

Ms. Swaraj was born on February 14, 1952, at Ambala Cantonment in Haryana. She studied law at Panjab University. In 1973, she began practice as an advocate in the Supreme Court.

Political career: She joined the ABVP in the early 1970s and took part in Jayaprakash Narayan's movement. She joined the BJP after the Emergency.



National politics: She was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha in 1996 from South Delhi and was I&B Minister. She was again I&B Minister from Sept. 2000 to Jan. 2003.

Modi government: She served as Minister of External Affairs from May 2014 to May 2019.

Accolades: In 1998, she became the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi. In 2009, she was the first woman politician to be the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. She was the only woman MP to receive the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.

Final moments: She was taken to AIIMS following cardiac arrest and was declared dead at 10.50 p.m.



REPORTS ON PAGE 13

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NEARBY

Unnao rape victim still on life support

NEW DELHI
The Unnao rape survivor, who sustained serious injuries in a collision and was flown to Delhi's AIIMS Trauma Centre on Monday night, remained critically ill, hospital authorities said on Tuesday.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 15

Akhara lays claim to Ram Janmabhoomi

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Tuesday began hearing the cross-appeals filed by the Hindu and Muslim sides challenging the three-way partition of the disputed 2.77 acres of Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land among Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara and the Sunni Waqf Board.

The Akhara said it was a religious establishment of a public character to which the Ramjanmabhoomi had "always belonged."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Lok Sabha endorses Centre's decisions on Kashmir

President's declaration ending special status under Art. 370 notified in gazette

SANDEEP PHUKAN
VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Centre's decisions setting new terms of engagement with Jammu and Kashmir – by reorganising it as Union Territories, ending its special status under Article 370 and 35(A) and extending to it all the provisions of the Constitution – were endorsed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday after a debate that lasted close to seven hours.

The Lok Sabha approved a resolution abrogating special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and a Bill for splitting the State into two Union Territories. The resolution was adopted by the House with 351 members voting in its support and 72 against it, while one member abstained.

The Bill to create the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh was passed by 370 votes in favour and 70 against. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in the House.

The President's declaration as passed by both Houses of Parliament that "all clauses of Article 370 shall cease to be operative in the State of Jammu and Kashmir" was notified in the Gazette of India later in the evening.

The declaration will come into effect from August 6, the

notification issued within hours of the Lok Sabha passing the resolution said.

The resolution and the Bill were approved by the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

Replies to the debate, Home Minister Amit Shah assured the House that the government could restore full Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir if the situation improved and expressed its willingness to engage with the local population. "We don't want to talk to the Hurriyat, but we are ready to speak to the people of Kashmir," he said, adding that the security forces would not be moved out of the Valley until the situation became fully normal.

Mr. Shah also asserted that the Centre's decision did not impact in any way India's claim over Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and the government would continue to press it.

Mr. Modi termed the passage of the resolution and the Bill "a momentous occasion in our Parliamentary democracy".

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House *sine die* after the resolution and the Bill were passed.

(With PTI inputs)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
BIFFURATION ARBITRARY,
SAYS OPPOSITION ▶ PAGE 12
ENOUGH SECURITY FOR PEACE
IN J&K: ARMY ▶ PAGE 13



Sounds of silence: A milkman goes about his work in Jammu on Tuesday. ▪ PTI

Kashmir Valley remains cut off for second day

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Kashmir Valley remained cut off for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as the government anticipated violence after Parliament passed a resolution ending Jammu and Kashmir's special status in the Indian Union under Article 370.

The Hindu's Srinagar correspondent could not send any despatch for lack of connectivity.

A senior official in Delhi said the "curfew-like" situation would continue for at

least a week, and it would have to be monitored for three-four months.

As per details accessed by *The Hindu*, at least 15 incidents of stone-throwing were reported in the past 48 hours in Srinagar and Awantipora districts. Some incidents continued for six hours.

"One or two boys come out, throw stones and go back. They don't stay out for long as they might be detained," the official said.

Deployment was based on oral orders ▶ PAGE 12

Imran warns of more violence

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

Pakistan PM Imran Khan criticised India's decision to end Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and said this would lead to more violence.

"They have gone against their Constitution, against the verdict of the Supreme Court, against the verdict of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, against 17 UN resolutions, against UN General Assembly resolutions, and against the Simla Agreement," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

India tells China to avoid commenting on Ladakh

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, is an internal affair of India, India does not comment on the internal affairs of other countries and similarly expects other countries to do likewise," said the spokesperson of the Ministry.

The Bill describes Kargil and Leh districts as constituents of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

(With inputs from Atul Aneja in Beijing)
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
AFGHANISTAN SHADOW ▶ PAGE 13

and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, is an internal matter concerning the territory of India. India does not comment on the internal affairs of other countries and similarly expects other countries to do likewise," said the spokesperson of the Ministry.

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(With inputs from Atul Aneja in Beijing)

Six killed in Jamia Nagar building fire

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Six persons, including three children, were killed and 13 injured when a fire broke out in a four-storey building in south-east Delhi's Jamia Nagar on Tuesday.

The police said the de-

ceased have been identified as Nagma (30), her daughters Zikra (10) and Aamna (8); Soha (34), Adyan (8). One person is yet to be unidentified.

The police said a PCR call was received at 2.30 a.m. regarding a fire in a building in

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 13

Zakir Nagar. Eight PCR vans, seven fire tenders and two CATS ambulances were deployed to the spot.

By the time the police and fire officials reached the spot, the locals had managed to rescue some people.

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- Effective and timely delivery of services
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Delhi Government's reforms in Anganwadis

	Delhi	Himachal Pradesh	Rajasthan	Punjab	Uttar Pradesh
Anganwadi Workers' wages	10,178	6,250	7,000	7,500	6,000
Anganwadi Helpers' wages	5,089	3,150	4,000	4,000	2,500

Six dead, 13 injured in Jamia Nagar building fire

Two women jump to death by the time firemen reach the spot; survivors claim blaze started at power meter on nearby pole

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Six persons, including three children, died while 13 others were injured when a fire broke out in a four-storey building in south-east Delhi's Jamia Nagar on Tuesday.

The police said the deceased have been identified as Nagma (30), her daughters Zikra (10) and Aamna (8); Soha (34), Adyan (8). One person is yet to be unidentified.

Firemen injured

The injured – Nagma's husband Athar; Adyan's parents Faiz and Shabana, his sister Aadeebah and brother Rihan; Soha's husband Umar; Saima, Sharique, Shabha, Waheed, fire station officer Tara Chand, head constable Ram Niwas, and fire operators Dilbag and Mohan Lal – are undergoing treatment at Holy Family Hospital.

The police said a PCR call was received at 2.30 a.m. regarding a fire in a building in Zakir Nagar. Eight PCR vans, seven fire tenders and two CATS ambulances were deployed to the spot.

Thirty-two-year-old Juanid Ahmed, first-floor resident of the building that has 13 flats, recalled that he was woken up by screams at 2.10 a.m. He said he rushed to the balcony but could only see smoke. "The fire started in the elec-



The four-storey building in Zakir Nagar where a fire broke out on Tuesday; (top right) cars on the ground floor were gutted before the blaze spread upwards. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

tricity meter on the pole next to the building. Through the PVC wires, it reached the ground floor where several parked vehicles caught fire. The blaze then spread upwards. The staircase was full of smoke and none of us could use it to vacate the building. The main gate and terrace were also locked," he said.

His neighbours put up a wooden ladder to help him and his family of five vacate

the flat. Some crossed over to the adjacent building using a rope of blankets and sheets. "The fire mostly impacted those living on the front side of the building. Those living on the backside managed to escape from balconies as there was little smoke there," said Ahmed.

Third-floor occupants – Athar and his family – were stuck in their balcony shouting for help. "People had put mattresses on the street as

Athar and his family decided to jump from their balcony. Soha jumped from the fourth floor even after we told her not to," he said, adding that Nagma, another third-floor resident and Soha jumped to their death.

Electricity snapped

Junaid said that the electricity remained disconnected for nearly 90 minutes after the fire broke out.

By the time the police and



fire officials reached the spot, the locals had managed to rescue some people. They alleged that the fire tenders reached late but also admitted that the lanes are cramped.

A fire department official said they got delayed by a few minutes because of vehicles parked in the narrow lanes. He, however, added that residents were quick to remove their vehicles to let the fire engines pass.

Fire station officer Tara Chand, who was among the injured, said that officials had put a ladder on top of one of the fire engines to reach the third floor even as the fire was spreading. "Two women had jumped by the time we reached. We told people we will rescue them and they should not jump. We climbed

up the ladder and rescued a couple from the third floor," he said.

Two-hour-long battle

The fire officials, along with locals, broke the wall of the terrace of the adjacent building and managed to rescue people. "Breaking the locks would have taken more time and so we broke the wall," he said, adding that the operation took nearly two hours.

The four fire officers complained of vomiting and breathlessness after being exposed to heat and smoke.

The police have registered a case under relevant sections of the IPC, including causing death by negligence and negligent conduct with respect to fire. A probe is on to identify the unknown victim, the police added.

nor Anil Baijal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia expressed condolences on the demise of the veteran BJP leader and former External Affairs Minister.

'Visionary leader'

"Extremely saddened to learn about Sushma's tragic untimely departure. A bold, visionary and humane leader, she will sorely be missed by all," Mr. Baijal tweeted.

Mr. Sisodia said the BJP leader's contribution to Indian politics would remain "immortal".

"In the sudden demise of #SushmaSwaraj our nation has lost a patriot and leader who inspired countless people [sic.]," the Aam Aadmi Party said in a tweet.

Delhi loses three former CMs in less than a year

Condolences pour in for Sushma Swaraj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

With Sushma Swaraj's demise on Tuesday night, the national capital has lost three former Chief Ministers in less than a year.

Swaraj, who was the Chief Minister of Delhi for a brief period from October–December 1998, passed away on Tuesday night following a cardiac arrest.

Three-time Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Sheila Dikshit passed away in July this year due to cardiac arrest. Dikshit and Swaraj died within a month. Madan Lal Khurana, who was the Chief Minister from 1993–96, passed away in October last year.

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor

JNU student assault: DCW seeks report from police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The CM said he has been told that the cause of the fire appeared to be a short-circuit. "The incident will be probed and strict action will be taken if any negligence or lapse is found," he said.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Vijender Gupta demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident. He visited the building and met the bereaved families and also those who are admitted in the hospital.

He then criticised the government for its "inaction and dereliction of its responsibilities to prevent such incidents."

"It is imperative that all the facts pertaining to the incident must come forward so that recurrence of

such incidents," he added.

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Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Vijender Gupta demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident. He visited the building and met the bereaved families and also those who are admitted in the hospital.

He then criticised the government for its "inaction and dereliction of its responsibilities to prevent such incidents."

"It is imperative that all the facts pertaining to the incident must come forward so that recurrence of

such incidents can be prevented... I met the eyewitnesses at Zakir Nagar. The residents said there is no fire station nearby and it takes a long time for the fire brigade to reach the place of incident," Mr. Gupta said.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Vijender Gupta demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident. He visited the building and met the bereaved families and also those who are admitted in the hospital.

He then criticised the government for its "inaction and dereliction of its responsibilities to prevent such incidents."

"It is imperative that all the facts pertaining to the incident must come forward so that recurrence of

Body found in gunny bag

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A body of an unidentified woman was found stuffed in a gunny bag in southwest Delhi's Sagarpur on Tuesday morning.

A police officer said they received a call at 9 a.m. regarding a bag.

"On reaching the spot, the officers opened the bag and found a body wrapped in a blanket along with a bedsheets and pillow. Strangulation marks were found on the neck," the officer said.

The police have shared a photo of the woman with all police stations in Delhi-NCR, and are trying to obtain CCTV footage from the area where the body was found. The officer said that prima facie it appears that the woman was murdered somewhere else and the body was dumped in Sagarpur.

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The rain stompers



Making a splash: Youngsters frolic at Rajpath lawns after heavy rain in the city on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

DDA extends land pooling policy registration to Sept. 6

Only 23.3% land registered in six months, says urban body; policy promises to provide 17 lakh houses

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority on Tuesday said the last date for registration of land parcels for the land pooling policy has been extended by a month to September 6.

The policy, launched in February this year, had initially set deadline of six months and interested stakeholders were asked to re-

gister their respective lands by August 4.

Landowners' request

However, with approximately 4,452 hectares being registered with the land-owning agency till August 4, the DDA saw only 23.3% of the developable area get registered.

There were requests from various landowners for extension of the time limit. Hence, the date has been ex-

tended up to September 6," said a DDA official.

Under the five sectors available under the land pooling policy, a total of 34,180 hectares of land is available, the urban body said.

The land pooling policy, which was cleared by the Centre in October last year, promises to provide nearly 17 lakh houses, including five lakh for the economically weaker sections.

The policy has projected dwelling units for approximately 76 lakh people in the Capital.

Some concerns

However, various stakeholders had raised concerns over the delay in the implementation of the land pooling policy while stating that several interested buyers have been paying money for the flats since

2013. "The proposed development under the policy is expected to be planned and executed as world-class smart and sustainable neighbourhoods, sectors and zones," the DDA said.

Under the policy, owners or groups of owners can pool land parcels of any size for development and a minimum of 70% contiguous land is required before the development can take place.

IN BRIEF

SDMC holds event over vector-borne diseases

NEW DELHI
The South Delhi Municipal Corporation on Tuesday held a painting competition for students of its primary schools in the South Zone to spread awareness about vector-borne diseases. Paintings were themed around dengue, malaria and chikungunya and measures to fight them.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	76	Gurugram	95
Ghaziabad	90	Faridabad	52
Noida	71	Greater Noida	76
Good 0-50	51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	301-400	Very poor >401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

IIT-D inaugurates new research centre

NEW DELHI
IIT-Delhi on Tuesday inaugurated a Centre for Sensors, Instrumentation and Cyber Physical System Engineering (SeNSE). The interdisciplinary unit has emerged from the institute's erstwhile Instrument Design Development Centre (IDDC). It would focus on research in sensors technologies, instrumentation and cyber physical systems.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: 5th C R Parekh Memorial Lecture. Indologist and a specialist on Buddhism, Johannes Bronkhorst will deliver a talk on "Rethinking India's Past". Kunal Chakrabarti, former professor, JNU will chair the event at Lecture Room - II, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Talk: Panel discussion on "The Forgotten War on Yemen". Panelists: Prof. A.K. Pasha, Director, Gulf Studies, School of International Studies, JNU; Dr. Ash Ranjan Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences; and Dr. John Cherian, Foreign Editor, Frontline. Chair: Ambassador K.P. Fabian at Conference Room - I, IIC, 6:30 p.m.

Talk: Seminar on "Between Two Worlds: British India, Qing China and the Technologies of Empire-Making in Tibet in the Nineteenth Century" by Sayantani Mukherjee, Ph.D candidate in International and Global history, Columbia University, New York at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies, Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

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

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

Civic bodies' desilting claims washed away

Moderate to heavy showers lash city as commuters complain of waterlogged streets and traffic snarls

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Moderate to heavy showers lashed the Capital on Tuesday morning and continued in several areas till afternoon.

The rain led to waterlogging on several roads and slowed down traffic during the morning rush hour causing inconvenience to residents. Delhi Traffic Police's Twitter account was abuzz giving commuters real-time updates about traffic jams.

The most affected

The police said that traffic was slow on Rohtak Road, Mall Road, Tis Hazari, GT Karnal Road and Maharani Bagh among other areas and motorists were advised to re-route. Traffic was affected as the carriageway from Daula Kuan towards AIIMS was blocked due to breakdown of a large goods vehicle near Safdarjung Hospital.

While the municipal corporations had earlier claimed that 100% of city drains under its jurisdiction had been cleared before the monsoon, waterlogging was reported in as many as 40 areas according to the reports from zonal control rooms of the corporations. This included four areas in



Vehicles move at a snail's pace on a waterlogged road after a heavy spell of rain on GT Karnal Road in Delhi on Tuesday.

• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

South Delhi, 17 areas in North Delhi and 19 areas in North Delhi.

Apart from this, the control rooms also reported fallen trees at 23 places in the city damaged buildings at four places. At Chandi Mahal in north Delhi, a fallen tree led to damaging a building as well. Complaining about the situation, B.S. Vohra, presi-

dent of the Resident Welfare Association Bhagdari group tweeted "Heavy rain, sewers back flowing with dirty n stinky water. Is there none to look after the masses?"

According to the bulletin, from the Safdarjung Observatory which is the official reading of the Capital, there was 22.2 mm of rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

on Tuesday and 12.6 mm or rain in the 24 hours preceding that.

The rain brought some respite from the humid weather with the maximum temperature touching 30 degrees Celsius which was four degrees below normal for the season.

The minimum temperature was recorded at 26.7 de-

grees Celsius which is normal for the season. Humidity ranged between 83% and 100%.

The Met Department has forecast a generally cloudy sky for August 7 with light to moderate rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover between 32 and 27 degrees respectively.

Five killed, 10 injured in Greater Noida in rain-related incidents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Five people, including three children and a woman, were killed and 10 others injured in rain-related incidents in Greater Noida within 24 hours, officials said on Tuesday.

Two minor girls died after a two-storey building in Dabbi village collapsed due to heavy rain, the police said.

Undergoing treatment
"Eleven members of the family were trapped in the de-

bris. Two girls, aged 4 and 7, died while nine others were rushed to a hospital where they are undergoing treatment," the official said. Those hospitalised were stated to be out of danger, he added.

Another incident was reported around 11 a.m. from Sirsa village, when a child and a man died after a portion of a house collapsed on them.

"Vinod, 30, and Vishvaka, 7, were standing under an extended ceiling of a

house which collapsed. Another woman, Harwati, 50, stood there with fodder for her cattle and she got injured in the incident," a police officer said. All three had taken shelter there from rain, the official added.

A 28-year-old woman at a residential society in Bisrakh area fell from the balcony of her 15th-floor apartment and died on the spot, the police said. "The married woman, who lives with her family in the apartment, had come to the balcony to cover the

washing machine as it was raining heavily. Suddenly she slipped and fell off the balcony," a policeman said.

Rain enters metro station
Following complaints from commuters on social media over rainwater entering the Noida Electronic City metro station on Tuesday as a result of heavy showers, the Delhi Metro issued a statement saying the matter is being "looked into".

"There was an instance of rainwater coming into the premises of Noida Electronic City station due to heavy downpour. The DMRC is looking into the possible cause of this rainwater leakage into the station to prevent recurrence of such an instance," said a DMRC spokesperson.

He added, "In new sections, in the first rainy season such temporary leakages may occur which are taken care of after the initial downpour."

(With inputs from Shinjini Ghosh)

Gurugram suffers another road cave-in

Shankar Chowk underpass shut to traffic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Heavy rainfall on Tuesday morning led to another road cave-in in the Millennium City forcing the closure of Shankar Chowk underpass. It also led to waterlogging and traffic jams leaving office-goers and schoolchildren inconvenienced.

The cave-in near Shankar Chowk underpass comes close on the heels of structural damage to the newly-constructed right-turn underpass on Mahruli Gurugram Road. Earlier, Hero Honda Chowk flyover and Rampur flyover were also damaged raising doubts over the construction quality.

Motorists advised
The Shankar Chowk underpass, connecting Ambience Mall to IFFCO Chowk, was shut down to the traffic due to road damage.

The traffic police advised the motorists coming from the direction of Ambience Mall to reach IFFCO Chowk via Sikanderpur and MG Road passing through Cyber City. Besides, waterlogging was reported from across the city, including Signature Towers, IFFCO Chowk metro station, MG Road, MDI Chowk, Bristol Chowk, Sheetal Mata Road, AIT Chowk, Golf Course Road, Sector 46, Sector 15 Part-II

It usually takes me 30 minutes to reach my son's school in Sector 62 from my home. But due to slow traffic outside Artemis Hospital and traffic jam near Sector 56, it took me double the usual time

• BRAHM PARKASH
Sector 15 Part-II resident

and the road outside Artemis Hospital, among others.

The rain during the morning rush hours led to slowing down of traffic due to waterlogged roads and breaking down of vehicles in the middle of the roads causing a harrowing time to commuters.

"It usually takes me 30 minutes to reach my son's school in Sector 62 from my home. But due to slow traffic outside Artemis Hospital and traffic jam near Sector 56, it took me double the usual time.

In Palam Vihar, a tree uprooted and fell on three cars parked underneath, but there were no injuries.

According to the district administration, Gurugram received only 2 mm rainfall.



A waterlogged street in Gurugram on Tuesday. • MANOJ KUMAR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Jalal Mohammad, S/o Maniruddin, R/o Vagabond, Meena Bazar, P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi** is involved in case **FIR No. 204/17 u/s 457/380/411/34 IPC, P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi**, he has committed (or is suspected to have committed) and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Jalal Mohammad** cannot be found and where as it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Jalal Mohammad** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Jalal Mohammad, FIR No. 204/17 u/s 457/380/411/34 IPC, P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.09.2019.

By Order
Ms. Prigya Gupta
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 21, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/6480/CD/19

NGT panel told to submit report on unscientific handling of plastic

Committee, headed by former Delhi HC judge, asked to furnish final report before October 31

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed an appointed oversight committee to submit the final report pertaining to the unscientific handling of plastic, by October 31.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "The oversight committee headed by Justice Pratibha Rani, former judge of the Delhi High Court, may furnish the final report before October 31, setting out its recommendations cumulatively at one place in a tabular form."

The directions came when the green panel was dealing with a matter pertaining to unregulated han-

dling of plastic, including burning of plastic waste that contributed to air pollution.

During the hearing, authorities informed the tribunal that several steps had been taken by various agencies, including the Delhi Development Authority, to ensure removal of plastic waste that contributed to air pollution.

Action plan
While directing authorities to continue taking further action, the green panel noted submissions made by the Delhi Chief Secretary and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

"...compliance affidavit filed by DPCC states that an action plan has been prepared and has been execut-

ed. Regular monitoring was being done at the level of the Chief Secretary," the Bench observed.

Earlier, the green panel had pulled up the Delhi government for failing to take adequate measures to take action against polluters.

"The tribunal found that action taken against identified polluters was inadequate and gave last opportunity to the Delhi government to take necessary steps in the matter and file further compliance report giving details of action taken month-wise," the Bench observed referring to a July 18 order.

Illegal industries

Meanwhile, in a separate matter pertaining to the operation of illegal industries in the residential areas, the NGT directed the oversight committee to inspect "hotspots and have a target of abating air and water pollution by closing the polluting industries" and make a "realistic assessment" of the compensation and damages to be imposed on polluting industries.

status of assessment and recovery of compensation on polluter pays principle for the industries which caused the pollution."

The directions came when the Delhi government informed the tribunal that following a survey conducted on July 27, notices were issued to 1,345 units.

Earlier, a monitoring committee comprising officials of the State government, the DDA and the civic bodies was directed to inspect "hotspots and have a target of abating air and water pollution by closing the polluting industries" and make a "realistic assessment" of the compensation and damages to be imposed on polluting industries.

Stating that citizens' right to clean air is guaranteed under the Constitution and that it cannot be denied, the NGT came down heavily on the apex pollution control body. The directions came after the CPCB made submissions before the panel pertaining to combat and prevent air pollution.

However, the Bench observed, "The report submitted by the CPCB is only remedial and not punitive."

Further, the panel directed the CPCB to install 1,500 air quality monitoring stations across the country within three months.

The NGT also noted that no action had been taken by the States to curb vehicles in areas where the pollution level was found to be high. Earlier, the tribunal had directed assessment of carrying capacity of 102 cities across the country, including the Capital, where the air quality does not meet the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

You are a scientific body and not a kindergarten'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Tuesday pulled up the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for failing to take action against those contributing to air pollution, while stating that it was a scientific body and not a kindergarten.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A.K. Goel said, "You have prepared an action plan to curb air pollution. You say you need time to bring it into force but what about those who are causing pollution in this time period. You are a scientific body and not a kindergarten."

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UTTARAKHAND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Letter No.: 1307/6AC...

Date: 25/07/2019

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

On behalf of hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD, Khatima, Udhamsingh Nagar (Uttarakhand) on Km. 7 of Khatima - Melghat motor road (ODR) from "B" class loading to "A" class loading Due to increase in commercial vehicles, traffic volume and safety of bridge the up-gradation of the bridge is essential. All traffic plying between Khatima and Puranpur (Pilibhit), Uttar Pradesh passes through this bridge.

2. Up-gradation of 95.37m span, Brick Arc, Single lane motor bridge over Sukhi river at Jhankai in district Udhamsingh Nagar (Uttarakhand) on Km 6 of Khatima - Melghat motor road (ODR) from "B" class loading to "A" class loading. Due to increase in commercial vehicles, traffic volume and safety of bridge the up-gradation of the bridge is essential. All traffic plying between Khatima and Puranpur (Pilibhit), Uttar Pradesh passes through this bridge.

DELHI Timings		
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 07		
RISE 05:46 SET 19:08		
RISE 12:13 SET 23:47		
THURSDAY, AUG. 08		
RISE 05:47 SET 19:07		
RISE 13:14 SET 00:00		
FRIDAY, AUG. 09		
RISE 05:47 SET 19:06		
RISE 14:14 SET 00:27		

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 30 27
Safdarjung 30 27
Palam 28 25

Delhi Palsam Today
32°C Few spells of light to moderate rain and thunder-shower would occur at many parts of city and NCR. A humid day.

Delhi Palsam Tomorrow
34°C One or two spells of light rain would occur at some parts of the city. Temperature would increase, day will be uneasy humid.

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THE HINDU
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IN BRIEF



Subway near Dabri Mor station inaugurated

A pedestrian subway near the Dabri Mor station was inaugurated by DMRC Managing Director Mangal Singh on Tuesday, said officials. "The pedestrian subway constructed to facilitate entry and exit to the Dabri Mor-Janakpuri South metro station was inaugurated. The subway is 185 metre-long," the DMRC said.

Woman killed, son injured in wall collapse

A 30-year-old woman, identified as Neelam, died and her six-year-old son sustained injuries when the wall of their neighbour's house collapsed in Nihal Vihar on Sunday evening. The police said that Neelam, her husband and two children were sitting on the terrace when the wall collapsed.

'Dispose animal waste properly or face action'

North body's order comes ahead of Id

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Ahead of Id-ul-Azha, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has directed the general public to dispose of animal waste in an environment-friendly manner. Non-compliance of this condition would attract penalty as decided by the NDMC for polluting the environment and the Yamuna," an order by the NDMC reads.

The matter was brought to the MC by two persons, who had earlier approached the NDMC on the same issue.

"The applicant wanted actions to be taken before a religious festival which is coming up shortly" it reads and states that the complainants had alleged that the issue is happening in Jafarabad and Seelampur among other places.

The MC also asked the Municipal Commissioner concerned to issue orders and to see that they are implemented.

No anticipatory bail to M.P. CM's nephew

Court dismisses application in money laundering case

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Tuesday refused to grant anticipatory bail to Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in a money laundering case connected to the ₹3,600 crore August-Westland VVIP chopper deal.

Dismissing his bail application, Special Judge Arvind Kumar said: "Keeping in

Kapil Mishra moves HC against disqualification

Rebel AAP leader says decision arbitrary

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Rebel AAP member Kapil Mishra moved the Delhi High Court on Tuesday against his disqualification from the Legislative Assembly under the anti-defection law.

Delhi Assembly speaker Ram Niwas Goel had on August 2 disqualified Mishra, an MLA from Karawali Nagar, saying his campaigning for the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha polls indicated that he has "given up the membership of his original political party".

Mishra's disqualification takes effect from January 27 this year when he shared dias with Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari and the then Union Minister Vijay Goel.

Seeking quashing of the order, Mr. Mishra has contended that the Speaker's



Kapil Mishra

decision was "wholly illegal, arbitrary, vague and mala fide" as he was not provided any opportunity to present his case.

The order was issued on a petition of AAP MLA Saurob Bharadwaj seeking Mr. Mishra's disqualification from the Delhi Assembly.

3 more face threat

Three more rebel AAP MLAs – Anil Bajpayee, Devender Sehrawat and Sandeep Kumar – are facing the threat of disqualification on Mr. Bharadwaj's petition.

Why not nominate MLAs on rotation to civic bodies'

High Court seeks response from Centre, AAP government and Legislative Assembly

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response of the Centre, the AAP government and the Legislative Assembly on BJP MLA Vijender Gupta's plea seeking quashing of a notification nominating the same group of AAP MLAs to municipal corpora-

tions in the Capital.

A Bench of Justice G.S. Sistani and Justice Jyoti Singh gave the direction on the plea which contends that the same group of 13 MLAs were being nominated as councilors in the corporations.

The High Court also told the Assembly's lawyer that since AAP has a large major-

Museum on PMs likely to be ready by March 2021

Building to come up at Nehru's erstwhile residence

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The opening of the museum on Prime Ministers of India that is being set up on the premises of Jawaharlal Nehru's erstwhile residence Teen Murti Estate could be delayed by a few months, sources in the Union Culture Ministry said.

The museum, the foundation stone for which was laid on October 15, 2018 by the then Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, is likely to be constructed by the Central Public Works Department as per its deadline of March 2020, senior ministry officials said. However,

the targeted opening in October 2020 could be pushed due to the work on the exhibits inside the museum, including the digital content

C The targeted opening in October 2020 could be pushed due to the work on the exhibits inside the museum
OFFICIALS

that is being created, they said.

While one official said the opening could be "a few months late", a top ministry functionary said it would be likely by March 2021.

Speaking at the launch of a book on former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the museum would be dedicated to all former Prime Ministers. He asked the families of all former Prime Ministers to share things related to them for the exhibits.

Teen Murti Estate, which is spread over 25.5 acres, houses the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library dedicated to Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India. According to the Culture Ministry, the existing museum building occupies 4,286 sq m and the library building is built on 4,552 sq m – that's about two acres together. The NDA government had decided to use the remaining area for a museum on all Prime Ministers, including those in the future.

The new museum will take 10,975.36 sq m over a basement, ground and first floor, with galleries on all three levels, a government statement had said on October 15, 2018. The museum will include interactive features for visitors to learn about the contribution of former PMs over the years.

'Raising time limit for abortion under study'

Central govt. informs High Court

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Centre has informed the Delhi High Court that it has initiated the process for an inter-ministerial consultation on raising the gestation period for terminating pregnancy in case of health risk to the mother or foetus.

In an affidavit placed before a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar, the health ministry said, "The administrative ministry has already initiated the process of inter-ministerial consultation for the amendment in Medical Termination Pregnancy (MTP) Act 1971 and will finalise the same as soon as possible".

The health ministry's response came on a petition by social activist and lawyer, Amit Sahni, seeking raising of the time limit for terminating pregnancy in case of health risk to the mother or the foetus to 24-26 weeks, from the current cap of 20 weeks. The petition has also contended that unmarried women and widows too should be allowed to undergo legal abortion.

The Supreme Court, in



2017, had declined to amend the Act which prohibits termination of pregnancy beyond 20 weeks, saying that the issue fell within the legislative realm.

The health ministry said it had sought comments from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Niti Aayog on amending the MTP Act and had in March forwarded a final draft to the law ministry for its approval.

But, the law ministry had returned the note saying that since both Houses of Parliament have been adjourned, the administrative ministry may, as soon as the new government is sworn-in, take a view in the matter after holding consultations with all stakeholders, the affidavit said.

First tranche of land for Jewar airport acquired

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

The

first tranche of land for the upcoming international airport in Uttar Pradesh's Jewar was on Tuesday acquired and transferred to the project's implementing agency, officials said.

The Gautam Buddha Nagar administration acquired the 80 hectare farmland and handed it over to the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, they said. As much as 1,235 hectare is to be acquired for the first phase of the greenfield airport, District Magistrate Brajesh Naresh Singh said. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by 2023, according to officials.

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA Office Services Department, Central Office, 4th Floor, Yojakshema, West Wing, J.B. Marg, Mumbai 400 021
TENDER NOTICE Supply of Diaries & Calendars for the year 2020 LIC of India invites tenders from Well Established, Registered, Experienced and Reputed Printers, having their Printing Press in India, under two bid system i.e. Technical bid and Commercial bid for supply of Diaries & Calendars for the year 2020. The interested bidders may refer to the tender documents as given on LIC of India's website www.licindia.in and submit their bids on or before 30.08.2019 up to 2.30 p.m. A pre-Bid meeting of the interested bidders will be held on 19.08.2019 at 3.00 p.m. at above address.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (E&OS)

BJP wants Kejriwal to prove his support to J&K Bill

Asks CM to give prosecution sanction in JNU sedition case to show his backing

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The State unit of the BJP on Tuesday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal demanding that he allow prosecution sanction in the JNU sedition case to prove that he is in actual support of the Centre's decision to withdraw special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor wrote in a letter to Mr. Kejriwal that it was "important" that as the Chief Minister of Delhi he "strengthen the Centre's resolve to fight anti-national activities."

"In this context I draw your attention towards the case of raising anti-national slogans and other *Rashtradrush* [anti-national] activities involving several student leaders of JNU, including one Kanhaiya Kumar..." Mr. Kapoor further said,

Delhi Police has filed an FIR and the case in court against Mr. Kumar and others "continues to remain pending" as it requires sanction from Mr. Kejriwal. "On behalf of crores of citizens of Delhi who strongly support the Centre's initiative in withdrawing Sec. 370 in J&K, I take this opportunity to demand that if you support the Centre...you should immediately allow prosecution sanction..." he argued.

gislators have been repeatedly nominated as councilors in municipal corporations in violation of the laid down norms. The only difference being the replacement of rebel AAP MLA Anil Kumar Bajpai with S.K. Bagga in East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), the petition said.

Arvind Kejriwal

No anticipatory bail to M.P. CM's nephew

Court dismisses application in money laundering case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

the biological waste of the sacrificed animals in an environment-friendly manner. Non-compliance of this condition would attract penalty as decided by the NDMC for polluting the environment and the Yamuna," an order by the NDMC reads.

The matter was brought to the MC by two persons, who had earlier approached the NDMC on the same issue.

"The applicant wanted actions to be taken before a religious festival which is coming up shortly" it reads and states that the complainants had alleged that the issue is happening in Jafarabad and Seelampur among other places.

The MC also asked the Municipal Commissioner concerned to issue orders and to see that they are implemented.

It shall be mandatory for the persons preferring to sacrifice sheep, goats and buffaloes in their premises to ensure hygienic disposal of

animal waste properly or face action'

North body's order comes ahead of Id

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25,000 evacuated in Kolhapur, Sangli

Army team joins NDRF in rescue operations; residents fear repeat of 2005 floods; situation eases in Pune

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE While the flood situation due to discharge of excess water from dams improved in Pune city, it remained extremely grim in urban and rural pockets of Kolhapur and Sangli districts on Tuesday where continuing showers completely threw life and communication out of gear.

Authorities said an estimated 25,000 people stranded in Sangli, Kolhapur and Satara were evacuated by locals and disaster management teams, including those of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Milk supply to these districts will be hit as the Kolhapur District Milk Cooperative, known as Gokul, has decided to shut supply operations on Wednesday in view of the adverse rain and waterlogging situation.

People in low-lying areas were taken out in boats and shifted to schools run by the civic bodies even as water began flooding urban pockets of Kolhapur and Sangli. Schools and colleges in these districts remained shut on Tuesday and are likely to remain closed on Wednesday.

Power supply to more than 85,000 consumers in Kolhapur was temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure, said officials from the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company (MSEDCL).

Residents of Gaganbawda, Panhala and Karvir tehsils in Kolhapur were hit hard by the rains. With the swollen Panchanga river flowing well above the danger mark at 51 feet, residents and authorities in Kolhapur fear a repeat, or worse, of the situation in 1989 and 2005 floods.

Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil in a statement said, "I appeal to the residents of Kolhapur not to panic and cooperate with the district administration in their rescue efforts... NDRF teams are trying to move people to safe zones. A Navy team and



Helping hands: A pregnant woman being taken to a safer place from the flooded Kasba Bawda area, along the Panchanga river, on Tuesday; (below) Maharashtra Police personnel inspecting the site of a landslide at Kognoli near Kolhapur on National Highway 48 near Kolhapur. ■ DEEPAK KUMBHARE ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



an Army column of 80 personnel with four boats are on their way." He said the situation in Kolhapur was worse than in 1989.

"In 2005, the Panchanga touched 53.5 feet mark. Going by the present situation, it could well exceed that figure...with communications with other districts severed, Sangli and Kolhapur was completely cut-off from Pune, Bengaluru and the Konkan region.

Inter-district trains like those connecting Sangli with Karad (in Satara) were suspended as rail tracks were flooded.

Meanwhile, Satara district authorities said the discharge from Koyana dam was increased to 1,19,777 cusecs by

(cubic foot per second) late in the afternoon, leading to heavy flooding in several talukas.

A team of around 25 NDRF jawans was involved in rescue operations alongwith district authorities, especially in the Patan and Karad talukas of Satara.

In contrast, the situation seemed slightly better for residents in Pune city, as discharges from major dams were considerably reduced on Tuesday.

P.B. Shelar, executive engineer of the Khadakwasla irrigation division, told *The Hindu* that discharge from the dam had been cut to 18,491 cusecs by late afternoon.

Discharge from the Mulshi and Pavana dams too were reduced, easing the flood-like situation in the city's low-lying areas.

With the water levels going down today, traffic police opened up six bridges in the Aundh-Baner area.

Meanwhile, Pune District Collector Naval Kishore Ram declared a holiday on Wednesday for schools and educational establishments in Bhor, Velhe, Maval and Malshej talukas of Pune district.

Godavari starts receding

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NASHIK

The flood situation in Nashik eased on Tuesday as water level in the Godavari river, which was flowing above the danger mark, started receding, an official said.

The intensity of rains lessened since the early hours of the day, with Trimbakeshwar getting 81 mm and Igatpuri receiving 65 mm, as per the collector's office.

The receding water level in the Godavari brought about its own share of woes for conservancy staff as several hundred tonnes of garbage, plastic and slush were left strewn across areas close to the banks, including the Ram Setu and Gagde Maharaj bridges, according to officials.

Maharashtra, Karnataka trade charges over floodwaters

Fadnavis seeks Central assistance; suspends yatra

SHARAD VYAS

MUMBAI

Maharashtra and Karnataka are again trading charges, this time over the management of floodwaters flowing across the two States' borders.

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has written to his Maharashtra counterpart Devendra Fadnavis claiming that release from the Koyana reservoir is leading to an alarming situation in Belagavi, Vijayapura, Raichur, Kalburgi and Yadgir districts. Mr. Fadnavis called Mr. Yediyurappa on Tuesday requesting an early discharge from the Almatti dam to ease the flood-like situation near Kolapur.

Both States have been dealing with floods this past week. Senior Maharashtra officials said Mr. Fadnavis also spoke to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh seeking assistance from Central forces.

In a tweet following the conversation, he said: "Spoke to Hon Union Minister @rajnathsingh for help and support with coordination and expediting flood rescue & relief efforts through various agencies like @NDRFHQ, @IAF_MCC, @IndiaCoastGuard, Army in Kolhapur & Sangli districts."

The Chief Minister suspended his leg of the Mahanadi Yatra and has called an emergency Cabinet meeting in Mumbai to review the flood situation.

In his letter, Mr. Yediyurappa informed Mr. Fadnavis that a 'huge' quantity of flood water released from Koyana dam - 1.25 lakh cusecs from 20,000 cusecs - is leading to an alarming situation. The letter followed an aerial inspection on Monday of the flood-hit districts of North Karnataka, where several villages are inundated following overflow from reservoirs of the Krishna's tributaries on the Maharashtra side. The State government has evacuated 1,500 villages while the



The Khadakwasla dam near Pune. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

State dams are 50% full

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Incessant rains for over a week have filled Maharashtra's dams to 50% of their capacity, bringing relief to the drought-hit regions. The water levels in Marathwada dams had touched below 1% mark in July due to very less or no rains in the region.

An official said that continuous rains in western Maharashtra and Konkan region have ensured satisfactory increase in the water levels. "While these parts have benefited with rains, some regions of Marathwada, Vidarbha and central Maharashtra are yet to get rains. These parts will get medium to high showers from August 7 to 9," said the official.

and Nagpur divisions too have recorded increase in water storage in dams, with 16.82% and 28.22% of their total capacity, respectively. The water levels in Marathwada dams had dropped to below 1% have now touched double digits.

According to information from the Water Resources Department, the water storage in all dams of the State is 51.36% of their total capacity, which is almost equal to the 51.41% of 2018 on the same date.

Dams in Marathwada have recorded 11.77% of their total storage capacity as compared to 17.89% last year. Vidarbha's Amaravati

Army, Navy and Coast Guard are on standby. "Mumbai and Goa doppler radars on the west coast are indicating active monsoon conditions over South Konkan to Karnataka coast. South central Maharashtra, Kolhapur, Satara and Mahabaleshwar are showing cloudy skies with intense echoes over Satara. Rainfall will continue in these areas," said K.S. Hosalkar, Deputy Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department.

NCP promises 75% quota in private jobs for locals

Shiv Swarajya Yatra flagged off by Ajit Pawar

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Tuesday criticised Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and the State Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan for ignoring the plight of those affected by the heavy rains in western and northern Maharashtra.

Mr. Pawar criticised Mr. Mahajan, who is also Nashik's Guardian Minister, for being busy celebrating the repeal of Article 370 instead of going out to help those marooned in waterlogged areas of his district.

"At a time when extremely heavy rainfall in some districts has severely affected the lives of people in those parts, some ministers [read Mr. Mahajan] are blissfully dancing away...your job is not to dance, but to help the people of Nashik... leave the dancing to those whose vocation it is," said Mr. Pawar.

He also hit out at Mr. Fadnavis for not enquiring after citizens in districts where flood-like situation has developed owing to heavy showers and discharge of dam waters, the Chief Minister was busy in his pre-election campaign through mahanadesh yatra.

Speaking at the Shivneri Fort in Junnar – the birthplace of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji – during the launch of NCP's Shiv Swarajya Yatra on Tuesday, Mr. Pawar said, "We will bring a law granting 75% reservation in (private) jobs for locals, in the event of the Congress-NCP forming a government."

Many senior leaders of the party were present on the occasion.

The former deputy chief



In poll season: Nationalist Congress Party leaders gather at Shivneri Fort near Pune on Tuesday at the launch of Shiv Swarajya Yatra. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

minister mocked at the ruling Shiv Sena for organising protests against insurance firms for allegedly not settling the claims of the farmers.

Mr. Pawar said the NCP would devolve key responsibilities to the youth and women ahead of the elections.

At the same time, Mr. Pawar praised the Modi government's move to scrap Article 370 saying it was a necessary and vital step to preserve the unity of the country.

His stance is sharply contradictory to the one taken by his uncle and NCP chief Sharad Pawar, who on Monday had expressed disappointment at the Centre's move to revoke Article 370 without taking into confidence the people and leaders of Kashmir.

"The decision to scrap Article 370 is a good move... I have no wish to oppose it just for the sake of opposition. This has not been the party's stance either. The next step should be to take control of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK)," said Mr. Ajit Pawar.

Expressing confidence that the next Chief Minister would emerge from the

Government of Karnataka
Department of Agriculture
Commissionerate of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bangalore-1.

No. DDA(FM&MI)/FM RFP/A12, B1, E8 & F3/2019-20 Date: 30.07.2019

SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

Sub: Reg. Inviting Short Term Request For Proposal for empanelment of Manufacturers/OEM/Importers/ MoU Holders for supply of Laser Guided Land Leveler, Rice Transplanter, Reaper/Reaper Binder and Baler under Departmental subsidy Programmes and CHSC centers for the year 2019-20 reg.

Ref: Request for Proposal notification No DDA(FM&M1)/FM RFP/A12, B1, E8 & F3/2019-20, Dt.08-08-2019.

With respect to above and reference, the Department of Agriculture invites 30 days Short Term Request for Proposals (RFP) from Manufacturers/OEM/Importers/ MoU Holders for supply of Laser Guided Land Leveler, Rice Transplanter, Reaper/Reaper Binder and Baler to farmers under Departmental subsidy Programmes and CHSC centers for the year 2019-20. The interested Manufacturers/OEM/ Importers/ MoU Holders who are interested to participate in this RFP can submit their proposals through e-Procurement platform (<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>)

The interested Manufacturers/OEM/Importers/MoU Holders can download the tender documents through e-Procurement free of cost by payment of applicable e-Procurement processing fees and the EMD amount as fixed by the Department. Applications for Short Term RFP can be downloaded from the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 08-08-2019 to 06-09-2019. The last date for submission of proposals in e-Procurement platform is 06-09-2019, 4.30pm. The Technical Bids will be opened on 11-09-2019 at 11.00 am at Samruddi VC Hall, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 001 till 4.30 P.M., on or before 07-09-2019.

The Hard copies(Physical Deposition) of the Technical and Financial Bid along with other relevant documents uploaded in the e-Procurement portal will be received at the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farm Mechanization & Micro irrigation), Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bangalore-560 001 till 4.30 P.M., on or before 07-09-2019.

The interest Manufacturers/OEM/Importers/MoU Holders have to register at the **Centre for e-Governance, 1st floor, M.S. Building, Bangalore-01** and obtain the DSC key or e-Token (Helpdesk: 9880177633/080-22485867/080-22485927).

NOTE : e-Procurement processing fee is non-refundable and Tender documents are non transferable.

Sd/- DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY
R.O. No.DIPR/951/2019-20

PROCLAMATION AUCTION OF VEHICLE

General Public is hereby informed that an auction of Vehicle No. HR-26-CZ-2269 Hero Motor Cycle in case FIR NO.519/18 U/S 279/337/304A IPC. dated 18.10.2018, has been registered at PS. Vasant Kunj (S). New Delhi. Interested person can inspect the vehicle on the below mentioned location, date and time.

Location: P.S. Vasant Kunj (S)

Date : 08.08.2019

OR

Contact on below mentioned Number

**S.H.O.
P.S. Vasant Kunj (S)
New Delhi**

DP/6912/SW/19 011-26139361, 7065036225

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tendering Tender Notice
Open E-Tender on Single Bid system through E-Tender notice No. M/DL/IZN/TC/OT/56 are invited by Sr. Divisional Mech. Engineer (Diesel) Loco Shed, North Eastern Railway, Itzatnagar for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works:-
Name of work: "Loco Cleaning at Loco Shed Itzatnagar for the period of 02 years (731 days). Estimated Value of work: ₹ 51,20,421.79 (Incl. all taxes) Earnest Money: ₹ 1,02,400/-, Period of tender Document: ₹ 5,000/-, Period of work:- 02 Years (731 Days) from the date of commencement. Date and time for closing of E-tender 09-09-2019 at 15:00 hrs.
• Tenderer may submit their E-tenders online upto 15:00 hrs. on 09-09-2019. • Please go to the Indian railways website www.ireps.gov.in to see the complete details and upload/Submit the E-Tender.

Sr. Divisional Mech. Engineer (Diesel), CPO/Yantrik-90 Loco Shed, Itzatnagar About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Do not travel with inflammable article in train.

Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads
Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency, First Floor, Directorate of Panchayat raj, Opp-IT Park, Sahasthradhara Road, Dehradun.

Ref. No.: 1176-II-02(xiv)/ITCO/URRDA/19

Dated: 31-07-2019

BHARAT NIRMAN UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SAKAD YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice-06(Regular PMGSY & World Bank)/2019-20
The Government of India has received a loan/ credit facility number "LN 8864 IN" from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in NIT. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Almora, Bageshwar, Champi, Dehradun, Nanital, Pauri, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri & Uttarkashi for 120 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to ₹.537.37 Crore including their maintenance for two years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent".

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 09-08-2019. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online on www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the CONCERNED/RESPECTIVE/CIRCLE OFFICES only upto or before the time and date of submission of the Bids, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

IN BRIEF



Court grants bail to Sriram Venkitaraman

A magistrate court here on Tuesday released IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman on bail. He was in judicial remand at the intensive care unit of the Government Medical College Hospital here since Sunday after the police arrested him for drunk driving that caused the death of journalist K.M. Basheer in collision here early on Saturday. The court said it would revoke his bail if he tampered with evidence, interfered with the probe or swayed witnesses.

A.P. Chief Minister Jagan presents wish list to PM

NEW DELHI
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday to reiterate the demand for the Special Category Status for A.P. "He demanded that the power purchase agreements negotiated by the earlier government should be renegotiated. He asked for re-tendering of the Polavaram project and reminded the Central government of revenue deficit," a senior YSRCP leader said.

Karnataka CM calls on PM, discusses projects

BENGALURU
Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and three other Union Ministers in the national capital and drew their attention to a plethora of issues and pending projects in the State, including the clearance for Detailed Project Report on Mekedatu balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project.

Heavy rain lashes North Karnataka

Floods claim two more lives; Pune highway closed temporarily

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BELAGAVI/VIJAYAPURA/RAICHUR/HUBBALLI

With rain not relenting in the districts of Western Maharashtra and North Karnataka, the flood situation in northern Karnataka has further worsened. The situation is likely to aggravate as water discharge from reservoirs in the Krishna basin of Maharashtra may increase to four lakh cusecs.

With swelling rivers inundating villages, bridges-cum-barrages cutting-off connectivity from mainland, the region witnessed closure of NH 48 (Pune-Bengaluru stretch) and also suspension of train services in the Londa-Tinnaighai section of the Hubballi Division of South Western Railway.

Trains diverted

While several trains were partially cancelled, few were rescheduled and others diverted via alternative routes. Quick restoration work by the railway staff resulted in resumption of train services on the route by evening. There has been a steady increase in the outflow from the reservoirs built across the Krishna and its tributaries in Karnataka.

Meanwhile in Uttar Kannada district, the rivers are flowing above the danger level as 1.4 lakh cusecs of water is being released from the Kadra dam. Sounding high alert, the district administration has begun evacuating people on the banks of the rivers and has set up 50 relief centres.

In Belagavi district, as many as 8,012 members of 2,073 families have been shifted to safer locations.



Caught unawares: Some 30 people stuck in a temple at Kallathgiri in Karnataka were rescued on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Flood-hit in for a long haul in A.P.

Krishna in spate; Almatti receives inflow of 2,79,332 cusecs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

The Lolsur bridge near Gokak in Belagavi district, which was last submerged in 2004, is again under water now. Meanwhile, two persons lost their lives. Gangappa Madar, 38, was electrocuted when he tried to rescue his cow after his house partially collapsed in Hosakote village in Belagavi district. In Haveri, 50-year-old Shivappa Sottappanavar was washed away in a canal of Dharma river in Sringeri of Anekal taluk. On Tuesday, the NDRF team, civic authorities, police and fire and emergency personnel rescued a total of 200 persons from the flood affected areas in Lingsagur, Devadurga and Raichur talukas of Raichur district and shifted them to safer places.

As heavy downpour continued to batter the districts of Western Maharashtra and North Karnataka, landslide and rain-induced damages created several blockades on the Pune-Bengaluru stretch of NH 48 resulting in its temporary closure. The road has been closed for traffic.

Irrigation Department engineers said that water was flowing over the coffer dam

and the incomplete spillway.

Krishna river is also in spate with the Almatti dam receiving an inflow of 2,79,332 cusecs on Tuesday. As much as 3.16 lakh cusecs was being discharged downstream to the relatively smaller Narayanpur and Jurala reservoirs, which are also forced to discharge more water than what they are receiving.

The A.P.-Telangana Srisailam project, which comes next, is only 64% full. It received an inflow of 2,47,767 cusecs on Tuesday. The outflow was only 34,447 cusecs after power generation.

Be on high alert'

With heavy rain in the upper reaches of the Krishna, inflows have been steadily increasing since July 31.

Energy Minister Balineni

Srinivasa Reddy has asked officials to be on high alert and focus on relief works in the flood-affected areas. No official can leave the affected villages until the restoration of operations were completed, he said.

During a teleconference with the officials of power utilities on Tuesday, the Minister said the officials should restore supply in the flood-affected villages on a war-footing.

"Any complaint relating to power supply should be addressed in 24 hours," he said. A.P. should be a model in this regard. Focus should be on developing an 'Electrical Emergency Action Plan' to continue operations in the event of a weather emergency, and safely and efficiently restore supply within 24 to 48 hours, he said.

'Don't pack toys and food together'

FSSAI issues advisory against practice

arately or packed separately."

"Also, it is desirable that the colour, texture and nature of toy or gift item should not at all resemble the food product inside food package," the advisory said.

As per Section 3(1) zz(xi) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 "unsafe food" means an article of food whose nature, substance or quality is so affected as to render it injurious to health by virtue of its being misbranded or sub-standard or food containing extraneous matter.

Quoting this provision under the Act, the advisory said: "Commissioner of Food Safety of all States/UT's are requested to make efforts for generating awareness amongst all stakeholders to discourage the practice of packing of such toys/gifts with food products for infants and small children."

Karnataka Health Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Pandey, who is also the Food Safety Commissioner, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that Food Safety Officers in the State have been directed to ensure that the advisory is implemented effectively.

Seven-year-old found dead in A.P. hostel

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Tuesday, alerted the staff. "The miscreants slit the throat of Aditya and killed him," said Avanigadda DSP M. Ramesh Reddy.

A native of Challapalli, Aditya, son of D. Venu, an artisan, was staying in the hostel along with his elder brother, D. Ashok, studying in Class seven.

HC sets aside action against IISc. professor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a setback to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday not only set aside the action initiated against a senior professor in a sexual harassment case but also directed the authorities to initiate action against the director and members of its inquiry committee for violating the rule prohibiting disclosure of the contents of a complaint of sexual harassment and inquiry proceedings.

The court held that the IISc. and its inquiry committee committed several errors since the receipt of the complaint, and failed to follow statutory rules and procedures prescribed under the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, and the Central Civil Services Rules.

Justice B.P. Bajanthri delivered the verdict while allowing a petition by eminent scientist Giridhar Madras, a 51-year-old senior professor. Prof. Giridhar had questioned IISc.'s inquiry report dated February 28, 2018 and the order of compulsory retirement, dated October 17, 2018.

While denying allegations levelled against him, the petitioner had claimed that he was compulsorily retired from service without being given a show-cause notice, and questioned the inquiry report, which was based on "perceptions" and not any evidence, besides contending serious failure in following the law governing conduct of an inquiry in sexual harassment cases.

The court said the IISc. authorities had failed to adhere to rules in constitution of an inquiry committee, manner of conduct of inquiry and submission of report.

Visakhapatnam police warn personnel on TikTok videos

Videos made by them on duty embarrassed department

STAFF REPORTER
VISHAKHAPATNAM

A flurry of 'TikTok' videos being made and circulated by Andhra Pradesh policemen have failed to amuse senior officers in Visakhapatnam district.

In the last 10 days, policemen have come under criticism on social media twice for performing TikTok videos while on duty, leading to their suspension. Higher officials have now passed strict instructions to their juniors warning them not to indulge in such activities during working hours.

Shakthi teams

On July 27, TikTok videos of two women police personnel from Shakthi teams surfaced on the Internet. The videos, which were reportedly performed in uniform



Babuji on August 2, a day after a TikTok video allegedly made by him during office hours surfaced on social media. Constable Nagaraju performed a 15-second TikTok video recently and it has been doing the rounds on social media since July 31.

"It's not just about TikTok, we have instructed our staff not to focus on anything apart from duty, during working hours," said Mr. Attada Babuji.

A senior police officer from the Visakhapatnam City Police said the incidents cast the department in a poor light.

As policemen, we strive to set an example to the public. When such incidents come to light, the criticism we receive, especially from social media, is unfortunate," he said.

Gearing up for the festival



With Bakrid around the corner, the sheep market at Melapalayam in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district was conducting brisk business on Tuesday. ■ A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

Farmer suicides need attention: CPI(M)

'Andhra Pradesh CM must address the issue during his Anantapur visit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR

Highlighting that farmers' issues in the district need immediate attention of the Andhra Pradesh government in the wake of reported suicides, Communist Party of India (Marxist) district secretary V. Rambhupal on Tuesday said Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy must deal with it during his scheduled visit to Anantapur on August 8.

This is Mr. Reddy's maiden visit to the district after assuming office.

19 cases since May 1'

Mr. Rambhupal said 19 farmers had resorted to the extreme step in the district since May 1. He alleged that the district administration was not willing to accept the



cases as suicides driven by farm crisis, attributing the deaths to other reasons without looking at the underlying problems.

"During the rule of previous TDP government, 566 farmers ended their lives in Anantapur district, but only

hupal pointed out.

Hitting out at the State government for the reported decision to conduct fresh surveys on the causes of reported suicides of farmers before paying compensation, the CPI(M) leader observed that would take at least three months to sanction compensation if a fresh survey was conducted, adding to the suffering of the bereaved family members. "The YSRCP did not make any complaint about the causes for suicide. Why is it suggesting a fresh survey now?" he asked.

Attributing the farmers' deaths to the drought situations prevailing over the district for the past 10 years, Mr. Rambhupal said the kharif this year was the worst season for sowing.

Kerala police question University College faculty

Probe on to trace the provenance of answer sheet leak

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police have recorded the statements of several members of the University College faculty as part of their investigation into the seizure of blank varsity answer sheets from Students Federation of India (SFI) leaders indicted for the near-fatal knife attack on a student, Akhil Chandran, on the campus last month.

A senior officer said here on Tuesday that the police were likely to press criminal charges once they zeroed in on the college authorities responsible for the safe custody of unused answer books.

A police raid on the house of prime suspect Shivarajith, a campus leader of the SFI, had yielded 83 answer sheet bundles.

The police have sought the custody of Pranav, another SFI leader arrested for the attack on Akhil. They had found his admission

any college insider had conspired with the SFI leaders and handed over the unused answer sheets to them instead of returning them to the Kerala University.

The police had questioned the current and former principals of the college and other teachers responsible for the safe custody of unused answer books.

A police raid on the house of prime suspect Shivarajith, a campus leader of the SFI, had yielded 83 answer sheet bundles.

The police have sought the custody of Pranav, another SFI leader arrested for the attack on Akhil. They had found his admission

number on several answer sheets recovered from a college room which the SFI had been using as its unit office.

BJP State president P.S. Sreedharan Pillai sought a CBI probe into the alleged malpractices in the PSC exams.

Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha State president K.P. Prakash Babu said his organisation would seek a CBI probe into all PSC recruitments in the past 10 years.

The scandal had shown the varsity in poor light and raised serious questions about the integrity of the examinations conducted on the SFI-dominated college campus.

CPI(M)

CM

NDE

IN BRIEF



9 children killed as van falls into gorge

NEW DELHI
Nine children died and eleven were injured when a van taking them to school fell into a 200 m-deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district on Tuesday morning, an official said. The driver jumped off the vehicle to save himself and fled the spot, said an official. PTI

Former T.N. Minister

Jennifer Chandran dead

THOOTHUKUDI
Former Fisheries Minister S. Jennifer Chandran died of renal failure on Tuesday. The 61-year-old, who served as a Minister in the DMK government from 1996-2001, passed away around 2.15 p.m. in a private hospital in Madurai. Her last rites would be performed at her residence in Amali Nagar, Tiruchendur.

Goa decides to amend century-old marriage law

PANAJI
The BJP-led Goa government would amend the Portuguese-era Uniform Civil Code (UCC), introduced in the year 1870, so that non-Goans can register their marriages. The UCC was introduced by the erstwhile Portuguese rulers. It was retained even after the territory was merged with India in 1961. PTI

Chandrayaan-2 heads away from earth

BENGALURU
Still a month away from its scheduled landing on the moon, Chandrayaan-2 on Tuesday had its orbit slung further towards the moon at 1.42 lakh km from the earth. "The next manoeuvre is the Trans Lunar Insertion (TLI), which is scheduled for August 14 between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.," the ISRO said in an update.

Consumer Protection Bill gets RS green light

It will replace the Consumer Protection Act of 1986

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 that provides for the establishment of authorities for the timely and effective administration and settlement of consumer disputes.

The Bill, which has already been passed by the Lok Sabha, seeks to strengthen the rights of consumers and provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defects in goods and deficiency in services.

Moving the Bill for consideration and passing, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said it is a long-pending legislation, and except five, all recommendations of a Parliamentary Standing Committee



Customer is king: The Bill seeks to address the complaints regarding deficiency in goods and services. ■ FILE PHOTO

have been included in the Bill.

Healthcare dropped

The Bill will replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Mr. Paswan said the government had dropped healthcare from the bill as several members had objected to it.

The Upper House also passed the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 for speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants of government residential accommodation. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on July 31.

Government offers to send 4 Bills for scrutiny

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Days after the Opposition accused the government of passing Bills without scrutiny, the government has proposed to send four pieces of legislation to a standing committee or a select committee.

The Opposition parties had demanded that the RTI Amendment Bill, the Triple Talaq Bill and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill be sent to a select committee. However, their motions failed because they did not have the Bill to a select committee," a Union Minister said.

clear these Bills in this session. So we have told the Opposition [parties] that if they want, we can send them to a standing committee. We have also offered to send the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill to a select committee," a Union Minister said.

Names for panels

Before adjourning the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Chairman Venkaiah Naidu gave the final call to all parties to send the names of their MPs, from both Houses, for eight department-related standing committees under the Rajya Sabha by August 14.

He stressed that if he did not get the names by then, the members would not be included in the committees.

In a letter to Mr. Naidu, 17 Opposition parties had raised the issue of Bills being passed without parliamentary scrutiny.

Former Minister okays 8 PU colleges in 30 days

Their applications had been rejected by the concerned department in Karnataka for not fulfilling norms

TANU KULKARNI
BENGALURU

During his brief tenure as Karnataka's Primary and Secondary Education Minister, which lasted less than a month, S.R. Srinivas approved eight pre-university colleges across Karnataka although their applications had been rejected by the Department of Pre-University Education (DPUE) for not fulfilling the required norms.

The State government, though, has not issued the relevant order as the powers of giving permission rest with the Director of DPUE.

When the matter came up before him, Mr. Srinivas had



S.R. Srinivas

reportedly said that these applications should be given approval in the interest of students as there are no colleges in the vicinity, said sources. He had even cited the D.M. Nanjundappa committee report on redressal of regional imbalances and stated that colleges in backward talukas should be given permission.

Officials adamant

Many of these applications had been rejected as the management did not have the necessary land. Department officials are firm on their stance and have decided not to give permission for

these colleges.

Mr. Srinivas told *The Hindu* that while he had given the approvals, the department is free to issue govern-

ment orders based on rules and regulations.

Several BJP MLAs questioned the Minister for approving applications that were rejected by the director as well as the Principal Secretary of the department.

"We demand a proper inquiry," said Arun Shahapur, MLC, alleging rampant commercialisation of PU college and inadequate checks and balances.

The department has been lenient to PU colleges, and tweaked rules and regulations for applicants in terms of land norms this year.

According to the new rules, colleges in BBMP li-

mits need to have land ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 square metres. In other areas, however, the land requirement ranges from 2,000 to 4,000 square metres.

Permission given

Initially, of the 407 applications this year, only 29 were given permission to open for the 2019-20 academic year after scrutiny.

But later, the number rose up to 60 as the people behind many of the applications which were rejected fulfilled the norms and asked the department to re-examine their applications.

It will cost coal plants ₹73,000 crore to comply with green norms

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

It will cost India's coal-fired power plants at least ₹73,000 crore to comply with the government's directive to implement clean technology in existing and new plants, an analysis has shown.

This could mean, at the minimum, a 10% hike in electricity bills for consumers, researchers say.

Current rules say that coal-fired power plants have to ensure that they curtail sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions from their smoke stack by implement-

ing appropriate technology. While this was to be in place by 2017, it has now been extended to 2022 by the Union Environment Ministry.

For the analysis, coal plant units producing about 177,000 MW of power were analysed.

The plants were all com-

misioned on or before June 2017. "The total capex required for pollution-control technology installation is estimated to be significant. The costs range between ₹73,176 crore if plants marked for retirement are not retrofitted and ₹86,135 crore if the retrofits were to happen across

all eligible plants. This will add between INR 0.32 per kWh to INR 0.72 per kWh (or around 9% to 21% to average tariffs) of electricity generated from these plants," the report prepared by the International Institute of Sustainable Development and the Council on Energy,

Environment and Water said.

Exorbitant as the cost of retrofitting plants may be, not doing so would mean around 300,000 to 320,000 premature deaths and 5.1 crore hospital cases due to respiratory disorders between 2019 and 2030.

Unnao rape victim still on life support

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Unnao rape survivor, who sustained serious injuries in a collision and was flown to Delhi's AIIMS Trauma Centre on Monday night, remained critically ill, hospital authorities said on Tuesday.

"The patient was shifted to AIIMS Trauma Centre from KGMC Lucknow on August 5," AIIMS said in a statement. "She is sick, on life support systems, needing medication to support her blood pressure. The patient

50-year-old 'rapist' lynched in Manipur

MANIPUR
A 50-year-old man who allegedly raped at gunpoint a girl who is his relative was lynched on Tuesday in Thoubal district. In another incident, a 47-year-old man was beheaded during a land dispute with his neighbour. The accused, who later surrendered to the police, was identified as Surjit Nongmathem, 35, an ex-Army man.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the work "Allotment of 01 (One) no. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet Plots at P.P.T." License Fees : Rs.2,61,87,150/- Wharfe Fees : Rs.14,92,110/- Last date & time of submission of bid : 21.08.2019 upto 15.00hrs.. Date and time of opening (technical bid) : 23.08.2019 upto 16.30hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Traffic Manager PPT/PR/253/19-20 Dt.06.08.2019

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV O.H.T OJA Ph-11: OPPOSITE GOVIND PURI: NEW DELHI-20. e-mail: esouthiv498@gmail.com/Tel: 011-26388976 Press N.I.T. NO: 36 S-IV (2019-20)			
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of sewerage system by making outfall arrangement by providing laying 300 mm dia sewer line from Madanpur Khadar Chouhan mohalla to E-Block SPS in Okhla Constituency under EE(South)IV AC-54	27,25,886/-	2019.DJB_177596_1 02.08.2019
Press N.I.T. NO: 37 S-IV (2019-20)			
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution
1.	Providing Laying 350 mm D.I. water line to Providing drinking water from road No. 13A Pocket-II Jasola to Jasola Village in Okhla Constituency AC-54 under EE(South)IV	47,76,847/-	2019.DJB_177597_1 02.08.2019

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 245/2019-20

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)IV

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (A group company of IndianOil) Manali, Chennai - 600 068, Tamil Nadu, India			
GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER – E Tendering			
NIT No.	Item description	Due Date and time for Electronic Bid Submission	
M/G/C01A/HTC/AT013/19-20	High Temperature (HT) Shift converter catalyst for Plant 205 & 76 Total Quantity: 41 Cu.M (Single delivery)	upto 15:00 Hrs. on 06.09.2019	
M/G/C01A/NMP/014/19-20	N-Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone (NMP) Total Quantity: 270 MT (for 2 years requirement)	upto 15:00 Hrs. on 09.09.2019	
	Refer our Website: https://cpcltenders.nic.in for further details about the tender.		
	Contact Person: Sr.Manager (Purchase), Tel: 044 2594 4128, e-mail : ktharkaran@cpcl.co.in		
	Bidders are requested to note that all further corrigenda, amendments, revisions, extensions of submission date, etc., with regard to this tender, if any, shall be published only at the website stated above and not through press advt.		
	General Manager (M. & C)		

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender No : 05/SE/ PHCK/ 2019-20 NABARD RIDF XXIV - WSS TO ERUMELI-LAYING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN ZONE I(PART) & ZONE VI-Supplying, Laying, Jointing, Testing and Commissioning of Distribution system using various size of DI K9 pipes (150 mm -350 mm dia), PVC pipes (90 mm to 160 mm dia) and GI pipes (80 mm-150 mm dia).EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/- Tender fee : Rs. 11,200/- Last Date for submitting Tender : 17-09-2019 04:00pm.. Superintending Engineer PH Circle Kottayam Phone : 04812562745 KWA-JB-GL-6-177-2019-20			
NOTICE INVITING TENDER			
Tender No.	Material Description	Due date	
192013 003065	Imported Limestone	21.08.2019	

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Great expectations

Ending commercial surrogacy will not be possible without regulating ART clinics

It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that surrogacy needs to be regulated by law. There is no argument about whether an issue such as surrogacy fraught with bioethical issues aplenty requires regulation: it does. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, should have come a long time ago. Regulations in the past in the area of child adoption and transplantation of human organs have, historically, borne fruit, effectively putting an end to rampant commercial transactions, and providing a structure by which any excursions outside of the law may be shut down. Flagrant violations of human rights have been witnessed repeatedly in the 'baby-making factory' in India, the underprivileged woman often in the cross hairs, and at the bottom of the pile. The plethora of unregulated assisted reproductive techniques (ART) clinics that mushroomed, coinciding with India becoming a global health-care destination, ensured that there was a good volume of traffic toward the country, besides growing domestic demand for surrogacy services. In this context, there is expectation that the Surrogacy Bill will regulate commercial surrogacy, while allowing an altruistic form of it to continue, by putting in place strict supervisory and regulatory frameworks. The question here is whether the Bill, recently passed by the Lok Sabha, will serve the wholesome purpose of regulating the vastly complex area of surrogacy, while sensitively balancing the needs of 'intending parents' and surrogates.

The Bill mandates payment to the surrogate mother, who can only be a 'close relative', to the extent of covering medical expenses and providing insurance during the term of the pregnancy. It has specified that 'exploiting the surrogate mother' would attract punishment of imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of up to ₹10 lakh; advertising for surrogacy and selling/importing human embryos or gametes for surrogacy also attract the same punishment. It has mandated registration of surrogacy clinics, and put in place regulatory boards to ensure compliance with the law. But its critics have panned it for the lack of specifics in definitions (the generalised 'close relative' criterion for surrogates); the exclusion of various groups of people from access to surrogacy (only married couples of a certain age group are eligible); and primarily, of trying to put the 'cart before the horse' by seeking to regulate surrogacy before setting the ART house in order. The capacity of the state to end commercial surrogacy may itself be compromised if it does not first set up a regulatory framework for ART clinics, which provide the basic technology for surrogacy. Else, the government is merely setting itself up to implement a law that may spectacularly fail. That would be a tragedy, because this is one law that is pregnant with the possibility of truly revolutionising the surrogacy sector, cleaning it up, and fulfilling the dreams of people who are themselves unable to bear children.

Open obsession

An ingrained gun culture and patchy regulations set off hate crimes in the U.S.

Two American cities, El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, more than 2,500 kilometres apart, witnessed lethal shootings resulting in mass fatalities over the past weekend, with at least 31 people dead, many injured, and a nation in shock. The El Paso attack, which bore tell-tale signs of a hate crime, was the deadliest mass shooting in the United States since November 2017 and brings to 32 the tally of shootings there in 2019 that had at least three victims. In his reaction to the shootings, U.S. President Donald Trump appeared to denounce the racist intention behind the shooting when he said, "In one voice our nation must condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy," and that these "sinister ideologies must be defeated." While he was not wrong to highlight the pervasive threat of racist violence – police investigating the El Paso shooting said they found an anti-immigrant document espousing white nationalist and racist views, which they believe was written by the suspect, Patrick Crusius – his focus on violent video games, mental illness and online bigotry leaves a glaring gap in policy: common-sense gun control reforms to curb the proliferation of deadly, military-grade weapons and high-capacity magazines.

The battle to pass broad, effective gun control legislation, such as tougher background checks for gun buyers and the banning of certain gun technologies and accessories such as bump stocks that exponentially raise the lethality of weapons, has punctuated the past few decades of America's unrelenting, 228-year-old love-affair with guns. Despite sustained lobbying to push forward basic gun control laws through the U.S. Congress – former President Obama saw no fewer than 17 of his attempts to bring gun control to the floor of Congress defeated by conservative lawmakers – the constitutional right to bear arms has never been more fiercely defended. Further Mr. Trump's regular dog whistles to the forces of racist xenophobia appear to have emboldened fringe elements within the gun-loving fraternities to carry out mass attacks against minorities. The National Rifle Association quietly hands around \$6 million annually to lawmakers in Washington to retain its pro-gun agenda as a top priority. Pro-gun lobbies consistently mobilise voters around the Second Amendment. The result of combining this ingrained "gun culture" with patchy gun regulations is ever more incidents of mass shootings. The societal and economic challenges that minorities face in the U.S. are already immense; if they become targets of a new vector of racist hatred, buttressed by the unregulated firepower of guns, then America's "melting pot" dream will unravel fast.

Kashmir has been cut to the quick

The Centre is riding roughshod over Kashmiri public opinion already beset with disaffection



WAJAHAT HABIBULLAH

In the face of a massive security build-up in Kashmir at the close of July, a seasoned journalist conjectured, "This is just the right time when militants and their masters in Rawalpindi could do with a terror attack in Kashmir." Such were the arguments trotted out by experienced media persons in seeking to account for the extraordinary lock down that had descended on Kashmir throwing its citizens into a panic, with a run on banks, petrol pumps and stores across the Valley. I began receiving phone calls from friends and associates as far as Gopalpora, Mattan and Doabgah and Sopore asking what was happening. My former colleagues in government, some in key positions, had no inkling and made dire predictions.

A steamrolling

And then we had the statement of the Home Minister, Amit Shah, in the Rajya Sabha on the morning of Monday August 5, 2019. Under Article 370 of the Constitution of India, the State of Jammu and Kashmir had its own Constitution and its own laws, with the President of India empowered to decide which provisions of the Indian Constitution would be applicable within the State, but only with the assent of the State.

In one fell swoop, the President, Ram Nath Kovind, declared that all provisions of the Indian Constitution shall now apply to the State, thus nullifying Article 370 with the use of that same article thereby ending the special autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir that it had enjoyed since the promulgation

of India's Constitution. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 further bifurcates the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, both with a Muslim majority namely: the Union Territory (UT) of J&K and the Union Territory of Ladakh. While the UT of J&K will have a legislature, the Union Territory of Ladakh will be without one. Although in the past UTs have been upgraded to States, never has a State been downgraded, thus bringing to a consummation the process initiated with the accession, although hardly in the manner dreamt.

Umbilical link

Article 370 has governed the accession and relationship of the princely State of Jammu and Kashmir with India under the Indian Constitution. As originally envisaged, Article 370 formed the basis of Kashmir's special and autonomous status. Mainstream political leaders such as Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and others have warned that revoking Article 370 will mean a break in the relationship between the State and India.

A devout Muslim, the then unchallenged Kashmiri leader, Sheikh Abdullah (Baba-i-Qaum to his people), 'faced a clear choice in 1947; he could join a Muslim nation or he could join a secular state, where Kashmiris would be free to live a life of their own choosing. In making his choice, India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was the Sheikh's reassurance. Of Kashmiri descent, a heritage that Nehru cherished, Nehru had an inclusive vision of what India was to be'. By contrast, the leader of the newly emerging nation of Muslims, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, was a cold and distant figure, a modernist who could excite awe but little affection. At the time of accession, the portion of the State where Jinnah's Muslim



League had its support lay not in the Kashmir Valley but across the Pir Panjal, in Mirpur and the old Poonch principality of the feudal State of Jammu and Kashmir, an area a large part of which Pakistan occupies today and calls 'Azad Kashmir'.

It is important to remember that the Kashmir freedom movement was a movement to rid Kashmir of despotism, working in tandem with the national movement but not part of it. This was primarily a Kashmiri movement drawing almost universal Kashmiri support in a Muslim majority State where the Kashmiris were the largest single ethnic group. Despite efforts by Maharajah Hari Singh's Prime Minister Ram Chandra Kak in eliciting the Sheikh's support for Independence, the latter stood steadfast in his demand for an end to the monarchy.

Visiting Srinagar on June 18–23, India's Viceroy Lord Louis Mountbatten urged Hari Singh not to make a declaration of independence. He conveyed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's message that 'the States Department was prepared to give an assurance that, if Kashmir went to Pakistan, this would not be regarded as unfriendly by Government of India'. It was only when Jammu and Kashmir forces faced an uprising by the Poonch troops of the British Indian Army's decommissioned Sixth Punjab Regiment (in the border district of Poonch), and then a military rout by invading frontier tribesmen in the State's border town of Domel on October 22, 1947 that the Mahatma

raja turned in desperation to India.

Pakistan's lost cause

According to the 1941 Census, 77.11% of the population of Jammu and Kashmir was Muslim, 20.12% Hindu and 1.64% Sikh. Pakistan has argued that the logic of Partition meant that the State had to be a part of Pakistan. But by recourse to an invasion by Pakistan's frontier tribesmen and the support of the invasion by Pakistan's armed forces, Pakistan virtually lost its case, certainly in the eyes of Kashmiris. India's case rested on the public will. Indeed, Sheikh Abdullah spoke for Kashmir at the United Nations in February 1948 as part of a delegation led by N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar firmly declaring, "We shall prefer death rather than join Pakistan. We shall have nothing to do with such a country." And it was this freedom within the Indian Union that Abdullah sought through the constitutional guarantee of Article 370, which read with Article 369, provided temporary powers to Parliament to make laws for J&K.

Under sub-section 3 of this Article, the President of India can revoke Article 370 only on advice from the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir. The Constituent Assembly was dissolved in 1957, and replaced by a Legislative Assembly, which was dismissed last year after the coalition between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party collapsed and the Governor Satya Pal Malik rejected a bid for an alternative coalition. Importantly, the current Presidential order modifies Article 367 of the Constitution, with "Constituent Assembly" to be read as "Legislative Assembly of the State" and the State government construed as the Governor. This has enabled the President to abrogate Article 370 with the con-

sent of the Governor as consent of the State. The people themselves, who the Constitution is designed to serve, therefore, had no part in this process. The constitutional validity of these amendments are for the Supreme Court to ponder. But the question here is that if these are indeed designed to benefit the people, was it necessary to bring them before Parliament under stealth, with the leaders of mainstream parties, the former Chief Ministers the Abdullahs (father and son), Mehbooba Mufti and the BJP's ally Sajid Lone all under house arrest?

Opaque moves

There is little doubt that these are bold constitutional measures described with contrasting adjective or invective, consummating a process that began with the Constitution of India. But if the view of government was simply to rectify a constitutional error or remedy an anachronism as claimed by assiduous government spokesmen, did it not follow that democratic compulsion required that it be placed before the public most affected – the people of J&K, – before being sneaked into Parliament in tight secrecy? This without the knowledge of even the local government amidst security measures unprecedented in their intensity, surpassing even those that the Jagmohan government was forced to take following the outbreak of insurgency in 1989-90? This endeavour has meant riding roughshod over Kashmiri public opinion already beset with widespread disaffection. What it has succeeded in doing is leading to a feeling of betrayal among a section of our people and foreboding among well-wishers of Kashmir.

Wajahat Habibullah, a retired civil servant, has served as Chief Information Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities

The pitch for a second term

The Trump strategy seems to focus on internal progress and in pursuit of peace abroad in unconventional ways



T.P. SREENIVASAN

Today, there is expectation that U.S. President Donald Trump will not only complete his term but also win a second term in 2020. But not so long ago, the demand to impeach Mr. Trump on the charge of Russian interference in the U.S. presidential electoral process arose within weeks after his largely unexpected victory in 2016. Many believed he would not complete his term as accusations gathered momentum, which culminated in the Mueller report – it had enough material to indict the President. The Presidency came close to one constitutional crisis after another, but the President used the same report to claim there was no collusion or cover-up.

While the Democratic challengers to the President have multiplied with each passing day there are no serious Republican contenders even though many in the Grand Old Party believe that the President has undermined the party. While age was an issue when Mr. Trump offered his candidature first the same issue is now in the President's favour today as the two serious contenders, name-

ly Democratic candidates Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, are older than him.

'America First'

With his majority in the Senate enhanced, Mr. Trump has set aside his fears of impeachment and moved on with his 'America First' policy, internally and externally, marked by his characteristic unpredictability of upstaging friends and enemies alike. The President is busy dealing with weighty matters of state such as trade with China, North Korea, Iran and Afghanistan, and improving the economy. The Democrats are also coming round to the view that it is better to focus on the election than on the impeachment, a move which is bound to fail.

Mr. Biden, who started leading the polls even before he announced his candidature recently, and raised a contribution of a little more than \$6 million in first day fund-raising, has been tainted by his official and personal actions as the Vice President, which include inappropriate pictures and his alleged interference in Ukraine to help a company with ties to his son. The candidature of Pete Buttigieg, who is in a same-sex relationship, and characterised by *Time* magazine as "unlikely, untested and unprecedented" will be another distraction in the months to come.

Unlike his predecessor and Peace Nobel winner, Barack Ob-



ama, Mr. Trump has withdrawn U.S. forces from abroad, even from active fronts such as Syria and Afghanistan. In contrast, the National Security Adviser, John Bolton, has been on the warpath, constantly urging the President to use force in different theatres of conflict, especially North Korea. For all his threats of rage and fury, Mr. Trump has not declared war on anyone. Though he has issued a warning that the U.S. is ready to defend itself if Iran threatens its interests in the Gulf or elsewhere (even announcing the deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and others to the U.S. Central Command region), the war-monger-in-chief has become a messiah of peace.

A thread of reform

The regime-changing policy of the U.S. is very much a part of Mr. Trump's global strategy, but he is pursuing a path of reforming world leaders rather than eliminating them. Bluster in words and

peace in action has tempered the image of the President. Though his announcements of withdrawals from international treaties have been swift, he seems to be relying on his bureaucracy to soften the blows. The Paris Agreement commitments have not been reversed pending the formal exit of the U.S., while sustainable energy projects may continue in his second term.

Mr. Trump has gone beyond expectation in the case of India when he exerted pressure on Pakistan to release the Indian prisoner of war, Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, from Pakistan's custody, thus stopping an escalation in conflict during the India-Pakistan stand-off in 2019. Similarly, China was told that the international community would not tolerate inaction anymore in the case of Maasood Azhar. In both these cases, Mr. Trump has demonstrated a clear pro-Indian stand *vis-à-vis* Pakistan and China. But when it came to the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan, Mr. Trump unabashedly feted Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in Washington in July, promising mediation between India and Pakistan on Kashmir. Russian missiles, Iran and trade imbalance are the irritants in India-U.S. relations.

On China too, the evolving U.S. position appears to be paradoxical. The trade war appears negotiable as there does not seem to be a strategy to strangle China. The way China has relented on the Ma-

sood Azhar issue shows that China is sensitive to the U.S. position. China does not seem to put any pressure on the U.S. when it comes to North Korea. China also does not sense much pressure from the U.S. to contain it in the Indo-Pacific, with the Quadrilateral having receded into the background.

The U.S.'s western allies are expressing concern that Mr. Trump is deviating from foreign policy priorities such as countering China and Russia and instead focussing on nations that pose no real threat to the West such as Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. The Democrats believe that such shifts will damage the credibility of the U.S. with its European allies in the long term as the Europeans are likely to cultivate other powers. Among the countries named as being agitated about the U.S. policy are Turkey, South Korea, Japan and India.

Behind Mr. Trump's perplexing 'America First' policy, there seems to be a clear game plan for the President to secure a second term by focussing on internal progress and peace abroad in unconventional ways, without paying attention to the consequences for the U.S. and the world beyond 2020.

T.P. Sreenivasan, a former diplomat, is Chairman, Academic Council and Director, NSS Academy of Civil Services. He is also the Director General, Kerala International Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

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.

Kashmir road map

In his book on nationalism, Rabindranath Tagore has said that a nation is not just composed of land and boundaries, but of the people who live there. The same applies to Jammu and Kashmir. Unless and until the people of Kashmir also wholeheartedly embrace the Indian nation, integration will be incomplete. Today there is a feeling of betrayal in Kashmir as the condition which led to Kashmir's merger with India has been diluted. It is more important to develop trust and confidence so that Kashmir's unique culture, customs and rights are safe from outside influences. To adopt an intransigent attitude that there won't be

alienation and resentment would be incorrect and inappropriate (Editorial page, "Piecing together Kashmir's audacious road map," August 6).

GAGAN PRATAP SINGH,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

■ When you need a million troops and a war-like siege in place to pass an order, the order has already failed. India in Kashmir has failed miserably; the fact that India cares only for the land and not for the people of Kashmir has been reaffirmed. One waits to see whether the highest court of the land will take cognisance of what has happened.

UMER BASHIR
Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir

■ Radically altering Jammu and Kashmir's special status

without political consensus was undoubtedly an exercise in avoidable unilateralism. At the same time, Article 370 metamorphosed into a lodestar to stoke separatist sentiments.

Having crossed the Rubicon, the government will have to address the fears of Kashmiris of being swamped by 'outsiders'. It needs to assure the people of Kashmir that a revocation of Article 370 is not an exercise to alter the demographic and religious profile of the state similar to the forced Jewish settlements in the West Bank or the Chinese ethnic re-engineering in its Xinjiang province, except for the return of Pandit families to their original homes.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

■ Revoking Article 370 seems to have been done also because of global compulsions such as the re-emergence of the Taliban and statements by the U.S. President. The government must reach out to Kashmir by strengthening grass-roots democracy, holding immediate elections and reverting to full Statehood status after normalcy returns. Were the constitutional changes a valid process? Do the changes have the potential to strain federalism?

PUNYA JYOTI BORUAH,
New Delhi

■ Amazon policy
This is with reference to the Editorial, "Logged out" (August 1). The size of untouched Amazon forest inside Brazil is larger than

the entire territory of India. I am certain there is understanding what the challenges to protect and ensure the sustainable development of such vast lands entails. With this aim, Brazil has established internationally recognised institutions responsible for the permanent monitoring of the rainforest and a legal system which handles infringements. In this connection, the Minister of the Environment announced last week the strengthening of the capacity to obtain higher resolution satellite images on a daily basis. Brazil, like India, has been working to balance the social, economic and environmental dimensions in its society, which includes the implementation of the Sustainable Development

Goals. Together with Brazil, South Africa, India and China (BASIC), Brazil has been proactive and constructive in negotiations under the United Nations Climate Change Convention. In 2019, the Bolsonaro Government has shown a willingness to engage in new institutional frameworks. In the process of becoming a member of the OECD, Brazil will abide by more than 35 environment-related instruments. In the recent European Union-Mercosur Association Agreement, Brazil has agreed with provisions that will enhance the integration of sustainable development in both trade and investment.

ANDRÉ CORRÉA DO LAGO,
Ambassador of Brazil in India

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The new facts on the ground for Kashmir

India cannot claim the moral high ground any more that it has kept the State's integrity intact



LUV PURI

Without going into the moral and legal arguments for or against the scrapping of the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and the decision to reorganise the State into two Union Territories (UTs), a dispassionate analysis of the possible immediate implications of these constitutional changes is needed. Some assertions in support of the changes may partially be true while others may run contrary to the facts.

The implicit claim that this would lead to greater counterterrorism preparedness is questionable. The strength of any counterinsurgency grid is largely based on human intelligence coming from the ground. Here, it will be unrealistic to expect that merely changing the administrative and political set-up of the State will lead to more intelligence to the security apparatus; in fact, there is a high possibility of the contrary happening in the short-term on account of the decision's unpopularity in the Kashmir Valley. India needs to be mindful of the fact that historically, any spike in disaffection in Jammu and Kashmir has facilitated a misadventure by Pakistan. For instance, the maximum dilution of Article 370 took place in the 1960s, including changes concerning the nomenclature of the 'head of the State'. And this was followed by the infamous 'Operation Gibraltar' by Pakistani President Ayub Khan in August 1965.

A self-defeating strategy
The present cycle of violence can be traced back to the rigging of the 1987 Assembly elections and, in this connection, Home Minister Amit Shah is right in citing rigging of successive elections as the primary cause of the mistrust of Kashmiris towards India. But in bringing the State directly under the Centre as a Union Territory, the government may have overlooked the hard lessons learned by India's intelligence in its nearly 30 years of counterinsurgency operations – relying purely on militaristic tools can be self-defeating.

Further, bifurcating the State and



The call for Ladakh to be made a Union Territory gained momentum in the 1990s, particularly in Leh. Picture shows Ladakhis demonstrating to call for an autonomous hill council. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

creating a Union Territory of Ladakh mirrors what Pakistan did with Gilgit and Baltistan regions by *de facto* creating a separate province in 2009. New Delhi has often objected to the Chinese infrastructural projects in the region and also opposed Islamabad's decision to separate it from the rest of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Now, after stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status, India cannot claim the moral high ground any more by pointing out unlike Pakistan, it kept the integrity of the State intact.

Ladakh as Union Territory

Though the demand for Union Territory status picked up momentum in Ladakh in the 1990s, its spread was limited to the Leh district of Ladakh. The Shia population of Kargil has consistently opposed such a call as it fears Buddhist domination in the new set-up. Hence, the Centre needs to assure leaders from Kargil that their interests would be safeguarded in the new Union Territory. India would not want to create another zone of disaffection in a strategically important border region of the State where it has already faced Pakistani aggression once.

The Centre also needs to take steps to prevent further polarisation within the State. The ruling political elite, particularly from the Kashmir Valley, has remained indifferent to regional and ethnic aspirations, which are inherently political. Factoring in the complex societal landscape of the State and its divergent aspirations, saner proposals have been made before for five-tier devolution of powers – from State-level to regional-level to district-level to block-level to village-level. However, in the absence of any institutional mechanism to address regional and ethnic aspirations, polarisation has continued to increase among different regions, often taking a communal turn. Monday's decision might polarise the State even further along regional and religious lines.

Mr. Shah made a valid point when he said that political reservation, as enshrined in the Indian Constitution, has been denied to Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir even though all political parties have suitably accommodated them in other ways. In the past, there had been several Bills in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for political reservation but they were never passed. Around 11.91% of the State's population is made of Scheduled Tribes, the bulk of them from Gujjar and Bakarwali tribes. Extending political reservation to them

will make the State's political structure more inclusive.

However, Mr. Shah's claim of widespread poverty in the State, cited as one of the justifications for Monday's decision, is not backed by facts. Only 10.35% of the State's population lives below the poverty line, compared to the national average of 21.92%. It needs to be noted that though restrictions on land sale existed, successive State governments had been, on an *ad hoc* basis, liberally giving land to non-state investors on 99-year leases.

Removal of impediments

Monday's decision on paper has removed all impediments on sale of land but, in the short term, could lead to an increase in private investment only in Jammu. A prolonged period of peace is needed in other parts of the State to attract investment. Monday's move has also removed another impediment – children born to women marrying citizens from outside Jammu and Kashmir can now inherit property.

Further, descendants of Partition refugees who migrated from Sialkot, many of whom belong to Scheduled Castes, will now be able to get employment, buy and own land and vote in the new Union Territory.

What also needs to be considered is that bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir may trigger demands for further division of the State which, unless they are categorically rejected, could trigger a long period of instability and turbulence. Separation of ethnically and culturally distinct Ladakh from the rest of Jammu and Kashmir is somewhat less challenging, because of its relatively smaller population. And what about the right to return of Kashmiri Pandits? Monday's decision is unlikely to alter their present status as the security environment in the Valley is currently not conducive for them to go back.

On the whole, the country needs to be better informed of the implications of the changes on the ground. The road to resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir tangle lies in bringing the policymaking closer to facts, learning from the past and avoiding unrealistic expectations.

Luv Puri is the author of 'Across the Line of Control: Inside Pakistan administered Jammu and Kashmir'

The hard realities of India's fast-track courts

Many of them are understaffed and under-resourced



ARUNAV KAUL

Fast-track courts are in the limelight yet again. Smriti Irani, Minister for Women and Child Development, informed the Rajya Sabha that the government has proposed to set up 1,023 fast-track courts to clear the cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. A few weeks ago, the Supreme Court in a *suo motu* petition had issued directions, stating that districts with more than 100 cases pending under the POCSO Act need to set up special courts that can deal specifically with these cases.

Increasing the number of courts as a recourse to deal with the mounting backlog has been a common practice. However, while large sums of money and attention are being devoted to creating additional posts, little is being done to identify and address the prevalent systemic issues.

Without fully optimising the current mechanisms and resolving the problems, sanctioning more judges may not provide the intended results. Fast-track courts (FTCs) have been around for a long time, with the first ones being established in the year 2000. Since then, much has been spoken and written about them. To quote the Ministry of Law and Justice, at the end of March, there were 581 FTCs operational in the country, with approximately 5.9 lakh pending cases, Uttar Pradesh having the most number of cases. However, 56% of the States and Union Territories, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, had no FTCs. In terms of money, ₹870 crore was released by the Centre between 2000-2001 and 2010-2011 towards these FTCs.

State-by-State variations

With all these years of experience and money spent, it is disconcerting to see not only the decline of FTCs across the country but also systemic issues prevalent in the States that have the courts. In a survey of FTCs conducted by National Law University Delhi, it was observed that there is a huge variation in the kinds of cases handled by these courts across States, with certain States primarily allocating rape and sexual offence cases to them and other States allocating various other matters. Further, several FTCs lacked technological resources to conduct audio and video recordings of the victims and many of them did not have regular staff.

While the Centre is promising to set up FTCs across the country, the moot question is: will a mere increase in the number of judges lead to a direct reduction in pendency of cases? Data collated from the Supreme Court's 'Court News' between 2010 and 2017 show otherwise. For instance, in Karnataka, the number of working judges increased between 2012 and 2017 (with occasional dips in certain years) but pendency did not reduce. Similarly in other States, such as Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and West Bengal, increase or decrease in the number of judges did not affect pendency of cases.

Addressing the systemic issues

Hence, there are several other factors that have an impact on disposal of cases. Inadequate staff and IT infrastructure, delay in getting reports from the understaffed forensic science laboratories, frivolous adjournments and over-listing of cases in the cause list are some of the variables. Identifying systemic issues and addressing the concerns is as important for timely disposal of cases as increasing the number of judges.

Furthermore, given the vacancies in subordinate courts across the country, it also needs to be seen whether States will hire additional judges or appoint FTCs from the current pool of judges. For instance, in the case of commercial courts, several States designate special judges from the current pool of judges. Such a move could prove to be problematic as it would increase substantially the workload of the remaining judges.

All said and done, the final responsibility of making sure that the entire exercise results in a positive change vests with the States. For the FTCs to become successful, States will need to take stock of the issues at the ground level.

It is often noted that policies and regulations are passed without keeping in view the ground realities. It is important that States engage with the principal and senior district judges to get a sense of issues the courts are facing in various districts. Equal attention must be paid to both the metropolitan and far-flung non-metropolitan areas. Critical issues such as inadequate court staff, improper physical and IT infrastructure and understaffed forensic labs, which affect the day-to-day functioning of the FTCs, must be comprehensively addressed. For the overall system to work productively, it is important to ensure that its various components work efficiently and without any hindrance.

Arunav Kaul works in the public policy sphere focussing on judicial reform issues. Views are personal

The bus to better transport

Buses need an image makeover and cities need several thousand of them, of good quality

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

The great cities of the world use one guiding principle in planning services for residents and visitors: working with finite space. In big cities, new roads are not possible, and no new land is available. But they must prepare to serve more and more people who arrive each year. Successful plans build better mobility.

When cities fail at mobility, the result is congestion, lost productivity, worsening pollution and a terrible quality of life. India's big cities have all these attributes, and 14 of them were in the list of the 15 most polluted cities worldwide last year. Congestion in the four biggest metros causes annual economic losses of over ₹2 billion, the NITI Aayog says in its Transforming Mobility report.

Is there a viable solution? There is, and it is the good old bus.

Sadly, buses have an image problem, which came up during a public interaction Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in the U.K. He explained aspiration with the example of someone who wants to progress from a bicycle to a scooter, then to a four-wheeler; equally a lack of ambition, he said, could lead to the loss of even the bicycle, upon which the individual resigns himself to a bus ride. Ironically, Mr. Modi made his comments in London, a city with an iconic bus system that integrates famously with its equally popular 'tube' system – as the Metro is known there. The British capital also discourages the use of cars through a congestion charge within a defined area.

Not enough buses in India

So important is the bus to urban transport ecology that the executive in-charge of technology and customer satisfaction at Transport for London, Shashi Verma, said during a visit to India in July that Indian cities need to add several thousand buses more, and not just spend heavily on Metro rail. There are over 1.7 million buses in India, about 10% of them operated by governments. Individual cities don't have enough of them to provide a good service, and the gap is



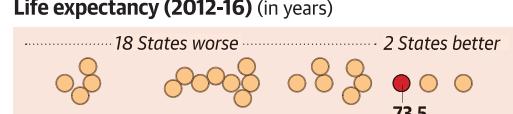
DATA POINT

J&K's vital statistics

How to read the graphs

Each circle corresponds to a State, with Jammu & Kashmir highlighted in red. For instance, J&K's life expectancy was 73.5 years between 2012-16, the third best in the country

Life expectancy (2012-16) (in years)



People served per govt. doctor - 2018 (lower the figure, better)

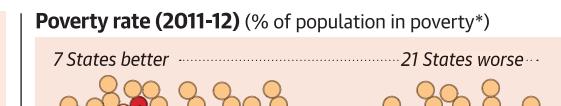


Rural unemployment rate (2011-12) (Unemployed per 1,000)



Home Minister Amit Shah cited poor health care, poverty, lack of doctors and slow economic growth as impediments in J&K that were linked to Article 370. A look at how J&K compares with other States in key indicators suggests that these concerns are exaggerated. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Suman Sen

Poverty rate (2011-12) (% of population in poverty*)



Infant mortality rate (2016) (infant deaths/1000 births)



Per capita net State GDP (FY17) (in ₹ '000)



Human Development Index ('17) (Higher the figure, better)



Source: RBI, Niti Aayog, National Health Profile 2018 *Tendulkar methodology

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 7, 1969

Open clash at CPP meeting

The simmering inner party differences erupted into an open clash between the supporters and opponents of Mrs. Gandhi at the Congress Parliamentary Party meeting this evening [August 6]. The meeting, called to hear appeals from the Prime Minister and the Congress President to vote for Mr. Sanjiva Reddy in the Presidential election, ended in heated arguments and shouting over the propriety of a Congress member, Mrs. Tarakeswari Sinha writing an article in a newspaper attacking the Prime Minister. The issue was raised by Chowdhry Nitiraj Singh amidst shouts of protest from a section of the Party, but Mrs. Gandhi allowed him to continue to read from the article in the face of opposition from even the Congress President, Mr. Nijalingappa. Mrs. Gandhi did not agree with Mr. Nijalingappa that such issues should be left to him to be dealt with at leisure. "These are matters which could not wait to be brought to the notice of the President," she is understood to have told Mr. Nijalingappa in an angry tone. She felt that the article in question was an instance of serious breach of discipline and said "to brand any senior member of the party as a Communist is an insult to the party."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 7, 1919 Ramakrishna Home at Bangalore.

Quite an interesting little function was celebrated on the morning of Sunday, the 3rd August 1919, when the Sri Ramakrishna Students' Home for poor students of the City [Bangalore] was opened. His Holiness Swami Nirmalananda presided. The friends and admirers of the Mission and its work had gathered in large numbers. The function began with a procession of the photos of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and the Swamis Vivekananda and Ramakrishnananda from the premises of the Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama to the Home building. The objects and aims of the Committee responsible for the Home were explained by Messrs. V. Gopalaswamy and M.A. Narayan Iyengar, Excise Commissioner. Liberal promises of donation were made on the spot. Mr. Pasupati Iyer, a leading cloth merchant, promised a contribution of Rs. Five hundred, while Mr. S.K. Narasimhaiah and another high officer of Government promised to maintain each a student in honour of the birth of a son to His Highness the Yuvaraja of Mysore. The Students' Home begins with nine students, and it is a special feature of the Home that it is opened to Brahmins and non-Brahmins, alike.

FROM PAGE ONE

Lok Sabha endorses Centre's decisions

BJP ally, Janata Dal (United), and Trinamool Congress didn't take part in the debate and walked out of the House.

However, several Opposition parties including Telugu Desam Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi, and Biju-Janata Dal among others supported the government.

During his reply, Mr. Shah asserted that the special provisions under Article 370 denied basic rights to minorities (non-Muslims) in the Kashmir valley. He said if the families of Dr. Manmohan Singh or Inder Kumar Gujral had settled in Kashmir instead of Punjab, they could not have become Prime Ministers.

"Minorities don't have voting rights," he said and added, "This is not a histor-

Revocation of Art. 370 brazen, says CWC

Former Home Minister P. Chidambaram who read out the statement said that it was a 'unanimous' one. Every principle of Constitutional law, States' rights, Parliamentary procedure and democratic governance was violated, the statement said.

Article 370 was conceived and crafted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, assisted by N. Gopalaswamy Iyengar and

ical blunder but we are rectifying the historical blunder."

Mr. Shah asked Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to clarify if it was the Congress stand when Mr. Chowdhury pointed out that Kashmir was the subject matter of a bilateral pact with Pakistan and the United Nations monitored it.

The Congress leader, however, later claimed his statement was misunderstood. Several Opposition members asked the government to explain why it "cut off the channels of communication and locked up people in their own homes."

"Your MPs are saying it's like Diwali. Then let the people of Kashmir come out and celebrate," said AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi.

Imran warns of more violence in Kashmir

Speaking at a joint session of Parliament in Islamabad, Mr. Khan said, "They want to change the demography of Kashmir by revoking Kashmir's special status. This is against Article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention; this is a war crime."

He said the decision to revoke Article 370 would lead to further violence in the Valley. "The resistance of the Kashmiri people will increase. This will lead to further crackdown in Kashmir. This will have a reaction: I predict another Pulwama-type incident. They will blame it on Pakistan when everyone knows Pakistan had nothing to do with Pulwama," he said.

The Pakistan Prime Mi-

nister warned that India and Pakistan, both nuclear-armed states, could not afford to run such risks. "If they take action against us, we will respond. Then what will happen? Conventional war? Then what? War can go against us or for us. If it goes against us, then what will we do? Two options: one, give up. Two, fight till the last drop of blood. We are not afraid to die. No one will survive as a result of this. I am not using nuclear blackmail here; I am using my common sense. I appeal to the world to do something now; otherwise, the consequences will be too dire."

He added that Pakistan would raise the issue at international forums.

India tells China to avoid commenting on Ladakh

Historically the district of Leh covered the area of Aksai Chin that remains out of Indian control.

The exchanges over Ladakh are expected to set the backdrop of the August 11 to 13 visit to Beijing by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who will participate in the High Level Mechanism between the two sides.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry had highlighted the creation of Ladakh as a union territory while criticising the Indian move to end the special status for Kashmir.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Tuesday that change of the status of Ladakh was 'unacceptable' to China.

Pleas against partition in Ayodhya being heard

It had been managing the Ramjanmabhumi and receiving offerings from worshippers. It submitted that the "Asthana of Janam Bhumi was of ancient antiquity".

The Akhara, represented by senior advocate Sushil Kumar Jain, submitted that Muslims had stopped offer-

ing regular prayers at the Babri mosque in 1934, when there was a riot.

The Akhara is countering a HC decision that the disputed land was in the joint possession of Hindus and Muslims since 1855. The HC had proceeded to formally divide the disputed land.

Bifurcation of Kashmir arbitrary: Opposition

'You have lost the confidence and trust of 1.5 crore people. History will not forgive you,' says Anantnag MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday questioned the Centre's right to alter the status quo in Jammu and Kashmir without consulting stakeholders.

They were discussing the Bill that bifurcates the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

"Today you have lost the

confidence and trust of 1.5 crore people. The route that you have taken to bring in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 is an assault on the Constitution and neither history nor the people of Kashmir will forgive

you for this," said Hasnain Masoodi of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference Party, representing Anantnag.

Earlier in the day, while the Opposition demanded to know where MP Farooq Abdullah was, DMK MP Murasoli Maran said: "An MP is missing and we would like to know from the Home Minister and the Speaker about his whereabouts?"

Members also held placards demanding to know about Mr. Abdullah.

T.R. Baalu, DMK said: "We would like to know if the government has thought this through? With your majority you will get these Bills passed but what are you going to do about the security problems of the region and

the porous borders? Clearly this is a move that is good for your party and not the people of this region."

He said with the bifurcation the government has created two municipalities.

"You have broken a State in



Making a point: National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. •PTI

to Union Territories...who does that?" he asked.

Congress leader of the House Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary asked how the Jammu and Kashmir issue could be considered an internal matter when so far it had been

considered a bilateral issue.

Home Minister Amit Shah responded stating that Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India and this cannot be legally disputed. He also added that Mr. Abdullah isn't under house arrest or detained and is at home of his own free will. "According to Article 370(3), the President may, by public notification, alter Article 370, provided the Constituent Assembly of the State concurs. This provision has been utilised twice by the Congress," said Mr. Shah.

Manish Tewari of the Congress said that it was Jawaharlal Nehru's government which had protected Jammu and Kashmir when it was under attack from Pakistan.

"According to the Indian

Constitution, before altering the boundaries of any State, concurrence of the Legislative Assembly of the State is mandatory. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana bifurcation was done with complete concurrence of the State Legislative Assembly by the UPA government. What happens to the separate Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir now?" he asked.

Speaking during the discussion, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said: "The process of consultation will be in shreds... You have changed the constitutional relationship of the people of J&K to India without consulting them. You have unleashed upon us the political equivalent of demonetisation."

Mayawati welcomes notification

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

A day after the Union government ended the special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday said there had been a long-standing demand for action on Articles 370 and 35A to render across the country "social, economic and political justice" as envisaged in the Constitution.

"Now, the BSP hopes that the people there will get the right benefits of the decision of the Central government," she tweeted.

Ms. Mayawati also welcomed the demarcation of Ladakh as a Union Territory, saying the demands of its Buddhist populace had been fulfilled. Ambedkar's Buddhist followers across the country were pleased, she said.

Centre should have discussed Bill with all parties: Mamata

'Trinamool cannot support manner in which govt. acted'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday avoided any comments on the merits of the Bill scrapping provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, but said her party cannot support the manner in which legislation has been brought about.

"I don't agree with the procedural method. I am not talking about the merits of the Bill. I am talking about the procedural method where my party has taken a strong position," she told journalists.

Interestingly, Ms. Banerjee – till recently the foremost critic of the policies of the BJP – did not comment



on whether the government should have consulted the people of Jammu and Kashmir before introducing the Bill on Article 370 or about its demerits.

Earlier in the day, Trinamool Congress MPs walked out of the Lok Sabha avoiding any voting in favour of or against the Bill.

"We cannot support this

Bill and we cannot vote for it. If we vote, it will be recorded," Ms. Banerjee chairperson said. She did not comment on the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir or on scrapping provisions of article 370. She instead said that the notification was not "praiseworthy" or democratic enough. "Constitutionally, legally, technically, it is not praiseworthy," she said. Referring to the arrest of former Chief Ministers Mehmood Ali and Omar Abdullah, she said they were prominent political personalities. "They are not terrorists... They should be released. I request the government that Kashmiris should not be left feeling isolated." The Bill should have been discussed in an all-party meeting, she said.

Deployment in J&K was based on oral orders, says official

Maximum number of boots on the ground, he says

VIAJITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Around 8,000 additional Central armed police forces were rushed to Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, when the Union government decided to end the State's special status under Article 370.

In the past 10 days, 32,000 additional personnel were deployed in the Valley. Another 32,000, deployed for the Amarnath Yatra, were diverted to secure the interior districts, an official said.

"The deployment of Central forces is based on oral orders. There is no written communication any more because such orders leaked in the past, creating panic," the official said.

The Central forces posted in the northeastern region were being sent to the Kashmir Valley. "There are the maximum number of boots on the ground. As of now, there are no personnel in reserve; there is 100% deploy-



Unease prevails: Security personnel deployed on a street in Jammu on Tuesday. •AFP

ment," the official said. The last time the Valley came under a similar clampdown was in 2013 when the 2001 Parliament attack case convict Mohammad Afzal Guru, a Kashmiri, was hanged and buried in Tihar Jail in Delhi.

"Curfew was imposed for around 10 days then. All major roads were blocked and people were prevented from coming out of their homes

as protests were expected after the hanging of Guru. But for two incidents, there was not much impact," said the official.

The situation went out of control after Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter on July 8, 2016. "It all depends on how prepared the administration is," the official said.

Mr. Sharma said his petition refers to how the political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir were detained/ar-

Petition filed in SC against Centre's notification on J&K

Advocate says the move was unconstitutional and illegal

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Tuesday challenging the August 5 notification of the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of 2019, which amends Article 370 of the Indian Constitution and scraps its 65-year-old predecessor – The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of May 14, 1954 – as unconstitutional, illegal and arbitrary.

By junking the 1954 Order, the notification takes away the special rights and privileges enjoyed by the residents of Kashmir. It has effectively allowed the entire provisions of the Constitution, with all its amendments, exceptions and modifications, to apply to the area of Jammu and Kashmir, the petitioner contended.

The August 5 notification superseded the 1954 Order and declared that "all the provisions of the Constitution, as

amended from time to time, shall apply in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir".

The August 5 notification has been issued under Article 370 of the Constitution. In short, the government employed Article 370, which had once protected the 1954 Order giving special rights to the people of J&K, to scrap the more than 60-year-old Order.

The government justified the notification by saying that it closes the "chasm" between residents of J&K and citizens of other parts of the country.

The August 5 notification tided over the obstacle of a non-existent 'Constituent Assembly' by amending the expression in the proviso to 'Legislative Assembly'. An amendment in Article 370 should have undergone the constitutional amendment procedure envisaged under Article 368 of the Constitution, the petitioner said.

Idea of dividing Kashmir has a chequered history

It goes back to the Dixon Plan of 1950, which was not accepted by India

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

The idea of dividing Jammu and Kashmir into two or more parts has a chequered history, tracing its origin to the Dixon Plan of 1950.

Owen Dixon – an Australian jurist chosen by the United Nations to mediate between India and Pakistan on the J&K issue – in his report of September 1950, suggested a package that did not find acceptance from India.

According to columnist A.G. Noorani in his article in *Frontline* of October 2002, the Plan had assigned La-

dakh to India and northern areas and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir to Pakistan, besides splitting Jammu between the two. It had proposed a plebiscite in the Kashmir valley.

A year later, B.R. Ambedkar, after quitting as Law Minister from the Nehru Ministry, had suggested the formation of three zones: the area held by Pakistan, the Valley and Jammu-Ladakh. He had also favoured a plebiscite only in the Valley.

In September 1952, when the demand for separating Jammu and Ladakh from



Sheikh Abdullah, Jawaharlal Nehru and others at the open session of the All Jammu and Kashmir National Conference in Srinagar on September 24, 1949. •THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Kashmir was made in certain quarters, Sheikh Abdullah, who was then Premier of the State, had opposed it.

Karan Singh, now a senior leader of the Congress and then J&K Governor, in an interview to a foreign newspaper in August 1966, had mooted the idea of separating

Jammu from Kashmir and merging it with Himachal Pradesh, which was then a Union Territory. Dr. Singh later said he "disliked" the observation.

The then Home Minister G. L. Nanda told the Rajya Sabha that the government had "no intention" of sepa-

rating Jammu from Kashmir.

In 1983, former President R. Venkataraman, who was Defence Minister in the Indira Gandhi Cabinet, floated the concept of trifurcating J&K – Ladakh as a Union Territory; Jammu as a State and the Valley as a "separate entity". He had recorded this suggestion in his book, *My Presidential Years* (1994).

In August 1996, veteran leader of the Communist Party of India (CPI) Indrajit Gupta, as Home Minister in the United Front government, was reported to have told BBC that he was in favour of trifurcation of J&K – the Valley, Jammu and Ladakh.

When this sparked a row,

Mr. Gupta said that he had been misunderstood.

A few years later, when a report of the State Autonomy Committee, formed by the J&K government, had triggered a nationwide debate, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh had renewed the idea of trifurcation. In October 2000, after attending an official meeting in Srinagar, L.K. Advani – then Home Minister in the Vajpayee government at the Centre – rejected the RSS demand.

With Parliament adopting a Bill to make Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories with the carving out of Ladakh, the proposal of dividing the State has become a reality.

A BJP stalwart with Socialist roots

Hours before fatal heart attack, she had expressed happiness at removal of special status for J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away here on Tuesday after suffering cardiac arrest. She was rushed to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation was administered but doctors were unable to revive her, hospital officials said. She was declared dead at 10.50 p.m.

Just a couple of hours earlier, she had expressed happiness at the removal of special status for Jammu & Kashmir, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making it possible "in her lifetime" to see the event.

Long career

Ms. Swaraj, 67, had a long career in politics. She was known for her skilled oratory and was, at 25 years, the youngest-ever Cabinet Minister in the Haryana government led by the late Devi Lal. A lawyer by training, she was part of the legal team put together by the Opposition when socialist leader George Fernandes was arrested during the Emergency. Since she and Swaraj Kaushal, who was also involved with the Socialists, were part of the legal team and had to travel to Mumbai together, their law professor and later Chief Justice of India A.S. Anand suggested that they get married, a story later recounted by her with much relish.

Last message to the PM

Sushma Swaraj, in her last tweet on August 6, thanked the Prime Minister for the Centre's decision on Jammu and Kashmir



**Thank you Prime Minister.
Thank you very much. I was
waiting to see this day in my lifetime**

SUSHMA SWARAJ 1952-2019



A source of inspiration: Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ministers and Opposition leaders have condoled the death of former Union Minister Sushma Swaraj on Tuesday.

Ms. Swaraj was seen as part of the old guard of the BJP but fit in well as a responsive Minister for External Affairs, who nevertheless ceded the limelight to Prime Minister Modi in foreign policy.

A kidney transplant some years ago saw her opt out of electoral politics, and later from the Cabinet formed by Mr. Modi in his second term.

A glorious chapter

Mr. Modi paid rich tributes to Ms. Swaraj, saying: "A glorious chapter in Indian politics comes to an end. India grieves the demise of a remarkable leader who devoted her life to public service and bettering lives of the

poor. Sushma Swaraj Ji was one of her kind, who was a source of inspiration for scores of people."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he was deeply shocked and anguished by the sudden demise of an extremely valued colleague.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said, "Deeply shocked to learn of the passing away of Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Difficult to accept this news. The whole nation grieves, the Foreign Ministry even more so."

The Congress condoled her demise. "We are saddened to hear about the untimely demise of Smt Sushma Swaraj. Our condolences to her family and loved ones," the party said.

Extraordinary leader

"I'm shocked to hear about the demise of Sushma Swaraj Ji, an extraordinary political leader, a gifted orator &

an exceptional Parliamentarian, with friendships across party lines. My condolences to her family in this hour of grief. May her soul rest in peace. Om Shanti," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

"Deeply saddened, shocked at the sudden passing away of Sushma Swaraj Ji. I knew her since the 1990s. Even though our ideologies differed, we shared many cordial times in Parliament," said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in a statement. "An outstanding politician, leader, good human being. Will miss her," she added.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said, "Deeply saddened that Sushma Swaraj Ji has passed away. She served her party and the country with loyalty, devotion and distinction."

(With PTI inputs)

State bifurcation undemocratic, says Mehbooba's daughter

Kashmir has become like an open-air prison: Iltija Javed

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Iltija Javed, daughter of People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti, has described the Union government's decision to remove the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir and to reorganise the State into two Union Territories as "completely undemocratic," reducing Kashmiris to being "second-class citizens in their own State."

Ms. Mufti, a former Chief Minister of the State, has been put under detention, along with several other pol-

itical leaders, including another former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

ing projected by the Centre is that the removal of special status is something that is good for Kashmiris.

"Do you think Kashmiris have such low IQ [intelligence quotient] that they don't know what is good for them? Or what they want for themselves? Should it have been done so undemocratically?"

She said there was fear in the Valley. "The way forward, as I see it, is for political parties in Kashmir to get together, sit calmly and go for a front that would reflect what is happening."

Petition filed in Bihar court against former J&K CMs Mehbooba, Omar

Plea alleges foreign hand behind opposition to Kashmir move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A petition was filed in a Bihar court on Tuesday against former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti and a Minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet for their statements against the Centre's move to amend provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir.

Sudhir Ojha, a lawyer in Muzaffarpur, north Bihar known for his penchant for PILs, filed the petition before the chief judicial magistrate's court in the district.

Mr. Ojha has named Bihar Industry Minister Shyam Rakaj, Mr. Abdullah and Ms. Mufti, former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee and two MPs of the Peoples Democratic Party besides others in his petition.



Lawyer has contended that the former CMs should be booked for 'treason'. ■ FILE PHOTO: NISSAR AHMAD

date of hearing.

The ruling Janata Dal (United) in Bihar, part of the NDA, has opposed the Central government's move on Kashmir. JD(U) MPs walked out from both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha over the issue.

Earlier too, the JD(U) had opposed the Central government's triple talaq Bill and did not participate in voting.

+ Afghanistan shadow over India's move

Real reason lies in global context

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India's move to end the special status to Jammu and Kashmir indicates that the government is bracing for serious geo-strategic shifts that will unfold in South Asia over the next few months.

Though the domestic reasons for ending the status was presented through a detailed analysis of the negative effects that the Article 370 had for Kashmir, the real reason for this hurried makeover lies in the international context.

Great progress

Soon after Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented his case for turning Kashmir into a Union Territory, a message from U.S. Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad stated that his talks with the Taliban in Qatar capital had yielded "great progress" and that he was

heading to Delhi to create greater consensus in favour of peace in Afghanistan.

The implication of this peace agreement between the Taliban and the U.S. will be felt across South Asia and in the West Asia.

Pakistan is waiting anxiously till its biggest strategic assets - the Taliban - seal the deal with the U.S. The Taliban have a historical parallel going back to the 1980s. In 1988, following the Geneva Accords of 14 April, South Asia went into a tailspin with Pakistan trying to use some of the resources secured for the Afghan Mujahideen fighters to Kashmir where insurgency peaked subsequently.

The immediate outcome of the U.S.-Taliban deal will be the visible display of American disinterest in South Asia. This is the context in which India keeping a firm grip on Kashmir has been seen.

Pakistan Army stands by Kashmiris, says Bajwa

Top commanders hold meeting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military "firmly stands" by Kashmiris, the powerful Army chief said on Tuesday, a day after India stripped the disputed region of its special autonomy in a move set to deepen animosity between the nuclear arch-rivals.

The Army's top commanders met in the garrison city of Rawalpindi to discuss the move by India, which is also set to exacerbate the long-running bloody rebellion in Kashmir.

"The Pakistan Army firmly stands by the Kashmiris in their just struggle to the very end. We are prepared and shall go to any extent to fulfil our obligations in this regard," General Qamar Javed Bajwa said, in a tweet sent by a military spokesman after the meeting.

Spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor said commanders "fully supported"

the civilian government's rejection of India's move.

"Pakistan never recognised the sham Indian efforts to legalise its occupation" of the disputed mountainous region, he added.

On Tuesday, an estimated 500 people demonstrated in Muzaffarabad, the largest city in Pakistani-held Kashmir, with more protests expected across the parts of the country.

Pakistani lawmakers also began a joint-session of Parliament to discuss a possible response to New Delhi's move.

For three decades the Indian-administered part has been in the grip of an insurgency that has left tens of thousands dead.

Armed Kashmiri rebels and many residents have fought for the Muslim majority region's independence or to join neighbour Pakistan.

Enough security for peace in J&K: Army

Sources say they expect infiltrations and ceasefire violations in the days ahead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Necessary security arrangements have been put in place for ensuring peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir, said General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh on Tuesday after chairing a meeting of the core group of intelligence and security agencies in Srinagar.

However, sources in the Army said they expected infiltrations and ceasefire violations to go up in the coming days by Pakistan following the dilution of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement after the meeting in Srinagar, the Army said counter-terrorism



On the job: Paramilitary personnel patrolling the deserted streets of Jammu on Tuesday. ■ PTI

and the law and order grids had been strengthened.

The security forces are suitably deployed to guard important vulnerable points/areas, prepared for

crowd control, emerging law and order situations, as also to conduct effective counter terrorist operations. Overall, the security forces are firmly in control of the security sit-

uation," it stated.

Due to the strong security measures in place, the Army sources said, chances of rioting or any other things happening were unlikely for some time.

Anticipating action

However, they noted that the Pakistan army had to do something to show solidarity with people of Kashmir. "So they will do some action on the LoC [Line of Control]. We are expecting that infiltration, CCFs or some visible action will be done by the Pakistan army," a source said.

The Kashmir Valley still remained shut which, the sources said, should be relaxed in the next couple of days.

NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY

TEEN MURTI HOUSE, NEW DELHI

(An autonomous body under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

Phone: 011-23014486, Email : www.nehrumemorial.nic.in

Request for Expression of Interest

Request for Expression of Interest for Selection Of Design Consultancy Agency for Conceptualisation & Submission Of Schematic Designs & Layouts for the Museum On Prime Ministers Of India in the premises of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) Teen Murti House are invited from experienced and eligible agencies. EOI document have been uploaded on www.tenderwizard.com/NMML, www.nehrumemorial.nic.in, www.eprocure.gov.in.

EOI documents and other details can be downloaded from 7th August, 2019 to 31st August, 2019 up to 11.59 PM (IST) from www.tenderwizard.com, www.nehrumemorial.nic.in, www.eprocure.gov.in. The documents can be uploaded only on www.tenderwizard.com/NMML. The completed EOI will be accepted up to 11.59 PM (IST) on 31st August, 2019

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER NOTICE No.01/DCE/CN/ERS/OT/2019 Dated: 03-08-2019

E-TENDER NOTICE No.02/DCE/CN/ERS/OT/2019 Dated: 03-08-2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam Junction - 682 016 invites e-tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal www.irops.gov.in, The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.irops.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the Tender Form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available on the website by way of Multiple Bank's, Net Banking, Debit and Credit Card.

For further details, please visit our website: www.madrasfertil.co.in & http://eprocure.gov.in.

All corrections / corrigendum, if any, will be given in the above website only.

Date - 07.08.2019 DGM-MM & Commercial.

MADRAS FERTILIZERS LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Manali, Chennai – 600068.

e-Tender

MFL invites On-line Bids from Global Tenderers for Supply of Imported White Prilled Urea,' CFR Chennai.

Sl. No.	Name of the Tender	Contact Person	Last date for Submission
01	Supply of Imported White Prilled Urea	DGM-MM & Commercial. Ph: +91 25945311/307	27.08.2019 at 16.00 Hrs IST.

For further details, please visit our website: www.madrasfertil.co.in & http://eprocure.gov.in.

All corrections / corrigendum, if any, will be given in the above website only.

Date - 07.08.2019 DGM-MM & Commercial.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP

SRIHARIKOTA-524124.

E-TENDER BRIEF NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/1987025 Date: 02.08.2019

1. On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tender(s) are invited through e-tendering for the following work(s).

Sl. No.	Description	Details

<tbl_r cells="3" ix="2" maxcspan="1" maxrspan="1

OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • AUGUST 7, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

NEWS BYTES

Conclave on 'evolving work environment'

Great Lakes Institute of Management is organising a human resources conclave in Gurugram on August 9.

Based on the theme 'Millennials And The Evolving Work Environment', the conclave seeks to set the bar for organisations seeking to retain and develop the next generation of leaders, says a press release.

Training hospitality professionals

In a collaborative effort, Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) and Switzerland-based Les Roches Global Hospitality Education are launching a training programme for young hospitality professionals. Titled 'The Next General Manager Of India', the programme awards a full scholarship to selected candidates for an MBA programme at Global Hospitality Management in Switzerland, followed by a fast-track development programme at an IHCL hotel. Les Roches will offer 50% scholarship to five runners-up, says a press release.

The programme is aimed at preparing the next generation of leaders to support the growth in the travel and tourism industry in India, the release adds. For details, visit nextgmindia.com.

Social innovation awards

Infosys Foundation, which is

GENERAL

**EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO.CMRL/HR/04/2019**

CMRL, a joint venture of Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu Company, is entrusted for implementation and operation of Metro Rail in Chennai. The company intends to appoint the following official:

Post Code	Name of the Post	Pay Scale (in Rs)	No. of Post
01	Director (Systems & Operations)	Rs. 1,80,000 - 3,40,000	01

For details regarding qualification, experience, general conditions, application format etc., please visit our website <http://chennaimetrorail.org.org>. Applications must reach CGM (HR), CMRL at the above mentioned address on or before 06.09.2019.

DIPR/58/Display/2019
Chief General Manager (HR).

INTERVIEW FOR OTC DIVISION**REGIONAL HEAD (FOR 4 STATES)**

A.P., Telangana, Karnataka & T.N.

Apply if you fulfill following criteria

- Cumulative experience of >15-20 years as a manager in OTC Division
- Area Manager for Few years
- Strong desire to grow
- Age less than 45 years (preferably)

E-mail your detailed resume with colored photograph, specifying position applied for (within 5 days) on following Id:

careers@mankindpharma.com

vikas.gupta@mankindpharma.com

Mention in Subject : SPL-SOUTH

Ranked No.1

As per Prescription/Doctor/Month (IQVA Apr'19)

SPECIAL MANKIND

Makers of:

MANFORCE CONDOM

[PREGANEWS]

Note :

Engineer a powerful career with NTPC

NTPC Limited, India's largest power conglomerate with an installed capacity of 55,786 MW and is presently contributing to 1/4th of the country's electricity needs. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, NTPC has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 130 GW by 2032. NTPC has been adjudged 14th rank in "The best companies to work for in India" awarded by Great Place to Work Institute and Economic times.

NTPC is looking for 203 experienced Engineers in Electrical/Mechanical/ Electronics/ Instrumentation disciplines at E2 grade for Shift Operation of Thermal Power Plants.

HOW TO APPLY:
For details regarding eligibility criteria, Pay Scale, Reservation & Relaxation, applying online etc., candidate may visit the website www.ntpccareers.net.

IMPORTANT DATES :

Commencement of online Registration of application **06.08.2019**
Last date for online registration of application **26.08.2019**



NTPC Limited

(A Government of India Enterprise)
Regd. Office: NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex,
7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Website : www.ntpc.co.in

Leading the Power Sector

Advt. No. 02/19



GENERAL

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

No. P&A/18(194)/2016-Vol II 03 Aug 2019

EXECUTIVE TRAINEES-VACANCY NOTIFICATION

Cochin Shipyard Limited, a listed premier Mini Ratna Company of Government of India, needs young professionals for the posts of Executive Trainees in following disciplines:-

Sl.No	Name of Discipline	Total No. of Posts	SC	ST	OBC	UR
1	Mechanical	2				2
2	Naval Architecture	3		1		2
3	Finance	2	1		1	
4	HR	2				2
Total		9	1	1	1	6

For details visit CSL website www.cochinshipyard.com (Careers page). Last date of receipt of online application is 18 Sep 2019. "Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published in the website (www.cochinshipyard.com) of CSL". Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR & TRG)

INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION
Authorised Website: www.ibps.in
In case of queries / complaints please log in to <http://cgrs.ibps.in/>

COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF PROBATIONARY OFFICERS/MANAGEMENT TRAINEES IN PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS (CRP PO/MT-IX FOR VACANCIES OF 2020-21)

The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the next Common Recruitment Process for selection of personnel for Probationary Officer / Management Trainee posts in the Participating Organisations is tentatively scheduled in October / November 2019.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Activity	Tentative Dates
On-line registration including Edit/ Modification of Application by candidates	07.08.2019 to 28.08.2019
Payment of Application Fees/ Intimation Charges (Online)	07.08.2019 to 28.08.2019
Download of call letters for Pre - Exam Training	September 2019
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training	23.09.2019 to 28.09.2019
Download of call letters for Online Examination-Preliminary	October/November 2019
Online Examination - Preliminary	12.10.2019, 13.10.2019, 19.10.2019 and 20.10.2019
Result of Online Exam - Preliminary	October/November 2019
Download of Call letter for Online Exam - Main	November 2019
Online Examination - Main	30.11.2019
Declaration of Result - Main	December 2019
Download of call letters for interview	January 2020
Conduct of interview	January / February 2020
Provisional Allotment	April 2020

Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates. Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai Date: 02.08.2019 Director (IBPS)

A hackathon for engineers

It expects the participating professionals to come up with innovative concepts that are rooted in a powerful sustainability philosophy

Schneider Electric India is conducting an innovation challenge for engineers with the objective of promoting ideas that have the potential to "reshape the future and

showcase the criticality of sustainability".

Digitization of EcoStruxure".

Participating engineers are expected to provide ideas that will help build

"Buildings of the Future", "Plants of the Future" and "Grids of the Future", says the release.

The 72-hour hackathon

includes masterclasses on technology, innovation and design thinking. Teams will be selected during the hackathon to make their presentations to the jury, the release adds.

For registration and other details, visit Hackware.se.com



We are growing Join us

IQ City Foundation has set up an IQ City Nursing College with the mission of preparing diverse professional nurses to render standard nursing care to the sick. The college started functioning in 2015 with 60 annual intake for B.Sc in Nursing. It also started a General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) course from 2017 with 20 annual intake. For the 2019-20 session, the institute has been permitted an intake of 100 students in B.Sc & GNM course each and 8 students for M.Sc Nursing.

Applications are invited for the following positions

Professor | Associate Professor

Assistant Professor | Tutor

Eligibility:

As per Indian Nursing Council norms

SALARY WILL NOT BE A CONSTRAINT FOR THE DESERVING CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to email their updated resume, with a scanned copy of a recent photograph, mentioning the post applied for along with the years of experience in the subject line to hrcareers@iqct.in or call Mrs. Sharmistha Sen at 8170005965.

For further information, visit us at www.iqcitlynursingcollege.in

IQ City Institute of Nursing Sciences

Sovapur, Bijra Road, Jemua, Durgapur, Dist.: Burdwan, West Bengal - 713206

Phone: +91-0343-2608500

PDPU

NAAC
Accreditation
'A' Grade
(CGPA 3.39/4.0)

DIRECTOR GENERAL

The incumbent should be a globally acclaimed, inspiring, cutting-edge research centered academic with authentic leadership skills and possess a record of transformative impact, while clearly demonstrating a professional commitment to diversity and inclusion. Ideally, significant administrative and leadership experience at a research intensive institution of comparable size and scope will be weighed positively. The incumbent should be a passionate and compassionate individual with strong interpersonal and communication skills.

As a vibrant university, PDPU also provides a diverse, inclusive and entrepreneurial ambience to stimulate the spirit of futuristic thinking. To that end, the university has national and international collaborative engagements to strengthen curricula, research, faculty and student exchange to create a world class learning ecosystem.

A Doctorate qualification with an impressive publication record with at least 15 years of national / international academic experience is essential. These qualifying attributes will also serve to inspire and work effectively with faculty, staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders important to the university.

Please apply to dg-sc@pdpu.ac.in giving with your curriculum vitae, research publication details and references within 21 days of publication of this advertisement.

MARKET WATCH

	06-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,977	-0.75
US Dollar	70.81	-0.11
Gold	36,807	-0.44
Brent oil	59.69	-1.28

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	376.95	9.10
Asian Paints	1565.85	40.45
Axis Bank	679.00	16.55
Bajaj Auto	2609.80	-9.95
Bajaj Finance	7096.35	109.40
BPCL	3272.25	112.20
Britannia Ind	2550.55	-27.80
Cipla	500.15	-18.75
Coal India	205.10	4.50
Dr Reddys Lab	2556.20	41.50
Eicher Motors	17010.75	506.75
GAIL (India)	123.35	0.40
Gasim Ind	761.50	12.05
HCL Tech.	1024.20	13.10
HDFC	2189.90	37.55
HDFC Bank	2189.10	9.85
Hero MotoCorp	2468.55	69.30
Hindalco	180.70	4.95
Hind Unilever	1744.10	2.90
Indiabulls HFL	514.05	37.30
IndusInd Bank	410.25	7.60
Bharti Infratel	1417.10	28.90
Infosys	246.10	0.75
Indian Oil Corp	132.40	0.15
ITC	258.90	-0.90
JSW Steel	217.55	-0.15
Kotak Bank	1485.30	25.20
L&T	1377.50	31.70
M&M	549.45	4.00
Maruti Suzuki	5833.30	162.95
NTPC	123.35	2.35
ONGC	131.45	0.15
PowerGrid Corp	198.10	-3.05
Reliance Ind	1128.30	-15.05
State Bank	301.40	1.15
Sun Pharma	418.20	1.05
Tata Motors	122.50	-1.25
Tata Steel	401.60	2.35
TCS	2214.90	-33.70
Tech Mahindra	670.60	22.55
Titan	1046.70	9.90
UltraTech Cement	4357.00	110.80
UPL	549.35	8.40
Vedanta	140.80	0.10
Wipro	258.90	-3.10
YES Bank	85.35	4.25
Zee Entertainment	312.45	-18.50

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.61	70.93
Euro	78.97	79.33
British Pound	85.99	86.38
Japanese Yen (100)	66.24	66.57
Chinese Yuan	10.06	10.10
Swiss Franc	72.34	72.57
Singapore Dollar	51.14	51.38
Canadian Dollar	53.42	53.66
Malaysian Ringgit	16.84	16.94

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 06 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	45.7.....(45.8)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3473.....(3460)

Source: Indian Bank

+ Titan posts 6.17% rise in Q1 net profit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU
Titan Company, the jewelry and watch arm of the Tata Group, reported a 6.17% year-on-year growth in its standalone net profit to ₹370.73 crore during the first quarter ended June 30.

In the quarter, the company's standalone total income increased 14.72% to ₹4,995.64 crore in QIFY20 against ₹4,354.52 crore in QIFY19, the company said in a statement on Tuesday.

Bhaskar Bhat, managing director, said, "The macroeconomic environment coupled with lower consumption have impacted some of our businesses. The retail growth in jewelry was driven by encouraging performance in the studded as well as wedding jewellery segments."

'No new loans for DHFL till investor arrives'

Cash flow of ₹1,000 crore from existing customers can be used to extend new home loans: bankers

MANOJ SAHA

MUMBAI

Cash-strapped mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.'s (DHFL) plans to borrow ₹1,000 crore to ₹1,200 crore from banks every month – as part of its proposed resolution plan – may fall flat with the lenders, who may extend fresh loans only after a new promoter comes in.

According to bankers involved in the resolution of DHFL, since the mortgage finance company will get a moratorium on repayment, they won't be extending any fresh loans.

DHFL wanted banks to lend so that it can start extending home loans to its customers.

"DHFL still has a cash flow of about ₹1,000 crore from



Soft landing: DHFL said that there will be no principal haircuts to any of the creditors. ■ REUTERS

existing customers which can be used for fresh lending since they do not have to pay interest to the banks due to the moratorium," said a banker in the know of the developments.

"Banks will start fresh lending only after there is a

new promoter," the official said.

Talks with investors

DHFL is in talks with a few investors, and have kept banks in the loop, to sell a significant part of the promoters' stake.

Promoters hold about 39.21% stake in DHFL. Banks want promoters' stake to fall below 10% after the stake sale as part of the resolution plan.

On Tuesday, the board of DHFL took on record the draft resolution plan formulated by the company in consultation with the special committee on resolution plan and its financial advisers viz. Ernst & Young, and approved the submission of the plan to the lenders, the company informed the stock exchanges.

DHFL said there would be no principal haircuts to any of the creditors, and there will be a moratorium on repayments.

DHFL will also seek funding from the banks/National Housing Bank (NHB) to help com-

mence retail funding activity, according to the plan. DHFL shares rose 32% to close the day at ₹55.40.

While banks want all the creditors, including mutual funds and insurance companies, to be part of the resolution plan, mutual funds have not yet given their consent and want approval from the markets regulator.

Banks have requested the Reserve Bank of India to take up the matter with SEBI so that the resolution plan can be implemented in totality. DHFL's debt is about ₹80,000 crore.

Separately, the company also said that one of the joint statutory auditors of the company – Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP – has resigned as statutory auditors with immediate effect.

Tata Steel deal with HBIS falls through

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Hyundai, Kia from Korea and so on... But there are no players from China," he reasoned.

It is estimated that 27%

of total auto components imports worth over \$1 billion are imported from China.

Another representative

from the automobile industry

pointed out that with monsoons getting better, a little push from the government can help make the second half of the year much better than the first half.

"We have been informed by HBIS that they

have not been able to procure the requisite approvals from the Hebei Government, one of the key conditions precedent for the proposed transaction," Tata Steel said in a statement.

Tata Steel will begin engagement with other investors to find a partner for the southeast Asian business, the company statement added.

NIIF to get up to \$2 bn from AustralianSuper, Ontario Teachers'

AUM for India fund to exceed \$1.8 bn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

AustralianSuper, one of Australia's largest superannuation fund and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (Ontario Teachers'), one of Canada's largest single-profession pension plans, have each signed agreements with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India for investments of up to \$1 billion each in NIIF's Master Fund.

The agreements include commitments of \$250 million each in the Master Fund and co-investment rights of up to \$750 million each in future opportunities alongside the fund.

This marks the third close of the NIIF Master Fund. AustralianSuper and Ontario Teachers' will now join the Government of India (GOI), Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), Temasek, HDFC Group, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance and Axis Bank as investors in the fund, said NIIF in a statement.

The fund invests in equity capital of core infrastructure sectors in India with a focus on transportation, energy and urban infrastructure.

AustralianSuper and Ontario Teachers' are among the most respected infrastructure investors in the world and bring considerable global perspective and value to NIIF.

Their significant investments demonstrate the international interest in Indian infrastructure and repositions NIIF as one of the primary Indian pooling vehicles for global capital," Mr. Bose added.

The Master Fund has a tenure of 15 years and is denominated in Indian rupees and

added to the requirements of the infrastructure sector.

Auto firms seek stimulus to spur demand

To meet FM with two key requests – cut in GST rate, steps to boost liquidity

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI



Auto sales across categories declined over 12% in the June quarter of 2019.

Amid declining sales and job cuts in the sector, the automobile industry will meet Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday to seek a stimulus package to help spur demand ahead of the upcoming festive season.

"We largely have two demands – reduction of GST and introduction of measures to improve liquidity," an industry representative, who did not want to be named, said.

Reeling under slowdown The industry has been reeling under slowdown in demand with sales across categories declining over 12% in the June quarter of 2019 over the same quarter last year.

"The slowdown has hit all

segments of the auto industry – four-wheelers, two-wheelers, commercial vehicles and even tractors. Now, the festive season is approaching. If the government takes some proactive measures, this festive season we could see good demand," N.K. Minda, chairman and

Make in India "We must encourage Make in India. We want to request if there is some kind of minimum import duty that the government can consider... I can understand players like Volkswagen importing parts from Germany or Honda, Suzuki importing from Japan,

desh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Three of these projects have recently become operational and the balance six are under various stages of construction.

Five of the assets under construction are 4- to 6-lane projects, where tolling as well as construction have already begun," the company said in a statement.

It also added that these projects were strategically located along economic corridors and across tourist hubs.

The deal was approved by

the board on Tuesday, following which IRB signed binding definitive agreements with GIC for a total investment of up to ₹4,400 crore, including funding of future construction costs.

The proposed investment is subject to regulatory approvals, lender consents and other applicable approvals, the statement added.

"The investment proceeds from GIC will be used for de-leveraging of the portfolio, equity funding for under construction projects of the portfolio.

IRB will have management control over these assets with GIC having standard/customary rights of a financial investor and corresponding board representation," the statement said.

Gangwal opposes resolution, picks holes in proposed board structure; chairman dismisses concerns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The boardroom battle between the two co-founders of IndiGo is far from over, with Rakesh Gangwal opposed to the resolution proposed to address his concerns over "unusual" powers enjoyed by Rahul Bhatia.

Early on Tuesday, Mr. Gangwal made public a letter he wrote to the board on August 5, asserting that the "package" proposed to resolve issues flagged by him, which included expanding the board to include 10 members, would only further empower Mr. Bhatia.

Board of seven

He, instead, suggested a board of seven members from the existing six. In response, IndiGo's parent company, InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IGAL), shared the reply of the chairman of the

board M. Damodaran, rejecting these fears.

"All of us realised that the proposed board structure created a large loophole that gives the IGE Group additional powers that they do not have today. Essentially, when there are less than 4 independent directors, it would allow the IGE Group to pass any company policy that they want just on the ba-

sis of their board numbers being larger than all the other board members combined," Mr. Gangwal said in his letter, which has also been sent to Ministry of

IN BRIEF



USFDA nod for Granules' nervous system drug

HYDERABAD
The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has approved the Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) filed by Granules Pharmaceuticals Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Granules India, for Amphetamine Sulfate tablets USP 5 mg and 10 mg. The product is bioequivalent to the reference listed drug product (RLD), Evekeo Tablets, 5 mg and 10 mg, of Arbor Pharmaceuticals, LLC.

HDFC Bank reduces lending rates by 10 bps

MUMBAI
India's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank on Tuesday cut its lending rates by 10 basis points (bps) across all tenors, effective Wednesday, sources said. The move comes a day ahead of the policy review by the Reserve Bank of India, which is reportedly peeved at lenders for not passing on its three consecutive rate cuts of 0.75% to the borrowers. With this, HDFC Bank's one-year MCLR comes to 8.6%. PTI

Sundaram Finance Q1 net up 11.94%

CHENNAI
Sundaram Finance Ltd., a leading non-banking finance firm, reported an 11.94% growth in its standalone net profit to ₹157.53 crore for the first quarter ended June 2019. During the period, total income from operations rose to ₹923.07 crore from ₹851.19 crore. Disbursements for Q1 increased to ₹4,414 crore, from ₹4,096 crore. Assets Under Management grew to ₹29,977 crore from ₹25,930 crore. The deposit base crossed ₹3,000 crore.

NSEL: Aastha may pay ₹100 cr. dues

Aastha Minmet India and Juggernaut Projects plan to sell their land parcels

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The ₹5,574-crore settlement crisis at the National Spot Exchange Ltd. (NSEL), which came to light six years ago, could finally see some money being recovered as two of the accused entities have filed a proposal to pay ₹100 crore to settle their outstanding dues.

Aastha Minmet India and Juggernaut Projects, both belonging to the Aastha Group, have filed an application at the MPID Court, which is hearing the NSEL matters.

'No fraudulent intention'
MPID refers to the Maharashtra Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, under which cases have been filed against the accused entities. While the entities have pro-



The Aastha group has already paid ₹32 crore out of the total ₹158 crore over the last three years. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

posed to pay ₹100 crore by selling their land parcels located at Hyderabad and Cuttack, the settlement proposal also states that if there are outstanding dues after disposing the assets, the same would be repaid within 12 months of the court's approval of the settlement plan.

"We have no fraudulent intention and would like to settle the payment of ₹100 crore as proposed on behalf of Aastha Minmet India Ltd. and Juggernaut Projects Limited," Mohit Singh, MD, Aastha Group, told *The Hindu*. "In due course of the investigation, the real facts of

the situation will emerge. It has been over five years and yet the liabilities are not ascertained. There has been no recovery in this case and hence our offer towards settlement is an earnest step in that direction. We can only offer but the authorities need to come forward and accept or suggest some solution," he added.

The money trail in the case of Aastha Group, as established by the Enforcement Directorate, is pegged at ₹180 crore, while the claim by NSEL is ₹230 crore. The Bombay High Court has passed a decree while fixing the total liability of Aastha Group at ₹158 crore. The group has already paid ₹32 crore over three years and is now proposing to settle the outstanding dues of ₹126 crore by paying ₹100 crore.

Berger eyes Russian paint firms

Target companies are in the decorative paints segment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Berger Paints India Ltd. (BPIL) is eyeing a few Russian paint companies for probable acquisition.

These firms are in the decorative paints' segment, which is BPIL's largest business. It may help scale up BPIL's existing operations in Russia, according to sources.

Expanding footprint

Tapping new segments and verticals and expanding footprint through mergers and acquisitions are among the areas that the company has identified for increased operational efficiency, according to its latest annual report.

BPIL chairman K. S. Dhinendra and MD and CEO Abhijit Roy



Roy, however, declined to comment on the matter, while addressing a post-annual general meeting press briefing. However, in a regulatory filing, the company said its board "recognised that the company is considering investment opportunities in Russia to complement its existing operations."

However, no decision has been taken in this regard."

BPIL operates a decorative paints unit - Berger Paints Overseas Ltd. (BPOL), Russia, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Berger Cyprus Bolix SA Poland. BPOL faced an impairment loss of ₹28.6 crore in 2018-19. Mr. Dhangra said this was mainly on account of trouble's weakness. "It is now gaining strength and we may invest in an industrial paints facility," he said. Mr. Roy told the shareholders that the unit was doing better now.

On the impact of the auto sector's slowdown on BPIL, Mr. Roy said the business had countered this through forays into new accounts "where BPIL was not present."

Syndicate Bank set to embark on a ₹100-crore digital transformation journey

Evaluating proposals from Accenture, Capgemini, McKinsey, KPMG, BCG: MD

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Syndicate Bank is all set to embark on a mega digital transformation journey that will cost the bank at least ₹100 crore, according to Mr. Dhangra Mahapatra, who took over the reins of the bank less than a year ago.

Digital architecture

In an exclusive interaction, Mr. Mahapatra, the managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, said: "We are engaging a transformation management partner who can set up a solid digital architecture for us. We have already floated RFPs [request for proposals] and a



Mrutyunjay Mahapatra

bunch of consulting firms including Accenture, Capgemini, McKinsey, KPMG and Boston Consulting Group have shown interest."

Mr. Mahapatra said the bank was currently evaluating the proposals it received and a final decision would be

Lakshmi Vilas Bank Q1 net loss rises to ₹237 cr.

Private lender's interest income drops

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Private sector lender Lakshmi Vilas Bank's (LVB) standalone net loss for the first quarter ended June 2019 widened to ₹237 crore from ₹24 crore registered during the corresponding year-earlier period, on a fall in interest income and higher provisioning.

"Capital is scarce. Credit book is not growing and it continues to affect our profits," said Parthasarathi Mukherjee, MD and CEO, Lakshmi Vilas Bank.

"Efforts are on to raise capital. The process has started. Soon after the impending merger with Indiabulls Housing Finance, all the issues will be taken care of," he said.

Asked how long could

they manage without funds, he said that they had been managing it for the last few quarters. "Hopefully, this might not go on for long," he said.

Net interest income stood at ₹123 crore against ₹130 crore. Net interest margin rose to 1.65% from 1.48%. Capital adequacy ratio came down to 6.46% from 9.45%.

Provisions and contingencies rose to ₹212 crore compared with ₹162 crore in the year-earlier period. Other income dipped to ₹53 crore from ₹61 crore in the year-earlier period.

Gross non-performing assets as a percentage of gross advances increased to 17.30% from 10.73%. Provision coverage ratio stood at 63.08%. Net NPAs rose to 8.30% from 5.96%.



Aastha Minmet India and Juggernaut Projects plan to sell their land parcels

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The ₹5,574-crore settlement crisis at the National Spot Exchange Ltd. (NSEL), which came to light six years ago, could finally see some money being recovered as two of the accused entities have filed a proposal to pay ₹100 crore to settle their outstanding dues.

Aastha Minmet India and Juggernaut Projects, both belonging to the Aastha Group, have filed an application at the MPID Court, which is hearing the NSEL matters.

'No fraudulent intention'
MPID refers to the Maharashtra Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, under which cases have been filed against the accused entities. While the entities have pro-



The Aastha group has already paid ₹32 crore out of the total ₹158 crore over the last three years. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

posed to pay ₹100 crore by selling their land parcels located at Hyderabad and Cuttack, the settlement proposal also states that if there are outstanding dues after disposing the assets, the same would be repaid within 12 months of the court's approval of the settlement plan.

"We have no fraudulent intention and would like to settle the payment of ₹100 crore as proposed on behalf of Aastha Minmet India Ltd. and Juggernaut Projects Limited," Mohit Singh, MD, Aastha Group, told *The Hindu*. "In due course of the investigation, the real facts of

the situation will emerge. It has been over five years and yet the liabilities are not ascertained. There has been no recovery in this case and hence our offer towards settlement is an earnest step in that direction. We can only offer but the authorities need to come forward and accept or suggest some solution," he added.

The money trail in the case of Aastha Group, as established by the Enforcement Directorate, is pegged at ₹180 crore, while the claim by NSEL is ₹230 crore. The Bombay High Court has passed a decree while fixing the total liability of Aastha Group at ₹158 crore. The group has already paid ₹32 crore over three years and is now proposing to settle the outstanding dues of ₹126 crore by paying ₹100 crore.

Berger eyes Russian paint firms

Target companies are in the decorative paints segment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Berger Paints India Ltd. (BPIL) is eyeing a few Russian paint companies for probable acquisition.

These firms are in the decorative paints' segment, which is BPIL's largest business. It may help scale up BPIL's existing operations in Russia, according to sources.

Expanding footprint

Tapping new segments and verticals and expanding footprint through mergers and acquisitions are among the areas that the company has identified for increased operational efficiency, according to its latest annual report.

BPIL chairman K. S. Dhinendra and MD and CEO Abhijit Roy



Roy, however, declined to comment on the matter, while addressing a post-annual general meeting press briefing. However, in a regulatory filing, the company said its board "recognised that the company is considering investment opportunities in Russia to complement its existing operations."

However, no decision has been taken in this regard."

BPIL operates a decorative paints unit - Berger Paints Overseas Ltd. (BPOL), Russia, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Berger Cyprus Bolix SA Poland. BPOL faced an impairment loss of ₹28.6 crore in 2018-19. Mr. Dhangra said this was mainly on account of trouble's weakness. "It is now gaining strength and we may invest in an industrial paints facility," he said. Mr. Roy told the shareholders that the unit was doing better now.

On the impact of the auto sector's slowdown on BPIL, Mr. Roy said the business had countered this through forays into new accounts "where BPIL was not present."

Syndicate Bank set to embark on a ₹100-crore digital transformation journey

Evaluating proposals from Accenture, Capgemini, McKinsey, KPMG, BCG: MD

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Syndicate Bank is all set to embark on a mega digital transformation journey that will cost the bank at least ₹100 crore, according to Mr. Dhangra Mahapatra, who took over the reins of the bank less than a year ago.

Digital architecture

In an exclusive interaction, Mr. Mahapatra, the managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, said: "We are engaging a transformation management partner who can set up a solid digital architecture for us. We have already floated RFPs [request for proposals] and a



Mrutyunjay Mahapatra

bunch of consulting firms including Accenture, Capgemini, McKinsey, KPMG and Boston Consulting Group have shown interest."

Mr. Mahapatra said the bank was currently evaluating the proposals it received and a final decision would be

Lakshmi Vilas Bank Q1 net loss rises to ₹237 cr.

Private lender's interest income drops

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

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Eco-friendly farming at Red Otter's aquaponics farm

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

AQUAMAN COMETH

Aquaponics brings together two agricultural practices to create a sustainable one

ANJALI ABHYANKAR

There's an old Chinese proverb: "Give a man a fish you'll feed him for a day, teach him how to fish, you'll feed him for life." That's what Anubhav Das, 43, an aquaponics farmer, believes in. His quirkily named Red Otter Farms is the latest to join this small but growing breed of eco-friendly agriculturalists.

My introduction to Das came courtesy of the attractively packaged box of mixed greens that one of my son's young friends insisted I try. I expected the garden-variety 'salad pattas', so the fresh-looking leaves were a pleasant surprise. I discovered that the luscious greens were a product of aquaponics.

The workings

An ecologically sustainable model, aquaponics – not to be confused with hydroponics – combines hydroponics with aquaculture.

Hydroponics is the soil-less growing of plants, where soil is replaced with water (remember that money plant in a discarded booze bottle?). Aquaculture is the raising of fish. With aquaponics, you grow both fish and plants in one integrated eco-system.

So how exactly does this food-fish combo work? Das says it's quite simple: The fish waste provides an organic food source for the plants, which in turn naturally filter the water for the fish, creating a balanced eco-system. There is a third participant: microbes or nitrifying bacteria that eventually convert the ammonia from the fish waste into nitrates which plants need to grow. Since both the fish and the plants can be used for consumption and income generation, the method delivers a two-fold benefit. Science for Stupid 101, right?

Red Otter Farms is in Kotabagh a tiny hamlet near Corbett Park, Uttarakhand. They currently have salad subscriber boxes and are available in specialty food stores in Delhi-NCR. With the hugely experienced chef Bakshish Dean on board, Red Otter also plans to start including recipes and cooking ideas in the boxes.

In 2016, Sushant Madaan started Urban Kheti, north India's first aquaponics farm near Sohna in Gurugram. They produce soft herbs like mint, basil and coriander as well as everyday veggies like tomato and lady's finger.



National appeal

South India has led the way, with aquaponics. Cherai, a coastal village near Kochi has over 200 projects. In 2016, spurred by low crop yield due to over farming of soil, the Pallipuram Service Cooperative Bank launched an aquaponics project. Bengaluru-based Madhavi Farms has long been associated with the growing of plants and herbs for the medical and perfume industries. In 2017, it began its aquaponic operations. In collaboration with Waterfarmers, a Canadian company that has set up projects in Hong Kong, China, Oman and Australia, Madhavi Farms' homegrown brand Satvik Sabji has been delivering salad greens, herbs, and

veggies like tomatoes and cauliflower locally.

It's not just home chefs who are trying it out. Chef Madhu W. Krishnan, Executive Chef, Research & Development, ITC Hotels, is enthusiastic about having these choices. "In terms of taste, quality and appearance, aquaponically grown produce relies solely on naturally produced fertilisers. This ensures plants get macro- and micro-nutrients, making the produce nutrient-dense and improving sensory credentials," she says.

For instance, at the new ITC Royal Bengal in Kolkata, a plant-forward shiitake and aquaponic red spinach burger is a hit. Other aquaponic stars include morning glory, cress, pok Choi as well as a

variety of greens and leaves that are integrated into stir-fries, stews and casseroles. Madhu says it's about supporting local producers and farmers and being more environmentally responsible. "Chefs play a key role in creating awareness, influencing and inspiring their diners to reconsider their sourcing approach," he says.

Das is considering doubling his green house space to 20,000 sq ft. While technically aquaponic produce is not labelled "organic" – by definition this includes the role of soil – they are pesticide-free. Over the years he's come up with localized solutions that suit specific geographies. In Kota Bagh, for instance, he uses local varieties of carp and Catla

Why aren't we all aquaponic-ing?

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) put out a technical paper in 2014, detailing the positives and negatives of the practice. Here are some:

BENEFITS

- Higher yields (20-25% more) and qualitative production.
- Can be used on non-arable land such as deserts, degraded soil or salty, sandy islands.
- Creates little waste.
- Daily tasks, harvesting and planting are labour-saving and therefore can include all ages.

WEAKNESSES

- Expensive initial startup costs compared with soil production or hydroponics.
- Knowledge of fish, bacteria and plant production is needed.
- Optimal temperature ranges needed (17-34°C).
- Mistakes or accidents can cause catastrophic collapse of system.
- Daily management is mandatory.
- Requires reliable access to electricity, fish seed and plant seeds.
- Alone, aquaponics will not provide a complete diet.

fish and in his next aquaponic venture up in the Himalayas, he intends to use trout.

He admits to having had some hits and misses along the way, adding laughingly, "If all else fails, I have become a qualified plumber!"

Food for a drink (From left)

Mixed seafood salad, grilled fillet of sole chilli-garlic

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

selfs were soft and light, but the fillings were tasteless; and the pork ribs were tough (the creamy potato mash accompanying it was excellent though).

I was keen on trying the desserts, because again, they sounded good on paper, but when I was told they would take 30 minutes because, "It's a busy night", I decided to pass.

Skip: if you're going for the food, don't. Spanish tapas its not, and they make no bones about it. But its not tapas either - what they are slightly smaller plates of regular dishes.

Go with: A date, friends, or the office crowd; not family, unless they're a bunch of 25- to 35-year-olds with cash to burn.

Space bar: 3,00 sq ft;

110 covers

How much: ₹3,000 for two (sans alcohol). Cocktails ₹645 upward

Getting there: The Metro to Aerocity and a five-minute walk for the adventurous, but an Uber or Ola is the most sensible option.

PEOPLE

Men in the market

Mumbai designer, Kunal Rawal, now has a store in Delhi



When Kunal Rawal was a child, he remembers his father taking him and his sister out for ice cream and then driving over to their textile factory. "We would close our eyes, feel the thaans, and play guess-the-fabric," he says, of his love of texture. He points to an olive green pin-tuck sleeveless jacket, saying it's 4% metal woven into the silk, to give it some amount of structure and weight.

In the 540 square-foot studio in Emporio, there's a touch of the industrial, with clothes hung on a moving rail. "I want to get the conversation going when it comes to occasion-wear for men," he says. He's entering at a time when men are more involved in selecting their clothes, and weddings are more gender-balanced, in terms of the decision-making.

"I believe in separates," he says, adding that people should be able to break up an ensemble and wear bits of it to a party or even to an office do, much after a wedding. "It must be functional, contemporary, easy," says the man who has dressed Amitabh Bachchan, Anil Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Shahid Kapoor, Ranbir Kapoor, and more.

His clothes have geometric elements: "I see embroidery as a graphic, so even my florals are straight-line embroidered. I look at French knots as a manicured football field, if you look at it from the top," says the 34-year-old designer who took a year off before he began his eponymous label in 2017. He likes the details – a racing-stripe here, a twill print there, a kurti shirt, a waistcoat attached to a shirt to give an illusion of layering. "Every piece has two versions: a stiffer one for lean men and a lighter one for bigger men."

Earlier this year, he collaborated with Nissan India to launch their Seat-Belt Shirt to build awareness on safety, and last year saw an association with Koovs. In the past he's worked as a costume designer for movies: *Aisha*, *Jagga Jasoos*, *Desi Boyz*, and several others. He started as a 21-year-old though in 2006, launching a now-on-the-back-burner label called DStress with grungy clothing targeted at people his age. Plus, he's been the youngest designer to debut at Lakme Fashion Week, in 2009. By the end of this year, he hopes to launch an androgynous capsule.

At 2nd floor, DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj; ₹11,500 upward

SUNALINI MATHEW

PRODUCT

Handloom Day

Today, we spotlight young designers at the upcoming Lakme India Fashion Week, who will showcase India's lost weaves. Look forward to Little Things Studio by Ankita Srivastava, who draws inspiration from Matisse hand drawings in her collection, crafted with handloom khadi and cupro (vegan silk). There's also Manjushree Saikia's label, Ura Maku, which comprises experiments with Eri, Muga, and Assam's mulberry silk, and Stanzin Palmo's Zitzom, which celebrates Ladakh's heritage pashmina,



nambu and yak textiles with digitally printed and embroidered apricot blossoms and sea buckthorn.

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in



Following the formula

FOOD REVIEW

La Roca is a bar first and a restaurant second, so don't go in the hope of a world-class meal

NAVAL CHOPRA SATARAWALA

Touted as a world tapas bar, this restaurant follows the typical formula: spend a lot of money on interiors, do something different (projected on the ceiling are different designs and images), offer shisha, have a menu with 101 items and the crowds will follow. They do!

I had to visit La Roca twice, because I was so disappointed with my first visit that I wanted to check whether they were simply having an off day. Unfortunately, La Roca fails to deliver any culinary magic. Perhaps what goes against them in the food department is that chef Akshay Bhardwaj has left and the new team is just about settling down. I do hope they up their game.

The vibe: Loud. Very

loud. So loud that my seat was vibrating (in an unpleasant way!) from the beginning of my meal at 9.15 p.m. to the end. But the music, I must admit, was good. No expense has been spared in making the place look posh and it is clearly aimed at the

young, upwardly mobile crowd. But the crowd is a mix ofuppies and families given just how busy Worldmark, where La Roca is situated, is.

Do try: Very little, to be honest. I liked that their bar, called the Nectar Bar, adds

no sugar or synthetic flavours to cocktails but the cocktails themselves were hit and miss. The only two I enjoyed were The Green Fairy, an absinthe, cream and apple-juice based cocktail and the Cold Pressed Juice Long Island Ice Tea.

The menu is a mix of Asian, Italian, Indian and Japanese dishes. They all sound delicious on paper but the kitchen fails to execute them properly. The chili-cheese balls were stodgy; the beetroot carpaccio was too thick; the baos them-

selves were soft and light, but the fillings were tasteless; and the pork ribs were tough (the creamy potato mash accompanying it was excellent though).

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5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



7 8 AUGUST

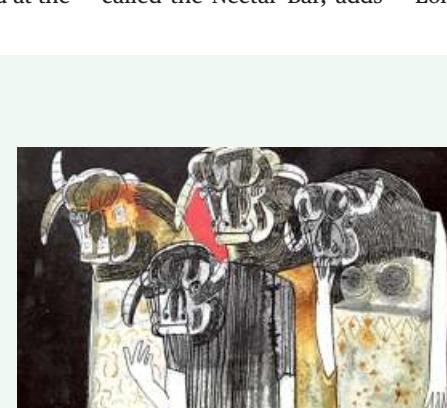
LIFESTYLE

Fashion

Lifestyle Connoisseur 2019, a two-day exhibition, showcases hand-painted sarees and suits, ethnic and Western apparel, jewellery, bed linen and home décor items. Organised by Exhibition Unlimited, the event is aimed at projecting Indian artisans and craftspeople, so they can earn their livelihood with dignity.

VENUE: India Islamic Cultural Centre, Lodhi Road

TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Drawings

Yamini Mohan, a Kerala-born artist and Sayam Bharat Yadav from Hyderabad have come together to show their artworks at an exhibition titled, *Image-in-side-out*. The exhibition consists of skilfully rendered charcoal drawings and watercolours on paper, that provide an insight into the artist's creativity.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Manid House

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



DANCE

Bharatanatyam

Aayam Institute of Performings Arts, a dance school that promotes Indian classical arts, is hosting *Sita-Ram*, a dance presentation of unusual compositions in Bharatanatyam style by the disciples of Guru Sindhul Mishra. Participating artistes include Ashi Vats, Vibhooti Bhardwaj, Kushali Malhotra and Aparna Chandani.

VENUE: Stien Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.



THEATRE

Hindi play

Jana Natya Manch will stage, *Tathagat*, a Hindi play, written and directed by Abhishek Majumdar, this evening. Set in an imaginary Buddhist kingdom in ancient India, *Tathagat* explores the ideas of caste and gender, rebellion and nationalism, freedom and courage.

VENUE: Studio Safdar, May Day Bookstore & Cafe 2254/2A, Shadil Khampur

TIME: 7 p.m.



IHE19
INDIA INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY EXPO

AUG 7-10' 2019

INDIA EXPO CENTRE & MART

EXPO

Hospitality

Indian International Hospitality Expo 2019, a platform to showcase the range of the hospitality sector, is back with its second edition. Organised by India Exposition Mart, the show will feature 650 exhibitors in the area of hospitality, retail, F&B, housekeeping, catering, technology, architecture and design companies.

VENUE: India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Experimenting with combinations The EQC has five driving modes and five levels of battery regeneration • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



HORMAZD SORABJEE

The future of motoring is electric and it was only a matter of time before more carmakers took the plunge. For Mercedes, the shift towards electric mobility starts with the new EQC and we travelled to Oslo, Norway to see if you should be all charged up for one. Ahem, your excitement might be in vain however, because the EQC is not coming to India. The lack of charging infrastructure and a price of around ₹1.3 crore (after taxes and duties) make it a non-starter for our market.

It was quite fitting that Mercedes chose Norway to launch the EQC. The Scandinavian country is the capital of the electric car world and an eye-opener for EV sceptics (myself included), with every other car in Oslo being an EV. I've seen more Teslas in one day here than I have in my entire life. In fact, in March, the Tesla Model 3 was by far Norway's best-selling car.

The EQC looks quite similar to the Mercedes GLC, because it's based on the mid-sized SUV. The EQC doesn't sport a ground-breaking design. In fact, it looks rather plain from certain angles, with only the stunning alloy wheels and the distinctive nose – which has techy-looking headlights and a fibre-optic light strip running across the bonnet – spicing up its looks.

On the inside, the EQC is again very Mercedes, with lots of common bits like the switchgear and, of course, the fantastic double-screen display for the infotainment system and all the car's functions. Adding a bit of 'EV-ness' to the cabin is a blue (for electric) lighting strip and some avant-garde design like the fluted air-con vents and grated speaker grilles.

Space-wise, the EQC is not very large, and is similar to the GLC sold in India. You sit pretty high up at the front, like in a typical SUV, but at the back, the raised floor (the battery is packaged underneath) and tapering

ALL POWERED UP

The EQC looks quite similar to the Mercedes GLC, because it's based on the mid-sized SUV



roof line impinge on all-round room. Unlike a lot of Mercs, back-seat comfort is not an EQC strength. Luggage space isn't generous either, and with the engine gone, you'd expect to have some sort of a front boot – but that space is used by the motor that drives the front axle.

I pick up the EQC from Oslo airport, but find there's only 30km of charge left in the 80kWh battery. So my first stop is the nearest charging station. That's quite easy to find because all the charging stations in the country are saved in the navigation system. Charging the EQC was a breeze. It's fast (around 40min to get to 80%) and there are plenty of quick chargers around. On a full charge, the EQC will give 445km on the NEDC cycle, which puts it ahead of a few other EVs.

With charging out of the way, it's time to get down to the driving. The EQC is powered by two electric motors which drive the front and rear axles, in effect making it a four-wheel-drive car. Both motors are designed differently; the front motor is set up for efficiency and the rear for a more dynamic feel. Combined,

they put out 408hp. It is no slouch and shoots to 100kph from rest in just 5.1sec. That is seriously fast for a 2.4-tonne SUV. Floor the pedal and the EQC lunges forward with a strong, seamless surge of acceleration. The way it gathers speed silently and without drama can land you in trouble in a country known for its punnitively-high speeding fines.

You almost always have to keep an eye on the speedometer to know how fast you are going, as none of the usual indicators like engine revs, wind or tyre noise are there. The only indicators are the tall pine trees lining Norway's roads that whoosh in a blur.

Masking the EQC's speed is its astonishing level of refinement. Yes, electric cars are quiet, but this one is eerily so. The whine of the electric motors and the roar of the tyres have been painstakingly filtered out, creating a cabin so hushed, you can hear yourself breathe.

The EQC has five driving modes (Comfort, Sport, Eco, Maximum Range and Individual) and five levels of battery regeneration, which you can select via the paddleshifters be-

SPECIFICATIONS

WHEELBASE: 2,873mm

MOTOR TYPE: Two asynchronous motors

POWER: 408hp (combined)

TORQUE: 760Nm (combined)

GEARBOX: Direct drive

BATTERY TYPE: Lithium-ion battery

BATTERY CAPACITY: 80kWh

AC CHARGING (0-100%): 11 hours (regular)

DC CHARGING AT 50KW (0-80%): 40min (80% via quick charge)

RANGE: 445Km (NEDC)

the right paddle until 'D Auto' is selected, is a clever piece of engineering as well. In this mode, the electronics take almost full control of the car's powertrain to eke out the last kilometre from the battery. It's a bit intrusive though, because the car doesn't respond exactly to your inputs and listens more to what the battery wants.

For the most part, the EQC is a front-wheel drive, but prod a bit deeper with your right foot and the rear motor kicks in, making it feel more like a rear-wheel drive when driven hard. Torque vectoring balances the motors on each axle and is partly responsible for the EQC's drama-free handling. The numb steering and sheer weight of the car won't goad you into attacking corners, but it has a reassuring poise (for an SUV) that's rooted in the low centre of gravity that most EVs with an underfloor-mounted battery pack have.

The ride on 20-inch rims is incredibly smooth, but on these well-paved Norwegian roads, even a bullock-cart will feel comfortable. Crossing tram tracks and a few sharp edges didn't disturb the EQC, which clearly has been tuned for comfort in true Merc fashion.

On Norway's well-manicured roads, but strictly speed-regulated highways, driving something so refined as the EQC was quite a non-event. A bit boring and sterile? Maybe. But the future of motoring is going to be just that. Better get used to it.

Endeavour is better

Mohamed Irhan, Chennai: Which of these should I choose amongst: the Ford Endeavour, Toyota Fortuner and the Mitsubishi Pajero? My priorities are low-maintenance cost, good fuel efficiency and resale value.

■ In the long run, it's the Fortuner that is the most reliable, but not necessarily the cheapest to run. Ford has worked on lowering the spare parts prices of its cars over the years, and hence it is not expensive to maintain. However, the Fortuner has a stronger resale value than the Endeavour, so when it's time to trade in your SUV, you could lose more with the Ford. Overall, we feel the Endeavour is better as it is the nicer car to drive and feels more plush too. Don't even consider the Pajero, as the company is winding up in India and there aren't too many dealers left.

A good choice

Rajesh, Kochi: I plan to purchase a bike in a year's time. It should be suitable for short and long commutes, comfortable and manageable for a short guy. I'm not keen on sports bikes. Can you suggest something under ₹2 lakh?

■ There are a few upcoming launches to look forward to next year at this price point, particularly the next-generation Royal Enfield Classics. However, we can't recommend something until we've ridden it. Going by your requirements, you're probably looking at something in the 250cc space. The Yamaha FZ25 comes to mind and Suzuki will soon launch the Gixxer 250, which will be worth it, if you don't mind the bike's styling. We also suggest that you take a look at the Bajaj Dominar 400. It is a heavy motorcycle, but it will do everything you need and it offers much more performance than any other bike at this price point can manage.

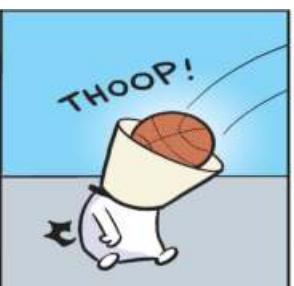
Try the Yamaha

Vivek Thorat, Pune: I want to purchase a new bike that looks cool, has good mileage, and is low maintenance. I have narrowed my choices down to the Yamaha FZ V3 and the Royal Enfield Thunderbird 350X. Which is better?

■ The Yamaha FZ V3 meets all your requirements a lot more effectively than the Royal Enfield Thunderbird 350X. It is a light and easy machine, which will be easy to ride in city traffic, and will also be much more fuel efficient. Yamahas have a solid reputation for longevity and running costs are reasonably low as well. You haven't mentioned performance as a priority, but if you want something quicker, you could look at the Yamaha FZ25 as well. Regardless of which you select, both FZs will meet your needs.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the Editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to roadshow@thehindu.co.in

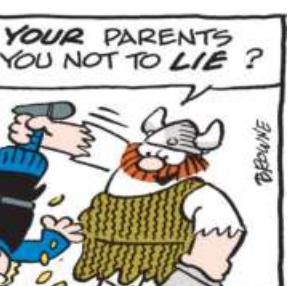
POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



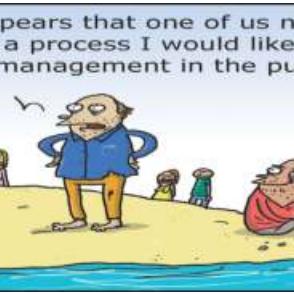
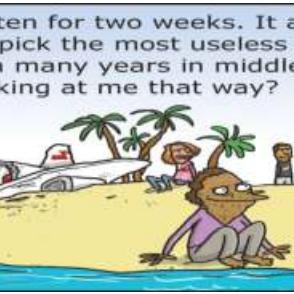
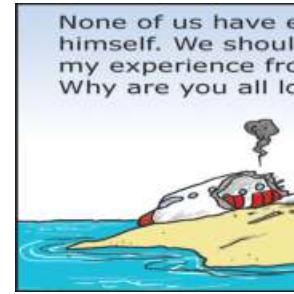
CALVIN AND HOBBES



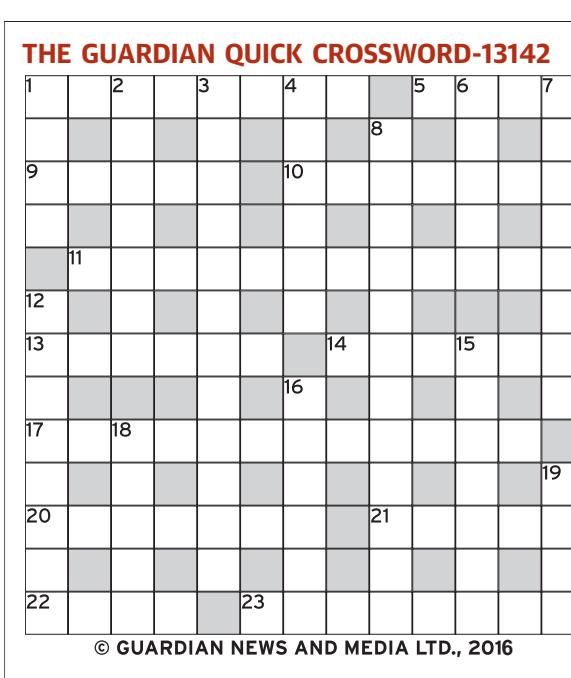
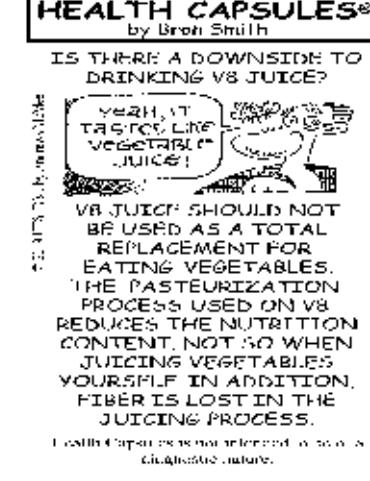
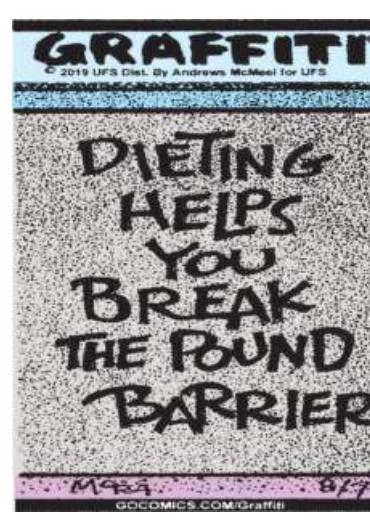
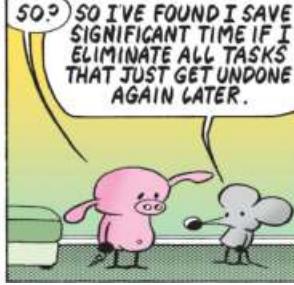
TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13142

- 2 Vernacular (7)
- 3 Starved (12)
- 4 Morally pure (6)
- 6 Love deeply (5)
- 7 Indecisive (8)
- 8 Presaged (12)
- 12 Great quantity (8)
- 15 Organised search for a fugitive (7)
- 16 Synagogue official who conducts the liturgical part of the service (6)
- 18 Reprimand – cook (5)
- 19 Make a humming noise (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 8, 2019.

Solution No. 13141

L	I	T	E	R	U	R
A	N	T	E	R	I	S
L	E	M	K	B	I	A
N	O	S	H	F	O	U
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R	U	E	F	U	I	C
E	M	A	O	H	R	E
D	R	O	L	S	C	B
N	L	E	L	E	S	
D	E	H	Y	D	R	A

- 17 Surfaced area for parking vehicles (12)
- 20 Most tidy (7)
- 21 Brideshead Revisited author, d. 1966 (5)
- 22 Adam and Eve's third son (4)
- 23 One who's owed money (8)
- 24 Doctor-priest working with magic (6)
- 25 Down
- 26 Vitality (4)

Pant, Kohli help India sweep series

The duo hit half-centuries after Deepak Chahar rocks the West Indies top-order

INDIA IN WI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

Rishabh Pant finally came good under the guidance of skipper Virat Kohli as India comfortably beat West Indies by seven wickets in the third T20 International, to complete a 3-0 sweep, here on Tuesday.

Chasing a target of 147 on a slowish deck, Kohli anchored the innings with his 21st half-century in T20 Internationals (59, 45b, 6x4) while Pant was brilliant during his unbeaten 65 (42b, 4x4, 4x6) as the visitors made it in 19.1 overs.

Pant and Kohli, who came together at 27 for two, put on 106 runs in 12.5 overs. However till their 50-run stand, the duo didn't go hammer and tongs at the Windies attack.

It was in the 13th over when Pant finally gave the charge, getting his first six – a flat hit over extra cover off Keemo Paul's bowling. He was to repeat the same shot off the same bowler for the same result!

Once he had reached his second T20I half-century, Pant got on one knee and hit Oshane Thomas for his third six, while his fourth and final maximum got India the winning runs.

Pollard attacks

Earlier, Deepak Chahar's incisive swing bowling was countered by Kieron Pollard's attacking half-century and Rovman Powell's cameo as the West Indies totalled 146 for six after being put in to bat.

The Rajasthan seamer made full use of his only opportunity in this tour taking

SCOREBOARD WEST INDIES V INDIA, THIRD T20I

WEST INDIES
Evin Lewis lbw b Deepak Chahar 10 (11b, 1x6), Sunil Narine c Saini b Deepak Chahar 2 (6b), Shimron Hetmyer lbw b Deepak Chahar 1 (3b), Kieron Pollard b Saini 58 (45b, 1x4, 6x6), Nicholas Pooran c Pant b Saini 17 (23b, 1x4, 1x6), Rovman Powell (not out) 32 (20b, 1x4, 2x6), Carlos Brathwaite c Washington b Rahul Chahar 10 (7b, 1x6), Fabian Allen (not out) 8 (5b, 1x6); Extras (lb-4, w-4): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 146.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-10 (Dhawan, 1.6 overs), 2-27 (Rahul, 4.4), 3-133 (Kohli, 17.3).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Cottrell 4-0-26-0, Thomas 4-0-29-2, Allen 3-0-18-1, Narine 4-0-29-0, Brathwaite 2.1-0-25-0, Paul 2-0-23-0.

Toss: India. **MOM:** Deepak Chahar; **MoS:** Krunal Pandya.

India won by seven wkts. with five balls to spare and swept the series 3-0.



The dazzler: Deepak Chahar is over the moon after sending back Shimron Hetmyer. ■ AFP

■ The ODI series begins at the same venue on Aug. 8 (7 p.m. IST)

three wickets in his first two overs to leaving West Indies tottering at 14 for three. He got the ball to swing both ways while removing Sunil Narine (2), Evin Lewis (10) and Shimron Hetmyer (1). This effort was to fetch him the man-of-the-match award.

Pollard counter-attacked with as many as half-a-dozen sixes in his 45-ball-58 – his first half-century for the West Indies in seven years. Along with Nicholas Pooran

(17), who played the second fiddle, Pollard added 66 for the fourth wicket as the host looked to have recovered from the initial slump.

However, Navdeep Saini came back for his second

spell to first dismiss left-hander Pooran and then pegged back Pollard's middle stump.

With the host reduced to 105 for five, Powell smashed his way to an unbeaten 32 off 20 balls to prop up the total.

STAT SPHERE



1 Pollard (58) registered his first half-century since the unbeaten 63 he scored against NZ at Lauderhill in June 2012. Since then, he went without a fifty in 31 innings

1 Pant's 65* is the highest by an Indian wicket-keeper in T20Is. The youngster has become the first Indian to score two T20I fifties before turning 22 years

2 Deepak Chahar's spell of 3-1-4-3 is the second most economical bowling (min. 3 overs) for India in T20Is, after Bhuvneshwar's 3-0-0 against WI (Mirpur, 2014)

4 India has recorded its fourth 3-0 victory in a three-match bilateral T20I series

6 Number of consecutive losses suffered by West Indies, its worst streak. The team had earlier lost five games on the trot to Pakistan in 2017-18

16 Number of consecutive dot balls bowled by Deepak Chahar after conceding three runs off his first two deliveries

21 Number of 50-plus scores notched up by Kohli in T20Is, the joint most with Rohit. Guptill is third with 16

INDIA BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 3-0-19-0, Deepak Chahar 3-1-4-3, Saini 4-0-34-2, Rahul Chahar 3-0-27-1,

BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

I have a friend, who, before he leaves home for work puts his hips, his shirt pocket, jacket pocket intoning as he does so: travel card, wallet, glasses, keys (it sounds lyrical in his native Bengali).

It is a ritual I am reminded of when watching Steve Smith settle into his stance. Pad, box, pad, helmet; everything in place, a short walk to the edge of the crease, a bending of the knees; are the pads in place? Check. Trousers? Check. Have I paid the electricity bill? Did I switch off the lights before leaving home?

I exaggerate. But Smith, like fidgets everywhere, draws you into his routine. If he misses a step, you worry for him. It might be tempting fate.

How to get Smith out?

As Smith was moving towards his second century in the Birmingham Test, the commentator David Lloyd asked spectators: "How do you get Smith out? Yes, you in the blue cap..." Those with commentary earpieces looked as helpless as the English

bowlers. The point is, everybody knows how to get Smith out. He is a walking leg-before wicket as he squares up in front of the stumps, having shuffled his way outside the off. At least, that's what the coaching manuals tell us.

Smith has no business being the second most successful batsman of all time with a technique that renders irrelevant these manuals. But there it is. He can pull the ball he converts into a short-pitched one and drive when the bowler overcompensates. And he has been dismissed leg-before only 18 times in 119 innings. Greatness comes in many forms.

It is not often that a player builds, furnishes, and inhabits a monument all his own with material no one else has used, and tools which in anybody else's hands would simply not work. Uniqueness is not mandatory for greatness, but in Smith's case they go together.

With a mind as strong as his – he returns from a one-year ban into an Ashes series and scores two centuries straightaway – and an obsession with the game from his schooldays when his father finished work early so he could bowl to him, how did he allow the sandpaper scandal under his watch?

Is it part of the contradiction being Steven Smith? He has reduced batsmanship to a two-point programme.

He keeps his head in line with the ball and keeps it perfectly still while playing it. You cannot simplify further.

All in the head

Forget footwork, forget that cricket is a game played side-on and all those things coaches tell us. It's all in the head.

It might see him finish up facing the bowler with his feet pointed down the wicket; he challenges the bowler to hit his pads. He moves so far across that he knows anything outside the line of his nose misses the off-stump, and if anything comes in, he is confident enough to find gaps on the leg-side. Smith is an excellent example of an unorthodox player left alone by the authorities.

When he made his Test debut, he was a leg-spinner who batted at No. 8. It was only after his first century in his 12th Test that his batting average climbed to 34. His bowling average, meanwhile, was 49. But he was persistent with, rather like Steve Waugh was.

Doesn't play by the book

For a purist, Smith is a difficult man to embrace. He doesn't inspire love and admiration so much as ambivalence. He doesn't play by the book. It is as if someone taking a math exam shows the workings of a problem that is all wrong, yet somehow has found

Duleep Trophy to revert to red ball

Domestic season-opener in Bengaluru from Aug. 17 to Sept. 8

AMOL KARHADKAR

MUMBAI

Pink-ball cricket was the only saving grace for the Duleep Trophy, a tournament that's been struggling for relevance in the recent past. Come next week and the season-opening fixture that was once virtually considered to be a selection trial for India's Test squad will revert to red-ball cricket.

The tournament, to be played in Bengaluru from August 17 to September 8, will revert to the traditional format after experimenting with pink-ball cricket under floodlights for the last three editions.

Considering the Indian team's opposition to playing a pink-ball Test – even overseas, let alone at home – it is understandable that the BCCI has halted the experiment for the Duleep Trophy.

Logistical challenges

However, Saba Karim, the BCCI general manager – cricket operations, preferred to focus on the logistical challenges, including lack of broadcast of matches except for the final as the



Shubman Gill. ■ FILE PHOTO

primary reason than India's reluctance to play a floodlit Test.

"We were finding it very difficult to get a venue. Only a couple of days back were we able to finalise it. That is why only the final will now be telecast. It does not make sense to play the tournament with the pink ball," Karim said.

The captains

Promising batsman Shubman Gill, Vidarbha's successor Ranji Trophy-winning captain Faiz Fazal and Gujarat captain Priyank Panchal will lead India Blue, India Green and India Red in the

tournament. The national selection panel, headed by M.S.K. Prasad, announced the squads on Tuesday.

Interestingly, the tournament will not feature a single Tamil Nadu player despite 44 top performers in domestic cricket being divided in three teams.

The squads:

India Blue: Shubman Gill (capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rajat Patidar, Ricky Bhui, Amolpreet Singh, Ankeet Bawane, Snell Patel (wk), Shreyas Gopal, Saurabh Kumar, Jalaj Saxena, Tushar Deshpande, Basil Thampi, Aniket Choudhary, Divyesh Pathania, Ashutosh Aman.

India Green: Faiz Fazal (capt.), Akshath Reddy, Dhruv Shorey, Siddhesh Lad, Priyam Garg, Akshdeep Nath, Rahul Chahar, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Jayant Yadav, Ankit Rajpoot, Ishan Porel, Tanveer-Ul-Haq, Akshay Wadkar (wk), Rajesh Mohanty, Milind Kumar.

India Red: Priyank Panchal (capt.), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Axar Patel, Karun Nair, Ishan Kishan (wk), Harpreet Singh Bhatia, Mahipal Lomror, Aditya Sarwate, Akshay Wakhare, Varun Aaron, Ronit More, Jaydev Unadkat, Sandeep Warrier, Ankit Kalsi.

Saha on song

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TRINIDAD

Wridhiman Saha's counter-attacking 62 (65b, 9x4, 1x6) took India-A to 180 for five in 58 overs on the opening day of the third 'Test' against West Indies-A here on Tuesday.

However, Vihari (51) and Shivam Dube (19) were at the crease.

Asked to bat, India-A lost opener Abhimanyu Easwaran for a duck before Mayank Agarwal (33) and Shubman Gill departed off successive balls in the 20th over.

However, Vihari and Saha rescued the side.

The scores: India-A 180 for five (Mayank Agarwal 33, Hanuma Vihari 51 batting, Wridhiman Saha 62) vs West Indies-A.



Wridhiman Saha. ■ FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

The walking leg-before wicket who drives bowlers to distraction

Smith's batsmanship evoked the 'U' word – ugly – before it inspired the 'G' word – great



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

I have a friend, who, before he leaves home for work puts his hips, his shirt pocket, jacket pocket intoning as he does so: travel card, wallet, glasses, keys (it sounds lyrical in his native Bengali).

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If you stretch that argument, does making, say, 10 in each innings fall short of redemption by 180 runs? It's apples and oranges. Smith should be feted for his brilliance at the crease, but to conflate two separate issues while finding in one what should follow the other is simplistic.

Sure, everyone deserves a second chance, and Smith has grabbed it with commendable mental strength and rare skill. But his misdeed occurred a little over a year ago. Redemption will come with a clean slate between now and the end of his career.

Meanwhile, English bowlers ask, like the nuns in the movie: How do you solve a problem like Steve Smith?

Lions maul Mavericks, climb to second

The Kolkata team gets eliminated after the 11-4 drubbing

UTT

'It's a redemption story like no other'

A gleeful Australian press goes gaga over the team's famous victory

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

The Australians basked in rediscovered pride in their cricketers on Tuesday after Steve Smith inspired a thumping Ashes Test win over England, redeeming himself following a ball-tampering scandal that left the team in disgrace.

Smith, pilloried and banned for a year over the infamous 'Sandpaper-gate' affair, rose above taunts of "We saw you cry on the telly", with centuries in each innings before England crumbled to a 251-run defeat in Birmingham.

Standing up to England
"It's a redemption story like no other, from Sandpaper-gate to standing up to England, in England," tweeted 7News Brisbane.

"The Miracle of Birmingham", trumpeted *The Australian*, as any lingering embarrassment from the tampering scandal more than 18 months ago evaporated.

Instead, attention turned to the "redemption" of Smith from a tearful press conference last year to his Test-defining innings which humbled England, just weeks after it was crowned ODI world champion.

Nathan Lyon and Pat



Emphatic statement: Nathan Lyon and Steve Smith were the chief protagonists as Australia turned the tables on England in Edgbaston. ■ AFP

Cummins took all 10 wickets as England's second innings folded for 146, but it was the knocks of 144 and 142 by Smith that set up the victory and renewed comparisons with the great Donald Bradman.

At the start of the Test, the Australians were mocked as "cry-babies" and endured taunts of "cheats and los-

ers", but five days on, they were winners, the *Herald*'s Malcolm Knox noted.

Redemption tale

Knox described the fitful Smith's centuries as "pure cricket alchemy, turning base metals into gold". The net effect of the abuse by England fans "was to knit the Australians together" and

bring out their best cricket, he wrote.

"Even as he received his player-of-the-match award, Steve Smith had to speak above the songs of the last desperates whose claim to fame was having seen him cry on the telly. He wasn't crying now."

News Corp. Australia's James Matthey said the vocal

Edgbaston crowd "wasn't able to provide the spark needed to overcome an Australian team welcoming the ball-tampering trio back into the fold".

Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were playing in their first Test together since receiving lengthy suspensions for their part in the sandpaper affair.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BIRMINGHAM

Joe Root insisted England would avoid pressing the panic button after going 1-0 down in the Ashes.

Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon took six wickets, as England its Birmingham 'fortress' for the first time in 12 matches in all formats.

Lyon's efforts on a wearing pitch were in marked contrast to those of England off-spinner Moeen Ali, whose lack of control, never mind wickets, was exemplified by a couple of 'beamers' he bowled during Australia's mammoth second innings total of 487 for seven declared.

Somerset left-arm spinner Jack Leach has been tipped to replace Moeen at Lord's, having bailed England out with a career-best 92 in its Test win over Ireland at the 'home of cricket' last month.

"With Mo, you've got to remember how threatening he can be and what an asset he has been to this team in the past," said Root.

"Whenever he's been written off before he generally comes back stronger, especially in English conditions.

"We've got to make sure we're very clear about we approach the next game and not make too many emotional decisions," he added.

Root said England could

England not panicking

Root says host won't take many emotional decisions



What went wrong? England captain Joe Root ponders after the loss in the Ashes first Test. ■ AP

Being a bowler down was a huge setback for England and what role the 37-year-old Anderson plays in the rest of the series remains uncertain.

Root, however, said he had no regrets about the veteran paceman's inclusion.

"No, not at all," he insisted. "He passed every medical test. He was fit to play."

"It's one of those freak scenarios where he pulled up – because it's the same calf, we're not sure whether it's a slightly different injury.

"Jimmy in those conditions, if he bowls 15 overs, things could have been very different in the first innings in general."

Former Australia captain Steve Smith marked his return to Test cricket following a ball-tampering ban with twin hundreds but Root said: "He's got to start again when he gets to Lord's."

Langer lauds Smith, says comeback-batsman right up there with Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BIRMINGHAM

Australia coach Justin Langer feels Steve Smith is at par with Indian captain Virat Kohli as the world's best batsman after the comeback-man struck two hundreds in the opening Ashes Test against England.

"Let's face it; when he (Smith) first came in, leg-spinner, unorthodox... (everyone thought) 'I'm not sure this kid's going to make it'. Then he goes away (and decides) 'I don't want to be a leg-spinner; I want to be the best batsman in the world'.

"Then he transforms himself and he is the best batsman in the world with Virat. It's a great credit to him,"

Langer said.

"I said during the summer that Virat Kohli is the best player I have ever seen but that (Smith's knocks) is just another level," the coach said.

Kohli currently leads the ICC Test rankings, while Smith has moved up to third with his latest performance.

Traits of a great player

Langer said Smith's knocks at Edgbaston showed his mental toughness and traits of a great player.

"You have in different teams, different eras, great players but for someone like Smudge (Smith), who is averaging over 60 and the way he played in this innings with

G You throw to him in the nets and you literally feel like you can't get him out and there's no batsman like that

all the pressure and everything that is on him, it was not only great skill but enormous character, enormous courage, very brave, unbelievable concentration, unbelievable physical stamina, unbelievable mental stamina, all traits of great players," he said.

The former left-handed opener termed Smith a problem-solver of his team, someone who just loves batting for long hours.

"You throw to him in the nets and you literally feel like

you can't get him out and there's no batsman like that and you just end up throwing a million balls and you are just lost for answers," Langer said.

"I guess you would have to ask England how they feel about that and they had some interesting tactics for him.

"They had the really short point which I had never seen before, they obviously had a tactic they prepared. Trevor Bayliss has seen a lot of Steve Smith since he was a kid. They would have studied him closely but he just has a knack, well, he is the best problem-solver in the game," he added.

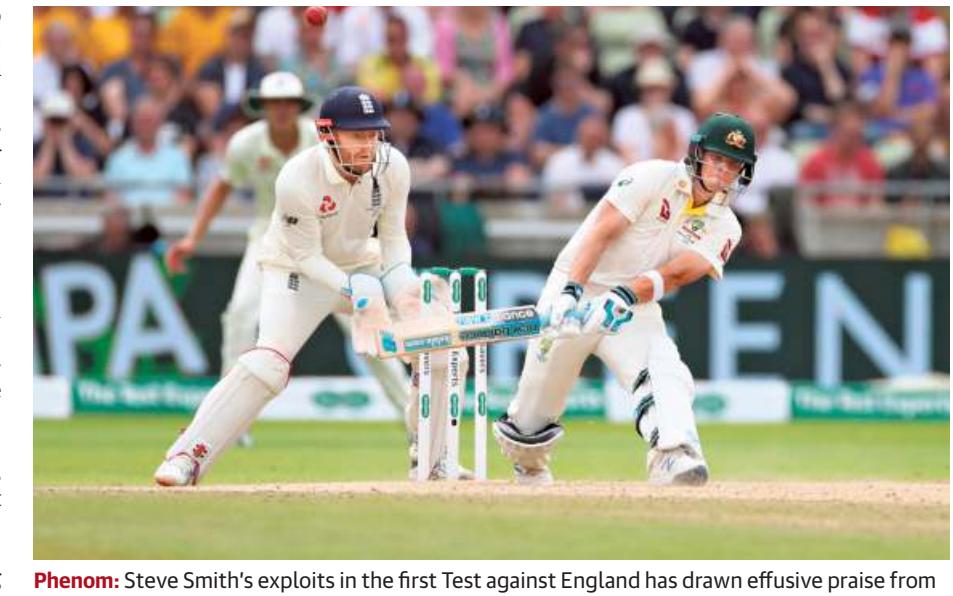
Langer also praised off-

spinner Nathan Lyon, who claimed 6 for 49 in the second innings to seal the win for Australia.

"Like a few of our players, like Steve Smith, I didn't realise how good Nathan Lyon was until I took over coaching the cricket team," he said.

"You see him on telly, yeah Nathan Lyon, off-spin bowler, but the last 12 months or so I just can't believe how good a bowler he is.

"He's a brilliant bowler, such good control: he spins, he gets some bounce, great fielder, really good in the team, he's the song master, so that tells you something about his character."



Phenom: Steve Smith's exploits in the first Test against England has drawn effusive praise from the Australian coach Justin Langer. ■ REUTERS

Smith unseats Pujara from third spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

Australian batsman Steve Smith on Tuesday overtook India's Cheteshwar Pujara to grab the No. 3 spot in the ICC rankings after two hundreds in the opening Ashes Test in Edgbaston.

Smith gained a rung to reach the third position with 903 points in the latest list, which continues to be led by India captain Virat Kohli (922). New Zealand's Kane Williamson is second (913), while Pujara is now placed fourth with 881.

Among bowlers, Australian spinner Nathan Lyon's nine wickets in the match have lifted him six spots to the 13th position among bowlers.

Pacer Pat Cummins has consolidated his top position with a seven-wicket match haul that helped him reach a career-best 898 rating points, the third-best for an Australia bowler in the past 50 years after Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne.

Fiona Kolbinger first woman to win 4,000km cycling race

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BREST (FRANCE)

German cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger won the mixed annual 4,000km (2,485 miles) cycling Transcontinental Race on Monday, becoming the first woman to do so.

Kolbinger, 24, arrived in Brest, north-west France, after 10 days 2hrs and 48 minutes in the saddle since starting the seventh edition of the race in Bulgaria on July 27.

"I am so happy to win. I was targeting the women's podium, I didn't think I could win the whole race," said Kolbinger who was taking part in her first self-supported ultra cycling event.

"I could have attacked more, and slept less," she added.

She passed through at least seven countries and four check-points one of which was the Col du Galibier at 2,645m in the French Alps in a course where riders have to plan, research and navigate themselves.



Fiona Kolbinger ■ AFP

They also carry and consume what they can find and choose when and where to rest.

The more than 260 remaining competitors, racing as solo male and females as well as in pairs are expected to cross the finish line over the coming hours and days.

Paddlers must be choosy ahead of Olympic qualifiers'

Costantini says the players must prioritise their training plans and focus on qualification stage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Country's former table tennis coach Massimo Costantini has advised the Indian paddlers to pick and choose tournaments wisely ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic qualifiers.

Under the Italian, India had made rapid strides with historic performances at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Jakarta Asian Games, where the country ended a 60-year-wait for a table tennis medal.

However, Costantini had decided against renewing his contract last year citing personal reasons. Since his departure, Indian paddlers have been without the services of a national coach.

"Olympics is always very special. I think you have to analyse your opportunities and adopt a balance approach towards tournaments. Try to get the proper appetite and miss tournaments if the need be. They need to plan fitness and training well and strike the perfect balance," Costantini said on the sidelines of Ultimate Table Tennis league here.

"They have to combine the quantity of competition and performance. They must also prioritise their training plans. Now they have the qualification stage that they must focus on," he added.

Costantini, who is currently serving as the High



Massimo Costantini.

■ FILE PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Performance Manager at International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), lauded the Indian paddlers for their good show despite being without a coach.

"Lack of guidance is a major problem. Being alone can be a weakness. Planning, guidance and support are very important for players. So I admire the Indian players that they are performing so well in spite of that. Manav (Thakkar), G Sathiyan and Manika (Batra) are doing very well. They have managed this period very well," he said.

"They have to combine the quantity of competition and performance. They must also prioritise their training plans. Now they have the qualification stage that they must focus on," he added.

Costantini, who is currently serving as the High

Satwiksairaj-Chirag in top-10

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday jumped seven places to enter the top 10 of the latest badminton World rankings, courtesy their historic win at last week's Thailand Open.

The duo, which became the first Indian men's doubles pair to win a BWF Super 500 tournament, is placed ninth in the rankings issued on Tuesday.

The other Indian men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B. Sumeeth Reddy remained on 25th spot.

In men's singles, K. Sri-

kanth (10th), Sameer Verma (13), B. Sai Praneeth (19), H.S. Prannoy (31) and Sourav Verma (44) were all static.

However, P. Kashyap moved up three places to 32nd spot, while Subhankar Dey climbed two places to 39th.

P.V. Sindhu and Saina Nehwal managed to hold on to their fifth and eighth spots respectively in the women's singles rankings. In doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy moved up a place to 23rd.

But in mixed doubles, Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki Reddy dropped a place to 23rd while Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj slipped four spots to be placed 27th.

Will PSG finally shatter the glass ceiling?

LIGUE 1

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

Interminable transfer rumours surrounding Neymar continue to swirl unabated as the new Ligue 1 season kicks off this weekend with defending champion Paris Saint-Germain launching its assault for a seventh title in Tokyo.

"All doubles are very unpredictable, that's the problem. But Manika and Sharath have an edge for sure. They have the authority to be promising candidates. If you are able to achieve one stage, you can do it again so it is all about the mindset," he said.

"Sathiyan has a fantastic chance of qualifying for the Olympics. He can be a big threat for many players. In

last season's French Cup final.

The brief for Tuchel a year on remains unchanged with PSG desperately craving success in Europe, after another calamitous exit.

"It hurts a lot, it hurts still that we did not go through," midfielder Julian Draxler told AFP, five months on.

"But from the potential in the team, we are ready to go far in the Champions League." While PSG have crashed out at the last-16 stage in Europe each of the past three years, it is almost unfathomable it could be dethroned in France.

Ban on Stockholm lab lifted

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MONTREAL

The World Anti-Doping Agency said it was lifting the partial suspension of a Stockholm laboratory,

TV PICKS

UTT: Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
TNP: Star Sports 3, 7.15 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Anderson ruled out of second Test

LONDON
James Anderson has been ruled out of the second Test, with England uncertain when he will be fit to return from an injured right calf. England's record wicket-taker broke down after just four overs in the series opener at Edgbaston and did not bowl again as Australia romped to a 251-run victory. Scans have now confirmed he has no chance of taking part in next week's game at Lord's, with assessment taking place "on an ongoing basis". AFP



Cyclist dies after crash in Tour of Poland

WARSAW
Belgian cyclist Bjorg Lambrecht died in hospital on Monday after crashing at the Tour of Poland, his team announced. He was 22. Polish news website Onet reported Lambrecht collided with a concrete structure around 30 kilometres (19 miles) into the race after it suddenly began to rain. He was resuscitated before being taken to hospital in a critical condition where he died on the operating table. AFP

Ladakh players can represent J&K: Vinod Rai

NEW DELHI
Cricketers from the newly-created Union Territory of Ladakh will represent Jammu and Kashmir in the domestic circuit for the time being, the BCCI's Committee of Administrators (CoA) chief Vinod Rai said on Tuesday. "We are not thinking of having a separate state body for Ladakh as of now. The players from that region will continue to qualify to represent Jammu and Kashmir in all BCCI domestic competitions," Rai told PTI on Tuesday. PTI



Cahill signs two-year deal with Palace

LONDON
Former England centre-back Gary Cahill signed a two-year deal with Crystal Palace on Monday following his exit from Chelsea. Cahill, 33, was out of contract after spending seven years at Stamford Bridge, where he won a pair of Premier League titles, the Champions League and the Europa League twice. AFP

Malaysia, Egypt and Myanmar triumph

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI
Malaysia, Egypt and Myanmar emerged the champions of divisions 1, 2 and 3 in the male category of the Special Olympics International football championship at the Nehru stadium here on Tuesday.

Russia and Indonesia won titles in divisions 1 and 2 in the women's section. **The winners: Men:** Div. 1: 1. Malaysia; 2. Korea; 3. Bharat-1. **Div. 2:** 1. Egypt; 2. Austria; 3. Maldives. **Div. 3:** 1. Myanmar; 2. Indonesia; 3. Bharat-2. **Women:** Div. 1: 1. Russia; 2. The Philippines; 3. Bangladesh; Div. 2: 1. Indonesia; 2. UAE; 3. Malaysia.

East Bengal steamrollers JFC

Jaime Colado and Bidyashagar Singh score a brace each in a 6-0 romp

DURAND CUP

Y.B. SARANGI

KOLKATA
Jaime Colado and K. Bidyashagar Singh scored a brace apiece as East Bengal routed Jamshedpur FC 6-0 to record its second consecutive win in the Durand Cup football tournament on Tuesday.

Playing in front of a partisan crowd, EB outsmarted an inexperienced JFC, made up of several reserve players, in the Group A contest to brighten its chances of making it to the semifinals. **Early lead**

JFC goalkeeper Amit Gope performed a rough tackle on Colado, who converted the resultant penalty to give EB a sixth minute lead. A minute later, a rampaging Colado moved swiftly to make the most of a chance.

However, the Spaniard, who seemed to be in discomfort due to the challenge from Gope, soon left the field to make way for Boithang Haokip. EB continued to dominate amid heavy show-



Take that! East Bengal's Bidyashagar Singh firing home one of his two goals against Jamshedpur FC. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

ers and Pintu Mahato beat the JFC defence to score in the 32nd minute.

JFC deserved credit for showing some spine and attacking the opposition after the change of ends.

Harsha Parui's long ranger

from left along the ground was thwarted by diving EB keeper Mirshad K. in the 55th minute, while Akash Dave's surprise shot from a top-of-the-box melee was again pouched by an alert Mirshad in 72nd minute.

EB looked for counter-attacks and succeeded in the 75th. Brandon Vanlaremdika received a precise aerial ball and crossed to his left to Bidyashagar to make it 4-0. The two combined again for Bidyashagar to net his se-

cond. Bidyashagar turned supplier and Haokip found the mark to pile on JFC's misery in injury time.

The result: East Bengal 6 (Colado 6, 7; Mahato 32; Bidyashagar 75, 79; Haokip 92) bt Jamshedpur FC 0.

K1 Plus in the lead

In the Silver event, I-Doctors team was ahead with 126.93 VPs

BRIDGE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Bulgaria's K1 Plus team, comprising Ivan Nanov, Vladimir Mihov, Rossen Gunev, Julian Stefanov and Marta Nikolova, led with 116.71 VPs after eight of the 10 rounds of the Swiss league of the Team of Four gold in the 17th HCL International bridge championship at the Aerocity on Tuesday.

With two rounds left to decide the top 16 teams for the knockout phase from among 55 teams, Don Julio's team and Hansa Nara-

simhan's team from the US were in the second and third positions with 107.70 and 107.16 VPs.

Teams from Russia and South Sweden were in the fourth and fifth spots.

In the Silver event, I-Doctors team, consisting of Rahul R. Dalal, Ashok Bhavnani, Deven Doshi, Gurmeet Singh Chadha and Shrikant Tembay, was ahead with 114.25 VPs.

Team Galaxy (107.68) was in the second spot.

While the three events will continue with the knockout stage on Wednesday, there will be Open match point pairs event for the non-qualifying teams. More than 350 pairs are expected to compete in the event.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MONTRÉAL

Anett Kontaveit spoiled Maria Sharapova's return, rallying to beat the five-time Grand Slam champion 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the first round of the Rogers Cup on Monday.

Sharapova, competing for the first time since retiring from her first-round match at Wimbledon, appeared to be on course for her fourth match win since January when she went up a set and an early break against the 16th seed from Estonia.

Sharapova said Monday's

Kontaveit knocks out Sharapova

The Russian, returning from injury, positive despite the reverse

ROGERS CUP



Bouncing back: Anett Kontaveit, a set and break down, turned the tables on Maria Sharapova. ■ AP

not the result I would have liked, but overall feeling pretty good about it."

Important results (first round):

Women: Sofia Kenin bt Hsieh Su-Wei 6-4, 6-3; Belinda Bencic bt Anastasia Potapova 6-2, 6-1; Dayana Yastremska bt Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-2; Anett Kontaveit bt Maria Sharapova 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Daria Kasatkina bt Angelique Kerber 6-2, 6-2, 6-4; Caroline Wozniacki bt Yulia Putintseva 6-4, 6-2.

Men: Gael Monfils bt Peter Polansky 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-3; Roberto Bautista bt Bernard Tomic 6-3, 6-2; Stan Wawrinka bt Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 6-4.

Milos Raonic bt Lucas Pouille 6-4, 6-4; Jan-Lennard Struff bt Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-2.

ICC's roadmap to resolve BCCI, NADA's concerns

WADA to defer further review until the issue can be fully assessed

ANTI-DOPING

G. VISWANATH

MUMBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC), which is a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code, has prepared a roadmap to resolve the concerns between the BCCI and NADA, the national anti-doping organisation in India.

The ICC has shown the BCCI specific roadmap to the World Anti-Doing Agency (WADA). In turn, the BCCI has proposed to the NADA, its plan of action.

Almost a year ago, WADA had urged the ICC to find a solution to make the BCCI NADA-compliant.

A WADA spokesman told

The Hindu: "As a result (the roadmap prepared by the ICC), the Independent Compliance Review Committee has agreed to defer further review of this issue until the success of that roadmap can be fully assessed. The WADA is in communication with the ICC."

Asked about WADA's line of action on Prithvi Shaw being given an eight-month ban, the spokesman said: "We have no comment to make at the moment. We will review the case, as we always do, and follow the usual process accordingly."

The BCCI, through its CEO Rahul Johri and Anti-Doping Manager, Dr. Abhijeet Dalvi, are likely to meet sports ministry officials and explain their position.

Sunil Joshi applies for India bowling coach's job



Sunil Joshi ■ AFP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Former India spinner Sunil Joshi has applied for the national team bowling coach's job with the belief that the Virat Kohli-led side needs a spin expert.

"Yes, I have applied (for bowling coach). After a fruitful two and a half year stint with Bangladesh, I am ready for the next challenge. India have not had a specialist spin coach for a while and hopefully that is where my expertise will be considered," Joshi said.

"If you see, most international teams have specialists as part of their support staff. Be it a pace bowling coach or spin coach."

"The Indian team too needs one."

"It is the need of the hour, it does not matter whether it is me or someone else," said the 49-year-old, whose stint

with Bangladesh ended with the World Cup.

Before coaching international and Ranji Trophy sides, Joshi has played alongside the greats of Indian cricket between 1996 and 2001.

He took 41 wickets in 15 Tests at an average of 35.85 and 69 scalps in as many ODIs at 36.36.

The Karnataka stalwart has also 615 first-class wickets to his name in 160 games at 25.12.

Improving skills

Talking more about the role of a spin coach, Joshi said: "If any team thinks that it does not need a spin coach, then the mindset is wrong. In international cricket, if you don't mature fast enough as a spinner, you will be found out, you have to keep improving your skills and guile."

du Plessis to lead against India in Tests



notions in India next month ahead of the Test series, its first in the new world Test championship, which starts on October 2.

Thabang Moroe, the chief executive of CSA, said he hoped the appointments in a new structure for the national team would be made before England starts a tour of South Africa in December.

India women enter last eight

SQUASH

SPORTS BUREAU

KUALA LUMPUR

India secured a quarterfinal berth in the World junior women's team squash championship here on Tuesday, posting wins over Ireland and New Zealand by identical 3-0 margins in the Group C league.

The results:

India bt Ireland 3-0 (Sanya Vats bt Emma McGugan 8-11, 11-4, 11-2, 11-9; Yoshina Singh bt Emma Lundy 11-7, 12-10, 11-4; Ananya Dabke bt Kelly Byrne 11-6, 11-3, 11-1). **India bt New Zealand 3-0** (Sanya Vats bt Anika Jackson 11-6, 11-9, 11-4; Ananya Dabke bt Georgia Robcke 11-5, 11-7, 11-6; Aishwarya Khubchandani bt Natalie Sayes 11-4, 11-4, 11-4).

Satwik and Chirag pull out

HYDERABAD OPEN

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

HYDERABAD

The on-going Hyderabad Open badminton championship, which has been hit by the absence of the leading Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu and K. Srikanth, who skipped the event to prepare for the forthcoming World championships, suffered another huge blow with the withdrawal of the star men's doubles combination of R. Satwikairaj and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday.

C. Rahul Yadav put it across Anant Shivam Jindal 21-14, 21-17 in a first round match.

In the women's singles qualifying second round, 17-year-old Aakarshi Kashyap, a member of the last Asian Games, surprised the more seasoned and 26-year-old Tanvi Lad 21-15, 21-8 late in the evening.

Sally Pearson announces retirement

Cites persistent injury as the reason behind her decision

ATHLETICS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SYDNEY

Australia's reigning world-champion hurdler Sally Pearson announced her surprise retirement on Tuesday, as persistent injuries sank her dream of regaining the Olympic title in Tokyo next year.

Pearson, 32, the Olympic gold-medallist in 2012 and a two-time world champion over 100 metres hurdles, said after years of injuries her body "is just not up to it".

"After 16 years of being on the Australian team, it's time to hang up the spikes," Pearson told a press conference here.

Recounting a litany of injuries which have plagued

her since she won gold at the London Olympics in 2012, Pearson said the problems were "just ongoing and ongoing".

"Every time I want to go fast, the body doesn't want

to go," Pearson said.

"I have huge doubts for

the next year for me to be able to continue at the level that I expect of myself, and

so. I don't think I could take any more injuries," she said.

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