



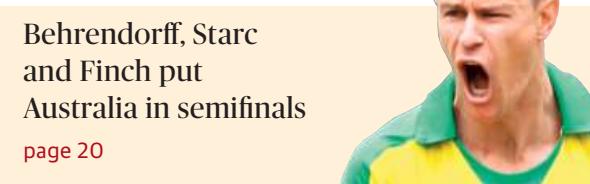
Facebook censored anti-BJP content during election: Derek O'Brien
page 12



1 crore houses likely to be completed by 2020, instead of 2022: Puri
page 13



PLAYING TODAY
New Zealand vs Pakistan
VENUE Edgbaston
Live on STAR Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.



Behrendorff, Starc and Finch put Australia in semifinals
page 20

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NEARBY



AAP MLA sentenced to three months in jail

NEW DELHI
Rejecting a plea for lighter punishment, a court here on Tuesday sentenced AAP MLA Manoj Kumar to three months in jail for interfering in the election process during the 2013 Assembly polls. However, the court later granted him bail on a personal bond of ₹10,000 till July 25 after his counsel submitted that he wanted to challenge his conviction.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 17

State of health

Among bigger States, Kerala secured the highest score in the 2017-18 composite health index prepared by the NITI Aayog, which incorporates 23 indicators. Graph shows the scores for 2015-16 and 2017-18 and the change in rank between the two time periods



REPORTS ON PAGES 3 & 9

Antigua not providing Mehul safe haven, says its PM

'His citizenship will be revoked; he will be extradited once he exhausts his legal options'

A step ahead

A timeline of events that followed Mehul Choksi's escape to Antigua and Barbuda



- July 2018 MEA receives information that Mehul Choksi, a key accused in the alleged PNB scam, has taken refuge in Antigua and Barbuda (A&B)
Aug. 2018 India seeks extradition of Choksi who holds an A&B passport
Nov. 2018 Choksi says he can't return, cites multiple chronic ailments
Dec. 2018 On CBI's request, Interpol issues a Red Notice against Choksi
Jan. 2019 He surrenders Indian citizenship
June 25, 2019: PM Gaston Browne says that Choksi will be extradited to India after he exhausts his legal options

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Antiguan Prime Minister Gaston Browne has said diamond merchant Mehul Choksi, a prime accused in the ₹13,578 crore Punjab National Bank fraud case, will be extradited to India after he exhausts all his legal options there.

As reported by *Antigua Observer*, Mr. Browne also said Choksi's citizenship would be revoked in "short order".

"His citizenship was processed; he got through but the reality is his citizenship

will be revoked and he will be repatriated to India; so there is recourse. It's not a case that we are trying to provide any safe harbour for criminals, for those who are involved in financial crimes," he was quoted as having said over the weekend.

Mr. Browne said: "We have to allow for due process. He has a matter before the court and as we said to the Indian government, criminals have fundamental rights, too, and Choksi has a right to go to court and defend his position. But I can assure you, after he has ex-

hausted all of his legal options, he will be extradited."

Asked about Antigua's decision to revoke Choksi's citizenship, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday told the reporters:

"I do not have information on this matter. I would not like to comment on it."

According to a source in the Ministry of External Affairs, nothing has been conveyed officially to New Delhi by the Antiguan government on the issue.

(With agency inputs)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

SAFETY OF WOMEN LAWYERS ON COURT PREMISES

PREMISES

Mr. Kaul argued that safety of women lawyers on court premises and at chamber blocks should be paramount or else incidents like these could be discouraging for the new woman entrants in this honourable profession.

She had sought a direction to the U.P. Bar Council to pay a compensation of ₹25 lakh to the family of Ms. Yadav.

Ms. Begum said:

"My son-in-law would have been alive had the administration showed a little bit of sympathy and given him the minimum medical attention," says Shehnaz Begum, mother-in-law of Tabrez Ansari, the victim of a mob lynching in Jharkhand.

"First, it was the religiously motivated mob that meted out instant justice, and second, the administration committed a cold-blooded murder by letting Tabrez die of excruciating pain," Ms. Begum said.

PREMISES

THE HIGHEST COURT

DELHI Timings	
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26	
RISE 05:25 SET 19:23	
THURSDAY, JUNE 27	
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23	
RISE 01:21 SET 14:02	
FRIDAY, JUNE 28	
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23	
RISE 01:54 SET 14:57	

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 39 28
Safdarjung 39 28
Palam 40 28

Delhi Pilm Today
41°C Dry weather with humid and hazy morning. Day will be hot with partly cloudy sky. An uneasy afternoon.

Delhi Pilm Tomorrow
42°C Slight rise in temperature. Dry and hot weather with few clouds to continue. A comfortable night.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi 133	Gurugram 116
Ghaziabad 94	Faridabad 177
Noida 90	Greater Noida 182
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100
Poor 101-200	Very poor 201-300
Severe >401	>401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE AT 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: Between Art Deco and Modernism— Polish posters from 1918-1939, an exhibition of archival posters from the collection of the Poster Museum at Wilanow at Main Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. onwards.

Exhibition: Exhibition of the works of Mexican Master Engraver, Joel Rendón at Annexe Art Gallery, India International Centre, 11 a.m. onwards.

Exhibition: A solo painting exhibition by Kumar Umesh at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Dance: Yajnaseni, a solo thematic Kathak performance exploring the relationship of Krishna and Draupadi by Sangita Chatterjee, at The Stein Auditorium, IHC, 7 p.m. onwards.

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

A year on, Burari house fights 'horror' tag

Surviving brother of the Chundawats keen to sell the residence, but rumours make it a difficult bargain

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

"We haven't even deleted their phone numbers. Both my children used to talk to their cousins in Delhi regularly and I had constructed rooms to accommodate all of them in our new house in Chittorgarh [Rajasthan] where we shifted last December after my son's wedding," said Dinesh Singh Chundawat, the brother of Lalit Singh, who, along with 10 other members of his family, was found dead at their Burari residence on July 1 last year.

While the neighbours of the Chundawat family in Burari have moved on, the chatter about the incident refuses to die down. "Whenever people cross the street, they point at the house and say 'Ye wahi wala ghar hai' [it's the same house]," said a 39-year-old woman who lives next door.

It's almost a year since 11 members of the Chundawat family – Lalit (45); his elder brother Bhavneesh Singh (50); their wives Tina (42) and Savita (48) respectively; their children Neetu (25), Monu alias Maneka (23), Dhruv alias Dushyant (15), and Shivam (15); their sister Pratibha alias Baby (48) and her daughter Priyanka (33) – were found hanging in their house in a circular formation, with their mouths gagged and limbs tied. The oldest member of the family, 77-year-old Narayan Devi, was found dead in the adjacent room.

'Waiting for right price'
Mr. Dinesh Chundawat, a building contractor in Chittorgarh, told *The Hindu* that he has no plans to move to Delhi and that's why he wants to sell the house. "I will eventually sell it. At the

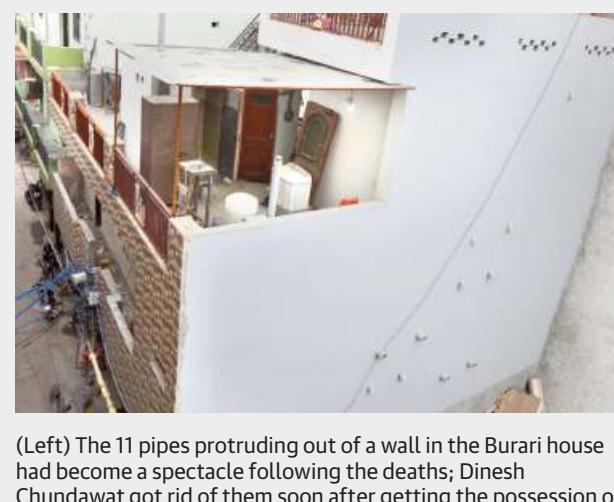
REVISITING THE CASE

On July 1, 2018, around 7 a.m., a neighbour made a PCR call to inform the police about 11 bodies found hanging in a house in Burari.

It was initially suspected to be a case of murder as the bodies were found blindfolded, gagged, and their limbs tied up, but investigators discovered 11 diaries scribbled with notes detailing a ritual that the family was performing.

The diaries were dictated by Lalit who believed the "spirit" of his late father, Bhopal Singh, was communicating with him.

The family regularly performed puja for the departed soul of Bhopal



(Left) The 11 pipes protruding out of a wall in the Burari house had become a spectacle following the deaths; Dinesh Chundawat got rid of them soon after getting the possession of the house. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, SANDEEP SAXENA

Singh, fondly called 'Daddy' by everyone, and the members were often heard saying 'Daddy ke aane ka time ho gaya [it's time for Daddy to arrive]'.

The police conducted a psychological autopsy (a retrospective reconstruction of the deceased's life) of the 11 members. The report, received in September 2018, observed



that the family members did not intend to kill themselves. They were, in fact, performing a ritual, which they believed would bring prosperity, but it proved fatal.

moment, people are thinking that they can get it for free because of all the haunted rumours. I will sell it when I get the right price because my brothers constructed it with lot of effort, I can't let it go as waste," he said.

Mr. Chundawat was successful in renting out one of the three shops on the ground floor of the house about six months ago, but superstition got the better of the deal.

The woman who had taken the shop on rent to run a grocery store called off the deal a day before the opening. "She paid an advance of ₹35,000 and cleaned the shop for three days. But elders in her house objected to her plan and said 'Bhootiya ghar hai yeh' [this is a haunted house]. She could not convince them and asked me to return the deposit money, which I did," he said.

A neighbour claimed that Mr. Chundawat wants to sell the house for ₹1.5 crore but has got an offer for ₹1.3 crore. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police Crime Branch, which was tasked to probe the deaths, is waiting for two Forensic Science Laboratory reports to close the case.

"One report on the handwriting in the diaries recovered from the house and another on the mobile phones and iPad records are awaited. A closure report will be filed after that," said a senior police officer.

Psychological autopsy
The Burari incident is the second case in the recent past in which the Delhi police have conducted a psychological autopsy, the first being the Sunanda Pushkar death in 2014. The report accessed by *The Hindu* observed that none of the members who died "had an intention to put an end to his/her life" and that it was not a suicide but an accident that occurred during the course of performing a ritual.

The doctors in their report also observed that Lalit was diagnosed with a psychological problem and was advised to consult a psychiatrist, which was not adhered to. "Lalit got his voice back after his father's death and found it as a blessing. The false belief of Lalit was dictated and reinforced by the regular prayers at their house for a decade," the report read.

coming Monday. A packet of mill was kept in the fridge probably for the next day usage. Lalit has recharged the mobile phones of his family members a day before the incident. A pot of soaked chana was found in the kitchen probably kept for next day meal. No effort to 'wind up' by family members was observed," the report said.

The report also stated that the family "was not intending to attain moksha"; it was a ritual to be followed "periodically for their financial betterment".

The doctors in their report also observed that Lalit was diagnosed with a psychological problem and was advised to consult a psychiatrist, which was not adhered to. "Lalit got his voice back after his father's death and found it as a blessing. The false belief of Lalit was dictated and reinforced by the regular prayers at their house for a decade," the report read.

No decision taken to make Hindi must: JNU

'Students spreading misinformation'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University on Tuesday clarified that it had taken no decision to impose Hindi in the curricula of its undergraduate programmes. The move came in response to opposition by the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) and other organisations on the matter.

The students had alleged that JNU was trying to get the Academic Council to make Hindi compulsory for BA and B.Tech students.

"The JNU administration has not taken any such decision. The agenda item of the Academic Council was related to a discussion on a letter from the University Grants Commission seeking the views of the university on Hindi as a possible course in the undergraduate pro-

grammes," said JNU Registrar Pramod Kumar.

Mr. Kumar said that it was unfortunate that some students had spread misinformation claiming that JNU has imposed Hindi as a compulsory subject in undergraduate programmes.

He added that discussion on the agenda item in the meeting has been deferred.

The JNUSU responded to the agenda item being dropped by congratulating students for resisting the "Hindi imposition".

"JNU admin drops Agenda 16 that was brought to impose Hindi on BA-B. Tech. students. Let's be vigilant against anti-student policies of JNU VC and his cronies Long Live Multicultural India! Let's celebrate our diversity! [sic]" tweeted JNUSU president N. Sai Balaji.

AUD to reopen portal for EWS students

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) is reopening its registration portal only for students belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category between June 26 and June 30 in order to implement 10% reservation for EWS students.

For all other students, the portal closed on June 24. "The university is implementing the reservation in a phased manner.

In the Academic Session 2019-20, 10% reservation will be implemented and 15% will be implemented in the next Academic Session," the university said.

It added that the applicants who have already applied and belong to the EWS category need not apply again. However, they need to upload the relevant documents related to the EWS category on the admission portal.

As many as 12,800 students applied for BA courses offered at AUD's Kashmere Gate campus, till the portal closed on June 24.

The Karampur campus received 3,029 applications for its BA courses.

A total of 991 students applied for the B.Voc courses, the university said. The first cut-off list is scheduled to be out on July 9.

CM wants report on vulnerable waterlogging points in Capital

Directs officials to take all possible effective measures

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday directed government officials of various departments concerned to submit status reports on vulnerable waterlogging points in the Capital.

While the Chief Secretary was directed to submit a report within a week, the Mr. Kejriwal told the officers concerned that there were shortcomings in dealing with waterlogging in the previous years.

"Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday directed the senior officials to take all possible effective measures to ensure that residents of Delhi do not face any inconvenience due to

waterlogging during the coming monsoon," the government said in a statement.

The Chief Minister's direction came during a programme to launch the Flood Control Order report for the current year in the presence of his Cabinet colleagues and all the top officers of the

Delhi government and civic agencies.

Mr. Kejriwal, the government said in the statement, directed Chief Secretary Vijay Dev to ask all the departments concerned to provide a list of all the already identified vulnerable waterlogging points across Delhi within the next seven days along with the status report of what has been done to prevent waterlogging and problem areas, if any, before the monsoon sets in.

The Chief Minister also lauded the efforts of various departments and inter-departmental coordination in tackling floods in the Yamuna Flood Plain areas and other low-lying areas during monsoon.

Two AAP rebel MLAs get a week to reply to charges of defection

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) rebel MLAs, facing disqualification under the anti-defection law, were given a week's time by the Delhi Assembly Speaker here on Tuesday to submit their replies over joining the BJP.

The two legislators, Colonel Devender Sehrawat and Anil Bajpai, who represent the Bijwasan and Gandhi Nagar Assembly constituencies, joined the BJP ahead of the recent Lok Sabha poll, but maintain that they did not fill the primary membership form of the party.

Personal hearing
On Tuesday, the two lawmakers were represented by their counsels at a personal hearing before Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel.

Following the hearing, according to sources, the two MLAs were given a week's time to furnish their replies on the matter.

Notices were issued to the two on a petition moved by AAP Greater Kailash MLA and party spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj, accusing them of joining the BJP ahead of the general election.

Mr. Sehrawat and Mr. Bajpai said that the newspaper clippings annexed with Mr. Bharadwaj's petition were "illegible" and demanded that they be provided typed and translated copies so that they are able to submit their response on the charge of defection.

Mr. Sehrawat and Mr. Bajpai had joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders, including Union Minister Vijay Goel in May.

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■ Also get e-change of name in the records of power utilities, Delhi Jal Board and IGL on the same day of property registration.

GRP organises Delhi tour for ragpickers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Government Railway Police (GRP) here on Tuesday organised "Delhi Darshan" as a part of summer activities for ragpickers and vagabond children staying around the railway stations.

DCP (Railway) Dinesh Gupta said that the trip to Qutub Minar, National Science Museum, Lotus Temple, India Gate etc. was organised for 38 ragpicker children studying in Open School run by GRP in collaboration with an NGO.

Similar programmes were organised on June 22 and June 23 wherein counselling was held for 40 drug abuse children, said Mr. Gupta. He added that many more programmes would be organised in the coming days for these children.

North civic body blames govt. for financial crisis

Municipality is owed over ₹960 crore'

ney already paid.

Additionally, various recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission, applicable with retrospective effect from April 2016, which could have helped the civic body's financial situation were also not implemented. These include special grants to run hospitals, reimbursement for maintenance of drains, reducing collection charges of transfer duty, reducing collection charges by electricity consumers and others.

Chairperson Jai Prakash claimed that the Delhi government was carrying out a "mathematical gimmick"

IN BRIEF

Official of bike-taxi firm arrested for fraud

NOIDA
Accused of duping 2.25 lakh investors of nearly ₹1,400 crore, an additional director of a motorcycle-taxi firm has been arrested, the police said on Tuesday. Vinod Kumar Chauhan, who was evading arrest, was held in Greater Noida on Monday. Garvit Innovative Promoters Limited, a Greater Noida-based company, lured investors with a marketing scheme, "Bike Bot", promising to double returns in one year, the police said.

Two men thrashed for 'smuggling' cattle

GURUGRAM
Two persons were allegedly assaulted by a mob in Gurugram on Tuesday on the suspicion of smuggling cattle, the police said. Two vans were intercepted by a group of "cow protection unit" near Islampur village.

Head constable found dead

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A 48-year-old head constable of Rajasthan Armed Constabulary allegedly shot himself while on duty in North Block on Tuesday afternoon.

No note has been recovered, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Madhur Verma said the victim was deployed outside Union Finance Ministry at guard duty.

Police said the incident happened at 12.40 p.m. "The CCTV footage of the incident has been obtained and examined. He had completed his 3 hours duty and was on a break before resuming the next 3-hour duty when the incident happened," Mr. Verma said.

He was upset over something, the officer said, adding that probe is under way.

His body has been shifted to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital mortuary for post-mortem.

He is survived by wife and two sons, the police added.

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

AAP MLA sentenced to three months in jail

For interfering in poll process during 2013 Assembly elections

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

Rejecting a plea for a lighter punishment, a Delhi court on Tuesday sentenced AAP MLA Manoj Kumar to three months in jail for interfering in the election process during the 2013 Assembly polls.

The court later granted bail to the MLA on a personal bond of ₹10,000 till July 25, after his counsel submitted that Kumar wanted to challenge his conviction.

The chargesheet said the MLA and his supporters had closed the main gate of a municipal school at Kalyanpur where the polling was taking place, locking the poll officers inside the booth.



Manoj Kumar

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Samar Vishal sentenced the MLA from Kondi under Section 131 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, and under Section 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions) of the IPC.

"None of the reasons given on behalf of the convict compels me to consider a lighter sentence, considering that the convict interfered with the poll process – a conduct that is not only illegal but also undemocratic," Mr. Vishal said in his judgment, while rejecting Kumar's plea for release on probation.

"The punishment needs to be deterrent... Kumar is sentenced with simple imprisonment for a period of three months with fine of ₹10,000 under Section 131 of the RPA; and for another three months under Section 106 of the IPC... Both the sentences shall run concurrently," the ACMM said.

15 gangsters arrested from bash for boss

40 guests detained from Najafgarh farmhouse, later released; 9 pistols recovered

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Fifteen gangsters were arrested and 40 'guests' detained from a party in west Delhi on Monday night, the police said on Tuesday.

Released from jail

The party was organised to welcome their crime boss Kapil Sangwan who had recently come out on parole from a jail in Haryana.



The arrested gangsters in police custody on Tuesday.

• SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Before he reached the venue, a team raided the venue where there was liquor, music, and food, an officer said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Dr. A.K. Singla said the crime branch team got input about the party being organised at a farmhouse in Najafgarh.

"At 11.40 p.m., two teams

raided the premises at Goyla Dairy and apprehended 55 persons. Out of which, 15 were identified as gangsters who were involved in heinous crimes cases like murder and robbery. We have recovered nine pistols with 65 rounds from their possession," said Mr. Singla.

He added that the rest 40 'guests' who were held from the venue were released after they gave their complete details. Many of the gangsters had arrived at the party with their wives.

'Verifying details'

"We are verifying the details of 'guests' if they are involved in any crime. No arms were recovered from their possession," said Mr. Singla. He added that Sangwan has several cases of murder, attempt to murder, extortion, criminal intimidation and possession of illegal firearms registered against him in Delhi and Haryana.

"He was in jail since 2016. On Monday, he was released from Bhondsi jail on parole," the officer said.

Man bludgeons friend, throws him on rail track

Wanted to marry victim's wife: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Desperate to marry his friend's wife, a man allegedly bludgeoned him with a brick and left him unconscious on the railway track where the victim was run over by a train, the police said on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old accused has been arrested, they said.

A senior officer said they received information on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday that a body was lying on the railway track near Prem Nagar railway crossing on Rama Road.

The accused, Gulkesh, was attracted to the wife of the victim, Dalbir, and wanted to marry her. So he hatched a conspiracy to kill him, the police said.

Misled probe

After the crime, Gulkesh called the police and cooked up a story to mislead the investigation. He was present at the spot when the police came and he told them that someone killed Dalbir and threw his body on the tracks.

The police found se-



The accused, Gulkesh.
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vered legs on the tracks while the remaining body parts were spotted a km away from the spot.

When Gulkesh was questioned about bloodstains on his clothes, he could not give satisfactory answers, the police said.

"Later, Gulkesh confessed to the crime. He said he had called Dalbir on Monday evening and asked him to meet near the railway track," said DCP (West) Monika Bhardwaj. When they were walking near the track, Gulkesh hit Dalbir with a brick, leaving him unconscious, Ms. Bhardwaj said.

He then threw the victim on the track. The accused said he had told Dalbir's wife Pooja about the incident, the police added.

Father-in-law kills woman after feud over fixing bulb, surrenders

Separated from her husband, victim was living with in-laws

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A man was arrested for allegedly killing his 33-year-old daughter-in-law on Monday after an argument over fixing a bulb in central Delhi's Pa-harganj, the police said on Tuesday.

After the crime, Bhagat Ram surrendered to the police, they said. A senior officer said the victim has been identified as Neeraj.

The woman had been married to Bhagat's son for the last 10 years but they were living separately for several years now.

While she lived with her in-laws, the husband lives in Gurugram and works for a private firm. The couple separated after having compatibility issues, the police said.

Man convicted of bursting firecrackers on Diwali

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

In a first, a Delhi court has convicted a man for bursting firecrackers on Diwali after the Supreme Court-mandated 10 p.m. deadline at central Delhi's Pa-harganj in 2018.

However, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Jitendra Singh let off the accused by admonishing and fining him ₹500 as the cost of the court proceedings. The prosecution had sought the maximum sentence.

According to the prosecution, the accused continued to burst firecrackers even after he was told not to by a police officer on duty in the area.

The police then arrested him but later released him on bail as the offence under Section 188 (disobedience of an order...) of the IPC is a bailable offence.

The maximum sentence provided for the offence is one month's simple imprisonment or ₹2,000 fine or both. The court held him guilty on the basis of the evidence by the officer who had arrested him. The accused admitted the allegations but said he was unaware of the SC order.

Vasant Vihar triple murder: after call records, cops check Internet usage

Motive was to kill caretaker; 'two kinds of weapons used in crime'

SAURABH TRivedi
NEW DELHI

After getting no significant leads by scanning call records of suspects and victims in Vasant Vihar triple murder case, the police are now going through Internet Protocol Detail Record, said an officer on Tuesday.

On June 23 morning, the bodies of Vishnu Mathur (78), his wife Shashi (75) and their caretaker Khushboo (22) were found in their two-bedroom flat on the first floor of Vasant Apartments.

The police claim to have scanned call data records (CDR) of all three suspects, who were picked up for questioning on Monday. The same was done for the victims but all efforts turned futile, the officer said. "One of the suspects had switched off his phone at 8.43 p.m. on

the night murder but used the Internet on his phone via another SIM card till 12.15 a.m. Khushboo was using the Internet on her phone till 12 a.m., including Voice Over IP call and video calls," said the officer.

The initial post-mortem report states that two kinds of weapons in the commission of the crimes, the officer said. The elderly couple was stabbed twice in neck

Delhi drops to fifth spot in NITI Aayog Health Index

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi dropped two places to the fifth spot in the ranking for the performance of seven Union Territories in the health sector, according to the second edition of the Health Index released by government think tank NITI Aayog on Tuesday.

The report 'Healthy States, Progressive India: Report on Rank of States and UTs' has ranked states in three categories – larger States, smaller

States and UTs "to ensure comparison among similar entities".

As per the ranking released, Chandigarh which was at the second spot in the first edition of the Index, topped the list this year with a score of 63.62. Chandigarh was followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli at number 2 position with a score of 56.31.

Interestingly, Dadra and Nagar Haveli was the worst performer last time with a score of 38.64.

Lakshadweep, which topped the list last time, slipped to the third position, followed by Puducherry, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar and Daman and Diu.

The report showed that Delhi's index score dropped by 0.61 to 49.42, due to poor performance on certain indicators, including proportion low birth weight among new borns, treatment success rate of new microbiologically confirmed TB cases, average occupancy of an office for three

key state posts for last three years, proportion of auxiliary nurse midwife position vacant at sub centers, proportion if facilities functional as first referral unit and functional cardiac care units per district.

On the other hand, Delhi showed positive incremental performance for some indicators, including full immunization coverage, proportion of institutional deliveries and average occupancy of a district chief medical officer.

15 gangsters arrested from bash for boss

40 guests detained from Najafgarh farmhouse, later released; 9 pistols recovered

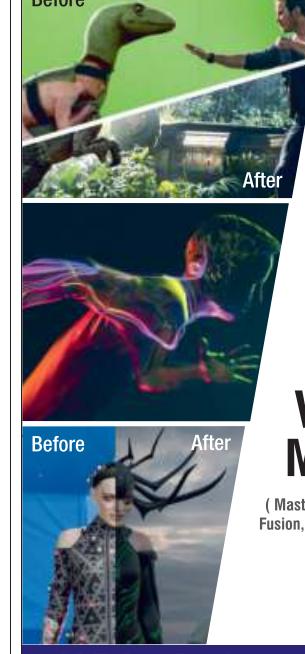
We are verifying the details of 'guests' if they are involved in any crime. No arms were recovered from their possession

DR. A.K. SINGLA
Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime)

arms were recovered from their possession," said Mr. Singla. He added that Sangwan has several cases of murder, attempt to murder, extortion, criminal intimidation and possession of illegal firearms registered against him in Delhi and Haryana.

"He was in jail since 2016. On Monday, he was released from Bhondsi jail on parole," the officer said.

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DELHI POLICE
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International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
June 26, 2019



Drugs are deadly

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE

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Write to: CP, Delhi at:
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FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DP/911719

IN BRIEF



CISF man stops woman from leaping off FOB

NEW DELHI A 21-year-old woman was stopped by a Central Industrial Security Force officer from jumping off a Foot Overbridge at a metro station here on Tuesday, a senior official said. The incident took place around 7.30 a.m. at Inderlok station. CISF ASI Umesh Panday was able to pull the woman back just as she was about to jump, said the official.

DCW seeks information on rape accused on bail

NEW DELHI The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Tuesday sought information from the Delhi police on all rape accused who have been released on bail. This comes after the rape and murder of a 7-year-old girl in Narela on June 15. The accused in the case was earlier convicted of raping a minor in 2011. He was released on bail after spending a year in jail.

'More Mayapuri scrap units may be sealed in next two-three days'

Action against shops in the area in April had led to violence

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

In the next two to three days, industries operating in west Delhi's Mayapuri without applying for "consent to operate" and paying Environmental Damages Compensation (EDC) will be sealed, a senior Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) official told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

Earlier this month, DPCC had imposed fines amounting ₹3.76 crore on 122 units for working without 'consent to operate' and also for not following pollution control measures.

"Power supply to 41 units has been disconnected based on DPCC's directions and about ₹1 crore has been paid by the units as EDC, but a few more are yet to pay," the DPCC official said.

The sealing of scrap units in the area in April had led to violence. Following the incident, four teams from DPCC carried out a comprehensive

Power supply to 41 units have been disconnected based on DPCC's directions and about ₹1 crore has been paid by the units as EDC, but a few more are yet to pay

DPCC OFFICIALS

survey from May 14 to 30 in C, D, E and W blocks of Mayapuri Phase-2 and fines were imposed based on it. Out of the 122, 102 did not have "consent to operate", while 20 were not sticking to the pollution control norms.

Of the 102, 41 units fell under 'red' and 'orange' category of industrial units, considered highly polluting.

"Sixty-one other units, which fell under green category, has been given time to fix the issues," the official added.

The fines were issued following orders from the Na-

tional Green Tribunal (NGT).

Gurvinder Kumar, general secretary of Old Motor and Machinery Parts Dealers Association, said that 41 people got notice that their units will be sealed.

"There was a meeting with the police on Monday and they told us to cooperate. We will approach the court. What else can we do?"

Flashback

On April 13, a team of government officials, police and paramilitary personnel, came under attack from local scrap dealers while conducting a sealing drive on polluting units in Mayapuri.

The sealing drive was undertaken following a stern order by the NGT on April 11 when it pulled up the Delhi Chief Secretary and the DPCC for not taking steps to curb pollution caused by the units. The NGT directed the officials to show cause as to why their civil imprisonment should not be directed.

patients from across India, the infrastructure and manpower are inadequate to meet the demands of the patients," said a senior health ministry official.

He added that efforts are being made to ensure that hospital equipment, staff and medical supplies are adequate to cater to the children.

Doctors here explained that the most common cause of death at the hospital includes premature births, respiratory infections, septicemia and other infections. Also 50% of the deaths are reported in the first 48 hours of

Over 6,000 child deaths in six years at Kalawati hospital: RTI

Premature births, septicemia and other infections are the common cause

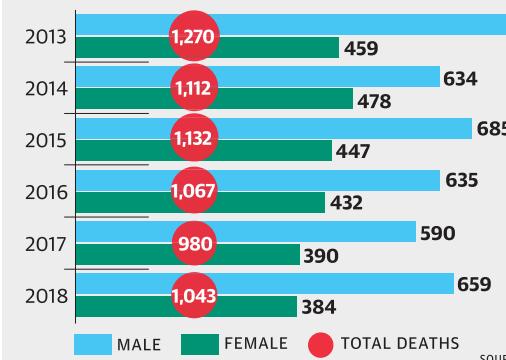
BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Death toll due to acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) has touched 150 in S.K. Medical College and Hospital in Bihar with the Central government ensuring that emergency services are made available to reduce fatalities. Closer home Central government-run Kalawati Saran Children Hospital, a super-specialty hospital for children, has been registering over 1,000 deaths each year due to various medical conditions.

One of the largest government hospitals for children in India, Kalawati Saran Children Hospital caters to the poorest of the poor children. The hospital was given a budget allocation of ₹11.81 crore last year.

As per information obtained under the Right to Information by activist Rajhans Bansal, the hospital has reported 6,604 child deaths since 2013. This includes 4,014 male and 2,590 female child deaths. The hospital registered 1,394 deaths in its emergency alone during this period. From 2008 to 2012,

Gender-wise mortality



SOURCE: RTI REPLY

10,081 deaths were registered while other Central government hospitals, including Safdarjung registered 5,960 deaths and RML 1,034 deaths during the same period.

Growing number

"We get the maximum number of admissions of the most sick and malnourished children in India. Cases referred here are from other medical centres, mostly being children who are administered wrong treatment or who didn't get treatment on time. Despite the hospital witnessing a growing number of pa-

tients from across India, the infrastructure and manpower are inadequate to meet the demands of the patients," said a senior health ministry official.

He added that efforts are being made to ensure that hospital equipment, staff and medical supplies are adequate to cater to the children.

Doctors here explained that the most common cause of death at the hospital includes premature births, respiratory infections, septicemia and other infections. Also 50% of the deaths are reported in the first 48 hours of

admission which indicates that these children are brought to the hospital in a very critical condition.

Causes of death

According to the World Health Organization, the leading cause of death among children under five in 2017 were preterm birth complications, acute respiratory infections, intrapartum-related complications, congenital anomalies and diarrhoea. Neonatal deaths accounted for 47% of under-five deaths in 2017.

"Child deaths can be prevented by providing immediate breastfeeding, improving access to skilled health professionals for antenatal, birth, and postnatal care, improving access to nutrition and micronutrients, promoting knowledge of dangers among family members, improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene and providing immunisations. However, many of these life-saving interventions are beyond the reach of the world's poorest communities," it noted.

BJP must take action against economic fugitives: AAP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday said the Central government cannot run away from its responsibility on black money issue.

"Mere talk is not enough,

BJP government will have to take strict action against economic fugitives," AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, said.

Mr. Singh said that a Standing Committee report on black money is worrying. "Only talk will not bring this

money back. The Centre will have to take stern steps. People like Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya, who robbed the country of thousands of crores, have been hoodwinking the Indian government. We will have to take strict action against them. The Centre will have to explain, What happened to the government's Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill? What action did the government take against economic fugitives?" the MP asked.

tion against them. The Centre will have to explain, What happened to the government's Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill? What action did the government take against economic fugitives?" the MP asked.

EWS - Admission Notice 2019-20

It is to inform that Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservation is going to be implemented in Admissions 2019 at Ambedkar University Delhi. In this regard, candidates belonging to EWSs category are advised to visit website: www.aud.ac.in between 26th June 2019 to 30th June 2019-5 pm.

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Email id: admissions@aud.ac.in

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Rajesh**, S/o Mukhan Singh, R/o Village Bilaspur, P.S. Gannaur, District Sambhal, U.P., has been missing from H.No. 2988, Kucha Mai Dass, Sitaram Bazar, Delhi on 11.06.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 83/19, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 16.06.2019 has been registered at Police Station – Hauz Qazi, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 16 years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'0", **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Clothing:** Wearing red colour Shirt and black colour Pant.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

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(i) Estimated Cost : Rs. 208.398 Lakh

(ii) Last Date / Time of online bid submission : 08/07/2019, Up to 18.00 Hours.

For further details please visit website [https://www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com), www.statetenders.com and www.sardarsarovardam.org

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(SELF 90 & DESM 114)

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Haryana tightens provisions of Act to curb cow slaughter

'A technical mistake in the Act corrected, the word beef included in it'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Cabinet on Tuesday amended the Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Act, 2015, by adding the word 'beef' to it.

The new Bill – Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan (Amendment) Bill, 2019 – authorises any police officer, not below the rank of sub-inspector, or any person empowered by the government, to enter, stop and search any vehicle used or intended to be used for the export of cows or beef, said an official statement released after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

An official told *The Hindu* that a technical mistake in



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh on Tuesday. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

the Act was corrected with the addition of the word 'beef'.

The Act had earlier mentioned 'cow' alone.

The statement said the authorised officer could seize cow or beef and the vehicle in which it was found, if he/she suspected

instruments and documents. The provisions of Section 100 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, would apply to search and seizure under the Act.

Other Cabinet decisions

The Cabinet also decided to exempt from market fee pulses used as raw material in the food processing industries located in the State, amending the Haryana Agri Business and Food Processing Policy, 2018. It also decided to include the castes – Jogi, Jangam, Jogi Nath, Maniar, Bhat, Rahabari and Mardari (Hindu) – in the list of nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes.

The meeting approved the proposal to denotify the land acquired for the Dadupur Nalvi irrigation scheme.

Prof. Lal added the government will provide interest-free crop loans to small and marginal farmers up to ₹1 lakh.

Mentioning that empowerment of women has been the key to the State's progress, Prof. Lal said the government will ensure that women self-help groups under Mission Shakti programme will get government business worth ₹5,000 crore. The Governor further said that the State government proposes to create Mission Shakti as a separate department and form a State-level federation supported by SHG federations from gram panchayat, block to the district. Mission Shakti buildings will be constructed by the government in each gram panchayat and district headquarters, he added.

He said that the government will pursue the cause of one-third reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies to its logical end.

The Governor informed the House that the government will bring a new industrial policy in line with the perspective plan with emphasis on creation of job opportunities.

'Make in Odisha'

Stating that the government will carry forward the benefits accrued from last two editions of the 'Make in Odisha' campaign, Prof. Lal said efforts will be made to create 30 lakh employment opportunities in six focus sectors, and 75% jobs will be reserved for qualified local youths in all upcoming industries in the State.

This session of the Assembly will be held in two phases – from June 25 to July 3 and from July 12 to August 8. Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari will present the budget on June 28.

Fatter' NRC exclusion list today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

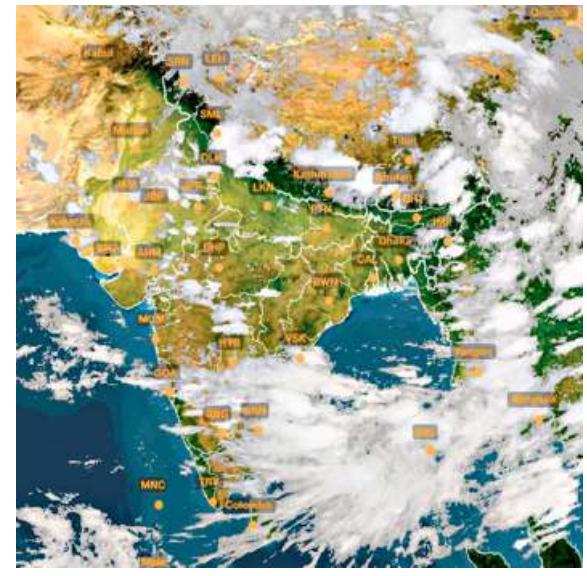
The office of the National Register of Citizens State Coordinator is scheduled to publish an 'additional exclusion list' on Wednesday containing the names of those who figured in the complete draft published on July 30, 2018, but were later found "ineligible for inclusion".

This, rights activists said, could fatten the list of NRC-excluded people, who currently number 40.07 lakh. The Association of Citizens' Rights said many people included in the draft NRC cannot be assured of their citizenship status until they don't find their names in the additional list.

People marked as D-voter, and those declared foreigners by Foreigners' Tribunals and their families would also figure in the additional list.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, Telangana, Rayalseema and Andaman & Nicobar islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	36.2...	28.5	Kozhikode	7.4...	32.6...	25.2
Ahmedabad	2.2...	34.8...	24.8	Kurnool	2.8...	35.8...	25.9
Aizawl	27.9...	21.0	Lucknow	38.6...	28.3
Allahabad	42.5...	30.0	Madurai	39.2...	29.1
Bengaluru	29.8...	21.4	Mangaluru	9.1...	31.3...	23.8
Bhopal	38.7...	25.1	Mumbai	0.6...	32.7...	26.5
Bhubaneswar	35.5...	26.9	Mysoor	31.6...	20.0
Chandigarh	1.6...	35.2...	25.2	New Delhi	39.0...	27.8
Chennai	0.6...	36.2...	26.9	Patna	41.4...	30.8
Coimbatore	33.9...	24.0	Port Blair	14.5...	31.5...	23.8
Dehradun	35.8...	25.5	Puducherry	36.4...	26.6
Gangtok	117.8...	23.0...	18.8	Pune	33.6...	22.9
Goa	2.6...	30.6...	24.5	Raipur	38.4...	27.8
Guwahati	34.9...	27.3	Ranchi	0.3...	37.0...	25.0
Hubballi	28.0...	22.0	Shillong	1.5...	26.5...	18.3
Hyderabad	36.2...	34.2...	21.1	Shimla	42.8...	23.5...	15.4
Impal	1.5...	28.9...	22.4	Srinagar	27.5...	12.8
Jaipur	39.0...	28.4	Trivandrum	0.5...	32.0...	26.0
Kochi	4.8...	31.4...	26.4	Tiruchi	40.6...	28.4
Kohima	32.7...	18.2	Vijayawada	1.7...	38.1...	25.6
Kolkata	36.1...	28.9	Visakhapatnam	34.4...	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	30	207	71	112
Bengaluru	17	59	81	106
Chennai	4	76	78	138
Delhi	7	42	36	226
Hyderabad	11	29	28	65	65
Kolkata	2	29	13	51	.81
Lucknow	2	68	50	.256
Mumbai	30	9	10	42	108
Pune	64	8	29	31	.31
Vizakapatnam	.9	34	26	41	.59

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

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

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rains, 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_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

No decision on Ram Rahim parole so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said that no decision has so far been taken on the parole plea of Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim. "Anyone who is entitled for parole can ask for it, we can't stop anyone," said Mr. Khattar here.

He added that so far no decision has been taken and any decision that is in the interest of the State will be taken.

Request process
Mr. Khattar said that parole request is made to the jail superintendent, from there it is sent to the Deputy Commissioner concerned, who then asks for a report from the police. And then the DC will give his recommendations, he said.

"If we (government) will have a role to play, we will do so, if there's no role of the government, it won't," he added.

The Dera chief, who is lodged at Rohtak's Sunaria jail following conviction in two rape cases and murder of a journalist, had applied for parole for 42 days to undertake farming at his fields in Sirsa.

3 schoolchildren killed as dumper falls into river

BANJAL/JAMMU

Three schoolchildren were killed while one more was missing after a dumper they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Tuesday, the police said. The officials said a rescue operation was launched and seven people were taken to a hospital, where Manjot Singh (7), Pooja Devi (15) and driver Mamnoon Singh's son Gaurav Singh succumbed to injuries. PTI

Feeling the heat



College students cover their faces to protect themselves from the heatwave on the outskirts of Sareikela town in Jharkhand. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

HC seeks fresh order on jumbo transport

'After taking into consideration all aspects of the transport'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court on Tuesday asked Assam's Chief Wildlife Warden Ranjana Gupta to issue a fresh order regarding the controversial train trip of four juvenile elephants from the State to Gujarat after taking "into consideration all aspects of the transport" of the animals.

The order of the Division Bench, comprising acting Chief Justice Arup Kumar Goswami and Justice Manish

Choudhury, is likely to affect the transporting of the elephants, especially after the State's Additional Advocate General told the court that the railways do not have air-conditioned wagons to take the animals from eastern Assam's Tinsukia to Ahmedabad.

Ms. Gupta had on June 12 issued the order "under pressure from the top" for transporting the elephants – females Joytara and Rani, and males Babulal and Rupsing –

on a six-month lease for participating in the annual Rath Yatra festival of Ahmedabad's Jagannath Temple on July 4.

Animal rights and wildlife activists protested the move, as it would expose the elephants to heatwave conditions along much of the 3,106 km they would travel in a metal railway wagon. They also noted the poor elephant management of Jagannath Temple, which had taken a few jumbos from Assam earlier.

The State is currently providing benefits under the

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Place : Nagapattinam DIPR/646/DISPLAY/2019

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e-NIT No. CD-I/30 of 2019-20 Dated 18-06-2019

For and on behalf of the Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. for each of the following works :-

S. No. 1, Name of Work: Construction of roads in Bathinda area by way of Construction of 2 No. RCC culverts (7.50 Mtrs Span = 1 No. & 4.0 Mtrs Span Box Type = 1 No.) including fixing of 80mm thick Paver Tiles (Under Languishing Scheme) LUP 1860, Name of Division: PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu, Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs): 186.70, Cost of document (in Rs.): 6000, Earnest Money (in Rs.): 37340

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Vinod Z

IN BRIEF



TDB picks holes in Sabarimala Master Plan

PATHANAMTHITTA
The works department of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has detected certain flaws in the zoning process and layout plan prepared by the High-Power Committee for implementation of the Sabarimala Master Plan. The TDB Chief Engineer has taken up the matter with the technical committee constituted in connection with the execution of the master plan. An expert team has found certain marked deviations in the layout plan and its zoning.

Telangana set to host seed testing event

HYDERABAD
Telangana is set to host the triennial International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) congress here from June 26 for the first time in Asia. The eight-day congress will have the main event for three days and technical committee meetings/sessions over the next five days. Experts, scientists, policy makers, researchers and members of the seed industry from over 80 countries will deliberate on seed policies, production and quality aspects.

Terror suspect arrested from Doddaballapur

BENGALURU
Officials from the National Investigation Agency on Tuesday arrested a 28-year-old terror suspect in Doddaballapur town in Karnataka. The accused, Habibur Rahman Sheikh, was allegedly involved in the 2014 Burdwan bomb blast case in West Bengal. He had been on the run since then, said officials. Rahman, a native of West Bengal, is suspected to be a member of the terror organisation Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh.

'Give 9.19 tmcft Cauvery water to T.N.'

CWMA directs Karnataka to release the quantum for June from Biligundlu on the inter-State border

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) told Karnataka on Tuesday to release 9.19 tmcft (thousand million cubic feet) of water for the month of June from the Biligundlu point on the inter-State border to the Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu.

This is a reiteration of the CWMA's direction to Karnataka on May 28. That time, however, the IMD had forecast a "normal" monsoon. But as it turned out, there was paucity of rain in June – 37% less than what is normal.

Karnataka's obligation

Karnataka has to release 9.1 tmcft in June and 31.24 tmcft in July. However, only about 1.7 tmcft has been released so far, said a person privy to



Awaiting inflow: A view of the Water Measuring Station at Biligundlu in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu. ■ FILE PHOTO

the proceedings of the meeting on Tuesday.

Karnataka's obligation – according to the Supreme Court order – is "subject to normal inflow," the person underlined.

"Karnataka has been directed to release what it is

supposed to, but the fact is that water available is well below what's normal. The chief engineers and participants in the meeting from both States understand this well," the person added.

A fresh meeting would be held in the coming fortnight

and new directions given accounting for the progress of the monsoon.

Live storage

As per the Central Water Commission's last update on June 13, the total live storage available in reservoirs in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Telangana is 5.48 BCM (billion cubic metre) which is 11% of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

The storage during the corresponding period last year was 15% and average storage of the last 10 years during the corresponding period was 15% of the live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

Thus, storage during the current year was less than the corresponding period last year and also less than

the average storage of the last 10 years during the corresponding period. In Karnataka's reservoirs, the storage is 8% less than what is normal for this time of the year, while in Tamil Nadu the storage is 41% less than normal. The Cauvery basin, on the whole, has 40% less water this year than its 10-year average. The quantum of water to be released is in line with the Supreme Court's order on February 16 last year.

While conferring authority on the CWMA to decide on releasing Cauvery water, the Supreme Court said Karnataka's share was 284 tmcft, Tamil Nadu's 404 tmcft, Kerala's 30 tmcft and Puducherry's 7 tmcft.

Besides this, the court reserved 10 tmcft for environmental purposes and 4 tmcft for natural flow into the sea.



Creating awareness: Tara Cavanagh, Minister Counsellor Home Affairs, second from left, addressing the media in Chennai on Tuesday. ■ K. PICHUMANI

Australia cautions illegal immigrants

'Zero Chance' to enter country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The Australian government is launching a campaign 'Zero Chance' to raise awareness among people trying to enter the country illegally by boats.

"The message of Zero Chance is simple. Anyone who tries to come illegally to Australia by boat has zero chance of success," Tara Cavanagh, Minister Counsellor Home Affairs, told reporters here on Tuesday. "You will be turned back from Australia if you attempt to come illegally by boat," she added.

Broader campaign

People in Tamil Nadu will soon start to see advertising and other communication materials as part of the Zero Chance campaign, Ms. Cavanagh said. This is part of a broader campaign that will be rolled out in about 10 countries in the region.

"Australia's strong border policies remain the same. These have not changed since the election," she said.

Ms. Cavanagh said people smugglers tend to lie about international immigration

policies and might try to cheat them by telling them that the country's policies have changed following the recent elections.

Australia has so far turned back 848 people on 35 vessels trying to enter Australia illegally, as part of the Operation Sovereign Borders that has been implemented since 2013, she said. However, she refused to quantify the number of people trying from India or Sri Lanka to get into Australia by boat illegally.

Resettlement plan

To a query on refugees trying to enter Australia, she said those who wish to enter the country must apply through refugee resettlement programmes, and Australia works with the UNHCR to identify those people.

The campaign will be undertaken through NGOs that have some partnerships with Australia to educate people on not taking up these illegal and dangerous boat journeys, said Michael Costa, Deputy Consul General for South India.

Plea for bail in Anthoor case adjourned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday declined to issue an interim directive to the police not to arrest M.K. Girish, suspended Secretary of Anthoor municipality in Kannur, in a case relating to the suicide of an NRI businessman.

Counsel for Mr. Girish sought a directive not to arrest him when the anticipatory bail petition was taken up for hearing. The suspended officer apprehended that he would be arrested in the case registered by the Valapattanam police.

According to him, the building permit was granted in the name of Paloli Purushothaman, father-in-law of deceased Sajan Parayil.

He had neither submitted an application for building permit nor for a completion certificate.

Andhra Pradesh will withdraw bauxite mining GO, says Jagan

TDP govt. didn't allow mining but it failed to scrap the order

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

In an apparent bid to end the bauxite mining controversy, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday announced that the State government would scrap the GO relating to bauxite mining.

"There is no logic to continue bauxite mining if the tribal people are opposing it. The State will not lose anything by continuing the mining. We want peace and tranquillity," he said addressing the Collectors' Conference on the second day at Praja Vedika at Undavalli, near here, on Tuesday. "It is necessary that the tri-

bal people are not attracted to Maoists. They need to be taken into confidence," he said.

There is a demand from various quarters, including political parties, that the GO 97 that authorises the Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation (APMDC) to undertake the mining activities be withdrawn. Ever since the State government (combined Andhra Pradesh) accorded permission to the mining during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy in 2007, the issue acquired political hues. In fact, it had become an election issue.

Telugu Desam Party presi-

dent N. Chandrababu Naidu, during his padayatra in 2013, had promised that the TDP would annul the proposal for bauxite mining in the Agency area of the district. Though he did not allow mining, he did not withdraw the GO.

Referring to ganja cultivation, Mr. Reddy said a major operation would be carried out in August to check the menace. Solutions to stop cultivation and provide alternative livelihood to the tribal people were required, he said. Awareness meetings and rehabilitation measures were required to ensure that the tribals do not take up, he said.

Quota cauldron



Loud and clear: Protesters belonging to the Maharishi Valmiki community tried to lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha in Bangalore from Davangere on June 9. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

Security beefed up as demolition of Praja Vedika begins

Ruling, Opposition parties trade charges against each other

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

The demolition of Praja Vedika, a sprawling conference hall next to former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu's residence at Undavalli near here, began on Tuesday.

Security near the building has been beefed up with the police providing 'four-tier security cover'. Earthmovers and construction workers have reached the spot.

Meanwhile, the issue of demolishing the conference hall continued to generate heat with ruling and Opposition parties trading charges against each other.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on the second day of Collectors' conference on Tuesday, reiterated his stand that the structure



Earthmovers being pressed into service to pull down Praja Vedika at Undavalli.

would be pulled down.

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Srinivas, on his official Facebook page, expressed the view that the government could put the proposal on hold until an alternative arrangement was made to hold government meetings. The hall was constructed with taxpayers' money and razing it would be a loss to the State

exchequer. Also, the government would have to shell out public money if the meetings were to be conducted at private facilities.

Speaking to reporters near Praja Vedika, I&PR Minister Perini Venkata Ramaiya sought to know why the TDP leaders were making hue and cry when the government was pulling down an illegal structure.

The building was constructed without any permission from the CRDA and the River Conservation Board, and had no NOCs, he claimed.

"The public will not appreciate if the lawmakers break the law. Everyone is equal before the law. The cost of construction was escalated to ₹8.9 crore from ₹4 crore for whose benefit?" he asked.

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IN BRIEF



K. Natarajan to be new Coast Guard DG

NEW DELHI
K. Natarajan has been appointed as the next Director General (DG) of the Coast Guard. He will take over from Rajendra Singh. Natarajan is currently the ADG of the force's Western Sea Board, which looks after the maritime boundary from Gujarat to Kerala. PTI

'It is safe to eat litchi fruit,' says doctor

CHENNAI
"It is safe to eat litchi fruit. Children and adults who are well nourished can eat litchi without worrying about any health problems," says virologist Dr. Jacob John, who led a team that confirmed the role of Methylene cyclopropyl glycine (MCPG) in causing hypoglycaemic encephalopathy.

Woman delivers baby in U.P. health centre's toilet

SHAMLI
A staff nurse at the government community health centre here was transferred while two senior officials were issued a warning after a pregnant woman delivered her baby in the clinic's toilet, an official said on Tuesday. The nurse has been charged with not attending to the pregnant woman. PTI

Rape case registered against Vice-Chancellor

JABALPUR
A rape case has been registered against Vice-Chancellor of Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, P.D. Jyoti, following a court direction, police said. A forty-year-old woman had approached the court claiming that she was raped by Mr. Jyoti. She sought a direction to the police to file an FIR and investigate her complaint. PTI

Kerala tops the list for best performing State in health

Uttar Pradesh retains the worst performer tag in the NITI Aayog index

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Kerala continued to top the list for the best performing State in the health sector among the 21 large States, while Uttar Pradesh retained the worst performer tag, according to the second edition of NITI Aayog's Health Index released on Tuesday.

Kerala, which got an overall score of 74.01, was followed by Andhra Pradesh (65.13), Maharashtra (63.99), Gujarat (63.52) and Punjab (63.01). Himachal Pradesh (62.41), Jammu and Kashmir (62.37), Karnataka (61.14) and Tamil Nadu (60.41).

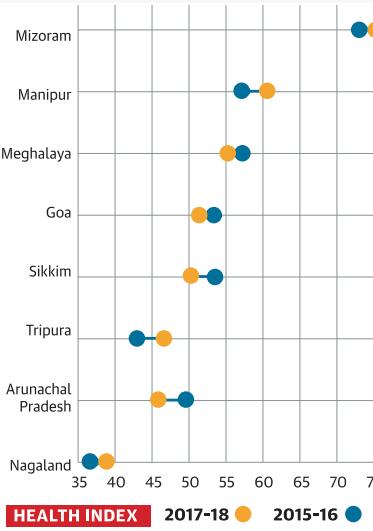
Fall in score

Uttar Pradesh continued to be at the bottom of the list with its score falling to 28.61. Other States at the bottom of the list were Bihar (32.11), Odisha (35.97) and Madhya Pradesh (38.39).

The report 'Healthy States, Progressive India: Report on Rank of States and UTs' has ranking in three categories – larger States, smaller States and Union Territories "to ensure comparison among similar entities."

Health of smaller States

Graph shows the score secured by smaller States in the composite health index prepared by the NITI Aayog, which incorporates 23 indicators, in 2017-18 and 2015-16



Among the UTs, Chandigarh jumped one spot to top the list with a score of (63.62), followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli (56.31), Lakshadweep (53.54), Puducherry (49.69), Delhi (49.42), Andaman and Nicobar (45.36) and Daman and Diu (41.66).

The Index ranks the States and Union Territories based

on 23 health-related indicators, including neonatal mortality rate, under-five mortality rate, proportion of low birth weight among new-borns, proportion of districts with functional Cardiac Care Units, full immunisation coverage and proportion of specialist positions vacant at district hospitals. The report stated that on

ly about half the States and UTs showed an improvement in the overall score between 2015-16 (base year) and 2017-18 (reference year).

The report added that among the eight Empowered Action Group States, only three States – Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh – showed improvement in the overall performance.

31.4% of Indian children will be stunted by 2022: report

Country needs to double its efforts to control malnutrition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Almost one in three Indian children under five years will still be stunted by 2022 going by current trends, according to an analysis of the country's food and nutrition security released on Tuesday. Over the last decade, child stunting – which is a measure of chronic malnutrition – has reduced at a rate of about 1% per year, the slowest decline among emerging economies. At this rate, 31.4% of children will still be stunted by the 2022 deadline. India must double its rate of progress to reach the target of 25% by that time, says the report.

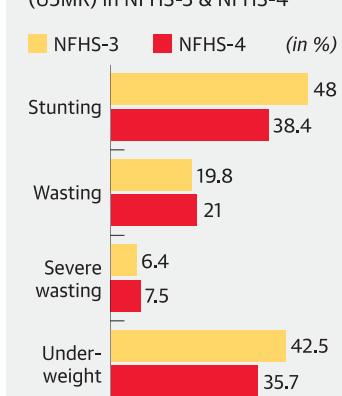
Analysis of progress

The report, which is a baseline analysis of the country's progress in achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal to end hunger, was prepared by the UN World Food Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Foodgrain yields have risen 33% over the last two decades, but are still only half of 2030 target yields, says

Food for thought

Under-5 malnutrition rate (UMR) in NFHS-3 & NFHS-4



SOURCE: NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY 2005-06, 2015-16 | MOSPI, WFP

- Poorest wealth quintile has highest stunting, wasting and underweight prevalence (51.4%, 24.2%, 48.6%) as against highest wealth quintile (22.2%, 17.9%, 20.1%)
- Mothers having low BMI have higher prevalence of stunted, wasted and underweight children
- Children of illiterate mothers have higher chances of stunting, wasting and being under-weight

norm of 2155 kilo calories per day. The signs of unequal access are starker among children. In States like Bihar (48%) and Uttar Pradesh (46%), almost one in two children are stunted, while it is only one in five children in Kerala and Goa (20% each). There are high rates of stunting among children in the poorest wealth quintile (51.4%), Scheduled Tribes (43.6%) and Scheduled Castes (42.5%), and children born to mothers with no education (51%).

Election to six RS seats from T.N. on July 18

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

ja (CPI) will expire on July 24. Kanimozi (DMK), whose term is also to end the same day, has been elected to the Lok Sabha.

Notifications for the elections will be issued on July 1, while the last date of making nominations is on July 8. Counting will be done on July 18, after the polls.

The Assembly currently

has 232 MLAs against its sanctioned strength of 234 following the death of DMK Vikravandi K Rathamani MLA and the resignation of Congress Nanguneri MLA H Vasanthakumar.

To get elected to the Rajya Sabha, a candidate needs the support of 34 MLAs.

Based on the individual strength of parties, the

AIADMK (123 MLAs) and DMK (100) are likely to send three members each to the Upper house – the latter with the support of the Congress (7) and IML (1). T.T.V. Dhinakaran is the lone independent MLA.

While the AIADMK has promised a berth to the PMK, the DMK has assured a berth to the MDMK.

Nalini to be produced in court on July 5

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

S. Nalini, 52, a life convict in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, will appear before the Madras High Court on July 5 and argue in person a case filed by her seeking ordinary leave for six months to make arrangements for the marriage of her daughter now residing in London.

Justices M.M. Sundresh and M. Nirmal Kumar on Tuesday allowed a petition filed by the convict seeking permission for arguing the case in person without engaging a lawyer. The judges held that every litigant had a right to argue their case in person and such right could not be denied to select individuals.

However, acceding to a request made by Additional Public Prosecutor C. Ayapparaj who urged for necessary orders to ensure that she gets produced in court without any unpleasant incident, the judges directed the petitioner to strictly abide by regulations under the Tamil Nadu Prison Manual.

They also ordered provision of necessary police escort for her presence in the court. The orders were passed after the convict rejected a suggestion made by the prison officials to utilise the video conferencing facility for arguing the case.

On April 9, she had filed the present plea along with a habeas corpus petition seeking ordinary leave. Since then, the matter was adjourned periodically since the prison officials expressed reservations in producing her before the court citing security reasons. But the judges refused to buy the argument.

SC questions Rajeev Saxena's medical plea

Demands bail surety from relatives

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Rajeev Saxena, an approver in a money laundering case related to the AgustaWestland chopper scam, if his relatives are willing to stand surety for him for allowing him to travel abroad for medical treatment.

Rajeev Saxena

told to go abroad.

"We understand your apprehensions. His [Mr. Saxena's] passport is for limited period. If you can suggest other conditions, then they can also be imposed... Your apprehensions may be right or wrong, but are you [government] powerless to get him back," the Bench said.

Responding to this, Mr. Mehta said, "No country will say that it is powerless." He further argued that the government was willing to provide medical treatment for Mr. Saxena's ailments.

The Bench has now posted the matter for Wednesday.

On March 25, a trial court here had allowed Mr. Saxena to become an approver in the chopper deal case.

+ FIR against 19 villagers for highway blockade

Their act was a symbol of protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The police on Tuesday filed an FIR against 19 people of Harivanshpur village in Vaishali district of Bihar for blocking NH-22 for three hours on June 18 in protest against the death of seven children due to suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). The protesters were also demanding supply of drinking water in the village. Most of the accused, though, have left the village.

Harivanshpur, under the Bhagwanpur police station, is close to Muzaffarpur, where so far 131 children have died due to AES. The village has been reeling under acute water crisis for some time. On June 18, when the villagers came to know that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was to visit the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) in Muzaffarpur, they came out on the highway and blocked traffic for three hours. They also shouted slogans against the government.

On June 23 too, the villagers staged a protest when Lok Jan Shakti Party MLA Raj Kumar Sah and party MP Pushpapat Kumar Paras came to their area. They held the LJP legislator as a

hostage for some time. The police had a tough time taking the LJP leaders out of the village.

Sanjay Kumar, officer in charge of the Bhagwanpur police station, told *The Hindu* over the phone that the villagers blocked the highway for three hours and most of the accused persons have fled the village.

However, the villagers said they did not block the highway and they staged a protest five km away from it over the death of children and lack of drinking water. "Our children died due to AES and most of the villagers now have left their homes to save their children from the deadly disease...but, the administration has filed an FIR against our menfolk who were the sole breadwinners of the families", a woman told a news channel.

The villagers also said the FIR had been lodged against those from whose families children had died due to suspected AES. The local police, however, expressed ignorance about it. "I'm not aware that four among those against whom FIR has been lodged, have their children died due to AES", said Mr. Sanjay Kumar.

Disability pension will now be taxed

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Disability pension for military personnel who retired normally from service and not invalidated will now be taxed, according to a notification issued by the Finance Ministry.

In the notification dated June 24, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said that "such tax exemption will be available only to armed forces personnel who have been invalidated from service on account of bodily disability attributable to or aggravated by such service and not to personnel who have been retired on superannuation or otherwise."

Disability pension are of two types, war and normal. War disability is 60% of the last salary drawn in case of 100% disability and normal disability is 30% of the last salary drawn in case of 100% disability. It goes down proportionally for lower percentage of disability.

The move has come under criticism from the military fraternity. As per procedure, the CBDT will now issue a circular to all the banks for implementation as they are the ones that disburse the pensions.

Three railway employees were killed and some passengers were injured when the Howrah-Jagdalpur Samalswari Express (18005) had a head-on collision with a track-maintenance 'tower car' between Singapur and Keutaguda stations in Odisha's Rayagada district around 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The engine of the train caught fire due to the head-on collision, while two coaches got derailed. Sources said the express train was on the same track as the track-maintenance tower car, which was engaged for track work.

At the time of the accident, there were about 148 passengers in the train. A few of them received minor injuries and were given first aid. The Railways said in a statement it had ordered a probe into the matter.

Freak accident kills 3 railway employees

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Citing "human error", the East Coast Railway authorities have suspended the station masters of the Singapur and Keutaguda stations. The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Kolkata, has been tasked with a detailed probe into the mishap.

According to a press release, the deceased were Suresh, a technician, Sagar, a senior electrical engineer, and Gouri Naidu, a technician.

At the time of the accident, there were about 148 passengers in the train. A few of them received minor injuries and were given first aid. The Railways said in a statement it had ordered a probe into the matter.

'Impressive' tortoise discovered in Arunachal



The newly found 'Impressed' Tortoise. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"There are only two species of tortoises under the *Manouria* genus. India was known to be the home of only the Asian Forest Tortoise," Dr. Purkayastha said.

Manouria emys) until the discovery of the Impressed Tortoise," Guwahati-based Jayaditya Purkayastha of Help Earth told *The Hindu*.

The Asian Forest Tortoise, the largest in mainland Asia, is found only in the northeast, as are 20 of the other 28 species of chelonians.

"The male Impressed Tortoise is smaller than the female which is 30 cm in length. This *Manouria* species is one-third the size of the Asian Forest Tortoise," Dr. Purkayastha said.

REGIONAL APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
WARANGAL - 506 004 (T.S)
ADVERTISEMENT FOR AD-HOC FACULTY

Applications are invited for Ad-hoc Faculty Positions in various Departments of National Institute of Technology, Warangal.

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Pay Package: Rs.60,000/- Per month for candidates with Ph.D and Rs.50,000/- Per month for candidates with M.Tech/B.Tech + MBA Degree

FROM PAGE ONE

Help fulfil the dream of an inclusive nation: PM

"Speaking of what was done in the past, let us remember that today is June 25th, the 44th anniversary of the Emergency, a blot on India's democracy, when democratic rights were suspended, the press was crushed, all to keep someone in power," Mr. Modi said.

He said calls currently on for putting certain people in jail or denying bail and parole were the work of the court system, not the political executive, adding, "This is not the Emergency where governments jailed people as they liked."

Referring to the Triple Talaq Bill, Mr. Modi accused the Congress of missing opportunities to work for women's empowerment, first by bringing separate civil codes for various religions, and specifically in the context of the Shah Bano judgment in 1985 that led to the passing of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights of Divorce) Act, 1986 passed by the then Rajiv Gandhi-led government. He referred to a recent interview of then Minister Arif Mohammad Khan who, he said, had quoted senior Congress leaders at that time and the cavalier attitude they had taken towards the future of the Muslim community. "You missed an opportunity then, I appeal to you to support the Bills we have brought now that pertain to human rights," he said.

Higher targets
Prime Minister Modi said that rather than belittle his predecessors, he believed in reaching for higher targets, like making India a \$5 trillion dollar economy and to bring piped water to all homes. "You [the Opposition] stay high above, for in

your heights you have lost touch with the roots and reality. I am content to be on the ground," he said.

He added that his government had, within three weeks of assuming office, taken many important steps including universalising an income support scheme for farmers, announcing scholarships to students and financial aid to families of policemen who had died on duty, as well as a pension scheme for the unorganised sector.

Quoting extensively from former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's 1951 speech given at the launch of the Congress party's manifesto before the first general election, Mr. Modi said the 75 years of independence and the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma should be occasions to reflect on Mr. Nehru's words on privileges and duties.

"It has been the immemorial lesson of India that it is duty that comes first, and rights and privileges flow from it...there are of course rights and there are privileges for which we have to fight and we have fought; even so, if we forget our duty, then those rights and privileges will not remain long with us," he said, quoting Mr. Nehru, adding that it was the job of people's representatives to engender such values in society.

Mr. Chowdhary said: "I think we have scored a great success that at least the Prime Minister who used to previously remain reluctant to quote any Congress leader today was compelled to quote Pt. Nehru at the frag end of his speech. So, I think this was our great victory."

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

+ Antigua not giving Mehul a safe haven, says its PM

"It is an internal process. The legal process has to be exhausted. India continues to be engaged with the Antigua and the Barbados government in this regard," said the source.

The Enforcement Directorate, which is probing money laundering charges against Mr. Choksi, has in a Mumbai High Court offered to provide an air ambulance and a team of medical experts to bring him back from Antigua and arrange

for all necessary treatment in India. The agency's submissions were in response to his claim that he was unable to return due to persistent health issues.

In March, Mr. Choksi had submitted before a special court in Mumbai that he had a long history of heart ailments and a blood clot in the brain. To this, an agency official said, there was no major hospital in Antigua for treatment of serious heart conditions.

'Will fight for Bengal'
The Union Minister said his party and the government were committed to safeguarding democracy and would fight for West Bengal, the way his party workers did in 1975.

"The way violence is being promoted is against democracy. The BJP and this



C In a country where Ministers cannot produce degrees to show that they graduated from college, you expect dispossessed poor people to show papers as proof that they belong to this country?

— MAHUA MOITRA, Trinamool MP

superficial, it is xenophobic, it is narrow. It has a lust to divide. It is not a desire to unite," she said.

Ms. Moitra targeted the process of updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a reference to which was made in President Ram Nath Kovind's address on June 20, and said only one community was being targeted.

"Citizens are being thrown out of their homes and are being called illegal immigrants. People who have lived in this country for 50 years have to show a piece of paper to prove they are Indians. In a country where Ministers cannot produce degrees to show that they graduated from college, you expect dispossessed poor people to show papers as proof that they belong to this country," she asked.

She said the 2019 election was won on "WhatsApp, fake news and manipulating minds". West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh countered saying the citizens in West Bengal were suffering from the Trinamool's politics.

Former Union Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam member Dayanidhi Maran used the debate to lead a scathing attack on the Tamil Nadu government, calling it the "most corrupt" and the ruling AIADMK a "slave of the BJP".

Mr. Maran's comment against the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam that has only one MP drew sharp reactions from the Treasury benches. When BJP members Nishikant Dubey and Rajiv Pratap Rudy pointed out that rules did not allow to speak about issues outside the President's Address, the DMK member retorted by saying that it was the duty of "the master to

take care of the slaves". Protesting against the comment, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Meghwal asked the Chair to expunge it. Speaker Om Birla said any unparliamentary reference would be removed.

Mr. Maran asked the BJP to "introspect" why the people of Tamil Nadu rejected it in the recent Lok Sabha election, and said the ruling party's strength did not lie in itself but in the Opposition's weakness.

He also accused the BJP of misusing agencies such as the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate and the Election Commission.

Apart from raising the issue of the National Educa-

tion Policy that suggested the use of Hindi as one of the third languages, Mr. Maran focussed on the water scarcity in the southern States. He said there were drought-like conditions in nearly half of India and an acute water crisis in Tamil Nadu, especially in Chennai, but the State government was complacent.

Narrow nationalism'
Claiming that there is a danger of "fascism rising in India", Trinamool's Mahua Moitra accused the government of pushing a brand of nationalism that was narrow.

"The first sign is a powerful and continuing nationalism that is being spearheaded into our national fabric. It is

Bengal in Emergency-like situation'

BJP believes in democracy and is committed to protecting it, says Javadekar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The situation in West Bengal is akin to a "state of emergency" under Mamata Banerjee's rule, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Tuesday, asserting that the BJP believed in democracy and is committed to protecting it.

Earlier, the West Bengal Chief Minister hit out at the BJP, saying that while Tuesday was the anniversary of the Emergency imposed in 1975, the country had been going through a "super emergency" for the past five years.

Outside Parliament, Mr. Javadekar said, "The way Mamata is conducting things in West Bengal is no less than the state of Emergency. She is doing a very bad job at running the State."

'Will fight for Bengal'
The Union Minister said his party and the government were committed to safeguarding democracy and would fight for West Bengal, the way his party workers did in 1975.

"The way violence is being promoted is against democracy. The BJP and this



Call for change: Congress and CPI(M) MLAs stage a walkout to protest against 'cut money' allegedly taken by Trinamool Congress leaders and workers. • PTI

Left-Congress joint rally demands normalcy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Senior leaders of the Left parties and the Congress on Tuesday held a joint rally in the North 24 Parganas district demanding that normalcy be restored in the strife-torn region.

Bhatpara and the adjoining areas of Barrackpur witnessed violence during the

elections and even after the polls when at least five persons had been killed.

State CPI(M) secretary Surjya Kanta Mishra, Left Front chairperson Biman Bose and State Congress president Somenandranath Mitra took out the rally. This was the first joint rally called by the Left parties and the Congress after the polls.

Across the State, people – especially those in rural areas – are demanding refund of the illegal compensation charged by local Trinamool leaders to deliver



C Facebook is a non-disclosed ally of the BJP. FB got a lot of benefits in return

DEREK O'BRIEN
Trinamool MP

FB censored anti-BJP posts: Trinamool MP

It was a *de facto* campaigner: O'Brien

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress has accused social media giant Facebook of being a "*de facto* campaigner" of the Bharatiya Janata Party during the Lok Sabha election.

Derek O'Brien, party MP, said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that "Facebook censored anti-BJP content and its Delhi office was an extension of the BJP Information Technology (IT) cell."

Facebook did not respond to the allegations.

Mr. O'Brien's remarks assume significance as last year the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) instituted a preliminary inquiry to determine whether the U.K.-based Global Science Research and Cambridge Analytica illegally harvested and misused data of Indian Facebook users. The investigation was based on a reference from the government following allegations of illegal Facebook data.

The special status of J&K is against the interests of other States like Bihar and Odisha, which have also been demanding the same. It cannot have special status if it considers itself part of India. Kashmir threatens us that it will merge with Pakistan or break away. Now these threats will not work," Mr. Raut said.

The Nationalist Congress Party's Majeed Memon attacked the government for the increase in lynching attacks and referred to the killing of 24-year-old Tabrez Ansari in Jharkhand.

"In the name of new India, one should not impose an illiberal socio political order... It is a country of all communities and faiths," CPI MP D. Raja said.

Trinamool leader returns 'cut money'

Had taken bribe for a canal project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

In what could be a first of its kind in the history of the country, a politician on Tuesday officially returned the "bribe" – described as "cut money" by Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee – taken from the local residents in Birbhum district of south Bengal. Party area president Trilochan Mukherjee returned ₹2.28 lakh collected from the locals to dig a canal.

Across the State, people – especially those in rural areas – are demanding refund of the illegal compensation charged by local Trinamool leaders to deliver

various government benefits and services.

The Chief Minister had recently asked the party leaders and workers to return such money, which had created widespread commotion in the State. The BJP too turned it into an issue.

Mr. Mukherjee returned ₹1,617 each to 141 persons, the elated villagers said. They thanked Ms. Banerjee for the "money back policy". Mr. Mukherjee however sounded a little sullen. "The money was raised for developmental work but it was returned today," he said.

The canal project never took off.

(With agency inputs)

Centre skirts queries on J&K delimitation and NRC

Both Ministers of State for Home fail to give direct reply



Check list: NRC officials examining documents at an office in Dhubri in Assam. • AFP

₹50 cr. in fake currency seized in past three years, says Minister

Highest number of cases from West Bengal, Gujarat and U.P.

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Over ₹50 crore in fake currency was seized by different investigating agencies in the past three years, the government informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. A little over ₹5 crore was seized this year.

The highest number of 53 cases were registered in West Bengal, followed by Gujarat with 42 and Uttar Pradesh with 34.

One of the reasons cited by the government in 2016 for scrapping ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination notes was that it would wipe out fake currency in circulation. India had accused Pakistan's

ISI of printing high-quality fake Indian currency notes and channelling them into the Indian market.

Culling data from the central Fake Currency Compilation System of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said in a written response that 20,068 pieces of fake ₹2,000 notes were seized across the country till June 18 this year.

The annual crime report of the NCRB is yet to be published.

This is the first time the government has shared year-wise data on fake currency post-demonetisation.

As many as 53,254 FIRs were registered and 357 accused have been arrested this year. Government data show that 13,513 pieces of fake ₹500 notes, 10,682 of fake ₹100 notes and 2,233 pieces of fake ₹200 notes were seized.

Cross-LoC traders' meet in Tashkent

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

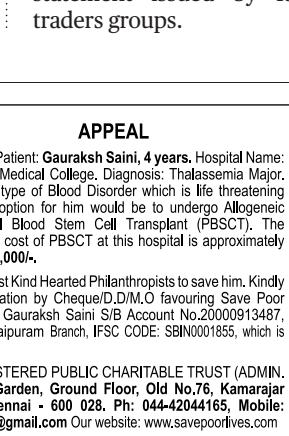
SRINAGAR

Three months after the Home Ministry suspended cross-Line of Control trade in J&K, traders on both sides met in Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent and urged India and Pakistan to "come up with the modalities and technical mechanism to restore the operation as soon as possible".

"Both the governments did not do enough to put the mechanisms on modern lines, which left the twin routes vulnerable to possible misuse. The abrupt suspension of trade has resulted in an opportunity loss," said a joint statement issued by 19 traders groups.



Name of Patient: Gauraksh Saini, 4 years. Hospital Name: Christian Medical College. Diagnosis: Thalassemia Major. This is a type of Blood Disorder which is life threatening. The best option for him would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately Rs. 14,00,000/-.



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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Srinagar-based Urdu daily *Aajtag*'s editor and owner Ghulam Jeelani Qadri, 62, on Tuesday was granted bail by the local court, a day after he was arrested in a 28-year-old case.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate sought the appearance of the local police officer on July 31 "to explain delay in execution of the warrants issued 26 years ago against Mr. Qadri."

Delimitation of legisla-

tive Assembly constituencies in J&K is carried out under Section 47 and 141 of the Constitution of J&K. Mr. Reddy said.

He said there were 37,33,111 voters in the Jammu division, 40,10,971 in the Kashmir division and 17,99,147 in the Ladakh division.

He said the Election Commission had not fixed the dates for holding the Assembly elections in the State.

Responding to the question on whether there was any proposal to extend the NRC across the country and if so when, Minister of State Nitin Gadkari

Four members of terror outfit arrested in Kolkata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

The Special Task Force (STF) of Kolkata Police on Tuesday arrested four operatives of an ISIS-affiliated terror outfit at two railway junctions here. Those arrested include three Bangladeshi nationals and one Indian

When injuries, insults and callousness tore apart a young life

Jharkhand lynching victim's family members say the mob meted out 'instant justice' and the administration committed a cold-blooded murder

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

SARAIKELA

She is distraught and inconsolable, yet Shehnaz Begum, mother-in-law of Tabrez Ansari, 24, victim of a mob lynching in Jharkhand, gathers all her strength to speak.

"My son-in-law would have been alive had the administration showed a little bit of sympathy and given the minimum medical attention," she says, holding her teenage widowed daughter.

"First, it was the religiously motivated mob that meted out instant justice, and second, the administration committed a cold-blooded murder by letting Tabrez die of excruciating pain. To save his life, the police at least could have admitted him in a hospital," she said.

Tabrez's family lives in



Deeply hurt: Sahista Parevez, right, wife of Tabrez Ansari, with her mother at home in Sareikela. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

the nondescript Kadamdia village, 15 km from the district headquarters town of Saraikela. Three days after his death, District Collector of Saraikela-Kharaswan Chhabri Ranjan and Superintendent of Police Karthik S. reached Kadamdia late on Monday evening to assure the family of justice. A group of district officials landed in the village early Tuesday morning. Media professionals and rights activists have been thronging the place.

Undeserving sentence'

"My son-in-law did not deserve such a death," Ms. Begum kept saying to everyone.

Tabrez, who lost both his parents at an early age, migrated to Pune eight years ago to find work. In April, he

returned to get married. On April 27, his marriage with Sahista Pervez, 19, was solemnised. The couple would have gone back to Pune in a few days.

According to his extended family members, he was re-

turning after meeting his aunt in Jamshedpur on June 17 night when some people of Dhatkidih village caught hold of him and branded him a thief.

"Tabrez could have been let off with a few slaps. All

hell broke loose when he revealed his name. He was tied to an electric pole and beaten up the whole night. Later, he was dragged to nearby bushy areas and another round of thrashing started. He was also forced to chant 'Jai Shriram' and 'Jai Hanuman'," said Mohammed Mansoor Alam, Tabrez's uncle, who had gone to meet him at the Saraikela police station.

Tabrez's family members were shocked when they met him at the station. "Initially, I was not allowed to enter the police station. Then I heard someone saying, 'Why did he not die till now?'. On enquiry, I found that it was Papa Mandal, the main accused, who was shouting right inside the police station. I could not hold

myself back. I entered the police station forcibly only to find Tabrez having bruises all over his body and blood stains on his face, hands and legs," Ms. Begum said. His wife fainted.

Plea on deaf ears

After a day, the family members again met him in jail. "His condition was even worse. I pleaded with the authorities to admit him to hospital, but nobody paid any heed," Ms. Begum said.

Tabrez was admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital only when his condition suddenly deteriorated on June 22.

After the video of the lynching went viral on social media and Tabrez was heard chanting "Jai Shriram" and "Jai Hanuman", as directed

by the mob, the media started taking note of the incident. Only then, the police swung into action.

"We have so far arrested 11 persons, including Papa Mandal. An investigation is going on," Mr. Karthik said.

When his attention was drawn to the alleged administrative bias in handling Tabrez's case, especially when his health condition turned poor, Mr. Karthik said, "We are not the authority to give a medical certificate. Doctors carried out medical tests on him. Tests such as X-ray and ECG were carried out multiple times."

On the police recording only his "confession" and not trying to identify the assailants, Mr. Karthik said the staff had messed it up. Two had been suspended.

A blot on humanity, says Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday termed the lynching of a man in Jharkhand a "blot on humanity", and questioned the "silence" of the BJP.

"The brutal lynching of this young man by a mob in Jharkhand is a blot on humanity. The cruelty of the police who held this dying boy in custody for 4 days is shocking as is the silence of powerful voices in the BJP ruled Central & State Govts.," he tweeted.

Earlier, the issue of mob lynching was also raised by Opposition members in the Lok Sabha during the debate on the President's Address.

All India United Democratic Front Badruddin Ajmal too raised the issue on the floor of the House.

Trade, missile on agenda during Pompeo visit

U.S. Secretary of State to have a busy day today with talks with Jaishankar and Doval, apart from a meeting with Modi

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

India will once again press its case for a waiver of U.S. sanctions on the \$5.4-billion Russian S-400 Triumf anti-missile deal, but will discuss Washington's concerns over the issue during talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday.

On a visit to Delhi to prepare for the Trump-Modi meeting this weekend, Mr. Pompeo landed on Tuesday evening ahead of meetings with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Wednesday, where he will also call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Pompeo will start his day with full delegation meetings with Mr. Jaishankar

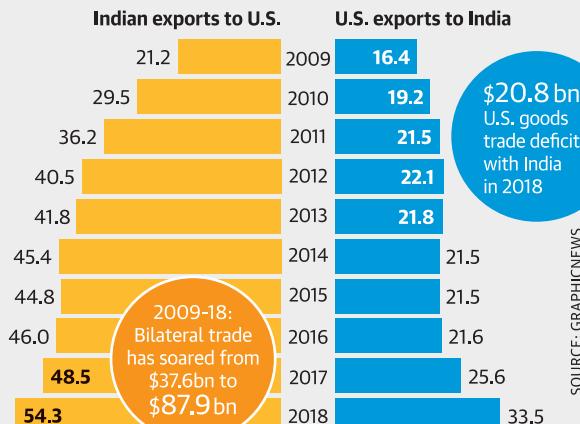
followed by a press briefing. No MoUs or agreements are expected to be announced, though negotiations on two important agreements – the Industrial Security Annex and the Geo-spatial cooperation agreement BECA – have made considerable progress. Mr. Pompeo will hold a closed-door interaction with Indian and American businesses to speak about the impasse over a trade deal and the U.S. withdrawal of India's GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) status.

U.S. demands

In the evening, he will meet Mr. Modi before the latter leaves for Osaka, and also give a public address aimed at India's youth. Mr. Pompeo will leave for Osaka early

Business is booming

Trade in goods between U.S. and India (US\$ billions)



Thursday morning. While strategic relations and people-to-people ties are on the agenda during the main

talks, trade issues between the two countries are expected to take centre stage, diplomatic sources said. In ad-

dition, the U.S.'s objections to the purchase of S-400, its sanctions on imports of oil from Iran and Venezuela as well as its new demand that India must not allow Chinese telecom major Huawei to participate in 5G network trials are like to come up for discussion.

The sources acknowledged that the U.S. had made its concerns over the S-400 deal and other issues known, and India fears becoming "collateral damage" of U.S. relations with other countries. In the past few weeks, senior U.S. diplomats and officials have suggested that if India goes ahead with S-400 deal, the U.S. will not offer India certain hi-technology platforms or hold back on F-21/F-35 sales as it

had done with Turkey that has also bought the S-400.

"[The U.S.] must realise that we have defence ties with Russia which we cannot wish away," a government official said. "If you look at it from a legal point of view, India fulfils the requirements for a CAATSA waiver," the official said, referring to the U.S. law that bans military purchases from Russia, Iran and North Korea.

On the Huawei issue, Mr. Jaishankar is likely to tell Mr. Pompeo that the government will balance the national security implications of the Chinese firm with the local telecommunications market's demands before deciding on 5G trials. Last week, China urged India to take an "unbiased decision".

S. Jaishankar

so it is natural to have some conflicts

India will find common ground with U.S.: Minister

Says it's natural to have some conflicts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD

India will find common ground on multiple issues, including bilateral trade, during discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is visiting the country. He will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss a range of issues such as bilateral trade, Iran oil, defence ties, terrorism and Afghanistan.

"We will be meeting with a positive attitude," said S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, after filing nomination papers as the BJP candidate for the byelection to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

"Both the countries are having their own interests

and it is natural to have some conflicts," he said.

The Minister said he would be visiting China but the date was not yet decided. "We expect the Chinese President to visit India this year and even I have planned a visit to China but the date is not fixed yet."

SC not to get involved in RS bypolls issue

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court declined on Tuesday to entertain a plea challenging the Election Commission's decision to hold separate bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat. The seats fell vacant on the election of BJP president Amit Shah and Union Minister Smriti Irani to the Lok Sabha.

The court asked the petitioner, Gujarat Congress leader Parsheshbhai Dhanani, to file an election petition before the Gujarat High Court after the polls. The Bench said it would not intervene now as the poll process had already been set in motion. "This issue raised after the issuance of the EC notification can only be challenged through an election petition. That is the statutory position," the Bench said.

It said contesting polls was not a fundamental right. It was a statutory right".

Seems like U.S. is coercing India, says House Foreign Affairs panel

Asks Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to strengthen ties



Eliot Engel

that the Administration is attempting to coerce India into complying with U.S. demands on a variety of issues, rather than negotiating with them as a strategic partner," the letter read.

"The threats to strip India of its privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences in the middle of the country's general election has furthered the notion that the Administration sees the India relationship as a transactional one. And the

decision to end waivers related to U.S. sanctions on Iran could alienate India when we need to be working with our partners to prevent destabilising Iranian activities," it said.

Trade related challenges

India, which depends heavily on oil imports to meet its growing energy needs, had

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ABRIDGED NIT

Open Tenders are invited on-line on the e-tendering portal of CIL <https://coaliadtenders.nic.in> for the work of "Hiring of HEMM for removal of OB, extraction and transportation of Coal with fire-fighting from XIII, XI/XII, VIIIC/IX/X, VIII/A seams of Benodih Patch, Amalgamated Block-II OCP of Block-II Area, BCCL" vide NIT No. : BCCL/CMC/e-Tender/F-HEMM-OS/2019/237 Date : 24.06.2019. Document download start date is 01.07.2019. Document download end date/bid submission end date is 19.07.2019. All prospective bidders are advised to visit <https://coaliadtenders.nic.in> for online participation in the tender. Details of tender will be mirrored on <http://www.bcclweb.in> and <https://eprocure.gov.in>.

Sd/-
General Manager (CMC), Koila Bhawan, BCCL

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1 Estimate Amount Refer Port website: www.vocport.gov.in (9 tenders)

2 Contract period Two Years (extendable up to one year)

3 Downloading of Bid document from VOCPT online e-tendering website From 28.06.2019 to 18.07.2019 upto 15.00 hrs. www.vocport.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPT

Estimated Amount Downloading of Tender documents from VOCPT online e-tendering website.

Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online and payable to the EMD Tender fee through RTGS/NEFT

Online Price bid opening 05.07.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.

For Further details visit the Port e-tender website www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPT

Secretary

V.O. CHIDAMBARAM PORT TRUST	
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TUTICORIN - 628 004	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)	Re-Tender
Only through E-tendering Mode	
Notice Ref. No.: VOCPT/2019-20/0.D1457	Dated : 25.06.2019
Name of work	Maintenance and Operation of Sewage Pumps in Pump House at Colony Area and Administrative Office Area for a Period of Two Years in VOCPT
Estimated Amount	Rs.17,99,522/-
Download date of Tender documents from VOCPT online e-tendering website.	26.06.2019 to 05.07.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.
Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders online and payable to the EMD Tender fee through RTGS/NEFT	05.07.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.
Online Price bid opening date and time	05.07.2019 up to 15:30 hrs
For Further details, please visit Port's website www.vocport.gov.in	

NMDC Limited	

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MARKET WATCH

	25-06-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,435	0.80
US Dollar	69.36	-0.01
Gold	34,470	0.58
Brent oil	65.26	0.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	405.65	-0.35
Asian Paints	1363.10	-13.05
Axis Bank	781.65	18.80
Bajaj Auto	2843.70	26.80
Bajaj Finserv	8346.15	-8.50
Bajaj Finance	3579.85	34.50
Bharti Airtel	348.60	3.50
BPCL	393.10	12.25
Britannia Ind	2807.70	27.20
Cipla	550.05	0.15
Coal India	258.35	1.60
Dr Reddy's Lab	2536.05	22.65
Eicher Motors	19116.85	18.65
GAIL (India)	309.70	3.00
Grasim Ind	902.15	15.50
HCL Tech	1079.00	1.10
HDFC	2172.80	23.90
HDFC Bank	2428.70	10.75
Hero MotoCorp	2584.65	-1.60
Hindalco	202.50	4.30
Hind Unilever	1756.45	-8.00
Indiabulls HFL	621.55	2.45
ICICI Bank	433.65	4.20
IndusInd Bank	1449.65	-11.90
Bharti Infralet	269.80	-3.00
Infosys	748.10	2.60
Indian Oil Corp	154.60	2.55
ITC	278.50	2.25
JSW Steel	267.05	9.25
Kotak Bank	1483.90	13.30
L&T	1535.00	-6.00
M&M	641.65	6.80
Maruti Suzuki	6522.50	62.60
NTPC	138.45	2.85
ONGC	166.20	1.00
PowerGrid Corp	201.60	2.55
Reliance Ind	1295.85	33.45
State Bank	356.55	3.35
Sun Pharma	385.75	2.30
Tata Motors	160.45	1.15
Tata Steel	498.00	11.75
TCS	2267.80	-7.70
Tech Mahindra	724.35	-3.90
Titan	1318.15	18.10
UltraTech Cement	4596.05	21.25
UPL	934.95	-1.60
Vedanta	170.35	1.90
Wipro	285.30	1.40
YES Bank	110.05	-1.90
Zee Entertainment	343.20	1.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 25

CURRENCY

TT BUY TT SELL

US Dollar.....69.14.....69.46

Euro.....78.68.....79.04

British Pound.....88.04.....88.46

Japanese Yen (100).....64.58.....64.89

Chinese Yuan.....10.05.....10.10

Swiss Franc.....70.77.....71.10

Singapore Dollar.....51.07.....51.32

Canadian Dollar.....52.46.....52.71

Malaysian Ringgit.....16.68.....16.78

Source: Indian Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Gold prices jumped by

₹200 to ₹34,470 per 10 gm in the capital on Tuesday on increase in demand from local jewellers and positive global markets as investors are preferring the yellow metal as safe haven amid U.S.-Iran tensions.

Tracking the movement of gold, silver prices also rose by ₹110 to ₹39,200 per kg on higher uptake by coin makers and industrial units.

Traders said increased buying by local jewellers and positive global market pushed spot gold prices in the domestic markets.

Globally, gold prices were trading higher at \$1,429.80 an ounce, while silver prices were up at \$15.52 an ounce in New York.

The international spot gold prices traded near \$1,430 an ounce to six-year high witnessing strong buying on safe haven," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tarpan Patel said.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Ltd. has partially defaulted in repaying its investors of commercial paper. The company could pay only 40% of the aggregate amount.

According to a notification to the stock exchanges, DHFL paid 40% of ₹375 crore, which is ₹150 crore, on a proportionate basis."

The balance of ₹225 crore will be paid once the surplus cash flow position improves over the next couple of days," the lender said.

While DHFL met liability obligations of ₹40,000 crore since September, there was no recourse from lenders, it said. The company met all its financial obligations through a combination of in-

"Pursuant to the down-

grade by rating agencies, expecting a default for the Commercial Papers (CP) much before they had fallen due, the mutual funds had already taken a 100% markdown on their CP investments," DHFL said.

Even after these downgrades, DHFL met its obligations of CP holders and paid ₹375 crore (for other CPs that matured earlier) before Tuesday's partial default, it said.

DHFL further added that it was already in the process of selling down its loan assets, including wholesale project loans, to make good all its obligations and maintain its 100% commitment to all its creditors as it had done ever since the liquidity crisis started in September 2018.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The fund will assist units becoming sick due to changes in external factors

that the RBI should increase the limit for non-collateralised loans to ₹20 lakh, and this would address a significant proportion of the sector needs. In addition, it also suggested revision in loan limit sanctioned under MUDRA by the Finance Ministry to ₹20 lakh from ₹10 lakh.

The committee has also recommended banks that wish to specialise in MSME lending, their sub-targets for farm loans under the priority sector lender could be waived off, and instead can be given a target for loans to the SME sector. The targets, committee said, could be of 50% of the net bank credit for universal banks and 80% for small finance banks.

At present, the overall priority sector lending target for a universal bank is 40%

will not or cannot list on the stock exchanges," the committee, which submitted its report to the RBI few days back, said.

The structure would recognise that exits will not be big bang but through a percentage of revenues or profits over a period of 3-5 years. The onus of creating this fund would lie with the government," it said.

The panel also suggested

Cash in circulation fell post note ban: FM

'Demonetisation exercise of 2016 succeeded in reducing notes in circulation by ₹3.4 lakh crore'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Demonetisation, coupled with increased digital transactions and the reduced cash usage in the informal economy, led to a reduction in currency in circulation by ₹3.4 lakh crore, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Significantly lower'

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Ms. Sitharaman said that the level of currency in circulation as of May 31, 2019, was significantly lower than what it would have been if demonetisation had not happened.

According to the data provided, the value of notes in circulation on November 4, 2016, (four days before demonetisation) was an-



Notes in circulation have been growing at an average annual growth rate of 14.51% since October 2014. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

(nounced) stood at ₹17.74 lakh crore, which has now increased to ₹21.71 lakh crore as of May 31, 2019.

However, Ms. Sitharaman said that the notes in circulation had been growing at an average annual growth rate

of 14.51% since October 2014.

"At this rate, notes in circulation would have increased to ₹25,122.53 billion (₹25.12 lakh crore) as on May 31, 2019," Ms. Sitharaman said in her reply. "As actual notes in circulation on May

31, 2019 are only ₹21,713.85 billion [₹21.71 lakh crore], de-

monetisation, followed by digitalisation and reduction of cash use in informal economy, has succeeded in reducing the notes in circulation by as much as ₹3,408.68 billion (₹3.4 lakh crore)."

Ms. Sitharaman went on to cite Reserve Bank of India data to show that the number of counterfeit bank notes detected decreased from 62,072 pieces in 2016-17, to 52,783 in 2017-18 and 31,389 pieces in 2018-19 and hence "demonetisation resulted in curbing of the counterfeit currency".

However, she did not mention whether this reduction in detection of fake currency was due to their incidences coming down or their sophistication surpass-

ing the RBI's ability to detect.

"A significant growth has been observed in digital transactions in the country post demonetisation," Ms. Sitharaman added. "Growth of digital transactions in terms of value has increased to ₹88.07 lakh crore in September 2018 from ₹112.27 lakh crore in November 2016. Digital transactions in terms of volume have increased to 241.88 crore in September 2018 from 91.83 crore."

The Minister also said that demonetisation led to a "significant positive impact on most theatres of violence" in the country since illegally held cash formed a major chunk of terror funding, and that the note ban rendered the cash held with terrorists worthless.

Projects worth ₹11 lakh cr. remain stalled: FinMin

298 projects have issues to be solved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Projects worth almost ₹11 lakh crore remain 'stalled' or have issues under consideration, according to data provided by the Finance Ministry, with the Railways, roads, and power sectors accounting for more than half of these stalled projects.

On the other hand, projects under the Ministry of Power have seen the highest success rate of issues being resolved. While 36 projects worth ₹2.05 lakh crore are still under consideration, the PMIC has resolved issues with 246 projects worth ₹13.2 lakh crore. Similarly, the PMIC has resolved issues around 201 road transport projects worth ₹2.21 lakh crore, with 89 projects worth ₹1.83 lakh crore under consideration.

Foreign e-commerce firms warned against steep online discounts

Govt. committed to protecting small traders, says Goyal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India has told foreign e-commerce firms such as Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart that they must ensure compliance with new foreign investment rules aimed at deterring them from providing steep online discounts.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said that while the government was prepared to listen to concerns about its new foreign direct investment (FDI) rules, it was committed to protecting small traders from predatory behaviour by foreign-funded companies.

The comments were made by Mr. Goyal during a closed-door meeting on Monday with several e-com-



merce companies.

No retrospective changes

Mr. Goyal also said that the e-commerce policy would not have any retrospective changes. All stakeholders would be given enough time to adhere to it, he added.

The Minister also urged the e-commerce companies to honour the spirit as well

(With inputs from Reuters)

as the letter of the law. Mr. Goyal also directed the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to immediately form a committee headed by an Additional Secretary in DPIIT, with representatives from the Department of Commerce, and ministries of MSME and Consumers Affairs, besides legal experts from the government, to hear grievances and provide clarifications on FDI in e-commerce.

The Minister reiterated that the government will ensure that small retailers and kirana shops thrive in the country," the Commerce Ministry said in a release.

(With inputs from Reuters)

DHFL partially defaults on CP repayment of ₹375 crore

Lender could pay only 40% on a 'proportionate basis'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Ltd. has partially defaulted in repaying its investors of commercial paper. The company could pay only 40% of the aggregate amount.

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DHFL further added that it was already in the process of selling down its loan assets, including wholesale project loans, to make good all its obligations and maintain its 100% commitment to all its creditors as it had done ever since the liquidity crisis started in September 2018.

IN BRIEF



Anish N. Nanavaty appointed as RCom's RP

MUMBAI Reliance Communications (RCom) has informed that Mumbai bench of the NCLT has approved the appointment of Anish N. Nanavaty as the resolution professional (RP) of the company with immediate effect. "The NCLT, in its hearing dated June 21, pronounced the approval for the appointment of Anish N. Nanavaty as the RP of the Corporate Debtor with immediate effect," RCom said in a filing to exchanges.

LIC trims stake in Asian Paints by 2%

NEW DELHI Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has sold more than 1.92 crore shares through open market transaction. With the sale of these shares, stake of LIC in Asian Paints has now come down to 3% from 5% earlier, as per a regulatory filing by the insurer. The total sale value could not be ascertained as the insurer sold the shares over a period of time between January 9-June 24, 2019. PTI

DRL unveils generic drug for cystic fibrosis in U.S.
HYDERABAD Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) said it had launched in the U.S. Tobramycin Inhalation Solution USP, a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Tobi (tobramycin) Inhalation Solution. Indicated for the management of cystic fibrosis, Tobi brand and generic had U.S. sales of around \$97 million moving annual total (MAT) for the 12 months ended April 2019, Dr. Reddy's said.

Dhanuka plan for Orchid gets NCLT nod

Creditors expected to get ₹1,116 crore, including a resolution plan value of ₹610 crore

K.T. JAGANNATHAN
SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR
CHENNAI

The Chennai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the ₹610 crore resolution plan submitted by Dhanuka Laboratories for city-based debt-ridden Orchid Pharma.

While clearing the plan, the NCLT also rejected the application filed by Accord Life Spec Pvt. Ltd.

Accord Life Spec is a part of the ₹1,700-crore Accord group, established by DMK MP S. Jagathrakshan.

Accord indicated that it was ready to revise its proposal to ₹615 crore, given an opportunity. With the NCLT clearing the decks for Dhanuka, creditors are expected to get ₹1,116 crore, including resolution plan value of ₹610



Insolvency proceedings were ordered against the pharma firm in a case filed by Lakshmi Vilas Bank. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

crore, cash in the balance sheet (around ₹330 crore) and fixed deposit money with SBI (₹84 crore). It may be noted that U.S.-based Ingen Capital LLP quoted ₹1,490 crore in the first attempt of the insolvency process. The plan, however, came a cropper when the

U.S. firm failed to make the committed upfront payment. Ingen Capital's resolution plan was approved by the NCLT on September 17, 2018.

As per the approved resolution plan, Ingen Capital was expected to deposit ₹1,000 crore upfront to the

financial creditors. However, Ingen sought more information, which was not allowed by the resolution professional. The Dhanuka plan was earlier caught in an unusual conundrum when Punjab National Bank (International) Ltd., a member of the CoC (committee of creditors), sought a change in their e-voting to "dissenting" after the resolution was voted in favour by the CoC with 67.07% voting share.

Voting percentage

Once this change is considered, the voting for the Resolution Plan would be 65.53% (the required percentage of voting, however is 66%). Following legal advice, the resolution professional chose to file Dhanuka's plan with the NCLT and sought

guidance with regard to accepting the change in stand by Punjab National Bank (International) and on the treatment of voting percentage.

Besides Gurgaon-based Dhanuka and Chennai-based Accord, Hyderabad-based Covalent Laboratories too was in the fray for Orchid.

Dhanuka is a prominent manufacturer and exporter of oral cephalosporin APIs. Covalent is also specialised in manufacturing cephalosporins and its intermediates.

In August 2017, the NCLT ordered insolvency proceedings against Orchid in a case filed by Lakshmi Vilas Bank. The company reportedly owed ₹3,200 crore to a consortium of 24 banks.

Orchid figured in the second list of RBI that had the names of 28 large defaulters.

Impresario to raise \$50 million to ramp up restaurant business

To source funds from LCatterton Asia

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Mumbai-based Impresario Entertainment & Hospitality Pvt., which owns and runs a bouquet of fine-dining restaurants, cafe and lounge brands such as Social, Smoke House Deli, Salt Water Café, Mocha and Flea Bazaar Café, is raising a fresh investment of \$50 million to fuel its market expansion activities.



Riyaaz Amlani special in many ways. They are more attentive, focussed and come with a natural smile, a critical prerequisite for hospitality," Mr. Amlani added. Other Impresario brands that are going for expansion include: Smoke House Deli, Salt Water Café, Mocha, Slink & Bardot, Flea Bazaar Café and Prithvi Café.

According to Mr. Amlani, Impresario is looking at opening 35 outlets of Flea Bazaar Cafes. Bengaluru alone will have four of them. These are curated food courts that serve local, authentic cuisine such as Naga, Chettinadu, Andhra or Mangalore. Impresario is currently in the process of creating a bunch of home delivery brands to compete with existing players such as Swiggy, Zomato, Uber Eats, Foodpanda, FreshMenu, JustEat, Faaso's etc.

"There's also something called the late-entry advantage. If our customers are reaching us at our outlets, we should also reach them in their homes. We are planning exclusive home delivery brands for South Indian, North Indian, Chinese, European and ethnic-food specialities," Mr. Amlani added.

Impresario has a revenue mandate of ₹1,000 crore by 2024.

FCA India launches Jeep Compass Trailhawk

The top variant is priced at ₹26.8 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

FCA India has launched nationwide sales of its Made-in-India Jeep Compass Trailhawk all-wheel drive sport utility vehicle (SUV).

Trailhawk, the topmost variant of Jeep Compass, is priced at ₹26.8 lakh, and would be available at all 82 FCA retail touch points across the country.

Off-road capabilities

The Jeep Compass range begins at ₹15.6 lakh (all-India).

The vehicle is loaded with off-road capabilities. With higher ground clearance, the new series has 6% improvement in fuel efficiency and comes with a 9-speed automatic transmission BS-

VI turbodiesel engine.

Kevin Flynn, president and managing director, FCA India said, "We are offering a lot more of the Jeep DNA in the Trailhawk which we believe Indian customers will appreciate and enjoy."

"Our trail-rated all-wheel drive SUV has all the core ingredients that a Jeep SUV should have," he added.

Visaka Industries on Tuesday said it would be setting up a plant to make non-asbestos, autoclaved fibre cement Vnext boards in Tamil Nadu with an investment of ₹100 crore.

While not mentioning the location in the State where the plant will come up, the company said the facility would take the capacity of its Vnext Division from 1.70 lakh tonnes to 2.20 lakh tonnes.

The plant will cater to the market demand for Vnext board in the southern region.

Visaka Industries now has plants for Vnext boards in Telangana, Maharashtra and Haryana.

Visaka to set up ₹100-crore plant in T.N.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Private equity firm TPG Capital and Piramal Enterprises Ltd. are looking to exit Shriram Capital Ltd., the latter said on Tuesday.

"Both PEL and TPG are evaluating the feasibility of selling their respective shareholding in SCL," Shriram Capital said in a statement.

Long-term strategy

The company said it understood that PEL's evaluation of exit from SCL was a part of its long-term strategy to fund growth of its financial services business, while TPG's evaluation of an exit from SCL was consistent with its investment review practices.

TPG, Piramal looking to exit Shriram Capital

PEL acquired 20% stake for ₹2,014 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

"If and when definitive documents for such a transaction are executed, appropriate disclosures will be made in accordance with applicable laws," it added.

Piramal had acquired 20% stake in Shriram Capital, the financial services arm of the Shriram Group, in 2014 for ₹2,014 crore.

Earlier this month, the company sold 9.96% stake in Shriram Transport Finance in a secondary market deal.

D.V. Ravi, managing director at Shriram Capital and a managing trustee for Shriram Ownership Trust (SOT), said Shriram Group enterprises would be managed and governed by the trust, going forward.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP



THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU
IN SCHOOL

SPECTRUM

The many-hued world of science for children

WRITTEN BY A.S. GANESH
ILLUSTRATED BY CHIDANAND SEKAR

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OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • JUNE 26, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Does your organisation have a 'preparedness' philosophy?

Corporates that are good at crisis management are always those that have a response planned much before disaster strikes

LIFFY THOMAS

In Chennai, water scarcity has led some software companies operating from the city's IT Corridor – better known as Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) – to ask a sizeable number of their employees to work from home, to deal with the crisis.

Amidst stories of such measures being taken to deal with the problem, there is a technology park that is reaping the benefits of an investment in a water management system that it made a year ago.

On Chennai's IT Corridor, RMZ Millenia Business Park with 26 companies and over 20,000 employees took the help of a consultant, Greenvironment India, to implement an IoT-based real-time water management system.

"This pilot project has been hugely successful and has helped us save water by 40%, there-

by enabling us to maintain and double the stocks," says Jiji Thomas, associate director, RMZ Corp.

The water saving they achieve is made possible by real-time alerts to check leaks and warning on abnormality in consumption. The system also warns of any deterioration in water quality and helps optimise the function of STP plants. From early March this year, the IT park started an

aggressive campaign, asking its tenants, which include IT and automobile companies, to reduce consumption.

"We would measure consumption by making an inspection, tower-wise, and would let each stakeholder know how much of water consumption should reduce, and ensure agreement on targets," says Thomas.

As part of the ongoing campaign, daily updates are sent to

the tenants and employees on how much water has been consumed and how much, saved. Microsoft's Hyderabad campus is also characterised by water-preparedness.

It has a slew of water-conservation initiatives in place, which include sensor-based taps, aerators for taps, and back-up water for contingency. An automated Centrifuge System treats 20,000 litres of waste water in an hour.

Corporates that promote a philosophy of preparedness at their offices are always better equipped to deal with such crises. Challenges can come in different forms. And so, the preparation has to be many-faceted.

During the Kerala floods, corporates that were able to muster employees for relief work were useful. During the traffic nightmare that Gurgaon witnessed in 2016, actions by some organisations demonstrated the need for preparedness and having a disaster management strategy well in place.

ManipalCigna Health Insurance has a 'Rain Advisory Committee' comprising em-

ployees from different functions and locations. This was formed after the Andheri bridge collapsed due to the heavy rains that hit Mumbai in July 2018. The Committee monitors weather, forewarns employees about inclement weather conditions, and offer recommendations to the senior management on what steps should be taken.

During the Kerala floods, ACC Cement, in addition to donating funds, had employee volunteers from its offices in Kochi, Bengaluru and other cities working to provide ground assistance.

Employees are the most important voices during a crisis," says Aditya Narayan Mishra, CEO, CIEL HR Services.

He says an organisation has to be proactive in taking the right steps and also in communicating the situation to the workforce. Employees can be the single biggest determinant in how fast and how well an organisation responds to a crisis, and recovers from it. "And, during a crisis, communication that comes from the top management is always more trusted and credible," says Mishra.



ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

TalentSprint to remove paywall on job preparation programmes

TalentSprint is making its online job preparation programmes free for all job-seekers from July 1. Earlier, its online job preparation programmes, which include 6000 videos, 2000 ebooks and 1,50,000 prac-

tice questions, came with a price tag.

According to a press release from TalentSprint, from July 1 all premium content would be offered free through its YouTube channels. All its videos, ebooks

and practice questions will be made available in a structured and phased manner.

TalentSprint's faculty will conduct periodic live classes on these channels to keep its audience informed about upcoming exams, prepara-

tion strategies, and latest question patterns, added the release.

The YouTube channels are titled TalentSprint Aptitude Prep and TalentSprint Coding Prep.

GENERAL

NURTURE THE FUTURE MINDS OF FARMING.

SRMIST's Faculty of Agricultural Sciences invites applications for the following positions:

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ASSISTANT PROFESSORS in Agroecology / Agronomy / Agricultural Microbiology / Biochemistry / Environmental Science / Crop Physiology / Genetics and Plant Breeding / Agricultural Entomology / Agricultural Microbiology / Plant Pathology / Agricultural Economics / Horticulture (Vegetable Breeding, Floriculture & Landscaping or Spice & Plantation Crops) / Food Science and Nutrition / Mathematics / English.

TUTORS in Agronomy / Biochemistry / Environmental Science / Genetics and Plant Breeding / Agricultural Microbiology / Horticulture / Physical education / Library / NSS.

• Salary as per the 7th Pay Commission under SRMIST norms after regularization of service.

• Eligibility criteria:

Professor / Associate Professor: visit the SRMIST career portal.

Assistant Professor: Ph.D. in concerned specializations from a reputed university with UG teaching experience.

Tutor: PG in concerned specializations with experience in handling UG practical classes in the concerned subjects.

For further details regarding salary structure, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc. candidates may see the detailed advertisement on AAICLAS website www.aaiclas-econ.org under "CAREER" section.

GENERAL

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हमीरपुर

हमीरपुर-177005 (हिमाचल प्रदेश), भारत

National Institute of Technology Hamirpur

Hamirpur-177005 (Himachal Pradesh), India

Advertisement No. Admn-03/2019, Dated -18/06/2019 Recruitment for the Post of Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Executive Engineer and Senior Scientific Officer

Applications are invited from the eligible Indian Nationals for the post of Registrar (01), Deputy Registrar (01), Executive Engineer (01) and Senior Scientific Officer (02). For further details, please visit the Institute website <http://www.nith.ac.in>. The last date for submission of application is 31st July, 2019 upto 05:30 P.M. **Sd/-**
REGISTRAR

कोलकाता पात्तन काल्पन

KOLKATA PORT TRUST KOLKATA DOCK SYSTEM

Kolkata Port Trust intends to fill up the post of Mooring Master under Marine Department in the scale of pay of Rs. 36,600 – 62,000/-, on deputation basis from amongst officers working in Govt./ PSUs or Autonomous Bodies. Duly filled-in applications of eligible applicants should reach Sr. P.O., Kolkata Port Trust, 15, Strand Road, Kolkata-700 001 on or before July 28, 2019. Incomplete applications received after the last date, will not be accepted. For details kindly visit KoPT's website at www.kolkataporttrust.gov.in

AAI CARGO LOGISTICS & ALLIED SERVICES COMPANY LTD.

(An AAI Subsidiary), CIN : U74990DL2016GOI034348

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF SECURITY SCREENER ON FIXED TERM CONTRACT BASIS

Walk-in-interview for the post of Security Screener on Fixed Term Contract Basis is scheduled to be held at Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Calicut and Chennai Airport as per the following schedule.

Station	Date & Time	Venue
Kolkata	28.06.2019 10.00 AM	AAI Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company Limited, Cargo Complex, 2 nd Floor, Near Airport Gate No. 3, NSCBI Airport, Kolkata-700052
Ahmedabad	30.06.2019 10.00 AM	ATS Training Cell, Gr. Floor, Terminal-4, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad-380003
Calicut	05.07.2019 10.00 AM	Nalanda (Training Hall), Administrative Office, Airports Authority of India, Calicut Airport, Calicut-673647
Chennai	07.07.2019 10.00 AM	AAI Cargo Logistics and Integrated Air Cargo Company Limited, Integrated Air Cargo Complex, Meenabakkam, Chennai Airport, Chennai 600027

For further details regarding salary structure, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc. candidates may see the detailed advertisement on AAICLAS website www.aaiclas-econ.org under "CAREER" section.

N-13/2019-20

INTERVIEW

If you think "YOU CAN BE A LEADER". Come & grow with us

SUPER MANKIND

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STATE HEAD : TAMILNADU

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Learn about job trends in supply chain management

A van that is travelling across India offers information about opportunities in the field



PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Safeduce, a training, skilling and consulting firm that specialises in supply-chain management and logistics, has launched a 'Car-O-Job' campaign, which has a van travelling across India.

Wherever this van stops, students can browse 'Safe Job portal', the in-house job portal of the company, to find relevant job opportunities and get experience of warehouse operations, through VR technology, said a release.

Equipped with high-tech virtual reality (VR) technology, the van will have stops at Agra, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, Jaipur, Kochi, Lucknow, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Pune, Ranchi, Bhopal, Raipur and Coimbatore.

The campaign is aimed at educating the youth, especially those in the 20 to 26 age group, about jobs in supply chain management and logistics.

Equipped with high-tech virtual reality (VR) technology, the van will have stops at Agra, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, Jaipur, Kochi, Lucknow, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Pune, Ranchi, Bhopal, Raipur and Coimbatore.

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For details, visit www.safeduce.com

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26.06.2019

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Design talk
(Clockwise from extreme left) The stained glass elephant at the Masti in Dubai; photo of the Royal Enfield showroom in Saket; Asha Sairam and Pankhuri Goel
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Branded in India

Two Delhi-based designers who recently won at the *Perspective* 40 Under 40 Awards in Hong Kong, talk about why India is uniquely positioned to provide interior design solutions globally

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Last month, *Perspective*, the architecture and design magazine honoured two Delhi-based design principals in its 13th annual 40-under-40 awards. Pankhuri Goel, 35, and Asha Sairam, 31, from Studio Lotus, won in the interior design category at the awards that recognise talent from Asia. Over their decade with Lotus, their career trajectories have seen a gradual rise: Asha started as an intern while studying communication design at the National Institute of Fashion Technology; Pankhuri was a junior principal, three years after graduating with a degree in exhibition design from the National Institute of Design.

Back from Hong Kong, the duo talks about how India is well-placed to cater to interior design globally, and how their experience with Lotus has shaped their unique way of working with client briefs.

Edited excerpts.

Has either of you built a niche in the interior design space?

Pankhuri: That's something we've consciously not done. It just so happened that I've done more retail and adaptive reuse, and Asha has done F&B and hospitality. We tried to create that distinction at some point, but what's really exciting for us, and the teams that work with us, is the fact that we're constantly doing something new.

What's new about your approach as designers?

Pankhuri: What we try to do is really engage, question, and poke holes in the client's brief. We find that doing that produces results far richer than what we create on our own with their concept note.

You've both dealt with big brands, in terms of name and scale. Were you able to keep this up with them too?

Pankhuri: We've been lucky with clients who are deeply involved. I've been working with Royal Enfield for 6-7 years now, but it started when they were going through a complete overhaul in branding.

They wanted a deeper connect with the youth, so they came to us for more than just a design of their retail space. They wanted us to be partners through the branding change, which manifested in their flagship store (in Saket).

The story that we came up with was that this isn't about just the motorcycle, but the experience of motorcycling. It was a little shift but we created a whole story of a man so passionate about motorcycles and motorcycling that he starts living in his garage. Everything we did in the retail experience, was governed by this story: what is the kind of furniture he will have in his garage, what are the artworks he'd have up?

Royal Enfield has now rolled out some 500 odd stores with the same retail identity across the world, as they're expanding.

I think these projects become rich because of the stories we manage to tell. Currently, we're doing a campus for Royal Enfield in Chennai. The architecture, the interiors, everything.

Will the work you saw at the *Perspective* Awards influence your practice going forward?

Pankhuri: I personally wasn't very overwhelmed by what we saw

Asha, you've remotely designed for Masti in Dubai, from Delhi. How were you able to transfer the 'Indian' identity?

Asha: Masti was one of our first international projects. [After a lot of thought] we took the most obvious Indian metaphors celebrated it. Like a stained-glass elephant at the bar. What we realised is that in the West, when you're doing restaurants, you'd choose furniture from catalogues of brands that already exist. But doing it from India, Masti became a great opportunity to collaborate with many people. Like, we roped in Ayush Kasliwal, a designer in Jaipur who works with craftsmen, so he made all the decorative lights here.

Pankhuri: Now, in most of the international projects, we actually manufacture most things here and ship them.

What would like to see more now from the design industry in India?

Asha: More soul, more stories, more craft, more narratives. Specifically the F&B market in India is so under-evolved. Can a restaurant be other things? You can't keep slotting into one purpose spaces any more, because people no longer use spaces in that way. The idea is to question how we can expand the definition of a space and its use.

Pankhuri: And only then do you actually influence people and lifestyles. That's what our game is really about.

there. I think what we do would be at par, and in some ways probably richer due to the access to craft in India. But also people are experimenting a lot. At Lotus, we're always saying things should be timeless, so I think that's something that changed for me. The F&B space is so fast-moving that you can do something really experimental.

Also, being in Hong Kong city – there's so much happening in the area of adaptive reuse, because it's such a congested city. They're trying to use every structure and create a new purpose for it. In India, we just let things lie as they are instead of just using spaces. That I think, was the big learning.

What would like to see more now from the design industry in India?

Asha: More soul, more stories, more craft, more narratives. Specifically the F&B market in India is so under-evolved. Can a restaurant be other things? You can't keep slotting into one purpose spaces any more, because people no longer use spaces in that way. The idea is to question how we can expand the definition of a space and its use.

Pankhuri: And only then do you actually influence people and lifestyles. That's what our game is really about.

PEOPLE

Smile, with this Delhi band

Basking in the glowing reviews for their latest album, Play it by Ear is performing live



The first few chords of *Smile*, and the vocals that follow, transport you to a time when music was defined by melody. You wait as the song unfolds, and what comes after the tempo picks up is an easy-on-the-ear composition. It's the fourth song on *Press Play*, Delhi-based band Play It By Ear's second album, released online (iTunes, Saavn, and Amazon) a couple of months ago.

The band has four members in its current form – Martin Chauhan, 36, on lead vocals and rhythm guitar; Samir Krishnamurti, 35, on lead guitar and harmonica; Tushar Pandey, 33, on bass; and Sarthak Bhayana, 25, on the drums. But when they started off in 2014, Play It By Ear was an acoustic duo with only Martin and Samir. They went professional after winning the Songdew Renault Free Music Award in 2015. Tushar and Sarthak joined soon after.

Their music is a style of acoustic-driven rock, blending heart-warming riffs with introspective lyrics. This has received critical acclaim. In 2016, for instance, *Everyone* and *Waiting on the Sky*, two songs from their earlier 10-track album, *Flicker Flicker Flash*, won a contest organised by the famed Abbey Roads Studio in London. Their reward was a re-mastering deal for the two numbers.

While most of their listeners are online, they find that a few places in Delhi too promote their kind of music. "Piano Man genuinely encourages original music," Martin says. The band played to an encore here, a few weeks ago.

Martin's forever favourites are '50s and '60s folk-rock duo Simon and Garfunkel. Samir is inspired by the indie music wave of the 1990s and 2000s. The two are self-taught musicians, while Tushar has trained in Hindustani classical music since he was six, transitioning into playing grunge only in college. Sarthak, on the other hand, is a Trinity College London graduate, who studied rock and is now exploring jazz. Collectively though, the band's interests span Sufi, metal, indie rock, grunge, and blues.

"We like to improvise and play around with musical styles. So when we play, we play by the ear," says Samir. And so, their name. "It is an eclectic mix. Although our listening styles are different, all of us want to make original music. That keeps us together," says Martin.

Watch them live on June 27th, at the Piano Man, 32nd Milestone, Gurugram; 8:30 p.m. onwards

SYED FARIDA

PLACES

Aboard platform 9 3/4



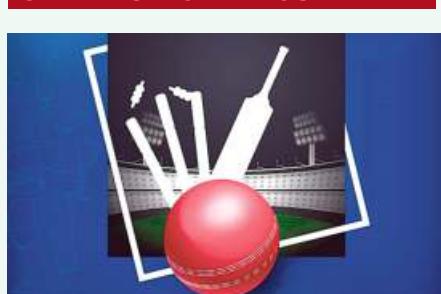
The recently opened Hogwarts Kafe in Ashok Vihar tries to teleport us right to J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter universe. Even at the entrance, the cafe brings the 'chamber of secrets' to life, with the main door modeled so. The décor of the café has a Sorting Hat, wizard's broomsticks, the Hogwarts school robe and cloak, and also dementors, the prizon guards from Azkaban, in various corners. On the café's walls are printed pictures from the Harry Potter movies, and the area is divided into the four houses of Slytherin, Hufflepuff, Gryffindor, and Ravenclaw. As for the food, there's spider web nachos, snitch ball keema, and more – all reminiscent of the many elements from the school of witchcraft and wizardry. For a true Potterfan, the cold butterbeer (non-alcoholic), is highly recommended especially given this 40° heat.

Price for two, ₹1,000; Closest metro station: Rohini West

SONAKSHI GOEL

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CRICKET

World Cup live
This World Cup, cricket lovers can get a front row experience of watching the match live while enjoying Veg. Bhel Puri, Veg Nacho, Vegan Chilli Teriyaki (grills), Broccoli Zucchini Bell Pepper satay, Masala French Fries. Non veg options include Chicken Lollipop, Murgh Kasturi satay, Chicken wings and Jasper Pizza.

VENUE: NOI @The Chanakya, Chanakyapuri

TIME: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.



FOOD

Coastal cuisine

Zambar brings a new menu inspired by the food of rich South India. Relish Andhra Fish Curry and Nadan Curry. The dishes can be best enjoyed with lemon, tomato and coconut flavored rice, biryani and flaky Malabar Parotta. Kids can try dishes named after Tom & Jerry, Chota Bheem.

VENUE: Zambar, 3rd Floor, Ambience Mall, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon-11.30 p.m.



MUSIC

R D Burman tribute night

Vocalist, composer, and keyboard player Vinayak Gupta will do a live rendition of Burman's iconic songs. Having a versatile musical background, Vinayak has performed in venues across Switzerland, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Macau, Bali and has had two successful US tours.

VENUE: Saints N Sinners, GF-21 Global Foyer, Golf Course Road, Sector 43, Gurugram

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



F&B

Dishes with a twist

Inferno is offering a special 99 menu which is a modern take on food, drinks, and music. Apart from a wide array of dishes like the Palak Patta Chat, Bulgarian Cheese Sticks, Biryani Arancini Balls, Chicken 65, and Herb Crusted Chicken, visitors can try cocktails like the classic Cosmopolitan and Whiskey Sour.

VENUE: Plot 6 and 7, Sector 29 Gurgaon,

TIME: 12 noon - 12 a.m.



BEVERAGES

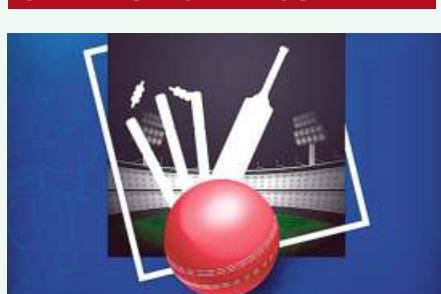
Summer cocktail fiesta

To keep summer blues at bay, Pier 38, an Indo Arabic Kitchen & Cocktail Bar, is offering innovative cocktails like Tipsy Watermelon, Coco Bae, Hawana Dreams, Blushing Lady. Presented in shells of fresh fruits like watermelon, pineapple and coconut, these drinks have been prepared to make visitors feel refreshed.

VENUE: Cyber Hub, DLF Cyber City, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon - 12 a.m.

CMYK



CRICKET

This World Cup, cricket lovers can get a front row experience of watching the match live while enjoying Veg. Bhel Puri, Veg Nacho, Vegan Chilli Teriyaki (grills), Broccoli Zucchini Bell Pepper satay, Masala French Fries. Non veg options include Chicken Lollipop, Murgh Kasturi satay, Chicken wings and Jasper Pizza.

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'Stories of the human spirit connect with me'

In a quick interview, Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone reveals why she prefers to do films that speak to her

PRADEEP KUMAR

A race against time. It is ironic that this metaphor should describe my conversation with Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone, considering that the Swiss watchmaker Tissot, for whom the actor is a brand ambassador, has set it up. As I walk up to greet her, I could imagine a virtual stopwatch counting down the precious seconds spent not conversing, but Deepika, 33, smiles, and assures that we'll have a "more detailed conversation" another time.

The actor, who is married to Bollywood star Ranveer Singh, has not had a starring role in an Indian film since *Padmaavat* (which featured the couple) in January 2018. The dry run is likely to continue through

2019, as Deepika's next film *Chhapaak* (which refers to a splashing sound in Hindi), inspired from the real life story of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal, is only scheduled for release on January 10, 2020.

The X factor

Ask her about playing the role of Malti in *Chhapaak*, and Deepika prefers to play coy. She says, "It is obviously a story of the human spirit, and that is what drew me to the film. There are lots of inspiring stories that one experiences or comes across – in human interactions or in the form of scripts. Sometimes, some of these stories speak to you slightly more than the others. [*Chhapaak*] was that for me," she says, adding that Meghna Gulzar, the film's director, had

to narrate only a "couple of scenes" to her before she felt an "instant sort of connect" with the story.

But for Meghna, *Chhapaak* wouldn't have happened for the actor. "I was not in the head space, honestly, at that point to do a film like *Chhapaak*. I was looking for a love story but I still gave it a shot, and she (Meghna) came and narrated it. I surprised myself, and I actually ended up doing something completely different," adds Deepika.

A few days ago, the actor took to Instagram to announce that filming for *Chhapaak*, which she is also producing, was complete. "It has been a very involved process. Because when you're an actor and a producer, I think you're a little more invested and involved

creatively. You feel that you're contributing a lot more to the film beyond just being an actor. I hope January [2020] comes soon," she says.

She is also part of 83, the Kabir Khan film about Kapil's Devils, the moniker given to the victorious 1983 cricket world cup winning Indian team.

Deepika, who is set to play the role of Romi Bhatia, wife to Dev's character played by Ranveer Singh, is also one co-producing the film. "Again it was the human spirit that drew me to the film. It's a story of human triumph, and of grit and determination," says Deepika.

She adds that she would apply the same metric to choose a project for digital streaming platforms, if one were to come her way. "It is about where I am in life at that point, both crea-

tively and emotionally," she says.

Voice of the voiceless

In 2015, Deepika chose to open up about her battle against depression, and has since then gone on to found The Live Love Laugh Foundation (TLLLF). Its primary work concerns the state of Karnataka with the focus on confronting the stigma surrounding mental health issues, and to spread awareness on the same.

As her how best to take the cause to rural India, where misinterpretation of mental health problems is still commonplace, she says, "Contrary to popular belief, rural India is way more open to the idea of seeking help, at least, from our experience. They are way more open to having a conversation

on the importance of mental health than what we've seen in urban India."

The actor believes that funding is what that has been lacking in this fight. "The minute you see money coming in... automatically you have doctors, psychiatrists and counsellors going into these [rural] areas

on a weekly basis, and meeting people for follow-up sessions." And that's the area where TLLLF is supporting Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), who are already engaged in this line of work. "The foundation has been clear on one thing. It is that we do a little, but impactful work," the actor says, adding that they're looking to expand their rural outreach programme in Karnataka.

At this point, I'm reminded that my time has run out. But I find a nano-second to squeeze in another question. Will we see Deepika Padukone in a south Indian film anytime soon? And she goes, "Sure!", only to be dealt with a follow up query – when? "Whenev-er," she smiles, and bids goodbye.

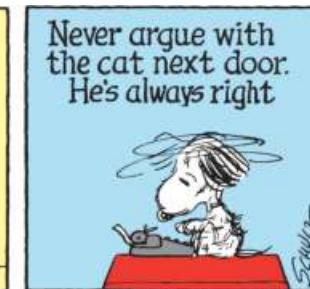


Beauty on the inside
Deepika Padukone at Cannes' red carpet; (right) in the first look of *Chhapaak*
■ GETTY IMAGES AND
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



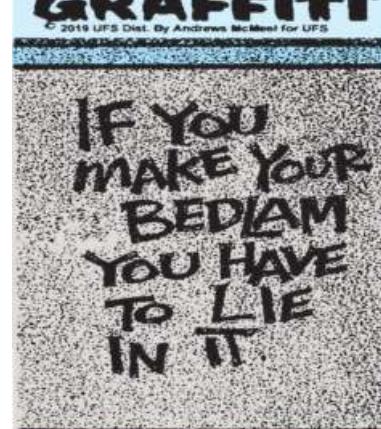
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



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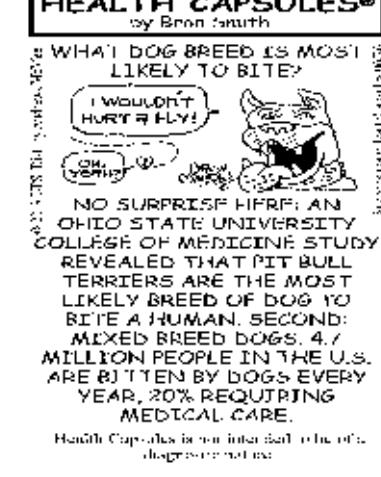
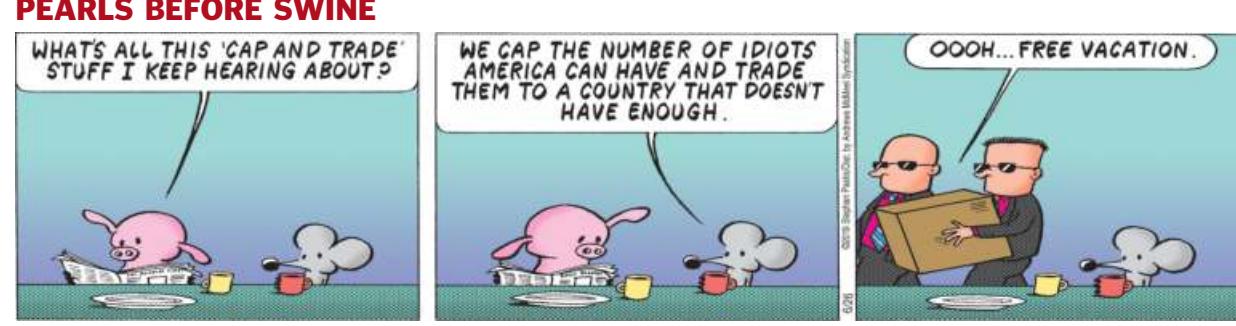
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planned (2,5)
3 Small units of time (12)
4 Hazardous (6)
6 Musical speed (5)
7 One employed to do odd jobs (8)
8 Percussion instrument (12)
12 Boldness (8)
15 Arrears of work (7)
16 Follow secretly (6)
18 Drunkard (5)
19 (Of sparkling wine) extremely dry (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated June 27, 2019.

Solution No. 13105

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Health Capsules is an internet comic strip.

- Across
1 Immense (8)
4 Restless desire (4)
9 Zirconium, for example (5)
10 Wise king of Israel (7)
11 Good enough (12)
13 Maintenance (6)
14 Desert-dwelling rodent (6)
17 Science of the properties of celestial bodies (12)
20 Hampered (7)
21 One who loaf about (5)
22 Tale (4)
23 Gloaming (8)
■ Down
1 Deciduous trees (4)
2 Proceeding as

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An epochal day remembered as the Windies clash beckons India

Rain hampers scheduled practice, but the forecast is promising ahead of Kohli's men's next assignment on Thursday



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
MANCHESTER

A historical day, steeped in awe and nostalgia, dawned to the accompaniment of rain at Manchester. Kapil Dev holding aloft the Prudential World Cup on June 25, 36 years ago at Lord's, has shimmied forever in the collective memory of all Indians. The remembrance gives a huge fillip to the good old days of a generation that grew up in the 1980s.

But there was nothing heartening from a sporting point of view here on Tuesday. The constant drizzle moistured red-bricked walls, tiled roofs, swaying trees, hurriedly opened umbrellas and, wretchedly for cricket, the turf at Old Trafford with its covered pitch, lush-green outfield and five pigeons looking for worms.

Optional indoor nets

Understandably, the Indian team cancelled its scheduled practice stint and instead opted for a round of optional nets at the indoor facility with its massive black and white picture of Wasim Ak-



Eye for perfection: Virat Kohli displayed twinkle-toes and finesse during an indoor nets session at Old Trafford on Tuesday. ■ AP

ram, who played for home county Lancashire, near the entrance. The Pakistani great is snapped up side-on in his final delivery stride, about to unleash aesthetic violence with the red cherry.

Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ravindra Jadeja and Vijay Shankar turned up and, among the support staff, Ravi

Shastri kept a sharp eye. The coach is the lone link that the Men in Blue have with Kapil's Devils. Shastri was part of the 1983 squad and played in five games. Incidentally, he

featured in the preliminary clash against the West Indies here at Old Trafford. His left-arm spin garnered three wickets and that, with a simi-

lar effort from seamer Roger Binny, helped India stun the defending champion by 34 runs.

In the thick of things

Since then, the Mumbaikar evolved over many summers, donned various roles, most of them linked to com-

mentary, and finally occupied the coach's chair.

Older and with a broader midriff and slower gait, Shastri remains very much in the thick of things. His gaze was

on Kohli as the Indian captain had an extended hit in the three nets – two bowling machines and one for



Ravi Shastri, with his 1983 World Cup medal. ■ ALL SPORT



England has reached the finals thrice but has never won an ODI World Cup.

road to recovery. The selectors, including chairman M.S.K. Prasad, Gagan Khoda and Jatin Paranjpe were present. Paranjpe manned the bowling machine when Jadeja kept hoisting with abandon, one such effort cannoned into the roof's mesh and forced the scribes, watching from their balcony tier, to instinctively duck.

Good news

Meanwhile, the wet weather outside was the kind that made the heart yearn for hot chocolate. Thankfully, there is some good news as the forecast for Thursday, when India takes on the West Indies, is sunny.

Much water has flowed down the Thames since Kapil's men defeated the mighty West Indies in an unforgettable final and, as India progresses in the World Cup's latest edition, form and fortunes have changed over the last three decades.

Kohli's men remain on the ascendant while the West Indies desperately needs a win to nourish its fragile hopes of staying alive in the championship. Time flies, things change.

throw-downs.

Shastri observed Kohli's shoulder-alignment while the batsman unfurled a volley of strokes. A straight drive, issued like a gun-shot, had everyone scrambling and yelling 'watch it'. Later, sweeps, paddle and conventional, were finessed and Kohli displayed twinkle-toes too while essaying lofted shots.

Interestingly, Bhuvneshwar, who is recovering from a hamstring strain, bowled briefly. The medium-pacer had missed last Saturday's game against Afghanistan at Southampton, and is on the

pitch to be the morning's theme as Shankar worked on his pull and hook while batting coach Sanjay Bangar stood close and with a racquet

Finch, Behrendorff-Starc duo put Australia in semifinals

After the skipper's century propels the side to 285, the left-armers shoot out England for 221

SHAYAN ACHARYA
LONDON

England's hopes of making it to the World Cup semifinals received a jolt as it suffered a 64-run loss to Australia at Lord's on Tuesday.

Left-arm seamer Jason Behrendorff claimed five for 44 and Mitchell Starc four for 43 as the host lost the plot while chasing Australia's 285 for seven and was bundled out for 221.

Put in to bat, Aaron Finch's captain's knock of 100 off 116 deliveries – his second century of the tournament – to guide Australia to a competitive total.

In reply, England was reeling at 53 for four at one stage after its top-order failed to fire.

Though Ben Stokes (89) and Jos Buttler (25) forged a 71-run stand for the fifth wicket, the equation changed once Marcus Stoinis sent back the latter.

Stokes then built a 53-run alliance with Chris Woakes (26) before being castled by Mitchell Starc. After his exit, England's hopes died.

Earlier, on a cloudy morning, the Aussies got off to a solid start with Finch and David Warner (53) forging a 123-run opening partnership – their fifth 50-plus association in a row.

Moeen strikes

However, England applied the brakes through Moeen Ali who got Warner for 53.

Skipper Finch, who



In the zone: Finch found his range yet again. ■ AP



Yanked! Stokes is done in by a Starc special. ■ DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES

earned a reprieve on 15, went on to score his 15th ODI century off just 115 balls.

But he was dismissed by Jofra Archer off the next ball,

hitting straight to long-leg.

It was left to wicketkeeper Alex Carey, who smashed 38 off 27 balls, to take the defending champion to 285.

Next assignment

AUSTRALIA: June 29 vs New Zealand, Lord's, 6 p.m.

ENGLAND: June 30 vs India, Edgbaston, 3 p.m.

STAT SPHERE

1 Behrendorff returned a career-best 5/44 as he combined with Starc (4/43) to become the first left-arm pace opening pair to share nine wickets in an ODI

1 Finch is the first batsman to record two hundreds against England in the WC – he had scored 135 in Melbourne in 2015

6 Stoinis' run out is Australia's sixth, the most for a side in this WC

4 The Warner-Finch duo is the fourth to notch up three century partnerships in a WC:

■ Aravinda-Gurusinha (1996)

■ Gilchrist-Hayden (2007)

■ Dilshan-Sangakkara (2015)

■ Warner-Finch (2019)

15 Number of ODI centuries for Finch, the fourth quickest to achieve the feat

FEWEST INNINGS TO 15 TONS

■ 86: Amla

■ 106: Kohli

■ 108: Dhawan & Warner

■ 112: Finch

■ 126: Root

■ 143: Anwar

■ 144: Ganguly

44 Australia's lowest score after the first PowerPlay (10 overs) so far.

It has not lost a wicket in this period in six of the seven games

■ 55/0 vs Afg, Bristol

■ 48/4 vs WI, Nottingham

■ 48/0 vs Ind, Oval

■ 56/0 vs Pak, Taunton

■ 53/0 vs SL, Oval

■ 53/0 vs Ban, Nottingham

■ 44/0 vs Eng, Lord's

England has lost three of the four games when chasing in this WC (vs Pak, SL & Aus) while it was successful against WI

THE FACE-OFF
New Zealand vs Pakistan
EDGBASTON

HEAD TO HEAD

SARFARAZ

WILLIAMSON

Matches

NZ

Pak

Tied

NR

Overall

106

48

54

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We owe it to storytellers, writers: Kapil

Presenter/sports anchor Nikhil Naz releases his book *Miracle Men*

'83 MEMORIES

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

For most people present in the banquet hall of a city hotel on Tuesday afternoon, it was nostalgia time. Precisely 36 years after lifting the Prudential Cup, Kapil Dev was among those sharing some anecdotes connected with India's first World Cup triumph.

The occasion was the release of the book *Miracle Men* written by presenter/sports anchor Nikhil Naz. The function was attended, among others, by former cricketers and sports journalists from print and electronic media.

The famous catch

Asked about the famous catch he took to dismiss Vivian Richards in the final, Kapil underplayed the effort and said, "That's what we were told to do by our coaches – when running back, try to take the catch sideways."

"During those days, the fielding drills were not like what you see today. Today, it



Nostalgia: Kapil Dev shares interesting anecdotes connected with India's first World Cup triumph during the book launch. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

is far more intense and fielders are far more aware of what they need to do to get better."

Madan Lal, another key member of the victorious team, hailed Kapil's captain-

cy and denied having "snatched the ball from Kapil" to bowl the over that saw the dismissal of Richards.

"No one can snatch the ball away from a captain. Ir-

respective of seniority, Kapil was a quality all-rounder," said Madan Lal.

Kirti Azad, asked about the low-trajectory ball that dismissed Ian Botham in the semifinals, said, "I still don't know how I bowled that delivery. That ball simply shot through."

No comparison

The all-rounder described Kapil's catch and the epic knock of 175 against Zimbabwe as "without a parallel." He said, "comparisons are not always fair but Kapil's efforts remain beyond compare."

Naz touched upon the research behind the book and revealed, "While working on this book I discovered it was not true that the India-Zimbabwe match was not shown because BBC was on strike."

BBC gives it a miss

"The truth was, on that day (June 18) four matches were scheduled. The BBC chose to cover the England-Pakistan match and the one involving Australia and West Indies, thereby giving the other two matches – India-Zimbabwe

and New Zealand-Sri Lanka – a miss."

Kapil was quick to add, "I remember, no match was shown live that day. I think, two matches were recorded and showed later."

He praised Naz for putting it all together and expressed his admiration for storytellers, authors and writers, for bringing these stories to the next generation. "We sportspersons owe it to you"

Also present at the function was former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi, who was part of the selection committee that chose India's World Cup squad.

Bedi praised the cricketing acumen of selectors Kripal Singh and Hanuman Singh and acknowledged the immense contribution of Ambar Roy and Chandu Borse, the other two selectors.

"There was agreement on every member selected. We believed these boys could win. Each player gave his all and returned with the Cup that very few expected to come India's way," he concluded.

Cavani helps Uruguay top group

Meets Peru in quarterfinals; Japan and Ecuador eliminated



Firing it in: Edinson Cavani's perfectly-timed header against Chile gave Uruguay the bragging rights in Group C on Monday. ■ REUTERS

COPA AMERICA

REUTERS
RIO DE JANEIRO

A late header from Edinson Cavani gave Uruguay a 1-0 win over holder Chile on Monday which saw it snatch the top spot in Group C at its opponent's expense and set up a quarterfinal meeting with Peru.

The striker glanced Jonathan Rodriguez's cross into the net in the 82nd minute to break the deadlock in a finely balanced game played with a fierce competitive edge even though both teams had already sealed their place in the last eight.

Cavani had been sent off in Uruguay's 1-0 defeat to Chile in the 2015 quarterfinals and he and his team-

mates celebrated the goal as if it had just won them a trophy.

In Belo Horizonte, Japan and Ecuador were eliminated after their 1-1 draw gifted Paraguay a quarterfinal berth as one of the two best third-placed sides.

The results: Group C: Uruguay 1 (Cavani 82) bt Chile 0; Ecuador 1 (Mena 35) drew with Japan 1 (Nakajima 15).

India's recovery after the 2007 fiasco can be an inspiration



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Sport can be cruel. Yesterday's champions become today's no-hoppers, top teams sink below the level required to remain competitive. Younger players and fans know only failures, older ones

try to convince them of the power of the glory days.

West Indies might have just squeezed into the World Cup with a five-run win over Scotland, aided by an umpiring decision because there was no DRS in the qualifying tournament.

But they have a team capable of playing with the big boys on level terms. Individual successes didn't mesh well enough to carry them forward, however. Had they done well, made it to the final, it would have revived the game back home that's been struggling in recent years against official corruption, diminishing pool of players, administrative apathy and the drawing power of other sports.

Both West Indies and South Africa lost key players through injury, but their decline recently has been the other story of cricket. Rebuilding can be a long and troubling process; after this performance, older players are likely to call it a day (Chris Gayle said before the tournament that this would be his last), and younger players will wonder if they can handle the transition.

It is a fate that Pakistan and Sri Lanka face too, although in their cases, there is still a mathematical chance that they could qualify. A slim one, though.

When the focus is on the big boys, there is a perverse delight to be had (besides the regular pleasure) when a less fancied team shows the world they can play the game too.

This year – and not for the first time in a World Cup – it has been Bangladesh's turn to cause fancied teams periods of worry. They may not make it to the semifinals; too many things have to fall into place before that can happen.

A bit of perspective here. Nabi has been through worse than a yorker-rich over from Jasprit Bumrah. His father was kidnapped and held for ransom while his country was in turmoil.

At least one cricketer was killed by an American raid. Australian all-rounder Keith Miller put things in perspective

when he said, "Pressure? There's no pressure in cricket. Real pressure is when you are flying a Mosquito with a Messerschmitt up your a@#!" No doubt Nabi and his mates will have their own definition of 'pressure'. Cricket is unlikely to figure in it.

With some luck (and better catching) they could have added Australia to their list of scalps, along with South Africa and West Indies. David Warner, dropped on 10 went on to make 166, and Bangladesh's reply of 333 (chasing 381) moved the match into the realm of the might-have-beens. In Shakib Al Hasan, seemingly at his peak at the age of 32, Bangladesh have the potential player of the tournament, an all-rounder who has been carrying the team on his shoulders. Shakib's centuries against England and West Indies were followed by a five-wicket haul against Afghanistan; performances that haven't really got their due. Only Kapil Dev and Yuvraj in the years that India won have done this double before.

Slower wickets, fewer runs

Bangladesh have two matches left, against India and Pakistan, and although they beat India in the 2007 World Cup and Pakistan in 1999, the odds are not in their favour. But Afghanistan's performance against India would have given them cause for cheer. Slower wickets have ensured fewer runs and thus closer matches that have favoured the lesser teams.

The bottom three can take heart from India's recovery after their disastrous performance in 2007. India bowed out of that World Cup in some disarray, having failed to qualify for the knockout.

The picture of the senior players with shocked expressions, some of them weeping openly, made an impact on a disappointed nation. Yet in four years' time the team had been rebuilt and did well enough to win the World Cup. Sometimes defeat can force changes that lead to victory.

Italy's dream return continues

Beats China to make the quarters for first time since 1991



Opening salvo: Valentina Giacinti, No. 19, scores Italy's first goal with the Chinese goalkeeper out of position. ■ REUTERS

WOMEN'S WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MONTPELLIER

Italy reached the women's World Cup quarterfinals for the first time in nearly three decades after beating China 2-0 in Montpellier on Tues-

day.

A 15th-minute tap in from Valentina Giacinti and substitute Aurora Galli's fierce drive three minutes after the break saw Milena Bertolini's side see off a committed Chinese side and match its best run in the competition back in 1991.

The

Italians

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TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Arjun Maini returns to F2 for short stint

NEW DELHI
Young Indian racer Arjun Maini on Tuesday announced his return to the FIA Formula 2 grid for the upcoming rounds in Austria and Silverstone. Maini had switched to sports car racing this season after a forgettable F2 outing with Trident last year when constant car issues did not allow him to give his best. He eventually finished 16th in the championship with 24 points. The 21-year-old is in the middle of the 2019 European Le Mans Series but the dates of the two F2 rounds don't clash with his sports car racing commitments. PTI



Williams confirms Lowe's departure

LONDON
Williams chief technical officer Paddy Lowe will not return to the struggling Formula One team after his departure was confirmed on Tuesday. Lowe had been on a leave of absence since the week before the F1 season got underway after a series of production issues delayed the roll-out of the new FW42 for pre-season testing. That followed a bitterly disappointing 2018 season that saw Williams finish last in the constructors' championship. "After a period of careful reflection I have reached the decision that I will not return to work at Williams," said Lowe in a team statement. AFP



LOS ANGELES
Rising Canadian talent Bianca Andreescu will miss Wimbledon as she continues to recover from the shoulder injury that forced her out of the French Open, Tennis Canada said on Monday. Andreescu, who turned 19 on June 16, withdrew from the French Open after beating Marie Bouzkova in three sets in the first round, handing American Sofia Kenin a walkover into the third round. In March, Andreescu had toppled Angelique Kerber to become the first wild card to win the Indian Wells title. Ranked 60th going into Indian Wells, she rose to 24th and was ranked 25th on Monday. AFP



MADRID
Barcelona's French international defender Samuel Umtiti says he is happy at the club and is not looking to leave, rumours linking him with a move from Camp Nou notwithstanding. The 2018-19 campaign was a difficult one for Umtiti, despite winning La Liga with Barcelona and the 2018 FIFA World Cup with France. After an impressive first season after joining from Lyon, Umtiti struggled with an ankle injury which seriously affected his fitness and form, to such an extent that this summer has seen rumours that Barcelona is looking to sell him. IANS



Hail the champion: The triumphant Indian team with Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Minister offers all support to the women's hockey team

Skipper Rani Rampal says squad gained confidence from its Hiroshima show

BHRIGU BAGGA
NEW DELHI

The Minister of State of Youth Affairs & Sports, Kiren Rijiju, has extended all support to the women's hockey team as it prepares for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The team, which won the FIH Women's Series Finals in Hiroshima during the weekend, was felicitated on Tuesday.

"The Indian women's hockey team has played very well and made us proud. I

shall visit both the men and women's team and their coaches in Bengaluru to discuss what all they need for the qualification process," said Rijiju.

Skipper Rani Rampal said the squad had gained confidence from its performances in Hiroshima and would strive to build on it.

Unbeaten campaign

During its unbeaten campaign, India scored 29 goals and conceded four.

"Things have developed quite a bit and I want to lead by example, to inspire girls to come out and to raise the level of hockey in the country," she said.

In fact, striker Lalremisia mi showed exemplary spirit ahead of the semifinal against Chile.

In spite of learning of her father's demise, the Mizoram player went on to take the field to make her father proud.

Vice-captain and goal-

keeper Savita Punia said, "Our focus is to do our job."

But when we look at the social media and elsewhere and realise so many people are backing up, it feels good from the core."

Punia also lauded Dutch coach Sjoerd Marijne terming him "lucky" for the team.

"You can see it in his eyes, the intensity to win is the same. He makes us feel at home and we work as a family" she added.

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar continues to excel

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar continued to excel as he finished second behind Olympic medalist Gagan Narang, and topped the juniors in the 50-metre rifle prone event in the National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlaqabad, on Tuesday.

On a light day when there were no medals being contested in the 19th Kumar Suresh Singh Shooting championship, as the qualifi-

cation process was in full swing in women's air pistol and men's rapid fire pistol, it was a good outing for the elite shooters at the 50-metre range.

Tomar, who dominated the more challenging rifle 3-position event with a touch of assurance, shot 621.5, as Gagan pipped him by 0.4 point.

Cream of shooters

Subhankar Pramanick was third ahead of a clutch of good shooters like Akhil Sheoran (620.3), Swapnil Kusale (619.3), Sushil Ghale (619.2), Olympian Chain Singh

(618.6), Asian Games silver medallist Deepak Kumar (615.4) and Olympian Sanjeev Rajput (615.30) who incidentally had won the gold in the event a day earlier.

Meanwhile, it was big improvement from the junior gold winning effort of Tomar who had shot 616.3.

Exciting Wednesday

Action is expected to hot up in the 10-metre range on Wednesday, when the cream of women air pistol shooters like Abhidnya Patil, Annu Raj Singh, Chinki Yadav, Devanshi Rana, Esha Singh, Harshada Nithave, Harveen

Srao, Heena Sidhu, Mahima Turhi Agrawal, Maliaka Goel, Pushpanjali Rana, Rahi Saranobat, Shilpi Bisht, Shri Niwetha compete in the last batch for qualification, before the final for the top eight.

The men's rapid fire section will have the second stage, followed by the final.

The results:

Trials-5: 50m rifle prone: Men:

1. Gagan Narang 621.9; 2. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 621.5; 3. Subhankar Pramanick 620.6.

Juniors: 1. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 621.5; 2. Rishi Gireesh 616.8; 3. Fateh Singh Dhillon 615.7.

Nadal flags Wimbledon's seeding system

Says it is not in sync with the official world rankings

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Rafael Nadal has complained about Wimbledon's seeding system after the Spaniard was placed at number three, behind Roger Federer, for next week's Grand Slam in London.

The other three major tournaments all match their seeding to the official world rankings but Wimbledon uses its own formula to dictate the order, combining ranking points with form in grass-court competitions.

It means Nadal will be seeded three and Federer two at the All England Club this year, despite their positions being the reverse in the rankings list.

"Wimbledon is the only tournament of the year that does it like this," Nadal told Spanish television channel Movistar on Monday night.

"Obviously it would be better to be two than three but if they think I have to be three I will accept three and fight to win the matches I have to win."

"Having said that, the only thing that doesn't seem right about this issue is that it is only Wimbledon that does it. If they all did it, it would seem more correct."

"It's not only about my particular case. There have

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

The EME Sailing Association, in coordination with the Laser Class Association of India, has, for the first time, sought the services of a foreign coach to train 25 sailors across India at the Hussain Sagar Lake here, according to LCAI secretary Alok Kumar Yadav.

Target Olympics

Alok told *The Hindu* that the target was to produce medallists at the 2020 Tokyo and 2024 edition of the Olympics.

"The primary objective is to enhance performance levels of our sailors in this category and accordingly LCAI

came up with a programme under which Indian coaches will work in close coordination with foreign coach William Jack of Malta, who is now handling the camp in Hyderabad," he said.

"The plans also include training in international sailing conditions with quality equipment," Alok said.

"There will be at least three more training camps over the next few months across India," he said.

"The 12-day camp here will conclude on June 30 and this should also help the sailors make an assessment of their preparations for the EME Sailing Week commencing in the first week of July," he said.



■ CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES



Sailor Jack! William Jack of the Sail Coach Academy, Malta.

■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

Girish Koushik is India's 63rd GM

Says he's 'relieved to have achieved his goal'

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

Girish A. Koushik has taken the long road there but he has finally arrived at the destination of his dreams. Last week, the 22-year-old from Mysuru became India's 63rd Grandmaster at the 37th Balaton International Chess Festival in Hungary.

Girish had completed his second GM norm in Mallorca late in May, and the third in Budapest the following week. Only 11 Elo rating points separated him from the figure of 2500 (live), and he duly crossed the line in Balatonlelle.

"It's an amazing feeling," says Girish, who becomes Karnataka's third GM after MS Thej Kumar and GA Stanley. "I am relieved that I have achieved my goal." But the joy is tinged by a sense of what might have been.

Early in his career, as he amassed one title after another, completing his first GM norm as far back as 2011, Girish was identified as one of India's brightest young prospects.

But while expenses mounted steadily, financial support proved hard to come by. It was becoming too much of a burden. So



■ SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

tion, he would return in four weeks' time, the job done.

"Everyone expected that I would become Grandmaster much earlier," says Girish. "Up until 2011, I was possibly the top young player in the country; then I watched as many kids who were behind me became Grandmasters. But I have no regrets. Today, I have a job offer from a global tech firm and I am a Grandmaster. I have two careers; others don't."

As Girish contemplates his future, a career in chess again looms as an option. But going upwards from here will be a lot harder. A top coach would have to be a priority (his father, H.V. Arun Kumar, is the only coach Girish has worked with all his life), as would regular participation in major tournaments.

"With the right training, I'm convinced he can get to 2600 and maybe even higher," says Arun. "Seven years ago, we were at a crossroads and we had to abandon his chess dreams. Now, we are at another turning point in his life. If we can find sponsorship, our choice would still be chess. It is my hope." (With inputs from C.K. Muralidharan)

CAB announces probables

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Cricket Association of Bengal on Tuesday named 34 probables for the 2019-20 domestic season. The selected players will join a fitness training camp starting here from July 1.

The probables: Manoj Tiwary, Wridhiman Saha, Mohd. Shami, Ashoke Dinda, Sudip Chatterjee, Abhishek Raman, Koushik Ghosh, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Vivek Singh, Anustup Majumder, Writtick Chatterjee, Shreerat Goswami, Ayan Bhattacharjee, Aamir Gani, Pradipta Pramanik, Prayash Ray Barman, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ishan Porel, Mukesh Kumar, Sayan Ghosh, Amit Kuila, Ritwick Roy Chowdhury, Akash Deep, Raju Halder, Agniv Pan, Shreyan Chatterjee, Subham Chatterjee, Ramesh Prasad, Mithilesh Das, Sumit Mahanta, Nilkantha Das, Kanishk Seth, B. Amit and Rakiv Singh.

Dhindsa stays as CFI chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Parminder Singh Dhindsa has been unanimously re-elected as the president of the Cycling Federation of India (CFI).

Maninder Pal Singh and Pratap Jadhav have been elected as secretary general and treasurer respectively.

The newly-constituted management committee of CFI unanimously proposed to appoint outgoing secretary general Onkar Singh, who is also the secretary general of the Asian Cycling Confederation, as the Chairman of the CFI.

It also formed two commissions – Athletes Commission and the Women's Commission, headed by Arjuna Awardees Amar Singh and Minati Mohapatra respectively.

special invitation from the AIFF for the Executive Committee meeting to put forward its views on the league's future.

"We request you to grant us special invitation to the scheduled Executive Committee meeting on July 3rd, 2019 either collectively (all I-League club owners present) or individually, as the current champions of the I-League."

The club has also sought a resolution to the pending I-League prize winner's money as reported by *Sportstar*.

Good day for India

ASIAN U-12 TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
DHAKA

Indian boys overwhelmed Bhutan and Bangladesh, dropping a solitary game in six matches in the ITF Asian under-12 tennis tournament here.

Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the other teams in the competition, which is South Asian regional qualifying event.

The Indian girls team had a more competent opponent in Sri Lanka but pulled through for a 3-0 victory, thanks to the fine efforts of Ika Raju Kanumuri, Riya

and Samiksha Damas at Harabage and Arushi Charu.

Good day for India

■ Sachdeva and Samiksha Damas.

The results (league): Boys: India bt Bhutan 3-0 (Manas Dhamme bt Wangchuk Yozer Dorji 6-0, 6-0; Arnav Paparkar bt Tsering Tashi Nima 6-0, 6-0; Rethin Pranav Deb 4-2; Anuska Dutta bt Srushti Haleangadi 4-2; Anusha Kutumbale bt Garima Goyal 4-1; Nikhat Banu bt Kushi Viswanath 4-1; Moumita Dutta bt Rupsa Bhattacharya 4-1; Tanushree Das bt Ananya Basak 4-3).

Girls: India bt Sri Lanka 3-0 (Ika Raju Kanumuri bt Harabage Shashinika Chandrasin 6-0, 6-4; Riya Sajdeva bt Ravi Rajakaruna Lewkebandara 6-1, 6-3; Riya & Samiksha Damas bt Harabage and Arushi Charu.

■ Thomase 6-2, 6-0, 6-0).

CCFC concerned over AIFF's move

FOOTBALL

SPORTS REPORT