 46 (2011)
<b>146</b> Rank	<b>Aniruddh Kumar</b> AIR 146 (2018)

ALS ने पिछले 18 वर्षों में 4 आई.ए.एस. टॉपर्स, हिन्दी माध्यम के 5 सर्वोच्च रैंकर्स, टॉप 10 में 29 रैंकर्स, टॉप 20 में 64 रैंकर्स, टॉप 50 में 176 रैंकर्स तथा युल 2837+ सफल अभ्यार्थियों के कैरियर ग्राफ को प्रदर्शित किया है एवं 300 से अधिक चयन केवल हिन्दी माध्यम में।

## GS निःशुल्क कार्यशाला

**GS में अधिक अंक कैसे प्राप्त करें?**

### एक परिचार्चा

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### IAS रणनीति परिचार्चा

"Crack IAS Exam in First Attempt"

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AUG 20 | 11:00am

भौगोल, पर्यावरण एवं लेखन कार्यक्रम संवर्द्धन

द्वारा SACHIN ARORA

AUG 21 | 11:30am

मुख्य परीक्षा में रणनीति ही निर्णायक हैं।

द्वारा R.C. SINHA

AUG 22 | 11:30am

सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में समसामयिकी पर एक परिचार्चा

द्वारा SHARAD TRIPATHI

AUG 23 | 11:30am

VENUE: ALS, VARDHMAN PLAZA, NEHRU VIHAR, DR. MUKHERJEE NAGAR

## सामान्य अध्ययन Extensvie

### लोकप्रिय पाठ्यक्रम

सामान्य अध्ययन (400सप्त) GS मुख्य परीक्षा Paper I, II, III, IV + GS प्रारंभिक परीक्षा + CSAT + निर्बंध (15 कक्षाएँ)

+ साक्षात्कार + अंग्रेजी फाइशेन + लेखन कला संवर्द्धन + मुख्य परीक्षा टेस्ट सीरीज़ (10 टेस्ट) + प्रारंभिक परीक्षा टेस्ट सीरीज़ (30 टेस्ट) + 15-Day समसामयिकी क्रौश कोर्स (प्रारंभिक) + 15-Day समसामयिकी क्रौश कोर्स (मुख्य)

Programme Director: Manoj Kumar Singh

</div



## E-Tender Notice

The senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of union of India invites tender from competent and experienced contractors having valid electrical contractor's license, technical expertise, and financial solvency through E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railway for execution of the following works.

**Tender No. & Date:** EL-G-07-EI-19-20 (Open) **Sr. No. 1. Name of the work with its location :** Electrical work in connection with Provision of 3.0m wide FOB at KKHT, TRS, PDW, MHP, KML, JGA, BJT, PSZ, JUBS, PATR & RUSD 2. **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 2,38,13,583.00/- **Earliest money : Rs. 10,000.00 (Non Refundable)** **4. Date & Time for closing and opening of tender :** Date of Closing of E-tender at 12.00 hours on 07.08.2019, Date of opening of E-tender from 12.30 hours on 07.08.2019 **5. Website particular, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office.** <http://www.reps.gov.in> D.R.M. (Elect.) Office/Samastipur

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer  
East Central Rail, Samastipur  
PR/00786/SPJ/ELEC/T/19/20-40



**Engineering Branch - NIT Date:** 15.07.2019, e-tender is invited on behalf of The President of India acting through Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Divisional Railway Manager (Works), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works:-

**(1) NIT No.: DRMW-JBP-146-2019;**

**Name of work with Location:** Provision of Foot Over Bridge at Aslana station under Assistant Divisional Engineer, Damoh sub division.

**Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 20.62 lakhs,

**Earliest Money to be Deposited:** ₹ 2,53,300/- **(2) NIT No.: DRMW-JBP-147-2019; Name of work with Location:** Repairs to various Minor & Major Bridges by epoxy grouting & CC flooring in Bina-Katni section, (Bridge No. 1083/1 DN, 1083/2 UP, 1088/1 DN, 1093/1 DN, 1095/1 DN, 1097/1 UP, 1102/1 DN, 1108/1 DN, 1110/1 DN, 1112/1 DN, 1113/1 DN, 1120/1 DN, 1123/1 DN, 1126/2 ROB, 1128/2 DN, 1134/1 DN, 1135/2 DN, 1140/4 DN, 1143/1 DN, 1146/1 DN, 1153/1 DN, 1154/1 DN, 1156/1 DN, 1165/1 DN, 1171/2 UP, 1172/1 DN, 1173/2 DN, 1174/2 DN, 1175/1 UP, 1175/3 DN, 1176/1 UP, 1176/1 DN, 1177/1 UP, 1183/2 UP, 1185/1 UP, 1186/3 UP, 1188/2 UP, 1191/3 UP, 1191/3 DN). **Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 57.97 lakhs; **Earliest Money to be Deposited:** ₹ 1,16,000/- **(3) NIT No.: DRMW-JBP-148-2019; Name of work with Location:** Provision of 2nd entry at Satna and Maihar Stations under Divisional Engineer (North), Jabalpur.

**Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 296.87 lakhs; **Earliest Money to be Deposited:** ₹ 2,98,400/- **Completion Period:** 08 months for Sl. No. 1 and 10 months for Sl. No. 2 & 3. **Last Date & Time of submission of Tender (Up to 15.00 hrs. on):** 09.08.2019 for each. **Tender to be Opened at 15.15 hrs.:** 09.08.2019 for each. The complete information of the above e-Tenders are available in website on "<https://ireps.gov.in>" and also placed on the notice board of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Office of West Central Railway, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.

रेल यात्रा के दरान शिक्षक होते हैं 138 एवं सुधा होते 182 पर संपर्क करें

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD Sangrah, District Sirmour, H.P. on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rates bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in the table.

**Sr. No.** **Name of Work** **Estimated Cost (Rs.)** **Starting Date for Downloading Bid** **Earnest Money (Rs.)** **Deadline for Submission of Bid**

1. Construction of Pidiyadhar to Sher Tendu Road km. 0/00 to 7/00, (SH- C/O 3.00 mtr span RCC Stab Culvert at RD 4/10). **Under MNP**

Rs. 4,25,994/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 8,600/- 07.08.2019

2. C/O Nohra Galion road km.000 to 3/00, (SH- C/O 900 mm dia hume Pipe Culvert at RD 0/430 with wing wall both side).**Under MNP**

Rs. 1,67,713/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 3,400/- 07.08.2019

3. C/O Cross Drainage work on Nohra Hindha Bandha Road km.000 to 5/600 (SH- C/O 900 mm dia hume Pipe Culvert at RD 4/945 with wing wall both side).**Under MNP**

Rs. 2,22,123/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 4500/- 07.08.2019

4. C/O Link road from Solan Meenur road to GSSS Ghandur 0/00 to 1/200 (SH- C/O 900 mm dia hume Pipe Culvert at RD 0/590 with wing wall both side & P/L WBM G-4 in km. 0/00 to 0/990). **Under SCP**

Rs. 6,98,782/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 14,000/- 07.08.2019

5. Installation of Steel Crash Barrier on Danoi Khud Drabil Road km.0/00 to 19/00 (SH- P/F 'W' metal beam crash barrier at RD 9/850 to 9/970 alongwith edge wall at RD 9/850 to 9/854, 9/886 to 9/890, 9/920 to 9/924 & 9/960 to 9/964). **Under SCP**

Rs. 4,32,056/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 8,700/- 07.08.2019

6. Installation of Steel Crash Barrier on Sangrah Paller Road km.0/00 to 12/270 (SH- P/F 'W' metal beam crash barrier at RD. 2/420 to 2/480, 5/340 to 5/390 & 7/900 to 8/016).

Rs. 6,99,045/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 14,000/- 07.08.2019

7. C/O Govt. Degree College Building at Sangrah in Tehsil Sangrah Distt. Sirmour H.P.(SH- C/O Retaining wall in PCC in front of Arts Block). **Under Deposit**

Rs. 10,52,069/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 21,100/- 07.08.2019

8. Construction of additional accommodation of GSSS at Baragh. (SH- C/O two room with verandah and stair case in first floor). **Deposit Work**

Rs. 7,57,248/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 15,200/- 07.08.2019

9. M/T On Kathi to Dhal paliyara road Km. 0/0 to 2/00 (SH- P/L WBM Grading,H.M/T & C/O PCC Road side drain in Km. 0/0 to 1/0) **Under SCP**

Rs. 12,02,528/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 24,500/- 07.08.2019

10. C/O Missing Cross Drainage work on renuka Satala road Km. 0/0 to 13/450 (SH- C/O 900 mm dia hume pipe culvert at Rd 9/920 to 12/250)

Rs. 4,98,900/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 10,000/- 07.08.2019

11. C/O Link road Kaffer Dadar koli ka Bag km 0/0 to 9/00 (SH- C/o 900mm dia Hume pipe culvert at RD 6/450) **Under MNP**

Rs. 2,85,707/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 5,700/- 07.08.2019

12. C/O Shivpur arat road km 0/00 to 8/00 (SH- C/o 900 mm dia Hume pipe culvert at RD 6/450) **Under MNP**

Rs. 2,82,862/- 25.07.2019 Rs. 5,700/- 07.08.2019

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).

**Sd/-**  
Executive Engineer  
HPPWD (B&R) Division Sangrah  
Tel/Fax: 01702-248207  
E-mail: ee-san-hp@nic.in

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP/1066/19-20

# Residents of 1,797 illegal colonies will soon get ownership rights: CM

Says Centre has responded positively; BJP hits out at Kejriwal for 'taking credit'

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that people living in 1,797 unauthorised colonies in the city will soon get ownership rights for their properties.

"Good news for people living in unauthorised colonies... Their dream of getting ownership rights will soon come true," the Chief Minister said at a press conference on Thursday.

Mr. Kejriwal said that the Central government has given a positive response to Delhi government's proposal on the same. But the proposal is yet to be approved by the Centre, according to the Chief Minister.

However, Delhi BJP Chief Manoj Tiwari said that the Centre was regularising the colonies and Mr. Kejriwal was trying to "take credit".

Meanwhile, speaking at the press conference, Urban Development Minister



Arvind Kejriwal

Central government for approval.

"Yesterday [Wednesday] evening, the Centre gave a positive response on it. The Centre is ready to regularise the unauthorised colonies. We want to congratulate the Central government on behalf of the people of Delhi," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said that the Centre had asked a few questions on the proposal and the Delhi government will respond to it in the next three to four days. "And soon, the Centre will approve it [proposal]," he added.

The CM said, "Until now, all Central and state governments had betrayed the people living in unauthorised colonies. Before every election, they would promise regularisation, but would not fulfil their promise."

Reacting to it, Mr. Tiwari said, "Mr. Kejriwal had deliberately withheld the

work of demarcation for the last four-and-a-half years."

## Committee report

"When the Central government found that the intentions of the Kejriwal government is not to regularise these unauthorised colonies, the then Union Urban Development Ministry formed a committee under L-G to recommend the measures for regularising these colonies. The committee submitted its report to the Ministry within three months and the process of regularising these colonies has started at fast pace," he added.

The CM said, "Until now, all Central and state governments had betrayed the people living in unauthorised colonies. Before every election, they would promise regularisation, but would not fulfil their promise."

Reacting to it, Mr. Tiwari said, "Mr. Kejriwal had deliberately withheld the

Regularisation proposal to be sent to Cabinet soon: officials

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's proposal on granting ownership rights in unauthorised colonies of Delhi would be sent to the Cabinet soon, officials said.

The Cabinet note in question had been drafted and was being circulated within the government, a senior official said. The proposal is based on the report submitted by a committee chaired by L-G Anil Baijal to Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State (Independent charge) Hardeep Singh Puri on June 10, officials said.

While Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday that the Centre had responded "positively" to the Delhi government's "proposal" regarding ownership rights sent in 2015, another senior Ministry official said the Centre's proposal was based on the report of the committee.

Kejriwal demands hike in share of Central taxes

Writes to Shah and Sitharaman

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, demanding that Delhi's shares in Central taxes be raised in view of its burgeoning population.

"Delhi has the character of a 'State' and there is a strong case for treating it at par with other States for the purpose of share of Central taxes" and grants to its local bodies through recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, he said.

The Chief Minister said that as

The transfer of grants in lieu of share in Central taxes has remained stagnant at ₹325 cr. per annum since 2000

CM's letter taxes of at least ₹6,500 crore per annum".

The Chief Minister said that the "unfortunate" omission of the constitutional provision in the year 2000 resulted in an anomaly which has adversely affected the finances of the NCT of Delhi".

Mr. Kejriwal said that as the Capital of the country and one of the fastest growing metropolises, Delhi's claims on its resources are immense and varied.

The Chief Minister requested Mr. Shah and Ms. Sitharaman to look into the matter personally and "provide additional terms of reference to the 15th Finance Commission to enable" it to recommend the legitimate shares of Delhi in Central taxes.

## Athlete to face trial for intimidation

## Traffic restrictions in Gurugram from July 20

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

The road opposite to HUDA City Centre metro station and Fortis Hospital will remain closed to traffic during the construction of a flyover and an underpass on the stretch. The traffic restrictions for this will come into force on July 20.

Those driving from Ardee City to HUDA City Centre need to take left turn near CNG pump in Sector 44 to reach Subhash Chowk. The vehicles driving from Subhash Chowk to Signature Tower will continue to use the existing slip road to reach their destination.

The construction time as per the tender is around 12 months.

coming from IFFCO Chowk metro station need to turn right at fire station traffic signal to reach Subhash Chowk.

Those driving from Ardee City to HUDA City Centre need to take left turn near CNG pump in Sector 44 to reach Subhash Chowk. The vehicles driving from Subhash Chowk to Signature Tower will continue to use the existing slip road to reach their destination.

A senior police officer said that the 518-page chargesheet has statements from 56 witnesses.

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Thursday submitted a chargesheet in Rohit Shekhar Tiwari's murder case at the Saket Court. His wife Apoorva Shukla was arrested in the case and is in judicial custody.

A senior police officer said that the 518-page chargesheet has statements from 56 witnesses, including family members, employees of the house, police officers and other officials.

Rohit Shekhar Tiwari, son of former U.P. and Uttarakhand

hand Chief Minister N.D. Tiwari, was found dead in his room on the afternoon of

**DELHI** Timings

RISE 05:36 SET 19:20
RISE 21:11 SET 07:30
SATURDAY, JULY 20
RISE 05:36 SET 19:19
RISE 21:46 SET 08:23
SUNDAY, JULY 21
RISE 05:37 SET 19:19
RISE 22:18 SET 09:16

**Delhi Weather**

max	min
Delhi City	30 23
Safdarjung	30 23
Palam	29 22

**Delhi Palam Today**

33°C Light rain will continue at some places over Delhi and NCR. A pleasant morning lies ahead.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**

32°C Rain is expected to decrease now. A marginal rise in temperatures is expected.

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**THE HINDU**

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# Sonbhadra killings: SC/ST panel orders invocation of NSA

Main accused Yagya Dutt, whose henchmen opened fire, arrested on Thursday

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

The U.P. SC/ST Commission on Thursday asked the State government to invoke the NSA and the Gangster Act against culprits behind the killings of 10 tribal people in Sonbhadra district and take action against officials for their "negligence" in averting the massacre.

The Commission also rushed a two-member team of its Deputy Chairman Maniram Kaul and member Ramsewak Kharwar for a first-hand probe into the shoot-out, said an official statement.

**Team to visit site**

The team will visit the scene of crime, meet the tribal people and injured persons and submit a report to SC/ST Commission Chairman Brij Lal, said the panel.



An injured being brought to a hospital in Varanasi on Wednesday. ■ PTI

Meanwhile, the police on Thursday arrested the village headman whose henchmen opened fire on the villagers.

With main suspect Yagya Dutt's arrest, the number of those held after Wednesday's shoot-out in Ubha village has risen to 26, police said. The police had earlier

arrested his two nephews.

An FIR has been lodged against 61 people, including 11 named.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the Director-General of Police to personally monitor the case and ensure action against the culprits, a government

spokesperson said. Mr. Adityanath had also directed the Mirzapur Commissioner and Additional Director-General (Varanasi zone) to jointly investigate the cause of the clash and fix responsibility.

The land in the district's Ghorawal area earlier belonged to an IAS officer and he had sold it to village head Yagya Dutt, who wanted to take possession of it, Uttar Pradesh DGP O.P. Singh had said.

When Dutt reached the spot with his henchmen, local villagers tried to stop them from taking over the land, police said. Those accompanying him then showered a hail of bullets on the villagers, all tribals, killing nine of them. Official sources said another person injured in the firing died during treatment on Wednesday night.

## BJP MLAs boycott question hour in Rajasthan Assembly

Over Speaker's refusal to allow supplementary questions

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

JAIPUR

The Opposition BJP MLAs boycotted question hour in the Rajasthan Assembly on Thursday to protest against Speaker C.P. Joshi's refusal to give them permission to raise supplementary questions on oral reply by Ministers. The Speaker had ruled that only those legislators who have asked starred questions would be allowed to put up two subsequent queries each.

Except for the MLAs whose questions were listed for question hour, no BJP member went to the House during the budget session's proceedings. The decision to boycott the Assembly was announced by Leader of the

Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria after a meeting of the BJP Legislature Party.

**Protest to continue'**

Senior BJP MLA and former Health Minister Kali Saraf said disallowing the legislators to ask supplementary questions would deprive them of their right to raise matters of public significance in the Assembly. He said the boycott of question hour would continue during the rest of the budget session, unless the Speaker revoked his ruling.

Mr. Joshi pronounced his ruling on Wednesday when the BJP MLAs staged a walkout while complaining that they were not being allowed to raise their objections to

the reply of Minister of State for Skill Development and Employment Ashok Chandra to a question on unemployment allowance. The BJP members alleged that the Congress government was misleading the House.

However, ruling party's Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi said the Speaker had only reiterated the provision which already existed in the rule books.

**'Publicity gimmick'** He said while the ruling was meant to ensure that the maximum number of starred questions were taken up during question hour, the BJP was trying to exploit it for its "publicity gimmick".

Combing operations are still on to arrest the three undertrials who escaped from police custody after gunning down two constables in Sambhal on Wednesday afternoon.

"We have rounded up seven suspects who might have helped the undertrials. We have got important clues from their fourth accomplice who could not escape. The borders of Sambhal have been sealed and the Special Task Force is carrying out combing operations. We are confident that they will be nabbed soon," Yama Prasad, SP Sambhal, told *The Hindu* over phone. Ajay Pal Sharma, SSP, Rampur, known as an 'encounter' specialist, also inspected

the area on Thursday.

The incident took place near Dewakeda village under the Baniyather police station area, when five constables were returning to Moradabad jail in a police van with 24 undertrials after a court hearing in Chandauli, police said.

**'Chilli powder thrown'** "The three prisoners were carrying chilli powder and used it against fellow inmates and policemen. They also had a countrymade pistol. It appears that they shot two constables using their weapons," Mr. Prasad said. The constables have been identified as Harendra and Brijpal Singh. The three undertrials have been identified as Kamal Singh, Shaik and Dharam Pal Singh.

## 3 electrocuted as man exacts 'revenge'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

MAHESHTALA (WEST BENGAL)

Three persons were electrocuted to death and six others suffered burn injuries when a man laid live electrical wire outside his neighbour's house to take revenge against a man who had eloped with his wife, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place at Maheshtala in South 24 Parganas district on Wednesday night, the police said.

With the accused absconding, angry locals launched a search and found him near Akra railway station on Thursday.

They beat him up severely before handing him over to the police. The accused was arrested and is in a hospital in Kolkata.

### Patna protest



Policemen chase away teachers during a protest for 'Equal Pay for Equal Work' in Patna on Thursday. ■ PTI

## A lot at stake for BJP candidate from Patkura constituency

A founder member of the BJD, Bijoy Mahapatra has not won any election since his last win in 1995

**PRAFULLA DAS**

BHUABANESWAR

Will Odisha's Patkura Assembly constituency remain a stronghold of the ruling Biju Janata Dal or will the Bharatiya Janata Party spring a surprise with senior leader Bijoy Mohapatra as its nominee? The outcome will have no bearing on the political future of the BJD or the BJP, but will be crucial for Mr. Mohapatra himself.

A founder member of the BJD, Mr. Mohapatra has not won any Assembly election since his last win in 1995. It is a question of political survival for the 68-year-old leader

who was elected from Patkura four times in 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995, and was a member of Biju Patnaik's Council of Ministers in his last term.

**Campaigning ends**

Often referred to as Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik's bête noire, Mr. Mohapatra is once again trying his luck from Patkura where polling is scheduled to be held on July 20. The high-voltage campaign in the seat under the Kendrapara Lok Sabha constituency came to an end on Thursday evening with the BJD, the BJP

and the Congress as main contenders for the seat.

All the three parties had engaged 40 star campaigners each to woo the voters in Patkura, where campaigning started more than three months ago when polling was scheduled to be held in the fourth and last phase of the general elections in April this year.

The polling in the seat was postponed twice - first due to the death of BJD candidate Bed Prakash Agarwalla few days before the poll date and subsequently due to Cyclone Fani. When Mr. Mohapatra had formed the Odisha Gan Jayanta Mohanty, a regional party

remained in the fray, the BJD fielded Sabitri Agarwalla, widow of Mr. Agarwalla, as its nominee.

Mr. Mohapatra, who played a key role in the formation of the BJD as well as seat sharing with the BJP before the 2000 elections, had failed to contest the 2000 polls as the party cancelled his ticket at the last minute. He has lost all elections in subsequent years irrespective of the parties he contested from.

In 2001, Mr. Mohapatra had formed the Odisha Gan Jayanta Mohanty, a regional party

political party which he later merged with the Nationalist Congress Party. He joined the BJD when the NCP turned an ally of the BJD before 2009 polls. He had quit the BJD in November last year, but returned to the party again before this year's general election and entered the fray from Patkura.

**Tough challenge**

Mr. Mohapatra is facing a tough challenge this time too. The Chief Minister has campaigned personally seeking votes for Ms. Agarwalla apart from many of his MLAs.

## Salt Lake Mayor resigns after stand-off with party

Says he has not quit Trinamool

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

KOLKATA

Bidhannagar [Salt Lake] Municipal Corporation Mayor Sabyasachi Dutta resigned on Thursday after a months-long stand-off with the leadership of his party, Trinamool Congress. His exit came in the wake of a pending no-confidence motion against him in the TMC-controlled corporation.

The land in the district's Ghorawal area earlier belonged to an IAS officer and he had sold it to village head Yagya Dutt, who wanted to take possession of it, Uttar Pradesh DGP O.P. Singh had said.

When Dutt reached the spot with his henchmen, local villagers tried to stop them from taking over the land, police said. Those accompanying him then showered a hail of bullets on the villagers, all tribals, killing nine of them. Official sources said another person injured in the firing died during treatment on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, the police on Thursday arrested the village headman whose henchmen opened fire on the villagers.

An FIR has been lodged against 61 people, including 11 named.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the Director-General of Police to personally monitor the case and ensure action against the culprits, a government



Salt Lake Mayor Sabyasachi Dutta.

TMC MLA from Rajarhat-New Town, Mr. Dutta however clarified that he was not quitting the party - his cordial relations with BJP leader Mukul Roy had further infuriated TMC leaders.

Soon after tendering his resignation, Mr. Dutta went to meet primary teachers who have been protesting in the city demanding a revised pay structure.

**Approached HC**

Mr. Dutta had approached the Calcutta High Court over a notice issued to him on July 9 by the BMC Commissioner convening a meeting of the board of councillors on Thursday for removing him as Mayor. But the court on Wednesday observed only procedural discrepancies, quashing the notice since it had not been issued as per the provisions of West Bengal Municipal Act, 2006. It held that only the Chairperson can issue such a notice and asked for a no-confidence notice to be brought against the Mayor in the next two days.

He also said that he had opposed illegal filling of waterbodies in the area under his jurisdiction. Also the (With PTI inputs)

## H.S. Sidhu back as Punjab STF chief

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

CHANDIGARH

In a major administrative reshuffle, the Punjab government on Thursday transferred 26 IPS and five PPS officers in the State.

Harpreet Singh Sidhu, who was posted as Special Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, has been given charge of the Special Task Force as Additional Director-General of Police. He will replace Gurpreet Kaur Deo, who will take over as ADGP (Crime). Last year, Mr. Sidhu was removed as STF chief after a reported tussle between him and the then DGP Suresh Arora.

**Promotion for three**

Three IPS officers -- Prabhod Kumar, Rohit Choudhary and Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota -- have been promoted to the rank of Director-General of Police.

Mr. Kumar has been posted as Special DGP and Director (Bureau of Investigation) while Mr. Chaudhary will take over as Special DGP (Policy and Rules). Mr. Sahota will be Special DGP (Armed Battalions) in Jalandhar.

An official statement said ADGP (Admin) Gaurav Yadav has been given additional charge of the litigation wing. ADGP Ishwar Singh has been given charge of law and order while Jitendra Kumar Jain, ADGP (Policy and Rules), will hold additional charge of SCRIB as Director.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: Approx 35 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'6", wearing Brown colour Checkdar Shirt and Blue Jeans Pant, was found at Rohtak Road, Metro Pillar No. 554/555, Mundka, Delhi at 07:55 P.M. in this regard a DD No. 51-A, dated 11.07.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Mundka, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO P.S. Mundka, Delhi**

DP/2468/OD/19 Ph.: 011-25952584, 8586932309

## DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU

Phone No. 0191-2561578 , Fax No. 0191-2547807

E-Mail: ssppjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

**LOOK OUT NOTICE**



# 'Opposition MLAs will join BJP soon'

Expect spate of resignations in coming week, says Chandrakant Patil; Congress dismisses claim

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE  
Several legislators from the opposition Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress were in touch with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), claimed the newly-appointed State unit president Chandrakant Patil on Thursday, adding that one could expect a spate of resignations in the coming week.

"Had the opposition MLAs resigned six months before Assembly elections, it would have necessitated bypolls. With Assembly elections barely three months away, a number of Congress and NCP legislators will be resigning in the coming eight to ten days. A number of their MLAs are in touch with us. They will be given entry into our party at the appropriate moment," Mr. Patil told reporters before starting his tour of Solapur and Osmanabad districts.

However, Mr. Patil, who is also the State Revenue Minis-



Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil is confident that the BJP-Sena coalition will win 220 Assembly seats. ■ PTI

ter, refused to disclose any names. "Where's the fun if I reveal names. The joy of life is in its uncertainty?" he remarked.

Mr. Patil said the top leadership of the Congress and the NCP had lost confidence following their rout in the Lok Sabha elections. "With its top leadership [Rahul Gandhi] busy tendering resignations, how can they [Congress-NCP leaders] expect others to carry on working for the party?" he said.

Asked if the entry of turncoats and their being given tickets would make the loyalists unhappy, Mr. Patil said no injustice would be done to old-timers.

"We only give tickets to nominees if we discern any winning potential in them. We changed candidates on as many as seven Lok Sabha seats [in Maharashtra] and all newcomers who were fielded carried the day for us," he said adding that that the BJP-Shiv Sena was plan-

ning its strategy in such a way that the coalition would win at least 220 seats.

Reiterating that there was no ambiguity on the question of an alliance between the BJP and Shiv Sena, Mr. Patil said that only seat-sharing arrangements remained to be worked out.

"There is no doubt whatsoever on the question of an alliance, what will be its nature is known only to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and the BJP's national president Amit Shah," Mr. Patil said.

#### Laughable, says Thorat

Meanwhile, newly-appointed Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief Balasaheb Thorat dismissed Mr. Patil's claim of Congressmen resigning and joining the BJP as "ludicrous" and "laughable".

"There is no grain of truth in his [Mr. Patil's] claims," Mr. Thorat said in Mumbai.

Dr. Vishwajeet Kadam, the Congress MLA from Palus-Kadegaon in Sangli district, too, dismissed the claims as rumours deliberately designed to mislead and create misconceptions before the Assembly polls.

"This is all the BJP's doing. With such claims, Chandrakant Patil is deliberately trying to pollute the political climate," said Dr. Kadam, who is also one of the five newly-appointed working presidents of the MPCC.

Mr. Patil had on Wednesday hinted at Dr. Kadam's possible defection to the BJP, and said that it ought to come as no surprise if one of the five working presidents of the MPCC joined the BJP in the next 15-20 days.

"Such statements [on Mr. Patil's part] are utterly meaningless and unfounded...Like my father, the late Dr. Patangrao Kadam, I will always continue to remain a Congress loyalist," Dr. Kadam stressed.

# Will build a new Maharashtra, says Aaditya Thackeray

Yuva Sena chief sets off on his first five-day Jan Ashirwad Yatra



**Wooing voters:** Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray bows to the public before addressing a meeting at the start of his Jan Ashirwad Yatra at Jalgaon on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUNE

Ahead of Assembly polls, Yuva Sena president Aaditya Thackeray began the first phase of his ambitious five-day Jan Ashirwad Yatra from Pachora in Jalgaon district on Thursday

those who voted for us...My grandfather, [the late Sena supremo Bal Thackeray], had he been alive, would have advised me to do the same," he said, adding that the rationale behind his tour was to understand and help resolve the problems faced by citizens in the rural hinterland.

With the BJP and the Sena contesting independently in the 2014 Assembly elections, the Sena had managed to win only 63 seats.

Mr. Thackeray will be interacting with a cross section of citizens of every vocation – farmers, students, businessmen, labourers – during his tour through Jalgaon, Nashik, Dhule and Ahmednagar districts.

With the BJP and the Sena

contesting independently in the 2014 Assembly elections, the Sena had managed to win only 63 seats.

Despite reiterations that their alliance is sealed, there is a significant section within the BJP that feels no need to take the Sena along. With Narendra Modi's spectacular win in 2014 and consolidation in this year's general elections, the roles of the BJP and the Sena have been reversed to such an extent in the State that the latter has to seriously think of retaining its base outside Mumbai," says a city-based analyst.



Newly appointed Maharashtra Congress president Balasaheb Thorat (centre) with Congress leaders Sushilkumar Shinde, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan in Mumbai on Wednesday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

## Avoid infighting, Thorat tells Congmen

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Exhorting leaders to forget groupism and infighting, newly appointed Maharashtra Congress committee president Balasaheb Thorat on Thursday said the party would promote new, young faces in the Assembly polls.

After officially taking charge from former chief minister Ashok Chavan, Mr. Thorat, accompanied by the five newly-appointed working presidents, said, "The party faced similar troubles in 1978,79 and 80. But we won. The Congress is still in the minds of common people and we have to reach out to them with new vigour."

"The results of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections can be different. A number of people are expressing concern over the EVMs. We also demand that ballot paper be

used for Assembly elections," he said. Earlier, a number of speakers, including the Assembly campaign committee head and former MP Nana Patole called on party workers to participate in the nationwide movement against EVMs to begin from August 9.

Asked about those who quit the party, Mr. Thorat, without naming former Leader of Opposition Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, said, "Those in the party who wish to reach to new heights, should take this as a golden opportunity."

Senior Congress leader in-charge of Maharashtra Mallikarjun Kharge slammed the BJP over its attempts to destabilise the government in Karnataka. "Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis too is indulging in these tricks," he alleged.

## Ethanol biorefinery to come up in Vidarbha

BPCL to set up plant in Bhandara

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) will set up Maharashtra's first ever ethanol biorefinery in Vidarbha's Bhandara district at a cost of nearly ₹1,500 crore.

The State government has finalised the location along with BPCL and it will be set up in Bhandara's Makardhoka village. The plant will manufacture ethanol from rice straw and will be set up on 46 hectares of land that is currently with the Revenue Department," said Parinay Fuke, Guardian Minister of Bhandara.

The project will utilise 2 lakh tonne of rice straw annually and has a capacity to produce 700 tonne of biofuel. This project is one among 12 such refineries planned in different States.

Bhandara and Gondia districts annually produce 3.62 lakh and 3.87 lakh rice straw annually. The supply of raw material won't be a problem. This project is likely to create around 10,000 jobs directly or indirectly," he said. The rice

straw will be collected, chopped and dried and then supplied to the refinery.

The Revenue Department holds 146 hectares at the site, out of which 46 hectares will be used for this project. The government plans to set up allied industries in the remaining land. The process to hand over the land to the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation has begun and once complete, the land will be notified as industrial. After this, it will be handed over to BPCL.

"We expect to initiate the project within a year. BPCL will ensure environmental clearances. We will be charging BPCL a nominal fee of up to ₹3 crore for the land," said Mr. Fuke.

The National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, aims to increase the percentage of ethanol in petrol and diesel. Currently, it is at nearly 2% in petrol, while in diesel, biofuel is less than 0.1%. An indicative target of 20% of ethanol in petrol and 5% of biodiesel in diesel is proposed by 2030.

### OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**16th ANNIVERSARY**  
**K.P.SUBRAMANIAM**  
02-02-1915 - 19-07-2003  
FOUNDER  
Automotive Ancillary Services Pvt. Ltd.  
Fondly Remembered by  
K.S.MOHAN, UMA MURALI,  
SHWETHA, SHRADHA,  
AMRUTHAVARSHINI & APSARA

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
**K.R.RANJITH KUMAR**  
09.01.1975 - 19.07.2007  
You still live in our hearts  
Daddy, Mummy, Uncle,  
Sneha &  
Baby Tharangini (Daughter)

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY**  
**In Loving Memory of**  
**A. FRANCIS ROCHE**  
S/o. Elangadu R. Amirthasamy Pillai & Amalorpary  
DOB: 14-09-1941 DOD: 19-07-2010  
Fondly Remembered by  
Alice Francis  
Anita & Frederic Arulraj  
Vijay Francis & Priscilla  
Grand Children: Joshua & JoAnna  
97910 13995, 95000 93446

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## IN BRIEF

**A.P. Governor to take charge on July 24**

VIJAYAWADA  
New Governor for Andhra Pradesh Biswabhusan Harichandan will assume office on July 24. Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court C. Praveen Kumar will administer him the oath of office at a ceremony scheduled at 11.30 a.m. on that day. Reports suggest that the former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's camp office will be transformed into the Raj Bhavan.

**Maoists kill two tribals in Andhra Pradesh**

VISAKHAPATNAM  
Maoists killed two tribal people after branding them as police informants at Veeravaram hamlet of Chintapalli mandal here in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday night. The police said a squad of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army dragged Gammella Bhaskar Rao and Pangi Sattibabu, both aged 40, out of their houses and killed them. A third tribal, Pangli Linga, sustained grievous injuries after they beat him up.

**Do not blame TRS for split, KCR tells Cong.**

HYDERABAD  
Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Thursday advised the Congress to refrain from blaming the ruling party if two-thirds of their MLAs split and wanted to merge with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi. It happened in the Rajya Sabha when some TDP members joined the BJP and a similar scenario was happening in Goa. If the Congress had leadership capability, why would its members leave the party, asked Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao.

# I need time to clarify issues raised by rebels: Karnataka CM

'It is my duty to respond to the allegations they have made'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU  
Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who moved a one-line motion seeking vote of confidence on Thursday, insisted that no time frame should be fixed for the completion of proceedings related to the motion.

He said he had to clarify a lot of things that had been raised with respect to his government by the rebel MLAs in their petition before the Supreme Court.

This was prior to a communication from Governor Vajubhai R. Vala later in the day asking him to prove his majority before 1.30 p.m. on Friday.

The Chief Minister made the submission to Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar on Thursday as the BJP members insisted even before he moved the motion that there should be a time frame for completing the proceedings regarding the motion of con-



Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, Deputy CM G. Parameshwara, and Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Thursday. ■ MURALI KUMAR

fidence. They claimed that all the seven such motions taken up since the formation of the Assembly had been completed within a day.

Annoyed, the Chief Minister said the rebel MLAs had alleged in their petition before the Supreme Court that the administration had come to a standstill ever since he took charge as Chief Minister and that the government had never been stable.

They had also alleged that various scams had surfaced during the term of this government.

He maintained that it was his duty to clarify on all these issues and respond to

the allegations in the interests of protecting the honour of his government as well as that of the MLAs of the governing coalition.

"Of late, people have started feeling disgusted with the MLAs. I need to clarify the reasons for such a trend and mention the people who tried to destabilise my government," he said.

"It is not important whether I will have to quit or someone else will replace me. What is important is to debate on the drama of making a mockery of democracy which is being watched throughout the country," he said.

"It is not important whether I will have to quit or someone else will replace me. What is important is to debate on the drama of making a mockery of democracy which is being watched throughout the country," he said.

**'Missing' Congress MLA creates flutter**

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU  
The mysterious disappearance of Congress MLA from Kagawad Shrimant Balasaheb Patil from a resort here and his appearance in a Mumbai hospital on Thursday rocked the Assembly proceedings, as the Congress accused the BJP of engineering the defection and terming it a case of "kidnapping".

Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar eventually directed Home Minister M.B. Patil to make inquiries with his family. While the Congress had issued a whip to all its legislators to be present during the session, Mr. Shrimant Patil's disappearance further reduced the Janata Dal (S)-Congress coalition's strength in the Assembly.

KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao said Mr. Patil was healthy and was with all the Congress MLAs till late on Wednesday.

# Suspected treasure hunters vandalise tomb in Hampi

## STAFF REPORTER

KOPPAL

The 'Brindavan' (tomb) of Sri Vyasaraja Tirtha, a renowned saint of the Madhwa tradition at Anegundi near Hampi, was found razed on Thursday. It is one of the nine such at Nava Brindavana, on the banks of the Tungabhadra.

The incident came to light on Thursday when people came to perform rituals. The police suspect it to be an act of treasure hunters.

The incident is suspected to have happened during the lunar eclipse early on Wednesday.

"Our investigation team is already at the spot. We found some puja material there. It is evident that some kind of puja was offered to the seat of the saint as well. We *prima facie* feel this is an act of treasure hunters. I have formed a special team headed by the Circle Inspec-



Erasing history: The vandalised 'Brindavan' of Sri Vyasaraja Tirtha on the Tungabhadra banks. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tor, attached to Gagavati Rural, to investigate the case," Renuka K. Sukumar, Superintendent of Police, Koppal, told *The Hindu*.

The situation was tense as news of the vandalism spread. The police appealed to the people to maintain calm. Sri Vyasaraja Tirtha was the 'Raja Guru' of Sri Krishnadevaraya, the Vijaya-

## Chandrayaan-2 launch set for July 22

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The first Indian lunar lander-rover mission Chandrayaan-2 will be launched on July 22 at 2.43 p.m. without affecting the chosen day of its landing on moon, September 6. The new date, after the July 15 launch was aborted, was announced on Thursday by the ISRO.

Even though the launch date has slid by a week, ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said engine burns in the Earth-bound and lunar orbit phases would be re-worked without affecting the landing day.

## Priests go on relay hunger strike against Cardinal

Say Alencherry should step down

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

Priests of the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly on Thursday launched a relay hunger strike against Major Archbishop and Cardinal George Alencherry saying the Cardinal should not preside over the synod of bishops scheduled for early August.

The priests had openly defied the Cardinal, who is the head of the Syro-Malabar Church. The priests said the Cardinal, against whom there are more than a dozen court cases pending, should step down from his authority. They also demanded that the police end foisting cases on priests and members of the laity in the "forged" documents.

In what has widely been described as unprecedent-

ed action in the history of the Catholic Church in Kerala, Father Joseph Parekkattil started a fast unto death to highlight the demands raised by a vast majority of the priests.

The priests had openly defied the Cardinal, who is the head of the Syro-Malabar Church. The priests said the Cardinal, against whom

there are more than a dozen court cases pending, should step down from his authority. They also demanded that the police end foisting cases on priests and members of the laity in the "forged" documents.

In what has widely been described as unprecedent-

## 'No second thoughts on razing encroachments'

Naidu has set a bad precedent: Jagan

## STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a broadside against his predecessor and Leader of the Opposition N. Chandrababu Naidu for questioning the government's crackdown on the illegal structures that sprang up along the river and canal banks such as Praja Vedika and the Lingamaneni guest house in which the former Chief Minister was staying even after being served eviction notices.

Mr. Reddy said he had asked District Collectors to take a tough stand on such constructions in order to protect the rivers and water bodies from encroachments, the consequences of which would be devastating.

Mr. Naidu said there were certain exemptions which the Chief Minister should take note of, and that he had no objection to move out of his temporary accommoda-

tion across the State in blatant disregard for the River Conservancy Act of 1884, orders of the Lokayukta for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to remove illegal structures obstructing the flood courses of rivers, and the Building Regularisation Scheme.

"Mr. Naidu had set a bad precedent by violating the rules. If the Chief Ministers themselves commit irregularities, who will care for the laws enacted by the elected representatives. What he [Mr. Naidu] did was unacceptable. Unfortunately, he is trying to gain sympathy out of the issue by raising a hue and cry in the Assembly," Mr. Reddy observed.

Mr. Naidu said there were certain exemptions which the Chief Minister should take note of, and that he had no objection to move out of his temporary accommoda-

## \$250 mn ADB loan to rebuild Kerala

The aid will be project specific

## S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
Close on the heels of the \$250 million Development Policy Loan from the World Bank for the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI), decks are being cleared for securing a \$250 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"Talks are in the final stage to work out the modalities and the \$250-million ADB loan will be mainly for the augmentation of the drinking water supply," official sources told *The Hindu*.

The Water Resources Department is also putting pressure to get the ADB loan to augment the piped drinking water supply.

With the first anniversary of the August 2018 deluge not far away, the RKI authorities are expediting steps to secure investment to the tune of ₹8,709 crore needed for the critical sectors for a short term from 2019 to 2021-22 for the three-phase RKDP.

ADB Country Director Kenchi Yokoyama, who attended the Development Partners Conclave held on Monday at Kovalam to drum up support for the ₹36,506.88 crore for implementing the Rebuild Kerala Development Programme (RKDP), had committed

## Bay watch



In the race: A boy runs through the shallow waters at Lawson's Bay in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The plan to develop the beach to attract visitors is yet to take off due to open defecation and sewage discharge into the sea. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

## Vizianagaram fascinates Finnish couple

Thrilled to learn that their national bird is the divine vehicle of Hindu Goddess

## K. SRINIVASA RAO

VIZIANAGARAM  
A couple from Finland, fascinated by the stories they had heard of Vizianagaram's heritage and culture, arrived here on a six-day trip.

Retired pilot Veli-Matti Heinijoki and his wife Hippi Heinijoki from Finland visiting the Sanskrit College of Vizianagaram.



Veli-Matti Heinijoki and his wife Hippi Heinijoki from Finland visiting the Sanskrit College of Vizianagaram.

currency too. This sparked in us an interest to visit India. We chose to visit Hyderabad and Vizianagaram on our first trip, which went off happily," said Mr. Veli-Matti, who is 70 years old.

The couple visited the 150-year-old Maharaja Sanskrit College, where they saw old manuscripts and learnt about the techniques used to preserve the manuscripts. They also visited the Ra-

ma Narayanan temple and later went to the under-construction Hamsa Velly project. "We are fascinated by the town's rich history and culture," the Finnish couple said.

**Friends in India**  
The couple said they are members of the Rotary Club in Finland, and were shown around Vizianagaram by the president of the club's local branch Ravi K. Manda and former president Durga Balaji.

## TDB chief hits out at Forest Department

It is ignoring Cabinet decision on sand collection

## RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOOR

PATHANAMTHitta  
Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president A. Padmakumar has accused the Forest Department of ignoring even the Cabinet decision on collecting river sand from the Pampa in the foothills of Sabarimala for various construction works at Sabarimala, Pampa and Nilackal.

Mr. Padmakumar told *The Hindu* that the Cabinet had decided to permit the TDB collect 20,000 cubic metres of sand from the Pampa in the deluge of August last.

He said Forest Minister K. Raju was present at the



A view of the sand accumulated on the Pampa's banks following last year's floods.

net meeting and the matter was conveyed to the top Forest officials.

However, the forest personnel at Pampa, on the directions of their department's top authorities in Thiruvananthapuram, had objected claiming that the Cabinet had not mentioned

the location from where the sand could be collected.

**Issue raised at meeting**  
The issue was raised at the meeting of the High Power Committee for implementation of the Sabarimala Master Plan, attended by the Principal Chief Conservator

of Forests, in Thiruvananthapuram a week ago and at another meeting attended by the Forest Minister and the Devaswom Minister. The Forest Minister had directed the officials to permit the TDB to collect sand from the Pampa, he said. Though the PCCF too did not raise any objection to sand collection, the TDB was yet to be given clearance by the Forest officials at Pampa, he alleged.

**'Sand being sold'**  
The Forest Department, however, had been selling river sand from the Pampa to private parties and 2,000 cubic metres of sand had already been sold, the TDB chief alleged. He said the execution of various major pilgrim amenity projects under the Sabarimala Master Plan was affected owing to the indifferent attitude.

## IN BRIEF



## Robert Vadra withdraws plea from Delhi court

NEW DELHI

Robert Vadra, on Thursday withdrew his plea filed in the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the Enforcement Directorate not to take any coercive action against him in a money laundering case. Mr. Vadra withdrew it saying he had already been granted anticipatory bail by a trial court.

## Notice issued to govt., accused in Kathua rape

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday issued notice to the accused and the J&K government on a petition seeking an enhancement of the sentence awarded to the convicts of rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Jammu's Kathua in 2018. The girl from the nomadic Bakarwali community was kidnapped from Rasana area on January 10 in 2018 and found dead on January 17.

## SC declines urgent hearing on lynching plea

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court declined urgent hearing on a plea seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against some states for their alleged failure in curbing lynching incidents. It did not allow the submission of a lawyer that the judgements, laying down guidelines to deal with lynching and cow vigilantism incidents in the country, have not been followed by various State governments and such incidents are rising. PTI

## ED attaches assets worth ₹200 crore in ponzi case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached 103 assets worth ₹200 crore across various States in connection with a Ponzi scheme case involving Basil International Limited. More than 60 private and public limited shell companies were allegedly used to divert funds collected from investors.

## Off track



**Narrow escape:** A major mishap was averted as a coach of the Mumbai-Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express derailed while it was crossing a British-era bridge between Kasara and Igatpuri in Maharashtra on Thursday. ■ WALKMIK GAWANDE

## Animals seek refuge on highlands

## Floods drive rhinos out of Kaziranga park

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Kaziranga National Park (KNP)'s man-made highlands have turned into islands of relative safety for the park's animals as large parts of Assam remain inundated by flood waters.

Among the handful of species that have taken refuge in these patches of higher ground are the one-horned rhino and the water buffalo, while most other animals have moved to the hills of Karbi Anglong district just beyond a highway that runs along the southern fringe of the park.

Floods are a necessary evil in Kaziranga, which comprises a mix of wetlands, grasslands and forests. Every monsoon, the neighbouring Brahmaputra inundates the 880 sq km park – its core area is 430 sq

km – primarily serving to flush out the aquatic plants and weeds that choke its ecosystem.

The annual natural process, however, tests the survivability of the park's animals and leaves a trail of death.

Two decades ago, the Assam Forest Department constructed 111 highlands as an experiment. It helped keep a few animals above the water level but served little pur-

pose when 75% or more of the park was flooded.

In 2017, the park authorities started work on 33 more highlands that were bigger in dimension. "The older ones were 100x40 metres in area and 4 metres high," said Rohini B. Saikia, KNP's Divisional Forest Officer. "The newer ones are 100x50 metres and 5 metres high," Mr. Saikia added.

The new highlands, constructed at a cost of ₹13

## Tiger takes rest on bed

A Royal Bengal tiger on Thursday came out of the flooded Kaziranga National Park and took refuge in a room attached to a scrap outlet on the fringes, before returning to the jungle after eight hours of rest on a bed. But it made a U-turn after a few minutes and entered the backyard of a house.

crore, were designed scientifically with provision for adequate grass, and plants yielding fruits such as elephant apple and Indian gooseberry, said State Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya.

"These highlands have helped us reduce the animal casualty during floods this year," the minister added.

KNP Director P. Sivakumar said the highlands have provided temporary relief, especially for the rhinos.



**Taking cover:** A tiger seen on a bed in a room adjacent to a scrap outlet near Kaziranga National Park on Thursday. ■ AFP

## Dawood's nephew arrested

the country, the official said.

Iqbal was lodged in a jail in Thane after he was arrested in an extortion case in 2017.

Investigations by the Anti Extortion Cell of the Mumbai police revealed that Rizwan has been involved in his uncle's illegal activities for at least one-and-a-half year. Police officials see this as Dawood's move to hand over the reins of his activi-

ties to younger family members.

According to Crime Branch, they initiated inquiries into the matter in June after the complainant, a Mumbai-based businessman, received calls from one Sheikh Mohammed Faheem alias Faheem Machmachi, close aide of Sheikh Babumiyan, Sheikh alias Chhota Shakeel.

## Naval training ships to have facilities for women

Changes to be part of all future ships

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

In a step forward towards deploying women officers on board naval ships, the recently issued tender for cadet training ships has facilities catered for women aboard, a Navy source said on Thursday.

"This is the first tender to be issued with design inputs incorporated for separate facilities for women officers. Such design changes will be part of all future warships to be procured by the Indian Navy," the source told *The Hindu*.

In February this year, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for three Cadet Training ships for the Navy, which would be utilised to provide basic sea training for "officer cadets including women officer undertrainees."

The process is expected to take about three years to conclude the contract and another 18-24 months after that for the first ship to be delivered, the source added. The ships would be capable of undertaking hospital ship duties, providing Humanitarian Assis-

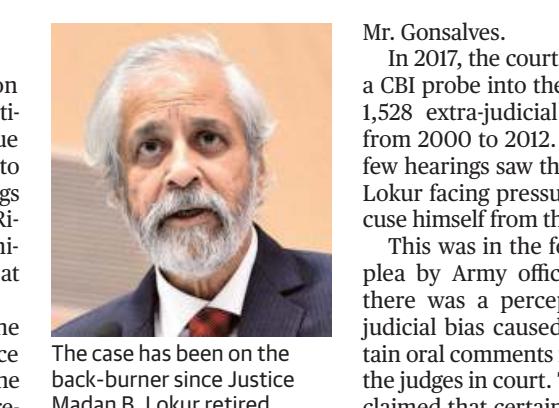
tance and Disaster Relief, undertaking search and rescue missions and non-combatant evacuation operations.

The three Services have been progressively inducting women in all arms and services and the Navy has stated that women officers cannot be posted immediately on board ships as there are no separate facilities.

As of May 2019, women constituted 6.7% of the Navy officers, excluding medical and dental services, according to information given in Parliament.

ties to younger family members.

According to Crime Branch, they initiated inquiries into the matter in June after the complainant, a Mumbai-based businessman, received calls from one Sheikh Mohammed Faheem alias Faheem Machmachi, close aide of Sheikh Babumiyan, Sheikh alias Chhota Shakeel.



Mr. Gonsalves.

In 2017, the court ordered a CBI probe into the alleged 1,528 extra-judicial killings from 2000 to 2012. The last few hearings saw the Justice Lokur facing pressure to recuse himself from the case.

This was in the form of a plea by Army officers that there was a perception of judicial bias caused by certain oral comments made by the judges in court. The plea claimed that certain oral remarks, questioning the non-arrest of accused persons, spooked the Army personnel operating in the State.

Incidentally, the plea was fully supported by the Centre. Attorney General K.K. Venugopal had pitched in, saying that "more soldiers are killed than insurgents".

Mr. Gonsalves submitted that he had first mentioned the matter before Justice Lalit, who told him to mention it before the CJI. The CJI alone had the administrative power to constitute Benches to hear cases.

"We will try to reconstitute the Bench," the CJI told

## SC to reconstitute bench probing Manipur killings

Case pertains to the alleged 1,528 extra-judicial killings

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to reconstitute a Bench to continue monitoring a CBI probe into alleged extra-judicial killings by the Army, the Assam Rifles and the police in Manipur when insurgency was at its peak.

The case has been on the back-burner since Justice Madan B. Lokur, who led the earlier two-judge Bench, retired in December last. Justice U.U. Lalit was the companion judge on that Bench.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, for the victims' families and petitioners, made an urgent mention before Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, apprising him of the fact that the case had not come up in a while.

The case has been on the back-burner since Justice Madan B. Lokur retired.

Mr. Gonsalves submitted that he had first mentioned the matter before Justice Lalit, who told him to mention it before the CJI. The CJI alone had the administrative power to constitute Benches to hear cases.

"We will try to reconstitute the Bench," the CJI told

## TISS team to help shelter home victims

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday permitted Koshish, a field action project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), to meet the victims and families of the Muzaffarpur shelter home abuse case to understand and chalk out a conducive plan for their rehabilitation.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana agreed with advocate Vrinda Grover that experts should closely interact with the victims in order to help them out of their trauma.

Ms. Grover said the outcome would include finding out the circumstances under which the girls got estranged from their families. This would include ascertaining whether they had faced any hostility at their family home, the financial status of their family, and whether the family would be receptive to having the child back.

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## A reprieve

Pakistan must recognise India's resolve in securing the safety of Jadhav

The judgment of the International Court of Justice at The Hague in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case has come as major relief for India, providing space and direction for Pakistan to reconsider the ill-formed process it pursued in convicting and sentencing to death the former naval officer. In its judgment, the ICJ ruled in favour of India's petition on six counts, finding that Pakistan was in breach of its own commitments to the Vienna convention on consular relations, and also rejecting its contention that the convention doesn't apply to the charges of espionage and terrorism levelled against Mr. Jadhav. Put plainly, the judgment castigates Pakistan's legal process against Jadhav *ab initio*: from the initial failure to inform India of the arrest, besides the failure to inform him of his rights, to provide him legal representation, and to provide him an open and fair trial. Pakistan's leadership may choose to publicly rejoice over the fact that the ICJ didn't annul the trial or direct a release, but the order should give it pause for thought, and allow saner minds within its establishment to order a comprehensive review of the trial process, if not a full retrial. The ICJ has worked with precedents in the cases of *Germany vs the United States (LaGrand)* and *Mexico vs the United States (Avena)*, both cases where it had ruled that the U.S. was in violation of the Vienna convention, and ordered a "review and reconsideration" of its process. Pakistan must realise that it cannot now emulate the example of the U.S., which defied the ICJ's ruling, and work instead in good faith to implement the ICJ's detailed recommendations for an effective process of justice for Mr. Jadhav.

Those recommendations, however, can only ensure a fair trial process for Mr. Jadhav in Pakistan, and not his release or eventual return home. For its part, New Delhi must recognise that the verdict is only a breather, a window of opportunity in which to open talks with Islamabad, parallel to the trial review on Mr. Jadhav's future. Pakistan must recognise India's resolve in securing the safety of its citizen, and any rash move to try and put his sentencing into effect will cause deep and lasting damage to its own attempts to restart bilateral talks. This will be even more difficult to do than it was when Mr. Jadhav was arrested in March 2016, as at the time Prime Minister Narendra Modi had just visited Lahore, and despite the Pathankot attack the National Security Advisers had maintained their backchannel negotiations. India had yet to call off its participation in the SAARC summit in Islamabad (which it did after the Uri attack in September 2016), and the Foreign Secretaries had met in Delhi to discuss the summit in April that year. None of those avenues exists today, and new ones will need to be built, if not for the sake of a larger dialogue process, for the sake of Mr. Jadhav, who has secured a reprieve but still faces an uncertain future.

## The threat of Ebola

The health emergency declared by the WHO can counter the risk of a global spread

After holding itself back on three occasions, the World Health Organization has declared the Ebola virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The outbreak in Congo, officially declared on August 1, 2018, has killed nearly 1,700 people and made more than 2,500 people ill. While cases in other areas are reducing, Beni is the new hotspot. The announcement of the health emergency comes amid renewed concerns that the virus could spread to other countries. A single imported case of Ebola in Goma, a city in Congo with two million people and with an international airport bordering Rwanda, served as a trigger to finally declare a global emergency. Surprisingly, the spread to neighbouring Uganda last month did not seem to change the way the WHO assessed the situation. Even when a handful of Ebola cases were confirmed in Uganda, all the infected people had travelled from Congo and there had been no local transmission or spread within Uganda – one of the criteria used by the WHO to assess if an outbreak is a global emergency. This is the fifth time that the WHO has declared a global emergency. The earlier occasions were in February 2016 for Zika outbreaks in the Americas, August 2014 for Ebola outbreaks in western Africa, the spread of polio in May 2014, and the H1N1 pandemic in April 2009. Declaring an event as a global emergency is meant to stop the spread of the pathogen to other countries and to ensure a coordinated international response.

There have been several challenges in interrupting the virus transmission cycle and containing the spread – reluctance in the community, attacks on health workers, delays in case-detection and isolation, and challenges in contact-tracing. But compared with the situation during 2014–2016, the availability of a candidate vaccine has greatly helped. Though the vaccine has not been licensed in any country, the ring vaccination strategy where people who come into contact with infected people, as well as the contacts of those contacts are immunised, has helped. Of the nearly 94,000 people at risk who were vaccinated till March 25, 2019, only 71 got infected compared with 880 unvaccinated who got infected. The vaccine had 97.5% efficacy; a majority of those who got infected despite being vaccinated were high-risk contacts. Owing to vaccine shortage, the WHO's expert group on immunisation has recommended reducing the individual dose to meet the demand. What is equally important is for the G7 countries to fulfil their promise to the WHO to contain the spread. The agency received only less than half of the \$100 million that was requested to tackle the crisis. The global emergency now declared may probably bring in the funding.

# Inappropriate template for a legitimate target

The Economic Survey, while rightly calling for a rise in private investment, incongruously invokes the East Asian model



RAMKISHEN S. RAJAN  
SASIDARAN GOPALAN

The recently-released Economic Survey either glosses over or ignores many acute challenges faced by the Indian economy – like the severe agrarian crisis; the troubles of loss-making and debt-ridden public sector units; and the issues plaguing public sector banks.

While the Survey is not incorrect in highlighting the importance of incorporating insights from psychology into economics, it is odd that this has been done so late in the day. Many other countries like the U.K., Australia and Singapore have for long been applying such points to policy design and implementation areas and the issue has been discussed in India over the last few years as well. It is unclear what added value the report truly has to offer here.

One issue that the Survey rightly underlines is the need for India to revive private investment if it is to achieve the magical \$5-trillion economy status by 2024–25. However, what is odd here is that to stress this, the document invokes the age-old comparison between India and East Asian countries. It is rather strange that the Survey brings up something that has been taught in economic development classes over the last two decades.

### How the NIEs prospered

Here, a question that arises is: Can the East Asian model help revive India's floundering investment rates? Some crucial reminders are worth underlining.

The East Asian model was largely a story driven by the newly in-

dustrialised economies (NIEs) of Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan, and Japan earlier.

Specifically, the prime goal in various NIEs from 1960s through to the 1990s (prior to the Asian Financial Crisis) was to raise gross savings rates. While the rise in household savings was partly due to the positive demographic dividend, a variety of other factors, including macroeconomic stability, low inflation, lack of social safety nets, inability to leverage (due to a highly regulated banking system) and forced savings (fully-funded Provident Funds) also played a role. State-owned enterprises had to operate with budget constraints. This, coupled with the fiscal discipline practised by the economies, ensured that the public sector did not crowd out private savings and, in some cases, actually added to national savings.

Another goal was to ensure that the private savings were actually intermediated into the formal financial system, failing which the cost of capital would remain high and the availability of capital for investment would be low. To achieve this, importance was given to the establishment of a safe and secure public sector banking system (usually in the form of postal savings networks) where deposits were guaranteed by the central bank and interest incomes was taxed lightly, if at all. The state-owned banks were tightly regulated as financial stability was the cornerstone of overall macroeconomic stability.

Financial inclusion was encouraged, though the focus was on actual use of the deposit accounts rather than just their opening. While the manufacturing sector was viewed as a growth engine and open to export competition, the banking sector, in all economies apart from Hong Kong, remained tightly regulated and



closed to foreign banks. Even Singapore initially adopted a dual banking structure that sheltered the domestic economy largely from significant short-term bank flows. It resorted to a calibrated policy to allow fully licensed foreign banks only in the late 1990s.

### Tight financial oversight

So, while these economies were generally successful in encouraging savings, the cost of capital was rather high, not unlike the problem in India today. To tackle this, the East Asian economies undertook financial repression – conventionally understood as a ceiling price keeping lending rates lower than market equilibrium.

This, in normal circumstances, would have led to disintermediation from the formal financial system, a consequent reduction in the quantity of financing and the creation of a shadow banking system. However, central banks of these economies maintained tight oversight, and selective capital controls ensured that the low-yielding savings did not leave their countries of origin, while limited financial development forestalled the possibility of people looking

for savings alternatives.

Along with these, the governments undertook sophisticated industrial policies to promote domestic investment, much of which was export-led (though not necessarily free-market based). The governments understood that a vertical industrial policy (of 'picking winners') would not work without a sound horizontal industrial policy (dealing with labour and land reforms, bringing about basic literacy and raising women's participation in the labour force). Besides, incentives also had clear guidelines and sunset clauses and mechanisms were in place to phase out support. Thus, winners prospered while losers were allowed to fail.

In addition, the bureaucracies of these East Asian economies had what Berkeley sociologist Peter Evans referred to as "embedded autonomy". This allowed the state to be autonomous, yet embedded within the private sector and enabled the two to work together to develop policies or change course if the policies did not work. This made industrial policy operate as a process of self-discovery, as emphasised by Harvard economist

Dani Rodrik. It is the lack of this embedded autonomy in the next-tier NIEs of Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia that has been partly responsible for them being stuck in the 'middle income trap'.

### Heterodox policies, reforms

Thus, much of the investment and export acceleration in East Asian countries was due to heterodox policies and reforms that were carefully calibrated, well-sequenced and implemented at a time when the external environment was far less hostile than it is today. These measures allowed the nations to benefit from their demographic dividends and transform themselves into developed economies in record time.

In contrast, due to political and other compulsions, India's reforms since 1991 have been rather haphazard and of a 'stop-and-go' nature with perverse consequences, all of which has made it much more challenging for the country to take full advantage of its demographic dividend.

Successive governments have neither had the tool-sets and the policy space nor the embedded autonomy needed to drive the industrial transformation as in the East Asian countries.

Though measures like reducing policy uncertainty; ensuring that the fiscal expenditures do not crowd out private savings and investment; enhancing the efficiency of financial intermediation; and dealing with land acquisition and environment clearances are all essential to reignite investment, we do not need to invoke the East Asian example to understand the importance of these.

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## OIC's curious record on Xinjiang

While the bloc has made repeated references to Kashmir, it has been ambivalent about China's treatment of Uighurs



SUJAN R. CHINOY

In an epochal development, India became the 'Guest of Honour' at the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Abu Dhabi in March. The final declaration eschewed the customary reference to Jammu and Kashmir. This can be considered unique since the previous Dhaka Declaration in May 2018 had contained this reference.

Credit must go to the strong personal and state-to-state ties built by the Narendra Modi government with important OIC states, especially the UAE. At the same time, one of the resolutions did refer to Kashmir and expressed concern at the situation of Muslims in India.

The OIC, representing 57 member states and a population of about 1.8 billion people, is the world's second-largest intergovernmental organisation after the UN and is committed to protecting the interests of the Muslim world. It routinely expresses solidarity

with Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Bosnia, as well as with the peoples of the Turkish Cypriot state, Kosovo and Jammu and Kashmir.

However, the organisation, while making repeated references to Jammu and Kashmir, has traditionally disregarded the fact that India is a democratic and secular country, where every citizen is protected by the Constitution and is free to practise one's religion. It has also conveniently disregarded the fact that India regularly holds State and general elections, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Turning a Nelson's eye**  
On the other hand, it has turned a Nelson's eye to the human rights violations committed by its own members, like the actions of the Pakistani state in Balochistan.

However, the organisation's record on China's Xinjiang province, which is in the news on account of alleged violations of human rights and curbs on religious freedom of Uighurs and other Muslim ethnic groups, is far more curious.

The main Abu Dhabi declaration, like the Dhaka Declaration, made no reference to China or its Muslim minorities. Further, it is intriguing that one resolution passed at Abu Dhabi chose to



"commend the efforts of the People's Republic of China in providing care to its Muslim citizens". This would have come as a huge relief to Beijing, especially after a review held by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2018 had claimed, citing credible reports, that Beijing had turned the Uighur autonomous region into "something that resembles a massive internment camp".

Earlier, a Human Rights Watch report issued in September 2018 had also criticised Beijing's policies in Xinjiang.

On its part, China has defended its policies and claimed that its so-called 'internment camps' are actually vocational centres meant to "educate and save [the local people of Xinjiang] who were influenced by religious extremism". In its White Paper in November 2018, Beijing had projected Xin-

jiang's culture as an integral part of Chinese culture.

### Anodyne appeals

All nations have a right to reject external interference in their internal affairs. However, while the OIC remains critical of India, it is wary of treading on China's toes. Various OIC resolutions have, in the past, referred only superficially to the matter. For instance, the Islamabad OIC meeting in May 2007 made only an anodyne request to its Secretary General "to make contact with the Government of China" on the matter "and to subsequently report on these consultations". The Baku OIC resolution of June 2006 made an appeal "to give special attention to the conditions of Muslims in East Turkistan (Xinjiang) and to examine the possibility of working out a formula for cooperation with the Chinese Government".

China has resented the use of the term "East Turkistan" in OIC documents, reminiscent of the banned East Turkestan Islamic Movement of separatist Uighurs from Xinjiang. Yet, Beijing has engaged the OIC and just before the Abu Dhabi meeting, it welcomed an OIC delegation to Xinjiang, a development which perhaps played a role in the OIC's com-

mending' China. The organisation remains mindful of how far it can go with its criticism of Beijing considering that China is a major power, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, a large market for hydrocarbons and a source of arms and investment. Moreover, China refrains from preaching to others about human rights or systems of governance.

As China's continued import of oil from Iran suggests, countries under U.S. pressure and sanctions often turn to China for relief. In return, they do their best to guard China's interests at the OIC.

However, OIC countries, under the influence of Pakistan, support resolutions against India despite having excellent bilateral ties with the country. Recent developments – a call from Pakistan's Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri urging China to lift restrictions on Muslims in Xinjiang and Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan chief Sirajul Haq's raising concerns about the Uighur issue with the Chinese Ambassador – must, hence, have come as deep embarrassment to the OIC.

The author is director general of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal

## 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.

### ICJ verdict

The International Court of Justice (ICJ)'s verdict directing Pakistan to "review and reconsider" the conviction and death sentence of Kulbhushan Jadhav is baffling on several counts (Front page, "Review Jadhav sentence, grant consular access, ICJ tells Pak," July 18). Despite having held unequivocally that Islamabad committed gross violation of both the Vienna Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it is surprising that the court still thought it fit to only suspend the execution, instead of amnulling the sentence. Also, by refraining from spelling out how Pakistan should go about ensuring a review, the court has allowed the country to conduct another trial in a military court.

Given Islamabad's intransigent position on the issue and the strained nature of India-Pakistan relations, it would require extraordinary political and diplomatic acumen to ensure justice for Mr. Jadhav. Euphoria on the ICJ judgment is thus a bit too premature.

S.K. CHOURHURY,  
Bengaluru

■ Thanks to the Vienna Convention and a well-coordinated legal defence before the ICJ, India was able to realise the immediate objective of getting a stay on the death sentence handed out to the former Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav by a Pakistani military court. While celebrating the ICJ's verdict, India should take care to avoid any triumphalist drum-beating because there is a long way

to travel, legally and diplomatically, before the ultimate goal of securing Mr. Jadhav's release can be secured. Once India exhausts the remedies provided for by international laws, the ICJ will have no option other than tossing the case back to Pakistan's civilian courts. It is not known whether India possesses any trump card in the form of a bargaining chip, but in the end, only a thaw in the frozen India-Pakistan ties can open the doors for Mr. Jadhav's return.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,  
Thiruvananthapuram

■ The ICJ verdict is only a temporary relief for Mr. Jadhav as his fate now depends on what Pakistan's arbitrarily assembled military courts decide. While consular access could provide moral support, it is not difficult to foresee the

outcome of a 'review and reconsideration' by a military court. India should continue to make all out efforts through diplomatic channels and put pressure on Pakistan to free the retired Naval officer.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,  
Hyderabad

### SC decision

In this struggle among parties for political power, the interests of voters have been totally forgotten (Editorial, "Balance and tilt," July 18). A legislator gets elected by a person as a representative of a given party. Once chosen, he has to obey the party's whip. Further, if he wants to join some other party, he should resign from membership of the legislature and seek re-election. The Supreme Court, by giving an interim order that the dissident

legislators cannot be compelled to attend the Assembly, has only considered the rights of the MLAs and overlooked the rights of the voters. The ruling will undermine India's multi-party democracy and promote horse-trading.

S.S. RAJAGOPALAN,  
Chennai

### Extra run

The two on-field umpires during the World Cup final should have halted the game for a moment if they had any doubt on the total number of runs to be awarded after the overthrow. That they did not consult the television umpire is a bit puzzling. 'Cricketing sense' did not prevail at that crucial stage and it is unfortunate that such a bizarre incident enabled a team that was probably losing to win the World Cup. Ben Stokes should also have

insisted on an intervention by the third umpire ("Did cricketing sense prevail in World Cup final," July 18).

V. LAKSHMANAN,  
Tirupur

**Tech-averse state**  
The knee-jerk manner in which the Indian government reacts on being confronted with technological changes needs a rethink. While other nations are formulating progressive policies on the use of technology, India suffers from the ailment of technological parochialism, whose cure lies in education of policymakers and greater involvement of entrepreneurs in policymaking. ("The benefits of blockchain," July 18).

SUREESH K.,  
Bangalore

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# Does the anti-defection law serve any purpose?

PARLEY

The law is against the principles of representative democracy and needs to be reformed

*The Supreme Court has held that it is the Speaker's discretion to decide on the resignations of the 15 dissident MLAs belonging to the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition government of Karnataka as and when he considers appropriate. What is the right course of action for the Speaker? Srinivasan Ramani discusses the political saga in the State with P.D.T. Achary and M.R. Madhavan. Edited excerpts:*

**Mr. Achary, the Supreme Court has said that the Speaker has complete discretion in deciding on the resignations of the MLAs. While the Speaker has the duty to verify the voluntary nature of the resignations, does this mean he can question the letters of resignation that were handed over to him in person even if they were in the prescribed format?**

**P.D.T. Achary:** Yes, certainly. Under Article 190(3) of the Constitution, the Speaker has to satisfy himself that the resignations are voluntary and genuine and can reject them if he feels they are not. The Speaker has absolute discretion in this matter.

**In this case, the legislators have filed sworn affidavits in the court saying they have resigned voluntarily. Should this not put the matter to rest?**

**PDTA:** The Constitution is clear on this. Only the Speaker has the discretion to decide whether the resignations were voluntary or genuine. No other constitutional authority can decide this.

**Mr. Madhavan, in the specific case of Karnataka, the legislators have resigned saying they do not have confidence in the current government. The argument being made by their detractors is that these resignations are a ruse to evade disqualification. What is your position on this?**

**M.R. Madhavan:** There are far more fundamental issues to be discussed here. All the institutions including the legislature and the judi-

cacy follow certain rules based on the Constitution. But beyond that, there are certain conventions and assumptions under which these institutions operate. For example, the Speaker... there are only a certain set of rules to be followed by him/her. Beyond that, there is an assumption that the Speaker is a neutral person and acts in good faith. Unfortunately, that assumption has been broken into pieces in our country.

In the last Parliament, there was a no-confidence motion tabled by a set of MPs. The Speaker refused to consider this saying there was too much disturbance in the Lok Sabha, but during the same period allowed the Finance Bill to be passed without discussion. In the elected House prior to this, a similar incident occurred in the way the Reorganisation Bill [that bifurcated Andhra Pradesh] was passed. In the States, in the last Andhra Pradesh Assembly, for example, four MLAs who officially belonged to the YSRCP were in the Cabinet led by Chandrababu Naidu [of the TDP]! Yet the Speaker did not act on their disqualification. What more proof was required to prove that they had switched sides? There is therefore the problem of lack of ethics, and the judiciary cannot do much about this.

In the Karnataka case, the Supreme Court would have embroiled itself in a political crisis and did the right thing by allowing the Speaker the discretion to rule on the resignations.

**Mr. Achary, as Speakers generally belong to the ruling party, they have tended to act less as neutral institutions. In some instances, despite clear cases of defections, Speakers have refused to act. Is this not against the spirit of the anti-defection law?**

**PDTA:** Yes. Speakers have not acted as impartial umpires generally on issues related to defection. There is a basic assumption in the Tenth Schedule that the Speaker will decide things on merit and be impartial. invariably, they come from ruling parties – Somnath Chatterjee being the Speaker in UPA-1 was an exception. There have been many issues on



K. MURALI KUMAR

**C** The law is clear: mergers are between two parties and two-thirds of the members will agree to the merger. Now the practice is the other way around – two-thirds of the members or more move out and then merge with the new party

**have the right to join another party after resignation? Can a Speaker prevent the member from resigning only to hold him guilty for defection?**

**PDTA:** I think the petitions under the Tenth Schedule in these cases were given much before the resignations. Cases for anti-defection were filed before the resignations came up. Suppose the Speaker refuses to accept the resignations, they will continue to remain members of the ruling party [the Congress] and the party has the right to issue a whip. And if they don't attend the House, they will face the consequences. That is the law. But in Karnataka, every day something new emerges – a trust vote followed by a possible fall of the government and so on. It is difficult to know what lies ahead in such a fluid situation.

**Mr. Madhavan, considering the Speaker is not an impartial person in practice, shouldn't the anti-defection law be implemented by an authority such as the Election Commission? Or should there be a time frame to decide upon actions related to the anti-defection law?**

**M.R. Madhavan:** The Election Commission being impartial is another assumption probably a reasonable one. But I think looking for another institution to decide on this process is to look for a bureaucratic solution to what is essentially a political problem. The whole problem arises in the anti-defection law itself, which goes against the principles of representative democracy.

If you go back to 1774 to Edmund Burke's famous speech on representation, he said that the representative should think of what is good for the country and not just for his constituents. Similarly, there is a famous speech by Winston Churchill. For him, first came the nation, then the constituents, and then the party. What we have done with the anti-defection law is that we have made every MP or MLA a slave of the party leadership. Invariably, we have converted a parliamentary system to a de facto presidential system because the head of the executive who happens to be the Prime Minister also controls the majority party in the legislature. In essence, the executive and the legislature seem to have merged. We have chosen the parliamentary system, but the anti-defection law has hollowed out the deliberative aspect of representative democracy. To me, there is one solution: delete the Tenth Schedule.

**M.R. Madhavan has a strong view that the anti-defection law has reduced the legislator to a figurehead of the party leadership and is against the deliberative nature of parliamentary democracy. But at the same time, there is an expectation that legislators delineate themselves on ideas and issues, which is why they go to elections for a mandate on the party ticket. Defections reduce them to individuals who seek the loaves of power to move from one party to another. Mr. Achary, how would you address these two aspects and what is your view on the anti-defection law as it exists?**

**PDTA:** When the anti-defection law was passed, people were very afraid about the curbs on freedom of expression and speech of the legislators. The evil that was staring us in our face then was the "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" business which was shaking up the entire party system.

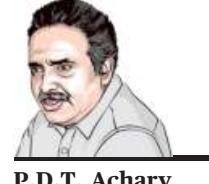
In order to put an end to this and to preserve the party system, the law came about, with some important weapons for the political party. But there are some provisions that are problematic. The law says, for example, that even if a legislator has been expelled by a party and continues to be a member in the legislature, he/she will still be held against the party whip and could be disqualified if he/she voted against the whip's directions. This is illogical.

The Supreme Court has said that when the party issues a whip, it must be for a very important legislative measure or a trust vote on which the government's survival is at stake, for example. For all occasions, parties need not issue a whip. I don't think parties are clearly aware of this. I know instances when the Parliament Secretariat had to circulate this decision by the court to parties. Whips should be used only for crucial issues.

**So, both of you agree that there is a problem with political culture that well-thought-out laws or institutional corrections cannot address?**

**MRM:** I agree to an extent. We certainly need well-thought-out laws. But I think on the question of defections and other acts, the larger society and the electorate need to act on this kind of political culture. Legislators who act in unscrupulous ways should be voted out in subsequent elections. That is how democracy is supposed to work.

**PDTA:** The anti-defection law needs to be looked into again by the lawmakers and reformed in light of the experience of its implementation since 1985. There have been a large number of cases of defections and [look at] how they have been handled. Lately, we have seen people moving out of parties in large numbers and eluding disqualification by suggesting that they have merged with a new party. The law is clear: mergers are between two parties and two-thirds of the members will agree to the merger. Now the practice is the other way around – two-thirds of the members or more move out and then merge with the new party. The law is made to stand on its head by the legislators. In the light of this, if the law, the way it is, has to go, I would agree with that.



P.D.T. Achary  
is former  
secretary-general  
of the Lok Sabha



M.R. Madhavan  
is president of PRS  
Legislative Research

## A journalist's right to loiter

The intent of the Finance Ministry seems to be to know which official met which journalist and when

ANURADHA RAMAN

Any reporter worth her beat will tell you that the fine art of loitering is a very useful tool in journalism. It is cultivated with patience and honed with experience. Even before the notebook and pen are fished out for a briefing, it is the wait in corridors that helps 'beat' reporters forge relationships with the powers-that-be.

When journalists loiter around a Ministry, they get to speak to a range of people – the support staff who fetch tea for the Minister's guests, the people meeting the Minister, and the senior officials in the Ministry. Sometimes, eye contact with an official allows a journalist access to the official. We journalists earn our spurs when the support staff of a Minister recognise us enough to share driblets of information that others don't hear. Familiarity with the ecosystem comes from pottering about.

So, it came as a shock when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made permanent a dictat which was meant to be temporary – namely, keeping the media out as deliberations on the Budget were under way – and said that a procedure has been put in place for "streamlining and facilitating" the entry of media persons inside the Ministry of Finance. She later clarified that there was "no ban in place" for journalists, including those accredited by the Government of India, to enter the Ministry, but that journalists cannot meet officials without prior appointment. This is an unfortunate development. It is the fundamental right of the citizens of this country to be informed about the government, and there are professionals trained in the dissemination of news.

### Anonymous sources

During the Atal Bihari Vajpayee regime, senior Ministers of the Cabinet did not bother about journalists waiting around in the corridors of Shastri Bhawan. Often, a Minister would call a reporter loitering in the corridor in for a chat that was informal and completely off the record. We could get



Ministers to comment on issues and report on them. We could write about the meeting without attributing the information to the Minister. Secretaries would inform Ministers when they saw us waiting. Joint secretaries would not shoo us away.

All this was made possible for journalists with accreditation. A Press Information Bureau card is given after the credentials of a reporter – a minimum of five years of work experience in a news organisation and residence proof – are vetted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and verified by the police.

No journalist walks into an official's office unless she is allowed. At best, journalists keep a watchful eye on the visitors walking in with appointments and even throw a question at them as they came out of their appointments. Journalists do this after making calls to their sources to check the visitor's list.

### Keeping watch

The intent of the Ministry seems to be to know which official met which journalist and when. One of the tricks of the profession is to call on the information officer and on that pretext meet the source. But what the Finance Ministry wants to do is to track down critical news to the source. Often, officials are willing to part with information only if they are not named in the report. The Ministry's decision will not only curtail press freedom, but also prevent officials from revealing any information to journalists they trust.

As the Editors Guild said, there is "no dispute with the Ministry that journalists should behave with restraint and responsibility while enjoying their access to the Finance Ministry" but "a blanket order is not the answer". It is a pity that the Ministry has issued such an order, especially at a time when India's ranking in the World Press Freedom Index has fallen by two ranks to 140 out of 180 countries.

The writer is an Associate Editor at The Hindu



### NOTEBOOK

## Rising above sports fandom

Wimbledon ensures that reporters conceal their loyalty towards a player

N. SUDARSHAN

To be a Rafael Nadal fan is to be an underdog. It feels unreasonable, for Nadal is an 18-time Grand Slam champion and a serial winner. But in a universe full of Roger Federer supporters, I have often felt like a mere speck. The American writer David Foster Wallace didn't help matters, as his famous 2006 essay, published in *The New York Times*, titled 'Roger Federer as Religious Experience', made it unfashionable to root for Nadal. "A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read," Mark Twain once said. Wallace's classic was something I didn't go anywhere near.

Wimbledon 2019, though, changed certain things. Federer and Nadal were drawn to meet in the semifinals for what could potentially be their first on grass since that iconic clash

in 2008. Once the draw held good, friends and family told me to feel "blessed" and "privileged" that I could watch it live. To be sure, I was. But as a reporter deputed to cover it, I had to shed the mask of a fan. In fact, 13 of the duo's 40 meetings have come after I turned a journalist and I have had to write about many of them dispassionately. But not once before was I pressured to look the part even as the spectacle was unfolding.

In a way, sports journalism, more than others, can tolerate some subjectivity but not of the kind that clouds perspective. As my previous Sports Editor, the late Nirmal Shekar, once wrote to all of us, "Sports stories are by nature subjective. They need you to editorialise. Even the smallest things, putting down a wicket to poor judgment instead of sloppy execution, for example, is a judge-

ment call – drawn, of course, from a thorough understanding of the sport you are writing about."

To rise above sports fandom is to be accountable, shed biases and provide a fair, comprehensive account of events and act independently. On that Friday, I had to suspend the disbelief that Nadal could lose, even on Federer's favourite surface, despite the Swiss being better on the day, disregard the queries from fellow Nadal fans – there were, of course, only three of them – as to what had come over their hero, and report on it.

Wimbledon, which prizes its etiquette more than any other sporting event, thankfully had a way of settling such nerves. "No cheering or clapping from the press box please," a security officer never tired of telling us. Appreciating a well-executed stroke, be it by any player, shouldn't

ideally cast aspersions on your professional integrity. But Wimbledon's way of ensuring fairness is by shutting down even a modicum of applause from the media.

So much so that the press was forced to watch even the rise of the irresistible 15-year-old American Cori Gauff in relative silence.

That probably helped me during the Federer-Nadal match. The Spaniard lost a manic first set, but like him, I was engrossed in finding answers, with an unforgiving deadline also looming. The ending was climactic, but it was important to stay detached and worry only about fitting all the important details into the copy. It was not until I sat in the Nadal press conference that the result truly sunk in. The irrational sense of loyalty, however, never made a reappearance and I can only thank Wimbledon for it.

### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 19, 1969

Meagre rise in profits of banks

The working results of scheduled commercial banks for the first six months of 1969 are yet to be published by many banks as there has been some delay in finalising the accounts. But the earnings of two major institutions, which have been published, seem to indicate that even with a spectacular growth in deposits, it has not been possible to improve profitability significantly as working expenses have been rising and heavy expenditure is also being incurred on the opening of new branches. But there would have been a higher level of gross income if available funds could be used. As the heavy expansion of credit against foodgrains has been effected mainly by the State Bank of India, the credit-deposit ratio of other banks particularly has tended to decline and there has been a heavy accumulation of surplus resources. The banking system, however, is in a position to derive good benefit out of the sizable additions to working funds, if as a result of a revival in economic activity there was an increase in demand for funds.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 19, 1919.

Hockey at Madras. Y.M.C.A. vs. Y.M.I.A. A rather tame game was witnessed in this match, which came off last evening [July 17] on the Y.M.C.A. grounds, the visitors eventually scoring an easy win by 4 goals to 1. They no doubt proved a bit too good for their rivals, but it was by no means a high standard of hockey that they displayed, for, as it was, the forwards all with the exception of Kesavan looked lifeless, while the defence too were not without their faults, the halves particularly being out of place time and again. As for Kesavan he was however lively all and tricky too but it was all not to much avail for he seemed to think that he alone could do the trick and failed more often than not naturally. Now about Lakshman Rao, he was slow, in fact very slow, and uncertain too in front of goal for want of practice obviously, but he was unquestionably the least selfish of the lot and made some very good passes now and again. Coming now to the halves Ramaswami was without doubt the stand out man, but he must give up the idea of mixing with the forwards on the half chances of scoring, if he really means to serve his side best. Then regarding the backs M.V. Ramanjulu and Sankaran, they looked safe enough last evening, but they have yet to be tested however to know their real mettle.

## FROM PAGE ONE

**CM asked to prove majority by 1.30 p.m.**

"It was clear the treasury benches had only 98 MLAs on their side and the Opposition 105 today. The Chief Minister should have resigned and walked out," Mr. Yeddyurappa said.

"We were not opposed to a debate on the confidence motion. But it was not debated at all. I appealed to the Speaker to complete the debate even by midnight and put it to vote. Even the Governor's directions were ignored," he said.

In his letter to the Chief Minister, Mr. Vala said that over the past weeks, 15 MLAs had submitted their resignation from the House and two Independent MLAs, too, had given letters withdrawing their support to the government, which "prima facie" indicate that you have lost majority in the House."

The Governor said he had not intervened in the matter earlier "having regard to the

**SC to hear Ayodhya title dispute cases from Aug. 2**

The court's July 11 order for a report was prompted by an application filed by Gopal Singh Visharad, an original claimant to the dispute, who filed a title suit way back in 1950, through his survivor Rajendra Singh on July 9 claiming that the mediation was making no progress.

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

On July 11, the Bench gave a tentative date of July 25 for commencing the hearing of

**FinMin expects no flight of FPIs on higher tax**

In the Budget, Ms. Sitharaman had announced an increase in the surcharge paid by high net-worth individuals, effectively increasing their tax rate by 3% for those earning between ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore a year, and 7% for those earning more than ₹5 crore annually.

The decision immediately drew criticism from FPIs

and also from economists who predicted that it would result in an outflow of foreign funds from India.

She also clarified that the Budget proposal of a 2% TDS on cash withdrawals exceeding ₹1 crore a year from a single bank account would be adjusted against the tax paid by that individual at the end of the financial year.

**Release Jadhav forthwith, India tells Pakistan**

The statement was lauded by members cutting across party lines, including Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

The Minister, who thanked the legal team that included Harish Salve, said Mr. Jadhav had been awarded the death sentence by a military court in April 2017 on fabricated charges of espionage and terrorism and denied access to Indian representatives in Pakistan.

"Kulbhushan Jadhav is innocent of the charges made against him. His forced confession without legal repre-

sentation and due process will not change this reality. We made it clear even at that time that India would view very seriously the possibility that an innocent Indian citizen could face the death sentence in Pakistan without due process and in violation of basic norms of law and justice," he said. India moved ICJ to ensure Mr. Jadhav's well-being and secure his release, he pointed out. The verdict made it clear that Pakistan would have to restore the rights available to Mr. Jadhav, who is lodged in a Pakistani jail, he said.

**Saravana Bhavan owner Rajagopal dead**

He is survived by two wives and two sons and leaves behind a legacy in the form of the Saravana Bhavan chain of restaurants. Rajagopal was named the prime accused in the kidnapping and murder of Prince Santhakumar.

According to the prosecution, either upon the advice of an astrologer or having become besotted with Jeevajothi, Santhakumar's wife, he evinced a keen desire to take her as his third wife, and urged her to split up with her husband.

Faced with resistance from her, Rajagopal made several failed attempts, with the help of others, to break the couple up. On his instructions, hired hands kidnapped Santhakumar, killed

fact that the House was called and trust vote was moved."

He pointed out that "proceedings of the House on July 18 were stalled and consequently adjourned without reaching any finality" and this "cannot go on in a democratic set-up governed by the Constitution of India." He added that the House was adjourned though he had sent a message to the Speaker.

"Under these circumstances, I require you to prove your majority on the floor of the House on or before 1:30 p.m. tomorrow [Friday]."

Meanwhile, high drama was witnessed with one more Congress MLA Shreemanth Patil (Kagawad) absenting himself from proceedings and sending a letter and a video to the Speaker, showing him admitted to a government hospital in Mumbai.

Ms. Sitharaman said the government considered changes to these laws absolutely necessary, and added that seven pieces of legislation were being amended to make changes to direct taxes and another seven laws to introduce direct taxes.

Though the Speaker allowed the Finance Minister to move the Bill, Mr. Chowdhury charged the government with routinely making amendments to laws that were not related to finance but brought as part of the Finance Bill.



**In defence:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. •PTI

Mr. Chowdhury said the government was raising objections even after the Speaker had allowed the Bill.

"Will you tell me what I have to say?" asked an angry Mr. Chowdhury after the Minister's intervention. Mr. Meghwal shot back saying that as the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, he could speak on the issue.

**No road map**  
Initiating the debate, Mr. Chowdhury said the 2019 Budget had no road map on

the latter said the Congress leader was raising objections even after the Speaker had allowed the Bill.

"You should not see the past as a cancelled cheque... you should look at from where we started," Mr. Chowdhury said and advised the Modi government not to be "boastful and vainglorious".

"The country is gasping for employment... the employment figures are heart-wrenching," he said and stressed that the Budget should help "wealth generation" to build the economy.

how the government would achieve its target of a \$5-trillion economy in the next five years, especially "when investments have come down, manufacturing is in the doldrums and the economy is gasping for employment".

"Fiscal honesty is being undermined and deficits are underplayed," he said and added that there was a mismatch in certain figures mentioned in the Economic Survey and the Budget.

The Congress leader said that though the Centre earned by imposing cess and surcharges, those collections are not devolved to the States.

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Anand Sharma

Janata Dal (Secular) government to take part in Assembly proceedings. Mr. Sharma said the order was in "clear violation of the Constitution".

Refusing to rule on the issue, Mr. Naidu said, "The matter is not before the House. The matter rests with the Karnataka Assembly."

The Samajwadi Party whose motion under Rule 267 to suspend business of the House to debate the issue of killing of 10 Dalits in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh was disallowed by Mr. Naidu.

**Karnataka, Dalit deaths stall House**

Rajya Sabha adjourned in 15 minutes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned within 15 minutes of convening on Thursday morning following an uproar over the Supreme Court ruling on the political crisis in Karnataka by the Congress and Samajwadi Party's protest over the state of 'lawlessness' in the Budget.

Soon after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar made a statement on the ICJ verdict in the Kulbhushan Jadav case, Congress and SP members were up on their feet. Members of both parties stormed into the Well of the House raising slogans.

Deputy leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma attempted to raise a point of order on the Supreme Court judgment.

Mr. Sharma sought a ruling from Chairman Venkaiah Naidu against the apex court order of Wednesday which said that party whip can't be imposed on 15 rebel MLAs of the Congress-

**Trinamool, CPI, NCP get EC notice**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has issued notices to the Trinamool Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Communist Party of India asking why their national party status should not be revoked after their performance in the Lok Sabha elections.

An EC official said the parties had been given time till August 5 to respond. The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 2017 states that a party can be granted national party status if its candidates get at least 6% of the votes in four States or more and if it has at least four MPs in the Lok Sabha.

**SC removed whip-issuing power: Congress**

How can Congress be bound by court order in a case it was not party to, asks Randeep Surjewala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday called the Supreme Court order on the rebel Karnataka MLAs "highly problematic", and asked how could the Congress or its legislature party leader in the Assembly, Siddaramaiah, follow it since it was not a party to the case.

At a press conference at the party headquarters, Congress communication chief Randeep Surjewala, who is also a lawyer, said the top court's order took away the Congress's power to issue whips to the rebel MLAs under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

"The order of the Supreme Court directly im-

**The Tenth Schedule exists to punish MLAs who betray the public mandate and the penalty prescribed is disqualification. Can a free and fair vote of confidence take place in the absence of constitutionally mandated guarantees and parliamentary procedures?**

— RANDEEP SURJEWALA,  
Congress spokesperson



pacts and abrogates the authority of the Congress to issue a whip in exercise of the powers under Schedule X of the Constitution," said Mr. Surjewala.

"This is highly problematic since neither the Congress

nor the party leader in the Assembly were parties to the case being heard before the Supreme Court. How can the Congress then be bound by a decision that it wasn't a party to?"

"Can a court order sus-

pend a part of the Constitution," he asked.

The Congress leader said Mr. Siddaramaiah had written to Karnataka Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar for clarity on the Supreme Court order.

**Skipping floor test**  
"The Congress party's authority to issue and enforce a Whip has been effectively nullified. This concern manifested itself in practice today when the rebel MLAs took advantage of the Honourable court's order to avoid participating in the floor test," Mr. Surjewala said.

He said the Constitutionally guaranteed separation of powers between different or-

ganisations of the State seems to have been breached.

"Can the judiciary impose its own terms and conditions on how a floor test should be conducted and consequently govern proceedings of the legislature," he asked.

Accusing the BJP of using 'money and muscle power', the Congress leader said the Supreme Court should consider the context of these defections. "The Tenth Schedule exists to punish MLAs who betray the public mandate and the penalty prescribed is disqualification. Can a free and fair vote of confidence take place in the absence of constitutionally mandated guarantees and parliamentary procedures?" he asked.

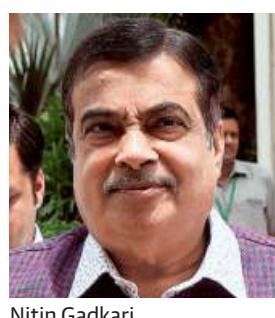
**Ecology or economy, asks Gadkari**

Says 'poor country' must decide how much money to be spent on environment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

From water disputes to adopting road building technologies and development policy towards the minorities, the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Thursday had several interesting highlights.

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said a "poor country" must decide how far it can go in spending public money to protect environment and balance out development needs. His reply came in response to a question from Congress MP K. Surendran who asked if the Minister would consider building



underpasses on the National Highway between Mysuru and Wayanad to protect tigers in the Bandipur wildlife sanctuary on the lines of the Pech Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

"We are spending ₹1300

crore to build 9 kilometres there [in Pech]... This is public money. It is up to you to decide whether it is correct or not," said Mr. Gadkari.

"I understand and respect the decision of the Supreme Court. But at the same time, we should remember our country is a poor country. We do not have road connectivity. Definitely, we are keenly interested to protect the life of tigers. That is absolutely correct. At the same time, it is also true that for a stretch of nine kilometres, we are spending ₹1,300 crore," he added.

Karnataka MP Shobha Karandlaje speaking about the scarcity of drinking water in different parts of her State during question hour, also mentioned about the Cauvery water dispute with Tamil Nadu and pointed towards members from her neighbouring State, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, who were sitting in Opposition benches.

Many members burst into laughter when Speaker Om Birla remarked, "Fight there, not here."

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said most of the river water disputes among States were either in courts or in tribunals.

**BSP chief's brother in benami case**

₹400-crore Noida property attached

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

The Income Tax Department on Thursday attached an alleged ₹400-crore "benami" property owned by Anand Kumar, brother of Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati.

Sources in the Department confirmed that the attached property belonging to Mr. Kumar and his wife was allegedly purchased using ₹400-450 crore of funds from benami transactions. However, the actual value of the property was not clear.

The commercial property is located in a prime location of Noida and is said to measure 7 acres.

Ms. Mayawati said the BJP was misusing power and trying to implicate its opponents and oppressing them as part of a conspiracy. "In this sequence, now my brother and sister are being harassed, which is condemnable. But the BSP is not going to bend or be scared by this," she said in a statement.

After the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Ms. Mayawati re-appointed her brother, a busi-



nessman who maintains a low political profile, as her deputy in the party. Mr. Kumar's son, Akash Anand, who is seen as Ms. Mayawati's successor in the BSP, was appointed national coordinator, with the BSP overlooking its traditional stand against dynasty politics.

The I-T Department issued an order under Section 24(3) of the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 to attach Mr. Kumar's property, reported PTI, which accessed a copy of the order.

The agency reported that according to the findings of the probe, the Department detected a "complex web of shareholding" by at least six firms.

Only 18 Congress MPs got more than 50% of votes, says ADR report

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

An analysis of the winners of the 2019 Lok Sabha election showed that 341 (63%) winners got 50% or more of the total votes polled in their constituencies, while 201 (37%) won with less than 50%. The report was released by the Association for Democratic Reforms on Thursday.

Of the 303 BJP winners, 79 won with less than 50% of the votes, while 224 (74%) got more than 50% vote-share in their respective constituencies, the report said. Of the 225 re-elected winners, 160 (71%) had won with more than 50% of the votes.

Last March, the Supreme Court upheld the order of the Madras High Court and asked him and others to surrender by July 7. As the Supreme Court again rejected his plea for further time on health grounds, Rajagopal had to surrender on July 9. He was brought in an ambulance and produced before the court.

## Thumping majority

Darshana Vikram Jardosh of the BJP had the highest vote share among all winners in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. 74% of BJP MPs won with a vote share of 50% or more.

**Winner** **Constituency** **Party** **Vote share (%)**

Winner	Constituency	Party	Vote share (%)
Darshana Jardosh	Surat	BJP	74.47
C.R. Patil	Navsari	BJP	74.37
Ranjan			

# Pak. espoused Khalistani agenda: India

In a dossier, India mentioned 30 instances of Sikh pilgrims being subjected to anti-India propaganda

VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

In a dossier to Pakistan, India has mentioned nearly 30 instances in the past four years when Sikh pilgrims visiting the neighbouring country were subjected to "anti-India propaganda" such as espousing the Khalistani cause.

The 23-page dossier was handed over to the Pakistani delegation during the Kartarpur corridor talks held at Wagah last week.

Gopal Singh Chawla, a key "Khalistani element", instigated the Sikh community to support Kashmiris for the formation of "Azad Kashmir", says the dossier accused by *The Hindu*.

In April, Chawla, president of the Punjabi Sikh Sangat (PSS), "raised the demand of liberation of Punjab and Kashmir from India"

## India's grouse

The 23-page dossier handed to the Pakistani delegation during the Kartarpur corridor talks last week cites specific instances:

**2019:** Gopal Singh Chawla, a key Khalistani element, "raised the demand of liberation of Punjab and Kashmir from India" during a function at Panja Sahib in Pakistan's Attok attended by Indian pilgrims in April.

**2018:** U.K. - and U.S.-based pro-Khalistani elements Avtar Singh Sanghera and Pritpal Singh were allowed to campaign openly for Khalistan at the Panja Sahib Gurudwara



**2016:** Sardar Mohammad Yousuf, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Harmony, at a function at Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, "eulogised Burhan Wani, a Kashmiri militant, and alleged that the Sikhs and Kashmiris are treated like slaves by the Indian government".  
Also, "attempts were made to instigate the Sikh pilgrims against the Indian government over issues such as demonetisation of Indian currency".

**2017:** Tara Singh, Bishan Singh and Maninder Singh displayed Khalistani propaganda and led a protest against India on the Wagah border in July.

during a function at Panja Sahib in Pakistan's Attok where Indian pilgrims were present, the dossier says.

The dossier contains a photograph of Chawla with Hafiz Saeed, founder of

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Under a 1974 bilateral protocol, four Sikh *jathas* visit important gurdwaras in Pakistan every year. The Kartarpur corridor will link two revered Sikh shrines in India

and Pakistan and is expected to be operational before the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak in November.

India said that Chawla was a well-known "Khalistani element" who often spews ve-

revered Sikhs shrines in India

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## IN BRIEF



Italian prosecutor grills German ship captain

AGRICULTURE  
German captain Carola Rackete, who sparked global headlines by forcibly docking in an Italian port with rescued migrants, was questioned by a Sicilian prosecutor on Thursday for allegedly aiding illegal immigration. Ms. Rackete was arrested on June 29 for entering Italy's Lampedusa port with 40 migrants who were blocked at sea for over two weeks. AFP

## U.S. House blocks sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON  
U.S. Congress is heading for a showdown with President Donald Trump after the House voted to block his administration from selling billions of dollars in weapons and maintenance support to Saudi Arabia. Mr. Trump has pledged to veto the resolutions of disapproval passed in the Democratic-led House. AFP

## 'No-deal Brexit to spark year-long U.K. recession'

LONDON  
Britain will slide into a year-long recession if it leaves the European Union without a deal with Brussels, the Office for Budget Responsibility predicted in a report on Thursday. "The U.K. enters a year-long recession in the fourth quarter of 2019" if Britain departs the bloc on October 31 with "no-deal". AFP

## Facebook's Libra a threat and far from ready: G7

CHANTILLY  
G7 Ministers on Thursday agreed that cryptocurrencies such as Facebook's Libra risked destabilising the international monetary system and were not ready to be implemented. It said such projects with a "global and potentially systemic footprint" raise serious regulatory concerns. AFP

# Crowd roars 'send her back' as Trump blasts Congresswomen

He calls 4 lawmakers 'hate-filled extremists who are trying to tear down country'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GREENVILLE

Going after four Democratic Congresswomen one by one, a combative President Donald Trump turned his campaign rally into an extended dissection of the liberal views of the women of colour, deriding them for what he painted as extreme positions and suggesting they just get out.

"Tonight I have a suggestion for the hate-filled extremists who are constantly trying to tear our country down," Mr. Trump told the crowd in North Carolina, a swing State he won in 2016 and wants to claim again in 2020. "They never have anything good to say. That's why I say, 'Hey if you don't like it, let 'em leave, let 'em leave."

Eager to rile up his base with the same kind of rhetoric he targeted at minorities and women in 2016, Mr. Trump declared on Wednesday night, "I think in some cases they hate our country."

Mr. Trump's jabs were aimed at the self-described "squad" of four freshmen Democrats who have garnered attention for their outspoken liberal views and distaste for Mr. Trump — Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. All were born in the U.S. except for Ms. Omar, who came to the U.S. as a child after fleeing Somalia with her family.

Taking on the legislators one at a time, Mr. Trump ticked through a laundry list of what he deemed offensive comments by each woman, mangling and misconstruing many facts along the way. Ms. Omar came under the



Upping the ante: U.S. President Donald Trump speaking at a campaign rally in Greenville, U.S., on Thursday. ■ REUTERS

harshest criticism as Mr. Trump played to voters' grievances, drawing a chant from the crowd of "Send her back! Send her back!"

## Still I rise'

She responded on Wednesday night with a series of tweets, including one quoting Maya Angelou's defiant poem, "Still I Rise," with the words, "You may shoot me with your words... But still, like air, I'll rise."

"I am where I belong, at the people's house and you're just gonna have to deal!" she wrote in another.

Mr. Trump set off a firestorm on Sunday when he tweeted that the four should "go back" to their home countries though three were born in the U.S. Mr. Trump has accused them of "spewing some of the most vile, hateful and disgusting things said by a politician."

Among his complaints against Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Trump correctly reported that she had referred to the President by the "F-word", adding: "That's not nice, even for me." Mr. Trump himself had unloaded a vulgarity earlier in his speech, denouncing

the Russia probe of his campaign and administration as "bulls--."

As for Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Mr. Trump fumbled over her name and declared: "I don't have time to go with three different names." He then referred to her as just "Cortez" and challenged her complaints about dire conditions at migrant detention centres.

In a lighter moment, Mr. Trump wondered if Ms. Pressley was related to Elvis Presley, then pivoted to more serious points, claiming she thought people of colour should "think the same". As for Ms. Omar, Mr. Trump unfurled a whole list of complaints, including a false accusation that she voiced pride in al-Qaida.

Mr. Trump, speaking to reporters at the White House later, distanced himself from his supporters' chants of "send her back" after he criticised Ms. Omar. "I was not happy with it. I disagree with it." Asked why he did nothing to stop the taunt, instead pausing as the crowd chanted it over and over, he said, "I think I did. I started speaking very quickly."

## Impeachment bid defeated in House

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday rejected a Congressman's bid to launch impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump, tamping down a groundswell of anger after the President made xenophobic comments about Democrats.

The chamber voted 332 to 95 to table, or effectively kill, a resolution brought by Democrat Al Green that raised whether to begin procedures to remove Mr. Trump from office.

The majority of the House's 235 Democrats joined all Republicans in voting to indefinitely delay the impeachment bid, although a substantial number of Democrats went on record in favour of considering articles of impeachment.

Mr. Trump took to Twitter following the vote to declare efforts to impeach him "over".

"This is perhaps the most ridiculous and time consuming project I have ever had to work on," Mr. Trump wrote, adding: "This should never be allowed to happen to another President of the United States again!"

In Greenville, South Carolina, he told reporters before addressing a rally: "We have just received an overwhelming vote against impeachment... And that's the end of it. Let the Democrats now go back to work."

# 33 killed in 'attack' on Japan animation studio

Man doused flammable liquid and set the building on fire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TOKYO

A man screaming "You die!" burst into an animation studio in Kyoto, doused it with a flammable liquid and set it on fire on Thursday, killing 33 people in an attack that shocked anime fans across Japan and beyond.

Thirty-six others were injured, some of them critically, in a blaze that sent people scrambling up the stairs toward the roof in a desperate and futile attempt to escape. Others emerged bleeding, blackened and barefoot.

The suspect was injured and taken to a hospital. Police identified him only as a 41-year-old man who was not a company employee. They gave no immediate details on the motive.

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Caught unawares: Firefighters at work as smoke rises from the three-story animation studio in Kyoto on Thursday. ■ AP

tions but is best known for its mega-hit stories featuring high school girls.

Firefighters found 33 bodies, 20 of them on the third floor and some on the stairs to the roof, where they apparently collapsed, Kyoto fire official Kazuhiro Hayashi said. Two were found dead on the first floor, 11 others on the second floor, he said.

Survivors said the suspect was screaming "You die!" as he dumped the liquid.

# U.S. bars Turkey from F-35 programme over S-400 deal

Ankara says one-sided step against spirit of alliance

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The White House confirmed on Wednesday that Turkey would be excluded from the F-35 stealth fighter jet programme after it purchased a Russian missile defense system in defiance of warnings from Western allies.

"Unfortunately, Turkey's decision to purchase Russian S-400 air defense systems renders its continued involvement with the F-35 impossible," White House

spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

The U.S.-made F-35 Joint Strike Fighter "cannot coexist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities," she added.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry termed the move "unfair," saying that "this one-sided step neither complies with the spirit of alliance nor is it based on legitimate reasons."

Ms. Grisham said that the U.S. had made "multiple" offers of its Patriot missile defence system to Turkey, but Ankara acquired the S-400, running counter to a NATO pledge to avoid Russian systems. "This will have detrimental impacts on Turkish interoperability with the Alliance," she said.

The U.S. action will lock out a number of Turkish manufacturers that were producing parts and components for the F-35.

# Former Pak. PM Abbasi arrested in graft case

Award of an LNG contract under lens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAHORE

Pakistan's anti-graft body on Thursday arrested former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in a multi-billion-rupee case related to the award of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import contract.

A National Accountability Bureau (NAB) team intercepted Mr. Abbasi's car in Lahore and arrested him. He initially resisted the arrest but eventually conceded.

Mr. Abbasi had served as the Prime Minister from August 2017 to May 2018.

The NAB was probing alleged corruption in the

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi  
award of contract to import LNG from Qatar by Mr. Abbasi when he was Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources in the cabinet of former PM Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Abbasi has denied the charges and said that he would prove his innocence in any court of law.

# China-U.S. feud rises over Taiwan

Beijing has threatened to sanction U.S. companies over arms sales to Taipei

ATUL ANEJA  
BEIJING

Amid growing trade tensions with the U.S., China is going ahead with its decision to sanction American companies selling weapons to Taiwan.

The State-run tabloid, *Global Times*, earlier this week nailed specific steps that China can take to hurt four American military hardware firms — General Dynamics, the maker of the M1A2T tanks, Raytheon, the manufacturers of Stinger missiles, and tank equipment contractors, BAE and Oshkosh.

On July 8, the U.S. Defense Department notified Congress of its proposed arms



Measured steps: An M1A2 Abrams tank firing during a U.S.-led military exercise in Georgia, in this file photo. ■ REUTERS

sales to Taiwan. These included 108 M1A2T Abrams tanks, as well as Hercules armoured vehicles and heavy equipment transporters. Besides, Congressional clearance was also sought for the sale of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, worth \$220 million.

Analysts say that China now has the tool kit to retaliate against the U.S. decision on arms sales to Taiwan. For instance, China as the third largest buyer of Gulfstream executive jets built by General

Dynamics can upset the company's balance sheet, should it decide to restrict imports. China is also a big purchaser of aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles produced by Oshkosh.

According to a *Global Times* report, China can more fundamentally disrupt parts of the supply chain, including export of rare earths material, used by U.S. military firms.

"Rare earths, the industry which is largely controlled by China, are imperative in making advanced weapons and equipment. For instance, the M1A2 tank of General Dynamics uses samarium-cobalt in its navigation system," the daily said.

# Iran seizes tanker, U.S. vows to protect sea route

Tehran alleges ship was smuggling oil

REUTERS  
TEHRAN

Iran said on Thursday it had seized a foreign tanker smuggling fuel in the Gulf, and the U.S. military commander in the region said the U.S. would work to ensure free passage of vessels through the vital waterway.

It was unclear if the impounded ship was the same vessel towed to safety on Sunday after receiving a distress signal. Iranian State television had earlier said it was the same ship but the Revolutionary Guards statement did not confirm that.

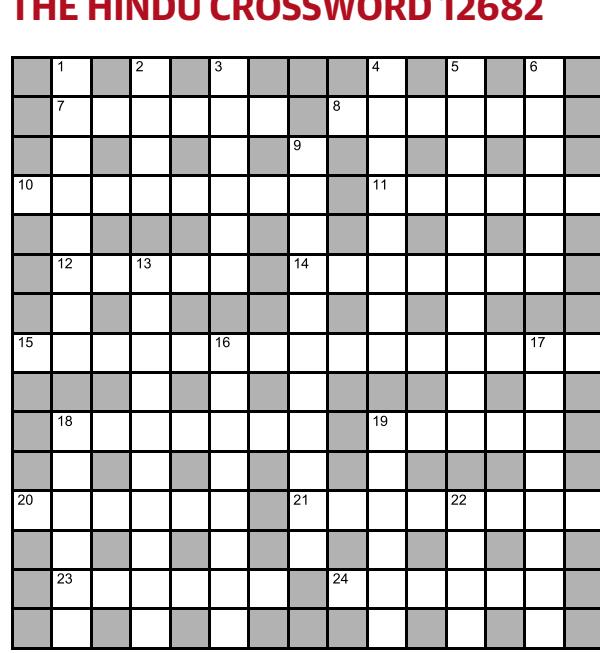
The Guards said that the impounded ship was smuggling one million litres of fuel in the area of Larak Island in the Gulf and had 12 foreign crew members.

Britain said the tanker was not British-flagged. "We are not currently aware of any U.K. interests in this vessel," a British government spokesman said.

U.S. Central Command chief General Kenneth McKenzie said the U.S. was in talks with several countries to ensure freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Oil prices rose after news of the seizure amid rising tensions between Tehran and the West over the safety of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital gateway for energy exports.

# THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12682



## ■ ACROSS

- 7 Excel's rule for mouse (6)
- 8 Make fun, look a bit thick (6)
- 10 Take note of winter wear stores offering discount (4,4)
- 11 Counterfeit money buying time for radical (6)
- 12 Pressure to reduce volume of boiling fat (5)

## ■ DOWN

- 1 Need duck slices especially for this boneless meat dish (8)
- 2 Base to stick incense in place of worship (4)
- 3 Free ball pitched up goes to fence (6)
- 4 Lobby, one arm to building (8)
- 5 A British boy born after a battle might describe me! (4,6)
- 6 Sanguine after changing sides, as a sitting duck would be? (6)
- 9 Rain to hit coasts to save India melting away like this? (4,4,3)
- 13 Quietly usurped or otherwise, vain about wealth (5-5)
- 16 Head getting hot with ego surfacing in strip joint perhaps (8)
- 17 Gaining pounds in the middle can be irritating (8)
- 18 Life force found in small stone or rock (6)
- 19 The deep, cunning fellow not wanted as a rule (6)
- 22 Evidence of good in wrongdoing (4)

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12681

B	J	A	M	U	I			



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## MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	38,897	-0.81
US Dollar	68.97	-0.22
Gold	35,670	0.48
Brent oil	61.99	-3.39

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	412.40	-4.65
Asian Paints	1384.95	-10.95
Axia Bank	740.40	-12.20
Bajaj Auto.	2630.80	-66.10
Bajaj Finance	7847.65	-6.90
Bharti Airtel	342.50	-3.75
BPCL	349.25	-3.55
Britannia Ind.	2820.85	23.05
Cipla	547.00	-10.55
Coal India	220.30	-9.70
Dr Reddy's Lab	2655.55	-10.75
Eicher Motors	1840.06	-27.70
GAIL (India)	141.95	-1.45
Grafix Ind.	907.70	-19.00
HCL Tech.	1018.55	-22.20
HDFC	2345.15	58.45
HDFC Bank	2411.90	14.45
Hero MotoCorp	2479.45	-43.50
Hindalco	200.55	-2.90
Hind Unilever	1739.15	-21.55
Indiabulls HFL	659.10	-9.10
ICICI Bank	418.65	-6.05
IndusInd Bank	1471.45	-29.80
Bharti Infratech	263.15	-0.85
Infosys	792.70	-1.45
Indian Oil Corp.	147.60	0.75
ITC	273.00	0.10
JSW Steel	266.10	-5.80
Kotak Bank	1538.25	3.65
L&T	1435.20	-20.25
M&M	597.40	-20.55
Maurti Suzuki	5882.35	-193.35
NTPC	127.05	-2.05
ONGC	143.40	-6.50
PowerGrid Corp	205.35	-2.65
Reliance Ind.	1261.85	-20.00
State Bank	363.65	-8.75
Sun Pharma	426.20	-3.85
Tata Motors	160.75	-7.15
Tata Steel	466.60	-9.10
TCS	2065.95	-51.30
Tech Mahindra	687.20	-3.60
Titan	1080.00	-29.90
UltraTech Cement	4601.75	-7.20
UPL	654.75	-5.00
Vedanta	163.05	-5.60
Wipro	269.10	9.50
YES Bank	85.80	-12.60
Zee Entertainment	360.10	6.85

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.75	69.07
Euro	77.14	77.50
British Pound	85.82	86.22
Japanese Yen (100)	63.78	64.08
Chinese Yuan	9.99	10.04
Swiss Franc	69.71	70.04
Singapore Dollar	50.53	50.77
Canadian Dollar	52.64	52.89
Malaysian Ringgit	16.69	16.79

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

	July 18 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)	43.8... (42.3)
22 ct gold (1g)	3332... (3294)

+ Centre issues notices to TikTok, Helo

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Centre has issued notices to social media platforms TikTok and Helo, both owned by Chinese firm ByteDance, asking them to answer 24 questions, including those relating to collection and use of users' data, mechanism to deal with fake information and protecting child's privacy. This follows allegations levelled by some MPs in the ongoing session of Parliament that TikTok shared Indian users' data with China and aided in the spread of fake information. Swadeshi Jagran Manch, a right-wing leaning body, had also written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ban these apps for their "anti-national content."

The Ministry of Electronics and IT asked the firm to reply to the queries by July 22, failing which it will face serious action, including a ban on the applications, a senior official said.

## SEBI opposes Centre's proposal to transfer surplus money to CFI

Regulator says the plan will undermine its autonomy

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The government's proposal to transfer surplus money with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) has met with a strong opposition from the regulatory body.

The capital markets regulator feels that the proposal would result in compromising its "autonomy and its ability to function effectively" towards the progress and development of the Indian securities market.

The government has proposed an amendment to the SEBI Act, which states that the SEBI would constitute a reserve fund and 25% of the annual surplus of the general fund would be put in the reserve fund. Further, the size of such reserve fund cannot exceed the total of annual expenditure of the preceding two financial years.

More importantly, the



surplus of the general fund, after factoring in all the SEBI expenses and the transfer to the reserve fund, needs to be transferred to the CFI as per amendments proposed in the Finance Bill, 2019.

## Staff missive to Centre

In a communication to the government, the employees' association of the SEBI had said that the proposal was "regressive" especially since the SEBI did not have any mandate to raise revenue for the government.

SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi

had also taken up the matter

with the Ministry, while highlighting the employees' concerns. "These proposed amendments are regressive in nature as they are against the spirit of the SEBI Act... Autonomy of a regulatory institution like SEBI is critical... The proposal would result in compromising SEBI's autonomy and its ability to function effectively towards its stated objectives, and thus, hamper the progress of Indian securities markets," stated the letter.

Incidentally, all the penalties levied by the SEBI already go to the CFI. Similarly, settlement amounts are also credited to the CFI.

The general fund of the SEBI, which currently has a balance of over ₹3,000 crore, is used to meet the expenses of the regulatory body, including salaries and allowances. The fund gets money via charges that the SEBI levies on market participants in the form of registration or processing fees.

## Government can prosecute IL&amp;FS auditors'

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The NCLT has given a go-ahead to the government to prosecute Deloitte and BSR Associates for their failure to detect and report the scams that took place across the now bankrupt IL&FS Group and 21 other entities, when they were the auditors of IL&FS Financial Services.

The NCLT, in an order posted on its website on Thursday, said the Corporate Affairs Ministry can go ahead with the prosecution based on the findings of the probe conducted by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).

But the posting does not mention its views on the government's demand to ban these two auditors from business for five years. The tribunal also allowed the government's plea to impound Udayan Sen, a partner of Deloitte and BSR Associates' partners Kalpesh Mehta and Sampath Ganesh.

## 'Transmission sector needs ₹5 lakh + crore investment for future needs'

India likely to consume 1.8 lakh crore units by 2025, says CII

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

One of the key requirements for a \$5-trillion economy is an investment of about ₹5 lakh crore in the power transmission sector over the next few years, in order to cater to the 1.8 lakh crore units of electricity that India is likely to consume by 2025, according to a White Paper released by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a \$5-trillion economy will require an estimated investment of ₹5 lakh crore in the transmission sector over the next few years," CII said.

"Traditional coal-fired power plants took 5-6 years to build compared to three to four years for construction of transmission lines required for power evacuation," the White Paper said.

The transmission sector, CII added, had seen a reduction in investments to below ₹1.8 lakh crore in the last five

years. The White Paper goes on to enumerate eight action points that the government must work on to enhance the transmission sector in line with the growth of the economy that is envisaged.

"Traditional coal-fired power plants took 5-6 years to build compared to three to four years for construction of transmission lines required for power evacuation," the White Paper said.

"In comparison, wind or solar plants take 12-18 months to build, implying the need for advance planning of transmission projects."

CII also recommended

the separation of the Central Transmission Utility from the Power Grid Corporation of India since the set up is currently creating a conflict of interest between the two.

The paper also called for improved reliability of the transmission network through the development of contingencies in the system.

**Huge time overruns** "Currently, the average time taken from the notification of a project to the start of its construction is around 760 days, caused by huge time overruns in the bidding and forest clearance process," the paper said.

The industry body also highlighted the fact that current guidelines for the construction of transmission lines, as laid out by the Central Electricity Authority, did not leave enough scope for adopting new technologies. This increases the capital expenditure and the per unit tariff.

## Jet Airways creditors put in claims worth ₹25,000 crore

₹230-crore claim by Goyal-owned agent rejected

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The NCLT-appointed Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) of Jet Airways has received 16,643 claims worth ₹24,887.93 crore from financial and operational creditors of the Naresh Goyal-led airline.

While 37 financial creditors have claimed ₹10,231 crore, 33 claims worth ₹8,463 crore have been admitted by the IRP. The operational creditors (other than workers and employees) have claimed ₹12,372 crore from Jet Airways, but IRP Ashish Chhawchharia of Grant Thornton India, is yet to approve these. Claims of ₹1,381 crore, including some from entities owned by Naresh Goyal have been rejected. Jet Airways LLC, which has put up a claim of ₹426



crore, is under verification. The IRP has put up the claims' details on the firm's website in a more than 500-page document. A ₹230-crore claim by Jetair, a general sales agent of Jet Airways and owned by Mr. Goyal, has been rejected. More claims are expected in the coming days.

## Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise) #39, "Shanthigruha", Bharath Scouts &amp; Guides, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Karnataka.

Ph:080-22208109 / 22207851 / 22282221. Fax: 080-22257399, Email:kredlmd@gmail.com / agm.sgkredl@gmail.com

No. KREDL/07/SG/955/2019-20/H. Kodihalli

Date:19.07.2019

## SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

## Solar Home Lighting Systems and Solar Street Lighting Systems

(Through e-procurement platform- two cover systems)

Short-term Tender is invited for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the Solar Home Lighting Systems and Solar Street Lighting Systems with 5 years warranty in H. Kodihalli village of Mandya Taluk and District of Karnataka through e-procurement portal under two cover systems. Intending bidders can download the tender documents from the e-procurement website: [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) on or after 19.07.2019.

## The Schedule of Events are as follows:

Sl No	Events	Date	Time
1	Last date for receipt of queries	23.07.2019	13.00 Hrs.
2	Date of pre-bid meeting (address: KREDL office, Bangalore)	23.07.2019	15.00 Hrs.
3	Due date of submission of Techno commercial bid and price bid as per RFP	05.08.2019	16.00 Hrs.
4	Due date for hard copies submission (Power of Attorney)	07.08.2019	14.00 Hrs.
5	Techno commercial bid opening except price bid.	07.08.2019	16.00 Hrs.
6	Price bid opening	It will be intimated to Responsive Bidder	

Further details may be obtained from above office during office timings. Bidders are requested to contact e-procurement cell for registration.

Note: KREDL reserves the right to annul the Bidding process and invite fresh bids without liability or obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reasons

## IN BRIEF



## All Nippon connects Tokyo with Chennai

MUMBAI Japan's All Nippon Airways (ANA) has announced a new route connecting Tokyo's Narita Airport and Chennai International Airport starting October 27. The airline would deploy Boeing 787-8 aircraft on this route. This expansion would bring the total number of cities serviced by ANA to 46. "When the service begins this October, ANA will be the only airline providing direct flights from Japan to south India," the airline said in a statement.

## L&amp;T Hydrocarbon bags over ₹7,000-cr. project

MUMBAI L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering Ltd. (LTHE), a subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro has bagged another mega project in the Marjan Field by Saudi Aramco, worth over ₹7,000 crore. The company is executing the Hasbah Gas Increment Project and other projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including, Marjan, Safaniya, Zulf and Berri. All projects were executed through LTHE's fabrication facilities in west Asia and India.

## EU fines chipmaker Qualcomm \$271 million

BRUSSELS In yet another European Union (EU) move against a U.S. tech giant, the bloc's antitrust chief on Thursday fined chipmaker Qualcomm \$271 million, accusing it of "predatory pricing" to drive a competitor out of the market. EU Antitrust Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said Qualcomm was abusing its market dominance in 3G baseband chipsets. She said it sold them below the cost of production. AP

## Interest subsidy subject to GST'

TN AAR order comes in a case relating to Daimler Financial Services India

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR  
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has ruled that the interest subvention income received by Daimler Financial Services India Private Limited (DFSI) from Mercedes-Benz India Private Limited, to reduce the effective interest rate to the final customer, attracts a GST of 18% (9% CGST and 9% SGST).

Daimler Financial Services had moved the AAR seeking a clarification on whether interest income from the motor vehicle manufacturer for retail financing to purchasers of motor vehicles is liable for GST (Goods and Services Tax).

"Customers who purchase Mercedes-Benz cars from the authorised dealers



Given the ambiguity, the Centre should consider issuing an explicit clarification, says an analyst. ■ GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

may require financing. Daimler Financial acts as a financier and provides loan to customers at interest rates lower than alternative providers," it said.

The differential interest (market rate less the rate offered to customers) is paid to Daimler Financial by Mer-

cedes-Benz. The AAR said that the agreement between DFSI and Mercedes-Benz India is for the furtherance of the business of lending of the former.

The customers would prefer to take out a loan from DFSI because of the lower interest rates offered as a con-

sequence of their agreement with Mercedes-Benz and therefore, the transaction is a supply under Section 7 of the CGST Act, it said.

### 'Not setting precedent'

"An advance ruling is binding only on the applicant and the revenue in so far as that applicant is concerned. It is not in the nature of a judicial precedent and need not affect other assesses," said K. Vaitheswaran, advocate and tax consultant.

Ahishhek Jain, tax partner, EY, said "This has been an issue especially for the automotive and consumer goods industry from the service tax era, with inheritance under GST as well. Given the ambiguity, the government should consider issuing an explicit clarification."

## SEBI moots tougher disclosures for resignation of auditors

Auditors quitting abruptly have to give a detailed reason

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Auditors who resign in an abrupt manner in the middle of a financial year may soon have to give a detailed reason for such a move while ensuring that the audit is either completed for the fiscal or at least a limited review or audit report is issued prior to the exit.

Companies, on their part, will have to disclose their audit committee's views on the resignation along with the details of the deliberations of the committee on the reasons of such a move by the auditor.

These are part of the proposals in the discussion paper released by the Securities and Exchange Board of India

(SEBI) as part of its attempts to strengthen the disclosures for investors while also strengthening and clarifying the role of the audit committee.

"If the auditor has signed the audit report for all the quarters [limited review/audit] of a financial year, except the last quarter, then the auditor shall finalise the audit report for the said financial year before such resignation," stated the discussion paper.

If the reason for the auditor's resignation is the entity not providing information, the auditor shall provide an appropriate disclaimer in the audit report to that extent, it added.

The recent past saw Price Waterhouse resigning

abruptly as the auditors of some of the group companies of Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG). Similar resignations have been witnessed in many other listed entities as well.

Meanwhile, the regulator has said that the auditor would have to disclose the detailed reasons for resignation and also that there are no material reasons other than those mentioned in the resignation letter.

Auditors will also have to disclose whether "the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence was due to a management-imposed limitation or circumstances beyond the control of the management," as per the SEBI.

## ACC first quarter profit rises 39% to ₹456 crore

Firm reports better realisations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

ACC Limited, a member of the LafargeHolcim Group, reported a 39% growth in its first quarter net profit to ₹456 crore led by better realisations and operational efficiencies.

The rise in profit was reported on an 8% increase in consolidated revenue to ₹4,059 crore despite weak outtake in the quarter due to the slow pace of construction activity. Operating EBITDA for the quarter registered year-on-year growth of 25% to ₹783 crore.

"ACC made significant progress in its goals in the quarter with strong operating performance, including good net sales growth. I am

pleased that EBITDA improved significantly on account of better realisations, operational efficiencies and supply chain efficiency improvement. Despite subdued cement demand, our strong customer relationships, loyal channel network and range of innovative products have helped us deliver a robust quarter," said Neeraj Akhoury, managing director and CEO.

Cost increase on account of higher fuel prices year-on-year was partly mitigated by lower cost of raw materials, improvement in operating efficiency and lower fixed cost. The ready mix concrete business continued to deliver robust sales volume growth of 11%.

## Cyient profit rises to ₹90 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

IT firm Cyient posted a consolidated net profit of ₹89.9 crore for the quarter ended June 30, a 10.17% growth over ₹81.6 crore recorded a year earlier.

Revenue from operations of the Hyderabad-headquartered firm was almost flat at ₹1,089 crore (₹1,080 crore).

Managing director and CEO Krishna Bodanapu said the results were "disappointing. We recorded a revenue of \$156.6 million, lower by 4.8% quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) and 0.6% year-on-year. Our services business was lower by 5.7% Q-o-Q predominantly driven by communications, aerospace, energy and utilities and portfolio business units."

## Centre seeks response from IndiGo on 'misgovernance'

Co-promoter Gangwal has levelled charges against Bhatia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government has sought a response from IndiGo on allegations of corporate misgovernance levelled by its co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal, the airline informed the stock exchanges on Friday.

"The company has received a communication from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Office of Registrar of Companies... requiring the company to furnish certain information/explanations pursuant to Section 206 (4) of the Companies Act, 2013, in relation to complaint dated July 8, 2019 received from Mr. Gangwal, co-founder and director of the company. The



Mr. Bhatia called the charges an attempt to dilute his controlling rights

rights available with another promoter, Rahul Bhatia, allegedly leading to governance problems.

He had also raised an issue with the businesses conducted between IndiGo and Mr. Bhatia's InterGlobe Enterprises.

Mr. Bhatia, though, had called these charges "hot air" and an attempt to dilute his controlling rights.

Amid this tussle, the IndiGo board is headed for a stormy meet on Friday to finalise June quarter results.

## Filatex India to set up fabric unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
COIMBATORE

Filatex India, which produces synthetic filament yarn, plans to set up a fabric-making unit next year.

Madhu Sudhan Bhagaria, chairman and managing director, Filatex, said the company planned to invest ₹200 crore in the fabric-making unit set to come up in Maharashtra or Gujarat.

"We want to get into the value chain. We can innovate and think of a garment unit, too, later," he said.

The firm, which has two manufacturing facilities, has the capacity to make 3.28 lakh tonnes of yarn a year and is expanding the capacity to make 3.82 lakh tonnes annually.

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KANCHI MAHASWAMI

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CM YK

# 'Yet to get over semifinal loss'

India's fielding coach Sridhar says team was devastated when Dhoni was run out

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

HYDERABAD

India's fielding coach R. Sridhar said he was still struggling to get over the "huge disappointment" of losing to New Zealand in the semifinals of the 2019 ICC World Cup.

"Given the terrific journey we had in reaching the semifinal, I am yet to get over from that loss," said Sridhar, in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*.

Without going into any debate of sorts about 'finisher' M.S. Dhoni going down the order in that big match, Sridhar felt that India fought back remarkably after the early setbacks to take the match to the final overs.

## Tense moments

"As long as MS was there, we thought we were always in the game. But, once he got run out unfortunately in those tense moments, it was all over," the former Hyderabad left-arm spinner said.

"We were absolutely devastated once he got out. For we knew it was a matter of three sixes from Dhoni and he had already got one by then," he added.

"The mood was very positive before the semis. I tell you this has been a great World Cup given the way the players put their body on the line right through," he said.

"Honestly, I am not looking for an excuse when I refer to the semifinal going into the reserve day because of rains on the match day. But, there was a lot on offer for the new ball on the second morning because it was cloudy and cold."

"However, it happens to



**Unfortunate:** R. Sridhar says it was just a matter of three sixes had M.S. Dhoni not been dismissed in the World Cup semifinal. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

any team and we have to just move on," said Sridhar, who has been with the Indian team for five years now including the 2015 World Cup.

**Good conversion rate**

On the overall fielding standards of India, Sridhar said that the conversion rate in

terms of catching was exceptional with Jadeja being outstanding; so were Virat and the others.

"Well, personally, I will be looking at the forthcoming West Indies tour as the last assignment before the current contract ends. I am grateful to head coach Ravi

(Shastri), MS (Dhoni), Virat and bowling coach B. Arun for their great support," he said.

"Since we qualify for selection as support staff, we need not apply again. Anyhow, I take things as they come and not too think too far ahead," said Sridhar.

# CoA clips BCCI secretary's wings

Chief of the selection committee to convene meetings

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

An elected officer-bearer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Amitabh Choudhary – elected as joint-secretary on March 2, 2015, but asked to discharge the duties of the secretary by the Supreme Court on January 2, 2017 – was on Thursday abruptly stripped of his powers to convene the senior national selection committee meeting, by the Committee of Administrators (CoA).

## Selection meeting on Saturday or Sunday

The selection committee meetings will now be convened by the chairperson of the different selection committees. In the case of the senior men's team, it would be M.S.K. Prasad. The meeting may be held on Saturday or Sunday.

Incidentally, Thursday was the third anniversary of the apex court order that accepted the Lodha reforms, but nothing tangible has changed except for the CoA implementing the radical reforms in bits and pieces.

Sources privy to the developments leading to the scheduled selection committee meeting to pick teams for the West Indies tour here on Friday (July 19) said, a majority decision among the three in the CoA – Vinod Rai, Dia- na Edulji and Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Ravi Thodige – resulted in a fresh set of directives, notifying the new process of selection committing meetings for all national teams, posted on the BCCI website on Thursday afternoon.

It has turned out that Dia- na, who has had run-ins with



**Changing hands:** M.S.K. Prasad will chair the upcoming selection meeting in place of Amitabh Choudhary, under the new dispensation. ■ FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

Rai in the past, did not like the idea of the secretary's right as convenor of the senior selection committee being taken away three months before the BCCI's proposed AGM on October 22.

## New Constitution cited

The CoA note cited the New BCCI Constitution registered with the Registrar of Societies, Tamil Nadu, in August 2018, to eliminate the secretary from convening meetings related to cricketing matters.

The question that was raised by a handful of former BCCI officials after the CoA directive was: "Why did this occur to the CoA and Rai all of sudden, when Choudhary had convened selection meetings after the New BCCI Constitution was registered?"

The CoA note said, "ex- cept on overseas tours, the chairperson of the respective selection committee – (i) men's selection committee, (ii) junior selection committee and (iii) women's selection committee – shall convene the meetings. On overseas tours the administrative manager shall con-

vene the meetings in accordance with the relevant provision of the New BCCI Constitution. Neither any officer-bearer nor the CEO shall attend any cricket committee."

## No approval needed

The note also said that the selection committee does not need any approval either from the hon. secretary or the CEO in relation to any selection made or change or replacement in the team.

The Lodha panel recommendations had said that "the secretary (of the BCCI) shall keep and maintain the minutes of Annual and Special meetings of the General Body, the Meetings of the Apex Council and of the Committees appointed by the General Body in appropriate books and shall cause them to be properly and correctly recorded and confirmed."

Outlining the function of the joint-secretary (of the BCCI), the Lodha panel had said: "The joint-secretary shall convene and keep minutes of the Committees that may be placed in his charge, or the secretary, at the AGM.

# Bayliss to coach SRH

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Trevor Bayliss, who guided England to its maiden World Cup triumph last week, will be the head coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad for the next edition of the IPL.

He will replace former Australian cricketer Tom Moody.

Bayliss has already won two IPL trophies with KKR and has also been successful in the Big Bash League and Champions League T20 with Sydney Sixers.

"He is a proven winner and we feel that his successful track record will be ideal in taking Sunrisers Hyderabad forward," a statement from the Sunrisers management said on Thursday.

"We would like to thank Tom Moody who has made an enormous impact with the franchise helping us achieve five playoff appearances over the past seven years, including a much treasured championship in 2016."

"We would also like to thank him for his work ethic and leadership over our journey and wish him all the success moving forward," it said.



Trevor Bayliss. ■ REUTERS

# Hirwani to work with Indian women's team

Likely to travel with squad on select assignments as a spin consultant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Former India international and National Cricket Academy (NCA) spin coach Narendra Hirwani is set to work as a consultant with the country's women's team.

It has been learnt that Hirwani, who played 17 Tests and 18 ODIs for India, will travel with the team on select assignments starting with the home series against South Africa in September.

India's T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur had recently expressed the need for a spin coach considering the team is full of spinners, including Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht and Deepti Sharma.

"It is not a full-time role since he is busy at the National Cricket Academy. He will travel with the team on and off. He also worked with them briefly during the team's recent camp at NCA," a BCCI official said on Thursday.

# Ian Chappell reveals battle with cancer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MELBOURNE

Former Australian captain Ian Chappell on Thursday revealed he was battling skin cancer, but the 75-year-old expected to be fit enough to commentate when the Ashes comes calling next month.

Chappell, who played 75 Tests for Australia between 1964 and 1980, has completed five weeks of intense radiation therapy after he had skin cancers removed from his shoulder, neck and underarm.

"When you hit 70 you feel (vulnerable) anyhow, but I guess I've got so used to bloody skin cancers over the years, and the fact that none of them have been melanomas, probably provides a bit of comfort. It may be naivety on my part," said Chappell.



Narendra Hirwani.  
■ FILE PHOTO: N. SUDARSHAN

# Shubhankar one-under after monster birdie

McIlroy staring at missing the cut after a horror opening of eight-over 79; Woods too struggles

THE OPEN  
148<sup>TH</sup> ROYAL PORTRUSH

PTI & AFP  
PORTRUSH (UNITED KINGDOM)

Shubhankar Sharma holed a monstrous 40-footer for a birdie after a steady stream of pars to get to one-under in his first round of the 148th Open Championships, here.

He was one-under through 16 holes as the course did offer birdies but it could do with a fast bowling coach.

"Like the men's team, there should be a dedicated support staff for the women's team," a source close to the side said.

India, which has lost its last six T20s, has begun preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia in February-March next year.

The team doesn't need a batting coach with head coach and former India batsman WV. Raman in charge but it could do with a fast bowling coach.

"Like the men's team, there should be a dedicated support staff for the women's team," a source close to the side said.

India's T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur had recently expressed the need for a spin coach considering the team is full of spinners, including Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht and Deepti Sharma.

"It is not a full-time role since he is busy at the National Cricket Academy. He will travel with the team on and off. He also worked with them briefly during the team's recent camp at NCA," a BCCI official said on Thursday.

Taking into consideration Wednesday's medal rounds and the individual events to follow, both teams gave an opportunity to each of the five players in the squad. Despite rotating players, the teams didn't drop a match on Thursday. The men sailed past Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Wales with an identical scoreline of 3-0.

Similarly, the women too rotated players and maintained a clean slate against Wales, Malaysia and Nigeria. Manika Batra and Madhurika



**Holding his own:** Shubhankar Sharma didn't let the conditions or playing with an elite company affect his game. ■ AP

who was three-under after 15.

## Rough weather

The trio played in weather that saw rain making regular appearances with some respite in between. But when it did come down, it often came down hard.

Shubhankar had a couple

of birdie chances but also made some good pars on a course that was tricky and put premium on good placements in many places.

Koepka birdied Par-5 second, fifth, Par-5 12th and 14th and missed out only one Par-5, the seventh, which he parred. He had no bogeys.

Tiger Woods made a horri-

ble start to his bid for a 16th Major title, slipping to six-over par after only 10 holes of his opening round. Struggling off the tee, the 43-year-old American started with four straight pars before his game fell apart dramatically.

His troubles followed those of the other crowd favourite, Northern Irishman

Tiger Woods

Rory McIlroy, who quadrupled-bogeyed the first hole en route to an eight-over 79.

## Falter from the off

McIlroy conceded his dreams of winning the British Open on home soil in Northern Ireland are all but over. The four-time Major champion's challenge faltered from the off as he struck his tee shot at the first out of bounds.

McIlroy regained his composure to get back to three over par before an equally damaging finish as a double bogey at the 16 and triple bogey at the last left him with a huge task on Friday just to make the cut.

"I guess when you play your first and last holes in a combined seven-over par, you're sort of starting on the back foot," said McIlroy.

Huge crowds gathered round the first hole for a glimpse of the local hero as the Open returned to Northern Ireland for the first time since 1951. However, McIlroy played down the impact of pressure on his terrible start.

"I guess when you play your first and last holes in a combined seven-over par, you're sort of starting on the back foot," said McIlroy.

The world number 60 saw his nine-iron shot from 194 yards

# 14-in-one for Duval!

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PORTRUSH

David Duval put Rory McIlroy's troubles on the first day of the British Open into perspective after hitting a 14 on the par-five seventh on Thursday.

This made the 2001 champion finish with a 91, the worst round at the Open in 22 years, and languish at the bottom of the pack at 20-over at Royal Portrush.

Meanwhile, Argentinian Emiliano Grillo made the first hole-in-one with his tee shot at the par-three 13th.

The world number 60 saw his nine-iron shot from 194 yards

catch the left portion of the green before rolling straight into the cup to the delight of the fans at Royal Portrush.

It was the first Open hole-in-one since Louis Oosthuizen's in 2016.

# India breezes through to the semifinals

Manika and Madhurika hit speed bumps but still advance

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR

CUTTACK



**Effective:** Manika Batra helped India maintain its dominance in the league stage. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

**Women:** India bt Wales 3-0 (Madhurika Patkar bt Charlotte Carey 5-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-8; Archana Kamath bt Beth Richards 11-8, 11-6, 11-7; Aiyika Mukherjee bt Lara Whittom 11-3, 11-8, 11-7); Nigeria bt Malaysia 3-1; India bt Malaysia 3-0 (Archana bt Tee Ai Xin 11-6, 12-10, 11-6; Manika Batra bt Ho Ying 13-11, 8-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9; Madhurika bt Chang Alice Li 11-8, 8-11, 11-2, 6-11, 11-5); India bt Nigeria 3-0 (Archana bt Offiong

# Heena aiming for a better version of herself

Says she has not reached her potential and the best is yet to come

## SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

She has competed in the last two Olympics in London and Rio. She has held the world record in women's air pistol, has won a World Cup Final gold.

And she is a dentist. Yet, Heena Sidhu feels the need to evolve into a better version of herself, Heena 2.0.

The only Olympic quota in women's air pistol so far has been won by Manu Bhaker. A perfectionist, Heena is also chasing her Olympic dreams as vigorously as ever.

Going through a training session with her husband and coach Ronak Pandit, at the Manav Rachna Shooting Academy in Faridabad, Heena was clear in her thoughts.

"I have won more than others. But I have not reached my potential. My best is yet to come," she said.

*Excerpts:*

The recent scores do not match her firm hold over air pistol. Is too much knowledge weighing her down. How hard is it, to keep things simple?

Knowledge is good if you know how to use it. So, I am finding a way of using it to my advantage. The challenge is to keep evolving and that is the best way to keep things simple. I am not the same person I was 12 years ago. I have to figure things that will work now, and for the next decade.

Maybe she is too demanding on herself?

Nothing but the best will do for me. Being a perfectionist is not bad, but one has to be happy with the good. My coach, the late Anatoli Pidubnyi, used to say, 'Perfect is the enemy of good'.

We can aspire for perfection, but need to be content and happy with the good.

How does she plan to pin that elusive Olympic quota?

My coach will find a way, my job will be to execute it. We are in the process of creating a stronger Heena 2.0.

On skipping the Kumar Surendra Singh championship and the fifth selection trials last month.

Skipping those events was in my best interest. We have all fallen into the trap of just being better than others. I have decided to just be the best version of myself. So, even for the Masters event coming up next in Delhi, we will take a call. Training and competition are two different things.

With no time to practice dentistry, how about other pastimes of painting, sketching?

I don't remember the last time I got time to even think about painting, sketching, reading, cooking! The schedule has been so tight and the system right now is not conducive for longevity and class. Yet, I am working on creating harmony and balance in my personal and sports life.



In tandem: Heena Sidhu is working on making it to the Tokyo Olympics under the guidance of coach and husband Ronak Pandit. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## AITA Trust to back youngsters

Balram Singh to head its selection committee

## TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former national coach Balram Singh will head the selection panel for the All India Tennis Association (AITA) Trust, which will venture to identify 16 players in the under-14 age group for a scholarship of ₹100,000 each per year, starting with a camp at the DLTA Complex on Friday.

The week-long camp will have 32 players from 15 State units. Vishaal Uppal and Ankit Bhamri will be the other members of the selection committee. The players will be assessed not only for their

tennis skills but also for physical fitness and overall potential.

The scholarship amount will be given to the players in three instalments. The first instalment of ₹50,000 will be given to each of the 16 selected players, immediately after the camp.

### Monitored

The players will be monitored through the year and they will have to present accounts for the amount paid to them.

The AITA Trust has also invested ₹60 lakh in the Tennis Vision Fund, and expects corporates and private companies to contribute to the fund. The Vision fund will be

utilised to help players compete at home and abroad, apart from sourcing tennis equipment.

There will also be a team of three boys and three girls from among the 16 identified talent, who would be supported for tournaments at home and abroad.

### Strengthening tennis

The fund will be used to strengthen tennis in schools apart from development of tennis infrastructure in small towns and under-developed tennis regions in the country.

Overall, the Trust aims to support grassroots schemes, fostering talent and infrastructure development.

The first camp is scheduled to be held at the DLTA Complex from July 19 to 24.

### The players nominated for the camp:

**Boys:** Manan Nath, Yuvan Nandal, Aayush Bhat, Shreyas Krishnakumar, Manas Dhamne, Nitish Balaji, Arunava Mazumdar, Navya Verma, Samprit Sharma, Harsh Fogaat, Omaansh Choudhary, Ayushman Arjera, Madhav Sharma, Hamza Mehmood, Devaharshith Neelam, Rushil Khosla.

**Girls:** Tanishq Patar, Shruti Ahlawat, Suhitha Maruri, Shrijana Thapa, Ruma Ashutosh Gaikwari, Kundana Sri Bandaru, Sweta Samanta, Suryanshi Tawar, Samriddhi Singh, Riya Sachdeva, Samiksha Dabas, Amisha Shukla Monile, Anahat Pannu, Praanya Slatnia, Veda Raju Papurna, Hannah Nagpal.

## More technology for the umpires

Will be available during the knockout stage this season



Saba Karim.  
■ FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

### AMOL KARHADKAR CUTTACK

After being severely criticised for howlers by the umpires in domestic cricket, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to enhance technological assistance for Ranji Trophy knock-outs this season.

"The idea is to eradicate as many howlers as possible. If we can achieve that, then we can go ahead with it. That is why we are introducing it only for the knock-out stages for the coming season," Saba Karim, BCCI general manager-cricket

operations, told *The Hindu*.

It is understood that despite the BCCI's initiative to get rid of howlers, it will not be able to use the highly expensive Hawk-Eye and UltraEdge, a must for DRS in international cricket. Karim remained non-committal when asked if the technology will be used for lbw decisions.

"That we will decide once we have a meeting with the umpires, match referees and broadcasters. What I am trying to say right now is with whatever technology we have, we will try and use that for the DRS. Whether it is lbw or

something else, it will be up to them to decide because they are the experts."

This may result in limiting the technological assistance to determine close caught-behind calls with extended camera angles. Nevertheless, the development – according to a domestic team's coach – would be a starting point in forcing the BCCI to take domestic cricket more seriously.

Even during the captains and coaches' conclave in May, many teams had demanded the introduction of DRS, citing poor umpiring decisions.

Gonna be hard to swallow: Boult

## Amir has to grow up: Vijender

The Indian pugilist hopeful of having a shot at the world title in 2020

## BOXING

UTHRA GANESAN  
NEW DELHI

New Zealand pacer Trent Boult's plans of getting over the gut-wrenching World Cup loss to England include walking his dog along the beach, but concedes that losing the trophy on boundary-count will be hard to swallow for at least a couple of years.

Boult landed back in the country amid questions on how the Black Caps are coping after losing their second successive World Cup final.

"Well, I'm gonna go home for the first time in about four months. Probably gonna walk my dog along the beach and try and put it aside. I'm sure he won't be too angry at me," Boult told reporters.

"...it's not gonna be something that disappears in the next couple of days."

"It's probably something that's gonna be hard to swallow for the next couple of years," he said.



Amazing run: Vijender Singh, who won his 11th consecutive professional bout, addresses the media with JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd.'s director Shailendra Chouksey. ■ PTI

fight in different weight categories. While Amir is a welterweight boxer, Vijender contests in super-middle-weight. The Indian, though, said both could work on their weights and agree on a mid point.

"He has done it before," Vijender said. Amir has only once competed in the middleweight division before where he was knocked out by Mexican Canelo Alvarez

in the sixth round in 2016.

### Impressive career

About his own targets, Vijender said he was hopeful of getting a shot at the world title in 2020 if things work out in terms of competitions. He knocked out Mike Snider in four rounds in his US circuit debut last Sunday for an impressive 11-0 professional career and holds the WBO Oriental and the Asia Pacific

super-middle-weight titles.

"It was a long break and both my team and I were getting desperate for a fight. It's been more than a year since I last fought and we wanted to get a bout in US anyhow.

"We plan to have two more fights, one in October-September and next around January-February.

"We are trying to work around the venue and opponent," he said.

## Neesham's childhood coach breathes his last after watching Super Over six

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WELLINGTON

New Zealand allrounder Jimmy Neesham on Thursday paid tribute to his high school cricket coach, David Gordon, who had passed away on July 14 due to heart failure.

"Dave Gordon, my High School teacher, coach, and friend. Your love of this game was infectious, especially for those of us lucky enough to play under you.

"How appropriate you held on until just after such a match. Hope you were proud. Thanks for everything, RIP," Neesham tweeted.

Gordon passed away during the Super Over in the World Cup final and his daughter Leonie Gordon said that Neesham had hit a six in the Super Over when her father took his last breath.

Leonie was touched by Neesham's response.

"It was lovely, you know, he's kept in touch with Jimmy and he is friends with Jimmy's father. He always



Poignant: Jimmy Neesham, referring to Gordon, tweeted "How appropriate you held on until just after such a match." ■ CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

had a soft spot for Jimmy Neesham, he was very proud of him.

"He would definitely be following his career," stuff.co.nz quoted Leonie Gordon as saying.

David Gordon went into heart failure five weeks ago and succumbed to it during New Zealand's final match against England.

## MMSC plans night racing in the near future



New direction: The MMSC strives to keep pace with the changing times. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### Indian National Car Racing Championship gets underway today

S. DIPAK RAGAV  
CHENNAI

With a clutch of innovative initiatives on the horizon, the third round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship gets underway at the MMRT here on Friday, featuring 14 races.

The programme includes races in the two single-seater categories, the MRF F1600 and the Formula LGB 1300, besides the popular saloon cars – the premium Indian Touring Cars and Super Stock classes – and the Volkswagen Ameo Class which has been accorded National Championship status. Run-

ning concurrently will be four Formula 4 SEA races.

While even as the National Championship season is in full swing, promoters Madras Motor Sports Club is planning to initiate a slew of long-term plans that include night racing, the first of its kind in India.

### Test session

Taking an overview of this weekend's races, chairman of the championship Vicky Chandok said, "Going forward, we at the MMSC, in keeping with our efforts to move with the changing times, plan to introduce night events with racing un-

der lights. With a view to evaluate the possibilities of night racing, we have planned a test session on Wednesday, August 7, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

"Primarily, this first session will be only for saloons, with headlights mandatory. Depending on the testing, we will expand it to the 1300cc single seater cars as well. Further, for the next round (August 16-18), we plan to run the races in anti-clockwise direction. The response, thus far, has been tremendous."

**Proven platform**

The MRF F1600, a proven

platform for young aspirants looking to break into international arena, will be running to full grid with four races scheduled, while the Formula LGB 1300, an excellent option for those graduating to single-seater racing, has again attracted 20-plus entries.

The two categories in the saloon cars, ITC and Super Stock, will be run on combined grid, and as in the previous round in Coimbatore last month, competition is expected to be fierce with the factory-supported turbo-powered Volkswagen Vento cars likely to extend their domination.

## ICC suspends Zimbabwe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

The ICC on Thursday suspended Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect for violation of the global body's constitution which doesn't allow any government intervention.

The current elected members of the Zimbabwe board were suspended by government agency Sports and Recreation Committee (SRC), a violation of articles 2.4 (c) and d.

ICC funding to Zimbabwe Cricket will be frozen and representative teams from Zimbabwe will not be allowed to participate in any ICC events.

## TV PICKS

**Commonwealth TT:** DD Sports, 10 a.m.  
**Indonesia Open badminton:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.  
**The Open golf:** DSport, 3.30 p.m.  
**Intercontinental Cup:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



Morgan thanks Morgan's dad!

NEW DELHI  
The England cricket team skipper, Eoin Morgan, has thanked a fan for naming his newborn as Eoin Morgan. "At Eoin 16 please meet Henry Eoin Morgan—Bridgeland, born today at 11 am. Just to ensure Sunday's events are remembered even more often," James, father of a newborn tweeted. In a reply to James, Morgan tweeted: "That's very cool. Congratulations." ANI

## Kenyan runner Biwott gets eight-year ban

NAIROBI  
Kenyan marathon runner Salome Biwott has been suspended for eight years after testing positive for a banned substance for the second time, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) said on Thursday. The 36-year-old tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid when competing in the Sao Paulo International Marathon in June. She was previously banned for two years after testing positive for the same substance in 2012 after her victory at the Nairobi Marathon. ANP

## CAP is a Full Member of BCCI

SPORTS REPORTER  
CHENNAI  
The Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) has been granted the status of a Full Member of the BCCI by the Committee of Administrators (CoA).

CAP, which made its debut the last season, will now become a voting member of the BCCI. It was given Associate Member status last October and went on to take part in the Ranji Trophy and other age-group tournaments of the Board.

## Pari fails to get Dutch visa either

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI  
Aspiring young tennis player Pari Singh could not take part in the five-week exposure on the European circuit as part of the ITF Asian under-14 team, as repeated attempts to secure a Schengen visa failed.

Selected under the Grand Slam Development Fund of the ITF, Pari was scheduled to join the rest of the Asian squad in Paris at the beginning of this month.

However, her ticket was re-routed to Holland, as she could not get a French visa. Subsequently, Pari failed to get a Dutch visa either for the second tournament scheduled in the Netherlands, after prior permission from the ITF to join the rest of the team in the second week.

"Unfortunately, Pari did not get her visa even from the Netherlands. There was no news about the visa till the 13th when she was scheduled to fly to Amsterdam. So, we had to withdraw," said Pari's mother Kirti Singh, who had presented all relevant documents and invitation from the ITF and the concerned national federations.

## Sindhu battles past Blichfeldt

Srikanth stunned; Satwiksairaj and Chirag crash out in men's doubles

## INDONESIA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAKARTA

P.V. Sindhu had to dig deep to beat unseeded Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark and claim a quarterfinal berth in the women's singles event of the Indonesia Open here Thursday.

Sindhu, seeded fifth, slugged it out for one hour and two minutes to get the better of Blichfeldt 21-14, 17-21, 21-11 in a second-round encounter.

Later in the day, eighth seed Srikanth was stunned by N.G. Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong 17-21 19-21 in the second round.

The start was far from impressive for Sindhu as Blichfeldt took a 6-3 lead before the Indian got her act together to draw level.

## Raising her game

From that point, Sindhu raised her game gradually and relied on her long reach and smashes to pocket the first game 21-14.

In the second game, Blichfeldt made a strong come-



Digging deep: P.V. Sindhu beat Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark in the second round of the Indonesia Open badminton tournament. ■ AFP

back to take a 9-5 and then a 10-7 lead. Sindhu then pocketed three straight points to level the scores at 10-10.

But the Dane clinched the second game and draw parity in the match.

The decider, however, turned out to be a one-sided affair as Sindhu got her com-

posure back and ran away with the game after some initial resistance from Blichfeldt. It was curtains for India in the second round of the men's doubles event.

The pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lost 15-21, 14-21 to top-seeded local hopes Marcus Fer-

naldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo.

It was disappointment for India in the mixed doubles as well after the pair of Praanav Jerry Chopra and N. Sikkki Reddy went down 14-21 11-21 to top seeds Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong of China.

## Sarabjot fires his way to air pistol gold

Esha Singh picks up a silver in the women's event

## JUNIOR WC

SPORTS BUREAU  
SUHL (GERMANY)

Sarabjot Singh shot gold in air pistol to take India's tally to nine in the Junior World Cup here on Thursday.

After qualifying in the fifth place with 575, Sarabjot shot 239.6 in the final to beat Wang Zhehao of China 1.9 point. Sarabjot along with Gaurav Rana and Arjun Singh Cheema missed the team bronze by one point.

In junior women's air pistol, 14-year-old Esha Singh won the silver despite the 8s and 9s that dotted her final.

## Ordinary fare

In the highly competitive women's rifle 3-position event, in which the qualification cut off was 1172, Vanshi-

ka Shahi had the best performance of 1167 for the 16th place.

Bhakti Bhaskar Khamkar (1157), Ayushi Podder (1154), Zenab Hussain Bandookwala (1150) had relatively better scores from among the other Indians in a field of 99 shooters.

In women's skeet, Parinaaz Dhaliwal (109), Darshna Rathore (106), Asees Chhina (101), Mufaddal Zahra Deesawala (82) placed 15th, 20th, 25th and 39th respectively among 40.

In men's skeet, Ayush Ruraraaju shot 110 for the 33rd place, while Gurinal Singh Garcha (106) and Arjun Thakur (99) placed 42nd and 49th respectively.

**The results:** **Junior men: 10m air pistol:** 1. Sarabjot Singh 239.6 (575); 2. Wang Zhehao



On target: It was a day to remember for Sarabjot Singh, left, on Thursday. ■ FILE PHOTO

## It's Big Brave vs. Miss Lily in feature

**HYDERABAD:** Big Brave and Miss Lily may fight out the finish in the first division of S. Malakonda Reddy Memorial Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Friday (July 19).

Selected under the Grand Slam Development Fund of the ITF, Pari was scheduled to join the rest of the Asian squad in Paris at the beginning of this month.

However, her ticket was re-routed to Holland, as she could not get a French visa. Subsequently, Pari failed to get a Dutch visa either for the second tournament scheduled in the Netherlands, after prior permission from the ITF to join the rest of the team in the second week.

"Unfortunately, Pari did not get her visa even from the Netherlands. There was no news about the visa till the 13th when she was scheduled to fly to Amsterdam. So, we had to withdraw," said Pari's mother Kirti Singh, who had presented all relevant documents and invitation from the ITF and the concerned national federations.

1. NIZAMABAD PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-30 p.m.: 1. Star Racer (9) Deepak Singh 56, 2. Alliston (6) Kunal Bunde 54.5, 4. Excelior (8) Trevor 62, 3. Mon General (6) Santosh Raj 62, 2. Victory Parade (8) Trevor 62, 3. Mon General (6) Gaurav Singh 60.5, 4. Love Machine (7) Rafige Sk. 60, 5. Mahira (ex: Cymbal) (12) Anel 60, 6. Cincia Azzurra (3) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 7. Big Brave (Suraj Narredu 59, 8. Latest News (10) B. Nikhil 57.5, 9. Marvel Princess (9) P. Sai Kumar 57.5, 10. Magic Street (9) Deepak Singh 55.7, 11. Farmville (11) Abhay Singh 54.5 and 12. Yashika (1) Ajeeth Kumar 53.

1. SOUTHERN LADY, 2. KIONIA, 3. SOVET PRIDE

2. NELSTON PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2-00: 1. Hu-maghar (1) G. Naresh 61, 2. Thundershield (6) Trevor 60.5, 3. Charlie Brown (10) Kuldeep Singh 59.5, 4. Golden Hope (2) A.A. Vikrant 58, 5. Platinum Claas (9) Afroz Khan 57, 6. Human Touch (ex: Reach The Heights) (7) P. Sai Kumar 56, 7. Withrosemakeup (5) Ajit Singh 55.5, 8. Joy Of Giving (3) Gaurav Singh 55, 9. Top Sprint (4) Umesh 53 and 10. New Comer (8) Jitendra Singh 52.5.

1. THUNDERING, 2. HUMAAGHAR, 3. WITTHOREMAKEUP

3. TINTINNABULATION PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, (Cat. II), (Terms), 2-30: 1. Seven Eleven (2) Deep Shanker 62, 2. Durango (5) Surya Prakash 60, 3. Wave Rider (3) Akshay Kumar 60, 4. Nimble Mind (1) Nakhat Singh

4. NELSTON PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4-05: 1. Takisha (5) Afroz Khan 60.5, 2. Marina Del Rey (10) Umesh 60, 3. Gladstone (4) G. Naresh 58, 4. Heaven Can Wait (1) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 5. Escudo

5. NAWAB MEHDI JUNG BA-HADUR MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5-05: 1. Kamay (4) Santosh Raj 62, 2. Victory Parade (8) Trevor 62, 3. Mon General (6) Gaurav Singh 60.5, 4. Love Machine (7) Rafige Sk. 60, 5. Mahira (ex: Cymbal) (12) Anel 60, 6. Cincia Azzurra (3) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 7. Big Brave (Suraj Narredu 59, 8. Latest News (10) B. Nikhil 57.5, 9. Marvel Princess (9) P. Sai Kumar 57.5, 10. Magic Street (9) Deepak Singh 55.7, 11. Farmville (11) Abhay Singh 54.5 and 12. Yashika (1) Ajeeth Kumar 53.

1. MARINA DEL REY, 2. TAKISHA, 3. FREEDOM FIRE

7. S. MALAKONDA REDDY ME-MORIAL CUP (DIV. II), (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4-35: 1. Ace Ace (4) Koushik 60, 2. Golden Fortune (2) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 3. Somerset (3) Kuldeep Singh 59, 4. Meka's (7) Umesh 58, 5. On The Fire (5) R.N. Darshan 55, 6. Dunkirk (8) Afroz Khan 54.5, 7. Palsy Walsy (9) Rafige Sk. 54.5, 8. Siyabonga (6) Akshay Kumar 54 and 9. Your Grace (1) Gaurav Singh 53.

1. SIBYANGKA, 2. ACE ACE, 3. MEKAS

8. WANDERING STAR PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5-05: 1. Brave Warrior (7) Koushik 61.5, 2. Limousine (6) Afroz Khan 61.5, 3. Symbol Of Star's (2) Akshay Kumar 61.5, 4. N R I Flame (ex: Madonna) (3) Kuldeep Singh 60.5, 5. Ultimate Risk (9) Umesh 60.5, 6. Country's Gift (8) Santosh Raj 58.5, 7. Sisco (10) G. Naresh 58.5, 8. Turf Emperor (1) P. Sai Kumar 53.5, 9. Nicola Tesla (4) Kunal Bunde 53 and 10. Delmonico (5) Ajeeth Kumar 50.

1. SYMBOL OF STAR'S, 2. ULT-MATE RISK, 3. TURF EMPEROR Day's best: RIKKI TIKKI TAVI Double: VICTORY PARADE — SIYABONGA Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr: (i); 1, 2 & 3; (ii); 3, 4 & 5; (iii) 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

3. WELCOME PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): YOURS FOREVER (Surya Prakash) 1, Explosive (R. Ajinkya) 2, Original Temptress (S.G. Prasad) 3 and Star Envoy (Kirun Naidu) 4. I-3/4, 1-3/4 and 1-3/4. Im, 14.03s. ₹8 (1), 10, 8 and 23 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 371, Q: 163, Tla: 517.

4. S.S. CARDMASTER ME-MORIAL CUP (DIV. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): PLATTS TOUR (Ashish Adbar) 2, Solar Heights (Rafige Sk. 3 and Roll Call (Akshay Kumar) 2, Ruleworld (Suraj Narredu) 3, and Mahashakti (Trevor) 4, Shd, shd and 1/4, Im, 13.30s. ₹42 (w), 8, 7 and 5 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 371, Q: 163, Tla: 517. Favourite: Ruletheworld. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

5. GOLDEN DAGGER PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): ISABELLA (Suraj Narredu) 1, Exclusivemonthwind (Akshay Kumar) 2, 3. Classic Remark (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Ambitious Approach (Koushik) 4, 2, 2 and 1-3/4, Im, 11.88s. ₹8 (w), 6, 7 and 7 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 18, Q: 12, Tla: 37. Favourite: Isabella. Owners: M/s. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Katicaneni Abhijit Rao and trained by R.H. Sequeira.

6. LOOK OF EAGLES PLATE (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): AON AON (Koushik) 1, Vijays Singham (Suraj Narredu) 2, Celaritas (Kirun Naidu) 3 and Max (Umesh) 4. I-1/4, 4 and 1/2, Im, 6.07s. ₹45 (w), 11, 5 and 8 (p), SHP: 24, FP: 149, Q: 22, Tla: 210. Favourite: Vijay Singham. Owners: M/s. M. Ramachandra Rao & Teegala Balreddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. TELANGANA CUP (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 75 & above (Cat. I): AMAZING RE-SONSE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Prospero (Gaurav Singh) 2, Phenomenal Cruise (B. Nikhil) 3 and It's

My Class (A.A. Vikrant) 4. I-3/4, 3-1/4 and 1-1/4, Im, 12.02s. ₹8 (w), 6, 9 and 10 (p), SHP: 37, FP: 54, Q: 41, Tla: 455. Favourite: Amazing Response. Owners: M/s. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Katicaneni Abhijit Rao and trained by R.H. Sequeira.

7. S.S. CARDMASTER ME-MORIAL CUP (DIV. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): NEWS OF STAR (R.N. Darshan) 1, Rapid Fire (Akshay Kumar) 2, Hailstorm (Sandesh Raj) 3 and Super Dart (Deep Shanker) 4. I-1/4, 1-1/4 and 3/4, Im, 13.04s. ₹49 (w), 10, 8 and 23 (p), SHP: 19, FP: 316, Q: 119, Tla: 517. Favourite: Pontius Pilate. Owner: Mr. Sarasad Madhusudan Reddy. Trainer: Ravinder Singh.

8. LOOK OF EAGLES PLATE (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): AON AON (Koushik) 1, Vijays Singham (Suraj Narredu) 2, Celaritas (Kirun Naidu) 3 and Max (Umesh) 4. I-1/4, 4 and 1/2, Im, 6.07s. ₹45 (w), 11, 5 and 8 (p), SHP: 24, FP: 149, Q: 22, Tla: 210. Favourite: Vijay Singham. Owners: M/s. M. Ramachandra Rao & Teegala Balreddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

Jackpot: ₹30,107 (20 tkt), Runner-up: ₹82,310 (tkt), Mini Jackpot: ₹3,686 (31 tkt), Tr (i): 407 (19 tkt), Tr (ii): 113 (459 tkt), Tr (iii): 1,478 (49 tkt).

P.T. Usha. ■ FILE PHOTO

## Abhimanyu adjudged Bengal's best

# TAKING BACK THE STREETS

A YouTube channel is documenting the women street-food sellers in Delhi



FOUR OTHER STORIES IN THE SERIES

**HARSHRANI JI:** A lemon-soda seller in Krishna Nagar, who lives alone on a widow's pension and struggles to make ends meet

**DALBIR KAUR:** One of the only women in the series, who makes and sells food on a street in Moti Nagar, for no other reason than because she loves to

**SHALLY JI:** Featured for keeping up the legacy of a 35-year-old mutton and chicken curry stall, started by her father-in-law in Sadar Bazar ("a market full of mostly male vendors," says Dua)

**KANTA DEVI:** A 65-year-old, whose son's family is dependent on her, has sold tandoori rotis for the last 30 years in Fateh Nagar, for ₹1 each

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

You'll find Manjeet Kaur sitting in one corner of a platform opposite Hotel Surya Grand in Rajouri Garden. This 50-something-year-old rises at a quarter-to-five every morning, preparing for a day of feeding home-made Punjabi *khana* to a couple score of people.

Kaur comes to this spot daily. Her husband, an auto-rickshaw driver, helps her transport a table, a stove and pan, three big containers of rice, atta, and other dishes, to her makeshift shop

in the morning. In the evening, he zips back here in the auto, helping her wind up and go back home with him.

This is a textbook desi heart-warmer: She serves full Punjabi meals on the street; her husband helps her prep and pack up; she's sweating it out in Delhi's Petri-dish-like conditions, to earn a living, all with a wide smile. But, more importantly, her daily hustle on the street unfolds in a city, the streets of which aren't deemed safe for women.

According to latest data released by the Delhi Police, cases of rape exponentially increased in the period from 2012-2015, going from 706 to 2,199 cases. This has gradually fallen since, but at 1,067 cases, recorded up to 30th June this year, it's not negligible. Other cases of "assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty", categorised under section 354 of the Indian Penal Code, also shot up between 2012-



2015, going from 727 to 5,367. The statistic now stands at 1,460, halfway through 2019.

Despite this, over the last year, Karan Dua, the man behind the popular YouTube street-food channel DilSeFoodie, has been consistently finding women street-food sellers throughout the capital. Kaur was the first. Usually middle-aged women have their stalls open through the day, some even staying open till close to midnight.

To document the journeys of women setting up street-food stalls, Dua started a separate series on his channel, called "Superwoman". He even invites viewers to tell him about more such women-led stalls.

## Big money

The tenth and latest episode in this series features not a street-food vendor, but a woman who runs a tiffin-delivery service, cooking at home. But Dua's heart remains on the street, especially since he finds that his videos might help the vendors more. "I find that most of the women we've featured on the Superwoman series, are doing this out of a compulsion – their families are in need of the extra financial support," he says.

DilSeFoodie is his full-time job; he also does content and branding for other food establishments in Delhi. Dua's team has just one more person, a videographer. Their content makes you want to get on the street-food trail, but not because of their production value.

Between a lot of jump cuts, chaos, and sometimes unnecessary length ("I keep it at about 10 minutes so I can have multiple ads," he says), Dua's very hearty, desi approach to the food he spotlights is the only plausible reason for his channel having got over 87k followers in a year. Initially, he says, he would earn about ₹4 lakh annually



▶ ▶ 🔍

**Daily hustle** (Clockwise from left) Manjeet Kaur at her stall in Rajouri Garden; Dua with Kanta Devi and her mother; Dalbir Kaur

• VANGMAYI PARAKALA & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

through DilSeFoodie. This income has shot up now to over ₹75 lakhs.

## Getting personal

It is with this money that Dua has been able to help Kaur and a few others like her. When he re-visits the stall, she tells him that the table on which she lays out her dabas, is falling apart. It is – the ply on its surface is chipped, and its legs are alarmingly wobbly.

Not too long ago, Dua even got her stove fixed. Other than this, the video and ensuing attention from mainstream media has only helped her sell more. A lot of the women street vendors are usually wary of publicity, because it only ups the threat of municipal authorities telling them to vacate. But so far, Kaur says, she's only got love.

"Beta, roti ek aur loge," she asks an office-going customer already eating at a table she's placed on the side. She slathers the freshly puffed up, hot roti with a spoonful of ghee, and slides it into his plate. With a domestic ease, he tells her he's already full, but continues to eat.

"I've never seen this kind of hospitality when a man is operating a street food stall," says Dua acknowledging that while this is a stereotype, it comes with a whole dollop of truth on it. A full meal at Kaur's stall doesn't usually go over ₹50. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, there's kadhi-chawal, along with two regular sabzis and roti. On other days, there's *langar ki daal*, her most popular dish, with *baigan ka bharta* and *rajma-chawal* as regular features.

## PEOPLE

### A call to action

Social Alpha, a non-profit startup incubator, is looking for entrepreneurs in the field of assistive technologies



Late last month, Social Alpha, the non-profit startup incubator set up by the Tata Trusts in Bengaluru, came together with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a not-for-profit arm of the government's Department of Biotechnology in Delhi.

Together, they launched a quest to find young entrepreneurs working in the field of assistive technologies: innovations in tech that provide enabling and empowering solutions for people with disabilities. The programme would and support them through monetary and market access.

The quest, which invites applications to be made through Social Alpha's website, also has on board the support of a Bengaluru-based IT company called MPasis, for its curation, design, and implementation.

Four young companies, already discovered and incubated by Social Alpha, were showcased at the launch. Of these, Bionic Yanya from Bengaluru designs affordable bionic exoskeletons for those with mobility problems; Blee Tech from Mumbai provides tech- and design-driven solutions for those with a hearing impairment; Innaunama from Bengaluru makes voice-boxes for throat cancer patients; and Tactopus, also from Bengaluru, makes texture-rich Braille aids for students who can benefit from better access to science and maths concepts.

Successful applicants will be admitted to a three-month accelerator programme that will make the entrepreneurs investment-ready. Social Alpha aims to identify 10 innovations, providing them with upto ₹20 lakhs each, giving them a push towards accepting and implementing work orders.

"Our aim is to build up sectors in which the mainstream market is absent. So we search for innovators and entrepreneurs in such sectors, with assistive technologies being the latest," says Manoj Kumar, the CEO and co-founder of Social Alpha.

Right now, most start-ups in the sphere of assistive technologies have come from Bengaluru, Pune, and Mumbai. The team plans to do an outreach by going to various cities in India. "It is likely that people in engineering and medical colleges, working in the rehabilitation space, might have some ideas," Kumar says, adding that despite welcoming applicants of all ages, they foresee most coming from young people. "People born in the '80s and '90s are likely to solve this country's problems," he says.

Deadline for applications, August 15th, 2019; to apply: [Socialalpha.org/assistive-technologies](http://Socialalpha.org/assistive-technologies)

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

## FOOD SPOT

### Simple, yet memorable



RAHUL VERMA

My first visit to Singapore left me longing for more. I was part of the jury for Miele Guide, which judged the best restaurants and chefs in South and Southeast Asia. I had a great time there because I dined at some of the finest restaurants in the island-nation and had some of the most delectable dishes cooked by the best of chefs there.

I remember in particular the Hokkaido scallops with truffle vinaigrette, fresh pickled king salmon with baby vegetables and horseradish cream and the seared tuna with mango salad and coriander oil. I can't forget the meal Iggy's – run by the great Ignatius Chan – of smoked veal cheeks, truffle mashed Ile de Batz potatoes, braised shallots.



Assortment of dishes A big tablescape; (above) wall art

▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

outdoors. There is something for everybody, from braised duck to burgers and from chicken-rice and kueh pie tee (pastry tart with a filling) to chilli-crab ramen.

I was particularly looking forward to visiting Hawker Chan, in Chinatown. Ever since I read about the one-pot dish that he had become famous for, I had

been hoping to have a meal there. The dish, called soya chicken and rice, costs a little more than ₹100, and is simply mouth-watering. Chef Chan takes a chicken, mari-

nates it with soya sauce, and then roasts it. The rice is cooked in chicken fat. He chops the chicken on the side of the place, and puts a healthy dollop of the fragrant rice at the centre, with some of the roast gravy on top. A boiled egg is added to the dish, along with some sliced cucumber.

His story is fascinating, too. Chan was 15 when he came to Singapore from Malaysia and has been cooking for 35 years. He learnt this soya chicken dish from a Hong Kong chef. The dish has earned Hawker Chan a Michelin star.

The chef is so popular that there is always a huge queue outside his restaurant. It is a large-ish eatery, with tables and benches on one side. On the table are all kinds of sauces. You place an order, and pick up your food when it is ready.

He has a huge menu now, consisting of all kinds of good stuff: roast pork noodles, roast pork rice, pork rib and rice, soya chicken with noodles, flat rice noodles with gravy, tofu cooked Thai style

and veggies cooked in oyster sauce.

I enjoyed my rice and chicken dish immensely. The chicken was soft and had been nicely flavoured. The rice had the aroma of the chicken fat that it had been cooked in, and the gravy had the basic flavour of soya sauce. Put together, it was sublime.

It is also one of the cheapest dishes you can have in Singapore. Not surprisingly, the eatery's cheerful and brightly coloured awning says: "Soya Sauce Chicken Rice & Noodles". Underneath, it announces: "The Cheapest Eatery Being Awarded One Michelin Star".

I was also struck by the wall art next to the eatery. It showed an elderly Chinese man, possibly a calligrapher, seated on a wooden chair, with beautiful red banners on the wall.

Hawker Chan is a symbol of the spirit of the bustling streets of Singapore. It tells you that life can be simple, yet memorable.

The writer is a seasoned food critic

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



PERFORMANCE

### Classical music and dance

Monsoon Rhythms, a performing arts event, will feature two acts. The first act will have Vidwan Vikku Vinayakram on the ghatam, his son Selvaganesh on the Kanjira, and his grandson Swaminathan on a variety of percussion instruments. This will be followed by a Bharatanatyam presentation by actress Shobana.

**VENUE:** Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House

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



EXHIBITION

### Canvas

Shifting Expression, a solo show by artist Sujata Kar Saha, will be on display till 22nd July. The collection is a mix of shades and contrasting colours, all done as oil on canvas. Saha's works portray natural imagery that resemble mountains, rivers, valleys, and vast landscapes with the horizon.

**VENUE:** Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD

### Monsoon special

The House of Ming, a restaurant at Taj City Centre, specialising in Oriental cuisines, has launched a new menu for monsoon. There are dishes like, Prawn Har Gau, Scallop Golden Garlic, Barbecued Mushroom Bao, Steamed Chilean Sea Bass with Ginger, and Peking Roast Duck with Plum Sauce.

**VENUE:** Taj City Centre, Sector-44, Gurugram

**TIME:** 12:30-3 p.m. and 7-11:30 p.m.



GIG

### Live at Farzi

Farzi Cafe is hosting Traffic Jam, a four-member band. This multi-genre band is comprised of Jimmy Thang doing lead vocals, Kennedy Singh on the guitar, D. S. Munug on the bass, and Stevekid Valte on the drums. Traffic Jam will play soft and hard rock, as well as covers of retro Hindi tunes.

**VENUE:** GF 01-FF 01, Worldmark 3, Aerocity

**TIME:** 9:30 p.m. - 12:30 midnight



FILM

### Hindi classic

IHC, in collaboration with the National Film Archive of India will screen a restored version of the Hindi classic *Pehli Nazar* (1945) this evening. Directed by Mazhar Khan, with music composed by Anil Biswas, the film had starred Motilal, Baburao Pendharkar, Veena, and Munawar Sultan.

**VENUE:** Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre

**TIME:** 7 p.m.

# Michelin ON A BUDGET

A chat with Chef Mak Kwai Pui, the man behind Tim Ho Wan, the cheapest Michelin star restaurant



NILOSREE BISWAS

I meet Chef Mak Kwai Pui, the 57-year-old chef who has revolutionised the world of Michelin dining, on a crisp spring morning at his restaurant Tim Ho Wan in Hong Kong. This restaurant has created a landmark presence in the culinary landscape of Hong Kong and

beyond: It is widely known as the cheapest Michelin star restaurant, having received the honour in 2010. The restaurant has since opened three more branches, each receiving its own star in due course.

Between bites, while making sure that I am initiated into the authentic yum cha (Cantonese

**MUST TRY**

- Baked bun with barbecued pork
- Steamed fresh shrimp dumpling
- Poached seasonal vegetable
- Shrimp wrapped in bean curd skin
- Tonic medlar and petal cake
- Egg cake

Encouraging me to savour the food, he continues, "I was feeling a little saturated and wanted to expand. With Michelin star dining experiences catching up, I wanted to create Tim Ho Wan, my own identity."

He continues, "I discussed with my peers the idea of the most inexpensive Michelin experience, holding on to superior ingredients and quality. No one seemed to see it as a tangible concept, but somehow my heart said fine dining can be made available for all at a reasonable price."

Eventually, he realised that this could only be attained if he trained his team to perfection. Cooks had to agree to train exclusively with him for six continuous months, before actively operating in the kitchen.

"I played with memories of food, bringing back a few that had gone out of reckoning – like egg cakes – and then brought my own innovations. For example, authentic Cantonese is fairly less spicy: I added spice. I experimented with handmade wheat noodles."

Tim Ho Wan reportedly has 46 outlets in seven countries and two Special Administrative Regions now, including Thailand, Japan, the US and Australia.

Which probably translates to a lot more work for Mak. How does he keep up? Pat comes the answer, "I tell myself each morning to go slow, maintain the balance, retain discipline... and yes, add passion to my food. I have been working for 44 years, and still have the same connect with my kitchens."

He then heads back into the kitchen and starts making dim sum, his nimble fingers wrapping giant pearly globules one after the other, in a slow, steady rhythm.



**Childhood influence** Chef Mak got his first taste of the culinary world from his father ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND GETTY IMAGES/STOCK

found himself in the kitchen, observing his uncle and father making hundreds of dim sums in a day – from start to finish. "It got me hooked and I started running again, but this was a different kind of run – to speed up my learning," he continues, in a slow, soft voice, a faint smile spreading across his face.

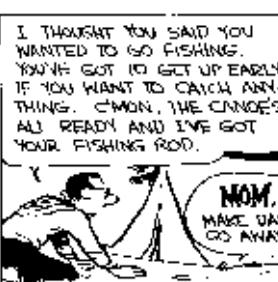
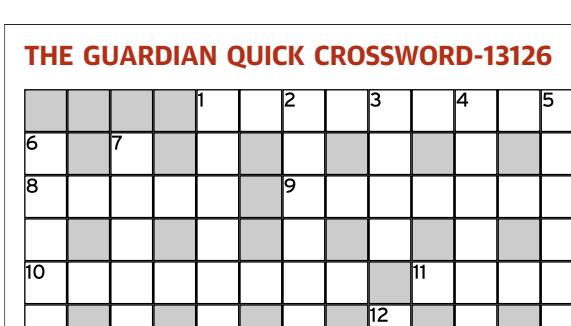
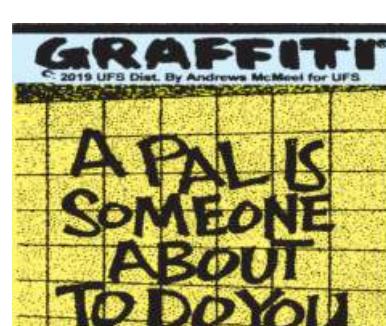
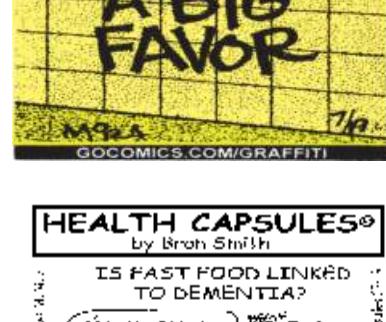
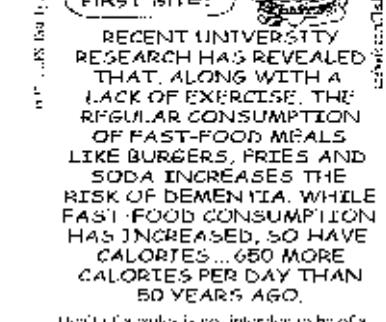
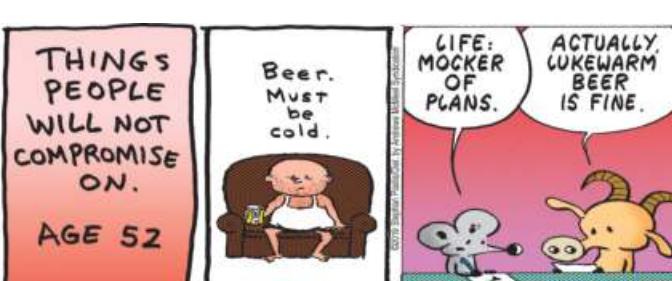
Over the next decade, Mak learnt and excelled in making dim sum and other Cantonese dishes.

**TEA TIME STORY**  
Dim sum's origins date back hundreds of years to the Silk Road, when purveyors would set up roadside tea services for travelling merchants.

He worked at the Lung King Heen restaurant, at Four Seasons Hong Kong, where he also learned to experiment with recipes: tweaking traditional Cantonese cuisine and embellishing it with a finesse that was appreciated by his urban well-travelled diners.

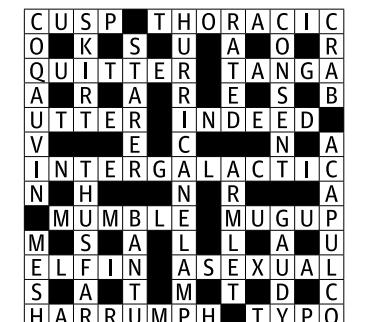
His creations included signature dishes like a simple yet magical baked bun with barbecued pork, and desserts like egg and petal cake. To no one's surprise, the restaurant was soon awarded a Michelin star rating. Today, Lung King Heen has three.

Mak, however, had left long ago to spread his wings. He wanted to create his own identity, he recalls, while gesturing to a senior waitress in Cantonese. More dumpling baskets arrive. The restaurant is fragrant with the scent of spring onion, shrimps and braised beef mixed, as lid after lid is opened.

**POOCH CAFE****PEANUTS****HAGAR THE HORRIBLE****CALVIN AND HOBBES****TIGER****WUMO****PEARLS BEFORE SWINE**

water (4)  
4 Inflammation of a sac attached to the large intestine (12)  
5 Booth used for making calls (9,3)  
6 Raise a glass (4,3,5)  
7 Female singing voice (5-7)  
12 Biscuit made with oats, syrup and butter (8)  
15 Skin painting (6)  
18 Red Planet (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 20, 2019.  
Solution No. 13125



## IN BRIEF



## Artificial snow to combat sea-level rise

PARIS

Scientists seeking to avoid sea-level rise from the melting West Antarctic ice sheet have come up with a controversial solution: use snow cannons to pump trillions of tonnes of ice back on top. Experts at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany said the plan was currently only a hypothesis. AFP



## Friendly robots spruce up Singapore's buildings

SINGAPORE

Hundreds of "friendly" robots that speak multiple languages and sing are being rolled out across Singapore, to help clean the city-state's hotels, shopping malls and government buildings. They scrub and mop autonomously and can even entertain by rapping in English. AFP



## 'Christ of Theft' statue poses dilemma for Peru

LIMA

A giant statue of Jesus Christ that looms over Lima is causing controversy in Peru because of its financing by the graft-tainted Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht and late ex-president Alan Garcia. Thousands are demanding its removal saying the concrete structure, which cost \$800,000, is a symbol of corruption. AFP

## + Punjab prison cell where Nehru was lodged in 1923 collapses

The structure could not withstand incessant rain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAITU

A prison cell in Jaitu town of Punjab's Faridkot district where Jawaharlal Nehru and two other Congress leaders were lodged in 1923 has collapsed due to incessant rains, a senior police official said on Thursday.

During the Independence movement, Nehru and his colleagues were briefly lodged there for violating prohibitory orders banning their entry into the then princely state of Nabha.

One wall and the roof of the 240 sq.ft. jail room in which Nehru, K. Santhanam and A.T. Gidwani were kept on September 22, 1923, collapsed on Wednesday following heavy rains, Faridkot Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajbachan Singh Sandhu said.

## Bengal's stately Raj Bhavans tell their stories in new book

They bore witness to many landmark events during British rule in India

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

In a large room in the south of the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata, an oil painting of the Mahatma by Jamini Ray hangs in the Governor's study. Not many people know that some of the policies that shaped colonial India – the introduction of English education through Thomas Macaulay's Minute, the Doctrine of Lapse, the Ilbert Bill, the Partition of Bengal, and many others – were chalked out in this very room.

In the words of Lord Curzon, the room "has witnessed discussions as agitated and decisions as heavily charged with fate as any private apartment in the wide circumference of the British Empire".

Several anecdotes about the Raj Bhavan, Kolkata – the stately building that remained the seat of power for the entire subcontinent from 1803 to 1912 – have been documented in a book titled *Those Noble Edifices: The Raj Bhavans of Bengal*. The publication was unveiled by West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi here on Thursday.

In its foreword, Mr. Tripathi says, "We wanted to share these 'secrets' and inside stories of Kolkata's most hallowed precincts with the public."

Jayanta Sengupta, secretary and curator of Victoria Memorial Hall, who has written the book, described it as an attempt to "lift this shroud of mystery and show what lies beneath, what the Raj Bhavan really means as a residence to its exalted overlords as well as to its humble inmates and workers".

Mr. Sengupta also shares stories of the Raj Bhavans at



**Standing tall:** The Raj Bhavans in Kolkata and, below, in Barrackpore. ■ VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL

**C** It is an attempt to lift the shroud of mystery and show what lies beneath

JAYANTA SENGUPTA  
Author

Barrackpore and Darjeeling. Full of maps, archival photographs, letters and manuscripts, the 200-page publication also refers to older buildings where the Governor General and officials of the East India company lived, for instance, the Old Fort located between the Ganga and today's BBD Bagh (erstwhile Dalhousie Square).

The cost of building the Raj Bhavan, Kolkata, was then estimated at between £170,000 and £180,000, which angered the East India Company's Board of Directors.

In fact, Lord Wellesley had similar plans of making another Raj Bhavan at Barrackpore, but the plans were rejected by the Board of Governors of the East India Company.

**Rare documents**  
The new book includes references to documents such as a note dated April 1, 1857, in Governor-General Lord Canning's own handwriting regarding the outbreak of the "disturbance" (the Revolt of 1857) at Barrackpore on the occasion of the disbandment of the 19th Native Infantry.

It is believed that Lord Canning's note was written

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