

# OnePlus Widens Lead over Apple and Samsung

with OnePlus 7 Launch in the Indian Premium Segment in Q2 2019

BY KARN CHAUHAN



Smartphone shipments in the premium segment ( $\geq$  ₹30,000 or roughly  $\geq$  US\$430) grew an impressive 33% annually in India way above the single-digit overall smartphone shipment growth during Q2 2019.

This growth was mainly driven by new flagship launches from OnePlus in terms of OnePlus 7 series, price cuts from Apple for its iPhone XR and aggressive promotions from Samsung for Galaxy S10 series. Second quarter was the first-ever quarter when premium segment had the highest number of models, offering wide variety of choice for consumers. As a result, the total shipment volumes in the premium segment reached an all-time high.

India Premium Segment Shipment Market Share - Q2 2019 OnePlus saw a strong uptake of its flagship OnePlus 7-series regaining the top spot back after falling behind Samsung in Q1 2019. OnePlus captured its highest ever shipment share of 43% in this segment widening the gap with Samsung and Apple.

**"OnePlus 7 Pro seems to have raised the bar in more than one ways."**

-Gadgets Now

OnePlus continues to offer premium flagship features to Indian consumers at affordable prices. Having said that, with multiple model strategy, OnePlus debuted into the ultra-premium segment ( $\geq$  ₹45,000 or roughly  $\geq$  US\$645) with OnePlus 7 Pro and immediately captured 26% share.

This ultra-premium segment is a subset of the overall premium segment and usually led by Samsung and Apple. With healthy sales of Samsung Galaxy S10-series, OnePlus 7 Pro and Apple iPhone XR the volumes in this segment almost doubled.

Samsung dropped to the second position in overall premium-segment holding 22% share with volumes declining 16% YoY. However, promotions for

the S10 series remain strong. Galaxy S10 Plus was the top model for Samsung despite the availability of cheaper Galaxy S10e. This shows that India consumers are ready to pay more for a premium experience. Apple's volumes in this segment doubled annually in Q2 2019 driven by iPhone XR thanks to the price correction in April. Apple is also doubling down on its efforts to localize local manufacturing which will help them save 20% on import duties and can

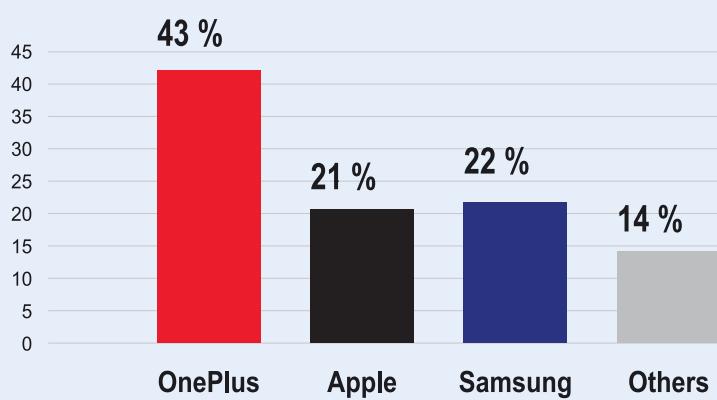
potentially pass on to consumers or use it to build its retail footprint and upcoming festive season discounting/marketing.

As Indian smartphone consumers become more mature and are looking to buy their second or third smartphone, the premium segment is becoming a key battle ground to acquire

these premium consumers.

The new brands to watch out which could disrupt with premium features with offerings lurking around ( $\geq$  ₹30,000 or roughly  $\geq$  US\$430) price points are Xiaomi, OPPO, Vivo and Asus lowering the barriers for consumers with aggressive flagship-grade offerings.

India Premium Smartphone Shipment Market Share - Q2 2019



Source: Counterpoint Technology Market Research

**"OnePlus 7 Pro – Blazing fast and oh, so good looking!"**

-PC Mag India

India Premium Smartphone Shipment Market Share – Q2 2019





oneplus.in

# OnePlus 7 | 7 Pro

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## Red alert

The flood situation remains grim in Gujarat, western Maharashtra, coastal Karnataka and coastal Kerala, with the IMD predicting more rain in the next few days in these States

**MAHARASHTRA:** The worst affected are the districts of Pune, Satara, Solapur, Sangli and Kolhapur. About 1.5 lakh people have been evacuated from these areas, while at least 16 have died

**KARNATAKA:** Nearly 44,000 people have been evacuated from the coastal Karnataka and the Konkan region. Belagavi, Uttara Kannada and Shivamogga are the worst-hit



**KERALA:** A 'red alert' has been sounded in Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Idukki, IMD sources said. Kannur and Kasaragod are on alert

**CRISIS COMMITTEE:** At the meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee, Cabinet Secretary P.K. Sinha did a status check

We are keeping a close eye on the situation  
**PINRAY VIJAYAN** KERALA CM



REPORTS ON PAGES 8 & 9

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## NEARBY



### Apex court firm on NRC deadline of August 31

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Thursday told National Register of Citizens authorities in Assam to stand firm on the August 31 deadline for publishing its list. "You be prepared to publish it," a Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice R.F. Nariman told Assam NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

### Can 'janmasthan' be a 'juristic person', asks SC

NEW DELHI  
On the third day of hearing in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute, the Supreme Court asked whether the birth place or 'janmasthan' can be regarded as a 'juristic person'. A five-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, made the query to 'Ram Lalla Virajman', one of the parties in the case, on Thursday.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

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FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 8 PAGES  
(TABLOID)

# Statehood for Jammu & Kashmir will be restored: PM

Modi promises more investment, jobs and pay parity for J&K, Ladakh

**NISTULA HEBBAR**  
NEW DELHI

Two days after both Houses of Parliament cleared the reading down of Article 370, which he termed a "weapon used by Pakistan against India and to invoke sentiments among the people."

"Article 370 and Article 35A had only given terrorism, separatism, nepotism and massive corruption to Jammu and Kashmir. These articles have been used as a weapon by Pakistan," he said.

Disturbances over the last 30 years, Mr. Modi said, had ended up killing 42,000 innocent people.

The Prime Minister pointed out that while the country took justifiable pride in its democratic process of law-making, many of these laws, including the Right to Education, the Minimum Wages Act and Acts to prevent atrocities on Dalits, were not applicable in the State in the past.

He also pointed out that those who had settled in Jammu and Kashmir after Partition could only vote in the Lok Sabha elections and not in the Assembly or local bodies elections. With the reading down of Articles 370 and 35A, this was now over, he said.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

**KARAN SINGH BACKS**

**CENTRE'S DECISION ▶ PAGE 13**

**SC DECLINES URGENT HEARING**

**ON J&K STATUS ▶ PAGE 13**

Mr. Modi's speech, which



**Stiff curbs:** Security men stop a vehicle for checking in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Review decision on ties, India tells Pakistan

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Pakistan should review its decision to downgrade ties and suspend trade with India, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

In a statement, the Ministry said Pakistan's actions were aimed at presenting an "alarmist" picture to the world.

It said the ending of the special status to Jammu and Kashmir was an internal matter of India, aimed at bringing development opportunities to the people

there. Pakistan exploited the lack of development to generate disaffection and "to justify its cross-border terrorism", it said.

"The Government of India regrets the steps announced by Pakistan yesterday [on Wednesday] and would urge that country to review them so that normal channels of communications are preserved," the statement said.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

**THREE RETURN ON BUS ▶ PAGE 12**

**'PAK. AIRSPACE CURBS WILL NOT HAVE MUCH IMPACT' ▶ PAGE 13**

**KNEE-JERK ▶ EDITORIAL**

## Samjhauta Express not suspended: Railways

**YUTHIKA BHARGAVA**

NEW DELHI

A senior Railways official said on Thursday that the Lahore-Atari Samjhauta Express train service had not been suspended.

The clarification followed Pakistan's decision to stop the train from Lahore to Attari at Wagah in Pakistan, citing security concerns, leaving 110 passengers, including 48 Pakistanis, stranded.

Following this, the Railways sent its crew and guard to escort the train to its destination.

"Pakistan authorities had

raised concerns about security for the crew and guard...

We told them that the situation is normal on this side," Northern Railway spokesperson Deepak Kumar said.

After a delay of several hours, the train with the Indian crew reached Attari at 5.15 p.m. The return train, with 70 passengers waiting to cross over to Pakistan, left Attari at 6.40 p.m.

(With inputs from Mehmal Sarfraz in Islamabad)

**PAK. TO STOP SAMJHAUTA SERVICES: MINISTER ▶ PAGE 13**

I just want to tell Ammi I am fine'

VIJAYA SINGH  
SRINAGAR

A resident of Baramulla in north Kashmir, Sajjad has not heard from his mother for the past week. "Tell them to restore mobile connectivity for only a minute, I just want to tell Ammi I am fine. She could be almost dead without hearing from me," the 27-year-old hotel employee said. "They say everything is normal in Kashmir. The last time I read a newspaper was five days ago. I do not trust what the Delhi-based television channels are airing. There is no celebration here, we are not happy."

Sajjad's sentiments are echoed by a large number of people *The Hindu* spoke to in Srinagar after the Valley was placed under lockdown on the night of August 4. There is palpable anger at the Centre's decision to annul Article 370, which gave a special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

Emotions are running high. Just before noon, some men converged at Zero Bridge, one of the arterial roads of the city, smashed vehicles and tried to damage the camera of a television channel.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

**OPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 13**

## SAIL chairman assaulted in road rage incident

Drunk accused attacked him with iron rod; two arrested, two on the run

**SAURABH TRIVEDI**

NEW DELHI

The chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Anil Kumar Chaudhary, was assaulted in the Hauz Khas area in an alleged case of road rage, the police said on Thursday. Two accused were arrested from the spot while two others managed to flee, said the police, adding that a manhunt has been launched for them.

The incident was reported at 10.30 p.m. on Wednesday when Mr. Chaudhary was returning home from office. His car was hit by another car

held him by the neck. To pacify the aggressors, Mr. Chaudhary came out of his car and was also attacked," said Vijay Kumar, DCP (South).

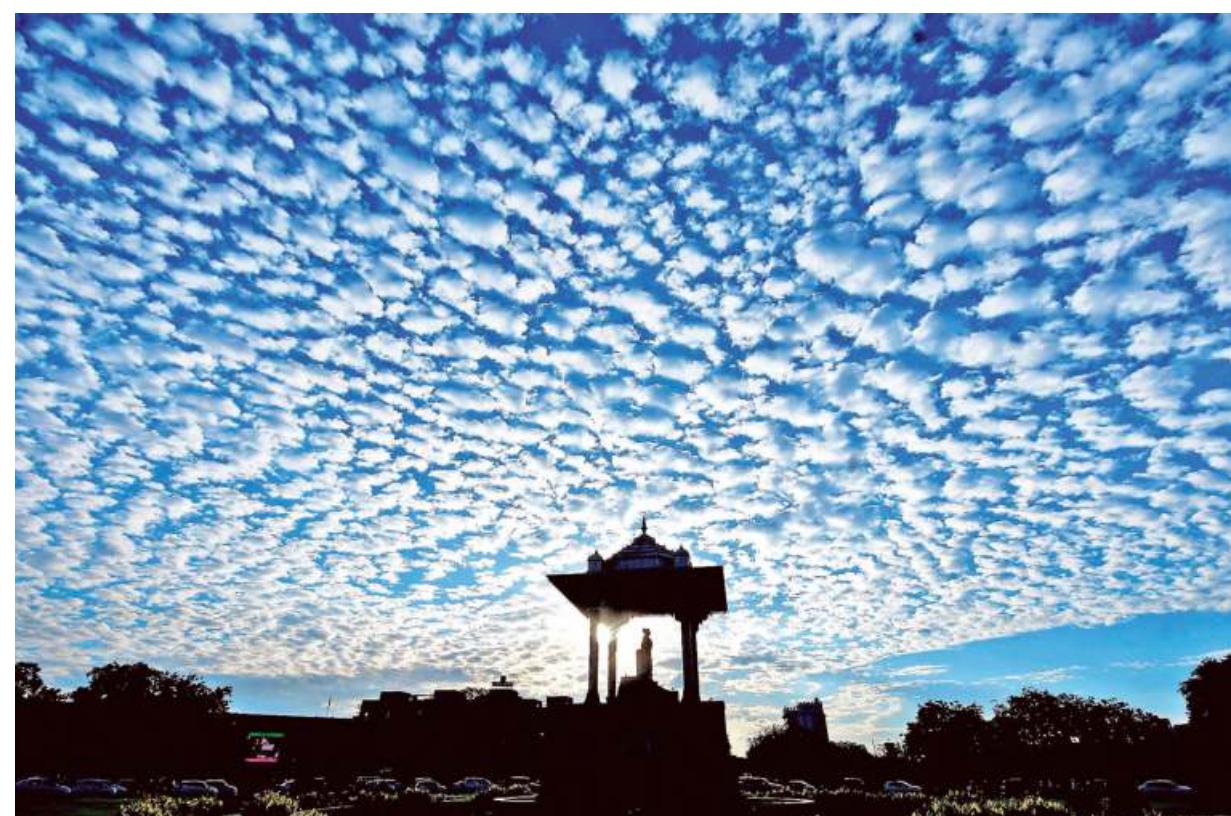
**Rescued by patrol team** Mr. Chaudhary was assaulted with an iron rod and suffered injuries on his head, neck, knees and legs. Two policemen from Defence Colony police station who were patrolling in the area reached the spot after seeing a man being thrashed on the road, Mr. Kumar said.

"Two of the attackers were caught by the policemen

while two others managed to flee the spot. The arrested accused have been identified as Lalit, a resident of Dwarka, and Amardeep, from Uttam Nagar, and their car has been impounded. They were in an inebriated state at the time of arrest," said Mr. Kumar.

A case under Sections 307 and 34 of the IPC has been registered. Reacting to the incident, Mr. Chaudhary said, "I was taken by surprise by this unexpected and violent attack by the assailants. I am confident that the police will probe the matter and book all the culprits."

Patterns in the sky



Clouds over the Statue Circle in Jaipur brought some relief to the residents from the scorching sun on Thursday. ■ ROHIT JAIN PARAS

## Bharat Ratna presented to Pranab

Bhupen Hazarika and Nanaji Deshmukh given award posthumously



President Ram Nath Kovind confers Bharat Ratna upon former President Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday. ■ PTI

**Dignitaries present**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Home

Shashi Thaoor were also among the guests.

Soon after receiving the award, the former President went and greeted Mr. Modi and other dignitaries who were seated on the front row. Mr. Mukherjee's daughter Sharmista and son Abhijeet also attended the ceremony.

When the awards were announced, Hazarika's son Tej had made a public statement about not accepting the award in protest against the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill that would make it easier for Hindu migrants from Bangladesh to become citizens in Assam. Subsequently, he changed his position and called the award a "great honour" for the family and the people of Assam.

**T.C.A. SHARAD RAGHAVAN**  
NEW DELHI

In a bid to ease the concerns of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) over the increased surcharge announced in the Budget, the Finance Ministry is considering "grandfathering" the income earned by them up to the Budget (July), a Ministry official said.

Under the proposal, FPIs that are so far structured as trusts will not have to pay the increased surcharge. But if they don't change their structure, they will have to pay the surcharge from the set date. "There is a proposal being considered where the government is considering grandfathering the income earned by FPIs that are trusts up to the date of the Budget," the official told *The Hindu*. "But no decision has been taken as yet on this." Markets reacted favourably to the news that the surcharge would be tweaked, with the Sensex and the Nifty posting their biggest single-day gains since May.

**SENSEX SOARS ON REPORTS OF ROLL-BACK ▶ PAGE 15**

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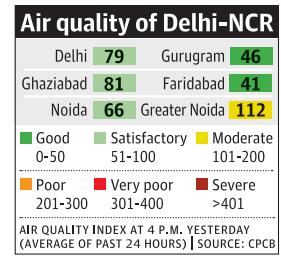
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CM YK



# 'Why is J&K under curfew if move is welcomed?'

DU students and professors protest against amendment to Article 370; question legality of government's move

**AARUSHI AGGARWAL**  
NEW DELHI

**Dance:** The second day of IIC Monsoon Festival of Dance will feature Vilasini Natyam by Purvadhanashree from Bangalore, followed by Odissi recital by Guru Madhavi Mudgal at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 6 p.m.

**Dance:** Ummed: Colors of Hope tells the story of self-image, chronic illness and mental health through a Kathak dance choreography by Sunena Gupta At The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Music:** Dhrupad recital by Sagar Morwarkar, a disciple of Pt. Uday Bhawalkar at Amritas Hall, IHC, 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Kala Sampada" an exhibition to promote the exquisite traditional Craft at Central Cottage Industries Emporium, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Screening:** "Nabbie's Love" a Japanese film will be screened with English subtitles at The Japan Foundation, 5A, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, 6.30 p.m.

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

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of One new born child (male) **Name:** Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, **Height:** 1 and half feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, Left hand and right foot half part below knee is missing and whole body is mutilated, who was found in Kasturba Hospital near female toilet. In this regard a case FIR No. 151/19 U/s 318 IPC has been registered at P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi.

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

**Sd/- SHO**  
**P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi**  
**DP/6489/CD/19 Tel. No. 011-23261625, 23269777**

**Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads**  
Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency, First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun, Ref. No. 1223/II-02(xiv)/ITCO/URRDA/19 Dated: 06-08-2019

### Bharat Nirman Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice-07/(Regular PMGSY\_World Bank & Relaying)/2019-20

The Government of India has received a loan/credit 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 NI. Building 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 District of Almora, Chamoli, Nainital, Pauri, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri & Uttarakashi for 15 number of Package with estimated cost total to Rs. 61.42 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: 13-08-2019.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidders is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are 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 up to or before the time and date of the 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.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 09-09-2019 01:00 PM

For further details please log on to www.pmgstenders.gov.in

**Chief Engg.,  
URRDA, Dehradun**

\* Non-registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get Registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.

Note:- For e-procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2761531 number may be contacted 10:00 am to 5:00 PM.

### Government of Maharashtra

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

#### Special Project (P.W.) Div No. 2 Daryapur

E-mail Address:- daryapur.ee@mahapwd.com

Tel/Fax No. 07224-234231

#### E - Tender Notice no. 10 Year 2019-20/Date-05.08.2019

Online E-tenders in B-I form for following work is invited by Executive Engineer Special Project (P.W.) Division No.2, Daryapur Phone No. 07224-234231 on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State either from Registered Contractors with Public Works Dept. Govt. of Maharashtra or Unregistered Contractors. The right to accept or reject the tender has been reserved with Executive

Engineer, Special Project Division No-2 , Daryapur. Conditional tender will not be accepted.

Sl.No	Name of Work	Estimate Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNAL CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD IN DARYAPUR COUNCIL AREA 1]Hanuman mandi to Rafat bhai 2] Ajmatullah to Azad moulana & 3]shri. Nalhe to Band 4]Kalpande to Thorat 5] Shri Athawale to Raibole 6] Bihaide to Missal Sabale 7] Shri Bobade to Athawale 8] Shri Rudrakar to Hirulker 9] Shri. Koulkhede to Sawarker 10] Shri. Gite to Shri Patting 11] Shri. Wankhadhe to Shri Bhadangle 12] Vaidhya Wada to Rohidas Nagar 13] Babhali Bridge Gabian wall 14] Shri Shinde to Shri. Rathi 15] Ekbal marchiya to Erfan Ghaniwale 16] Shri Umale to Shri pakhalke 17] Shri Rajaniker to Shri Khedker 18] Shri. Tekade to Shri. Dilip Sonare 19] Akot road to Shri. Sawarker 20] Kayumbhai to jahir kirana 21] Shri. Choukhande to Shri. Ganorkar 22] Shri. Anjangaon road to SK. Hanif to bholeswar mandir 23] Babhali bridge to Bholeswar mandir 24] Shri Kaware house to Pappu mirza 25] Shri. Sham Sakhare to Shri. Bhadangle	78288515.00
2	IMPROVEMENT TO YEODA-SASAN - NANDRUN RAMAGAD-RAMTIRTH ROAD IN AMRAVATI DIST. M.D.R. NO. 5 KM 0/00 TO 3/500, 6/00 TO 7/00 ; 10/00 TO 13/500 UNDER BUDGET 2019-20.	26143102.00

Period of download of bidding document :- Dt. 09.08.2019 @ 10.00 to Dt.19.08.2019 @ 23.30

Pre bid conference date, time and venue :- Dt.14.08.2019 Office of Chief Engineer, Public Works Region Amravati

Opening technical & financial bids :- Dt. 26.08.2019 @ 10.00 to Dt. 27.08.2019 @ 17.30

Note:- Above E-Tender Notice details available on below website.

1) <http://mahapwd.com>

2) <https://pwd.maharashtra.etenders.in>

Please note the further changes regarding this works will not be published through corrigendum by press notice, the changes will be available only on Electronic Tendering system of Government of Maharashtra which is available on the Portal <https://pwd.maharashtra.etenders.in>

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer  
S.P.(P.W.) No.2 Daryapur**

DGIPR/2019/2020/1865



Members of students' organisations stage a protest against the amendment to Article 370 by the Centre, at the DU Arts Faculty on North Campus on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

SA) and Pinjra Tod among others, the protest was dominated by women students who took the lead in raising slogans supporting Kashmiri women.

Amidst chants of "Kashmir ki auratein, hum tum-

hare saath hain (Women of Kashmir, we are with you)", those protesting condemned the statement made by a BJP MLA who had earlier said that BJP workers are now at the liberty to marry "gori" [fair] Kashmiri women.

A Kashmiri student from Miranda House, while addressing the gathering said, "They've murdered my choice. They've murdered my self-respect," referring to the MLA's remark. She added, "If the move is wel-

If they truly believe that the move will benefit people then a referendum should be held. Let the people decide

**NABILA ANSARI**  
Student of St. Stephen's College

comed in Kashmir, then why is it under curfew? These people are hungry for power"

Arfat Jaffri, a resident of Poonch added, "People were ready to go home for Id, but now we do not know if we will be able to leave or come back."

While the legality of the government's move is being questioned, Nandita Narain, former president of the Delhi University Teachers' Association said, "The Presidential order states that support of the J&K Assembly was secured, except there is no Legislative Assembly. Consent

was given by the Governor, a representative of the President. Essentially, the President took permission from himself."

#### Heavy militarisation

For Nabila Ansari, a second-year student of St. Stephen's College, it is important for the government to hold a referendum.

"If they truly believe that the move will benefit people then a referendum should be held. Let the people decide.

Armed BSF personnel and Delhi Police forces maintained vigil as students marched on shouting slogans of "370 waapas lao" and "Kashmir hum tumhare saath hain".

**NGT raps U.P. authorities over solid waste report**

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has pulled up the Uttar Pradesh government over a report filed by authorities pertaining to the compliance of solid waste management rules in Agra.

Taking note of the report furnished by the government, a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said that the report failed to show how the issue related to the treatment capacity of solid waste, was being addressed by the authorities.

#### Untreated sewage

Noting that 61% of the untreated sewage was being discharged into river Yamuna, the green panel directed the State government to furnish a performance guarantee of ₹25 crore.

The NGT warned the authorities that coercive measures will be taken against those responsible, in case of non-compliance of orders.

#### Progress report

"A further compliance report may also be furnished on the progress made in cumulative tabular form,

indicating the progress against each head, monthly, by October 31. The timeline must be prompt having regard to the serious implications on environment and public health on account of long time continued failure of the State," the Bench said.

The directions came when the panel was hearing a plea that alleged violation of environmental norms by illegal constructions that had come up in the Tughlakabad Extension area.

Earlier,

the tribunal had

sought a factual and action-taken report from a joint committee comprising repre-

sentatives from the Central Pollution Control Board and the SDMC. A report fur-

nished by the committee had stated that the properties in question "were unauthorised having no clearance or sanction or approved building plans".

## NGT demands action-taken report on Tughlakabad 'encroachers'

Panel was hearing plea alleging illegal constructions in area

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which manages the IGI Airport here, to identify buildings around the aerodrome that may be obstacles to the flight path and take action against them.

The direction was issued by a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar while disposing of a PIL seeking directions to DGCA, DIAL, and other authorities to carry out a survey of obstacles around the Delhi airport and remove them.

The Bench also noted, "The Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel took note of a report filed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and observed, "The report dated August 5 filed by the DPCC states that due process has been initiated and electricity and water supply to the illegal structures will be disconnected within one week."

The civic body also in-

formed the tribunal that demolition activities will be undertaken "with police help at the earliest".

The directions came when the panel was hearing a plea that alleged violation of environmental norms by illegal constructions that had come up in the Tughlakabad Extension area.

Earlier, the tribunal had

sought a factual and action-taken report from a joint committee comprising repre-

sentatives from the Central Pollution Control Board and the SDMC. A report fur-

nished by the committee had stated that the properties in question "were unauthorised having no clearance or sanction or approved building plans".

## Order on plea for NBW against Kamal Nath's nephew today

Accused is evading probe, claim ED prosecutors

**NIRNIMESH KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday reserved order on an Enforcement Directorate's plea for issuance of a non-bailable arrest warrant against Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in a money laundering case connected with the ₹3,600 crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar reserved the order for August 9 on conclusion of argument by Special Public Prosecutors D.P. Singh and N.K. Matta for the Directorate.

#### 'Accused may flee'

The prosecutors submitted that Mr. Puri was evading probe and the investigating agency had the apprehension that he might flee the country. To buttress their charges, they

said the accused had slipped away midway through his interrogation on July 26 when he sought leave for lunch and the very next day applied for anticipatory bail. It showed that his conduct was not bona fide so far the investigation was concerned, they submitted.

They submitted that in the past two days, the probe agency had sent two summons to him for appearance for investigation but there was no response from him.

Meanwhile, counsel for the accused Vijay Aggarwal moved an application for the impleadment of his client in the

# China says it will never seek hegemony in national defense white paper

China says it will never seek hegemony, expansion or spheres of influence in its latest white paper on national defense.

"This is the distinctive feature of China's national defense in the new era," said the white paper released by the State Council Information Office.

Titled "China's National Defense in the New Era," the white paper expounded on the country's defensive national defense policy and explained the practice, purposes and significance of China's efforts to build a fortified national defense and a strong military.

The 27,000-character white paper is the 10th of its kind since 1998 and the first comprehensive one since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012.

## DEFENSIVE STRATEGY

China pursues a national defense policy that is defensive in nature, which is determined by its socialist system, strategic decision to follow the path of peaceful development, independent foreign policy of peace and cultural traditions, the white paper said.

The fundamental goal of China's national defense in the new era is to resolutely safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests, according to the white paper.

"China firmly believes that hegemony and expansion are doomed to failure, and security and prosperity shall be shared," it said.

The white paper shows the trans-



BEIJING, April 25, 2018 (Xinhua) -- The military band of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force takes part in a military band parade held at the Beijing Olympic Park during a military band festival of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, in Beijing, capital of China, April 25, 2018. (Xinhua/Ju Zhenhua)

parency of China's strategic intentions, and will help reassure countries worrying about China's development and shatter the fabricated "China threat theory," said Shi Qingren, an associate research fellow

with the Academy of Military Sciences (AMS).

## MILITARY SPENDING

China's defense expenditure is reasonable and appropriate, said the white paper.

Defense expenditure as a percentage of GDP has fallen from 5.43 percent in 1979 to 1.26 percent in 2017. It has remained below 2 percent for the past three decades.

The fact that China's defense expenditure ranks second in the world is determined by the demands of its national defense, the size of its economy, and the defensive nature of its national defense policy, according to the white paper. From 2012 to 2017, China's average defense expenditure, as a percentage of GDP, was about 1.3 percent, ranking the lowest among the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

In step with national economic development, China's defense expenditure will maintain moderate and steady growth, said the white paper.



BEIJING, Jan. 12, 2018 (Xinhua) -- A military parade is held to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army at Zhurihe training base in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, July 30, 2017. (Xinhua/Yao Dawei)

building of infrastructure and deployment of necessary defensive capabilities on the islands and reefs in the South China Sea.

By addressing those hot issues, the Chinese armed forces have shown their frankness and self-confidence, said Deng Bibo, also an AMS associate research fellow.

Concrete facts, figures and tables have given more information to the readers and enhanced the white paper's transparency and cogency, according to AMS researcher Cao Yanzhong.

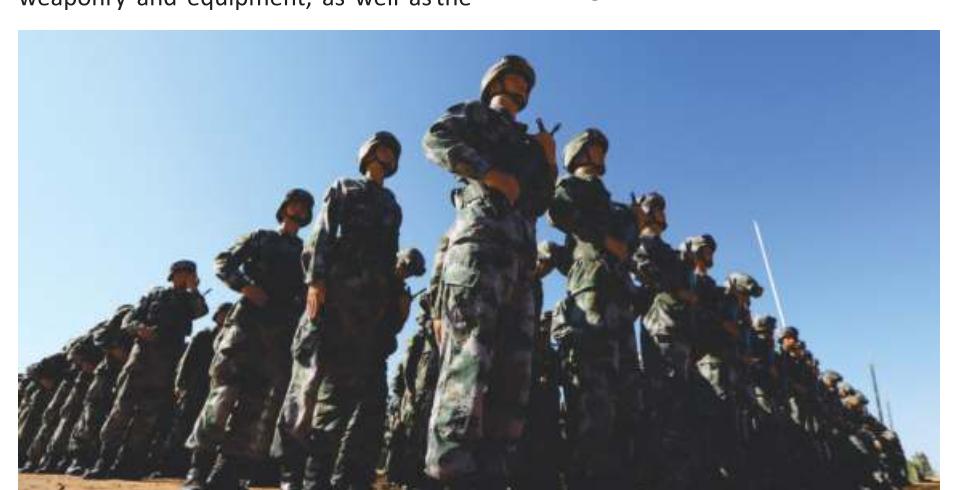
## WORLD PEACE PROMOTER

The white paper proposed for the first time that actively contributing to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind is the global significance of China's national defense in the new era.

"Peace, stability and prosperity in China present opportunities and benefits to the rest of the world," said the white paper. "A strong military of China is a staunch force for world peace, stability and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind."

China's armed forces have provided a number of public security goods to the international community to the best of their capacity, including the UN peacekeeping operations, vessel protection operations, international efforts in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Committed to the principle of win-win cooperation, China's armed forces will fulfill their international responsibilities and obligations, it said.



ZHURIHE, July 30, 2017 (Xinhua) -- Troops make preparation for a military parade at Zhurihe training base in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, July 30, 2017. (Xinhua/Ju Zhenhua)

# Commentary: China's national defense white paper sends signal of peace



QINGDAO, April 24, 2019 (Xinhua) -- Visitors view the landing vessel Jinggangshan of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy during a warship open day event in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, April 24, 2019. (Xinhua/Guo Xulei)

China issued a white paper on national defense in the new era, sending a strong signal for peace.

The white paper titled "China's National Defense in the New Era" made clear China's peaceful stance of never seeking hegemony, firmly maintaining world peace and stability and actively contributing to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The world is witnessing changes unseen in a century. While peace is an irresistible trend in today's world

international security systems and order are undermined by growing hegemonism, power politics, unilateralism and constant regional conflicts and wars.

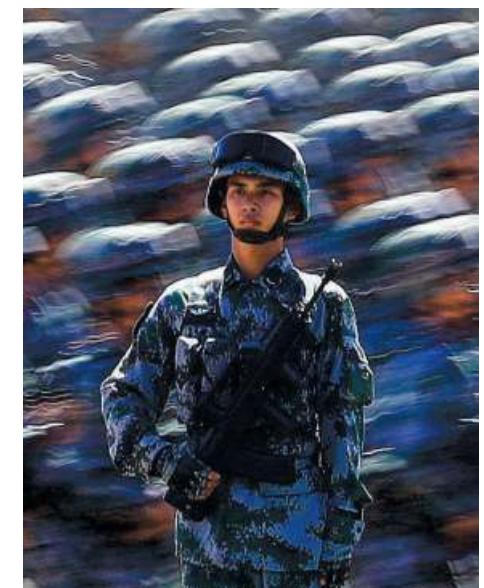
Humanity has once again come to a crossroads. Important choices must be made between multilateralism and unilateralism, cooperation and confrontation, win-win progress and a zero-sum game.

It is clear that China will never seek hegemony, expansion or spheres of influence. No matter how it might

develop, China will never follow the beaten track that a country will inevitably seek hegemony when it becomes powerful.

China firmly believes that hegemony and expansion are doomed to failure, and security and prosperity shall be shared.

For the first time, the white paper defined the global significance of China's national defense as actively



ZHURIHE, July 30, 2017 (Xinhua) -- A soldier is seen during a military parade at Zhurihe training base in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, July 30, 2017. China on Sunday kicked off a grand military parade to mark the 90th founding anniversary of the People's Liberation Army. (Xinhua/Ju Zhenhua)



BEIJING, Aug. 13, 2017 (Xinhua) -- The Sky Wing Air Demonstration Team performs in the sky during the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force Aviation Open Day in Changchun, capital city of northeast China's Jilin Province, Aug. 11, 2017. (Xinhua/Lin Hong)

national defense as actively contributing to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Peace is a common aspiration of people around the world. Development is an ever-lasting theme.

China has made every effort to create favorable conditions for its development by maintaining world peace and has equally endeavored to promote world peace through its own development.

A peaceful, stable and prosperous China brings opportunities and

benefits to the rest of the world.

A strong Chinese military is a staunch force keeping world peace and contributing to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

China is committed to peaceful development and will work with people of all countries to safeguard world peace and promote common development. This is China's answer to the world.

**IN BRIEF**

**Murder accused on the run for two years nabbed**

NEW DELHI A man, who was wanted in an attempt to murder case in Mangolpuri area and was absconding for the past two years, has been arrested, the police said on Thursday. Hemchand had previously served 17 years in prison in Kunjum Budhiraja murder case, said an officer. The accused was previously involved in seven cases of heinous crimes, the police said. DCP (Crime) Dr. G Ram Gopal Naik said after a tip-off Hemchand was arrested from Moti Bagh on Wednesday.

**Constable found dead in Dwarka**

NEW DELHI A 33-year-old constable was found dead at her rented accommodation in Dwarka's Chhawla on Wednesday night, the police said on Thursday. No note has been recovered, they said. An officer said she was upset.

## Minor kidnapped, gang-raped twice in one night in Nuh

Complaint lodged days after the incident; no arrests made yet

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NUH**  
A teenaged girl was allegedly kidnapped and gang-raped twice, first by the kidnappers and then by two men she sought help from, in one night in Punhana here over a week ago.

The matter was reported to the police earlier this week. No arrests have been made in the case so far.

According to the police, the 15-year-old girl had gone missing from outside her house in Punhana on July 30 evening.

Her family looked for her in the neighbourhood but failed to find her. She returned home the next morning.

Initially, the girl did not

## Youth held for killing 8-yr-old

Accused kidnapped the boy as he needed money for studies

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**NEW DELHI**

A 19-year-old youth was arrested for allegedly kidnapping and killing an 8-year-old boy, the police said on Thursday.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Ravi Ranjan said Gautam had committed the crime as he needed money for his studies. On July 23, the boy went missing from outside his house in Aman Vihar after which a kidnapping case was registered based on his father's complaint, the police said.

**Demanded ₹25 lakh**

Two days later, a body was found in a drain in Kirari and was identified as the complainant's son. "When the father was at Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, he received a call



The accused in police custody on Thursday.  
• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

wherein the caller said the body recovered was not of his son's but was of someone else. The caller demanded a ransom of ₹25 lakh," Mr. Ranjan said, adding that when the father went to give the money, the kidnapper didn't turn up.

During investigation, the caller's details were analysed and it was concluded that the kidnapper knows the family. Gautam's movement was found suspicious

and he was then picked up for questioning, the police said.

During interrogation, Gautam confessed to the crime. The police said he had also stolen jewelry in 2018 but the matter was never reported. "He used to often visit complainant's house. Gautam had dropped the boy to school a few times. His friend had found a SIM card on the road and gave it to him. He thought he will use it for making ransom calls," the officer said.

On the day of the incident, Gautam took the boy with him on the pretext of taking him to the market and pushed him into a drain. Following this, the accused helped the family find the boy.

The police are now probing the role of his friend.

### DCW notice to police on acid attack victim's complaint

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Commission for Women on Thursday said they issued a notice to the police regarding an acid attack victim's complaint, seeking details on why the accused have not been arrested yet.

"The commission received a complaint from a girl who said she had complained to the police in 2014 that a few men in her neighbourhood molested her. She said ever since the complaint, she and her family members have been subjected to several attacks," a DCW official said.

A case has been registered on charges of kidnapping and criminal intimidation under sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

The investigation into the case has been transferred to the women police station.

Later, some villagers gathered at the spot and the accused fled.

# APPEAL

My dear fellow residents of Delhi,



Trees provide an invaluable lifeline for all of us and in return seek nothing from human beings. They are the basic building blocks of our environment.

Fortunately, Delhi is a metropolis with high awareness levels and the citizens have consistently contributed in continuously increasing the green cover of the city during last few years.

In an effort to inculcate the habit of plantation of saplings among citizens, Delhi has been organizing Van Mahotsava wherein tree plantation drives have been undertaken. Last year, about **29 lakhs saplings** were planted in Delhi.

This year too an ambitious target of planting **24 lakhs saplings** has been set by the Delhi Government.

On 9<sup>th</sup> August, Friday this year, Delhi Government will organize a 'Mega Tree Plantation Drive' in which saplings shall be planted at various locations across Delhi. The Department of Forests and Wildlife will distribute free saplings to the citizens for planting them at their desired locations. Details of the plantation drive are at [www.forest.delhigovt.nic.in](http://www.forest.delhigovt.nic.in)

I invite all citizens, RWAs, NGOs, Eco Clubs, School Students to come out and participate in the tree plantation drive to make our city more green and pollution free.

- Arvind Kejriwal  
Chief Minister, Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार

आप की सरकार

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WILDLIFE  
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

# Congratulations Delhi !

To solve the problem of water scarcity in your city

## Inauguration of Creation of Natural Water Reservoirs to conserve rainwater on the floodplains of River Yamuna at Sungarpur

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 11 AM

Village: Sungarpur Village, Shank Number 17, Yamuna Pushta, Delhi

### Chief Guest

**Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**  
Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti,  
Govt. of India

### Guest of Honour

**Sh. Arvind Kejriwal**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार

Irrigation and Flood Control Department  
Government of NCT of Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार

## IN BRIEF

## Deputy CM meets 250 entrepreneurs

NEW DELHI  
Deputy CM Manish Sisodia addressed a group of 250 entrepreneurs on Thursday at the Delhi Secretariat Auditorium. He has, over the past few days, interacted with a total of 1,000 entrepreneurs over participation in the Delhi government's flagship Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum.

## Seven arrested for duping people in Noida

NOIDA  
Noida Police on Thursday busted a gang of seven that duped people by taking their debit and credit card details on the pretext of offering them discounts and reward points. Accused Deepak Mishra, Sumit Raj, Ravi Paswan, Sandeep Singh, Abhishek Kumar, Arvind Kumar and Monu Kumar are residents of Delhi. PTI

## Clarification

A report in *The Hindu's* edition dated August 8, 2019, stated that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal distributed smartphones to 10,000 anganwadi workers on Wednesday. The Chief Minister actually launched the distribution of 10,000 smartphones at an event. The error is regretted.

# Cabinet's green light to proposal for free Wi-Fi access for Delhiites

Chief Minister says 11,000 hotspots will be set up in the first phase of the project

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday approved a proposal which will allow residents of the city to avail of free Wi-Fi services across the Capital within the next three to four months.

A proposal to instal 1.4 lakh more CCTV cameras was also given a go-ahead.

## 15 GB data for free

Announcing these decisions approved by the Delhi Cabinet at a press conference here, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said people will also be able to use up to 15 GB free data every month as part of the Wi-Fi project, which envisages the setting up of 11,000 hotspots in the first phase.

"Every user will be given 15 GB data for free, which is, I think, the single biggest initiative of a government anywhere in the world. We will learn from the experience of the first phase of the project and will create

7,000 such hotspots spread across these Assembly segments, each, while 4,000 hotspots will be set up at bus queue shelters as part of the project that will be executed under a Public-Private Partnership model.

Wi-Fi services with 200 MBPS internet speed will be available within a 50-metre radius of the hotspot which will cater to connectivity for around 200 people at a time. The government also said that the Wi-Fi hotspots will be connected with CCTV cameras being installed under the AAP government's ambitious project in this regard.

In addition, the Chief Minister said, while the Delhi government was already in the process of installing 1.4 lakh CCTV cameras across the 70 Assembly segments - 2,000 per constituency - the Delhi Cabinet cleared a proposal to procure an additional 1.4 lakh such cameras for installation in the city.

"Delhi has become the

more hotspots, if required, later," Mr. Kejriwal told the media.

"In the next three-four months, the Delhi government will start providing free Wi-Fi to people. Our government will allot ₹100 crore annually for the project," he said, adding that with this, the AAP-led Delhi government fulfilled its major electoral promise of providing free Wi-Fi in the Capital.

According to the Chief Minister, the 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi will have 1,000 hotspots, totalling to

first city in the world where the government is installing nearly three lakh CCTV cameras in one go to ensure women's safety and to provide a major push to infrastructure. This was a major commitment of this government to the people. Whatever we can do towards ensuring women's security is being done," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Kejriwal, however, added that while public response in relation to the project had been "overwhelmingly positive", 2,000 cameras in each Assembly constituency "may not suffice".

"Today, the Cabinet has approved the purchase of 1.4 lakh more CCTV cameras. The tender process will now follow and the additional 1.4 lakh cameras will also start getting installed in the next three-four months," Mr. Kejriwal said, adding that a total of 2.8 lakh CCTV cameras will be up and running by the end of the year.

# Delhi Assembly Speaker disqualifies 2 more AAP MLAs

One terms it CM's political vengeance; other calls it Goel's bias

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

AAP rebel MLAs Anil Bajpai and Devinder Sehrawat were disqualified by Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Thursday, with effect from May 3 and May 6, 2019, respectively.

**CM is corrupt and has been robbing Delhiites... I will show him the way out of Delhi**

DEVINDER SEHRAWAT  
Disqualified MLA

In June, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj had moved a petition in the Delhi Assembly to disqualify the two MLAs.

"Consequently, the Gandhi Nagar and Bijwasan seats have fallen vacant," a press release by the Delhi Assembly read.

On August 2, AAP MLA Kapil Mishra was disqualified by the Speaker under the anti-defection law. The Speaker said that now a request to disqualify AAP Sultapur Majra legislator Sandeep Kumar is pending with him.

Mr. Bajpai

on May 3 and

Mr. Sehrawat

on May 6 had allegedly joined the BJP in two press conferences at the BJP headquarters in Delhi, in the presence of senior BJP leaders.

The BJP had also issued press releases on the same.

the BJP declaring that he has joined the party on 3.5.2019 clearly proves that he has voluntarily given up the membership of his party namely the AAP on 03.05.2019. Hence the respondent has become subject to disqualification on 03.05.2019."

**MLAs to move HC**  
When reached out, both Mr. Sehrawat and Mr. Bajpai said that they had told the Speaker that they never took a BJP membership and that they would challenge the order in the High Court.

"This is a political vengeance by Mr. Kejriwal. He is corrupt and has been robbing Delhiites of ₹50 lakh a day by charging ₹600 for high-security number plates that cost only ₹50. I had organised his initial meetings in Munirka and Bijwasan and shown him the way into Delhi and I will show him the way out of the city too," Mr. Sehrawat said.

Mr. Bajpai, meanwhile, termed the Speaker's decision as "undemocratic" and termed him "biased".

## 'CM kept all 70 promises made before 2015 polls'

Atishi says 4,000 buses will be in place in 6 months as parking depots are ready

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

AAP leader Atishi on Thursday said that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has fulfilled all promises made before the 2015 elections.

Addressing a press conference, Ms. Atishi said, "With the fulfilment of the promise

of free Wi-Fi for all, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has now fulfilled every single promise he made to the people of Delhi in the run-up to the 2015 election. The party had released a 70-point action plan before the election, which had said that free Wi-Fi is a right of the people as it

is a basic infrastructure that any modern city should have. It is a big step to empower the youth of the city."

When *The Hindu* asked about the promise of increasing the bus fleet by 5,000 and pointed out that the AAP government has been able to procure only about 25 buses

in the last four-and-a-half years, Ms. Atishi said, "Within the next six months, 4,000 buses will be in place." She said that the government was not able to purchase new buses as there was no bus depots to park those, adding that the Delhi government has now created them.

### 'Co-ed schools outperformed others schools in Boards'

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Co-ed school students have performed better in the Board exams than their counterparts studying in all-girl and all-boy schools, data shared by the Delhi government said.

Co-ed schools had a pass percentage of 88.16 in Class X Board examinations, while all-girl and all-boy schools had pass percentages of 82 and 74.8% respectively.

In Class XII Boards, co-ed schools had a pass percentage of 98.03, marginally better than all-girl schools which had a pass percentage of 97.42, while the boys-only schools had a pass percentage of 93.42.

The statement also said that the compartment examination system has helped schools come up with better overall results.

to augment housing satisfaction level for its staff and monitoring of projects of housing and police station buildings every month, the statement also said.

He also urged senior officers to inspect police stations periodically for checking the status of these facilities and to ensure their good condition.

"Since policing has an extremely demanding work environment filled with danger, ambiguities and conflicts, interventions are required to help officers deal with this difficult and stressful occupation. Therefore, the L-G advised the Commissioner of Police to explore implementation of mandatory 'Annual Health Check up Scheme' in respect of Delhi Police personnel apart from other ongoing measures to manage stress levels and health issues related to it," the statement said.

Mr. Baijal directed Delhi Police to expedite its efforts

to meet the challenges of the housing and police station buildings.

Atishi says 4,000 buses will be in place in 6 months as parking depots are ready

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## 24 get life imprisonment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
FAIZLAKA (PUNJAB)

A court here on Thursday sentenced 24 accused to life imprisonment in a murder case of a 27-year-old Dalit man in Punjab's Abohar in 2015.

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THE HINDU

## Kashmiri students hold silent protest in AMU

Students' union condemns 'constitutional coup' to amend Article 370, demands consultations

ANUJ KUMAR  
GAZIABAD

Kashmiri students studying in Aligarh Muslim University protested against scrapping of special status for Kashmir on Wednesday. At a meeting, the students called for a national debate on the subject.

Around 1,000 students from Jammu and Kashmir study in the university; there are many Kashmiri teachers as well. Around 40 students participated in the silent protest wearing black bands on their arms. The protest happened in the presence of the university proctor and the participants didn't allow it to be videographed.

Shafey Kidwai, university spokesperson, said, "As the summer vacations have just ended, there are around 270 Kashmiri stu-



Students holding a silent protest on AMU campus. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dents on campus. The biggest concern of the students was their inability to get in touch with their parents because of the lockdown in the Kashmir Valley."

**Proctor's assurance**  
Proctor Afifullah Khan said the administration reas-

sured them of their security and told them not to leave the campus without informing the authorities.

In a statement, the Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union has also condemned the "constitutional coup" to amend Article 370 of the Constitution. Union president Salman Intiaz

said no power centre should decide the fate of people without their consultation.

"The trust deficit between Delhi and Kashmir has reached a new low," he said.

The relationship between Kashmir and AMU goes back a long way. Former Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah, popularly called Papa Mian, was an important cog in the team of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. "He was instrumental in propagating education among Muslim women. He opened a madrasa for girls which later became Abdullah College," said Prof. Kidwai. Sheikh Abdullah, popularly called Sher-e-Kashmir, also studied at AMU. According to Prof. Kidwai, his "progressive views" took shape in AMU.

"In the last decade, the number of Kashmiri students has swelled because of disturbance in the Valley. It is not just AMU, Kashmiri students are spread across the State. It shows the importance a common Kashmiri gives to education," said Mirza Asmer Beg, who teaches political science.

He said Article 370 was already reduced to a shell and was only of "emotional value" to both the parties.

**'Not in spirit'**

"The bifurcation of J&K might look maintainable in letter but not in spirit and the Supreme Court could question it on grounds of constitutional morality," Prof. Beg said.

On Thursday, the university organised a seminar on Kashmiri language and literature.

## Rajeev Kumar summoned in Rose Valley case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has summoned senior IPS officer and former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar in connection with the ongoing probe into the Rose Valley chit fund scam case.

The IPS officer was scheduled to appear before the agency on Thursday but he sought more time. A few officers from the State's Criminal Investigation Department, which is headed by Mr. Kumar, reached the CBI office during the day and submitted a letter in which the IPS officer sought

more time.

Mr. Kumar is already caught in a legal tussle with the CBI in the Saradha chit fund case. A hearing on Mr. Kumar's anticipatory bail is going on in the Calcutta High Court. This is the first time a senior officer has been summoned by the CBI in the Rose Valley case.

In February, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had staged a dharna when CBI officers tried to question the former Kolkata Police Commissioner. The Election Commission of India had transferred Mr. Kumar to the Home Ministry in New Delhi during the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

THE HINDU  
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# After aerial survey, CM says situation in Sangli very serious

Karnataka agrees to release five lakh cusecs of water from Almatti dam following Fadnavis's request to Yediyurappa; 67,000 hectares of crops damaged in Kolhapur

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday assured the people in flood-hit regions in Sangli and Kolhapur districts that rescue operations are proceeding apace, and that there is no need yet for a declaration of national emergency.

"The situation in Sangli is very serious. I have requested Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to release five lakh cusecs of water from Almatti dam to ease the plight of the Sangli residents," the CM said, adding, "Our priority is to first evacuate pregnant women, children and the sick."

Meanwhile, Karnataka agreed to release five lakh cusecs of water from Almatti dam, located downstream on the Krishna river, an official from Mr. Fadnavis's office said. This will help bring down the water level in the flood-affected areas in Western Maharashtra, he said.

Mr. Fadnavis was speaking in Kolhapur after conducting an aerial survey of the flood-affected zones in Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts. He reviewed rescue work at Shivaji Bridge and visited affected people at a transit camp in Kolhapur district. While four persons in Kolhapur have lost their lives in rain-related accidents in the last few days, the CM said there have been no casualties owing to the floods so far in the district.

Mr. Fadnavis said 67,000 hectares of crops have been damaged in Kolhapur owing to the deluge, which has also destroyed 3,813 houses



Rising to the occasion: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with ministers (from left) Girish Mahajan, Chandrakant Patil and Eknath Shinde during an aerial survey to take the stock of the flood situation in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara districts. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

while rendering 390 water supply schemes dysfunctional. "If the situation demands, we will declare a national emergency. As of now, the government is carrying out relief efforts comparable to one," the CM said.

Explaining why he was compelled to take an aerial survey, the CM said he attempted to land his helicopter in flood-hit Karad but was unable to get permission owing to inclement weather.

Responding to accusations of tardiness in responding to the crisis, Mr. Fadnavis said he had cancelled his 'Mahajanesh Yatra'. "Maximum evacuation will be car-

## 'Impounding of water is not the issue'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has clarified that impounding or release of less water in the reservoirs in Almatti or Narayanpur is not causing floods in Maharashtra.

"Some media houses are carrying stories that impounding of water in

Alamatti and Narayanpur dams is causing floods in Kolhapur and Sangli. This is not true. Sangli and Kolhapur are very far from Almatti or Narayanpur. Holding water in our reservoirs does not cause or accentuate the flood situation in any district in Maharashtra," the CM told journalists in Chikkodi.

ried out by the end of Thursday. Water levels in Karad are going down. The rescue

teams are conducting operations at full throttle."

Mr. Fadnavis said the chal-

"In fact, we are not storing any water. The full reservoir level (FRL) in Almatti is 123 tmcft but we are holding only 85 tmcft. The FRL in Narayanpur is 33 tmcft but we are impounding only around 17 tmcft," he said, adding he had spoken to Maharashtra Minister Devendra Fadnavis and clarified this issue.

lenge is to tackle the petrol and diesel shortage in Kolhapur and Sangli districts.

## Maharashtra to set up task force on climate change

Experts to study measures taken against flooding, unplanned reclamation

SHARAD VYAS  
MUMBAI

In the wake of an unprecedented flood like situation and record rainfall this season, the State government will constitute a task force of local and global experts to study impact of climate change on Mumbai.

The task force will study measures taken against flooding and unplanned reclamation in cities such as Venice, Geneva and London, and coordinate with the European Climate Change Programme of the European Union to prepare a blueprint. The task force will be set up by the environment depart-



Grim: A woman stranded in floodwaters at Shahupuri in Kolhapur on Thursday. ■ DEEPAK KUMBHAR

ment in coordination with Mumbai First, a not-for-profit, policy-influencing think tank, officials said.

Narinder Nayar, chair-

man, Mumbai First, said the proposal for the task force has been sent to the government while only the last-minute modalities are remain-

ing. On Wednesday, Mumbai First held a meeting with Chief Secretary Ajay Mehta and discussed the need to set up a task force comprising

ing scientists and experts on climate change from around the globe.

"We have seen Mumbai has witnessed unprecedented floods and rain this monsoon. There are new flooding spots in the city while the construction of major projects is going on. All of these have raised concerns over the impact of climate change," Mr. Nayar said after meeting Mr. Mehta.

Officials said the government has agreed to not only form the task force but also participate in an international conference on climate change, which will be organised by Mumbai First.

The task force will also study patterns of climate change and steps taken by leading countries such as the Netherlands, which has taken a lead in flood management and measures against climate change.

## 2 Gadchiroli police officials to learn air medical evacuation in Germany

Techniques will be implemented on H-145 chopper of Airbus

SHARAD VYAS  
MUMBAI

The State government has decided to send two personnel of the Gadchiroli police to Manching airfield training centre of Airbus in Germany, for training in medical evacuation techniques, which will be used in Naxal-affected areas.

Between August 6 and August 15, they will learn to operate a 'winch' system, which controls equipment with powered cables to hoist and move loads too large, which are generally transported by other means, into a chopper.

A State government official said, "We are spending about ₹5 lakh on training these two police officials, who will learn how to use pedals and levers to operate the system. The training is being provided free of cost by the French company, who had also supplied us a helicopter."

The State had bought a H-145 chopper from Airbus



Wake-up call: Mangled remains of a police vehicle carrying security personnel that was destroyed in an IED blast allegedly carried out by Maoists in Gadchiroli on May 1. ■ FILE PHOTO

following an attack on security forces in Gadchiroli on May 1. This was in addition to the two existing choppers in the region, which are mainly used for transporting jawans into the combat zone, officials said. The new medical evacuation techniques will be implemented on the H-145 chopper. After the 10-day training, the team will return for assessment.

The IED blast in Gadchiroli had killed 15 jawans of

## ADB to give \$200 m aid for State's rural road project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday said it has approved a \$200 million loan for improving road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra for better connectivity of rural areas with markets and services. Roads in rural areas would be upgraded to all-weather standards which will boost links between local residents and economic centres across the State, the ADB said.

Maharashtra accounted for almost 15% of the Gross Domestic Product in 2016-17. However, economic development is concentrated around the urban centres of Mumbai, Pune, and Thane, ADB said.

About 20 million people, or 17% of the State's population, still live below the national poverty line, while in some districts – particularly in rural areas – it is as high as 40%, it said.

## Hand over relief work to Army: Oppn.

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Opposition parties in Maharashtra on Thursday slammed Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for neglecting the flood relief work and delaying suspension of his mahajanesh yatra.

Maharashtra Congress committee president Balasaheb Thorat demanded immediate financial aid of ₹4,000 crore for people in the flood-affected areas. "The government was busy planning its political campaign while people were trapped in floods. What did the Guardian Ministers do? They were nowhere to be seen when people continued to suffer. The Prime Minister has not even bothered to take note of these floods where thousands are still trapped," said Mr. Thorat, while demanding that relief work be handed over to the Army because the state administration and disaster response forces have failed.

Leader of Opposition in Assembly Vijay Vadettiwar

said that the floods should be declared a national calamity. "The relief and rehabilitation minister Subhash Deshmukh was addressing a party meeting when Kolhapur and Sangli was suffering. The Shiv Sena has the biggest representation of MLAs and MPs from Kolhapur, but it is busy recruiting turncoats. The government has failed absolutely on every front while tackling this natural calamity," said Mr. Vadettiwar.



Animal care: An Indian Coast Guard official with a stray dog rescued in Sangli on Thursday. ■ INDIAN COAST GUARD

this government," said Mr. Malik. The government has also come under criticism over the deaths in Sangli district following Thursday's boat capsizes while they were being taken to a safer place.

"The villagers had to use a faulty boat because local administration refused to give them one despite repeated demands. These are murders due to apathy shown by the administration," said Maharashtra's former chief minister Ashok Chavan.

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## IN BRIEF

**Legal expert Shammad Basheer found dead**

**CHIKKAMAGALURU**  
Noted legal expert and recipient of the Infosys Science Foundation prize Shammad Basheer was found dead in a car near Bababudangiri in Karnataka on Thursday. Mr. Basheer, 43, who taught in many prestigious institutes in India and abroad, is a resident of Bengaluru. "It seems like he slept in the car, switching on the heater. Inhalng too much of carbon monoxide could be the reason for his death. There are chances of a short-circuit too," the police said.

**Maharashtra allots land worth ₹13 crore to TTD**

**TIRUMALA**  
The Maharashtra government has resolved to allot a prime piece of land to TTD in Mumbai. The TTD made a request to the Maharashtra government for allotment of land so as to enable it take up construction of a full-fledged information centre at Mumbai for the benefit of pilgrims visiting the Tirumala shrine of Lord Venkateswara. The market value of the allotted plot in Bandra, which reportedly measures 648 sq m, is roughly put around ₹13 crore.

**Youth gets death for rape and murder of infant**

**WARANGAL**  
The sensational case of rape and murder of a nine-month-old in Warangal city 50 days ago ended in death sentence to the 21-year-old accused here on Thursday. The First Additional Judge cum POCSO Special Court Judge K. Jaya Kumar held the accused P. Praveen guilty and awarded him death sentence. The offence was committed on June 18. The special court held the trial examining 42 witnesses and delivered the verdict in less than 50 days.

# Heavy rain brings life to a standstill in southern States

**In safe hands:** Army personnel rescuing people from the flood-affected areas in Belagavi district. ■ PTI**Flood fury:** A video grab of Puthumala village near Meppadi in Wayanad where 30 estate workers are feared missing in a massive landslip.**Moving to safety:** Boats ferrying people stranded in a village near Devipatnam. ■ CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

## 9 dead, over 43,000 evacuated in Karnataka

CM visits flood-hit areas in Belagavi

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**BENGALURU**  
Heavy rains and floods continued to batter Karnataka on Thursday, with nine deaths reported and over 43,000 people evacuated in 12 flood-hit districts so far. The worst-hit was the northern district of Belagavi, where heavy rain coupled with release of water from dams upstream in Maharashtra left many villages and towns marooned. Districts in coastal Karnataka and Malnad region also saw heavy rain and flooding. Nearly 17,000 people are taking shelter in 272 relief camps across the State.

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa visited the flood-hit areas of Belagavi. Speaking in the district, he denied lack of coordination on water release from dams, saying the process was done as per protocol and in coordination with Maharashtra.

In South Karnataka also, all dams in the Cauvery ba-

### They clung to a tree for 2 days

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**BELAGAVI**  
In a heart-warming incident, Kadappa Jagannavar and Rathnavva, a couple in their 30s, were rescued by NDRF nearly 50 hours after they were stranded in Belagavi. They climbed a tree, fastened themselves to it and clung on to each other for two days.

sin area have recorded heavy inflows, with rain battering Kodagu district which is part of the catchment area. The crest gates of the Kabini reservoir at H.D. Koté have been opened and discharge stepped up to 90,000 cusecs.

However, the reservoir levels in the Cauvery basin are still at only 50% of the installed capacity.

In South Karnataka also,

## 10 dead, several missing as Kerala fears repeat of 2018

Heavy rains in central, northern districts trigger landslides

### Rahul to seek PM's help

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI**  
Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said he would talk to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for assistance to deal with the floods in his Lok Sabha constituency.

"I wanted to go [to Wayanad] but a District Collector told me that it will affect rescue operations,"

Mr. Gandhi said. "I want to tell the people of Wayanad that I am with them and will be visiting soon," he added.

also sought the help of the Indian Air Force. State police units and fire and rescue services have been pressed into service in all the affected districts.

A red alert has been issued for Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad for Friday. Ministers have been asked to lead the rescue and relief operations in the affected districts.

The State government

## Godavari continues to flood parts of A.P.

Officials issue second warning

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**VIJAYAWADA**  
The flood discharge in the Godavari at the Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in Dowleswaram was 13.62 lakh cusecs on Thursday evening. It is the highest since the deluge began over a week ago. The A.P. State Disaster Management Authority, in a bulletin at 6 p.m., said the second warning was issued as soon as the flood crossed the 13-lakh cusec mark at the barrage.

The level at the Bhadrachalam gauge was 44.20 feet, which again crossed the first warning.

The NDRF, the SDRF and the fire services teams had been deployed at several marooned villages in West and East Godavari to begin evacuation if there was a further rise in the water level, the A.P. State Disaster Management Authority said in a release.

Meanwhile, authorities continued to release near-

## Jagan orders financial aid

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**VIJAYAWADA**  
A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy ordered that a special financial assistance of ₹5,000 each be given to the families affected by the floods, including those whose houses and crops were damaged.

ly 4 lakh cusecs from the Almatti reservoir on the Krishna in Karnataka to prevent overflowing. This water will go straight to the Srisailam reservoir, which is gradually getting filled, after passing through the Narayanapur and Jurala projects, which are filled to the brim and forced to release the entire inflow.

The waters in the Vamsadhara and the Nagavalli in north A.P. are receding.

## Transgenders drop temple plan for Naidu

Community hall will come up in its place in Nandyal, says association

**STAFF REPORTER**

**KURNool**  
It was meant to be a temple for former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu as a thanksgiving by transgenders. Now, it is being converted into a community hall.

Indian National Samatha Hija Hakkula Aikya Porata Samithi president P. Vijay Kumar said the plan was dropped as TDP leaders refused to support the project.

"The community hall will take the same space as the temple, and carry the name of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy," said Mr. Kumar.

In the community hall, the samithi plans to start education, employment and



A statue of B.R. Ambedkar stands at the spot where a temple was planned.

rented out for meetings, marriages, and other functions for everyone at a nominal rent," said Mr. Kumar.

There are plans to construct houses for over 50 transgenders in the area, each in a plot of one-and-a-half cents.

The Samithi thanked Kurnool Rajya Sabha MP T.G. Venkatesh, who recently joined the BJP after quitting the TDP, for giving ₹10 lakh towards the construction of the community hall.

### Reason for gratitude

The plan for a temple came about as a token of gratitude towards Mr. Naidu during the Nandyal by-elections.

"Mr. Naidu set up a welfare board and announced

for the transgender community," said Mr. Kumar.

Though announcements were made and foundation stones unveiled, the local TDP leaders refused to fund the temple.

"We only received minor donations from the local MLAs and district TDP leaders," lamented Mr. Kumar. This led to the inevitable demise of the temple idea.

However, the samithi expresses gratitude to Mr. Naidu for bringing in the policy which aided transgenders in the State.

The samithi would continue to support any political party which has an agenda to empower transgenders in the State.

## All votes in favour

**Women first:** Students cheering the launch of Cyber Mithra and Mahila Mithra programmes launched by the Andhra Pradesh Police Department for the safety of women in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

## Why raze up SCS again, asks BJP MP

**STAFF REPORTER**

**VIJAYAWADA**  
BJP Rajya Sabha member G.V.L. Narasimha Rao has said there is no point in pleading with the Central government to give Special Category Status (SCS) for Andhra Pradesh as it is a closed chapter.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy seemed to have sought SCS fresh on a new letterhead hoping to secure what the TDP government had failed, Mr. Narasimha Rao said.

The State government should cooperate with the Centre, and not put forth demands that could never be conceded, Mr. Narasimha Rao said.

## Police on the lookout for 'treasure hunters'

Vigil stepped up after triple murder in neighbouring Anantapur district

**K. UMASHANKER**

**CHITTOOR**  
Folklore serves as the map as they dig around dilapidated temples to find brass vessels laden with jewellery -- but cops aren't amused by such adventures.

After the gruesome murder of three elderly people, including two women, inside a village temple in Kadri mandal of Anantapur district three weeks ago, the police in the western mandals of Chittoor have stepped up vigil against such "treasure hunters."

**Police reject theory**  
The triple-murder case is yet to be solved, but it is widely viewed as the handwork of "treasure hunters" who wanted to appease spirits to guide them to the hidden gold. The theory, however, has been rejected by the police.

In a span of a few days, police in Kadakada in

**Left in ruins:** Police inspecting a stone structure ravaged by treasure hunters in Chittoor district. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chittoor district have taken 13 persons into custody in two cases of "treasure hunting", while search is on for four other absconders. Looking for hidden treasures is a bailable offence, but following the triple murder police are now seeking to tackle the

menace with non-bailable sections.

Acting on a tip-off, police sub-inspector (Kalkada) B. Ravi Prakash Reddy and his team rushed to an old Siva temple in the forests abutting Kona panchayat on Tuesday midnight.

A six-member gang was

nabbed when they were busy uprooting some stone blocks near the temple zone. According to folklore, the temple with a history of over 300 years was the favourite haunt of a local king and his concubine.

The king bestowed her with dominion over a vast stretch of land, which included the surrounding villages. In his last days, when he was suffering from a mysterious disease, the king came to the temple and settled with his concubine. After his death, the woman hid the jewels and valuables in safe spots in the temple zone before leaving.

Because of this legend, the temple has remained a target for "treasure hunters" over several decades. Most recently, Kalakada police caught a seven-member gang while digging in the fields abutting a forest. They said the gang were active in luring innocent people in

rural areas with the promise of a share in the find. Some advances would be collected from them for conducting of rituals like animal sacrifice and occult worship.

Police have now intensified vigil at some of the old and abandoned historical structures in the western mandals of Anantapur.

Some villages in Rayachoti and Veeraballi mandals of Kadapa district are also considered vulnerable to such clandestine digging.

"We are leaving no stone unturned to pin down the treasure hunters," sub-inspector Reddy said after the triple murder in Anantapur district. An awareness campaign would also be taken up in the vulnerable areas seeking public cooperation to provide information about the "treasure hunters", he added.

## Telangana government stalls deworming drive for children

Two batches of tablets found to be 'Not of Standard Quality'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**KHAMMAM**  
The deworming drive aimed at distribution of Albendazole tablets to around 6.68 lakh children in both Khammam and Bhadrak-Kothagudem districts of Telangana as part of the National Deworming Programme (NDP) could not be held as per schedule on Thursday.

The drive has been put off in the erstwhile composite Khammam district after two batches of the anti-worm tablets supplied to both the districts were found to be 'Not of Standard Quality' (NSQ). A couple of hours before the scheduled distribution programme came the orders from the Telangana State Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TSMSCD) to the officials not to issue the two batches (9659 and 9659) of



Albendazole tablets lying at DM&amp;HO office in Khammam after they were found to be of substandard quality. ■ G.N. RAO

Albendazole tablets under the NDD programme.

### Urgent message

Health Department sources said an urgent message was flashed to pharmacists of the central medicine stores of Khammam district on Wednesday night asking them to recall the stocks of the two batches of Albendazole tablets from the concerned institutions and programme

officers. Democratic Youth Federation of India district leader Veerababu demanded that quality deworming tablets be supplied to children.

When contacted, the DM&HO, Bhadrak-Kothagudem, Bhaskar Naik told *The Hindu* that the deworming drive to cover 3.19 lakh children in the 1-19 age-group had been put off across the district.

# 9 feared dead as boat capsizes in Maharashtra

It was ferrying 30 people stranded in flooded village

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUNE

At least nine people, including seven women and one child, were killed while four others are feared drowned when a boat ferrying more than 30 people stranded in Sangli's Brahmanal village capsized on Thursday.

District authorities said that nine bodies had been recovered, while a search is on for the missing persons. Fifteen people have been rescued, said officials.

The incident is believed to have occurred when the residents of the village, cut-off by rising floodwaters, attempted to head for safety on their own.

"The boat, which belonged to the Brahmanal Gram Panchayat, was not part of official relief operations being conducted by the



**Rescue mission:** Soldiers moving villagers from flooded areas near the Pune-Bangalore highway on the outskirts of Kolhapur city on Thursday. ■ ABHIJEET GURJAR

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Army personnel," said Pune Divisional Commissioner Dr. Deepak Mhaiskar.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced compensation of ₹5 lakh for the

kin of the deceased.

"According to information I have received, it appears that the boat was overloaded. The machine of the boat got entangled in the branch of a tree which caused the mishap," said the Chief Mi-

nister, appealing to those who were marooned to be patient and not venture out on their own.

Residents of Brahmanal accused the district administration of apathy, stating that the authorities had forsaken

## 3,500 rescued by armed forces, NDRF personnel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Coordinated operations by the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Coast Guard and the National and State Disaster Relief Force on Thursday rescued 3,500 persons and evacuated 10,000 others across southern Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Incessant rain over the past few days resulted in flooding in southern Maharashtra, Karnataka and

Karnataka. A Joint Operations Centre was established in Pune for coordinating operations in the three States. Till now the Army had deployed 16 columns, 14 Engineer Task Forces, including a Para Special Force team for ongoing flood relief and rescue operations in Kolhapur, Sangli and Raigad districts of Maharashtra and Bagalkot, Raichur Belagavi and Kodagu districts of Karnataka.

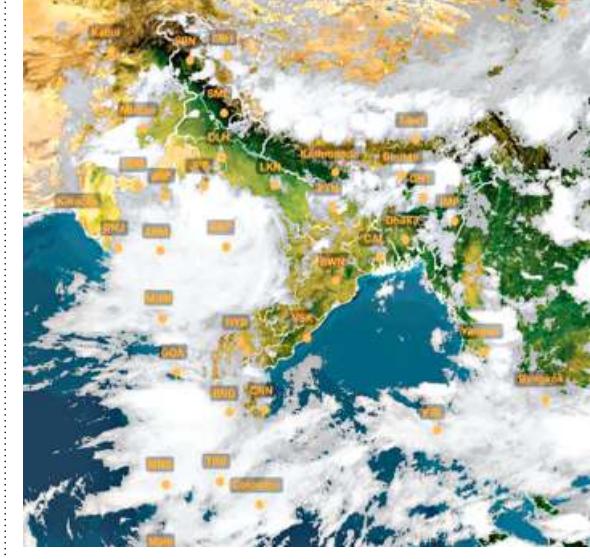
them by not sending them help when they sought it.

"The water here has now crossed 20 feet...when the sarpanch of Brahmanal had urged the administration to provide boats, the latter had turned a blind eye to our

plight, thus forcing villagers to take their own initiative and make this hazardous journey to safer quarters," said Sandeep Rajoba, a resident of Brahmanal and an activist of the Swabhiman Shetkari Sanghatana.

### WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Kerala, Mahe, Karnataka, central Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Rajasthan, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Vidarbha, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	13.0...	30.1...	25.8	Kozhikode	13.3...	31.0...	26.4
Ahmedabad	0.1...	31.0...	26.4	Kurnool	.....	30.6...	25.7
Aizawl	37.0...	31.1...	22.1	Lucknow	32.6...	34.3...	25.2
Altahabad	1.3...	33.8...	27.5	Madurai	0.8...	38.2...	26.2
Bengaluru	2.7...	25.2...	21.1	Mangaluru	31.5...	30.1...	23.0
Bhopal	14.5...	25.3...	23.4	Mumbai	1.4...	28.8...	26.2
Bhubaneswar	13.8...	27.4...	24.5	Mysuru	23.0...	25.0...	19.6
Chandigarh	.....	35.6...	27.8	New Delhi	.....	37.9...	27.5
Chennai	.....	34.2...	27.9	Patna	.....	31.0...	26.8
Coimbatore	7.8...	28.8...	21.0	Port Blair	1.3...	30.5...	26.4
Dehradun	0.4...	34.8...	25.9	Puducherry	1.6...	35.4...	25.4
Gangtok	59.6...	19.4...	17.6	Pune	6.4...	26.4...	22.4
Goa	48.4...	28.0...	24.6	Rajpur	3.8...	25.5...	24.0
Guwahati	.....	39.2...	27.8	Ranchi	15.8...	28.0...	22.5
Hubballi	.....	25.0...	22.0	Shillong	7.1...	24.1...	17.0
Hyderabad	4.5...	28.0...	23.1	Shimla	0.9...	24.7...	18.1
Imphal	3.7...	28.5...	22.1	Srinagar	.....	33.1...	21.8
Jaipur	4.5...	31.5...	25.1	Thiruvananthapuram	34.1...	28.8...	23.2
Kochi	40.2...	29.8...	22.6	Tiruchi	.....	36.8...	28.0
Kohima	2.4...	29.8...	19.0	Vijayawada	.....	30.7...	25.4
Kolkata	49.5...	31.2...	25.6	Visakhapatnam	8.2...	27.2...	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	50	54	.72	.96	.163	.....
Bengaluru	07	46	.69	.26	.53	.....
Chennai	06	19	.82	.34	.....	.....
Delhi	18	30	.18	.30	.146	.....
Hyderabad	19	66	.14	.19	.29	.....
Kolkata	03	25	.54	.17	.18	.....
Lucknow	04	26	.51	.99	.....	.....
Mumbai	10	18	.103	.33	.63	.....
Pune	74	08	.68	.38	.38	.....
Visakhapatnam	16	36	.47	.36	.62	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 6 p.m., Ahmedabad, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 146, which is unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 19.

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

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## 'Educational institutions should focus on academic excellence'

Venkaiah exhorts students to stay away from controversies

SIDHARTH YADAV  
INDORE

Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday said students studying in universities who wished to complete Afzal Guru's "incomplete job" of blasting Parliament should focus only on academic excellence. Then physical fitness, mental alertness and social consciousness. Students should not get into other things and controversies."

Stating that although everyone had the freedom to eat whatever they wanted, some people made an issue out of it, and added, "But then there are those who celebrate beef festival and anti-beef festival."

Arguments will continue on Friday on the appeals filed by Hindus and Muslims, contesting each other's claims of ownership over the 2.77 acres in Ayodhya where Hindus believe Lord Ram was born in Treta Yuga. Babri Masjid, which stood on the disputed land was demolished by 'kar sevaks' on December 6, 1992.

The Allahabad High Court gave joint possession to the deity, Nirmohi Akhara and the Sunni Waqf Board in September 2010. But the parties filed cross-appeals in the Supreme Court.

"Out of the 920 universities in the country, few are in the news for the wrong reasons. People there say – Afzal Guru 'apne ja kaam adhura choda hai, hum usse poora karenge' (Afzal Guru, we'll complete the job you left incomplete). They should be ashamed of themselves. Guru tried to blast Parliament. Even I was there, but nothing happened to us," he said.

Although several private institutions had contributed to the sector, he said, higher education in the country still faced the challenges of access, equity, affordability

and equality.

"There was a time we gave knowledge to the world and now we do not figure even in the top 100 universities of the world," he said. "Educational institutions should focus only on academic excellence. Then physical fitness, mental alertness and social consciousness. Students should not get into other things and controversies."

Stating that although everyone had the freedom to eat whatever they wanted, some people made an issue out of it, and added, "But then there are those who celebrate beef festival and anti-beef festival."

As for welfare measures of the government, he said, "Programmes like *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* shouldn't just be reduced to government schemes. They should be made into people's movements." Mr. Naidu called upon students to follow the diet prescribed by their forefathers.

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## BrahMos missile to be deployed along coast for maritime security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Thursday approved the procurement of a Software Defined Radio (SDR) and the Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB) for the Navy.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the meeting, the first after the NDA returned to office.

"The NGMMCB will be fitted with the BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missiles and deployed along the coast," the Ministry said in a statement.

The SDR has been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Bharat Electronics Limited and the Navy's Weapons Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE). It will facilitate high-speed data and secure voice communication with anti-jamming capability.

The DAC also approved amendments to the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), 2016, to improve the ease of business, the statement said.

## Man mauled by tiger near Pench reserve

STAFF REPORTER  
BHOPAL

Mounted on elephants and patrolling in jeeps, scores of foresters are out along the fringe of the Pench Tiger Reserve in the Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh to search for a tiger that mauled and ate a villager in the area on Tuesday. This is the first incident of a human killed by a tiger in the Reserve.

Vikram Singh Parihar, Field Director, Pench Tiger Reserve, told *The Hindu*, "On Thursday, we found a photograph of the tiger captured in a camera trap. We even found pug marks on the day, but they are distorted due to continual rain."

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Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR



## Knee-jerk

Pakistan must reconsider its decision to downgrade diplomatic ties with India

**P**akistan's decision to expel India's High Commissioner, snap trade relations and observe August 15 as a black day in supposed solidarity with the people of Jammu & Kashmir is a serious setback for diplomatic relations. Wednesday's announcements appear to be a knee-jerk reaction to the mounting pressures on the Pakistani establishment to respond to India's executive-legislative actions that whittle down Article 370. Pakistan has consistently described chief ministers of Jammu & Kashmir as "puppets" and never recognised the legitimacy of the government in Srinagar. Its sudden concerns about India's actions in its own territory are reflective of muddled confusion. Ironically, this is the first time Islamabad has articulated that Article 370 was aligned with the interests of the Kashmiri people. Every Pakistani government and the country's permanent establishment have continued to peddle the myth that they could unilaterally alter the status quo in J&K. Now, they feel compelled to respond to the expectations that they have themselves raised in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Sections of Indian civil society have legitimate concerns about the actions of the BJP Government in emptying out Article 370 and the continuing lockdown of the Valley, but this does not license Pakistan to interfere in what the MEA correctly described on Thursday as India's internal matter.

In the days to come, India can expect Pakistan to raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations, mobilise the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and send envoys to friendly capitals. India is well placed to deal with Pakistan on the diplomatic front given the changed international context. India's economic clout has grown enormously in the last couple of decades, and given doubts in the Western world about Pakistan's overt and covert support to Islamist terror, New Delhi has the space to deal with Islamabad's efforts to "internationalise" the Kashmir issue. Downgrading diplomatic relations between troubled neighbours is never a good idea. Neither is snapping trade and transport links. India withdrew its High Commissioner to Pakistan after the 2001 Parliament attack, but chose not to send back the Pakistani envoy at the time. However, the Pakistani High Commissioner was expelled by India after the Kalachak terror strike in 2002. It's interesting to note that despite all the troubles the two countries have had, High Commissioners have been able to return to their jobs since full diplomatic relations were restored in 1976. In fact, even after the 2001 Parliament attack, India and Pakistan managed to have their High Commissioners back in place by March 2003. Diplomacy is a mechanism to ensure that channels of communication remain open. While India and Pakistan have used back channels in recent years, the presence of seasoned diplomats in Delhi and Islamabad has always benefited the two countries. Pakistan needs to comprehend this.

## Cycle of extremes

India must address its crippling cycles of drought and flood with redoubled vigour

**A**fter a worrying pre-monsoon phase between March and May, when rainfall was scarce, the current robust season in most parts of coastal, western and central India augurs well for the entire economy. Aided apparently by beneficial conditions in the Indian Ocean, very heavy rainfall has been recorded, notably in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, the north-eastern States, Karnataka, the Konkan coast, hilly districts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. This pattern may extend into the eastern regions. A normal Indian Summer Monsoon is bountiful overall, but as last year's flooding in Kerala, and the Chennai catastrophe of 2015 showed, there can be a terrible cost. Distressing scenes of death and destruction are again being witnessed. Even in a rain-shadow region such as Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, the collapse of a railway parcel office after a downpour has led to avoidable deaths. What this underscores is the need to prepare for the rainy season with harvesting measures, as advocated by the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, and a safety audit of structures, particularly those used by the official agencies. In drafting their management plans, States must be aware of the scientific consensus: that future rain spells may be short, often unpredictable and very heavy, influenced by a changing climate. They need to invest in reliable infrastructure to mitigate the impact of flooding and avert disasters that could have global consequences in an integrated economy.

The long-term trends for flood impact in India have been one of declining loss of lives and cattle since the decadal high of 1971-80, but rising absolute economic losses, though not as a share of GDP. It is important, therefore, to increase urban resilience through planning. Orderly urban development is critical for sustainability, as the mega flood disasters in Mumbai and Chennai make clear. It is worth pointing out that the response of State governments to the imperative is tardy. They are hesitant to act against encroachment of lake catchments, river courses and floodplains. The extreme distress in Chennai, for instance, has not persuaded the State government against allowing structures such as a police station being constructed on a lake bed, after reclassification of land. Granting such permissions is an abdication of responsibility and a violation of National Disaster Management Authority Guidelines to prevent urban flooding. As a nation that is set to become the most populous in less than a decade, India must address its crippling cycles of drought and flood with redoubled vigour. Scientific hydrology, coupled with the traditional wisdom of saving water through large innovative structures, will mitigate floods and help communities prosper.

# Economic milestone and a poignant anniversary

Bank nationalisation eased rural credit and aided financial inclusion. Any move to reverse it would be self-defeating



R. RAMAKUMAR

**T**he nationalisation of banks in 1969 was a watershed moment in the history of Indian banking. From July 19 that year, 14 private banks were nationalised; another six private banks were nationalised in 1980. It is certain that one cannot locate a similar transformational moment in the banking policy of any country at any point of time in history.

At the time of Independence, India's rural financial system was marked by the domination of landlords, traders and moneylenders. In 1951, if a rural household had an outstanding debt of ₹100, about ₹93 came from non-institutional sources. From the 1950s, there were sporadic efforts to expand the reach of the institutional sector, particularly in the rural areas. Despite these measures, the predominantly private banking system failed to meet the credit needs of the rural areas.

### Class to mass banking

India's banking policy after 1969 followed a multi-agency approach towards expanding the geographical spread and functional reach of the formal banking system. First, as a part of a new branch licensing policy, banks were told that for every branch they opened in a metropolitan or port area, four new branches had to be opened in unbanked rural areas. As a result, the number of rural bank branches increased from 1,833 (in 1969) to 35,206 (in 1991). Second, the concept of priority-sector lending was introduced. All banks had to compulsorily set aside 40% of their net

bank credit for agriculture, micro and small enterprises, housing, education and "weaker" sections. Third, a differential interest rate scheme was introduced in 1974. Here, loans were provided at a low interest rate to the weakest among the weakest sections of the society.

Fourth, the Lead Bank scheme was introduced in 1969. Each district was assigned to one bank, where they acted as "pace-setters" in providing integrated banking facilities. Fifth, the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established in 1975 to enlarge the supply of institutional credit to the rural areas. Sixth, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was constituted in 1982 to regulate and supervise the functions of cooperative banks and RRBs.

The outcomes of such a multi-agency approach were admirable. The share of institutional sources in the outstanding debt of rural households increased from just 16.9% in 1962 to 64% in 1992.

### Growth spurring

India's nationalisation experience is an answer to mainstream economists who argue that administered interest rates cause "financial repression". According to this view, if the government administers interest rates, the savings rate would decline, leading to a rationing of investment funds. On the contrary, India's nationalisation led to an impressive growth of financial intermediation. The share of bank deposits to GDP rose from 13% in 1969 to 38% in 1991. The gross savings rate rose from 12.8% in 1969 to 21.7% in 1990. The share of advances to GDP rose from 10% in 1969 to 25% in 1991. The gross investment rate rose from 13.9% in 1969 to 24.1% in 1990.

Nationalisation also demonstrated the utility of monetary pol-



A.M.FAROOQI

icy in furthering redistributionist goals. Some economists argue that banks cannot be used to right "historical wrongs". On the other hand, India's nationalisation shows that monetary policy, banks and interest rates can be effectively used to take banks to rural areas, backward regions and under-served sectors, furthering redistributionist goals in an economy.

### A retreat

Yet, strangely, arguments in favour of financial liberalisation after 1991 were based on the theory of financial repression. The Narasimham Committee of 1991 recommended that monetary policy should be divorced from redistributionist goals. Instead, banks should be free to practise commercial modes of operation, with profitability as the primary goal.

Taking the cue, the Reserve Bank of India allowed banks to open and close branches as they desired. Priority sector guidelines were diluted; banks were allowed to lend to activities that were remotely connected with agriculture or to big corporates in agri-business, yet classify them as agricultural loans. Interest rate regulations on priority sector advances were removed.

The outcomes were immediately visible. More than 900 rural bank branches closed down across the country. The rate of growth of agricultural credit fell sharply from around 7% per annum in the

1980s to about 2% per annum in the 1990s. This retreat of public banks wreaked havoc on the rural financial market. Between 1991 and 2002, the share of institutional sources in the total outstanding debt of rural households fell from 64% to 57.1%. The space vacated by institutional sources was promptly occupied by moneylenders and other non-institutional sources.

### To and fro

The government and the RBI probably saw the danger coming. In 2004, a policy to double the flow of agricultural credit within three years was announced. Only public banks could make this happen. So, in 2005, the RBI quietly brought in a new branch authorisation policy. Permission for new branches began to be given only if the RBI was satisfied that the banks concerned had a plan to adequately serve underbanked areas and ensure actual credit flow to agriculture. By 2011, the RBI further tightened this procedure. It was mandated that at least 25% of new branches were to be compulsorily located in unbanked centres.

As a result, the number of rural bank branches rose from 30,646 in 2005, to 33,967 in 2011 and 48,536 in 2015. The annual growth rate of real agricultural credit rose from about 2% in the 1990s to about 18% between 2001 and 2015. Much of this new provision of agricultural credit did not go to farmers; it largely went to big agri-business firms and corporate houses located in urban and metropolitan centres – but recorded in the bank books as "agricultural credit". For this reason, the share of institutional credit in the debt outstanding of rural households in 2013 stood at 56%, still lower than the levels of 1991 and 2002. Yet, in achieving the high growth of credit provision, the expansion of public bank branches was pivotal.

After 2005, public banks also played a central role in furthering the financial inclusion agenda of successive governments. Between 2010 and 2016, the key responsibility of opening no-frills accounts for the unbanked poor fell upon public banks. Data show that more than 90% of the new no-frills accounts were opened in public banks. Most of these accounts lie dormant or inactive, but it is unmistakeable that the fulfilling of the goal required the decisive presence and intervention of public banks. The same public banks were also India's vanguard during the global financial crisis of 2007 when most markets in the developed world, dominated by private banks, collapsed.

However, despite such a stellar track record, the macroeconomic policy framework of successive governments has hardly been supportive of a banking structure dominated by public banks. In times of slow growth, the excess liquidity in banks was seen as a substitute for counter-cyclical fiscal policy. Successive governments, scared of higher fiscal deficits, encouraged public banks to lend more for retail and personal loans, high-risk infrastructural sectors and vehicle loans. Here, banks funded by short-term deposit liabilities were taking on exposures that involved long-term risks, often not backed by due diligence. Unsurprisingly, many loans turned sour. Consequently, banks are in crisis with rising non-performing assets. The same fear of fiscal deficits is also scaring the government away from recapitalising banks. The solution put forward is a perverse one: privatisation. The goose that lays golden eggs is being killed.

R. Ramakumar is NABARD Chair Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

## A leaf out of the Chinese playbook

India's actions in Kashmir increasingly show an authoritarian muscularity, reminiscent of its northern neighbour



PALLAVI AIYAR

**I**t has been possible to argue that comparing Asia's two largest countries, China and India, is akin to holding up an apple to an orange. This is not because the challenges facing them are so very different. Neither China's authoritarian polity, nor India's democratic one have prevented large-scale corruption, environmental degradation, yawning inequalities or food contamination scandals from raising their ugly heads on both sides of the border. But what has kept the two from being Himalayan birds of a feather thus far is their markedly divergent temperature and foundational culture.

The potency of this divergence however, is being increasingly diluted, with the Indian state beginning to sound and act like the country it has long had a schizophrenic relationship with. (Modern day India wants to both be China and not-China: a six lane highway-filled, manufacturing powerhouse that is praised for its political openness and liked for its yoga.)

The abrogation of the special

status that gave autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir and more crucially, the style in which this was achieved – relying on secrecy, troops, arrests, curfew and a communications shutdown – has brought India closer than ever before to the 'results oriented' actions, unhindered by political debate and democratic niceties, of authoritarian China.

### Pacifying restive regions

One obvious commonality between New Delhi and Beijing has been their need to grapple with, and pacify, the restive regions on their peripheries: Kashmir and the Northeast in India, Tibet and Xinjiang in China. All of these regions are home to peoples of a religion that is different from that of the country's majority: Muslim (Kashmir/Xinjiang), Lama Buddhist (Tibet), Christian (Northeast India). All are home to ethno-nationalist movements demanding independence or greater autonomy.

Both China and India have declared these border areas as "integral" parts of their territory and refuse to countenance the possibility that they might be disputed. (China claims that Tibet has been part of the country for over 700 years.)

People with dissenting interpretations are labelled "splitters" or "separatists". The periphery is seen as crucial to national securi-

ty, while being described as backward, in need of development assistance.

In China, the ruling Communist Party of China portrays itself as having 'liberated' the people of Tibet and Xinjiang from the backward norms of their religions, ending the feudal dominance of religious leaders, bringing equality to women and economic development to the regions. In fact, many Han Chinese believe that Beijing excessively panders to these provinces by giving them special sops. For example, Tibetans were always excluded from the notorious One Child Policy that restricted most Han families to a single child.

Equality before law, economic development, the empowerment of women: these are all arguments being touted today in favour of ending Jammu and Kashmir's special status; for anyone familiar with China, they render a strong

feeling of déjà vu. Yet, all this rhetoric skirts the reality of egregious human rights abuses that both countries have used in their nation-building endeavours. Torture, rape, illegal detentions, extra-judicial killings and a militarised environment have ensured that hearts and minds have not been won. A common identity has failed to develop, and as the China case demonstrates, this is not because of too much authority.

Dibyesh Anand, Professor of International Relations at the University of Westminster, has argued that both India and China are 'postcolonial informal empires', whose anti-imperialist rhetoric disguises their imperialistic attempts to "consolidate and discipline their borderlands."

But what used to distinguish India from the more common charges of colonialism faced by China was the fact that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had been provided guarantees under Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution, along with a strong foundation to build a system of local governance. The ban on non-normals buying land, and permanently settling in the State, also prevented demographic engineering like the large-scale Han migration into Tibet and Xinjiang.

Independent India's crowning achievement to date has been the

development of institutional mechanisms for negotiating large-scale diversity and accommodating frequent, aggressive disagreements. This is an achievement that deserves as much awe and respect as China's economic miracle. It might be less shiny and more chaotic, but it is, in its own way, quite spectacular.

Debate and contestation are not a discardable option for India but an existential necessity. Historically, India has been a civilisational rather than territorial entity, more metaphysical than geographic, but by an idea. Multiplicity is foundational to this idea. It is what has allowed India to persist and flourish as a political unit, despite the once widespread belief in the West that an independent India would inevitably Balkanise.

The new choices that the Indian government is making may well help cover up some of the cracks that its relatively liberal history was unable to weld. It may also fail to do so and lead to complete rupture. But the risk of India forsaking its own sources of strength – pluralism and debate – to emerge as a second rate copy of its muscular, nationalist neighbour to the north is clear.

Pallavi Aiyar is the author of the China memoir, 'Smoke and Mirrors'

## 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.

### Blackout

Consequent to the scrapping of the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir, the imposition of curfew and large-scale deployment of troops for security reasons was understandable. But a complete snapping of communication is puzzling and against democratic principles (Editorial, "Blackout", August 8).

When the government has taken such a bold step to abrogate Article 370, why should it now try and hide actual information? The rest of India is anxious and entitled to know what is happening in J&K. Some sections of the media report many in Jammu having welcomed the decision of integration and of calm prevailing. But how is this to be verified? Official information is generally a one-way process which

could black out what could be unfavourable to them. It would be prudent if the government takes steps to remove the restrictions imposed on the communication flow and the movement of people.

D. SETHURAMAN,  
Chennai

If the intention behind the Central government's abrogation of Article 370 was to ensure the full integration of Kashmir with the Indian Union so that it could enjoy all benefits available to the rest of the country, what was the need to enforce a massive lockdown and communication blackout that is causing enormous hardship to civilians? Many Kashmiris outside the State are under stress unable to contact their families back home. It is akin to the rigorous restrictions Israel imposes on Palestinians that

one reads about. Unless the restrictions are eased soon, alienation among the Kashmiris is bound to increase manifold, which may go against the objective of a mainstreaming emotionally as well.

M.P. MURALIDHARAN,  
Bengaluru

If the complete shutdown is actually helping in the spread of rumours and the dissemination of propaganda. It is time for normalcy to be restored in the Union Territory so as to stop the misgivings in the minds of Kashmiris and allowing them to get on with life.

V. PADMANABHAN,  
Bengaluru

Draconian measures such as the imposition of curfew, cutting off the information flow and arresting key political leaders have only

vitiating the environment. It is akin to undeclared emergency where the common man is the one most affected. The fact that there was no dialogue at the ground level before announcing the far-reaching changes in J&K has only made matters worse.

D.B.N. MURTHY,  
Bengaluru

Sushma Swaraj belongs to a rare class of politicians who transcended political lines. Many in India and abroad will miss her for her commitment. The country has lost an able administrator and an outstanding parliamentarian. Her record as External Affairs Minister has been phenomenal, extending a mother's touch to all those in distress. Scaling several heights in politics and governance at a very young

age, she is the right model for today's youth. Telangana remembers her as its "Chinnamma". SATISH REDDY KANAGANTI, Tippur, Nalgonda, Telangana

■ As Health Minister in the Vajpayee government, Ms. Swaraj's visit to Kerala in 2003 remains golden. During her visit, she got to know of two schoolchildren with HIV, shunned by society and refused education as there were reservations by some school parents. There was also an indifferent political class. The children were at a public function where she was present. On getting to know of their plight, she hugged them and assured them of help.

T.V. SREEKUMAR,  
Puducherry

Ms. Swaraj's memorable tweet, that the "Indian Embassy will help you even

on Mars" signifies the level of commitment and positivity she had towards her job. A strong leader, she will always be remembered for her humanism.

# Does the Medical Commission Bill encourage quackery?

PARLEY

Training practitioners to head health centres is worth trying, but with strong regulations



**Sujatha Rao**  
is former Union  
Secretary of Health



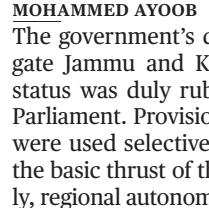
**Anant Bhan**  
is a researcher  
in global health  
and bioethics



Scan the QR code  
to listen to the full  
interview online

## Much ado about little

Hollowing out of Article 370, which had become a shadow of its original self, doesn't come as a surprise



**Close observers of the Indian scene**

had anticipated this action for some time for a number of reasons.

First, this move has been part of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s agenda since it was established in April 1980. It had also been a part of the founding agenda of its predecessor, the Jana Sangh, since Shyama Prasad Mookerjee launched it in 1951. The BJP, when in office from 1998 to 2004, was unable to implement it because it was part of a coalition, and other members of the coalition were averse to any such action.

### Erosion began in 1953

Second, and more important, over the years, Article 370 had become merely a shadow of its original self and, therefore, largely redundant as far as the governance of Jammu and Kashmir was concerned.

The process of its erosion began in 1953 with the removal of Sheikh Abdullah from the office of Prime Minister of Kashmir by the Jawaharlal Nehru government on suspicion that he harboured secessionist tendencies. To stay in power, Abdullah's successors, especially Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed and Mir Qasim, were more than willing to see the Centre expand its tentacles into the State by successively amending or distorting Article 370.

The Congress Party, which is shedding tears today at the abolition of the State's special status, was primarily responsible for the attrition of its autonomy over six decades.

Even after Sheikh Abdullah returned to power in 1975 by accepting a watered-down version of the autonomy guaranteed under Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir's special status continued to be more a myth than reality. This was demonstrated very clearly in the 1980s when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi forced the Na-

tional Conference, led by Farooq Abdullah, into a shotgun marriage with the Congress Party.

The 1987 elections were allegedly rigged to deny the Muslim United Front a sizeable number of seats in the State Assembly that it was projected to win. The insurgency and terrorism in the Valley in the past three decades can be traced directly to this folly that turned peaceful opponents into violent adversaries. It played directly into Pakistan's hands and provided it the opportunity to export terrorist groups into Kashmir to create mayhem and anarchy.

Article 370 had, therefore, become merely a symbol without any real content of Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy and special status. New Delhi's interference in the State was of a far greater order than was the case with any other State in the Union. The Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo have merely removed the veneer of the State's special status, thus exploding the myth that India's only Muslim-majority State was being shown greater favour by the Centre in comparison with other States. This myth helped Hindu nationalist forces to mobilise not only against Articles 370 and 35A; it also contributed hugely to their propaganda that Congress governments were engaged in appeasing Muslims.

Jammu and Kashmir's "special status" can no longer be used as a stick to beat Muslims from the rest of the country, who should distance themselves from this controversy for two reasons. First, the Hindutva propagandists will tout any opposition as "anti-national". Second, Muslims in other parts of India owe nothing to Kashmiri Muslims who have in fact become an albatross around their necks by not unequivocally opposing the violence committed by terrorists among them and by raising "azadi" slogans. Further, Muslims from Kashmir have not exactly shown empathy when it comes to the vital concerns of Muslims in the rest of India.

While in the hierarchy of journalists, Hollingsworth would be somewhere in the upper atmosphere and I in the lower depths of the Pacific, luck is thankfully agnostic in its favours.

It was the 2014 Nobel season and Malala Yousafzai was a favourite to win

the Peace Prize. Unlike the science and literature prizes that are announced in Stockholm, Sweden, the Peace Prize is Norway's territory. The winner is announced by the Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo in October. This is where the 'right-place-right-time' part falls into place.

### Arctic programme

I had reached Oslo at the beginning of October for a slew of interviews and to learn about Norway's Arctic programme. The then-Indian President Pranab Mukherjee was set to arrive in the Norwegian capital a few days later, and a focus area of the visit was India's Arctic programme at Haimadri Station, the base located in Norway's Svalbard.

After several days of interviews and presentations, by October 10, I was thoroughly horrified by the potential impact of melting polar ice caps and rising sea levels, and had sought

refuge in my hotel room. It was then that a sympathetic contact in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry mentioned that my press pass could get me into the Peace Prize announcement at the Norwegian Nobel Institute, a few minutes' walk away.

Given the chance to break the tension over impending climatic doom with some award-winning drama, I walked into the press meet and hung around at the back of the room. There was considerable buzz among the media since Ms. Yousafzai was in the running; so when the Nobel Committee chair and former Norwegian PM Thorbjørn Jagland spoke her name, two Japanese television journalists standing near me started screaming 'Malala, Malala' at their cameras and had to be shushed by the rest of the journalists. By then, I had completely missed the second winner's name.

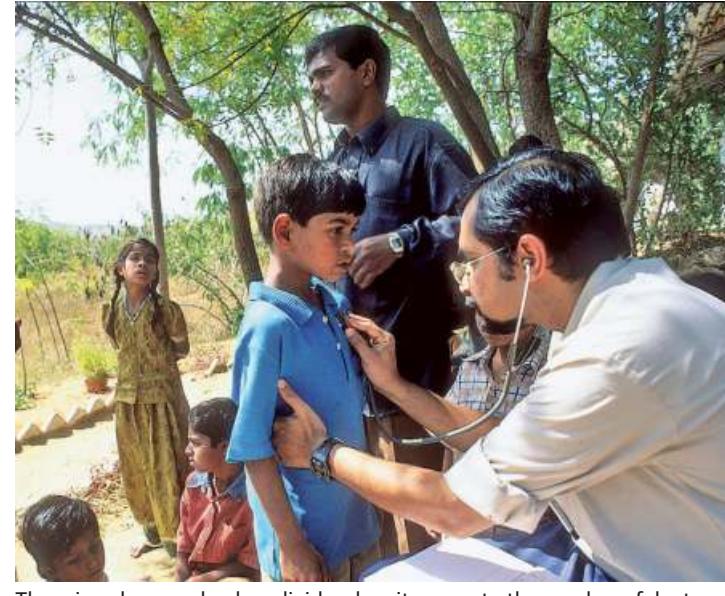
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not-so-bold since, seconds later, the circular with the press statement reached the back of the room, and my brain caught on that Kailash Satyarthi was also a winner.

### Framing a question

My body took a few more seconds. Then I rushed to the front row on the authority of my shared brown skin with the winners. That worked, since Mr. Jagland quickly acknowledged my raised hand. It was also unfortunate as I was yet to frame a question with enough gravitas on an Indian and a Pakistani sharing the Peace Nobel.

After a short staring contest with the former Premier, I managed to blurt out a tolerable question which got a passable answer. I plopped down immediately after that to file a copy for *The Hindu*'s website, becoming the first Indian to report on that historic event.



There is a clear rural-urban divide when it comes to the number of doctors in India. A doctor examining a child in Andhra Pradesh. • GETTY IMAGES

volved in immunisation programmes. Even if the nurses stay for 16 months or 18 months as a nurse practitioner, then it's going to be a game changer. But then there must also be a focus on quality. Our bureaucrats are constantly looking for numbers. So they come with all the silly ideas of three- and six-month training [courses] and force the system to churn out substandard training and we end up with people giving substandard treatment.

**AB:** We already allow certain kinds of health-care providers [non-doctors] to give medicines. The question is: How wide should the scope of such practice be? But I think that fundamental redesign where [such providers] will be heading the health and wellness centres is an experiment worth trying.

### Who do you think should be chosen to undergo this training?

**SR:** Nurses, if trained well, can be a great asset. Or you can have, like in Chhattisgarh, the three-year trained rural medical practitioners. AYUSH doctors provided with some public health training could be a great asset. But I am wondering whether that's the appropriate cadre to bring in as AYUSH by itself has so many strengths. Why on earth are we getting well-qualified AYUSH practitioners to practise allopathic medicine? But then, there's also the political [angle], where AYUSH doctors want to get into government service by becoming mid-level providers.

**AB:** Individuals currently being considered are certified health providers of some kind. They are not qualified to be allopathic doctors but they are qualified to be nurses or AYUSH doctors.

The individuals who have been considered for even the middle-level care provider positions are people who are within the health system already, or who have trained in some way already and could be taking on this additional position. So, it's in a sense retraining [or] additional training for them.

There are two models for health and wellness centres – AYUSH doctors going through a bridge course, or nurse practitioners going through a bridge course. The Chhat-

tisgarh and Assam model is currently not being tried out. [But considering that] it worked fairly well for rural health care, it's also an experiment worth looking at. However, they [these courses] faced so much opposition from the doctors' collectives, especially the IMA [Indian Medical Association]. And that is going to be an issue whenever you try to scale up any of these programmes. Yet, we don't really have an alternative model.

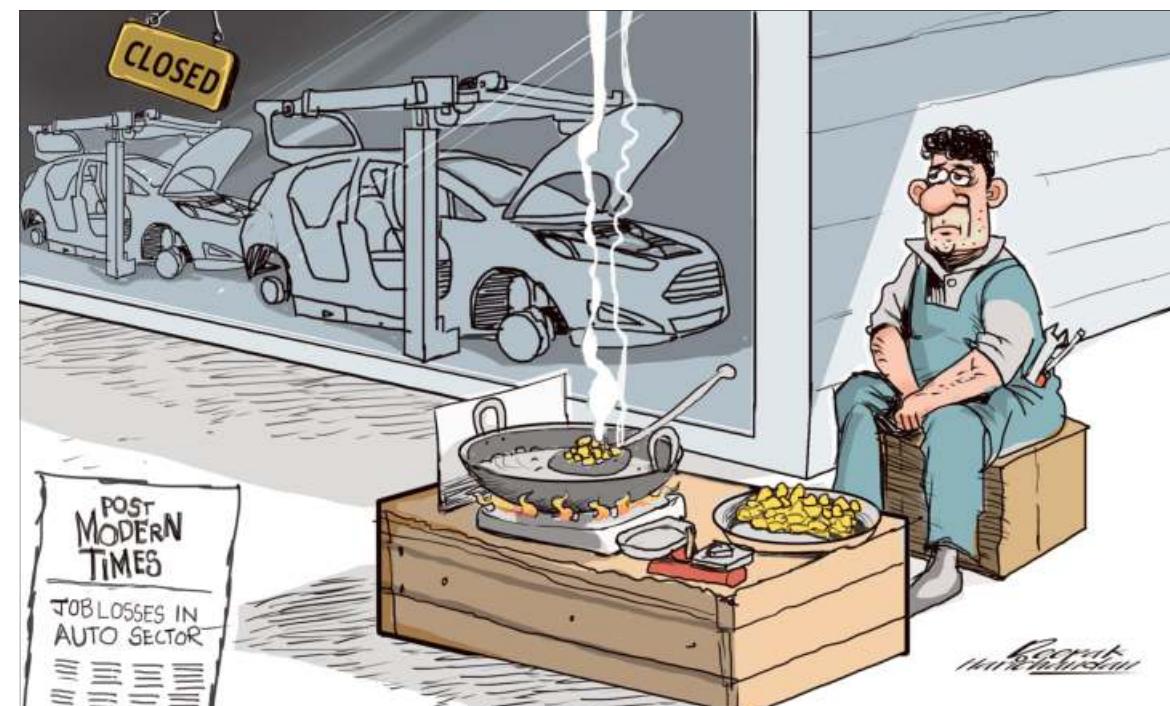
Further, unless we try out some of these experiments, we will never know and the status quo is not something we should be finding acceptable any longer. I think we've had rural populations and large sections of the population suffering for many years due to the absence of quality health care, and that needs to change. And if that requires certain experiments to happen, those should certainly be tried. But [it should be tried] with regulation, with adequate planning, with adequate lead time, with evidence gathered about whether it works or not.

**Do you foresee a situation where the solution, in the form of community health providers, becomes a problem bigger than the shortage of doctors we face today?**

**SR:** It depends on how the designing and implementation goes along. If they [the government] do it all in a hurried way, then the prognosis is not going to be good. But if they have a plan, then it can be a game changer.

But perceptions of patients are changing, preferences are changing, people are not willing to settle even for a nurse. In a State like Kerala, they're not willing to look at even MBBS doctors, they only want specialists. So, these partially trained people may not get preference and may fall by the wayside.

**AB:** For better or worse, we have to see how the experiment goes. I think a continuous redesign, actually having a strong evaluation framework, a strong regulatory governance framework is extremely important. My sense is that if the experiment fails, it will be abandoned before the number of these providers is too high. I think the key equation is whether this experiment is worth trying or not.



### NOTEBOOK

## In the right place, at the right time

On being the first Indian to report on Kailash Satyarthi's Nobel win

**P.J. GEORGE**

Reporting is driven by curiosity, skill, experience, and, sometimes, pure luck.

Journalists who happened to be in the right place at the right time have delivered some of the greatest scoops in the business. Clare Hollingsworth, the great war correspondent who broke the news of the outbreak of the Second World War, figured it out when the wind blew apart a cloth separator at the Germany-Poland border while she was crossing it, and she got a momentary glimpse of tanks parked in the valley below, ready to move into Poland.

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### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 9, 1969

#### 'Social control' of private sector

The formulation of a policy for the "social control" of the private sector is now understood to be engaging the attention of the Union Government, which is at present considering the recommendations of the Industrial Licensing Policy Enquiry Committee. In the course of its recommendations, the Committee has evolved the concept of "joint sector" which refers to the private sector firms, a substantial part of whose production operations is financed by public financing institutions. While State participation in private firms through the financial institutions has been there for a number of years now, the Committee has urged the adoption of more effective State control. Besides the State getting its representation in the management of the private sector units, the Committee has suggested that the financial institutions should insist on the whole or part of their assistance in the form of loans and debentures being convertible into equity at their option. The Committee has suggested that the law should be amended, if necessary, to provide for this.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 9, 1919

#### Lala Lajpat Rai. Unable to Return.

Lala Lajpat Rai writes in 'Young India' of New York: I am exceedingly sorry that the Secretary of State's order prevents my going to India and England just when I wanted most to be there. India is in the grip of a terrible famine and the conditions there are very distressing. For the last 25 years of my life I have been taking active part in the work of famine relief and it pains me considerably to feel at this juncture that I should be unable to do anything for my people. Events are developing rapidly in India and every Indian who feels for his country and is desirous of taking part in its life must feel that his place is there in the midst of his countrymen and not 12,000 miles away from home in a position of comparative safety, comfort and ease. Personally I am not sorry for having been in the United States during the war, but now I am overwhelmed with a sense of guilt at not being in India, to play my part in the great struggle which my countrymen are carrying on against such great odds. This war was fought to free the world. Its immediate effect is the tightening of the chains of those who were in bonds before and who were induced to fight for world of democracy. Will the governing classes learn nothing from history?

FROM PAGE ONE

## Statehood for J&K will be restored, says PM

Mr. Modi urged political parties who had opposed the Bills in Parliament to put national interest front and centre going forward on this path.

"Dynamic politics in the State had not allowed young leadership to emerge in the past, I want that the youth and women come forward," the Prime Minister said, adding that he had also asked the administration to go forward with polls for the Block Development Councils (BDC).

He said the Union Territory status for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh also meant that the State police and the administrative staff would get pay parity with the staff in other Union Territories. All vacancies in government jobs at both the Central and State levels would be filled soon.

The Prime Minister's

Scholarship Scheme would also be extended further, he said. Recruitment for the Indian armed force and paramilitary from the two union territories would also be pushed, he said.

### Call for investment

Urging the 130 crore Indians to consider the trials and triumphs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as their own, Mr. Modi said some of the restrictions could be eased by 1d next week.

He assured people that jobs through public sector units and private sector would also make their way to the two Union Territories. He called for investors, film industry in particular, to generate business in the State, delineating tourism, horticulture and handicrafts as the mainstay of the economy there.

## I just want to tell Ammi I am fine, says resident



**Silent valley:** A deserted street in Srinagar on the fourth day of curfew on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Some men were chased away as they tried to clash with the security forces deployed at Zero Bridge. By evening, the area appeared normal. South Kashmir, however, remained cut off and several weddings were cancelled.

The entry was restricted through concertina wires and the security personnel decide who would be allowed to pass through. An old man was seen pleading with the forces to be allowed to take his vehicle across the bridge. A man in his mid-50s, who did not wish to be identified, said he felt betrayed. "Kashmir chose to be with India, but what they did on Monday was nothing less than a friend backstabbing another," he said.

While all communication lines remained blocked for the fourth consecutive day, the only source of information here is television news. "The local cable channels are blocked. The Delhi-based channels say there is no curfew here and that life is completely normal. Thrice I heard the CRPF personnel announce on loudspeakers last night that there is curfew and we should not come out," he said. He added the residents of the city were used to living under restrictions but this time it was different.

"Burhan Wani was killed in 2016; there were restrictions for six months. But that time they allowed post-paid mobile phones to function. This time there is zero connectivity. Phones are dead," he said.

"In a way I am happy there is curfew; I do not want young boys to die in police firing," another resident said.

The markets remained closed and only few shops selling essential items were open.

"We have stocked rations for a few days but the shops are not being replenished. There is an uncertainty on when the restrictions will end," Imtiyaz, a resident of Karan Nagar, said.

Petrol pumps open for only a couple of hours, well past midnight. Public transport is skeletal and people were seen hitching rides from fellow commuters. "Diesel is available but few vehicles run on it. Most small cars run on petrol, which is difficult to get," said Dawood, another resident.

There has been no official communication from the administration. Residents hope they will be allowed to move freely at least on Id on Monday. "We watched on TV that NSA Ajit Doval was meeting some locals in Shopian. Who are these people? Didn't you notice the downed shutters in the background?" rued Imtiyaz.

(All names have been changed)

## Review decision on ties, India tells Pakistan

The earlier provisions of Article 370 denied development opportunities to Kashmir, and annulling the special status would ensure an end to the "socio-economic discrimination and ensure an upswing in economic activity and improve the livelihood prospects of all people of Jammu and Kashmir," it said.

Pakistan's National Security Committee (NSC) on Wednesday declared that it was downgrading diplomatic relations with India and froze trade ties in response to India ending the special status to Kashmir.

Following the host country's order, Indian envoy Ajay Bisaria left Islamabad for Delhi on Thursday after-

noon. Besides ordering his return, the NSC also declared that all bilateral arrangements with India would be reviewed.

In response, India described Article 370 as a temporary provision and that the removal of the same would lead to improvement of social and economic indicators in the Kashmiri society.

The recent developments pertaining to Article 370 are entirely the internal affair of India. The Constitution of India was, and will always be a sovereign matter. Seeking to interfere in that jurisdiction by invoking an alarmist vision of the region will never succeed," said the MEA statement.

## Many Bills dilute States' powers: O'Brien

One out of every four Bills attacks the federal structure laid down by Constitution, says Trinamool MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

said. The Opposition parties played a constructive role, but the government was not cooperative, he said.

Many regional parties had opposed the Bills to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Right to Information Act and the NIA Act, among others. The latest amendments to the UAPA Act empowered the Home Ministry to declare any individual a terrorist and attach his property without consulting the police.

The amendments to the



Derek O'Brien

mation Officers under the pretext of uniformity. The changes to the NIA Act mean the police need not be informed before arrests or raids.

### Women's quota Bill

Mr. O'Brien also asked why the government did not bring in the Bill to reserve 33% seats for women in Parliament or the one for data protection.

"It depends not on how many hours you spend with the tutor, it depends on the

mark sheet and the quality of college you get into," he said of the quality of the legislation passed without parliamentary scrutiny. No Bill was sent to a select committee or a standing committee this session.

In the 14th Lok Sabha, 60% of the Bills were sent to standing committees and in the 15th Lok Sabha, it was 71%. In the 16th Lok Sabha, during the first government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, only 26% of the Bills went through this process.

## SC firm on NRC deadline of August 31

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday told National Register of Citizens (NRC) authorities in Assam to stand firm on the August 31 deadline for publishing its list.

"You be prepared to publish it," a Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice R.F. Nariman told Assam NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela.

The Bench also said it was not going into the report of Mr. Hajela in which he mentioned about leakage of information on it in the Assam Assembly and certain statements made by the Leader of the Opposition there and Santanu Bharali, legal adviser to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

**Criticism not a worry**  
"Our orders, our actions have been subjected to debates and criticism every moment. We are not bothered by it. If we will go into all this, we will never complete the task," remarked the Bench, which is monitoring the Assam NRC exercise.

"What we want is that NRC is out. We are not bothered with who likes it, or who does not," the Bench said.

On July 23, the Supreme Court extended the deadline for publication of the final NRC in Assam by a month to August 31.

## Changes in PMLA Act empower ED

Prior chargesheet by any other investigating agency is not required

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Su-30MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force crashed in Assam's Tezpur on Thursday. Both pilots ejected safely.

"Today evening, a Su-30 aircraft on a routine training mission from Tezpur crashed in the local flying area," the IAF said in a statement.

The pilots have been rescued, it said.

A Court of Inquiry will ascertain cause of the accident.

Su-30MKI is the mainstay of the IAF and the most modern fighter aircraft in the inventory of the Air Force.

DEVESH K. PANDEY  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has issued a notification on certain changes in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), some of which tend to treat money laundering as a stand-alone crime and also expand the ambit of "proceeds of crime" to assets that may have been derived from any other criminal activity related to scheduled offences.

Under the Act, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is empowered to conduct money laundering investigation.

The most crucial amendments are the deletion of provisos in sub-sections (l) of

with the offence under this Act, during investigation, enquiry or trial under this Act, shall not be dependent upon any orders passed in respect of the scheduled offence, and the trial of both sets of offences by the same court shall not be construed as joint trial," it says.

The ED had faced several issues in this regard. The change is in line with the intent to treat proceedings under the Act as separate from those under the scheduled offences," said an official.

**Arrest without warrant**  
An explanation added to Section 45 clarifies that all PMLA offences will be cognisable and non-bailable. Therefore,

ED officers are empowered to arrest an accused without warrant, subject to certain conditions.

The scope of "proceeds of crime", under Section 2, has been expanded to empower the agency to act against even those properties which "may directly or indirectly be derived or obtained as a result of any criminal activity relating to the scheduled offence".

Another vital amendment to Section 3 makes concealment of proceeds of crime, possession, acquisition, use, projecting as untainted money, or claiming as untainted property as independent and complete offences under the Act.

## U.S. lawmakers flag CBI raids

They urge Pompeo to raise issue of action against rights lawyers Jaising & Grover

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC



Mike Pompeo

Expressing concern for the "shrinking space" in India for civil society, a group of 15 U.S. lawmakers has urged Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to raise the issue of CBI raids against prominent human rights lawyers Indira Jaising and Anand Grover.

In a letter dated August 7, the lawmakers, led by Jamie Raskin, a Maryland Democrat, also asked the U.S. to prioritise human rights in its relationship with India and expressed concern over the Modi government's "weaponisation" of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). "Because we value the U.S.-India strategic partnership, we are deeply troubled by recent actions by

the letter comes days before a Bombay High Court stay on October 19 to "engage with the Government of India to advocate for scrupulous protection of the rights of these human rights defenders who are guardians of a healthy Indian civil society".

"The Lawyers Collective is not the only NGO to be targeted by the Modi government – others include Amnesty International, whose offices were raided in October 2018; Greenpeace; and the Ford Foundation; as well as many local groups...," the letter says.

Among the signatories were Chennai-born Democratic Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and Elijah Cummings, who heads the House's Oversight and Reform Committee.

positions, raising the spectre of official interference with the critical independent role played by the UN and its experts," the letter said.

The CBI had filed a case against NGO, Lawyers Collective, in June. In July, it raided the houses of Mr. Grover and Ms. Jaising, founders of the Collective.

**'Unsubstantiated charge'**  
Wednesday's letter alleged that the raids were based on "unsubstantiated allegations that the Collective misused foreign funds".

The letter comes days before a Bombay High Court stay on October 19 to "engage with the Government of India to advocate for scrupulous protection of the rights of these human rights defenders who are guardians of a healthy Indian civil society".

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## Medical law will bring down fees

President approves NMC Bill

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday approved the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019, paving the way for the establishment of the country's new regulator of medical education and certification.

"We are happy with the development and are aiming at framing rules and constituting the National Medical Commission in the next six months," Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said, confirming Presidential assent for the Bill.

The Minister described the NMC Act as a "progressive" legislation that would help reduce the burden on students, ensure probity in medical education, bring down costs of medical education, simplify procedures, help to enhance the number of medical seats in India, ensure quality education, and provide wider access to people for quality healthcare.

"It is a game-changing reform of transformational nature," Dr. Vardhan said.

### Licensing exam

Elaborating on the exit exam, NEXT, Dr. Vardhan said: "Even in the current system, every student has to appear for a final year examination. Under the NMC Act, this final year exam has been converted into a nationwide exit test called NEXT. This single examination will grant a licence to practise medicine, an MBBS degree, and [serve as an] entrance to postgraduate courses."

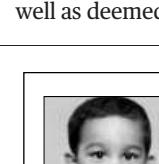
A 'singular' feature of the NMC Act is that it provides for the regulation of fees and all other charges in 50% seats in private colleges as well as deemed universities.

"Nearly 50% of the MBBS seats in the country are in government colleges, which have nominal fees. Of the remaining seats, 50% would be regulated by NMC. This means that almost 75% of total seats in the country would be available at reasonable fees," he said.

The Minister also elaborated on the provisions relating to Community Health Providers and sought to allay apprehensions voiced by some medical professionals of a dilution in the standards of healthcare services.

"Doctors are a scarce resource in our country and need to be optimally utilised," Dr. Vardhan said. "The only area where other health professionals can supplement them is preventive and primary healthcare. We are providing for mid-level health providers."

He also sought to dispel an impression about the NMC being dominated by Central government nominees. "There will be 10 Vice-Chancellors of State health universities and nine elected members of State Medical Councils in the NMC. Thus, 19 out of 33 members will be from the States."



**APPEAL**  
Name of Patient: Mohammed Faizan, 3 years. Hospital Name: Christian Medical College. Diagnosis: 3 years old with Leukaemia. His treatment is for 3 years and total cost of treatment is Rs. 7 Lakhs.

We request kind-hearted Philanthropists to help him. Save Poor Lives A/c Mohammed Faizan S/Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, which is exempted under 80G of I.T ACT.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No. A4, Ceebos Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 68, Kamraj Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-600028, Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

**DONATION GIVEN TO PATIENTS UPTO MARCH 2019 FOR Rs. 4,26,89,335/- AND SCHOLARSHIP 7,30,800/-**

Family on the Sada-e-Sarhad speaks of warm hospitality in Pakistan

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI



Around 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, a grey Sada-e-Sarhad bus from Lahore reached the Ambedkar Stadium Terminal in Delhi. Just three persons stepped out. They were members of a family from Lucknow returning from a trip to Karachi.

While Pakistan has decided to suspend the Samjhauta Express train link and relations between the two countries are strained over Kashmir, there is uncertainty over the future of the bus service.

This was the first time 71-year-old Nuzhat Khatoon went to Pakistan to meet her maternal family. Asked about the time she spent there, she said that all she had come back with was a lot of love and beautiful memories.

**First time**  
She was accompanied by her daughter Zahba Ahmed and son-in-law Sitwat Islam, a businessman in Lucknow, who also said they had visited Pakistan for the first time.

Ms. Khatoon, unable to walk without support and holding her daughter's hand, recalled how she was a daughter of India and was born here. Her parents went to Pakistan after Partition in

1947 but she stayed back in India with her siblings. Her parents had passed away in Pakistan.

# In Jammu border villages, many dream of a future full of opportunities

They say children can get jobs when industries come, and people who moved in after Partition can get the right to sell their land

DAMINI NATH  
R.S. PORA

Having been in the line of fire over the years, villagers along the International Border between India and Pakistan in R.S. Pora of Jammu said on Thursday that they finally had something to look forward to.

While the past year has been free of shelling from across the border, Lal Chand of Suchetgarh village said he did not expect the lull to last. After the Union government revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and decided to divide the State into Union Territories on Monday, he said, the "firing" could start again. While India has maintained that it

is an internal matter, Pakistan has responded by downgrading diplomatic ties.

The Suchetgarh border has been closed to the public by the Border Security Force (BSF) since Monday. The Jammu and Kashmir government's restaurant and tourist centre also remained closed. A BSF official said that while visitors were being allowed on Monday morning, they were stopped later in the day, after Pakistan had closed its gate.

For Mr. Chand and many others in the area, the amendments to Article 370 and 35A, which allowed the Jammu and Kashmir government to define who was a permanent resident of the



**On the edge:** Gurditta and Kanta Devi with the remnant of a shell that hit their home at Suchetgarh. • DAMINI NATH

State, gave some hope.

"We will not leave. We have no idea when the firing can start and it will, but we

are used to it. At least now, our children can get jobs when industries come to Jammu and Kashmir, people

who moved here after Partition can get the right to sell their land, we feel *azadaad* [free]," Mr. Chand said.

Avinash Kumar, 23, also a resident of Suchetgarh, said he was hopeful of getting a job now. After completing high school studies, he has been tending to the family farms along the border.

"There is nothing for the youth here. For months, there would be curfew and schools would be shut. Even now the schools are shut," he said.

## Some consolation

For those who have borne the brunt of shelling in Suchetgarh, there was some consolation in the govern-

**C** We will not leave. We have no idea when the firing can start and it will, but we are used to it

LAL CHAND  
Suchetgarh village

ment's decisions. Gurditta and his wife Kanta Devi's home was hit by firing in January 2018. While they have been able to replace the damaged water tank, they are yet to repair the holes in the front facade of their house.

"We are the ones who face the problem. The loss is always ours. And on top of that, we have not been able to get a fair share under the State government. All the

funds go to Kashmir. Now, we think things will improve. The biggest benefit is that the state subject system will end. Aadhaar, voter ID card will be all you need," he said.

In Flora village, farmer Jasbir Singh said a big worry had been lifted. His daughter had moved to Punjab after marriage and would not have been eligible to own land in Jammu and Kashmir under Article 35(A).

"I always worried if something happens to her husband, how will I be able to take care of her and her two children," he said, taking a break on his field.

Roshan Lal, another Flora resident, also worries about

his children, but does not think anything will change for them under the new status for J&K. Having lost his leg in firing by Pakistan on August 24, 2014, he said he had not been able to get back to work as a *mistri*, nor had any substantial compensation come his way. Unable to afford school fees, he said two of his children could not complete their studies. Now, he spends his time sitting outside his house on a plastic chair, watching the rest of the village go about its day.

"There is no help from the government at all and I don't think it will change. It's better to be dead than live like this," he said.

'Our main concern is our neighbour'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

"No one should have a neighbour like we have," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday in reference to Pakistan.

"Our main concern is our neighbour. The problem is you can change your friends but it is not in your hands to change your neighbour," Mr. Singh said at the annual general body meeting of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses.

He said the decisions taken by the government on Article 370 had ended the discrimination faced by people in the past 70 years. "The neighbouring country is not happy and it will try to disturb peace," he said.

## Karan Singh backs Centre's move

He, however, demanded restoration of Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

As Congress leaders continued to speak in different voices on Jammu and Kashmir, party veteran and former ruler of J&K Karan Singh on Thursday said he supported the Centre's move to remove Article 35A and make Ladakh a Union Territory.

He, however, stressed that the decision should not lead to any communal tension and J&K should be restored as a State as soon as possible.

"The drastic measure, however, appears to enjoy the overwhelming support of Parliament as well as around the country, including Jammu and Ladakh. I have been pondering deeply over the issue. Personally, I don't agree with a blanket con-

**G** Ladakh's emergence as a Union Territory is to be welcomed. I had suggested this as far back as 1965 when I was still the Sadar-i-Riyasat of J&K and had proposed the reorganisation of the State

KARAN SINGH,  
FORMER RULER OF J&K

demnation of these developments. There are several positive points," he said in a statement.

"Ladakh's emergence as a Union Territory is to be welcomed. In fact, I had suggested this as far back as 1965 when I was still the *Sadar-i-Riyasat* of J&K and had proposed the reorganisation of the State," he said and suggested retaining the Hill Councils of Kargil and Leh.

"The gender discrimina-

tion in Article 35A needed to be addressed as also the long-awaited enfranchisement of lakhs of West Pakistani refugees and the reservations for the Scheduled Tribes, which will be welcomed. There will be fresh delimitation, which for the first time will ensure a fair division of political power between Jammu and Kashmir region," he noted.

His statement comes just two days after the Congress

Working Committee (CWC) adopted a resolution deplored the move as "unilateral, brazen and totally undemocratic".

Dr. Singh, who has been a special invitee to the CWC, seemed undeterred even as he urged the Centre to start a dialogue with mainstream political parties of J&K to normalise the situation.

"Communal harmony should be maintained and violence should be eschewed... With my lifelong involvement in J&K, my sole intention to further the intention of all sections of the State," Dr. Singh added.

The party has convened a meeting of the heads of all State units and Opposition leaders on Friday to brainstorm and explain the nuances of its position.

## + J&K identity taken away, says Ghulam Nabi Azad

He accused the Centre of 'destroying and massacring J&K'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, who was not allowed to go out of the Srinagar airport on Thursday, asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to apologise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for taking away their identity.

He accused the Centre of "destroying and mercilessly massacring J&K".

"Jammu and Kashmir people are not allowed to raise their voice. As long as I am outside and not behind bars, I will speak on behalf of the people of Kashmir and all the regions. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Prime Mi-



Ghulam Nabi Azad

nister Modi and Home Minister should bow down and apologise to each person in the State because they have finished Jammu and Kashmir," Mr. Azad told presspersons at the Delhi airport after he was sent back by an evening flight.

The Opposition leader, accompanied by J&K Congress

SC declines urgent hearing on J&K status

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined an urgent hearing of a petition challenging the revocation of the special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

During a brief hearing, advocate M.L. Sharma, who filed the petition, contended that Pakistan may take the matter to the United Nations.

However, a Bench headed by Justice N.V. Ramana asked the petitioner whether the UN can stop Parliament from passing amendments.

Mr. Sharma, in his petition, challenged the August 5 notification of the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of 2019, which amends Article 370 of the Constitution.

The Court also declined an urgent hearing of a plea by Tehseen Poonawalla seeking the withdrawal of curfew/restrictions and all other regressive measures, including blocking of telephone lines, Internet and news channels in Jammu and Kashmir.

A Bench headed by Justice Ramana said Mr. Poonawalla's plea would be put up before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi for appropriate listing.

Mr. Sharma, in his petition, referred to how the political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir were detained/arrested before the issuance of the August 5 notification. There was no meaningful legislative or representative debate, he submitted.

By tweaking the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of May 14, 1954, the notification took away the special rights and privileges enjoyed by the residents of Kashmir. It had effectively allowed the entire provisions of the Constitution to apply to the State, he said.



**Bidding adieu:** A woman with her relative ahead of her departure via the Samjhauta Express in Lahore on Thursday. • AFP

cation came after the train from Lahore was stopped at Wagah by Pakistani authorities. After several hours' delay, the train with the Indian crew reached Attari at 5.15 p.m. The return train, carrying about 70 passengers waiting to cross over to Pakistan, left Attari station at 6.40 p.m.

"After leaving the train at

(With PTI inputs)

Wagah, Indian engine returned to Indian territory at 19.29 hrs. Now Pakistani engine will haul train to Lahore. It is confirmed by Pakistan authorities," Mr. Kumar said. Samjhauta Express runs between Lahore and Attari, he explained.

Attari in turn is connected to Delhi via a link train.

(With PTI inputs)

## Pak. airspace curbs will not have much impact: Air India

The restrictions have been put in place till September 5

ADITYA ANAND  
MUMBAI

Air India has said the partial airspace restriction imposed by Pakistan in its present form only requires its flights to make a 12-minute detour and hence does not have much impact.

Pakistan, on Wednesday, partially closed its airspace for all airlines till September 5.

The development comes amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan over Article 370 concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Pakistan closed its airspace to all types of civilian traffic for 15 weeks following the Balakot IAF strikes in February.



airspace], requiring a maximum 12-minute diversion. It will not affect us [much]." Air India operates around 50 flights daily through the Pakistani airspace. These include flights from Delhi to the U.S., Europe and the Middle East.

An official of the Mumbai Air Traffic Control (ATC) said a Notice To Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority said three of the nine routes would be unavailable in the Lahore Flight Information Region. As per the NOTAM, the partial closure is between 2.45 a.m. and 11 a.m. "Alternative transit routes over Karachi remain open," the official added.

V.O. CHIDAMBARAM PORT TRUST MEET DEPARTMENT	
<b>NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)</b>	
Only through E-Tendering Mode VOCPTE-Tendering Website: <a href="http://www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPTE">www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPTE</a>	
Tender No. MEE/SE/3EL/Elec/F: 18/9/V/2018-19/03	
On line Tenders (in Two bid System) are invited by V.O. Chidambaram Port Trust, Tuticorin for the following work	
1. Name of the work	
"Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of CCTV system in Port Administration Building for a period of four years"	
2. Estimate Amount	
Rs. 39,35,102/-	
3. Earnest Money deposit EMD	
Rs. 79,000/-	
4. Duration of Tender from VOCPTE online e-tendering website.	
09/08/2019 to 26/08/2019 (up to 1500 Hrs.)	
5. Last date and Time for submission of Tenders online	
BEFORE 1500 Hrs. on 26/08/2019	
6. Submission of Hard copies of Technical Bid & tender	
26/08/2019 (after 15:30 hrs.)	
7. Online Technical Bid opening Date and Time	
At 1530 Hrs. on 26/08/2019	
For further details visit port website <a href="http://www.vocport.gov.in">www.vocport.gov.in</a>	
S. V. C. AND MANAGING DIRECTOR	

SOUTHERN RAILWAY				
TENDER NOTICE No.TVC-SNT-SIG-2019-20-22 & TVC-SNT-TELE-2019-20-24 Dated: 02-08-2019				
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014 or and on behalf of The President of India invites ONLINE Open Tender for the following works as per Tender Notice given in our e-Tender Portal <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> . The Tenderer (s) / Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-Tender for WORKS in Thiruvananthapuram Division, need to get enrolled in the e-Tender Portal <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> and only Online Tenders will be accepted. The Bidders will have to make payment towards Tender Document Cost and Earnest Money against such Tenders through online payment modes like Net Banking, Debit / Credit Cards etc., available on REPS Portal.				
Sl. No. & Name of Work				
1. Tender No.TVC-SNT-SIG-2019-2				

# Trump is a white supremacist: Warren

He has done everything he can to stir up racial conflict and hatred, says Democratic candidate

THOMAS KAPLAN  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts said on Wednesday night that she believed President Donald Trump was a white supremacist, broadly accusing him of dividing Americans along racial lines and providing direct and tacit support to those who believe white people are superior to other races.

Asked in a brief interview with *The New York Times* if she thought Mr. Trump was a white supremacist, Ms. Warren responded without hesitation: "Yes."

"He has given aid and comfort to white supremacists," Ms. Warren said during a campaign swing in western Iowa. "He's done the wink and a nod. He has talked about white supremacists as fine people. He's done everything he can to



In attack mode: U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren speaking at the 2020 Public Service Forum in Las Vegas. ■ AFP

stir up racial conflict and hatred in this country."

Ms. Warren's comments amounted to one of the starker condemnations to date from a leading Democratic presidential candidate about Mr. Trump's language toward minorities and immigrants.

She spoke hours after former Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas gave the same assessment of Mr. Trump. Asked by MSNBC if Mr. Trump was a white supremacist, Mr. O'Rourke replied, "He is."

"He's dehumanised or sought to dehumanise those

who do not look like or pray like the majority here in this country," Mr. O'Rourke said.

Mr. Trump has a history of using race for his own gain, and his time as President has been no exception.

#### Invasion of migrants'

In his campaign for the presidency, he denigrated Mexicans, immigrants and other people of colour, including continuing to push the "birtherism" lie about President Barack Obama.

As President, he sought to bar people from predominantly Muslim countries from entering the U.S.; said there were "very fine people on both sides" of a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia; and used a vulgarity to describe African nations and Haiti. He has warned of an "invasion" of migrants at the southern border. And just this summer,

he said that four Congresswomen of colour should "go back" to their countries; only one of them was born outside the U.S.

Mr. Trump has faced condemnations from Democratic presidential candidates in the wake of the mass shooting on Saturday in El Paso, Texas, which the suspect in the case is believed to have described in a manifesto as "a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas" – echoing Mr. Trump's language.

Ms. Warren said Mr. Trump was intent on dividing people.

"Donald Trump has a central message," she said. "He says to the American people, if there's anything wrong in your life, blame them – and 'them' means people who aren't the same colour as you, weren't born where you were born, don't worship the same way you do." ■ NY TIMES

# Syria rejects Turkey-U.S. plan, Kurds give guarded welcome

Proposal seeks to create a buffer zone in Northern Syria

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

DAMASCUS  
Damascus said on Thursday it strongly rejects a proposed U.S.-Turkish buffer zone for northern Syria, blaming the "aggressive" project on Syria's Kurds, who gave the proposal a guarded welcome.

Turkish and U.S. officials agreed on Wednesday to establish a joint operations centre to oversee the creation of a safe zone to manage tensions between Ankara and U.S.-backed Kurdish forces in Syria.

No details were provided on the size or nature of the safe zone, but the deal appeared to provide some breathing room after Turkey had threatened an imminent attack on the Kurdish People's Protection Units, which control a large swathe of northern Syria.

"Syria rejects the agreement on the establishment of a so-called safe zone" in northern Syria, a Foreign Ministry source said.

"Syria's Kurds who have accepted to become a tool in this aggressive U.S.-Turkish

project bear a historical responsibility," the source added, urging Kurdish groups to return to the fold.

Turkey has already carried out two cross-border offensives into Syria in 2016 and 2018, the second of which saw it and allied Syrian rebels overrun the Kurdish enclave of Afrin in the northwest.

Aldar Khalil, a senior Syrian Kurdish official, gave the deal a guarded welcome. "This deal may mark the start of a new approach but we still need more details".

The Ministry said there was no release of radioactive or toxic substances.

## Two dead in Russia rocket explosion

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MOSCOW

Russia's Defence Ministry said two people died and four others were wounded when a rocket engine exploded during a test.

The Ministry said the explosion occurred at a military shooting range in the northwestern Arkhangelsk region, causing a fire.

It said a total of six servicemen and civilian engineers were injured, and two of them later died of injuries. Around 16,500 people fled their homes.

The Ministry said there was no release of radioactive or toxic substances.

# China decries U.S. ban on its firms

Federal agencies can't buy telecom equipment from Chinese companies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

China on Thursday denounced rules unveiled by the U.S. that ban technology giant Huawei and other Chinese firms from government contracts as "abuse of state power" in the latest move in the escalating China-U.S. trade war.

The interim rule, which will preclude any U.S. federal agency from purchasing telecom or technology equipment from the firms, is part of efforts by Washington to restrict Huawei, which officials claim is linked to Chinese intelligence.

"The abuse of state power



The U.S. unveiled rules banning Huawei and other Chinese technology firms from government contracts. ■ REUTERS

by the U.S. to unscrupulously and deliberately throw mud at and suppress specific Chinese enterprises seriously undermines the image of

the U.S. and its own interests," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

"We firmly support the re-

levant Chinese companies in taking up legal weapons to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests," she said.

The ban on Chinese tech firms comes amid a heated dispute between the two economic powers over international trade rules.

Meanwhile, the U.S. hit China with new import duties on Thursday on more than \$4 billion in imported wooden cabinets and vanities, after finding manufacturers there benefit from unfair subsidies. Last week, it announced new tariffs on \$300 billion in Chinese imports.

# Food supply is at dire risk: UN

Half a billion people live in places that are turning into desert, says report

CHRISTOPHER FLAVELLE



Time to act: A particular danger is that food crises could develop on several continents at once. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

The world's land and water resources are being exploited at "unprecedented rates", a new UN report warns, which, combined with climate change, is putting dire pressure on the ability of humanity to feed itself.

The report, prepared by

more than 100 experts from 52 countries and released in summary form in Geneva on Thursday, found that the window to address the threat is closing rapidly. Half a billion people live in places that are turning into desert, and soil is being lost between 10 and 100 times faster than it is forming, according to the report.

Climate change will make those threats even worse, as

floods, drought, storms and other types of extreme weather threaten to disrupt, and over time shrink, the global food supply. Already, more than 10% of the world's population remains undernourished, and some authors of the report warned in interviews that food shortages could lead to an increase

in cross-border migration.

A particular danger is that food crises could develop on several continents at once, said Cynthia Rosenzweig, a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and one of the lead authors of the report.

"The potential risk of mul-

ti-breadbasket failure is increasing," she said.

The report offered a measure of hope, laying out pathways to addressing the looming food crisis, although they would require a major re-evaluation of land use and agriculture worldwide as well as consumer behaviour.

Proposals include increasing the productivity of land, wasting less food and persuading more people to shift their diets away from cattle and other types of meat.

Some authors also suggested that food shortages are likely to affect poorer parts of the world far more than richer ones. That could increase a flow of immigration that is already redefining politics in North America, Europe and other parts of the world. ■ NY TIMES

## Pompeo, Saudi Crown Prince discuss Iran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo discussed maritime security, Iran and Yemen with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in a phone call on Wednesday.

"The secretary discussed heightened tensions in the region and the need for stronger maritime security in order to promote freedom of navigation," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement.

Iran has seized three tanker ships in strategic Gulf waters in a month.

The U.S. has been struggling to piece together an international coalition to protect cargo ships travelling through the Gulf.

## Guam's Catholics reckon with decades of sex abuse

No clergy has been prosecuted so far

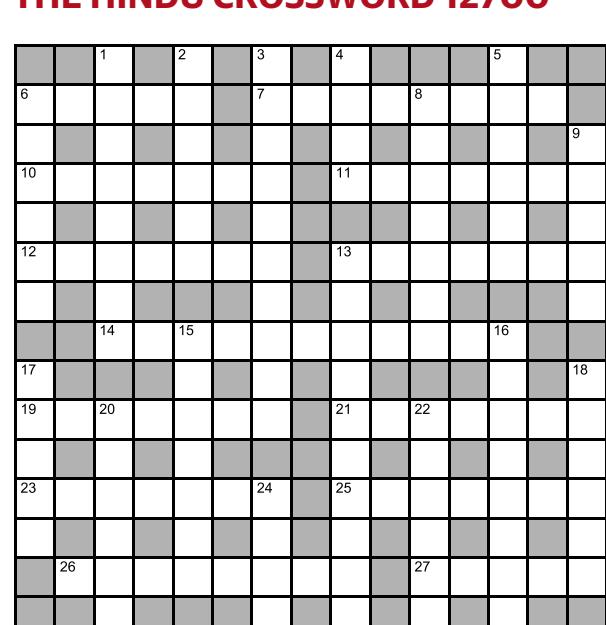
tell a story of systemic abuse dating from the 1950s to as recently as 2013.

The Archbishop stymied all efforts that could have exposed his past. It wasn't until Mr. Denton and other victims spoke out in 2016 that the Vatican finally suspended Apuron, nearly 40 years after Mr. Denton first reported his rape.

The Archbishop, now 73, insists all his accusers are liars. But in trial last year, the Vatican found him guilty of sex crimes against children, removing him from public ministry. He remains a bishop and receives a monthly stipend of \$1,500.

To this day, no member of the Catholic clergy on Guam has ever been prosecuted for a sex crime.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12700



### ACROSS

- 6 Urge to return and adopt gold standard, say (5)
- 7 Work overtime, reduce Carbon by exposure to atmosphere (8)
- 10 Release snake, it goes under fence, mostly (7)
- 11 Labour leader follows the bank and church like a hawk (7)

(set by Arden)

- 4 Fuss about the fog (4)
- 5 Agree, these are missing from touch screen, possibly (6)
- 6 Fellow loses heart, gets back in a bad mood (6)
- 8 Stage at the middle, in that place (7)
- 9 Rich fabric (5)
- 13 "The Samurai" is shot in a very unprofessional manner (10)
- 21 It couldn't take off, is dead copy (7)
- 23 Comfort in housing (7)
- 25 Criminal law – read about unfair treatment (3,4)
- 26 Countrymen get 50% share (8)
- 27 Agony chasing bars, when exposed it's all gas (5)
- 29 DOWN
- 1 Capital city even sells some wine... (8)
- 2 ...tell them to sell (6)
- 3 Manoeuvre as in space over a water body (7,3)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12699

S	E	T	A	S	I	D	D	O	L	M	N
O	S	P	I	O	P	A	O				
M	A	U	D	L	I	N	P	R	O	T	
E	N	I	T	T	P	N	T	H			
T	R	A	N	C	G	R	A	F	F	I	T
H	M	E	C	E	I	N	N				
I	R	I	S	C	N	S	E				
R	I	S	C	N	T	R	U				
G	O	A	K	E	P	E	Y				
T	N	I	R	D	D	X	L				
O	C	C	U	P	A	T	R				
N	G	G	L	I	O	E	P				
O	V	E	R	A	T	C	L				
N	O	N	N	E	H	O	L				
N	U	T	T	E	R	P	O				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



## FAITH

### Power of Maya

The most fascinating and intriguing aspect in creation is the power of the Lord's Maya. Maya is to be understood as the Lord's Sakti which is always co-existent with Him and in that sense it is real. But the irony is that Maya superimposes itself with such authenticity to keep people engrossed in worldly matters that they forget to focus on God, pointed out Sri B. Damodharan Dikshitar in a discourse. The spell of Maya is difficult to cross and is possible only by God's grace and the grace of the Guru. This truth is illustrated in the story about what happens to Narada when he asks Krishna to enlighten him about Maya and its effects.

Krishna asks him to fetch some water before He could explain about Maya. Narada goes in search of water and gets entangled in family life forgetting the purpose of his quest. Finally he comes out of this snare by God's grace and realises his folly when he sees Krishna patiently waiting for water. Adi Sankara explains how Maya is both real and unreal through the analogy of gold and gold ornaments. The latter are a modification of the original source and should be seen as such. The world and creation are only a manifestation of the Lord and the only reality is Him. Maya is also interpreted as ignorance that makes the self believe in its material nature more than in its inherent divine origin.

Under the sway of the three gunas the jiva passes through samsara believing in the reality of empirical experiences. All his actions in this life are an extension of the acts in his past lives. The samsaras from previous births determine his basic nature, attitude and beliefs in life. He enjoys the fruits of several karmas and is tossed about in a mixed state of pleasure and pain. Thus he is subject to birth and death repeatedly.

## MARKET WATCH

	08-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,327	1.74
US Dollar	70.69	0.28
Gold	38,470	1.45
Brent oil	57.55	1.48

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	373.95	1.70
Asian Paints	1565.90	6.70
Axia Bank	660.10	0.15
Bajaj Auto	2703.75	98.65
Bajaj Finance	7290.45	138.00
Bharti Airtel	372.15	6.05
BPCL	343.50	12.40
Britannia Ind	2577.60	37.05
Cipla	503.05	-15.25
Coal India	211.85	5.75
Dr Reddys Lab	2571.95	15.15
Eicher Motors	16811.65	355.00
GAIL (India)	121.95	0.25
Grasim Ind	737.45	-0.50
HCL Tech.	1088.25	65.60
HDPC	2182.30	7.10
HDFC Bank	2233.15	49.15
Hero MotoCorp	2587.90	82.65
Hindalco	181.05	4.65
Hind Unilever	1803.10	25.85
Indiabulls HFL	444.35	-1.05
ICICI Bank	414.40	6.00
IndusInd Bank	1414.05	-12.30
Bharti Infralet	250.25	4.70
Infosys	788.75	12.65
Indian Oil Corp	130.85	1.85
ITC	257.75	4.10
JSW Steel	221.70	9.45
Kotak Bank	1502.75	26.45
L&T	1360.65	0.60
M&M	539.55	21.25
Maruti Suzuki	5902.25	127.25
NTPC	124.65	1.60
ONGC	130.85	0.35
PowerGrid Corp	202.70	3.85
Reliance Ind	1152.35	42.95
State Bank	294.35	4.45
Sun Pharma	426.45	5.40
Tata Motors	124.05	6.65
Tata Steel	367.40	-14.50
TCS	2258.10	44.65
Tech Mahindra	680.20	5.75
Titan	1041.10	12.65
UltraTech Cement	4233.15	-108.50
UPL	532.85	0.05
Vedanta	138.70	2.05
Wipro	265.75	3.20
YES Bank	89.20	2.35
Zee Entertainment	331.45	3.55

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.49	70.81
Euro	79.02	79.38
British Pound	85.34	85.73
Japanese Yen (100)	66.44	66.75
Chinese Yuan	10.00	10.05
Swiss Franc	72.20	72.53
Singapore Dollar	50.95	51.19
Canadian Dollar	53.00	53.25
Malaysian Ringgit	16.83	16.93

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 08 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	47.6.....(45.7)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3558.....(3473)

## Mutual fund SIPs at 3-year high

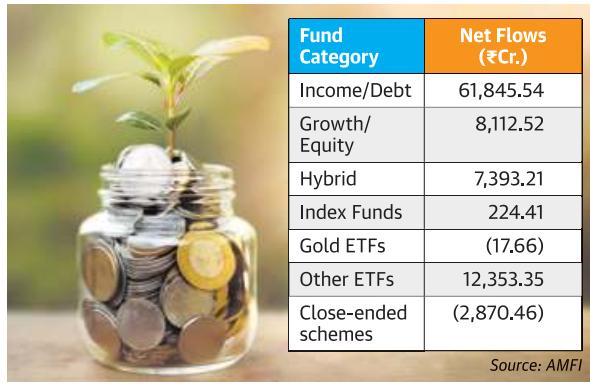
Net retail inflows for July almost doubles month-on-month to ₹15,561 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Mutual funds registered strong inflows, especially through systematic investment plans (SIPs), in July even as the stock markets registered extreme volatility with a downward bias during the month.

According to the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), July saw net inflows of ₹8,324 crore by way of SIPs, which was the highest such monthly inflows in the last three years. In the previous month, SIP net flows were pegged at ₹8,122 crore.

Further, the number of folios also registered a marginal increase to 2.78 crore in July from 2.73 crore in the previous month. Corroborating the strong retail interest in mutual funds, the month also saw net retail inflows of



Fund Category	Net Flows (₹Cr.)
Income/Debt	61,845.54
Growth/Equity	8,112.52
Hybrid	7,393.21
Index Funds	224.41
Gold ETFs	(17.66)
Other ETFs	12,353.35
Close-ended schemes	(2,870.46)

Source: AMFI

₹15,561 crore, which was nearly double that of last month, when such flows were pegged at ₹8,367 crore.

"Despite a difficult month and volatile market conditions, the overall sentiment towards debt, equity and hybrid mutual fund schemes has been positive, and equity SIP contributions are at all-time high over last three

years," said N.S. Venkatesh, chief executive, AMFI.

"This conveys signs of maturity on the part of retail investors and is reflective of continued investor trust in the Indian MF Industry," he added.

On an overall basis, the assets under management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry rose to ₹24.54 lakh

crore in July from ₹24.25 lakh crore in the previous month.

## 'Dip in valuations'

While the SIP assets under management witnessed a marginal dip in July, he attributed the dip taken on account of mark-to-market valuations. Incidentally, the benchmark Sensex lost 4.86% or 1,914 points in July.

"Investors are remaining invested either through the SIP or other routes. The flows have been positive both, at the overall and retail levels. Despite market showing volatility, continuous investment is happening," said Mr. Venkatesh, while adding that though the RBI has done a minor correction in its GDP projection numbers, the fundamentals of the economy were still strong.

## Sensex soars on reports of roll-back of tax on FPIs

Reports hinting at government reviewing long-term capital gains tax also act as catalyst

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

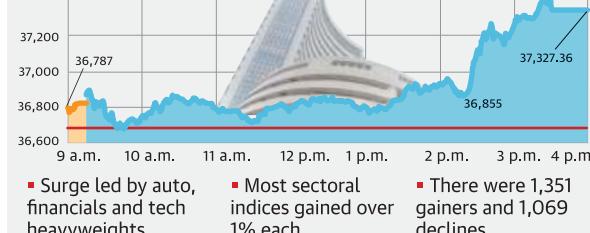
Equities staged a strong rally in the second half of the trading session after reports poured in that the government is likely to roll back the higher tax on foreign investors. The levy was introduced in the recent Budget.

The benchmark Sensex rallied more than 650 points from the day's low to close at 37,327.36, gaining 636.86 points or 1.74%. Incidentally, the first half of the trading session saw the indices staying range-bound due to the absence of strong positive triggers.

The broader Nifty reclaimed the psychological 11,000-mark to close at 11,032.45, gaining 176.95 points or 1.63%.

## Bull rush

Sensex rallied more than 650 points from the day's low to close at 37,327.36, gaining 636.86 points, or 1.74%



Earlier in the day, reports suggested that the government was likely to withdraw the tax surcharge that was introduced for entities earning more than ₹2 crore.

Most foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) who have structured themselves as

trusts and not corporate entities, would be liable to pay the tax.

"Such a move will be strongly welcomed by the markets reeling under unprecedented selling avalanche from the FPIs after the Union Budget due to a

surge led by auto, financials and tech heavyweights

most sectoral indices gained over 1% each

There were 1,351 gainers and 1,069 decliners

(LTCG) tax also acted as a catalyst in boosting investor sentiments.

The late surge in the markets was led by auto, financials and technology heavyweights. Top gainers in the Sensex pack were HCL Technologies, Tata Motors, M&M and Bajaj Auto.

In all, 27 of the Sensex constituents ended the day with gains. On a broader level, gainers at 1,351 managed to outnumber declines that were pegged at 1,069. Most of the sectoral indices gained in excess of 1% each on Thursday.

Provisional numbers showed that foreign investors were net sellers at ₹437 crore, which was lower than the quantum of selling on most days in the recent past.

## CBDT eases plight of start-ups with pending angel tax cases

Firms already selected for verification won't be scrutinised

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued a clarification instructing its officers that registered companies that have already been selected for verification under the angel tax provision will not be scrutinised by the tax authorities before the February notification came into effect.

Further, even unregistered companies have been given relief, with the assessing officer being allowed to scrutinise them only after getting permission from his superior officer.

"Instances have come to the notice of the Board that notices... have been issued by the assessing officers in respect of start-up companies before issue of notification of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade dated February 19, 2019, or even afterwards which are presently pending for disposal," the



Unregistered firms too have got relief in terms of scrutiny. ■ GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

approached the DPIIT and the CBDT saying that several start-ups had already received notices from the tax authorities before the February notification came into effect.

**No verification** "Where the start-up has been recognised by the DPIIT but the case is selected under 'limited scrutiny'... no verification on such issues will be done by the AOs (Assessing Officers) during the proceedings... and the contention of such recognised start-up companies on the issue will be summarily accepted," the CBDT's Wednesday clarification said.

This provision has been extended to companies that have been selected for 'complete scrutiny' as well. Further, the clarification seeks to ease the plight of those start-ups that have not yet been registered with the DPIIT.

The start-up community, however, has repeatedly ap-

'₹3-tn capital helped PSBs to just trim losses'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The massive ₹3 trillion capital infusion by the government into state-run banks over the past six years has helped them reduce losses but has failed to boost credit growth, says a report.

Between FY14 and FY19, the government has infused ₹3 trillion in state-run banks, a good portion of which came in from LIC. This has doubled the value of their stake in these banks to ₹4.4 trillion as of July 2019, from ₹2.2 trillion as of March 2014.

"While the government has infused huge capital into PSBs, the same has largely been used to mitigate losses and has failed to contribute meaningfully to credit growth," India Ratings said in a report on Thursday.

During this period FY14 and FY18, bank credit grew in double-digits (13.24% in FY19), while in FY17, the credit supply was at five-decadal low of 4.6%.

The board of directors has decided it owes a duty to all the stakeholders of the company, to ensure that the company continues to have a strategic direction and a suitable way forward," the filing said.

**Corporate adviser** To achieve this objective it was decided by the board to appoint a person of eminence or a reputed firm as strategic corporate adviser to the board.

"We are trying to identify a very eminent person of high stature or a firm that can set a strategic direction for the company and decide on its future," said a top source in the company.

## IN BRIEF



## IDBI Bank, BoM reduce lending rates

Mumbai More banks have started reducing their lending rates, a day after the Reserve Bank of India reduced the repo rate by 35 bps to 5.4%. IDBI Bank reduced its one-year marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 bps to 8.85% with effect from August 12. Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has also reduced the one-year MCLR by 10 bps to 8.5%. On Wednesday, State Bank of India reduced its MCLR by 15 bps to 8.25% from 8.40%.

## Nissan unveils diesel variant of Kicks SUV

NEW DELHI Nissan Motor India on Wednesday introduced a new entry-level diesel variant of its SUV Kicks priced at ₹99.89 lakh. The new XE diesel variant will be positioned below the XL variant which is currently priced at ₹11.09 lakh. "Responding to the immense interest in an entry-level diesel variant, we have introduced the new XE Diesel trim," Nissan Motor India V-P marketing Sriram Padmanabhan said. PTI

## Rane Holdings June quarter net declines

CHENNAI Rane Holdings Ltd. (RHL) standalone profit for the June quarter dropped to ₹6.84 crore from ₹6.89 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. "Group sales declined by 7% on drop in volumes in the domestic automotive sector. We were able to partially mitigate this with the support of higher sales to global customers and Indian after-market customers," said L. Ganesh, CMD, RHL.

## SFL to focus on exports to beat slowdown

Major chunk of ₹350 crore, to be invested this fiscal, will go towards exports, says chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Sundram Fasteners Ltd. (SFL) is focussing on exports to enable the company to tide over the slowdown in the domestic automobile sector.

"Currently, our exports stand at 35% and retail at 10%," said Suresh Krishna, non-executive chairman, Sundram Fasteners Ltd. "In the coming years, we aim to increase it [exports] to 50%."

Mr. Krishna also said that SFL had committed to invest ₹800 crore during 2018-19 and 2019-20, of which ₹350 crore would be deployed during the current fiscal.

A significant portion from this would go towards exports.

"We were able to mitigate the adverse impact of the



SFL is setting up an SEZ at Sri City to make and export high precision engineering components, says Krishna. ■ V. GANESAN

slowdown due to a combination of various measures such as focus on exports, after-market, product innovation, cost reduction themes and adherence to TQM [total quality management] principles," he said.

"We have managed the

downward trend. A good company has to manage both upward and downward trends," he added.

### Q1 net declines

During the first quarter of 2019-20, SFL's standalone net profit declined to ₹93.11

crore from ₹106.65 crore in the year ago period. Revenue from operations was lower at ₹945.35 crore against ₹968.51 crore. The company reported domestic sales of ₹557.22 crore (₹614.29 crore). Exports were ₹348.28 crore (₹321.71 crore).

In the first quarter of 2019-20, SFL's domestic sales dropped by 9.3%, compared with the corresponding period last year, while exports revenue increased by 8.3%.

"The drop in overall revenue was 2.5%. If not for growth in exports, the dip would have been higher," said S. Meenakshisundaram, chief financial officer, SFL.

Mr. Krishna said SFL was in the process of setting up a Special Economic Zone unit at Sri City to manufacture and export high precision

engineering components. In order to expand growth in non-auto segments, SFL has incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary named Sunfast TVS Ltd.

The new firm would focus on growth opportunities in aerospace and defence segments and continue to expand SFL's existing business in the aerospace segment.

On introduction of electric vehicles, he said more charging stations were required for EVs to gain momentum. "One has to deal with the disposal of batteries, which none has talked about," he said.

Mr. Krishna also disclosed that K. Ramesh, who was associated with SFL as a director since December 1971, resigned in June 2019 due to personal reasons.

## City Union Bank Q1 profit rises 15%

Slippages lower than in Mar. quarter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Private sector lender City Union Bank Ltd. reported a standalone net profit of ₹162 crore for the first quarter ended June 2019, representing a 15% growth over the year-earlier period, despite an increase in provisioning.

"We were able to post 15% growth in our net profit due to the implementation of risk management system and our decision to stay away from troubled corporates," said N. Kamakodi, CEO and managing director, City Union Bank.

CUB's net interest income increased by 11% to ₹417 crore while the net interest margin stood at 4.11%.

The bank increased its

provisions and contingencies on non-performing assets to ₹116 crore from ₹78 crore.

Gross non-performing assets rose to 3.34% from 3.02% and net NPAs to 1.89% from 1.70%.

It had a provision coverage ratio of 65%.

During the period, the bank recorded fresh slippages of ₹200 crore (₹26 crore) and recovered ₹80 crore (₹61 crore).

"The overall slippage in the first quarter was lower than Q4 of 2018-19. We expect to have net NPAs of 1.75% to 2% of advances, which we would achieve by the year end. Till then, there would be some aberrations," he said.

## Siemens India profit up 21.4% to ₹248 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Siemens Ltd. has reported a 21.4% rise in its third quarter net profit to ₹248 crore for FY 2019.

The rise in profit came on a 4.9% increase in revenue to ₹3,110 crore during the quarter. Siemens follows October - September financial year.

Commenting on the results, Sunil Mathur, MD and CEO Siemens Ltd., said, "We have delivered very solid results in the third quarter although we see a slowdown in capex-related ordering by our customers. Liquidity is becoming a concern with payments being delayed and inventory offtake slowing down."

## Maruti Suzuki launches BS-VI compliant Ertiga

Sixth vehicle in firm's BS-VI portfolio

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki on Thursday launched the BS-VI compliant version of its MPV Ertiga, taking the total number of BS-VI compliant vehicles in its portfolio to six. The BS-VI petrol variant is priced ₹7.54 lakh onwards (ex-showroom Delhi).

"With the introduction of BS-VI petrol option in Ertiga, Maruti Suzuki has the largest offering of BS-VI compliant models – Alto, WagonR, Swift, Baleno and Dzire. The availability of the BS-VI variants on these large volume models several months ahead of the mandated date reflects Maruti Suzuki's commitment towards environment friendly

vehicles," the company said in a statement. Currently, the MPV is available in diesel and CNG variants, at a starting price of ₹9.86 lakh and ₹8.87 lakh, respectively (ex-showroom Delhi).

**Emission cuts**

The BS-VI compliant petrol vehicles will lead to reduction of nearly 25% in Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions and can run on BS-IV petrol as well. "The BS-VI petrol cars from Maruti Suzuki have been extensively tested with BS-IV fuel and there is no operational concern," the company added.

Over 70,000 units of the Next Gen Ertiga have been sold since its launch in November 2018.

## UltraTech net nearly doubles to ₹1,208 cr.

Merger synergies, better operational efficiencies boost cement firm's bottomline

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

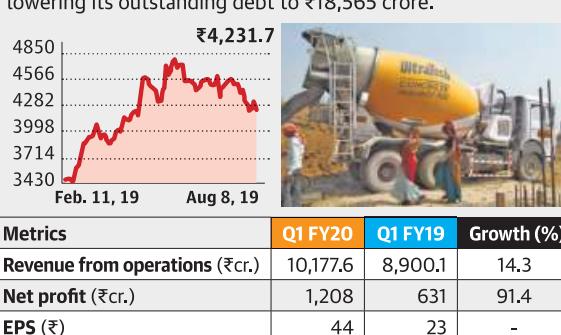
UltraTech Cement Limited's net profit for the first quarter almost doubled to ₹1,208 crore compared with the net profit of ₹631 crore registered in the year-earlier period, due to merger synergies and better operational efficiencies.

The rise in profit for one of India's largest cement makers came on a 15% growth in net sales to ₹10,027 crore during the quarter.

The company's profit before interest, depreciation and tax stood at ₹2,840 crore compared with the ₹1,763 crore in the year-earlier period. The company achieved an operating EBITDA per tonne of ₹1,466 as EBITDA margin improved to 28%

### Terra firma

The firm has repaid over ₹1,000 crore worth of debt, lowering its outstanding debt to ₹18,565 crore.



compared with the 19% in the year-earlier period.

### Overhauling of plants

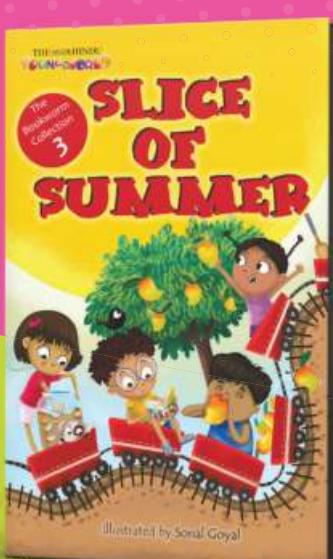
"With major overhauling of the plants and completion of quality upgradation, UltraTech Cement will achieve an installed capacity of 117.35 MTPA, inclusive of its overseas operations.

The company has repaid over ₹1,000 crore worth of debt during the quarter to take its outstanding debt to ₹18,565 crore.

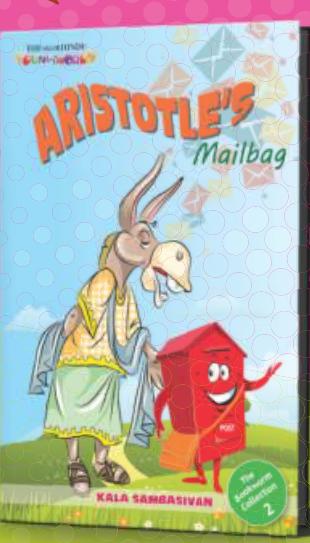
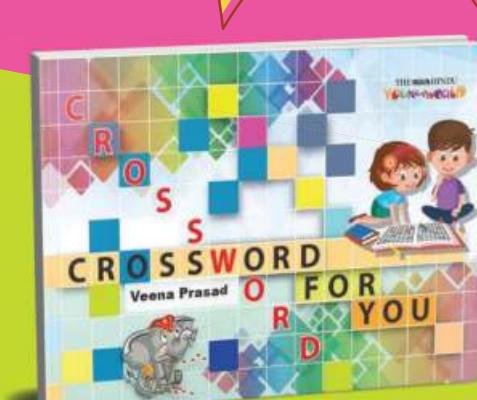
Limited has been fully integrated with UltraTech systems and processes. The plants have achieved optimal efficiencies," said the company in a statement.

The cement plants acquired from Jaiprakash Asso-

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THE HINDU GROUP

# The difficulty of being bad

Veteran actor Gulshan Grover on his favourite roles, what he's learnt from filmi villains and his dream role in a Bond film

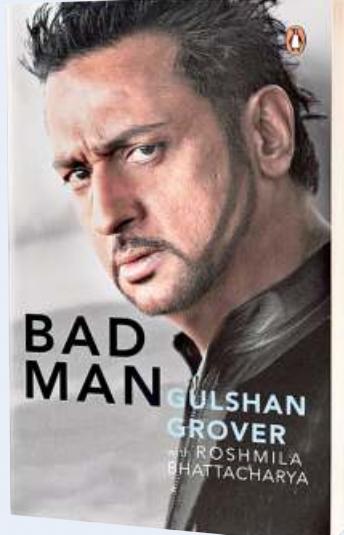
VASUNDHARA RATHI

Gulshan Grover's current state of mind is slightly-on-edge-and-anxious, akin to the Friday release feeling. One of the most popular villains of contemporary Hindi cinema, Grover has recently released biography, *Bad Man*, which he's co-written with journalist Roshmila Bhattacharya. Grover's film career began in the early 1980s. After getting a Masters' degree from Shri Ram College of Commerce in Delhi, Grover decided to leave behind all that was familiar to become an actor. Nearly four decades and over 400 films later, the actor's fondest memories on a film set dates back to his first few films.

"I'd waited for years and struggled to actually get in front of the camera to experience the life within, after and before the shot. Some of the most fantastic memories are of shooting films like *Hum Paanch* (1980), *Rocky* (1981) and *Sadma* (1983)," shared the actor.

In deciding to play the villain, Grover had the challenging task of having the audiences hate him, film after film, while effectively striking fear and anger into the hearts of the audiences. Without the intimidating personality that the yesteryear baddies had, Grover had to build his persona differently. "I had to work very hard to build that brand where people may not notice me when I walk into an event but they could not ignore me on screen," said the actor. Taking inspiration from legendary baddies before him like Amrish Puri, Pran, Amjad Khan and Ajit, he added, "Each actor who has played the villain is truly fantastic because of the difficult job they have. I had the great honour of knowing many of the legends like Pran-ji, Amrish Puri-ji personally or I've worked with them. They've been a great source of guidance to me."

Grover highlights Shatrujan Sinha and Vinod Khanna's exem-



**Long career:** Gulshan Grover has acted in over 400 films over four decades.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

plary portrayal of negative characters. "Audiences would whistle and cheer for them when they were hitting the hero! You wanted to play the villain because they did it so well." He loved Khanna in films such as *Reshma Aur Shera* (1971) and Sinha in *Bombay To Goa* (1972).

After scores of films and accolades in Hindi cinema, Grover ventured to the West and has been a part of numerous Hollywood films such as the Brett Lee and Tannishtha Chatterjee starrer *Un-Indian* (2015) and *Desperate Endeavours* (2012). A self-proclaimed fan of the James Bond villains, he was supposed to be a part of the Daniel Craig-starrer *Casino Royale* (2006). "I am a huge fan of the Bond villains. They have panache and leave an impact. I had the opportunity to play the villain in *Casino Royale* but it didn't work out. But I will someday play the Bond villain," emphasised the actor.

## ■ The many shades of villainy

As his book narrates the journey the actor has had in his impressive career, we asked him to share some of his favourite roles that he enjoyed playing and pat came the reply, "I can list my top 50 instead of my top five!"

**Sir (1993)** directed by Mahesh Bhatt starred Grover as 'Chhapan Tikli' along with Paresh Rawal in negative roles. The drama also starred Naseeruddin Shah in the titular role with debutante Atul Agnihotri and Pooja Bhatt in the lead. Rawal won the National Award for Best Supporting Role for *Sir*.

**Shola Aur Shabnam (1992)** directed by David Dhawan starred Grover as gangster Kali Baba and is often considered his breakout performance. A commercial blockbuster, the film had romance and action in equal measure and starred Govinda and Divya Bharti as the leads.

**Ram Lakhan (1989)** starring Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Gulshan Grover and Rakhee, was directed by Subhash Ghai.

Grover's character Kesaria Vilayati or 'Bad Man' is widely remembered for his spine-chilling dialogue delivery and menacing unibrow. The film's cast recently celebrated 20 years since its release and the film is widely remembered for the song, *My Name Is Lakhan*.

**Mahasangram (1990)** by director Mukul S. Anand also starred Vinod Khanna, Madhuri Dixit and Govinda in leading roles. The action-packed drama starred Gulshan Grover, in one of the few positive roles in his career, as the police inspector.

**16 December (2002)** starring Danny Denzongpa, Milind Soman, Gulshan Grover among others was directed by Mani Shankar. The fast-paced thriller saw mastermind Dost Khan played by Grover.

**Bawandar (2000)** based on the true story of gang rape survivor, Bhanwari Devi, portrayed social evils. Starring Nandita Das, Raghubir Yadav, Deepti Naval, the film was directed by Jagmohan Mundhra. Grover essayed the role of a lawyer seeking justice for Sanwari (played by Das).

**Deepa Mehta's Earth (1999)** is set during Partition and showcases the ramifications of the traumatic event on the lives of the different communities. Grover played a character called Mr. Singh. The film was also India's official entry to the Oscars that year.



## FOOD SPOT



RAHUL VERMA

I was a callow teen went I first went to Shillong. I don't remember much of that trip, barring the fact that I was struck by its scenic beauty. I went back a few years later, and that sojourn is etched in my memory. I had my first drink (a bottle of beer, which promptly did me in), walked around the town on my own, heard some nice music being played at street corners by young men on their guitars, and ate some memorable food.

That is why, I suppose, I am still greatly fond of the food of the northeast. Apart from nostalgia, it is also because the food is simply cooked, yet delicious. Plus, the cuisine includes various kinds of pork dishes.

In Delhi, there are some excellent eateries that offer northeastern fare these days. But I was surprised when my friends in Kolkata took me to one such eatery in their city



**Eastern flavours** Dishes of the North-East at Shillong Point

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



# PORK PLEASURES

A little bit of the northeast in Kolkata

when I was visiting last week. Run by two Assamese partners, it is called Shillong Point and is located in the Ballygunge area (20/1/1 C, Ballygunge Station Road; 9830316747).

The restaurant is a tiny, three-table affair. The menu card includes many popular Naga and Khasi dishes. It offers, among other things, Na-ga-style pork cooked with lai

pata, chicken with bamboo shoot, galoh (soupy spinach rice) and Naga-style fish with bamboo shoot wrapped in a banana leaf.

My friends had already visited the place, so they knew what to order. We asked for a plate of Dohneiing (pork with black sesame, ₹330), pork with bamboo shoot (₹330), dohkhleih (pork meat salad, ₹150) and tungtak (fer-

mented fish chutney, ₹50).

Our food came to our table, and we focused on the dishes. The salad – a preparation of pork meat (including the brain, we were told), chopped onions and ginger – was delicious. The taste of the ginger lingered on, and it was a light starter that whetted our appetite. I love pork with black sesame and this one didn't disappoint me. The gravy was thick and flavourful, and the pork – nice-

ly fatty – had soaked in the juices. I mixed it with the rice, and made a great meal out of it.

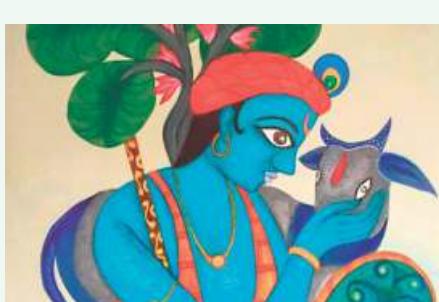
The pork with bamboo shoots was red, hot and tasty, and I loved the sharp aftertaste of the chillies in the gravy. The fish chutney, on the other hand, set the tongue on fire. I just had a tiny bit of it, but it was enough to make me want to call 101. The dry and fermented fish had apparently been prepared with the famous – or infamous, depending on your own Scoville Scale – bhut jolokia chillies. For dessert, we asked for the home-churned ice creams,

which turned out to be surprisingly good. They had two varieties – butterscotch and vanilla – and both were nice and creamy and not too sweet.

What made the meal special was the discussion with the cook-cum-server, a long-haired, music-loving young man called Imon. He used to work in Kasol in Himachal Pradesh, and dreams of cooking Italian dishes for food lovers in the near future. The next time I am in the city, I hope I will be able to share Imon's culinary dream.

*The writer is a seasoned food critic*

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



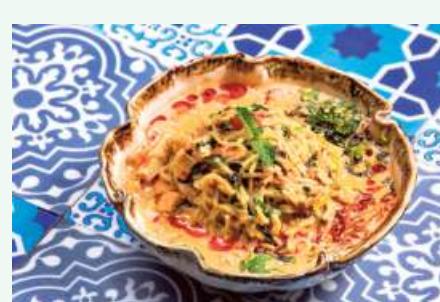
ART

### Mixed media

CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, ARTISTS FROM VARIOUS ARMY FAMILIES WILL COME TOGETHER FOR A GROUP EXHIBITION TITLED RAINBOW, AT THE GALLERY OF ALL INDIA FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY. ON VIEW TILL AUGUST 15, THEIR ARTWORKS COMPRIZE OF SKETCHES, OIL PAINTING, AND ACRYLIC DRAWN IN TRADITIONAL AS WELL AS CONTEMPORARY STYLES.

VENUE: AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD

### Singapore Day special

MARKING NATIONAL SINGAPORE DAY ON AUGUST 9, MALLACCA MALAYSIAN KITCHEN WILL HOLD A SINGAPORE FESTIVAL EVERY WEEKEND, FOR A MONTH. THE RESTAURANT WILL SERVE POPULAR SINGAPOREAN DISHES LIKE ROJAK AND LAKSA. GUESTS CAN ALSO ENJOY SINGAPOREAN FOLK MUSIC AND VIEW TRADITIONAL DANCE FORMS, WHILE DINING.

VENUE: 32nd Milestone, Gurgaon

TIME: 6 p.m. onwards



MUSIC

### Sangeet Samaroh

GANDHARVA MAHAVIDYALAYA AND SARASWATI SAMAJ ARE HOSTING THE ANNUAL VISHNU DIGAMBAR JAYANTI SANGEET SAMAROH 2019. STARTING TODAY, THIS THREE-DAY FESTIVAL WILL FEATURE A SAROD RECITAL BY PRATIK SHRIVASTAVA, AND A CARNATIC VOCAL PERFORMANCE BY THE AKKARAI SISTERS, SUBHALAKSHMI AND SORNALATHA.

VENUE: Kaman Auditorium, Mandi House

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



GIG

### Sumit Sethi live

IMPERFECTO SHOR CLUB IS HOSTING DELHI-BASED DJ PRODUCER AND MUSIC COMPOSER SUMIT SETHI LIVE TONIGHT. SETHI HAS MADE HIS MARK IN BOLLYWOOD WITH TRACKS IN SEVERAL FILMS, ALSO PERFORMING AT AWARD SHOWS. HE SPECIALISES IN DIFFERENT MUSIC GENRES INCLUDING BOLLYWOOD, HIP-HOP, AND HOUSE MUSIC, AMONG OTHERS.

VENUE: Hotel Pride Plaza, Aerocity

TIME: 10 p.m. onwards

## PEOPLE

### A gene for art

A 27-year-old joins her grandmother's work in finding homes for Thangka and Kalighat paintings



When she brings out a well-preserved design magazine, the copy hardly a few years older than she is, 27-year-old Mallika Mookerjee handles it with a sense of reserved respect. In it is featured her grandmother's home, full with photographs of the plot's outdoor flora and indoor art.

The structure has since made way for the home-gallery, called Thakalis, which they're in currently, and the lady of the house, Asha Chopra, is now a wizened, yet glamourous, 80-year-old. But what has remained constant through this period, is the prominent presence of art, on most of their walls, tabletops, and ledges.

Chopra recalls her growing up years in Delhi – she'd save up a bit of her pocket money every month, to finally collect it all and invest in a glass or jade artefact from the Chinese Art Palace in Connaught Place.

This eye for art stayed with her, and when she moved to West Bengal in her early 20s, with her husband, who worked at a British-era tea company in the state, she got acquainted with the age-old Buddhist tradition of Thangka scroll paintings, and later also with Kalighat paintings, a 19th century school of art that originated in then-Calcutta.

Once her husband retired and they moved back to Delhi, Chopra started commissioning paintings from the artists she'd been in touch with in Kolkata, Darjeeling, and parts of Sikkim. This was her way to stay in touch with "the people we lived with and connected with," she says, and also to keep alive both these fading traditions. She started putting up the works at home, and invited people for guided walks, or viewing and buying.

"It's always been word of mouth only," says Mookerjee, 27, adding that the duo tries to keep a certain "sanctity of the place, only inviting in people who are genuinely interested in the arts." But now, armed with a graduate degree from Polimoda in Florence, and her experience in fashion and design communication, she now joins her grandmother to "take this many notches higher."

Thakalis tries to keep art affordable, with pieces starting from about ₹20,000. With each Thangka or Kalighat you acquire, Chopra encloses a little note that details the form's significance and the story the specific piece tells.

37, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar. For an appointment, mallikamookerjee@hotmail.com

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

## POP-UP

### New PBs in town



Akiva Superfoods is launching three variants of the perennial-favourite spread today – their peanut butters come in crunchy, dark chocolate, and matcha avatars. The launch will see the brand try to pull off making what they're calling Delhi's longest peanut butter sandwich. Made live on the day, this will be a 12-foot-long multilayered sandwich. Attendees can also participate in making and distributing 150 sandwiches to children-in-need, in collaboration with Feeding India, a non-profit dedicated to combating food wastage and hunger.

Select CityWalk, 5pm onwards

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

## FILM

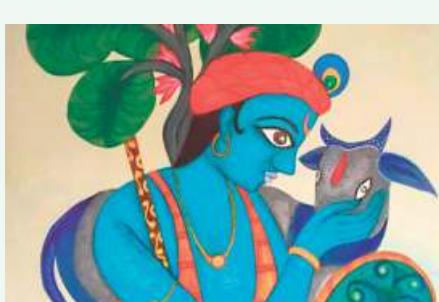
### Documentary

Habitat Film Appreciation Forum will screen the Spanish film *Nostalgia for the Light*. Directed by Patricio Guzman, this is a documentary that addresses the lasting impacts of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile. The screening will be followed by a discussion led by film research scholar, Mallika Viswanathan.

VENUE: Gulmohar Hall, IHC

TIME: 7 p.m.

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



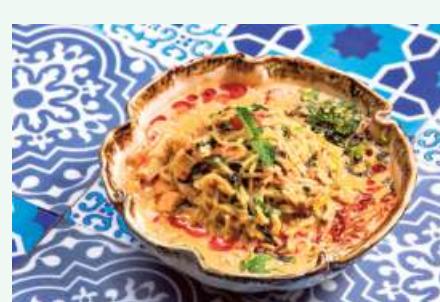
ART

### Mixed media

CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, ARTISTS FROM VARIOUS ARMY FAMILIES WILL COME TOGETHER FOR A GROUP EXHIBITION TITLED RAINBOW, AT THE GALLERY OF ALL INDIA FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY. ON VIEW TILL AUGUST 15, THEIR ARTWORKS COMPRIZE OF SKETCHES, OIL PAINTING, AND ACRYLIC DRAWN IN TRADITIONAL AS WELL AS CONTEMPORARY STYLES.

VENUE: AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD

### Singapore Day special

MARKING NATIONAL SINGAPORE DAY ON AUGUST 9, MALLACCA MALAYSIAN KITCHEN WILL HOLD A SINGAPORE FESTIVAL EVERY WEEKEND, FOR A MONTH. THE RESTAURANT WILL SERVE POPULAR SINGAPOREAN DISHES LIKE ROJAK AND LAKSA. GUESTS CAN ALSO ENJOY SINGAPOREAN FOLK MUSIC AND VIEW TRADITIONAL DANCE FORMS, WHILE DINING.

VENUE: 32nd Milestone, Gurgaon

TIME: 6 p.m. onwards



MUSIC

</

SHONALI MUTHALALY

A revolution is on the boil. Quite literally. Chef Anthony Myint's mission to halt, and even reverse, climate change begins in the kitchen.

Armed with research, practical ideas and unflagging energy, the San Francisco-based chef partners with restaurants to find bespoke ways to reduce their environmental impact. His work has been so inspiring that he was recently awarded the Basque Culinary World Prize, a €100,000 annual award given to chefs whose work transforms society through gastronomy.

Anthony advises food businesses on viable options to reduce their carbon footprint and has convinced restaurants around the globe to join his crusade, including Noma (Denmark) and Benu (San Francisco). In 2019, via his 'Perennial Farming Initiative', he collaborated with the state of California to launch the Restore California Programme, which provides consumers with the environmental footprint of restaurants.

Explaining how he started cooking because he believed that "restaurants can make the world a better place", Anthony discusses the positive impact healthy soil, thoughtful farming and responsible consumers can have on the world, in an e-mail interview.

**Judging by social media, everybody seems to be looking for the perfect meal. Does the current obsession with food make it easier to educate consumers on the effect their choices have on global warming?**

• The perfect meal, almost depends on your philosophy: are you just a consumer working within an existing, and somewhat broken food system? Or are you trying to create a sustainable, delicious and healthy food system?

If you're just asking as a consumer, then the perfect meal is something that is part of a farming and ranching practice that is contributing to healthy soil.

If you're trying to create an ideal food system, then my ideal meal is a carbon-neutral McDonald's cheeseburger, hopefully in the near future, because it means that corporations have begun implementing managed grazing and compost application in their supply chain, and society is on track to reverse global warming. Until



# SOIL on the menu

Can chefs fight climate change? Anthony Myint has just been awarded the Basque Culinary World Prize for his crusade, convincing restaurants to reduce their carbon footprint

then, it would be any meal where a portion of proceeds is going to fund the transition to renewable farming.

**When people talk about the transformative power of gastronomy, it is usually in the context of breaking down social or cultural barriers by bringing people together at the table. Does gastronomy have the power to trigger political change?**

• A 1,000%. Chefs are the leaders of the food system. They influence each other, their staff and their customers. In the US, restaurants represent the largest part of

the food system economically – more than farming or retail. And the industry accounts for one in 10 workers. If a few of the best chefs focussed their efforts on a movement that other chefs and food businesses could follow, the entire food culture would shift. We are already in-process on a state-wide restaurant programme with California, the world's fifth-largest economy.

**Could you tell us how your work with Noma can be used as a blueprint by restaurants around the globe?**

• There is new science – it's actually bio-geochemistry, which has just confirmed that carbon farming can reverse global warming. Given this civilisation-level finding, we need to urgently create change on millions of hectares of farmland. This does not mean a few chefs sourcing pristine in-

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
It takes 500 years to produce just under an inch of topsoil – the most productive layer of soil. And there are more microorganisms in a handful of soil than there are people on Earth.



gredients and hoping that somehow the world reinvents itself – there is too much inertia from the currently extractive food system.

Restaurants like Noma can lead by both high integrity internally, and by inspiring adoption in a global movement that every single restaurant can participate in, which is adding a one per cent charge toward transitioning farming toward practices like compost application, cover cropping, reduced tillage etc.

**Consumers have shifted interest from exotic ingredients to local, responsibly grown produce over the past decade. However, your focus is soil health, which is rarely discussed...**

• Healthy soil should be the number one priority in food.

Unfortunately, most chefs, myself included a few years ago, could not define healthy soil. Here's my definition today:

Healthy soil is soil with a lot of living things in it – literally, soil with a high percentage of Soil Organic Matter (SOM). A farm with five per cent Soil Organic Matter has healthier soil than its neighbour with 1.1% SOM. Pesticides and GMOs and certifications are all worth noting, but instead of focussing on false binaries, we could focus on actual data and a metric that would reward a farmer making the crucial jump from one per cent SOM to two per cent SOM.

In today's food economy, there is no reward for that increase, but farmers have that data and we could start asking and spending accordingly. SOM is 50-58% carbon, and so each one per cent in-

**Be the change** Anthony Myint firmly believes healthy soil translates to healthy food

■ ALANNA HALE AND JON ADAM

crease per hectare represents about 12 tonnes of carbon that is pulled from the atmosphere – the same as not burning 5,000 litres of petrol. We must re-envision the increase in soil biology along the same lines as planting trees – a very practical and substantive climate solution.

**You say that how an ingredient was produced matters much more than what the ingredient is – why? And does more responsibly grown produce result in tastier produce?**

• Healthy soil – soil with a high level of SOM – is a complex micro-biome full of beneficial organisms that make minerals bio-available to the plants, resulting in more nutritious food with more depth of flavour. If you have an incredible cherry tomato, it's probably because the soil was full of living things.

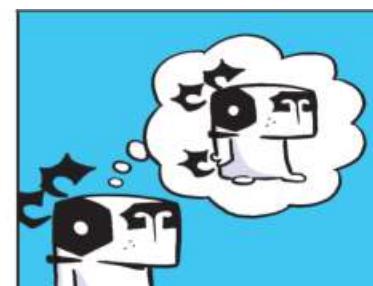
**You have been working on mobilising the restaurant industry as part of the solution to global warming.**

**What got you started on this path? And what have the successes been so far?**

• We got started after having a daughter and thinking about the future and specifically being concerned about climate change. We learned that the food system contributes about half of global emissions (agriculture 15%, deforestation for food 18%, transportation, storage, processing, waste, etc 17%). We learned food and farming could be a practical solution. And then in the past two years, scientists confirmed that a shift to renewable farming could remove excess carbon from the atmosphere.

When we started, zero chefs were working on climate change. It is because not only is the restaurant industry extremely challenging, but these concepts are brand new to almost all chefs. And so the fact that so many great chefs and restaurants are already carbon-neutral, and the jury of the Basque Culinary World Prize has pledged to go carbon-neutral, might signal the beginning of a big global movement toward supporting the shift to renewable farming.

## POOCH CAFE



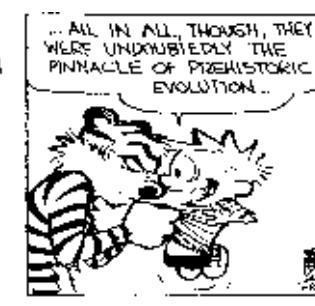
## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



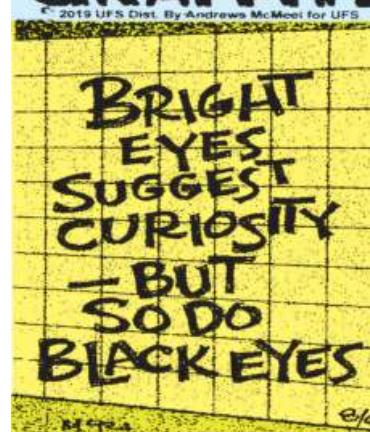
## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## TIGER



## GRAFFITI



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13144

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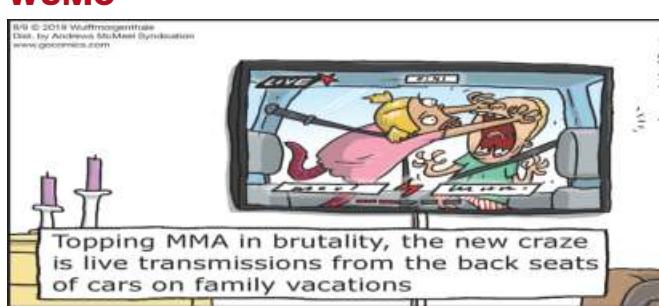
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Folies-Bergère, d.1883 (7,5)  
5 Toppling of a king (12)  
6 Oscar (7,5)  
7 Resources for achieving something (4,3,5)  
12 Gaping (4,4)  
15 Breakfast cereal with fruits (6)  
18 Make hot and dry (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 10, 2019.

Solution No. 13143

## WUMO



## HEALTH CAPSULES



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13144

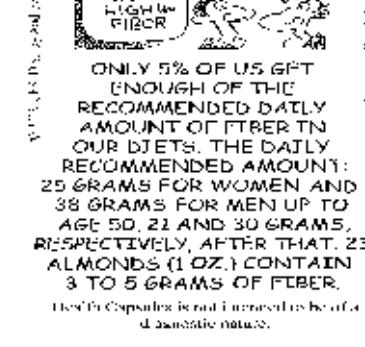
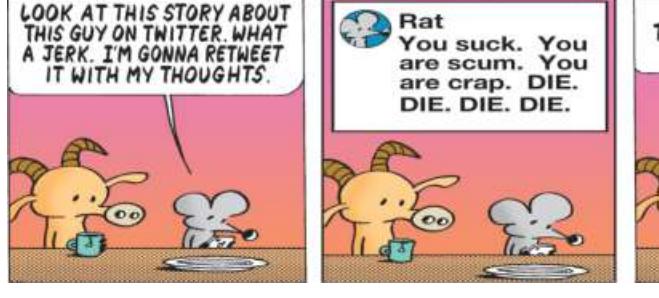
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## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



1	Advocate (9)
2	Tepid (8)
3	Disordered state (5)
4	Destroy completely (4,3)
5	Hymn of praise (5)
6	Abandonment (9)
7	Calmly submissive (8)
8	Vocation (6)
9	Natural satellite of a planet (4)
10	Charitable donations to the needy (4)

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No show: Showers kept the groundsmen busy even as the first ODI was abandoned on Thursday. ■ AP

## First ODI called off due to rain

West Indies scores 54 for one in the 13 overs of play possible

### INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

Rain played spoilsport as the first one-dayer between India and the West Indies was called off after the home side scored 54 for one in 13 overs here on Thursday.

The stop-start match, which was reduced to 34-overs-a-side, was abandoned after a second rain interruption. More than an hour and a half later, the umpires decided to call off the match.

Opener Evin Lewis and Shai Hope were batting on 40 and six respectively when the match was called off. India captain Virat Kohli won

the toss and asked the West Indies to bat.

#### Slow knock

Chris Gayle was out in the 11th over after scoring four off 31 balls. He came into the match 12 short of Brian Lara's 10,405 ODI runs, the most by a West Indian. The game was reduced to 43-overs-a-side even before a ball was bowled as wet outfield due to rain forced the toss to be delayed. The contest began two hours late than the original 7 p.m. (IST) start.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami exploited the conditions to tie down Gayle and Lewis before the first rain interruption.

India did not take DRS

when Lewis, who was on one, looked plumb in front in the fourth over off Mohammed Shami. Replays showed the ball would have gone on to hit the leg stump.

West Indies was nine for no loss in 5.4 overs at the first rain break.

#### Costly over

When the match restarted as a 34-overs-a-side affair, Gayle and Lewis picked up steam. Lewis hit Khaleel Ahmed for 15 runs with a six and two fours in the eighth over.

Kuldeep Yadav gave India the breakthrough, dismissing dangerman Gayle, who dragged the ball onto his stumps. Shai Hope came in two overs later, but rain also

#### WORLD CUP

C. Gayle b Kuldeep 4 (31b), E. Lewis (not out) 40 (36b, 2x4, 3x6), S. Hope (not out) 6 (11b); Extras (lb 2, w 2): 4; Total (for one wicket, in 13 overs): 54.

#### FALL OF WICKET

1-42 (Gayle, 10.1 overs).

#### INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-1-11-0, Shami 3-0-5-0, Ahmed 3-0-27-0, Kuldeep 2-0-3-1, Jadeja 1-0-6-0.

#### Toss:

India. No result.

### SCOREBOARD

#### WEST INDIES

C. Gayle b Kuldeep 4 (31b), E. Lewis (not out) 40 (36b, 2x4, 3x6), S. Hope (not out) 6 (11b); Extras (lb 2, w 2): 4; Total (for one wicket, in 13 overs): 54.

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### BCCI timeline on Shaw case

Prithvi Shaw.  
■ FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Thursday put out a timeline of Prithvi Shaw's doping violation case, which showed a gap of more than two months between his sample collection and the final report from National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL).

In what appeared to be an attempt at damage control after attracting criticism for the manner in which the BCCI handled the 19-year-old's case, the timeline showed there was a reminder from the Board to the NDTL.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) might also reopen the case handled by a body that is reluctant to come under the purview of the NADA.

**The scores:** India-A 201 & 365 for four decl. (Shubman Gill 204 n.o., Hanuma Vihari 118 n.o.) vs West Indies 194 (Jeremy Solozano 69 n.o., Sunil Ambris 43, Krishnappa Gowtham six for 67).

**Earlier:** off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham had run through the West Indies-A line-up, his six for 67 off 23.4 overs giving India-A a seven-run lead.

Only opener Jeremy Solozano defied the Indian attack, carrying his bat for 69. Sunil Ambris contributed 43. For India, Umesh Yadav finished with two for 29, Avesh Khan one for 34 and Shrivam Dube one for 35.

The visiting side resumed at 23 for three, and Gill, two overnight, reached his century just at the stroke of lunch. Though nightwatchman Shahbaz Nadeem fell for 13, Gill and Vihari were in scintillating form.

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**Earlier:** off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham had run through the West Indies

# Klopp content despite lack of signings

Wants his settled team to have same hunger and greed for titles

## Premier League

**REUTERS**  
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp offered the "if it's not broken, don't fix it" argument for its lack of activity in the transfer market as he prepared for the Premier League opener at home to promoted Norwich City.

While Liverpool's title rivals have strengthened, Klopp's only purchase, with just hours left until the transfer window shut on Thursday, was the \$2.18 million paid for Dutch defender Sepp van den Berg.

"You should go to Everton, I think they are more busy!" Klopp told a reporter referring to Liverpool's big-spending rival when asked if there would be any last-minute deals at Anfield.

"Our transfer window was checking options and thinking about it and making decisions, that's how we do it always. Then if nothing happens it's because it was not the right option for us."

"We will not make signings just for the sake of signing someone. That makes no sense."

Klopp declined to comment on speculation that former Liverpool playmaker Philippe Coutinho had come close to a return and sounded content about his squad's strength.

Considering Liverpool finished runner-up to Manchester City by a point, having amassed a colossal 97, then



**Cool as a cucumber:** Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp, centre, is happy with his current squad and is confident of delivering results. ■ REUTERS

won the Champions League and also has long-term injury absentee Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain available again that is hardly surprising.

"We have lots of options and different lineups," Klopp said.

### Early marker

With Liverpool kicking off the Premier League season on Friday, it has a chance to lay down an early marker against a Norwich side which won the Championship last year.

Liverpool is unbeaten in its last 12 league games against the Canaries but

Klopp says it must start with the sort of intensity with which it ended last season when they won its last nine league games in a titanic title battle with City.

"We have to respect them (Norwich) 100% with the effort and desire we show from the start," Klopp said.

"It's the new season and we have to be angry and greedy again and create a football atmosphere."

### Banana skin

The first game of the season is always difficult, Norwich have a clear plan and they have all my respect but these

games are always potential banana skins."

Liverpool's Senegal forward Sadio Mane may be in contention to start despite only arriving back for training on Monday after being given time off to recover from the Africa Cup of Nations where his country lost in the July 19 final to Algeria.

"He only had two weeks off so he didn't lose a lot which is the good news and he looks fit," Klopp said.

"Wednesday was the first session and now he's been with the team for the first time and he's in good spirits."

## Tottenham, Arsenal splash cash

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
LONDON

Tottenham made the headlines on a busy final day of the Premier League transfer window with deals for Giovani lo Celso and Ryan Sessegnon, while Arsenal strengthened its defence with the signing of Kieran Tierney.

Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku's prolonged transfer to Inter Milan was also completed after the clubs reportedly agreed on a deal that could rise to \$90 million.

After the club record signing of French international midfielder Tangy Ndombele, the signings of Lo Celso and Sessegnon add some much-needed depth to a Spurs squad that had previously gone 18 months without a new recruit.

However, a sensational swoop for Paulo Dybala broke down with Juventus unwilling to let the Argentine leave without an adequate replacement, having missed out on Lukaku.

## Kane, sweet Kane



**It's always time for cake:** New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, who turned 29 on Thursday, had a piece of birthday cake fans brought him during a warm-up match. ■ AFP

## Johri to meet ministry officials

Clearance for South African teams tours on the agenda

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

BCCI CEO Rahul Johri will meet Sports Ministry officials on Friday, seeking clearance for South Africa-A and women's team tours of India amid speculation that the go-ahead has been held back to pressure the Board into accepting national anti-doping norms.

Johri has sought an appointment with Sports Secretary Radhey Shyam Jhulan after the ministry kept on hold clearance for the two series to be held in late August and September.

The two teams' tours of

India have hit a roadblock as the BCCI is yet to get the mandatory clearance letter from the Sports Ministry required for visiting sides.

As per procedure, whenever a country tours India, the BCCI intimates the Sports Ministry about the itinerary and gets a clearance which helps the visiting sides carry out their visa formalities.

"One thing should be very clear that we can't create any exception for the BCCI.

For us all NSFs are the same. All NSFs are under one government anti-doping agency and that is NADA," the Ministry official said.

ing that the delay is meant to force the country's richest sports body to completely come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

On March 18, the BCCI decided to work independently with the NADA for six months on a trial basis without being deemed a National Sports Federation.

"One thing should be very clear that we can't create any exception for the BCCI.

For us all NSFs are the same. All NSFs are under one government anti-doping agency and that is NADA," the Mi-

stry official said.

Ackermann spins his way into the record books



Colin Ackermann.  
■ GETTY IMAGES

**REUTERS**  
Leicestershire Foxes captain Colin Ackermann set a new T20 bowling record on Wednesday taking seven for 18 in his team's victory over Birmingham Bears in the T20 Blast.

The off-spinner's haul surpassed the previous record of six wickets for five runs set by Somerset all-rounder Arul Suppiah while bowling against Glamorgan in July 2011.

Ackermann, 28, whose previous best figures in the format were three for 21, took six of his seven wickets in two overs as Leicestershire won by 55 runs, and said afterwards that he could not quite believe he had broken the record.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," he told the BBC. "It was a great all-round performance from the team to set the game up for the bowlers."

Bangladesh to host Zimbabwe despite ban

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
DHAKA

Bangladesh will host Zimbabwe for a tri-nation Twenty20 tournament in September despite the African nation being suspended by the game's world body, an official of the Bangladesh Cricket Board said on Thursday.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended Zimbabwe in July over a failure to keep the sport free from government interference.

## KI Plus vs Formidables quarterfinal delicately poised

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The match between KI Plus from Bulgaria and Formidables was delicately poised with the former leading 70-69 at the half way stage of the quarterfinals in the Team of Four Gold match in the 17th HCL International bridge championship at the Aerocity on Thursday.

In other quarterfinals, after two of the four rounds, South Sweden led 95-46 against FII, Russia led 96-44 against Hansa Narasimhan and Don Julio led 88-51 against Hernant Jalan. Initially, it was the pre-season training for the best in Asia, in which Yuki was a regular, along with the likes of Hyeon Chung of Korea and Di Wu of China.

## Koon – man behind the base for Asian pros

Confident Yuki and Pranjala will be back on the circuit stronger

### TENNIS

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**

NEW DELHI

Stephen Koon is very familiar with some of the best Indian tennis players, like Yuki Bhambr and Pranjala.

More importantly, despite no dearth of academies, a bunch of players reach Nonthaburi in Thailand, to train under the director of Impact Tennis Academy.

Initially, it was the pre-season training for the best in Asia, in which Yuki was a regular, along with the likes of Hyeon Chung of Korea and Di Wu of China.

Convenient

The academy – with indoor and outdoor courts, two clay-courts of European standards and an elaborate gymnasium – has made it the most convenient for the players in the region.

Riya Bhatia, Dev Javia, Yuvaran Nandal and Agriya Yadav are regulars. Others like Sacchit Sharma, Zeel Desai, Rutuja Bhosale, Saumya Vig, Mahak Jain, Snehal Mane, Ashmita Easwaramurthy, Jennifer Luikham and Mihiya Yadav have got a taste of



**Mentor extraordinaire:** Stephen Koon, with two-time National champion Riya Bhatia, left, and former Asian junior champion Y. Pranjala. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the place.

"One of our goals was to be a base for Asian pros. Some come during tournaments or just before. We make a plan and become part of their team," said Stephen Koon, who was born in Australia and has worked with Nick Bollettieri in the US.

He coached in Singapore, Malaysia, Spain and Australia before settling in Thailand.

Yuki is eloquent in praise for the coach. Bollettieri commends him highly for his "work ethic" and strong character.

Looking at the Indian juniors, he hits the nail on the head with his observation.

"It starts with the mentality of the players, coaches, fitness trainers and the parents. Every day, every session, every ball should have a purpose. Good professional fundamentals of

physical preparation, development, rehabilitation, sound technique and intelligent shot selection, development of weapon, enjoyment of competition and pressure, make good habits," he remarks.

Business is not the main area of concern at Impact.

"If you have something weak that needs to be rectified, we will tell you. And start fixing it," he says.

Yuki and Pranjala may be injured at the moment, but Koon is confident they will be back on the circuit stronger.

"Yuki just needs to find the right treatment. It is a bit more complicated than a regular patellar (that Nadal came back from). In the meantime, Yuki has beefed up his upper body," he says.

**Learning**

He expects the young Pranjala to be quick with her recovery.

"If a 19-year-old girl overworked and got injured, I would say that is learning. She and Yuki will be back, and have their best years ahead of them," he adds.

## Saketh in quarters

### INDIANS ABROAD

**SPORTS BUREAU**

YOKKAICHI (JAPAN)

Saketh Myneni got past eighth seed Chung Yunseong of Korea 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals of the Challenger tennis tournament here on Thursday. In the last-eight, Myneni will play third seed Tatsuma Ito of Japan. Myneni also made the doubles quarterfinals with Harry Bourcher of Australia, knocking out second seeds Harri Heliovarra of Finland and Tsung-Hua Yang of Chinese Taipei.

### The results:

**\$81,240 Challenger, Aptos, USA: Second round:** Liam Broady (GBR) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-6(2), 6-4.

**\$54,160 Challenger, Yokkaichi: Pre-quarterfinals:** Saketh Myneni bt Chung Yunseong (Kor) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Harry Bourcher (Aus) & Saketh Myneni bt Harri Heliovarra (Fin) & Tsung-Hua Yang (Tpe) 6-4, 6-1.

**€46,600 Challenger, Augsburg, Germany: Second round:** Matthias Bachinger (Ger) bt Sriram Balaji 6-4, 6-1; **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Scott Purdonzinas (Aus) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Tomislav Draganja (Cro) & Mark Vervoot (Ned) 6-4, 6-7(8), [10-7].

**\$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta:**

**Pre-quarterfinals:** Soichiro Moritani (Jpn) bt Niki Poona-cha 7-6(4), 7-6(5); Manish Sureshkumar bt Thantub Suksumran (Tha) 6-4, 6-4;

**Doubles (quarterfinals):** Kuan-Y Lee & Shao-Fan Liu (Tpe) bt Aryan Goveas & Karunuday Singh 2-6, 6-3, [10-5]; Dusty H. Boyer (USA) & Pak Long Young (HKG) bt Kunal Anand & Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 6-4; S.D. Prajwal Dev & Niki Poona-cha bt Fitriadi M. Rifqi & Anthony Susanto (Ind) 7-5, 6-1.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Chiswick, England: Pre-quarterfinals:** Ankita Raina bt Freya Christie (GBR) 6-3, 6-4; **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Emily Appleton & Emily Arbuthnott (GBR) & Ankita Raina 7-5, 6-3.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Nairobi:**

**Pre-quarterfinals:** Mahak Jain bt Saumya Vig 6-2, 6-0; **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Paulina Jastrzebska (Pol) & Tiffany Williamson (GBR) bt Diana Maria Michail (Rou) & Avika Sagwal 6-2, 6-1; **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Harry Bourcher (Aus) & Saketh Myneni bt Harri Heliovarra (Fin) & Tsung-Hua Yang (Tpe) 6-4, 6-1.

**\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: Pre-quarterfinals:** Angela Fita Boluda (Esp) bt Sowjanya Bavissetti 6-4, 6-1.

## Subroto Cup kicks off from August 20

Record 112 entries received for Diamond Junilee edition

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Subroto Cup football tournament will kick-off at various grounds here from August 20.

This edition of the tournament will see a record participation of 112 teams, including 16 international teams, vying for honours in the boys' sub-junior (U-14) and junior (U-17) sections for boys and girls.

This being the Diamond Jubilee edition, Group Captain Deepak Ahluwalia, secretary-general of the Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society, said the winner in the junior category will receive ₹4 lakh and sub-junior ₹3 lakh.

**Momentous occasion**

Air Marshal P.P. Bapat noted, "It's a momentous occasion for us. Hosting the tour-

## Rakitic nets winner

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**

MAMI

Ivan Rakitic's goal in the 79th minute lifted Barcelona to a 2-1 victory over Napoli in a lively pre-season encounter at Hard Rock Stadium.

The Croatian midfielder struck a crisply driven effort after a first half own-goal from Samuel Umtiti had cancelled out Sergio Busquets' opener for the La Liga champion at the home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins.

TV PICKS

**TNPL:** Star Sports 3, 7.15 p.m.  
**UTT:** Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Premier League:** Star Sports Select 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday).

IN BRIEF



Vani Kapoor moves into sole lead

HYDERABAD  
Vani Kapoor moved into the sole lead despite a late double bogey in the second round of the 11th Leg of Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Thursday. The 25-year-old NCR golfer, back after two months having recovered from niggling injuries, had three birdies against two bogeys and a double bogey in her card of one-over 72. Vani is now four-over 146, three shots clear Gaurika Bhishnoi, who shot the day's best and the week's first par round of 71. PTI

India to play USA for fifth position

KUALA LUMPUR  
India defeated Australia 2-0 in the 5-8 play-off match on Thursday in the World junior women's team squash championship here and will play USA for the fifth position on Friday.  
**The results (5-8 play-off match): India bt Australia 2-0** (Sanya Vats bt Alex Haydon 13-11, 7-11, 15-13, 6-11, 11-7; Aishwarya Khuchandani bt Sze Yu Lee 11-6, 11-5, 11-7).



Dutee Chand signs with PUMA

NEW DELHI  
Global sports company PUMA on Thursday announced the signing of India's fastest woman athlete Dutee Chand for her first association with a reputed brand. Dutee joins an impressive list of world class PUMA athletes, including sprint legend Usain Bolt. The 23-year-old national record holder 100m sprinter will be equipped with custom-made performance gear to support her efforts to better her performances. PTI

Bagan condemns damaging of EB gate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan on Thursday condemned the act of some of its supporters who damaged the gate erected by East Bengal Club for its centenary celebrations.

Following Bagan's 2-1 win over ATK in the Durand Cup on Thursday, some excited fans, donning green and maroon jerseys, were seen damaging the gate built on the street leading to EB Club.

"We condemn this nasty and unethical behaviour in the strongest of words. We have sent a letter to EB general secretary Kalyan Majumder condemning the act and have requested them to re-erect the gate, the cost of the same will be borne by us," Bagan said in a statement.

"We have also lodged a complaint in Maidan Police Station to take appropriate action as per law... We appeal to supporters of both clubs to maintain mutual respect and harmony so that the image of both clubs and of football is not tarnished," it added.

**CORRECTION:** In the article titled 'Great show by Ganguly' that appeared on the sports page dated August 8, it was erroneously mentioned that Surya Shekhar Ganguly is an ONGC staffer. He works for IOCL. The error is regretted.

# Mohun Bagan puts it past city rival ATK

Second win puts the former champion closer to the last four

DURAND CUP

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan survived a late challenge from ATK to manage a 2-1 win in a Group 'B' match of the Durand Cup football tournament here on Thursday. Bagan's second successive victory took it closer to the semifinals.

Playing at the Bagan ground following hours of heavy rain, both sides found the going tough as players slipped and fell frequently on a sluggish surface.

The host, nevertheless, controlled the pace to trouble its city rival – studded with some younger players – with a barrage of set-pieces.

Chances wasted

The Mariners wasted at least three opportunities – the best one in 29th minute when N. Naorem's cross for Suhair V.P. went abegging – before taking lead through Francisco Morante's superb header off Joseba Beitia's



Firing away: Francisco Morante's superb header gave Mohun Bagan the lead against ATK on Thursday. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

corner kick in the 34th minute.

Beitia was the chief tormentor with his swift forays

and accurate dead ball skill.

Bagan nearly doubled its lead, but Alexander Romario's header off a Gurjinder

Kumar cross hit the bar minutes before the breather.

The second goal came Bagan's way nine minutes into

the second half. Suhair made up for his mistake in the opening period by giving a back pass from goal line and Beitia foisted ATK keeper Aviash Paul with a skillful shot.

ATK put up a sturdier defence and displayed gutsy counter-attacks to keep Bagan under pressure.

Komal Thatal failed to beat Bagan custodian Shankar Roy in the 72nd minute, but ATK was rewarded for its perseverance 10 minutes later. Ashis Pradhan lobbed it over the keeper into the net following Boris Singh's run into the box.

As the contest became intense, and Roy made another fine save off Thatal, players from both sides were engaged in a minor scuffle. Bagan midfielder Surabudin Mollick got a red card towards the end.

**The results: Group B:** Mohun Bagan 2 (Morante 34, Beitia 62) bt ATK 1 (Pradhan 82); **Group C:** FC Goa 1 (Liston Colaco 27) bt Army Green 0; **Group D:** Gokulam FC 4 (Marcus Joseph 39, 67, P. 75; Henry 70) bt Chennaiyin FC 0.

and take a call. And if required, consider a neutral venue," Chatterjee said.

Pakistan Tennis Federation President Salim Saifulah Khan admitted that tension has escalated and said that the PTF will follow whatever the ITF suggests.

"Islamabad is still safe. The tension has definitely escalated but it can de-escalate as well. For us also safety and security of the players is paramount. Winning or losing does not matter, safety is most important," Salim told PTI.

"It's too early to say that it's time to shift the tie to a neutral venue. But if ITF feels that it is better to shift the tie, we have to follow the instruction of the parent body. But as of now I don't see any reason to shift the venue," he added.

No Indian Davis Cup team has travelled to Pakistan since 1964 and bilateral cricket ties between the two countries have been dormant since the 2008 terror attack in Mumbai.

# AITA may request neutral venue

DAVIS CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Amid rising tensions with Pakistan, India's national tennis association is likely to approach the International Tennis Federation, seeking a neutral venue for next month's Davis Cup tie in Islamabad and the host federation says it will abide by the ITF's ruling.

India's two-day tie against Pakistan is scheduled to begin in the Pakistan capital on September 14.

AITA secretary General Hironom Chatterjee told PTI that in the current scenario, security of the Indian contingent remains a major concern and they are contemplating approaching ITF to provide a neutral venue for the end.

"It might affect the Davis Cup tie. It's too early to say, but what I intend to do is to wait for one or two days to see what turn the situation takes. Then we will ask ITF to look into the situation

## Nadal and Thiem advance at Montreal Masters

Osaka too wins, ensures that Barty will be dethroned as World No. 1

ROGERS CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MONTREAL

Rafael Nadal and Dominic Thiem advanced into the third round of the ATP Montreal Masters, with Thiem achieving a personal best in Canada.

Top-seeded holder Nadal suffered through a two-hour rain interruption before dismissing Britain's Daniel Evans 7-6(6), 6-4 on Wednesday.

Austrian second seed Thiem won his first match in Canada after five losses, de-

feating home hero Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

With weather forecasts dicey for the next few days, the Spanish top seed got a taste of the conditions he might face as the 18-time Grand Slam champion defends his Canadian title.

"Today, the main thing was win. I've been playing and practising more or less well. Now is the moment to compete," Nadal said.

**Serena through**  
Serena Williams looked solid in her first match since losing the Wimbledon final, defeating 20th-ranked Elise

Mertens of Belgium 6-3, 6-3 in Toronto.

Also moving into the third round was Japan's Naomi Osaka. With Osaka's triumph, Australian Ashleigh Barty was ensured of being dethroned next week as World No. 1.

**Important results: At Montreal:** Rafael Nadal bt Daniel Evans 7-6(6), 6-4; Hubert Hurkacz bt Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; Roberto Bautista bt Diego Schwartzman 6-2, 7-5; Richard Gasquet bt Kei Nishikori 6-7(6), 6-2, 7-6(4); Felix Auger-Aliassime bt Milos Raonic 6-3, 3-6 retd.; Daniil Medvedev bt Kyle Edmund 6-3, 6-0; Christian Garin bt John Isner 6-4, 7-6(4), 6-3.

**At Toronto:** Dayana Yastremska bt Victoria Azarenka 7-5, 7-5; Belinda Bencic bt Julia Gorges 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; Elina Svitolina bt Katerina Siniakova 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Karolina Pliskova bt Alison Riske 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-2; Jelena Ostapenko bt Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 2-6, 6-4; Simona Halep bt Jennifer Brady 4-6, 7-5, 6-3; Naomi Osaka bt Tatjana Maria 6-2 retd.; Serena Williams bt Elise Mertens 6-3, 6-3; Svetlana Kuznetsova bt Donna Vekic 6-4(4), 6-3.

6-3, 6-4; Marin Cilic bt John Millman 6-3, 6-4; Dominic Thiem bt Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Adrian Mannarino bt Borna Coric 6-2, 6-1; Karen Khachanov bt Stanislas Wawrinka 6-4, 6-7(3), 6-2.

**At Toronto:** Dayana Yastremska bt Victoria Azarenka 7-5, 7-5; Belinda Bencic bt Julia Gorges 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; Elina Svitolina bt Katerina Siniakova 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Karolina Pliskova bt Alison Riske 6-4, 6-7(4), 6-2; Jelena Ostapenko bt Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 2-6, 6-4; Simona Halep bt Jennifer Brady 4-6, 7-5, 6-3; Naomi Osaka bt Tatjana Maria 6-2 retd.; Serena Williams bt Elise Mertens 6-3, 6-3; Svetlana Kuznetsova bt Donna Vekic 6-4(4), 6-3.

Sourabh scored a 21-16, 21-11 win in 36 minutes against China's Sun Feixiang, while unseeded Singaporean Loh Kean Yew handed a 17-21, 21-15, 21-19 defeat to the crowd favourite Kashyap.

Earlier, Ajay Jayaram and Subhankar Dey made it to the last eight with impressive displays.

Too good

Sourabh was far superior against an opponent who struggled to get his rhythm. He showed lot of composure the few times Sun tried to come back into the game with some telling smashes.

The Indian looked good as he combined big smashes with some delectable drops at the net to unsettle the opponent.

If Sun thought of coming back into the match in the second game, it was not to be as an unrelenting Sourabh picked points with ease.

Later in the evening, Kashyap's hopes of being in the race to clinch one major title were dashed by the efficacy of Loh.

The Singaporean rarely conceded a point off a Kashyap smash and was equally good with a far more superefficient net game.

Though Kashyap scored off big smashes down the line to make it 19-all in the decider, his backhand landed in the net and a down-the-line smash went out to make the Singaporean delighted.

Important results (round 16):

**Men:** Heo Kwang Hee (Kor) bt Mithun Manjunath 10-21, 21-15, 21-13; Mani Attri & B. Su-meeth Reddy bt Apisuk Ikarat & Viriyangkura Tanupat (Tha) 21-14, 21-8.

**Women:** Yeo Jia Min (Sgp) bt Ji Shu Ting (Chn) 21-17, 19-21, 21-15; Pai Yu Po (Tpe) bt Sim Yu Jin (Kor) 21-12, 7-21, 21-15; Zhang Yi Man (Chn) bt Yulia Yosephine Susanto (Inda) 21-15 21-13; Phit-tayaporn Chaiwan Tha brittney Lam (Can) 21-8 21-11; Natalia Perminova (Rus) bt Lee Ying Ying (Mas) 21-13, 21-14; Porntip Buranaprasertsuk (Tha) bt Qi Xuefei (Fra) 21-16, 21-17; Ben-nya Aimsaard (Tha) bt Ch. Sai Uttejitha Rao (Inda) 21-10, 9-21, 21-8; An So Young (Kor) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-18, 21-13.

**Doubles:** Ashwini Ponnapa & N. Nikki Reddy bt Chaisinee Ko-reepa & Kwanchanok Sudjapraparat (Tha) 21-19, 21-16; J. Meghana & Poorvisha S. Ram bt Hendhaewa Thilini Pramodika & Sirimannage Kavidi (SL) 22-20, 21-15.

## World Archery suspends AAI

Indians' participation in international events at risk

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

suspending the AAI. The last event in which Indian athletes can participate is the (world) youth championships in Madrid (from August 19 to 25)," said WA secretary general Tom Dielen in a statement on Thursday.

The WA decision was taken on Monday.

"We will now work with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Indian Government to try to establish a transitory committee, with representatives from all sides, to handle urgent matters.

"If no long-term solution is found by the end of August, the executive board will decide what can be done to preserve the chances of Indian athletes participating in the Asian championships and Asian para championships. At the same time, WA will also decide whether individual athletes can participate in the Indoor Archery World Series," Dielen added.

The Asian championships and Asian para championships are important as they will award quota places for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

India has secured three men's places for the Olympics but is yet to win a women's spot.

The Arjun Munda-led faction of the AAI said the decision was "unfortunate" and requested the WA not to take "any rash decision until the court passes its judgement."

The BVP Rao-led faction said, "It's a black day for Indian archery" and expected a speedy dispersal of the case and revocation of suspension.

**Paralympic Games:** Sandesh 60, 2. Another Rainbow 1(2) Arshad 58, 3. Nitromax 7 Shobhan 57, 5. Astral Force 2(1) Antony 57, 5. Charmed Life 10(1) Akshay 56, 6. Rare Rhythm 11(1) T. Jodha 56, 7. Reczai 1(1) B. Kuldeep 56, 8. Back Of Beyond 9(1) Tauseef 56, 9. Prince Charmer 5(1) Chetan 56, 10. Bernardini 4(1) Umesh 54, 11. Mohican 6(1) Merchant 54, 12. Casey 8(1) Shareef 53, 5. BERNARDINI, 3. FOI ET AMOUR, 3. MOHICAN

**INDEPENDENCE PLATE** 8 (1,400m), rated 15 to 15, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Halfsies 10(1) M. Naveen 60, 2. Bluejay 5(1) Merchant 59, 5. Another Rainbow 57, 4. Find 8(1) Antony 57, 5. Perfectgoldener 2(1) Arshad 56, 6. Admiral One 3(1) Zervan 56, 7. Ultimate Power 1(1) Darshan 55, 5. Areca Angel 1(1) Raghav 55, 5. Areca Angel 1(1) Raghav 55, 5. Another Rainbow 57, 4. Bazinga 4(1) Dhebe 53, 10. Nostradamus 6(1) T.S. Jodha 52, 5. Good Word 7(1) S. Shareef 52 and 12. Zala Princess 12(1) Arshad 52.

**ADMIRAL ONE, 2. PERFECTGOLDENER, 3. BLUEJACK**

**CHAMPION JOCKEY CUP** (DIV. II), 1,200m, rated 15 to 35, 2-30:

## IN BRIEF



## No host for upcoming Emmy award ceremony

LOS ANGELES

Like the Oscars before it, the upcoming 71st Emmy Awards ceremony will go on without a celebrity host, organisers said. The decision will allow the September ceremony to dedicate more time to the television shows nominated for honours, said Fox Entertainment CEO Charlie Collier. AFP



## Beatles fans recreate Abbey Road photo

LONDON

Hundreds of Beatles fans came together outside London's Abbey Road Studios on Thursday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the band making one of the most iconic album covers of all time. Fans mobbed the pedestrian crossing that the legendary Fab Four walked across for the photo used on the sleeve of the album *Abbey Road*. AFP



## Staring at seagulls can stop them stealing food

LONDON

A study by a U.K. university has suggested an easy way for holidaymakers to save their snacks from seagulls by just staring at the birds. The research showed that with a human staring at them, herring gulls took 21 seconds longer to approach a bag of chips than when left unobserved. REUTERS

# Girl who cried over felled trees is Manipur's green ambassador

Chief Minister was moved by the video of her wailing which went viral

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

The Manipur government has appointed a nine-year-old girl as the State's green ambassador, less than a week after a video of her crying for two trees axed for a road-widening project went viral.

An order from H. Balkrisna Singh, Manipur's Director of Information and Public Relations, on August 7 said Elangbam Valentina Devi of Hiyanglam Makha Leikai in Kakching district had been made the brand ambassador for the Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission and all official tree-plantation activities taken up in the State.

This, the order said, was in recognition of her immense love and affection for trees and for generating mass awareness on conservation of the environment for a "period of one year from the date of issuing the order".

A Class V student of Amutombi Divine Life English School in Kakching town, about 45 km southeast of



Tender heart: Elangbam Valentina Devi. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Manipur's capital Imphal, the girl had planted the saplings of two Gulmohar (royal poinciana) trees by the side of a river when she was in Class I. She had been tending to the saplings, which grew up into healthy trees in about four years.

On Saturday, the two trees, along with other vegetation, were axed for a project to widen a road beside the river. A videographer filmed her crying over the trees.

"I saw the video of this girl crying like anything, as if someone very near to her had passed away. Her feeling for two felled trees, which we adults would probably not think much about, moved me. I asked Yengkhom Victoria, the district's Superintendent of Police to meet her,

console her and give her at least 20 saplings to plant at a suitable place," Manipur's Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

But he felt this was not enough.

## Inspiring others

"Later, I realised there could not be a better ambassador than her for the Green Manipur Mission we had launched in June. Her passion for trees at such a young age was so infectious that I took a decision to have an order issued and hand it over through government officials to her," he said.

The order says Valentina, the daughter of Elangbam Premkumar Singh, will be part of all advertisements and campaigns that promote an increase in Manipur's green cover. "She will be provided honorarium at government rates, transportation facilities, food and lodging facilities at admissible rates by the sponsoring government department," the order said.

# Indian soil may have reached moon on crashed Israeli lander

Leaf from Bodhi tree was also sent as part of a 'lunar library'

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

A tiny biological sample from India may have already made it to the moon ahead of the Chandrayaan 2.

On February 21, an Israeli lunar lander called Beresheet (Hebrew for 'the beginning') began its journey to the moon aboard a SpaceX rocket in its quest to be the first privately-funded spacecraft to land on the moon. A month later, it was reported, Beresheet had crash-landed and was irredeemably broken except, for a curious, quirky payload called the Lunar Library.



Digital footprint: An image taken by Israeli spacecraft Beresheet after landing on the moon. •SPACE IL/REUTERS

saints and yogis, as well as earth from sacred caves and tiny bits of relics from India, China, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal and Tibet," AMF said in a statement.

The first four layers contain more than 60,000 analogue images of pages of books, photographs, illustrations, and documents – etched as 150 to 200 dpi, at increasing levels of magnification, by optical nanolithography.

The first analogue layer is visible to the naked eye. It contains 1,500 pages of text and images, as well as holographic diffractive logos and text, and can be read with a 100X magnification optical microscope, or even a lower power magnifying glass.

The next three analogue layers each contain 20,000 images of pages of text and photos to be viewed at 1,000X magnification, and require a slightly more powerful microscope to read.

Beneath the analogue layers of the Library are 21 layers of 40 micron thick nickel foils. Each of the foils house a DVD master, which contain more than 100GB of highly compressed datasets that decompress to almost 200GB of content, including the text and XML files of the English Wikipedia, plus tens of thousands of PDFs of books.

## Tardigrade secret

That these life-forms were part of the Lunar library was deliberately kept a "secret", said Mr. Spivack. "We kept it secret for obvious reasons. However, we haven't violated any provisions of the Outer Space Treaty."

The treaty is a global, United Nations-backed agreement that bars countries from pursuing actions that could "harmfully contaminate" outer space including the moon.

"It is believed that the Lunar Library survived the crash of Beresheet and is intact on the moon according to our team of scientific advisers based on imagery data

# GoT showrunners ink massive Netflix deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LOS ANGELES

*Game of Thrones* showrunners David Benioff and Dan Weiss have signed a multi-year deal with Netflix to write, produce and direct new series and films for the streaming giant, the company has said.

The contract sees the pair leave HBO after years on *Game of Thrones*, which demolished audience records and scooped an unprecedented number of Emmys

for a fictional show. "We are thrilled to welcome master storytellers David Benioff and Dan Weiss to Netflix," said Ted Sarandos, Netflix's

chief content officer, in a statement.

"They are a creative force and have delighted audiences worldwide with their epic storytelling. We can't wait to see what their imaginations will bring to our members."

Netflix did not comment on reports in the Hollywood press that the contract, which followed an intense bidding war between major studios, was a "nine-figure deal". A figure above \$100 mil-

lion would be in line with deals Netflix has signed with "mega-producers" such as Ryan Murphy (*Glee*) and Shonda Rhimes (*Grey's Anatomy*).

In a statement of their own, Mr. Benioff and Mr. Weiss said: "We've had a beautiful run with HBO for more than a decade and we're grateful to everyone there for always making us feel at home." No details have been given on the series the pair will create.

# Smart devices can spot signs of dementia

REUTERS  
BENGALURU

Pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly said on Thursday that early results from a study suggest that Apple Inc devices, including the iPhone, in combination with digital apps could differentiate people with mild Alzheimer's disease dementia and those without symptoms.

The study, tested in 113 participants over the age of 60, was conducted by Apple with Eli Lilly and Evidation Health. The Apple devices were used along with the Beddit sleep monitoring device and digital apps.

The participants were asked to answer two one-question surveys daily as well as perform simple activities every two weeks, such as dragging one shape to the other and tapping a circle as fast as possible.

## Waiting to soar



Pop of colour: Crew members inspect a partially inflated balloon at the Bristol hot air balloon festival in Britain on Thursday.

# At CITES, India to seek boost to protection status of 5 species

Star tortoise, otters, wedgefish and Tokay gecko in focus

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

India has submitted proposals regarding changes to the listing of various wildlife species in the CITES secretariat meeting, scheduled later this month in Geneva, Switzerland.

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international treaty to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants do not threaten their survival.

The proposals submitted are regarding changes in the listing of the smooth-coated otter, small-clawed otter, Indian star tortoise, Tokay gecko, wedgefish and Indian rosewood.

The country seeks to boost the protection of all



Star tortoise

the five animal species as they are facing a high risk of international trade.

For the Indian rosewood, the proposal is to remove the species from CITES Appendix II. The species covered by CITES are listed in three appendices on the degree of protection they require.

India is among the parties proposing the re-listing of the star tortoise from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I. The species faces two threats: loss of habitat to

with regard to the two other species, India, Nepal and the Philippines have proposed that the listing be moved from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I for the more endangered species. A similar proposal has been made to include the Tokay gecko in Appendix I.

Saket Badola, head of TRAFFIC India told *The Hindu*, that India would also support proposals, such as the boosting of protection status for tarantulas, made by other countries. TRAFFIC is an international wildlife trade monitoring network.

Mr. Badola said that the proposals from India on lesser known species indicate the broadening of the conservation spectrum.

agriculture and illegal harvesting for the pet trade.

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## The handmade artefacts are commissioned by heads of state and top firms

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

In 2008, Peter Bellerby set out to buy his father a high quality handmade globe as an 80th birthday present.

When he could not find one, the Briton decided to make it himself – and, in the process, catapulted himself into a new profession.

Just over a decade later, his company Bellerby and Co claims to be the finest globemakers in the world, selling tailor-made products to an array of international buyers.

They include heads of state and big companies as well as everyday people wanting to mark a special occasion.

Mr. Bellerby's workshop is filled with half-finished globes as his team of two do-

zen illustrators, painters, cartographers, constructors, engravers and woodworkers toil beneath strips of paper drying on washing lines overhead.

They range in size and price, with the smallest starting at £1,200 (₹1.02 lakh) and the biggest costing £79,000 (₹67.63 lakh). The creative process starts by sourcing composite or resin spheres, which form the basis of the globes, from another company.

The scale of the operation contrasts with its humble beginnings when Mr. Bellerby, an ex-property developer among other former professions, began making just a handful of globes each year in a small shop around the corner. Now the business turns out around 600 globes annually – some destined to sit in grand mansions and aboard yachts.

## Top prices

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Illustrators and cartographers work with clients – over months, sometimes years – to decide what will appear on its surface, with requests for everything from animals to ocean liners on the maps.

# Museum of Sikhism sets new record

Virasat-e-Khalsa in Punjab received 20,569 visitors on March 20



Aerial view: Virasat-e-Khalsa. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Secretary, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (Punjab), told *The Hindu*.

Over 10 million visitors have visited the museum so far in a short span of eight years of its opening. Virasat-e-Khalsa was built to commemorate the rich history and culture of Punjab and

out in terms of popularity, footfall, architecture and in its use of technology.

**Third entry**  
With its name in the Asia Book of Records, it would be the third entry for the museum in record books. Earlier, Virasat-e-Khalsa made it to Limca Book of Records in the February 2019 edition and India Book of Records.

The Limca Book of Records and India Book of Records had listed 'Virasat-e-Khalsa' as the country's top-ranked museum in terms of the number of visitors.

The museum has been conferred an award by the Punjab Energy Development Agency in a State-level energy conservation competition, for cutting down electricity consumption.

They include heads of state and big companies as well as everyday people wanting to mark a special occasion.

Mr. Bellerby's workshop is filled with half-finished globes as his team of two do-

zen illustrators, painters, cartographers, constructors, engravers and woodworkers toil beneath strips of paper drying on washing lines overhead.

"It's not a career you ever think about," the 54-year-old

said. "I'm really proud of where we've got to."

The scale of the operation contrasts with its humble beginnings when Mr. Bellerby, an ex-property developer among other former professions, began making just a

few globes each year in a small shop around the corner. Now the business turns out around 600 globes annually – some destined to sit in grand mansions and aboard yachts.

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