



JULY 21, 2019

on Sunday



Congress charges
Adityanath with
targeting Priyanka
page 10



Solution to Kashmir
problem "is bound to
happen", says Rajnath
page 11



Iran defends seizure
of U.K. tanker, says it
collided with a boat
page 12



Dhoni opts out of
West Indies tour; team
to be picked today
page 17

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NEARBY

Ashoka University V-C steps down

NEW DELHI
Academician Pratap Bhana Mehta announced on Saturday that he was stepping down as the Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka University due to "personal" reasons. The university said in a statement that Prof. Malabika Sarkar will be the new V-C.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

GS Foundation-2020
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CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGES 4 & 6

Four new Governors appointed

Anandiben Patel moved from Madhya Pradesh to Uttar Pradesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a major reshuffle, President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday transferred two Governors and made four new appointments across six States. New Governors will take charge of the Raj Bhavans in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland and Tripura.

"The appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge," a communiqué from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

UTTAR PRADESH: Anandiben Patel has been transferred to Uttar Pradesh from Madhya Pradesh. Her appointment comes at a time when the Opposition is talking about the worsening law and order in the State.

Madhya Pradesh Governor and former Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel has been transferred to U.P., while the former interlocutor for the Naga talks R.N. Ravi has been appointed Nagaland Governor. The reshuffle and choice of Governors is politi-

WEST BENGAL: Former Union Minister in the Janata Dal govt., Jagdeep Dhankhar will take charge at a time of tensions between Trinamool and BJP workers.

MADHYA PRADESH: Lalji Tandon was a Minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, and is a seasoned hand in the Hindi heartland.

NAGALAND: A 1976-batch officer of the IPS, R.N. Ravi was formerly the Deputy National Security Adviser and an interlocutor for the Naga peace talks.

TRIPURA: Ramesh Bais is a seven-time MP from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and a former Union Minister

cally significant as they are among the first recommendations from the Home Ministry after BJP president Amit Shah took charge.

Though appointed by the President, the Home Ministry is the nodal Ministry for the selection of Governors, who

act as a bridge between the Centre and the States. Senior Supreme Court advocate and former MP Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the new Governor of West Bengal, replacing Keshari Nath Tripathi.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



Sheila Dikshit

er Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, paid homage to Dikshit at her Nizamuddin East residence.

Congress leaders said Dikshit's body would be kept at the residence till Sunday morning for citizens to pay their last respects and will be taken to the party ofice before the cremation.

The Delhi government has announced a two-day official mourning as a mark of respect for the longest

vornor of Kerala.
Politically active until her death, she had unsuccessfully contested the recent Lok Sabha elections from North-East Delhi.

Earlier, as a legislator, she represented the New Delhi constituency in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha.

A capital transformed
President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Modi, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal were

among those who condoled her death.

"Her term in office was a period of momentous transformation for the capital for which she will be remembered," tweeted President Kovind in his tribute.

Mr. Modi described her as someone who was "blessed with a warm and affable personality who made notable contribution towards Delhi's development".

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AFFABLE LEADER ▶ PAGE 10
SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 2

German envoy: RSS is a mass movement

Says as a German, he was conscious of its history during the 1930s-40s

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Terming the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) a "mass movement" in India, German Ambassador Walter Lindner said his visit to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur was part of his attempt to understand the "Indian mosaic".

Speaking to *The Hindu* about criticism over the visit, including an online petition that is calling for his resignation or recall, Mr. Lindner said he had visited Nagpur to review progress in the city's Metro project which Germany has helped finance, and decided to also meet RSS Sarsanghchalak (chief) Mohan Bhagwat.

Explaining the comment, Mr. Lindner said that as a German, he was conscious of the organisation's history during the 1930-40s, including the inspiration some of its leaders had drawn from Germany's Nazi movement and had discussed that with Mr. Bhagwat.

"I asked many questions on radicalism, and there are no simple answers to these questions," the Ambassador said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

PHONES SEIZED ▶ PAGE 10



NIA conducts searches across T.N.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A day after getting custody of 16 persons, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at more than a dozen places in Tamil Nadu on Saturday as part of its probe in the Ansarullah module case.

The searches were conducted at five locations in Ramanathapuram district, two locations in Theni district and one location each in the districts of Chennai, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Nagapattinam and Tiruvanamalai.

50 documents seized
During the searches, one laptop, seven mobiles, five SIM cards, three memory cards, one hard disk drive, two pen drives, one Internet dongle, nine CDs/DVDs and about 50 documents were seized from the houses of the 16 accused. The seized materials would be submitted before the special court for NIA cases, Chennai, and the digital devices would be subjected to cyber-forensic examination, it out.

NIA DSP Radhakrishnan Pillai supervised the operation lasting about four hours.

Former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit passes away

Tributes paid to veteran Cong. leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Minister of Delhi Sheila Dikshit passed away on Saturday at the Fortis Escorts Heart Institute after suffering a cardiac arrest. The veteran leader and head of the Delhi unit of the Congress was 81.

The last rites of the three-time Chief Minister will be conducted on Sunday at the Nigam Bodh ghat. Several leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, form-

ernor of Kerala.
Politically active until her death, she had unsuccessfully contested the recent Lok Sabha elections from North-East Delhi.

Earlier, as a legislator, she represented the New Delhi constituency in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha.

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CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
AFFABLE LEADER ▶ PAGE 10
SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 2

When your dreams include street children
The world has a lot to say
Enough to bring tears to your eyes.

Can you find a reason to smile.

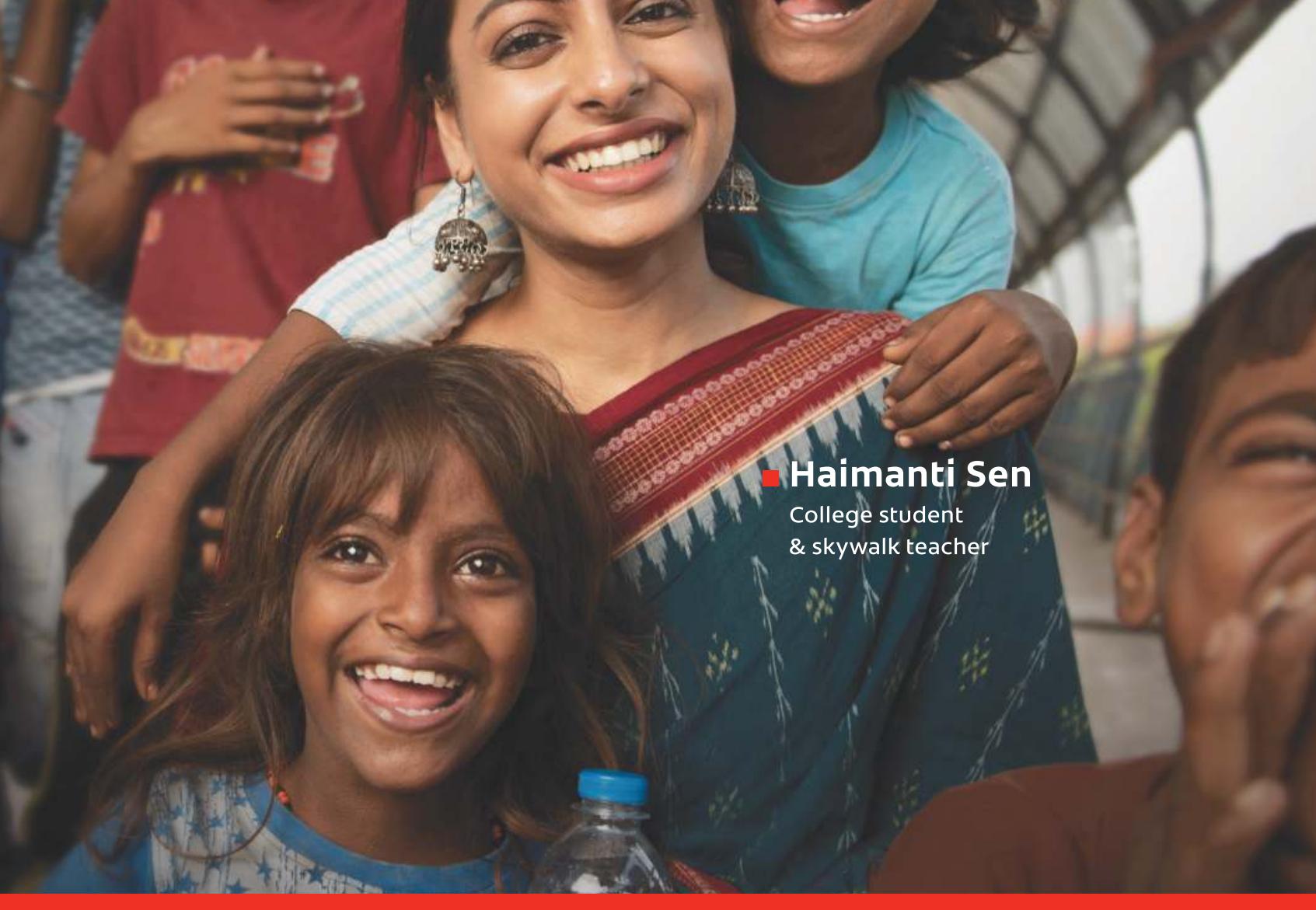
Can you aged twenty-one
Shift focus from half empty
To classrooms in the sky.

Yes, you can.

And no, it wasn't easy
The life lessons didn't come for free
But you have to believe, in "me".

Find in that one crucial moment
Of adversity
A smile.

A smile that started it all.



Haimanti Sen
College student
& skywalk teacher



Smile karo aur
shuru ho jao

If the Haimanti in you is looking for someone to champion her,
apply for the Colgate Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship at:
www.colgate.com/keepindiasmiling



Scan to watch
Haimanti's story

CAPITAL CONG.QUEROR



(From left to right): Sheila Dikshit taking oath as Delhi Chief Minister in December 2003; inspecting the progress of the Delhi Metro at Shastri Park in 2004; during the inauguration of high-capacity bus service in 2005; administering polio drops to a child in 2005; at the opening of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium after renovation in 2010; and (inset picture) with her son Sandeep Dikshit and grandchildren at her residence in 2004. • PHOTOS BY SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY, R.V. MOORTHY AND SANDEEP SAXENA

She who changed the face of Delhi

Sheila Dikshit was as transformational for the Capital in terms of development as her leadership was defining for its politics



JATIN ANAND
DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Hard to believe-My mentor and a mother like figure to me #SheilaDikshit ji is no more. Delhi can never forget her contribution I will always thankfully remember the way she groomed me as a young politician and granted me valuable learning experience under her guidance! OmShanti AJAY MAKEN, FORMER DELHI CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Extremely saddened to hear about Smt. Sheila Dixit ji passing away. She was a 3 time CM of Delhi during which she made it one of the best megalopolises in the world. A huge loss for the @INCIndia family & the country. My condolences & prayers to her family. P.C. CHACKO, AICC GENERAL SECRETARY

Very saddened to hear of Mrs Dixit's passing away. She was a woman of culture and finesse as I remember her. She was a delight to converse with. Delhi owes her a lot. She will be remembered for all that changed in Delhi under her leadership KIRAN BEDI, BJP LEADER

Was deeply saddened to hear about Sheila Ji's demise. A remarkable woman, former CM of New Delhi and a keen admirer of all art forms. We never discussed politics but had long talks on music and poetry. May her soul rest in peace and heartfelt condolences to her family. LATA MANGESHKAR, SINGER

I'm deeply saddened to hear about the untimely death of Sheila Dixitji. A fierce champion of the people, she dedicated her life to better Delhi. A huge loss for the capital. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends GAUTAM GAMBHIR, BJP MP



Defeat marred the beginning as well as the end of her political innings in Delhi – but the electoral success that came Sheila Dikshit's way in between was as transformational for the Capital in terms of development as her leadership was defining for its politics.

The 81-year-old was the face of three successive Congress regimes which oversaw the construction of around 70 flyovers, including the ongoing Barapullah project, the operationalisation and expansion of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) network in addition to a shift of the city's diesel-propelled public bus fleet en masse to compressed natural gas (CNG) over 15 years between 1998 and 2013.

In fact, Dikshit even managed a shift in the address of political power per se in the city by bringing the Delhi Secretariat to its current location at the players' building near ITO from the Old Vidhan Sabha in Civil Lines which now functions as the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

"For me, the Delhi Secretariat is her. She made the building in her own image – beautiful, elegant, hospitable, and supremely comfortable. At every turn in the city, there is something good to be found which bears her stamp. Was very fortunate that I got to speak to her just a couple of days ago, she happened to call, requesting to help someone. RIP Sheila Dixit Ma'am [sic]," Varsha Joshi, a 1995-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre currently posted as Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, wrote

in tribute to veteran Congress leader in a Facebook post.

Ms. Joshi, then posted as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of East Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, happens to be the bureaucrat who signed off on Dikshit's election affidavit for her maiden electoral contest from Delhi – as the Congress candidate for the 12th Lok Sabha elections from the Old Vidhan Sabha in Civil Lines which now functions as the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

"I still remember the grace with which she approached me seeking my signature for an affidavit to file her nomination papers. I worked with her on many occasions after she was elected Chief Minister in the Assembly elections later that year. She believed in taking everyone along while moving forward... an amiable personality, I believe a lot of the forward-looking politics of the Capital is her legacy," Ms. Joshi said.

As many as 21 years later, Dikshit would return to the other side of the Yamuna – this time as the Congress' candidate from the North East Delhi

parliamentary constituency which used to be a part of the East Delhi parliamentary constituency till 2008 but was carved out post-delimitation – to packed public meetings eager to hear what the party's local leadership dubbed *Vikas ki Devi* (goddess of development) had to say.

A force to reckon with
Here she would, after seeking votes for the Congress, ask her audience to recall that the Congress' three successive governments were the force behind the Delhi Metro and the Signature Bridge – to thunderous applause and nods of approval. Though she lost what was fated to be her last electoral battle, that she continued to be a force to reckon with would be proved by the fact that she garnered around 29% of the total vote share.

Retired IAS officer Ramesh Negi, who worked in various capacities in the Dikshit government for 11 years, remembered her as a leader with personal connect and a "subtle anger" that was followed by smiles and cups of tea.

"The first time I met her was in 2001 when I returned to Del-

hi from a posting in Daman & Diu. The first thing she said to me was to ask if I had been allotted a house since I had been transferred. That was the personal aspect she focused on," said Mr. Negi.

At work, Mr. Negi remembered the three-time Chief Minister as having "subtle anger". "When she was angry with me, she would start by calling me 'Negi ji', otherwise it was *beta*."

Mr. Negi recalled an instance in 2008 when he was the Delhi Transport Corporation chairperson and the procurement of 2,500 low-floor buses for the Commonwealth Games was being processed.

"We were having trouble with the negotiations as the prices quoted by the companies were high. She called the top officers for a meeting and said 'if you can't finalise this in 10 days, I will tell the Prime Minister that it is because of these three officers. But, after that, she smiled and had a cup of tea.'

When the buses were finally procured and the Opposition BJP raised allegations of corruption, the Chief Minister herself went to the Central Vigilance Commission to explain that all was above board, Mr. Negi said.

'She taught us how to conduct ourselves gracefully in politics'

Leaders recall her rapport across party lines

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

everyone's heart through the work she did and through her smile. At one point she struggled within her party but emerged victorious even then. The last time I spoke to her was when the Congress-Aam Aadmi Party alliance talks were on and I tried to dissuade her against it."

Vijender Gupta, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly said, "Even though we have had numerous confrontations, she regarded it as competition and treated everyone well above party lines. No matter how aggressive I have been against her at times, it never felt so whenever we met."

Manoj Tiwari, North East Delhi MP, who contested against Dikshit in the Lok Sabha election said that she was a "great leader who taught everyone the essence to fight elections."

"When I met her after the election, she had told me that we are not personal enemies but political rivals. This is something I will remember forever. The news of her demise is something that the people of Delhi will have to come to terms with," Mr. Tiwari said.

The longest serving CM that Delhi has had will always be remembered for the Capital's development and her strive to "work till the last breath," said Congress leaders Ahmed Patel and Jagdish Tytler. "I met her two days ago and even then she had said that she will work till her last breath and that is exactly what happened. Her demise has left a huge vacuum in Indian politics," said Mr. Patel.

Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari, who also reached Dikshit's residence said, "She loved Delhi and Delhi loved her back."

Finding new leader a challenge for Delhi Cong.

Uniting the divided house is another major task for the party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

With the void created by the sudden demise of Sheila Dikshit, the Congress faces the uphill task of looking for a leader who can fill into her shoes, ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls slated in less than six months.

The new leader also has to deal with the challenge of uniting the faction-ridden Delhi unit, which had already put

Dikshit and other leaders, including P.C. Chacko, at loggerheads on a host of issues.

Although Dikshit enjoyed confidence of the party leadership, the opposition to her was evident when she and several Congress leaders were on different page on whether to have a pre-poll tie-up with the Aam Aadmi Party for the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

"None in the current crop of leaders matches up to the popularity and appeal of Dikshit. The three working presidents Haroon Yusuf,

Devender Yadav and Rakesh Liloithia are relatively junior to other senior leaders like J.P. Agarwal, A.K. Walia and Subhash Chopra," said a leader.

"The sudden demise of Dikshit badly hurts Delhi Congress which is totally unprepared for it," the leader said.

From being wiped out and relegated to the third position in every major election since 2013, the party saw some hope after it managed to dislodge the AAP and secure second position in the

2019 Lok Sabha polls. The Congress was on number two position in five seats.

Dikshit was also gearing up for the State Assembly polls scheduled to be held in January-February next year.

Now, the party has to hunt for a new leader to lead the organisation ahead of the polls. Former DPCC chief Ajay Makken had resigned on health grounds. Arvinder Lovely, who has also served as the DPCC chief in the past, has recently come back to the party after a brief stint at the BJP.



Her project that promoted participatory democracy
The Bhagidari scheme, started by former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, involved people, including resident welfare associations and civic society, in the decision-making process. It was an initiative aimed at promoting participatory democracy. In an event organised by the think tank, ORF, in October 2008, Dikshit had said the idea behind this scheme was to involve people in the democratic process. When the Bhagidari scheme was launched, about 11 citizen groups were identified. It later grew to more than 2,000 groups. Under the scheme, monthly meetings were held with the RWAs, which Dikshit addressed personally through videoconferencing. Citizens complained about their problems and officials listened. PTI

When an unwell Dikshit wanted to quit
In the winter of 2012, Sheila Dikshit underwent her second angioplasty and her family wanted her to quit politics but then the horrific December 16 gang rape took place and she made up her mind not to "run away from the battlefield". After she complained of fatigue and bouts of breathlessness, doctors confirmed a 90% blockage in her right coronary artery, and she underwent the procedure. "After the Nirbhaya incident, I was in a bind. My family, which had seen my distress throughout that period, urged me to step down as planned earlier, but I felt that such a move would be seen as running away from the battlefield... Someone had to take the blame," she wrote in her autobiography. PTI

Her last instruction: protest at BJP office
As the Delhi Congress chief, Sheila Dikshit's last instruction to party workers was to stage a protest outside BJP headquarters if the standoff between party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the U.P. government did not end on Saturday, said a former Cabinet colleague. On Friday, the Delhi Congress had sent out a message in Dikshit's name, urging party leaders and workers to come for a mass protest at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg against the detention of the Priyanka Gandhi in U.P. She was missing from the protest, which was, instead, led by Haroon Yusuf, the working president of the Delhi Congress. On Friday evening though, she instructed her party members to again stage a protest the next day if the standoff did not end. PTI

Sheila's passions: western music, films, books
Sheila Dikshit was quite fond of Western music since her youth and would sit near the radio waiting for her favourite songs to be aired. She also developed a fascination for footwear and had a good collection. She loved watching movies and her first film in theatres was *Hamlet*. In the midst of hectic political activity too, she would take out time to watch a movie and saw *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* 20 times. Dikshit mentioned about these in her autobiography *Capital Delhi: My Times, My Life* published last year. Her favourite books were *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass*, *What Alice Found There* and the *Sherlock Holmes* series. PTI

DELHI	Timings
SUNDAY, JULY 21	
RISE 05:37 SET 19:19	
RISE 22:18 SET 09:16	
MONDAY, JULY 22	
RISE 05:37 SET 19:18	
RISE 22:50 SET 10:08	
TUESDAY, JULY 23	
RISE 05:38 SET 19:18	
RISE 23:21 SET 11:00	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	37	29
Safdarjung	37	29
Palam	36	28

Delhi Palam Today
35°C A hazy and humid morning. Day will be warm with cloudy sky. Chances of light patchy rain/shower.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Dry and warm weather with humid conditions to continue. Night will be slight uneasy.

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THE HINDU
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Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	124	Gurugram	139
Ghaziabad	126	Faridabad	74
Noida	116	Greater Noida	144
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

IN BRIEF
36 held for consuming liquor on Noida roads
NOIDA
Three dozen people have been arrested here for consuming liquor at public place and creating nuisance, police said on Saturday. The arrests were made on Friday night during an inspection PTI

DELHI TODAY
Music: "Nazaran," a Ghazal concert by Shabab Khan, Shakeel Ahmed Khan and Rakhi Chatterjee at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 6 p.m.

MUSIC: An evening Bengali and Hindi melodies by Sayani Palit, a classical vocalist, at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

EXHIBITION: "Shifting Expression" solo art show by Sujata Kar Sahai at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.

EXHIBITION: "Rendezvous with Nature," a group painting exhibition by Jasbeer and Simrit Luthra at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

SCREENING: "Bauls of Bengal," an English documentary film screening at Gulmohar Hall, IHC, 7 p.m.

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

Speeding truck kills father, son

Eyewitness notes vehicle's number that helps police nab driver

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man and his five-year-old son were killed when they were hit by a speeding mini-truck in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri on Saturday morning. The accused has been arrested, the police said.

DCP (North-East) Atul Thakur said that the victims have been identified as Rajpal (45), and his son Shiva, residents of Hathgai near

Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

The police said that Rajpal, a labourer in Shahjahanpur, had come to Delhi with his family to meet their elder daughter who is married and lives in Nand Nagri. The family was crossing the road near Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) Depot when the truck hit the father-son.

An eyewitness managed to note the truck's registration number which helped police nab the accused within a few hours. The vehicle has also been seized.

Court acquits 6 persons in dowry death case

Rejects testimonies of victim's parents

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has acquitted six persons, including the husband of the deceased, in a dowry death case. They were charged with poisoning the victim to death when her father failed to meet the demand for dowry.

The doctor, who conducted the post-mortem, said in his report that the victim died of lead poisoning but he was not able to describe the physical properties of lead or fatal dose of lead poison in his cross-examination during the trial of the case, the court noted.

Clueless on symptoms
He also could not comment on the clinical symptoms in case of lead poisoning, though he was conversant with the term 'chronic poisoning of lead,' the court said.

"Though the doctor agreed to the literature on lead poisoning read over to him in the court that said it occurred over a period of time in various circumstances but he could not comment on the exact manner of death of the deceased," the court further said.

"In view of the testimonies of medical experts, the testimonies of family mem-

bers of the deceased in respect of circumstances surrounding the death of the deceased are not reliable. Hence, in my considered opinion, in the absence of clinching evidence, the death of the deceased was not in abnormal circumstances," Additional Sessions Judge Kuldeep Narayan said.

The Judge also rejected the testimonies of the parents of the victim.

"On the whole, the testimonies of the victim's parents are not sufficient to establish that the deceased was harassed or treated with cruelty by the accused persons for dowry. They also deposed contradictory facts regarding the treatment of the deceased, particularly by accused Sharwan [husband of the victim]," the Judge said.

"The blanket allegations levelled against all the accused persons appears to have been made by the victim's parents out of vengeance without any foundation. In the absence of any positive evidence, therefore, in my considering opinion, the prosecution also failed to bring home the charge under Section 498A [harassment for dowry IPC]," the Judge said.

Drug haul: Zakir Nagar house was den for 3 years

Neighbours believed accused were into gold melting business

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The persons arrested by the Special Cell on Thursday for their alleged involvement in an international heroin smuggling racket were residing in the Zakir Nagar house for the last three years, the neighbours said.

At the five-storey building in Zakir Nagar's Gali No. 21, the accused had rented the house on the four floor with an attached terrace which was off limits for occupants of lower floors. The accused were allegedly running a heroin reconstitution unit at the residence.

An occupant of the building who owns the third-floor house and refused to be named said that the men had been living in the accommodation for the last three years.

She said that she was scared and didn't wish to divulge further details.

Never visited house

Another resident of the second-floor house who have been living on rent since January said that all the building occupants were aware that the men were into the business of melting gold.

"We never visited their house but we were told by other neighbours that there are some instruments in the house that the men use for melting gold," said the 31-year-old man.

The neighbour also claimed that they could never get to know who was actually living in the house as several men kept visiting and staying. "A lot of



We never saw any cars being driven by them or being owned by them. They would sometimes use a bike though. Perhaps, they were carrying out their nefarious activities in the early hours when everyone was asleep.

A NEIGHBOUR

men used to come and go. But they were all well-behaved and quiet so we never really suspected anything amiss," the man's wife said.

The neighbours claimed that they never saw the men carrying any boxes or packets that looked suspicious. "We never saw any cars being driven by them or being owned by them. They would sometimes use a bike though. Perhaps, they were carrying out their nefarious activities in the wee hours when everyone was asleep," the man said.

Kept to themselves

All the neighbours and other residents of the street claimed that they never suspected the accused because they were "quiet men who kept to themselves". "They were never visited by

anyone who looked like family members or any woman. We might have initiated to interact if there was any female," the woman said.

The grocery store owner and the man who irons clothes in the street also said that they were never visited by the men.

The police said that Shinwari Rehmat Gul (30) and Akhtar Mohammad Shinwari (31), both residents of Afghanistan's Jalalabad, Vakeel Ahmed (36) and Raees Khan (43) from Delhi and Dheeraj alias Deepak (21) from Faridabad were arrested on Friday.

A total of 150 kg of Afghan heroin worth ₹600 crore was recovered.

Taking advantage of the spice trade between India and Afghanistan, jute sacks filled with spices entered India, once empty, were picked up from the mandis by gang members and brought to the processing unit, where they were put in chemicals and the heroin extracted.

Victims were rushed to GTB Hospital where they were declared brought dead," Mr. Thakur said.

Enquiry revealed that Rajpal and his son were walking at a distance from the wife and daughter. The truck hit the father-son.

An eyewitness managed to note the truck's registration number which helped police nab the accused within a few hours. The vehicle has also been seized.

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Shahik Md Zaini Zakir 283

Alok Kumar Tiwari 270

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Final Result 22+

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HINDU NADAR 29/165 IIS Asst Director AIR, Govt of Ind. Seeks Dr/Engr/ Class A Officer. CNB Ct: 9282430427

DOCTORS, SUITABLE alliance invited for Nair girls. MBBS, MD, 32/15, Makayiram and MBBS, 26/160, Kara- m-943289192

CHRISTIAN 33 MBA Separated having 5yr old girl, seeks broad minded groom. Widower / Divorcee.

SEEKING Alliance from Chennai based PG bridegrooms for Masters in Social work bride Pillai 34/168 Thiruvananthapuram. Any Pillai Caste, Ctn:09840959157

Trichur Nair girl 32/167 Barani MBA Asst.Mngr Chk seek qualified groom Ctn: 09884489932/pvvisw@gmail.com

Tamil Muslim Very Very Fair / BE / 29/175cm and divorced within short age of 14 years. Expecting P.G doctor boy with clean habits and good family background. Contact with horoscope & Biolate at cell: 94430 53474/ Email: drjyoti@yahoo.in

DOCTOR BRIDEGROOM wanted for a doctor girl doing Internal Medicine Residency in USA Hindu Nadar girl 25 yrs. Well educated within short age of 14 years. Expecting P.G doctor boy with clean habits and good family background. Contact with horoscope & Biolate at cell: 94430 53474/ Email: drjyoti@yahoo.in

CSI NADAR 27/160 fair BE MS(Ireland) Senior student seeks employed preferably Tirunelveli Nadar. Ct: 9442370857

35. Udayar, RC, Software Engg. Chennai. Contact Number: 984696616

RC VELLALAR 29 / 160 M.Sc. M.Phil. Asst Professor Tiruchy Heritage College. Seeks Suitable Match RC Preferably settled Tiruchy Below 33 years. Conta- ct: 770879406 / 0431 202556

PILLAI GIRL, 27/168, CA, MNC B'lore sees prof. gfd boy Ct: 750200558, v.kavitha2008kk@gmail.com

CHENNAI BASED Hindu Bride 25yrs 165cm seeks suitable Chennai based Groom with Clean Habits. Caste No Bar. Ct: 91505 85554

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CSI NADAR/ 23/153CM, 164CM/ BDS/ Den- tist/ Upper Middle Class/ Seeks Groom/ Dr/ India or Abroad/ CT : 9940644193

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Trichur Nair girl 32/167 Barani MBA As

Housing society told to pay ₹9 lakh

Possession of flat was promised in 2010

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum here has directed a Multi-State Cooperative Housing Society of Police Officers to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹9 lakh after a flat booked by the latter in a Faridabad project was not delivered despite the passage of the stipulated time period.

Complainant Praveen Kumar Luthra moved the consumer forum alleging deficiency on the part of the housing society as it failed to deliver possession of the flat that was scheduled to be ready by 2010.

"The complainant opted for a 3-BHK flat [and] a sum of ₹9,50,000 was paid on various dates commencing from the year 2006. The [co-operative] continued

raising demands ignoring the query of the complainant regarding the stage of construction, accomplishment of the project and the tentative period for delivery of possession," the consumer panel observed while noting the allegations made in the complaint.

Denied allegations
The cooperative housing society denied all the allegations made while stating that the deadline of 2010 was not mentioned.

However, noting that "there was considerable delay in completion of the project," the Bench held, "In such circumstances, the complainant is entitled for refund of the entire amount paid, that is ₹8,50,000 with a 10% interest from [November] 2014 till the date of realisation..."

CSR awards to focus on women empowerment

18 corporate houses will be recognised

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

The third edition of The CSR Journal excellence awards will celebrate the theme of 'India First' with a focus on women empowerment on July 22 at the Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

Across six categories, 18 corporate houses will be recognised for their excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility. "Here, at The CSR Journal, through fair and responsible reporting [in digital, broadcast and now print format] and initiatives such as 'Social Welfare & Growth Awards' and 'Excellence Awards', we are trying to fulfil our role as individuals and as a team. Our core vision is of 'Making Corporate Social Responsibility every individual's Social Responsibility,'" said Amit Upadhyay, Editor-in-Chief

and Director, The CSR Journal.

The six categories include education and skill training, women empowerment and child welfare, health and sanitation, environment, agriculture and rural development and sports. As part of the process, hundreds of nominations had been received from across the country's corporate houses and the top projects in each category were shortlisted based on the programme's impact, sustainability and scalability.

The CSR projects from Ambuja Cement, Godrej Properties, Hindustan Zinc, Mahindra & Mahindra (Auto, Farm Equipment and Agri Sector), Societe Generale, Tata Power, Tech Mahindra, Aditya Birla Capital and YES Bank are among those which had been shortlisted.

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION / DIVERSION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / REGULATION AND RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK AT TILAK BRIDGE STATION

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure, Northern Railway will undertake the Non-Interlocking work at Tilak Bridge station in connection with 5th & 6th line between New Delhi and Tilak Bridge stations. To execute this work, Railways will take appropriate traffic blocks upto 22.07.2019 Consequently, The following trains will temporarily be affected on the dates shown against each:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)
12419/12420 Lucknow-New Delhi-Lucknow Gomati Express	21.07.2019
12459/12460 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Express	21.07.2019
14211/14212 Agra Cantt.-New Delhi-Agra Cantt. Intercity Exp.	21.07.2019
14315/14316 Bareilly-New Delhi-Bareilly Intercity Express	21.07.2019
14323/14324 New Delhi-Rohtak-New Delhi Express	21.07.2019
14521/14522 Delhi Jn.-Ambala Cantt.-Delhi Jn. Express	21.07.2019
14681/14682 New Delhi-Jalandhar City-New Delhi Express	21.07.2019
15035/15036 Delhi Jn.-Ranmagar/Kathgodam-Delhi Jn. Uttaranchal Sampark Kranti Express	21.07.2019
19566 Dehradun-Okha Uttaranchal Express	21.07.2019
14085/14086 Tilak Bridge-Sirsia-Tilak Bridge Express	21 & 22.07.2019
64088 Hazrat Nizamuddin-New Delhi EMU	upto 21.07.2019
64012/64013/64014/64016 Shakur Basti-Palwal-Shakur Basti EMU	21.07.2019
64031/64032/64034/64036 Ghaziabad-Shakur Basti-Ghaziabad EMU	21.07.2019
64053 Palwal-Ghaziabad EMU	21.07.2019
64075/64077/64078/64080 Palwal-New Delhi-Palwal EMU	21.07.2019
64087 Hazrat Nizamuddin-New Delhi EMU	21.07.2019
64091 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	21.07.2019
64093 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Shakur Basti EMU	21.07.2019
64097 New Delhi-Shakur Basti EMU	21.07.2019
64403 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	21.07.2019
64089 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	upto 22.07.2019
64423/64424/64425/64427/64430/64432 Ghaziabad-New Delhi Ghaziabad EMU	21.07.2019
64420 Ghaziabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	21.07.2019

DIVERSION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Diverted via	Date (s) (from originating station)
12204 Amritsar-Saharsa Garib Rath	Ambala-Saharanpur-Moradabad	21.07.19
12392 New Delhi-Rajgir Shramjeevi Exp.	Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
12398 New Delhi-Gaya Mahabodhi Exp.	Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
12484 Amritsar-Kochuveli Express	Adarsh Nagar-Delhi Safdarjang-Okhla	21.07.19
12566 New Delhi-Darbhanga Bihar Sampark Kranti Express	Delhi Jn.	21.07.19
64095 New Delhi-Shakurbasti EMU	New Delhi-Delhi Kishanganj-Shakurbasti	Upto 22.07.19
14258 New Delhi-Varanasi Kashi Vishwanath Express	Delhi Jn.	21.07.19

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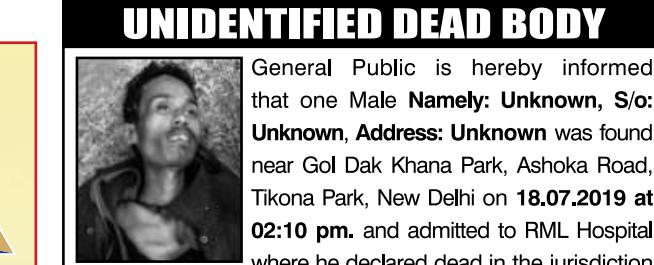
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General Public is hereby informed that one Male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown was found near Gol Dak Khana Park, Ashoka Road, Tikona Park, New Delhi on 18.07.2019 at 02:10 pm. and admitted to RML Hospital where he declared dead in the jurisdiction of P. S. Parliament Street, New Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 18A dated 18.07.2019 at P. S. Parliament Street, New Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- Age: 40 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: A tattoo of Trishul on right hand, Wearing: Blue Shirt and black colour pant. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Parliament Street, New Delhi
DP/2044/NDD/19
Ph: 011-23361100, 8750875021

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad.

- E-Tender No.: 213-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Transporting of all sorts of small fittings, tools & plants, consumables, switches, CMS crossing, SEJs, Glued joint etc. heavy materials on emergency basis in concerned to IOW & PMW stores by road with trailer or Trucks including loading, unloading, leading, stacking from any depot or workshop over Indian Railway under SSE/ROB/TD/Dhanbad. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,57,53,893.43, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,28,800/-.
- E-Tender No.: 214-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 10UP, 96(North), 96(South), 8(South), 1 and 2GD under SSE(Bridge)/DHN in GMD-BRKA section and siding of Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,96,53,016.03, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,48,300/-.
- E-Tender No.: 215-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway & changing of corroded/Loose rivets in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 20, 106'A, 106'B, 109, 9, 11, 31, 32, 35 & 44 in CPU-SKTN-MHDA section under SSE(Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,55,02,965.66, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,27,500/-.
- E-Tender No.: 216-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway & changing of corroded/Loose rivets in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 4, 17, 65, 78, 79, 85, 111, 130, 148, 159, 252, 262'B, 281, 312, 314, 327, 346, 360, 361 & 362 in GHQ-CPU section under SSE(Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,85,30,302.61, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,42,700/-.
- E-Tender No.: 217-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 310UP, 278DN, 253UP, 210UP & 199DN in BRKA-GHD section under SSE(Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division. 07 (Seven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹80,27,377.68, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,60,600/-.
- E-Tender No.: 218-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of side pathway in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge No. 187(DN), 202(UP), 202(DN), 345(DN), 416(UP) and 416(DN) under SSE(Bridge)/Dhanbad in Dhanbad Division. 07 (Seven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹2,04,58,326.27, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,52,300/-.
- E-Tender No.: 219-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Replacement of the type bearing by centralized bearing of Bridge No. 345(8x18.30) UP & DN, 416(1x20+2x9.14M), UP & DN in PMA-P section Br. No. 10DN Line(5x18.30), 96(3x12.0M), 174(2x12.20+3x18.30) in GMD-BRKA section and Bridge No. 6 (1x12.20) at Sirka siding under SSE(Bridge)/Dhanbad in Dhanbad Division of E.C. Railway, 11 (Eleven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,53,47,968.94, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,26,700/-.
- E-Tender No.: 220-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Changing of rusted members, replacement of bolts by rivets and rusted/loose rivet and strengthening of Br. No. 20A (ROB) (1x33.60) between SJ-ANJE at Km. 374/29 and 117(18.30) between station BKRO-GMIA at Km. 43/11 under SSE(Bridge)/Dhanbad in Dhanbad Division of E.C. Railway, 11 (Eleven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,43,11,097.85, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,21,600/-.
- E-Tender No.: 221-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Periodical painting of Bridge Girder of Bridge No. 8 (South), 10UP, 10DN, 117, 75, 77, 83(RB), 106, 109, 110(ROB), 115, 129, 131, 156, 183, 11, 14(ROB), 16, 22, 31, 32, 45, 42, 50, 80, 81, 108, 127, 146, 152(RB) under SSE(Bridge)/Dhanbad and Bridge No. 253 & 2 under SSE(Bridge)/Daltonganj in Dhanbad Division for year 2019-20. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹48,90,733.75, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹97,800/-.
- E-Tender No.: 222-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Metalizing of Bridge No. 10UP, 10DN, 117 under SSE(Bridge)/Dhanbad in Dhanbad Division for year 2019-20. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹48,26,155.82, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹96,500/-.
- E-Tender No.: 223-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Augmentation of capacity with improvement of landscape around GT-5 & 6 at Barkakana. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹99,85,823.38, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,99,700/-.
- E-Tender No.: 224-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Hiring of Truck for transportation of P-way materials under SSE/PO/CRP under Asstt. Engineer(2)/E.C. Railway, Gomoh. 36 (Thirty Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹21,11,315.03, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹42,200/-.
- E-Tender No.: 225-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : (Balance work) - Repairs, renovation of P.F.No. 18, 2, Stn. Building, W/Hall, Toilet, Leanto shed with seating arrangement including tap water etc. at KCKI, CNF, MAZ, HHG & CPDR under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Ry, Daltonganj. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,28,39,23, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,09,200/-.
- E-Tender No.: 226-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Increase of CSR of running line by shifting of Track Circuit and related work over Dhanbad Division under Sr. DEn/IDH/N, 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹6,05,232.47, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹12,100/-.
- E-Tender No.: 227-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Improvement of cutting and drain cleaning in the section Koderma-Maheshmunda under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Railway, Koderma. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹1,71,44,859.73, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,38,200/-.
- E-Tender No.: 228-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Construction of boundary wall of staff quarter at KORT, DNWR and JAUJA. Providing RSOD standard channel height gauge in between Kawar and Maheshmunda under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Ry, Koderma. 06 (Six) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹58,71,968.71, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹1,71,400/-.
- E-Tender No.: 229-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Improvement of circulating area and fencing at NGRH and SLIA, Construction of central drain at SLIA and NGRH and balance side drain work at NGRH. Providing and improvement of water supply of all stations and quarter by providing deep tube well and pipe line under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Ry, Koderma. 10 (Ten) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹2,34,01,112.34, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹2,67,000/-.
- E-Tender No.: 230-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Construction of remaining work of goods shed at NGRH under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Ry, Koderma. 11 (Eleven) Months. Approx. cost of work (In ₹) : ₹3,94,09,761.12, Earnest Money (In ₹) : ₹3,47,100/-.
- E-Tender No.: 231-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Casual sleeper renewal, shallow/deep screening and other miscellaneous P/Way work between Koderma to Arjuda under Asstt. Engineer, E.C. Ry, Koderma. 09 (Nine

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1.	(1) Improvement of existing irrigation infrastructure works on Onjal Minor @ ch. 3500 mt. to 6220 Mt. & Its System Estimated Cost, Rs. 1.29,92,169.26
2.	Tender Download date & Time Date 22/07/2019 To Date 21/08/2019 Up to 18.00 Hours.
3.	Tender Uploading date & Time Date 22/07/2019 To Date 21/08/2019 Up to 18.00 Hours.
4.	Physical Documents Submission of EMD Tender fee & other Documents during office hours. Dt. 22-08-2019 to Dt. 30-08-2019 at 18.00 Hrs. In the office of the Executive Engineer, Ambica Division, opp. Tata bag, Near Parsi Hospital, Lunsikui, Navsari-396445, Phone No:-02637-258054
5.	Tender Opening date for online tender received Dt. 31-08-2019 at 12.00 Hrs. in the office of the Superintendent, Surat Irrigation Circle, Near M.T.B. Collage, Athwali, Surat (0261 2668760)
6.	For Inquiry Contact Office Address Executive Engineer, Ambica Division, opp. Tata bag, Near Parsi Hospital, Lunsikui, Navsari-396445, Phone No:-02637-258054

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MAHTI/NAV/150/2019



Man lynched for 'stealing peacocks'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEEMUCH

A 58-year-old man has been allegedly beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of stealing peacocks in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district, police said on Saturday. Nine people have been arrested in connection with the case. The incident occurred on Friday night in Lasudi Antari village when some locals noticed four persons fleeing after allegedly stealing peacocks. "While three of them managed to escape, the mob caught hold of Hirbal Banchhda, a Dalit, and thrashed him," said Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kumar Sagar. He died in the hospital during treatment.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

J. SUBBALAKSHMI, 78, wife of late T.N. Jayaraman, Madipakkam, passed away peacefully at the residence of son, J. Chandrasekher, Dwarika, Delhi, on 19.7.2019 (M) - 9886916262

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

'Plastic' measures for a real hazard

As acres of agricultural fields in villages on Haryana border and parts of Delhi turn into open plastic markets, the authorities are yet to wake up to the environmental and fire risk posed by these illegal units



A view of illegal plastic segregation units in a Haryana village, a few metres away from the PVC market in Tikri Kalan in Delhi. • SANDEEP SAXENA

PVC market on DDA land. Officials claimed this market is the "seed" which has grown and spread to nearby areas, unchecked by authorities. Scrap plastic from these markets are taken to the agricultural fields in Haryana and burnt there. Plastic and rubber are essentially set on fire for two reasons: first, to get rid of waste that has no value, and second, to extract metal embedded in them.

Fire risk

Additional Divisional Officer,

Delhi Fire Service, A.K. Jaiswal, who is in-charge of Jhalapuri, termed the illegal plastic units in Delhi "dangerous" and said that many fires in the area are started on purpose. "While some fires are caused due to someone throwing a cigarette or beedi on plastic waste lying by the road, we also get cases where the fire has been set to retrieve metal from plastic and it goes out of hand," he said. Asked about action taken against people who start the fire, an officer at the Tikri Kalan fire station said: "We get calls from fire control room and when we reach the spot, we never find anyone to explain how the fire erupted."

"The workers set fire to the plastic and then alert the fire department that it has spread. This is how it works every time," said Jeet Singh, a resident of Mundka village. Tarun Pawaria, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bahadurgarh, said the

administration is aware of one illegal market in Haryana near the Delhi border. He, however, said he was not aware of the second market.

Jatin Goyal, SDM, Punjab Bagh in Delhi, said, "In December and January, we undertook a huge drive to clear illegal plastic segregation units in the area [in Delhi]. All these units on agricultural land, in godowns, and in compounds with boundary walls are illegal."

The workers at the illegal markets in Haryana said they moved to the area after the Delhi government cracked down on them in December last year. "I used to work at Tikri Kalan earlier. Now, we take [scrap] plastic from the PVC market [in Delhi], segregate them into different grades and sell them at a higher price [to wholesalers]," said Rajesh Kumar from Uttar Pradesh.

Way forward

According to experts, closing down these illegal units is not the solution. Chitra Mukherjee, head of advocacy and policy at Chintan, an NGO, said, "If these people do not handle plastic waste, it will end up in landfills. They should be put in touch with training institutes to improve their skills."

Swati Singh Sambyal, programme manager at the Centre for Science and Environment, had a similar view. "The government has to regulate the markets and semi-formalise the sector. Where else will all this waste go?"

Residents fume as plastic scrap burns in open fields

Illegal melting units too a menace

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

A few minutes past midnight, a fire starts on a plot, fenced off with bamboo sticks, in the middle of a field in Kanonda village in Haryana. A mound of wrappings, spread over at least 150 sq m, is set on fire by five workers. As the flame spreads, thick black smoke billows into the sky. This is the second consecutive night when plastic waste has been burnt on the plot.

Despite the NGT ban on burning of plastic, it continues unabated in Haryana villages.

"Tempo filled with plastic and rubber scrap unload here. The dump is set afire every night," complained Ram Kumar, 65, a resident of neighbouring Bommoli village, who grows wheat and mustard.

"This practice of late-night burning has been going on for the past six to seven months," he added.

Mr. Kumar claimed there are at least 10 such plastic burning sites in Kanonda village. The smoke from the fire has a very strong smell, said Ganshyam, 60, from Chitrakoot in U.P., who works at a brick kiln close to the burning site in Kanonda.

"I am a labourer. I have no option but to bear it," he said.

Satveer Singh, 60, from Bommoli, said the plastic is burnt in the open, but people ignore it thinking the smoke is coming from the brick kiln. He claimed that the brick kilns too burn plastic. "They use both coal and plastic and there is a lot of pollution due to it," he said.

"Even in our sputum there are black particles." Asked about the action taken by the district adminis-

tration, Bahadurgarh SDM Tarun Pawaria maintained that "it is the responsibility of the pollution board [to monitor the fires and the residue]."

Inside melting units

While burning of plastic in the open has been a cause for concern for villagers, the situation is no better for those residing near melting units operating out of buildings. *The Hindu* visited two areas where at least a dozen plastic melting units operate illegally – one near Chhotu Ram Nagar Colony in Bahadurgarh, Haryana and the other in Kamruddin Nagar in Delhi – causing health risk to workers and residents.

Duri Yadav, a 35-year-old man from Bihar working in one such unit in Bahadurgarh, said: "I face problems due to the pollution, but what can I do?"

In Kamruddin Nagar, the units have been operating quietly ever since the crackdown on illegal plastic units in December last year.

Residents living near the melting units in Haryana said they were worried about the harmful effects of the fumes. "Our village is right next to it [the units]. The work goes on here day and night," said Surender Singh, a police officer, who lives near Haryana-Delhi border.

Satish Kumar, the petitioner on whose complaint the NGT imposed a fine ₹25 crore on the Delhi government, said the practice of burning plastic and rubber will continue till the PVC market in Tikri Kalan continues to supply scrap material. "The market has to go from here for the residents to breathe easy," he insisted.

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IN BRIEF



Vignan varsity honorary doctorate for Ilaiyaraaja

GUNTUR
Celebrated film music composer R. Ilaiyaraaja is among the distinguished personalities who will be awarded the honorary doctorate by Vignan Deemed to be University at its seventh convocation to be organised on the institution's campus on July 27.

Sabarimala temple to be closed today

PATHANAMTHitta
The Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala witnessed heavy rush as a large number of devotees undertook pilgrimage, braving heavy rains in the forests, on Saturday. The temple will be closed after the Athazapuja on Sunday, marking the culmination of the five-day monthly rituals.

TTD mulls change in VIP break darshan timings

'The proposal will bring relief to ordinary pilgrims'

G.P. SHUKLA
TIRUMALA
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) management, which is upbeat following the abolition of 'classifications' in the VIP break darshan, is now focussing its attention on effecting viable changes to make the new system foolproof and acceptable to all.

In one such proposal, senior TTD officials hint at rescheduling the timing of VIP darshan and fixing it during the later part of the day.

At present, the VIP darshan is allowed between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., depending

Release of water from KRS to Tamil Nadu triggers protests

No water for crops, say farmers; raise slogans against Karnataka government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANDYA
The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway witnessed gridlocks on Saturday as farmers held protests against the discharge of water to Tamil Nadu at Srirangapatna, Induvlu, Mandya, Maddur, and other places.

The outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) in Karnataka to Tamil Nadu was increased at the rate of 4,802 cusecs on Saturday evening.

Precarious level

The farmers raised slogans against the Karnataka government, Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, and Minor Irrigation and district in-charge Minister C.S. Puttaraju.

The farmers said they had



Coming to a halt: Farmers blocking traffic on the busy Bengaluru-Mysuru highway on Saturday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

been demanding water to save standing crops in the district. But the government that had not taken any steps to help them was discharging water to Tamil Nadu. They wanted the water release stopped immediately

as the level at the KRS was precariously low due to a weak monsoon. The reservoir level stood at 90.03 ft on Saturday morning, as against the full level of 124.80 ft. The reservoir had attained almost maximum level on the

same day last year. While Saturday's live storage was just 7,575 tmcft, there was 38.2 tmcft on this day last year.

Boat operations curbed

Boat operations have been suspended at the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka from Saturday for an indefinite period, as the flow in the Cauvery has significantly increased.

A senior Forest Department official told *The Hindu* that it was not advisable to continue the operations considering the safety of visitors. However, there won't be restrictions on their entry to the sanctuary.

Tourists take boat rides to watch migratory birds and their nesting from close quarters.

Four missing fishermen return, search continues for 3 others

Met Dept. has forecast heavy rainfall for Kerala up to July 24

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Anxiety gave way to relief on Saturday after four fishermen from the district who were reported missing in the sea returned safely, nearly three days after they left Vizhinjam in a small, outboard engine-rigged boat.

Louis and Benny from Puthiyathura and Yesudas and Antony from Pulluvila returned to Vizhinjam shortly after 11.30 a.m., escorted by seven other fishing boats despatched by the Vizhinjam parish to search for them.

According to the men, they were stranded in deep sea after pummelling waves damaged both outboard engines on their boat. They



Monsoon fury: Waves breaking on the Valiyathura Pier in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. ■ S. GOPAKUMAR

could get them restarted only on Saturday morning, after which they had headed home.

High alert

The three fishermen from Neerody, Kanyakumari, who went missing in the sea off Kollam district are yet to be found. Coast Guard, Navy and the Marine Enforcement continued the search on Saturday, the Coastal Police, Neendakara, said.

Meanwhile, the coastal areas in Kerala remained in a state of high alert for the second consecutive day on Saturday as high waves battered seawalls and threatened to devour large tracts of land.

The southwest monsoon drenched most parts of the State, leaving low-lying areas flooded. The India Met Department has issued a heavy rainfall warning for Kerala up to July 24.

Syro-Malabar priests call off protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI
Priests of the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly called off a three-day-old protest, including hunger strike by senior priest Father Joseph Parekkattil, on Saturday after assurances from the permanent synod of the Syro-Malabar Church that their demands will be met.

Much of the existing body of knowledge for therapies for these diseases comes from studies done with Caucasian populations.

This facility would help in generating large-scale genome data from Indian populations, which was critical for genetic diagnosis and therapy.

The CCMB can now sequence up to 30 human genomes or 384 diagnostic samples in a day.



Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurating the Next Generation Sequencing facility in Hyderabad on Saturday. ■ PTI

would be of help, especially to patients suffering from rare genetic disorders.

CCMB scientists said earlier it used to take two to three weeks to sequence one genome, and it was a costly process.

"We had a smaller machine which was not as efficient. Besides, it became obsolete as the company which manufactured the machine, has been closed down. This (NGS) is top most model," said Dr. K. Thangaraj, chief

scientist at CCMB. The facility includes cutting edge technology for high throughput (number of samples tested) genome sequencing, which also facilitates diagnostic related sequencing of transcriptome and exome (parts of genome that are expressed in cells) of clinical samples.

This facility would help in generating large-scale genome data from Indian populations, which was critical for genetic diagnosis and therapy.

The CCMB can now sequence up to 30 human genomes or 384 diagnostic samples in a day.

Nature's artwork



A view of the natural arch formation at the Mangamaripetra Beach in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. Geological scientists and INTACH want it to be notified as geo-heritage. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

Naidu's camp office revamped to welcome new A.P. Governor

Biswa Bhusan Harichandan to be sworn in on July 24

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA
The erstwhile A.P. Chief Minister's camp office here is being converted into Raj Bhavan, which will be Governor-designate Biswa Bhusan Harichandan's official residence from July 24 when he is scheduled to be sworn in by the Acting Chief Justice of A.P. High Court, C. Praveen Kumar.

It will be the third revamping of the building that originally housed the Irrigation Department's circle of office and for while housed the High Court of the State following bifurcation.

Addressing the media af-

ter visiting the Raj Bhavan

on Saturday, Chief Secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam said Mr. Harichandan was scheduled to visit Tirumala on July 23 and reach Vijayawada later that evening.

He would stay in the Raj Bhavan and be sworn-in at 11.30 a.m. the next morning.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and other dignitaries would receive the Governor at the Gannavaram airport. Personnel of the Armed Forces would give the Governor a ceremonial welcome.

He would then have darshan of Goddess Kanakadurga atop Indrakeeladri.

Since the Legislative Council and the Assembly

were in session, written requests had been made to the Chairman and Speaker respectively to allow MLAs and MLAs to attend the swearing-in programme.

Mr. Subrahmanyam said the Governor's residence would be on the first floor and changes had been made as per his suggestions.

Governor's Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena would assign duties to the officers and staff of Raj Bhavan coming from Hyderabad. Director General of Police Gautam Sawang was supervising security arrangements and permanent security posts were being set up around the building.

The Chief Wildlife Warden can order the animal to be put down, on a recommendation from an expert committee, which will have two expert veterinarians and representatives from the Society for Prevention of Cruelties to Animals and the State Ani-

Euthanasia for critically ill elephants on the cards?

New draft rules will also look into aspects such as diet, rest and treatment of animals in captivity

K.S. SUDHI

KOCHI

What would one do with a captive elephant that is critically injured or ill and cannot regain its health? One cannot just leave it to die a painful death.

The draft Kerala Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules, which is being given the finishing touches, is believed to have suggested euthanasia for critically ill elephants, a first-of-its-kind recommendation.

The Chief Wildlife Warden

can order the animal to be put down, on a recommendation from an expert committee, which will have two expert veterinarians and representatives from the Society for Prevention of Cruelties to Animals and the State Ani-



Elephants, which roam in the wild in a herd, are tethered to a place for long periods, at times, alone. ■ K.K. NAJEEB

mal Welfare Board, sources said.

Minister's assurance

Incidentally, Kerala has the highest number of captive elephants, 507 by the latest count.

Recently, replying to a

question in the Assembly, Forest Minister K. Raju had announced the State government's intention to amend the rules in the wake of increasing instances of harassment of elephants. The new rules would ensure that the captive elephants are looked

after well and given proper diet and rest. The amendments will also prescribe guidelines to be followed when they are paraded for functions, he said.

Food and foot care, suggested P. O. Nameer, Head, Wildlife Division of the College of Forestry, Thrissur, are the two areas that require special attention in captive elephants.

There should be a conceptual change in the food given to elephants. They should be given the food that caters to their biological needs and not something that is convenient for the owner, Mr. Nameer says.

Shifting mahouts frequently causes distress to animals, pointed out a senior functionary of the Forest Department.

Meanwhile, the coastal areas in Kerala remained in a state of high alert for the second consecutive day on Saturday as high waves battered seawalls and threatened to devour large tracts of land.

The southwest monsoon drenched most parts of the State, leaving low-lying areas flooded. The India Met Department has issued a heavy rainfall warning for Kerala up to July 24.

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The southwest monsoon drenched most parts of the State, leaving low-lying areas flooded. The India Met Department

IN BRIEF



T.N. CM launches water management mission

CHENNAI

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Saturday unveiled the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission, a people's movement to conserve and manage water and to ensure that there was no water crisis in future.

Villagers attack police party, two injured

BHOPAL A man was shot and two policemen injured on Friday when around 200 villagers pelted stones on a police party that was out to arrest 40 persons in Kalapipal village of Guna district, the police said.

The police have registered cases against the attackers, but no arrests have been made so far.

The policemen have been discharged from a hospital and the injured villagers are being treated.

Abandoned baby saved by stray dogs

CHANDIGARH In a shocking incident in Haryana — infamous for its skewed sex ratio — a newborn girl, wrapped in plastic, was dumped by a woman in a drain near Kaithal town, police said. A pack of stray dogs pulled the wailing infant out of the drain and started barking. This alerted passers-by who called the police. The whole incident was caught on a CCTV camera nearby. "We are trying to establish the identity of the woman," said a police official. IANS

T.N. expenditure on subsidies down: CAG

CHENNAI The Tamil Nadu government's expenditure on freebies and subsidies came down marginally in 2017-18, according to the State Finance Audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). From ₹16,092 crore in 2016-17, it came down to ₹15,230 crore in 2017-18, the report said.

Colistin banned in animal food industry

Experts call it a significant move in targeting development of resistance to the antibiotic

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

food industry, particularly as growth supplements used in animals, poultry, aqua farms, would likely reduce the antimicrobial resistance within the country.

The order, issued on Friday, directed manufacturers of colistin and its formulations (since it is also used to treat humans) to affix a label on the container reading thus: Not to be used in food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.

Intensivists across the country are rejoicing as the move is a "massive victory" for the movement against anti-microbial resistance. Colistin is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic that saves lives in critical care units and in recent years, medical professionals have been alarmed by the number of patients who have exhibited resistance to the drug. Therefore, any move to ensure that arbitrary use of colistin in the

Late last year, researchers from Apollo Cancer Hospital, Chennai, and Christian Medical College, Vellore, claimed, in a paper in the *Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance*, that samples of raw food lifted from across



Cutting down on the use of colistin in animals improves the chances of reducing resistance to antibiotics. ■ FILE PHOTO

Chennai had tested positive for colistin-resistant bacteria. One of the authors, Abdul Ghafur of Apollo Hospital, is now dancing in joy. "It is a huge, massive, victory. This is what we have been campaigning for, for years. It is one broad sweep to ensure colistin does not enter the food we eat, and thereby, we don't develop resistance to

the antibiotic," he says. A number of experts seem to use superlatives in their response. "This is fantastic, a significant move in targeting the development of resistance," says V. Ramasubramanian, infectious diseases expert, and medical director, Capstone clinic. "Excessive use of any drug leads to resistance. If you can cut the

use of colistin as a growth factor in animals and limit it to therapeutic usage only, the chances of developing resistance to it goes down," he explains, while pointing out it might be a challenge to implement the order.

Dr. Ghafur says awareness programmes need to be conducted for farmers, telling them about the danger of using colistin in feed. "Most are not aware of the presence of colistin, since it comes mixed in the feed. However, we have had discussions with associations of poultry farmers and they have not objected to removing colistin from the mix." Also, he argues that since the bulk of colistin (nearly 95%) is imported from China, it would also be easy to stop importing it within a short time.

WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Sunday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Kerala, Mahe, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Konkan, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Gujarat, Marathawada, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6.2	36.0	27.3	Kozhikode	105.4	27.2	22.8
Ahmedabad	... -	41.0	29.5	Kurnool	12.0	33.0	24.8
Aizawl	1.0	29.9	20.7	Lucknow	13.6	37.4	27.0
Allahabad	... -	38.7	29.4	Madurai	1.0	37.0	27.8
Bengaluru	... -	27.7	20.6	Mangalore	69.0	27.2	22.4
Bhopal	22.7	32.9	23.6	Mumbai	0.2	32.5	26.7
Bhubaneswar	0.3	33.7	26.8	Mysuru	... -	27.7	20.2
Chandigarh	2.6	31.5	27.1	New Delhi	... -	36.7	28.8
Chennai	... -	34.7	26.2	Patna	... -	37.8	29.2
Coimbatore	1.3	32.2	21.8	Port Blair	14.0	31.3	24.4
Dehradun	... -	32.6	24.6	Puducherry	1.0	35.6	25.2
Gangtok	58.0	22.8	18.2	Pune	1.0	30.5	22.2
Goa	78.3	29.4	24.5	Raipur	13.3	32.7	25.0
Guwahati	... -	36.0	26.2	Ranchi	... -	33.6	23.4
Hubballi	... -	26.0	22.0	Shillong	8.7	26.9	16.3
Hyderabad	25.7	31.0	22.6	Shimla	6.1	24.7	16.7
Imphal	2.4	30.0	18.6	Srinagar	... -	31.4	17.0
Jaipur	... -	35.8	27.2	Thiruvananthapuram	20.9	30.7	22.3
Kochi	45.6	27.8	23.8	Tiruchi	... -	36.8	27.0
Kohima	9.4	27.6	17.0	Vijayawada	... -	31.5	25.9
Kolkata	... -	34.9	28.4	Visakhapatnam	2.2	33.5	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	... -	168	82	... -	... -	■
Bengaluru	... -	53	53	25	61	■
Chennai	15	37	43	107	... -	■
Delhi	22	54	60	105	234	■
Hyderabad	26	27	18	70	62	■
Kolkata	2	23	10	46	59	■
Lucknow	... -	4	29	51	136	■
Mumbai	22	20	11	105	106	■
Pune	68	... -	67	40	40	■
Visakhapatnam	14	34	23	62	74	■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. on July 20, 2019, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 171 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 29.

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

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

M.P. yet to form tiger protection force

State recorded highest number of deaths due to poaching from 2012 to 2018

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Having resolved to constitute a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) more than seven years ago, Madhya Pradesh is yet to constitute the battalion, even as the State has registered the most number of tiger deaths due to poaching since 2012.

According to an agreement, signed among the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the State's Chief Wildlife Warden and field directors of Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Pench tiger reserves on February 10, 2012, the State Forest Department was supposed to raise, arm and deploy the force in the reserves within two years of the agreement.

However, in the absence of an independent elite unit to protect tigers in the State, 30 deaths due to poaching have been reported between 2012 and 2018. The causes of 16 of the total 141 deaths, including natural and unnatural ones, reported in the

State during the period are being investigated, according to the NTCA.

Out of the 14 deaths reported in the State this year, one case was due to poaching.

Days of glory
Famous as the "Tiger State" at least until 2006 when it boasted the most number of tigers with an estimated 300 in its six reserves, Madhya Pradesh lost out to Karnataka in 2010 and fell behind Uttarakhand too in 2014, ac-

cording to the Status of Tigers in India report.

"Unlike these States which have contiguous forests, Madhya Pradesh has a patchy cover running through fragmented reserves and human habitations, and therefore it's a challenge to protect tigers and prevent man-animal conflicts here," says U. Prakasham, State Chief Wildlife Warden.

He says more than 50% of the deaths in the State categorised as deaths due to poaching happen outside reserve limits. "Often, tigers get electrocuted upon contact with high tension wires laid by farmers to protect their fields from wild boars," he says.

"Usually, poor tribals living along the fringes of the reserves are made scapegoats for an incident of poaching," claims wildlife activist Ajay Dubey. "The main obstruction to tiger corridors and natural habitats is caused by big landlords whose encroachments in the form of resorts and farmhouses have been altering the lives of tigers and tribals alike."

Stating that during a review meeting with the Forest Department 10 days ago he had directed it to expedite the formation of the STPF, State Minister for Forests Umang Singh said, "We'll emulate the Gujarat model of wildlife conservation wherein locals have been roped in and mortalities have been successfully brought down."

"After much deliberation, I decided that I need to return to more full-time academic life," Mr. Mehta said in a letter addressed to the members of the Ashoka community.

Living dangerously



Killer wheels: A hog deer scampers for life after being hit by a speeding goods carrier when it tried to cross National Highway 37 inside the Kaziranga National Park in Assam on Saturday.

As flood waters receded, animals started returning to Kaziranga from the Karbi Anglong Hills. Park officials say 16 hog deer have been run over by vehicles so far. ■ PHOTOS: RITU RAJ KONWAR

'Medical device manufacturers exaggerating import numbers'

Some domestic players trying to get customs duty hiked: association

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"The growth in imports of medical devices is being purposely exaggerated by a section of the domestic manufacturers to suit their agenda of seeking a hike in customs duty," noted a release issued by the Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI), which represents research-based medical technology companies in India.

The association noted that a section of the domestic manufacturers were presenting the value of imports of 2018-19 as being 25% higher than the previous year.

"The numbers are being presented in rupee terms, which is an erroneous measure as the value of rupee has depreciated sharply and therefore it does not present the correct picture. Dur-

ing the fiscal 2018-19, there was a sharp decline in INR to the extent of about 15% at its peak and if a full year's average is considered, the rupee depreciated by 8.5% in fiscal 2018-19 over the previous fiscal. Therefore, data in rupee terms is not comparable because of the effect of depreciating currency. One has to study the figures in US dollar to deduce a logical conclusion," it said.

Hazy data

"Besides repeatedly publicising hazy data that can skew the narrative, fictitious figures are being presented as facts," said MTAI chairman and director general Pavan Choudary.

He added that a look at the import data from Export-Import Data Bank on Department of Commerce's website made things amply clear. Imports under

Chapter 90 that contains all medical devices, grew 19.82% in 2018-19 from a year earlier when expressed in rupee terms. However, the corresponding growth in US\$ terms was only 10.45%.

"The fact is after the GST regime, importers have to pay respective customs duty which is around 7.5%-10% in addition to 12% of GST. So in effect, importers are paying more taxes after the GST regime than before. It is true that the input tax credit is applicable against GST component on inputs, but the same is available for locally manufactured goods as well. In total, GST regime does not benefit importers in any way over domestic players. In fact, post-GST import duties on many implantable devices have gone up to 10% due to increase in custom duties," said MTAI director Sanjay Bhutani.

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FROM PAGE ONE

RSS is part of Indian 'mosaic': German envoy

"The [RSS] is one part of the mosaic that makes up India. You can't deny that this is a mass movement and whether one likes it or not, it is out there," he asserted.

The Ambassador's visit came in for criticism on social media, and led to an online petition filed by an American scholar on South Asia Pieter Friedrich, with more than 1,000 signatories who are demanding that the Ambassador "resign or be recalled."

The Ambassador's visit to Nagpur is part of a India-wide tour to various cities to discuss bilateral ties ahead of the biannual India-Germany summit expected in October or November this year, when German Chancellor Angela Merkel will travel to Delhi. At the top of the bilateral agenda is trade, and reviving the India-European Union (EU) talks on a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), which has made very little progress since 2013, despite several attempts by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ms. Merkel to give it a fillip.

"India and Germany believe in rules-based free trade, and we have an interest in making the agreement work. I think the new leadership at the European Union will help kickstart the process of the BTIA," said Mr. Lindner, referring to the

(Log on to <http://bit.ly/WLindner1> for interview)

Four new Governors appointed

Mr. Dhanakhar, 68, will take charge in West Bengal at a time when the State is witnessing frequent clashes between workers of the BJP and the Trinamool Congress.

Since the May 23 Lok Sabha election results, 10 advisories on law and order have been sent by the Centre to the State.

Ms. Anandiben Patel goes to Lucknow with the BJP government in the State facing the Opposition's ire over

recent election of former German Defence Minister Ursula Von der Leyen as European Commission President. She will take over later this year. "India and EU need to identify the stumbling blocks in the talks and build a timeline for their resolution," he added.

Key trading partner
Germany is India's most important trading partner in the EU and its sixth most important trading partner worldwide. As a result of the impasse on BTIA talks, India-Germany trade has been pegged around \$20 billion despite the potential for more, say officials, with about 1,700 German companies active in India, about 200 Indian companies active in Germany and more than 600 Indo-German joint ventures in operation.

Known for his prolific presence on Twitter, Mr. Lindner, who presented his credentials in May, has been most famous thus far for his championing a cherry-red Hindustan Ambassador car over the more sophisticated German marques like BMW, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and Audi. Fondly referred to as "Auntie Amby" by Mr. Lindner, the diplomat sees the car as part of what he called soft "empathetic" diplomacy.

(Log on to <http://bit.ly/WLindner1> for interview)

"India and Germany believe in rules-based free trade, and we have an interest in making the agreement work. I think the new leadership at the European Union will help kickstart the process of the BTIA," said Mr. Lindner, referring to the

worsening law and order situation. Lalji Tandon, now Governor of Bihar, will take charge in Madhya Pradesh. He will be replaced in Patna by Phagu Chuhan.

Mr. Ravi's appointment is significant as it could give a boost to peace efforts, given his role as the Centre's interlocutor in talks with the Naga groups.

BJP member Ramesh Bais has been appointed as Governor of Tripura, replacing Kaptan Singh Solanki.

Ex-Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit dead

Calling her a "beloved daughter of the Congress party", Mr. Gandhi said he was devastated by the news.

"I'm devastated to hear about the passing away of Sheila Dikshit Ji, a beloved daughter of the Congress Party, with whom I shared a close personal bond. My condolences to her family & the citizens of Delhi, whom she served selflessly as a 3 term CM, in this time of great grief," he tweeted.



A man swims in floodwaters following heavy rain in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. ■ FILE PHOTO

5 more die in Bihar floods, toll reaches 97

Sitamarhi the worst-affected district

Sitamarhi, with 27 deaths, remained the worst-affected district, the Disaster Management department said.

Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi toured Sitamarhi to take stock of relief and rehabilitation work in the district on Saturday.

A total of 12 districts of Bihar have been affected by flash floods that have hit the State.

Four deaths were reported from Madhubani district which accounted for 18 casualties and one from Darbhanga where a total of 10 people died in the deluge.

C.M.Y.K.

Cong. leader backs demand for land rights, fast-track trial

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's stand-off with the Uttar Pradesh government ended on Saturday, about 24 hours after it began, when she finally met the kin of the tribal victims of the Sonbhadra killings.

Since the administration did not allow Ms. Vadra to visit Ubbha village in Sonbhadra, family members of the victims met her at the Chunari guesthouse in neighbouring Mirzapur, where she had been detained since Friday afternoon.

Ten Gond tribals, including three women, were shot dead on Wednesday when a village headman, Yagya Dutt, and his supporters allegedly opened fire in an attempt to take possession of a piece of land at Ubbha in the Ghorawal area. Twenty-eight persons were injured.

'Unimaginably brutal'
Though the State government stopped her from visiting the site of the violence, Ms. Vadra had insisted that she would not return to Delhi without meeting the kin of the victims, even if it meant being arrested.

"Finally met the families of the Ubbha massacre," Ms. Vadra tweeted. "What they have been through is unimaginably brutal and unjust. Every single Indian should stand with them in the name of humanity," she said.

At Chunari, Ms. Vadra was seen consoling and offering water to the wailing women.

The Congress leader also endorsed a five-point demand put forth by the tri-



With the victims: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra consoling family members of the Sonbhadra firing victims at Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday ■ PTI

bals: ₹25 lakh compensation to the family of each victim, ownership rights over the land they have been cultivating for generations, fast-track hearing on the July 17 killings in Ghorawal, withdrawal of cases against innocent villagers over the land dispute and security to the tribal people leading the fight for their land rights.

Solatium distributed
District Magistrate of Sonbhadra Ankit Agrawal distributed cheques for ₹5 lakh each to the kin of eight of the 10 victims. However, at least two of the tribal women said they were not satisfied with the money and insisted on ownership rights to the land in their village.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to travel to the affected village on Sunday.

The Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch has condemned the killings and held the U.P. government responsible.

Is it end of democracy in U.P., asks Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress alleged here on Saturday that the Uttar Pradesh government was trying to protect the accused in the Sonbhadra clash, and questioned Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for preventing party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from meeting the victims.

"Adityanath has made Uttar Pradesh Apradh Pradesh (crime State). The timeline of different incidents clearly shows that the BJP-led U.P. government is trying to protect the accused," Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference.

Mr. Surjewala said the BJP government was "afraid" of Ms. Vadra and so it decided to detain her. "The reign of Ajay Bisht [Yogi Adityanath] continues to be the most insensitive in memory," he



A Congress protest in Gujarat against Priyanka Gandhi's detention. ■ PTI

said. He accused the Chief Minister of "lying" that the land dispute was the result of inaction of previous Congress governments.

"In October 2017, Adityanath illegally grabbed a land of the tribals. In July 2018, the BJP government tried to give the land to accused Yagya Dutt and booked the tribals under various sections of the IPC. In October 2018, two more FIRs were regis-

tered against the tribals," he said. "On July 6, 2019, the government gave a decision in favour of Dutt and the petition filed by the tribal people was rejected so that their land could be grabbed," he said. From the chain of events, it was clear that the government was protecting the accused.

"Why instead of nabbing the accused, the State government has converted the whole village into a police-controlled area? Why was Priyanka Gandhi detained and why is the Adityanath government and the BJP so scared of her," he asked.

"My fourth question is that why there is a restriction on the entry of Opposition leaders in the State and has democracy ended in U.P. and is hooliganism, riots, rape and killing the identity of the Adityanath government," he asked.

Mamata backs Priyanka's stand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Saturday extended her support to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for trying to meet the families of those killed in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

"What Priyanka did was not wrong," Ms. Banerjee said, adding that "she had two or three people with her. Even my delegation had Derek and two more people." Ms. Banerjee said that when prohibitory orders were issued in West Bengal, the BJP leadership sent their leaders in convoys of cars.

Ansarullah case: NIA seize passbooks, mobile phones

Searches across T.N. including in Ramanathapuram, Theni

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Searches by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) at several locations across Tamil Nadu in connection with the Ansarullah module case led to the seizure of mobile phones, SIM cards, computer disks and bank passbooks, the police said.

In the central region, the raids lasted close to four hours.

As some of the premises were locked, the NIA officials had to break open the doors in the presence of revenue officials and relatives of the accused.

At Ramanathapuram, the teams searched houses of five of the accused from the district.

In the early morning operation, five NIA teams conducted simultaneous

searches in Kilakarai and Thanichiyam in coastal Villavakkam.

Besides copies of school and college educational certificates, Aadhaar cards, ration cards, bank passbooks and driving licences, NIA officials seized a copy of the Bible and an English-to-Chinese dictionary, the police said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Searches were also conducted at Tirunelveli, Madurai and Theni.

Fourteen of the accused were deported from UAE last week for raising funds to establish an Islamic State in India, the NIA has alleged.

Youth maligned
Hyder Ali, general secretary, Tamil Nadu Muslim Munnetra Kazhagam, threatened to organise protests if the State government failed to check the NIA's activities against Muslim youth. Addressing the media, Mr. Ali alleged that the NIA was trying to project Muslim youth in a bad light by concocting stories that they were planning to disturb the peace.

In a chargesheet filed against 10 others on July 21 in a special court at Patiala House in Delhi, the NIA said: "The group wanted to manufacture IEDs, to be detonated by remote controlled devices, of more than 100

NIA drops terror charges against four youth

10 others charged with plotting terror attacks in NCR

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has dropped terror charges against four men arrested last year for allegedly trying to establish an "Islamic State caliphate" by resorting to large-scale terrorist attacks in and around Delhi.

Mohammad Irshad, Raeas Ahmad, Zaid Malik and Mohammad Azam walked free earlier this month after spending over six months in jail. A senior government official said the NIA found no evidence against them.

In a chargesheet filed against 10 others on July 21 in a special court at Patiala House in Delhi, the NIA said: "The group wanted to manufacture IEDs, to be detonated by remote controlled devices, of more than 100

metres range." Two of the accused recorded videos that were to be broadcast after their suicide attacks, it said.

Held in December 2018
Irshad, a resident of Amroha in west Uttar Pradesh, is an autorickshaw driver. Ahmad, also a resident of Amroha, worked at a welding shop. At the time of their arrests, Malik was living at Jatrabard in east Delhi and Azam ran a medical store at Seelampur in east Delhi. The four were arrested in December 2018 with 10 others.

The NIA, in a press release issued on December 26 last year, said Irshad was helping Mohammad Suhail (prime accused) in arranging a hideout for keeping the material for making IEDs and bombs.

It accused Ahmad and his brother Saeed of "procuring huge quantity of explosive material/ gunpowder (around 25 kg) for preparing IEDs and pipe bombs and were instrumental in fabricating a rocket launcher to carry out terrorist attacks." About Azam, the agency said he "helped the mastermind in arranging weapons."

Their counsel, M.S. Khan, told *The Hindu*, "The NIA said in court that sufficient evidence was not found against them but investigations will continue."

The accused against whom the chargesheet was filed are Mufti Mohd Suhail, 30, Anas Younus, 21, Zubair Malik, 22, Rashid Zafar Raq, 24, Md. Saqib, 26, Md. Absar Said, 24, Md. Gufran, 25, Md. Faiz, 25, and Naim Choudhary, 22.



Her efforts to bring in cleaner public transport, extend the Delhi Metro project and build flyovers won wide appreciation

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The political legacy of veteran Congress leader Sheila Dikshit, who was India's longest serving woman Chief Minister, was best summed up by her one-time rival and now Union Minister for Science and Technology, Harsh Vardhan. "We had our differences on policies, but we always admired her behaviour and efficiency," he said as Delhi plunged into mourning following her death on Saturday evening.

"For 15 years, I had the opportunity to work with her in the Assembly as an MLA. But we always admired her behaviour and efficiency at work," he said.

It was this efficiency that made Ms. Dikshit the face of a fast-changing Delhi, someone who knew how to

change political adversity into opportunity.

The city's change to cleaner public transport bears testimony to Ms. Dikshit's efforts. In April 2001, public transport in the national capital collapsed as nearly 10,000 old and polluting diesel buses were ordered off the roads by the Supreme Court. The Congress government led by her was not ready with a plan to deploy cleaner CNG buses.

Yet, by the next Assembly election in 2003, Delhi's change-over to CNG was a success story. Throughout her 15-year tenure, Ms. Dikshit focussed on extending the flagship Delhi Metro project, built a network of flyovers and phased out the killer Blue Line buses.

"For nearly two decades, Sheilaji personified Delhi

and the aspirations of its citizens. She served them with her heart and mind and they gave her their abundant love.

Every resident of Delhi will feel that he or she has today lost a member of his or her family," former Union Minister P. Chidambaram said.

Her largely successful legacy in Delhi was, however, marred by allegations of cor-



SHEILA DIKSHIT (1938-2019)

ruption during the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

She also briefly served as the Governor of Kerala from March to August in 2014.

Ms. Dikshit was born in Kapurthala in Punjab to a non-political family in 1938, and graduated from Mirana House, University of Delhi. In July 1962, she married bureaucrat Vinod Dikshit, who she had met during her college days.

And her first foray into politics came when she assisted her father-in-law Uma Shankar Dikshit, a loyalist of Jawaharlal Nehru who had served as a Minister in the Indira Gandhi Cabinet in 1971 and become the Governor of Karnataka and West Bengal. Ms. Dikshit took the formal plunge in 1984 when she became a Lok Sabha member from Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh. Known to be a loyalist of the Gandhi family, she was hand-picked by Rajiv Gandhi in his Council of Ministers after he became the Prime Minister in 1984.

"We worked closely together during the years she was Chief Minister of Delhi, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief and secretary of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust," Congress leader Sonia Gandhi said in a letter to Ms. Dikshit's son, Sandeep Dikshit. Ahead of the 2017 Assembly election, the Congress projected her as the chief ministerial candidate, but she was dropped after it tipped up with the Samajwadi Party. She was made the Delhi Congress chief ahead of the Lok Sabha election and was defeated in the North East Delhi constituency.

Paradise in peril: Western tourists give a wide berth to Kashmir after Pulwama

Major nations continue to advise their citizens against travelling to the Valley; against 13 lakh tourists in 2016, the first six months of 2019 recorded just 3.54 lakh

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Even five months after the Pulwama attack, major Western countries continue to advise their citizens against travelling to the Kashmir Valley, affecting the State's tourism-reliant economy severely.

France, Germany, Canada, Australia, the U.K. and the U.S., from which high-spending tourists used to visit the scenic valley, have decided to maintain their advisories on Kashmir at the "highest danger" level.

"Do not travel to: The state of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh)

due to terrorism and civil unrest," the U.S. State Department said in its travel advisory dated March 8 and posted on its website. It urges American citizens to avoid travel to "within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border due to the potential for armed conflict".

Heightened tensions

The U.K.'s Foreign and Commonwealth Office advised against all travel to: "Jammu and Kashmir, with the exception of (i) travel within the city of Jammu, (ii) travel by air to the city of Jammu, and (iii) travel within the region of Ladakh".

The office, which regular-



Idle shikaras: Houseboats wait for tourists on the Dal Lake in Srinagar. • NISSAR AHMAD

ly updates its advisories, explained the rationale for its curbs on travel to the State by saying: "Following a terrorist attack in Pulwama on 14 February, there are

heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly across the Line of Control. There may be disruption to air travel in Jammu and Kashmir and

northern India at short notice."

It warns that terrorists are "very likely to try to carry out attacks in India". "There have been recent media reports suggesting Daesh (formerly referred to as ISIL) may have an interest in attacking targets in India," it says.

There are similar advisories from Canada, France and Germany, which, in the past, had lowered the danger level on its travel advisories to "green" for Srinagar and "orange" for the Valley.

An official said France had categorised Srinagar as "green" (free to go) for its citizens immediately after the

five-month agitation in 2016.

It was only after the Pulwama suicide blast on February 14 that many countries, which had earlier eased curbs on travel to Srinagar and the neighbouring tourist destinations of Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam, had advised against visits to the Valley.

At least 40 CRPF jawans were killed in the attack, which almost brought India and Pakistan to the brink of a conflict after the two nuclear-armed nations deployed their Air Forces in limited operations.

The adverse travel advisories have proved detrimental to an already moribund

tourism industry in the State. According to the State Tourism Department, against foreign tourist arrivals of 9,517; 2,360; and 3,031 for April, May and June in 2018, the numbers has fallen to 8,167; 1,293; and 2,669 for the corresponding months this year. "These tourists mainly travel from South-east Asia," said an official.

Against 13 lakh tourists who travelled to Kashmir in 2016, the first six months of 2019 recorded just 3.54 lakh.

"We are analysing Sri Lanka tourism's campaign [launched after the April blasts in the island nation]," State Tourism Secretary Rizwan Samphel said. "They came out with an impressive campaign that has been well received."

domestic tourists to inconvenience," said Manzoor Paktoon, head of JK Tourism Alliance, a trade group.

'Looking at Sri Lanka'

"We need to have tourism police on the highways to ensure tourists are not harassed, lest we face a major dent to tourism economy," he added.

"The strict security measures on the highways for the Amarnath Yatra this year have not only shooed away prospective foreign tourists but even put the

Kashmir issue will be solved: Rajnath

No power on the earth can stop it, says Defence Minister on the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the Kashmir problem was "bound to be solved". The Minister is in Jammu and Kashmir on the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War.

"Kashmir ki samasya ka hal ho ke raheyga, dunya ki koi tagat nahi rok sakti hai (Resolution of the Kashmir issue is bound to happen and no power on earth can stop it)," Mr. Singh said in Kathua, where he inaugurated the Ujh and Basantar bridges built by the Border Roads Organisation.

Tourism pitch

"If somebody does not want a solution through talks, then we know very well how a solution can be found," he



Token of appreciation: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meeting Army personnel at the Kargil War Memorial at Drass on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

said. The Minister said the Centre intended to make Kashmir "not only the paradise of India but also a tourist paradise of the world".

Referring to his appeals of talks to separatists during the NDA government's previous tenure, Mr. Singh said the Hurriyat had shut its door on the members of the delegation. "The new government's focus is only on speedy development and prosperity of J&K," he said.

The Defence Minister paid tributes to the soldiers killed in the 1999 Kargil War at a memorial in Drass sector.

He was accompanied by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (Northern Command) Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh, said a Defence spokesman.

The Defence Minister also visited Veer Bhoomi and the Hut of Remembrance, which are located on the memorial premises.

Mr. Singh also dedicated to the nation a Memory Lane, which displays information on a few important battles that took place in Kargil. He later interacted with the soldiers deployed in the sector.

Draft education policy robs States of power, says CPI(M)

It encourages centralisation and commercialisation: Yechury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The draft National Education Policy contravenes the Constitution and the federal system, according to the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

In a letter to the Human Resource Development Minister on Saturday, party general secretary Sitaram Yechury called for the complete withdrawal of the chapter recommending the centralisation of powers in education governance.

The Constitution puts education in the Concurrent List, giving authority and responsibility to both the States and the Centre. However, Mr. Yechury alleged

that the draft had robbed the States by creating "an excessively centralised structure of authority" and vesting overarching powers with the PM-led Rashtriya Shiksha Ayog (RSA).

One-size-fits-all solution

"States are expected to function merely as local-level units of the RSA, without having the freedom to establish their own priorities or position themselves critically against the policies of the Centre," said the letter.

"The RSA hierarchy of decision-making is an insult to the federal character of our Constitution... it imposes uniformity and one-size-fits-all solutions on a diversity of

learning needs and circumstances that require nuanced policy responses," it said.

Mr. Yechury also opposed the "elitist and pro-corporate" thrust of the policy, claiming that it would ensure the "centralisation, commercialisation and communalisation of the Indian education system". He called for wider consultations before the policy was finalised.

He observed that the draft policy had set up an ambitious gross enrolment ratio target of 50% by 2035, but hoped that the target would be achieved without binding the Union government to funding commitments.

Release our sailors, India tells Iran

New Delhi reaches out to Tehran over 18 seamen on board detained oil tanker

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

India has reached out to the Iranian government to help release 18 Indian crew members on board the British oil tanker seized by Iranian forces in the Straits of Hormuz, the government said here on Saturday.

"We are ascertaining further details on the incident. Our [Embassy] is in touch with the Government of Iran to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian nationals," said External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, a day after the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) soldiers boarded and seized the *Stena Impero*.

'Will protect them'
The Iranian Embassy in Delhi said it did not have further information on the charges against the Indians arrested, but Iran would



protect them. "Based on the goodwill which exists between Iran and India, the two countries protect the nationals of the other side, and this is not a matter of concern," said a senior embassy official when asked by *The Hindu* about the fate of the Indians on board the cargo vessel.

The ship's captain and 17 other crew members detained on board are Indians, said an Iranian official, quoted by news agencies. The official listed five others with Russian, Philippines and Latvian nationalities.

Gibraltar incident
The *Stena Impero* is owned by a Swedish company, Sten Bulk, but was flying the British flag. U.K. officials say they believe that the seizure by Iran was in

retaliation for the seizure of an Iranian tanker *Grace 1* off Gibraltar by British forces earlier this month. The oil tanker is alleged to have violated U.S. sanctions on Syria. Four Indians among the crew on board the vessel were detained but later freed on bail without charges.

The seizures of both tankers in the past few weeks highlight one more aspect of how India is being affected by growing tensions between the U.S. and its allies, and Iran. Indian sailors on various ships are under threat from the tit-for-tat actions on the high seas, along with the lakhs of Indians living in the Gulf region who would face the consequences of any open conflict. For the past few weeks, Indian air carriers have avoided overflying parts of Iranian airspace after American FAA strictures, which has already meant crores in losses.

Pakistan troops violate ceasefire again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

A civilian was injured in fresh ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops in the Pir Panjal valley's Poonch district on Saturday, the Army said.

An Army spokesman said Pakistani troops initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation around 9 a.m. by firing small arms and shelling with mortars along the Line of Control in Mendhar Sector, Mankote and Krishna Ghati.

Zaffar Ullah Khan, a deputy sarpanch in Mankote tehsil, was injured when a shell exploded in the area.

The Army personnel manning the LoC retaliated strongly, the spokesman said.

TUMAKURU MACHINE TOOL PARK (JOINT VENTURE OF GOI & GOK)
49, East Wing , 5th Floor, Khanjia Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone: 080-2228841/42/43 E-mail: tmtlp@kiadb.in Website: www.kiadb.in (CIN-U45207KA2017NP09566)
No : TMTP/ENGG/ETND-EP- 02/13/2019-20 Date: 20.07.2019

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Electrical) registered in KPWD and KCEI license who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx cost put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Time for completion Including Monsoon	Class of Contractor
1	Providing LED street lights at Tumakuru Machine Tool Park Industrial Layout in Vasanthanarsapura Industrial Area 3 rd phase, Tumakuru District.	386.00	5.79	04 Months	KPWD & KCEI Class-I (Electrical)

Applicants may download Bidding Documents for the above works from the e-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Schedule of dates are as follows:

- Last date to receive pre bid Queries : 29.07.2019 Up to 05:00 p.m.
- Pre bid meeting will be held on : 31.07.2019 at 3:00 p.m.
- Last date for submission of Technical and Financial bids is : 19.08.2019 upto 04:00 p.m.
- Time and date of opening of Technical bids is on : 21.08.2019 at 11:30 a.m.

Sd/- Chief Technical Officer, Tumakuru Machine Tool Park

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (SWD West Zone), 9th Floor, Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru -11.

No: EE/WZ/ETND-01/Corrigendum-2/2019-20 Date: 17.07.2019

CORRIGENDUM-2

TWO COVER SYSTEM (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Name of Work: 1) Construction / Remodelling of Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Drains, Culverts / Bridges & all other Allied works of SWD Spread out at various locations in West Zone Under CMNBY Scheme Package-1(2019-20) West Zone.

2) Construction / Remodelling of Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Drains, Culverts / Bridges & all other Allied works of SWD Spread out at various locations in West Zone Under CMNBY Scheme Package-2 (2019-20) West Zone.

Reference: This office Tender Notification No.EE/SWD/WZ/TEND/01/2019-20 Dated:15.06.2019

This is to notify that due to technical reasons, the above tender notification is postponed. The new calendar of events is as below.

SI. No.	Calendar of Events	As per previous Notification	As per Modified Dates
1.	Pre bid Meeting in the office of the Chief Engineer SWD BBMP	03.07.2019 15:30 hours	26.07.2019 16:00 hours
2.	Last date for receipt of tender document	19.07.2019 16:00 hours	03.08.2019 16:00 hours
3.	Date of Opening of Technical bid	22.07.2019 16:30 hours	05.08.2019 16:30 hours
4.	Date of Opening of Financial bid	24.07.2019 16:30 hours	After getting approval to technical bid

All other Terms and Conditions of the notification remains the same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer - SWD, West Zone

Pay Development Charges - Help to Develop Bengaluru

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Project Central - 5 & SWM,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No : BBMP/EE/P-5&SWM/TEND/03/2019-20 Date : 19-07-2019

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Projects Central - 5 & Solid Waste Management, invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD
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Iran defends seizure of U.K. oil tanker

Tehran says the vessel collided with an Iranian fishing boat after ignoring distress call

REUTERS
GENEVA/LONDON

Britain denounced the Iranian seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf as a "hostile act" on Saturday, rejecting Tehran's explanation that it had seized the vessel because it had been involved in an accident.

Friday's action by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the global oil trade's most important waterway has been viewed in the West as a major escalation in three months of confrontation that took Iran and the United States to the brink of war. It came two weeks after Britain seized an Iranian tanker off Gibraltar accused of violating sanctions on Syria, an action that prompted numerous Iranian threats to retaliate.

A spokesman for Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Brigadier-General Ramezan Sharif, said Tehran had seized the ship in the Strait of Hormuz despite the "resistance and interference" of a British warship which had been escorting it.

Iran's Fars news agency said the Guards had taken control of the *Stena Impero* on Friday after it collided with an Iranian fishing boat whose distress call it ignored.

23 crew members

The vessel, carrying no cargo, was taken to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. It would remain there with its 23 crew members – 18 of them Indians – while the accident was investigated, Iranian news agencies quoted the head of Ports and Maritime Organisation in southern Hormozgan province, Al-lahmorad Afifpour, as saying.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency posted a video

Gulf gambits

Tensions in the Gulf have escalated in recent months amid a deepening stand-off between Iran and the United States over Tehran's nuclear programme. Here is a timeline:

May 8: Iran announces that it will drop certain commitments under the nuclear agreement

May 12: The UAE says four commercial oil tankers had been targeted by "acts of sabotage" in Gulf waters off its coast. The U.S. and Saudi Arabia blame Tehran

June 13: Two fuel-loaded tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz towards the Indian Ocean are hit by mysterious blasts that cause major fires. Washington, London and Riyadh accuse Tehran of being behind the attacks

June 20: Iran's Revolutionary Guards say they have shot down a U.S. drone

June 21: President Donald Trump says he approved a retaliatory strike but cancelled it at the last minute

July 5: Tehran summons U.K. Ambassador over an incident off Gibraltar as Royal Marines seize a tanker that the U.K. suspects was

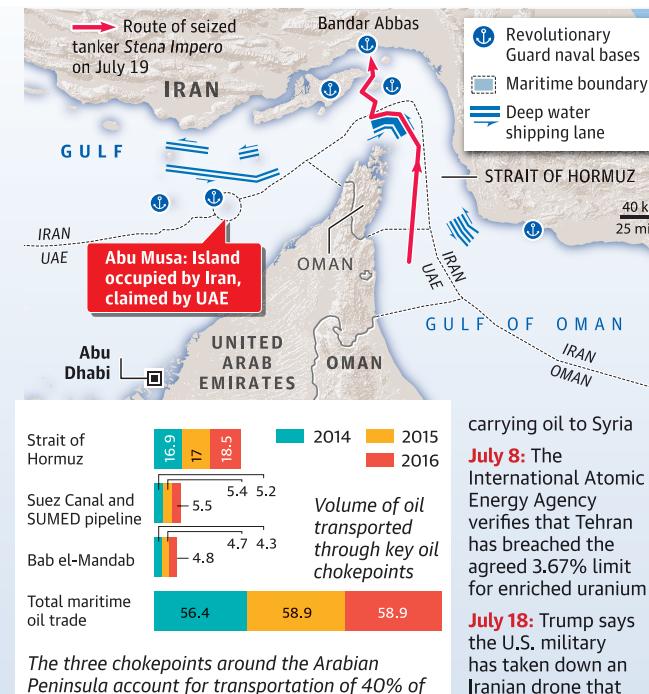
July 8: The International Atomic Energy Agency verifies that Tehran has breached the agreed 3.67% limit for enriched uranium

July 18: Trump says the U.S. military has taken down an Iranian drone that came within 1,000 yards of one of its naval vessels in the Strait of Hormuz

July 19: Iran seizes U.K.-flagged *Stena Impero* for "failing to respect international maritime rules"

July 20: The three chokepoints around the Arabian Peninsula account for transportation of 40% of the total oil traded

Total maritime oil trade



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It's curtains for Aditya Birla payments bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Within 18 months of starting operations, the payments bank of the Aditya Birla Group has decided to wind up operations citing 'unanticipated developments in [the] business landscape.'

Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd. was one of the 11 entities that had received a payments bank licence from the RBI in August 2015. The bank began operations as Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank from February, 2018.

"This decision has been taken due to unanticipated developments in the business landscape that have made the economic model unviable," Vodafone Idea said in a statement to the exchanges.

HDFC Bank net up 21% on higher income

Savings, current account deposits fall below 40% for first time in 12 quarters, retail loan growth slows

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Private sector lender HDFC Bank reported a 21% increase in its net profit to ₹5,568.2 crore for the quarter ended June 30 driven by both core and non-core income.

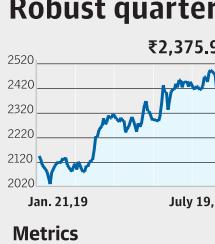
Net interest income, which is the difference between interest earned and interest expended, grew 22.9% to ₹13,294.3 crore, while other income increased 30.2% to ₹4,970.3 crore.

Net interest margin for the quarter remained stable at 4.3%.

There was a gain of ₹212 crore during the period under review from sale of investments as compared to a loss of ₹283.2 crore during the same period of the previous year.

"The core cost-to-income

Robust quarter



The core cost-to-income ratio for the quarter ended June 30, 2019 was 39.4%, compared with 40.1% a year earlier

Metrics	Q1 FY20	Q1 FY19	Growth(%)
Net interest income (₹cr.)	13,294.3	10,813.6	22.9
Net profit (₹cr.)	5,568.2	4,601.4	21.0
Earnings per share (₹)	20.4	17.7	
Gross NPA (%)	1.4	1.3	
Special dividend (₹)	5.0	-	

ratio for the quarter was at 39.4% as against 40.1% for the corresponding quarter ended June 30, 2018," the bank said in a statement.

The gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio inched up to 1.4% of gross advances as

on end June as compared to 1.33% a year ago and 1.36% as of end March.

Excluding non-performing assets from the agricultural segment, the gross NPA would have been 1.17%, the bank said.

Excluding NPAs from the agri segment, gross NPAs come to 1.17%

Provisions went up to ₹2,613.7 crore in Q1 from ₹1,629.4 crore, of which specific loan loss and contingent provisions were ₹2,413.5 crore as against ₹1,432.2 crore for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

General provisions

The bank has made general provisions of ₹200.2 crore, which include additional provisions of ₹85.9 crore for standard advances to the NBFC and housing finance sector.

"The bank held floating provisions of ₹1,451 crore as on June 30, 2019," the bank said. Total deposits of the

bank increased 18.5% year-on-year, while current and savings account deposits grew by 12.8%.

CASA deposits fell below 40% for the first time in 12 quarters, and were 39.7% of total deposits as of June 30, 2019.

Vehicle loans grow 8.3%

While advances grew 17% year-on-year, the vehicle loan segment, where sales volumes have seen some moderation, saw advances grow 8.3% over the previous year, the bank said.

Retail loans grew 16.5% on year, as compared to 19% during the Jan.-March period, while domestic wholesale loans grew by 19.6%. The domestic loan mix between retail and wholesale was 54:46.

Jet RP invites proposals for the sale of assets

Assets include buildings, 14 aircraft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The resolution professional (RP) of Jet Airways on Saturday called for expressions of interest (EoIs) to sell the grounded airline's meagre assets by August 3.



The final date for submission of resolution plans of these applicants will be September 5, it added.

The estimated date for submission of the resolution plan by the RP to the National Company Law Tribunal for approval is September 20. The airline's assets include 14 aircraft, 49% stake in Jet Privilege and a few buildings. Its liabilities are more than ₹36,000 crore.

Reliance Jio may unveil GigaFiber at shareholder meet on August 12

Wired broadband service likely to target 50 million homes

PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

After disrupting the Indian mobile telephony market, Reliance Jio is all set to storm the wired broadband market with its commercial launch slated to be announced during Reliance Industries' (RIL's) annual general meeting on August 12.

The company plans to launch its GigaFiber services, which would include home broadband, entertainment and smart home IoT (Internet of things) solutions.

"The commercial launch of fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) services is likely to be announced during company's AGM next month," a source



Mukesh Ambani

in the know of the development told *The Hindu*.

Asked for comments, a senior RIL official neither confirmed nor denied the report.

"Wireline network connectivity in India continues to remain underserved. Jio is

working towards serving the need for better connectivity with its GigaFiber services. Jio, with its FTTH services, has set a target of connecting 50 million homes across the country," Mukesh Ambani, chairman, RIL, had said in a letter to shareholders.

Investments made

To help meet this goal, RIL has made strategic investments in Hathway Cable and Datacom Limited and DEN Networks Limited.

Jio GigaFiber currently offers ultra-high-speed Internet of up to 100 Mbps for 90 days along with a monthly data quota of 100 GB and a complimentary access to many of Jio's premium apps.

The World Bank's India

Govt. in talks with foreign lenders for loans to SMEs

Indian banks not in a position to provide enough capital to small businesses, says official

REUTERS

NEW DELHI

The government is in talks with foreign lenders to provide \$14.5 billion in credit to millions of small firms, two officials said.

The government is in discussions with multiple foreign lenders, including Germany's state-owned development bank KfW Group, the World Bank and some Canadian institutions to extend lines of credit to small enterprises, one of the officials, who did not want to be identified, told Reuters.

KfW's India office confirmed the discussions, though the main focus was on credit lines to support small businesses' solar power generation. The talks were at an early stage, KfW said.

The World Bank's India



In the lurch: Credit availability for SMEs has worsened due to a liquidity crisis in the NBFC sector. ■ REUTERS

spokesperson did not reply to an email seeking comment. The official said the government plans to source up to ₹1 lakh crore of loans from foreign institutions because Indian banks were not in a position to provide

enough capital for the small business sector, which is seen as critical to job creation. "We are exploring, we are having discussions with various funding agencies if something can be done [for small and medium firms],"

the second official said.

The officials did not provide full details of the discussions they are having with banks, or identify all those they are talking to, but said talks are at a very early stage.

India's micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) Ministry is discussing the proposal – to pull in foreign banks – with the Finance Ministry, which will make a final call, the second official said. The push for foreign loans comes on the heels of

the government's announcement earlier this month that it was planning to borrow about ₹700 billion by issuing overseas sovereign bonds.

India's 63 million firms in the micro, small and medium firm sector are responsible for more than a quarter of the country's manufacturing and services output, and must be re-energised for the government to kick-start the economy. Gross domestic product growth fell to a five-year low of 5.8% in the January-March quarter, well below the 8%-plus rates that the government is targeting.

But credit availability for SMEs, which also account for about 45% of the country's exports, has worsened due to a liquidity crisis in the non-banking financial companies (NBFC) sector.

State-owned banks have not been able to drive increased lending because they are burdened with more than \$145 billion in bad loans. Last month, a study by an RBI panel said the overall deficit in credit for the MSME sector is estimated at about ₹20-25 lakh crore.

IndiGo to seek nod to induct woman director

Board to ask for shareholder approval

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The board of directors of strife-torn IndiGo on Saturday said that it would seek the approval of its shareholders to induct an independent woman director – one of the issues flagged by co-founder Rakesh Gangwal in his complaint to the SEBI on violations of corporate governance norms at the firm.

"The Board has decided to seek the approval of the shareholders at the upcoming annual general meeting for expanding the board to enable the induction of an independent woman director," according to IndiGo's press statement.

"Wireline network connectivity in India continues to remain underserved. Jio is

that expanding the board would require amending the Articles of Association.

SEBI intervention

In his letter, Mr. Gangwal sought SEBI's intervention in alleged violation of its regulations and corporate governance, "unusual rights" enjoyed by co-founder Rahul Bhatia's InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) including the right to appoint three out of six directors, nominate the chairman of the board, nominate and appoint the MD, CEO and the president, besides the absence of an independent woman director.

He also objected to increasing related party transactions between IndiGo and IGE and highlighted the need for proper checks and balances in conducting them.

Axis Bank gets nod to raise ₹18,000 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Axis Bank said on Saturday its board had approved raising up to ₹18,000 crore through an issue of equity shares, depository receipts or convertible securities.

The board of directors of the bank approved the proposal in this regard at a meeting held on Saturday, the bank said in a filing.

"The board has approved raising of funds aggregating up to ₹18,000 crore," Axis Bank said.

The funds would be raised subject to shareholders' approval to the fundraising proposal through postal ballot process.

Axis Bank is one of the worst-affected private lenders after RBI's asset quality review, which led to a huge increase in bad loans over the past three years.

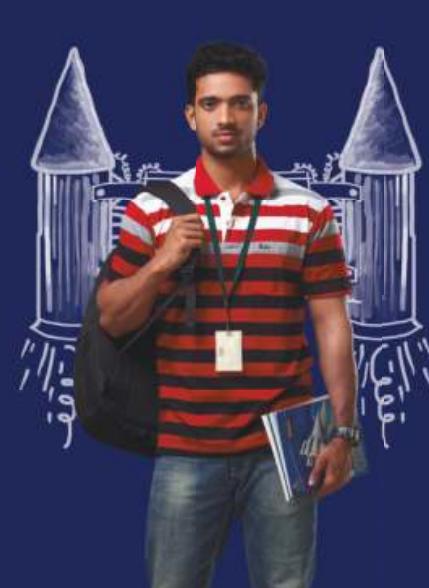
HOW EFFECTIVE IS STEP FOR ENGLISH LEARNING?

We let data do the talking!
We compared three different groups of learners.

Group A	Group B	Group C
40-hour Online STEP Course	40-hour Online + 20-hour Classroom STEP Course	No STEP Course
1073 students	1066 students	37 students

What does our data say?

Group A	Group B	Group C
19.4% improvement	23.6% improvement	7.7% improvement



Highlights

- Improvement strongly correlated with time spent
- Greatest improvement seen in students starting at lower levels
- Students starting at higher levels maintain/strengthen skills

Our Design Principles

Easy Entry
for the Lower Skilled = Stickiness + Motivation

Adaptive Learning
for the Higher Skilled = Higher Proficiency

Blended Learning
for the Lesser Motivated = Better Outcomes

STEP @ MIT

This data was included in a peer-reviewed research paper presented by STEP at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology's J-WEL's LINC conference in Boston.

Read the full paper here:
BIT.LY/STEPATMIT



STEP
Standardised Test of English Proficiency
from THE HINDU GROUP

Volkswagen to increase localisation level, double market share in India

Plans to start making engines here, expand supplier base

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Automaker Volkswagen plans to increase its indigenisation level by 10 percentage points and is aiming to double its market share in India in the next five years, said a top official.

"Currently, we have a localisation level of 82% and we are planning to increase it to 92% to 93% in a year's time," said Steffen Knapp, managing director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India.

As part of the localisation efforts, the company plans to start making engines in India



What are the advantages blockchain offers?

What is the potential of this foundational technology and how much can be tapped? What are the hurdles?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: For a little over a decade, the term blockchain has been flitting in and out of news cycles, especially in connection with bitcoin, the digital cryptocurrency. The Reserve Bank of India has banned speculation and investment in cryptocurrencies. Of late, however, blockchain is seeing a revival, and companies are looking at how to use the tremendous potential of the technology that underpins the cryptocurrency.

What is blockchain?

It is a foundational technology or a platform that allows designing a secure way to record transactions and circulate it among signatories, or any kind of target group with an Internet connection. At its core it is an extremely democratic ledger that cannot be arbitrarily manipulated and easily shareable.

Blockchain's appeal is that it achieves this without a central authority. Blockchain burst into public consciousness because of its association with Satoshi Nakamoto, a mysterious individual or cabal that laid out a white paper on how blockchain could be applied to bitcoin, a virtual currency wrought from the principles of blockchain. Having money free of the fiat of Central governments raised utopian possibilities especially in a world where democracies complain of being subdivided and labour and capital continue to be entangled in the elusive quest for equilibrium. Thereafter, it spawned its own life-cycle, imitation currencies, association with the sordid and Dark Net. While cryptocurrencies have a bad reputation, Silicon Valley tech giants and investment banks are trying to salvage the underlying promise of blockchain and use it for other collaborations.

How does blockchain work?

Every block in a blockchain is a record of transactions and the more of the latter, the longer the chain. Just as worthless paper transforms into valuable currency with the signature of the RBI governor, blocks are great because they provide an unalterable document of the history of every transaction. In the context of currency, it stores the place, time, value (rupee, for example) and location of a purchase. There is minimal identifying information and every block is linked to a unique 'digital signature' of the transacting participants. Every block is distinguished from another through a unique code which is a string of numbers. When you use your debit or credit card to make a transaction, VISA or Mastercard employ their technology to verify your bank account, connect with banks and process a transaction.

In blockchain applications, this verifying role is outsourced to several computers on a network – each has the exact same copy of the block. These computers verify the genuineness of transaction by solving mathematical problems that can only be done in brute-force, energy intensive ways that require a lot of computational power, and therefore electricity. This is a key reason why blockchain enthusiasts vouch for the security of blockchain-backed transactions. Depending on where the blockchain technology is deployed, these participating computers or users have to be incentivised for all that energy expenditure.

In the case of bitcoin, the computers are rewarded with bitcoin. This is stored in digital wallets and may be used like money provided there are sellers of real world goods who would accept bitcoins. Nowadays, they are frequently traded as another speculative, volatile asset.

What real world problem does blockchain solve?

As of today nothing, but blockchain backers say it solves the problem of 'trust'. Because the major cost of any

Block by block

A blockchain is a database which is shared across a network of computers. One can add data to it but not change previous data within it. The network runs constant checks to ensure the authenticity of the database. While the most noted use of blockchain is in the cryptocurrency Bitcoin, its application in other disciplines is in the pipeline

HOW BLOCKCHAIN WORKS

A transaction is initiated. All details of this transaction are recorded

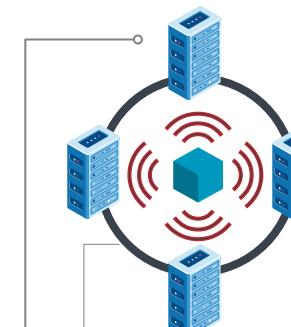
*Hashing is a form of cryptographic security that is very hard to be reversed or decrypted

A consensus mechanism is in place which allows the system to function smoothly. Simply put, it is a set of rules which are agreed upon by the nodes in the network that enables them to work together without having to trust or even know each other

Transaction: Can be any information, a deal or a trade for instance (also known as a 'record')

Peer-to-peer network: A network of computers which share resources and process data without going through a separate server. Each computer acts like a server in such a network

Block: A collection of records which have been validated



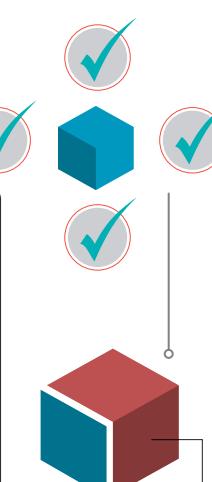
This transaction request is then broadcast to a peer-to-peer network to ensure its validity. Every computer in the network is called a 'node'

This block is a part of a chain which contains other such blocks. Along with its own code, it has the hash code of the previous block. The blocks are ordered according to their hash codes

VALIDATION

The network of nodes validates the request and user's status

- Even the smallest change to the original input will generate a new hash.
- For instance, if someone attempted to manipulate a record in a block, a new hash for that block would be generated and the chain would break



If verified, the record gets added to a block which contains other records. Each block has a unique identifier known as a hash code*. A hash code is a string of numbers and letters of digital information

Blockchain in India: Last year and in the run-up to build Andhra Pradesh's new capital Amaravati, blockchain was used to enable near foolproof digitised land records. It is cited as a case of almost 100% transparency in the end-to-end process

COMPILED BY: SUMANT SEN

settlement, and securities settlement"

Ethereum is another blockchain-based startup that looks to decentralise online information. Its ambition is beyond overturning online banking and it claims that if it were to work as envisioned, it will give users control over their data unlike the present where a lot of our privacy is ceded to Google and Amazon's servers. Some plan to apply blockchain to trace the origin of food and where it is grown and yet others to journalism and 'fact-checking' applications. Unlike blockchain's distributed computing philosophy, all these applications ultimately store information on a coalition of repositories.

Is blockchain just hype?

The *HBR* article cited earlier, by Marco Iansiti and Karim R. Lakhani, likens blockchain to the early days of the Internet, which was made possible by so-called distributed computing. A new mode, called the TCP/IP (transmission control protocol/internet protocol), which specified how computers could be networked to transmit and receive packets of digital information, turned out to be a platform that laid the base for private networks, email, the web, websites, search engines. TCP/IP minimises central management and makes networks resilient and far-reaching. The protocol was not the crying need of humanity but once in place, upended the telecommunications industry and in the last three decades virtually every aspect of life.

Technology has always proved to be disruptive. If blockchain's appeal lies in its appeal to destroy intermediaries such as banks, courts, lawyers, it is unlikely to be smooth sailing

and have them masquerade them as 'locks' to secure your money, confidential documents or any kind of information.

While blockchain has the aura of transparency – anybody supposedly can check the history of a 'block' – it is at its core impervious to common sense. However, just as the inability to grasp in a visceral sense how letters typed on a mobile phone transform and make their way into another phone instantaneously a continent away does not stop people from using WhatsApp, blockchain technology has created enough hype and drama to have drawn the world's wealthiest to invest in it and inveigle it into ordinary lives.

Where can it be used?

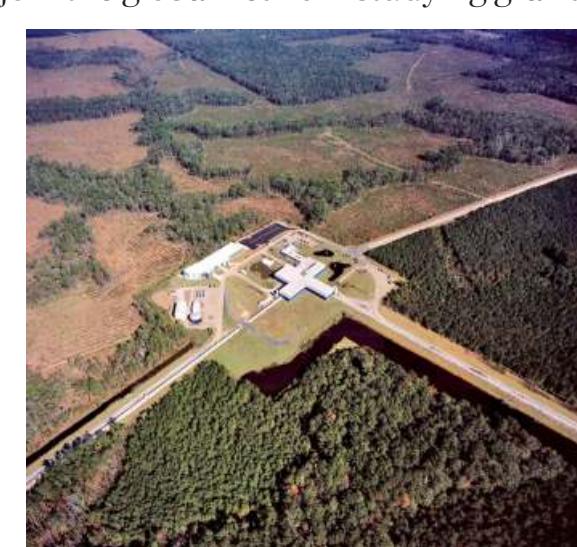
Facebook this year announced Libra, a kind of blockchain-backed digital currency. According to report in a 2017 issue of the *Harvard Business Review (HBR)*, "Bank of America, JPMorgan, the New York Stock Exchange, Fidelity Investments, and Standard Chartered are testing blockchain technology as a replacement for paper-based and manual transaction processing in such areas as trade finance, foreign exchange, cross-border

Technology has always proved to be disruptive, creating new opportunities and jobs and destroying old ones. If blockchain's appeal lies in its appeal to destroy intermediaries – banks, courts, lawyers – it is unlikely to be smooth sailing. Moreover, there is already serious theorising by economists that shows how blockchain has its own vulnerabilities and susceptibility to creating new hegemonies, power networks, cartels and challenges to global energy consumption.

How will India contribute to LIGO?

Why is it important for the country to join the global network studying gravitational waves? What will it achieve?

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN



An aerial view of the LIGO detector site, at Livingston, Louisiana, U.S. ■ REUTERS/CALTECH/MIT/LIGO LABORATORY/2016

a genuine gravitational wave has been detected. It is because two detectors have detected the faint signal in coincidence that the observer is convinced it is a genuine reading and not noise.

What is the need to have another detector in India?

Right now, with just three detectors, there is huge uncertainty in determining where in the sky the disturbance came from. Observations from a new detector in a far-off position will help locate the source of the gravitational waves more accurately.

What are the possible sources of gravitational waves?

Mergers of black holes or neutron stars, rapidly rotating neutron stars, supernova explosions and the remnants of the disturbance caused by the formation of the universe, the Big Bang itself, are the strongest sources. There can be many other sources, but these are likely to be too weak to detect.

Why does one study gravitational waves?

As a largely unknown and fundamental phenomenon, gravitational waves are interesting to scientists. But once many more detectors are in place, the study also offers a new way to map out the universe, using gravitational-wave astronomy. Perhaps one day we will have such accurate detection facilities that can mislead one into thinking

gravitational waves bouncing off celestial objects can help us detect and map them.

What do we know about LIGO India?

LIGO India will come up in Maharashtra, near Aundha in Hingoli district. Most of the land has been acquired, and the small balance is going through a slightly longer acquisition procedure. The project is formally in the construction phase, with the building design conceptualised. Says Tarun Souradeep, spokesperson for LIGO India, "We are close to finalising the civil infrastructure drawings. The plans for immense vacuum infrastructure have been conceptualized, reviewed and are in an advanced stage."

Will LIGO India be different from LIGO itself?

Like the LIGO detectors, the one at LIGO India will also have two arms of 4 km length. But while there are similarities there will be differences too. Being an ultra-high precision large-scale apparatus, LIGO India is expected to show a unique "temperament" determined by the local site characteristics. In an email to *The Hindu*, Dr. Souradeep, says, "LIGO India and its complex

feedback control loops to high sensitivity will follow a fairly independent track and poses an exciting full-scale challenge. Under a memorandum of understanding, the National Geophysical Research Institute is carrying out a year-long, multiple-station seismic survey campaign at the LIGO India site to characterise the local properties. This is in addition to the elaborate geotechnical and geophysical survey completed earlier this year."

What is the technology being developed in India for LIGO India?

Some of it includes design and fabrication of ultra stable laser, quantum measurement techniques, handling of complex control system for enforcing precision control, large-scale ultra-high vacuum technology, data analysis and machine learning. This is not a complete list and the development of such indigenous technology is likely to result in many spin-offs for industry and research.

Whither House panels?

In the backdrop of a number of Bills having been passed without scrutiny, why are parliamentary standing committees necessary?

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

The story so far: Eleven of the 22 Bills introduced in the ongoing session of Parliament have been passed, which makes it a highly productive session after many years. But these Bills have been passed without scrutiny by parliamentary standing committees, their purpose being to enable detailed consideration of a piece of legislation. After the formation of the 17th Lok Sabha, parliamentary standing committees have not been constituted as consultations among parties are still under way. Partly as a result of this, the Bills were passed without committee scrutiny. They were discussed in Parliament over durations ranging between two and five hours.

Why have parliamentary committees?

In a parliamentary democracy, Parliament has broadly two functions, which are lawmaking and oversight of the executive branch of the government. Parliament is the embodiment of the people's will. Committees are an instrument of Parliament for its own effective functioning.

Given the volume of legislative business, discussing all Bills under the consideration of Parliament in detail on the floor of the House is impossible. Committees are platforms for threadbare discussion on a proposed law. At least in principle, the assumption is that the smaller cohort of lawmakers, assembled on the basis of the proportional strength of individual parties and interests and expertise of individual lawmakers, could have more open, intensive and better informed discussions. Committee meetings are 'closed door' and members are not bound by party whips, which allows them the latitude for a more meaningful exchange of views as against discussions in full and open Houses where grandstanding and party positions invariably take precedence.

Disruptive changes in technology and the expansion of trade, commerce and economy in general throw up new policy challenges that require a constant reform of legal and institutional structures. While lawmaking gets increasingly complex, lawmakers cannot infinitely expand their knowledge into ever expanding areas of human activities. For instance, we live in an era of metadata being generated by expanding connectivity. The laws and regulations that are required to govern a digital society cannot be made without highly specialised knowledge and political acumen. Members of Parliament may have great acumen but they would require the assistance of experts in dealing with such situations. It is through committees that

such expertise is drawn into lawmaking. Executive accountability to the legislature is enforced through questions in Parliament also, which are answered by ministers. However, department standing committees go one step further and hear from senior officials of the government in a closed setting, allowing for more detailed discussions. This mechanism also enables parliamentarians to understand the executive processes closely.

What are the types of committees?

Most committees are 'standing' as their existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis; some are 'select' committees formed for a specific purpose, for instance, to deliberate on a particular bill. Once the Bill is disposed of, that select committee ceases to exist. Some standing committees are departmentally related, an example being the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development. A Bill related to education could either be considered by the department standing committee or a select committee that will be specifically set up. The chair uses her discretion to refer a matter to a parliamentary committee but this is usually done in consultation with leaders of parties in the House. Financial control is a critical tool for Parliament's authority over the executive; hence finance committees are considered to be particularly powerful. The three financial committees are the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business). Committee reports are usually exhaustive and provide authentic information on matters related to governance. Bills that are referred to committees are returned to the House with significant value addition. Parliament is not bound by the recommendations of committees.

What are its origins?

As is the case with several other practices of Indian parliamentary democracy, the institution of Parliamentary Committees also has its origins in the British Parliament. The first Parliamentary Committee was constituted in 1571 in Britain. The Public Accounts Committee was established in 1861. In India, the first Public Accounts Committee was constituted in April 1950. According to P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, "The practice of regularly referring bills to committees began in 1989 after government departments started forming their own standing committees. Prior to that, select committees or joint committees of the houses were only set up to scrutinise in detail some very important bills, but this was few and far between."

CAPSULE



Timing eruptions

A group from Cambridge University has estimated that magma can be stored from hundreds to a thousand years at the crust-mantle boundary before being let out in a volcanic eruption. Researchers used diffusion of chromium and aluminium atoms to estimate this. The discovery can help forecast volcanic eruptions.



Similar species

The brain circuitry involved in the sense of smell is similar across six different mammal species from mice to cats. The relative sizes of three components of the olfactory neural network - nose, olfactory bulb and piriform cortex - are preserved across the six species studied, finds a study published in *Current Biology*.



Mind of the mosquito

Researchers from University of Washington, U.S., have figured out how female mosquitoes integrate various sensory cues to decide how and where to find their next blood meal. After the mosquito senses chemical cues with her olfactory system, she looks around to scan the area for shapes and integrating these inputs decides where to fly.



Fossil mammal

A 165-million-year-old fossil of *Microdocodon gracilis*, a shrew-like mammal, found in China in 2014, was examined recently. Researchers find it in the earliest evidence of tiny hyoid bones that link the back of the mouth, the pharynx, to the openings of the oesophagus and larynx. The tiny animal must have weighed 5 to 9 grams.

NCBS: How micro RNAs regulate the colour of fruits, leaves

Engineered plants can produce anthocyanin and flavonol which have medicinal uses, the team finds

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

A team from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, has found that the rich colour in fruits and leaves of plants are indirectly controlled by specific micro RNAs - miR828 and miR858.

Grape plants bear fruits having colours that can be deep purple or green. This colour is due to compounds called anthocyanins and flavonols, both of which are present in grape fruits.

When the grape plant has a high amount of anthocyanin as compared to flavonol, the fruits are deep purple. When the reverse is true, the grapes are not brightly coloured. The relative abundance of anthocyanin and flavonol is controlled by genes known as the MYB transcription factors. Also referred to as activators, when present in large amounts, they result in dark purple grape, as in the Bangalore Blue variety, and absence correlates with lack of bright colour but high incidence of flavonols as in the Dilkush grape variety.

Repressor target

"Researchers knew microRNAs can regulate MYBs, but they did not know why such a regulation takes place. They were mostly working with *Arabidopsis* model where one might not see coloured fruits," says P V Shivaprasad of the Epigenetics lab in NCBS, where the work was done.

The team found that the microRNAs miR828 and miR858 were also



Transgenic: Plants grown from infected "ex-plants" had reddish leaves and abundant anthocyanin, says (from left) Varsha Tirumalai, Ashwin Nair and P V Shivaprasad.

found in abundance when the grapes had dark colour. Hence they figured out that there must be an intermediary repressor which was what the miRNA targeted.

"The microRNA was targeting something that is competing with the activator MYB. This [competing factor] is a repressor of the anthocyanin pathways," says Varsha Tirumalai, PhD student at NCBS and first author of the paper published in the *Journal of Experimental Botany*.

Micro RNAs are regulators of gene expression, acting like switches. They decide which protein should be made and how much in a given cell or tissue

or an organism. They are tiny, having some 20 to 22 digits of RNA. The miRNAs inhibit target RNAs by cutting them into two bits in plants. The miRNAs partner with a protein called Argonaute to do this regulation.

Two experiments

The researchers did two sets of experiments with tobacco plants (*Nicotiana tabacum*). First, they injected through the stomata in the leaves of the plants, an *Agrobacterium* culture by which overexpression of the gene in question was achieved. This method of feeding the culture led to a local effect in the particular leaf only. Also

the cells in the leaves were not damaged as the injection was done through the stomata. The leaves also overexpressed the gene and changed colour to a reddish shade.

They also did another experiment in which instead of pushing the culture through the stomata they infected an "ex-plant" - a scientific term for a piece of the plant from which the whole plant can be grown. They found that the plants grown in this manner had reddish leaves and abundant anthocyanin.

"This was very interesting. I have never seen red-leaved tobacco plants earlier. Abundant flavonols were not produced in tobacco earlier," says Varsha.

"Anthocyanins and flavonols remove reactive oxygen species that damage DNA, RNA and proteins. Reactive oxygen species are involved in most human diseases," explains Dr Shivaprasad.

Biofortification

Plants having anthocyanin and flavonol can be generated by controlling the microRNAs affecting them. "We can make more of them in tobacco, which can be extracted easily and used as supplements," he adds. The genes identified here can be used in biofortification.

The group is trying to patent flavonol engineering. Their next step is to find out how the MYB transcription factor works to make the specific enzymes needed to make flavonols.



Yes we can, indeed we must, restore forests

An outstanding example of reforestation is Philippines



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Global warming, largely caused by industrial development and consumer demands, has been causing havoc across the world. Temperatures are shooting up, floods have been ravaging South China and Northeast India, unseasonal rains and, ironically, delayed and poor monsoon rains are experienced. A major solution to mitigate such climate changes is to reduce the levels of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, which cause this warming. In an effort to try and limit this warming, many countries across the world are gathering together and agreeing to make efforts to limit the rise in temperature to no higher than 1.5 degrees by the year 2050.

The major way to do so is to increase the number of plants, trees and forests across the world. They all absorb carbon dioxide from the air, and with the help of sunlight and water, produce food (staple for us) and oxygen (which we breathe). And the wood and timber they offer are used by us in buildings and furniture. They are thus justly named in Sanskrit as Kalpataru - the wish-giving tree.

Yet, we kill them: deforestation has been going on decade after decade across the world, affecting the weather as well as the lives of plants, animals, microbes and the livelihood of human tribes that live in forests. The total surface area of our Earth is 52 billion hectares (Ha), and 31% of this has been forest cover. But the huge Amazon forests of South America are being chopped off for commercial reasons. Peru and Bolivia in the western Amazon region are the worst affected by such deforestation; so are Mexico and its neighbours in Mesoamerica. Russia, with forests occupying 45% of its land area, is chopping off trees. Large scale deforestation this kind has contributed to global warming over the years.

What is a forest?

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines a "forest" as a land area of at least 0.5 hectares, covered by at least 10% tree cover, without any agricultural activity or human settlement. Using this definition, a group of Swiss and French ecologists have analysed these 4.4 billion hectares of tree canopy that can exist under the current climate. And, excluding existing trees and agricultural and urban areas, there is room for an extra 0.9 billion hectares. Their analysis using the latest ecological methods, was published two weeks ago (Bastin et al., *Science*, 365 76-79, 5 July 2019). Thus, there is the potential climate change mitigation through global tree restoration. They point out that more than 50% of this restoration potential can be found in six countries (Russia, USA, Canada, Australia, Brazil and China). While it is not clear how much of this land is public or private, they confirm that the calculation of 1 billion hectares (>10% tree cover) is achievable.

Happily enough, several groups (and governments) in countries, notably Philippines and State government in India (see the report for the Forest Survey of India, and an analysis by Down to Earth) have moved towards more tree plantations. In India with its 7,08,273 sq km land area, 21.54% has tree cover. And between 2015 and 2018, we have added 6,778 sq km. Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover, followed by Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh while Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan have the least. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Odisha have improved their forest canopy somewhat (>10%). Private groups, notably The Guru Nanak Sacred Forest in Ludhiana, Punjab, the middle-of-the-town forest in the heart of Raipur, the "Afforest" group of Shubhendra Sharma (The Hindu Business Line, 3-12-2018) are some notable non-government initiatives. Readers will surely add more. (On an aside, who can forget the centenarian Salumarde Thimmaikka, who has planted 385 banyan trees and 8,000 other trees, or Sunderlal Bahuguna of the Chipko movement of Uttarakhand?)

Leading by example

But the most outstanding example of reforestation is Philippines, an archipelago of 7,100 islands, with a total land area of 3,00,000 sq km and a population of 104 million people. Way back in 1900, about 65% of its land mass was covered in forest canopy. Large-scale commercial deforestation continued after that, so by 1987, it was reduced to 21%. The government thereafter committed itself to steady reforestation, and by 2010, the forest covered 26%. It has now introduced a remarkable programme in which it makes it mandatory for each elementary, high school and college student to plant 10 trees before graduating. The sites where they plant and the location-appropriate plant are advised to them; (see news.mn.com.ph> of *Manila Bulletin*, July 16, 2019). The mover of this idea, Gary Alejano, stressed on the need to utilise the educational system as an avenue for propagating ethical and sustainable use of natural resources among youth to ensure the cultivation of a socially responsible and conscious citizenry.

Here is an excellent example for our Indian students. Your columnist has recommended this model to be added to the National Education Policy 2019, so that we may demand youngsters to follow and gain from the Filipino experiment.

A new 'clutch' to engage the immune cell 'gear'

Two adaptor proteins act like a clutch, help protein condensates get into the correct slot

ASWATHI PACHA



Microscopic mystery: If the clutch is not active in the immune cells, they are unable to respond to the information from the outside, says Satyajit Mayor (right).

Adaptor proteins which act as clutch and help protein condensates get into the correct slot.

The team identified two

assembly formed by multivalent proteins coming together to create a region that is highly concentrated. It is in the form of a phase separated patch, like oil droplets that

form a distinct patch on water.

The recruitment of these adaptor proteins to the condensates was found to be influenced by where the T-cell receptor clusters are located.

"When a T-cell receptor binds to an antigen, the T-cell undergoes a global reorganisation forming a signalling centre at the site of the antigen-bound receptor. The continuous transport of the studied protein condensates towards this signalling centre is important for maintaining the signalling output which is part of the immune response," adds Prof. Darius Vasco Koester from the Marine Biological Laboratory Woods Hole, U.S. in an email to *The Hindu*. He is one of the authors of the work published in the journal *eLife*.

The adaptor proteins also

promoted association of the protein condensates with actin present inside the cell.

Crucial role

Actin plays a crucial role in cellular processes required for normal immune function. "We fully don't know the implications of the function of these proteins, but we know that if the clutch is not active in the immune cells, they are unable to respond to the information from the outside. These adaptors are also quite general, they go and adapt to other processes as well," says Prof. Satyajit Mayor, from the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, and one of the authors.

Understanding the cascade of events that take place in the immune cells can help develop new vaccines and treatment regimens.

Ebola vaccine tested during epidemic saves lives in Congo

Preliminary data from vaccination in Congo suggest the vaccine has 97.5% efficacy in preventing Ebola

R. PRASAD

The 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic mainly in the three western African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone has been the most deadly one since the virus became known in 1976. It caused disease in 28,616 people and killed 11,310 others. But what stands out as a remarkable scientific and public health achievement has been the conduct of a large clinical trial in Guinea to test the efficacy of an Ebola vaccine in the midst of the epidemic.

The phase-3 clinical trial involving thousands of volunteers tested the efficacy of Merck's vaccine (VSV-EBOV) to protect vaccinated individuals from getting infected with Ebola virus.

The phase-1 and phase-2 clinical trials involving fewer volunteers were carried out in Europe and Africa in 2014-2015 and consequently used in Guinea in 2015 during vaccination campaigns even when it was being tested in the phase-3 trial.

Clinical trials

During the trial, the vaccine was administered to 2,119 individuals who had come in contact with a person infected with or died due to Ebola virus and 2,041 people who had come in contact with the primary contacts (known as contacts of contacts). In July 2015, an interim analysis revealed that the vaccine had 100% efficacy. The final results of the trial, too, showed the same result. The duration of protection is not known, though a few studies suggest protection up to one year.



Prevention: A woman getting vaccinated in Conakry, Guinea, on March 10, 2015, during the first clinical trials of Merck's vaccine. ■ AFP

So when Ebola struck the Democratic Republic of Congo on August 1, 2018, the decision to use Merck's vaccine, which has not been licensed in any country for clinical use, was taken without much thought as it was the only vaccine that been tested in phase-3 trials. Also, the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) had in March 2017, recommended that in the absence of a licensed vaccine for Ebola, the investigational vaccine could be used during an outbreak caused by the Zaire strain of the virus.

The vaccine was developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada and licensed to NewLink Genetics. In November 2014, Merck entered into a licensing agreement with NewLink Genetics to research, develop, manufacture and distribute the vaccine.

The vaccine was administered to nearly 29,000 health-care workers and about 94,000 primary contacts and contacts of contacts in Congo under "compassionate use". The vaccination began a week after the outbreak was officially declared.

Efficacious vaccine

Putting to rest the debate on the extent of efficacy during the phase-3 trial, the WHO noted that the preliminary data suggest that the vaccine used during the current outbreaks in Congo was 97.5% efficacious in preventing Ebola infection.

Of the 94,000 people who were vaccinated during the current outbreaks, only 71 developed the disease. Of the 71, only 15 developed symptoms 10 or more days after vac-

cination. The majority - 57 individuals - displayed symptoms within nine days of vaccination, before the vaccine could fully protect them. It had become clear during the trials that the vaccine needed 10 days to fully protect vaccinated individuals.

There were only nine deaths among the 57 people who developed the disease before the vaccine could be fully protective. In comparison, no deaths were reported among people who developed the disease more than 10 days post vaccination.

More importantly, 54 of the 71 Ebola cases were in high-risk contacts, and only two cases were among the contacts of contacts, thus underlining the effectiveness of the ring vaccination strategy in preventing the spread of the disease. In the ring vaccination strategy, the spread of the virus is curtailed by creating protective rings by vaccinating people based on the risk of infection. The first ring of protection is created by vaccinating everyone who has come in contact with infected persons or their bodies, or has lived in the same house. The second ring - contacts of contacts - comprises neighbours and family members of all contacts.

As a result of delay in detecting and isolating cases and tracing the contacts, the virus continues to spread, and about 80 new cases are reported each week, the WHO said on July 17. The hotspots have been shifting and new cases are being reported from areas that were previously cleared. In May 2019, SAGE cautioned that virus transmission continues to occur in areas where

there is difficulty in implementing ring vaccination and that new cases are being reported among unknown contacts.

Third ring

In order to cut the transmission chain, SAGE recommended the inclusion of a third ring of contacts to be vaccinated. Currently available evidence does not support mass immunisation of the population.

There are indications that the epidemic is not going to end anytime soon, and the number of people who need to be vaccinated is bound to increase. To avoid any diversion of critical human resources and being in the thick of an epidemic, the Congo health minister has ruled out a clinical trial using Johnson & Johnson's experimental vaccine. This would mean that more Merck vaccines would be needed to end this epidemic. Though Merck intends to double the supply by 2020, vaccine supplies are currently insufficient. The only way to stretch supplies of the vaccine to meet the ever-increasing demand is to use smaller doses.

In May 2019, SAGE recommended that the currently administered dose (1 ml) can be halved to match the dose tested in phase-3 trial in Guinea to protect health-care workers, contacts and contacts of contacts. People in the third ring could be given one-fifth the current dose. Instead of 10, it would take 28 days for the vaccine to confer protection when one-fifth of the current dose is used. But it would provide a "reasonable risk-benefit trade-off for protection," SAGE noted.

The tale of a gritty survivor's battles

ARUL P. SRINIVAS

I was diagnosed with cancer of the thyroid in April 2014, a few months before I was to join Purdue University in the United States. My doctors told me that if I had to have cancer, this was the 'best' one of all the varieties. Rest assured that I'm now happy and healthy, and I only have very ordinary human ailments such as sinus headaches, acne, stubbed toes and the occasional Game of Thrones spoiler.

I spent a couple of months in and out of hospitals and had more doctors than friends. They cut my throat, puffed my thyroid, and in the process snipped a nerve to my shoulder and shocked some vocal cords. Worst of all, they had only one side of my head shaved before the neck surgery and didn't let me even out the other side after the surgery (don't ask why). So, for a few weeks I looked like Cruella from *101 Dalmatians* when people came to visit. A few days after the surgery, I downed 150 millicurie of radioactive iodine, spent two days in quarantine where I binge-watched *Death Note* behind lead walls, and then underwent various tests. Finally, in June 2014, the doctors informed us the cancer was gone.

Then there came the question of Purdue. I said (or more accurately, croaked) that I still really wanted to study in the U.S. despite the possibility of a relapse, my frailty and my voice – and my parents probably wondered if I had brain cancer as well! We debated and argued a lot, but in the end my awesome, awesome parents set aside the obvious fears they had and allowed me to enroll at Purdue.

Since I don't have my thyroid gland, I have to take supplements every day, which quickly became a morning habit in my first semester at Purdue. Thanks to that, I soon cultivated the convenient superpower of swallowing tablets without water. My inaudible voice cost me participation points in some classes, but on the brighter side, for about six months, I could perform one of the gruffest Batman impersonations in the Midwest.

Things sailed smoothly after my second semester. With voice therapy exercises, Batman gradually became an articulate South Indian Bruce Wayne. I had blood tests every three months (and will continue to) but the news has always been good. I had to follow month-long iodine-free diets (did you know even chocolates contain iodised salt?) followed by radioactive-io-

dine tests every summer in Chennai. These tested for any recurring cancer, and these have always turned out negative as well.

Thanks to the consistent good news, tackling college has been, well, *ez pz* (easy). It was hard initially, but once I got past those initial semesters and received positive news, there was no reason to quit. Giving up after that would be like Mario rage-quitting after beating Bowser.

The real heroes of this story were my parents. The way they have supported, tolerated and motivated me through all my ups and downs is unreal.

My dad has himself taken me to every single doctor's appointment, X-ray, ultrasound, blood test, iodine scan and everything else in Chennai, over the past five years. He has maintained a chronological record of the details and results of every single one of these events so systematically (almost psychotically) that it puts the various hospitals' medical records departments to shame. During the month of my iodine-free diet each year, I couldn't eat almost any kind of processed food, since they all invariably contained iodised salt. Through those months, my mom learned how to make homemade cheese, bread, ketchup and various other things from scratch (using non-iodised salt) that her fussy son couldn't live without.

They've done a lot. They've been strong, patient, trusting and just all-round awesome. They made my undergrad *ez pz*.

Recently I graduated from Purdue. I'll try to avoid the myriad cliches about graduating (obviously Purdue was like a second home and obviously I'll miss my friends, and obviously I'm glad to be done), so I'll paraphrase Purdue's president Mitch Daniels instead: "As every mechanical engineer knows,

without friction, there is no traction."

I'm glad things happened the way they did (thyroid cancer, losing my voice, becoming Batman, everything!) because these hurdles are what have given me the fortitude and confidence to keep going.

Onward to CMU (Carnegie Mellon University)!

Arul schooled in Sishya and later Vidya Mandir, both in Chennai, before joining Purdue for his bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. He is now going to Carnegie Mellon to do his Master's. Email: det.abu@gmail.com

Looking for WATER

The crisis is almost here to haunt us

HEMA NAIR

If you wish to raise a glass of wine in salute, and make the toast in Hebrew, you give voice to words from far ancient times – *L'chaim*. It is pronounced *La-haim*, meaning 'To Life'.

I think the time has come for us to make the toast every morning to ourselves and to those with us, with a glass of water. Perhaps it will remind us how precious those drops are, and how scarce it is becoming. While we were distractred by our socio-political

turmoil, war of words, or the clash of ideals, our manna was being sucked out of this earth, dried out from the skies and melted from our mountains. We are looking into a Mad Max-like future, and it appears now that the nightmare will step out of the big screen and turn into our reality not too far away.

As school kids trot off to the first day of school, the monsoon always came in to ruin the shine on the brand-new shoes and white school uniforms. But it is July now, and the whole month of June

went by without significant rain. The monsoon with its resonant thunderstorms and forbidding black skies is only a memory from last year. If July is scarce, too, I wonder what will happen to us for the rest of the year.

As I cycle around the villages near my home, scarcely do I go more than a couple of kilometres before I find a borewell that pumps out water into a tanker, which then carts it off into the city for

thirsty apartment complexes. All too often, the din of another new borewell rig pierces your eardrums.

In those moments I often think of these monstrosities as giant spears piercing the flesh of Mother Earth, trying to suck the marrow out of her body. Many of you may not think in the hyperbole as I tend to, but I hope you catch the drift.

If the rain doesn't come and the earth dries up,

where will we go for water?

In school, we were taught that the rivers in the northern parts of India were perennial rivers that flow year-round, because their source was not always rainfall, but also the melting Himalayan glaciers.

A few months back, trekking in the mountains above Gaumukh, the primary source of the Ganga, I saw erosion lines on the mountain-side a few kilometres long. It has taken 200 years for the glacier to recede 3 km, but the rate has escalated alarmingly since 1971 to about 22 metres a year.

They say it is only going to be a few decades more before they evaporate into nothingness.

If the northern rivers are in jeopardy from the disappearing Himalayan snow cover and the southern ones are parched from absent

rainfall, where will we go for freshwater?

In the beautiful city I live in, we have lost 80% of our green cover and wetlands in just 50 years. Translating this in terms of numbers that we can crunch, this would be like walking along in a wooded area with an electric saw, to chop down four trees and leave only the fifth one standing. Imagine the woods after that – the empty skyline, the homeless birds, the scorching sun on the ground and the all-pervasive heat and dust. This fear may not be long to a remote dystopian future anymore. If the monsoon doesn't come to our land soon, this could well be our present.

Suddenly, toasting with a tumbler of water 'To Life' doesn't seem all that far-fetched.

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Creative destruction in full flow

Change is sweeping over the road transport sector in an inevitable re-run of the technology cycle

PAROMITA FALIA

As Alexa plays 'Radio Killed the Video Star', I think of the products lying in their graves now or are in need of some life-saving surgery. Cable TV killed antenna TV but it is in turn now getting stabbed by media service providers such as Netflix and Hotstar. Smartphones have almost replaced keypad phones. Timely resuscitation of the latter by adding features such as 3G/4G support and enhanced memory have managed to sustain their support among people, who would like to know what's happening around the world and yet not get overwhelmed by it.

Economics gives us a term to understand this transition of products happening in the market – Creative Destruction. Inspired by Karl Marx, J.A Schumpeter defined the 'gale of creative destruction' as a "process of industrial mutation that incessantly revolutionises the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying old ones, incessantly creating new ones."

According to Schumpeter, without disruptions in the market there would be no development. In his analysis, he gives us the concept of circular flow. Circular flow is when the economy is in a stationary equilibrium, which is basically a static setting where economic activities follow a repetitive course. In order for further development to take place, it is es-

sential to break this circular flow. And here comes the role of entrepreneurs with their innovations.

Today, electric vehicles (EVs) present one of the best examples of creative destruction. The alarm set off by radical changes in the global climate system has provided a wake-up call to leaders all over the world. They see EVs as a crucial element to minimise environmental casualties from the pursuit of human endeavours. They see it as an essential element of sustainable development.

Strategically, EVs have presented India with a rare opportunity to emerge as a global leader in the climate forum as well as a chance to unshackle itself from the hardships that oil have been creating ever since it went hyper-commercial. The evolution in the automobile industry riding on the internal combustion engine has been an interesting process.

Motor cars came on to the scene in the 19th century. The German engineer Karl Benz invented it in 1885. Later Henry Ford in 1908 came up with the Model T, which was relatively affordable. Demand for motor cars accelerated after the First World War and with it, the value of gasoline, or what we commonly call 'petrol'. Oil went on to be called black gold. In fact, control over oil was one of the factors that determined victory in the First World War. And the oil industry as we know it began with the discovery of com-



mercially viable oilfields in the United States in the mid-19th century.

horse-drawn carriages more or less went out of vogue.

Thus, an old economic structure was gradually replaced by a new economic structure. And as Schumpeter said, the success of an innovation makes other entrepreneurs follow the original innovator in 'swarm like clusters'. True to this, today we have companies such as Toyota, Renault-Nissan and Volkswagen, which are performing better than the original innovators in terms of sales.

Will a rational consumer miss carriages over cars today? Heck no! Despite pollution, oil wars and road congestion. In terms of economics, this is development.

However, it seems that the dominance of traditional fossil fuel-based cars is coming to a slow end. Its agent of destruction is the electric vehicle.

It is important to note here that EVs are not a new invention. They go way back to a time when the Model T was not yet around; for that matter, Henry Ford was not yet born. The credit for inventing EVs goes to different people. In 1828, Annyos Jedlik created a small model car powered by an electric motor. Similarly, in 1834, Vermont Blacksmith Thomas Davenport and Professor Si-brandus Stratingh created their own models.

But it was only after 1895 that they started enjoying active consumer support. In cities such as London and New York, electric battery-powered taxis became available. But their popularity didn't last in the face of competition from the oil-based car. EVs back then had slow speed and low range, and there was the problem of power inadequacy. Its market was restricted to the affluent sections.

In the early 20th century, oil was cheap and the introduction of the Model T, which was affordable to middle class Americans, cut short the success of the EVs of that era.

Thus, if a century ago oil-based motor cars creatively destroyed EVs, in the present time the tables have been turned yet again. In fact in India, NITI Aayog has proposed that by 2030 only EVs should be sold. While the game is on, let's wait and watch!

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Light of life

RUPSHA BOSE

Human emotions fascinate me – the lips displaying feelings, wrinkled brows, glittering eyes, contented faces. Humans have a tendency to be happy when something good happens. But we seldom feel someone else's joy.

I capture the emotions of people on my camera, going for the faces of vendors, or shops that trigger my curiosity. I saw a shop shimmering with lights: old, new, vintage, modern, hand-made, factory assembled, and more. But what caught my attention was the owners, three people, all over 65, smiling and welcoming all.

The passion in them was that of teenagers, always on their feet and eager to help. One of them approached me as I was staring at the beautiful lights. I started a conversation with him. It felt like home all of a sudden; it wasn't just a shop, they made it feel like home.

I didn't need any lights, but bought one anyway for the sake of the smiles on their faces. They happily packed three lamps for me and asked me to stop by even if I don't buy anything.

That day I realised that we can nurture a form of this within us. Hug someone even if you are a non-hugger, smile at someone even if you are feeling murky, buy something from someone even if you don't need it. It might make their day. Try and be the happiness you search for in others, and the light will guide you.

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A glean revolution in a world of food shortages and hunger

Picking up after a harvest the good and usable fruit of human activity that is inadvertently left behind, is now a movement

MINI KRISHNAN

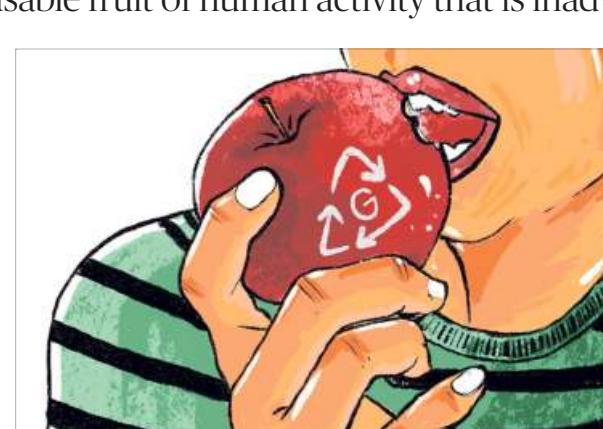
If you're bored, go out and grab a pizza. Or better still, have it delivered to your sofa or desk. How many half-eaten pizzas are dumped? If you want variety, surf a few cafes: pastry in one, bonda and coffee at another. A dosa before a film in a multiplex, popcorn and cola during it, and a hot-chocolate afterwards. Food for fun, not health or hunger!

Just when I was wondering about the explosion of food-tourism that we are constantly being subjected to, I happened to read something that is a counter to the modern trend to treat food as another form of entertainment; so I share the gist of it, particularly as we live in a country where, while some of us can feast

continuously, thousands die of malnutrition every day.

The article on gleaning titled 'To the Last Grain' was about picking up, after a harvest, the good and usable fruit of human activity. Not what is discarded, but those items that were overlooked. After the giant combine-harvesters move on, there is still plenty left for the birds and perhaps a sackful for the farmer also. Gleaning is now a campaign in the U.S. and in Europe.

What is gleaning? Some 30% of fruit and vegetables are rejected simply because they do not look nice. These 'uglies' go into the baskets of gleaners. After a terrible summer, fruit might be smaller than what the supermarkets ask for; so instead of leaving them to rot on trees and on the ground, they are



'gleaned' and used by a less formal market.

Unlike scavenging, which has commercial implications, gleaning is rooted in charity and group effort. It is an ancient practice, dating back centuries to when farmers were told to leave a portion

of their harvest behind for the less fortunate. In the Old Testament, God instructs Moses to tell his people that they are not to wholly reap the corners of their fields. Nor are they to take every single grape or olive from their trees. "[T]hou

shalt leave them for the poor and the stranger" (Leviticus, 19:10).

In Punjab there is a farming rule which says a certain portion of the field is to be left unharvested by the owner. It is for those who work his land for him. Gleaning was a significant part of the income of peasants and villagers in England in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was highly regulated and timed with bells being rung for the entry and exit of gleaners.

According to reports, 30 to 40% of American food is wasted. It is estimated that more than 60.3 billion kilograms of that could have been eaten by someone. In Britain that statistic is 10 million tons. Thrown out by households! Considering the millions of "food insecure" people in the world many or-

ganisations send volunteers – or gleaners – into the fields and farms of neighbours to pick up the left-behind produce for people in need and local charities. In turn, farmers benefit with a small tax deduction for everything they donate.

Today, with increased attention on food waste and the need for fresh produce in local food banks, the act of gathering left-behind produce that is not sellable from farms and farmers' markets has steadily grown.

The scale of gleaning has changed but the philosophy remains the same. It brings the harvest full circle wherein nature and man combine for the benefit of the greatest number especially the poor.

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The characteristics of gender identity do not always come in black and white

RISHI KANNA



Selection committee has its task cut out for the Windies tour

Indian team for three-match T20I series, as many ODIs and two Tests will be picked today

PREVIEW

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Selection of the Indian team for the tour of the Caribbean Islands always evokes feelings of nostalgia of the Ajit Wadekar-led Indian team's historic first Test series win there in 1971, Sunil Gavaskar's phenomenal collection of 774 runs, the remarkable spin bowling achievements of Bishan Bedi, S. Venkataraman, Erapalli Prasanna and Salim Durani's game-changing dismissals of Clive Lloyd and Garfield Sobers in the second innings of the second Test at Port of Spain.

But it was the prelude to the tour that saw the chairman of the selection committee Vijay Merchant voting in favour of Wadekar as captain, when juxtaposed with Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, that sort of made Indian cricket shake like a leaf.

Wadekar's elevation as captain, the selection of Gavaskar for the tour were the highlights of the tour and Merchant felt vindicated about the choice he made much against the cricketing fraternity's perception.

Positive thinking

Merchant's bold decisions and Gundappa Viswanath's selection at the instance of Pataudi for the series against Australia in 1969 was ac-



Big shoes to fill: In the absence of M.S. Dhoni, young Rishabh Pant is the obvious choice for the premier wicketkeeper's spot. ■ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

claimed as a positive thinking on the part of the then selection committees.

And for the last five decades the Indian cricket fan has always expected the selectors to spring a surprise or two, when the time arrived to

pick teams for an overseas tour.

The choice of a couple of players for the middle-order slots for the recently concluded ICC World Cup, raised a few eyebrows and, after India's defeat against New Zea-

land in the semifinal, head coach Ravi Shastri rued the absence of proper No. 4 batsman.

Now it is time for a series in the West Indies that will start with a three-match T20I series, as many ODIs and fol-

lowed by two Tests in Antigua and Jamaica.

The selection committee, led by M.S.K. Prasad, has been involved not only in picking the national team across all formats, but also the India-A team in all three

formats. The selectors are scheduled to meet on Sunday and perform the exercise.

Nuanced opinion

And with the World Cup giving the panel an opportunity to make a nuanced opinion

on some players, it would be ready to make a few changes after taking into account the fitness reports of Shikhar Dhawan (recovering from finger injury) and Vijay Shankar (toe injury).

Prithvi Shaw has been laid

MSD opts out of Caribbean assignment

Will be spending two months with his army regiment, says a BCCI official

DHONI UPDATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India captain M.S. Dhoni on Saturday made himself "unavailable" for the Indian team's tour of West Indies as speculation raged about his future.

An Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Parachute Regiment of the Territorial Army, it is learnt that Dhoni would be spending better part of the next two months with his regiment.

A top BCCI official confirmed the development. "Dhoni has made himself unavailable for the tour of West Indies as he will be spending two months with



M.S. Dhoni. ■ FILE PHOTO

his army regiment," he said.

Dhoni, 38, has intimated his decision to the BCCI prior to the selection committee meeting on Sunday.

With Dhoni pulling out of the tour, Rishabh Pant is expected to be first-choice wicketkeeper in all three formats, while Wriddhiman Saha will be Pant's back-up in Tests.

Only the enigmatic Dhoni knows about the finish line

If he thinks he is fit and performing, he has every right to stake his claim: Sandeep Patil

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

No star in Indian cricket has been as enigmatic as M.S. Dhoni. There were times when the selectors could not reach him. Even the Board president would be left clueless. The situation seems not to have changed.

For someone who wondered if he would get an opportunity to wear the India cap, the wicketkeeper-batsman progressed rapidly, led India to two incredible global title triumphs – ICC World T20 (2007) and World Cup (2011), besides becoming famous for his finishing skills. He commanded genuine respect from his peers and past stalwarts and his fan following across the world has been immense. They don't want Dhoni to retire. Some former stars don't want him to go.

But what about the nation-



Crucial call: M.S. Dhoni, no doubt, will want to time his retirement to perfection. ■ AFP

al selectors? They would ideally want Dhoni to take a bow as they are keen to look ahead and nurture some youngsters. Technically,

Dhoni is available as long as he does not announce his retirement. Former National selection committee chairman Sandeep Patil had a

piece of advice. "As a selector, I am answerable only to the Board. I am answerable to Indian cricket. It doesn't matter if you are a big player

but you can't be bigger than the game. When I was the chairman, the committee took some tough decisions in the interest of the team and Indian cricket. It is not easy to tell a player that his time is up. If he does not fit into the scheme of things, you have to tell him sometimes. I am not suggesting Dhoni should quit. If he thinks he is fit and performing, he has every right to stake his claim. What ultimately matters is what plans do the selectors and the captain have," said Patil.

Time running out

Virender Sehwag, Zaheer Khan, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh were some of the big players who were dropped.

"We never said they would be not picked again," insisted Patil. The then selection committee thought these

cricketers had a chance to come back. But, at 38, time may be running out for Dhoni.

Dhoni has made himself unavailable for the imminent tour of the West Indies as he has opted to serve the army for two months. A honorary lieutenant colonel, the former India captain's fascination for army is well chronicled. "I expect him to inform the selectors in time (about a probable retirement or his career plans). There is a lot riding on his shoulders," said an official closely associated with the developments.

There is a section which feels Dhoni would want to extend his international career by playing the T20 format but the selectors may have their own views on the subject. As for the finish line, only the enigmatic Dhoni knows.

Sreeja-Mousumi duo wins a thriller

Pooja and Reeth Rishya fail to make the cut in women's singles

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

Sreeja Akula and Mousumi Paul of India survived a tense finish against Wales' Charlotte Carey and young sensation Anna Hursey to enter the women's doubles quarterfinals of the 21st Commonwealth table tennis championship at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

Tiring day

After a tiring day for both girls – they played three women's qualification singles matches followed by two rounds in the doubles events – the Indian girls saw off the Welsh challenge 11-6, 2-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-8 in a battle that stretched over half-an-hour.

Sreeja and Mousumi will now take on Zhang Wan Ling and Tan Lilin Jassy, who stunned the third-seeded duo of Ho Tin-Tin and Denis Payet from England.

In the singles preliminary stage, 15 of the 22 Indian paddlers qualified for the main draw. Only two of 11 women – Pooja Sahasrabudhe, who finished third in her group, and T. Reeth Rishya, who failed to capitalise on a couple of match points in her crunch match



Grinding it out: Mousumi Paul and Sreeja Akula survived a Welsh scare. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

– fell by the wayside.

Bowing out

In men's singles, Sourav Saha, Anirban Ghosh, Arjun Ghosh, Jubin Kumar and Siddhesh Pande couldn't make the cut.

The results (round-of-16):

Women's doubles: Madhurika Patkar & Archana Kamath (Ind) bt Louiza Kourea & Fotini Metletie (Cyp) 12-10, 11-8, 11-9; Gopi Rui Xuan & Wong Xin Ru (Sgp) bt Offong Edem & Cellia Akpan (Ngr) 11-9, 11-8, 4-11, 6-11, 13-11.

Pooja Sahasrabudhe & Krittika Sinha Roy (Ind) vs Alice Li Sian Chang & Lee Xin Ni (Mas)

11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 11-4; Melissa Tapper & Michelle Bromley (Aus) bt Emily Bolton (Eng) & Lim Eunice Zoe (Sgp) 11-9, 11-4, 11-13, 11-6, 2-11, 11-4, 11-8; Zhang Wan Ling & Tan Lilin Jassy (Sgp) bt Ho Tin-Tin & Denis Payet (Eng) 11-6, 11-9, 10-12, 8-11, 11-8.

Sreeja Akula & Mousumi Paul (Ind) bt Charlotte Carey & Anna Hursey (Wal) 11-6, 2-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-8; Ho Ying & Tee Ai Xin (Mas) bt Peng Kai & Feng Chunyi (Aus) 13-11, 11-1; Sutirtha Mukherjee & Sagarika Mukherjee (Ind) bt Ishara Madurang & Jithara Warnakulasuriya (SL) 11-3, 11-8, 11-8.

The qualifiers' list:

Women: Krittika Sinha Roy, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Sreeja Akula

la, Mousumi Paul, Prapti Sen, Selena Selvakumar, Divya Deshpande.

Sagarika Mukherjee, Anusha Kutumbale (Ind), Feng Chunyi (Aus), Chang Alice Li Sian Chang (Mas), Nimitalia Aregbesola, Ajoke Ojomu (Ngr), Wong Xin Ru, Gopi Rui Xuan, Lim Eunice Zoe (Sgp).

Men: Bode Abiodun, Azeem Jamil (Ngr), Thomas Jarvis (Eng), Sushmit Sriram, Manush Shah, Sanil Shetty, Jeet Chandra, Rony Bhana.

Sudhantha Grover (Ind), Lucas Tan, Pang Yu En Koen, Chew Zheyu Clarence (Sgp), Muhamad Rizal, Leong Chee Feng, Javen Choong (Mas), Marios Yianguo (Cyp).

The qualifiers' list:

Lowry continues to buzz, leads by four strokes

The Irishman's eight-under for the day puts him well ahead of Fleetwood

THE OPEN

REUTERS
PORTRUSH (NORTHERN IRELAND)

The 46-year-old Westwood, still hunting for a first Major, birdied the second, third and fourth holes and was briefly on his own at the top of the leaderboard.

weather produced a birdie.

The 46-year-old Westwood, still hunting for a first Major, birdied the second, third and fourth holes and was briefly on his own at the top of the leaderboard.

Defending champion Francesco Molinari's hopes of retaining the title looked over after shooting a nerveless eight-under 63 on Saturday to take a four-shot lead into the final round of the British Open.

Lowry, 32, did not drop a shot all day and streaked clear of the field with three consecutive birdies at 15, 16 and 17.

Tommy Fleetwood, with a five-under for the day, was second with 12-under.

Holmes slips to third

J.B. Holmes, the other joint leader, slipped to the third spot after a two-under for the day and 10-under overall. Brooks Koepka and Justin Rose kept themselves in contention, finishing at nine-under overall.

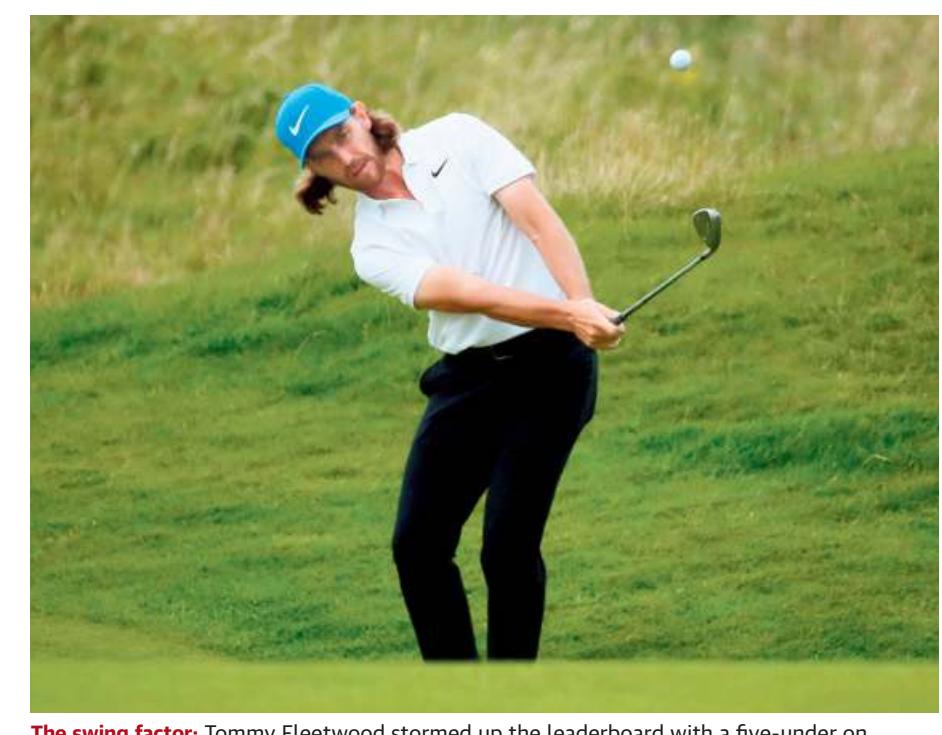
Earlier, Danny Willett's superb six-under 65 helped him climb the leaderboard.

The Englishman, winner of the Masters in 2016, missed a birdie putt on the 18th that would have set a new course record as the calm

Double bogeys on the 10th and 11th were followed by a bogey but he had a bogey-bogey on 13 and 14. He had a double bogey on the 15th before finishing with a birdie on the 18th.

Top scores:

1. Shane Lowry (-8 in third round, -16 overall); 2. Tommy Fleetwood (-5, -12); 3. J.B. Holmes (-2, -10); 4. Brooks Koepka (-4, -9); 6. Rickie Fowler (-5, -8) and Lee Westwood (-1, -8); 72. Shubhankar Sharma (+6, +6).



The swing factor: Tommy Fleetwood stormed up the leaderboard with a five-under on Saturday. ■ REUTERS

Sindhu in her first final of season

Downs All England champion Chen in straight games



Easy outing: P.V. Sindhu held her own in the first game and then completely dominated the second against Chen Yufei.

■ ROBERTUS PUDYANTO / GETTY IMAGES

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAKARTA

India's P.V. Sindhu entered the final of the Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 badminton tournament with a straight-game win over All England champion Chen Yufei of China here on Saturday.

Sindhu showed her brilliance once again as she saw off World No. 3 Chen 21-19, 21-10 to enter her first final of the season.

The World No. 5 Indian, who reached the last four at Singapore and India Open this year, set up a summit clash with Japan's fourth seed Akane Yamaguchi.

Sindhu holds a 10-4 advantage over Yamaguchi, whom she has defeated in their last four meetings.

Chen, who won the Australia, Swiss and All England this year, has been the most prolific player this season and looked good in the first game but a fighting Sindhu held her own and then com-

pletely dominated the second to seal a place in the final.

India's campaign ends

At the Russian Open in Vladivostok, Meghana Jakkampudi lost both her mixed and women's doubles matches as India's campaign ended.

Meghana and Dhruv Kapila, seeded eighth, lost to Indonesia's seventh seeds Adnan Maulana and Mychelle Chrystine Bandaso 21-6, 21-15 in the mixed doubles semifinal which lasted just 27 minutes.

In women's doubles, Meghana and Poorvisha Ram failed to cross the last-four hurdle at the \$75,000 tournament.

Fourth seeds Miki Kashihara and Miyuki Kato of Japan stunned the top-seeded Indian duo 21-10, 21-8 in 33 minutes.

Hima claims 400m gold

SPORTS BUREAU
NOVE MESTO NAD METUJI
(CZECH REPUBLIC)

Hima Das clocked a season-best 52.09s as she won the women's 400m gold in the Nove Mesto nad Metuji Grand Prix on Saturday.

This was Hima's first 400m after she retired midway through quarter-mile heats at Asian championships in Doha in April.

M.P. Jabin won the 400m hurdles gold in 49.66s. National 400m record holder Muhammed Anas, who ran the 200m here, clocked 20.95s for the silver.

The results (winners and events featuring Indians):
Men, 200m: 1. Jan Volko (Slo, 20.80s); 2. Muhammed Anas (20.95). **400m:** 1. Mazen Al-Yassin (KSA, 45.98s); 2. Noah Nirmal Tom (46.05); 3. K.S. Jeevan (46.47); 4. Amoj Jacob (46.99); 5. P.K. Kunhu Muhammed (53.28); 4. M.R. Poovamma (53.74); 5. S. R. Vithya (54.19). **Others:** V. Subha (54.22); V.K. Shalini (55.39).

Women, 400m: 1. Hima Das (52.09s); 2. V.K. Viswama (52.48); 3. Saritaben Gayakwad (53.28); 4. M.R. Poovamma (53.74); 5. S. R. Vithya (54.19). **Others:** V. Subha (54.22); V.K. Shalini (55.39).

U Mumba holds off Titans

Bengaluru Bulls overcome Pirates' challenge

PKL-7

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Former champion U Mumba warded off a late challenge from Telugu Titans to script a 31-25 win in the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League Season-7 opener at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Saturday.

The home fans were stunned as star raider Siddharth Desai was kept quiet in the first half, his first six raids fetching no points as U Mumba took a 17-10 lead at the break.

In what was expected to be a battle between U Mumba and Bengaluru Bulls, it was the former who dashed out a few lessons in the art of tackling by pinning the latter down with support from Rohit Balyan and Surender Singh.

An all-round display by U Mumba, which scored the first all-out of the game through Abhishek Singh's raid, powered ahead 13-6.

U Mumba held on to its



Action-packed: A U Mumba raider tries to wriggle out of the Titans' grasp. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

lead till the break, thanks to the defence manned efficiently by Fazel, Sandeep and Surender.

Rajnish shines

After the break, Titans' bat-

ted back through Rajnish

who kept the team in the

hunt, especially in the last

20 minutes. He scored seven

points and was easily Titans'

best player of the day.

Though Siddharth scored his first point of the game with only eight minutes to go for the final whistle, he recovered to finish with five

points. However, he was clearly below par this day.

Though Titans came up with a super tackle to reduce the lead to 22-20 with two minutes remaining, it proved too little too late.

In the second match of the day, defending champion Bengaluru Bulls began its campaign with a hard-fought 34-32 victory over three-time champions, Patna Pirates, in the second match of the evening.

The results: U Mumba bt Telugu Titans 31-25; Bengaluru Bulls bt Patna Pirates 34-32.

Bindra banking on younger crop to deliver the goods

'Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature right from the beginning'

SHOOTING

AMOL KARHADKAR

CUTTACK

It may have been excluded from the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham but shooting still remains among India's high hopes when it comes to building up on its Olympic medal count in Tokyo next year. Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medalist, is banking on the younger crop to deliver the goods next year.

Despite the likes of Rajvardhan Singh Rathore (silver in 2004), Bindra (gold in 2008), Gagan Narang and Vi-

jay Kumar (bronze and silver in 2012) keeping it among medals, a majority of India's shooters are found to crumble under the pressure of the big occasion. After all, Bindra, who retired after the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic, was the closest to a medal among India's 16 shooters.

"I think a lot has changed from Rio to now. If you look at what is happening, a lot of success is coming from the young generation. The youngsters of today are very different. Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature.

○ The youngsters of today are very different. Their mindset is very different, they are very competitive in nature.

will develop but also how society in India has grown and changed," Bindra said after awarding medals to the team championship winners of the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship on Friday.

'More confident'

"The youth of today are far more confident. I think that makes a lot of difference because it gives them a lot of



Abhinav Bindra. ■ FILE PHOTO

self-belief. I think the crunch situation is a year away from now and we will know in Tokyo how they fare. I wish them luck."

In an effort to groom youngsters and help them

translate the belief into a structured high-performance programme, Bindra started the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance (ABPT).

The fifth centre of ABPT – which aims at providing the best of scientific and technological enhancement measures – started in Bhubaneswar earlier in the year.

The centre is equipped with the latest technological evaluation and rectification equipment along with an expert team led by Dr. Kartik Doshi.

"Bhubaneswar is becoming the hub of sport. The (Odisha) government has been extremely supportive.

A lot of sporting action is coming here.

"We've set up a lot of these high performance centres for various sports. Makes a lot of sense to supplement the work that the high performance centres with the work that we are doing," Bindra said.

"The fifth centre of ABPT – which aims at providing the best of scientific and technological enhancement measures – started in Bhubaneswar earlier in the year.

The centre is equipped with the latest technological evaluation and rectification equipment along with an expert team led by Dr. Kartik Doshi.

"Bhubaneswar is becoming the hub of sport. The (Odisha) government has been extremely supportive.

Earlier, India-A opted to bowl and Roston Chase's 84 laid the base for West Indies-A to post 298 for nine.

Devon Thomas and Jonathan Carter also made half-centuries.

Khaleel Ahmed scalped four for India-A.

The scores: West Indies-A 298 for nine in 50 overs (Roston Chase 84, Devon Thomas 70, Jonathan Carter 50, Khaleel Ahmed four for 67, Avesh Khan three for 62) bt India A 293 for nine in 50 overs (Axar Patel 81 n.o., Krunal Pandya 45, Washington Sundar 45).

Nayan and Vishnu share spoils in MRF Formula 1600

Ashwin rules the roost in Formula LGB 1300 category

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER

CHENNAI

Young gun Ashwin Datta from Chennai spearheaded a momentous podium sweep for his team Momentum Motorsports in the highly competitive Formula LGB 1300 category, holding off two Bengaluru schoolboys while Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) and local challenger Vishnu Prasad won a race apiece in the premium MRF FI1600 class on day two of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the MMRT, here on Saturday.

Also in the limelight was Coimbatore veteran Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) who shrugged off a poor qualifying session due to a technical hitch with his car, was not to be denied when the eight-lap race got underway. Some four corners before the end of the first lap, the Coimbatore star jumped four positions to take the lead and never looked back.

Behind him, after the initial jostling for track positions, Karthik Tharani (VW Motorsport) seemed content to hold his second spot behind Balu while further back, Nikanth Ram (ARKA Motorsports) (15:38.667).



On the podium: Ashwin Datta flanked by second-placed Tijil Rao, right, and third-placed Chirag Ghorpade.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

poor qualifying session due to a technical hitch with his car, was not to be denied when the eight-lap race got underway. Some four corners before the end of the first lap, the Coimbatore star jumped four positions to take the lead and never looked back.

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VW targets ITC crown in its 10th year

'Idea with one-make championship is to give the drivers a chance to compete'

S. DIPAK RAGAV

CHENNAI

For Volkswagen India, there are a lot of reasons to celebrate as it commemorates its 10th year of participating in Indian motorsports. Its one-make series, the Ameo Cup, has been given the status of a national championship with pro and junior category winners crowned national champions in the Ameo Class.

The German manufacturer, also for the first time, has stepped up its involvement by fielding its factory team in the premier championship in the country, Indian Touring Cars category. It had a great start in the first round in Coimbatore, winning all three races against nimble opponents like the Esteem which weigh far less than the Ventos that VW is using.

Vissa said, "As a manufacturer, for us, when we do the motorsport program, it makes zero difference because, as of right now, our main focus is on developing drivers, bringing in new technology into the sport and elevating the sport.

"The Ameo class from this year – there is a lot more weight to it. That is bragging rights for the driver. The recognition they get is much better."

Vissa also hoped more brands entered the ITC category and that VW was ready for a competitive fight, saying, "We would love to do it. It brings value to a certain extent and other manufacturers need to come in and compete. Winning ITC as a manufacturer is a big thing for us because it is the premier class of racing in India."



Setting the pace: Volkswagen leads the pack in the ITC saloon category. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pinot reigns, Alaphilippe increases lead

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
COL DU TOURMALET

France celebrated on Saturday as Thibaut Pinot conquered the Pyrenean summit of la Col du Tourmalet with Julian Alaphilippe following him across the line to extend his overall Tour de France lead.

Defending champion Geraint Thomas lost 35 seconds after being dropped by Pinot at the death, while his Ineos co-captain Egan Bernal finished a few seconds behind the winner at the first of seven summit fin-



Coming good: Thibaut Pinot led a French one-two. ■ AFP

ishes over 2000m.

Thomas is now over two minutes behind Alaphilippe

in the general classification after he started to suffer with 500m to go.

Jyothsna stuns Srija

Nandhini outwits Pratyusha

NATIONAL CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KARAIKUDI

It was a day of surprises yet again with L. Jyothsna of Tamil Nadu pulling it off over fifth seed Srija Seshadri and Nandhini Sairapalli of Goa outwitting eighth seed Pratyusha Bodda of Andhra Pradesh in the 46th National women's chess championship at the Chettinad Public School here on Saturday.

But Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB), Bhakti Kulkarni (Air India) and Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra), the top three seeds, marched into the third round without much difficulty.

However, six time champion IM S. Vijayalakshmi survived some anxious moments before splitting points with Y. Saranya.

Sanskriti Goyal (Uttar Pradesh) held three-time National champion and sixth seed Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) to a creditable draw and National under-17 champion K. Priyanka (Tamil Nadu) seemed quite satisfied

</div

TV PICKS

Commonwealth TT: DD Sports, 10 a.m.
Indonesia Open badminton: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.
The Open golf: DSport, 3.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Ibrahimovic nets hat-trick for LA Galaxy

LOS ANGELES Zlatan Ibrahimovic lived up to the bravado on Friday, scoring all three goals to power the LA Galaxy to a hard fought 3-2 victory over MLS rivals Los Angeles Football Club. The unstoppable 37-year-old showed he's still capable of astounding feats by dominating the smaller LAFC defence and scoring when it counted the most for his second career MLS hat trick. "When you play against a rival like that, in a full stadium, I get pumped. I get adrenaline. This is considered to be the biggest game in the league and I show up in the biggest games," said Ibrahimovic. AFP



Dortmund sinks Liverpool in US tour opener

CHICAGO Danish internationals Thomas Delaney and Jacob Bruun Larsen scored second half goals as Borussia Dortmund handed Liverpool a 3-2 defeat in the opening game of the Premier League giants pre-season US tour on Friday. Paco Alcacer was the other scorer. In sweltering heat at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Indiana, Bundesliga side Dortmund punished a rusty defensive display from the European champions, who were missing several star players. AFP

Algeria crowned AFCON champion

CAIRO Baghdad Bounejdah's early goal propelled Algeria to a first Africa Cup of Nations title in 29 years after a fiery 1-0 victory over Senegal in Friday's final in Cairo. Bounejdah's deflected past Senegal goalkeeper Alfred Gomis gave Algeria a second-mintue lead. The goal proved to be enough for the 1990 champions to lift the trophy on foreign soil for the first time. For Senegal, the long wait for a first continental crown goes on as coach Aliou Cisse, the captain of the 2002 runners-up, fell short again. AFP

Mortaza ruled out of Sri Lanka tour



Mortaza. ■ AP

ANI

DUBAI Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka and in Mortaza's absence, opening batsman Tamim Iqbal will lead the side.

The right-arm pacer picked up a left hamstring injury during training, which was later revealed to be a grade 1 tear, and it has ruled him out of action for around three to four weeks, International Cricket Council (ICC) reported.

Tamim does have previous international leadership experience, as he lead the Tigers in one Test in New Zealand in 2017 following an injury to then-captain Mushfiqur Rahim.

The Uwe effect in Shivpal's block

National coach to watch the Indian closely in Finland after change of technique

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

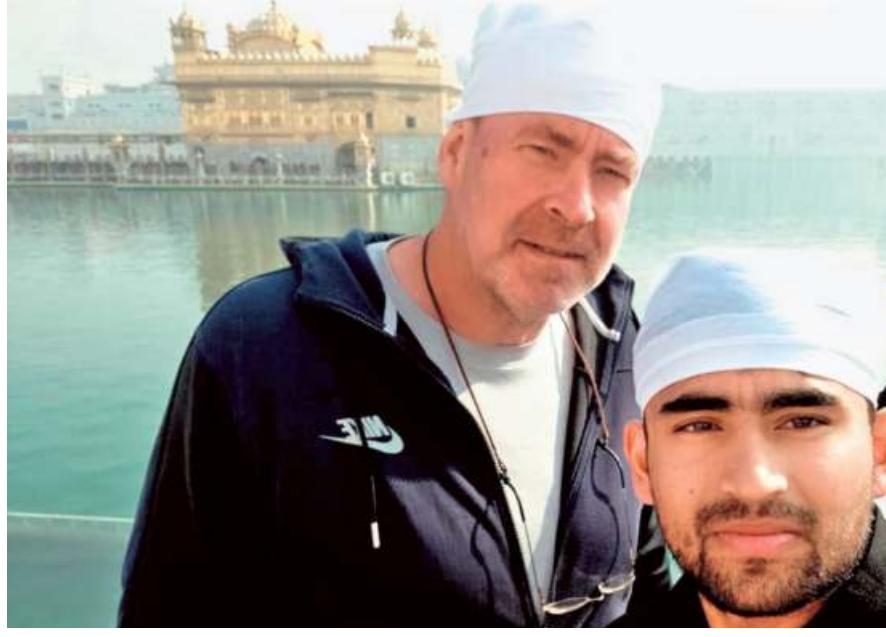
A few days ago, one felt there were cracks appearing in the country's exciting javelin world after a chat with German Uwe Hohn.

Hohn, the national javelin throw coach, was fuming about the technique of Shivpal Singh and Annu Rani, both Asian silver medallists. Shivpal's form was slipping around that time, from a personal best of 86.23m at the Doha Asian meet in April to the season's low of 76.90 in Poland towards the end of June.

Sivpal does not listen

"No left 'block' and Shivpal does not listen (when I try) to change this!" Hohn, the man with the longest throw in history, told *The Hindu* from Spala, Poland. "Annu also does not listen, that is why she has been throwing only 60m in the last few competitions."

Blocking is the point during which the thrower is in his delivery stance and the non-throwing side of the body comes to a halt and is



Fine-tuning: National javelin coach Uwe Hohn has been working on Shivpal Singh's 'block' to improve his throwing. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

locked in place. The block must work efficiently for a good throw. Things appear to have improved, at least in Shivpal's case.

"Shivpal is doing okay but he has little problems with his right knee. Annu was in good shape but trying way too hard and she does not listen or follow our advice.

And it's definitely not a language problem," said Hohn.

Shivpal, currently India's leading javelin thrower with Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champion Neeraj Chopra recovering from elbow surgery, will be in action in the Motonet Grand Prix in Joensuu, Finland, on Wednesday. And Hohn will be watching the 24-year-old closely.

Better in training

Has he sorted out Shivpal's block? Is he comfortable with the change in technique? "We will see during the competition, in training it is much better at the moment," said Hohn.

India's consistent showing a good augury

Clinching individual medals from Olympic events stands out

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It has become a matter of routine for India to top the medals table in the World Cups this season.

Even as the president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), Raninder Singh, is thrilled that the youngsters have topped the medals table for the fourth year in a row in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, it may have to be stressed that the Indian men and women have absolutely been brilliant in rifle and pistol in New Delhi, Beijing and Munich this year.

It was in the fitness of things that 14-year-old Esha Singh wound up the show for India by winning the bronze medal in mixed air rifle with Gaurav Rana. It could have been a better medal but for the duo slipping in the second qualification phase after having topped the first.

Rising to the occasion

Esha has done remarkably well to step it up on the international stage, following her sweep in the women's, junior and youth gold medals in air pistol in the National Championship in Thiruvananthapuram last year.

Esha had also won the individual silver in the junior women's air pistol, while Sarbjot Singh had won the gold in the junior men's air pistol. These are Olympic



On target: Esha Singh and Gaurav Rana who won the mixed air rifle bronze, with the Belarus and champion German teams in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

events and should augur well for the future of Indian shooting.

Even though India was No. 1 in the medals table, with 10 gold, nine silver and five bronze, the individual medals from the Olympic events, including the ones in the mixed events, stand out.

Icing on the cake

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar winning the junior men's rifle 3-position gold with a junior world record in the mixed events, stand out.

The results:

Mixed air pistol: 1. Germany (Andrea Katharina Heckner, Robin Walter) 16 (382, 57); 2. Belarus (Liubou Stralchonak, Abdul-Aziz Kurdz) 12 (383, 569); 3. India (Esha Singh, Gaurav Rana) 16 (378, 573); 4. China (Li Xue, Wang Zhehao) 14 (379, 571); 15. India-A (Priya Raghav, Arjun Singh Cheema) 564.

centll in winning the junior women's air rifle gold, ahead of Mehuli Ghosh who has been shooting world-class scores as a matter of routine in almost every competition.

Asian junior champion Yash Vardhan and World junior champion Friday Hazarika could not get the individual medals, but were able to win the mixed air rifle silver and bronze medals with Shreya Agrawal and Mehuli Ghosh respectively.

Ten medals including four gold, in Olympic events, without considering the team medals, is a strong statement by the Indian team.

On-field umpires Kumar Dharmasena and Marias Erasmus awarded England awarded six runs in total.

Chasing New Zealand's 241 for 8, England needed nine runs from the final three balls when a throw by Martin Guptill deflected off diving Stokes' bat for a boundary.

On-field umpires Kumar Dharmasena and Marias Erasmus awarded England awarded six runs in total.

But former ICC Elite Panel umpire Simon Taufel said as per the rules, the umpires should have awarded England five runs instead of six.

RACING

Well Connected and Impavid to fight it out

BENGALURU: Well Connected and Impavid may fight out the finish of the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore (2,000m), the stellar attraction of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 21). There is no false rails.

1 INDIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 1-15 pm: 1. Ramon (6) Arshad 60, 2. Constanza (4) Trevor 59.5, 3. Habanero (3) Noornabi 59.5, 4. Kimeria (8) Srinath 59, 5. She's Stylish (1) Vinod Shinde 57.5, 6. Snow Queen (9) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 7. Aqua Blessing (7) Chetan K 56, 8. Jon Show (5) Sai Vamsi 56 and 9. Red Indian (2) Nazerul 56.

1. CONSTANZA, 2. KIMARA, 3. AQUA BLESSING.

2 HYDERABAD CUP (Div. 1, 1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 1-45: 1. Electra (2) Suraj 60, 2. Mushterion (10) Trevor 59.5, 3. King Of Shadows (5) Shobhit 58, 4. Amazing Angel (4) Chetan K 56.5, 5. Crack Of Dawn (9) Sandesh 56, 6. Andra King (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 7. Duxton (8) Jagadeesh 56, 8. Azeemki Blackhawk (11) Neeraj 55, 10. Mr Humble (7) Darshan 55 and 11. Firing Line (6) S.A. Amit 53.

1. ELECTRA, 2. CRACK OF DAWN, 3. MUSTERION.

3 KOLKATA CUP (2,000m), 3 rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 2-15: 1. Velocidad (8) Srinath 60, 2. Lycurgus (6) P.S. Chouhan 57.5, 3. Nitromax (2) Akshay K 57.4. Prince Charmed Life (3) Trevor 56, 6. Rare Rhythm (7) T.S. Jodha 56, 7. Tanoura (1) Adarsh 54.5 and 8. Flirting Eyes (4) Neeraj 51.

1. VELOCIDAD, 2. LYCURGUS, 3. RARE RHYTHM.

4 MUMBAI CUP (1,400m), rated 4 to 45, 2-45: 1. Sakura (1) Akshay K 60, 2. Multifaceted (2) Zervan 58, 3. Air Command (8) Suraj 56, 4. Nikandros (7) A. Harish 56, 5. Psychic Warrior (10) Noornabi 55.5, 6. Turf Magic (3) Darshan 54.5, 7. Silver Devil (2) Bhawani Singh 54, 8. Corona Del Cosa (4) Antony 53.5, 9. Torsoro (5) R. Manish 53.5, 10. Akita Pro (9) Trevor 52.5 and 11. Ice Floe (11) Sandesh 51.

1. MULTIFACETED, 2. SAKURA, 3. AQUA PRO.

5 MYSTICAL MILLION (1,600m), 5 maiden 3-y-o, (Terms), 3-20: 1. Aachen (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 2. Manzoni (4) Sandesh 56, 3. Mighty Red (6) Darshan 56, 4. North Winds (3) Yash 56, 5. Sir Lancelot (5) Neeraj 56, 6. Speaking Stars (7) Zervan 56, 7. Streaming Gold (2) Suraj 56, 8.

1. WELL CONNECTED, 2. IMPAVID.

6 KINGFISHER ULTRA DERBY BANGALORE (2,000m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-30: 1. Impavid (4) Sandesh 56, 2. Knight Templar (5) Zervan 56, 3. Malwa (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 4. Royal Crystal (3) Neeraj 56, 5. Sir Supremo (2) Yash 56, 6. Southern Ruler (6) Bhawani Singh 56, 7. Anjeze (7) Akshay K 54.5, 8. Cosmic Ray (8) Suraj 54.5, 9. Hunt For Gold (9) Trevor 54.5 and 10. Well Connected (10) David Allan 54.5.

1. CONSTANCE - MULTIFACETED, 2. SAKURA, 3. AQUA PRO.

7 KINGFISHER ULTRA DERBY BANGALORE (2,000m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-30: 1. Impavid (4) Sandesh 56, 2. Knight Templar (5) Zervan 56, 3. Malwa (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 4. Royal Crystal (3) Neeraj 56, 5. Sir Supremo (2) Yash 56, 6. Southern Ruler (6) Bhawani Singh 56, 7. Anjeze (7) Akshay K 54.5, 8. Cosmic Ray (8) Suraj 54.5, 9. Hunt For Gold (9) Trevor 54.5 and 10. Well Connected (10) David Allan 54.5.

1. WELL CONNECTED, 2. IMPAVID.

8 MYSTICAL MILLION (1,600m), 5 maiden 3-y-o, (Terms), 3-20: 1. Aachen (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 2. Manzoni (4) Sandesh 56, 3. Mighty Red (6) Darshan 56, 4. North Winds (3) Yash 56, 5. Sir Lancelot (5) Neeraj 56, 6. Speaking Stars (7) Zervan 56, 7. Streaming Gold (2) Suraj 56, 8.

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1. CONSTANCE - MULTIFACETED, 2. SAKURA, 3. AQUA PRO.

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IN BRIEF



YouTube fined over kids' data privacy breach

SAN FRANCISCO YouTube has reached a multimillion-dollar settlement with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission over alleged violations of children's data privacy after an investigation found the website improperly collecting children's data. IANS



Mt. Etna, Italy's biggest live volcano, erupts

ROME Italy's Mount Etna, Europe's biggest live volcano, erupted overnight with lava flows and explosions, volcanologists said on Saturday. The eruption forced the closure of two airports in Sicily's second-biggest city of Catania. AFP



Will call Swedish PM about A\$AP: Trump

WASHINGTON U.S. President Donald Trump said he would call Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven about American rapper A\$AP Rocky (in picture), who has been detained in Sweden over a street brawl case. "So many people would like to see this quickly resolved!" Mr. Trump tweeted. REUTERS



Scientists develop AI to curb 'deepfake' videos

NEW DELHI A team of Indian-origin researchers in California has developed a system driven by artificial intelligence to identify altered content at the pixel level. The team is currently working on still images which will eventually help them detect "deepfake" videos. IANS

Beauty firms cash in on Thailand's giant snails

Mucus said to have anti-ageing element

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NAYOK Giant snails, once loathed by Thailand's rice farmers for eating the buds of new crops, are now more valuable than gold to some cosmetic firms.

The precious slime is patiently "milked" from the glands of the snail by dripping water over it using a pipette. Its raw form is sold to Aden International, a Thailand-based cosmetics company that ships its products to Korea and the U.S.

Somkamol Manchun, who is an expert in the purification process of the serum, said snail mucus contains collagen and elastin which "can make skin firm with less wrinkles". It also helps in healing the skin, she said.

Aden was started three years ago as a business solution to the snail infestation in Nakhon Nayok, said founder Kitpong Puttarathavanan. "We found that our

Venice Film Critics' Week to open with animated film from India

Set on the streets of Mumbai, *Bombay Rose* moves from real life to fantasy, accompanied by much-loved Bollywood songs

NAMRATA JOSHI

MUMBAI

Gitanjali Rao's *Bombay Rose* will be the first Indian animation film to open the Venice International Film Critics' Week. A Cinestaan Film Company production, the hand-painted animation film is written, designed and directed by Ms. Rao and marks her feature film debut. The August 29 screening will mark the world premiere of the film.

The Venice International Film Critics' Week is an independent, parallel section organized by the National Union of Italian Film Critics during the Venice International Film Festival.

"It has been our privilege to work with Gitanjali and

Paperboat Studios over the last two years to bring this piece of beautiful cinema to life," said producer Rohit Khattar of Cinestaan in a press statement.

'Love letter'
He described the film as "a stunning love letter to Mumbai and its people".

"A chronicle of the people who migrate from small towns, seeking minimal life in the maximum city", the film is based on true events and "explores the ruthlessness of a society where the love and life that reign on the big screen can crush you in its mean streets," he said.

Painted painstakingly and passionately, frame by frame, something Ms. Rao is

Magical lines: A still from *Bombay Rose* and, right, Gitanjali Rao. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

renowned for, it is about a red rose bringing together three tales – love between two flower sellers, love between two women, and the love of an entire city for its Bollywood stars. Set on the

streets of Mumbai, it moves from real life to fantasy, accompanied by much loved Bollywood songs.

The depiction of urban reality is done in a documentary style, whereas the intri-

gues wanted to paint stories about people who live and love on the streets of Bombay, never becoming success stories. Yet, their struggle for survival makes heroes out of them. This is the city with its cast of unsung heroes and heroines that I want to share with the world and [this is] why I started this labour of love six years ago," said Ms. Rao.

Her five independently produced animated shorts – *Blue*, *Orange*, *Printed Rainbow*, *Chai* and *True Love Story* – have been to over 150 international film festivals and received more than 30 awards.

Struggle for survival
She describes *Bombay Rose* as a story about simple people with their simple yet impossible dreams. "I have al-

ways wanted to paint stories about people who live and love on the streets of Bombay, never becoming success stories. Yet, their struggle for survival makes heroes out of them. This is the city with its cast of unsung heroes and heroines that I want to share with the world and [this is] why I started this labour of love six years ago," said Ms. Rao.

This year, the Venice film festival takes place from August 27 to September 7.

Bombay Rose is co-produced with Film d'Ici and was delivered at Mumbai-based Paperboat Animation Studios. Working creatively alongside Ms. Rao was acclaimed sound designer P.M. Satheesh.

Russian website offering 'paid' research authorship under probe

73 of the 344 papers offered for sale are from journals based in India

R. PRASAD
CHENNAI

An "online marketplace" claiming to facilitate sale and purchase of authorships for research papers that have been accepted for publication in scientific journals has been brought to light by the Web of Science, part of London-based Clarivate Analytics, which provides analytical services to journals and innovation companies.

An investigation by the company showed that a Russian website (<http://123mi.ru>) claims to facilitate the fraudulent publication. Retraction Watch blog was the first to report the scam.

A Google translation of the claims on the Russian website says, "We sell publications of finished articles in Scopus and Web of Science journals (articles written and accepted in journals; sold in parts or in whole)."

It asks researchers to part with hundreds of dollars to become authors of papers that they never worked on, promising definite publication and indexing.

The website lists 344 articles for which first, second,



third or more authorships are for sale.

Of the 344 papers where authorships are for sale, 73 are from journals based in India. Venezuela has the second highest number of papers at 54, followed by the U.S. (38), Russia (33) and Pakistan (28).

Although there are a few dozen papers listed from these countries, it is not clear how many journals are allegedly open to such a practice.

There is also no confirmation of the site's claim that the journals are indexed in Scopus or Web of Science or whether they are predatory or standard journals.

Although the website claims that certain authorships had been sold, it is not

clear if individuals parted with money.

It is also unclear if any papers have actually been published, or if the Russian website is just an online scam operation.

First-author fee

The cost of first authorship is highest and reduces for the successive authors. The cost of first authorship varies from \$285 to \$1,222.

Papers with five potential authors have been listed, although the norm is to have three or four.

"The articles have been accepted for publication in journals that are allegedly indexed. We do not know the identity of the authors or journals... We are investigating and trying to identify the journals. We will take appropriate action," Amy Bourke-Waite, External Communications Director, Web of Science Group, Clarivate Analytics, said in an email to *The Hindu*.

The website does not mention the name of the journals or the title of the 344 papers. It says that the names of the journals and titles will be "available only to

customers who have paid".

But it does provide information about journal disciplines, country of publication, the number of authors per paper, short description of the article and if the journal is indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science.

"The primary transaction appears to be author-to-author (with the owners of the service presumably taking a cut) but beyond allowing post-acceptance changes in the author lists, it's not clear to what extent journal editors or publishers are aware of, or involved in this enterprise," Nandita Quadri, editor-in-chief of Web of Science said in a July 17, 2019, letter to Natalie Ridgeway, executive officer of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), a non-profit that promotes integrity in research and publication.

"I wanted to bring this to your attention early as you may want to warn COPE members of this activity as soon as possible and perhaps take this opportunity to share best practice guidelines regarding post-acceptance changes to author lists," she said.

Paris show gives the humble back its place in the limelight

Traces hooks and closures on women's attire down the ages

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

The humble back of the human body is almost never seen in fashion images, forgotten amid the focus on the front and faces.

A new Paris exhibition, however, aims to redress this imbalance, with visitors being confronted by mannequins with their backs turned.

The exhibition, organised by the Palais Galliera fashion museum, is showing at the Bourdelle Museum amid its famous collection of plaster statues. Curators say one of the aims of the exhibition is to explore the relationship with the back through the complex fastenings imposed on women throughout history as a symbol of submission.

Excluding the straitjacket, no men's clothing item has ever fastened at the back. But women's clothing often has been, leaving them in a position of dependence.

"Anatomically, the body is not made to put its arms behind the back. Fastening at the back is unnatural," said Alexandre Samson, curator of the exhibition which runs until November 17.



Watch me: A dress by German fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld is featured as part of the new exhibition in Paris. • AFP

of the 20th century. A more recent "back fashion scandal" occurred in June 2018, when U.S. First Lady Melania Trump visited a camp for undocumented immigrant children at the Mexican border. The words on the back of her parka sent a powerful message: "I really don't care, do you?"

According to the organisers of the Paris exhibition, modern society is obsessed with people's faces while the back is more a reminder of our limitations.

"Our back is the only part of ourselves that we don't see and that others do," Mr. Samson said.

New species of shark squirts clouds of light

It was found in the Gulf of Mexico

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW ORLEANS

A pocket-sized pocket shark found in the Gulf of Mexico has turned out to be a new species.

The pouches near its front fins squirt little glowing clouds into the ocean, scientists said. Researchers from around the Gulf and in New York have named the species the American pocket shark, or *Mollisquama mississippiensis*.

It is only the third out of more than 500 known shark species that may squirt luminous liquid, said R. Dean Grubbs, a Florida State University scientist who was not involved in the research. He said the other two are the previously known pocket shark and the tailight shark, which has a similar gland near its tail.

"You have this tiny little bulbous luminescent shark cruising around in the world's oceans and we know nothing about them," said Mr. Grubbs, ex-president of the American Elasmobranch Society of scientists who study sharks, skates and rays.

Like the only other 16-inch pocket shark known to science, this 5.6-inch newborn male fished out of the Gulf has a pouch next to each front fin. The luminescence might conceal the shark from prey or from predators, scientists said.



Snail hacks: The serum of a snail is milked at a farm in Nakhon Nayok province in Thailand. • AFP

CM YK

On an adventure



Flying out: Astronauts Andrew Morgan, Alexander Skvortsov and Luca Parmitano prepare for the launch to the International Space Station on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on Saturday. • REUTERS

Ukraine museum showcases 'election trash'

Display highlights questionable practices ahead of snap polls in the country

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KIEV

A Darth Vader costume, playground equipment, pastries and boxes of food are part of an exhibit at Ukraine's National History Museum displaying the colourful behaviour and sometime-questionable practices that characterise the country's elections.

The exhibition, called

"The Museum of Election Trash", was put together ahead of the country's snap parliamentary elections on Sunday.

Ukraine is characterised by lively election campaigns unlike neighbouring Russia. One of the candidates in this year's election is Darth Vader, who is running for a seat in Odessa. Another Darth Vader ran for

president in 2014. The "electoral trash" collection also highlights candidates' efforts to influence voters through gifts, with exhibits including colourful equipment for a town playground that one candidate provided to voters before an election, along with pastries and boxes of foodstuffs.

The Star Wars theme continues this year with the

election being widely called "Battle of the Clones", with candidates mimicking the recently elected President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, also a former TV comic, and his Servant of the People party. Mr. Zelenskiy starred in a show with the same name and later launched his party. This time, he has urged voters to be careful not to vote for 'copycats'.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SRINAGAR
HAZRATBAL SRINAGAR - 190006

Corrigendum to

Advertisement No. 02 (NF) of 2019 Dated: 11.07.2019

Due to typographical error, the Experience for the post of Registrar has been wrongly shown as 5 Years.

Please read experience clause for the post of Registrar as under:-

- I) Holding analogous Post.
- ii) At least 15 year's experience as Assistant Professor in the AGP of 7000/- and above or with 8 years of service in the AGP of 8000/- and above including as Associate Professor along with 3 years experience in educational administration, or
- iii) 15 years of administrative experience of which 8 years shall be a Deputy Registrar of an equivalent post in the GP of Rs. 7600/- or above.

No: NIT/PDI/19/1688, Dated: 19.07.2019

No: NIT/R/19/426, Dated: 19.07.2019

Sd/
(Registrar)

N.D.-N.D.