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Pakistan troop movement along LoC normal: General Rawat  
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Virat Kohli's men look to seal another ODI series win  
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## NEARBY



Fee for SC/ST students restored to ₹50: CBSE  
NEW DELHI

On the direction of the HRD Ministry, the CBSE said on Tuesday that it has decided to restore the practice of charging only ₹50 from SC and ST students of Delhi government and aided schools. The Board had recently hiked the fee for all candidates for Class X and XII examinations.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Nursery student raped in school, sweeper held  
NEW DELHI

A five-year-old nursery student was allegedly raped inside a school in south Delhi's Chittaranjan Park. The accused, a sweeper, has been arrested, the police said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 5

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 15

## Centre sets the ball rolling for J&K polls

EC holds meeting on fresh delimitation exercise under new Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act

NISTULA HEBBAR

NEW DELHI

The earliest possible date for the Assembly election in the new Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is around March next year, officials in the Home Ministry indicated, as the Election Commission (EC) held its first meeting on Tuesday for the delimitation exercise, necessitated under the new **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act**.

The EC held "internal discussions" and a "formal communication was awaited from the Ministry of Home Affairs", an EC official said.

Senior sources in the government told *The Hindu* that the delimitation exercise undertaken by the EC, with help from the Home Ministry, is the first step towards holding the Assembly election in the Union Territory. Details set out in the Reorganisation Act on the strength of the new House will have far-reaching consequences for politics in Jammu and Kashmir.

"First of all, the new As-



**Uneasy calm:** Traffic was thin on roads across Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ ANI

sembly, under the Reorganisation Act, is to have 114 seats, of which 24 have been kept aside for areas under Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which means elections will be conducted for 90 seats. The old Assembly had a strength of 111 seats (again 24 kept aside for PoK), with four seats for the Ladakh region. That means seven extra seats will be added to the effective strength of the House. Which part of J&K

these seats will be from remains to be decided," sources said.

### Reserved seats

The delimitation exercise will also take into account reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, as provided for under the Constitution, and that could tip the scales in favour of one region.

There is also a significant

population of those who were displaced during the Partition in 1947-48 and settled in Jammu, who have had no voting rights so far in the Assembly elections; a ballpark figure puts the number of these persons at 8 lakh.

**J&K DELIMITATION PROCESS**  
KICKS OFF ▶ PAGE 12  
RAHUL ACCEPTS GOVERNOR'S 'INVITATION' ▶ PAGE 12  
MOVE UNDEMOCRATIC, SAYS PRIYANKA ▶ PAGE 13

40 injured in stoning incidents

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Over 140 incidents of stone-throwing have been reported in the Kashmir Valley in the past one week and 40 paramilitary personnel were injured, according to government data available with *The Hindu*.

The Valley has been under lockdown since August 5 after Home Minister Amit Shah moved two Bills in the Rajya Sabha to annul Article 370 and downgrade and bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. The most incidents of stone-throwing, 45, were reported on August 6, a day after the Rajya Sabha cleared the legislation.

**WE WANT TO PREVENT LOSS OF LIVES, SAYS OFFICIAL** ▶ PAGE 12

## 'Normalcy in J&K not possible overnight'

SC Bench agrees to wait for a fortnight

**Nothing can be done overnight.**  
This is a serious issue. Normalcy may come, we expect it to come. We have to ensure that there is no loss of life

**ARUN MISHRA**  
Supreme Court judge

**It is in the interests of the State and the Centre that everything goes back to normalcy...**  
We are ensuring preventive steps with least cause for inconvenience to the public

**K.K. VENUGOPAL**  
Attorney General

pitals, police stations and schools.

"Nobody can take even a 1% chance," a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra, M.R. Shah and Ajay Rastogi observed.

The Bench agreed to wait and watch the goings-on in the Valley for a fortnight.

Mr. Poonawalla cited "regressive measures" like curfew and information blackout being imposed in the Valley before and during the revocation of Article 370.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Leaving no stone unturned



**Still at work:** Rescuers at the site of a landslip at Kavalappara in Kerala's Malappuram, where 21 bodies have been recovered and 38 are still missing. The death toll in rain-related incidents in the State has now gone up to 91. ■ THULASI KAKKAT (REPORT ON PAGE 8)

'Govt. will seek explanation from hotels that overcharge'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Five star hotels charging exorbitant rates for food items like bananas and eggs is an "unfair trade practice" and the government will seek an explanation from them, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Tuesday.

Mr. Paswan, referring to a recent tweet by actor Rahul Bose on being charged ₹442 for two bananas at JW Marriott Hotel, Chandigarh, and another tweet by a consumer on being charged ₹1,700 for two boiled eggs at Four Seasons Hotel in Mumbai, said rules under the recently passed Consumer Protection Bill would take care of such violations.

**'A serious issue'**  
"Outside the gate of the five star hotel, eggs are sold for ₹1 and inside for ₹1,000. This is a serious issue. Also, every hotel has to display the prices of the food items they serve in a menu," the Minister added.

In his previous stint at the Ministry, during the first government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Paswan had taken on movie halls, asking them to serve water at the Maximum Retail Price



(MRP).

"We will not allow dual MRP," Mr. Paswan said, adding that the government would make rules to check such practices under the Consumer Protection Bill. The rules will be in place within six months.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Minister's press conference, Consumer Affairs Secretary Avinash K. Srivastava said, "Prima facie, it is an unfair trade practice. As the Minister has directed, we will seek explanations from these hotels."

The Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) had defended JW Marriott Hotel, when the controversy broke out, saying it had not done anything "illegal". The FHRAI asserted that the hotel did the right thing by charging 18% GST on food and beverages served on its premises.

## Automobile sales drop 18.71% in July

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Hit by poor consumer sentiment, the automobile industry saw its monthly sales decline 18.71% last month, the worst ever in nearly 19 years, forcing the industry to cut jobs. The sector reiterated its demand for a stimulus to arrest the downturn.

As per the data released by the industry body SIAM, vehicle sales across categories fell to 18.25 lakh units in July, down from over 22.45 lakh units a year earlier. Previously, the biggest slump of 21.81% was seen in December 2000.

The decline in July was led by the passenger vehicles segment, which saw sales plunge almost 31% to a little over 2,00,000 units.

FULL REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 17

## 'SC not in a hurry with regard to Ayodhya case'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, heading the Constitution Bench hearing the Ayodhya appeals, said on Tuesday that the Supreme Court is not in a hurry. Lawyers need not feel constrained and can argue to their heart's content.

The top judge said lawyers on both sides could raise their arguments as and how they like, no matter how long they take.

The CJI's words signify the importance the court is giving to the appeals. These

appeals had previously been pending unheard in the court for the past nine years. The Bench is now hearing them five days a week, morning till evening.

The Chief Justice will retire in November.

His clarification came after senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for the Muslim parties, complained that the court was allowing the Hindu side to argue for days without producing a shred of evidence or exhibit to fortify their claim over Ramjanmabhoomi.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Sensex sees second record plunge of year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Global weakness on account of the crash in Argentina's peso, the continuing political unrest in Hong Kong and the long-drawn U.S.-China trade war led to the Indian benchmarks losing heavy ground on Tuesday, even as strong gains in Reliance Industries helped the indices limit the day's losses.

The 30-share Sensex lost 623.75 points, or 1.66%, to close at 36,958.16.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

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Scale model of INS Kolkata to be unveiled at Jamia on I-Day

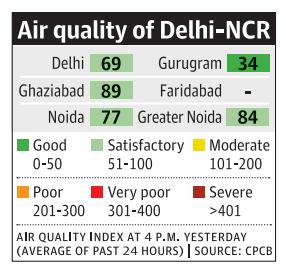
STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A model of INS Kolkata that has been gifted to Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) by the Indian Navy will be unveiled at the university on Independence Day.

A university spokesperson said the model, which costs about ₹12 lakh, will be installed outside the Centre for Information Technology. It will be unveiled by JMI Vice-Chancellor Professor Najma Akhtar.

The model will be kept in a glass case outdoors and the university hopes that it will urge students to join the Defence forces, said the spokesperson.



DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Lecture on "Mapping China's Interest in Kashmir" by Abhijitn Rej, Researcher, Analyst & Consultant at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

**Dance:** The second day of Saare Jahan Se Acha 2019 - Guru-Shishya Parampara festival will feature performances by Aloka Kanungo & Group - Odissi ; Dr. Anwesa Mahanta & Group - Satrangi; Rani Khanan & Group - Kathak; Dr.Jayaprabha Menon & Group - Mohiniyattam; and Kavita Thakur & Group - Kathak dance recital at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Messages in Mosaic - Sneh Souvenirs", an exhibition of works on glass mosaic by Shirish Satam at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "In Search of the Celestial", an exhibition of sculptures by Sandip Chakraborty at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Rainbow", group exhibition by artists from Army families at All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

The lunch meeting was to be hosted by Deputy Di-

# Fee for SC/ST students restored to ₹50: CBSE

Board to take up reimbursement issue with Delhi govt.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

On the direction of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said on Tuesday it has decided to restore the practice of charging only ₹50 from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students of Delhi government and aided schools.

The CBSE had recently hiked the fee for all candidates for Class X and XII board examinations. The fees for SC and ST students in Delhi, who were paying only ₹50 while the Delhi government was giving the rest of the amount as a subsidy, was raised to ₹1,200.

CBS's expenditure on Class X and XII exams amounted to approximately ₹500 crore last year. Earnings from student exam fees was less than ₹250 crore. This resulted in a deficit of more than ₹200 crore last year," Mr. Tripathi said.

"In previous years, the deficit was covered by the profits gained from conducting professional entrance exams, which have now moved to the National Testing Agency. By doubling the student exam fees, we will come



The Central Board of Secondary Education had raised board exam fees for SC and ST students to ₹1,200. ■ FILE PHOTO

back to a no profit, no loss situation," he added.

Mr. Tripathi said measures to make the examination leak-proof and to improve the speed and quality of the evaluation, as well as higher paper, printing, and transport rates have increased costs.

Call for protests

Several students' outfits have called for protests outside the CBSE head office on Wednesday. Condemning the examination fee hike, the All India Democratic Students' Organisation called for a nationwide protest.

## Officers' meeting with J&K students called off

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A lunch meeting between liaison officers and a section of Kashmiri students refused to take part in any 'State-sponsored' gatherings.

On Monday, a few of the students had said they deemed participating in a lunch event as an 'act of betrayal and a flagrant disregard towards our people's legitimate rights'.

The meeting was to discuss J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik's sanction of ₹1 lakh each to liaison officers to organise Id-ul-Zuhra festivities for Kashmiri students who are studying in cities across India and were unable to go home on the occasion, said university

sources.

The meeting was allegedly called off as a section of Kashmiri students refused to take part in any 'State-sponsored' gatherings.

On Monday, a few of the students had said they deemed participating in a lunch event as an 'act of betrayal and a flagrant disregard towards our people's legitimate rights'.

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY**

Independence Day Celebration at Red Fort on 15th August 2019

In connection with the Independence Day Celebrations-2019, elaborate traffic arrangements around Red Fort have been made. Detailed traffic deployment will be in place to facilitate the movement of V.I.P. vehicles, invitees and general public to reach the place of function and also to ensure safe and smooth flow of Traffic in other parts of the city.

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY INDEPENDENCE DAY 15 - 08 - 2019 (Thursday)**

**TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT**

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

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

**ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 0400 Hrs to 1000 Hrs**

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels may avoid Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, BSZ Marg, Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizammuddin Bridge and ISBT bridge and take the route as advised.

**North ---> South Access**

**Alternative-1:** Aurobindo Marg – Safdarjung Road – Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street – Mandir Marg – Panchkuian Road – Rani Jhansi Flyover and reach their destinations in North Delhi and vice-versa.

**Alternative-2:** Reach Connaught Place – Minto Road – Bhavbhuti Marg – Ajmeri Gate – Shradhanand Marg – Lahori Gate Chowk–Naya Bazar–Peeli Koti–S.P. Mukherjee Marg and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

**Alternative-3:** Ring Road ISBT (Kashmere Gate) – Salimgarh by-pass Road (Upper RingRoad) – IP Estate flyover and Vice-Versa.

**Alternative -4:** Reach Nizammuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna – Pushta Road – G.T. Road and cross over to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

**East West corridor:**

DND – NH24 – Vikas Marg – Shahdara Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to reach Ring Road.

Vikas Marg – DDU Marg – Bhavbhuti Marg – DBG Road

Boulevard Road – Rani Jhansi flyover – D B G Road – Punchkuian Road

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

**SIGNAGES**

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

**RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTERSTATE BUSES**

- Goods vehicles will not be permitted between Nizamuddin Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge from 0000 Hrs Midnight to 1100 Hrs on 15.08.2019.
- INTERSTATE BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BETWEEN MAHARANA PRATAP ISBT AND SARAI KALE KHAN ISBT FROM 0000 Hrs Midnight to 1100 Hrs on 15.08.2019.

**RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS**

Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 0000 Hrs Midnight to 1100 Hrs on 15.08.2019 between ISBT to - NH24/NH T point (Nizamuddin Khatta) on Ring Road and take alternative route available.

Buses ordinarily terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Main Railway Station will be curtailed/diverted as below:-

- Opposite Ramila Ground on J.L.N. Marg for buses approaching from South and West Delhi. Pedestrians can approach Red Fort via Nukar Faiz Bazar and Subhash Marg.
- At Mori Gate and Tis Hazari for buses coming from North, North West and East Delhi via ISBT Bridge. Pedestrians can reach Red Fort via Lothian Road – Chhatta Rail – Netaji Subhash Marg – Esplanade Road.
- At Boulevard Road opp. Maharaja Agrasen Park for buses coming from North Delhi side from Ring Road. Pedestrians can reach Red Fort via Lothian Road – Chhatta Rail – Netaji Subhash Marg – Esplanade Road.

Normal bus service will be restored after 1100 Hrs

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  - From North: Mori Gate – Puli Duffrin – S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.
- New Delhi Rly. Station:** There is no restriction.
- ISBT Kashmere Gate**
  - From New Delhi and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street – Mandir Marg – Panchkuian Road – Rani Jhansi Flyover – Boulevard Road.
  - From North Delhi: There is no restriction.
- J.P.N. Hospital:** There is no restriction.
- Kasturba Hospital:** Ajmeri Gate – Ajmeri Bazar – Chowk Hauz Quazi – Chowk Barshabullah – Urdu Bazar.

# Govt. waives fitness test fee for autos, slashes other charges

AAP spokesperson says move has nothing to do with Assembly polls due next year

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet on Tuesday waived various fees, including fitness test fee of ₹600, that autorickshaw owners in the city had to pay the government.



Autorickshaw drivers said they have been demanding rollback of fees since 2012.

vind Kejriwal.

Autorickshaw drivers are seen as a core voterbank of AAP and "fair arrangement for auto drivers" was one of the 70-point election plan released by the party ahead of the 2015 Assembly election.

The autorickshaw drivers were also one of the 24 target groups that the party identified ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in 2019.

AAP's auto and taxi union president Santosh Pandey

said, "We have met with the Transport Minister and the Chief Minister countless times over this issue. Even today [Tuesday] morning, we had met them and were told that by 5 p.m., it will be done." He added that SIM and GPS charges were imposed after the Nirbhaya case in 2012 and they have been demanding rollback of fees since then.

**Fresh charges from Sept. 1**  
All fresh changes shall come into effect from September, 1, 2019. Only the fees in respect of grant as well as renewal of permit is contained in Rule 59(1)(a) of Delhi Motor Vehicle Rules, 1993, shall come into effect from 15th October [sic].

"an official statement said.

Ahead of the Assembly polls, due in February next year, the AAP government has over the last two months announced plans to provide free rides to women in metro and buses; and provide electricity for people who use upto 200 units. When asked why these moves come ahead of the polls, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj told *The Hindu*, "Under our government, revenue has doubled and we are giving back the money to the people. We are not doing it a month before the election. We had given free water and reduced power bills by half in the first month after coming to power. The Centre had done direct cash transfer to farmers just a month before the Lok Sabha polls but no one questioned it."

Restrictions at four stations on Violet Line on August 15

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The DMRC officials on Tuesday said the entry and exit at four stations on the Violet Line would be restricted on August 15 during the celebrations at Red Fort.

"Entry and exit at Lal Quila, Jama Masjid, Delhi Gate and ITO stations will be permitted from select entry/exit gates during the ceremony time and some gates will remain closed at these stations owing to security considerations," the DMRC said. Parking at stations will be shut from 6 a.m. on August 14 till 2 p.m. on August 15.

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## Constitution at 70

**Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life.**

- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

### Launch of 'CONSTITUTION AT 70' CAMPAIGN

To make sure the future generations understand the values of the Indian Constitution and become partners in Nation-building

Wednesday, 14th August, 2019 at 11:30 A.M.

Venue: Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi

Chief Guest

**Arvind Kejriwal**

Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour

**Manish Sisodia**

Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

Dip/Shabdarth/D/0094/19-20



**Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi**



**Greetings to the people of Delhi on the occasion of  
73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day**

Continuously for the 4th year, the Gates of the Delhi Legislative Assembly will be opened for the public



Welcome to witness the glimpses of coloured L.E.D. Lighting on Historical Building,  
Musical Fountain and an Additional 100 K.W. Solar Power Plant.

Dates : 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 | Time : 5.00 P.M. to 8.00 P.M.

**-: Special Attractions :-**

Cultural programme and performance by CISF Band

**Ram Niwas Goel**  
Speaker, Legislative Assembly

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Dip/Shabdarth/d/0092/19-20

## Man, daughter-in-law held for 'kitty scam'

Victims were promised gifts, gold

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 64-year-old jeweller and his daughter-in-law have been arrested for allegedly duping nearly 350 people by luring them into a scheme where they promised them gifts and gold.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West) Devender Arya said that the accused have been identified as Murari Agarwal and Kavita Agarwal (33).



Murari Agarwal and Kavita Agarwal in police custody.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, when the lucky draw was conducted, one of their accomplices would always win, the victims alleged.

Subsequently, the accused allegedly asked the victims to return the token, which they had given claiming that he had to pay GST. The accused then fled from Sagarpur and could not be contacted after which the victims approached the police on June 8. Based on the complaint, a case under Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code was registered and an investigation was taken up.

"They asked the people to invest ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 monthly in return of gifts and gold, but fled with their money," he said.

Explaining the modus operandi, the police said that the accused allegedly gave the victims tokens.

**Lucky draw**

They allegedly assured the victims that they would conduct a lucky draw every month and the winners would be given gifts and the rest would get gold worth the money invested in 20 months.

Several raids were conducted after which Murari and his daughter-in-law Kavita were arrested on August 8 and brought to Delhi. They were produced before the court on August 10 and the police sought a two-day custody.

## Foreign national stabbed to death, one arrested

'Victim used to bully accused'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old Nepalese national was allegedly stabbed to death by another Nepalese national on Desh Bandhu Gupta Road on Monday evening.

The accused has been arrested, the police said.

They said that the victim, Virendra, was killed by Vishal after a scuffle broke out between the two over a petty issue. They knew each other for years.

The police received a call around 4.30 p.m. regarding a stabbing incident. When

the police reached the spot, Virendra had been taken to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Preliminary investigation revealed that an argument between the two turned violent after which Vishal took out a knife and stabbed Virendra in the neck. "The accused has been arrested and the weapon has been seized," the officer said.

The police said that a common friend of the duo told investigators that Virendra was an alcoholic and used to bully Vishal.

## Rain lashes Delhi for second consecutive day

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Rains lashed the Capital for the second consecutive day on Tuesday with the weather station at Safdarjung recording 10.1 mm of rainfall between 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Other areas in the city like Palam and Lodhi Road received more rainfall with weather stations recording 24.8 mm and 16 mm of

rainfall respectively.

The humidity was at a high of 92% and the maximum and minimum temperatures settled between 35.5°C and 27°C.

Generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain/thundershowers has been forecast for Wednesday.

The maximum temperature is likely to drop to 31°C and the minimum to 26°C.

## AAP MLAs spar online over waterlogging

Hold each other responsible for issue

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

AAP MLAs Prakash Jarwal and Dinesh Mohaniya had a spat on Twitter on Tuesday over waterlogging in Sangam Vihar's Mangal Bazar, with both blaming the other for the issue.

"When will the problem of waterlogging on Mangal Bazar Road of our Sangam Vihar Assembly be resolved? This question was asked to me during Facebook Live and I have answered it in this video," Mr. Mohaniya tweeted.

plaining. But the area is not under me, the local MLA has to solve the issue," said Mr. Mohaniya, who is also the Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Jal Board.

In response, Mr. Jarwal, who is the MLA from Deoli, accused Mr. Mohaniya for the problem.

"On February 5, 2017, DJB vice-president inaugurated the sewer on Mangal Bazar Road and the credit of stopping the work of Mangal Bazar for 2.5 years also goes to the DJB V.P," he said in a tweet.

"Now at least give directions to the DJB and finish it [work] soon, MLA ji, who is live only on Facebook," he added.

IN BRIEF



JNU teachers move HC against chargesheets

**NEW DELHI**  
Several teachers of Jawaharlal Nehru University on Tuesday approached the Delhi High Court challenging the chargesheets by the varsity issued against 48 faculty members for allegedly participating in a protest march in July last year.

**DDA clears plan to change land use at Badarpur plant**

The Delhi Development Authority on Tuesday approved a proposal to change land use of an ash disposal area of Badarpur Thermal Power Plant in south Delhi to develop an eco-park there, officials said. The decision was taken during a meeting of the urban body at the Raj Niwas, chaired by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal.

**Criminal who escaped from police custody held**

**NEW DELHI**  
A 27-year-old criminal, identified as Raju alias Mango, who escaped from police custody on July 27 when he was brought to DDU Hospital for treatment has been arrested after a tip-off, the police said on Tuesday. The accused has 20 criminal cases lodged against him, they said.

**Man found dead inside flat, wife critical**

**NOIDA**  
A 30-year-old man was found dead inside his house in Greater Noida while his wife was lying unconscious with her wrist slit, the police said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday, a day after the couple, both working professionals, had a fight, the police added. The woman is being treated at Safdarjung Hospital, said the police.

# Nursery student raped inside school, sweeper arrested

Victim says she was assaulted on three separate occasions

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

A five-year-old nursery student was allegedly raped inside a school in south Delhi's Greater Kailash-II.

The accused, a sweeper at the private school, has been arrested, the police said on Tuesday.

The victim told the police that the incident took place inside the school's washroom on at least three separate occasions.

The matter came to light when the girl went home after school on August 7 and complained of stomach ache.

"After the parents were informed, they asked the girl whether she was touched inappropriately... after which the girl started crying," a police officer

**C**The matter came to light when the girl went home after school on August 7 and complained of stomach ache

The mother then called the father and asked him to come home early.

**Victim counselled**

The parents then took the girl to the hospital. During treatment, the doctors told the parents that the girl had been sexually assaulted.

"The police have registered a case under Section 376 (punishment for rape) of the Indian Penal Code and under relevant sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Further probe is under way.

said. The parents called the police and informed them about the matter.

The victim was then counselled and during the session she told women officials that a man would take her to the school's washroom and sexually assault her.

"We then approached the school authorities and with their help, identified the accused. He was arrested from his home," the officer said.

The police have registered a case under Section 376 (punishment for rape) of the Indian Penal Code and under relevant sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Further probe is under way.

## DCW rescues woman from abusive brother

He had locked her up for buying a suit

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

and rescued her," the DCW stated in a release.

"At a time when Rakhi is approaching, this brother behaved with the most unimaginable brutality with his own sister. His acts were most barbaric. Strictest action needs to be taken against him," said DCW chief Swati Maliwal.

DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said that a PCR call regarding the incident was made on August 5 and that the victim's statement was recorded on August 9 in the presence of her parents.

He added that the girl has stated that she did not want any legal action against her brother.

"The girl was discharged from a hospital on August 12," Mr. Alphonse said.

## Batla House gets HC go-ahead

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday gave the go-ahead to the release of movie *Batla House* on August 15 after its film-makers and accused in the encounter case came to a consensus on certain changes.

Ariz Khan, facing trial in the Batla House encounter case, and Shahzad Ahmed, who has appealed against his conviction and life sentence in the same matter, had moved the court against the release of the film. They had claimed that the movie would prejudicially affect the trial in both cases. A special screening of the movie was arranged and it was seen by the judge and counsel for both the sides.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



**PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES**

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

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

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DPI/135/19

## Give completion papers to homebuyers, says SC

Relief for many living in Amrapali flats

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Noida and Greater Noida authorities to grant completion certificates to thousands of harassed homebuyers residing in various Amrapali projects in compliance with its verdict and warned that the officials would be sent to jail if they fail to do so.

It also said that project-wise list of homebuyers be provided to both the authorities within three days.

The SC warned that officials posted at the authorities for more than 10 years would be in trouble if its orders are not complied with.

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and U.U. Lalit was informed by advocate Ravindra Kumar, appearing for the authorities, that they have started complying with the apex court's July 23 verdict and have constituted a special cell to handover

the completion certificates.

He further informed the Bench that they have started providing electricity and water connection to the homebuyers as directed by the court despite there being no completion certificate.

When advocate M.L. Lahoty, appearing for the homebuyers, tried to tell the court that funds for the construction of stalled projects could be generated from various sources, the Bench said: "Mr. Lahoty lets do something constructive for the homebuyers. We are not paper tigers".

**Government Of Jharkhand  
Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Irrigation Division Godda,Camp-Mahagama**

**Corrigendum**

Date 09.08.2019

Tender Reference no. :- WRD/Irr.Div.Mahagama/SBD-IFB-01/2019-20 Dt. 30.07.19, PR No.-213239 Name Of Work :- ERM & P.C.C. Lining of L.M.C. & R.M.C. and Renovation of its distributaries of Sunder reservoir Scheme. Previously This Annual Financial Turn Over Amount is Rs. 1,27,67,10,750.00 [Cl. 4.5A(a)] (Rupees One Hundred Twenty Seven Crore Sixty Seven Lakh Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty)only, of Information to Bidders (ITB) will be read as

This Annual Financial Turn Over Amount is Rs. 51,77,77,138.00 [Cl. 4.5A(a)] (Rupees Fifty one Crore Seventy Seven Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand one hundred Thirty Eight)only.

बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेगे तो बूद को तरसेगे Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Godda, Camp-Mahagama

P.R.214267 Irrigation(19-20)-D

**Office of Executive Engineer  
Construction Division, PWD Almora**

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering) E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer Construction Division, Public Works Department Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Single Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available form date 14-8-2019 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender Form	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lakhs)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	Extension Basoli from Shahid Mohan Singh Motor Road in Block Takula, Distt. Almora under State Sector (Part-II work Km.0.00 to 3.00).	4000.00 + 18% GST	1.08 Lakh	60 Days	6 Months	Class C & Higher in Road work in Central Govt. / Any state Govt. /Any Govt. Undertaking
2	Construction of Kafalna Sutargao Motor road from Km.8 of Korichhina Bagwallipokhar Motor road in Distt. Almora under State Sector (remaining work)	4000.00 + 18% GST	1.02 Lakh	60 Days	6 Months	Class C & Higher in Road work in Central Govt. / Any state Govt. /Any Govt. Undertaking

DIPR-UK-8824

15 अगस्त, 2019

## स्वतंत्रता दिवस सन्देश

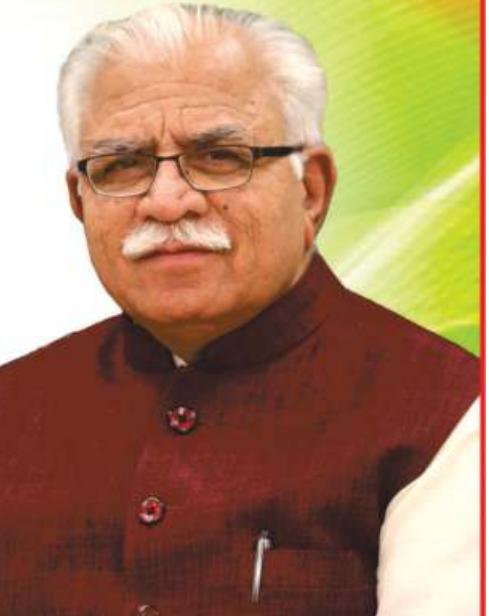
### श्री मनोहर लाल

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का प्रदेशवासियों के नाम संदेश  
14 अगस्त, 2019 को रात्रि 9:16 बजे  
आकाशवाणी रोहतक, कुरुक्षेत्र और  
हिसार केन्द्रों से एक साथ प्रसारण

15 अगस्त, 2019 को सीधा प्रसारण  
दूरदर्शन हिसार प्रातः 9:00 बजे  
दूरदर्शन चंडीगढ़ सायं 4:10 बजे

सूचना, जन सम्पर्क एवं भाषा विभाग, हरियाणा | [www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in)



## INDEPENDENCE DAY 2019



DELHI POLICE

SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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

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

### वर्जित वस्तुएं

Photo/फोटो	Particulars / विवरण
	Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें
	Bag, Briefcase थैला, ब्रीफकेस
	Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरिकॉर्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एमपी३ प्लेयर
	Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडीकैम
	Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन
	Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई
	Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e.g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टैबलेट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि
	Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंथी, रेज़र, ब्लॉड, तार, प्लकर
	Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
	Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार की डिक्सन करने से बचें क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है।

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel.  
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Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

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DP/9134/19

A N D N D

## 'Don't glorify use of drugs through songs, films'

Punjab plans law against artistes for encouraging the trend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government is mulling over a new law for strict action against artistes who promote and glorify the use of drugs through songs or films.

Expressing concern over the issue of the State's youth being caught up in a cobweb of drugs, Tourism Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Tuesday said the films and songs by Punjabi artistes have encouraged this trend. "The State government is going to bring in a law soon to curb the menace," he said at a meeting with famous folk singer Pammi Bai, who called on



Tourism Minister Charanjit Singh Channi. ■ FILE PHOTO

him to voice his concern over the issue.

Appealing to the artistes hailing from Punjab to not encourage drugs in their songs and films, Mr. Channi said: "The young generation considering them as their role models has been one of the reasons for them being attracted to drugs. They should not encourage the youth to take to drugs by glorifying the menace."

## U.P. govt. asks for status of 7 cases against Som

BJP MLA linked to Muzaffarnagar riots

ANUJ KUMAR  
GHAZIABAD

The U.P. government has initiated proceedings that could lead to the withdrawal of court cases against firebrand BJP MLA Sangeet Som. The State's Law Department has written to officials, asking for the status of seven cases filed against Mr. Som between 2013 and 2017 in Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Saharanpur.

Some of these cases are linked to the Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013, where the Sardhana MLA emerged as a controversial figure for pushing the Hindutva agenda. Sixty people lost their lives in the riots.

Amit Kumar Singh, Additional District Magistrate-City, Muzaffarnagar, confirmed that the district

administration had received directions from the government to submit a "13-point" report on the status of cases against Mr. Som.

"As per our records, there are two cases against Mr. Som in Muzaffarnagar. In these cases, he has been charged under Section 188 and Section 147 of IPC for breaking public order and rioting. We will submit the facts of the case. It is up to the Law Department to decide whether the government wants to pursue the cases or not. Even if the government withdraws, the court can decide otherwise," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

The district administration is yet to receive the order, said Anurag Pandey, SP (Rural), Meerut.

## Shutdown hits normal life in several parts of Punjab

Dalit outfits protest demolition of Guru Ravidas temple in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

üAmid the call for a shutdown over the demolition of a Guru Ravidas temple in Delhi's Tughlakabad village, members of Dalit outfits in Punjab staged protests in many parts of the State on Tuesday.

Sporadic incidents of violence were reported during the shutdown. In Hoshiarpur's Mukerian, a clash broke out between shopkeepers and protesters who were forcing them to keep their shops closed. Police resorted to firing in the air after both groups started throwing stones at each other.



Protesters block traffic in Bathinda during a march against the demolition of Guru Ravidas temple in Tughlakabad, Delhi. ■ PTI

evoked a mixed response in Punjab.

Most commercial establishments, shops and offices remained closed in Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Fazilka, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Barnala, Moga and Kapurthala.

Members of Dalit groups were seen taking out marches and staging sit-ins at sever-

al places. Vehicular move-

ment was disrupted after the protesters blocked the Jalandhar-Ludhiana highway, Phagwara-Nakodar, Phagwara-Hoshiarpur and Phagwara Nawanshahr-Chandigarh roads. Train movement on Ludhiana route was halted for a few hours following a dharna on railway tracks.

Following the violence, mobile Internet services in 10 police station areas have been suspended till Wednesday night and five persons have been arrested.

"The accused have been booked for obstructing public servants in discharge of duties, blocking national highway and attacking police," said Additional Commissioner of Police (Sector) Ajaypal Lamba.

The violence broke out on Monday night after members of the minority community blocked the highway near Galta Gate and threw stones on a Haryana-bound bus, said the police. Members of both the communities clashed and when policemen reached the spot, they were also attacked.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said on Tuesday that "the BJP had insulted the Ravidas community".

## Relocation of Ravidas temple on the cards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

After the Delhi Development Authority recently demolished the Sant Guru Ravidas temple located on forest land in South Delhi on a flat from the Supreme Court, Union Minister of State (independent charge) Hardeep Singh Puri

said the government would look for a solution, including an alternative site for it. Mr. Puri said on Tuesday that he met Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal, who also heads the DDA, to discuss various issues, including the issue of the temple.

"We, along with VC

DDA, are determined to find a solution and identify an alternate site where the temple can be relocated..." the Minister said in a tweet.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said on Tuesday that "the BJP had insulted the Ravidas community".

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the original Provisional allotment letter No. 36142-366135-OCB0013001 dated 24.10.2012 Original All payment Receipt No. issued by Jayaprakash Associates Limited in respect of unit bearing No. OCB0013001 in Orchards Project, situated at Jaypee Greens, Noida on dated 14.08.2019 Any documents is requested to kindly return the same to the Company.

Mrs. Anu Bhardwaj

Swamin W-15, J/21, Western Avenue Sainik Farms, New Delhi-62

Contact: 701159048

This is to inform to all concerned that Smt. Samina Nisha W/o Sh. Sher Ali R/F of Unit No. 4-B, Bhupi Sector-10, J/21, Colony, Noida A.P. who is the Original allottee of the above unit in favour of Smt. Rehema Parveen W/o Sh. Bilal Akbar Dastan Balandshah - U.P. which is registered and held in her name and the same is not executed. Because the Agreement to Sell is not registered or no Agreement to sell executed, so it is required to file a suit in the Court for recovery of the same. The suit is filed in the Court of Smt. Samina Nisha W/o Sh. Sher Ali R/F of Unit No. 4-B, Bhupi Sector-10,

# Flood toll rises to 49, focus now on relief efforts

Rescue operations draw to a close; State Transport bus services in Kolhapur, Sangli resume after more than a week

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

The death toll from flood or rain-related accidents across western Maharashtra rose to 49 on Tuesday even as floodwaters receded and rescue operations drew to a close.

Pune Divisional Commissioner Dr. Deepak Mhaisekar said of the 49 deaths in the past three weeks, 24 were in Sangli district, 10 in Kolhapur, seven each in Pune and Satara, and one in Solapur district. Three people – one each from Sangli, Kolhapur and Satara – are still missing.

As of now, 6.49 lakh people across Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara, Pune and Solapur have been shifted to shelters. "Of these, 3.11 lakh were evacuated from Sangli, and 3.36 lakh from Kolhapur. The focus is now on relief and help," he said.

State Transport bus services resumed after a week in Kolhapur and Sangli on Tuesday. There were long queues in the morning at the bus stand in Sangli city, hitherto submerged, as passengers scrambled to get on to the few buses travelling to Pune on routes where floodwaters have receded. Dr. Mhaisekar said 23 ST bus routes in Sangli and 22 routes in Kolhapur have been opened.

Of the 130 internal and external roads that were closed in the past few days in the two districts, 95 still remain shut with some routes being opened for local traffic.

A number of schools in both districts reopened after more than eight days, but the Kolhapur district administration, as a precautionary measure, has kept schools shut for a couple of days in areas where the water has still not receded.

The Krishna river in Sangli was flowing at a little over 45 feet on Tuesday, down from the perilous 57-foot mark three days ago. "The Krishna ... is four inches above the danger mark while the Panchganga in Kolhapur is one foot above the danger mark [43 ft]...with the intensity of rains lessening over catchment areas, we are hoping floodwaters will recede soon," Dr. Mhaisekar said.

## Cleaning drives

Sangli and Kolhapur cities witnessed furious cleaning drives, with municipal bodies deploying thousands of cleaners to get rid of the mud and stink left in the wake of the flood. The Kolhapur Municipal Corporation has pressed more than 400 cleaners, working round the clock in two shifts, to combat the debris in offices and establishments.

While rescue and evacuation operations by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Army, Navy and Coast Guard have drawn to a close, relief operations still continued in villages in Kolhapur and Sangli where water levels are high. Dr. Mhaisekar said the relief teams are focusing on 30-odd villages, particularly in Miraj and Palus talukas in Sangli, and Shiroli and Hatkanangale in Kolhapur, which



**Irreplacable:** Villagers and Navy personnel assess the damage to the partially submerged Keshwar temple in Khidrapur near the Maharashtra-Karnataka border, on Tuesday. (Top) a view of the 12th century Lord Shiva temple in December 2018. ■ VIVEK BENDRE ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## CM, Governor cancel I-Day events

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao have called off the customary events held to mark Independence Day, officials said on Tuesday.

The Cabinet Sub Committee, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, on Tuesday cleared a memorandum of assistance to be forwarded to the Centre seeking interim relief, while agreeing to spend the amount from the State corpus till it is approved. Of the total amount, ₹4,708 crore has been set aside for rebuilding villages in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara and another ₹2,105 crore for Konkan, Nashik and the remaining districts.

"We have also set up an expert committee to assess the impact of climate change and suggest actions and remedies to be taken in situations where we receive 700% rainfall in just four days, as has happened," Mr. Fadnavis said.

"Much of the money will be used to rebuild roads, homes and bridges, and make good the losses on account of crop damage, destruction of schools and commercial establishments."

are still completely cut off.

Defence officials said medium lift helicopters of the South Western Air Command stationed in Kolhapur continued air-dropping material, including food packets and water bottles, over areas like Kurundwad in Kolhapur. Indian Air Force helicopters on Tuesday carried out 11 sorties and air-dropped 12,300 kg of food and water packets over inaccessible areas.

With floodwaters receding, nine of the 17 NDRF teams currently engaged in Sangli are being de-requisitioned, while the seven NDRF teams engaged in Kolhapur will remain there for the next few days," Anupam Srivastava, Commandant, NDRF, 5th Battalion, said.

## Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	35	27
Safdarjung	35	27
Palam	36	27
Delhi Palam Today		
35°C	A warm and humid weather with cloudy sky to prevail. Short spell of rain/thundershower will occur.	
FRIDAY, AUG. 16		
RISE 05:51 SET 19:00		
RISE 19:46 SET 06:17		

35°C A warm and humid weather with cloudy sky to prevail. Short spell of rain/thundershower will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
34°C A cloudy and warm weather to prevail with light winds.

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## Constable shoots self by accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAGPUR

A 30-year-old police constable was killed on Tuesday when he accidentally shot himself with his service weapon in Gadchiroli district, an official said.

Sanjeev Shettiar, a member of Sironcha police's quick response team, was cleaning his loaded rifle around 7.30 a.m. at his residence when he accidentally pressed the trigger, a police spokesperson said. Family members rushed him to hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

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Date of downloading of tender document from VOCPT e-tendering web-site	14.08.2019 to 29.08.2019
Last date and Time for submission of Tenders online	Up to 15.00 hrs on 29.08.2019
Date and time of opening of (cover-1 ) Technical Bid Online	15.30 hrs on 29.08.2019
Validity of tender	120 days from the last date fixed for receipt of tender.
For further details and updates visit the port e-tender website <a href="http://www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPT">www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPT</a> .	
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## Pune developer's brother detained at Mumbai airport

Accused of fraud along with DSK, kin



**Family affair:** D.S. Kulkarni outside the Bombay High Court after a bail hearing last year. ■ FILE PHOTO

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

alerted their Pune counterparts on Tuesday morning.

"Accordingly, a Pune Police team left for Mumbai to bring Mr. Kulkarni back and initiate the process for his formal arrest. He will be produced before a local court after completion of medical formalities," a senior official said.

Mr. Kulkarni and DSK, along with other relatives, are named in the charge sheet filed by the police in the alleged ₹2,043 crore scam by the DSK Group.

While DSK, his wife, son and other kin are in jail, the Pune Police had issued a lookout circular against Mr. Kulkarni, a partner and promoter in a number of DSK Group companies.

He was finally detained at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport by the Mumbai Police, who

had been detained at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport by the Mumbai Police, who

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9. Infrastructure Facilities, ACARI, Madurai, Madurai District. Rs. 421.30 Lakhs	
10. Infrastructure Facilities, HCR, Vamban, Pudukkottai, Theni District. Rs. 265.00 Lakhs	
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12. Students Study Centre for Boys, (IOA), NRPC, Vamban, Pudukkottai District. Rs. 280.00 Lakhs	
13. Infrastructure Facilities, ACARI, Killikulam, Tulicorin District. Rs. 421.30 Lakhs	
14. Boy Students Study Centre, IOH, Pechiparai, Kanyakumari District. Rs. 328.00 Lakhs	
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## IN BRIEF



Fire doused, ship towed into inner harbour

VISHAKHAPATNAM

Offshore supply vessel *Coastal Jaguar*, in which a major fire broke out off Visakhapatnam coast on Monday, was towed to safety into the inner harbour of Visakhapatnam Port late on Monday night, after the fire was completely doused. According to VPT officials, the situation is under control and the injured are undergoing treatment. Of the 29 crew and staff onboard, 27 were rescued by the personnel of Indian Coast Guard and VPT.

## Kerala HC upholds Sriram Venkitaraman's bail

KOCHI

The bail granted to IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman, the accused in a car accident which killed a young journalist, K.M. Basheer, by a Magistrate Court was upheld by the Kerala High Court on Tuesday. The court dismissed the appeal filed by the State challenging the bail granted to the accused. Blaming the police for its "shoddy and desultory" investigation in the case, the court observed that one cannot expect an accused in a crime to provide the materials to the police to unravel the truth in the crime.

## New tantr for Ayyappa temple

PATHANAMTHitta

The Lord Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala will open on Friday afternoon for the five-day monthly rituals in the Malayalam month of Chingam that begins on Saturday. Karandaru Maheswaran Mohanarao of the Thazhamon Madhom will assume charge as the new tantr for the next one-year period from August 17 as part of an internal arrangement within the Thazhamon tantr family of Chengannur.

## Toll rises to 91 in rain-battered Kerala

More heavy rainfall forecast for 48 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The death toll in rain-related incidents in Kerala went up to 91 on Tuesday, even as the southwest monsoon again showed signs of intensifying over Kerala, sparking fears of fresh flooding.

The India Meteorology Department (IMD) has issued a heavy rainfall warning for eight districts for Wednesday. According to a bulletin issued by the weather office on Tuesday evening, the low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal is likely to become more marked during the next 48 hours, triggering widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall and extremely heavy falls at some places in Kerala.

A red alert indicating the likelihood of extremely heavy rainfall (above 204.4 mm) has been issued for Malappuram and Kozhikode while an orange alert indicating isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall (64.5 to 204.4 mm) is in place for Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod districts on Wednesday.

A holiday has been de-



**Waiting for his master's voice:** Shivan Pallath's pet has been waiting for him at the site where his house stood at Kavalappara, near Nilambur. Shivan and his five-member family are feared trapped under a huge layer of mud unleashed by last Thursday's landslide. The body of Shivan's father was recovered on Monday. ■SAKEER HUSSAIN

clared for educational institutions in Alappuzha, Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Malappuram, and Kannur on Wednesday.

**Strong winds likely**  
Strong winds and rough seas are also likely along and off the coast of Kerala and Karnataka and the Lakshadweep

areas till Thursday. Fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea.

By Tuesday evening, 2,24,506 persons were shifted from flood-hit places to 1,243 relief camps across the State.

As many as 1,057 houses were destroyed and 11,142 damaged. According to official figures, 34 persons were

## 'Bravery of Wayanad people truly humbling'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOZHIKODE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has praised the flood-hit people of his Lok Sabha constituency, Wayanad, saying the bravery and dignity displayed by them in the face of tragedy was "truly humbling."

"I left Wayanad with nothing but pride for the people I represent," Mr. Gandhi wrote on his Facebook page. He left Kerala on Tuesday morning after winding up his two-day visit to Wayanad ravaged by floods and landslides.

"The display of bravery and dignity in the face of

immense tragedy is truly humbling. It is such an honour and pleasure to be your MP. Thank you Kerala," he wrote.

Mr. Gandhi had visited flood-hit areas including worst-hit Puthumala in Wayanad district and Kavalappara near Nilambur in Malappuram district.

At Puthumala and Kavalappara, where landslides wreaked havoc last week, many people are still feared to be trapped beneath the debris.

Mr. Gandhi has urged the Central and State governments to "aggressively support" the people hit by the national calamity.

Chief Secretary Tom Jose, Additional Chief Secretary Vishwas Mehta, State Police Chief Loknath Behera and Principal Secretary (Revenue) V. Venu made an aerial survey of the affected areas.

Mr. Vijayan also visited various relief camps in Wayanad and Malappuram areas and reviewed the relief operations.

## Disqualified MLAs from Karnataka seek urgent hearing

Petitions in Supreme Court want the then Speaker's decision to be set aside

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra on Tuesday asked disqualified Karnataka legislators to communicate to the Registrar their urgency to list pleas against their ouster from the House under the anti-defection law for hearings.

Several MLAs, including Pratapgouda Patil and A.H. Vishwanath, have approached the Supreme Court jointly and separately.

Their petitions have arraigned former Karnataka Speaker Ramesh Kumar, Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, State Congress president Dinesh Gundurao and former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy as respondents.

The petitions urged the court to set aside the former Speaker's decision.

## Fundamental right

"The petitioners have a fundamental right under Article 19 to carry on any trade, business and profession. Their right to resign from the post of MLA and carry on any vocation of their choice, including public service, cannot be denied by the Respondent Speaker by a completely illegal and unconstitutional order. The action of the Speaker is thus in violation of the fundamental rights of the petitioners under Articles 19 and 21," they have argued.

They also challenged the then Speaker's conclusion that their resignations were neither voluntary nor genuine. The legislators asked



The MLAs challenged the former Speaker Ramesh Kumar's conclusion that their resignations were not voluntary.

the court to call for the records of the proceedings pertaining to their resignation and disqualification.

The legislators argued that the disqualification order under the Tenth Schedule was not in consonance with Rules 6 and 7 of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly (Disqualification of Members on Ground of Defection) Rules of 1986.

They said the actions of the former Speaker were wholly arbitrary and unreasonable and in violation of Article 14.

They argued that not only had they submitted their resignations on July 6, they repeated the act by coming in person on July 11 before the Speaker.

Under Article 190 of the Constitution read with Rule 202 of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, a member can deliver a resignation signed in his own hand and the Speaker is only to satisfy himself about the genuineness and voluntariness of the resignation, they contended.

## Hundreds stranded in island near Hampi rescued

STAFF REPORTER  
BALLARI

All tourists and workers of various hotels and resorts in *Veerapur Gaddi (island) near Hampi* in Karnataka were evacuated on Tuesday.

The rescue operation had been called off on Monday evening after airlifting around 250 tourists using two Mi-17 helicopters of the

Air Force and an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) of the Navy. The rescue operation continued on Tuesday morning with only one Mi-17 that airlifted all the remaining people to Jindal Vijaynagar Airport in Ballari district. It made seven trips, carrying 23-30 people each time.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Koppal Deputy Commission-

er P. Sunil Kumar said the total number of people rescued from the island in the last three days was 590. This included 30 workers from Nagaland, Mizoram and other States who were employed in different hotels and resorts on the island.

As the inflow to the Tun-

gabhadra reservoir dwindled owing to reduced rainfall in the catchment areas in the Sahyadri range and Malnad region, the discharge from the slipway and the canals was at the rate of 1.67 lakh cubic metres on Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. The current storage in the dam was 94.71 tmcft against the total storage capacity of 100.86 tmcft excluding around 32 tmcft of silt accumulated on the dam

bed over the last 50 years.

As the water level reduced in the river owing to the diminished discharge, roads and bridges that were inundated resurfaced by the evening.

However, traffic was still restricted as heaps of garbage deposited by the floods remained on the bridges and roads.

## Reverse tendering, a wrong move by A.P. govt'

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

After the Central government, it was the turn of the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) to assert that the "reverse tendering" concept of Andhra Pradesh government would lead to escalation in project cost.

The authority, after an emergency meeting in Hyderabad on Tuesday, said there was also a possibility of project work getting delayed.

## Pre-closure notice

The remarks come in the wake of the State government's decision to go for reverse tendering and issue pre-closure notice to project agency Navayuga Engineering Company Limited. Recently, the Centre too opposed the notices to the agency working on the multi-purpose project.

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekharwati had said in the Lok Sabha: "The Jagan government's decision could become a big hindrance for the project's progress. If it goes for fresh bidding, the cost will increase drastically and they won't be able to estimate the time of its completion. The responsibility of completing the project lies with the State government."

## Marathon meet

The authority at the five-hour-long meeting discussed, among other issues, Polavaram tenders, the progress of work and the implementation of the Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R) package.

A detailed discussion took place on the government's notice to the contractor to stop the work. The authority asked the State Water Resources Department officials to submit a detailed report.

## Tricolour on 100-foot flag mast in Khammam

It will be inaugurated on August 15

P. SRIDHAR  
KHAMMAM

All arrangements are in place to hoist a large tricolour atop a 100-foot flag mast on the scenic Lakaram tank bund in this Fort City on Independence Day.

The flag mast will be inaugurated by Minister for Animal Husbandry and Cinematography T. Srinivas Yadav. The tall structure will make Lakaram tank bund a distinctive landmark in the city.

The project was executed by Hyderabad-based firm, Flags & Poles, which claims to be the world's largest Indian national flags manufacturers and flag pole suppliers, in association with Khammam-based Philvex Hobby Society and the government departments con-

cerned. It was completed at a cost of ₹12.5 lakh, sources said.

## Huge flag

The national flag made of knitted polyester fabric measuring 20 feet by 30 feet will fly at a height of 100 feet atop the flag pole, symbolising the ideals of freedom fighters and the spirit of nationalism, said K. Srikanth, project manager and founder of the Flags & Poles firm in Khammam.

The flag mast has been erected on a concrete pedestal at the main entrance to the Lakaram tank bund, he said.

The gigantic structure has been designed to withstand high wind speeds, said Mr Srikanth, an M.Tech graduate.

## Put river project on hold, A.P. told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday not to proceed with the Godavari-Krishna-Penna river-linking project and the construction of the Pattiseema, Purushothamapattanam and Chintalapudi lift irrigation schemes without environmental clearance (EC).

The order came after the Bench perused a report submitted by the committee, which told the tribunal that after reviewing the proposal of the river-linking project and a site inspection, it was recommended that before going for any construction activities that required an EC, a detailed project proposal might be prepared and the statutory environmental clearance taken.

## Under strict surveillance



Workers installing CCTV cameras ahead of the Independence Day celebrations at Golconda Fort in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The Telangana government has planned to fix 25 cameras at the venue as part of security arrangements. ■ANI

## Highlands in Kerala on shaky ground

Land subsidence, lateral spread and soil piping pose threat to life and property

T. NANDAKUMAR  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Destabilising geological processes, coupled with extreme rainfall events and unscientific farming and construction activities, pose a serious threat to human habitation in the highlands of Kerala, according to scientists.

A team of scientists from the National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) here, who carried out an investigation in the wake of the heavy rain and devastating floods of August 2018, had found that land subsidence, lateral spread and soil piping were an immediate threat to life and property in the highlands.

**Huge cracks**  
During the investigation, which primarily focused on landslip-prone areas in the

Thrissur and Kannur districts, researchers found huge cracks across farmlands and dwellings. Many houses had developed cracks on walls and basements, rendering them unsuitable for habitation.

Based on the recommendations of the NCESS, the

Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has initiated steps to establish a network of landslip monitoring stations in the highlands. The units based on acoustic emission technology will also have an early warning mechanism to alert the local community.

Secretary, MoES, M. Rajeev said efforts were underway to set up 10 monitoring stations.

"Heavy intense rainfall triggers slope failure in locations where lateral spread and soil piping have occurred," explained V. Nandakumar, Head-Crustal Process Group, NCESS. "In the areas we surveyed, most of the slopes were used for raising crops and farmers had blocked the natural drainage systems. Any developmental activity, like the construction of roads and buildings in such vulnerable areas, requires remedial measures for slope stabilisation."

The team also surveyed areas in Malappuram and Wayanad, including Kavalappara and Meppadi, where rescue teams are still sifting through the debris of destructive landslips that occurred last week.

## With slump in demand, many private dental colleges slash fee

Dwindling job opportunities are said to be the cause

TANU KULKARNI  
BENGALURU

It is not just engineering colleges that are struggling to fill their seats. In view of poor demand, private dental colleges too have slashed their fee, with some charging only a half of what they are allowed to charge.

For the 2019-20 academic year, private dental colleges are allowed to charge ₹72,484 and ₹5.32 lakh annually for government and institutional quota seats, respectively. While all colleges are charging the full rate for government quota seats, many have changed the fee for institutional quota seats, which is now anywhere between ₹2.78 lakh and ₹4 lakh a year. Many of top dental colleges in Bengaluru are

willing charge ₹5.32 lakh.

Over the last three to four years, NRI and management quota seats – categorised as 'other' – have also seen a decline in demand. This year, the fee is in the range of ₹2.78 lakh to ₹5.28 lakh.

Dental college management point out that this is because of dwindling job opportunities in this sector. "Today, the number of dentists required is not very high," the principal of a Bengaluru-based private dental college said.

According to the principal, the managements of many dental colleges did not want the fee hiked for 2019-20. However, the government increased the fee by 15% as their respective associations fought for it. "The

top dental colleges that make up for 10% of the colleges will get their seats filled as students will be willing to pay for these seats. But the remaining colleges will have no takers. So colleges are willingly reducing the fee," the principal said.

Several dental colleges deployed agents to help them fill seats after the introduction of NEET. "With this, students from across the country can choose colleges in the State. For the most part, agents have been promised up to 30% of the annual fee if they are able to pursue students to take their management and NRI quota seats when the seats are surrendered to the colleges after the mop-up round," a senior professor said.

CM YK

## IN BRIEF



Gadkari misses meeting due to aircraft glitch

MUMBAI  
Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari was forced to miss a Union Cabinet meeting on Tuesday after he and 158 other passengers were left stranded for a few hours after a Delhi-bound aircraft returned to the bay at Nagpur airport following a technical glitch.

## HC to hear Ratul Puri's bail petition today

The Delhi High Court will on Wednesday hear the anticipatory bail plea of Ratul Puri, the nephew of M.P. Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in a money laundering case related to the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland chopper scam. The trial court had on August 9 issued non-bailable warrant against Mr. Puri on a plea by the Enforcement Directorate.

## Centre's new app for waste collection

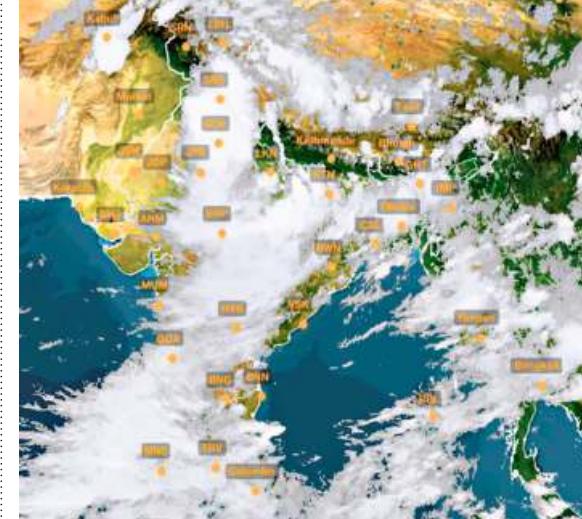
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

An app that will allow users to have waste – solid, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) – collected by their urban local bodies, was launched by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday, along with a new protocol on wastewater treatment that would become a part of cleanliness rankings of cities.

Launching the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan 2020, Minister of State (Independent) Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Swachh Nagar app.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE &amp; AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Goa and Telangana

**CITY** **RAIN** **MAX** **MIN**  
Agartala.....12.3...32.6...26.2  
Ahmedabad.....1.6...33.6...25.8  
Aizawl.....5.0...33.3...23.0  
Allahabad.....17.2...32.8...25.4  
Bengaluru.....0.2...27.4...20.6  
Bhopal.....14.2...26.3...24.1  
Bhubaneswar.....24.6...33.7...24.8  
Chandigarh.....34.8...28.1  
Chennai.....37.4...29.2  
Coimbatore.....30.4...22.6  
Dehradoon.....2.0...30.3...24.5  
Gangtok.....23.0...20.7...17.5  
Goa.....19.8...29.7...24.6  
Guwahati.....5.8...39.1...25.5  
Hubballi.....26.0...22.0  
Hyderabad.....30.4...24.6  
Imphal.....6.0...29.5...21.9  
Jaipur.....31.0...24.0  
Kochi.....36.2...28.2...23.4  
Kohima.....31.6...18.5  
Kolkata.....37.9...30.3...25.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

**CITIES** **SO<sub>2</sub>** **NO<sub>x</sub>** **CO** **PM<sub>2.5</sub>** **PM<sub>10</sub>** **CODE**  
Ahmedabad.....47.52...47....71...149...  
Bengaluru.....0.2...60...85...42...77...  
Chennai.....09.15...62...41...  
Delhi.....23.21...54...36...115...  
Hyderabad.....54.74...21...75...111...  
Kolkata.....03...67...30...29...  
Lucknow.....28.194...39...  
Mumbai.....11.17...103...25...43...  
Pune.....74.08...67...39...39...  
Visakhapatnam.....15.38...75...66...94...  
AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

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

## 8 killed as rain pounds Odisha

Chief Minister reviews the flood situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

At least eight people were killed as heavy rains battered Odisha's western and southern parts for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, causing large scale inundation in several districts.

The deaths were reported from the districts of Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput and Malkangiri, according to Special Relief Commissioner Bishnupada Sethi.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewed the flash flood situation in the districts of Bolangir, Kalahandi, Subarnapur, Boudh and Kandhamal. He interacted with the concerned district collectors through video conferencing and enquired about their requirements.

The coastal Odisha districts were also bracing for floods as more than 10 lakh cusecs of water was expect-



Water world: Vehicles submerged in water after a heavy downpour in Bolangir district of Odisha. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ed to flow in Mohanadi river on Thursday morning. The collectors of Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh and Kendrapara have been alerted and advised to strengthen river bank patrolling.

It has been raining incessantly in the interior regions of the State due to low pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal and north Odisha coast forcing the administration to evacuate people from the low-lying areas at several places.

Seven units of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force

along with fire services teams have been pressed into service to tackle the flood situation.

As hundreds of villages were marooned due to flash floods, road connection was also hit with breaches at many locations and roads remaining under water.

At least nine trains were cancelled and several others were diverted with water flowing over the track at many locations between Deogaon Road-Bargarh, Loisiga-Bolangir and Barpali-Dnguripalli stations in the Sambalpur-Titilagarh section.

## 9 fishermen die off Gujarat coast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

Nine more fishermen have died in Gujarat, taking the toll to 15, after their boats sank in rough seas off the Porbandar coast when they went for fishing expedition, ignoring an official fiat to not venture into the sea. "15 fishermen have died in the seas from Dwarka and Porbandar," an official from Porbandar said, adding the Coast Guard rescued more than 75 fishermen stuck in rough seas off the Porbandar coast.

According to sources, 95 fishermen along with 16 boats had ventured into the sea from Porbandar but they were stuck in rough sea. Their two boats capsized in which 15 fishermen drowned. The government has reiterated its directive, asking fishermen to not venture into the sea during the active monsoon period.

## Stir against I-T notices to Durga Puja committees

Department had sought tax details from Puja organisers



Taxing times: Members of Trinamool Congress staging a protest against the notices to Durga Puja committees. ■ ANI

"no notice was issued to the Durga Puja Committee Forum by the I-T department during this year."

Meanwhile, a press statement issued by Ministry of Finance in New Delhi said

details of tax deducted at source on payments made to contractors and event managers".

The statement, however, confirmed that an outreach programme was organised on July 16 this year for the Durga Puja committees at their own request so that they could be educated about the provisions of TDS.

## 57.3% allopathic practitioners not qualified: Health Ministry

CMs of all States have been asked to take appropriate action

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has warned that an uneven distribution of qualified doctors puts rural patients at risk. "At present, 57.3% of personnel currently practising allopathic medicine do not have a medical qualification," says the Ministry's data, adding that this puts rural patients at risk given the high density of doctors in urban areas and India's poor doctor-population ratio of 1:1456 as compared with the World Health Organisation standards of 1:1000.



ion Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

Section 15 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, prohibits a person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on a State Medical Register to practice medicine in the State.

"We have requested all Chief Ministers of all the States to take appropriate action under the law against quacks, and also to evolve suitable policies to ensure availability of a quality

health workforce in rural areas," said a senior health official.

According to government records, a total of 11,46,044 allopathic doctors were registered with the State Medical Councils/ Medical Council of India as on December 31, 2018.

**Mid-level professionals**  
Professor K. Srinath Reddy of the Public Health Foundation of India noted that the wide gaps in comprehensive primary healthcare services for many rural areas need to be filled through competent mid-level healthcare providers who are adequately trained, technologically enabled and legally empowered.

The Health Ministry states that it is now looking into bringing in mid-level healthcare providers to relieve overburdened specialists.



## Parliament House glitters in new lighting system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Parliament got a special dynamic lighting system that has been installed on its facade, enhancing the grandeur of the over 90-year-old edifice with different hues ahead of Independence Day.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the light system on Tuesday in the presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Ministers, Members of Parliament from different political

parties.

A large number of Parliament staff was also present during the event.

According to Lok Sabha secretariat officials, 875 LED lights, which will change colour every few seconds, have been placed on the facade of Parliament House, which has 144 pillars measuring 27 feet each.

The lights are power-efficient and use only one-fifth of the electricity compared to other types of lights.

## MISSING

A man named Chandru, 22 Yrs, Prateeksha Bhavan, Thavaru, Kuttippuram, his photo is given above has not returned. Prateeksha Bhavan after leaving on 09.07.2019 at 04.00 Hrs. The case is still under investigation after registering Crime 214/2019 u/s 57 of KP Act of Kuttippuram Police Station in Malappuram Dist, Kerala.

If any person receive any information in regards to the aforesaid person may inform to the nearest Police Station or Police Control room or any of the under mentioned officers were mobile number is given against each.

\* Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tirur - 9497990105

\* Inspector of Police, Kuttippuram - 9497947223

\* Sub Inspector of Police, Kuttippuram - 9497980663

\* Kuttippuram Police Station - 04926080250

Marks of Identification of Missing person : Chandru, 22 Yrs, Height: 150 CM, Mentally disabled and disability in speech. (F2/29/2019/M&PRD)

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) tender ID No. 2019\_DJB\_178099\_1 dated 09/08/2019

Issued by P.R.O. (Water) Advt. No. J.S.V. 265/2019-20

Executive Engineer (SDW)-XII

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) tender ID No. 2019\_DJB\_178099\_1 dated 09/08/2019

Issued by P.R.O. (Water) Advt. No. J.S.V. 265/2019-20

Executive Engineer (PR) SR-I

S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time for tender download
1	Providing & laying 250 mm to 160 mm nominal dia internal and peripheral sewer line in Kirari ghati colonies under Rohini Catchment area.	276,83,58,304/-		09/08/2019	03.10.19 up to 3.00 pm
	Construction of waste water pumping station at Pratap Vihar, Prem Nagar & Bhagya Vihar, of 41.00, 6.50 & 9.00 MGD capacities respectively including rising mains and other related equipment and civil works on DBO basis including operation and maintenance of all above sewage pumping station for the period of 12 years including defect liability period of 2 years	3,91,69,000/-		03.10.19 up to 3:00 pm	03.10.19 up to 3:00 pm

Pre-bid meeting 11.09.2019 at 12.00 Noon

After Evaluation of Part A(Technical Bid)

Time of opening of financial Bid, Date

Time of opening of technical Bid, Date

Time of opening of pre-bid meeting, Date

Time of opening of bid document, Date



## Deliberate, don't disrupt

Legislators could do well by adhering to a model code of conduct

One of the most unifying sights in public life is lawmakers taking to organised disruption of legislative business. Such displays became common in Parliament in the past decade as political parties and legislators demonstratively advertised their points of view without recourse to debate. A number of crucial bills have taken an inordinate time to be enacted due to disruption, while others were not enacted despite a broad consensus – such as the Women's Reservation Bill – due to the behaviour of a few naysayers. Many sessions of Parliament in the recent past saw little business being done due to repeated disruption. In this context, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu's exhortation to political parties to incorporate a model code of conduct for their legislators in State Assemblies and in Parliament is welcome. He suggested that the code should include stipulations on members not entering the well of the House, and desisting from sloganising and unruly acts. If indeed parties adopt a code, it will go a long way in making parliamentary work meaningful. Otherwise, the general public will lose interest in the procedural aspects of parliamentary democracy and limit their participation to just voting in the elections.

But the absence of disruption alone does not make for meaningful debate. The current Budget session sailed through with minimal disruption. Yet the high productivity during the session came without sufficient deliberation over crucial bills, several of which were rushed through without vetting by parliamentary standing and select committees. These committees have in the past been useful in expanding discussion over laws with civil society and experts from various streams of the larger society. They have also facilitated an enhanced cross-party coordination over issues. By not sending a single Bill among the 28 that were introduced and passed to a standing or select committee for scrutiny, the current session accentuated the trend that has minimised the importance of such committees over the last few years. Unlike the 15th Lok Sabha (2009–2014), when 71% of the bills were referred to such committees, in the 16th Lok Sabha, they constituted only a fourth of the overall number of bills. Time spent on debates in the current session in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha was barely a third of the overall business. This does not augur well for lawmaking. As Mr. Naidu has also pointed out correctly, deliberation is an important component of parliamentary democracy apart from legislation and accountability of lawmakers. All three aspects must cohere for a thoroughgoing procedural democracy.

## War within war

As the Saudi-led coalition crumbles, Yemen needs a nationwide ceasefire

The Saudi-led coalition's intervention in Yemen is proof of how things can go wrong with an ill-conceived, poorly strategised and geopolitics-driven military interference that cares little about human lives. After four years of war, the Saudis have not met their declared goal – pushing back the Shia Houthi rebels from the capital Sana'a and restoring the ousted government which is now temporarily headquartered in the southern city of Aden. On the contrary, the war has pushed Yemen into what the UN calls the worst humanitarian crisis. Thousands have been killed, tens of thousands displaced and about two thirds of the country's 28 million people do not have enough to eat. And now, there is a rebellion within the coalition. Last week, the Southern Transitional Council (STC), a militia group that was fighting the Houthis as part of the Saudi-led coalition, turned against their masters and captured the presidential palace in Aden as well as the city's main port. In return, Saudi jets targeted STC fighters before a tenuous ceasefire set in. It now looks like a three-way conflict. The Shia Houthis, who the Saudis claim are backed by Iran, are controlling much of the country's north including Sana'a. Yemen's internationally-backed government of Abderrabbuh Mansur Hadi, the Saudi ally, is controlling the south, though Mr. Hadi is running the purported administration from Saudi Arabia. The STC wants the south to be an independent entity, like it was till the Yemeni unification in 1990.

The STC's rebellion also signals the growing friction in the multi-national coalition Saudi Arabia has stitched together to fight the Houthis. The STC is backed by the UAE, a crucial partner of Saudi Arabia in its foreign policy adventures. They stayed together in propping up the military dictatorship of Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Egypt, in countering the spread and influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Arab world, in opposing the Iran nuclear deal and on blockading Qatar. But when it comes to Yemen, the Saudis see the Hadi government and Sunni Islamic parties, including the Islah, as allies who could stabilise and rebuild the whole country after the Houthis are defeated, while the UAE, already frustrated by the coalition's failure to defeat the rebels, counts on the STC and is staunchly opposed to the Islah party, which has ties to the Brotherhood. The UAE has already pulled out of the Yemen war leaving it to Saudi Arabia to defeat the Houthis. And with their continued backing to the STC, the Emiratis appear less concerned about defeating the Houthis than maintaining their influence in southern Yemen. This should be a moment of reckoning for Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince and the main architect of the Yemen intervention. He has lost the war and his coalition is crumbling, while Yemen is left with unimaginable human suffering. It is time for a nationwide ceasefire and talks with all stakeholders under the mediation of a willing UN to find a political settlement to the crisis.

# The contours of the Kashmir move

India's actions were enabled by the unilateralism in global politics and a decline in multilateral arrangements



SUHASINI HAIDER

**T**he government has defended its twin decisions to revoke operative portions of Article 370 of the Constitution and dividing Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories as "internal policy" that warrant no international comment. While the Prime Minister's moves have a domestic basis, their manner, or "Modi's vivendi" as it were, must be studied in their broader global context.

### The U.S.-Afghan factor

The immediate context is the future of Afghanistan and what the deal between the United States and Pakistan for Afghanistan will mean for India. According to reports, an assessment by Indian intelligence agencies that there would be an imminent settlement was what triggered the discussion within the Modi government about a response that would ensure India was not overlooked.

The U.S.'s deal for the return of the Taliban to Afghanistan's mainstream has three specific dangers for New Delhi. First, the deal would most certainly derail the Afghanistan elections planned for September 28, or make their results irrelevant. India's stakes in a democratic Afghanistan go beyond the process since every one of the 17 presidential ticket aspirants is a leader with ties to India. Second, a deal will bring the Taliban, whose leaders owe allegiance to Islamabad and Rawalpindi, into the central power structures and institutions in Kabul. Third, intelligence estimates indicate that after the deal, U.S. troops will not "zero out" completely but continue to maintain between

three and five military bases. In the past, America's dependence on Pakistan for supply routes and security guarantees led the U.S. seeking concessions from India on Kashmir. The U.S. President's comments in July, during a media interaction with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan that the U.S. counts on Pakistan to "extricate" it from Afghanistan, accompanied by an offer to mediate on Kashmir, set alarm bells ringing in Delhi and dictated the timing of the recent moves. Facing a fast-closing window of opportunity to consolidate its position in Jammu and Kashmir, the government chose to present the U.S. and Pakistan with a *fait accompli* before a deal was concluded.

### The UN's limited impact

The government's move in Kashmir, which had not been contemplated in all the decades since India signed the 1972 Shimla agreement – India and Pakistan committed that "neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation" – has also been enabled by the prevailing unilateralism in international politics and the concomitant decline in multilateral arrangements. It is clear that the UN and the UN Security Council have few real powers to stop New Delhi.

Pakistan has itself carried out such a reorganisation in the parts of Kashmir it occupied in 1948: military control and demographic changes in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK), or what Pakistan calls Azad Jammu and Kashmir; elections in which its national parties, the Pakistan Peoples Party, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf take part, and an ongoing process to dilute Gilgit-Baltistan's autonomous status. Pakistan has done all this without any UN push-back. In addition, its sustained support of terror groups inimical to India has discredited its protests



on the Kashmir issue. Given that four permanent members of the UNSC have already accepted Kashmir's reorganisation as an "internal matter" – and China's dissent is mainly on the issue of the reorganisation of Ladakh and Aksai Chin – there is little expectation that the UNSC petition by Pakistan will make any headway. The Prime Minister can travel next month to New York quite confident that he will not face more than a few uncomfortable moments and perhaps some protests outside the UN, if at all.

The government has already tested the UN's will and faced no repercussions. In July 2014, the government declared that the U.N. Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) set up in 1949, had "outlived its utility", and asked it to vacate its premises in Delhi. In September 2016, after the Uri attacks, the government publicly announced it had crossed the LoC, a line monitored by the UNMOGIP, to carry out what it called "surgical strikes" on terror camps in PoK.

While such operations have frequently been mounted by the Indian and Pakistani Armies, this was the first such public claim and faced no pushback whatsoever from the UN. In mid-2018, the government also dismissed the first report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation on both sides of the border in Kashmir, accusing the High Commissioner of "individual bias". And in February 2019, India announced that it carried

out air strikes on a terror camp in Pakistan, after which the Pakistan Air Force dropped bombs over the LoC in Kashmir. Aside from warnings to keep the peace, the UN's reaction was mild, and the UNMOGIP's role non-existent.

During this period, the ineffectiveness of the UN has been writ large over many other similar disputes. Russia's control of Crimea has only strengthened since 2014 despite a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution, UNSC statements and a "package of measures". When the U.S. decided, in 2017, to declare Jerusalem as Israel's capital, it lost a vote in the UNGA, but suffered no real action as a consequence of changing the decades-old status quo. Neither has Israel, despite UN censure of the Gaza bombings, and settlements in the West Bank; nor has China changed after UNSC resolutions on Tibet and UNGA petitions on Xinjiang.

### Reflecting a trend

Finally, while "Modi's vivendi" on Kashmir is aimed at its domestic base, it mirrors the prevailing trend of populism worldwide, much like the demonetisation decision in 2016 did: recapturing the national narrative, startling opponents with an unexpected move, and thrilling voters with forceful action. In his treatise "What is Populism?", Princeton professor Jan-Werner Müller recounts how populist regimes frequently frame their actions as representing the will of the "real people", a group they exclusively represent. By extension and example, those who dissent are deemed to be not "Real Poles" (prawdziwi Polacy) in Poland or "Real Hungarians" in Hungary. In the same vein was the report by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to his opponents: "We are the people. Who are you?"

In populist moves worldwide, such actions are "authorised by

the people", and therefore no blame accrues to the government if anything goes wrong. By contrast, says Müller, democratic accountability would actually mean that the burden is on the government to justify just how it uses its political judgment to ensure desired outcomes.

### The Kashmir line

In the Kashmir case, the government's actions, which have included the pouring in of troops, a clampdown on communications and the arrest of local leaders, have all been justified through the expressions of euphoria the decisions have elicited among its supporters nationwide. The populist assessment is that any negative consequences – violence in Kashmir, resistance in Jammu and Ladakh to the freeing up of property rights, for example, or the larger impact of worsening India-Pakistan ties on the Kartarpur corridor, Kulbhushan Jadhav's fate, and trade and transport arrangements – will not hurt the government as they were authorised by "the will of the people".

The prevailing narrative is that the government's Kashmir decisions have finally allowed 'Realpolitik' to prevail over the woolly-headed idealism of the past that has not benefited the nation in all these years. Furthermore, an influx of investments and non-Kashmiri residents into the Valley will "normalise" it and usher in an age of prosperity. While the term Realpolitik is used today in a positive sense, it is important to remember the context in which its earliest proponent, Athenian general Thucydides introduced it, in the 'History of the Peloponnesian War'; here he states: "Right, as the world goes, is only in question between equals in power, while the strong do what they can, the weak suffer what they must."

suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in

## Writing out a clean Bill on health

Medical education needs continuous reforms; the National Medical Commission Bill could be the first step towards this



SUMANT NARAIN

**O**ver the past few days, there have been expressions of concern in various fora over a few clauses of the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill, now enacted. Even medical professionals have protested. According to media reports, there are five primary concerns. These pertain to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)/National Exit Test, empowering of community health providers for limited practice, regulating fees for only 50% seats in private colleges, reducing the number of elected representatives in the Commission, and the overriding powers of the Centre.

### On examinations

First, a focus on the examinations. For the past few years, a separate NEET is being conducted for undergraduate and postgraduate courses. In addition there are different examinations for institutes such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research. This Act consolidates multiple exams at the undergraduate level with a single NEET and in turn avoids multiple counselling processes. NEXT will act as the final year MBBS examination across India, an en-

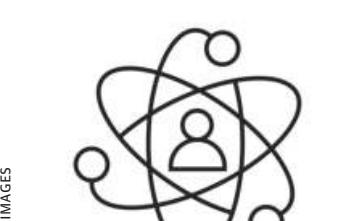
trance test to the postgraduate level, and as a licentiate exam before doctors can practise. It aims to reduce disparities in the skill sets of doctors graduating from different institutions. It would also be a single licentiate exam for graduates across the world. Thus, the government has in effect implemented a 'One-Nation-One-Exam' in medical education.

Second, concerns have been expressed over the limited licence to practise for community health providers. We have to appreciate that even with about 70% of India's population residing in the rural areas, the present ratio of doctors in urban and rural areas is 3.8:1; 27,000 doctors serve about 650,000 villages of the country. A recent study by the World Health Organisation shows that nearly 80% of allopathic doctors in the rural areas are without a medical qualification. The NMC Act attempts to address this gap by effectively utilising modern medicine professionals, other than doctors in enabling primary and preventive health care. Evidence from China, Thailand and the United Kingdom shows such integration results in better health outcomes. Chhattisgarh and Assam have also experimented with community health workers. Further, the Act requires them to "...qualify such criteria as may be specified..." thereby ensuring quality.

### Fee structure

The next issue relates to the capping of fees. It is an open secret today that private medical colleges require to the postgraduate level, and as a licentiate exam before doctors can practise. It aims to reduce disparities in the skill sets of doctors graduating from different institutions. It would also be a single licentiate exam for graduates across the world. Thus, the government has in effect implemented a 'One-Nation-One-Exam' in medical education.

The next issue relates to the capping of fees. It is an open secret today that private medical colleges



are capitation fee-driven, resort to a discretionary management quota and often have charges of corruption levelled against them. The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 has no provision for fee regulation. Until now, 'not-for-profit' organisations were permitted to set up medical colleges, a process involving enormous investments and a negotiation of cumbersome procedures. The NMC Act removes the discretionary quota by using a transparent fee structure. It empowers the NMC to frame guidelines for determination of not only fees but all other charges in 50% of seats in private colleges to support poor and meritorious students.

It would be simplistic to assume that a rise in unethical practices in this profession is solely the result of private medical education. While a cap on fees is necessary, there is also a need for incentives to attract private investors. In any case, the transparency that NEXT provides would lead to fee regulation through market forces. The Act also provides for rating of colleges. Thus, reducing entry barriers for setting up medical colleges, along with their rating, is expected to benefit students. They would be able to make an informed decision before seeking admission.

Finally, we need to view the issue of overriding powers of the Centre in the context that the Medical Council of India, even if directed by the government on critical matters, may not always pay heed.

The next issue is of representation in the NMC. A report of the then vice-chancellor, NITI Aayog, on reforms in medical education says: "The current electoral process of appointing regulators is inherently saddled with compromises and attracts professionals who may not be best suited for the task at hand. Indeed, there is ample evidence that the process has failed to bring the best in the field in regulatory roles. The process is based on what is now widely regarded as a flawed principle whereby the regulated elect the regulators." The Act, therefore, provides for a transparent search and selection process with an eclectic mix of elected and nominated representatives, both in the search committee and the commission itself. The government has further addressed the concern of preponderance of selected members in the commission by adding members from State medical councils and universities.

The efforts of successive governments have now culminated with the NMC Act replacing the IMC Act. There is no denying that medical education needs continuous reforms in order to usher in improvements in health care. There cannot be just one solution. The NMC Act is a serious attempt to meet the primary need of more medical professionals in the country; it is a beginning.

Sumant Narain is a civil servant and ex-director, NITI. The views expressed are personal

ple of natural justice: the NMC's opinion would be sought before giving directions.

### In a nutshell

While some sections of people have sought to create a negative perception about select clauses of the Act, they have not highlighted other features. The Act establishes the Diplomate of National Board's equivalence to NMC-recognised degrees – a long-pending demand. It also promotes medical pluralism. Then, there is a paradigm shift in the regulatory philosophy from an input-based, entry barrier for education providers without corresponding benefits, to its becoming outcome-focused. Both the number of doctors and their skill sets are expected to improve. Autonomy to boards and segregation of their functions will avoid a conflict of interest and reduce rent-seeking opportunities. And 'quacks' are liable to face imprisonment or be fined or both. The Act ends inspector raj.

The efforts of successive governments have now culminated with the NMC Act replacing the IMC Act. There is no denying that medical education needs continuous reforms in order to usher in improvements in health care. There cannot be just one solution. The NMC Act is a serious attempt to meet the primary need of more medical professionals in the country; it is a beginning.

Are those not following the advice adhering to the maxim "live and help to live"? C.G. KURIAKOSE, Kothamangalam, Kerala

### Cricket in Olympics

The announcement by MCC World Cricket Committee Chairman Mike Gatting that cricket may well be a part of the 2028 Olympics is heartening ('Sport' page, August 13). A T20 format will be a feast for cricket fans. Likewise, the game of cricket should feature in the Asian Games. K. PRADEEP, Chennai

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### China's gesture

Every year, Indian pilgrims undertake an arduous journey to the high-altitude Kailash Manasarovar. Peace of mind is a goal. At this juncture the perceptible change in China's attitude, whereby it has spent 36.8 million RMBs in building reception centres at the various points and equipping them with a number of facilities is a gesture that will help India-China ties (Page 1, "In Manasarovar, Chinese lend a helping hand to Indian pilgrims", August 13). The words attributed to Nixon Waterman are relevant here: "I am sure that we would differ less and clasp

our hands in friendliness. Our thoughts would pleasantly agree, if I know you and you know me."

R. PICHUMANI,  
Thirupurapuram, Tamil Nadu

### Rainfall metrics

In the context of the heavy spells of monsoon rain, it would be most appropriate to have two scales – one for intensity and the other for magnitude – to measure rainfall. There is no scale to classify rains above a certain intensity. The term "exceptionally heavy rainfall" is too blanket a term. For example, there was a report of 82 cm of rain on a single day in the Nilgiris district which is a

record in Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, there has been rain averaging 40 cm. Therefore, the present system of classification of rains should change. The 'intensity scale' could be formulated to judge and predict the intensity of rain in a given area and at a given period of time. Events such as cloudbursts and a very heavy downpour may be grouped under this category. The 'magnitude' scale could be used to record and interpret rains for a 24-hour period in a given area. There also need to be special studies to analyse cloud patterns, with predictions of 'intensity' and 'magnitude'

based on these. For the 'magnitude scale', in addition to the classification of low intensity rain, the revisions can be on these lines: 25 cm-50 cm: 'Extremely heavy rain' (Category 1); 26 cm-75 cm: 'Extremely heavy rain' (Category 2); 76 cm-100 cm: 'Extremely heavy rain' (Category 3); Above 100 cm: 'Extremely heavy rain' (Category 4). In the 'intensity scale' over a short period (less than five hours), the scale could be: 0.1 to 5 cm: 'Moderate'; 5 to 9 cm: 'Intense (warning)'; 10 cm: 'Cloudburst' (Take action - disaster); 10.1 to 15 cm: 'Floods, flash floods' (Heavily disastrous); 15.1 to

20 cm: 'Devastation'; 20 to 30 cm: 'Devastation on a large scale'; Above 25 cm: 'Unimaginable consequences'.

A. RAJAGOPAL KAMAT,  
Malaparamba, Kozhikode, Kerala

### Switching off

# Sanguine amidst slowdown

Despite stagnant incomes and increased joblessness, Indians are hopeful about the economy's future



MAHESH VYAS

Any major country in the world would give an arm and a leg for a growth rate of 6% per annum. But, in India, we lament such an achievement as a 'slowdown'. This is because, somehow, today we perceive any growth below 7% to be unsatisfactory. And not so long ago, we perceived any growth rate below 8% to be less than satisfactory.

What has changed now? It is not as if our per-capita income levels have suddenly shot up to a point where a lower growth rate can be considered satisfying. We are still a lower-middle income country.

What has really changed is our perception of what a satisfactory growth rate will be. Such perceptions do matter as they reflect the mood of the times that influences economic decisions. For instance, usually, growth in discretionary spending is a function of growth in income. But, if income expectations change, then the relationship between income and discretionary spending could also change. Similarly, aspirations and social norms impact decisions. If the mood turns sombre, if aspirations are diluted and if social norms turn less upbeat, economic decisions would be less enthusiastic even if income growth remains unchanged.

**Seeking consumers' opinion**  
Further, if changes in perceptions of individuals result in synchronised waves of optimism or pessimism, such shifts could well determine whether an economy moves toward accelerated expansion or a slowdown. Hence, it makes sense to ask consumers about their perceptions of expected well-being and then derive an aggregated sense of the mood to anticipate future economic trends.

According to George Katona, who pioneered work on consumer sentiments at the University of Michigan, discretionary spending depends on the ability and willingness of a consumer to spend. While ability is reflected in the consumers' income and assets, willingness to spend is re-



flected in the consumers' perception of future prospects.

How have Indians perceived their future in the recent past? There are two regular surveys which answer this question. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting a Consumer Confidence Survey since 2010 and the Centre For Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has been conducting a Consumer Sentiments Survey as a part of its Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) since January 2016.

#### Expectations of income increase

Both show that during 2018, a rising proportion of Indians felt that their incomes would rise over a one-year horizon. Both show that this increase in income-growth expectations of 2018 was of a distinctly sharper gradient than seen earlier.

According to the RBI survey, around the end of 2017, 46.5% of households expected their incomes to increase and 12.7% expected a decline. On a net basis, 34% expected an increase. By end-2018, the net figure had gone up to 57.3%, signifying a major improvement in income expectations during 2018.

The CMIE's CPHS shows a similar rising trend but at a different level. The net proportion of households that expected an increase in income increased from less than 5% in February 2018 to 23% in May 2019.

Both surveys show that this rising optimism about household incomes has declined in 2019. The RBI's survey shows that the decline began in the first quarter of 2019 while the CPHS shows it began in the second quarter. Interestingly, both showed pessimism on jobs during 2018. The consistent contradiction in both sur-

veys is noteworthy. Households did not see an increase in jobs in 2018 but they did expect incomes to improve. This means hopes were high even in the face of job losses.

Received wisdom on consumer sentiments tells us that people have an uncanny way of revealing their assessment of change in prospects. Bad news during sustained bad times is not really newsworthy and it does not attract much attention. On the other hand, good news or news of hope during a bad patch can change perceptions. Such a hope could have been provided by one-time cash transfers to households last year.

The RBI survey quantifies this eloquently. While 9.5% households, on a net basis, believed that employment conditions had worsened in 2018, 28.5% households believed employment conditions would improve in a year.

Their faith in the future remained intact even in the face of adverse outcomes compared to expectations. In December 2017, 9.4% of the households believed employment levels were worse (on a net basis) than a year ago but simultaneously, 33.6% believed they would improve in a year. A year later, in December 2018, 8.7% still believed the employment levels were worse than a year ago. Yet, a larger proportion – 37.6% believed these would improve in a year.

Optimism continued to prevail even in the latest July 2019 RBI survey, where 13% of households believed that employment conditions had worsened over a year but 31% of them believed that these would improve in a year. Such optimism is seen in income expectations as well.

As of July 2019, on a net basis, only 3% of the households believed their

incomes were higher compared to a year ago but 48.5% believed these would be better a year later.

#### Divergent findings on spending

How does this optimism on income and employment translate into a willingness to increase spending on discretionary or non-essential items? Here, the RBI and CMIE surveys diverge significantly. The RBI survey is prescient in anticipating a slowdown in the automobile sector. It shows that while households are optimistic on jobs and income in spite of current adverse conditions, they are not similarly gung ho about spending on non-essentials. In mid-2018, on a net basis, 53% of the households expected to spend more on non-essentials a year ahead. By July 2019, this proportion fell to 15%.

The CMIE's CPHS asks a related but somewhat different question, on whether households considered current conditions to be a good time to buy household durables. It shows that till July 2018, respondents who believed that it was a good time to buy consumer durables roughly equalled those who believed it wasn't. Both numbers were at about 22.6%. By March 2019, the proportion of pessimists declined to 17% and that of optimists increased to 30%. The CMIE survey shows an improvement in the mood to spend on discretionary goods. This reflects the fact that sales of domestic appliances began a recovery in the June 2018 quarter and grew at double-digit rates during the December 2018, March 2019 and June 2019 quarters.

Evidently, there isn't any widespread consumer goods slowdown. The slowdown is prominent in the automobile sector but not in other industries. The RBI survey reflects the former and the CMIE survey reflects the latter. It may be worth noting here that the RBI survey is based on a survey from 5,451 respondents from 13 towns while the CMIE's CPHS is based on over 40,000 respondents from over 300 towns and nearly 3,000 villages.

Different parts of the Indian economy are moving in divergent directions but, Indian households maintain hope in a future that will bring in more jobs and more income.

*Mahesh Vyas is Managing Director, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy*

# Balancing T.N.'s growth model

The State needs to reduce the burden on Chennai's water resources by diversifying other urban centres



J. HARSHA

Nearly three months into the southwest monsoon, the water crisis hasn't abated in large parts of Chennai. This scenario, for sure, will haunt the city again next summer with an even greater vigour, as freshwater supply hasn't overcome the rising demand.

This demand-supply asymmetry has rendered traditional solutions such as rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge totally ineffective. Overcoming the crisis will, hence, require some unconventional solutions to be tried, as suggested here.

The water crisis is a consequence of the skewed, Chennai-centric development model of Tamil Nadu, resulting in the capital city's water demand overshooting its available water resources.

To illustrate, in 2001, Chennai's water requirement stood at 1,327 million litres per day (MLD); by 2021 this will shoot up to 1,980 MLD. On the other hand, the supply was only 830 MLD in 2018.

Similarly, the area coming under city limits that was just 176 sq. km in 1978 has increased nearly threefold, to 425 sq. km, today. Even if resources in the city get augmented through supply of water from Krishna and Cauvery rivers, the demand will still outstrip the supply.

#### De-congesting Chennai

Hence, policies enabling indiscriminate, Chennai-centric investments in sectors like IT/ITES, automobiles and real estate need a rethink. Tamil Nadu's capital city has to be de-congested and allowed to grow only as much as its available water resources permit.

Thus, the key drivers that attract people from across Tamil Nadu – like better education prospects, employment opportunities and possibilities of a decent lifestyle – need to be brought into other cities in the State, especially those with a better availability of water resources.

For instance, the districts of Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Tiruchirappalli together receive an average rainfall of more than 1,200 mm per annum, compared to the 900 mm-1000 mm average annual rainfall of Chennai. Some of the major investments can be shifted to these areas. The Tamil Nadu government can take the lead here, moving some of its wings to these districts.

The South Indian state, here, can take its cues from The Netherlands, which has two

de facto capitals – Amsterdam, the official capital; and The Hague, the seat of government. Similarly, South Africa has three de facto capitals – Pretoria, the administrative capital; Cape Town, the legislative capital; and Bloemfontein, the judicial capital. Such distribution of administrative and commercial apparatus will reduce the pressure on Chennai's limited water resources and also make other towns and cities attractive for migrants.

#### More desalination plants

Further, when one considers desalination, Tamil Nadu's capacity pales in comparison with that of coastal West Asian countries. For instance, Saudi Arabia, the world leader in installed capacity of desalination plants, has built such plants all along its coastline and its largest plant, Ras-Al-Khair, has a capacity of 1,000 MLD. Similarly the UAE's Taweeh plant, when complete, will have a capacity of 900 MLD of potable water. On the other hand, in the case of Tamil Nadu, the total installed capacity of its two desalination plants is only 200 MLD – the Minjur plant and the Nemmeli plant both possess a capacity of 100 MLD each – and both are located along the capital city's sea coast, making the entire process Chennai-centric and suited to the requirements of only the city.

Such plants need to be built all along the 900 km-long Tamil Nadu coast – not just alone the coastline of its capital city. The cities and towns across the districts of Kanchipuram, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Thanjavur and Tirunelveli should be self-sustaining in generating freshwater from these desalination plants.

Finally, the State's cultivation model needs a paradigm shift. Tamil Nadu cultivates paddy in an area of about 18.3 lakh hectares, requiring about 710 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of water – the storage capacity of seven Mettur dams!

A nominal shift away from paddy to less water-intensive but high-income crops such as pulses, vegetables, and ornamental plants would save and release fresh water amounting to the capacity of at least two Mettur dams to the hydrological supply system of run-off across Tamil Nadu.

So, it is time for Chennai, and Tamil Nadu, to think out-of-the-box solutions that can complement traditional solutions such as water harvesting and groundwater recharge. These, coupled with some prudent policy-making and planning, can permanently solve the water crisis.

*J. Harsha is Director, Central Water Commission. Views expressed in the article are personal*

## Biodiversity in the time of deluge

As it weathers repeated floods, Kerala needs to take steps to protect its fragile ecology

PRAKASH NELLiyAT

In mid-August 2018, Kerala experienced severe floods and is still struggling to deal with their devastating impact. It is a matter of deep concern that, a year later, the State is facing a similar situation. This only shows that there is a considerable human-induced natural imbalance in the State, making it vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change.

Such floods impact the poorest strata of the society the most, causing a loss of lives, livelihood options and assets. They also place an enormous burden on the government in terms of reconstruction budgets. In this context, a broader assessment of floods from a 'sustainable development' perspective, by limiting economic growth options to within the carrying capacity of the ecosystem, is the need of the hour.

True, the root cause of such floods, not only in Kerala but elsewhere, is the high precipitation levels. However, one cannot discount the role of anthropogenic factors like unscientific development and over-exploitation of nature in aggravating the damages.

#### Impact of climate change

In recent decades, the global climate has been changing in an unpredictable manner. As per an IPCC report, the Global Green House Gases emissions grew by 70% between 1970 and 2004. Global warming has had critical effects on the hydrological cycle and water is the primary medium through which the climate change impacts trickle down to the people.

The changing precipitation alters the hydrological systems, resulting in floods and droughts in different regions. With the certainty that climate change is already impacting most countries, there is no option but to take adequate precautions through dam management and timely public alerts.

In the case of Kerala, a structural transformation and changing patterns of land use are affecting its environment. Agriculture is becoming insignificant (11.3% of State GDP) and services (63.1%) and industry (25.6%) sectors dominate the State's economy. Further, a high population density

– as per the 2011 census, it was 860 persons per sq. km, much higher than the Indian average of 382 – the shift from a joint family system to a single-family one and a greater inflow of money, particularly from Gulf countries, has resulted in an increased construction of luxurious houses and resorts.

The government, on its part, has also been developing extensive infrastructure to support the booming services and industry sectors.

Speaking of construction, it is important to take the appropriate decision on the type and size of the structure, its location, materials it proposes to use, and permissible damages it will cause to the nature. One cannot just replicate the Gulf model of construction in Kerala's fra-

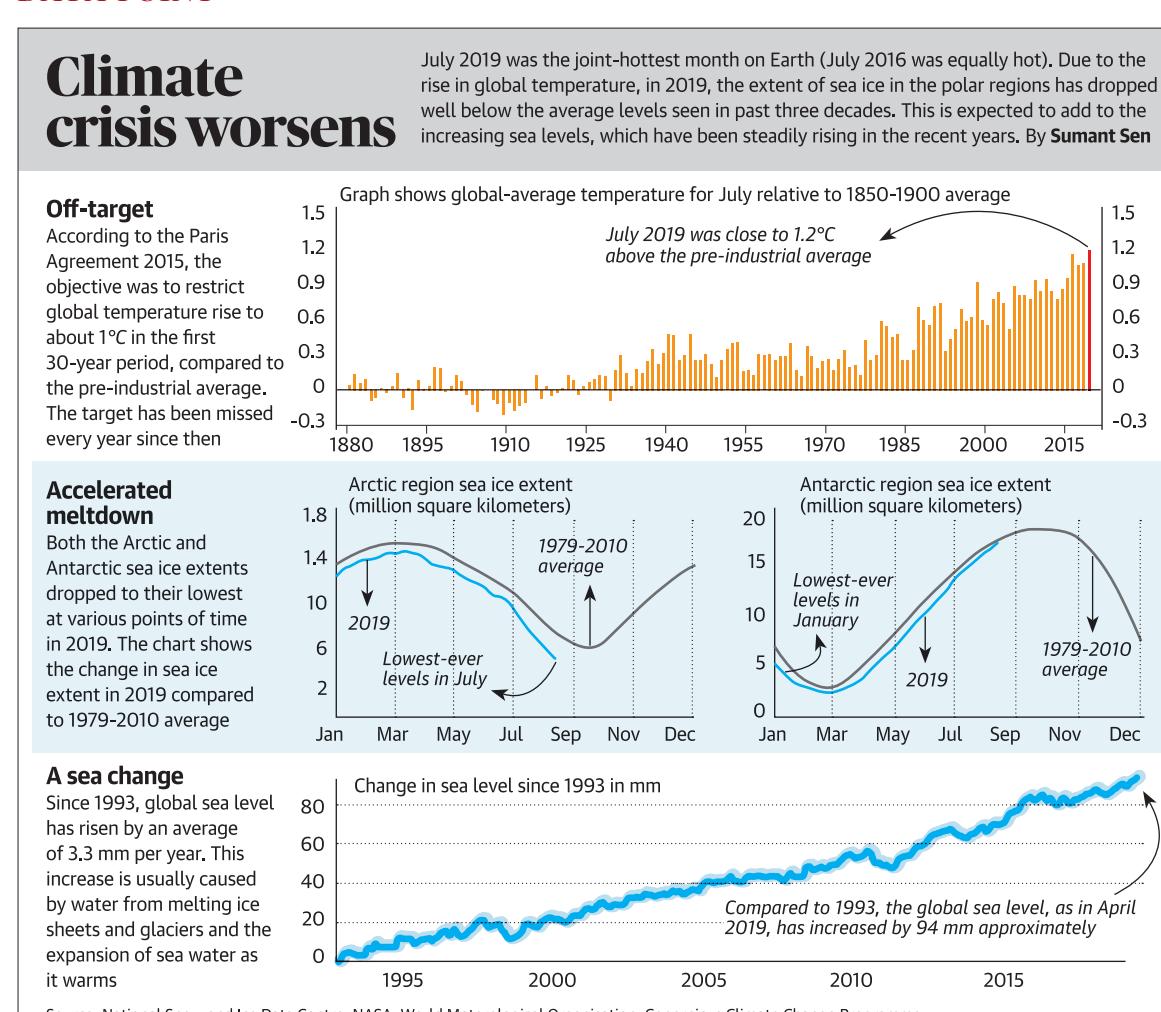
gile and ecologically sensitive landscapes. Land transactions suggest that people in the State have bought land from farmers over the decades not for cultivation, but for construction. If this trend continues, vast tracts of paddy fields and other low-lying places will get converted to plots or buildings. A loss in wetland area will naturally impact the State's ability to handle floods.

People fail to account for the damage done to natural ecosystems while estimating losses suffered due to natural disasters. Floods also wash away top soil and substantial biodiversity of the area, resulting in a reduced river-water flow, death of earthworms and spread of viral and bacterial diseases among crops. There is, at present, a lack of clarity on how best these natural assets could be restored. However, the urgency to devise suitable corrective measures has never been greater.

*The writer is a Chennai-based researcher working in the areas of environment and sustainable development*



#### DATA POINT



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 14, 1969

Many die in Sino-Soviet clash

China and Russia to-day [August 13] accused each other of intruding into their territory in the Sinkiang area. Both said the intruding forces had killed several of the defending soldiers. China claimed that "Several hundred" Soviet mechanized troops, under cover of helicopters, tanks and armoured cars, have crossed the border into Sinkiang province. The clash occurred 500 miles from China's nuclear installations. Peking Radio, in its Chinese language broadcast monitored in Tokyo, said China's Foreign Affairs Ministry has denounced the 'intrusion' and lodged a protest note with the Soviet Embassy in Peking. The broadcast said the Soviet intrusion took place near Yumin along the western sector of Sinkiang Province bordering the Soviet Union. The note indicated that fighting was still going on since it demanded immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops or face the consequences from the action. The broadcast said that on the morning of August 13 several hundred troops under cover of two helicopters and more than 10 tanks and armoured cars intruded two kilometres deep into Sinkiang province. Chinese border troops on regular patrol duty, responded to the attack.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 14, 1919

Indians in South Africa.

Mr. M.K. Gandhi has communicated to the press [in Bombay] a cablegram which he has received from Ismail Aswat, Chairman, British Indian Association, Johannesburg, together with a statement of his own by way of explanation. The cable reads: "Bill asserted 23rd June promulgated 3rd instant restricts companies acquiring further fixed properties and holding bonds as prior to company law, reaffirms old and Townships Acts operating as new licenses after 1st May and unrestricting present traders and successors particular township. Deputation awaiting His Excellency urging withhold assent on groundless Legislation. Investigate Indian question throughout the Union for further restrictive legislation. - Aswat." Mr. Gandhi points out that the cable makes clear what he has said in a recent letter to Sir George Barnes. The restrictions imposed were clear and as he had already remarked, meant virtual ruin of the Indian settlers in Transvaal. They would have to die out in natural course. Mr. Gandhi proceeding explains that the use of word "assent" for a second time in the cable before to a clause in the Letters Patent providing for vetoing of class legislation.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Normalcy is not possible overnight, says SC

Attorney General K.K.Venugopal said the decision to lift the curfew and restore communications, including telephone lines and Internet, finally rested with the government. Restrictions were being eased everyday. The ground situation was monitored on a daily basis.

Mr. Venugopal recalled how violence spiralled out of control in 2016 following the death of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen 'commander' Burhan Wani by security forces in Kashmir.

He said the situation had taken months to reach normalcy. On the contrary, the present situation would be resolved in the next few days, but this again would be subject to several factors, he said.

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, for Mr. Poonawalla, opened her submissions by pointing to how even soldiers in Kashmir were unable to communicate back home due to the

information blackout. "Imagine a Diwali in which you cannot call your mother," she said.

"Soldiers are also subject to discipline. They are not above anything. Why are you looking at soldiers? Can a system work in part?" Justice Shah asked.

Ms. Guruswamy said people were unable to reach hospitals.

Justice Mishra said the situation was "very grave" and the restrictions were in place to prevent any law and order problem. "But how long will this continue," Justice Mishra asked Mr. Venugopal.

Mr. Venugopal assured the court that the government was committed to restoring normalcy.

"It is in the interests of the State and the Centre that everything goes back to normalcy... We are ensuring preventive steps with least cause for inconvenience to the public," he submitted.

## We are in no hurry: CJI to Ayodhya case lawyers

Mr. Dhavan, in his characteristic style, described the ongoing submissions of senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, for some of the Hindu parties, as sheer "hop, skip and jump".

Mr. Vaidyanathan, at the point when Mr. Dhavan rose to voice his displeasure, was reading certain paragraphs of P. Carnegie's historic sketches, describing the enduring religious importance of Ayodhya to Hindus. The CJI had also, from time to time, asked Mr. Vaidyanathan to read some select paragraphs.

Mr. Dhavan protested that the sketches should be read in its entirety and not selectively. He said what was being done was a "hop, skip and jump". He said not a single exhibit or evidence had been placed so far by the Hindu side to buttress their claims of ownership over the disputed Ramjanmabhumi land.

At one point, the CJI warned Mr. Dhavan that "this is going a bit too far" and had been happening since day one of the case. The Chief Justice said Mr. Dhavan can read through the entire text of exhibits and evidence if required and the court would fully cooperate.

"If he [Mr. Vaidyanathan] has not placed any exhibit or evidence, that is his weak point," Chief Justice Gogoi told Mr. Dhavan.

During the day, Mr. Vaidyanathan countered the futility of a three-way partition and joint possession of Ramjanmabhumi among the Nirmohi Akhara, Ram Lalla Virajman and the Sunni Waqf Board by the Allahabad High Court in 2010.

"The place [Ram Janmabhumi] itself is the deity. It is a

juristic person. It does not have an owner. So there cannot be a joint possession of a deity.

There cannot be destruction or division or alienation of the deity. Even the property of a deity cannot be partitioned. So, if a deity's property cannot be divided, the deity itself cannot be divided...

If a place is a deity, it continues to be so forever more. A deity cannot be mutilated," Mr. Vaidyanathan argued.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud questioned the "world view" of many Hindus presented by Mr. Vaidyanathan with another. "There are two views coming across – one, as you say, the place itself personifies god. The other that the Janmabhumi is a place of worship. How do you balance both views?" he asked.

Mr. Vaidyanathan replied by emphasising on the "unshakable faith and belief" of the Hindus that the place is holy. "The place of birth of Lord Ram has become a deity by the faith of the people. The three-domed Babri mosque coming up in 1500s did not shake their faith in the sanctity and dignity of the Hindus' faith. Besides, the Hindus' right of faith was never taken away..."

He said the mere fact that a mosque was put up would not make Ramjanmabhumi less of a deity. Even if some people come to pray (at the mosque) they cannot claim title over the deity.

The mosque was built during the Islamic rule. Hindus could not build a structure then. But the moment they got an opportunity they put up a structure and worshipped," the senior lawyer argued.

## Sensex sees second record plunge of 2019

This was the second-highest single day fall for the Sensex in the current calendar year after July 8 when it had lost 793 points, or 2.01%. The Sensex losses were led by the HDFC pack – HDFC Bank and HDFC – along with banking and auto majors such as Yes Bank, M&M, Bajaj Finance and Maruti Suzuki India among others.

RIL was the saviour for the benchmark on Tuesday as the diversified conglomerate, which has the second-highest weightage in the Sensex, gained over 12% in intraday trades on the back of a slew of announcements it made at its annual general meeting on Monday.

Shares of RIL finally settled at 1,275, up 9.72%, thereby contributing nearly 360 points to the Sensex.

which still closed deep in the red as 28 of its constituents lost ground.

The broader Nifty again fell below the psychological 11,000-mark to 10,925.85, down 183.80 points or 1.65%.

"The correction in the Indian market was largely driven by escalating trade tensions between U.S. and China coupled with political unrest in Hong Kong and Venezuela and the crash in Argentina's currency," said Sanjeev Hota, head, research, Sharekhan.

The weakness in equity markets spilled into the currency markets with the rupee plunging to a six-month low against the dollar amid uncertainties gripping the global market and a crash in the Argentine currency.

After the removal of special status to Jammu and

Kashmir and its bifurcation as Union Territories last week, Army sources had said that they expected infiltration and ceasefire violations to go up along the LoC in the coming days.

Asked about it, General Rawat said, "If the adversary has to activate the LoC, the choice is his."

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IN BRIEF



**Arrest warrant against Tharoor over remark**

A city court issued an arrest warrant against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday over his alleged remark that the BJP, if voted to power again, would rewrite the Constitution and pave the way for creation of a "Hindu Pakistan". His alleged statement sparked off a controversy, with the ruling BJP demanding an apology from the Congress leader.

**Rajasthan bags award at World Education Summit**

JAIPUR  
Rajasthan has bagged the "best innovation and initiative leadership award" for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi. Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati received the award at the 14th summit organised on Saturday.

## J&K moves undemocratic: Priyanka

'Rules have not been followed; we will fight'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday broke her silence on the scrapping of the special status to Jammu and Kashmir by saying "the manner in which this has been done is completely unconstitutional."

Ms. Vadra, who was talking to reporters in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, said the NDA government's moves in Jammu and Kashmir were "against all principles of democracy".

"There are rules to be followed when such things are done. They have not been followed," she alleged. "The Congress party has always fought for the Constitution and democracy. We will continue to fight. This is a very clear view of the party," she said.

Ms. Vadra downplayed the differing statements is-



**Follow the leader:** Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. ■ ANI

sued by Congress leaders on the issue. Many party leaders had broken ranks to support the Narendra Modi government's decision.

Referring to fellow Congress leader and former MP Jyotiraditya Scindia welcoming the scrapping of the special status to J&K, Ms. Vadra said Mr. Scindia "is also in the CWC [Congress Working Committee] and signed the statement". She added, "All are in agreement."

She said the party had a "clear opinion" on the issue and that there were no differing views. Unlike the BJP, in her party it was not that just one voice was heard while others were suppressed. An opinion was formulated after hearing all the voices and a discussion, she said.

Ms. Vadra was in Umbha village in Sonbhadra where she met the kin of the 11 persons who were killed over a

long-standing land dispute last month.

The Yogi Adityanath government had prevented her from visiting the affected village and detained her in Mirzapur, following which Ms. Vadra vowed to visit the affected tribal people.

She also appealed to the U.P. government to withdraw the "80-90 false cases" lodged against locals in land disputes.

## Enact security regime for NRC data, says SC

Authorities had raised concerns about a data leak

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) authorities to enact a security regime akin to the Aadhaar data protection before making the information on exclusions and inclusions in the NRC list available to the Centre, Government of Assam and the Registrar General of India.

The order came after State NRC coordinator Praateek Hajela raised concerns in court about the security of the sensitive data.

"We direct that an appropriate regime be enacted on lines similar to the security regime provided for Aadhaar data. Only thereafter, the list of inclusions and exclusions shall be made available to the State Government, Central Government and Registrar General of India," a Special Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Rohinton Nariman ordered.



**Long wait:** Women waiting in queue with their documents for the NRC draft in Assam. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Illegal immigrants may get into NRC, says NGO

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GUWAHATI

The Court on Tuesday declined to reopen the process to conduct a sample re-verification of the data collected, especially in the districts bordering Bangladesh where "infiltration" is believed to be high. "We are not sure if the final NRC will be error-free," NGO president, Aabhejeet Sarma, said.

fices and offices of the District Magistrates of the State. "We also direct that the list of exclusions to be published on August 31, 2019 shall be published only online and shall be family-line," the court ordered.

Such persons can be included in the NRC even if the other parent is a DF or PFT. However, on the other hand, persons born on or after December 3, 2004 would not be included in NRC even if any of the parent is DV or DF or PFT. That is, those born on or after December 3, 2004 would not find a place in the NRC even if the parent from whom legacy is drawn is clear from all angles. The court said this is in tune with a Supreme Court order of July 2 last year.

The Bench had, in the previous hearing, clarified that it would not delve into Mr. Hajela's references to the leakage of NRC information in the Assam Assembly and certain statements made by Debraj Saikia, Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, and Santanu Bhattachari, legal advisor to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

The court agreed with the suggestion made by Mr. Hajela in his July report that people born before December 3, 2004 may be included in the NRC if the parent through whom legacy is drawn is not a declared fo-

reigner (DF) or D Voter (DV) or whose case of nationality is pending before a foreigner tribunal (PFT).

The court also directed that the list of exclusions to be published on August 31, 2019 shall be published only online and shall be family-line," the court ordered.

It said orders under Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act should be challenged in the Guwahati High Court.

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## 10 Sikkim Democratic Front MLAs join BJP

NDA poised to gain power in one more northeastern State as lawmakers switch sides en masse

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Ten MLAs of the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) joined the BJP on Tuesday, making the latter the main Opposition party in the Sikkim, where it failed to win a single seat in the recent Assembly polls.

The MLAs joined the BJP in the presence of its national general secretary Ram Madhav, who is in-charge of the party's affairs in the northeast, and later met party working president J.P. Nadda.

Mr. Madhav told reporters that the SDF had a strength of



**New experiment:** SDF MLAs joining the BJP in the presence of J.P. Nadda and Ram Madhav in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ ANI

13 MLAs and its legislature party had decided to merge with the BJP.

The BJP is running governments as the main party or

Opposition party in Sikkim.

The party won 15 seats while its rival, the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), won 17 in the 32-member Assembly. Since two of the SDF MLAs had won from two seats, they resigned from one seat each, reducing the party's strength to 13 in the House. The SDF was an NDA ally, but now the SKM has replaced it as a member of the BJP-headed North East Democratic Alliance.

The MLAs who joined the BJP include Dorjee Tshering Lepcha, who has served as a Minister thrice in the Chamling government and is a five-

term MLA, and three-term MLA Ugen Gyatso.

**Lone ranger**

The SDF tried to put up a brave front saying that people of Sikkim were not used to national parties and one had to wait and watch to see how far this "new experiment" went.

The SDF is now left with only one MLA — Mr. Chamling himself.

"We are certainly facing the most challenging times," SDF spokesperson P.D. Rai told *The Hindu*.

(With inputs from Shiv Sahay Singh)

## Manmohan Singh files RS nomination

Congress sounds confident of his victory



Manmohan Singh being received by Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot in Jaipur.

at the Sanganer airport.

The by-election follows the death of State BJP president Madan Lal Saini on June 24. He was elected last year.

The ruling Congress party in Rajasthan sounded confident of Dr. Singh's victory, as it has the majority in the 200-member Assembly, while two seats are present vacant.

## Chief Justice advocates more autonomy to CBI

'It should be given statutory status'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Tuesday recommended a comprehensive legislation to make the Central Bureau of Investigation functional as an efficient and impartial investigative agency.

Delivering the 18th D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture, Chief Justice Gogoi listed legal ambiguity, weak human resource, lack of adequate investment, accountability, and political and administrative interference as key concerns.

"The CBI should be given statutory status through legislation equivalent to that provided to the Comptroller & Auditor General. The legal mandate of the CBI must be strengthened by having a comprehensive legislation addressing deficiencies re-

lating to organisational structure, charter of functions, limits of power, superintendence and oversight," he said.

"Further, to address an increasing incidence of inter-State crimes, an argument could be made for including 'public order' in concurrent list, for the limited purposes of investigating such crimes," he said, advocating administrative and financial autonomy for the CBI.

**Political interference**  
In the context of political and administrative interference, he said that in the *Vineet Narain v. Union of India* case, the Supreme Court had expressed concern over the state of affairs and laid down explicit guidelines for protecting the integrity of the force.

She transformed External Ministry into one that heeded people's call

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led leaders across party lines and members of his own Council of Ministers on Tuesday in paying homage to former Union Minister Sushma Swaraj who passed away last week.

Terming Swaraj a Minister who transformed the External Affairs Ministry from one bound by protocol to one which heeded the "people's call," Mr. Modi was fulsome in his praise for his late colleague. He recalled instances when he and Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu helped persuade her to fight from Bellary in Karnataka against Congress president Sonia Gandhi in 1999. "I remember Venkaiah Naiduji and me go-

ing to Sushmaji, and asking her to go to Karnataka to fight elections. The outcome was certain but she was someone who was always ready to take up challenges," he said.

He also recalled how she persuaded him, in 2014, just before his first address to the UN General Assembly as Prime Minister to stick to a written text, her point being that she felt every forum had a particular form attached to it. "Wherever she went, she transformed the work culture there," he said.

BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and party's working president J.P. Nadda, and others were present at the meeting.

BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and party's working president J.P. Nadda, and others were present at the meeting.

## Sushma always took up challenges: PM



**Rich tributes:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the function in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ PTI

### TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Re-e-tenders are invited for procurement of Annual Requirement of Chemical Materials to TTD Press, Tirupati. The intending participants may submit their tenders by log-in to [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in) in secure mode only by signing with Digital Certificate (OR) by downloading the Bid Document from TTD website: [www.tirumala.org](http://www.tirumala.org). Contact for further details: 0877-2264292.

Roc.No.PR4/Adv.No.13909/Adv.206/PRO/19, Dated:13-08-2019 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:**  
**BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED**  
Alpha2, Administration Block,  
Kemppegowda International Airport,  
BANGALORE 560 300  
Web: [www.bengaluruairport.com](http://www.bengaluruairport.com)

**NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

S. No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	Expression of Interest for setting up of Integrated Solid Waste Management (DBOO / EPC Model) centre at Kemppegowda International Airport, Bengaluru for Bangalore International Airport Limited	Proposal for setting up of integrated Solid Waste Management (DBOO / EPC Model) centre at Kemppegowda International Airport, Bengaluru for Bangalore International Airport Limited

Pre Qualification Criteria & Other Information: Available on BIAL website (<http://www.bengaluruairport.com/business/tenderlist.aspx>)

Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 02-09-2019 & 1700 Hours.

Note: Any Further Addendum to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.

Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E-mail: [enmbid@bialairport.com](mailto:enmbid@bialairport.com) and upload the relevant documents in the BIAL website ([www.bialtenders.com](http://www.bialtenders.com)) writing to Head – Procurement & Contracts

### DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

#### TENDER CALL NOTICE - 2019-20

Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department, Government of Odisha invites Sealed Tender in the prescribed form from reputed manufacturers for the year 2019-20 for fixation of price for supply of Insecticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Micronutrients, Bio-Fertilizer, Organic Fertilizer, Plant Growth Regulator, Pheromone Traps & Lures etc. required under all Schemes under Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment during 2019-20 for Demonstration purpose. The last date of receipt of complete tender is **4th September, 2019** up to 5.30 PM through Registered Post-Speed Post by the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Plant Protection), Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003 with address to the Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha and will be opened on dated **5th September, 2019** at 10.30 AM in the presence of concerned Manufacturer/Tenderer or their authorized representatives and the members of SLTC in the Quality Control Laboratory Building, **Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007**.

For Tender Form and other details please visit the website <http://agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in> / <http://odisha.gov.in> or contact Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Plant Protection), Odisha, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003.

The authority reserves the right to reject / cancel the tender(s) in full or part at any moment / during process or after approval of offer in full or part without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha

### KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 08/KWA/PHC/D1/TPVM. KIIFB-Drinking Water Projects in coastal panchayaths of Chirayinkeezhu Constituency Phase I & II Construction of 15 MLD WTP and allied works. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 15000. Last Date for submitting Tender : 26-09-2019 03:00:pm. Phone : 04712322303. Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in), [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

### Government of Kerala Published Tenders from 05-



# Digital detox should begin at the workplace

Organisations have to ensure work-related technology does not eat into employees' personal space

LIFFY THOMAS

**A**ddiction to technology is hardly noticed, let alone addressed, when it revolves around work.

The people around you may notice it: You are responding to work-related mail far too often than you are required to. But since it is work-related, those around you may let you get away with it.

Sometimes, you may be using technology more than you should, even at work. So, some companies manage screen time for their employees by blocking social media sites from computers. But that may not always help as notifications can pop up on personal phones.

A digital detox is effective only when it starts with the employee, with self-awareness. It begins by admitting that one is addicted to technology and seeks tools that can free them of the addiction.

Ironically, some of the most effective tools to fight tech-addiction are tech-based themselves.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, professor, SHUT Clinic, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, says it's all right to take the help of technology to fight tech addiction, because the intent is there to keep technology in its right place.

Features in the mail box that will ask users whether they want to send mail after a certain time, or having a timer that warns one of doing an "overtime" on the computer, and 'do not disturb' mode are a few ways employers can get their workforce to take a break from gadgets.

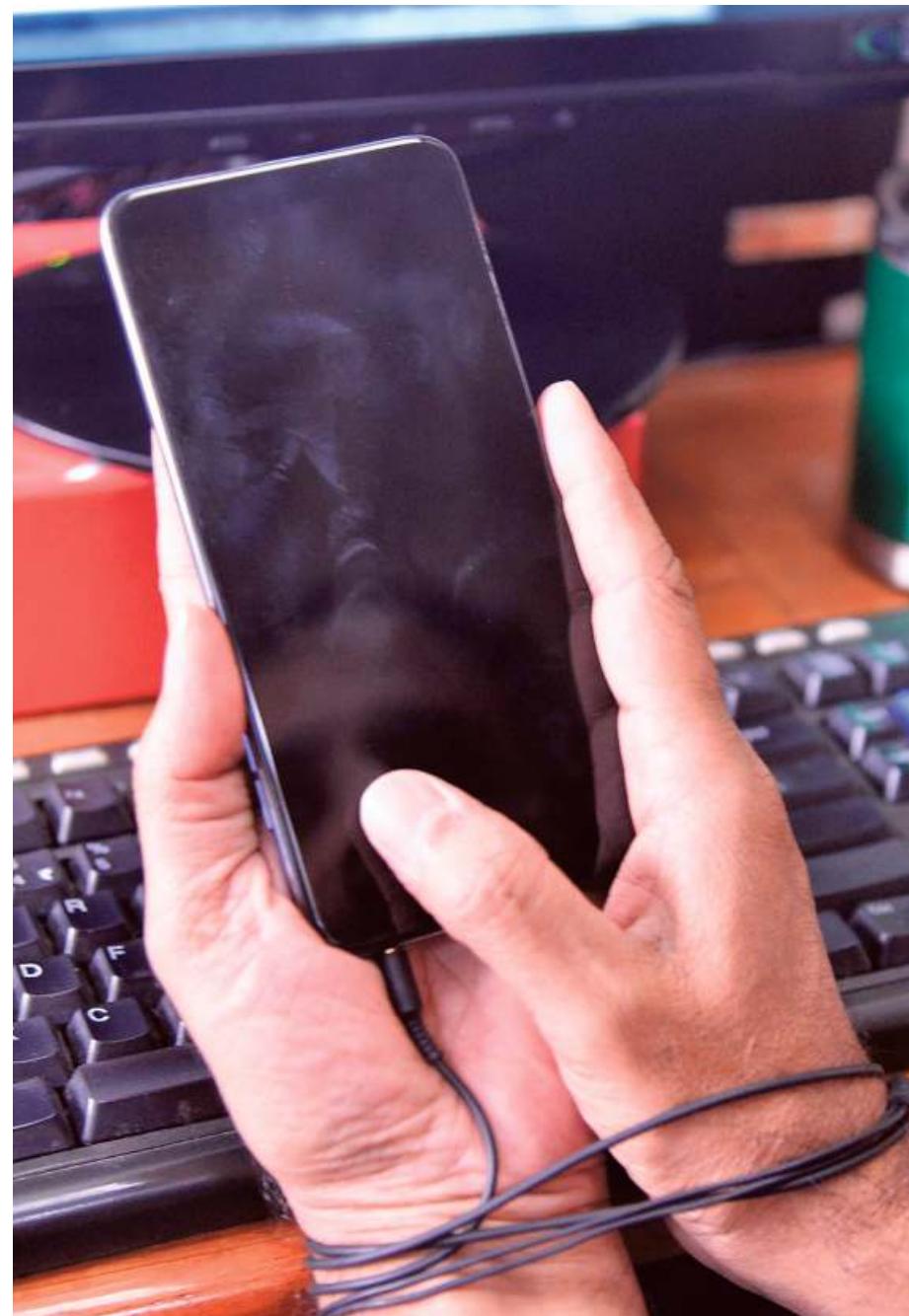
Dr. Sharma says workplaces must look for signs of tech-addiction among employees and also show employees how they can keep their day less packed with technology. For a start, they can plan meetings creatively, structuring it in such a manner that they don't involve any screens, smartphones or computers.

But, how easy is it to stop responding to mail post-work hours?

Last year, Amazon India country head, Amit Agarwal reportedly sent an email to colleagues, asking them to stop responding to email and work calls between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. in the interest of "work-life harmony".

At Google's IO 2019, a meet for developers at San Francisco, the organisers are said to have asked the attendees to turn off their mobile phones and talk to one another.

Fintech start-up ToneTag



Are you tied to technology?

PHOTO: V.SREENIVASA MURTHY

has a 'no digital policy' at its 'Morning Circle', the weekly team meetings. Employees are refrained from stepping in with mobile phones and laptops. Besides, meditation and yoga at work are encouraged as part of a digital detox exercise.

#### Identifying champions

Bengaluru-based Ishwarya Kumar Ahmed, who runs digital detox programmes for children, parents and corporates, says, "My former employer insisted that the workforce followed the famous '20-20-20' rule, which is about looking at an object 20 feet away for 20 seconds, every 20 minutes, to fight eye fatigue that comes from being glued to the computer screen. The employee reinforced it, and made it a part of the culture of the organisation." Ishwarya says corporates must take up digital de-

**A study on emailing**  
According to a study by Hiver, which offers a SaaS-based email collaboration tool, more than 40% of employees spend about an hour checking their email. Close to 50% of the respondents say that the maximum number of emails are from within their own organisation.

The study raises the question if internal email communication is cluttering up employees' inboxes, and if this was affecting employee productivity. The study was conducted among 450 respondents working in startups and big corporations; with 80% of the respondents from start-ups.

tox as a moral responsibility. "Edutech startups can have a feature in their Apps whereby the screen will freeze after a certain time. Similarly, restaurants can offer discounts to those not using

**C**Organisations must look for signs of tech-addiction among employees and also show employees how they can keep their day less packed with technology

gadgets on the table, and office canteens can have jammers at dinning area," she suggests. Sorav Jain, CEO of Echovme, a digital marketing company, decided to use his digital influence to launch the #DigitalUpwaas challenge in June. The idea was to spend any Sunday without any digital leisure. He also brought out a survey covering more than 70,000 people to study tech addiction. He next plans to use the data to reach out to clients and nudge them to find ways to fight tech addiction.

#### NEWS BYTES



August 22 and 23 in Bengaluru.

Apart from talks on usage of IoT in various sectors, the two-day event will also honour technological innovations in the space.

'IoT Thought Leadership Award' would recognise leadership and vision demonstrated by technology leaders in the IoT space through transformational products, services and solutions.

'Innovation Challenge Awards' would recognise innovative solutions developed by teams over a period of three months to solve real-time industry problems, said a release.

For details, visit <http://iotindiacongress.com>

entrepreneurs for the third edition of 'Himalayan Startup Trek (HST)' on September 14 and 15.

Catalyst guides early-stage entrepreneurial initiatives by providing infrastructure support, finance and mentoring.

Renewable energy, inclusive growth, health-care, road safety, disaster management, clean energy, education, agriculture and waste management are some of the areas in

which participants can explore new ideas and hope to receive funding.

According to a press release, in the last two years, Catalyst has disbursed over ₹1 crore in grants and investments to more than 30 startups, out of which 16 are from Himachal Pradesh.

Applications have to be sent in by August 31. For more details, visit [www.iit-mandi.ac.in/Catalyst/HST2019](http://www.iit-mandi.ac.in/Catalyst/HST2019).

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# Can you do a Williamson?

Two professionals engaged in the human resources and learning-and-development fields on how the New Zealand cricket captain demonstrated a principle of leadership that is extremely valuable in the corporate world

PRINCE FREDERICK

**W**ith its inconceivable denouement, the 2019 ICC World Cup final will be remembered for a long time to come. Even the super-ower could not separate the winner from the loser. It required a further dip into the "rules bowl" to choose the winner – it seemed like a cruel twist of the knife at the end, but a rule is a rule, and had to be applied dispassionately. But the most incredible feature of the match was not its nail-biting denouement, but how the New Zealand captain Kane Williamson spoke up for the system with its rules, even though one of those had proved heart-breaking for him and his team. By speaking with admirable restraint, Williamson seemed to be guided by an internal compass that helped him chose the right response.

"The rules are there at the start. No one probably thought they would have to resort to some of that stuff. But yeah, very tough to



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson shakes hands with England captain Eoin Morgan after the final of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

swallow." Williamson would show admirable graciousness by stating that "England had a very good game plan and deserved the victory". With that response, Williamson went several notches up in the world's estimation as a lead-

er. And two professionals working in the corporate space believe he was demonstrating a cardinal leadership quality that is extremely valuable in the corporate world – the ability to be gracious in failure, even when the failure

comes across as undeserved. They believe his response showed what equanimity can do for leadership – they earn the leader the respect of rivals and team-mates.

Here is what they have to say:

#### 'A benchmark'

"Williamson's response marks a benchmark in leadership, and it applies to the corporate world. The response showed emotional maturity. Last year, we started a Future Leadership Programme, after carrying out a competency mapping exercise. As part of it, we identified positions that would need to be filled now and in the future. We shortlisted 32 employees at various levels who could step into these roles. A training programme was launched, and it involved special sessions once a month,

and the progress of the leaders-in-the-pipeline was assessed during the training period and also after they had settled into their new roles. We noticed that those who displayed the right attitude delivered the best in their new leadership roles. These were the ones who avoided fruitless blame games, and instead stayed calm in challenging situations, and focussed on winnowing out factors that led to those difficulties."

**K.C. Kumar, executive director, Star Health And Allied Insurance Company Limited**

#### 'It was surreal'

"We got so involved in the match that we lost our balance when New Zealand seemed to have been hit by a stroke of exceptional ill-luck. By the equanimity in his response, Williamson seemed like the outsider in all of this. It sounded surreal. We learn from Williamson that the respect is always reserved for the guy who chooses his response well in failure, and has the long-term goals in mind. With the right attitude, a setback will get neutralised, certainly in the long-term, if not immediately. There is another example from

## Hackathon challenge for college students

**C**The nationwide initiative aims to provide students a platform for solving some of the pressing problems faced by society

Each team would comprise four members including the team leader. The participating teams would be notified about the various challenges in September, said the release.

Of the four rounds, the first three would be online. Participants can register at <https://ust-global.hackerrank.com> before August 31.



Photo used for representational purpose

#### GENERAL

**BrahMos Aerospace Thiruvananthapuram**  
BrahMos Aerospace Thiruvananthapuram Ltd. requires highly competent self motivated personnel with zeal to excel in their field and take pride in their association with India's space missions and missile programme. Applications are invited for following position at Thiruvananthapuram.

**Dy. General Manager (HR & A)**  
Qualification : MBA (HR)/LLB with PGDip (IR/labour law)

For detailed notification and application format visit us at [www.batl.co.in](http://www.batl.co.in). Applications must be received within 15 days from the date of this notification.

**CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED**  
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)  
Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107. Phone: 044 2379 2000

#### WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Chennai Metro Rail Limited entrusted with the implementation of Chennai Metro Rail Project, requires efficient, experienced and competent persons for the under mentioned posts on contract.

Post Code	Name of the Post	Consolidated Pay (p.m.)	No. of Post	Maximum Age Limit (Yrs)	Minimum Experience (Yrs)
01	Assistant (Accounts)	Rs.25,000/-	2	28	2 years
02	Assistant (Document Management System)	Rs.25,000/-	1	28	2 years

Note: Age, qualification & experience stipulated above should be as on 14-08-2019. Age may be relaxed for deserving and experienced candidates. Apart from the consolidated pay, benefits like Medical, Accident Insurance & Increment will be extended.

Persons with requisite experience and qualification alone need to appear for walk-in-interview on 24-08-2019 at above mentioned address.

For details regarding qualification, experience, general conditions, application format etc., please visit our website [https://chennaimetrorail.org](http://chennaimetrorail.org).

Registration of candidates will commence from 09:00 hrs on 24-08-2019 and will close at 14:00 hrs.

Chief General Manager (HR).

#### GENERAL

##### Banks Board Bureau

Applications are invited from Indian nationals with exemplary track record for the post of

##### MANAGING DIRECTOR

and

##### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For

##### 1. Punjab National Bank

##### 2. Bank of India

Eligibility

- Age: 45 to 57 years;
- Minimum experience: 15 years in mainstream banking of which at least one year should be at the Board Level.

How to Apply

- Application form & other details, are available at <http://www.banksboardbureau.org.in/WhatsNew/Index>

Last Date

• September 16, 2019

Secretary

Banks Board Bureau

NOTE: Further details including corrigendum, if any, will be published only on the Bureau's website.

## MARKET WATCH

	13-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,958	-1.66
US Dollar	71.40	-0.87
Gold	38,370	-0.25
Brent oil	60.68	3.62

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	360.55	-16.05
Asian Paints	1573.35	-2.15
Axius Bank	649.45	-11.35
Bajaj Auto	2670.55	-37.05
Bajaj Finserv	7089.15	-414.85
Bajaj Finance	3221.85	-197.85
Bharti Airtel	351.65	-19.50
Britannia Ind	2511.90	-76.25
Cipla	475.75	-8.75
Coal India	203.75	-3.85
Dr Reddys Lab	2556.35	-17.10
Eicher Motors	16645.00	-942.25
GAIL (India)	126.00	2.15
Grasim Ind	709.65	-36.85
HCL Tech	1072.50	-13.80
HDFC	2100.10	-111.55
HDFC Bank	2220.35	-61.65
Hero MotoCorp	2566.80	-55.45
Hindalco	176.25	0.05
Hind Unilever	1824.75	-16.60
Indiabulls HFL	573.10	67.85
ICICI Bank	410.25	-9.90
IndusInd Bank	1373.45	-39.95
Bharti Infralet	246.65	-5.40
Infosys	764.75	-25.10
Indian Oil Corp	125.90	-4.60
ITC	246.30	-7.90
JSW Steel	220.15	-0.45
Kotak Bank	1511.40	-20.70
L&T	1313.25	-51.35
M&M	512.40	-33.15
Maruti Suzuki	5815.45	-284.45
NTPC	117.15	-6.75
ONGC	127.75	-3.20
PowerGrid Corp	202.00	0.00
Reliance Ind	1274.75	112.65
State Bank	283.35	-8.00
Sun Pharma	439.25	17.25
Tata Motors	121.95	-0.10
Tata Steel	348.70	-13.65
TCS	2199.45	-46.80
Tech Mahindra	639.15	-24.20
Titan	1063.85	-3.15
UltraTech Cement	4181.15	-100.20
UPL	503.10	-30.35
Vedanta	139.75	-1.75
Wipro	258.50	-5.00
YES Bank	73.60	-8.55
Zee Entertainment	327.30	-0.80

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.20	71.52
Euro	79.87	80.23
British Pound	86.05	86.44
Japanese Yen (100)	67.68	67.99
Chinese Yuan	10.07	10.12
Swiss Franc	73.59	73.93
Singapore Dollar	51.29	51.52
Canadian Dollar	53.65	53.91
Malaysian Ringgit	16.96	17.04

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 13 rates in rupees per gramme in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	49	(47.5)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3627	(3569)

Source: Indian Bank

## GST Council may discuss rate cut for auto

Debate on lower tax for certain vehicles and input tax credit for premium housing likely on agenda

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

NEW DELHI

The government is likely to debate lowering the rates on certain categories of automobiles in the next GST Council meeting, according to a Finance Ministry official.

It is also likely to look at increasing the rate on premium real estate, but also restore the provision of input tax credit for the segment.

## Sectoral representation

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week completed a number of consultation meetings with representatives of various sectors including banking, non-banking finance companies, auto, financial services, auto, financial services, foreign portfolio investors, steel and real estate.

"The industries have all



Counter productive: In February, the council lowered GST on premium houses under construction to 5% from 12%. ■ V. RAJU

made their recommendations," the official told *The Hindu*. "Some of these have to do with GST, and so the government cannot take a call on this. That is to do with the GST Council. The Fi-

nance Minister is looking into whether she will raise these issues with the council in the next meeting."

"One of the things the industry requested and could be discussed in the council

meeting is whether the tax rate on certain automobiles can be reduced from the current 28%, to encourage people to buy," the official added.

"The other is to look into the demands of the real estate sector and see if ITC [input tax credits] can be restored for the premium housing sector."

Real estate representatives who met Ms. Sitharaman on Sunday not only asked for an increase in the tax rate applicable to premium housing, but also restora-

tion of the provision of input tax credits, which would effectively reduce their tax incidence compared to the current system.

The GST Council had, in its 33rd meeting in February, reduced the rates on the under-construction premium housing segment to 5% from the previous 12% but also removed the input tax credit provision.

## 14% rise

This, according to the industry, has meant that the effective tax rate on the sector had risen to about 14% as key inputs such as cement are taxed at 28% and the sector cannot avail of input tax credits for them.

The date for the next Council meeting has not been announced yet.

## Retail inflation remains flat in July at 3.15%

CPI-based inflation slows from June

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Retail inflation in July snapped a five-month accelerating trend to ease marginally to 3.15%, according to official data released on Tuesday.

Growth in the Consumer Price Index slowed slightly in July from 3.18% in June. Within the index, food prices bucked an eight-month accelerating trend to ease to 2.33% in July, compared with 2.37% in the previous month.

Notably, fuel price inflation eased the most drastically among the major groups in the CPI.

The sector saw a contraction of prices by 0.36% in July, compared with a growth



of 2.24% in June.

The clothing and footwear segment also saw inflation quickening marginally to 1.65% in July from 1.52% in June.

The housing sector registered inflation of 4.87% compared with 4.84% over the same period.

The High Level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has recommended making CSR expenditure tax deductible and that compliance violations that attract penalties.

Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas on Tuesday presented the report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The main recommendations include making CSR expenditure tax deductible, allowing the carry-forward of unspent balance for a period of 3-5 years, and aligning Schedule 7 of the Companies Act (which outlines the

amount below ₹50 lakh may be exempted from constituting a CSR Committee," the release added. "The Committee has also recommended that violation of CSR compliance may be made a civil offence and shifted to the penalty regime."

Injeti Srinivas (left) presents the report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

kinds of activities that qualify as CSR) with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the government said in a release.

"The Committee has also recommended that companies having CSR-prescribed

## H-1B dependence coming down over the years: Wipro

'Only 2,000 visas sought this year from over 8,000 in 2015'



reached new high of over 65%, up by 1% from March quarter," Mr. Govil said. Wipro currently has over 15,000 employees in the U.S.

The company recruited more than 6,000 fresh graduates in a combination of on-campus and lateral hiring, globally during the April-June quarter. The company also set up a Digital and Technology Centre at Minneapolis, an Automation Lab at Melbourne and a Cloud Transformation Centre at Sydney.

"We are very focussed on building talent and capabilities internally, rather than hiring more laterals. Over 1 lakh of our employees have already been trained for digital platforms and web based capabilities in the last few years," Mr. Govil added.

## Localisation up

Wipro's localisation (number of people hired in the

U.S. market as a percentage of the headcount there) has gone up significantly, from 40% a few years ago to 65.4% in the first quarter ended June 30. "We continue to invest and move up the localisation ratios in all our major markets like the U.S., U.K., Australia, Canada, Singapore, Africa and the Middle East. In the U.S., we have

should demonstrate how it would address the problem, and bring benefits to consumers or the industry and/or perform the same work more efficiently," the banking regulator said.

A regulatory sandbox usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

RBI said the objective of the sandbox was to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefit to consumers.

While money transfer services, digital know-your customer, financial inclusion and cybersecurity products are included, crypto currency, credit registry and credit information have been left out.

The proposed FinTech solution should highlight an existing gap in the financial ecosystem and the proposal

should demonstrate how it would address the problem, and bring benefits to consumers or the industry and/or perform the same work more efficiently," the banking regulator said.

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Financial closure has been achieved for this project entailing a ₹1,525-crore loan.

The capex financing would be through loans and internal accruals.

BCL saw a 66% rise in

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## IN BRIEF

Ola 'acqui-hires'  
AI start-up Pikup.ai

BENGALURU  
Cab aggregator Ola on Tuesday announced acquiring of Pikup.ai, an artificial intelligence start-up based in Bengaluru. Acqui-hiring typically refers to a transaction in which the staff of the target company join the acquiring firm. The team at pikup.ai will join Ola, the company said. Ola had earlier expressed its intent to set up an advanced technology centre in the U.S. to focus on developing next-generation technologies in mobility. PTI

Daimler plant crosses  
25,000-unit milestone

CHENNAI  
Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) said that its plant in Oragadam had achieved a milestone by producing 25,000 vehicles earmarked for exports. The milestone vehicle, Fuso FJ 1823R, was shipped to Saudi Arabia. The Oragadam plant produces engine transmissions, trucks and buses, catering to brands such as BharatBenz, Fuso, Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner.

## TVS Srichakra Q1 net profit dips 22.7%

CHENNAI  
TVS Srichakra Ltd., the makers of TVS Tyres, has suffered a 22.7% drop in its standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 2019 to ₹22.56 crore amid a slump in auto sales. During the period under review, total income rose to ₹592 crore from ₹588 crore. Cost of raw materials dipped by ₹10 crore to ₹335 crore. There was a slight increase in the employees benefit expenses and finance cost.

## Auto sales fall 19% in July, worst in 19 years

Sales across segments fall to 18.25 lakh units; biggest slump of 21.8% seen in Dec. 2000, says SIAM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Hit by poor consumer sentiment, the automobile industry saw its monthly sales decline 18.71% last month, the worst ever in nearly 19 years, forcing the industry to resort to job cuts. The sector reiterated its demand for a stimulus to arrest the continued downturn, particularly ahead of the festive season.

As per data released by industry body SIAM, vehicle sales across categories fell to over 18.25 lakh units in July 2019, down from more than 22.43 lakh units in the yearago month. Previously, the biggest slump of 21.81% was seen nearly two decades back in December 2000.

The decline in July was led by the passenger vehicles segment, which saw sales



**Downhill drive:** The decline in July was led by passenger vehicles, which saw sales fall almost 31%. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

plunge almost 31% to a little over two lakh units. This too was the steepest since the decline of 35.22% in December 2000. While car sales were down nearly 36% to over 1.22 lakh units, UV sales fell 15.22% to 67,030 and those that of vans was down 45.68% to 10,804 units.

Likewise, total two-wheeler sales in July were down 16.82% to over 15.11 lakh units as against over 18.17 lakh units in July 2018. While scooter sales were down 12% to more than 5.26 lakh units, motorcycles sales slumped nearly 19% to about 9.33 lakh units. For commercial vehicles,

which are usually seen as an indicator of economic growth, sales were down 25.71% to 56,866 units as compared with 76,545 units in July 2018.

## Revival package

"The data shows how urgent the need is for a revival package from the government. There is urgent need for some kind of action. The industry is doing all it can to promote sales, including huge discounts. I think this is the time when the industry really needs the support of government [in the form of] a revival package," SIAM Director General Vishnu Mathur said. SIAM, which had last month warned of job losses if the slowdown continued, on Wednesday admitted that as many as 15,000 jobs com-

prising temporary and casual workers, have been cut by auto makers over the last two to three months. Besides, component makers have already warned of trimming over a million jobs.

"With plunging sales, nearly 300 dealerships have been forced to close down leading to loss of around two lakh jobs," he added.

Mr. Mathur said the industry was hoping that the government would soon come out with a revival package. "If the government announces some relief package then there could be a positive impact during the festive season. But, the package should come by August-end or early September and if they announce something they should also implement immediately."

## Wheels India to tackle slowdown via cost cuts

Firm to set up ₹140-crore plant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd. has decided to tackle the slowdown in the auto sector by reducing costs and by rationalising operations, said a top official.

Addressing the 60th annual general meeting, chairman S. Ram said: "This is a challenging year in terms of demand with a slowdown in major customer industry segments such as commercial vehicles, construction equipment and mining trucks."

"We will focus, internally, on reducing costs and rationalising operations in light of these challenges," he added. Dwelling on last year's performance, he said there was reasonable

growth in light commercial vehicles, small commercial vehicles and utility vehicles.

Mr. Ram hoped that after a normal monsoon, the sentiment in the rural markets would improve and thereby, demand for these vehicles would sustain.

## Cast aluminium wheels

The firm is setting up a plant for export of cast aluminium wheels. It entails an investment of ₹140 crore and would commence production soon.

On the setting up of an R&D facility, managing director Srivats Ram said: "We are continuously working on patents for our products and believe that this will give us a significant competitive edge in the market."

## Govt. issues norms for ₹1-lakh crore partial guarantee scheme for NBFCs

PSBs can buy high-rated assets of financially-sound NBFCs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has issued guidelines on operationalising the ₹1-lakh crore partial guarantee scheme under which the public-sector banks can purchase high-rated pooled assets of financially-sound non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

NBFCs, including housing finance companies (HFCs), came under stress following a series of defaults by the group companies of IL&FS since September last year.

To help the sector come out of the stress, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget announced support for fundamentallysound NBFCs in getting con-

tinued funding from banks. "For purchase of high-rated pooled assets of financially-sound NBFCs, amounting to a total of ₹1 lakh crore during the current financial year, the government will provide a one-time, six months' partial credit guarantee to public sector banks for first loss of up to 10%," she had said.

In pursuance of that, the Finance Ministry last week released detailed guidelines for this with the objective to address temporary asset-liability mismatches of otherwise solvent NBFCs/HFCs without having to resort to distress sale of their assets for meeting their commitments.

"At no time during the period for exercise of the option to buy back the assets, should the CRAR (capital to risk weighted assets ratio) go below the regulatory minimum. The promoter shall ensure this by infusing equity, where required," an official statement said.

As per the guidelines issued, the window for one-time partial credit guarantee will be for a period of six months, or till such date by which ₹1 lakh crore assets get purchased by banks. It further said that the pool of assets should have minimum rating of 'AA' or equivalent at fair value prior to the partial credit guarantee by the Government of India.

## Sundaram unveils multi-cap scheme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Sundaram Mutual has announced the launch of its open-ended equity scheme, Sundaram Equity Fund. This new fund offer is scheme in the multi-cap category; it opens for subscription on Friday and closes on Saturday.

"The objective of the scheme is to generate capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of equity and equity-related instruments across market capitalisation," said Sunil Subramanian, MD, Sundaram Mutual. The fund will invest in a portfolio of 45-50 stocks, using a blend of top-down and bottom-up approaches.

## Renault to launch Triber on Aug. 28

Firm to focus on Tier-II cities to increase its market share



Triber is positioned as a unique segment and will deliver a mileage of 20 km per litre, says Venkatram Mamillapalle.

would like to be there," he said.

Renault plans to focus on Tier-II cities to increase its market share in the rural areas from the present 35% to 50% in a year's time.

Renault has 120 dealers and 350 outlets and plans to double the number of outlets in three years.

On Triber, he said it was neither a multi-purpose vehicle nor a sub-compact vehicle. Triber was positioned as a unique segment in itself.

It is a seven-seater and will deliver a mileage of 20 km per litre. Bookings for the Triber begin on August 17. It will come in four variants and six colours.

TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CO RP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GMDA	WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF MASTER ROAD UPTO A WIDTH OF 10M WITH 1 M CENTRAL VERGE, FOOTPATH/DRAIN AND CYCLE TRACK ON BOTH SIDES FROM ( REZANG LA CHOWK TO DELHI-BJDWASAN BORDER)	09.08.2019 20.08.2019	15.47 LACS	<a href="http://www.gmda.gov.in">http://www.gmda.gov.in</a>	0124-2746614 se4.gmda@gov.in
2	GMDA	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CAR PARKING SHADE IN GMCL BUS DEPOT SECTOR 10, GURUGRAM COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTIGENT THERETO,	10.08.2019 20.08.2019	3620	<a href="https://www.gmda.gov.in">https://www.gmda.gov.in</a>	0124-2746614 se4.gmda@gov.in
3	CRSU JIND	HIRING OF CONTRACTOR/AGENCY/FIRM FOR PROVIDING OUTSOURCING SERVICES FOR: (A) SECRETARIAL/MINISTERIAL AND SUPPORTING STAFF, (B) HOUSEKEEPING AND SANITATION SERVICES, (C) MAINTENANCE, + 1 OTHER WORK	06.08.2019 27.08.2019	800 LACS	<a href="http://www.crsu.ac.in">www.crsu.ac.in</a> <a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9729549008 9729549008
4	MDU ROHTAK	RENOVATION OF EXISTING WOODEN FLOORING IN DR. MANGAL SEN GYMNASIUM HALL + 4 OTHER WORKS	09.08.2019 30.08.2019	116.44 LACS	<a href="https://mdurohtak.etender.s.hry.nic.in">https://mdurohtak.etender.s.hry.nic.in</a>	01262-393175 xen.civ@mdurohtak.ac.in
5	MDU ROHTAK	PURCHASE OF INSTRUMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY	09.08.2019 09.09.2019	19.22 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9802362486 anita.gangotra@gmail.com
6	HSVP AMBALA	JOB NO HSPV/AMB/2019-20/E-11 CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING COLLEGE AT KHERI RAM NAGAR, KURUKHSTERA (HARYANA) INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALL, FIRE FIGHTING ARRANGEMENT, P.H AMENITIES, ELECTRICAL, INSTALLATION, PARKING, CONSTRUCTION OF BOYS HOSTEL	OPENING 21.08.2019	27.58 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	Exec Eng
7	HSVP KARNAL	JOB NO 107 RECALL HSPV/KNL/2019-20 CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING COLLEGE AT DHERDU KAITHAL HARYANA INCLUDING BOY HOSTEL BOUNDARY WALL, FIRE FIGHTING ARRANGEMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AMENITIES, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION AND PARKING	CLOSING 19.08.2019	27.55 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0184-2267454 xenhukskarni1@gmail.com
8	HSVP FARIDABAD	PROVIDING ELECTRIFICATION AND STREET LIGHT IN SECTOR-64, FARIDABAD, (SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF PCC POLE, ACSR CONDUCTOR, 200 KVA T/F, LED LIGHTS AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT + 1 OTHER WORK	09.08.2019 19.08.2019	71.35 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01294002962 xenelectbd@gmail.com
9	HSVP FARIDABAD	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF GI OCTAGONAL POLE 9/10 MTR. LONG, LED LIGHT, LT CABLES, PCC POLE 11 MTR. LONG ACSR CONDUCTOR AND OTHER ACCESSORIES ON THE MASTER ROAD OF SECTOR D/R	08.08.2019 19.08.2019	161 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01294002962 xenelectbd@gmail.com
10	HSVP FARIDABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING COLLEGE AT AURA, FARIDABAD (HARYANA) INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALL, FIRE FIGHTING ARRANGEMENT, P.H AMENITIES, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION & PARKING AND ALL OTHER WORKS	09.08.2019 19.08.2019	27.65 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0129-2282183 xenhuza2.fbl@gmail.com
11	HSVP GURUGRAM	JOB NO 07/2019 CONSTRUCTION OF UGT, BOOSTING CHAMBER, LAYING OF RISING MAIN, BOUNDARY WALL, STAFF QUARTER & DEVELOPMENT OF WATER WORKS AT SOHNA-NUH ROAD SITE OPPOSITE SECTOR-10	09.08.2019 19.08.2019	894.50 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0124-4805697 xenhsvpaggm@gmail.com
12	HSVP GURUGRAM	JOB NO 08/2019 PROVIDING, LAYING & JOINING RISING MAIN CONNECTING WITH EXISTING RISING MAIN FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY ZONE NO. 1,2,3 & SECTOR - 6 AT SOHNA	09.08.2019 19.08.2019	690.40 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0124-4805697 xenhsvpaggm@gmail.com
13	HSVP REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING COLLEGE AT VILLAGE SADAT NAGAR REWARI, "CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING COLLEGE, GIRLS HOSTEL, BOYS HOSTEL AND STAFF QUARTER, INCLUDING INTERNAL ELECTRICAL, SANITARY WORKS, HVAC WORK, FIRE FIGHTING WORKS & EXTERNAL WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE	CLOSING 19.08.2019	27.42 CRORE	<a href="http://www.hsvphry.org.in">www.hsvphry.org.in</a>	xenrewarihsvp@gmail.com
14	HSVP PANCHKULA	PROVIDING, LAYING, JOINTING OF 8", 10" & 12" AND SEWER WITH MANHOLE ON SECTOR-5, PANCHKULA INCLUDING MTC. AND DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FOR 3 YEARS FREE OF COST. (INSTRUCTION ISSUE OF NGT.)	CLOSING 19.08.2019	31.10 LACS	<a href="http://www.hsvphry.org.in">www.hsvphry.org.in</a>	xenhu1@gmail.com
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# HER FATHER, HER FRIEND

How Urdu poet Kaifi Azmi continues to influence his daughter Shabana Azmi

APARNA NARRAIN

In her father's birth centenary year, actor Shabana Azmi recalls how Kaifi Azmi (1919-2002) believed that art should be an instrument of change. Here, she talks about how her father influenced her, and why the making of the biographical documentary *Kaifinama: A Celebration of the Art and Times of Kaifi Azmi* was important.

#### Can you tell us about the influence your father had on you?

● My father was my friend, my mentor, my guru. He never directly influenced me on anything. But, both he and my mother lived a life by example. And we inherited their world view, almost by a process of osmosis. My parents believed that art should be used as an instrument for social change. And whether it was in his poetry or her work as an actress, that's what they always did.

I have been influenced by his poetry. His poem, *Aurat*, which was written 70 years ago, is iconic. He says, 'Arise my love, come walk, march shoulder to shoulder with me.' My work in the women's movement is informed by *Aurat*. My work in the slums is informed by his poem, *Makaan* which I like because it is about the irony of a construction worker who build this fabulous building. And when the building is complete, he is not allowed to enter it. His poems *Bahuroopni* and *Doosra Banwas* informed my work against religious fundamentalism.

#### A memory of your father that stands out?

● There are so many. Very few people knew my father had a great sense of humour. He was not given to materialism at all. The only thing he loved passionately was his Mont Blanc pen. He would send them to the Fountain Hospital in New York. When a friend gifted me a Mont Blanc, he had absolutely no qualms about stealing it and writing a beautiful letter to my friend saying how it was much safer in his custody.

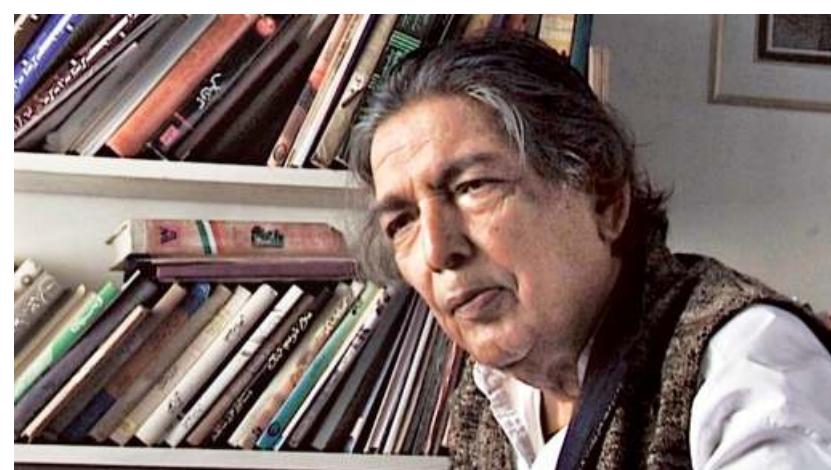
#### FOOD REVIEW

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

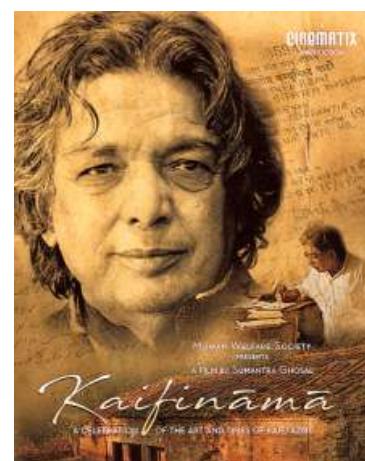
When your family runs the iconic Gulati on Pandara Road, attempting to do something different may be considered insane. But what husband-and-wife duo, Sumit and Chiquita Gulati have pulled off in this the new avatar of Spice Market, is insanely good. The original (Gulati) Spice Market, was my favourite North Indian restaurant in Delhi. In the new iteration, they have kept the old favourites, but taken the flavours and presentation a notch higher. It's a modern, fresh take on the original, but it remains authentic to its roots.

**The vibe:** They've managed to create an airy, fresh, stylish, contemporary look, despite a small space. I love their two booths which give you a sense of being intimate, even though you're in the middle of the restaurant.

**Do try:** Everything. It is perhaps the only restaurant where I love the vegetarian food almost as much as the non-vegetarian. The Mutton Galouti are of course a must and you'll dream of them long after, but they even do avocado ones which melt in your mouth. The crunchy asparagus with achari dip is also



**Bound by words**  
(Clockwise from left) Ingmar Bergman, Shabana with Sumantra Ghosal, the movie poster, Kaifi Azmi  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



#### Dream directors

Shabana Azmi says she would have loved to work with Swedish auteur Ingmar Bergman. "I used to say that if he just asks me to take a broom and sweep the ground from one end of the frame to the other, I would be happy to do it," she says with a laugh. Her favourite Bergman films, she says after some thought, are *Autumn Sonata* and *Cries and Whispers*. As for the directors of today, she says, "I look forward to working with Zoya (Akhtar). I'd be interested to work with young people. In fact, I have probably worked with the maximum number of first-time directors."

as they should. It is much, much easier today but much more needs to be done. Because when you talk about minorities, the LGBTQIA+ community also has to be included. How is it anybody's business what they do in their personal life?

#### Can you tell us about *Halo*, the series produced by Steven Spielberg?

● *Halo* is one of the most popular video games with more than 77 million users and now they have decided to make it into a web series. We have been asking for colour-blind casting for years now. Suddenly, you see that Indian and Asian actors are being seen in America. I don't play an Indian in it. I play Admiral Margaret Parangosky. It is a challenge and I look forward to it. (smiles)

#### Has the shooting started?

● No, it starts on November 1, but I go there (to Budapest) in the middle of October.



Jan Nisar Akhtar, Kaifi, Shailendra, you see that it is actually poetry. Even today, when you think of songs that you have an association with, they are songs of the past!

**Last year, Section 377 of the IPC, which criminalised same sex relations, was read down. How much do you think has changed from the time *Fire* (1998) was released?**

● I think there has been a tremendous change because at the time of *Fire*, we were not used to discussing the issue openly at all. We used to just brush it under the carpet. And now, there are many people coming out in the open

#### BARCODE

#### Child first

Get answers on tricky situations pertaining to relationships and socio-legal issues in Delhi/NCR



#### My children are in high school. Is there a legal age for consensual sex that I need to speak to them about?

Yes, there is a legal age for consensual sex. It is 18 years for all persons, irrespective of gender. If any person engages in any sexual act under the age of 18 years, then it's an offence under the Indian law.

#### A student of mine is cutting himself (I am a school teacher). Does this have legal implications for me?

Under the Constitution and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 ('RTE'), the school is responsible for the welfare of the child. There exists a 'duty of care' on the part of the school authorities or on the teachers. As a school teacher, if you are aware that a student has a tendency of self-harm, i.e., cutting himself, then you can first speak to him in a dignified and non-judgemental way, and try to convince him to go to the school counsellor, or even a professional counsellor, if he desires. If the teacher feels that the student is in a worse condition, and there is an imminent risk of harm to him, then she is obligated to inform his parents about his suicidal tendencies, who can then provide him with immediate mental health intervention. If the teacher fails in her duty of care, despite her clear knowledge that the student was at imminent risk of suicide, then she can be held liable for negligence, and can be subject to both disciplinary action, including termination of employment, and to criminal penalties.

Amritananda Chakravorty is a Delhi-based advocate, specialising in litigation on gender and sexuality. She was actively involved in the landmark cases of decriminalisation of sodomy (Section 377) and the recognition of transgender rights in India. Ask questions at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

#### PRODUCT

#### Clothes for planet-lovers



Purvi Doshi has launched her maiden menswear line Earthy Spun that features handwoven garments in earthy hues with a hint of mirrorwork. Purvi's label is PETA-approved, vegan, Eco-Age marked. The designer says she works to ensure that sustainability is integrated into all aspects of production, with even the smallest bits of fabric used to make buttons, embellishments, visiting cards, price tags, or packaging covers. Only natural fabrics and colours are used.

Available at [purvidoshi.com](http://purvidoshi.com); ₹5,550 upward

Contact us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

#### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



GIFT

#### Rakshabandhan special

Khoya, a luxury brand of Indian sweets, is selling gift boxes of handcrafted mithai for Rakshabandhan. They have introduced the rakhi special Kesar Ghewar and Malai Ghewar in a range of four different gift boxes containing 3,10,16 and 36 pieces of sweets. There is the option of delivery across India.

**VENUE:** The Chanakya and The Oberoi New Delhi

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



PAINTINGS

#### Canvas

Maharashtra-based artist Uttam Chapte is showcasing his abstract art at the Shridharani Gallery until August 21. In this solo exhibition titled *Indelible Mark*, the artworks on display are done in acrylic painting in canvas. The works resemble splashes of colour on canvas, reflecting the memories of the artist's homeland.

**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



CONCERT

#### Tribal music

Musica Medicina will perform a tribal meditative concert at the India Habitat Centre this evening. Performed by two musicians, Vishesh Kalimero and Rahul Jigyasu, one on strings and the other on percussion, the performance will bring together sounds from folk music, in a contemporary form.

**VENUE:** Amaltas Hall, IHC

**TIME:** 7 p.m.



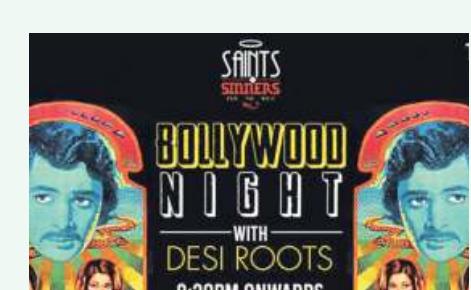
GOURMET

#### Awadhi food festival

The Westin Gurgaon New Delhi has an Awadhi cuisine festival called *Shaam-E-Awadhi* at their all-day dining outlet Seasonal Tastes. This menu is curated keeping in mind the fragrance of dried herbs, roots, spices and flowers. On offer are dishes like Gosht Biriyani, Murgh Changezi, Gosht Koh-E-Awadhi, and more.

**VENUE:** Seasonal Tastes, Sector 29, Gurugram

**TIME:** 7 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



MUSIC

#### Bollywood night

Desi Roots, an amalgamation of seasoned artists who have been active in the music industry for over a decade, is all set to perform at Saint N Sinners. The band members are associated with Bollywood composers and artists like Shankar Mahadevan and Harshdeep Kaur, and will sing some popular Bollywood songs this evening.

**VENUE:** GF-21 Global Foyer, Sector 43, Gurugram

**TIME:** 8:30 p.m. - 11 pm.

# Meet the Seltos, Creta's cousin



NIKHIL BHATIA

If you've been following the Kia Seltos' evolution since it was revealed at the Auto Expo 2018, you'll know it as one of the big launches of 2019. However, if it's the befuddling ads that have piqued your curiosity, here's what you need to know about the SUV and its maker.

The Seltos is the Korean carmaker Kia's first model for India, and one that will rough it out in the ultra-competitive mid-size SUV segment that's so far been dominated by its cousin, the Hyundai Creta. Hyundai and Kia come under the umbrella of the Hyundai Motor Company but, save for shared R&D, both entities function independently and are fierce rivals.

However, the Kia Seltos is far removed from the existing Creta, and is actually built on a new platform that will underpin the second-gen Creta, which will come in early 2020. The Seltos is marginally longer and wider (but also slightly lower) than the Creta. The Tata Harrier and MG Hector, 2018's other big SUV launches, are much larger models.

The Seltos is handsome. The chrome surround for the grille, for instance, sports a premium knurled effect. Equally special is the lighting that includes an LED strip that runs from the headlights to the snout.

The SUV will be available in two styles – Tech Line and GT Line –



**Designed to succeed** The Seltos is a handsome SUV and it's got the traditional upright stance that Indian buyers like ■ GAURAV THOMBRE

with each having its own trim levels. Sporty GT Line Seltos models, like the one pictured here, are identifiable by their slick crystal-cut alloy wheels, GT Line badging and red accents on the bumpers and sides. Tech Line gets black-on-beige interiors, while GT Line versions feature all-black interiors with red stitching on the seats, steering and gear lever.

The Seltos' cabin sits at a convenient height, so getting in and out of it is a breeze. Once settled in, you are sure to appreciate the sheer level of quality in the interior. Seltos' cabin quality is up there with that of far pricier European cars. Much in line with the latest trends, the Kia's neat dashboard positions the infotainment system high up and in the driver's line of sight.

The front seats are comfy and passengers at the back have it rather nice as well. Sure, legroom is down on larger models like the Harrier and Hector, but you really can't complain. You can fine-tune the seats, thanks to the backrest recline adjust, though a longer seat squab would have helped comfort. Of the other things, the Kia Seltos offers plenty of room for small items within the cabin and the 433-litre boot can also hold a fair amount of luggage.

Top versions get LED headlights, a sunroof, ventilated front seats, a powered driver's seat, a 400W Bose sound system, front and rear parking sensors, ambient lighting and e-SIM-based connected tech with 37 features. Do note, GT Line versions get a few more safety and comfort features, such

## SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE:	1.4-litre, 4-cyl, turbocharged
MAX POWER:	140hp at 6000rpm
MAX TORQUE:	242Nm at 1500-3200rpm
GEARBOX:	7-speed dual-clutch automatic
CLAIMED INDIAN DRIVING CYCLE (ARAI):	16.5kpl
LENGTH:	4315mm
WIDTH:	1800mm
HEIGHT:	1620mm
WHEELBASE:	2610mm
BOOT CAPACITY:	433 litres

as all-wheel disc brakes, side and curtain airbags and electronic stability control.

The Seltos will be available with three BS-VI-compliant engine options. On offer will be a 115hp, 1.5-litre petrol engine, a 115hp, 1.5-litre diesel, and a 140hp, 1.4-litre turbo-petrol; 6-speed manual gearboxes will be standard fit, though each engine will get a different type of automatic transmission option. The 1.5 petrol gets a CVT, the 1.5 diesel is available with a 6-speed torque converter auto, while the 1.4 turbo-petrol can be had with a 7-speed dual-clutch gearbox. We spent time with the 1.5 diesel-manual and 1.4 turbo-petrol-DCT en-

gines, and the news is good.

The Seltos 1.4 turbo-petrol is intended for keen drivers and easily feels a cut above the existing petrol mid-size SUVs. The engine runs smooth and quiet at low revs and feels at home in urban environments. When you do drive with verve, you'll find that the engine feels gutsy and revs quite readily past 6,000rpm. Kia's 7-speed dual-clutch auto is diligent and quick, but shifts are sometimes not as seamless as what we've experienced on VW's DSG units.

Unique to dual-clutch auto-equipped Seltos turbo-petrols in GTX spec are driving and traction modes. The three driving modes – Eco, Normal and Sport – not only alter engine characteristics, but also steering weight. We didn't note all that big a difference between Eco and Normal modes, though Sport did spice up the driving experience.

Shifting focus to the diesel Seltos, its 115hp and 250Nm 1.5-litre engine is a delight. It's remarkably refined and performance is admirable too. You can feel a step up in power around 2,000rpm, but the build of power on the whole is linear and very friendly.

As a product, the Seltos is hard to fault. It's stylish, comfortable, well-built and really well-equipped. Seltos prices are expected to range in the ₹11-17 lakh bracket. After-sales is an unknown for the moment, but it is reassuring to know that Kia has a global reputation in this area.

## The right scooter

**Ajay Ramana L, Chennai:** I want a scooter and have zeroed in on the Suzuki Access 125 and the Honda Activa 125. Which of the two would you suggest?

■ We've always rated the Access 125 as one of the best 125cc options, if you're looking for a mature and straightforward unisex scooter. Honda was the first to unveil a BS-VI scooter for India, with an updated Activa 125. That scooter is not yet on sale, but Honda has revealed that it will cost about 10-15% more than the existing BS-IV Activa 125. The company turned to fuel injection to meet the more stringent emissions norms. Suzuki will also be turning to fuel injection for its BS-VI upgrades, so a significant price hike is likely. So if you want a cleaner and possibly more premium Access 125, you will want to wait for a few months. If not, the current model will be a better deal.

## Try the TVS Apache

**Amal Dev, Alleppey:** My brother wants to buy a new bike and he's looking for a sports tourer. He has shortlisted three bikes – the Royal Enfield Himalayan, Bajaj Dominar 400 and the Honda CBR 250R. Which of these is a good option?

■ If it's a sports tourer you're looking for, the Himalayan doesn't fit in that list. This is an off-road ready ADV that will go anywhere, but it is far from a sports tourer. The Honda CBR 250R fits the bill much better, but it is an outdated model overseas. Instead of the Honda, we'd recommend that you extend your budget a little and go for the TVS Apache RR 310. This is a very engaging motorcycle, but it also has a decently comfortable riding position and makes for a good sports tourer. If the TVS is too far out of your budget, the Bajaj Dominar 400 is a great choice and it offers good comfort, strong performance and fantastic value.

## Suitable commute

**Krishna Kishore, Bengaluru:** I am looking for an automatic car for easy city commutes and occasional highway drives. My monthly usage is less than 2,000km. Is the VW's Polo GT TSI suitable?

■ We are delighted that you can afford to buy the VW Polo GT TSI; it certainly stands out from other hatchbacks in terms of quality, refinement and, above all, performance. Our advice is not to think twice and go for it.

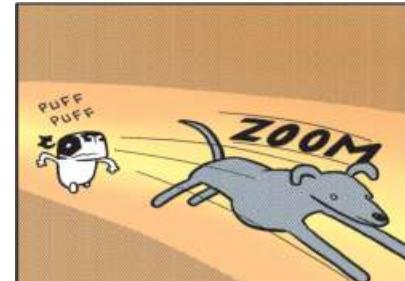
## Tread talk

**Aditya Pratap Singh, via email:** We own a 2016 Mahindra Scorpio S6+. It has completed 52,000km and its tyres (235/65 R17) are due for a change. What do you think of the Goodyear Wrangler AT/SA?

■ The Goodyear is a good option. If your running is extensively on highways, you can also look for the Yokohama Geolanders as an alternative.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to [roadshow@thehindu.co.in](mailto:roadshow@thehindu.co.in)

## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



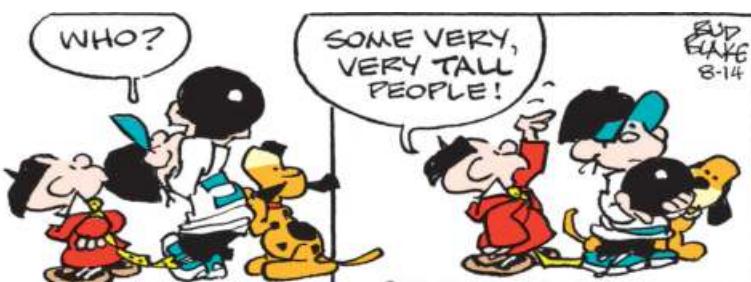
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



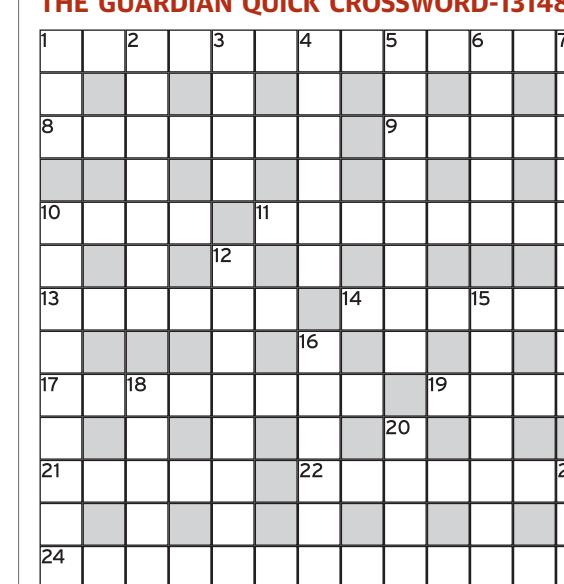
## TIGER



## GRAFFITI



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13148



- (5) 7 Strap to hold up a stocking (9)
- 10 Onlooker (9)
- 11 Someone not accepted by society (8)
- 15 Draws out (7)
- 16 Relating to cattle (6)
- 18 Temporary replacement doctor (5)
- 20 Sugar merchant and art gallery philanthropist, founder, d. 1899 (4)
- 23 Cathedral city in East Anglia (3)

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- Across
  - 1 Take by surprise (5,8)
  - 8 Rack by a sink for letting crockery dry (7)
  - 9 Scruffs of the neck (5)
  - 10 Bundle (of hay)? (4)
  - 11 Lazy (4-4)
  - 12 Cloth in which a body is wrapped for burial (6)
  - 14 Decapitate (6)
  - 17 Indirect reference (8)
  - 19 Level (4)
  - 21 Cut into cubes (5)
  - 22 Form a mental picture (7)
  - 24 Without compunction, pity, or compassion (13)
- Down
  - 1 Rotter (3)
  - 2 Short film advertising a forthcoming feature (7)
  - 3 Suspend (4)
  - 4 Constricted (6)
  - 5 Itinerant (8)
  - 6 Waterway where the current runs very fast (5)

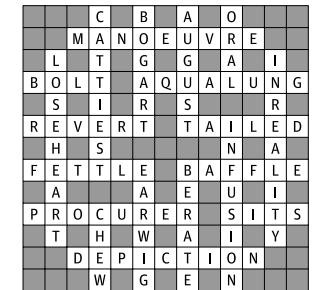
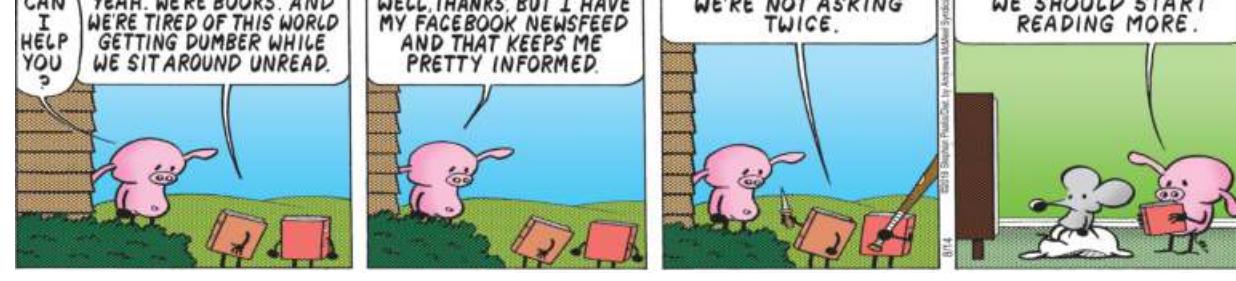
Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 15, 2019.

Solution No. 13147

## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



AND-NDE

# India looks to pull off another series victory

Dhawan needs to sign off on a high; Shami may be rested to give Saini an opportunity

## INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PORT-OF-Spain

Opener Shikhar Dhawan will be desperate for a big knock after four consecutive failures as India eyes another series victory when it takes on the West Indies in the third and final One-Day International here on Wednesday.

With scores of one, 23 and three in the T20 series and just two in the second ODI, Dhawan's comeback post injury has been far from ideal. Troubled by in-coming deliveries, twice Dhawan lost his wicket to pacer Sheldon Cottrell.

Since he is not part of the Test squad, the Delhi left-hander would like to finish the Caribbean assignment on a high.

### Another tussle

There is another mini-battle brewing in the Indian line-up, for the No. 4 slot, with Shreyas Iyer putting tremendous pressure on Rishabh Pant.

Pant has enjoyed the backing of the team management, especially skipper Virat Kohli, but his repeated failures and Shreyas' 68-ball 71 in the second ODI changed things.

Kohli, meanwhile, will look to carry the momentum after a brilliant 120 off 125 balls in the second ODI.



**The game plan is...!** Given that the momentum is with India, the West Indies will have a tough task in the final ODI. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who impressed with figures of four for 31 from eight overs in the last match, will look to sustain the form.

His pace colleague Mohammed Shami (two for 39) and Kuldeep Yadav (two for 59) also chipped in.

Although teams don't prefer changing winning combinations, Kohli may

give Navdeep Saini a run, giving Shami a rest.

### Wanted, a win

The West Indies, on the other hand, will be desperate to save the series with a win.

But for that to happen, the batting unit will have to take more responsibility. It's time talents like Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran, Roston Chase, Fabian Allen, Carlos Brathwaite, Keemo Paul, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas and Kene Roach.

Navdeep Saini a run, giving Pooran rise to the occasion.

After the final ODI, the two teams will battle it out in a two-Test series, starting August 22 at North Sound, Antigua.

### The teams (from):

**India:** Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed and Navdeep Saini.

**West Indies:** Jason Holder (Capt.), Chris Gayle, John Campbell, Evin Lewis, Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran, Roston Chase, Fabian Allen, Carlos Brathwaite, Keemo Paul, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas and Kene Roach.

Match starts at 7 p.m. IST.

## Subramaniam in trouble?

## Archer adds teeth to England attack in second Test



**Huge responsibility:** England will be keen to turn the tables on Australia at Lord's. ■ REUTERS

Allegedly misbehaved with bureaucrats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Indian team's administrative manager Sunil Subramaniam is set to be reprimanded by the BCCI for allegedly misbehaving with officials of the country's High Commissions in the West Indies during the ongoing series.

According to a BCCI source, Subramaniam was told to coordinate with the top officials of the Indian High Commissions in Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago for the Indian team's video shoot on 'water conservation', a project of the Indian government.

"The Indian team was

supposed to shoot a small advertisement on 'Water Conservation' as this directive came from the government. When a very senior person from Indian High Commission in Trinidad & Tobago called up Subramaniam seeking his cooperation, he told him 'Don't flood me with messages'. The BCCI has come to know that he refused to entertain their calls when all they were doing was to carry out the government's directive," said the senior BCCI official.

Subramaniam, the team's administrative manager since 2017, could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

## When millions put their faith in a voice coming out of a box

Going back in time when radio commentators magically transported the fans to the venue with their vivid descriptions



## BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

A few moments before the match began, you heard a series of beeps on the radio. Short, sharp, penetrative. This was followed by a long beep. There was promise of excitement in those beeps, and if you were a schoolboy who dreamt of playing for India, it signalled the start of something guaranteed to burnish that dream. "This is All India Radio," said the measured voice, "We now take you to Eden Gardens...." Suddenly you found yourself at the venue. It was magical.

The recent passing of the best Indian commentator of his time, Anant Setalvad, is a reminder of just how much we owe his tribe, a debt not always acknowledged. Before Hawkeye and Hotspot and Ultraedge, those sitting at home relied on the sharpness and skill of the radio commentator to bring the game to them. Generations put their faith in the voice coming out of a radio. Some charlatans – the Mahajakumar of Vizianagaram was one – thrived, but the best served the game and the listeners well.

### Urbane

Setalvad was urbane, his voice crisp – decades later, I would still be able to recognise it if it were in a line-up with other voices. He was a lovely painter of verbal pictures, a remarkably calm presence among colleagues who made up in high pitched chatter what they lacked in technical knowhow.

This was especially true of the Hindi

commentators. Some of them never paused, their flow like god's love, having no beginning and no end. Still, it meant that the nation south of the Vindhya learnt much of its Hindi – if not cricket – that way. Was the language imposition a planned move or did it simply work out that way? Bollywood films and Hindi cricket commentary helped many of us through our Hindi exams in school, the essays borrowing heavily from Sahir Ludhianvi and Sushil Doshi, the poet and the radio commentator respectively.

Radio fired the imagination. Even bad commentary – and some of it was indeed awful – forced you to see the action in your mind's eye. I first 'saw' a Gundappa Viswanath square cut on radio before I saw it on the field of play. You quickly chose your favourite commentators just as you did with the players. And it was wonderful when the two came together in the same match, as, for example, Tony Cozier did on the 74-75 tour which saw Viswanath play some of his finest innings.

### Pre-digested opinions

In another way, however, radio commentary suppressed imagination. Millions were handed pre-digested opinions by commentators who made up for all their weaknesses by their one undeniable strength: they were at the venue, you were not. That extra layer between you and the action was a semi-permeable membrane: the commentator could tell you what he saw, but you couldn't argue back. You accepted both his description and his opinion.

As I was growing up, however, an important change in this relationship took place. Transistor radios became easily available. It allowed spectators at the ground to follow the game while listening to the commentary – much like we do

in England now. The Bobby Talyarkhan style of 'creative' broadcasting faded out. The changed dynamics led to a riot in a Mumbai Test when commentator Devraj Puri said something like "the ball was nowhere near the bat," as Venkatraghavan was given out caught behind off Australia's Alan Connolly. Such was the listeners' faith in the infallibility of the commentator. Umpires made mistakes, commentators didn't!

### Audio treat

Before Setalvad, there was V.M. Chakrani. He broadcast during India's tour of Australia in '67. I remember my mother, ear fixed to the radio, keeping scores as Farokh Engineer and Chandu Borde put on a partnership in a Test. Mother was the only lady I knew who kept scores and updated friends who were at work. She taught me the joy of listening to cricket. The sport was an audio treat before it became a visual one. When dad came back from work, they would discuss the day's play. Opinions were based on what they had heard, to be reinforced (or not) by what they read in the newspapers the following day.

Ian Peebles has written about the impact of cricket as seen through 12-year-old eyes. That's nothing compared to the impact of the game on six-year-old ears. Many years later, I met Chakrani in Chennai, a tall man who moved easily and spoke in a beautiful radio voice.

I never met Setalvad or Pearson Surti, the man with the golden voice, but another favourite, Dicky Rutnagar became a friend. As of course did Harsha Bhogle who was such a treat on radio where he began. His manner of representing the listener at all times, thinking his thoughts, expressing his fears and exulting in his triumphs is a gift given to few. He is the last of a special tribe.

## No conflict of interest in Dravid case: CoA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) reiterated its view on Tuesday that former India captain Rahul Dravid has no "Conflict Of Interest" (COI) issues in connection with his appointment as Head of the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

The BCCI's Ethics Officer Justice (retd.) D.K. Jain, following a complaint from Sanjeev Gupta, a life member of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, sought a clarification from the former India under-19 and A-team coach about his employment terms with India Cements.

### Thorn in the flesh

The COI issue has been a thorn in the flesh for the BCCI and former players who have shown interest in the development of Indian cricket activities. But the former Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha, whose panel wrote the 'Cricket in Re-

forms' report, has dealt with the COI issues in detail and how it is affecting Indian cricket.

After the CoA meeting on Tuesday, Lt. Gen. (retd.) Ravi Thodgi said: "There's no conflict in Rahul (Dravid)'s case. We have cleared his appointment. If the Ombudsman (also the Ethics Officer) sees any conflict, we will have our response going to him. He has to consider it. It's a process," said Thodgi.

Recently, CoA head Vinod Rai had also expressed the same view.

### Delay possible

On the matter of the BCCI AGM and elections to be held on October 22, Thodgi said that with more members showing interest to be in terms with the new BCCI Constitution, there could be delays. "We just took a review and most of them will join. I don't see such a great difficulty. Some of them are yet to register their Constitutions.

The intentions are to hold the elections around that time (October 22)."



**All clear:** The COI case against Dravid has been dismissed.

de Kock to lead in T20Is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JOHANNESBURG

Quinton de Kock was on Tuesday named South Africa's new T20I skipper for the three-match series against India in September, which will not feature former captain Faf du Plessis in the squad.

However, du Plessis will continue to lead South Africa in the three-Test series that follows the T20Is.

**The squads:** Tests: Faf du Plessis (Capt.), Temba Bavuma (Vice-capt.), Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Senarath Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada and Rudi Second.

**T20Is:** Quinton de Kock (Capt.), Rassie van der Dussen (vice-capt.), Temba Bavuma, Junior Dala, Bjorn Fortuin, Beuran Hendricks, Reeza Hendricks, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Andile Phelwani, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi and Jon-Jon Smuts.



de Kock. ■ GETTY IMAGES

## STAT SPHERE

If India wins the third ODI, it will help the Men in Blue draw level with West Indies in overall H2H record since the two started playing each other in 1979

■ Of the 129 matches against West Indies, India has won 61 and lost 62, while two have ended in a tie. Four games didn't have a result

■ India has won 13 of the 18 bilateral series it has played after the 2015 World Cup. The break-up:

### India in bilateral ODI series since 2015 WC

Versus	Home/Away	Year	Result
Bangladesh	Away	2015	Lost 1-2 (3)
Zimbabwe	Away	2015	Won 3-0 (3)
South Africa	Home	2015/16	Lost 2-3 (5)
Australia	Away	2015/16	Lost 1-4 (5)
Zimbabwe	Away	2016	Won 3-0 (3)
New Zealand	Home	2016/17	Won 3-2 (5)
England	Home	2016/17	Won 2-1 (3)
West Indies	Away	2017	Won 3-1 (5)
Sri Lanka	Away	2017	Won 5-0 (5)
Australia	Home	2017/18	Won 4-1 (5)
New Zealand	Home	2017/18	Won 2-1 (3)
Sri Lanka	Home	2017/18	Won 2-1 (3)
South Africa	Away	2017/18	Won 5-1 (6)
England	Away	2018	Lost 1-2 (3)
West Indies	Home	2018/19	Won 3-1 (5)
Australia	Away	2018/19	Won 2-1 (3)
New Zealand	Away	2018/19	Won 4-1 (5)
Australia	Home	2018/19	Lost 2-3 (5)

viewed by Sunil Gavaskar and Shastri. Gavaskar was also consulted before Greg Chappell was appointed coach in 2005. Gary Kirsten was brought in as head coach in consultation with some of the senior players.

"Earlier, the office-bearers would meet to pick the coach and the system worked well," said the Board official. "The Lodha Committee mandated that the job be performed by a CAC which should include prominent cricketers. Sachin (Tendulkar), Sourav (Ganguly) and (V.V.S.) Laxman were brought into the CAC to ensure there was credibility to the process of picking the national coach."

"I fail to understand how this selection committee is better qualified than the CAC. If Kapil and his colleagues can pick the head coach, they can as well use their wisdom to give the coach the support staff he deserves," said the veteran official.

When John Wright became India's first foreign coach in 2000, he was inter-

vened by Sunil Gavaskar and Shastri. Gavaskar was also consulted before Greg Chappell was appointed coach in 2005. Gary Kirsten was brought in as head coach in consultation with some of the senior players.

## IN BRIEF



## Lowry withdraws from US World Cup team

LOS ANGELES  
Kyle Lowry of the NBA champion Toronto Raptors has withdrawn from consideration for the US basketball World Cup team due to a thumb injury. The Toronto Raptors guard had surgery on his left thumb in July and had hoped to recover and play for the United States in the bid to win a third straight World Cup title in China. "I was hoping to be cleared and ready for the tournament, but I was not cleared for full basketball activities," he wrote on Instagram. "I was hoping to be available in time to help my country in their quest for the gold this upcoming tournament," he said. AFP



## Atletico's Costa sustains left thigh injury

MADRID  
Atletico Madrid forward Diego Costa has injured his left thigh during a friendly against Juventus in Sweden, the La Liga side announced on Tuesday. The 30-year-old Spaniard of Brazilian descent was replaced by Ivan Saponjic after he felt a muscle pain in the 90th minute of Saturday's match that ended 2-1 in favour of Atletico. Atletico is set to host Getafe on Sunday in the opening week of the new season. Costa, however, will not take part in the game because he was handed an eight-match ban last season after he insulted a referee during his side's 2-0 loss to Barcelona. IANS



## Alex Marquez delays move to MotoGP

PARIS  
Moto2 champion leader Alex Marquez has delayed his move into MotoGP by signing a new deal to race for Marc VDS in 2020, the Belgian team announced on Tuesday. The one-year deal puts on hold the prospect of the 23-year-old going wheel to wheel with his older brother, five-time MotoGP champion Marc. Alex has won five races this season and leads the Moto2 standings by 43 points with eight races remaining. He was Moto3 champion in 2014. His brother has a 58-point lead in the MotoGP standings. AFP

## Top stars to give inter-State a miss

Leading athletes have been going through some strange ups and downs in their performance

## ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN  
KOCHE

Are our top stars running scared?

Some of our country's leading athletes have been going through some strange ups and downs in their performance graph this season and their appearance in the National inter-State championships, in Lucknow from August 27, would have offered a fine chance to show where they stand with the Doha Worlds about a month away.

But surprisingly, many of the track and field stars including the much-pampered men's and women's 4x400m relay runners, who have now moved their camp base from Poland to the Czech Republic, will be staying away from the inter-State event which is the Athletics Federation of India's qualification event for the World championships.

"Seven men and six women from the quartemilers' bunch (including Muhammed Anas, M.P. Jabir, A. Dharun, Hima Das, V.K. Vismaya and M.R. Poovamma) will not be coming for the inter-State meet. Javelin throwers Shivpal Singh and Annu Rani (both have qualified for the Worlds) will also not take



**Not showing up:** Seven men and six women from the quartemilers' bunch (including Muhammed Anas, M.P. Jabir, A. Dharun, Hima Das, V.K. Vismaya and M.R. Poovamma) will not be participating in the inter-State meet. ■ FILE PHOTO

part nor will Vipin Kasana who is very close to qualifying for the Worlds," Radhakrishnan Nair, the Deputy Chief Coach, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

## Competition in Czech Republic

"We are arranging a competition in Mlada Boleslav in the Czech Republic, which is very close to where they are staying, on August 24.

"We will compare the results of this meet, and the results of their recent meets,

and also the results of the Inter-State meet to delete or add names for the relay team (for the Worlds).

"And the selection committee may send back someone from the bunch in the Czech Republic and may include athletes from the Inter-State if the performances are good."

Though things will only be clear on September 6, Radhakrishnan is almost sure that all the 4x400m mile relay teams (men, women and mixed) will be among the 16

teams and make it to the Worlds.

## Unfair

By allowing its top stars to stay away from the Lucknow meet, the AFI is being unfair to athletes who are training at home. One, because the playing field – the track, weather and other conditions – in India and the Czech Republic are not the same. And with the big names missing, there will be none to push the athletes in Lucknow, so timings and

down shows.

They see a strange pattern...that could be a worry too.

## Jhye Richardson working his way back to fitness

The Australian pacer has put behind the disappointment of missing out on the World Cup and Ashes



Jhye Richardson. ■ M. VEDHAN

Richardson said. "The goal now is to play well in domestic cricket. If you perform well in domestic cricket, then hopefully you play again for Australia this summer," he added.

**Task on hand**  
When he recovers, he will have a task on his hand considering Australia's bench strength in the pace department with even Mitchell Starc missing out in the first Ashes Test. Richardson feels it may be tricky for the players, it was a good headache for selectors.

"In recent years, Australia has had a few injuries that have probably depleted our fast bowling stocks a little bit.

"But now, especially going into a big series like the Ashes, having everyone available is perfect because if someone gets injured or someone is not performing then the next person is ready to go."

On how he has dealt with the twin disappointments,

"I think it's just about setting goals. I first set the goal of the World Cup. Obviously didn't make it. I kind of understood in the lead up to it that I wasn't going to make it. So it wasn't so bad when I found out I wasn't going," Ri-

chardson said. "The goal now is to play well in domestic cricket. If you perform well in domestic cricket, then hopefully you play again for Australia this summer," he added.

"But now, especially going into a big series like the Ashes, having everyone available is perfect because if someone gets injured or someone is not performing then the next person is ready to go."

"Lord's can be a batting friendly pitch at times. So if he (Bancroft) can get that opportunity and nail it, that would be good. But Marcus Harris is a very good player and his game has come along well so... we have got some good options."

**Chance for youngsters**  
Speaking about the current trip and the key focus areas, Rogers said: "Australia is going to play a lot of cricket in Asia in the next three-four

years and it will give a chance to some of the youngsters on how to play and develop their game.

"We want our players to come here, learn, make mistakes and learn from them. Watching (Usman) Khawaja bat and using the reverse sweep, which he learned a bit from here, getting out a few times but going out and getting a 150 against Pakistan in the UAE using the same tactic shows how he has developed as a player."

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## TV PICKS

**PKL:** 7.15 p.m. & 8.30 p.m., Star Sports 1 (SD & HD).  
**West Indies vs India:** 3rd ODI, 7 p.m., Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD).  
**The Ashes:** 2nd Test, 3.30 p.m., Sony Six (SD & HD).  
**Sri Lanka vs New Zealand:** 1st Test, day one, Sony ESPN (SD & HD).  
**Cincinnati Open:** 4.30 a.m. & 8.30 p.m., Sony ESPN (SD & HD).  
**UEFA Super Cup:** Final, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday), Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD).

## IN BRIEF



Former Argentina defender Brown dead

BUENOS AIRES  
Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning defender Jose Luis Brown has died following a long battle with Alzheimer's, his former club Estudiantes de La Plata has said. "Maximum day of sadness for the Albitroja (La Plata) family, our gladiator Jose Luis Brown has left. But his memory and love of the club will never depart," the club tweeted. Known to his friends as 'Tata', Brown made 36 appearances for Argentina and scored the first goal in their 3-2 World Cup final victory over West Germany in 1986. AFP

## VFI announces cash bonanza for Indian team

CHENNAI  
S. Vasudevan, president of Volleyball Federation of India (VFI), on Tuesday announced ₹1 lakh each to the members of the Indian team (players and officials) totalling ₹17 lakh for winning the silver medal in the third Asian men's u-23 volleyball championship at Myanmar. A VFI release further said that the cash award will be distributed in a grand function at a later date.



Dutch hero Sneijder calls it a day

THE HAGUE  
The Netherlands' most-capped player Wesley Sneijder announced on Monday his retirement from football, bringing down the curtain on a trophy-laden career that spanned 17 years. The 35-year-old, who played 134 times for his country, made the announcement while speaking to the YouTube channel of his hometown club FC Utrecht after having bought a corporate box at their stadium. Sneijder's career included a World Cup runner-up medal as well as Champions League, La Liga and Serie A titles. The playmaker had successful spells with Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Galatasaray after having graduated from Ajax's academy in 2002. His final club was Al Gharafa in Qatar's top-flight. AFP

## Usha in AAA's Athletes Commission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHE  
P.T. Usha has been appointed as a member of the Asian Athletics Association (AAA)'s Athletes Commission.

The AAA sent a letter to Usha, through the Athletics Federation of India, in this regard on Tuesday.

"This is the second time I'm a member of this. I was in the commission when it was formed about four years ago," said Usha.

The other members of the commission are Kazakhstan's former Olympic champion triple jumper Olga Rypakova, China's Wang Yu, Malaysia's Lee Hup Wei and Saudi Arabia's Saad Shaddad.

## East Bengal honours its captains

Fans treated to a unique array of stalwarts from the '60s onwards

## FOOTBALL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

East Bengal made the ongoing centenary celebrations memorable by bringing together its captains at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

Thousands of fans across generations gathered to witness the unique occasion that presented a virtual football hall of fame.

From the stalwarts of the '60s and '70s like Sukumar Samajpati, Parimal Dey, Sudhir Karmakar, Samarendra Chowdhury, Surjot Sengupta, Victor Amalraj, Manoranjan Bhattacharya, Bhaskar Ganguly to the stars of the new millennium like Suley Musah, S. Suresh, Alvito D'Cunha, Chandan Das and Gurwinder Singh, the evening presented a collage of resplendent memories to its supporters.

Current captain Brandon Vanlalremdika came last in the line completing a chronological sequence of coaches who were at the helm at different times.

nology of leaders each of whom received a roar of approval from the galleries.

The captains were felicitated by prominent invitees from other walks of life – eminent writers, theatre personalities and film directors – who are also East Bengal fans.

The prime attraction of the evening, however, was Iranian star Majid Bishkar, who was crowned the best foreign player of all time.

When Majid was asked to felicitate compatriot Jamshed Nasiri it brought back memories of the many triumphs the two had engineered for the side in the early '80s.

Suley Musah, the Ghanaian stopper-back who stood like a rock in the East Bengal defence, reminded fans of their team's ASEAN Cup triumph in 2003. That was the first time an Indian club had won a major international trophy outside the country.

The club also felicitated coaches who were at the helm at different times.



Catching up! Veteran Iranian footballers Majid Bishkar, centre, and Jamshid Nasiri share a fun moment. The amused onlooker is Suley Musah. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

## New Zealand eyes top Test ranking

Sri Lanka on a high after South Africa series win

## KIWIS IN LANKA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
GALLE

New Zealand has a chance of securing the top spot in Test cricket when it takes on Sri Lanka in a two-match series from Wednesday, exactly a month after a cruel World Cup defeat to England.

New Zealand, with 109 points, is ranked behind India on 113 points, but a 2-0 series win in Sri Lanka will see the Kiwis leapfrog the Asian heavyweights.

Sri Lanka will be wary of providing a rank turning wicket in the first Test in Galle after being outsmarted by England in the most re-

cent encounter at the venue.

The Kiwis are likely to play two spinners. Mumbai-born left-armner Ajaz Patel claimed five wickets in the warm-up game in Negombo and is likely to be the second spinner to leggie Todd Astle.

## Tough choices

Sri Lanka has some tough choices, and in all departments. When it trounced South Africa five months ago, rookie Oshada Fernando played a key role posting an unbeaten 75 in Port Elizabeth in what was his second Test. He became an instant hero and his subsequent snubbing from the World Cup squad earned the wrath of former

players. Fernando is set to miss both Tests with the return of Angelo Mathews, who was injured for South Africa.

## The squads (from):

**New Zealand:** Kane Williamson (Capt.), Jeet Raval, Ross Taylor, Colin de Grandhomme, Todd Astle, William Somerville, Mitchell Santner, Tom Blundell, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, B.J. Watling, Trent Boult, Tim Southee, Ajaz Patel and Neil Wagner.

**Sri Lanka:** Dimuth Karunaratne (Capt.), Dinesh Chandimal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Oshada Fernando, Angelo Mathews, Dhananjaya de Silva, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Niroshan Dickwella, Akila Dananjaya, Lasith Embuldeniya, Lakshan Sandakan, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara and Vishwa Fernando.



Not a welcome sight! Groundsmen cover the pitch and the outfield as rain interrupts a Sri Lankan practice session at Galle on the eve of the first Test. ■ AFP

## Delhi HC sets aside AAI elections

Directs Sports Ministry to form a transitory panel to run the sport

## ARCHERY

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Observing that parallel elections held by the two Archery Association of India (AAI) factions "were not in compliance with the directions issued by the Supreme Court," the Delhi High Court has set aside the polls and directed the Union Sports Ministry to constitute a Transitory Committee (TC) to run the sport.

In order to ensure that Indian archers do not suffer as a result of the uncertainty over AAI elections, the steps suggested by the World Archery (which had earlier rejected the AAI elections held in Delhi and Chandigarh on June 9) should be immediately implemented, the court said.

The court said Justice B.D. Ahmed, a former chief justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, became the chairperson of the TC which should have its first meeting on August 24 and meet again before the end of this month.

"A communication will be sent by the TC to the WA positively on or before August 31, apprising it of the above development."

The court said the TC would perform the role and all the tasks – including coordinating with the WA to ensure participation of Indian archers at international events under the Indian flag – of the AAI executive body until elections were held again.

The question of whether fresh elections "should await the decision of this court on appropriate amendments to the constitution of the AAI to bring it in line with the National Sports Code" will be considered on the next hearing on September 6.

representative of the Ministry, a member of each from the two AAI factions and a representative from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), in coherence with the apex body's recommendation – by August 23.

The court said Justice B.D. Ahmed, a former chief justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, became the chairperson of the TC which should have its first meeting on August 24 and meet again before the end of this month.

"A communication will be sent by the TC to the WA positively on or before August 31, apprising it of the above development."

The court said the TC would perform the role and all the tasks – including coordinating with the WA to ensure participation of Indian archers at international events under the Indian flag – of the AAI executive body until elections were held again.

"This is because unless a solution is found to restore the membership of the AAI with the WA, participation of Indian archers under the Indian flag – of the AAI executive body until elections were held again.

The question of whether fresh elections "should await the decision of this court on appropriate amendments to the constitution of the AAI to bring it in line with the National Sports Code" will be considered on the next hearing on September 6.

**The results (league): Boys:**  
**Group-F:** Ayushman Arjaria bt Jake Evans 7-6(6), 6-3.  
**Group-H:** Anthony Wright bt Bushan Haobam 6-3, 6-2.  
**Girls:** **Group-A:** Veda Raju Praburna bt Justice Hall 6-4, 7-5.  
**Group-E:** Mille Day bt Anjali Rathi 6-3, 6-7(4), [1-0].

**The results (league): Boys:**

## Indian players seek neutral venue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Davis Cup team wants the tie against Pakistan in Islamabad next month to be shifted to a neutral venue and is baffled that the national federation has merely asked for a security re-check so far.

After repeatedly making statements that the All India Tennis Association (AITA) will seek a neutral venue, its general secretary Hironmoy Chatterjee surprisingly sought just a security re-check from the International Tennis Federation.

It left the players and the team management disappointed and after discussing the matter among themselves, they have decided to approach the federation. "We have asked AITA to request for a neutral venue," said India captain Mahesh Bhupathi.

## 'Surprised'

Another player, who did not wish to be named, said the team is "quite surprised" with how AITA has dealt with the situation.

## FortuneGiants keen to stop losing run

G. VISWANATH  
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat FortuneGiants is feeling the heat having lost its first two home matches against Tamil Thalaivas and Telugu Titans. The PKL Season 5 and 6 runner-up has now lost four matches in a row and it is desperate to stem the rot.

Giants, with 18 points from seven matches, is placed sixth in the 12-team league, and are confident of a turnaround to make the

## PKL Standings

Team	P	W	L	Tie	Pts
Dabang Delhi	6	5	1	0	26
Bengaluru Bulls	7	4	3	0	22
Bengal Warriors	6	3	2	1	20
Jaipur Pink Panthers	5	4	1	0	20
Tamil Thalaivas	6	3	2	1	20
Gujarat FortuneGiants	7	3	4	0	18
U Mumba	7	3	4	0	18
Patna Pirates	7	3	4	0	16
Haryana Steelers	6	3	3	0	16
UP Yoddha	7	2	3	2	16
Telugu Titans	8	1	5	2	13
Puneri Paltan	6	2	4	0	11

## Indians fare well

SPORTS BUREAU  
CHENDU (CHINA)

Anjum Moudgil and Lajja Gauswami led the Indian rifle shooters to a bunch of medals including individual gold in prone and 3-position events in the World Police and Fire Games here. Lajja mi won the gold in the rifle 3-position event with a score of 586, while Anjum had to settle for the silver.

In the team competition, Anjum along with Monu, Vimlesh and Shamsher won the gold, while Kuheli Ganguly, Lajja Gauswami, Elizabeth Susan Koshy and Rupa Rani won the bronze.

In rifle prone, Anjum won the gold with 592.

**The results:** **3P:** 1. Vimal Kumar Rathour 583 (28x); 2. Zhang Huiping (Chn) 583 (24x); 3. Feng Xueli (Chn) 582. **Rifle 3P mixed:** 1. Lajja Gauswami 586; 2. Anjum Moudgil 578; 3. Monu Kumar 573. **Rifle 3P team:** 1. India National Police 2280; 2. Vanguard Sports Association of China 2268; 3. India National Police-2 2252.

**Rifle 3P:** 1. Swaroop Ram 559; 2. Shamsher Singh Bhandari 557; 3. Liu Cheng-Ming (Tpe) 556. **Rifle prone Master:** 1. Anjum Moudgil 592 (38x); 2. Sununta Majchacheep (Tha) 592 (35x); 3. Shao Zhong Yu (Chn) 591.

## Veda posts win

SPORTS BUREAU  
LONDON

The players' status committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has imposed a two-window transfer ban on Indian Super League (ISL) side FC Pune City (FCPC) and a fine of ₹5 lakh for "inducing a breach of contract" to sign Spanish midfielder Nestor Gordillo from I-League champion Chennai City FC (CCFC) without paying the necessary transfer fee.

The committee also handed a four-month ban to Gordillo, who signed a "pre-con-

tract" with the Pune club despite having a year left on his contract with CCFC.

The transfer ban is for the second registration period of the 2019-20 season (January 1 to Jan. 31, 2020) and the first registration period of the 2020-21 season whenever the dates of the same are announced by AIFF.

The Spaniard has been asked to pay a compensation of three months' salary to the club and a fine of ₹50,000 to the AIFF.

FCPC was found misguided by the committee by providing wrong information in its

defence. Commenting on the matter, CCFC owner Rohit Ramashe said: "Today's verdict shows our stand is vindicated and justice has prevailed. FC Pune City consistently lied about their acts and they have been thoroughly exposed today. I hope this verdict is a lesson for the big teams to stop going behind the smaller clubs and do such deals."

"As a small I-League club, we take a lot of effort to identify and sign potential talents. One of our revenue streams is the transfers business and such acts affect the valuation

of players."

In its judgement, the committee, headed by Babu Mather, said: "The committee finds that, by signing the contract with FCPC, the player has breached his contract with CCFC. Moreover, since such breach is induced because of signing of a contract with the player by FCPC, it is considered to be an inducement to breach of such contract by