



CBSE triples exam fee for SC/ST students, hike comes after 5 years
page 9



Foreign Minister Jaishankar in China with Kashmir pitch
page 13



Rajapaksa names brother Gotabaya presidential candidate
page 14



Sourabh Verma beats Loh Kean Yew to win Hyderabad Open
page 20

PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

NEARBY



SC rejects farmers' plea for higher compensation

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court has rejected a plea by farmers for 'fair compensation' for land acquired from them. It said the villagers came to court 21 years too late. Land was taken from the villagers of Gulsitapur and Tilpta, near the Noida-Dadri Highway in Uttar Pradesh, in the late 1980s under the Land Acquisition Act. They were given ₹20-22 per square yard at the time.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

DMRC staffer found dead in rented house

NEW DELHI
A 27-year-old man, working as a maintenance staff with the DMRC, was found dead at his rented accommodation in Shahdara's Farsh Bazar on Sunday morning.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Now and Then

Former tennis player Vishal Uppal says he has no regrets about what he did not achieve. He is now happy to use his experience as a player to remain associated with the game as a coach. ▶ PAGE 5

FUTURE IAS
ONLINE AND OFFLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE
INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFER
15% Discount in Fees
info@futureias.co.in | 93339-94449

THE HINDU
greets its readers on the occasion of ID-UL-AZHA

EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ 4 PAGES

Govt. to launch 'Uber for tractors' app to aid farmers

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

A laser-guided land leveller harnesses technology to accurately flatten a field in a fraction of the time used by a traditional oxen-powered scraper.

The result? Farmers save precious groundwater and increase productivity by 10 to 15%.

The hitch? Such hitech levellers cost at least ₹3 lakh, way beyond the reach of the average small farmer.

But a new app that's being described as "Uber for tractors" offers a solution.

"We want farmers to have affordable access to cutting-edge technology at their doorsteps," says a senior Agriculture Ministry official. "There are now more than 38,000 custom hiring centres (CHCs) across the country, which rent out 2.5 lakh pieces of farm equipment every year. By the end of the month, we plan to launch a new mobile app to efficiently connect farmers with these CHCs, just like Uber connects you to cabs."

The CHC app is already open for registrations by the farmers, societies and entrepreneurs who run these centres. So far, almost 26,800 CHCs have registered to offer more than one lakh pieces of equipment for hire.

Restrictions return to Valley

Prayers unlikely to be allowed at Jamia Masjid; phone, Internet service remain cut



Voices of dissent: A day before Id, women shout slogans during a protest in Srinagar on Sunday. ▶ REUTERS

Don't go back on Kartarpur'

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday expressed concern over reports of a "discernible slowdown" in Pakistan's activities for the development of the Kartarpur Corridor. He urged Pakistan not to renege on its commitment to the project, which he said is of supreme religious importance to the Sikh community. ▶ PAGE 13

All communication lines, including phones and the Internet, remained snapped for the seventh day and were unlikely to be restored on the occasion of the festival, a top security source said.

Meeting with Imams
Srinagar District Magistrate Shahid Choudhury told *The Hindu* that the administration had a meeting with several imams (religious heads) to prepare for the festival on Monday. A senior government official said prayers were unlikely to be allowed at Jamia Masjid, one of the biggest mosques, at Nowhatta, to prevent any large procession.

Asked why the restric-

tions were reimposed after they were eased on Saturday, Mr. Choudhury said, "Section 144 of the CrPC that prohibits the assembly of more than four people was never completely lifted in the city. The restrictions were always there. Movement of traffic was allowed in some areas."

DGP Dilbagh Singh told

Corbyn backs UN resolutions

Leader of the U.K.'s Opposition Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn has called for resolving the Kashmir issue through UN resolutions. "The situation in Kashmir is deeply disturbing. Human rights abuses taking place are unacceptable. The rights of the Kashmiri people must be respected and UN resolutions implemented," he wrote on Twitter. ▶ PAGE 13

The Hindu that no decision was taken on resuming the Internet services in the Valley because authorities suspected "mischievous posts" would be put out by Pakistan on social media to incite people. "One odd stone-throwing incident in Srinagar's downtown area does not mean the entire Valley is out to throw stones. It cannot

define the security situation in the entire State. The entire State is peaceful. Earlier, stone-throwing incidents were larger in number," Mr. Singh said.

A top police source said former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah would be allowed to offer Id prayers at a shrine on Gupkar Road. A congregation prayer would be allowed for other members of political parties such as the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party who were detained at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), an official said.

Information Commissioner M.K. Dwivedi said restrictions were reimposed to avoid any untoward incident.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
INDIA TOO CANCELS SAMJHAUTA EXPRESS ▶ PAGE 13
CRPF STARTS HELPLINE ▶ PAGE 13
STUDENTS DECLINE AMU FEAST INVITE ▶ PAGE 13

No confusion, Art. 370 had to go, says Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that he had no confusion whatsoever in his mind on the need to remove the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and added that its abrogation would end terrorism in the region and put it on the road to development.

Mr. Shah was speaking at an event in the city to release a book *Listening, Learning & Leading...*, published by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, chronicling the two-year tenure of Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Mr. Shah said he firmly believed that there was no benefit from Article 370 to the nation and to Kashmir and that it should be removed at once.

"As a Home Minister, there was no confusion at all in my mind as to what would happen after the removal of Article 370. I was sure that after the removal of Article 370, terrorism will end inside Kashmir and the State would be on the path of development," he said.

However, referring to national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand's speech in which he illustrated how people even now referred to the (problematic) bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Shah said, "I had a slight apprehension in my mind that I should not be a part of such visualisation."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

PROSTATE HEALTH
a prestigious institute confirms the efficacy

Rain gauge

Kozhikode has received the most rainfall among Kerala's districts this monsoon season. Graph shows rainfall in mm

Kottayam	1,303.7
Palakkad	1,407.7
Ernakulam	1,461.8
Idukki	1,462.9
Thrissur	1,504.5
Malappuram	1,621
Wayanad	1,673.7
Kannur	2,176.3
Kasaragod	2,298.4
Kozhikode	2,379



Aerial view of flood-affected region in Malappuram district. ▶ PTI

Death toll hits 72 in Kerala flood mayhem

2.61 lakh people shifted to relief camps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The death toll in rain-related incidents in the State rose to 72 on Sunday, even as most central and north Kerala districts reported diminished rainfall after four days of torrential downpour.

Till Sunday, 2,61,249 people (75,636 families) have been evacuated to 1,639 relief camps across the State. Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur and Wayanad districts account for a majority of the camps; 58 people are still missing: 50 in Malappuram, seven in Wayanad and one person in Kottayam, the government said in a 9 p.m. update. In all, 286 houses have been destroyed and 2,966 houses damaged.

"Weather forecasts show heavy rain could persist for two more days in the State. So we need to remain vigilant," Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said, after a high-level meeting at the State Emergency Operations Centres here.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued orange alerts indicating the likelihood of isolated heavy rainfall in Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod for Monday.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
TOURISTS STRANDED ▶ PAGE 8
RELIEF OPERATIONS CONTINUE IN MAHARASHTRA ▶ PAGE 7

Sonia likely to lead Congress for 6 months

SOBHANA K NAIR
NEW DELHI

Sonia Gandhi is expected to be the interim president of the Congress for more than six months, party sources said. After 12 hours of deliberations on Saturday, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) had requested her to lead the party again.

Other than the three Gandhis – Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka – no other names were discussed by the CWC, sources said. There have been reports that Mallikarjun Kharge and Mukul Wasnik were the front runners.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION
LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available
www.visionias.in

You are as strong as your Foundation

Foundation Course GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2020 DELHI

Regular Batch 25 July 9 AM | 23 Aug 2 PM Weekend Batch 6 July 9 AM

JAIPUR: 12 Aug | AHMEDABAD: 25 July | PUNE: 18 July
HYDERABAD: 29 July | LUCKNOW: 13 August

ABHYAAS MAINS 2019 ALL INDIA GS MAINS MOCK TEST (OFFLINE)

GS - I & GS - II 24 AUGUST GS - III & GS - IV 25 AUGUST

Feedback and Corrective Measures All India Percentile Available In English / हिन्दी

Register at: www.visionias.in/abhyas

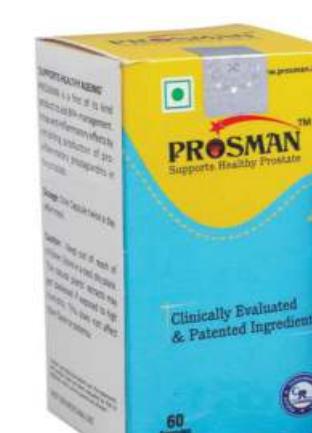
2nd Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Metro Gate 6/1/8 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh DELHI • 635, Opp. Signature View Apartments, Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar JAIPUR • 9019492442, 9019066066 PUNE 8007500096 HYDERABAD 900104133 AHMEDABAD 9909447040 LUCKNOW 8468022022

PROSTATE HEALTH

a prestigious institute confirms the efficacy



TM
PROSMAN
Supports Healthy Prostate



- Supported by 6 international patents.
- Approved by Health Canada & Health Sciences Authority (HSA) for sales in Canada & Singapore respectively.
- Clinical study published in well-known journals (Pubmed, IJMS, WJPR, FASEB) etc.

OTHER INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

FENFURU™ SUPPORTS HEALTHY GLUCOSE LEVELS

GRECOBE® The Green Coffee

FUROSAP PLUS Overall Energy & Vitality in men

Furocyst® Women's Health - PCOS

DISTRIBUTOR ENQUIRIES SOLICITED | Available at all leading chemists

Email: customercare@chereso.net

Web: www.prosmant.com

Call: +91-9915002390, +91-7814222200

Timing: 9:30AM to 6:00PM (Monday to Saturday)



Available on

Nutraceutical product, not a drug

Embassy run

Early in the morning, a stretch of Shanti Path in central Delhi transforms into a circuit for inline speed skaters who can reach speeds of up to 80 km/h

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Professional skater Pankaj Khandodiya Prajapati, 24, leaves his house in Gurugram around 3.30 a.m. and travels nearly 30 km to reach Shanti Path in central Delhi. Flanked by Embassies and High Commissions, the smooth stretch of road is a perfect track for the inline speed skater.

"I come all the way from Gurugram because the road here is smooth and has few cars in the morning. I can comfortably do my sprint practice here," says Mr. Prajapati, who represented India at the World Cham-

pionships in 2016 (China) and 2018 (Namwon, South Korea).

He can go from 0-73 km/h within 15 seconds on a straight road. "We do not have access to many facilities as the Haryana government has blocked our award mo-

ney for the last three years. It is very problematic for us as it is quite an expensive sport," he says. A pair of professional inline skates can cost around ₹55,000.

Inline speed skating is a sub-discipline of inline skating. Typically, inline skates

have two to five wheels arranged in a single line on the underside of the boot. The design allows for greater speed and manoeuvrability compared to quad skates, which have two front and two rear wheels.

Mr. Prajapati is one of several professional skaters, many of them national or State-level champions, who flock to Shanti Path to hone their skills. The skaters have chalked out a 3.9 km-loop out of which roughly 1 km is on Shanti Path. The athletes start from Nehru park gate no. 1 and pass by the Australian High Commission followed by the Embassy of Japan and then the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

They take several rounds of the loop in a two-and-a-half-hour routine that starts around 4.00 a.m.

Nineteen-year-old Rachita Juneja, a final-year BA History (hons.) student from Hansraj college, has been skating since she was five and has been coming to Shanti Path for the last



Speed junkies

- Inline speed skating is a sub-discipline of inline skating

- Typically, inline skates have two to five wheels arranged in a single line on the underside of the boot. The design allows for greater speed and manoeuvrability compared to quad skates, which have two front and two rear wheels

- The athletes say they are forced to use public roads to practise as they do not have access to many facilities. They also claim that the government has blocked their award money for the last three years



CI come all the way from Gurugram because the road here is smooth and has few cars in the morning. I can comfortably do my sprint practice here

PANKAJ KHANDODIYA PRAJAPATI

CWe come to Shanti Path around 4 a.m... The circuit we have here resembles our banked track. In every city there are straight roads, but this stretch is also free of potholes

RACHITA JUNEJA

three years. Ms. Juneja has taken part in two World Championships and one Asian Championship. Her sight is now firmly set on the 2022 Asian Games.

"I used to do quad skating but shifted to inline skating. I used to be a national champion in quad skating, but in inline skating I am second or

third. Becoming a national inline skating champion is my goal. I have won 70 medals till now, which includes CBSE school nationals (School Games Federation of India) and Roller Skating Federation of India competitions. I have my eyes set on the 2022 Asian Games. My top speed is 54-55 km/h," says the athlete who won silver in relay race at the 18th Asian Roller Skating Championship in Namwon, South Korea.

Ms. Juneja, who is from Karnal in Haryana, came to the Capital after getting admission in Delhi University. Her parents come to her skating session on Shanti Path every time. There is no barricading of streets by the police and it is up to the athletes and their family members to ensure safety.

"We come to Shanti Path around 4 a.m... The circuit we have here resembles our banked track. In every city there are straight roads, but this stretch is also free of potholes

RACHITA JUNEJA

tional-level competitions that happen both on circuit and banked tracks. We come here especially for circuit practice. In every city there are straight roads, but this stretch is also free of potholes," she adds.

Her father Ravi Juneja said the Haryana government had amended its sports policy withdrawing cash award for roller sports. "The sport had been eligible for cash awards

for 15 years, but in the new policy, only those sports are eligible for cash award which are included either in the Asian Games, the Olympics, or the Commonwealth Games."

"Inline speed skating was part of the 2018 Asian Games, but we still have not received award from last three years. We met senior officials in the Haryana sports department and submitted proof that inline speed skating was part of the 2018 Asian Games. But still there is no response," he said.

Sixteen year-old Raj Raman, a national-level champion skater, says he comes to Shanti Path as there is little traffic in the morning and the area is safe due to the numerous embassies nearby.

Besides Shanti Path, the skaters sometimes practise on the stretch between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate.

Will reupload publications: Aryabhata College head

He has been accused of plagiarism

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Aryabhata College principal Manoj Sinha, who is facing plagiarism charges, on Sunday said that only the online version of his publications have been withdrawn and will be reuploaded after including "referencing".

This was "causing negative results", he added.

Turnitin reports of his publications had analysed extensive citations and had identified a high similarity index in them as well.

In the book *Public Policy and Democracy*, citations were picked up verbatim from a 2002 paper, available online, along with their numbering.

University freshers told to plant trees

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

To encourage the Sikh community to protect the environment from climate change, the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee has made it mandatory for all first-year students studying in IP University and nine colleges in Delhi University – which are run by the panel – to plant 10 saplings each.

It will be treated as a college project for students and marks will be included in their annual result, the DSGMC said.

The move is part of an effort to involve the youth in "green celebrations" to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, said DSGMC president Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

DELHI TODAY

Dance: "Brihaddeswara - form to formless" Bharatanatyam by Balaji Devi Chandrasekhar at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, Main Building, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Collectively Independent 2019" - a group exhibition of paintings by various artists at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Music: In collaboration with Siyaram Tiwari Memorial Sangeet Trust, IHC presents a Palkhwaj solo by Sukhad Munde, accompanied by Lalit Sisodia on sarangi; Dhuprap vocal by Priyanka Rajput at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

New reservoir in Mundka to provide water to 14 villages'

CM unveils underground water storage facility, booster station

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday inaugurated a 165 lakh litre-capacity underground reservoir, and a booster station at Mundka Assembly constituency.

The government said that the total cost of the project was ₹65 crore and that it would benefit 5.36 lakh residents of 14 villages and 27 unauthorised colonies.

"When I came to meet you before the Assembly elections, most of your problems revolved around water and condition of roads. I am happy to say that you put your trust in us and that we have delivered. This



project will help bring water to 14 villages that earlier did not get enough water pressure and will benefit 27 colonies that earlier did not receive water," the CM said at the inauguration event.

"We are a government

that works and you can see that benefits have reached *kachhi* [unauthorised] colonies as works have started on laying sewers, drains and roads. The Congress claims that they brought development to Delhi over 15 years. But that development was restricted only to affluent areas of the city where the leaders stay. How can they say that they brought development if there is a colony in Delhi that still does not get water?" Mr. Kejriwal asked.

"In five years, we have delivered what the previous governments could not do for so many years... this is because we are an honest government," he added.

Will reupload publications: Aryabhata College head

He has been accused of plagiarism

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Aryabhata College principal Manoj Sinha, who is facing plagiarism charges, on Sunday said that only the online version of his publications have been withdrawn and will be reuploaded after including "referencing".

This was "causing negative results", he added.

Turnitin reports of his publications had analysed extensive citations and had identified a high similarity index in them as well.

In the book *Public Policy and Democracy*, citations were picked up verbatim from a 2002 paper, available online, along with their numbering.

'Impact of air pollution is like smoking 5-7 cigarettes a day'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The harmful impact of air pollution suffered by everyone in the country, including newborns, is equivalent to smoking five to seven cigarettes a day on average, said Harsh Vardhan Puri, consultant, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

He was speaking at a seminar on air pollution organised by NGO Chintan on Thursday.

"Millions of people live with lung function decrements, inflammation and cardiac related issues in India and thousands of people die due to air pollution every year," said Mr. Puri.

He pointed out that out of the patients who came for treatment at the hospital, in 1988, only 10% of lung cancer patients were non-smokers, but in 2018, 50% were non-smokers. He also said that people are turning obese due to pollution.

"The laws dealing with air pollution are in place for long, but we have failed miserably in implementing it," said Rahul Choudhary, an environmental lawyer.

Curious portrayal of love in cinema

Sanjay Suri's *A Gandhian Affair* explores 'formula films'

AARUSHI AGGARWAL
NEW DELHI

Why did directors and producers of films in the 1950s and 60s continue to deliver "single-formula films" to their audiences? This question led London-based journalist Sanjay Suri on a 10-year journey that culminated in *A Gandhian Affair*, a book that studies "India's curious portrayal of love in cinema".

The book was launched during an event at the India International Centre on Sunday.

"Millions of people live with lung function decrements, inflammation and cardiac related issues in India and thousands of people die due to air pollution every year," said Mr. Puri.

He pointed out that out of the patients who came for treatment at the hospital, in 1988, only 10% of lung cancer patients were non-smokers, but in 2018, 50% were non-smokers. He also said that people are turning obese due to pollution.

"The laws dealing with air pollution are in place for long, but we have failed miserably in implementing it," said Rahul Choudhary, an environmental lawyer.

Gandhi's "emotional socialism", as opposed to Jawaharlal Nehru's "institutional socialism", affected Indian cinema in its early post-Independence years.

Value system

"The curious portrayal of love at the time did not represent an erasure of sex. In fact, sex was quite ubiquitous; while the hero shuns it, the film embraces it," the author said, adding: "This portrayal of sex is obtained in the song. What the hero sacrifices in story, he desires in song."

The author corroborated his claim with a compelling sequence from a Sharmi Kapoor film. "The formula film is undergirded by a twin retreat from wealth and sex, which the hero is shown to chase at first; giving them up

University freshers told to plant trees

He has been accused of plagiarism

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

To encourage the Sikh community to protect the environment from climate change, the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee has made it mandatory for all first-year students studying in IP University and nine colleges in Delhi University – which are run by the panel – to plant 10 saplings each.

It will be treated as a college project for students and marks will be included in their annual result, the DSGMC said.

The move is part of an effort to involve the youth in "green celebrations" to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, said DSGMC president Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

DU V-C names CEO for polls

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

polls. This sets the ball rolling for the polls that are usually conducted in the second week of September.

The five-member committee included Rupam Kapoor from the Department of Botany as the Chief Returning Officer for the Delhi University Student Union

H.P. STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD "HIM PARIVESH", PHASE III, NEW SHIMLA-171009

Public Notice

According to the provisions of EIA Notification No. SO 153 dated 14-09-2006, HP State Pollution Control Board invites suggestions, views, comments and objections on the proposal of the units details as below:

Sr. No. Name of Applicants Locations

Sr. No.	Name of Applicants	Locations
1.	Sh. Gurjant Singh S/O Shri Labh Singh, P.O. naulakha, Tehsil & Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab.	Project Khasra No.1600, 1594, 1595, 1587, 1561, 1562, 1586, 1579, 1563, 1564, 1585, 1580, 1578, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1573, 1572, 1570, 1569, 1568 (total Area 10-28-80 Hac.)
2.	Sh. Ranbir Kumar S/O Shri Dharman Pal, VPO Ispur, Tehsil Haroli, Distt. Una H.P.	Project Khasra No. 712, 709, 708, 702, 703, 704, 696, 695, 694, 690, 691, 692, 685, 683, 684, 680, 661, 662 (total Area 07-23-42 hac.)
3.	Sh. Kishori Lal S/O Shri Khushi Ram, Nangran Jhikala, Tehsil Distt. Una H.P. and Rotari Chowk, Distt. Una H.P.	Project Khasra No: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1978, 1977, 1975, 1974 (Govt Land). (Total area 05-61-34 hac.)
4.	Sh. Devinder Singh, VPO Maini Tehsil Distt. Kangra, H.P.	Project Khasra No: 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1966, 1965, 1964, 1802, 1956, 1951, 1950, 1601, 1598, 1595, (Govt Land). (total area 05-15-34 hac.)

Man dies after car catches fire on e-way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MATHURA

A man was killed and two others received minor burns after their vehicle rammed a divider and caught fire on the Yamuna Expressway on Sunday, the police said.

The incident took place in the morning while the speeding car was going towards Agra from Loni in Ghaziabad, DSP Vinay Singh Chauhan said.

The car rammed the divider, overturned and caught fire, killing Imtiaz (45) and injuring Nadeem and Lulu. The injured were taken to a private hospital, the DSP said.

The body has been sent for post-mortem. All the men were residents of Loni in Ghaziabad.

DMRC staffer found dead in rented house

He was streaming live on social media during the incident

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old man working as a maintenance staff with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was found dead inside his rented accommodation in Shahdara's Farsh Bazar on Sunday morning. The man from West Bengal was live on social media during the incident.

No note has been recovered, said the police.

"A PCR call was received at 9.05 a.m. from the friend of the deceased. He said that his friend had hanged himself," a police officer said. The friend of the deceased allegedly told the police that

he received a call around 8 a.m. from an acquaintance who informed him that the man, wearing his DMRC uniform, had ended his life live on Facebook. The friend rushed to the house of the deceased from where he called the police.

Death by hanging
When the police reached the spot, the room on the second floor was found closed from inside. The door was broken and the man was found dead. It was death by hanging, said an officer.

The mobile phone of the deceased has been seized for further investigation.

"His family has been in-

formed," the officer said, adding that the body has been shifted to Sabzi Mandi mortuary for post-mortem. The police said inquest proceedings into the incident have been initiated and statements have been recorded.

A senior officer said though the reason behind the step is yet to be ascertained it is suspected that the man might not have realised the consequences of the act as he was also seen laughing at one point in the video.

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

Police hold drill ahead of I-Day

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A constable was injured while chasing a murder accused in Rohini on Sunday. His service pistol was also snatched during the incident.

DCP (Rohini) S.D. Mishra said three persons, including a minor, have been held in connection with the case. The two adults arrested have been identified as Sonu Dabas and his associate Ashok.

Constables Kavinder and Rajesh, posted in Aman Vihar police station, were patrolling Rohini's Sector 20 when they received a tip-off about three persons driving around in the area and acting suspicious. "The officers located the car and approached it for inspection... on seeing the police, the suspects fled," Mr. Mishra said.

As the officers chased the car, the driver swerved and tried to hit Kavinder. The con-



Sonu Dabas in police custody.
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

stable tried to jump away but was hit by the car. The impact broke the vehicle's window.

"One of the suspects caught hold of the constable's hand and dragged him for a few metres before releasing him... he also managed to snatch the policeman's pistol," the DCP said, adding that the officer suffered injuries on his hand.

The suspects managed to drive off, the police said.

A case under sections of

two hundred and fifty and two hundred and thirty five was registered against him under the Excise Act.

The car used in the crime and the pistol have also been recovered, said Mr. Mishra.

The minor, who was working for Dabas, was also apprehended, he added.

Dabas was arrested with two of his associates in 2010 for allegedly killing a man identified as Rahul from Kanjhawala, the DCP said.

The victim had failed to pay ₹10,000 that he had borrowed from Dabas, the police said. "He and his associates were convicted by the sessions court but later acquitted by the High Court," the officer added.

Geeta Colony bridge towards Shantivan will also be closed.

"Commercial transport and inter-State buses will not be allowed from 12 a.m. to 11 a.m. on August 15. DTC buses will not move on Ring Road during these hours," they said.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2019

DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Public visiting the Independence Day 2019 function at the Red Fort are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:

जनता से अनुरोध है कि लाल किले पर स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2019 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित वर्जित वस्तुएं साथ में न लाएं:

Prohibited Items	
Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण	
	Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें
	Bag, Briefcase थेला, ब्रीफकेस
	Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरिकॉर्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एम्पीयू प्लेयर
	Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूबीन, हैण्डीकैम
	Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन
	Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाइ
	Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e.g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. विभिन्न इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टॉपलैट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि
	Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आगेवाले, खिलौना पिस्टॉल और खिलौने
	Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कंची, रेजर, ब्लेड, तार, प्लकर
	Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
	Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार की जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है।

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel.
यदि, कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दे, तो निकटतम सुरक्षकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं।

Please co-operate with the police for searching/frisking.
कृप्या तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें।

Please be alert to your surroundings.
कृप्या अपने आस पास नज़र रखें।

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in
Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS TRAFFIC ADVISORY Full Dress Rehearsal on 13th August 2019

**INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS
TRAFFIC ADVISORY
Full Dress Rehearsal on 13th August 2019**

DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

13.08.2019 (Tuesday)

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from 0400 Hrs to 1000 Hrs and only labelled vehicles will be permitted:-

- Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chatta Rail.
- Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chatta Rail.
- S.P. Mukherjee Marg from H.C. Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.
- Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
- Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Ring Road from Raighat to Y-Point-Hanuman Setu

ROAD THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 0400 Hrs to 1000 Hrs

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels for the rehearsal may avoid Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, BS2 Marg, Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizamuddin Bridge and ISBT bridge and take the route as advised. (North-South Access)

- Alternative-1: Aurobindo Marg - Safdarjang Road - Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover and reach their destinations in North Delhi and vice-versa.
- Alternative-2: Reach Connaught Place - Minto Road - Bhavbhuti Marg - Ajmeri Gate - shradhanand Marg - Lahori Gate Chowk-Naya Bazar-Peeli Koti-S.P. Mukherjee Marg and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice-versa
- Alternative-3: Ring Road ISBT (Kashmere Gate) - Salimgarh by-pass Road (Upper Ring Road) - IP Estate Flyover and vice-versa.
- Alternative-4: Reach Nizamuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna - Pushta road - G.T. Road and cross over to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice-versa.

East-West Corridor:

- DND- NH24-Vikas Marg-Shahdara Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to reach Ring Road.
- Vikas Marg- DDU Marg - Bhavbhuti Marg - DBG Road
- Boulevard road - Barat Khana - Rani Jhansi Flyover - D B G Road - Punchkuian Road will remain open.

Geeta Colony Bridge will be closed towards Shantivan from 0400 Hrs to 1000 Hrs. Similarly, Traffic would not be permitted on lower Ring Road from ISBT Kashmere Gate towards Shantivan and from IP flyover towards Raighat. People are advised to reach early to avoid last minute rush & inconvenience.

SIGNAGES
Adequate informative signages will be displayed for the guidance of vehicular traffic destined for the Red Fort at all important traffic junctions.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTERSTATE BUSES:

- 1. Goods vehicles will not be permitted between Nizamuddin Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge from the 0000 Hrs midnight to 1100 Hrs on 13.08.2019.
- 2. INTERSTATE BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BETWEEN MAHARANA PRATAP ISBT AND SARAI KALE ISBT FROM 0000 Hrs Midnight to 1100 Hrs on 13.08.2019.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS:

- Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 0000 Hrs Midnight to 1100 Hrs on 13.08.2019 between ISBT to NH-24/NH 1 point (Nizamuddin Khatta) on Ring Road and take alternative route available.
- Buses originally terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Main Railway Station will be curtailed/diverted as below:-

- 1) Opposite Ramla Ground on JLN. Marg for buses approaching Red Fort via Nukkar Faiz Bazar and Subhash Marg.
- 2) At Mori Gate and Tis Hazari for buses coming from North, West and East Delhi via ISBT Bridge. Pedestrians can approach Red Fort via Pul Duffrin and S.P. Mukherjee Marg.
- 3) At Boulevard Road opp. Maharaja Agrasen Park for buses coming

from North Delhi side from Ring Road. Pedestrians can reach Red Fort via Lothian Road-Chhatta Rail-N.S. Marg Esplanade Road.

Normal bus service will be restored after 1100 Hrs.

How to Approach/Reach Important places:-

- 1) Old Delhi Railway Station:
a) From West and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Boulevard Road - Mori Gate - Pul Duffrin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.
- 2) New Delhi Rly. Station: There is no restriction.
- 3) ISBT Kashmere Gate:
a) From New Delhi and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Boulevard Road.
- 4) J.P.N. Hospital: There is no restriction.
- 5) Kasturba Hospital: Ajmeri Gate - Ajmeri Bazar - Chowk Hauz Quazi - Chawri Bazar - Chowk Barshabullah - Urdu Bazar.

DP913919

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to: Cp. Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL

Download App from

App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

24 Hours Traffic Helpline 011-25844444/1095

(For immediate Help Call 100 to Share Information call 1090)

CM
YK

NDE

Chandni Chowk plots a heritage harvest

As the long-running redevelopment project picks up pace, authorities promise to present the historic street in a new avatar by March 2020

SURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Monsoon is never chaos-free in Delhi. And if it happens to be Chandni Chowk in the middle of a spell of rain, the scene is one of sheer havoc: slush all around, and venturing out a hazardous enterprise with lanes dug up to lay underground power lines, cables, and water and gas pipelines. Surprisingly, no one's complaining. Traders and residents in Chandni Chowk are, in fact, excited about the redevelopment work being carried out in the area.

"We are very happy with the ongoing redevelopment work. The authorities have worked hard to make the area free of overhead wires. They have done incredible work," said Sanjay Bhagav, president of Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal.

The redevelopment of Chandni Chowk, one of the oldest and busiest markets in Delhi, is an extraordinary project not only for the authorities but also the local residents and traders who have been waiting for over 15 years to see an encroachment-free, utilities-equipped, clean and green area.

The project, first launched in 2004 following the intervention of the Delhi High Court, is nearing completion, thanks to the efforts put in by the stakeholders involved, in all 24 of them, in-



cluding the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Archaeological Survey of India, Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal, Delhi Police, Delhi Transport Corporation, Delhi Fire Service among others.

To finish the redevelopment plan by the March 2020 deadline, the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation, the firm managing the project, has conducted 44 meetings with the stakeholders since January 2017.

Nitin Panigrahi, deputy general manager (project and administration), SRDC, told The Hindu that because of the efforts of the stakeholders the project is well on track and will be completed within the time frame.

"The work is now in full swing. After completing the laying of underground wires, water

lines and gas pipelines, we have prepared a sample stretch on the Red Fort side. We have tried to cause as little inconvenience to visitors and residents as possible," said Mr. Panigrahi.

History in the making
Chandni Chowk was one of the most important streets in the historical city of Shahjahanabad, Delhi. Through the Mughal, colonial, and post-Independence era, the street has been a bustling market place and the epicentre of Shahjahanabad.

The redevelopment plan intends to make it a "great street" once again. It intends to decongest the area, facilitate free pedestrian movement, provide basic facilities, enhance greenery around the place while showcasing

CITY MATTERS
ing its rich heritage and culture.

Heritage status
The redevelopment work is being carried out keeping in mind the heritage status of the area.

The entire stretch from Red Fort to Fatehpuri Masjid, around 1.5 km, is being redeveloped as a pedestrian and non-motorised vehicle street. For the convenience of commercial activity in the Chandni Chowk area, entry of vehicles will be allowed from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m.

"We are paying special attention to the efficient disposal of

solid waste that will be segregated at the time of generation. We are focusing on public utility services like toilets, drinking water, police booth, tourist desk among others," said Mr. Panigrahi.

According to the initial plan (in 2017), 19 electricity trans-



Redevelopment work being carried out on a stretch of road in Chandni Chowk; a sample of how the area will look once the project is completed. ■ R.V. MOORTHY, SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

formers on the main road by August 31.

"We held a meeting over the issue and it was discussed that there shall be no toilets, transformers and police posts on the Central Verge. We will try to find another location," said a senior officer with SRDC.

transformers on the main road by August 31.

"We held a meeting over the issue and it was discussed that there shall be no toilets, transformers and police posts on the Central Verge. We will try to find another location," said a senior officer with SRDC.

Wire-to-wire

An engineer working at the project site said that moving the overhead cables underground was the biggest task undertaken as part of the redevelopment plan. "We have successfully completed 80% of the work without causing much inconvenience to the residents and shopkeepers. Cell phone service providers have also adhered to the deadline provided to them for shifting their lines to the underground network."

Traders were all praise for SRDC keeping them in the loop on redevelopment decisions and taking everyone along as the work gained pace.

"We haven't faced much difficulty in doing business even though the entire area is dug up for redevelopment work. It gives us confidence when customers reach the shops despite the mess all around," said a trader.

Some residents are not in favour of the transformers and utilities being installed on the Central Verge. "Installations at the Central Verge will not go with the heritage status of the street. The aim of the redevelopment work, to get a clear view between Red Fort and Fatehpuri Masjid, will not be achieved," said Mahesh Jain, a local.

The Delhi High Court has directed the authorities to complete the installation of the

transformers on the main road by August 31.

Traders were all praise for SRDC keeping them in the loop on redevelopment decisions and taking everyone along as the work gained pace.

"We haven't faced much difficulty in doing business even though the entire area is dug up for redevelopment work. It gives us confidence when customers reach the shops despite the mess all around," said a trader.

KEY FEATURES

- Pedestrian and non-motorised vehicle street section
- New avenue of trees
- Amenities such as public toilets, drinking water, fountains
- Benches and dustbins
- Monitoring facilities, police booth and CCTV cameras
- Street lighting

BENEFITS

- Decongestion of traffic by restructuring vehicular movement
- Improve walkability and pedestrian facilities
- Improved tourist experience
- Provide a safe urban environment and marketplace
- Improve street aesthetics and renew the glory of Chandni Chowk

SOURCE: PWD

PUBLIC NOTICE



SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

• Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), para gliders, para motors, hang-gliders, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters have been prohibited to fly till 15.08.2019 vide prohibitory order issued specifically in this regard.

• Any person contravening this order will be liable for criminal prosecution.

All general public, shopkeepers, stockists, amateurs & professionals are requested to abide by the prohibitory order.

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DPI9135/19

Two held for duping bank of ₹10 lakh; manager absconding

Duo made fake IDs and companies to open accounts to seek loans

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly duping a public sector bank of ₹10 lakh by opening several accounts and taking loans in the names of fake companies, the police said on Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chimoy Biswal said the accused have been identified as Kamil (37) and Ansar Khan (25), both from Greater Noida. One employee of the bank, who was also involved in the crime, is said to be absconding.

Complaint in 2018
The police said, in 2018, they received a complaint from the bank's Mathura Road branch stating that in 2013, a man named Ansar Khan took a loan of ₹10 lakh to purchase

an SUV from a Greater Noida showroom but after paying three installments, he did not deposit the remaining account. A case of cheating was registered.

During the investigation, the police found that the address, salary slips, bank statements, and other documents were all fake. They also found that neither was any car purchased nor does any such showroom exists.

However, it was found that the demand draft issued by the bank was deposited in a current account in the name of Kamil. Following this, raids were conducted and the accused were nabbed from their village in Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P., on August 5. During interrogation, Kamil allegedly told the police that he works as a guard in Noida and earlier was a pro-

perty dealer. He said he knew a person who worked as a manager in the bank. The police said Kamil, the manager and another associate planned to open bank accounts on fake names and IDs.

"The manager forged the documents which are required to open a savings account after which Kamil opened one in December 2012. Then they opened a fake car company and Kamil was made proprietor in it after which they opened his current account," Mr. Biswal said. The accused then roped in Ansar, a labourer, luring him with easy money. Ansar was shown as the manager of the car company and applied for a loan, the police said.

Mr. Biswal said teams are looking for the absconding accused.

Plant 50 trees, HC tells power theft accused

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court directed a man to plant 50 trees for it to close criminal proceedings against him in a power theft case.

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva asked the man to report to the Deputy Conservator of Forest to plant trees "of deciduous indigenous variety with a nursery age of three and a half years and a height of at least six feet" in the Central Ridge Reserve Forest, Buddha Jayanti Park and the Vandemataram Marg of the city.

The court said aerial pictures, prior to and after planting, shall be obtained.

The officer will ensure upkeep of the plantation and will file a report six weeks after the plantation.

Autorickshaw driver held for killing septuagenarian; one on the run

Accused strangled her before fleeing with jewellery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

An autorickshaw driver has been arrested for allegedly killing an elderly woman in DLF Phase-I earlier this month, the police said on Sunday.

Gautam Das (28) along with his accomplice strangled the woman with her dupatta during a robbery and fled with her jewellery, said the police. He was nabbed from West Bengal's Nadia.

The victim, Indira Khan, had hired a few labourers for some construction work in her backyard and one of the accused, who is still at large, had worked at her house for three days.

He told Gautam that the woman was staying alone,

the police said, adding that the duo then hatched a conspiracy to kill and rob her.

On August 2, the accused rang the doorbell at 9 a.m. and gained entry inside the house as he was known to her. Gautam scaled the boundary wall of the house to enter through the kitchen.

The two allegedly overpowered the elderly and strangled her.

Gautam was arrested from his village Karalia and taken on four days transit remand. "He was produced before the court on Sunday and remanded to seven days police custody. He will be interrogated to make recoveries and arrest his accomplice," said SHO, DLF Phase-I Police Station, Inspector Ved Prakash.

HC upholds Section 7(3) of Extradition Act

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court dismissed a petition seeking to strike down Section 7(3) of the Extradition Act, 1962 holding that there can be no parity between Indian laws and laws of other nations.

The petition argued that the rules applicable to the Indian citizens where extradition is sought to the United States was "discriminatory" against the rules applicable to U.S. nationals whose extradition is sought to India. Petitioner, Nikhil Kolbeker, contended that while Section 7(3) of the Extradition Act calls for a 'prima facie case' only; in the U.S., the Office of International Affairs forwards the request to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the district where the fugitive is located, only if the material is "sufficient and appropriate".

Mr. Biswal said teams are looking for the absconding accused.

Autorickshaw driver held for killing septuagenarian; one on the run

Accused strangled her before fleeing with jewellery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

An autorickshaw driver has been arrested for allegedly killing an elderly woman in DLF Phase-I earlier this month, the police said on Sunday.

Gautam Das (28) along with his accomplice strangled the woman with her dupatta during a robbery and fled with her jewellery, said the police. He was nabbed from West Bengal's Nadia.

The victim, Indira Khan, had hired a few labourers for some construction work in her backyard and one of the accused, who is still at large, had worked at her house for three days.

He told Gautam that the woman was staying alone,

the police said, adding that the duo then hatched a conspiracy to kill and rob her.

On August 2, the accused

rang the doorbell at 9 a.m. and gained entry inside the house as he was known to her. Gautam scaled the boundary wall of the house to enter through the kitchen.

The two allegedly overpowered the elderly and strangled her.

Gautam was arrested from his village Karalia and taken on four days transit remand. "He was produced before the court on Sunday and remanded to seven days police custody. He will be interrogated to make recoveries and arrest his accomplice," said SHO, DLF Phase-I Police Station, Inspector Ved Prakash.

NOW AND THEN

'I learnt to embrace whatever came my way'

Vishaal Uppal, former tennis player and now coach, talks about his career and why the game is not all about skill

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Viashaal Uppal is busy packing his bags to go to London for the Road to Wimbledon programme, accompanying young tennis players as their coach. "It is an initiative by the Wimbledon Foundation where the champion and runner-up in the boys and girls tournament make it to the U.K. under-14 championship held there." Uppal is happy using his experience as a player to now associate with the game as a coach.

It's ironic really, because Uppal, now 42, began with cricket. Even today, just as he did as a seven-year-old, he'll mimic the bowling action of his 1983-World-Cup-winning heroes, Kapil Dev and Roger Binny. "I fancied myself as an all-rounder and they were my idols. I took to tennis at 11 only because playing cricket during breaks at school was becoming tough. Being a fast runner, I would be the first on the tennis court. Gradually, tennis became my first love even though I follow cricket closely even today."

The turning point came as a student at Delhi's Modern School. He was picked to play in the Father O'Brien tennis tournament, where he lost in the semifinals after eliminating higher-ranked players. Cricket took a back seat for Uppal that day, and he was determined to win.

He may have had limitations as a player on the tennis court, but that same determination to make a career in the game persisted. Uppal



VISHAAL UPPAL,
42, TENNIS PLAYER

CAREER SPAN: 1995

to 2007

BIG WINS: Won 13 doubles titles in the ITF Futures Circuit, and the Asian Games bronze medal with Mustafa Ghouse in Busan, Korea, in 2002

KNOWN FOR: His serve-and-volley game

FOR THE RECORD:

Won the crucial Davis Cup doubles rubber with Leander Paes against Korea in Delhi in 2000

represented India in the Davis Cup and the crowning moment came at the Busan Asian Games in 2002 when he won the men's doubles bronze with Mustafa Ghouse as partner. Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi took the gold. "What a moment it was. I live it everyday," Uppal lapses into the past even as he discusses the present.

Opportunity speaks
Living in Defence Colony and shuttling between his two tennis centres at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association Complex in Safdarjung Enclave and the VAN Sports Club in Balaivas in Gurugram, Uppal tries to make his wards play to the best of their abilities. "How to hit a tennis ball is the easiest part. There are mental and physical aspects that need more attention. There is too much emphasis on how to hit the ball," he says.

He goes back to his younger days. "There were hardly four training spots for us; to-

day you have nearly 30 tennis courts within 3 kilometres of where I stay. I would use public transport to reach DLTA and it was fun. I would hitch-hike. It made me tough. It also kept me grounded," says the man who had a comfortable upbringing.

He talks of a life lesson from his first travel for a competitive tournament. "I went

to Gwalior (in 1989) and my parents gave me ₹500. There, we learnt everything was free. I returned the money when I got back. A few days later I travelled to Lucknow for the national championship with just ₹200. When we reached, we were told to pay for everything. So, five of us shared a room and beds. Two on the bed and three on the floor – we

took turns. We had to travel (back to Delhi) unreserved overnight, sleeping near the toilet in the train. I learnt to embrace whatever came my way. It has helped me and that is what I share with my students. To remain humble and grounded."

Educated choices

He has a realistic approach to tennis coaching. "You need

to be skilful, mentally alert, physically tough, tactically correct. You have to keep the fundamentals right, and let the natural ability of the child take over. There are many challenging factors. Skill and technique are not going to change. You have to handle situations," says Uppal watching the Asian men's tennis tournament organised in memory of his grandfather, Krishna Kumar Uppal.

"My grandfather was an Army officer, father a lawyer and mother a doctor. I was

given the freedom to choose my career. Tennis was plan A and studies plan B. I was good at both," says Uppal, who graduated from the Shri Ram College of Commerce. "I never ignored my studies and tell my students that tennis should not happen at the cost of education." He himself made a decision to quit his job at the Gas Authority of India Limited to focus entirely on coaching.

As a coach, he has guided the Junior Davis Cup team: Siddhant Bantia, Adil Kalyanpur and Megh Bhargav

+ **Anti-clockwise from above**) Vishaal Uppal (right) on his Davis Cup debut in 2000; with wife Neha; at home; talking to Karman Kaur Thandi, as the captain of the Fed Cup team; ready for a volley • V. V. KRISHNAN, SANDEEP SAXENA, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Patel, who qualified for the World Group final in the under-16 event in 2016. He was the coach of the team when Sacchit Sharrma and Mahak Jain won the U.K. under-14 championship on the grass courts of Wimbledon in 2015.

Delhi ward

Uppal loves the city he has grown up in: "There are great facilities but there's great chaos too. It has a great culture and the food is excellent." He particularly enjoys Colonel's Kabab at Defence Colony. "I once took the Road To Wimbledon team (including former World No. 4 Tim Henman and the late Paul Hutchins, the British Davis Cup captain) there and they fell in love with it."

Despite being devoted to tennis, Uppal does find time for golf, and has many friends from both the circles.

"Tennis is my first love, and golf is a dangerous fling. I do

enjoy playing golf, and doing some events," he says.

His wife, Neha, is one of India's foremost TV presenters and a corporate MC. Uppal is also much sought in the media for his forthright views. "I enjoy doing TV work. It helps me contribute to the growth of the sport and to better awareness," he says.

On his career, Uppal has a philosophical view. "There is no point regretting what I did not achieve. I had a lot of hunger but not many opportunities. I like to see the glass half full. My only regret was my tennis career getting cut short because of my allergy to dust. I am blessed to be in a family with caring people."

Protests over Ravidas temple demolition

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh seeks Prime Minister's intervention to pacify community members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH

Amid State-wide protests by the Ravidas community over the alleged demolition of a temple in New Delhi on the purported direction of the apex court, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to pacify the community leaders.

Mr Singh made the appeal to the Prime Minister as community members, holding demonstrations under the banner of Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samaroh Samiti, called for a nationwide shutdown on August 13. They have also decided to observe Independence Day as 'Black Day' to protest against demolition of the temple in the Tughlakabad area.

Taking note of the protests, the Chief minister on Sunday said though he did not wish to comment on the



CM Amarinder Singh

Supreme Court's judgment, which led to the razing of the religious structure, he did not favour demolition of monuments and structures of historical importance, connected so deeply with the sentiments of any community.

Dalits on Saturday had held protests at several places in Punjab amid reports of the temple's demolition.

Mr Singh also appealed to the community members to call off their protests, saying the State government was ready to extend its full support to them to get the matter amicably resolved with the Central government.

Land reallocation sought

He also spoke to Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to seek reallocation of the temple land, reportedly belonging to the Delhi Development Authority, to enable the

strategy to resolve the issue with the Centre, said an official statement, quoting the Chief Minister.

The committee comprised Santokh Singh, Charanjit Singh Channi, Raj Kumar Chabbewal, Aruna Chaudhary and Sushil Kumar Rinku.

Underlining the need to uphold the sanctity of the site, important not only for Ravidas community but for all Sikhs and Punjabis the world over, the Chief Minister said amid protests by Dalits at Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Phagwara, Gurdaspur and Amritsar, where several State highways were blocked, causing hardship to commuters.

The Chief Minister said it was essential to resolve the matter urgently, taking all the parties concerned, including the DDA, into confidence and by taking into account the vast pool of legal and other evidence which prove the historic and

religious links of the site with Guru Ravidas.

Mr Singh said given the "gravity and sensitivity" of the matter, it was imperative that the Central government, led by the Prime Minister himself, take steps to restore the site to its original structure and layout.

Highways blocked

An official spokesperson later said the Chief Minister took cognisance of the issue amid protests by Dalits at Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Phagwara, Gurdaspur and Amritsar, where several State highways were blocked, causing hardship to commuters.

The protesters, led by Sri Guru Ravidas Sadhu Sampardai Society chairman Sant Mohinderpal Pandwa, also blocked the national highway-1 opposite the Shiromani Guru Ravidas Temple near Chak Hakeem village on the Phagwara-Jalandhar stretch.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GHAZIABAD

In an encounter on Sunday, Shakil, the second of the three accused who escaped from police custody on July 17 after killing two constables, was shot dead in the jungles of Mullanpur under the Rajpura police station in Sambhal district.

Police sources said Superintendent of Police Yamuna Prasad, who was heading the operation, was also hit by two bullets fired by the gangsters. He was saved by his bulletproof jacket. Three constables were injured in the operation.

He said combing operations were on to nab Dharampal.

Asked why it was taking so long to nab the culprits, Mr Kant said: "The jungle is spread over an area of six-seven kilometres. It is not an easy terrain to track seaoned criminals."

DSP Krishna Kant Saroj

said on Sunday that the police cordoned off the Mullanpur jungle area after an informer told them that four gangsters were present there.

"We were told Dharampal and Shakil could be part of the group. Mr. Prasad was leading the team. As we zeroed in, they fired at the team and Mr. Prasad was hit. Fortunately, the bullets hit the bulletproof jacket. In the retaliatory fire, Shakil was shot dead while Dharampal escaped. Two firearms have been recovered from the spot," the police officer said.

Police sources said Superintendent of Police Yamuna Prasad, who was heading the operation, was also hit by two bullets fired by the gangsters. He was saved by his bulletproof jacket. Three constables were injured in the operation.

He said combing operations were on to nab Dharampal.

Asked why it was taking so long to nab the culprits, Mr Kant said: "The jungle is spread over an area of six-seven kilometres. It is not an easy terrain to track seaoned criminals."

DSP Krishna Kant Saroj

One held for provocative WhatsApp status

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GHAZIABAD (U.P.)

The Muzaffarnagar police arrested a youngster, Zeeshan Islam, for allegedly putting a provocative WhatsApp status on Sunday.

Zeeshan, a resident of the Kakruli area of the district, had put a WhatsApp status which praised the Pakistan Army and prominently displayed the Pakistan and ISIS flags.

Booked under IT Act

Confirming the arrest, Ram Mohan Sharma, Circle Officer, Bhopa, said the screenshot had gone viral. "We took immediate action and booked him under relevant sections of the IT Act."

He said the police were investigating if Zeeshan had any link with terror groups.

4 policemen dismissed for raiding priest's house without approval

'Pilfered' crores from 'seized' money in Jalandhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATIALA

Three Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police (ASIs) are among four Punjab policemen dismissed from service, over four months after they raided a priest's house in Jalandhar without any approval, a senior official said. SSP Patiala Mandeep Singh Sidhu on Saturday dismissed the four policemen, who are currently lodged in Patiala Central Jail.

The four were part of a police party which conducted a raid at a priest's house in Jalandhar without any approval in April this year. He said the policemen

were dismissed under Section 311(2) (B) of the Constitution following departmental inquiries. Mr. Sidhu said the dismissed policemen are ASIs Joginder Singh, Rajpreet Singh, Dilbag Singh Singh and Head Constable Amrik Singh.

Police claim
The Khanna police had in March initially claimed to have recovered ₹9.66 crore from six men including a church priest. However, the priest had taken up the issue with the police and the Income-Tax Department and sought that the entire ₹16.65 crore 'seized' money be re-

leased forthwith.

The priest had claimed that the money was part of the business proceeds and accused the police of allegedly misappropriating some amount from the money they had seized.

The Patiala police had held a departmental probe into the alleged role of ASIs Joginder Singh and Rajpreet Singh, whose statements helped the investigating team recover ₹4.60 crore. The Special Investigation Team handling the case claimed that the accused had returned the sum 'pilfered' from the confiscated amount during the raid.

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

The Bihar police have launched a massive drive on social media and are conducting awareness programmes, appealing to people to stay away from mob violence which has taken eight lives in the past two weeks, mostly in Patna district.

Over two dozen cases have reportedly been triggered by rumours of child lifting in the past one month. On Saturday, a man was beaten to death by a violent mob in Mohammadpur village under the Naubatpur police station in Patna district.

Earlier, on August 3, two such incidents of mob violence over child-lifting rumours, the victims have been from weaker section of society. Apart from Patna, such incidents of mob lynching have

been named and 150 are unidentified in the FIRs... we have arrested 23 of those involved in the incident," the officer-in-charge of the Naubatpur police station, Samrat Deepak Kumar, said.

He added that the local police have been appealing to people, while making an announcement on loudspeakers, not to believe in such rumours.

Earlier, on August 3, two such incidents of mob violence over child-lifting rumours, the police headquarters has instructed all district police superintendents to launch a

drive against such incidents and make people aware through social media and public interaction not to believe in rumours.

'Don't believe rumours'

Patna Senior Superintendent of Police Garima Mallik held

public meetings in different locations of the capital and appealed to the people not to fall prey to such rumours.

The Patna District Magistrate, Kumar Ravi, too has expressed concern over such incidents and asked people to remain vigilant about such rumour mongering.

In most of the incidents, the victims have been from weaker section of society. Apart from Patna, such incidents of mob lynching have

also been reported from Kaimur and East Champaran districts. In Patna district, incidents of mob lynching were mainly reported from Sadisopur, Neora, Maner, Rupaspur, Fatuha and Naubatpur.

"Special drives have been launched to sensitise people against such rumours... special patrolling of police personnel too have been initiated in such rumour-prone areas," State Director General of Police Gupteshwar Pandey told media persons on Saturday.

In 2018 as many as 19 incidents of mob lynching were reported from the State, while in 2017 and 2016 the number of such incidents were 13 and 7 respectively.

Bihar police drive to stop mob violence

Eight persons have

Generator
coach of train
catches fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BALASORE (ODISHA)

The generator coach of Howrah-bound Dhauli Express caught fire at Soro railway station in Odisha on Sunday but there was no report of any casualty, officials said.

No one was hurt as the affected coach was detached from the train and the fire brigade was called in, which doused the flames, they said. The train was detained at Soro for about an hour.

The fire was detected after smoke starting emanating from the generator coach at Soro station in Balasore district in the afternoon, they said.

The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, the officials said, adding that the train left for its destination after thorough checking.

Dalit Christians demand SC status

It will be a step towards social equality: NCDC Odisha chief

STAFF REPORTER

BERHAMPUR

The Dalit Christians of south Odisha districts are demanding Scheduled Caste status from the government.

According to the Odisha unit of the National Council of Dalit Christians (NCDC), around 42% of the total Dalit Christians in the State live in eight districts — Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Boudh, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri.

Dalit Christian representatives from these districts have jointly sent a memorandum to the Central government and the Supreme Court through the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Southen Division.

On July 20, a conference on the issue was held at Mohana in Gajapati district, which was attended by delegates from all over Odisha.

NCDC Odisha president

Prafulla Kumar Lima said the SC status to Dalit Christians would be a great step towards social equality. Organisation's State secretary Acharya Bikash Vardhan said the downtrodden in the Christian community should also get the benefits being provided to the families of lower strata of other religions like Sikhism and Buddhism.

'Protect from atrocities'
NCDC leader Dhirendranath Sabhapati said apart from Dalit Christians, the Dalit Muslim community was also facing similar problems. According to him, conferring the SC status on Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims will provide them a shield against atrocities under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. In Kandhamal district, the minority families facing atrocities are mostly Dalit Christians.

Dalit Sikhs in 1956 and Dalit Buddhists in 1990 were included in the SC quota list. But no others who profess religions different from Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism can be deemed to be SC. NCDC leaders argue that it violates Article 15 of the Constitution that mandates that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on religious grounds.

"When a Dalit person changes his religion his socio-economic condition does not change. He continues to suffer the same caste-based vagaries in his own locality. But after becoming a Christian this person loses his SC status as well as several benefits attached to it," said Mr. Sabhapati.

In April 2014, Dalit Christians had approached the Supreme Court seeking parity in quota. The next hearing of this case is in September this year.

'Centre's agenda now is only politics'

It is for everyone to see and realise the true situation, says West Bengal CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said the agenda of the BJP-led Central government has shifted from economic development to "only politics".

Calling upon the people to realise the "true situation" of the country, she also criticised the Centre's move to 'corporatise' several PSUs.

'Investments plunged'

"Investment in new projects plunged to 15 years' low in the quarter ending June 2019. New projects announced in June quarter 2019 are 81% lower than what was announced in March quarter 2019 and 87% lower than the same period a year ago," she said in a Facebook post.

"It is for everyone to see and realise the true situation where our country stands



Mamata Banerjee. FILE PHOTO

the Indian Railways. "This would lead to lakhs and lakhs of unemployment," she claimed.

Describing the recent job losses in the automobile and leather sectors as "tragic", the Trinamool Congress chief said that the move was contrary to what the BJP had promised before coming to power in the Centre for the second time.

"The government came to power with the agenda of creating more employment opportunities. What we are seeing now is that those who are in employment are losing their jobs," she added.

The Chief Minister also referred to West Bengal emerging on the top of the list of States for GDP growth rate, achieving 12.58% during 2018-19.

"Our achievement is in sharp contrast to the state of deep recession and com-

plete policy paralysis perpetrated by the Central government leading to significant decline of overall growth rate of the country and highest unemployment in 45 years," Ms. Banerjee wrote.

She congratulated the people of the State for the feat and held the BJP-led Central government responsible for the current slump in economy.

"As per reports of Govt of India, growth rate of West Bengal for the financial year 2018-19 is 12.58%, the highest in India. My heartfelt congratulations to all," Ms. Banerjee wrote on her Twitter handle on Sunday morning.

Bengal is followed by Andhra Pradesh which has recorded a GDP growth of 11.02%, Bihar with 10.53% and Telangana 10.5% respectively. Goa is at the bottom of the list with 0.47% growth rate.

BJP groups clash over induction of new leaders

police said. Several party workers were injured and the meeting had to be cancelled, sources said.

The BJP State unit had organised a two-day 'chintan baithak' from Saturday at Durgapur, where it was scheduled to address a rally just a few metres away.

Venue ransacked

Following the clash, the venue of the rally was ransacked, and barricades, tables and microphones were broken, the

that TMC MLA from Barabani Bidhan Upadhyay's cousin Moloy would be joining the BJP.

Party old timers started shouting slogans against Mr. Moloy and the BJP leadership, which led to a clash between the two groups.

TMC leader Jitendra Tiwari said that the incident points to the "kind of rot" that has set in the BJP.

THE HINDU
LET US KNOW YOU BETTER

Your feedback is valuable to us. Please scan the QR code or visit www.thehindu.com/feedback

You may call us at toll free 1800 3000 1978 or write to us at customerservice@thehindu.co.in

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

GEOGRAPHY (OPTIONAL)
by AJAY RAJ SINGH
New Classroom batch begins from 16th August at 9:00 AM (Admission Open)
For Pendrive Video Course Visit : www.geographiaias.com
Add: 92, 1st Floor, Old Rajendra Nagar Main Mkt., Near Kotak Mahindra Bank, Ph. 011-43801172, 9958218172, 011-40194917, 9211703771

Geography
By : Neetu Singh
Optional
DIRECTION
Ultimate Learning Experience (P) Ltd. www.directionplus.com
Contact :14A/103,WEA, Karol Bagh, N.D.-05 (M) 9810382305

KSG
An Institute For IAS Exam...

UPCOMING FOUNDATION BATCHES

INDORE
Bhawar Kuan
17th AUGUST
232-233, 2nd Floor, Veda Building, Bhawar Kuan Square Indore - 452001
DELI
Hudson Lane
19th AUGUST
252, 1st Floor, Hudson Lane, Vijnan Nagar, Chankit, New Delhi-110026
DELHI
Rajender Nagar
2nd SEPTEMBER
56/4 Ground Floor, Bada Bazaar, Sector 10, Rajender Nagar, Delhi-110026
2nd AUGUST
9811293743
SPECIAL FOCUS ON ANSWER WRITING SKILL DEVELOPMENT
BHOPAL
Plot No. 48, 1st & 2nd Floor, Bhaijiya Puri Tolka, Zone II, M.P. Nagar Bhopal - 462011
PATNA
Akbar Tyrope Showroom, CEF Compound, Exhibition Board, Near Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800001
JAIPUR
402-404, 5th Floor, Apex Tower, Lal Kothi, Tonk Road, Jaipur - 302015
JAIPUR
2nd AUGUST
9717380832
Mitra's IAS
39, PUSA ROAD (SAMYAK TOWER, OPP. METRO PILLAR NO. 120)
882469839 / 9560928172/45505509
mritiasclasses@gmail.com • Visit us : www.mritiasias.com

ADVANCE FOUNDATION COURSE

TWO YEARS PROGRAMME
Especially Designed for College Students
***AVAILABLE IN BHOPAL & INDORE**
KSG IAS | NOW IN BENGALURU ALSO
11th C-1, 3rd Floor, behind Airtel office 2nd Cross Road, KHB Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala Bengaluru - 560095
Call: 7619166663 | 08048544393
www.ksgindia.com | DELHI- JAIPUR- BHOPAL- INDORE- PATNA- BENGALURU

CM YK

THE HINDU GROUP

Sangli boat tragedy toll reaches 17; 4.41 lakh evacuated

Relief operations in full swing as water levels of Krishna, Panchganga rivers remain high; National Highway 4 linking Mumbai with Bengaluru via Kolhapur shut for traffic

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

With floodwaters receding in Sangli and Kolhapur districts, five more bodies were discovered on Saturday in connection with the boat tragedy in Sangli's Brahmanal village, taking the toll to 17. With this, the total number of deaths in floods or rain-related accidents across western Maharashtra has touched 40.

Pune Divisional Commissioner Deepak Mhaisekar said, "Nineteen people have died in Sangli, of which 17 were killed in the boat accident while one person is still missing. Six have died in Kolhapur with one missing in the district as well. There have been seven rain-related deaths in Satara and Pune districts, and one casualty in Solapur."

Earlier this week, at least 30 people on a boat belonging to grampanchayat of Brahmanal, which was cut off by floodwaters, were trying to move to safe quarters, when it capsized. While nine bodies were recovered immediately, three more were found on Friday, and five more on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mhaisekar said 4.41 lakh people across the five flood-hit districts of Sangli, Kolhapur,



Two extremes: A villager gets back to work as floodwater recedes at Haripur village in Sangli district on Sunday; and people queue up near a water tanker in Kolhapur. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY ■ DEEPAK KUMBHAR

Satara, Pune and Solapur have been shifted to shelters till now.

Of them, 2.45 lakh from more than 50,000 families have been evacuated in Kolhapur, while 1.58 lakh from over 29,000 families have been rescued from rising water levels in Sangli.

"Of the 4.03 lakh evacuated in these two districts, 1.19 lakh belonged to the 42 worst-affected villages in Kolhapur and Sangli, which were cut off by the floods. Presently, these people are

housed in 305 temporary shelters in these two districts," he said.

Relief operations are still on full strength in Sangli and Kolhapur as water levels of the Krishna and Panchganga rivers remain high. The Panchganga is flowing at 51 feet in Kolhapur while the Krishna is at 53 feet. The Krishna is still way above its danger mark of 45 feet and nearly the level at which it flowed at the time of the 2005 deluge in Sangli.

There are a total of 104 rescue and relief teams, including the National and State Disaster Response Force (NDRF and SDRF), Army, Navy and Coast Guard units, which are distributing food packets, drinking water, medical supplies, can-



■ JIGNESH MISTRY ■ DEEPAK KUMBHAR

dles and other essential items. The 770-odd NDRF jawans and Army and Navy personnel are using 180-odd boats.

Road communications within the districts and to other parts of the State remain paralysed owing to high floodwaters, with the National Highway (NH) 4 that links Mumbai with Bengaluru via Kolhapur is shut.

"Until water fully recedes on the highway, the NH4 cannot be reopened for regular traffic. Then too, priori-

ty will be given to heavy vehicles like oil tankers carrying essential supplies to flood-hit areas," Abhinav Deshmukh, Superintendent of Police, Kolhapur, said.

The immediate challenge before the administration is the health of the flood-hit people and the need to prevent the outbreak of any epidemic.

Mr. Mhaisekar said at present, there are 302 medical teams working round the clock in Sangli, Kolhapur and Satara districts. "All hos-

pitals are providing free medical aid in Sangli and Kolhapur districts, while Gokul dairy is offering free milk throughout the day."

Help has poured in from individuals, social organisations and charitable trusts. The Shirdi Saibaba Sansthan Trust on Saturday declared it would give ₹10 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, while the Bharatiya Jan Sangh Vidhan Manch in Kolhapur is providing meals twice a day to the flood-hit in both the districts.

Amit Shah conducts aerial survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday conducted an aerial survey of flood-hit areas in Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts before heading towards Karnataka, an official said.

Mr. Shah is supposed to assess the flood situation in Belagavi district in the neighbouring State.

He was briefed by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in the morning about the current flood situation and the measures undertaken in the southern regions of western Maharashtra. "We have been sending a daily dossier on the flood relief measures and coordination among various rescue teams to the Union Home ministry," an official from the Chief Minister's Office said.

How can one think of polls during floods, asks Uddhav

Raj sought EC's intervention to postpone Assembly polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

A day after Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray demanded postponement of the Assembly elections in view of the floods, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday asked how people could think of polls at such a critical time.

Raj on Saturday sought the Election Commission's (EC) intervention to postpone the polls, due in September-October, saying it would take time to restore normalcy in the flood-hit districts.

When asked about the MNS chief's comments, Uddhav told reporters, "I don't understand how can one think of elections in such a critical situation?"

The Sena chief, while flagging off his party's vehicles carrying relief material to some areas of western Maharashtra and Konkan region, said his focus is on providing support to those affected by the rain, and refused to com-



Frank talk: Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray addressing media at the party headquarters on Sunday. ■ RAJESH WARADKAR

ment on any controversy over the floods.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

State minister and BJP leader Girish Mahajan on Friday stoked a controversy after two selfies surfaced purportedly showing him smiling and waving hands cheerfully as he inspected parts of the flood-hit Kolhapur district.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

On Saturday, the Congress, NCP and MNS accused the State government of

shamelessly advertising itself, after it emerged that grain bags for flood victims in parts of Sangli district carried stickers with images of

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and a BJP MLA.

When asked for a comment on these issues, Uddhav said, "I am not going into any controversy right now as the focus is on providing support to the flood-hit people."

When Mr. Fadnavis was on Saturday asked about the flak faced by Mr. Mahajan, he said the minister managed to reach the remotest village, and while on the way back, someone shot the video and pictures which were circulated as selfie. "Everybody should stick to a protocol," he said.

IN BRIEF



Karnataka Cabinet expansion not for now

BENGALURU
Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said he would visit New Delhi on Friday and meet the BJP leadership to discuss the flood situation in his State and seek assistance. "Cabinet expansion will also be discussed. Our priority is flood victims." He had recently said that a decision on Cabinet expansion would be taken on Sunday.

Two killed in boiler blast in pharma unit in A.P.

SRIKAKULAM / VIZIANAGARAM
Two workers were killed in a boiler blast at the captive power plant being operated by Triveni Engineering for Aurobindo Pharma, at Pydibhimavaram in A.P.'s Srikakulam district on Sunday. The deceased were identified as Reddi Rahul of Parvatiapuram in Vizianagaram district and B. Raja Rao of Palasa in Srikakulam district. Another worker was injured

Rahul visits landslip-hit areas

Congress leader promises help to flood-affected people; to visit Wayanad today

STAFF REPORTER

MALAPPURAM / KOZHIKODE
Former president of the Congress Rahul Gandhi, MP, on Sunday visited Kavalappara in Kerala's Malappuram district, where more than 50 people were feared trapped under mud and debris unleashed by a massive landslip that took place on Thursday night.

Mr. Gandhi visited other flood-affected areas and the displaced people housed in relief camps at Kavalappara and Mampad. Ignoring the warnings by the police and the security forces, Mr. Gandhi walked up to the site of disaster. He, later, visited a relief camp at St. George Church, Poothanam, in Pothukal village. He spent over half-an-hour at the camp, asking people about the situation and listening patiently to their woes. Various State Congress leaders accompanied him.

He then visited another relief camp at MES Mampad College, where he interacted



Surveying the damage: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi at a landslip site in Malappuram, Kerala, on Sunday. ■ AFP/AICC

with the inmates. Mr. Gandhi assured the flood-affected people all help possible.

He also visited Kunduthodu, near Mampad, where four of a family had been killed when their house collapsed on them on Thursday night. Mr. Gandhi consoled the relatives.

3 more bodies found

Personnel of the Army and National Disaster Management Force (NDRF) could re-

trieve only three more bodies from the landslip site at Kavalappara after an intensive search on Sunday. With this, the number of confirmed deaths touched 12.

Family members of some of the missing persons also joined the search and rescue operations. They came to the spot leaving their children and other survivors at relief camps.

The grief-stricken people said they were not much

hopeful of finding anyone alive, but wanted at least to recover the bodies. Though some of them managed to spot the exact locations of many of the houses destroyed in the calamity, the rescue workers could not remove the debris that covered the buildings.

Officials said it would take at least three or four days to complete the search in the area that extended over 50 acres.

Families at the camps told Mr. Gandhi that large-scale rehabilitation support was needed. Speedy intervention by the government was needed to rebuild houses, they told Mr. Gandhi.

Mr. Gandhi is expected to visit the flood and landslip-hit Wayanad district on Monday after visiting Kaithapoyil relief camp in Kozhikode district. Mr. Gandhi will also attend a flood review meeting at the Wayanad Collectorate at 3.30 p.m. on the day.

(Inputs from Kalpetta Staff Reporter)

Tungabhadra floods Hampi, 200 tourists stranded

More than 2.5 lakh cusecs of water released from reservoir

KUMAR BURADIKATTI

BALLARI

Most of the monuments at the World Heritage Site of Hampi are flooded as more than 2.5 lakh cusecs of water is being released from Tungabhadra reservoir at Muniabrad in Koppal district.

The increase in water release has flooded many places along the banks of the Tungabhadra in Koppal and Ballari districts.

At Hampi, Purandara Mantapa and Chola Mantapa are submerged, while the Rama Lakshmana Temple, Eduru Basavanna Temple and Salu Mantapa are heavily flooded. Water is expected to reach the Virupaksha Temple premises soon if the outflow from the reservoir is increased further.

Other historical places such as the Kampli Fort and Anjaneyaswamy Temple are also flooded.

There is no connectivity



No place spared: The flooded World Heritage Site of Hampi in Ballari district of Karnataka ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to Virupapur Gaddi (island) and around 200 tourists, including some students from Bengaluru, are stranded there.

The buildings housing a police station and the office of the Circle Inspector of Police have also been flooded. Records and other important materials at the structures have been shifted to the Jain Mantap and power supply to the buildings cut.

The authorities have put the areas downstream on high alert.

provided by the Department of Water Resources, all the 33 gates of the reservoir were lifted – 28 gates by four feet and five gates by one foot – on Sunday morning to release around 2 lakh cusecs of water as the reservoir was seeing a heavy inflow thanks to the downpour in the Tungabhadra catchment area in the Western Ghats.

According to information

Cow deaths: toxic material in viscera

Officials suspect internal conspiracy

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS

VIJAYAWADA

Veterinary officials, who collected viscera, water and fodder samples from Sree Vijayawada Gosamrakshana Sangam (SVGS) here in Andhra Pradesh where over 100 cows had died last week, reportedly found the presence of some toxic material in the samples.

Doctors who performed post-mortem on the dead cows concluded that the deaths did not occur due to excess food consumption, but due to the presence of

the toxic material.

Officials are focussing on the internal dissent in the SVGS which could have led to the poisoning of the cows. The police said there were no CCTVs in and around the cow shelter, adding that 86 cows and a few calves had died after consuming fodder early on Saturday.

The police, who said there was no section under IPC for suspicious death of cattle, are waiting for the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) report.

Several villages in Telangana face threat of evacuation

High alert as the Krishna and Bhima are in spate

B. CHANDRASHEKHAR

HYDERABAD

As the Krishna river and one of its tributaries Bhima are in spate, people of several villages located along the banks in Narayanpet and Jogulamba-Gadwal districts of Telangana are facing the threat of evacuation.

Over 200 families from three villages have been already evacuated and lodged in relief camps set up in the neighbouring villages. The administration of the two districts is hopeful that the

rising waters would recede at least by Monday evening as there has been some let-up in the rains in the catchment areas. However, the Central Water Commission (CWC) forecast clearly indicates more flood in the next couple of days.

Nine rescue teams ready

About 160 families of Vasu Nagar and Hindupur, both in the Krishna mandal of Narayanpet district, have been evacuated and sent to relief camps opened in the nearby villages after the Krishna water entered the villages.

The district administration has been kept on high alert with nine rescue teams



An inundated temple at Hindpur village in Narayanpet district of Telangana. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

put in place for vulnerable areas.

Narayanpet Collector S. Venkata Rao told *The Hindu* that one NDRF team with 20 personnel had already been pressed into relief and res-

cue operations. "We have identified nine vulnerable villages in Krishna (3), Maktal (4) and Maganur (2) mandals. One relief team formed for every village is headed by a district-level of-

ficer with officials from Agriculture, Revenue and Panchayat Raj Departments to act swiftly when the need arises," he said.

Boy missing

A 14-year-old boy reportedly went missing in the Sangembanda canal and a couple of teams were on the job to trace him.

The Agriculture department reported that standing crops in over 3,000 acres were inundated and the loss would be estimated once the floodwater recedes, the Collector said. Medical and veterinary camps were also set up in all identified villages. Two police personnel and

two village revenue assistants have also been stationed there. In the Jogiulamba-Gadwal district, about 50 families from Nagardoddi village of Dharu mandal have been evacuated to a relief camp. Another 50 families had refused to be evacuated.

"Although we have not issued any advisory for evacuation of villages, some families in the habitations along the river banks have moved to their relatives' places voluntarily," Collector K. Shashank said.

The district administration has identified half-a-dozen villages in Dharur, Itikal and Alampur mandals as vulnerable to flooding.

KRS dam likely to touch full reservoir level today



LED lamps light up the water gushing from the KRS in Mandya, Karnataka, on Sunday. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

Increased outflow triggers panic among residents of low-lying areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANDYA

The Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) near Srirangapatna, a major dam in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka, is expected to attain full reservoir level (FRL) by Monday as it has been receiving a record 2,07,852 cubic feet per second (cusecs) inflow from upstream dams and catchment areas.

The augmented discharge of 1,53,769 cusecs from the reservoir has caused panic among residents of low-lying areas along its course with the water entering agricultural fields.

According to the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL), the last time the KRS witnessed such copious inflow of two lakh cusecs in 1991-92.

The level of the KRS, the main water source for Bengaluru and many major towns in Tamil Nadu, stood at 121 ft. at 6 p.m. on Sunday, as

against the FRL of 124.8 ft.

Storage in the reservoir has significantly increased to the near FRL in just 11 days. The live storage (LS) in the reservoir was 4,384 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft.) at 6 p.m. on August 1. But, it recorded 35,93 tmcft. on Sunday evening, CNNL sources said.

Fields submerged

The heavy discharge from the KRS and a huge flow in the upstream Hemavati river (a tributary of the Cauvery) have inundated hundreds of acres of farm land in K.R. Pet, Pandavapura, and Sri-rangapatna taluks.

The swollen Cauvery has affected villages of Doddapally, Chikkapalya, Hangaralli, Mahadevapura, Doddegowdala Koppala, Srinivasa Agrahara, Karekura, among others. Agricultural lands were also inundated in Sri-rangapatna.

DRDO focus on stealth weapons, drones

Laser-based directed energy weapons can disable missiles without debris

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Directed energy weapons or DEWs are among the next bunch of military technologies that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is working on, Organisation Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy said on Sunday.

Laser-based or microwave-based high-power DEWs can quietly disable enemy drones or missiles temporarily or permanently without leaving physical debris. In contrast, the ASAT or anti-satellite missile that the DRDO tested on March 27, killed an orbiting Indian target satellite and left hundreds of small pieces as debris for a few months.

"Until now we have somehow managed [our finances] with our funds and from bank loans. I hope something will come through soon for us to maintain the level." Expectation is also on the revised estimates in the Defence budget and some money from deliveries to the Army.

"We have the capacity to make 16 LCAs a year [at the Bengaluru complex]. We also expect that the firm order for the approved 83 planes

Dr. Reddy, who is Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, said DEWs would play a major role in future warfare. "DEWs are extremely important today. The world is moving towards them. In the country too, we are doing a lot of experiments. We have been working in this area for the past three to four years to develop 10-kW and 20-kW [weapons]," he said.

Hyderabad hub
The DRDO's Hyderabad-based lab, Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS) is the node for all related activities.

Dr. Reddy said technology planning for the military should start at least 10-20 years in advance. "If we also

have to be a technology leader we need to lay our futuristic technologies roadmap clearly, put a good amount of resources into it and also work towards those technologies. Otherwise we will remain just technology follow-

ers," he said, delivering the 12th annual Air Chief Marshal L.M. Katre memorial lecture.

The talk was organised by the Air Force Association Karnataka in honour of the former air chief who also was the chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

Apart from its current fighter plane projects – the LCA and advanced medium combat aircraft or AMCA – India would look at pilotless hardware such as combat drones or UCAVs (unmanned combat air vehicles), as well as swarm drones that fly in tandem for surveillance, attack or intelligence gathering. Any UCAV programme could also use the Kaveri as its engine.

have to be a technology leader we need to lay our futuristic technologies roadmap clearly, put a good amount of resources into it and also work towards those technologies. Otherwise we will remain just technology follow-

A.P. forum protests uranium mining

It will damage ecology of Nallamala

STAFF REPORTER

KURNool

The Joint Forum for People's Democratic Rights protested at the Kurnool Collectorate in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday morning, demanding an end to uranium mining in Nallamala.

G. Bhargava, general secretary of Progressive Organisation of People, said the Chenchus are some of the most ancient tribes in India and the mining would have a grave impact on them.

He said the mining would affect the Krishna river, polluting the water and later the villages around it.

Jana Vigyan Vedika founding member V. Brahma Reddy, who has been a vocal critic of the Central government's decision, cited mining in Chhattisgarh where chemical processing and waste management of uranium in Chhattisgarh is being done improperly.

HAL awaits ₹20,000 cr. dues from Air Force

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd is working towards completing by December the first indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) made to the Air Force's final or FOC configuration, according to R. Madhavan, CMD of HAL which manufactures the planes for the IAF.

"Beyond that we aim to produce one LCA every month," he said, noting that the final operational clearance (FOC) for the fighter plane was given in February. The IAF has bought 20 LCAs in the FOC version, having already received the first lot of 20 in the initial or IOC version. He was speaking on the sidelines of the Air Chief Marshal L.M. Katre memorial lecture here on Sunday.

"We have the capacity to make 16 LCAs a year [at the Bengaluru complex]. We also expect that the firm order for the approved 83 planes



Dealing with doping

Cricket bodies must keep the game free of performance enhancing drugs

Sport is expected to operate at a higher moral plane where the effort is honest and transparency remains an abiding principle. It is a utopian ideal leaning on pure performance, copious sweat and relentless training. But in a practical world greased with greed, besides match-fixing, there is another terrible offence: ingestion of performance-enhancing drugs. Athletes like Canada's Ben Johnson were labelled as drug-cheats and rightly denied their Olympic medals. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), since its inception in 1999, has imposed stringent measures so that sport stays drug-free. In India, WADA's rules have been enforced by the Government-run National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and almost all sports federations had fallen in line except one behemoth – the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). But that aberration was erased as the BCCI accepted NADA's supervision following a meeting between its CEO Rahul Johri, General Manager Saba Karim and Sports Ministry officials led by Sports Secretary Radhey Shyam Julani. Indian cricket's governing body finally agreed to subject its players to NADA's testing routines. Before its turn-around, the BCCI had resisted NADA's intervention. The main objection pertained to the 'whereabouts' clause, which made it mandatory for a player to reveal where he would be on a daily basis. The need for privacy was offered as an excuse.

Earlier, the BCCI had its in-house dope-tests but it only lent credence to the allegations about conflict of interest. The issue came to a boil when Prithvi Shaw was given a back-dated eight-month suspension after he tested positive for a banned drug, Terbutaline. The 19-year-old batsman, who was checked in February, claimed that the substance was present in an over-the-counter cough syrup. Shaw's excuse and the BCCI's quick acceptance of his self-medication, bred scepticism. It is either naivety or a classic cover-up from an Indian cricketer, who had been advised about the chemicals that have to be avoided even for therapeutic purposes. The silver-lining is that the episode hastened the BCCI's move into the NADA's ambit and also cleared the decks for the Indian women's cricket team to compete in the 2022 Commonwealth Games at Birmingham. With the BCCI belatedly allowing NADA to monitor its domestic cricketers, by extension the International Cricket Council too has finally come under the WADA's unerring gaze. In these hyper-kinetic times, it is a fallacy to stress that cricket is just a reflection of skill and that drug-enhanced muscular efficiency cannot influence match results. Sport has to be a level playing-field and it is finally one with the willow-game subjecting itself to universal drug-testing rules.

Hong Kong on the brink

As protesters make new demands, the prospects of a quick settlement recede

Protests broke out in Hong Kong two months ago when local authorities proposed a Bill that would have allowed them to extradite suspects to places with which the city doesn't have extradition treaties, including mainland China. The Bill was suspended amid public anger, but the protests, now entering the tenth week, continue to rock the city, affecting the economy and setting off an unprecedented political crisis. The police have tried several tactics to rein in the protesters and restore normalcy in the city, a major Asian financial hub and business centre. They have fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets. Dozens have been arrested, some on riot charges. Still, the city has been on a standstill. Public transportation is hit. People, from construction workers to teachers and lawyers, have joined the demonstrations. The protesters ransacked the local legislative council building and occupied parts of the airport, which led to the cancellation of several flights. Graffiti appeared across the city calling for "a revolution" and "liberation" of Hong Kong. Despite warnings from both the city government and Beijing, the protesters don't seem to be in a mood to leave the streets.

It is no longer about the extradition Bill as a leadership-less group keeps coming up with new and varied demands. Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, has said the Bill is dead. The protesters first wanted the city government to formally withdraw the Bill. Then they wanted Ms. Lam, the architect of the Bill, to go. Now, the protesters say they won't end the rallies even if Ms. Lam quits. They have made a host of demands – withdraw the Bill, order an independent probe into the clashes between protesters and police, drop all charges on the arrested protesters and start the process to reform the electoral system. Ms. Lam, perhaps wary of being seen to be weak in the face of mounting pressure, has ruled out any more concessions. For her, the top priority is to restore order, while Beijing, with its patience wearing thin, has hinted that it could interfere to end the crisis. Both the city government and the protesters share responsibility for the crisis Hong Kong is in today. Ms. Lam could have officially withdrawn the Bill instead of merely pronouncing it dead. Her reluctance to do so even after the Bill was suspended only fanned the flames. The protesters on the other side took an excessively provocative path when they ransacked the city Parliament and attacked the police. What could have been a peaceful protest against an extradition Bill led to the biggest political crisis Hong Kong has seen since it was handed over to China by the British colonialists. At least now, the focus of both the local leadership and protesters should shift to finding common ground and a peaceful settlement. It's in everyone's interest to arrest the slide of Hong Kong.

The imprint of a state juggernaut

High productivity apart, this Budget session lacked sufficient deliberation, pointing to the crafting of a docile Parliament



VALERIAN RODRIGUES

Official spokespersons have hailed the recently concluded Budget session of Parliament as unprecedented both in terms of its hours of work as well as its performance. The 17th Lok Sabha, which was convened on June 17, held 37 sittings that extended over 280 hours till it was adjourned *sine die* on August 6. Sometimes House sittings were extended into the late hours. The Rajya Sabha, which met on June 20, held 35 sittings till it was adjourned *sine die* on August 7. The spokespersons of both Houses claimed that productivity was approximately 137% and 103%, respectively, denoting the hours of work put in. While the Lok Sabha spent 46% of its time in legislative business, the Rajya Sabha spent 51%, a record in recent years.

There were 40 Bills that were introduced during this session (33 in the Lok Sabha and seven in the Rajya Sabha). While the Lok Sabha passed 35 bills, the number was 32 in the Rajya Sabha; 30 bills were passed by both Houses of Parliament. In the Lok Sabha, 183 starred questions were orally answered while 1,066 matters of urgent importance were taken up; 488 issues under Rule 377, that requires advance notice and approval of the Speaker, were attended to. The Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla, repeatedly drew attention to the equality of the members of the House cutting across party differences, and extending opportunities to new and young members. Out of 265 first time members, 229, including 42 out of 46 women members, found an opportunity

to express themselves in the House.

All this sounds impressive and there is much to commend for a functioning House especially after the pandemonium witnessed during the sessions of the 15th and 16th Lok Sabha. But can we say that the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha was representative of the concerns and demands of India's complex, inegalitarian and deeply diverse polity, eliciting the responses of the government for its acts of commissions and omissions, and holding it accountable for its performance? Or, should we say, both the Houses were craftily streamrolled to sing to the tune of the government?

Legislative measures

About half the time of both the Houses in their respective sessions was spent on legislative measures. Parliament has to be credited for passing some bills that enjoyed a broad consensus such as the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, the Consumer Protection Bill, and the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, although questions have been raised on whether these bills and the way they were framed, were the most appropriate ways to further their intent. However, many of the bills passed by the Houses were matters that led to deep division and contention within the polity, such as the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, the Aadhar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment (UPA) Bill, and the Codes on Wages.

Some of the bills passed by the Lok Sabha such as the Inter State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill 2019, the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, the Trans-

GETTY IMAGES



gender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019, and the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019 definitely called for a wider and closer discussion. Many of the bills, such as the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by both the Houses, had bearing on powers of the States and tended to reinforce the powers of the Centre. And indeed, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 introduced in the Rajya Sabha surmounted, on the penultimate day of its working, and passed by the Lok Sabha on its last working day, changed the constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir, hitherto protected under Article 370. It split the State into two Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

All these legislative measures, particularly, the last one, which intend to define Indian polity in crucial ways – and will undoubtedly have enormous implications for the future of constitutional democracy in India – were passed without routing any of the bills concerned through the Standing Committees of the Parliament, or Select Committees. Given the paucity of time, there was little possibility of subjecting them to closer reflective scrutiny. The government was obviously aware of this. In fact, at times it seemed the generous time that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha gave to new members was at the expense of the rectitude of these bills. Worse still, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill that radically modified

Article 370, had to be assented to by the Constituent Assembly of the State, by its very provisions. Since the State Assembly remained dissolved and it is under presidential rule, the sleight of presidential powers was employed to move it. Little consideration was extended to reflect popular opinion, with the political leadership of the Kashmir Valley (on which the bill has the gravest consequences) under internment, and the whole population kept incommunicado.

Institutional bearing

The legislative measures that the National Democratic Alliance-II leadership embraced, and the mode of piloting them through the Houses have conveyed, loud and clear, a four-fold message. First, the task of Parliament is not to discuss and debate, shape and reshape measures for public good, and ensure oversight, but merely play second fiddle to the executive leadership. Therefore, criticism and debate over the bills was kept to the minimum, if avoided altogether. There was no attempt to form the 24 departmentally related standing committees before the session, or early in its day, to which bills could be referred for scrutiny and review or form subject committees for the purpose. The plea of some Opposition members of the Houses in this direction was in vain.

Second, formal legal equality of citizens would be on premium and all differential considerations on grounds of disadvantage or considerations of diversity would be suspect: Therefore, Articles 370, 35A, and Sharia provisions were sought to be modified, while commitment to human rights in general, was reinforced by recrafting the National Human Rights Commission through The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill.

Third, there was an enormous

strengthening of the surveillance and investigative instrumentalities of the State not merely through the UAPA, but also in bills pertaining to the economy and financial transactions. In these measures the 'lethal machine' of the State was on full display against the prevalent ascription of a 'soft' state.

Fourth, legislative measures and amendments such as the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, highlighted the emergence of an institutional hierarchy, demoting key positions, involving transparency and accountability, to executive discretion. The institutional hierarchy of authority, where the higher rungs were cushioned from the lower ones, was vividly there to see in the way in which the name of the Prime Minister was invoked by Ministers and member after member of the ruling dispensation as the font of wisdom, foresight and concern. Clearly, the attempt to craft a docile Parliament had gone a long way.

Impact on democratic ethos
In the past, there was much that was lacking in the composition and functioning of Parliament. There was also little to defend the way the Opposition had made a habit of boycotting the House and stalling its proceedings, although at times it was the most effective way of demanding responsiveness, and even to air popular grievances. At the same time, it should be said, Parliament was grappling with coming to terms with its own institutional working to be the voice of democracy. If the proceedings in the recently concluded session are a clue to its future, then Parliament has been securely chained to India's state juggernaut.

Valerian Rodrigues taught Political Science at Mangalore University and Jawaharlal Nehru University

A point to ponder over in the POCSO Bill

More than an emphasis on the death sentence, there needs to be an overhaul of the criminal justice administration



ANUBHAV KUMAR

There has been much development recently with respect to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. With an objective of stopping the rampant sexual abuse of children, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in July, and later passed by both Houses of Parliament. It is set to become the 'law of the land'. The present bill is welcome in certain respects as it specifically defines what 'child pornography' is: 'using a child for pornographic purposes' and for 'possessing or storing pornography involving a child' is punishable. It has also widened the ambit of 'Aggravated sexual assault'.

The other side

The highlight of the Bill is the introduction of the death penalty for the rape of minors. The Bill, in its object clause, justifies this by referring to the judgments of the Su-

preme Court in *Machhi Singh* (1983) and *Devender Pal Singh* (2002) in which the court has held that the death penalty can be awarded only in rarest of rare cases. Thus the intention of the Bill is to have a deterrent effect; but it can be argued that the introduction of the death penalty may backfire in cases of child sexual abuse and even have a catastrophic effect. Often, the perpetrators of abuse are family members and having such penalty in the statute book may discourage the registration of the crime itself. Also, it may threaten the life of the minor as the maximum punishment for murder is also the death sentence.

The Justice J.S. Verma Committee, which was constituted in 2013 in the aftermath of the Nirbhaya case, after due deliberations found itself against the imposition of death penalty in rape cases. The 262nd Report of the Law Commission of India, 2015, also provides for abolition of the death penalty except in terror cases.

Today, the death penalty has become a prominent tool of symbolic legislation – a political statement indeed. Many a time, the Government, by introducing the death penalty, portrays itself to be strict and serious with regard to such offences. It largely diverts attention from the core issues of in-

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO



frastructural apathy, procedural lapses and trial delays and conveniently evades the fact that 'it is the certainty of punishment rather than its severity which has deterrence in real sense'. It is pertinent to note here that even a year-and-a-half after the passage of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018, which introduced the death penalty for rape of a minor girl, such incidents have not been under check. The debate here is not about retaining or abolishing the death penalty but the probable ramifications of its provision in the Act.

The deterrent effect of capital punishment appears to be on the wane. Globally, there is research to support the view that despite stringent punishments, there is no fall in the rate of commission of crimes. Robin Conley in his book, *Confronting the Death Penalty*, has observed that the death penalty may seem just and appropriate in

abstract but once you are privy to its practicality, it becomes less appealing. Deterrence has its own limitations and it has to be supplemented by exhaustive measures that includes an overhaul of the criminal justice administration.

Court data

The Supreme Court has recently taken cognisance of the sexual abuse of children, directing its registry to file a case as writ petition with cause title "In-re: Alarming Rise in The Number of Reported Child Rape Incidents". The court has also observed that it intends having a 'zero tolerance policy' toward child rape. As data on sexual crimes against children collected by the court show, 24,212 FIRs were filed across India from January to June this year. According to National Crime Records Bureau data of 2016, the conviction rate in POCSO cases is 29.6% while propensity is as high as 89%. The prescribed time period of two months for trial in such cases is hardly complied with.

The court has also taken note of the delay in trials, in turn directing the Central Government to set up special courts within 60 days of the order in each district having more than 100 pending cases under the Act. It is to be seen how long it takes to comply with the order.

Anubhav Kumar is Assistant Professor (Law), National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, Jharkhand

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.

At the Congress's helm

The election of Sonia Gandhi is reflective of the abyss into which the Congress party has fallen (Page 1, "Congress names Sonia as its interim president", August 11). Though she can claim credit for cobbling up UPA-I and UPA-2, it is doubtful whether her sedate style can match the rabble rousing ways of the ruling dispensation at a time when hate and fear rule Indian politics. Democratic values are under attack in the country and one wonders whether the Congress party has let down the nation by opting once again for dynastic leadership. It has thrown away a historic opportunity for a new beginning.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

settled for Ms. Gandhi is not a surprise. The grand old party of India cannot separate itself from the Nehru/Gandhi family as there are no acceptable second rung leaders. It is ingrained within Congress men and women that the party and the family are inseparable. If at all there is a leader who is dynamic, articulate and has the ability to lead, they are confined to his or her State or region. One is sure that the prefix 'interim' is only a term for the arrangement where Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will sit eventually.

M.R.G. MURTHY,
Mysuru

■ It is shocking that months after the results of the general election and a marathon meeting on Saturday, the Congress has fallen back on the family rather than choosing a live-wire president. Why so much

drama when the matter was already settled, as a Bengali proverb goes?
BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE,
Paridabda, Haryana

■ Ms. Gandhi has done the right thing by assuming the position of "interim president", though reluctantly. Otherwise, there was every chance of the party having become irrelevant with each passing day since the resignation of Rahul Gandhi as party president. There could have been a split between the old and new guard. The idea of India is undergoing a change. Party unity is necessary. Rahul Gandhi would do well to reflect on how he can assist the new president in order to regain public confidence in the party.

A. JAINULABDEEN,
Chennai

■ The Grand Old Party is like a sinking ship. As the BJP is

growing by leaps and bounds, there is a worry that India is heading towards an 'Opposition-less' polity which is not good for the country. In its present political state, the Congress has failed to gain even the support of the ground-level cadre. With the new change, the party leadership should leave no stone unturned to come back with vigour and enthusiasm as a constructive Opposition, if not as a ruling party.

A. SRINIVASAN,
Chennai

■ The Grand Old Party is like a sinking ship. As the BJP is

permanent solution to this prolonged issue but in an amicable manner. A policy of live and let live must come into being so that there is peaceful co-existence between the two nations.

V.P. DHANANJAYAN,
Chennai

Ecological notes
The havoc and destruction across many regions in the Western Ghats following a vigorous phase of the southwest monsoon must cause policymakers to revisit the Madhav Gadgil report

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
A report headlined "Kashmiri students hold silent protest in AMU" (Aug. 9, 2019) erroneously identified the former Chief Minister of Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah, as "Sher-e-Kashmir" and "Papa Mian". The two are different. "Papa Mian" actually refers to another Sheikh Abdullah, a lawyer and one of the founding members of Abdulla Girls College, Aligarh Muslim University. It was an editing error.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552523; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 89 & 90 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. Personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/

Rethinking water governance strategies

Individual States need to assume the responsibility for managing water resources in their territories



SRINIVAS CHOKKAKULA & ASHWIN PANDYA

India's 'water crisis' took over social media recently. That India's cities are running out of water, coupled with Chennai's drinking water woes, made the 'crisis' viral, raising questions about the quality of the discourse and choice of water governance strategies in India. If there is a water crisis, what is the nature of the crisis? Where is the crisis prevalent? And how do we deal with it?

Usually, a delayed monsoon or a drought, combined with compelling images of parched lands and queues for water in urban areas raise an alarm in the minds of the public. Similarly, episodes of inter-State river water disputes catch public attention. However, this time, it was somewhat different. Videos and news reports claiming that Indian cities are running out of groundwater went viral. These news items could not have gained the traction but for the fact that they relied on a 2018 report of India's own Niti Aayog, which was titled 'Composite Water Management Index: A tool for water management.'

Zombie statistics

Later, thanks to yet another series of tweets by Joanna Slater of *The Washington Post*, the 'crisis bogey' lost some of its sheen. Ms. Slater investigated the "zombie statistics" in the Niti Aayog report, especially the piece of information that said: "21 major cities are expected to run out of groundwater as soon as 2020, affecting [nearly] 100 million people." Her perseverance led to an eventual conclusion that there was no credible evidence for this assessment.

To be fair to Niti Aayog, its projection was only a means to an end goal: leveraging some action from the Indian States. The report's central goal was to propose a tool, an index, to monitor the States' water resource management strategies and provide the necessary course-shift, beyond supply augmentation approaches. The report may have had a lofty goal of promoting 'cooperative and competitive federalism' but was, in reality,



Delhi residents filling water in cans from a distribution tanker. • GETTY IMAGES

a desperate move to engage with the States, in the absence of any substantive leverage to influence their approaches to water resources management. This also underscored that the fulcrum of any course correction lies with States.

Yet, what baffles us is the question: Just how did such 'zombie statistics' gain traction? This is disturbing on two counts: one, there is an absence of critical engagement or institutional accountability; two, a deeper hypocrisy surrounds the discourse on water governance in India. If there is a crisis, where is the crisis and what is the nature of the crisis?

For instance, what does the report mean when it says that "cities [are] running out of groundwater"? Does it mean that cities will not have groundwater reserves to meet their drinking water demand? If yes, this is not news.

Second, if the report means that the crisis lies in the depletion of groundwater levels in cities below safe rechargeable levels, then this is also not unknown. For almost two decades, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been reporting on the increasing number of over-exploited blocks across India, the 'dark' category blocks. The recent annual book of CGWB has reported 1,034 units, out of the 6,584 units it monitors, as over-exploited. If this is the 'crisis', then we have had it for long. What has this not received enough attention? Is it because these zones are not in cities?

Just to be sure how critical the 'crisis' is, CGWB's 2013 estimates say that the groundwater development in India is just about 62% of the utilizable groundwater reserves. Similarly, a recent report by the Central Water Commission, prepared in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), asserted that India is not yet in "water scarcity condition". But it is certainly in a "water-stressed condition", with reducing per capita water availability.

Here, we certainly don't mean to say that India can continue with the present ways of water management. We also cannot remain in a state of denial that a crisis is not in the making. However, certain steps need to be taken to ensure a more useful and productive discourse about water governance challenges.

First, India needs to reconsider the institutional processes for dissemination of knowledge about water resource management. There is a certain amount of danger inherent in the casual manner in which knowledge about water resources is legitimised and consumed, particularly in these days of 'viral' information.

Second, we need to recognise the crisis is not as much of scarcity as of delivery. The challenge is to ensure an adequate access to quality water, more so in urban areas where inequities over space and time are acute. We need to also realise that with the country's rapid urbanisation, demand cannot be met by groundwater reserves alone. For in-

stance, according to the Delhi Jal Board estimates, groundwater meets just 10% of Delhi's drinking water needs. The rest is met by surface water sources, most of it transported from outside Delhi. The urban needs, which underpin much reporting on 'water crises', need to be met by robust long-term planning and preparation for droughts and other contingencies.

Responsibility lies with States

Finally, we need to reconsider our approaches to water governance. We must recognise that the fulcrum of change and action is with the States. For long, water resource departments in States have continued to follow the conventional approaches of supply augmentation. The challenge is that of reorienting themselves towards deploying strategies of demand management, conservation and regulation.

The Centre has to work with States towards an institutional change for the necessary course-shift. The Finance Minister, in her budget, repeatedly stated that the government will work with States to address India's national water security challenges. Let us hope that the government intends to strengthen federal governance of water resources towards long-term water security.

Srinivas Chokkakula is at the Centre for Policy Research; Ashwin Pandya is with International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage. Views are personal

Pipe dreams for water transfer

It is time to consider out-of-the-box solutions to take water from a point of surplus to one of deficit

MADHURika SANKAR

Last month, the 'Chennai water train' made its poignant, slow arrival into the city, carrying 2.5 million litres of water for its parched residents. At the very same time, in another part of the country, unspeakable tragedy had unfolded, with Assam and Bihar getting ravaged by the monsoons. And just when it feels that the country has been through enough, rain batters Karnataka and Kerala, taking many lives and causing more misery.

It is a cruel fact that it doesn't rain evenly across the planet. With the havoc that rapidly-intensifying climate change is bringing, one man's drought could well coincide with another man's deluge.

These climatically turbulent times beg the question of whether it would be too far-fetched to use the 'water train' model widely and set up infrastructure to transport water from areas with surplus to parched lands. Historically, this notion has been toyed with and abandoned, mainly owing to how expensive it is to ferry water through thousands of kilometres of pipelines and against gradients, often involving pumping stations requiring a lot of energy. Yet, it isn't as much a technical problem as one of money, and perhaps politics.

The American, Greek examples
In the U.S., the city of Las Vegas planned to use excess water from the Mississippi river through a multibillion-dollar project, a proposal that has remained a pipe dream. French engineers have dreamed up plans to helping water-starved African nations by hauling icebergs to their shores. Some of these plans have succeeded; for example, Greece has used the mega Spragg trash bag and its 'world's strongest zipper' to haul massive amounts of water.

These schemes have yielded another novel idea, which is to use water to transport water. This has been implemented with success in the Caribbean, especially during the drought of 1983-84 in Antigua. The advantages of transporting water over water include the fact that one

Horsepower of energy can move 150 kg on road, 500 kg on rail and 4,000 kg on water. Similarly, one litre of fuel can move 24 tonnes per km on road, 85 tonnes on rail and 105 tonnes on inland water transport. The disadvantages are that the loading and unloading facilities are expensive to construct and, in India, most rivers don't have the depth and breadth to accommodate large barges all through the year. It will also require the dredging of rivers, which is exorbitant and might destroy natural ecosystems. Finally, though India recently forged ahead with its inland waterways development plans by investing in the National Waterways in the Northeast, the bigger problem is that there are too few large industries located near river belts. The impetus for investment simply doesn't exist.

Nevertheless, exciting and path-breaking innovations in technology and enterprise still hold out much potential to solve our world's resource problems. Desilting of lakes and rivers (concomitant with effective garbage/plastic disposal); extensive, state-mandated rainwater harvesting; desalination and, finally, recycling of water – all these can make a considerable difference.

According to Magsaysay awardee P. Sainath, there have been five principal migrations of water in India: from agriculture to industry; rural to urban; food to cash crops; poor to rich; and livelihood to lifestyle. These are all independent of seasonal droughts and have to do with our poor water management strategies.

But, in a country of contrasts – where animals frantically try to save themselves from floodwaters in Kaziranga National Park while, at the same time, innocent children carry back-breaking quantities of water in the blistering Chennai sun – perhaps it is time to consider out-of-the-box technological innovations.

The writer is based in Chennai



plastic disposal); extensive, state-mandated rainwater harvesting; desalination and, finally, recycling of water – all these can make a considerable difference.

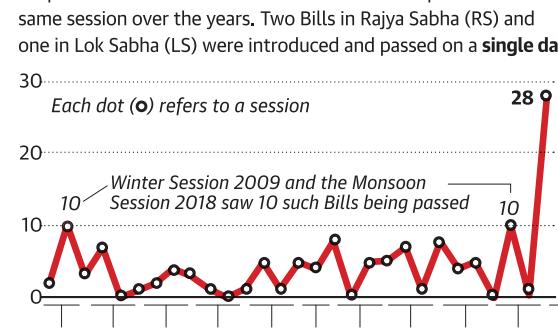
According to Magsaysay awardee P. Sainath, there have been five principal migrations of water in India: from agriculture to industry; rural to urban; food to cash crops; poor to rich; and livelihood to lifestyle. These are all independent of seasonal droughts and have to do with our poor water management strategies.

But, in a country of contrasts – where animals frantically try to save themselves from floodwaters in Kaziranga National Park while, at the same time, innocent children carry back-breaking quantities of water in the blistering Chennai sun – perhaps it is time to consider out-of-the-box technological innovations.

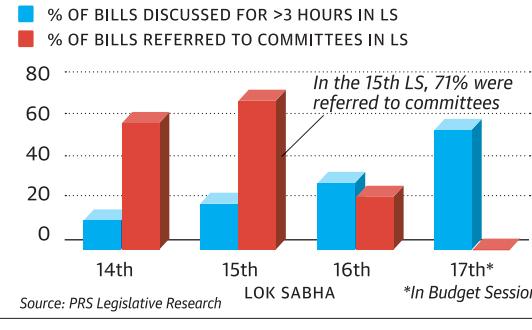
Legislating in a hurry

A record high

Graph shows the number of Bills introduced and passed in the same session over the years. Two Bills in Rajya Sabha (RS) and one in Lok Sabha (LS) were introduced and passed on a single day



In the 15th LS, 71% were referred to committees
In the 15th RS, 65% were referred to committees
In the 16th LS, 60% were referred to committees
In the 17th* LS, 55% were referred to committees



During the 2019 Budget Session, 28 Bills were introduced and passed – the highest for any session in 10 years. None of the Bills were referred to a committee for scrutiny. The J&K Reorganisation Bill was discussed for just under 7.4 hours in both Houses put together. By Varun B. Krishnan

Bills galore

Due to this Bill-passing blitz, half the time of both the Houses was spent in legislative business. Graph shows % of time spent by Parliament in different roles in the latest session



Lok Sabha spent 20% of its time on financial business

J&K Reservation (Amendment) Bill was discussed for 4.18 hours in LS with 31 participants

Muslim Women Bill was discussed for 2.5 hours in RS with 10 participants

Medical Commission Bill was discussed for 1.5 hours in RS with 10 participants

The J&K Reorganisation Bill was discussed for 4.18 hours in LS with 31 participants

In the 15th LS, 71% were referred to committees

In the 15th RS, 65% were referred to committees

In the 16th LS, 60% were referred to committees

In the 17th* LS, 55% were referred to committees

*In Budget Session

Source: PRS Legislative Research

Each dot (●) refers to a session

Winter Session 2009 and the Monsoon Session 2018 saw 10 such Bills being passed

In the 15th LS, 71% were referred to committees

In the 15th RS, 65% were referred to committees

In the 16th LS, 60% were referred to committees

In the 17th* LS, 55% were referred to committees

*In Budget Session

Source: PRS Legislative Research

Each dot (●) refers to a session

Winter Session 2009 and the Monsoon Session 2018 saw 10 such Bills being passed

In the 15th LS, 71% were referred to committees

In the 15th RS, 65% were referred to committees

In the 16th LS, 60% were referred to committees

In the 17th* LS, 55% were referred to committees

*In Budget Session

Source: PRS Legislative Research

Each dot (●) refers to a session

Winter Session 2009 and the Monsoon Session 2018 saw 10 such Bills being passed

In the 15th LS, 71% were referred to committees

In the 15th RS, 65% were referred to committees

In the 16th LS, 60% were referred to committees

In the 17th* LS, 55% were referred to committees

*In Budget Session

Source: PRS Legislative Research

Each dot (●) refers to a session

Winter Session 2009 and the Monsoon Session 2018 saw 10 such Bills being passed

In the 15th LS, 71% were referred to committees

In the 15th RS, 65% were referred to committees

In the 16th LS, 60% were referred to committees

In the 17th* LS, 55% were referred to committees

*In Budget Session

Source: PRS Legislative Research

Each dot (●) refers to a session

Winter Session 2009 and the Monsoon Session 2018 saw 10 such Bills being passed

In the 15th LS, 71% were referred to committees

In the 15th RS, 65% were referred to committees

In the 16th LS, 60% were referred to committees

In the 17th* LS, 55% were referred to committees

FROM PAGE ONE

Restrictions return to Kashmir Valley

Sources said there were reports of street mobilisation and stray incidents of stone-throwing in the Old City as people came out to buy essentials for the festival and traffic resumed. By afternoon, the police used the public address system to "direct people to stay indoors and shut the markets." Concertina spools were unrolled on many stretches.

Mr. Dwivedi said only prayers and no political speeches would be allowed in shrines in interior colonies.

Around 250 mainstream political leaders and activists have been rounded up since August 5 when Union Home Minister Amit Shah told the Rajya Sabha that Ar-

ticle 370 that accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir would cease to operate. "These arrests are not centralised and the exact number may not be revealed. Most detentions have been decided at the district level as per the law and order requirements," Mr. Dwivedi said.

Divisional Commissioner Basir Khan said around 4,000 calls were made by residents to their relatives outside through government helpline.

"Around ₹15,000 crore was disbursed in salaries, with ₹5,000 crore in Srinagar alone, to ensure cash flow," Mr. Khan said.

Around 1.5 lakh animals were sold in Srinagar, he added.

No confusion, Art. 370 had to go, says Shah

The Minister said he had been anxious on how the Bill would be taken up in Rajya Sabha, where the BJP did not have a majority, but Mr. Naidu had taken the Bill through voting and even in division.

Mr. Naidu backed the Minister, saying the decision on ending the special status was in the interest of the nation, for its future, security and safety.

Mr. Naidu said: "I can say, as a Vice-President, with a considerable experience in public life, now that the Parliament has voted it also, we should all think in terms of national interest than party interest."

"[Article] 370 should not be treated as a political issue but it should be treated as a

national issue that Kashmir is an integral part of India. Whatever problems are there, we should all stand by the people of Kashmir and assure their feelings and see to it that steps are taken for restoring normalcy and for implementing developmental and welfare agenda at the earliest," he said.

Rajini hails decision

Commending the BJP government for abrogating the special status for Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil actor Rajinikanth equated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Shah as the Krishna-Arjuna combination in the Mahabharata. "We do not know who is Arjuna and Krishna in them. Only they will know," he said.

Death toll hits 72 in Kerala flood mayhem

"This year, the death toll rose on account of the landslips triggered by heavy rain."

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu's decision to release water from the Sholayar dam would help the State.

It will increase the flow to Parambikulam and Peringalkuthu, causing water levels in the Chalakkudy river to rise, the Chief Minister said.

Sonia likely to lead Congress for 6 months

But their names did not come up during the elaborate consultation process undertaken by the five sub-groups of the CWC, sources said. The sub-groups were formed to hold consultations with Congress' State unit heads, MPs and other senior functionaries. When the CWC met for the second time at 8 p.m. on Saturday, all the sub-groups reported that the chorus was for Mr. Gandhi alone, while a handful backed his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Convincing Rahul

Attempts were made to convince Mr. Gandhi to change his decision. Ms. Vadra phoned him from the CWC on the insistence of the other members, sources said. However, he point blank refused to continue. "Sonia Gandhi told us that Mr. Gandhi will not come here because he doesn't want to be bullied by the CWC into changing his mind," a CWC member said.

"We had been debating for 12 hours and we decided that we shall not leave the room without a decision," another CWC member said.

The decision to bring back Ms. Sonia Gandhi, many insiders said, is a compromise between the old guard and the younger lot since, under her command, her son will continue to have a say in party matters. "Regrettably, Rahul Gandhi

ji has stuck to his decision to resign but it is an honour to have Smt Sonia Gandhi ji as our party president. I look forward to working under their combined leadership!" Congress MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, who had struck a discordant note on the issue of Article 370, said in a tweet.

No time limit
The resolution appointing Ms. Gandhi as "interim president" did not provide a time limit on when the elections would be held to elect the next president. The issue was also not discussed in the CWC meet. The party's constitution, too, does not prescribe a time frame for an interim or provisional president to begin the process of finding a successor.

Party insiders said the Congress cannot go through the motions of elections and prepare for the Assembly polls simultaneously. Elections in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana are due in November. Delhi goes to polls in February next year, and Bihar later the same year.

After Mr. Gandhi announced his decision to quit on May 25, two days after the Lok Sabha polls, the chorus to have a transparent election with a wider electorate has been doing the rounds with the likes of three-time MP Shashi Tharoor batting for it.

Congress alleges lax flood relief

Party says Centre did not release funds meant for flood management projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress accused the Narendra Modi government of apathy towards the flood-affected States, and alleged that the government did not release Central funds meant for flood management projects to 17 States that could have pre-empted the tragedy.

The allegation came on a day when Home Minister Amit Shah conducted an aerial survey in flood-hit Karnataka. Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said the government had failed to realise the gravity of the situation and was busy indulging in "photo-opism".



Home Minister Amit Shah conducting an aerial survey of flood-hit areas in Belagavi on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Unfortunately, the Central government has displayed insensitive, lackadaisical and partisan attitude. As per the 2017 CAG Report on "Schemes for Flood Con-

trol", projects could not be completed due to a 60% "shortfall" in the Central funding, he said at a press conference here.

He also hit out at Maha-

rashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for distributing food packages with his photographs which showed insensitivity, the Congress said. "The Prime Minister should provide required assistance to Kerala and shun politics of favouritism. In Karnataka, the Home Minister, instead of conducting "aerial surveys", should meet the State government's immediate demand for ₹3,000 crore," Mr. Shergill said.

The Congress has demanded that the floods be declared a national calamity and funds be released immediately as per the demands of the State governments.

Congress, CPI(M) join hands for Bengal bypolls

Repeat of 2016 Assembly election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Congress and the Left Front have decided to share seats in the coming Assembly by-elections in three constituencies. This is the first time they are doing so after the 2016 Assembly election.

While the Congress will contest the Kaliaganj seat in North Dinajpur and Khargapur in West Medinipur district, the Left Front will contest Karimpur of Nadia district. The election dates are yet to be declared.

The Left Front and the Congress did not have a seat-sharing adjustment in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, and both parties performed badly.

While the Congress secured two out of 42 seats, the Left Front secured none and the seat adjustment did not materialise after several rounds of negotiations. One of the reasons for the Left Front's half-heartedness in sharing seats with the Congress in the Lok Sabha was complaints from local leaders.

The Left's district leaders complained that while the Left Front's votes transferred to the Congress in the 2016 Assembly polls, the Congress's votes did not. The CPI(M)'s senior leader and central committee member, Sujan Chakraborty, however, underscored a separate point of view while explaining why the Left and the Congress were coming



together in the 2019 Assembly by-elections.

'Atmosphere vitiated'
"There is a sharp rise in communalism in the country and the State. Increasingly the State's atmosphere is getting vitiated. While the Trinamool Congress is equally responsible along with the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) in spoiling the atmosphere, we felt – in line with last year's (party) resolution – that we need to work together with forces that are democratic to an extent," Mr. Chakraborty told *The Hindu*.

Talking about the transfer of vote share from the Congress to the Left, Mr. Chakraborty said that he hoped the Congress would take a proactive position in transferring the votes.

State Congress president Somendra Nath Mitra had told journalists earlier that "together, we will be able to defeat the BJP and the Trinamool."

Arun Jaitley responding to treatment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Arun Jaitley is responding to treatment and his vitals are stable, said a senior doctor of the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) on Sunday.

Mr. Jaitley was admitted to the AIIMS earlier this week after he complained of breathlessness and restlessness.

The former Finance Minister has been in the intensive care unit and is "haemodynamically stable", according to a statement released earlier by the hospital.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, who visited the hospital on Saturday, said Mr. Jaitley was responding to treatment well.



A chronicle: Union Home Minister Amit Shah releasing a book written by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu in Chennai on Sunday. ■ M. VEDHAN

not decided even until the entire term of the legislators, defeating the very purpose of these laws.

"The anti-defection law is not implemented in letter and spirit and because of the

inaction of the Speaker or Chairman, the legislators continue in the new party and, in a few cases, even become Ministers in the government. This kind of travesty of justice should not be tolerated," he said.

The country should have special judicial tribunals which will decide the cases within a reasonable time.

Expanding the Supreme Court Bench and having sep-

arate Benches in different regions and at least one in Chennai on a trial basis, enhancing the number of judges in the apex court, division of work into Constitutional Division and Courts of Appeal and raising the age of retirement of judges were also highlighted by Mr. Naidu.

Media's role

He also called upon the media to be a "dispassionate watchdog, an honest messenger, a friendly adviser and a wholesome entertainer".

Mr. Naidu spoke against legislators disrupting the Parliament proceedings. "As I have repeatedly emphasised in my public speeches, I would like legislators to "discuss, debate and decide" not 'disrupt', he said.

JJP, BSP join hands for Haryana Assembly polls

'Move will change the political situation in the State'

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

The Janmabhoomi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have formed an alliance for the Assembly election in Haryana due later this year. The decision was announced by the leaders of the two parties in New Delhi on Sunday.

The JJP, which was formed after a split in the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) last December, will contest the 50 seats in the 90-member Assembly, leaving the remaining 40 for the BSP.

Asserting that the alliance will change the "political situation in the State", JJP leader and former Hisar MP Dushyant Chautala told a press conference that in view of "attempts to damage the social fabric", the two parties had decided to come together to fight this menace and take Haryana forward on the path to development.

Mr. Chautala added that the decision was reached after a series of meetings between the leaders of the two parties.

"Like in the past, when then BSP chief Kanshi Ram and Chaudhary Devi Lal to-

gether fought to bring about a change in the State, BSP supremo Mayawati and Chaudhary Ajay Chautala have decided to take the battle forward," he said.

'Need for change'

BSP national general secretary and Raja Sabha member Satish Chandra Misra said people of the State had suffered for long under the current BJP regime and the earlier Congress rule and wanted a change.

He said the alliance would provide the people of Haryana a viable alternative and form the new government in the State.

Both alliances had failed to win even a single seat.

Before the Lok Sabha election, the BSP had contested the Jind by-poll in Ja-

Mamata irked by tax notice to puja panels

Trinamool to lead a protest tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Sunday that the Income Tax Department had sent tax notices to various Durga Puja committees, and the Trinamool Congress would organise a sit-in protest to resist this taxation.

In her Twitter handle, Ms. Banerjee noted that the IT Department had "issued notices to many committees which organise" Durga Puja, and asked "them to pay taxes".

"These festivals are for all and we do not want any puja festival to be taxed. This will be a burden on the organisers. The Bengal go-



vernment withdrew tax, which was earlier there, on Ganga Sagar Mela. We protest against this and demand no taxation on Durga puja committees," Ms. Banerjee tweeted.

The Trinamool will lead a day-long protest on Tuesday against the move.



APPEAL
6 years old Bavadarini needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. She suffers from Neuroblastoma and requires Rs. 6,00,000/- towards Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Donations sent by Ch.D.D., favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.

The donations sent through Ch.D.D./NEFT Transfer Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063210, IFSC No: SYNB0005018 favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. (Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).

All Correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF_01, Corridor Apartments, O.N.O. 13, N.O. 29, Pycroft Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 2823524, Email ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

J&K on top of Jaishankar's China agenda

Kashmir, Ladakh situation likely to dominate his talks with Chinese Foreign Ministry officials

ATUL ANEJA

BEIJING

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has arrived in Beijing to prepare for the second informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, apart from familiarising his hosts about New Delhi's decision to revoke special status for Jammu and Kashmir.

Ahead of his arrival, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had taken exception to India's decision to create Ladakh as a separate Union Territory, saying the decision could alter the status quo along the China-India border.

'Unilateral decision'

Referring to Ladakh, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Tuesday the Indian side had "continued to damage China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally modifying the form of domestic law". She said this practice was "unac-

ceptable" and would not have any effect.

On Article 370

On the revocation of Article 370, the Chinese position has been shifting. On Tuesday, Ms. Hua counselled the "parties concerned" to "exercise restraint and act with caution, especially to avoid actions that unilaterally change the status quo and exacerbate the tension".

She stressed that China was "seriously concerned" about the situation in Kashmir, but, without making any reference to the United Nations, proposed that India and Pakistan should resolve relevant disputes through dialogue and consultation



Council resolutions and bilateral agreement", according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry readout.

After concluding his visit to China, Mr. Qureshi told a press conference in Islamabad that he shared Pakistan's intent to take the latest situation in Kashmir to the United Nations Security Council.

"I want to tell the nation that they [Chinese leadership] have assured us of their complete support. Not only that, they have also issued instructions to their New York representative to remain in contact with our representative and to keep their consultations ongoing," Mr. Qureshi quoted as saying in the Dawn newspaper.

Following talks, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi opened the door for UN intervention, apart from proposing that the "bilateral agreement" – a veiled reference to the 1972 Shimla accord – should be the template for resolving the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Wang stressed that the Kashmir issue "should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN charter, relevant UN Security

UN route during Mr. Jaishankar's talks in Beijing.

On Monday, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to meet a Chinese leader, but neither the Chinese side nor the Indian Embassy in Beijing has given details of this engagement.

Later, the visiting Minister will participate with Mr. Wang in the second meeting of the India-China high level people-to-people exchanges mechanism.

Varanasi summit

While the focus of this mechanism is on people-to-people exchanges and culture, all topics of India-China ties, including detailing of the Varanasi summit between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi, will be covered, except for trade and commerce, highly placed sources told *The Hindu*.

The high-level mechanism is only the third ministerial level channel between India and China and the Special Representatives on the boundary question.

Amarinder asks Pak. not to slow down Kartarpur work

Punjab CM says political concerns shouldn't come in its way



Tight deadline: The Guru Nanak Dev shrine in Kartarpur. The 550th birth anniversary of the Guru is three months away. •PTI

would lead to its non-completion in time for the historic event.

The Kartarpur Corridor is to connect Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan's Kartarpur with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Gurdaspur district. It was in Kartarpur Sahib that Guru Nanak Dev spent the last 18 years of his life.

On the issue of stoppage, by Pakistan, of trade at the Attari-Wagah border, in the wake of its decision to down-

grade diplomatic and trade ties with India, Capt. Amarinder said political concerns should not be allowed to be clouded by any decision that was detrimental to the interests of the people on both sides.

"The stoppage would, in particular, inflict heavy avoidable economic losses for the poor in Pakistan, as the goods would now have to take the long sea route through Iran or Dubai," he said.

CRPF starts new Kashmir helpline

Old number not working, say officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Central Reserve Police Force on Sunday notified a new number for its Srinagar-based helpline for people who are in distress or require help for their families.

The helpline posted a message on Twitter, saying people can call 9469 793260 "for any assistance or updates".

Its standard official number, 14111, is not working due to the communication clampdown in the Kashmir Valley after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was withdrawn, officials said.

The public message on Twitter said people could seek help through its official handle @CRPFmadagascar.

A number of people are calling the helpline to obtain information about the

situation in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The helpline is assisting them with all available information, a senior official said.

The helpline will also share with the callers the active contact numbers of local police stations so that people can further get in touch with them to obtain or send information about their near and dear ones, the official said.

The CRPF has a permanent deployment of about 65 battalions in Jammu and Kashmir, while it has sent in 120 fresh companies to the region in order to strengthen the internal security grid post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370. A CRPF battalion has 1,000 personnel, while a company of the force has 100.

A show of hands



To the streets: A Kashmiri woman showing her hand with a message as others shout slogans during a protest in Srinagar on Sunday against the scrapping of the special status of Kashmir by the Union government. •REUTERS

IN BRIEF



Magsaysay winner put under brief house arrest

LUCKNOW

Magsaysay Award winner and social activist Sandeep Pandey was on Sunday briefly barred from leaving his house here by the Lucknow police after he had announced a candlelight march in solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the suspension of Article 370 and the communication clampdown. The police are yet to issue a statement.

Mika's show at Pakistan wedding sparks row

KARACHI

A performance by singer Mika Singh and his troupe at the wedding of a billionaire's daughter here has caused a furore, amid strained ties between the two countries. Pakistan Peoples Party leader Syed Khursheed Shah said the government must find out who gave the security clearance and visas to the singer and his 14-member troupe. PTI

'Attempt to change Kashmir demography'

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan asked on Sunday if the international community was just standing by as Hindu nationalism spread into Muslim-majority Kashmir, saying it was the same as appeasing Hitler. "Attempt to change the demography of Kashmir through ethnic cleansing," he tweeted. Mr. Khan also telephoned Iranian President Hassan Rouhani "as part of his outreach to world leaders." AFP

Students from J&K decline AMU feast

It is a political move to show the world that Kashmiris are happy, they say

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

Students from Jammu and Kashmir in Aligarh Muslim University have decided to boycott the Bakrid feast organised for them on Monday, in protest against the clampdown back home after the withdrawal of the special status of J&K.

The lunch invite is "aimed at rubbing salt into our wounds", and accepting it will be "an insult to the courage of our parents who are surviving the massive militarisation and absolute clampdown in J&K," the students said in a statement.

Centre's call

The Vice-Chancellor, on the call of the Union government, decided to host the feast since the students were unable to go back home. J&K Governor Satyapal Malik has



sanctioned ₹1 lakh each to the designated liaison officers for organising Id festivities for students from J&K studying in other States.

The students termed the invite an "attempt to mislead the international community and people in India about the ground situation in Kashmir".

In a statement issued on social media, the stu-

dents said Governor Malik had "no sympathies for us and the sanction of ₹1 lakh and an Id invitation are to buy our consent for the undemocratic means adopted by the Indian government".

The students said there was an emergency situation and they had no means of communicating with their parents back home. "We

have been rendered to the dark ages in the 21st century. There is an eminent threat of demographic change in the designs of Delhi to rob us of our culture, history and religion," they said.

Shafay Magbool, a Ph.D. student from Baramulla, said in his five years at the university, the institution had never before organised any exclusive feast for them.

Terming it a "political move", Mr. Magbool told *The Hindu* that he feared the lunch would be used to project to the world that "Kashmiris are happy" with the revocation of the special status and downsizing of the State.

Shafey Kidwai, university spokesperson, said he had no information of the boycott. Nearly J&K 1,100 students study here, but only 270 are on the campus now, he said.

"The outrageous scrap-

Ripple effect in Northeast, with call to boycott I-Day fete

Two groups say Article 370 dilution disregards democracy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The dilution of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories have made two extremist groups in the northeastern region come together and give a call to boycott the Independence Day celebrations on August 15.

The two groups are the Coordination Committee, or CorCom, an umbrella organisation of six Manipur-based extremist outfits, and the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent, which formed the United National Liberation Front of Western South East Asia with several non-Manipuri groups in the region four years ago.

"The outrageous scrap-



A vendor displays national flag for sale ahead of Independence Day, in Guwahati. •PTI

ping of Article 370 of the Indian constitution and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir without the consent of the people of the State show India's arrogance and blatant disregard for democratic principles," the two groups said in a statement.

"Shutting down of the State machinery and the house arrest of prominent leaders portend the kind of... policies that would be applied to the people of the northeastern region as well. Freedom from India's colonial yoke is the only way to save ourselves from being swallowed by Hindustan," the statement said.

'Enhanced Hinduisaion' The two groups said the political control of India by the BJP has "enhanced the Hinduisaion process rapidly".

The "Modi government is bent upon re-introducing" the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill to forcibly "make the northeastern region a part of the Hindutva empire," they said.

Cong. will fight for J&K's status: Chidambaram

Says Centre resorted to this action as it is a Muslim-majority State, vows to fight for restoring privileges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Veteran Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Sunday said the Congress would continue to fight till the special status was restored to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The struggle has only begun now and we will fight till the end," he said at a meeting organised by the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee in Chennai to condemn the "snatching of rights of Kashmir".

He also slammed the focus on Article 370. "Does only Article 370 bestow special provisions? What about Article 371 for Maharashtra and Gujarat," he asked listing out the sub-sections under the Article that provides special provisions to Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Hyderabad and Karnataka.

"Under the special provisions for Nagaland, without their concurrence, Parlia-

mores, and laws passed by Indian Parliament will not apply to them and without the concurrence of the Nagaland Assembly, no one can buy or sell land. So are the special provisions applicable only for Kashmir," he asked. Mizoram too had similar provisions.

"You have one rule for Jammu and Kashmir and another rule for Nagaland and Mizoram," the former Union Minister said.

ment cannot pass laws regarding the religious, cultural practices of the Nagaland people, civil, criminal proce-

dures, and laws passed by Indian Parliament will not apply to them and without the concurrence of the Nagaland Assembly, no one can buy or sell land. So are the special provisions applicable only for Kashmir," he asked. Mizoram too had similar provisions.

"Those who don't know

the history of Jammu and Kashmir, how the independent government joined India, and under what circumstances were certain assurances given under the Constitution, and how it has been followed for the last 72 years, are the ones who are gloating about annexing Kashmir with India," he said.

The Congress leader alleged it was because J&K was a Muslim-majority State that the Centre had resorted to this action.

He also slammed the focus on Article 370. "Does only Article 370 bestow special provisions? What about Article 371 for Maharashtra and Gujarat," he asked listing out the sub-sections under the Article that provides special provisions to Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Hyderabad and Karnataka.

"Under the special provisions for Nagaland, without their concurrence, Parlia-

Implement resolutions of UN, says Corbyn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Leader of U.K.'s opposition Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn has called for resolving the situation in Kashmir through relevant UN resolutions. In a social media message, Mr. Corbyn has asked for protecting the rights of the Kashmiri people.

"The situation in Kashmir is deeply disturbing. Human rights abuses taking place are unacceptable. The rights of the Kashmiri people must be respected and

UN resolutions implemented," the Labour leader posted on Twitter. Mr. Corbyn's statement drew strong comments from Indian-origin citizens in the U.K.

"The situation in Kashmir is deeply disturbing. Human rights abuses taking place are unacceptable. The rights of the Kashmiri people must be respected and

UN resolutions implemented," the Labour leader posted on Twitter. Mr. Corbyn's statement drew strong comments from Indian-origin citizens in the U.K.

Rajapaksa pitches brother for President

Country has asked for him: Mahinda Rajapaksa

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO
Leader of Opposition and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Sunday named his brother and controversial figure Gotabaya Rajapaksa as presidential candidate of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Front).

Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa also officially took charge as leader of the less-than-four-year-old party, that his loyalists founded in 2016, breaking away from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP).

Presidential elections are due before the end of the year and the incumbent United National Party (UNP) is yet to announce its candidate, amid apparent disagreements between its leader Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and the party's deputy leader Sajith Premadasa. President Maithripala Sirisena who leads the SLFP-remnant is likely to support Mr. Rajapaksa, according to political sources.

Making the announcement at Sugathadasa stadium that was packed with Rajapaksa supporters, the former President said: "I am not the one choosing him. You have already chosen



Brothers in arms: Sri Lanka's former defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa (R) with his brother and former president Mahinda Rajapaksa in Colombo on Sunday. ■ REUTERS

him. The country has asked for him." Mr. Rajapaksa, who held office for a decade from 2005, cannot run for Presidency due to a 2015 legislation that places a two-term limit. However, in a recent media interview, he has said he would be the party's prime ministerial candidate in the general elections scheduled next year.

Mr. Gotabaya, 70, rose to prominence during Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa's presidency, when he was appointed defence secretary. While supporters hail him as a "hero", for his crucial role in

Gotabaya has denied all al-

legations and maintained that they are politically motivated falsehoods.

Addressing supporters on Sunday, Mr. Gotabaya recalled the praise he received from a senior military colleague who called him "an officer who takes initiative over and above the normal call of duty". "It was that quality that helped me end 30 years of terrorism, in just three and a half years," he said. Further he vowed he "will never allow extremist terrorism" in the country and pledged to enhance national security, apparently refer-

ring to fears that gripped the country after the Easter terror attacks in April. He would safeguard the country's sovereignty and protect it from "external forces' interference," he said.

One of the early reactions from the Rajapaksas' political rivals came from Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera Sunday evening. "The barbarians are at the gate!" he tweeted, adding: "The symbol of white van terror of the Rajapakse era, the 'ugly American', has today launched his campaign for the presidency. Do #SriLankans want to return to the isolation and darkness of the past?"

Meanwhile, Mr. Gotabaya's candidacy is also being challenged by sections that have questions about his citizenship. A dual citizen of Sri Lanka and the United States, Mr. Gotabaya has said that he has renounced his American citizenship, as Sri Lankan law prohibits dual citizens from contesting for the highest office.

However, the State-run *Sunday Observer* on Sunday reported that a couple of police complaints made by civil society activists on alleged irregularities in his Sri Lankan citizenship, passports and electoral registration could potentially pose a threat to his candidacy.

'We're still here': Hong Kong protesters return to streets

Police counter stone-pelting with teargas shells

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HONG KONG
Thousands of pro-democracy protesters hit the streets of Hong Kong for a tenth weekend in a row on Sunday, defying police who fired volleys of tear gas at several locations.

The protests followed a night of "hit-and-run" rallies across the city and came after Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam insisted she would not meet the demands of demonstrators.

Early Sunday afternoon, thousands of protesters met in the city's Victoria Park, braving hot and humid conditions and a police ban on the gathering.

"The police should try their best to maintain public security instead of rejecting our request to march," said a 25-year-old protester who gave only her family name, Wong.

"We're still here... We won't worry that much about illegal assembly. We still have our rights," she told AFP.

Police also denied the protesters a permit for a second rally in the city's working class Sham Shui Po neighbourhood.



Police crackdown: Teargas shells being fired towards protesters in Wan Chai district of Hong Kong on Sunday. ■ AFP

"Our aim is no injuries, no bleeding and not getting arrested," said a 17-year-old student protester who gave his family name as Chan.

"I think our previous tactics of staying in one place led to many arrests and injuries... We need to 'be water' to avoid injuries," he told AFP at the Victoria Park gathering on Sunday.

The demonstrations that began more than two months ago in opposition to a contentious bill allowing extraditions to mainland China have morphed into a broader bid to reverse a slide in democratic freedoms in the city.

IN BRIEF



Brazilian judge orders release of Batista

RIO DE JANEIRO

A Brazilian judge ordered the release of ex-billionaire Eike Batista early on Sunday after he was detained for violating his house arrest. The judge ruled that the detention of the magnate, once Brazil's richest man, "violated the Constitution". ■ AFP

Status of Ranjit Singh vandalised in Pakistan

LAHORE

A statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who ruled over Punjab for close to 40 years in the early 19th century, was vandalised by two men here on Saturday. Both were arrested on Sunday under blasphemy laws. ■ PTI

Israel police, Palestinians clash at holy site

JERUSALEM

Israeli security forces and Palestinian worshippers clashed at a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site on Sunday as overlapping Jewish and Muslim holidays led to tensions, wounding dozens of Palestinians and four policemen. Police fired sound grenades as Palestinian protesters intensified at the highly sensitive Al-Aqsa mosque compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount. ■ AFP

Saudi alliance strikes after Aden 'coup'

Around 40 people died in the flare-up

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ADEN (YEMEN)
A Saudi-led coalition on Sunday launched a strike against Yemen's southern separatists after they seized the presidential palace in second city Aden in deadly fighting that threatened to push the war-ravaged nation deeper into turmoil.

The seizure, decreed by the Riyadh-backed Yemeni government as a UAE-supported coup, reflects deep divisions between secessionists and loyalist forces, both of whom have fought Shiite Houthi rebels.

"The coalition targeted an area that poses a direct threat to one of the important sites of the legitimate government," a statement said, calling on the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC) to withdraw from positions seized in Aden or face further attacks.

It did not specify the target but residents in Aden told AFP it was an air strike against separatist camps in the city.

Since the fighting flared on Thursday, around 40 people have been killed and 260 others including civilians wounded, according to the UN.

Firefighters extinguishing a blaze following clashes in Mansoura, Aden on Sunday.

Firefighters extinguishing a blaze following clashes in Mansoura, Aden on Sunday.

Syria regime gains ground in Idlib push

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SYRIA
Syrian regime forces seized a town on the edge of Idlib province on Sunday, a monitor said, their first ground advance since resuming an offensive on the jihad-dominated enclave more than three months ago.

The region of northwestern Syria, which is home to an estimated three million civilians, has come under almost daily Syrian and Russian bombardment since late April.

The most recent fighting focused on an area straddling Idlib and Hama provinces, a monitor said, and claimed dozens of lives on both sides.

"Regime forces seized the town of Al-Habeet, in Idlib's southern countryside, at dawn," Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor, said.

The area has escaped the control of President Bashar al-Assad's regime since 2015 and is the last major bastion of opposition to his regime and its allies.

The capture of Al-Habeet, a key strategic target for pro-regime forces, came after another night of deadly fighting, the war monitor said.

North Korea: latest test was 'new weapon'

Saturday launch is DPRK's fifth test in two weeks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SEOUL
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a "new weapon" test, the state media reported on Sunday, the latest in a series of launches that U.S. President Donald Trump has played down as Washington seeks to restart nuclear talks with Pyongyang.

The report carried by the



In this television grab, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (right) watching the test-firing of a weapon system. ■ AP/KRT

Korean Central News Agency followed Mr. Trump's comments that Mr. Kim had expressed a willingness to

meet once the U.S.-South Korean exercises are over and apologised for the slew of missile tests.

Saturday's launch was the North's fifth test in two weeks as it protests the annual military drills underway between Seoul and Washington.

Defence officials in Seoul said Pyongyang fired two short-range ballistic missiles on Saturday, flying 400 km before splashing down in the sea between the Korean peninsula and Japan.

KCNA, without any specifications, said on Sunday it was a "new weapon" developed to suit the country's "terrain condition".

Afghan leader rejects foreign interference

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL
Afghanistan's President on Sunday rejected foreign interference as the United States and the Taliban appear to be closing in on a peace deal without the Afghan government at the table.

President Ashraf Ghani spoke during the Muslim holiday Eid-al-Adha and as U.S. and Taliban negotiators continue their work in the Gulf nation of Qatar, where the insurgents have a political office.

Speaking after the Eid prayers, Mr. Ghani said "Our

future cannot be decided outside, whether in the capital cities of our friends, enemies or neighbors. The fate of Afghanistan will be decided here in this homeland," he said. "We don't want anyone to intervene in our affairs."

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad is seeking a peace deal by Sept. 1, weeks before the vote. The two sides are expected to agree on the withdrawal of some 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops in return for Taliban guarantees that Afghanistan would not be a base for other extremist groups.

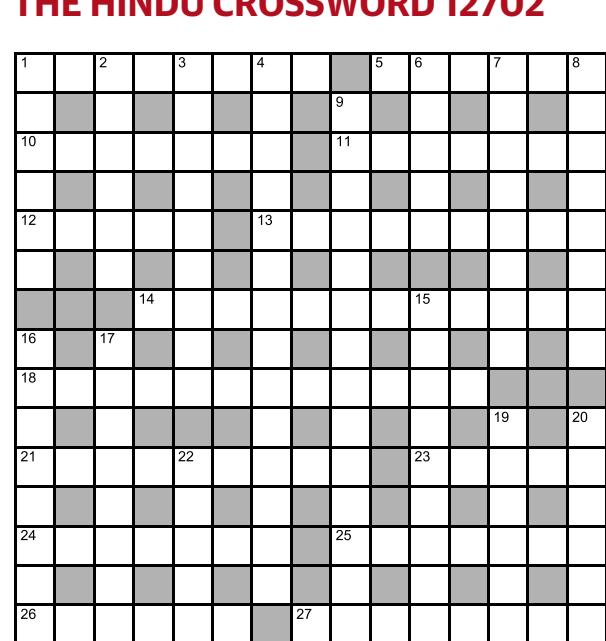
with multiple weapons and opened fire, before being overpowered by a man who suffered "minor injuries" in the process.

Only three people were inside the mosque at the time of the attack, and police said they recovered two firearms from the scene.

Hours after Saturday attack, the body of a woman linked to the suspect was found in a house in Baerum.

Norway was the scene of one of the worst-ever attacks by a right-wing extremist in July 2011, when 77 people were killed by Anders Behring Breivik.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12702



ACROSS

- 1 Bailiff has list of employees (8)
- 5 State to allow right to education for a group (6)
- 10 Language of money (7)
- 11 Put in place a glass to hold a flower... (7)
- 12 ...for a flower go to the plant (5)
- 13 Will wine drinking teams refuse? (9)
- 14 Hijacked, needed right representation (12)
- 18 One allowed to enter country – it will make it null and void (12)
- 21 Girl gets a dog back, it's nothing much (9)
- 23 Cheese crates, sugar coated perhaps (5)
- 24 Reserved accommodation assumed backward (7)
- 25 Put off? Force hard into it being tense (7)
- 26 Glare is less after midnight (6)
- 27 Spoke about exotic island, and off to another fun place (3,5)

DOWN

- 1 Flower – first time girl wore a flower (6)
- 2 Materials extremely powerful, leading to disease (6)
- 3 Withstood a lot of wild growth, it's poisonous (9)
- 4 Red marigold, find it just about average (4,2,8)
- 6 First to go in the initial phase (5)
- 7 Ego, separately work on it – it will keep you well groomed (8)
- 8 Drug taking – a bird's freedom (8)
- 9 Not taking responsibility for money transaction (7,3,4)
- 15 Pulls billionaires together, named in parts (9)
- 16 Tasting rich perhaps beyond a point (8)
- 17 One against rise, rocky road for a scientist (8)
- 19 Enthusiastic to shoot, try to get his head (4,2)
- 20 Power – the French have some stakes (6)
- 22 Tantalise, like stop/start (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12701

W	A	I	L	I	N	G	W	A	L	L	S	A	G
A	D	N	E	B	E	T	A						
L	O	S	N	A	R	R	O	N	T				
R	L	P	E	I	V	N	G						
U	N	A	L	T	E	R	E	A					
A	U	T	R	E	I	N	G	O					
A	E	G	E	C	M</td								

ASK US

ARATI KRISHNAN

For optimum returns

Q. I have ₹50,000 in hand and wish to multiply this amount in future by investing somewhere. Kindly guide me as to where and how to invest it for optimum returns. I can hold the investment for 5 to 7 years and can do without regular income.

KEMAR DUKOM

A. Given that you have a 5- to 7-year horizon, don't require regular payouts and are seeking high returns, you can invest the money in equity-oriented mutual funds. If you can take a lot of volatility in your capital, you could choose a multi-cap equity fund with a good track record to invest in. A multi-cap equity fund invests in a range of large-, mid- and small-sized companies in the stock market.

Alternatively, if you are willing to settle for slightly lower returns but with less volatility, you can consider an aggressive hybrid fund. Such funds invest 65% of their portfolio in stocks and the remaining in bonds. Investing a big sum in an equity or aggressive hybrid fund at one go can expose you to an immediate capital loss if the market falls sharply after your entry.

Therefore, it is advisable to spread your investment over the next six months by investing equal sums each month through a six-month Systematic Investment Plan.



Mutual fund SIPs

Q. I am 31 years old and have resigned from work. I had withdrawn my provident fund amount two years ago, which I invested in bank fixed deposits with an interest rate of 8.5% per annum. As the interest rate has now fallen to 7%, I have been wondering if I should invest in mutual fund SIPs. Can you tell me if this is advisable?

SANGETHA KARTHIK

A. Mutual funds, even if you go in for debt funds, are market-linked products where there are no guaranteed returns like bank fixed deposits. While the return you earn on a bank fixed deposit may fall due to falling interest rates in the economy, in mutual funds, it is not just your returns which swing, but also your capital which suffers a loss if markets turn adverse.

Therefore, before considering SIPs in a mutual fund, there are three questions you should ask yourself. Are you okay with risking some of your capital to market swings? Can you take volatility in your returns from year to year? Can you do without regular income from this investment? If your answer to any of these questions is a no, you are better off with a fixed deposit product. To improve your returns, you can consider parking 25% of your money in small finance banks which offer 8.5-9% interest, and another 25% in NBFC deposits from highly-rated companies like Sundaram Finance or Mahindra Finance which offer 8-9%.

If you are willing to take on risks to your capital and do not mind volatility in returns, you can consider debt mutual funds. To invest in debt mutual funds, you do not need to do an SIP and can simply invest a lump-sum amount. Be sure to spread out your investments over three Corporate Bond Funds and PSU and Debt Funds, which invest only in higher-rated bonds. With debt funds, it is more tax efficient to invest in the Growth option than the Dividend option (which is highly taxed) and to use a systematic withdrawal plan to receive regular cash flows from the fund.

If you are okay with risk to your capital, do not need the money for five years and are looking for high returns, then you can consider SIPs in three Aggressive Hybrid Funds, which invest 65% in equity and 35% in debt.

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



People used to say they forgot to bring along their purses; now they keep forgetting their phones!

How not to control your money

Exercising too much control over investment behaviour tends to prove counterproductive

VIDYA BALA

When I was a kid, my dad made me memorise the adapted version of the Serenity Prayer: 'God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.' I memorised it but re-adapted it in various forms, for various situations.

While dealing with investors, there would always be some who insisted that I control or predict things over which I had no influence or power. Conversely, they would not focus on things that they could and should have actually con-

trolled, in terms of their behaviour and habits. My simple prayer then would be – please let them focus only on what they can control, let go of what they cannot and may their wisdom guide them to know the difference.

Let me discuss a few areas with respect to money that many of you tend to focus upon, although you have little control over it.

Focussing on returns
How many of you have bought land, property, investment-linked policies or gold asking how much returns it will give in 5 years? Close to none, I am sure. But, how many of you

have bought mutual funds or stocks asking how much returns it will give in 3 or 5 years? Really, why such contradiction in behaviour? Fixed deposits (FDs) can give you predictability because they are fixed return products. Land, gold or equity markets are subject to market vagaries. The irony is that what impacts equities (underlying fundamentals) over the long term is reasonably known (which is why long-term return expectation is not totally off mark) while it is little known with land and gold.

By focussing on returns, you do two things: one, you build goals that may go haywire. Two, if your return expectations do not transpire, you go on a full

risk aversion mode, going back to FDs alone.

Should you not focus on returns? You can, but only the long-term averages. This is needed only for the purpose of giving direction to your savings and to know if you are on the path to reaching your goal. If returns from assets go down, the simple, logical thing is to increase your savings or, alongside, revisit your lifestyle costs.

This, once you know you are with the right products. You can't have an endowment policy

and suddenly realise that the returns are terrible. This is where mixing the right products based on your goal becomes vital. If you had a short-term goal, then you need a fixed-income product, not a market-linked product; to provide return predictability.

A friend was sceptical that the markets would improve post elections. But when the Sensex returned 12% in 5 months beginning 2019, she was cursing herself that she stayed out. But, from the June peak, when the Sensex dropped 8.5%, she was elated. I asked her if she was going to invest now. She said, "No, it's too risky." All analysts are now predicting further slowdown. Likely, she will neither invest nor build wealth.

Now, two things happen

- Mixing the right products based on your goal is vital
- You can control your taxes by deploying your funds right

WHAT YOU TEND TO FOCUS ON

when you predict markets: one, you lose out on investing early, compounding, and averaging. Two, you make terrible moves driven by the emotions of the market. My friend had two chances. One, start investing at the beginning of the year, continue and simply rebalance her asset allocation, when her equity swells, to some debt.

Or she could have invested at least when she saw the market falling. None of these require market predictions. They just need control over your investing behaviour.

The accompanying graphic will tell you the issues on which most of you tend to focus (markets, returns, taxes), where you have little control and ignore what you have control over.

Controlling your taxes
Yes, you can control your taxes by deploying them right. But, it is more important to invest well

to make sure you build healthy coffers. Buying a policy at the nth hour for tax-saving may result in being saddled with a product that may be entirely unsuitable for you. Buying a house merely to save taxes is another classic example.

How much of the EMI is tax deductible? Are you stripping yourself of your ability to save for the next 5-10 years with a high EMI value? What if you had deployed this in other financial savings with lower tax deduction but with superior returns? Should you lock your capital gains into 54EC bonds with low rate of interest just to save on capital gains tax? These are the questions that you will miss when your focus is merely on tax.

Just remember the serenity prayer every time these investment biases crop up.

(The author is a personal finance expert)

BLACKBOARD: CPSE ETF

Stakes that pay 'rich' dividends

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

What is CPSE ETF?

■ CPSE ETF, as the name suggests, is an exchange-traded fund (ETF) comprising public sector enterprises (PSEs). The ETF was launched by the government in March 2014 to help divest its stake in select public sector undertakings through the ETF route. The ETF is based on the Nifty CPSE index that comprises 11 PSEs such as ONGC, NTPC, Coal India, Indian Oil Corporation, REC, Power Finance Corporation, Bharat Electronics, Oil India, NBCC (India), NLC India and SJVN. The parameters based on which companies have been made part of the index include a criteria that they have paid at least 10% dividend in the last two consecutive years.

What are the benefits of CPSE ETF?

■ Investors get to hold stake in the best of public sector enterprises – the so-called Maharatna, Navaratna and the Miniratna – that have a strong dividend-paying track record.

Incidentally, the dividend yield of the CPSE ETF index is around 5%, higher than the other indices.

While investors get an opportunity to diversify their portfolio through a single ETF, it also has the added advantage of an upfront discount that investors get if invested at the time of the further fund offering or fresh fund offering (FFO). Also, the fund has a very low expense ratio, which, in turn, enhances the returns.

The recent Budget has also introduced a tax benefit for investing in ETFs, just like equity-linked savings scheme (ELSS) offers.

The benefit will be part of the ov-



erall deduction of ₹1.5 lakh allowed under section 80 C of the Income Tax Act.

How has the response to FFOs been till now?

■ The new fund offer (NFO) of the CPSE ETF was launched in March 2014 and since then, there have been five rounds of FFOs. The popularity of the ETF can be gauged from the fact that each of the FFOs was oversubscribed, with investors across categories bidding in huge numbers.

Till the sixth FFO in July, the government had raised ₹38,500 crore through the CPSE ETF. The sixth FFO attracted bids worth ₹40,000 crore which is five times the issue size of ₹8,000 crore.

In other words, the last tranche has attracted as much subscription as the five tranches before it put together.

This also assumes significance as the government has set a record divestment target of ₹1.05 lakh crore in the current financial year. The CPSE ETF is managed by Reliance Mutual Fund.

COVER NOTE: HOME INSURANCE

Home alone? Not really!

Bundled policies come with a melange of interesting options

K NITYA KALYANI

Home insurance package policies bundle a comprehensive, yet cost-effective fire and allied perils insurance with several other interesting options.

They include fire and burglary cover for contents, options to cover specified jewellery and valuables under a special section as also specified domestic appliances against breakdown and specified televisions and desktop computers against loss or damage.

Some policies have sections covering pedal cycles, workmen's compensation insurance for household staff, hospitalisation insurance for household staff and so on that you can pick and choose from. Each section has a different sum insured (SI) and premium rate and there are volume discounts for choosing multiple sections.

Fire cover for building and contents and burglary cover for contents are the main covers and the options work like this:

If you live in a house you own, you can purchase fire cover for the building and contents plus burglary cover for contents. If you are the owner but not occupier, you are entitled to fire cover only for the structure. If you are only a renter, you can buy fire and burglary cover for



Under one roof: A bundled home insurance package policy is comprehensive and cost-effective. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Options galore

- Protect home from fire, burglary using single policy
- Some policies have sections covering even pedal cycles
- Precious jewellery and valuables are also covered

stones, jewellery and valuables.

The burglary cover indemnifies the loss of listed contents (except jewellery and valuables) within the premises caused by burglary, housebreaking, larceny and theft.

Family involvement
If anyone in the family of the insured is involved in the burglary, the loss will not be covered. Neither will loss of/ or damage to money and so on as listed above.

The list is not exhaustive, you should read the fine print in the policy prospectus for exact details.

Precious jewellery and valuables like watches, curios and works of art are covered under a special section against loss or damage while anywhere in India, caused

only the contents. In any case, the SI for fire and burglary covers for contents should be identical.

We saw the scope of the fire cover for building in the earlier instalment of 'Cover Note' and it pretty much applies to contents as well.

The exceptions differ. They include loss of or damage to articles of a consumable nature, loss of or damage to money, securities documents and unspent precious

by accident or misfortune. In the case of damage, repair and restoration expenses are payable.

Breakage of fragile and brittle items is one exclusion, as are mysterious disappearances, unexplainable losses, loss due to misplacement and missing items.

An interesting cover is the breakdown of domestic appliances, the "unforeseen and sudden physical damage, including accidental external damage caused due to mechanical and/or electrical breakdown of domestic appliances" specified in the schedule when they are inside the insured premises.

The SI is the market value of an item of the same kind and capacity. Repair expenses to restore the item to its former state will be payable. Loss or damage caused by wilful damage or gross negligence is an exclusion among others.

You can insure the loss of or damage to your televisions and desktop computers against fire and allied perils under a special section where the market value of the gadget is the SI and repair expenses will be payable. Exclusions apply, of course.

Listing out the contents of your home is the important part of taking this cover.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

The benefit will be part of the ov-

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure	Interest Rates (%)
SMALL FINANCE BANKS					
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.35	8.75	8.25	
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.00	8.30	7.00	
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.50	7.30	7.30	
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.50	8.50	8.00	
Fincare Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.00	
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.50	7.00	8.00	
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.10	7.50	7.00	
North East Small Finance Bank	8.75	7.25	7.25	6.75	
AU Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.01	8.10	7.77	
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.85	7.65	7.65	7.50	
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS					
Indian Bank	6.90	6.75	6.75	6.90	
Syndicate Bank	6.70	6.50	6.50	6.50	
Bank of Maharashtra	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.25	
State Bank of India	6.80	6.80	6.60	6.50	
Andhra Bank	6.80	6.80	6.75	6.75	

Something like style

Before she walked for GENES Lecoanet Hemant on Friday, actor Radhika Apte talked about her sense of fashion (or the lack thereof)



C Radhika has an international status in India — she's a Netflix star. She open-minded, she has an international allure by being married to a serious, Western artist. This is a person who isn't getting into fads, but knows what she wants. She's an actress, not a film star.

HEMANT SAGAR,
of Lecoanet Hemant

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Maybe it's because she agreed to do interviews as her hair was being tugged at and sprayed into place, but when I congratulated Radhika Apte for two of her recent films doing well at the 66th National Film Awards on Friday — *Andhadun* was recognised for best actor; best Hindi film, and best adapted screenplay; while *Pad Man* won best film on social issues — she merely nodded in acknowledgement.

Apte was getting her hair and make up done to walk the ramp for GENES Lecoanet Hemant, the ready-to-wear brand of the designer-duo Didier Lecoanet and Hemant Sagar, for the launch of their Autumn/Winter 2019 collection. Called Cinema of GENES, the inspiration for the collection was classic Hollywood iconography, vintage movie posters, and Art Deco. The tones are sober (except when black sequins bring in a sense of glam) with a prominence of black and white, dull plums and greys, and some deep but muted ochres.

She's yet to see all the pieces, but she's excited about how "the collection is very simple, but it's very elegant; it's also very international, but the fabrics are very Indian."



Everyday couture
(left) Radhika Apte
wearing GENES
Lecoanet Hemant
A/W '19; models at
the show

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

But according to Sagar the collection is made of "what you use in fashion really, because you have to be price-conscious in these things — industrially secure and as sustainable as possible. It's cotton, a bit of silk, etc." This despite their excitement early last year, on finding the fibre crop ramie in Meghalaya. They're still doing R&D on that, he says.

By her own admission, Apte has never been much into fashion. Here, the 34-year-old actor, known for her eclectic roles, talks about what style means to her, how, if at all, her work has influenced her fashion choices.

Edited excerpts.

Have your growing up years in Pune, and your exposure to various other places internationally since, influenced the way you look at style?

I have a very close friend who is from Poona, extremely well-educated, but still really shies from wearing a swimming costume in a pool. Whereas I have other friends who would wear a bikini on a street. So what I'm saying is it's person to person really. Poona can be a cosmopolitan place, but it can also be a small town compared to Bombay. So I think it's really up to your exposure, your desire to open yourself to things. I mean, of course I wasn't someone who wore a bikini as a child or a teenager, because nobody wore bikinis in Poona. The freedom of wanting to wear [different] things, even style came to me much later. In Poona, a lot of people are into academics, especially where I was brought up. So, if you focus on what you're wearing, it wasn't really...fashion was looked down upon in many ways.

How did you develop your sense of style then?

I didn't really. Even now, I hate shopping. I only go to one shop [in the UK], and buy everything from there. My boots, undergarments, dresses, coats, every-



your fashion choices going forward?

Sometimes. Sometimes you just wear a scarf in a way that you feel 'oh this looks so nice' and you wear it again.

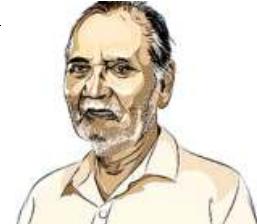
Are there times when how your character is styled affects your comfort, and consequently your performance?

Only if it doesn't suit the character. This is also a group discussion. Everybody's inputs go in and only then come up with an idea. It's a long process.

Can you recall one such character?

I haven't done anything where costume has been such a game-changer. The only time I was crazy about costume was when I was very young, maybe 6 or 7, I was always cast as a boy in my school gatherings. I really wanted the women's costumes then. That's the only time I remember feeling [a certain way]. Otherwise it's only a discussion of what we should or shouldn't wear, this looks good and this doesn't look good, or this suits and this doesn't

DOWN MEMORY LANE



R.V. SMITH

Bakrid traces its history to 4,000 years ago, when the Prophet Abraham saw God in a dream, commanding him to sacrifice what he loved the most. He is said to have had an only son, Ismail (until another was born to Sarah, when he and she were long past the age of reproduction). After much thought, he decided to sacrifice Ismail.

The next morning, he told his son that they were going to offer a sacrifice to God on Mount Morea. They took fuel-wood and a fire-pot and embarked on the long trek. There, both father and son set up an altar, and when the son asked where the animal for sacrifice was, Abraham replied "God will provide it".

He then bound his son, put him on the stone altar, and took out a knife to sacrifice him. Just as he was about to do so, an angel is said to have appeared, telling him to desist, for God was convinced that he loved Him more than even his son. Suddenly a ram emerged, caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham unbound his son and sacrificed the ram instead. This is celebrated as Bakrid, now better known as Id-ul-Zuha or Id-al-Adah, on which the Haj pilgrimage also culminates at Kabah.

In pre-partition days

Bakrid was then marked by sacrifices in nearly every well-to-do home. Those who couldn't afford to do it individually pooled money and offered a combined sacrifice. Some even sacrificed camels, like court bailiff Usman sahib.

Nawab's kothi, that existed at Noor Manzil in Old Delhi, was the place where the largest number of "qurbanis" took place. The butcher Qayam divided goat and sheep parts, keeping the best portions for the household of Nawab F.Z. Sherwani and the entrails and others for distribution to the poor. Qayam is long dead and so also the Nawab Sahib, and his children and the kothi is now a divided property. A part of it has become a school and another occupied by the servants and the resident dhoban and her family. The

The story of Bakrid

From Abraham to Independence and beyond, a history of the festival



Festive times Scenes from Bakrid celebrations in the capital

■ SANDEEP SAXENA AND RAJIV BHATT



about the gathering storm that was to strike North India, but his subjects knew more about it even before the lotus and chappati (the signal) began to make their rounds over hundreds of miles. It was Hazrat Ahsanullah Khan who had cautioned the emperor that things were not as calm as they appeared.

When the British regained control over Delhi, they were told by their spies during Bakrid 157 years ago (when Zafar was being sent into exile) that though the prominent Muslim families had been banished from the city, the rural areas where

they had found shelter, were still seething with unrest — it would be better if only sheep and goat slaughter was allowed, to prevent communal clashes, which may have repercussions in Delhi, where the big Hindu families had been allowed to remain.

Ghalib, says former history professor Dr. Narayan Gupta lamented that upto 1869 there were mostly Hindu "Sahokars" or Seths, and the Muslim merchants who could be compared to them were not more than three. Bakrid was not as gay then as it used to be, although the Parsi and other shops were well stocked with goodies. The main celebrations were, according to contemporary accounts, limited to areas like Nizamuddin, Qutub Minar and the Purana Qila. The Punjabi Muslim katra, demolished to make way for the Old Delhi railway station, was virtually relocated in Kishenganj.

The writer is veteran chronicler of Delhi



The sustainability bond

This Rakshabandhan, make the same commitment you would to a sibling, to Mother Earth

PRABALIKA M BORAH

Scoot over, gold and silver *rakhi*! There are alternatives in the market that secure a bond of care towards the environment, while still retaining style and purpose. Eco *rakhis* are already top on the list for those on the look out for environment-friendly, but fashionable threads to tie around wrists. Here are some out-of-the-box options:

Planting a bond

Gargi Parmar, the founder of online store Ba No Batwo, opts for gender neutral *rakhis* made with seeds, which can be sown after removing the thread to which it is attached.

She uses two types of *desi* tree seeds — *karanja* (*Millettia pinnata*) and *bahava* (*Cassia fistula*). The *rakhis* also come with a beautiful handmade carving, and are designed on the principle of reduce, reuse, recycle, repurpose, and recreate. "Every year lakhs of *rakhis* end up in landfills after Rakshabandhan. Most of these are plastic, making them non-biodegradable. Our *rakhis* are zero-waste, and

comes encased in a bio-degradable *rakhi* that looks attractive.

"The Earth Love is an upcoming e-commerce marketplace for eco-conscious products. Our platform encompasses products that are organic, vegan, sustainable, recycled, handmade, cruelty free and bio-degradable. For those who believe in making a difference by adopting shopping habits that impact environment, The Earth Love is that lifestyle choice," says Amulya Prasad, founder.

Threads of love

Does your concern for the environment keep you hooked to the internet? Try looking for handmade crochet *rakhis* by Payal Meena, a teacher. These are made to suit different age groups, and can be re-purposed.

"Some can be used as a key-chain and others can be stitched on to a child's dress as a decorative addition," says Payal, adding that "the bond between siblings should be as beautiful as the knots in the crochet which take an adorable shape."

CM YK

On International Youth Day, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju says he likes to inspire people through his disciplined, fit lifestyle



SOMA BASU

At 47, Kiren Rijiju, the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, gives us fitness goals with his daily social media posts. His 570k followers on Twitter and 206k followers on Instagram will see him pushing a lawn mower, using an ab wheel, doing the superman on a lawn. He dreams of an India of fit, agile people, and declares, "Being unfit is the worst kind of weakness one can have." He's clear that like age, weight is just a number, with core strength being the most important.

Time travel

"I don't get much time now, as I also travel a lot," he says over phone conversations between hectic Parliament sessions. "So I make it a point to do at least 30 minutes of functional exercises daily without fail." He says he never hits the off switch, no matter how stressful and time-consuming his job is. Time management is what it takes, he feels. So he manages to fit it in despite a packed schedule of back-to-back appointments and meetings from early morning to well past midnight. "If you understand the value of life and fitness and want to keep yourself fit, you will certainly take time out for yourself," he

Strong body, youthful mind



says.

On official engagements, he plays a rally of badminton, volleyball or table tennis, literally kicks off football matches or throws the javelin or shot-put with felicity. "It depends on the group of people I am interacting with. The time and place do not matter to me for any kind of physical activity. I could be in my drawing room in between two appointments doing sit-ups and push-ups or stretching and twisting. Or I may be mowing my lawn, jogging or cycling," says the three-time MP. On days he gets

lucky with time, he hits the gym, where he runs on the treadmill and does some light weights or waist-training. He always takes the stairs, no matter where.

In the zone

Hailing from the mountainous landscape of Nafra in Arunachal Pradesh, being active comes naturally to him. "Negotiating the rugged terrain gives you the impetus," says Kiren, who has also represented the State in various sports. Over the years, he's collected newspaper clippings of records of events and athletes from the 1900 Olympic games in Paris to the 2016 one in Rio de Janeiro.

From Usain Bolt and Carl Lewis to Pele, Maradona and Muhammad Ali, he says he draws his inspiration from all, in order to remain fit. The only time he gained weight was when he got elected as MP for the first time in 2004. "I was bloating with more than 10 extra kilos and realised it wasn't doing me any good." Fond of tasty food, Kiren says he did not push anything off the table but limited his choice to less fried and more boiled foods, and started working out regularly. "Only my craving for jalebis remains unconquered, and that means extra hard work later," he laughs.

A month ago, he smashed the bottle cap challenge with a back-spin kick and showed he was as fit as Bollywood's Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff, who did it blindfolded. It's made his appeal universal. "I receive messages from hundreds of youths daily, who tell me they are inspired by my workouts and feel if a minister can do it, they can too."

Family package

Kiren is backed by his health-conscious family that feeds off his enthusiasm. While his wife recharges with yoga, his son, 13, plays tennis, and his eight-year-old daughter has taken to swimming. Fitness is not about how fat or thin you look, but how disciplined you are, he says. With visible high energy and always standing tall, Kiren says, "There are several ways to recharge, but we need to create meaningful routines to set the tone for the body."

He goes around urging all, including his colleagues in the Parliament, to play at least one sport. #Khelogetohkhiloge, (you will blossom if you play) is what he advocates. "Unless we treat our body right, life will be no fun," he says.

Q&A

Over a few weeks, I've felt pain near my heart when I have hiccups. Is there something to worry about?



The symptom is not suggestive of pain related to the heart and is more likely to be muscular pain. Such pain can arise if there is muscle sprain ('catch') during violent hiccups or severe cough. You may wish to consult a doctor if you are frequently getting hiccups, to see if there is any organic cause related to that problem.

I am 42 and on medication for stable angina. But I live in fear of getting a heart attack. I have totally changed my lifestyle and diet. Will it help to keep me in the safe zone?

It is essential that you keep your risk factors under very good control, with healthy living habits and medicines as needed. Stress itself is a destabilising factor and can precipitate a heart attack. A positive attitude helps. As you are young, it is advisable to get a check-up periodically to make sure your risk factors are controlled and that the disease is not progressing. Beyond that, do not let worry weigh you down. Keep active, stay away from tobacco and eat a healthy diet. Healthy living habits do help to prevent or slow down progression of the disease. Set goals for yourself and work to achieve them.

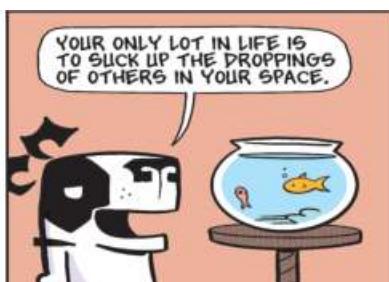
I am 54 years old and have always taken the stairs to my office which is on the third floor. Of late I tend to get out of breath. Should I worry?

You should certainly pay attention to this symptom which is a recent change. It may indicate a deficiency of blood supply to the heart, due to blockages in the blood vessels of the heart. You should consult a cardiologist without delay and get it investigated. Most likely a Stress Test would be advised, after a resting ECG and routine investigations are performed. If cardiac status is normal after all necessary tests are done, other reasons for exercise-related breathlessness should be considered, like lung problems or even a recent weight gain.

Dr K Srinath Reddy is the President of Public Health Foundation of India; former president World Heart Federation; former Head of Cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Nothing in this column is intended to be, and is not, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please seek independent advice from a licensed practitioner if you have any questions regarding a medical condition. Email us your questions at mp_health@thehindu.co.in

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



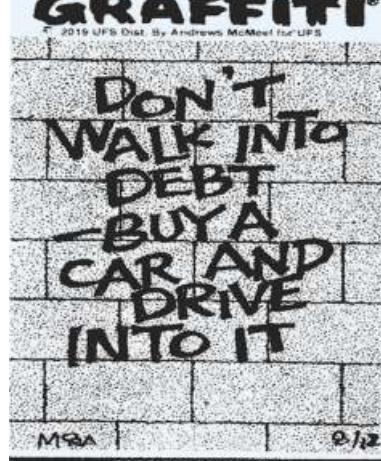
CALVIN AND HOBBES



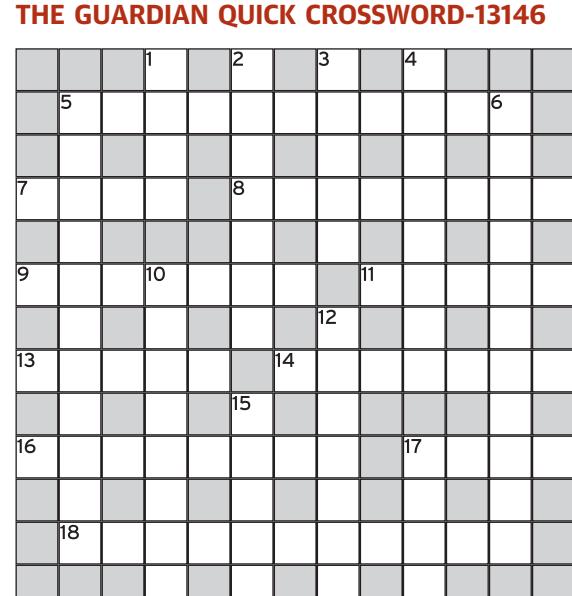
TIGER



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13146



5 Reticent (11)
6 Very damaging (11)
10 Lose - limp case (anag.) (8)
12 Turned sour (7)
15 Human joint (5)
17 Flesh as food (4)

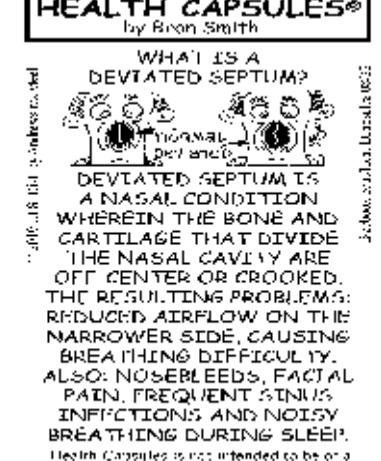
Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 13, 2019.

Solution No. 13145

WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES



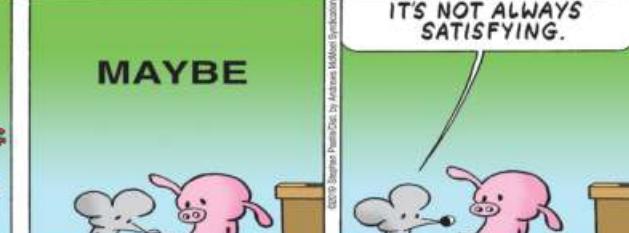
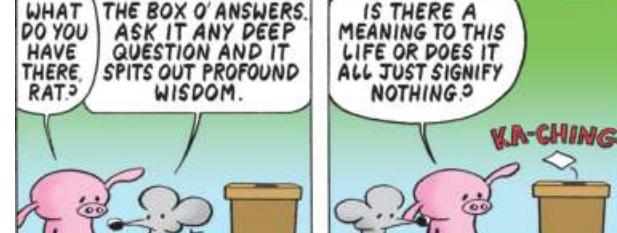
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



- Across
- 5 Gave in (11)
- 7 Tie (or what one puts in it?) (4)
- 8 Pass across (8)
- 9 Enduring energy (7)
- 11 Playing card (5)
- 13 Leather strap once used on Scottish schoolchildren (5)
- 14 Steer (7)
- 15 Offering little hope (5)
- 16 Tending (8)
- 17 Post (4)
- 18 Low-cut neckline (11)
- Down
- 1 Notice – fictional puppy (4)
- 2 Drugs taken to reduce blood cholesterol (7)
- 3 Offering little hope (5)
- 4 Heavenly (8)

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

WUMO



WHAT IS A DEVIATED SEPTUM?
A deviated septum is a nasal condition wherein the bone and cartilage that divide the nasal cavity are off center or crooked. The resulting problems: reduced airflow on the narrower side, causing breathing difficulty. ALSO: NOSEBLEEDS, FACIAL PAIN, FREQUENT SINUS INFECTIONS AND NOISY BREATHING DURING SLEEP.
Health Capsules is not intended to be or a definitive medical...

Kohli at his majestic best as India makes 279 in second ODI

The skipper's brilliant century contains 14 fours and a six; Shreyas (71) lends admirable support

INDIA IN WI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PORT OF SPAIN

Virat Kohli ended a run of 12 innings without a century in pacing India to a competitive 279 for seven batting first against the West Indies in the second One-Day International here on Sunday.

India's captain went a long way towards justifying his decision to bat first with a typically assertive innings of 120 off 125 deliveries, with 14 fours and a six adorning his 42nd ODI hundred.

He received excellent support from Shreyas Iyer who contributed 71 and featured in a 125-run fourth-wicket stand with Kohli at the Queen's Park Oval.

As their partnership progressed through the middle overs, a total closer to the 300-run mark seemed inevitable.

Mini collapse

However, Kohli's dismissal to Carlos Brathwaite in the 42nd over triggered a mini-collapse and the West Indies retained its discipline through the final 10 overs in conceding just 67 runs.

Brathwaite was the most successful of the bowlers, al-



Oozing class: Virat Kohli was in his element while scoring his 42nd ODI hundred. ■ GETTY IMAGES

so accounting for Rishabh Pant and Bhuvneshwar Kumar to finish with figures of three for 53.

However, off-spinning all-rounder Roston Chase was the most economical, going for only 37 runs off his 10-over allotment and also claiming the all-important wicket

of prolific opener Rohit Sharma for 18.

Sheldon Cottrell got the West Indies off to an excellent start when he trapped Rohit's opening partner, Shikhar Dhawan, leg-before in his first over, a decision determined by the television official after on-field umpire

Nigel Llong turned down the initial appeal.

Ravenous appetite
Kohli's eighth ODI hundred against the West Indies and second in succession in the Caribbean underlined both his supreme class and ravenous appetite for runs.

At no time was he troubled and it was only with his demise, followed closely by Shreyas being bowled round his legs by West Indies captain Holder, which eased the mounting pressure off the home side's shoulders.

India retained the XI from the rain-marred first ODI.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Shikhar Dhawan lbw b Cottrell 2 (3b), Rohit Sharma c Pooran b Chase 18 (34b, 2x4), Virat Kohli c Roach b Brathwaite 120 (125b, 14x4, 1x6), Rishabh Pant b Brathwaite 20 (35b, 2x4), Shreyas b Holder 71 (68b, 5x4, 1x6), K. Jadhav run out 16 (14b, 2x4), R. Jadeja (not out) 16 (16b, 1x4), Bhuvneshwar c Roach b Brathwaite 1 (2b), Mohammed Shami (not out) 3 (5b); Extras (b-1, nb-2, w-9); Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs): 279.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Dhawan, 0.3 overs), 2-76 (Rohit, 15.3), 3-101 (Pant, 22.2), 4-226 (Kohli, 41.3), 5-250 (Shreyas, 45.3), 6-258 (Jadhav, 46.4), 7-262 (Bhuvneshwar, 47.4).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Cottrell 10-0-49-1, Roach 7-0-54-0, Holder 9-0-53-1, Thomas 4-0-32-0, Chase 10-1-37-1, Brathwaite 10-0-53-3.

Toss: India.

Gayle overtakes Lara

■ Gayle became West Indies' highest scorer in ODIs, surpassing Lara's tally of 10,348 runs. Gayle, who was out for 11, now has 10,353 runs. The hosts were 55 for two in 12.5 overs.

STAT SPHERE

1 Kohli has the most ODI hundreds (8 from 34 inns) against West Indies, followed by Amla (5/16) de Villiers (5/22) Gibbs (5/29)

3 The India skipper has eight centuries each against three different opponents. Most ODI 100s against one opponent 9 Tendulkar, vs Aus 8 Tendulkar, vs SL | 8 Kohli, vs Aus 8 Kohli, vs SL | 8 Kohli, vs WI

1 Kohli has the most runs (2032/34 inns) against West Indies, surpassing Miandad (1930/64).

1 His 120 is the highest ODI innings by any captain in West Indies, beating Brian Lara's 116 against Sri Lanka (Bridgeport, 2003).

42 Fastest to 2000 ODI runs vs a team (in inns)

34 Kohli vs WI
37 Rohit vs Aus
40 Tendulkar vs Aus
44 Richards vs Aus
44 Kohli vs SL
45 Dhoni vs SL

Just want action, never mind where!



Better than nothing: Frustrated by the rain that wouldn't allow outdoor practice, Rishabh Pant and Kuldeep Yadav turn to Plan-B. ■ COURTESY INSTAGRAM/RISHABH PANT

Hotel corridor turns into a 22-yard strip for Pant, Kuldeep

IANS
PORT OF SPAIN

After a washed out ODI in Guyana, both India and West Indies were looking to have a productive training session at the Queen's Park Oval here, the venue of the second match of the three-game rubber to be played on Sunday.

However, rain gods had other plans on Saturday as they didn't allow the teams to get a glimpse of the conditions which would be on offer for the second ODI.

Kept indoors

The Men in Blue were forced to train indoors with many even using the hotel corridor for practice.

Wicketkeeper-batsman

Rishabh Pant posted a video on his Instagram account where he, along with Kuldeep Yadav, can be seen playing cricket in the hotel corridor ahead of the second ODI.

Kuldeep is seen bowling his left-arm spin in the hotel corridor and Pant, with his gloves on, keeps the turning ball. Pant shared this video saying, "Where? When? What? Who? ...No sorry ...I only know the 'Why'."

Earlier, BCCI also posted a photo of Rohit Sharma under an umbrella with a bat in his hand. "Just been that kind of day. The Hitman finding some space for fun as he rushed indoors for practice in Trinidad," read the caption of the photo.

Gayle notches up another triple ton

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

West Indies star opener Chris Gayle went past legendary Brian Lara, who played 299 ODIs between 1990 and 2007, in the match at the Queen's Park Oval here on Sunday.

"Three hundred games is a lot of games. Some of us in the dressing room can't even imagine that. We just hope he can get us off to a really good start tomorrow," Holder said on the eve of the second ODI.

Struggles

Gayle struggled in the abandoned first ODI, scoring four from 31 deliveries but his opening partner Evin Lewis put up a good show, scoring an unbeaten 40 off 36 balls before the match was called off due to rains.

"Definitely happy to see



One more, conquered: Chris Gayle went past Brian Lara, who played 299 ODIs between 1990 and 2007. ■ AFP

Evin get some time in the middle," Holder said.

"He didn't get the runs he

was looking for in the T20 format but it's good to see him get into form in Guyana

and hopefully he can transfer that performance here as well."

'Surgery again a tough call'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMSTERDAM

Cricketer Suresh Raina, who underwent a second knee surgery here a couple of days ago, said it was a tough decision to make as he knew it would keep him out of action for a few months.

The 32-year-old left-hander will require at least six weeks of intense rehabilitation for recovery.

"To be honest, a second knee surgery was a tough call to make because I knew it would put me off-action for a few months and I wasn't ready for it until a few weeks ago when the pain got a bit too much and I knew there was only one way out of this," Raina wrote in a post on his social media handle.

India U-19 wins series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOVE (UK)

India beat Bangladesh by six wickets to lift the U-19 tri-series title on Sunday.

Chasing 262, India U-19 rode on half-centuries from openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (50), Divyansh Saxena (55), skipper Priyam Garg (73) and wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel (59 not out) to score 264 for four in 48.4 overs.

The scores: Bangladesh U-19 261 in 50 overs (Mahmudul Hasan Joy 109, Parvez Hossain Emon 60, Shamim Hossain 32, Tanzid Hasan 26) lost to India U-19 264 for four in 48.4 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 50, Divyansh Saxena 55, Priyam Garg 73, Dhruv Jurel 59 n.o.).

United ruins Lampard's PL coaching debut

Winning start for Arsenal; VAR spoils Wolves' chance of beating Leicester

PREMIER LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Marcus Rashford scored twice as Manchester United made the perfect start to its Premier League season by inflicting a 4-0 defeat on Frank Lampard in his first match in charge of Chelsea on Sunday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men were in need of a fast start to the campaign to erase memories of a terrible end to last season and got it, as Rashford's early penalty and three goals in 16 second-half minutes from Anthony Martial, Rashford and debutant Daniel James had Old Trafford in raptures.

Harry Maguire and Aaron Wan-Bissaka also impressed at the back on their debuts after United spent £130 million on the pair over the summer to shore up a defence that conceded 54 Premier League goals last season.

However, questions will be asked of Chelsea's decision to let experienced defender David Luiz leave to join Arsenal earlier this week as the Blues struggled to contain the United counter-attacks despite dominating long spells.

Lampard's first team selection was a bold one as he put his faith in youth with Tammy Abraham and Mason Mount handed starts, while £60 million signing Christian Pulisic was made to wait for



Dream beginning: A blistering counter-attack and a marauding run by Paul Pogba ended with Daniel James scoring Manchester United's fourth and his maiden goal. ■ REUTERS

his Premier League debut on the bench.

However, the heart of the Chelsea defence always looked fragile.

Kurt Zouma had already gotten away with gifting possession to Martial on the edge of his own box as the Frenchman shot weakly into the arms of Kepa Arrizabalaga before he was turned easily by Rashford and hauled the England striker to the ground.

Rashford dusted himself off to blast the penalty high past Kepa to open the scoring.

Rashford and Martial provided the clinical touch to kill the game off in the space of 60 seconds.

Maguire showed his presence to outmuscle Abraham and Mason Mount handed starts, while £60 million signing Christian Pulisic was made to wait for

box and set off a flowing counter-attack that ended with Martial bundling the ball home at the far post from Andreas Pereira's cross.

Brilliant ball

Paul Pogba then played provider with a brilliant ball over the top for Rashford to burst in behind before coolly slotting past Kepa.

Pogba was the creator again for the fourth as the Frenchman played a one-two with Rashford and powered through the Chelsea defence before laying off to James, who got the benefit of a big deflection to find the bottom corner.

Rashford and Martial provided the clinical touch to kill the game off in the space of 60 seconds.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired Arsenal to a 1-0 win at Newcastle in its opener. Its often-criticised de-

fence held firm, with centre-backs Calum Chambers and Sokratis keeping Newcastle at bay.

Wolverhampton Wanderers had a goal by Leander Dendoncker ruled out by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) in an entertaining 0-0 draw against Leicester City at the King Power Stadium.

Wolves thought it had scored six minutes into the second half when Dendoncker blasted in from close range but VAR deemed that the midfielder had headed the ball onto teammate Willy Boly's arm off a corner before taking the shot.

The results: Manchester United 4 (Rashford 18-pen, 67, Martial 65, James 81) bt Chelsea 0; Leicester 0 drew with Wolves 0; Newcastle 0 lost to Arsenal 1; Newcastle 0 lost to Arsenal 1 (Aubameyang 58).

Kandola stars in Steelers' win

PKL

G. VISWANATH
AHMEDABAD

Haryana Steelers and Bengaluru Bulls competed hard and kept the interest alive right through their Vivo Pro-Kabaddi-7 league match at the Eka Arena by TransStadia on Sunday.

Steelers showed their class through their live-wire raider in Vikash Kandola and bulls remained in contention because of another stellar display by the tall and sturdy Rohit Kumar, but as the thrilling match neared its finish, it was Kandola who had good reasons to smile.

He had scored in all 12 points (8 tag, 3 bonus and 1 tackle) as the Panchkula-based side prevailed over the last year's winner 33-30.

This is only the fourth week of the league and

teams are finding new players contributing in attack and defence and to their victory. Vikas Kale was a massive source of support in tackling, but what made the little difference in the Steelers' overall performance was Vinay accruing six vital tackle points.

Kandola completed the Super-10 in the closing moments of the match that initially was drifting towards bulls, who had come into the match with four wins. They led 16-12, before Steelers began to dominate and win the big points.

The match proceeded neck to neck with the scores tied at 21 and 26. Steelers who had scored a morale-boosting win in their previous match against Patna Pirates in Patna, presented roles for Kandola and Kale and these two did not disappoint.

Telugu Titans scored its first win in seven matches putting it across a lacklustre Gujarat Fortunegiants 30-24. Siddharth Desai and Vishal Bharadwaj scores seven points each for the winner.

The results: Haryana Steelers bt Bengaluru Bulls 33-30; Telugu Titans 30-24.



Charging past: Bengaluru Bulls captain Rohit Kumar essays a successful raid against Haryana Steelers. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

SAI set to hire nutritionists and chefs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In a first, Sports Authority of India is set to hire top-of-the-line professionals – nutritionists, chefs and managers – to ensure that athletes are given personalised diets at its centres.

The personalised diets will be provided at its centres in Delhi, Patiala, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Kolkata, Bhopal, Gandhinagar, Lucknow, Imphal, Guwahati, Mumbai, Sonepat, Aurangabad, Rohtak and Alappuzha. SAI has already sought applications from nutritionists, assistant nutritionists, chefs, assistant chefs and mess managers, to put in place an in-house system by September 15, 2019.

Parameters

To ensure that the best resources can be hired, remunerations have been kept at par with industry standards, with a thrust on technical competence and experience in a related field. Chefs and nutritionists will be hired at a salary of up to ₹1 lakh.

In the new system, the diet for each athlete, irrespective of age and category will be drawn up without any financial ceiling by the nutritionist in consultation with the coach training the athlete and on-campus sports science experts.

A series of checks have been put in place to ensure that the best quality food is served to athletes.

Nadal in final after Monfils withdraws

Meets Medvedev; Serena fights her way into the summit clash

ROGERS CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MONTREAL

Rafael Nadal is homing in on a second straight ATP title in Canada after reaching the Montreal Masters final without hitting a shot on Saturday.

The top-seeded World No. 2 was handed an extra day of rest when Gael Monfils withdrew from their semifinal – scheduled to start just hours after the French player defeated Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(2) in a rain-delayed quarterfinal.

Nadal will aim for his fifth Canadian trophy on Sunday when he faces Daniil Medvedev, who dominated Russian compatriot Karen Khachanov 6-1, 7-6(6).

Monfils and Bautista, rained out on Friday night, were delayed a further two and a half hours by rain on Saturday.

Although 16th-seeded Monfils outlasted the Spaniard, he rolled his ankle in the process. A few hours to prepare for Nadal was too much for the French showman – especially with the US Open coming up at Flushing Meadows this month.

"I was happy that I fought no matter what. As I say, I felt good this week, tried to give my best," Monfils said. "I showed today that I'm still a fighter."

"I love these matches, night session, I play tennis for the big moments, big shows. But maybe it was a safest decision not to play to-



Safe decision: Monfils, who rolled his ankle in his quarterfinal win over Bautista Agut, opted to withdraw from the last four against Nadal. ■AP

night." Monfils said he felt his ankle early in the second set.

Serena survives scare

Serena Williams withstood the determined challenge of Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova, rallying for a 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory to reach the WTA Toronto final.

Serena, seeded eighth in a

tournament she has won three times, will take on home hope Bianca Andreescu in the championship match on Sunday.

Serena will be seeking her first title since she won her 23rd Grand Slam title at the 2017 Australian Open – and her first since the birth of her daughter Olympia on September 1 of that year.

Meanwhile, 19-year-old Andreescu will be trying to become the first Canadian in 50 years to lift the trophy.

"I just needed to be more consistent and not make so many errors and just mentally be ready to hit a thousand balls if I needed to," Williams said.

"In the first set, I was going for a little too much, so I

just had to just play a different game."

The results: At Montreal: Semifinals: Rafael Nadal bt Gael Monfils w/o; Daniil Medvedev bt Karen Khachanov 6-1, 7-6 (6). Quarterfinals: Gael Monfils bt Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(2).

At Toronto: Semifinals: Bianca Andreescu bt Sofia Kenin 6-4, 3-6(5); Serena Williams bt Marie Bouzkova 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Feels like I'm back from exile: Akash Chikte

After a 13-month doping ban for an unintentional offence, goalkeeper returns to action

HOCKEY

SHREDDUTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

Akash Chikte describes his time away from hockey as 'vanvaas'. He has, after all, spent the last year and a half in exile, out in the professional wilderness. Early in 2018, the goalkeeper from Yavatmal, Maharashtra was establishing himself as a reliable deputy to P.R. Sreejesh in the Indian men's team. And then his world fell apart.

In March that year, Chikte was suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) after testing positive for an anabolic steroid. He was first banned for two years, a punishment later reduced to 13 months because the offence was found to be unintentional.

On Sunday, Chikte played his first competitive game since the HWL Final in Bhubaneswar (December 2017), turning out for Army XI against the Indian Air Force team in the Dolo-650 Banga-



Akash Chikte. ■SUDHAKARA JAIN

couldn't sleep."

Recollection

Chikte recalls what happened in vivid detail. In February last year, he was struck on his left foot by a ball, causing his little toe to swell up. Meanwhile, back home in Yavatmal, his father had fallen seriously ill and had to be operated on for a clot in the brain. Chikte rushed home. At a local hospital, he consulted a doctor for his toe injury and was given an injection. Chikte had no idea what was in it.

"I told him I was a professional sportsperson. He clicked a photo with me, even put it on Facebook. He was MBBS, so I thought he'd know what to give me and what not to. Amid the stress of the hospital visits, I forgot to mention the injection in the doping control form. The fault is mine," he sighs.

Tough days
The days that followed the positive test were tough. "People would tell my parents,

"Nobody supported me all these months. No one called me. It was as if everyone forgot me suddenly. I was hurt. One day I was playing for India. The next day, it was all over"

"Your boy takes drugs? They were crying. They thought I had done something wrong and got caught. They weren't looking me in the eye. Then, I explained everything to them."

At first, Chikte trained on his own, at the Balewadi stadium in Pune. He practised after midnight, asking boys from the local academy to fire shots at him. "I couldn't sleep. I used to cry. So I thought it was better to train," he says.

For Chikte, the Bangalore Cup is the first step on his journey back to national reckoning. "My first goal was to clear the stain that was on me; and I have done that," he says.

"Now my goal is to play

Indian teams leave for Tokyo

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Indian men's and women's hockey teams left for the Olympic Test event starting in Tokyo on August 17.

Scheduled ahead of the Olympic Qualifiers in November, the competition will witness the men's team play Malaysia first, followed by matches against host Japan and New Zealand.

The women will take on Japan in the opening fixture before meeting China and Australia.

domestic tournaments and the Nationals, and hopefully get back to the Indian team. At 27, a goalkeeper is still young."

'Arthur was assured of extension after WC but Imran rejected it'

PM felt new team management must be brought in: source

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Former Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur was assured by an influential group of cricketers that he would be retained for another two years after the World Cup but Prime Minister Imran Khan rejected giving extensions to the coaching staff.

According to a highly reliable source, an influential member of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s Cricket Committee and some other officials in the Board had assured Arthur he would be getting an extension as head coach despite Pakistan's failure to reach the knockout stage of the World Cup.

Disappointed
"Arthur was very confident after these assurances. That is why he came down to Lahore and spent quite a few



Mickey Arthur. ■AP

days in anticipation of an extension but he was also disappointed and shocked when the PCB announced they were not retaining him or the support staff," the source said.

According to the source, PCB chairman Ehsan Mani had spoken to Imran who is in-charge of the PCB on the matter and the form-

er skipper made it clear that a new team management set-up must be brought in after the World Cup.

Shock

Arthur also got a shock when the local media started reporting that when he appeared before the Cricket Committee, he had suggested appointing Shadab Khan and Babar Azam as captains for white and red-ball cricket.

Arthur has now apparently conveyed to skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed that he never said anything against him nor did he give any suggestions to the committee on appointing new captains for all formats.

Incorrect reports

"Arthur has communicated to Sarfaraz that media reports about him talking about changing the captain were not correct," the source said.

AFI aims big in Olympics

Our preparation started soon after Rio: Radhakrishnan Nair

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) feels an elusive Olympic medal may be within the country's grasp at the Tokyo Games next year if all goes to plan.

"It may sound far-fetched at the moment, but we in the AFI feel that we have a larger group of athletes who are capable of entering the medal bracket now," said deputy chief national coach P. Radhakrishnan Nair. "Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, long jumper M. Sreeshan Kar, the relay squads and (shot putter) Tejinder Pal Singh Toor, if he can cross 21m, are all capable of winning medals at the Olympics."

Best facilities

"Our preparation started four years ago soon after the Rio Olympics. We are providing the best facilities to the athletes and we have chalked out our training and competition schedule in such a way to ensure that



Neeraj Chopra. ■FILE PHOTO: PTI

they get enough exposure before the Olympics," he added.

Radhakrishnan said the 400m runners, hurdlers and jumpers will be based at the Kariavattom's Lakshmi Bai National College of Physical Education in Kerala, where a camp will run from November 1 to February 1, following which the athletes will compete in a sports meet at Antalya's Gloria Sports Centre, Turkey's biggest sports facility.

They will also compete in meets between May 1 and

June 5, and will travel to Spain in Poland and Prague in the Czech Republic for training.

India's javelin throwers will train in South Africa from January 2 to March 31, will compete in domestic meets after that, then return to South Africa to train from May 1 to June 30.

The Indian athletics contingent will train and compete in Osaka, Japan, over 20 days in July.

Off to USA
Meanwhile, middle-distance runner Jinson Johnson and steeplechaser Avinash Sable will shift base from Bengaluru to Colorado Springs in the US to train at the American Distance Project with coach Scott Simmons.

"This will benefit by training at a high-altitude centre, which is 2,700ft above sea level," said Radhakrishnan.

The deputy chief national coach also said the federation will be getting stricter on athletes skipping national camps.

They will also compete in meets between May 1 and

June 5, and will travel to Spain in Poland and Prague in the Czech Republic for training.

India's javelin throwers will train in South Africa from January 2 to March 31, will compete in domestic meets after that, then return to South Africa to train from May 1 to June 30.

The Indian athletics contingent will train and compete in Osaka, Japan, over 20 days in July.

Reducing body heat
"The water temperature was high so I'm bit concerned about that," said Yumi Kida from Japan, who said she guzzled iced water before the race in an effort to reduce her

body heat. International Swimming Federation (FINA) rules state that athletes may not race when the water temperature exceeds 31 degrees and FINA's executive director Cornel Marculescu said competitors' wellbeing was top priority.

Marculescu said an external body would be set up in

conjunction with Tokyo 2020 organisers to monitor both water quality and temperature in the run-up to the games and the results could affect the timing of the marathon swimming event.

"Based on this information, we will decide the time the event will start. Could be 5:30 a.m., could be 6:30 a.m., depends on the water temperature," he said.

"Working with a specialised company like we are going to do here in Tokyo, we will have the right information to take the right decision."

Hot weather issues have become the biggest headache for Tokyo organisers, who have already moved up the start time of several events including the marathon in a bid to mitigate the effects of the blistering heat of the Japanese summer.

A little stinky
In terms of water quality, David Gerrard from FINA's medical committee said readings from the test event would not be ready for 48 hours but previous results gave cause for optimism. "What we have had are readings from the last month, daily readings that have given us very clear indications of the water quality, which has been good," he said.

Organisers are desperate to avoid the embarrassment of the Rio Olympics in 2016 when the pool used for diving events turned an unsettling shade of green overnight.

Brazilian officials also had to scramble to clean up the bay used for sailing and windsurfing that was plagued by sewer bacteria and filth with rubbish.

Tokyo 2020, FINA watching water quality, temperature

Athletes voice concerns at marathon swimming test event for the Olympics



Desperate measure: US swimmers Ashley Wall, right, and Haley Anderson abstain during the women's Marathon Swimming 5km competition during the swimming marathon test event for the 2020 Olympics. ■AFP

for Tokyo 2020 organisers, who have already moved up the start time of several events including the marathon in a bid to mitigate the effects of the blistering heat of the Japanese summer.

conjunction with Tokyo 2020 organisers to monitor both water quality and temperature in the run-up to the games and the results could affect the timing of the marathon swimming event.

"Based on this information, we will decide the time the event will start. Could be 5:30 a.m., could be 6:30 a.m., depends on the water temperature," he said.

"Working with a specialised company like we are going to do here in Tokyo, we will have the right information to take the right decision."

Hot weather issues have become the biggest headache

TV PICKS

PKL: 7.45 p.m., 8.30 p.m.; Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD).
Cincinnati Open: 8.30 p.m.; Sony ESPN (SD & HD).

Haridas & Lancy triumph

SPORTS BUREAU
KATOWICE (POLAND)

The Indian pair of Ajith Haridas and Vijay Lancy clinched the men's doubles (40+) title of the World senior badminton championships held here on Sunday, defeating Esben B. Kaempegaard and Morten Rasmussen of Denmark 19-21, 21-17, 21-19 in the final.

Manjusha Sudhir in women's singles (55+), and the mixed doubles (50+) pair of Prabhu Naik and Suzanne Venglet lost in the finals.

PTF rules out shifting Davis Cup tie

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

The Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) on Sunday ruled out shifting of the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group-1 tie against India to be played in Islamabad on September 14-15 to a neutral venue.

PTF chief Saleem Saifullah told PTI that the federation was making all the preparations to host the tie at the Islamabad Sports Complex.

"We are sticking to our original programme of hosting the tie on 14-15 September and I don't see any problem or reason for the Indian team to feel unsafe to come to Islamabad," Saifullah said.

Indian spikers lose to Taipei

SPORTS BUREAU
NAY PYI TAW (MYANMAR)

India lost to Chinese Taipei 25-21, 25-20, 19-25, 25-23 in the final of the Asian under-23 men's volleyball championship here on Sunday.

Coach Pritam Singh Chauhan said it was a "good achievement" to have won the silver, and picked "poor blocking" as the primary reason behind India's loss in the final.

"Whenever you play against teams that tend to outplay with speed, you need to have good blocking. We were unable to counter their speed. Even in the league game against China, we were able to win because of good blocking."

Appavu, Prince in dream squad

The coach revealed that Muthusamy Appavu, who was named the 'best setter' and Prince the 'best blocker' of the tournament, were also named in the "Dream Team of Asia".

The result (final): Chinese Taipei bt India 3-1 (25-21, 25-20, 19-25, 25-23).

Special awards: Best blocker: Prince; Best setter: Muthusamy Appavu.

Rajiv grabs six points with top-10 finish

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ZHUHAI (CHINA)

IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team rider Rajiv Sethu recorded his best-ever top-10 finish, grabbing six points in the fifth round of FIM Asia Road Racing Championship 2019 (ARRC) here on Sunday.

Starting 14th, Rajiv dropped to 18th before recovering 8 positions in 9 laps to finish in Top 10 in an action packed AP 250 race 2.

This is his second top-10 finish in his 3 ARRC seasons, his first being in the Australian round race 1 earlier. IDEMITSU Honda Racing India is tied in Top 8 teams of AP 250 class with 32 points.

Fairytale finish for Sourabh Verma in Hyderabad Open

Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy come up short in women's doubles final



Striking it rich: Sourabh Verma brought cheer to the faithful by taking out Loh Kean Yew in three games. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

Ace Ace Ace aces Independence Plate

HYDERABAD: Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao's Ace Ace Ace (Akshay Kumar up) won the Independence Plate, the main event of the races held here on Sunday (August 11). R.H. Sequeira trains the winner.

1. **RAVE REVIEW PLATE** (Div. I, 1,100m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); **HUMAN TOUCH** (Rohit Kumar) 1, Joy Of Giving (Gaurav Singh) 2, Top Contender (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Vijay's Empress (R. Ajinkya) 4, 2, 1-1/4, and shd. Im 7.76s. ₹106 (w), 20, 9 and 43 (p), SHP: 25, FP: 1.15, Q: 380, Tla: 11, 416. Favourite: Composer, Owner: Mr. Abhimanyu Vinod Sigita. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

2. **SIDDIPPLATE** (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II); Terms: THE GREAT GATSBY (Ashish Asbar) 1, Star Of Tiara (Umesh) 2, Mahashakti (S.G. Prasad) 3 and Excelsior (Ajeeth Kumar) 4, 3-1/2, 1/4 and 2. Im 27.17s. ₹17 (w), 11, 9 and 7 (p), SHP: 25, FP: 153, Q: 89, Tla: 514. Favourite: Mahashakti. Owners: M/s. Vijay Racing & Farms Pvt. Ltd. rep. by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Susheela Kumar Gupta. Trainer: Lakman Singh.

3. **B. MARIDESWARA RAO MEMORIAL CUP** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II); **PONTUS PILATES** (Gaurav Singh) 1, Aon Aon (Koushik) 2, Marinetto (Akshay Kumar) 3 and La Mer (A.A. Vinkrant) 4, 3-1/2 and shd. Im 12.79s. ₹31 (w), 11, 9 and 6 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 216, Q: 103, Tla: 313. Favourite: Marinetto. Owner: R.H. Sequeira.

Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey, Trainer: M. Srivivas Reddy

4. **INDEPENDENCE PLATE** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II); ACE ACE ACE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Starlight (Deepak Singh) 2, Be Sure (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Top Link (Gopal Singh) 4, 5-1/4, 2 and hd. Im 25. 31s. ₹10 (w), 5, 8 and 6 (p), SHP: 32, FP: 96, Q: 60, Tla: 230. Favourite: Ace Ace Ace. Owner: Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5. **KOHIR PLATE** (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III); **RUN RUNNER RUN** (Afroz Khan) 1, Story Teller (C.P. Bopanna) 3 and Country's Gift (Santosh Raj) 4, NK, 1/2 and 1/2. Im 15.62s. ₹294 (w), 39, 8 and 8 (p), SHP: 23, FP: 1,699, Q: 613, Tla: 8,879. Favourite: Rhine. Owner: Mr. Syed Jameel Moosavi. Trainer: A. Vatsalya.

Jackpot: ₹1,15,798 (three tkt), Runner-up: 431 (345 tkt), Mini Jackpot: 26,508 (two tkt), Treble (i): 204 (257 tkt), (ii): 5,940 (10 tkt).

6. **STEWARD CUP** (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II); **LIBERATE** (Surya Prakash) 1, Midnight Dream (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Nimble Mind (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Big Brave (Ashish Asbar) 4, Hd, 1/4 and 2-1/2. Im 39.50s. ₹18 (w), 9, 6 and 10 (p), SHP: 29, FP: 142, Q: 73, Tla: 345. Favourite: Big Brave. Owners: M/s. Stride Livestock Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Dr. Raj H. Shroff. M/s. Chetan Shantilal Shah, Mohan Chhattaram & Pheroze Vazifdar. Trainer: Deshmukh.

7. **KOHIR PLATE** (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III); **RUN RUNNER RUN** (Afroz Khan) 1, Royal Dancer (Akshay Kumar) 2, Story Teller (C.P. Bopanna) 3 and Country's Gift (Santosh Raj) 4, NK, 1/2 and 1/2. Im 15.62s. ₹294 (w), 39, 8 and 8 (p), SHP: 23, FP: 1,699, Q: 613, Tla: 8,879. Favourite: Rhine. Owner: Mr. Syed Jameel Moosavi. Trainer: A. Vatsalya.

Jackpot: ₹1,15,798 (three tkt), Runner-up: 431 (345 tkt), Mini Jackpot: 26,508 (two tkt), Treble (i): 204 (257 tkt), (ii): 5,940 (10 tkt).

8. **DIVINE DREAMS PLATE** (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o colts & geldings only (Cat. II), Terms: The results (provisional, final day): INRC overall: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 2. Younis Ilyas & Harish Gowda; 3. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 4. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 2: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 3: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 4: 1. Vaibhav Marate & S.S.B. Arjun 1:38:27.000s; 2. Manoj Mohanan & Francis Sachin; 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekhar.

Chetan drives to glory on final day

Mixes caution with his already aggressive driving methods

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Team Akshara Racing's Chetan Shivram and his co-driver brother Dilip Sharan, running on MRF tyres, emerged the heroes of the Rally of Coimbatore, the second round of the Champions Yacht Club-promoted FMSCI-Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) at the Kethanur windmill farms here on Sunday.

Going into the final day, Chetan, the INRC 3 driver, had a few seconds edge over his nearest competitor Suhem Kabeer (Jeeva Rathnam). Younis Ilyas (Harish Gowda) of Race Concepts was also breathing down his neck. It was a tricky situation and, obviously the teams had planned their strategies overnight.

An autocross champion, Chetan chalked out something special too. He mixed a

bit of caution to his already aggressive driving methods in the three stages. The gritty driver, who came in with a calm mind, went flat out in the first. When he opened the route he found it extremely slushy but went on to complete it.

Under pressure
But Suhem, who was just half a second behind, was under some pressure and, that showed as he got stuck

in the stage and lost about five minutes. That allowed Younis to go ahead. However, in the final stage of the day, Chetan planned it simple – to go out there and complete the rally.

Younis stepped up the heat midway through but failed to make it to the top. "We planned to drive safe in the last stage as we had only an INRC3 car, which is much more under-powered than Younis' car," said Chetan,

who thanked God for helping them sail through safely and steadily to the top for the first time.

He said Coimbatore fortunately has been very lucky for him. "I have placed almost every time here. I had a lovely time with a super service team, fine tuner and a great navigator. What more can I ask for?"

The results (provisional, final day): INRC overall: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 2. Younis Ilyas & Harish Gowda; 3. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 4. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 2: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 3: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 4: 1. Vaibhav Marate & S.S.B. Arjun 1:38:27.000s; 2. Manoj Mohanan & Francis Sachin; 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekhar.

The results (provisional, final day): INRC overall: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 2. Younis Ilyas & Harish Gowda; 3. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 4. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 2: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 3: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 4: 1. Vaibhav Marate & S.S.B. Arjun 1:38:27.000s; 2. Manoj Mohanan & Francis Sachin; 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekhar.

The results (provisional, final day): INRC overall: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 2. Younis Ilyas & Harish Gowda; 3. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 4. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 2: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 3: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 4: 1. Vaibhav Marate & S.S.B. Arjun 1:38:27.000s; 2. Manoj Mohanan & Francis Sachin; 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekhar.

The results (provisional, final day): INRC overall: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 2. Younis Ilyas & Harish Gowda; 3. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 4. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 2: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 3: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 4: 1. Vaibhav Marate & S.S.B. Arjun 1:38:27.000s; 2. Manoj Mohanan & Francis Sachin; 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekhar.

The results (provisional, final day): INRC overall: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 2. Younis Ilyas & Harish Gowda; 3. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 4. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 2: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 3: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 4: 1. Vaibhav Marate & S.S.B. Arjun 1:38:27.000s; 2. Manoj Mohanan & Francis Sachin; 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekhar.

The results (provisional, final day): INRC overall: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 2. Younis Ilyas & Harish Gowda; 3. Fabid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 4. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 2: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 3: 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharani 3:31:51.700s; 2. Fa. bid Ahmer & G. Sanath; 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap.

INRC 4: 1. Vaibhav Marate & S.S.B. Arjun 1:38:27.000s; 2. Manoj Mohanan & Francis Sachin; 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekhar.

The results (provisional