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Nearly 80% turnout in parliamentary election in Maldives
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Harbhajan, du Plessis and Dhoni star in CSK's win over KXIP
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NEARBY



Problems, disinterest reign in Nagarkurnool

NAGARKURNool
Nagarkurnool Lok Sabha constituency presents a picture of disinterest among the electorate this time although only a couple of days are left for elections. Voters have mixed feelings towards both the ruling party and the Opposition.

TELANGANA ▶ PAGE 4



MAGAZINE ▶ 32 PAGES (TABLOID)

CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGES 6 & 7

State-wise popularity trends point to a close election

Satisfaction levels with the Modi regime, though, have improved in the last year

LOKNITI TEAM

A total of 59% of the respondents in the CSDS-Lokniti-The Hindu-Tiranga TV-Dainik Bhaskar Pre-Poll Survey reported being satisfied with the Central government's performance, with 35% registering dissatisfaction. This 24 percentage point net satisfaction with the government marked a definite increase from its popularity numbers last year when the net satisfaction had dropped to zero (46% satisfied, 47% dissatisfied).

But when it came to the question of giving the government a second chance, the numbers were closer – 46% for doing so, and 36% against. A comparison with

Appraisal time

The survey finds that perception of both the State and Central governments will have a say in voter choice



59% of respondents were "satisfied" or "fully satisfied" with the NDA govt.'s performance, as opposed to 35% against it

46% want another chance to be given to the NDA govt., while 36% are against it

In 10 of the 19 States surveyed, respondents were more satisfied with the State govt.'s performance than that of the Centre. A higher proportion preferred to vote on the basis of both the State and Central govt.'s performance

the 2009 election is merited here. In May 2009, net satisfaction with the Manmohan Singh government was 43 points (64% were satisfied

and 21% dissatisfied). With that rating, the Congress and its allies won 262 seats, 10 short of majority. This suggests the 2019 election will

THE HINDU CSDS-LOKNITI Pre-poll Survey 2019

not be a cakewalk for the NDA government.

Satisfaction notwithstanding, voters are not happy with specific details of the government's performance. The assessment on corruption, price rise and job opportunities is not very positive. It would, therefore, be interesting to see whether voters rely more on their general sense of satisfaction or on a more nuanced sense on performance in key areas.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Prime Minister and Congress president make a pitch in Odisha and Uttarakhand
Congress policies will aggravate inflation: PM

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said inflation would accelerate if the Congress were to implement its policy proposals.

"The Congress has made preparations to snatch the entitlements of the tribals, the poor and the backwards," he said at a meeting in Sonepur, Odisha. "It also wants to implement a programme that will lead to a rise in inflation, cooking expenses, and [the prices of] cooking gas and other fuels," he said. "If the Congress succeeds in its bid, cheap rice and wheat will become expensive... Congress leaders say the middle class is selfish, for which the tax on it needs to be hiked. Will the country prosper by

NYAY will 'remonetise' the economy, says Rahul

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
HARDIWAR

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday reiterated his accusation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was partial to the country's richest industrialists and promised that his party would focus on the poorest sections through NYAY, a minimum income guarantee scheme.

At his third meeting in the Koraput-Balangir-Kalahandi region in the past 10 days, Mr. Modi said, "The Congress had the opportunity to narrow the rich-poor gap. But it divided society on caste lines and discriminated on development, leaving a big part of India that could not progress."

Mr. Gandhi also accused the Centre of providing large-scale benefits to busi-



Rahul Gandhi waving to the crowd in Hardiwari. ■ PTI

nessmen such as Anil Ambani, Mehul Choksi and Nirav Modi, while neglecting the poorest sections.

"If they can give money to the rich, we will give money to the poor," he said. "We will ensure payment of ₹2,000 per year to each family of the poorest section. In five years, we will provide ₹3,72,000," he said, explaining the NYAY scheme.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Kalyan, NITI Aayog chief must go: Chidambaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Saturday demanded the resignation of Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh and NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar following their indictment by the Election Commission for violating the model code of conduct.

"Kalyan Singh and NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman must resign immediately. After the indictment by the Election Commission, they have no right to remain in office," he tweeted.

He also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA). In a series of tweets, he said: "Mr. Modi must answer this question: Does he support enforced disappearance and sexual violence and torture? Why did he totally withdraw AFSPA from Tripura, Meghalaya and three districts of Arunachal Pradesh?"

"Mr. Modi is lying when he says the Congress will remove the immunity to the armed forces. The Congress manifesto says there will be no immunity only in cases of enforced disappearance, sexual violence or torture," Mr. Chidambaram tweeted.

This metro station is Taruni

Madhuranagar facility will be totally managed by women



The renamed metro station at Madhuranagar in Hyderabad. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

V. GEETANATH
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metro Rail's Ugadi gift to womenfolk of the city is to rename the Madhuranagar metro station between Ameerpet and HiTec City route of Corridor III (Nagole to HiTec City or the 'Blue Line') 'Taruni Madhuranagar' on Saturday.

"It will be a totally women-managed and women-centric station where shops catering to their needs and those of children are going to be established. It could, perhaps, be the first ever metro station anywhere in the world dedicated to women," said HMR managing director N.V.S. Reddy.

The MD said it was personally satisfying for him that the station was coming up in a beautiful manner and it was a step forward towards realising the broader vision of making Hyderabad Metro

an 'instrument of socio-economic change'.

Accessible to men too

While the station is accessible to men too, it will predominantly be developed into a hub of activities on the two-acre land around to promote gender equality and women empowerment. "We have lined up a lot many exciting programmes in the days ahead," said Mr. Reddy.

A women-centric exhibition is to be opened shortly and will be on show for 60 days. As a prelude, there is an online competition on women empowerment and gender equality.

Entries can be submitted on <https://hmrl.co.in>, with topics covering celebration of womanhood, girl's education, and varied roles of a woman as daughter, sister, wife etc.

Top women achievers in

various fields would be invited to deliver talks, and competitions for women and children would be held in painting, drawing, cooking, performing arts, rangoli, essays, elocution, music etc., said the MD.

Region-focus events of Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Northeast and so on would be held to reflect the multi-lingual character of the twin cities.

The proposed fair is to have 150 stalls with children's play area, amusement rides, food courts, parking for 100 cars and 1,000 bikes with fool-proof security and fire safety norms.

Entry will be free. For more queries, HMR Estate Manager Syed Abdul Majeed (7702800944) and general manager B. N. Rajeswar (8008456866) can be contacted.

Liquor seized in the run-up to LS election is just half of stock seized during 2018 Assembly election

K SHIVA SHANKER
HYDERABAD

Compared to the Assembly elections 2018 held in Telangana, Lok Sabha elections in the State seem to have lost the 'fizz'. While over five lakh litres of alcohol was seized by Telangana Prohibition and Excise Department in the run-up (September 1 to December 10) to the Assembly Elections, only half of it (2.56 lakh litres) was seized between March 1 and April 6.

The liquor seized includes beer, illegally distilled (ID) liquor, Indian made foreign liquor (IMFL) and toddy. During the election season last year, some contestants used all the known tricks to procure and distribute liquor to woo the voters. A case in point: a truckload (699 cas-

es) of IMFL was seized from a farm in Mahabubnagar in November. This alcohol was procured from Goa. In another case, 200 cases procured from Haryana were seized.

Sources in the department said that though they have been trying to gather information on illegally stored liquor meant for distribution to voters, they are finding only five to six cases of liquor dumps.

Officials who are part of the Excise Department's Task Force team said that

On the vigil

AMOUNT OF MONEY AND LIQUOR SEIZED BY POLICE AND EXCISE DEPARTMENTS FROM MARCH 1 TO APRIL 6

| ALCOHOL | MONEY |
|--|--|
| Liquor seized by the Excise department: 2,56,517 litres worth ₹ 3,02 crore | Cash seized by Police department: ₹ 23,54,19,793 |
| Liquor seized by Police department: 25,495.8 litres worth ₹ 82.44 lakh | Cash seized by Income Tax: ₹ 17,50,51,320 |

since they initiated action against people who were caught for the offences during the election season last year and vehicles used to smuggle liquor were seized too, those in the illegal business are careful not to indulge in the trade again.

"It has not been too long since they were caught. Those who had belt shops (illegal liquor sales points) and made ID liquor will be careful," said an official from the Task Force wing.

Principal Secretary and Commissioner of the Telan-

gan Prohibition and Excise Department Somesh Kumar said that while Model Code of Conduct was implemented for over three months before the Assembly elections, the time period is only a month before the Lok Sabha elections - 2019, which is one of the reasons only half of five lakh litres was seized. He said the worth of the five lakh litres seized during the three months was ₹10 crore, and the 2.56 litres seized this time is valued at ₹ 3.02 crore.

"We did not receive any major complaints that liquor is being used to lure voters. Besides, we took all measures," Mr. Somesh Kumar said.

Sources in the department who have been part of the teams which kept vigil during past many elections said that they will take extra precautions a few days prior to elections as there might be more attempts to woo voters by distributing liquor. Besides this, 787.8 kg of ganja, 325 grams of cocaine, and 575 grams of heroin were seized.

| HYDERABAD | |
|----------------------|---------|
| SUNDAY, APRIL 07 | Timings |
| RISE 06:20 SET 18:42 | |
| RISE 07:44 SET 20:29 | |
| MONDAY, APRIL 08 | |
| RISE 06:06 SET 18:30 | |
| RISE 08:10 SET 21:12 | |
| TUESDAY, APRIL 09 | |
| RISE 06:05 SET 18:31 | |
| RISE 08:54 SET 22:07 | |

Hyderabad Weather max min
Sangareddy 39 24
Warangal 39 24
Hyderabad City 39 24

Hyderabad City Today
39°C The sky is likely to remain partly cloudy over the district. Night is expected to be pleasant.

Hyderabad City Tomorrow
38°C The morning will be enjoyable. The sky is likely to remain partly cloudy. A pleasant night is expected.

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IN BRIEF

IPE interview today

HYDERABAD
The Institute of Public Enterprise will hold group discussions and personal interviews for entry into its PGDM programmes on April 7, at its campus in Osmania University. Students with CAT/ MAT/ XAT/ CMAT/ ATMA/ GMAT scores can visit www.ipeindia.org for online application. Details can be had on 1800-3000-4473 or 9319-32129.

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Woman delivers baby at bus stop

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A 28-year-old woman delivered a baby boy while waiting at L.B. Nagar bus stop on Saturday afternoon after her check-up at Gandhi Hospital.

GVK-EMRI 108 emergency medical technician, who reached the spot in about five-minutes, cut the umbilical cord, cleaned the baby, provided newborn care and took both mother and child to Govern-

ment Area Hospital, Vanasthalipuram.

Ch. Narendra Reddy, programme manager (Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy) of GVK-EMRI 108, said they received a call at around 1.05 p.m. about the delivery after which an ambulance was sent to the bus stop.

The woman, Mereamma, lives in Abdullapurpet mandal of Ranga Reddy district. Both mother and newborn are safe, said Mr. Reddy.

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Rain cools down

Hyderabad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The searing summer temperature dramatically came down in the city on Saturday when it rained lightly in the evening.

The temperature, which was hovering around 40 degrees C, dropped to 22 degrees after the showers, which began at around 3.30 p.m., and continued sporadically for an hour.

Many areas in the city, including Saifabad, Kukatpally, Khairatabad, Banjara Hills, Malakpet and Secunderabad received rainfall, informed GHMC sources.

Complaints of water stagnation and a tree fall were addressed by the emergency teams of the corporation.

HYDERABAD TODAY

GENERAL

Hindustani music concert: Swarna Dhara by Sapthak and Surmandal at Taj Mahal Hotel, Abids Road, at 5.30 p.m.

Hyderabad Christian Book Fair: aOM Book Shop, Logos Bhavan, Suchitra Junction, Secunderabad, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

DATED 07/04/2019

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* as on 06th April 2019

Kukatpally flyover thrown open

Expected to ease traffic flow towards HiTec City by 66%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The long-awaited flyover between Malaysian Township and JNTU, Kukatpally, was opened for vehicles on Saturday without much fanfare.

A formal inauguration could not take place for the flyover built under the Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP) due to the model code of conduct being in force in view of Lok Sabha polls, a statement from GHMC informed.

Reportedly under pres-



GHMC green-lit the flyover opening on Saturday following public pressure on social media. • BY ARRANGEMENT

sure from citizens through social media, GHMC gave green signal for opening of the structure, which is expected to ease the traffic flow between Kukatpally and HiTec City by 66%.

The 1.2-km flyover has been built with an expendi-

ture of ₹97.94 crore under Package IV of the SRDP. The six-lane bidirectional flyover is 20 metres wide, and has a vertical clearance of 5.5 metres.

Peak hour flow of traffic on this route was estimated to be 11,791 passenger car un-

its (PCUs) in 2015, which is projected to grow to 25,836 PCUs by 2035.

As per traffic survey, 66% of the peak hour traffic which enters the Rajiv Gandhi Statue junction comes from the JNTU arm towards HiTec City. Of this, 94% traffic goes straight towards HiTec City. Daily, close to 1.6 lakh vehicles are estimated to travel to and from HiTec City from areas such as Pragathi Nagar, Kukatpally and Nizampet.

The Package IV involves construction of multi-level flyovers, and grade separators at four junctions including Biodiversity junction, Mindspace junction, Ayyappa Society junction, and Rajiv Gandhi Statue junction, the statement said.

The Package IV involves

Techie jumps to death over dowry harassment

Complaint lodged against woman's husband, in-laws

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A 30-year-old techie leapt to her death after being subjected to harassment by her husband and in-laws, said KPHB police.

K. Meghna, an employee of Tata Consultancy Services, got married to the accused Kotaphalli Vinay Kumar (32) in February 2017.

Dowry during wedding

According to a statement given to the police by her father C. Panduranga Charaya, ₹10 lakh in cash and gold ornaments worth ₹10 lakh had been given to the groom's fa-

mily at the time of the wed-

ding. While the marital situa-

tion was peaceful for the

first six months, the wo-

man's in-laws allegedly be-

gan to coax her to divorce Vi-

nay Kumar. The harassment

continued for months.

Divorce notice

On Thursday, police said, Vi-

inay Kumar sent a divorce

notice to Meghna, leaving her disturbed.

The following day, she vi-

sited her in-laws at Bhavya's

Akhila Apartment in Hyder-

Nagar of KPHB Colony, but

when they turned her away, police

said. She then went to the

building's terrace and jumped off, added police.

Her body was moved to

Gandhi Hospital for post

mortem.

A case has been regis-

tered under sections 498-A

and 306 of the Indian Penal

Code.

Accused not in custody

So far, the accused has not

been taken into custody and

investigation is on.

(There is always someone

to listen at +914066202000

in case of any emotional

breakdown at this Hydera-

bad-based suicide interven-

tion centre, Roshni).

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A year of highs and lows

'Panchanga Sravanam' marks Ugadi celebrations at Ravindra Bharathi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The Telugu almanac or 'Panchangam' envisages bountiful year for the Telangana State, political decisions that favour women, and a place of pride for India in the fields of technology, medicine and education.

On the negative side, the 'Panchanga Sravanam', recital of the predictions for Telugu New Year, for the year named 'Vikari', organised by the Department of Culture on Saturday, predicted crisis in the banking sector and tumultuous share market.

The Ugadi celebrations marking the first day of the year at Ravindra Bharathi had Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi, Principal Secretary Parthasarathi and other officials during Ugadi celebrations in Hyderabad on Saturday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL



Vedic scholars from Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple of Yadadri blessing Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi, Principal Secretary Parthasarathi and other officials during Ugadi celebrations in Hyderabad on Saturday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

pared with neem flower, jaggery, tamarind and raw mango. One must accept and relish all the tastes with equanimity.

Baanchampalli Santhosh Kumar Shastri, who read out the almanac, predicted copious rain this year, but more often untimely. There would be showers in October, and the southwest monsoon would be delayed, hence farmers should sow their crop carefully. The year would be good for agriculture and manufacturing sectors, and interest on housing loans would come down. On the flip side, trade would see highs and lows, and higher education sector would witness scams.

Chronic ailments, natural

calamities, and price rise too were foretold, even while assurances were given that the State would tide over all the negative impacts through appropriate relief measures. Utmost caution should be exercised with respect to law and order, and there are indications of skirmishes with the neighbouring countries.

Heaping praise on the Telangana State, the priest said the 'king' (Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao) and his 'minister' (Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi) shared the same birth star and sign, which augurs well for the governance in the State.

Vedic scholars from the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple of Yadadri showered blessings on the Chief Secretary at the event, also attended by Principal Secretary C. Parthasarathi, senior IAS officer Adhar Sinha, Director of Culture Mamidi Harikrishna, and BC Commission Chairperson B.S. Ramulu.

VHR challenges Modi to conduct I-T raid on KCR's residence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Former MP and Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao alleged that the transfer of A.P. Chief Secretary C.S. Putta shows how the Election Commission of India (ECI) was directly under the influence of Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At a press conference

here, he said there were several complaints against the Telangana officials and also the Chief Electoral Officer for favouring the ruling party, but the ECI was not even bothered to respond. This shows how the TRS and the BJP were working together to subvert the systems to their advantage. "Haven't we lodged several complaints against some of our

officials who blatantly favoured the ruling party? Why does the ECI keep quiet?" he asked.

Mr. Rao said the transfer of a Chief Secretary by the ECI was unprecedented. He challenged Mr. Modi to conduct Income Tax searches at TS Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's residence to prove that the Central agencies were not being misused.

Child custody: 'each case should be decided on facts'

MARRI RAMU

HYDERABAD

It is hackneyed to say that the welfare of a child should be the foremost consideration while determining the issue as to which parent should have his/her custody.

Observing this, the Telangana High Court delivered a verdict permitting continuation of the interim custody of a child with his father. A Division Bench comprising Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan and Justice T. Amarnath Goud set aside the trial court's order dismissing the petition of the child's father to allow the child to be in his custody.

The Bench, however, noted that the issue of the minor's welfare should be considered vis-a-vis the background, relevant facts and circumstances of the case. Each case has to be decided on its own facts, the judges observed.

Better financial resources of either the mother or the father or how much they love the child are some of the relevant considerations. "It is here that a heavy duty is cast on the court to exercise its judicial discretion," the verdict said.

Khaja Raheemuddin, a private employee, had filed a petition in the family court seeking a direction to permit him to be the guardian of his 23-month-old son.

The trial court had dismissed his petition citing Allahabad HC verdict and Section 352 of Mohammedan Law.

While the Allahabad HC verdict said the father cannot compensate for the loss that the child would suffer

from being deprived of the motherly affection, Section 352 of the Mohammedan Law provided that the mother was entitled to the custody of her male child until he completes seven years of age. Challenging the trial court order, Mr. Raheemuddin moved the High Court.

Delivering the verdict, the Bench said the principles of law over the custody of a minor child are well-settled. "In fact, no statute on the subject can ignore, or obliterate the vital factor of the welfare of the minor," the verdict said.

The Bench, however, noted that the issue of the minor's welfare should be considered vis-a-vis the background, relevant facts and circumstances of the case. Each case has to be decided on its own facts, the judges observed.

A release on the launch of the four projects said Ramky Estates & Farms has delivered more than eight million sq. ft of residential and commercial projects.

Ramky launches luxury projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Ramky Estates & Farms, the real estate arm of Ramky Group, launched four luxurious projects, three of them in Hyderabad and one in Chennai.

Ramky One Galaxia-Phase 2 at Gachibowli is one of them. The G+14 floors spread across two blocks comprise 412 units of 2 and 3 BHK apartments ranging in size from 1,265 sq. ft to 1,665 sq. ft.

The other two projects in the city are The Huddle, which the company describes as city's first cluster villa community, and Greenview Apartments - both nested in Ramky Discovery City - comprising premium 2 and 3 BHK apartments.

Greenview Apartments at Shamshabad consists of 228 units of 2 and 3 BHK apartments whose sizes range from 980 sq. ft to 2,060 sq. ft. Spread across 9.98 acres, The Huddle comprises 125 villas ranging from 174 sq. yards to 402 sq. yds.

A release on the launch of the four projects said Ramky Estates & Farms has delivered more than eight million sq. ft of residential and commercial projects.

Man dies after falling into elevator shaft

STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD

A 26-year-old painter was found dead in an elevator shaft of an under construction building on Saturday.

Chandanagar police identified the victim as Mohammed Aleem. He was working at Gurija Marvel Apartments in the area with one Mohammed Ghous, a construction contractor.

The police said the victim

went missing on Tuesday. After investigation, they found him in the elevator shaft. They said he fell into it from the fourth floor.

The victim's body was taken to the Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem. A case under section 304-A of the Indian Penal Code has been booked against contractor Mohammed Ghous and builder Subba Rao for negligence.

Police bus hits pedestrian, biker

STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD

An allegedly rashly-driven police bus on Saturday hit a pedestrian before hitting a two-wheeler, injuring the former and damaging the motorcycle. According to police, at around 4.45 p.m., the 32-seater police bus hit Sirikonda Balraj, 62, a resident of Sri Shankar Colony at L.B. Nagar. The bus then hit Ringu Dheeraj, 23, a priv-

ate employee who was travelling on his motorcycle from Kamineni Crossroads to DVM College.

The pedestrian, Balraj, is said to have suffered serious injuries after which he was rushed to Kamineni Hospital at L.B. Nagar.

A case has been booked and investigation is on. The police would check whether the driver was in an intoxicated condition.

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Online Registration

Step 1: Register and pay for SLAT by **15th April, 2019 (Monday)**
Step 2: Register and pay for programme by **12th May, 2019 (Sunday)**

Online SLAT entrance test date
4th May, 2019 (Saturday, 9.30 am-12 noon)
For details, visit:
www.slls.edu.in and www.set-test.org

Dr. M. S. Shejul, Registrar, SIU

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(A Govt. of India Society) Ministry of MSME
Balanagar 'X' Roads, Hyderabad-500 037 (TS) INDIA.

Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD) an ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2004, 29990:2010 & 50001:2011 certified premier technical training institution of India, established in 1968; provides specialised training courses in Tool Design & Manufacturing, CAD, CAM, CAE, VLSI, Embedded Systems, Electronics, Mechatronics and Robotics at various levels such as Certificate, Diploma, Post Diploma, Post Graduate, M.E. and M.Tech.

ADMISSIONS FOR DIPLOMA COURSES - 2019

| S. No | Course Details | Eligibility for Admission | Age Limit | Duration of Study | Batch Strength |
|-------|---|--|---|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Diploma in Tool, Die & Mould Making (DTDM) | 10 th Pass with 50% for general & 45% for SC / ST | Minimum 15 years, Maximum 19 years as on 1 st April in the year of admission, Relaxation up to 5 years for SC/ST Candidates. | 4 Years | 60 |
| 2. | Diploma in Electronics & Communication Engineering (DECE) | 10 th Pass | 10 th Pass | 3 Years | 60 |
| 3. | Diploma in Automation & Robotics Engineering (DARE) | | | 3 Years | 60 |
| 4. | Diploma in Production Engineering (DPE) | | | 3 Years | 60 |

Mode of Application:
Application form can be downloaded from our website www.citdindia.org under the link "Diploma Admission-2019" and the filled-in application forms can be sent to **The Director (Trg.), Central Institute of Tool Design, Balanagar, Hyderabad-500 037**, along with prescribed application cost - 700/- for General, - 350/- for SC/ST category and for PWD candidates fully exempted by way of Demand Draft drawn in favor of Principal Director, CITD, Hyderabad or By Online at www.citdindia.org (detailed steps of online payment can be found from prospectus.)

However SC/ST/PWD category candidates need to enclose proof of their category duly attested by a Gazetted Officer;

Important Dates

- Availability of applications: 27-02-2019 (Wednesday)
- Last date for receipt of filled-in application: 27-04-2019 (Saturday)
- Last date for receipt of filled-in application with late fee of Rs.500/-: 02-05-2019 (Thursday)
- Date of Entrance exam (Tentative): 05-05-2019 (Sunday)
- Centre of Entrance Examination: Hyderabad.

Further details can be obtained from prospectus available on our website under the link "Diploma Admission-2019".

Contact Details: Admission Cell at Diploma Block, Ph. No. 040-2377 1959, Website www.citdindia.org, E-Mail admin@citdindia.org

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR

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F-HINDU MUDALIAR M-Christian Anglo-Indian Daughter Nov 1977/155, Well Settled National Citizen, Divorced No Issues, Looks Young, Fair Features seeks Educated, Cosmopolitan Groom, 36-45 years, willing to relocate to Melbourne, Ph:9841126601

SM4 KAYASTHA Dec 1980/ 5'7" MBA fair slim beautiful never married working MNC Bangalore CBN highly educated status family, Ph: 9827224439/ drmmshrivastava@gmail.com

SM4 KAYASTHA Nov 1979/ 5'1" MDS (endo), slim never married/ Ass't Prof. Pmt Medical College CBN highly educated status family, Ph: 9827224439/ drmmshrivastava@gmail.com

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DIVORCEE

NAMBIAR GIRL, Chennai, 32 yrs, 5.6", Divorcee, Fair, Seeking suitable partner, Contact: 9043758944.

Hindu, Tamil, BC, 34, US educated seeks alliance from well educated, broad minded grooms (age < 40). Send bhp to avhm2019@gmail.com

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✓ BEAUTIFUL SLIM fair Christian PG Doctor 32 yrs seeking Christian only Doctors Engineer Civil Services, Contact: 9840013426

SC, AD 38/160 Unmarried MD Dr Seeks Drs, MSMD/ Group 1 officer groom in around Chennai (CNB) 9566265949

SC AD 25/150 MBBS, Visakam, Thulam seeks Doctor / Group 1 Officer Groom Ct: 9942378474.

SCAD 33/155 Swathi Well (O)G Doctor Whealish seek Well Settled Groom Ct: 842957602/ 9487416757

SC, AD 25/ MBBS, Govt Job, Doctor, 72000 PM, Chennai Fair Seeks Groom 9962874383

NAIDU 25/MBBS (PG Doing), Own Hospital, V.Fair Girl, Rich Family Seeks Groom 996286165

NAIDU 25 /MBBS, Father having Own (Aluvera Factory) Etc, Well to do Family Fair Seeks Groom 9176049802

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SM4 JATAV girl, Ph/Physics, NET qualified Fair, hgt195/5'3", preferred Govt Officer/Professor/Engineers/Doctors. Contact: 08745287648

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KANNADA BRAHMINS, 24/162cm, Vaishnava, Jyesta (Kettai), MBBS seeks professionally qualified Groom, Ct: 8754077585/ 9443544601

MALAYALAM

RC CHRISTIAN 27/162 Chennai seek Educated Employed Kerala / Chennai Groom. Cast No Bar: 63295265

NAIR 36/160/MBA/FAIR Only Child, Own Independent House, Chennai, Visagam, seeks settled Groom. Con:9840093851 Email : ck_bkrish@hotmail.com

HINDU NAIR Doctor 28/165 doing DNB (Anesthesia-2yr), Chennai seeks Hindu Doctor Groom willing to settle in Chennai. Ct: 9841228827/ 9791031128 Email : sriyanthith@yahoo.com

32 yr Architect (Tech NIT) Viswakarma, cast no bar, Pururuttami, Sudhajithakan seeking alliance from open minded and educated professionals only. 944615704, 9495363050.

Nair Girl, 33, Magam, M.Sc, Sr.Exec, TCS Chennai seeks qualified Cpl. Parents at 9790989967/ 6381049306

Suitable alliances for a Nair girl, 31 yrs. Pooram, 167 cm, Advocate, upper middle class, from professionally qualified/employed boys below 36 yrs. 88916868, 9447501112

Nair Doctor girl 27/155 (Magam) fair, M.Sc GENL surgery at Govt Medical College, slim, medium complexion, Kollam. Both parents doctors, seeks suitable alliance from doctors having doing PG. Ph: 9447170258

HYD Based Nair Girl, 1982 Dec, Veg, Software Eng, Nair/Brahmin/Veg similar Working Groom -> 55338911, Email:- kanakumar21@gmail.com

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S.BAKYA BANU Msc.B.Ed Mphil Teacher Yadava(CasteNoBar), 26 yrs, 1982.8.35am, Dhanus, Moolam, 3rd Padam, Chennai, smthu245@gmail.com

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PUNJABI

SM for pb Arora Girl 5'2" / 04.12.83/ 04-05 AM/Saharanpur, B.Tech wrkg. In It Co, Blore Linc 25 + LPA. Mob: 9457229692, Casto no bar. Email:itwachawla19@gmail.com

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SINGAPOREAN PARENT seeks alliance for Daughter,25, Ayiliam employed, Karueegar-subsects from Grooms under,30,professionally qualified emplloyed in Singapore, Ct 9445936748 / jayassingh@ gmail.com

SCAD 24/160 BE 30k fair slim SWE IBM Blru Parents RTD well settled 8754466663

RC Kongu Velalar, Goundar 29/160 B.E. (ECE), MNC Bank, Bangalore. Seeks Groom from same or equal case. Email: Josephari_1@yahoo.in

RC NADAR 25/153, B.E., MNC 7.0 LPA, SEEKS RC KONGU B.E Good Job Groom Contact: 9841749202

✓ CSI-SC TWIN Sisters 26ys 161 CM Bsc (IT) S/W Developer / O/ UK/ Rich/ Seeks Groom from same or equal case. Email: Josephari_1@yahoo.in

SMART & FAIR 29/178 CA, CWA Educator/ Working Seeks Well Eamed Groom Chennai/ Abroad. 9176966096,

UDAYAN ANUSHAM 27/162 MBBS Doctor,Pvt/Hosp, chennai seek wellsed Groom. Mudalaiar, Ct: 944401908

CSI - Nadar / 29/ yrs 165 Cm/ Bsc (IT) S/W Developer / O/ UK/ Rich/ Seeks Groom / Age29-36 Any Profession/

Caste no bar/ Caste No Bar/ CT: 9840621365

CHRISTIAN 30 Slim Looks Young, M.E Ass't Professor Engg College, Chellai, Seeks Educated Groom

944001630

PENTECOSTAL - BC/ 25/ yrs 165CM Bsc/Doctor Very Rich Seeks Rich Groom/ Age25-33 Any profession/

Caste no bar/ Caste No Bar/ CT: 9840621365

SC-AD AVITAM Kumbam, 29/155 MBBS Working Chennai Seeks Doctor Groom/Pref.814884226/ 9848944840

SC-AD AVITAM Kumbam, 29/155 MBBS Doctor Very Rich Seeks Rich Groom/ Age25-33 Any profession/

Caste no bar/ Caste No Bar/ CT: 9840621365

SCAD 29/157 BE 25/ yrs 165 CM Bsc/Doctor Very Rich Seeks Rich Groom/ Age25-33 Any profession/

Caste no bar/ Caste No Bar/ CT: 9840621365

SCAD 29/157 BE 25/ yrs 165 CM Bsc/Doctor Very Rich Seeks Rich Groom/ Age25-33 Any profession/

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BRIDES WANTED**TELUGU**

KAMMA NAIDU 28/182 Moolam (No Dosham) fair SWF Chicago, USA I-140 approx (Green card Status) seeks Bride SWE Field, 720028163/ 7550154492 8144930619/ 8125611692.

BALIJANNAIDU 29/170 Chartered Accountant-MNC-Chennai-12Lakhs pm seeks any graduate 9385599044/ 9842127777.

CASTENOBAR 30/180 MS (BITS Pian) Engg. Infosys, Chennai 12, Lakhs p.a. 9385599033 / 9385599011.

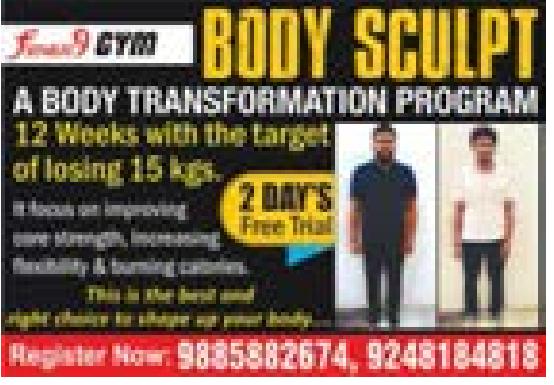
NAIDU, 29, 6.2*, financial sector, NRI seeks educated bride from respectable family. Contact 9962035669, irajaparakash@gmail.com.

NAIDU FROM Chennai 30/6.3/B.E.M.T. Twink in Australia seeks graduate, homely with 5.5 ht bride. Phn: 9444059233, 9444992502, mail: payithra.r1392@gmail.com no brokers pls

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26yrs/187cm, IIT B.Tech M.S., (Switcherland) working in London well settled family. Seeks bride from well educated elite family.

Ct: 98431 - 38156

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Rahul praises Kerala woman for clearing UPSC

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday congratulated Sreedhanya Suresh from Wayanad, the first tribal woman from Kerala to be selected for civil services. In a tweet, Mr. Gandhi said: "Sreedhanya's hard work & dedication have helped make her dream come true. I congratulate Sreedhanya and her family and wish her great success in her chosen career."

Fire breaks out at HPCL refinery in Vizag

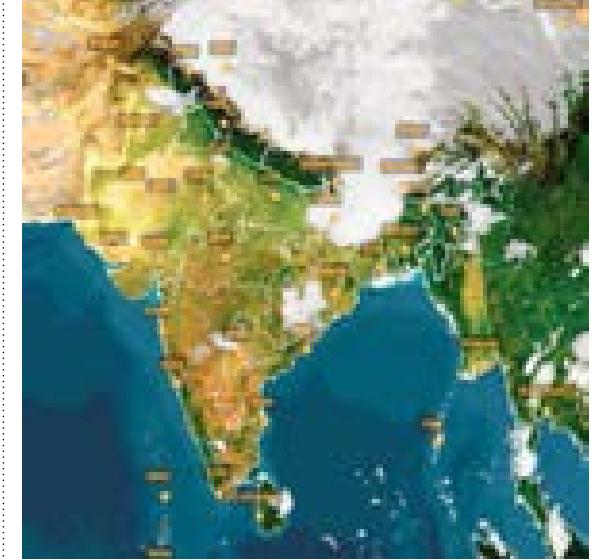
VISAKHAPATNAM
A major accident was averted following a blast at the continuous catalytic reformer unit of HPCL Visakh Refinery here on Saturday. The incident led to a fire in the Motor Spirit Block creating panic among the employees. Four workers who were present in the area had a providential escape as they were working at another compressor. No casualties were reported.

Screening of longest documentary begins

PATHANAMTHITTA
100 years of Chrysostom, the longest ever biographical documentary film in the world, made by the award winning filmmaker, Blessy, is soon to find a place in the Guinness World Records. For the first time in its history, the Censor Board of India has given certification to a 48.08-hour biographical documentary and it took seven days for the board to watch the movie in its full length. The continuous screening of the film began in Thiruvalla on Friday.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rain likely at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm accompanied with dust-storm, gusty winds & lightning likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Agartala..... | 3.8..... | 30.4..... | 24.5..... | Kozhikode..... | 36.3..... | 27.6..... | 21.5..... |
| Ahmedabad..... | —..... | 41.0..... | 22.1..... | Kurnool..... | 41.2..... | 27.4..... | 21.5..... |
| Alizawl..... | —..... | 30.4..... | 16.4..... | Lucknow..... | —..... | 37.9..... | 24.4..... |
| Altahabad..... | —..... | 41.9..... | 23.9..... | Madurai..... | 40.0..... | 25.6..... | 21.5..... |
| Bengaluru..... | —..... | 35.4..... | 23.4..... | Mangaluru..... | 35.9..... | 25.5..... | 21.5..... |
| Bhopal..... | 1.0..... | 40.5..... | 24.0..... | Mumbai..... | 33.0..... | 23.5..... | 21.5..... |
| Bhubaneswar..... | —..... | 36.6..... | 26.2..... | Mysuru..... | 36.0..... | 21.8..... | 21.5..... |
| Chandigarh..... | —..... | 36.0..... | 22.2..... | New Delhi..... | 38.7..... | 22.4..... | 21.5..... |
| Chennai..... | —..... | 34.0..... | 27.2..... | Patna..... | 33.4..... | 24.2..... | 21.5..... |
| Coimbatore..... | —..... | 38.0..... | 25.0..... | Port Blair..... | 32.0..... | 23.8..... | 21.5..... |
| Dehradun..... | —..... | 34.2..... | 19.9..... | Puducherry..... | 35.0..... | 26.0..... | 21.5..... |
| Gangtok..... | 18.8..... | 34.2..... | 12.3..... | Pune..... | 39.1..... | 19.9..... | 21.5..... |
| Goa..... | —..... | 33.4..... | 25.0..... | Raipur..... | 40.5..... | 26.1..... | 21.5..... |
| Guwahati..... | —..... | 32.5..... | 19.9..... | Ranchi..... | 36.9..... | 20.5..... | 21.5..... |
| Hubballi..... | —..... | 36.0..... | 22.0..... | Shillong..... | 0.6..... | 20.8..... | 21.5..... |
| Hyderabad..... | 10.6..... | 38.8..... | 24.3..... | Shimla..... | 23.9..... | 13.7..... | 21.5..... |
| Imphal..... | —..... | 28.5..... | 15.1..... | Srinagar..... | 23.0..... | 8.2..... | 21.5..... |
| Jaipur..... | —..... | 41.3..... | 27.6..... | Trivandrum..... | 36.6..... | 26.1..... | 21.5..... |
| Kochi..... | 2.7..... | 33.4..... | 27.0..... | Tiruchi..... | 39.0..... | 26.0..... | 21.5..... |
| Kohima..... | —..... | 21.0..... | 11.8..... | Vijayawada..... | 38.3..... | 25.4..... | 21.5..... |
| Kolkata..... | 8.3..... | 33.7..... | 21.4..... | Visakhapatnam..... | 33.1..... | 27.6..... | 21.5..... |

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

| CITIES | SO ₂ | NO _x | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-------|------|------|
| Ahmedabad..... | 17 | 89 | 200 | — | — | — |
| Bengaluru..... | .9 | 68 | 69 | — | 150 | — |
| Chennai..... | .7 | 13 | 47 | 138 | — | — |
| Delhi..... | 35 | 100 | 67 | 235 | 356 | — |
| Hyderabad..... | 3 | 63 | 22 | 103 | 95 | — |
| Kolkata..... | .9 | 77 | 14 | .86 | .104 | — |
| Lucknow..... | 19 | 21 | 99 | .343 | — | — |
| Mumbai..... | 29 | 26 | 84 | .29 | .64 | — |
| Pune..... | 30 | 15 | 31 | .65 | .74 | — |
| Visakhapatnam..... | 14 | 45 | 38 | .55 | .98 | — |

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

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

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Loni Dehat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 354, indicating unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Malihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 48

Source: CPCB, Data as on April 6, 2019

For the first time in India, a video diary produced by Dalit women was released in which they explain the importance of providing equal space for women at home and in society, and the changes that it can herald.

"Earlier, our participation was not welcome in any village panchayat or government office meeting. But, once sangams (women groups) were formed, the situation changed for the better. We have visited foreign countries and participated in meetings that we never dreamt of," says a woman in the video diary released by film-maker, media activist and TV producer Geeta Golla at Pastapur on Saturday.

The event was attended by a large number of wo-

men. The four-minute video also explains how they share work with men, thereby living up to the International Women's Day slogan of 'Ba-

lance for Better'. It shows how men handle the seed drill and women pour seeds in the pipe, how men and women together divide work

and harvest the crop.

The video diary initiative was taken up by the Community Media Trust (CMT) promoted by the Deccan Development Society (DDS).

"Training non-literate Dalit women is an extremely important human investment," said Ms. Golla, recalling her own education in media. She said while people like her become part of the entertainment industry which has few significant issues to confront, the video by Dalit women makes a remarkable contribution to media ethos.

Chinna Narsamma coordinator of the DDS Community Media Trust explained the purpose of video diary stating that it will be a regular venture bringing voices and images of the forgotten people to the outside world.

Source: Geeta Golla, DDS, Sangareddy

Photo: Geeta Golla, DDS, Sangareddy

Source: Geeta

IN BRIEF



ITBP unit in Arunachal casts first service votes

NEW DELHI A total of 80 ITBP personnel cast their ballot under the service voter category from a border location in Arunachal Pradesh, a senior official said on Saturday. The personnel voted for their respective constituencies in Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh among few others, from the Animal Training School of the frontier guarding force in Lohitpur on Friday, he said. This is the first case of service voters exercising their franchise in this northeastern State in 2019. PTI

CBI conducts searches on BPSL premises

NEW DELHI The Central Bureau of Investigation on Saturday conducted searches on the premises of Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL), its directors, promoters and their associates, in connection with a ₹2,348 crore bank fraud case. The searches were carried out in the National Capital Region, Chandigarh, Kolkata and Odisha in connection with an FIR registered by the agency against the firm and its functionaries, besides unknown public servants and private persons.

Two militants, soldier killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR Two militants and an off-duty soldier were killed in separate incidents in Kashmir on Saturday. The police said the militants were killed after they ambushed an Army patrol at Pinjora in Shopian. Preliminary reports suggest that Rahil Rashid Sheikh from Ganderbal's Nunner Ganderbal was among the dead. Locals identified the other militant as Bilal Ahmad, a resident of Keegam. Meanwhile, suspected militants shot dead an Army man at his home in Warpora Sopore in Baramulla district. A soldier with the J&K Light Infantry, Muhammad Rafeeq Yattoo was on leave.

BSF soldier injures two, kills self in Tripura camp

SYED SAJJAD ALI

AGARTALA A soldier of the Border Security Force (BSF) sprayed bullets at his colleagues in a camp in Tripura on Friday night and wounded two of them. He later shot himself with his service weapon.

BSF officers refused to disclose details of the incident. Arun Kumar Verma, a senior officer of the BSF Tripura Frontier, said on Saturday that a probe was ordered. He said constable P.D. Rao who opened fire in the camp died.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed e-commerce portal Home Shop 18 to compensate a complainant by paying ₹16,000 over misleading advertisements of "free gift vouchers".

Stating that the portal was guilty of unfair trade prac-

tice, the consumer panel said, "Inducing the consumer to purchase a particular article...without specifically mentioning the terms and conditions of the gift coupon in the main advertisement can be construed as not providing them as offered."

The complainant, Mridul Jain, alleged that on seeing an "offer of gift vouchers

worth ₹1,000," he purchased a phablet worth ₹6,400. However, the vouchers received had "terms and conditions" he was not aware of previously. The portal contended that the vouchers were "voluntarily" provided and that the terms and conditions were on the website.

However, the panel said, "The advertisement on the

website does not specifically mention about the 'conditions to follow'...therefore the case falls within the ambit of relevant rules, which specify the offering of gifts, price of other items with the notification of not providing them as offered, when it is fully or partly covered by the amount charged in the transaction as a whole."

Closure of National Highway causes problems in Kashmir

Likely to impact patient care, tourism and education sector

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Abdul Rehman Ganai, 61, a chronic post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) patient from south Kashmir's Anantnag, who lost his son during a street protest in 2016, is likely to miss his check-up with the Valley's leading psychiatrist, Dr. Arshad Hussain, this Sunday, as the ban on the movement of civilian traffic on the 271 km National Highway 44 will be enforced for convoy movement.

Dr. Hussain is among many leading doctors of the Valley who meet patients on Sundays in towns located on the flanks of the highway. "Due to my week-long busy schedule in Srinagar, I was available only on Sundays to patients in Anantnag town. Many people from far-flung areas, who could not otherwise make it to Srinagar, would come for consultations. We have decided to stop the practice for the time being," said Dr. Hussain, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College, Srinagar.

The closure of the high-

way on Sundays and Wednesdays, as a preventive measure against suicide bombing attacks after the Pulwama incident, is likely to impact the State's tourism, horticulture and education sectors, apart from patient care, according to locals.

Families need permission from police authorities for any inter-district movement on the days of the closure. "My daughter's wedding season is on Wednesday. I am not sure about the process that will allow safe and unhindered passage of the groom from Anantnag to Pulwama," said Shahnaaz Ahmad Dar, an orchardist from Pulwama.

Communist Party of India-Marxist leader M.Y. Tarigami demanded complete revocation of the order. "The highway is the only road link that connects Kashmir with the rest of the country. This is completely choking the freedom of movement for lakhs of residents," Mr. Tarigami said.

Facing condemnation from political parties and civil society groups, Divisional Commissioner-Kashmir, Basir Ahmad Khan, has offered "permission to movement of the emergency vehicles, including ambulances, school buses and other essential services" for what is becoming a poll issue in south Kashmir.

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State-wise popularity trends point to a close election

FROM PAGE ONE

Centre State equation

Moreover, the question is – will the NDA be able to reap electoral dividends across the country from the fairly high overall satisfaction with its performance. It may help to look at the States to answer this question. We find that the 59% satisfaction with the NDA recorded by the survey is not evenly spread across the 19 surveyed States with some States reporting very high satisfaction levels and some abysmally low.

Barring Karnataka, all the southern States recorded a negative net satisfaction with the Central government's performance. In Andhra Pradesh it is -5, in Telangana, -7, and in Tamil Nadu and Kerala -39. Moreover, in two of these states – Telangana and Kerala – voters were found to be far more satisfied with the state government's performance than the central government's performance in net terms.

In fact we notice this pattern/trend in 10 of the 19 States where the survey was conducted. In Punjab for instance, the net satisfaction with the Modi government was -29 whereas net satisfaction with the Congress-led state government was found



to be +17. In Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, which elected Congress governments just recently, we notice a similar pattern.

Even as the Modi government is highly popular in the two states, the State governments seem to be even more popular. Net satisfaction with the BJD government in Odisha and the Trinamool

TABLE 1

Complete dissatisfaction with the government is lower than complete satisfaction. A year ago this was not the case

| Satisfaction with NDA govt. | Pre-poll 2019 | May 2018 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Fully satisfied | 24 | 16 |
| Somewhat satisfied | 35 | 31 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 15 | 15 |
| Fully dissatisfied | 20 | 32 |
| No response | 6 | 6 |

TABLE 2

Satisfaction with the NDA government was much higher than what it was with UPA-2 in 2014 but lower than satisfaction with UPA-1

| | NDA 2019 | UPA-II 2014 | UPA-I 2009 |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Satisfied with govt. | 59 | 46 | 64 |
| Dissatisfied with govt. | 35 | 44 | 21 |
| No response | 6 | 10 | 15 |

government in West Bengal was also found to be far higher than the net satisfaction with the Modi government's performance in these States. This is a national election no doubt, but the higher popularity of State governments vis-à-vis the Central government is not going to make matters easy for the BJP. The survey also found that voters

in Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are also likely to give preference to the performance of their State government while casting their vote in the Lok Sabha election than the performance of the Central government. In many other States, even as voters are more likely to give importance to the Central government's work,

there is a high proportion that will take a final decision after taking both the governments' work into account.

Local vs national

The BJP faces another problem. Even as the survey found that in all the currently NDA governed states, voters are satisfied with both the state and the central govern-

MAPS

Below maps show net State-wise satisfaction with Central (1) and State governments (2)

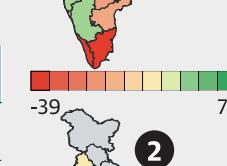


TABLE 5

In most States, voters will vote looking at the Central and State government's performance

| State | Central govt. (%) | State govt. (%) | Both (%) |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------|
| A.P. | 12 | 35 | 40 |
| Assam | 32 | 7 | 39 |
| Bihar | 40 | 11 | 45 |
| Chhattisgarh | 31 | 23 | 27 |
| Delhi | 63 | 20 | 15 |
| Gujarat | 23 | 18 | 35 |
| Haryana | 19 | 6 | 53 |
| Jharkhand | 32 | 16 | 41 |
| Karnataka | 38 | 23 | 33 |
| Kerala | 20 | 12 | 30 |
| M.P. | 28 | 19 | 37 |
| Maharashtra | 20 | 10 | 58 |
| Odisha | 9 | 15 | 53 |
| Punjab | 20 | 7 | 62 |
| Rajasthan | 22 | 31 | 36 |
| T.N. | 25 | 22 | 33 |
| Telangana | 5 | 39 | 42 |
| U.P. | 34 | 12 | 37 |
| W.B. | 38 | 20 | 17 |

Figures in %

to be +17. In Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, which elected Congress governments just recently, we notice a similar pattern.

Even as the Modi government is highly popular in the two states, the State governments seem to be even more popular. Net satisfaction with the BJD government in Odisha and the Trinamool

government in West Bengal was also found to be far higher than the net satisfaction with the Modi government's performance in these States. This is a national election no doubt, but the higher popularity of State governments vis-à-vis the Central government is not going to make matters easy for the BJP. The survey also found that voters

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there is a high proportion that will take a final decision after taking both the governments' work into account.

Local vs national

The BJP faces another problem. Even as the survey found that in all the currently NDA governed states, voters are satisfied with both the state and the central govern-

ments' performance, there are some States where they do not seem to be much satisfied with the performance of their sitting BJP MPs. Among the sampled constituencies in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh we found satisfaction levels with BJP MPs registering just borderline positive numbers. Yet among almost all NDA-governed

states, the voters are more likely to vote on the basis of the party and the PM candidate, rather than their local candidate. Only Maharashtra stands out where the local candidate matters as much as the party for the voter.

Another striking finding comes from Chhattisgarh where in the 3 sampled constituencies we found high sa-

tisfaction levels with the sitting MPs which is higher than the satisfaction with the NDA government. Could the BJP have therefore erred in dropping all its sitting MPs?

While the BJP would want the election to be fought on Prime Minister Modi's image, that strategy may have to encounter entrenched State-level factors.

FROM PAGE ONE

Congress policies will aggravate inflation: PM

Mr. Modi said that for successive generations Congress politicians had only kept repeating slogans about poverty alleviation. "The poor remained poor, but their leaders became rich," he said.

Poor remained poor
"The only answer to Garibi Hatao (remove poverty) is Congress Hatao (remove Congress). Poverty cannot be eliminated as long as Congress exists. Poverty is the biggest ammunition in their political game. Congress does not want to relinquish the issue of poverty and does not want the poor freed from poverty," Mr. Modi said.

"The BJP government has shut down the shops of their [BJD] middlemen. This chowkidar has become an irritant for them," Mr. Modi said.

Earlier in another public meeting in Sundargarh district, the Prime Minister asserted that the next government would be formed with a full majority.

Call to cadre
"I am confident that the entire family of BJP workers would be working day and night to ensure that our party and our allies are blessed yet again by the people of India. In the last five years lots has been done and we want to do much more for the country," he tweeted.

NYAY will 'remonetise' the economy: Rahul

The Congress leader said that under the present government, unemployment has hit the highest level in 45 years.

Accusing Mr. Modi of depriving the Hindustan Aerodynamics Ltd of participating in the Rafale aircraft deal, he promised to give the public sector a boost by filling up vacancies in the government.

"Congress will fill up 22 lakh government posts in a year after coming to power," said Mr. Gandhi.

Farm loan waiver

Proposing a loan waiver for farmers, Mr. Gandhi said a special budget for agriculture will focus on farmers' welfare and provide an an-

Rajnath makes 'no scam' pitch

Veteran BJP leader says Opposition parties are led by those 'in jail or on bail'

NISTULA HEBBAR
JAMUI/NAVADA/HATHRAS/
GHAZIABAD

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh termed the Opposition alliances fighting the BJP in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh – where he was campaigning on Saturday – as collections of parties led by those who were "either in jail or on bail" and whose only aim was to dislodge Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP is facing the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-Congress-Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP)-Hindustan Awami Morcha alliance in Bihar and the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal alliance in Uttar Pradesh.

Speaking at Jamui and Navada, seats where the Ram Vilas Paswan-led Lok Janashakti Party (LJP) – an NDA member – has fielded candid-

ates including Mr. Paswan's son Chirag Paswan from Jamui, Mr. Singh said that the choice before the people was clear. Voters could either elect a government that had "not a single scam" to its name or back parties that had been part of corrupt governments in the past.

While the appeal on an anti-corruption plank was a common pitch in all four ra-

dates including Mr. Paswan's son Chirag Paswan from Jamui, Mr. Singh said that the choice before the people was clear. Voters could either elect a government that had "not a single scam" to its name or back parties that had been part of corrupt governments in the past.

'Will fight terrorism'
"We do not attack anybody but if we are attacked then we also do not leave anybody," he said. "After the attack on Pulwama, Prime Minister Modi acted quickly and hit terrorist hideouts in Balakot

on their own territory; we were careful that no innocent Pakistani was hit, and did not attack its Army either, in a bid to protect its sovereignty, but we hit at terrorists who had perpetrated the attacks on our soil," he said.

In the Bihar seats where he campaigned, there was a hearty response from the crowd on the PM-KISAN or the income support scheme for farmers. "We have announced and disbursed the first instalment and the Congress had to come up with this plan for minimum income support. When you ask them for details, they say it will be done as a top-up, but when they announced it people felt that ₹12,000 would be given to all beneficiaries. People must see through this kind of obfuscation," he said.

Before the procession, which started from Sarkhej area of Ahmedabad in the morning, Mr. Shah garlanded pictures of Jan Sangh founders Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

The BJP leader led the crowd in a chant of "Jaha hue balidan Mukherjee, woh Kashmir hamara hai, sara kara hamara hai." (Where Mukherjee sacrificed his life, that Kashmir is ours, entire Kashmir is ours).

Shah leads roadshow in Gandhinagar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD

On the 39th foundation day of the BJP on Saturday, party president Amit Shah, who is contesting the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat, embarked on a roadshow here.

Before the procession, which started from Sarkhej area of Ahmedabad in the morning, Mr. Shah garlanded

the crowd in a chant of "Jaha hue balidan Mukherjee, woh Kashmir hamara hai, sara kara hamara hai." (Where Mukherjee sacrificed his life, that Kashmir is ours, entire Kashmir is ours).

People are being taught a new definition of patriotism: Sonia

Congress leader says 'government is not respecting dissent'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi Saturday launched an offensive on the Modi government, saying people are being taught a new definition of patriotism while those not accepting diversity are being called patriots.

She was speaking at an event that unveiled a 'Jan Sarokar' (People's Agenda), a document put together by several civil society organisations.

Ms. Gandhi alleged that the current government was not ready to respect dissent, and said that whenever there were attacks on people who stick to their faith, the government turned away.

"Today, we are being taught a new definition of patriotism, while those not accepting diversity are being called patriots," Ms. Gandhi said. She said the country's soul was being crushed through a well-planned conspiracy.

She also alleged that the BJP-led government was not ready to fulfil its duty of enforcing rule of law in the country.

"Today, we are being taught a new definition of patriotism, while those not accepting diversity are being called patriots," Ms. Gandhi said. She said the country's soul was being crushed through a well-planned conspiracy.

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Imran accuses BJP of whipping up war hysteria

Pakistan PM says F-16 claim is false

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday accused the BJP of "whipping up war hysteria", saying its false claim of downing a Pakistani F-16 had "backfired", days after a leading American magazine claimed that none of the U.S.-manufactured fighter jets of the PAF were missing.

Washington-based Foreign Policy magazine reported on Thursday that American personnel recently counted the Pakistan Air Force F-16s and found none of the planes missing.

The Indian Air Force, however, stuck to its stand on Friday, saying that it had conclusive proof of shooting down a PAF F-16 on February 27.

People set to sack 'chowkidar': Yechury

AGARTALA
CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Saturday said an alliance consisting of different Opposition parties would take shape after the Lok Sabha election to keep the BJP away from power. "People are preparing to sack the chowkidar for his all-round failures and repression," Mr. Yechury said, while addressing an election rally in Tripura.

EC bans political ads in print media on key dates
NEW DELHI
The Election Commission has issued orders banning publication of political advertisement in the print media on, and a day prior to, polling days, unless pre-certified by the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee. "Advertisements in the last stage of the election vitiate the entire election process," it said.

Omar blames Mehboba for cases against Mirwaiz

Srinagar
Politics over the National Investigation Agency summon to Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq took another turn on Saturday with National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah blaming Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti. "Ms. Mufti alone is responsible for such NIA notices," Mr. Abdullah said at an election rally.

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
SHAMILI

Uttar Pradesh's 117 sugar mills owe more than ₹12,000 crore to approximately 35 lakh registered sugarcane farming families.

INTERVIEW | TEJASHWI YADAV

'BJP has no answers when it comes to key issues'

The party is raking up its old agenda like Hindu-Muslim, Pakistan, Kashmir, mandir-masjid because of this, says Tejashwi

SOBHANA K NAIR
AMARNATH TEWARY

Leading the Rashtriya Janata Dal for the first time in the absence of his father Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi Yadav debunks talk of differences within the Opposition alliance and questions the Modi government's stand on reservation and national security.

This is the first general election where your father Lalu Prasad is not present. How is his absence affecting the RJD?

■ His absence has fuelled anger among the people. The people of Bihar are angry at those who are responsible for his absence. If you join with BJP, it's all okay, you can do nothing wrong. All the cases and allegations against you are erased. There are so many cases against the Nitish Kumar government – from Srijan scam to sexual harassment of inmates at Muzaffarpur home shelter. Nitish Kumar took a u-turn after fear of these cases. And as soon as he joined hands with BJP, all cases against him and his people were dropped....

We do feel Laluji's absence. But he is not just a name, he is an ideology.

It took a long time to iron out differences within the Mahagathbandhan. Was the Congress responsible for the delay?

■ Our alliance has many parties and many of them broke away from NDA to join us. We are happy that our family has

expanded and the NDA is fighting with fewer allies. Yes, there was delay but we have come together strongly.

Anyway, was there ever a timetable (to) declare the candidates after sealing the alliance? The NDA themselves took many months after announcing the seat-sharing arrangement. Now the candidate for Sitamarhi has returned his ticket. Didn't Chirag Paswan tweet to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on GST/demonetisation and so on? So in fact a more public tussle is going on there.

But what about the Congress's role?

■ Each party would want to contest maximum number of seats. But the alliance also has to look at winnability factor. Last time we fought on 27 seats in alliance with Congress which fought on 12. (This time) We came down to 19 and they came down to nine to accommodate the other allies. Ultimately everyone got the justified number of seats.

People are questioning whether there will be an actual transfer of votes between the allies?

■ The *mahagathbandhan* has many parties and people from different walks of life. To those who are questioning whether there will be a vote transfer between our allies should also question the difference within NDA in Bihar. On April 2, at Narendra Modi's rally here, the BJP and JD (U) workers were openly fighting (at Gaya). It hardly matters if the leaders work together but the workers should get along for an alliance to work. In our alliance, all the parties come from similar ideologies. And can anyone give a guarantee for Nitishji – that he will not switch again?

The BJP is once again trying to pare down the election to the Hindu-Muslim binary and nationalism. Will it then be a repeat of 2014?

■ We are not going to respond to the agenda set by them. This election is not about Modi, it is about *mudda* (issues). Unemployment rate is the highest under Modi government; there are 22 lakh vacancies in government; what about their ₹15 lakh jumla? They have been promising special status to Bihar and there will (be) double-engine of growth. Modi promised that Gaya will get more tourists than Taj Mahal... have they fulfilled any of their promises?

If you come down to issues, the BJP has no answers. Which is why they are back to raking up their old agenda, Hindu-



Before Modiji became Prime Minister, was the Army useless? Did it become efficient only because of him?

Muslim, Pakistan, Kashmir, mandir-masjid. But I am confident that the voters can see through this. The rhetoric will not feed or educate people. If he claims to be *chowkidar*, then the Indian voter is *thane-daar* (inspector). And if he fails in his 'chowkidaari' then the voters shall punish them (him). We have tabled the evidence regarding Srijan scam in Bihar Assembly, including bank statement of Sushil Modi's [Deputy CM] sister showing questionable transactions, but why no action was taken?

So you are saying the Balakot strikes will have no impact?

■ Tell me something – before Modiji became Prime Minister, was the Indian Army useless and did it become efficient only because of him? Will the In-

dian Army become a lame duck when he is no longer in the chair? The Balakot strikes are an achievement of the Indian armed forces. It is demeaning to politicise the armed forces; to use their achievement as political slogan – *Modiji hai toh mumkin hai* (everything is possible because of Modi). Modiji brands Opposition leaders as agents of the Pakistan government. But remember, we were not the ones who went to Pakistan carrying a shawl, or flew there uninvited to have biryani or invited an ISI team to the Pathankot airbase after the shameful attack.

The Modi government is trying to strike a caste balance by maintaining status quo of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and now by introducing the law for reservation for the economically weaker sections...

■ The Narendra Modi government wanted to scrap the SC/ST Act. Otherwise why would the Attorney General send a junior lawyer to Supreme Court? They were forced to retain the status quo because of protests from Dalits across the country. We are not against any forward caste. But how can you bring such a law without doing a basic survey or study? Now reservation is being extended to those who own up to five acres of land, who pay income tax... the move is for

the rich among the forward caste. Significantly, reservation is not a poverty alleviation measure, it is a question of representation. Reservation is not a MNREGA scheme. The law is merely to con every one.

It is said the RJD denied ticket to the CPI fearing Kanhaiya Kumar's growing national stature...

■ I have always shared a stage with Kanhaiya Kumar. We too have a party, we have compromised so much. In 2014, CPI fought with JD(U) – they got one lakh vote, while our candidate Tanveer Hassan got 4.5 lakh votes. And across the country, there are very few seats where minority candidates can contest from. He is a winning candidate. Mine and Kanhaiya Kumar's aim is to defeat the BJP.

In a post-poll scenario, is the RJD prepared to work under the Congress?

■ Congress is the biggest Opposition party and they are contesting everywhere in the country. Rahul Gandhi has led Congress to victory in three States and he fulfilled the promise of farm loan waiver. The recent announcement of NYAY-income guarantee scheme is brilliant and it will benefit the backward classes in Bihar the most. The RJD is with UPA and we want all our allies to perform exemplarily in this election.

POLL POURRI



Shatrughan Sinha joins Cong.

PATNA Rebel BJP MP from Patna Sahib and Bollywood actor Shatrughan Sinha joined the Congress on Saturday. He will be contesting the Lok Sabha poll from the seat against BJP candidate and Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. With a sizeable Kayastha vote bank, Patna Sahib has been a safe seat for the BJP and Mr. Sinha, who belongs to that community, has been winning the seat for the last two consecutive terms. In the 2004 LS election, Mr. Sinha defeated Congress candidate and actor Shekhar Suman.

Mamata livid at police transfers



ROLKATA The Election Commission's decision to transfer Kolkata Police Commissioner and three other senior police officers in the State, has irked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. On Saturday, Ms. Banerjee

wrote to the Commission asking for a review of the decision, which she termed "highly arbitrary, motivated and biased". "First change me. If you changing officers at the behest of BJP then remember these are also our officers," the Trinamool Congress chief said at a rally at Kalchini in north Bengal.

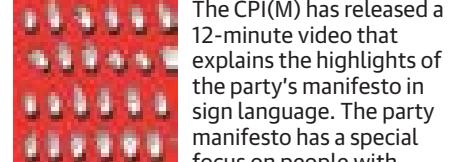
Priyanka greeting invites trolls



NEW DELHI Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday wished Kashmiris on their New Year and shared a picture of a traditional ritual on social media.

"Nauroz Mubarak to all my Kashmiri sisters and brothers! Despite my mother's 'don't forget to make the thali' messages, I had no time to make my thali yesterday but came home after road show and found it placed on the dining table. How sweet are moms?" she tweeted. The Congress general secretary for Uttar Pradesh (East) was, however, trolled on Twitter as users pointed out that the festival is called "Navreh" and not "Nauroz".

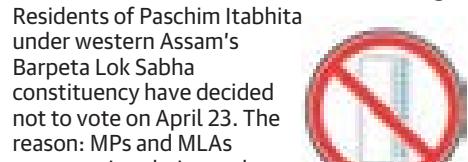
Reaching out to the disabled



NEW DELHI The CPI(M) has released a 12-minute video that explains the highlights of the party's manifesto in sign language. The party manifesto has a special focus on people with disabilities but the video in

sign language is not restricted to that. The presenter explains the political situation in the country before moving on to the party's promises. The stakes are very high in the 2019 poll as the future of the secular democratic republic is in danger, the presenter shows. She calls for a larger presence of the Left in the next Lok Sabha to stop this slide.

Flood-hit village boycotts polls



GUWAHATI Residents of Paschim Itabhatta under western Assam's Barpeta Lok Sabha constituency have decided not to vote on April 23. The reason: MPs and MLAs representing their area have not found solutions to the problems caused by annual floods despite many promises. The villagers said that pleas to construct a concrete embankment to prevent flooding and ensuring better communication in the area have fallen on deaf ears. The main candidates vying for the seat are Kumar Deepak Das of the Asom Gana Parishad, Abdul Khaleque of the Congress and Rafiqul Islam of the All India United Democratic Front.

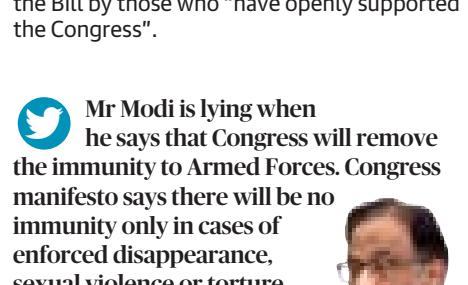
Assam BJP camp gets a boost



GUWAHATI A few protesters who had stripped naked in New Delhi in January against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, have joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). They include Assam Scheduled Caste Yuva

Parishad leader Jadav Das and members of the students' wing of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti that had spearheaded the anti-Bill movement by 70 organisations. The stir was against the BJP for "betraying the trust of the indigenous people" to provide citizenship to "Hindu Bangladeshis". Mr. Das said they had been provoked to stage such a protest against the Bill by those who "have openly supported the Congress".

Mr. Modi is lying when he says that Congress will remove the immunity to Armed Forces. Congress manifesto says there will be no immunity only in cases of enforced disappearance, sexual violence or torture.



P. CHIDAMBARAM CONGRESS MP

Patnaik turns to technology to widen his party's reach

BJD chief is single-handedly campaigning for candidates



Naveen Patnaik

gress and the BJP. For the first time, the BJD is using hologram technology to make Mr. Patnaik's campaign more effective and widespread.

Counteracting rumours An automated voice call, in which Mr. Patnaik addresses mobile phone users by their name before delivering his campaign message, has added an interesting dimension to his campaign.

To combat rumours about Mr. Patnaik's health, the BJD on Friday released a video clip in which the septuagenarian leader is seen stretching, cycling and lifting dumbbells at his residence before delivering a message in which he says: "Getting ready to fight for the people of Odisha".

With the 72-year-old bachelor politician hard pressed to reach out to the voters in all constituencies, the party has embarked upon a well-designed campaign adopting new technology, a new approach and massive social media outreach to counter the Con-

Chill pill



Poll fever: Water being poured on a road at Thazhayoothu, near Tirunelveli, to bring the temperature down ahead of the campaign by Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and AIADMK leader O. Panneerselvam on Saturday. ■ A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

[BATTLEGROUND | TAMIL NADU]

Intense fight expected in AIADMK's western bastion

Despite help from allies, party may have to tackle the Dhinakaran factor, GST fallout and protest against infrastructure projects

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's western districts, a traditional stronghold of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), are expected to witness more intense contests this time than ever before.

At stake are nine Lok Sabha and three Assembly seats, where bypolls are being held. All established parties come under either the AIADMK's coalition or the DMK's. Unrested political forces – the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam of T.T.V. Dhinakaran and the Makkal Needhi Maiam of Kamal Hassan – are making the contest more lively.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha election, the AIADMK performance was stupendous, both in terms of number of seats and the manner of victory. The party had comfortably won eight constituencies.

But now Jayalalithaa is not around to shepherd the party, which has been hit by the rebellion of Mr. Dhinakaran. And the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) is keen on making inroads into the AIADMK's bastion. There is talk that former Union Minister A. Raja

is ahead of his rivals in the Nilgiris (Reserve) constituency.

Anti-Modi mood Besides, the ruling party is fighting a perceptible anti-Modi mood in certain sections of society. "On my morning walks, I cannot utter a word in support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," concedes Seenivasan, a pro-BJP Coimbatore resident.

S. Nagarajan, a Tirupur-based industrialist and author of a monograph in Tamil on optimal utilisation of the Cauvery river water, feels that the BJP's State unit has not capitalised on the Centre's action of putting in place an implementation mechanism, in the form of the Cauvery Water Management Authority, for the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's final order.

Also, farmers in the region feel that Mr. Modi could have met at least briefly farmers who held protests in New Delhi in 2017 and last year.

However, the ruling front is not without any advantage. Chief Minister and AIADMK co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami hails from the region, apart from many senior

Big challenge

Tamil Nadu's western belt is a traditional AIADMK stronghold comprising nine Lok Sabha constituencies

Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Krishnagiri, Salem, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Pollachi and Tirupur

Prominent candidates:

- Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK), Dharmapuri
- A. Raja (DMK), the Nilgiris
- C.P. Radhakrishnan (BJP), Coimbatore
- K.P. Munusamy (AIADMK), Krishnagiri

In the 2014 Lok Sabha election, the AIADMK won in eight seats out of nine, while the PMK won in Dharmapuri

Ministers. It is no secret why the AIADMK has chosen this region for fielding seven out of its 20 nominees. What may also work for the party is the fact that the Chief Minister appears to be growing in stature in the region. "I am impressed with the way he has managed the situation in the last two years," says K. Venkat Subramani, a Pollachi-based industrialist.

S. Periyasamy, a cane farmer of Thindal village, about 8 km from Erode, strongly protests when asked whether the caste factor – Mr. Palaniswami being a Vellala Gounder – has anything to do with his accep-

tability. "It is not his community but his performance that makes people like me support him," explains the farmer.

However, elsewhere in the belt, fellow Gounders have a different opinion. In Dharmapuri's Harur Assembly seat [where bypoll will be held], when asked whether he would vote for the AMMK's candidate P. Palaniappan, a Gounder, or the PMK's Anbumani Ramadoss, a Vanniyar, in the Lok Sabha election, 29-year-old S. Premkumar says, "The question before me is to vote for making a Gounder an MP or ensuring the continuance of

Gounder as the CM. I would prefer the second option."

Also, the strength of allies such as the PMK, the DMK and the BJP should be useful to the ruling party in some seats even though, largely, it has to depend on its core strength and resources to make it to the Lok Sabha. While V.P. Duraisamy, DMK's deputy general secretary, says the PMK has lost its sheen, M. Vadivelan, Dharmapuri's senior AIADMK leader says "we are in a tie-up with the PMK because we are aware of its strength which has remained intact."

Many worries

As in other parts of the country, the western region suffers from a lack of water sources and industrial pollution of water courses. Incidents of man-animal conflict are also quite high. "We do not have a full-fledged international airport here," complains D. Devadas, a senior management executive hailing from Coimbatore, who has returned home after working in Thailand for years. The situation has only benefited the Kochi airport in Kerala, about 200 km away, he says.

The introduction of the

Goods and Services Tax had its adverse impact on numerous micro, small and medium enterprises.

More than anything else is the emergence of the region in recent years as a hotbed of "resistance movements" – agitations against a gas pipeline project, installation of high-tension electricity transmission lines and the Salem-Chennai eight-lane green corridor project. "What makes matters worse is the officials' attitude – lack of transparency and insensitivity," says R. Mohanasundaram, a farmer, who is likely to lose six out of his seven acres for the project.

V. Anand, a veteran ENT surgeon of Pollachi, goes to the extent of saying that "had Salem got an MP like our MP, C. Mahendran, the situation would have been smoothly handled." Though allegations are made about the involvement of the ruling party in a sexual assault and blackmail case, Mr. Mahendran's individual standing among people will ensure his victory, Dr. Anand feels.

Money power was a big factor in the past. But there is a feeling that it may not be effective this time.

Mr. Modi is lying when he says that Congress will remove the immunity to Armed Forces. Congress manifesto says there will be no immunity only in cases of enforced disappearance, sexual violence or torture.

P. CHIDAMBARAM CONGRESS MP

IN BRIEF



Zydus gets tentative nod for Tofacitinib tablets

NEW DELHI

Drug firm Zydus Cadila said on Saturday it had received tentative approval from the U.S. health regulator to market Tofacitinib tablets, used for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Tofacitinib is used alone or with other medications to treat moderate to severe forms of rheumatoid arthritis, the company said in a BSE filing. It helps to decrease pain, tenderness and swelling in the joints, it added. PTI

Tata Steel output rises 23% to 7.7 MT in Q4

NEW DELHI

Tata Steel said its output rose 23% to 7.70 million tonne (MT) in the last quarter of FY19. The firm had produced 6.26 MT of steel in the same quarter a year ago, Tata Steel said. India production stood at 4.47 MT during the January-March 2019 quarter as against 3.07 MT in the year-ago period. Tata Steel Europe produced 2.73 MT of steel as compared to 2.63 MT in the fourth quarter of 2017-18. PTI

Metropolis IPO subscribed 5.83 times

NEW DELHI

The initial public offering (IPO) of diagnostic chain Metropolis Healthcare was subscribed 5.83 times on the final day of the bidding on Friday. The ₹1,200-crore IPO received bids for 4.47 crore shares as against 76.61 lakh shares on offer, according to latest NSE data. Institutional investors segment was subscribed 8.88 times, while non-institutional investors segment was subscribed by 3.03 times. PTI

India will be third-largest economy by 2030: Jaitley

GDP will touch \$10 trillion, he says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday said India was expected to become the third-largest economy in the world by 2030 with the gross domestic product (GDP) touching \$10 trillion, helped by consumption and investment growth.

Currently, the size of the economy is about \$2.9 trillion, he said, while addressing the students of the Shri Ram College of Commerce here.

"We keep oscillating between fifth and the sixth-largest economy, depending on the dollar rate. As we look at the years ahead, we would be \$5 trillion by 2024 and \$10 trillion by 2030 or 2031. That's when we will be amongst the first three – the U.S., China and India and then of course, we would be in the rat race of the big three wanting to catch up with much mightier competitors. So the sheer size and opportunity is going to expand," he said.

Talking about avenues of growth for the next 20 years, the Minister listed infrastructure creation, rural expansion and gender parity,

INTERVIEW | OMER DORMEN

We focus on core business, which will continue growing: Castrol MD

Lube-maker believes transition to EVs won't have a big impact on its business

PIYUSH PANDEY

After setting up Castrol's business in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, Omer Dormen worked across West Asia, Europe, Russia and Central Asia, before taking over as Castrol India managing director in 2015. With three decades of experience in the lubricants business, Mr. Dormen says he has found 'nirvana' in India because Castrol has a well-established business with huge room for growth, here. In an interview, he talks about the company's strategy for growth, competition, and the company's role in the context of EVs. Excerpts.

How different has been your India experience in the last three-and-a-half years?

I always say that this is the nirvana of all roles in Castrol, because India is a very well-established business. The brand is really strong and the basic foundation of the business is very strong. You also have quite a huge room for growth.

This comes with the exposure of being a listed company, which you don't have in any other country. So that's why when I got the opportunity, I jumped at it. It's been quite rewarding, rich, in terms of the last three-and-a-half years.

From a business perspective, we went through quite a significant transformation during this time, because we realised that although we were very successful, that wasn't going to be enough to carry to the next decade. We completed a majority of that

transformation in the last three-and-a-half years. I believe that we are a much stronger company and stronger business and a stronger team as a result of that.

Are electric vehicles (EVs) a potential threat to your business? How are you readying yourself?

Although there is the discussion on EVs, there would be a phased approach in transitioning to EVs – starting with two or three wheelers and may be in the public sector transport. This is not going to have a large impact on our lubricant business, that's why we focus on the core business which would continue growing.

At the same time, we also try to explore what else we can do with the brand, strength of the brand, and the strength of the distribution that we have, to test other models or revenue models going forward. So that's why it's quite exciting.

What diversification areas are you looking at, as EVs could become a reality in the next 10 years?

We expect the market growth rate to fuel growth in the business. So, if you look at 10 years, 99% of the growth or revenue comes from the core businesses.

What we are trying to do in the meantime is test new models and Castrol is a strong brand in the automotive space and the maintenance space. Do not forget that EVs also use fluids, whether it is coolants, greases or brake fluids. So, there

Do not forget that EVs also use fluids, be it coolants, greases or brake fluids

will be or there is a role a lubricant can play, but what else can we do in terms of playing into that space is something that we are exploring. So, for that, globally we have a couple of teams. One is looking at advanced mobility and the other one at inorganic options in terms of testing some of these.

So, in a nutshell, yes, there will be some new revenue models. Obviously when we start testing them, we will share them.

What's the size of the Indian lube market and at what rate is it growing?

India is about 2.4 billion litres in terms of market size. And half of that is industrial. Now industrial includes all the process oils... which is low tier in terms of the technology required. So, we don't play into that sector. Where we play in is the select industrial products which [constitute] the high tier. The market is growing 2-4% according to estimates.

What's your market share in India and how do you plan to grow amid competition?

The data that we have and track, is the retail

market, which is based on Nielsen data. Our market share is about 20%. But if you look at the breakdown, personal mobility for example, is much higher than that... four wheelers at about 25%. Our CVOs would be around 17-18%. Where we are investing is personal mobility; where we are investing is new product introductions in the personal mobility as well as into commercial.

As a standalone lubricant firm, isn't Castrol disadvantaged compared to integrated refining and marketing firms?

On the contrary, I think it is a huge advantage, because we have huge skills globally that we can leverage, and flexibility to use different sources rather than just one source.



Electrifying presence: Mercedes' first all-electric vehicle unveiled at Stockholm in September last year.

'Merc EVs in India once infra in place'

Battery vehicle global launch this year

INDRANI DUTTA

KOLKATA

Mercedes-Benz will launch electric vehicles (EVs) in India once the infrastructure and demand for such automobiles are in place, a senior company executive said. By mid-2019, Mercedes-Benz is aiming to launch its battery-powered vehicle globally, according to information available.

World premiere

The company made its entry into this area of mobility in September 2018 through the world premiere of its first all-electric people mover EQC, the first Mercedes-Benz model under the product and technology brand EQ. The name EQ stands for electric intelligence, insiders said.

At an interaction here in March, Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director and CEO, Martin Schwenk, had said that the launch of EVs would be synchronised with real demand for such vehicles in those markets. "We will analyse the markets," he had said then.

Consumers see inadequate access to charging facilities as one of the top three hurdles to EV adoption, according to a McKinsey &



Electrifying presence: Mercedes' first all-electric vehicle unveiled at Stockholm in September last year.

Will examine merger plan of Indiabulls and LVB, says RBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that its nominee directors on the board of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) had no views on the merger proposal with Indiabulls Housing Finance and that the banking regulator would examine the proposal as and when received.

In a late evening press statement on Saturday – a day after the two entities announced the merger – the RBI said: "It is clarified that the merger announcement does not have any approval of RBI at this stage."

"It is also clarified that presence of Additional Directors nominated by the RBI on the board of LVB does not imply any approval of the RBI of the merger proposal. Moreover, the Additional Directors have clearly mentioned at the meeting that they have no view on the proposal," the RBI said in response to some media reports that the presence of RBI directors on the board meant indirect approval for the proposal.

There are two nominee directors of the RBI on the LVB board. Following the RBI statement, LVB also issued a release saying while the board unanimously approved the proposal, the RBI-nominated directors did not have to participate in the voting or express any views, as is the practice in the bank. RBI said the proposal for the merger, when received, would be examined.

This would range from the 48 volts on-board electrical system to plug-in hybrids to all-electric vehicles with battery or fuel cell. Out of these, over 10 models would be purely electric passenger cars in all segments.

G20 must tackle root causes of trade tensions that threaten growth: EU

G20 Finance Ministers to meet soon

REUTERS

BUCHAREST

The European Union will lead a meeting of finance leaders from the world's 20 biggest economies next week that they must all tackle the root causes of global trade tensions because they are putting global growth at risk, an EU document said.

Manufacturers avoid halting and then resuming production as this disrupts supply chains and can cause industrial snags. Boeing had been planning to speed up production in June to 57 a month.

Having to hold planes in storage without delivering them does, however, consume extra cash through increased inventory.

Boeing supplier Spirit Aeronautics Holdings said it would continue to make 52 737 MAX shipsets – the complete set of parts for each aircraft – per month, storing extras at its facilities. Its shares fell 3.5%.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) chairman Robert Sumwalt told reporters that U.S. investigators were given the raw data from Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 as soon as it was read in France last month.

While the number of 737 MAX planes grounded is just over 370, nearly 5,000 more are on order.

Logistical issues

Boeing faces logistical issues

in finding places to park the

growing number of planes as

well as being responsible for

improvements to our policies and procedures" for its 737 MAX and other airplane programs.

Boeing said it continued to make progress on a 737 MAX software update to prevent further accidents.

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The Laws and Spirit of the Mankad

Why is there such a controversy around a form of run out that the laws of the game permit?

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

The story so far: Two weeks ago, Rajasthan Royals' Jos Buttler was run out by Kings XI Punjab bowler R. Ashwin in an IPL game in Jaipur. Buttler wandered out of his crease at the non-striker's end before Ashwin had delivered the ball. The India off-spinner proceeded to take the bails off, in a hugely controversial form of dismissal colloquially known as the 'Mankad'. The name is derived from the great Indian all-rounder Vinoo Mankad, who famously ran out Australia's Bill Brown in this fashion in the Sydney Test in 1947.

What do Laws of Cricket say?
The provision to run the non-striker out is clearly laid out in the Laws of Cricket. The 'Mankad' is a thoroughly fair, legal act, as even

That a batsman may be dismissed even before the bowler has delivered the ball perhaps creates the sense that the Mankad is a dishonest or underhand tactic

Don Bradman, who was captain of that Australian team in 1947, insisted back then. Law 41.16, which pertains to the "Non-striker leaving his/her ground early," states: "If the non-striker is out of his/her ground at any time from the moment the ball comes into play until the instant when the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball, the non-striker is liable to be run out."

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of the Laws, has tweaked the Mankad rule and changed its wording over the years. In the 2017 Code, "Bowler attempting to run out non-striker before delivery" was replaced with "Non-striker leaving their ground early" in order to put the "onus on the non-striker to remain in their ground." To emphasise this point further, on April 1 this year, the MCC slightly rephrased Law 41.16 again, replacing "the bowler is permitted to run [the non-striker] out" with "the non-striker is liable to be run out."

Also changed in 2017 was an important aspect of the law. Previously, the bowler was only

permitted to run out a non-striker backing up before entering his delivery stride. "This meant that as the bowler's back foot landed, the non-striker could move down the wicket a considerable way before the bowler actually delivered the ball. This was considered unfair," notes the International Cricket Council Match Officials' Almanac 2017-18 (the ICC's interpretation of the Laws).

The new playing condition permitted the bowler to run the batsman out "at any point before he releases the ball provided he has not completed his delivery swing."

Why, then, is it frowned upon?

It is cricketing convention that a bowler at least warns a batsman who has backed up too far before attempting to run him out (if not refuse to consider this form of dismissal altogether) – although there is nothing in the Laws to this effect. In a World Cup match in Lahore in 1987, Courtney Walsh chose not to run out Saleem Jaffar in this way in the last over, when West Indies needed a wicket to win and lost the match. Bowlers have traditionally shied away from this mode of dismissal; the Mankad is taboo and anyone attempting it invites extraordinary criticism. Batsmen should not be Mankaded, it has been said, when they are not backing up out of the crease intentionally. But it is difficult to establish intent; and at any rate, a yard gained at one end is a yard gained at another. A run has been shortened, intentional or not. Part of the problem is that the Mankad seems to occur outside the natural structure of the game – the contest between bat and ball. That a batsman may be dismissed even before the bowler has delivered the ball perhaps creates the sense that the Mankad is a dishonest or underhand tactic. The bowler ought to, the argument goes, use bowling skills to defeat the batsman. It has also been suggested that the ball does not feel in play when the Mankad takes place. But the Laws make it quite clear that (20.5) "the ball ceases to be dead – that is, it comes into play – when the bowler starts his/her run-up or, if there is no run-up, starts his/her bowling action." The most vociferous argument against the Mankad, though, is that it goes against the 'Spirit of Cricket.' In 2000, the Laws included, for the first time, a Preamble on the Spirit.

Anatomy of a run out

Breaking down R. Ashwin's dismissal of Jos Buttler at the non-striker's end

SCREEN GRABS COURTESY HOTSTAR.COM



In real time, there is just one second between Ashwin's back foot landing and the bails lighting up – between Image 2 and Image 7

teams or by the MCC as practice bowlers, the first of these being taken on in 1825. From the outset amateurs tended to be batsmen while professionals were bowlers, and their relationship, effectively that of masters and men, was defined partly through accommodation, partly through struggle," writes Stephen Wagg, in a chapter on English county cricket in *Amateurs and Professionals in Post-war British Sport*. In the case of the Mankad, it would appear that tradition is being conflated with morality. It is not as if the bowler is exploiting a loophole in the Laws. Should cricketers be expected to follow such convention – with no logical basis – rather than effect a dismissal that is explicitly fair under the Laws?

Was Buttler's dismissal legal?

As per Law 41.16, the bowler can run the non-striker out till the instant when he would "normally have been expected to release the ball." It has been argued that Ashwin delayed his action to allow Buttler to leave his ground and the Englishman would have been in his crease had Ashwin delivered the ball as usual. This delay has been seen as a calculated trick on Ashwin's part and not "instinctive," as he put it. But what is "normal"? The ICC Match Officials' Almanac, which umpires follow, interprets it physically: "The normal point of ball release should be interpreted as the moment when the delivery arm is at its highest point." Ashwin's arm does not go up at all, leave alone reach the highest point. By that yardstick, the dismissal is a legal one. The MCC initially reserved its judgment on whether Ashwin deliberately delayed his action, instead pointing out that it was "understandable" how the TV umpire opted to give Buttler out. A day later, however, Fraser Stewart, the MCC's laws manager, felt the act was not within the spirit of Cricket. "We think that Buttler was in his ground as Ashwin got into a position when the non-striker could reasonably have expected the ball to have been delivered," he said. Ashwin's lower body does appear to get into delivery stride even as his arms drop. But could the non-striker have reasonably expected anything about the ball's release when he wasn't watching the bowler and the ball?

What next?

The stigma around the Mankad has to be broken down: neither should the non-striker's attempt to leave his ground early nor the bowler's attempt to run him out be seen as deceitful. The batsman's act – whether intentional or mindless – should simply be seen as a risk in the pursuit of a run. This would render irrelevant any ethical debate on the Mankad. The Laws could be clearer on what a "normal" point of ball release is. But it would be a challenge to find a better, enforceable definition for it. If more bowlers saw they were being exploited and treated the Mankad as a legitimate form of dismissal, more non-strikers would stay in their crease and watch bowlers till they released the ball.

Two aspects of the dismissal are apparent from the images:

The bowler's arm doesn't start to go up

1 According to the ICC Almanac, which guides and informs its umpires' decision-making, the interpretation of Law 41.16 states that the "bowler is permitted to run out the [non-]striker at any point before he releases the ball provided he has not completed his delivery swing". A bowler is "deemed to have completed his delivery swing" once his arm passes its highest point. The bowler's arm in this case didn't go up; there was no question of it passing its highest point. The act, therefore, is in line with the ICC's interpretation of the law

The non-striker isn't watching the bowler

2 When Fraser Stewart, the MCC's laws manager, made the case that the act was not within the spirit of cricket, he said, "We think that Buttler was in his ground as Ashwin got into a position when the non-striker could reasonably have expected the ball to have been delivered." But when a non-striker doesn't watch the ball (or the bowler), on what does he base his expectation of when the ball will be released?

"Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this Spirit causes injury to the game itself," it says. But this spirit is applied arbitrarily and

conveniently and, it could be argued, more harshly to bowlers than to batsmen. A batsman who leaves his crease early is not deemed in contravention of the spirit but a bowler who seeks to dismiss him is seen as taking unfair advantage. This bias perhaps has

its roots in the origins of the game in England, and the distinction between amateur upper-class 'gentlemen,' typically batsmen, and professional working-class 'players,' largely bowlers. The early professionals were usually hired by gentlemen to play for their

Challenging electoral bonds

Have anonymous cash donations reduced with the scheme? Are there pitfalls in the system?

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

The story so far: The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned to April 10 the hearing of a number of petitions challenging the legality of the Electoral Bond Scheme. The Election Commission of India, in an affidavit filed in the court, said the electoral bonds had made political funding opaque and would have "serious repercussions on transparency of political funding" owing to its anonymous nature.

What is the Electoral Bond Scheme?

The scheme was launched last year by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in an attempt to "cleanse the system of political funding in the country." A donor may buy an electoral bond at specified banks and branches using electronic modes of payment and after having completed the KYC (know your customer) requirements. The political party will have to deposit the encashed money in a bank account it has informed the Election Commission about.

Where are they available?

The electoral bonds are available at specified branches of the State Bank of India (SBI) for 10 days each in the months designated by the government from time to time. The bonds may be bought for any value, in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh or ₹1 crore.



What was the system earlier?

The rules for declaring sources of funding for political parties are outlined in Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Prior to 2017, the Act said all registered parties had to declare all donations made to them of over ₹2,000. The problem, according to political analysts and watchdog bodies, was that large donations were anonymous.

What is the controversy?

The bone of contention over the electoral bond scheme is that while the government has consistently said the scheme will increase

While the government has said the scheme will increase transparency in electoral funding, it has ignored the reservations of several political parties and the Election Commission

transparency in electoral funding, it has ignored the reservations of several political parties and even the Election Commission.

The argument put forth by the Election Commission is that it allows political parties not to disclose the source of these bonds. The parties do not have to disclose where their money comes from, as long as the mode of funding is through electoral bonds. This provision, to exempt parties from declaring the sources of the electoral bonds they receive, was done through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act by the Finance Act, 2017.

The Election Commission also criticised several other changes made by the government. For example, it said the amendments introduced by the government in the Income Tax Act also facilitated anonymous donations by saying that parties did not have to disclose the names, address or PAN of donors of less than ₹20,000. The bulk of the donations to parties have been coming in sums smaller than that, the Election Commission

said. Another amendment that has been criticised is the one to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), which the Election Commission said will allow political parties to receive funding from foreign companies with a majority stake in Indian companies.

Are people using these bonds?

Data revealed through the Right to Information replies by the State Bank of India show that large sums have been bought through electoral bonds. The State Bank of India issued a whopping ₹1,716 crore in electoral bonds in just two months of 2019, the data show.

The RTI replies say electoral bonds worth ₹495.6 crore were sold in Mumbai in 2019, which is the largest share (28.9%) of the total amount sold.

Observers are alarmed that the bulk of anonymous electoral bonds sold seem to be going to the Bharatiya Janata Party. A separate RTI reply by the SBI has shown that the bank had sold ₹222 crore worth of electoral bonds in March 2018, the only month in financial year 2017-18 when these bonds were sold.

Given that, at the time, the bonds could only be sold by the SBI, and the fact that a review of the BJP's audit report for 2017-18 showed that it had received ₹210 crore worth of donations that year from electoral bonds, the party received 94.6% of all the electoral bonds sold in 2017-18.

NaMo TV's case

What are the issues over a channel dedicated to the PM?

ANURADHA RAMAN

The story so far: On March 31, NaMo TV made its debut on Direct to Home (DTH) platforms, raising several questions about its identity, ownership and content. Opposition parties asked the Election Commission to take action as the channel was launched after the model code of conduct came into effect ahead of the Lok Sabha election. The Election Commission has sought an explanation from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Why is it problematic?

As the identity and ownership of the entity is shrouded in mystery, it violates broadcasting norms and regulations governing the ownership of content providers. These norms fall under the categories of uplinking and downlinking policies that came into force in 2005 and that have been amended since. These policies lay the groundwork for channels that wish to uplink content through satellites and later downlink them to television-viewing homes. In this regard, there are channels that uplink from outside the country, such as the BBC and CNN, and downlink in India,



for which permission is sought and licences are given by a clutch of government ministries that include the Ministries of Home and Information and Broadcasting. NaMo TV falls in a grey area.

What does that mean?

Well, DTH platforms claim that NaMo is a Value Added Service (VAS) that every DTH operator offers to its subscriber. For example, TATA Sky could offer a series of

As the identity and ownership of the entity is shrouded in mystery, it violates broadcasting norms and regulations governing the ownership of content providers

cooking shows or fitness programmes as add-on services to viewers for subscription. The number of VAS channels on offer varies from one DTH operator to another with as many as 35 VAS services made available.

Can VAS be live?

For want of specific guidelines, VAS can be live. Channels like Astha have often shown their Guru's spiritual discourses live. NaMo TV goes live with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rallies.

Is VAS paid for?

Technically, the DTH operator is paid by those who wish to show their content on the DTH platform. The carriage fee for content on DTH platforms for VAS is between ₹1 lakh and ₹2 lakh and is negotiable.

Why is the Oppn. upset?

As the platform of the ruling party's leader, it gives an unfair advantage to the BJP. Traditionally, time is allotted for propaganda/advertising on government channels: All India Radio and Doordarshan. There are other issues. If NaMo TV is the BJP mouthpiece, it will have to declare it as an election expenditure to the Election Commission.

CAPSULE



Heavy planet fragment
Researchers have spotted a small and dense planet that has survived the death of its star. The *Science* report says that this is astonishing as it is so close to its star, orbiting it every two days. It should not survive the tidal forces under normal circumstances. This planet fragment was found amid debris of destroyed planets.



Integrated invaders
A study published in *Science* analysed the structure of seed dispersal networks in Hawaii, where many invasive bird species have replaced native species. They found that native plants now depend on the invaders for seed dispersal. This indicates how survivors and invaders, such as the red-whiskered bulbul in this case, could get integrated into the system.



Food trail
A *Lancet* study that tracked the consumption of 15 dietary factors from 1990 to 2017, across 195 countries found that people in almost every region would benefit if they followed the practice of eating optimal amounts of food and nutrients. The study found one in five deaths globally was linked to poor diet and also that it was a major contributor to chronic illnesses.

IIT Bombay's bacteria preferentially degrade aromatic compounds

A unique bacterial strain isolated from soil contaminants was used in the study

R. PRASAD

Using a unique strain of bacterium isolated from soil contaminated with petroleum products, IIT Bombay researchers can selectively remove from the environment toxic, aromatic pollutants such as benzoate (sodium benzoate is used as a food preservative), benzyl alcohol and naphthalene, to name a few. What makes the bacterial strain (*Pseudomonas putida* CSV86) unique is its preference for aromatic compounds and organic acid as a food source even when glucose is available. The strain can degrade aromatics and organic acids simultaneously.

Peculiar food choice

Since breaking down aromatic compounds is difficult, bacteria generally prefer simple carbon sources such as glucose for obtaining energy. Even the bacteria that are known to degrade aromatic compounds tend to first prefer glucose and other simple carbon sources for energy and feed on aromatic compounds only when glucose gets exhausted. However, this bacteria strain displays a completely different order of food choices – it first feeds on aromatic compounds and organic acids and only when this gets exhausted does it start feeding on glucose.

"This is the first time a bacteria strain that preferentially utilises aromatic compounds even in the presence of glucose has been ever reported," says Prashant Phale from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Bombay. "We isolated the bacteria from petroleum-contaminated soil in Bengaluru way back in 1986."

- Bacteria, including aromatic-degrading ones, first consume glucose before degrading aromatic compounds

- *Pseudomonas putida* strain's food choice is completely reversed – prefers aromatic over glucose

- The peculiar order of food preference comes from the suppression of glucose utilisation at a molecular level

- Aromatic compounds and organic acid are consumed simultaneously when both are present

- Food preference switches when aromatic compound is introduced to the bacteria feeding on glucose

- The bacterial strain is a good candidate for bioremediation or waste water treatment



Bhavik Shah (foreground) and Prashant Phale at work.

Cleaning up toxic pollutants

A unique soil bacterial strain preferentially devours aromatic compounds and organic acid even when glucose is available, thus selectively removing the pollutants

In studies carried out in the lab, the research team led by Prof. Phale found that even when both benzoate and glucose were available, the bacteria first utilised benzoate, and only when it was exhausted did it start feeding on glucose. "This gives an advantage to remove the pollutants with priority even in the presence of simple carbon source from the contaminated site," says Prof. Phale. The results of the study were published in the journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.

When benzoate and succinate (organic acid) are available together, the bacteria simultaneously consume both pollutants. "The enzymes necessary for breaking down benzoate and succinate were produced in large amounts leading to equal uptake of both," he says. However, when only glucose or benzoate is available the respective enzymes are produced and the carbon source is taken up by the bacteria.

When the researchers introduced benzoate to the bacteria that were already growing on glucose, the level of enzymes responsible for glucose metabolism was seen

to reduce while the level of enzymes for benzoate degradation increased. "We started seeing this effect in 15-30 minutes after benzoate was added. This [synthesising enzymes for benzoate degradation] is a very fast process occurring at the cellular level," says Prof. Phale.

The bacterial strain is a very good candidate for bioremediation or waste-water treatment. We can increase the metabolic diversity and capacity by genetically engineering the strain," he says. "We would first like to test the viability and efficiency of the strain in breaking down different aromatic compounds." The team hopes to engineer the strain so it can be directly applied to the soil to preferentially degrade aromatic pesticides. The team is now trying to understand the molecular mechanisms and regulatory components involved in preferential degradation of aromatics over glucose using various molecular biology tools.

Meteorite sheds light on the Sun's infant years

Superflares were million times stronger than solar flares

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

In 1962, a meteorite weighing 21 kg was found at Efremovka, now in Kazakhstan. By analysing a piece of this meteorite and studying the relative abundances of isotopes of lithium, beryllium and boron, two researchers have envisaged how the Sun behaved in its infancy. Then, they deduce, the Sun could let off superflares which were a million times stronger than the strongest recorded solar flare – the 1859 Carrington event. Such superflares must have taken place 4.5 billion years ago, when the Sun was barely forming. Further, they infer that irradiation by such superflares from the Sun is one of the sources of short-lived nuclides, for example, beryllium-7, which has a half-life of approximately 53.12 days.

First-formed solids

Among the first-formed solids of the solar system were the calcium aluminium-rich inclusions (CAIs). The CAIs are nearly 4.567 billion years old. They become the refractory components within meteorites with irregular shape and are predominantly composed of oxides and silicates of calcium and aluminium. This study suggests that these were pushed to large distances measuring up to a few times the Earth-Sun distance (which is equal to one astronomical unit). These primordial solids were cooked by the superflares and moved to this distance in short times in the order of a year.

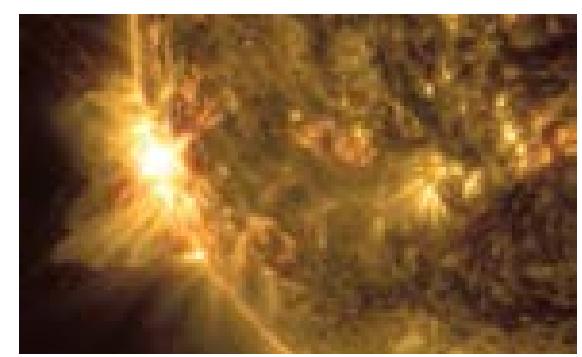
"This study provides a quantum jump in understanding the activity and event and processes occurring in the early solar system and its protoplanetary disk," says Kuljeet Kaur Marhas from Physical Research Laboratory, co-author of the paper which has been published online in *Nature Astronomy*.

Pristine meteorite

The Efremovka meteorite piece was lent to Professor J. N. Goswami, of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for scientific study.

"Efremovka is one of the most pristine meteorites in our collections," says Ritesh Kumar Mishra, the first author, who is at Ruprecht-Karls Heidelberg University. "Hence, there is a much greater probability of finding preserved isotopic records from the time of formation of the solar system, which is contemporaneous with the formation of CAIs," he adds.

The first suggestion of irradiation by the Sun as a source of elements found in early solar system solids came from a study of the beryllium-10 radio nuclide in the Allende meteorite. Before this suggestion, it was believed that the only source of such elements was the contribution from



A solar flare bursts off the Sun in this image captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. ■ REUTERS/NASA

ambient gas and dust. More recently, another hypothesis was added – namely that the beryllium-10 in CAIs could also arise core-collapse supernova from a low-mass star. Each of these possibilities would lead to different scenarios for the formation of the solar system. Since beryllium-10 has a very long half life of about 1.38 million years, it is possible that a part of it could have been created in any of the above processes. Therefore, studying beryllium-10 does not clearly indicate which of the three hypotheses is correct.

This work, on the other hand, studies both beryllium-7 decaying to lithium-7 and beryllium-10 decaying to boron-10. This short half life of beryllium-7 helps rule out the two competing theories and indicates that it is only irradiation by solar flares that led to the formation of the elements captured by the CAI.

"To understand the activity of Sun further, we could look at recurrence of such events in various time scales and its effect on evaporation and recondensation of solids in the early solar system," says Dr. Marhas.

Now, culture more skin cells in less time

Indigenous hydrogel was used in lieu of conventional plastic tissue culture plates



Ankita Srivastava (left), Pankaj Mogha and Susant Kumar are the first authors of the paper.

By using an indigenously developed hydrogel made of a polymer (polyacrylamide) in lieu of the conventional plastic tissue culture plates, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay have been able to achieve many-fold increase in the number of skin cells (keratinocytes) cultured in the lab. Unlike traditional methods, no feeder layer or drug is needed when cells are grown on the hydrogel substrate.

Rapid expansion of keratinocytes, which make up most of the skin cells, without losing the physiological functions, is essential when treating chronic wounds and burn patients. Keratinocytes for the study were supplied by Dr. Chitra Nayak of BYL Nair Charitable Hospital, Mumbai and co-author of a paper published in the journal *RSC Advances*.

Compared with plastic plates, cells grown on hydrogel have better physiological functions. Both wound healing and the ability to take up viruses (lentivirus), which act as a gene delivery vehicle, are better when the cells are grown on hydrogel, the team found.

Stiffness of substrate

The relatively less-stiff hydrogel substrate developed by a team led by Abhijit Majumder at the institute's Department of Chem-

ical Engineering facilitates rapid multiplication of cells. The cells could multiply up to 25 generations while those grown on plastic plates stopped growing after 12-15 generations.

"In 10 days, the number of skin cells grown on plastic plates reaches one million while cells grown on hydrogel become 20 million," says Prof. Majumder, who is one of the corresponding authors of the paper. "There was rapid proliferation of cells and we were able to get more number of cells in less time."

Besides quantity, even the quality of cells grown on hydrogel was better than cells grown on plastic plates. "Cells grown on gel were able to secrete the molecules essential for recruiting the immune cells," says Prof. Majumder.

The hydrogel allows rapid

multiplication as its stiffness is about 1 lakh times less than plastic plates – plastic plates have stiffness of 1 GPa. The team found that growing cells on hydrogel with 10 kPa and 20 kPa produced more cells than when grown on either rigid plastic or gels that are much softer (5 kPa).

The keratinocytes adhere to the substrate and tend to contract, thereby experiencing high tension (traction force). The traction force experienced by cells increases with stiffness of the substrate on which they are grown.

As a result, when cultured for long, cells grown on stiffer plastic plates age faster.

"Senescence is low when cells are grown on gel. That's why they are able to multiply up to 25 generations," says Prof. Majumder.

Patients with burn and chronic wounds require

plenty of skin cells and need them immediately. So we need a method that allows for rapid multiplication of cells with the physiological functions remaining intact," says Rahul Purwar from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Bombay and the other corresponding author. Similarly, in the case of epidermolysis bullosa skin disorder requiring gene therapy, the entire sheet of epidermis is defective and has to be replaced with epidermis containing cells with normal copy of the gene.

Quick method needed

Keratinocytes make up more than 90% of the skin cells. Even in the case of deep burns (which are not restricted to the skin surface), covering the skin with keratinocytes helps in preventing infection and water loss. Hence, a technique that produces more cells quickly helps.

Up to two generations, cells grown on plastic plates and gel substrate tend to close the wound in a similar fashion. However, fewer cells are available at the end of two generations when grown on plastic plates.

"When cells of eighth generation are used, those grown on the gel are able to better close the wound than cells grown on plastic plates," says Prof. Purwar.

The researchers intend to carry out trials on animal models but that would depend on the availability of GMP facility and funding.

India might soon have the most Caesarean births

ASWATHI PACHA

A new study based on the data from the National Family and Health Survey has shown that there is a significant increase in the rate of caesarean births in India.

While the WHO recommends the rate of caesarean delivery to be 10-15%, the number was 17.2% for India during the period from Jan 2015 to Dec 2016. This is higher than the rate seen in rich countries such as the Netherlands and Finland. The report says that if this trend continues, India could soon have the largest number of C-section births in the world.

But is C-section bad? A 2018 report in *The Lancet* pointed out that the prevalence of maternal mortality and morbidity is higher after caesarean than after vaginal birth. Also, it is noted to be associated with an "increased risk of uterine rupture, abnormal placentation, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, and preterm birth." Many studies have pointed out that babies born via C-section have less bacterial exposure, which in turn alters their immunity and gut microbiome diversity. Children tend to have increased chances of allergy, asthma, and childhood obesity.

The study noted the rates varied widely across States, with just 5.8% in Nagaland to 57.7% in Telangana. When taking socioeconomic conditions into account, the researchers found that the rate of C-section was as small as 4.4% among the poorest group to 35.9% among the richest quintile.



The caesarean ward of a primary health centre. (Photo shown for illustrative purpose).

Bengaluru.

"While we have no direct information on the factor behind the rise of C-sections among the privileged classes from this survey or other sources, we presume that several factors may be at play such as desire for comfort, and fear of pain and health risks from women, and organisational and medical simplicity as well as financial benefits from clinics," explains Dr. Christophe Z. Guilmoto, in an email to *The Hindu*. He is the corresponding author of the study.

"There is an urgent need to monitor the deliveries in clinics and hospitals. The government should inform practitioners and women of the unnecessary risks of non-medically justified C-sections," he adds. "India has to face a 'double burden' of providing C-sections to populations that still have no access to it (because of poverty, remoteness or lack of facilities, etc.) and at the same time of curbing overuse."

Tree crickets face low predatory risks during mate-searching

AATHIRA PERINCHERY

Love is risky in the natural world especially for males because their serenades and movements to actively seek out females can be picked up by predators. But deviating from the norm, tree crickets – both males and females – face low and similar predation risks, finds a study. The low predation levels also question the popular notion that predation is the major factor influencing

the evolution of communication, according to scientists at the Centre for Ecological Studies in Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science.

The team including then doctoral scholar Viraj R. Torskar estimated predation risk in the tree cricket *Oecanthus henryi*, males of which call loudly. The team first conducted surveys in an unused farmland in Karnataka's Chikkaballapur to identify the main predators of the cricket. Acoustic playback

and field predation experiments revealed that this distinction went to green lynx spiders, which could be picking up acoustic cues and vibrations of crickets' movements.

The team then studied three spatial scales at which the spiders and crickets interacted. First, they quantified the probability that spiders and crickets occurred on the same bush together. They searched around 120 bushes to locate calling males and

counted non-calling males, responding and non-responding females and spiders, to find that all the insects co-occurred in each bush at similar probabilities.

Next, they determined the probability of crickets encountering spiders on a bush. They released a wild-caught cricket (calling and non-calling males, responding and non-responding females) and later, a spider, onto the same bush in an outdoor enclosure; success-

ful or failed attacks and captures by spiders counted as encounters. Almost 200 trials revealed that regardless of whether males were calling or not, and whether females responded or not, crickets encountered spiders at the same probabilities.

A similar experiment with 105 trials to determine the probability of a cricket being eaten showed that the spiders captured very few crickets (only six), again, on similar probabilities whether males



Field assistant Manjunatha K. Reddy making observations during one of the experiments. VIRAJ R. TORSEKAR

were calling or not and females responding or not. The three probabilities together reveal predation risk for crickets to be low, and similar across sexes, in the team's paper published in *Evolutionary Ecology*. While searching for mates, males are thought to face a higher predation risk compared to females but our paper dispels this surprisingly rarely tested notion, said Mr. Torskar (currently with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel).

An alternative explanation for the shared mate-searching behaviour in tree crickets could be the 'direct benefits' that females of some insect species receive from males during mating, added Mr. Torskar. In *O. henryi*, a gland on the male's back releases nutritious secretions that the female drinks during mating, he said.

Those elusive GIRLS OF MY LIFE

The magic touch that the girl children can bring to your life is incomparable

RISHI KANNA

The enormity of marriage functions and the gaggle of exotically dressed attendees can sometimes be stifling. I waved at my colleague and his spouse as I was looking for some familiar faces in the maddening marriage crowd. After exchanging pleasantries, the young lady bent toward my younger son who was draping my legs, and brushed his cheeks. "Hi, kiddo. When did you come? Have you bunked school today? Where is your *anna* [brother]?" She rattled off a stream of questions, interspersed with her own trademark exclamations, winks and guffaws.

Not unexpectedly, my otherwise charming son just gave a sheepish smile to most of her questions, with few acknowledging gestures and frequently looking at me coyly seeking release from the embarrassment. I egged him to answer her in loud and clear sentences but in vain. Finally, she joined a group of other women enjoying the pleasant scenes unveiled in front of them.

The moment she left, my reticent son asked me, "Did I speak nicely, appa?" I hugged him tightly as if I could show the extent of my love in the tightness. At the same time, my colleague's 10-year-old daughter happened to pass across us. With eyes staring wide, she turned to us and enquired, "Hi uncle, how are you?" followed by 10 other seemingly unrelated questions even before we could answer her first question.

The charming girl with a twinkle in her eyes continued to mesmerise me for the next few minutes with her garrulous nature. With exuberance in her hammy gestures and innocence in her speech, it seemed as if girl children are a different species altogether. No wonder every other day there are innumerable posts in social media raving about girl children as angels, leaving parents with shy sons and cran-



ILLUSTRATION:
J.A. PREMKUMAR

ky brats with a heartburn.

The kindness and sensitivity in the actions of girl children are unmistakable and brings a world of calmness in an otherwise chaotic world. They add colour to our life. Look at the psychedelic selection of colours, perplexing patterns and dizzy designs available in the sartorial choices of those little angels. It reduces the standard grey-and-blue shades of boys' attire as minnows in a world of giants.

There is no competition at all. More than the charm and allure they bring with them; the extreme prolixity of the girl children is what exalts them into stardom in our minds. Their brain can concoct dozens of information in a fraction of a second and come out with the most ingenious set of questions, descriptions and comments about anything they see.

Let me divulge that, the day I knew we are going to be

parents, I wished our first child was an angel, as loquacious, as responsible, as whimsical and as energetic as my wife. But the wish remains a wish. It appeared that god had turned a deaf ear to our wishes, but I wonder were those wishes drowned in the miscarriages we had. Though we have got two adorable sons, they are as cagey, as carefree, as dreary and as mute as I am.

There is a saying that when god could not let angels on to Earth, he created girl children.

The amount of love and peace infused by them into the society is phenomenal. As the human race keeps moving away from the other animal species, it seems only men carry those savagery and violent territorial animalistic tendencies, while most women and children bear the aftermath of such mindless acts.

It is sad that the dislike for girl children still prevails in

many sections of even well-lettered societies, leading to a dwindling sex ratio. Brazen acts of identifying the child's gender, infanticide and a patriarchal mindset of suppressing the exuberance of girl children keeping them in shackles are regrettable menaces. I am sure that if such a parochial person speaks to a girl child for a few minutes, he will get smitten by those expressive wide eyes, continuous chattering, the high-spirited attitude, ravishing innocence and the ever-caring nature of a girl child.

While my life has been coloured beautifully by many women including my mother, sister, wife, nieces and friends, the enticing little girl angel has remained elusive. I only wish that the dream becomes true through my princess, with a vibrant and zestful daughter-in-law or a granddaughter.

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Of a certain power, and my first wrist-watch

A prudent little lady's piggy bank helps make a timely choice, with a little help from mother

RANJANI RAO

When I was eleven, I was summoned to the tenth-grade classroom by the school principal, a stern-looking nun who taught mathematics, in a sleepy suburb of what was then Bombay. Surprised and even scared, unsure about what wrong I had possibly done, I gingerly ventured into the room where senior girl students much taller than me and with their hair combed into two tight braids sat without expression. Sister Irene asked me to go to the blackboard and solve a simple math problem involving fractions. I finished the task and turned towards her still unsmiling face.

"Even a sixth-grade girl is able to solve the problem. And look at you. You have the board exams coming up and don't know how to solve this," Sister Irene reprimanded her silent audience and dismissed me with a flick of her wrist. I stood outside the class for a while, confused over what had transpired, unaware that this would be the day I understood my super power (not in math, in case you are wondering).

My parents and my extended family appreciated my academic performance by giving me token gifts: cho-



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

colate bars, a treat at the local *vada pav* shop, and sometimes, cash. This I saved along with my pocket money, first in a piggy bank and later in an envelope that I hid under my book pile. At some point I handed over the tattered but bulging envelope along with the associated responsibility to my mother. By the time I finished high school in the mid-1980s, I had accumulated the princely sum of Rs. 500, a surprise fact that my mother pointed out one summer afternoon.

Doodarshan had started displaying advertisements a

few years earlier and one of the most aspirational items that appealed to my teenage sentiments was the HMT watch. There were various models, with round and square dials, with black and white backgrounds, in gold and silver configurations, with metallic or leather straps, for men and women. I decided to convert my hard-won treasure of cash into a 'ladies' watch.

My mother and I took the train to Santa Cruz one afternoon, to check out the collection at the nearest HMT showroom. I could barely contain my excitement at the

prospect of owning a shiny new watch. The air-conditioned showroom was a magical palace full of shimmering objects that everyone could covet but not all could afford. I felt almost like Cinderella, a misfit who had ventured into this palace of wonder by mistake.

My mother drew my attention to the section that had women's watches, and the salesperson pulled out a few trays with rows of watches. They all looked wonderful. How could I choose? My ever-practical mother made the selection process easier by announcing that our budget was Rs. 500. Thus the offerings shrunk to a handful.

I was at once dismayed by the meagre pickings but pleased that I did not have to be paralysed by a mountain of choice. I picked up each watch and held it against my bony wrist. I lifted up my hand, tilted it this way and that, walked out into the sunshine to see how it looked in natural light. Did a circular dial look better, or was it a rectangular one?

The one I liked best had a square gold dial with a cream-coloured face and golden arms that fit perfectly on

my wrist. The metallic strap put the total price out of my range but even with a simple leather strap, the total price was Rs. 550. I went back to look at others that would fit within my means but I couldn't find anything that called out to me.

Heartbroken, I told my mother we should just leave. I couldn't afford the one I liked and the others weren't good enough.

"Don't be silly," she said. "Let's buy the square gold watch. I will pay the extra 50 rupees."

I couldn't believe my ears. By paying the difference, my mother was giving me the best gift of all, the ability to own my first watch, an HMT watch, with its frayed leather strap and tarnished edges, remained my favourite, for it was proof of my super power.

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An yesteryear tale: so far yet so near they lived their lives

How Jayarama Iyer in the North Pole and Visalakshi in the South Pole still somehow remained aligned

M.R. ANAND

Mrs. Visalakshi was around 65 and her husband Mr. Jayarama Iyer was 72. They stayed with their only daughter Mrs. Janaki and her seven children. One of the grandchildren, Bala, was in my class. What puzzled me about Bala's grandparents was they never spoke to each other. Whenever they had anything to tell each other they did so via the grandchildren.

This bothered me. I saw quarrels between my parents. My grandparents too quarrelled often. They would remain aloof from each other for some time and eventually rejoin. What might have happened between Mrs. Visalakshi and Mr. Jayarama Iyer to keep them apart, poles apart, this long?

One day I asked my mother about it. First she told me, "You are too small a boy to



"Tell your mother I will not be home before 10," Jayarama Iyer would tell his daughter. "Ask him to bring Oval [tine] and sugar when he returns from college," Visalakshi would reply. The family bus cruised along the life-road like this, the driver Jayarama Iyer and the conductor Visalakshi communicating through their only passenger, daughter Janaki.

Janaki grew up. She went to school, came of age and

the time came for her to be married. Even during the ceremony of the marriage of their only daughter they did not speak to each other. Five grandsons and three granddaughters were born and a number of ceremonies were observed in connection with these grandchildren. Jayarama Iyer and Visalakshi stuck to their vow of not speaking to each other.

A number of relatives and friends over time tried to

break the ice between these couples, but in vain. On one occasion my mother asked Mrs. Janaki how she could bear to see her parents remaining without speaking to each other adamantly for years and years. "They are like this since I was a child. I tried my best to unravel the mystery but in vain. I hated to be the lone child of my parents. I longed to have a brother or sister. But all my efforts to bring about reconciliation between them failed," replied Mrs. Janaki.

I think it was in 1969 that Jayarama Iyer got very ill. He refused to take food, and drank only water for days. A staunch devotee of Lord Vishnu, he kept chanting the *Vishnu Sahasranamam*. But Visalakshi was emotion-less.

Jayarama Iyer died in the early hours of an Ekadasi day, as he had desired all his life. Visalakshi died ten years later. During the years she

The art of doing nothing

Mindfulness that release from the daily grind brings

VIBHU KAPOOR

It's Sunday evening and I sit in my living room, watching the IPL match because I know that's the easiest item my brain can process at that point after a strenuous day. As I sip a cup of tea and gather my thoughts around how my next week may progress, the electricity in our apartment goes off. "Ah, it's the rain! Everytime the clouds roar we have a power outage," my wife groans, coming out of the bedroom, trying to break her shackles of weekend laziness. She proposes that sitting in the balcony is a rather good idea as it is pleasant outside. For the lack of a better option, I nod and follow her (or if I should say so, after five years of marriage there always is only one option to go for).



At this very point, a distinctive thought emerges - that of the twilight. That time of the day that often found mention in one of my childhood favourite, *Games at Twilight* by Anita Desai. I become aware that my mind is moving into a reminiscent state and I am glad it doesn't bring up dialogues from the forgettable 2008 movie, *Twilight*.

As we gaze through the distance ahead, we appreciate the unobstructed view our balcony is still able to offer us (and we quickly thank each other for our mutual decision to choose an apartment in a high-rise building).

As my wandering mind continues to ponder over my upcoming meetings at the workplace, my desire to go for a 10,000-km run in less than 60 minutes, my ranking in the cricket fantasy league, my next weekend culinary trials and so on, I realise that the sun is setting, behind the most distant building my bare eyes can see.

excitedly count the number of two-wheelers and cars on the distant highway, visible to us for a short span through those recesses between buildings. I remember thinking that I could do it all night without ever getting bored.

As my mind oscillates between these thoughts, I hear the hoot of the local train. I feel like I am hearing it after a long time, although we have a train passing by our apartment often. I realise how my ever-wandering mind has kept me from observing things happening around me. I am starting to enjoy this time away from my gadgets as I watch another train pass by on the opposite track. I laugh out at a distant sight of a child wobbling along on his bicycle as he attempts to master the ride.

It is almost getting dark now and I try to catch the last glimpses of this vast land that I know will soon be inhabited by newer and larger structures that will obstruct my view. I thank the electricity agency for giving me the unexpected me-time as I engage in this forgotten 'art of doing nothing'. As we decide to head inside for dinner, the playlist on my wife's phone moves to the song 'Bare Necessities' from the 1967 classic, *Jungle Book*. I gently smile as I get off my chair, appreciating the song title even more now.

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The stare case

RAVINDRA ANAND

Her name means "civility". Born and raised in the U.S. in an immigrant Indian family, she has impeccable manners. In India to attend a cousin's wedding, she says "Thank you" as a waiter offers her a glass of water. Her Indian cousins are surprised at this "formality". She is surprised at their surprise. But ruder shocks await her. Wherever she goes, people stare at her; total strangers stop to give her a once over.



Unused to such ocular hostility and confused about how to react, she tries her open society reaction - she smiles back. To her astonishment, the staring species skulks back, trying to merge into the crowd as if caught in a guilty act. Her mom was brought up in India, so she consults her, "Mom, when somebody stares at you, is it all right to smile?" The mother is caught between concern for her safety and fear of putting her off India. She replies diplomatically, "One should avoid it because it may be misunderstood." Unknown to her, mom is residing her college days in India, so full of stare-cases.

Well, why don't we? ravindraanand@yahoo.co.in

The moment she would

step out of her home to walk to the bus stop, the usual hanger-ons at the paan shop will give her the benefit of undivided attention. And she had been coached by her mother to look straight ahead. It felt as if she had made a narrow tunnel for herself in the open road. She felt so closed in. And it did not stop there. In college, in bookshops - whenever a girl went she had to learn to live with restricted vision and a lurking feeling of eyes staring at her. So she just hopes her daughter doesn't notice it too much.

Meanwhile, the intrigued daughter is asking a few girls she has befriended. By the time she gets the full measure of the problem, she isaghast. From her fresh perspective pops up a simple question: "Why don't you have a law against it?"

Well, why don't we?

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Transcending boundaries

Revisiting and revising elements of the subcontinent's contemporary history

ILSA ABDUL RAZZAK

From India, in awe

'Chuddies' have made an entry into the Oxford English Dictionary

P.M. WARRIOR

End of the attestation routine

No more having to run around to get documents attested is a great convenience

SRIPATHI SRIRHARSHA

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Super Kings win battle of Kings

After du Plessis plays a good hand, Harbhajan steps in with crucial strikes

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

There were moments when this did not appear Chennai Super Kings' day. Whipping up another moment of wizardry, M.S. Dhoni swooped on the ball and scored a direct hit with a trademark flick-back. The bails, however, were not dislodged.

Kings XI Punjab's K.L. Rahul, on 41 then, was caught short of the crease but survived. But then, champion teams make their own luck.

The new kid in the CSK ranks, Scott Kuggeleijn, prised out Rahul (55), taken in the deep with a slower back-a-length ball in the 18th over.

Then, things seemed to go horribly wrong for the host, defending 160, at the start of the penultimate over. Deepak Chahar sent down two successive no-balls. For once, anger was visible on Captain Cool's visage as Dhoni was locked in an animated discussion with Chahar.

Array of yorkers

And how the swing bowler responded! He bowled a succession of searing yorkers and canny slower balls before knocking back the dangerous David Miller's leg-stump with a full delivery that reverse swung.

Chahar had displayed character under duress and the contest was sealed. With 26 required off the final over, Kuggeleijn held his nerve and CSK clinched this IPL face-off by 22 runs.

The 110-run stand in 93 balls for the third wicket between Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan (67) kept Kings in the hunt, but the side could not deliver the big blows at the finish.

The duel between Chris Gayle and Harbhajan ended soon. The experienced off-spinner won this one, fighting and luring the West Indian southpaw to doom with



Decisive blow: Chris Gayle snapped up by Dhoni off Harbhajan Singh. ■ M. VEDHAN

a delivery that turned.

Soon, Harbhajan, adjudged Man-of-the-Match, deceived Mayank Agarwal in flight to force a miscue. Rahul, driving gorgeously, and Sarfaraz, striking some hefty blows, set up a platform but CSK shut the door.

CSK, this time around, was not powerless in the PowerPlay overs after winning the toss. The host raced to 54 without loss in the first six overs with Faf du Plessis and CSK clinched this IPL face-off by 22 runs.

SCOREBOARD CHENNAI SUPER KINGS VS KINGS XI PUNJAB

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Shane Watson c Curran b R. Ashwin 26 (24b, 3x4, 1x6), Faf du Plessis c Miller b R. Ashwin 54 (38b, 2x4, 4x6), Suresh Raina b R. Ashwin 17 (20b, 1x4), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 37 (23b, 4x4, 1x6), Ambati Rayudu (not out) 21 (15b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (w-5): 5; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 160.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-56 (Watson, 7.2 overs), 2-100 (du Plessis, 13.3), 3-100 (Raina, 13.4).

KINGS XI BOWLING

Shami 4-0-41-0, R. Ashwin 4-0-23-3, Curran 4-0-35-0, Tyre 4-0-38-0, M. Ashwin 4-0-23-0.

KINGS XI PUNJAB

K.L. Rahul c Jadeja b Kuggeleijn 55 (47b, 3x4, 1x6),

African, displaying timing and poise, pierced the gaps during his 38-ball 54.

A resurgent Kings pegged back the run-rate with the two Ashwins from Chennai conceding just 46 in their eight overs. R. Ashwin varied his pace, harnessed the angles and used the carrom ball cleverly. Leg-spinner M. Ashwin extracted bounce from a high-arm action and there was some turn for him too.

It was advantage Kings, but Dhoni took flight again at

Chepauk with which his relationship is symbiotic. He scored an unbeaten 37 off 23 balls to take the team to a total that proved adequate.

Next assignment

KXIP: April 8: v SRH Mohali, 8 p.m.

CSK: April 9: v KKR Chennai, 8 p.m.

Innings scan

| CSK | KXIP |
|------|---------|
| 37 | Dots 39 |
| 11 | Fours 9 |
| 7 | Sixes 3 |
| 54/0 | PP 46/2 |
| 8.00 | RR 6.90 |

Points table

| Team | M | W | L | NR | PTS | NRR |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|----|-----|--------|
| Chennai Super Kings | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0.159 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1.000 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0.534 |
| Mumbai Indians | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0.342 |
| Kings XI Punjab | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | -0.094 |
| Delhi Capitals | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0.029 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | -0.333 |
| Royal Challengers | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | -1.616 |

* after the SRH-MI match on April 6

R. ASHWIN

KXIP captain

dhoni
as solid as ever

■ Dhoni (37 n.o.), by remaining unbeaten for a 61st time in the IPL, a tournament record, improved his average to a remarkable 156.00 in this edition of the IPL

■ He has been dismissed only once (against MI) in IPL-12

Kuggeleijn's controversial past

SPORTS REPORTER

CHENNAI

Debutant Scott Kuggeleijn played a key role for Chennai Super Kings in its win over Kings XI Punjab, giving away just ten runs and taking two wickets in his final two overs, especially after going for 27 in his first two.

However, the 27-year-old, who has played two ODIs and four T20Is for New Zealand, has been in the

news for the wrong reasons in his home country. He was accused of sexual assault and faced charges of rape in 2015.

He was found not guilty in a retrial in 2017 after a trial in 2016 had returned a hung jury verdict. He was booed during the T20Is against India in New Zealand earlier this year. Many held up placards and banners, protesting his selection.

The all-rounder was roped in by CSK as a replacement for the injured South African pacer Lungi Ngidi.

After signing him, coach Stephen Fleming had said, "We have looked for an all-rounder who has good pace and variations. We don't have a tall fast bowler who gets bounce like Ngidi. Kuggeleijn has got pace, which is something different."

The host's bowling looks sharper. Pacers Jofra Archer and Ben Stokes and spinners Shreyas Gopal and K. Gowtham form a formidable attack.

Shreyas was brilliant in the last match. It was the leg-spinner's three prized wickets – Virat Kohli, A.B. de Villiers and Shimron Hetmyer – that led the Royals to their first win of the season, against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Should Sanju Samson, the scorer of the first hundred of the season, return after missing out the last game with a niggle, the batting would be further strengthened. The form of Jos Buttler, Ajinkya Rahane, Steve Smith and Rahul Tripathi also inspires confidence.

Even as Kohli suggested that the best way to prepare was by leaving his players alone, the skipper will have much to ponder. RCB will have always been a top-heavy outfit, and the lifting of the fog which had settled over the side's batting was a positive from the clash against KKR on Friday. But the side's death bowling – for long the

Achilles heel – was exposed yet again while the fielding showed no signs of improvement.

Against Capitals, which too has splendid shot-makers, Kohli will need to be a lot more imaginative. The likes of Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant will relish the conditions in Bengaluru, more so after struggling on the sluggish surfaces back home. "I've played a lot over here and it is a good wicket," said Shaw on match eve. "[We are] not really talking about the opposition, how they are doing or how they are bowling. We are just going to prepare well ourselves. I feel that this wicket is going to be good for batting and we are looking forward to some good runs."



Task on hand: Rajasthan Royals will need its bowlers to fire in order to contain a fiery Andre Russell. ■ AP

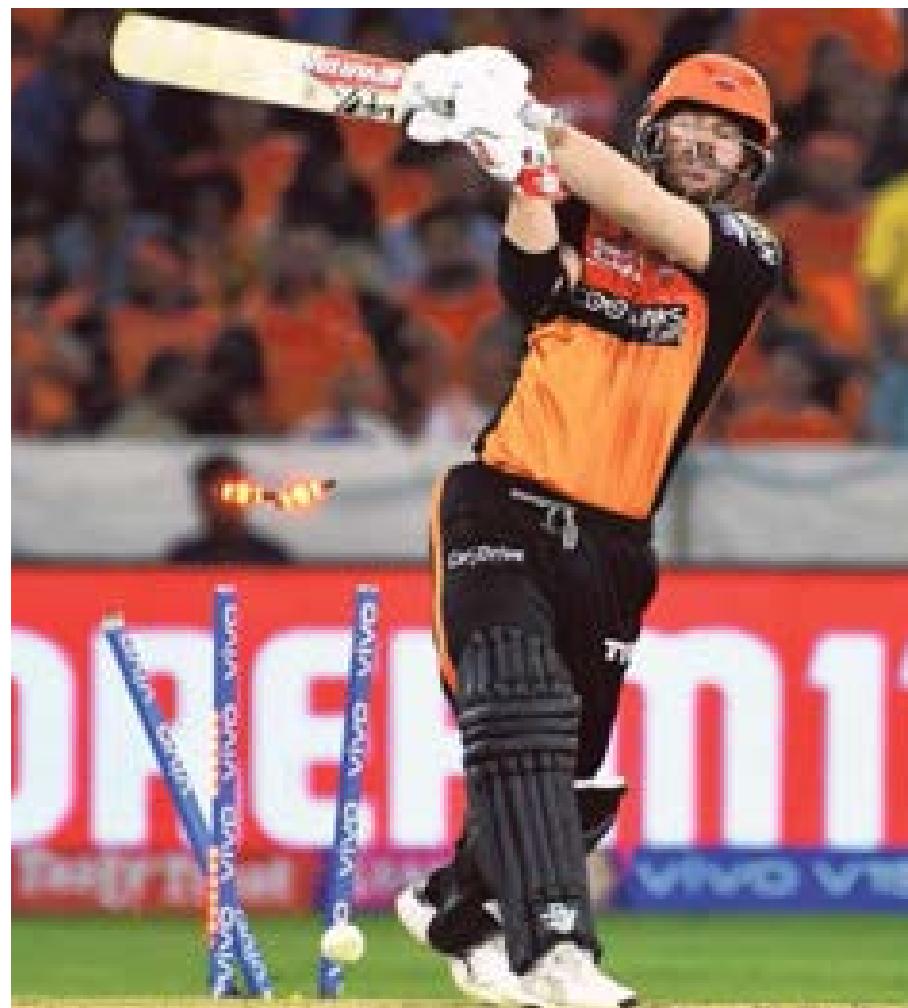
Shubman Gill to come in after Chris Lynn and Sunil Narine.

The same cannot be said about the bowling, though.

Wrist-spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Piyush Chawla are the only Kolkata bowlers to boast an economy rate of less than nine.

Joseph rips through Sunrisers

His six-wicket haul and Pollard's cameo help MI script a remarkable win



Lights out! David Warner is castled by Alzarri Joseph. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

Innings scan

| MI | SRH |
|------|---------|
| 57 | Dots 53 |
| 8 | Fours 8 |
| 7 | Sixes 1 |
| 30/2 | PP 39/2 |
| 6.80 | RR 5.43 |

Top of the charts

ORANGE CAP

David Warner (SRH)
Matches: 5 | Runs: 279
HS: 100* | S/R: 158.52

PURPLE CAP

Yuzvendra Chahal (RCB)
Matches: 5 | Wickets: 9
BB: 4/38 | Econ.: 6.45

*after the SRH-MI match on April 6

Next assignment

SRH: April 8: v KXIP Mohali, 8 p.m.

MI: April 10: v KXIP Mumbai, 8 p.m.

trapped Suryakumar Yadav in front and Kaul sent back Quinton de Kock whose lofted shot went straight to the fielder to the brink.

The West Indian sealed the issue in quick time, sending back Mohammad Nabi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Siddarth Kaul.

The host was reduced to 39 for two after Jonny Bairstow sliced leg-spinner Rahul Chahar to point and David Warner was bowled off the inside edge in Joseph's first over in the IPL.

Failing to capitalise

Manish Pandey failed to thrive on the dropped chance – Kieron Pollard floored a sitter at long-off off Rahul Chahar when the batsman was on zero. He fell for 16. Yusuf Pathan was dismissed for a four-ball duck by Chahar.

Joseph struck a double

SCOREBOARD SUNRISERS HYDERABAD VS MUMBAI INDIANS

| MUMBAI INDIANS | SUNRISERS BOWLING |
|--|---|
| 5-65 (Ishan-12.5), 6-86 (Hardik-16.3), 7-97 (Chahar-17.6). | Bhuvneshwar 4-0-34-1, Sandeep 3-0-20-1, Nabi 4-0-13-1, Yusuf 1-0-8-0, Kaul 4-0-34-2, Rashid 4-0-27-1. |
| SUNRISERS HYDERABAD | David Warner b Joseph 15 (13b, 2x4), Jonny Bairstow c Bumrah b Rahul Chahar 16 (10b, 3x4), Vijay Shankar b Hardik 14 (14b, 1x6), Rahul Chahar c Bairstow b Bhuvneshwar 10 (17b, 2x4), Alzarri Joseph (not out) 0 (Ob); Extras (nb-1, w-5): 6; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 136. |
| FALL OF WICKETS | 1-21 (Bairstow-3.4 overs), 2-28 (Suryakumar- 4.6), 3-43 (de Kock-8.2), 4-63 (Krunal-11.4), |
| MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING | Kumar b Joseph 2 (6b), Siddharth 5 (1b), Sandeep Sharma (not out) 5 (2b, 1x4); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-3): 6; Total (in 17.4 overs): 96. |

Kumar b Joseph 2 (6b), Siddharth 5 (1b), Sandeep Sharma (not out) 5 (2b, 1x4); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-3): 6; Total (in 17.4 overs): 96.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-33 (Bairstow, 3.4), 2-33 (Warner, 4.1), 3-42 (Vijay Shankar, 6.5), 4-61 (Pandey, 10.3), 5-62 (Yusuf, 11.2), 6-88 (Rashid, 15.5), 8-90 (Nabi, 16.4), 9-91 (Bhuvneshwar, 17.1).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Behrendorff 4-0-28-1, Bumrah 3-0-16-1, Rahul Chahar 4-0-21-2, Joseph 3-4-12-6, Krinal 2

TV PICKS

Malaysia Open: Star Sports 2 & 3, 9.30 a.m.
Super Cup: Star Sports 3, 8.15 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2, 6.20 p.m.
FA Cup: Sony Ten 2, 8.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: SS Select 2, 9.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sony ESPN, 9.30 p.m., 12 a.m. (Monday)
La Liga: Sony Ten 2, 3.30 p.m.; Sony Ten Six, 7.40 p.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 & 3, 5.30 a.m. & 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Barca wants Messi for keeps, says club chief

BARCELONA
Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu has said he plans to offer Lionel Messi a new contract in the hope the Argentinian will stay at the club his whole career. Messi's current deal runs until 2021, the same year he turns 34, but he has been in brilliant form again this season. "We would like to renew his contract, that's the idea," Bartomeu told ESPN. AFP



Sandhu, Rashid finish second and third

DHAKA
Ajeetesh Sandhu (in pic) and Rashid Khan dropped a crucial bogey each on the 17th hole to finish second and third respectively at the Bangabandhu Cup Golf Open, here on Saturday. Rookie Sadom Kaewkanjana won the title in his first Asian Tour appearance. PTI



Honour: FIFA president Gianni Infantino receives a pennant from AFC senior vice president Praful Patel during the Asian Football Confederation Congress 2019 in Kuala Lumpur. • AFP

Westbrook shines as Thunder sinks Pistons

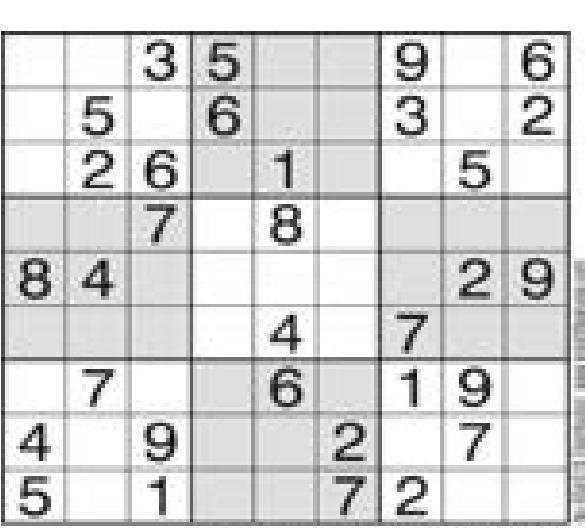
LOS ANGELES
Russell Westbrook clinched his third straight season averaging a triple double as Oklahoma City Thunder beat Detroit Pistons 123-110 in an NBA contest crucial to both teams' playoff hopes. Westbrook finished with 19 points, eight rebounds and 15 assists. AFP

Paes-Paire duo bows out in semifinals

SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS
Fourth seeds Leander Paes and Benoit Paire of France were beaten 6-7(4), 7-6(2), [10-5] by wild card entrants Enzo Couacaud and Tristan Lamasine in the semifinals of the €69,280 Challenger tennis tournament in France on Saturday.

Other result: Quarterfinals: Paire & Paes bt Rudolf Molleker (Ger) & Alexei Popirin (Aus) 4-0 retd.

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 9 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 |

Royals are like a family, says Archer

The Rajasthan spearhead enjoys the competitive environment of the Indian Premier League

IPL-12

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
JAIPUR

Long before Chris Jordan discovered him and took him along to Sussex and made him an instant star, Jofra Archer was enamoured by the IPL. He wished to play in it, but had no clue how.

He would have settled for less than the ₹7.2 crore that Rajasthan Royals spent on him. But he more than justified his price in his maiden season and is leading his team's attack this year as well.

The Barbados-born cricketer, who will soon qualify to play for England, is one of the world's most exciting pace-bowling all-rounders. Excerpts from an exclusive interview the 24-year-old gave to *The Hindu*:

How IPL is different from other competitions

In other tournaments, half the team is really good. Here anyone in the team can win you matches. Mohammad



Pulling his weight: Jofra Archer is one of the world's most exciting pace-bowling all-rounders. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nabi and Faf du Plessis are not even playing (regularly).

What do you like about Royals?

It is a family, really. Very welcoming. They even welcome my girlfriend.

How tough was the Ashwin-Buttler incident for the team?

That was probably our game to win. Obviously that (R. Ashwin Mankading Buttler) changed the momentum of the game. It was strategic what Ashwin did. Personally,

I wouldn't do that; I would rather lose a game. You are setting an example for kids.

It has happened and gone. It has only made our team stronger.

The other day you picked Jasprit Bumrah, Rashid Khan

and yourself as the world's best T20 bowlers...

That is my opinion, but I don't know if it has come across as such. Bumrah's action is a bit awkward, so you don't see his slower balls. He can trick you with pace. He is a lot quicker than he looks. I faced him last year against Mumbai. I think I didn't hit the ball, the ball hit my bat.

Rashid Khan was with me at Sussex last year. It is very hard to pick him.

I guess I am pretty much like Bumrah, with my yorkers and slower balls.

Talking of fast bowlers, you like watching videos of Waqar Younis.

Yes, I watched a few of his spells in Tests against England. He was swinging the ball both ways and no one could touch him.

Other bowlers you admire.

Curtly Ambrose and Michael Holding.

The toughest batsman you have bowled to.

Jos Buttler, Virat Kohli, A.B. de Villiers and Shreyas Iyer are difficult too.

Stokes takes positive from Bristol brawl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAIPUR

Bristol bar brawl may be the 'best thing' that could have happened to me, says Stokes

England's star all-rounder Ben Stokes says the Bristol bar brawl and the ensuing chain of events, which dogged his career for 15 months, may be the "best thing that could have happened" to him.

"It sounds silly but, could Bristol have been the best thing that could have happened to me? Who knows. But maybe in terms of my way of thinking," Stokes told ESPNcricinfo during a visit to a children's charity here.

Stokes, who is playing for Rajasthan Royals in this year's IPL, said he was determined to win the upcoming World Cup at home.



Off-field agony: Ben Stokes was acquitted of affray at Bristol Crown Court in August last year. • AFP

AIFF president Praful Patel elected as FIFA Council member

Says his induction into world football's apex body will help the game in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Praful Patel on Saturday said his unprecedented election to the FIFA Council means more tournaments, international friendlies and exposure for India, besides a chance to operate in close proximity with the developed football nations.

AIFF President Praful won with a record-breaking margin, securing 38 out of the 46 votes at the 29th Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Congress in Kuala Lumpur.

"This signifies India's place in world football. This will give us more voice. We would look to get more tournaments, international friendlies, exposure for our kids," said Praful.

This will also help in terms of football education, coaching and providing exposure to India's players abroad.

Super Cup pull-out

The 62-year-old, at the same time, expressed disappointment at the I-League clubs' refusal to turn up for the Super Cup.

"Despite my busy schedule because of the general elections back home and the FIFA Council, I assured them that I would meet from April 11 to 14. But, despite my assurance, they acted in a manner that is unbecoming of sportsmanship. What is the point of having this meeting now since they have pulled out of the Super Cup," Praful said.

Though he is disappointed with the clubs' attitude back home, Praful said his induction into world football's apex body will definitely further the game in India.

"This will also help us to sign more and more Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the developed football nations," the seasoned administrator said.

If his election to the FIFA Council was not unprecedented enough, Praful also

addressed the delegation for the 29th AFC congress on behalf of its president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, who was mourning the demise of his mother.

"I am extremely honoured at the level of support and trust that you have invested in me to lead the Asian football family again in the next four years," Praful said on behalf of Shaikh Salman. "I am sure that with your continued support and solidarity, we can all take Asian football to even greater heights."

Praful was accompanied by AIFF general secretary Kushal Das and senior vice-president Subrata Datta.

Sergeant At Arms for main event

and 9. Silver Cap (3) Raghuvir 49.

1. TENERIFE, 2. USTAD PEDRO, 3. LORD COMMANDER.

6 BEJAN BHARUCHA PLATE (1,200m), Cl. V, rated 4 to 30, 8.00: 1. Gandalf (3) Peter 59, 2. Majestic (7) A.Prasaksh 59, 3. Democrat (2) Ajinkyat 58, 5. 4. Godsword (9) Ayayar 58, 6. Hexahedron (13) Parmar 57, 6. Fire Flame (4) Aniket 56, 7. Golden Horde (8) Vishal 55, 8. Sixth Emperor (11) T.S.Jodha 55, 9. Cracklin' Rosie (5) Aniket 53, 10. She Is A Spy (1) Trevor 54, 11. Highland Wind (6) Harmony Of The Sea (3) Neeraj 52, 5. Star Comrade (7) Bhawani 52, 6. Navigator (14) Dashrath 52, 13. Financier (10) Zeehan 50 and 14. Top Wizard (12) Kunal Bunde 49.

1. KILKARRY BRIDGE, 2. EL COMANDANTE, 3. PABLO.

5 KAZAKH PLATE (1,200m), Cl. IV, rated 20 to 46, 7.30 (jockeys will not be permitted the use of whip in this race): 1. Lord Commander (2) Aniket 62, 2. Philadelphian (6) Pablo (2) Kaviraj 57, 4. El Comandante (1) Sandesh 56, 5. Impala (9) Aniket 53, 6. Sir Ramon (1) Peter 59, 7. Epiphany (6) Trevor 52, 8. Harmony Of The Sea (3) Neeraj 52, 9. Star Comrade (7) Bhawani 52 and 10. Aronian Friend (8) Kunal Bunde 49.

1. KILKARRY BRIDGE, 2. EL COMANDANTE, 3. PABLO.

4 BEHRAM A ENGINEER TROPHY (1,200m), Cl. III, rated 40 to 66, 7.00: 1. Kilkarry Bridge (4) Peter 62, 2. Princessgiril (5) Ayayar 59, 5. 3. Pablo (2) Kaviraj 57, 4. El Comandante (1) Sandesh 56, 5. Impala (9) Aniket 53, 6. Sir Ramon (1) Peter 59, 7. Epiphany (6) Trevor 52, 8. Harmony Of The Sea (3) Neeraj 52, 9. Star Comrade (7) Bhawani 52 and 10. Aronian Friend (8) Kunal Bunde 49.

1. GANDALF 2. CRACKLIN' ROSIE, 3. MAJESTICAL.

5 R.R.KOMANDUR PLATE (1,600m), Cl. III, rated 40 to 66: 1. EXCELLENT SORRENTO (Neeraj) 1, Zanzibar (Sandesh) 2, Truly Epic (Trevor) 3 and Western Front (Zervan) 4, 1/2, Nk, 4-3/4, Im 37.04s. £22 (w), 14 and 33 (p). SHP: 43, FP: 180, Q: 16, Tanala: 203 and 50. Favourite: Truly Epic. Owners: Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla & Mrs. Natasha A. Poonawalla rep. Viloo Poonawalla C. Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Faisal Abbas.

1. GANDALF 2. CRACKLIN' ROSIE, 3. MAJESTICAL.

Day's Best : BENEVOLENCE.

Double : KILKARRY BRIDGE – TENERIFE.

Jackpot : 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Treble : 4, 5 & 6.

Tanala : All races.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

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Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Super Jackpot : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

Sathiyan books World Cup berth

Shocks Ting in the playoff for the 5-8 positions

SPORTS BUREAU
YOKOHAMA

G. Sathiyan, seeded 10th, stunned fifth seed Wong Chun Ting of Taipei 12-10, 10-12, 11-5, 11-6, 11-8 in the playoff for 5-8 positions at the Asian Cup table tennis championship here on Saturday. The win helped Sathiyan qualify for the World Cup.

The 26-year-old will take on Yun-Ju Lin of Taipei for the 5-6 spots on Sunday.

Great feeling

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sathiyan said he played his best at the Asian Cup, beating higher-ranked players like Taipei's Chih-Yuan Chuang and Wong. "It is a great feeling to qualify for the World Cup and that too on World Table Tennis day," said Sathiyan.



Doubly special: G. Sathiyan was thrilled that he made it to the World Cup on World Table Tennis day. ■ FILE PHOTO

yan. "Overall, the tournament has been excellent. I am looking forward to the match against Lin and hope to finish No. 5." In the morning,

Olympic and World champion Ma Long of China had ended Sathiyan's run in the quarterfinals. Long won 11-5, 11-5, 6-11, 11-6, 11-3.

Earlier, the Indian had put it across Kirill Gerassimenko of Kazakhstan 11-13, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6 to make it to the last-eight stage.

Women launch historic round at Augusta

Tee off at once all-male event and home of the Masters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
AUGUSTA

Striking blows for gender equality with every swing at former men-only enclave Augusta National Golf Club, women golfers competed for a trophy for the first time on Saturday at the home of the Masters.

In a club that opened in 1933 but didn't admit its first women members until 2012, LPGA legends Pak Se Ri, Annika Sorenstam, Lorena Ochoa and Nancy Lopez hit ceremonial shots off the first tee to launch the historic final round of the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur.

"It's just exciting to be a part of history," Lopez said. "A day of history for us, for the amateurs that are here



Capturing the moment: Chairman of Augusta National Golf Club and the Masters Tournament Fred Ridley with participants at the First Tee ceremony. ■ AFP

and for Augusta National."

A field of 72 played the first 36 holes at nearby Champions Retreat before the event moved to the famed Masters layout, with everyone having a practice round Friday but only the

top 30 advancing to compete in the last 18 holes of the tournament.

"It's a dream come true. I'm so happy for them," Sorenstam said. "

American Anna Redding, a University of Virginia se-

nior, was the first competitor to tee off.

Augusta National's all-male status led to a 2003 protest across the street from the club but it was not until August 2012 when businesswoman Darla Moore and former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were named the club's first women members.

Another move was 2014's debut of the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship, where young girls and boys won titles with a decisive putt on Augusta National's famed 18th green – three women's amateur players having taken part as youth. Pak struck the first ceremonial tee shot followed in order by Ochoa, Lopez and Sorenstam.

Hero's Mena finishes third

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ERFOUD (MOROCCO)

Hero MotoSports team driver Oriol Mena bagged his first-ever podium, finishing third in the 2019 Merzouga Rally here on Saturday.

Teammate Joaquim Rodrigues was also not far behind, ending fourth, as the Hero team claim its first podium of the season.

As Stage 5 brought the curtains down on the 2019 edition of the Merzouga Rally, Oriol and Rodrigues delivered solid and consistent performances to keep the team in the hunt for a podium finish.

India icon Anup to coach Paltan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Puneri Paltan will benefit from having one of Indian kabaddi's most respected names in its dugout during ProKabaddi League Season-7.

Anup Kumar replaces Ashan Kumar as head coach, after announcing retirement from active play in the sixth edition of the league.

The player auction on Monday will be his first step towards building a team. The celebrated ex-India captain's thinking will be reflected in the moves he makes towards team formation.



Anup Kumar ■ FILE PHOTO

Lodi confident about Mahak's path ahead

The youngster looks to ITF tournaments for more exposure

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Mahak Jain is the best example of a young player overcoming limitations and asserting her game in the competitive world of professional tennis.

The 17-year-old Mahak has already won the national women's title twice and more recently won the National Youth Games gold in an attempt to stay in the radar for possible government support, to pursue her dream.

With coach Sajid Lodi deciding, in consultation with the family, that there was no point in Mahak competing in the international junior circuit, it was important to get better exposure in the ITF women's tournaments.

Serious blow

However, the new format of proposed developmental events, lack of bigger tournaments which compel the top players to compete in smaller events, and the shrinking qualifying draws have dealt a serious blow to the progress of Mahak.

"In the \$25,000 events, there are players who are in the top-100 to 150. Mahak is 500 and has to compete with them.

"Moreover, it has been tough to plan tournaments as there has been so much uncertainty," said Lodi.

Mahak, who played a good match, a three-setter against Kim Na Ri of Korea during the Fed Cup in Kazakhstan, has managed to get only four other matches in the professional circuit this season so far, spread over three tournaments.

In a fortnight in Australia recently, Mahak played the qualifying events of two

circuit, the better for her.

With the qualifying draws improving marginally in terms of the numbers of players accepted, there is a hope that the professional circuit would become more inclusive rather than discourage the players from pursuing the sport.

"If the developmental events had been planned as an additional feature to the original circuit, it would have been a great idea," said the coach.

At a younger age Mahak had been reaching the finals of the ITF women's events and had played a few semifinals as well. The changing scenario has proved a temporary setback for her, but being a gutsy player, Mahak is bound to fight her way back, and rise from her current rank of 511.

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IN BRIEF



Mick Jagger says he feels better after surgery

LOS ANGELES

Mick Jagger, frontman of rock band Rolling Stones, on Saturday said he is feeling "much better" after his heart surgery. The legendary band had to postpone the North American leg of their 'No Filter' tour, which was supposed to run from April 20 to July 29, to give Jagger time to recover. PTI



Mummified mice, birds found in Egyptian tomb

SOHAG

Dozens of mummified mice were among the animals found in an ancient Egyptian tomb. The tomb, dating back over 2,000 years, was unearthed in Akhmim. A human mummy, along with more than 50 mummified mice, cats and falcons, were found inside the tomb. AFP

Soon, first photo of black hole

Scientists will unveil the picture at six global news conferences on Wednesday

REUTERS
PARIS

Scientists are expected to unveil on Wednesday the first-ever photograph of a black hole, a breakthrough in astrophysics, providing insight into celestial monsters with gravitational fields so intense no matter or light can escape.

The U.S. National Science Foundation has scheduled a news conference in Washington to announce a "groundbreaking result from the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) project," an international partnership formed in 2012 to try to directly observe the immediate environment of a black hole.

Simultaneous news conferences are scheduled in Brussels, Santiago, Shanghai, Taipei and Tokyo.

A black hole's event horizon, one of the most violent places in the universe, is the point of no return beyond which anything – stars, planets, gas, dust, all forms of electromagnetic radiation including light – gets sucked in irretrievably.

While scientists involved in the research declined to



Rare shots: A supermassive black hole is seen in an undated NASA illustration. ■ REUTERS/NASA/JPL-CALTECH

disclose the findings ahead of the formal announcement, they are clear about their goals.

"It's a visionary project to take the first photograph of a black hole. We are a collaboration of over 200 people internationally," astrophysicist Shepherd Doeleman, director of the Event Horizon Telescope at the Center for Astrophysics, Harvard & Smithsonian, said at a March event in Texas.

Test for Einstein's theory
The news conference is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. (1300 GMT) on Wednesday. The research will put to

the test a scientific pillar – physicist Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity, according to University of Arizona astrophysicist Dimitrios Psaltis, project scientist.

That theory, put forward in 1915, was intended to explain the laws of gravity and their relation to other natural forces.

The researchers targeted two supermassive black holes.

The first – called Sagittarius A* – is situated at the centre of our own Milky Way galaxy, possessing 4 million times the mass of our sun and located 26,000 light years from the earth. A light

year is the distance light travels in a year, 9.5 trillion km.

The second – called M87 – resides at the centre of the neighbouring Virgo A galaxy, boasting a mass 3.5 billion times that of the sun and located 54 million light-years away from the earth.

Black holes are extraordinarily dense entities formed when very massive stars collapse at the end of their life cycle.

Supermassive black holes are the largest kind, devouring matter and radiation and perhaps merging with other black holes.

Mr. Psaltis described a black hole as "an extreme warp in spacetime," a term referring to the three dimensions of space and the one dimension of time joined into a single four-dimensional continuum. The scientists will also be trying to detect the dynamics near the black hole as matter orbits at near light speeds before being swallowed into oblivion.

Einstein's theory, if correct, should allow for an extremely accurate prediction of the size and shape of a black hole.

Seven women settle lawsuits against Cosby

GRAHAM BOWLEY
MASSACHUSETTS

Seven women who accused actor Bill Cosby of sexual assault, and then sued him for defamation when his representatives accused them of lying, have settled their claims in their long-running case, according to documents filed on Friday in federal court in Massachusetts.

"The plaintiffs have settled their claims against Cosby," a lawyer for the seven women, Joseph Cammarata, said. "Each of the plaintiffs is satisfied with the settlement."

Andrew Wyatt, a spokesman for Cosby, confirmed that a settlement had been reached, but insisted Cosby was not paying. Instead, he said, Cosby's insurance company, American International Group, was.

Mr. Wyatt added: "AIG decided to settle these cases, without the knowledge, permission and/or consent of Cosby. Cosby denies the allegations brought against him in these defamation suits, and he maintains his innocence." ■ NY TIMES

73-year-old is world's oldest soccer player

Israel's Isaak Hayik sets Guinness record



In the game: Isaak Hayik defending a goal. ■ REUTERS

REUTERS
OR YEHUDA

Darting between the goal posts with his striking white hair, 73-year-old Israeli Isaak Hayik set a new world record on Friday as the oldest person to play in a professional soccer match.

Mr. Hayik, who celebrates his 74th birthday next week, broke the record after playing as a goalkeeper in an afternoon game with Israel's Ironi Or Yehuda soccer club.

The Iraqi-born keeper was officially recognised in an award ceremony attended by representatives from the Guinness World Record organisation.

"I'm ready for another game," said Mr. Hayik, who made some good saves in the team's 5-1 defeat to Macabi Ramat Gan.

"This is not only a source of pride for me but also to Israeli sports in general," added Mr. Hayik, who moved to Israel when he was four years old.

The previous record was held by Robert Carmona of Uruguay, who in 2015 played a professional match with Uruguay's Pan de Azucar at the age of 53, an official adjudicator for Guinness World Records said.

150-year-old heart of saint on U.S. tour

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

The 150-year-old heart of a French priest is on a U.S. tour with New York City as its latest stop.

The Roman Catholic relic was on display on Saturday at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, where both the faithful and the curious lined up to see the human organ behind glass.

The Knights of Columbus fraternity is sponsoring the pilgrimage of the heart. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, is to lead a Sunday procession venerating the heart of Saint John Vianney.

He lived during the French Revolution, helping to hide priests on the run. The tradition of venerating the relics goes back to the Middle Ages in Italy.

Riot of colour



Spirit of festivity: Youth dance to the beats of the 'dhol' to celebrate Gudi Padwa, the Maharashtrian New Year's Day, in Mumbai on Saturday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

It steadily raises the risk of stroke and blood pressure

REUTERS
LONDON

Blood pressure and stroke risk rise steadily the more alcohol people drink, and previous claims that one or two drinks a day might protect against stroke are not true, according to the results of a major genetic study.

The research, which used data from a 1,60,000-strong cohort of Chinese adults, many of whom are unable to drink alcohol due to genetic intolerance, found that people who drink moderately – consuming 10 to 20 gm of alcohol a day – raise their risk of stroke by 10 to 15%.

For heavy drinkers, consuming four or more drinks a day, blood pressure rises significantly and the risk of stroke increases by around



Moderate drinking raises risk of stroke by 10 to 15%. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

variants that limit alcohol tolerance. Because the variants have specific and large effects on alcohol, but do not effect other lifestyle factors such as diet, smoking, economic status or education, they can be used by scientists to nail down causal effects of alcohol intake.

The research team, including scientists from Oxford and Peking universities and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, said it would be impossible to do a study of this kind in Western populations, since almost nobody there has the relevant alcohol-intolerance gene variants. But the findings about the biological effects of alcohol should be the same for all people worldwide, they said.

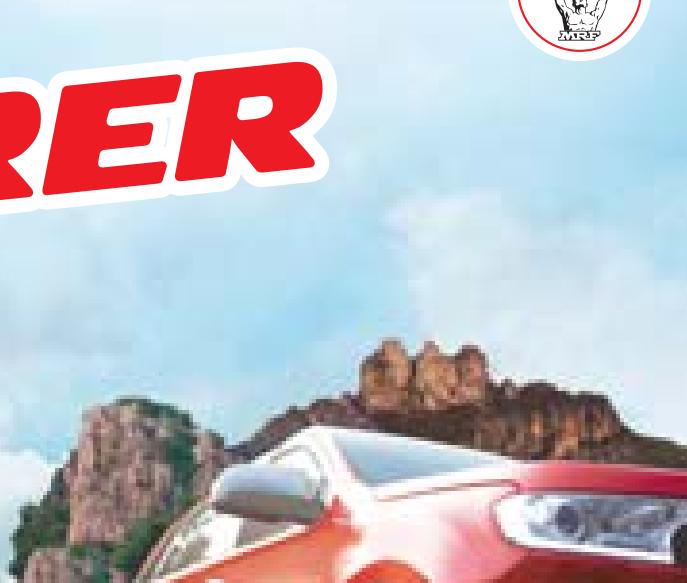
35%, the study found.

"The key message here is that, at least for stroke, there is no protective effect of moderate drinking," said Zhengming Chen, a professor at Oxford University.

This latest study, published in *The Lancet* medical journal, focussed on people of East Asian descent, many of whom have genetic

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