

BORN TO LEAD



New India Assurance
*Celebrates its
Centenary Year
& the
Dawn of a New Century*



Trusted since 23rd July, 1919

THANK YOU
ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
&
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS



NEW INDIA ASSURANCE

दि न्यू इन्डिया एश्योरन्स कंपनी लिमिटेड
The New India Assurance Co. Ltd

Leadership and beyond

24x7 - Toll free number 1800-209-1415

www.newindia.co.in

Head Office: New India Assurance Building, 87, M. G. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 INDIA


THE HINDU GROUP



Get expert English coaching over unlimited calls

STEP Coach Unlimited is a powerful English learning programme fuelled by unlimited* calls to experts, comprehensive modules and interactive sessions.



*Please visit the website to see associated terms and conditions


Scan the QR code

To know more, visit BIT.LY/COACHUNLTD

STEP COACH UNLIMITED


THE HINDU GROUP



Blast off towards better English in 40 days with STEPathon X.

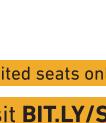
STEPathon X is a 40-day English course that goes right back to the basics of the language. Designed by experts, you are sure to speak and write with higher accuracy.

Features

-  Interactive video lessons
-  Specific modules on Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking
-  Vocabulary and Grammar exercises
-  Adaptive practice tests
-  Prestigious Certificate from The Hindu Group


Scan the QR code

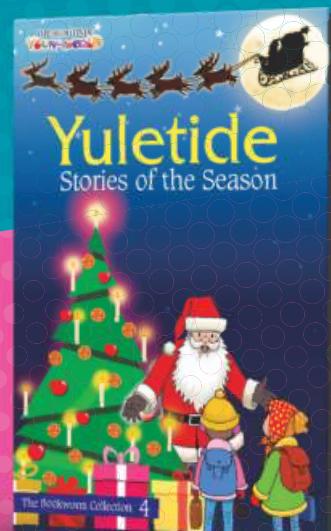
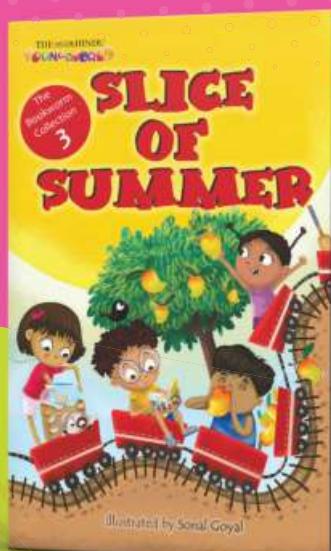
Presenting
STEPATHON X
FOR BEGINNERS

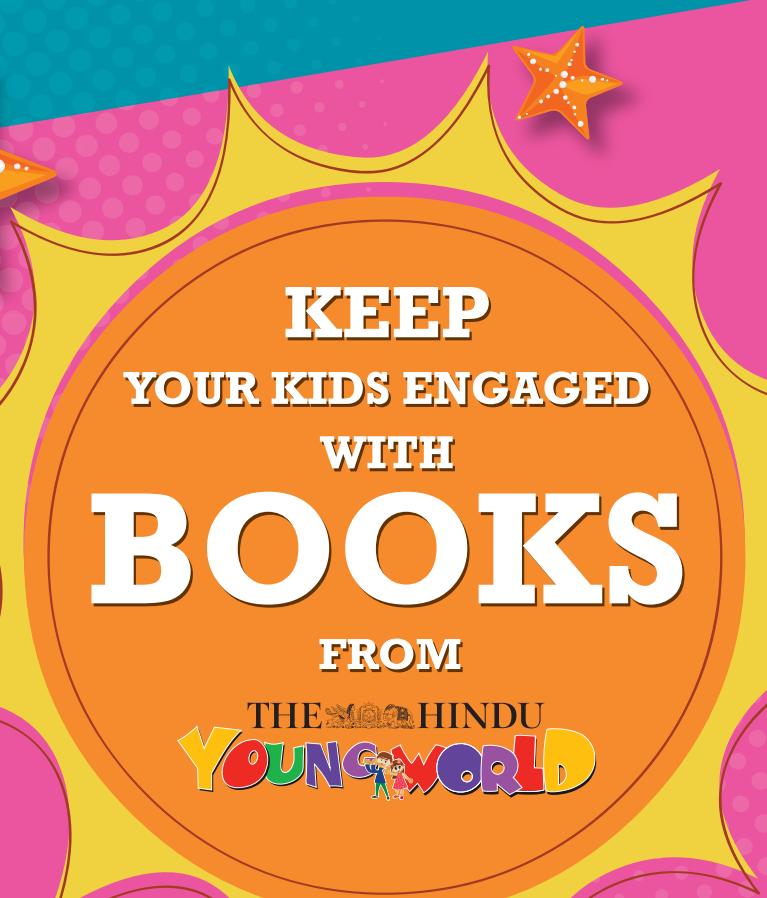

Limited seats only
Visit BIT.LY/STEPX

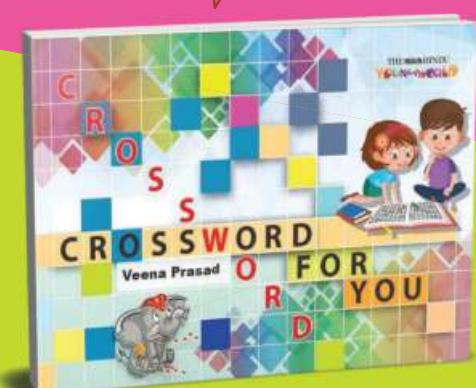
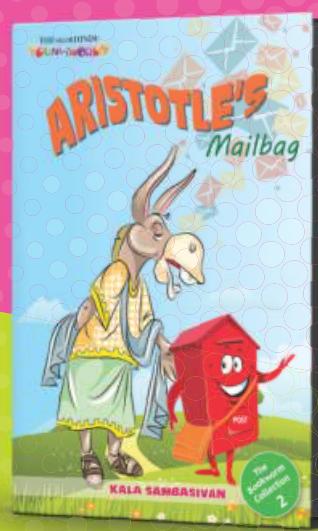
STEP
Standardised Test of English Proficiency
from THE HINDU GROUP

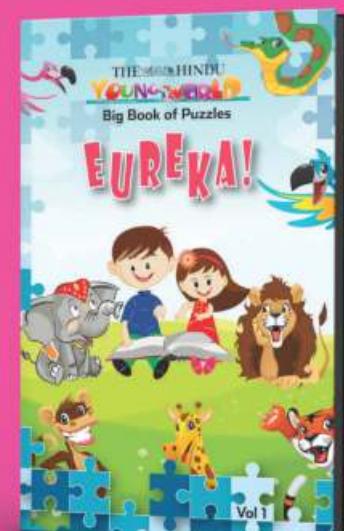

THE HINDU GROUP

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP





BOOK YOUR COPY ONLINE



To book your copy, Visit: www.thehindu.com/publications | For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in
For any enquiries call: **1800 3000 1878**



Satya Pal Malik regrets asking militants to go after corrupt politicians
page 12



M.M. Naravane appointed as the next Vice-Chief of the Army Staff
page 13



May chairs meeting of emergency response panel over ship seizure
page 14



Harmeet, Ayhika crowned Commonwealth table tennis champions
page 18

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

NEARBY



Notice to poll panel over Nirbhaya convict's photo

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Commission for Women on Monday issued a notice to the Election Commission over a Punjab district poll panel allegedly putting the photograph of a death row convict in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case on a hoarding. An EC official said that a report has been sought from the Punjab Chief Electoral Officer by Tuesday morning.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

I would love to be a mediator on Kashmir: Donald Trump

U.S. President says PM Modi sought his help during their recent meeting in Japan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday offered to be a "mediator" between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue as he met Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House.

"If I can help, I would love to be a mediator. If I can do anything to help, let me know," Mr. Trump said.

He said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi broached the subject during their meeting in Osaka, Japan, last month. "I was with



Offering help: U.S. President Donald Trump with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in the Oval Office on Monday. ■ AP

Prime Minister Modi two weeks ago, and talking of the subject, and he said, "Would

you like to be a mediator? And I asked where, and he said Kashmir. I said if I could

mediate, I will help... I would love to help on Kashmir."

In New Delhi, the government denied Mr. Modi had requested Mr. Trump to mediate. "We have seen [Mr. Trump's] remarks that he is ready to mediate, if requested by India & Pakistan, on the Kashmir issue. No such request has been made by Mr. Modi to the U.S. President," said MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

(With inputs from PTI & IANS)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

90 rescued from fire in Mumbai

MTNL employees were stranded for 3 hours on terrace

TANVI DESHPANDE
SAKSHI SHIVPURI
MUMBAI

The fire brigade rescued around 90 to 100 people after a major fire broke out at the nine-storey MTNL building at Bandra here on Monday afternoon.

Anxious MTNL employees stood on the terrace for close to three hours before they were rescued with ladders. The fire brigade de-



Firefighters using a crane to rescue a trapped MTNL employee in Mumbai on Monday. ■ AFP

ployed a team of officers and firemen and 14 fire engines for the challenging operation. The fire-fighting systems had been shut as the

building was reportedly undergoing repairs for the last six months.

The fire broke out on the third and fourth floors around 3 p.m.

The flames were confined to the two floors while the smoke engulfed the entire building. While people on floors below the two ran out of the building, the ones above got trapped due to smoke. Most people then ran to the building's terrace and balconies, from where they called out for help.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Water sector success needs people's movement: Minister

NISTULA HEBBAR
PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

To ensure that States implement the Centre's ambitious scheme to recharge groundwater and provide piped drinking water to all households by 2024, there must be pressure from both above and below, says Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

There must be a people's movement while the Centre will provide funding incentives, with better performing States getting more mo-

ney, he told The Hindu in an exclusive interview on Monday. "Now it's a competition. If you do more work, you will get more funds," he said. Mr. Shekhawat said putting water on the concurrent list in order to bring State governments on board is no solution; success in the water sector needs people's participation.

He also emphasised the role of Central incentives and about taking a district-wise approach.

INTERVIEW ON ▶ PAGE 13

Reaching for the moon

The GSLV rocket blasted off from Sriharikota on Monday and safely placed the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft in earth's orbit, successfully completing the first step of a 48-day journey. It is expected to land on the moon on September 7, 2019

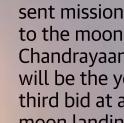


If successful, scientists can carry out studies on the presence of water at the moon's south pole, unexplored by any nation before. ISRO suspects the region to contain water



The launch comes barely a week after the 50th anniversary of man's first steps on the moon in 1969

China, Russia and the U.S. are the only other nations to have sent missions to the moon. Chandrayaan-2 will be the year's third bid at a moon landing, following China's successful launch of a lunar probe and the Israeli spacecraft that crashed on the moon in April



Surface ice distribution at the poles as detected by NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper instrument aboard India's Chandrayaan-1 lunar spacecraft



The GSLV Mark III, carrying Chandrayaan 2, blasts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on Monday. ■ S. R. RAGHUNATHAN

SOURCE: REUTERS



India has also announced plans for a manned space mission with a targeted flight in December 2021, besides proposing missions to study Venus and the sun

Perfect launch for Chandrayaan-2

T.K. ROHIT
SRIRAKHOTTA

India's second lunar journey and its first-ever interplanetary mission to be spearheaded by two women, Project Director M. Vanitha and Mission Director Ritu Kharid, got a boost after the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 mission, headed to the moon's South Pole region, and achieved an orbit 6,000 km more than what was targeted.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) put behind last week's setback and achieved a perfect launch at 2.43 p.m. on Monday from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, in what was the GSLV-MKIII's first operational flight.

From the scientists at the Mission Control to those at the Viewing Gallery, the media centre, and millions watching on television across the nation, the launch seemed like a nail-biting sports match. The cheers, whistles and claps every time a launch objective was achieved, at the Viewing Gallery and the Media Centre, gave the launch a semblance of the reception normally given to film stars or excellent sportspersons.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

In deep water



A child makes the most of a waterlogged G.T. Karnal Road after heavy rain in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA (SEE ALSO PAGE 2)

245 deaths in 14 months: Delhi zoo orders analysis

Single document detailing deaths to be prepared for more effective corrective measures

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

The National Zoological Park, better known as Delhi zoo, has undertaken an analysis into deaths of 245 animals over 14 months from April 2018 to June 2019.

"We were also surprised by the high number of deaths and the analysis was ordered to prepare a single document in tabular format to understand whether there are any particular reasons leading to the deaths," a zoo official told The Hindu.

Currently, though post-mortems are done when animals die, they are maintained as different documents and there has been no proper cross-analysis.

"After preparing the document which will have details of each animal that died, its age and cause of



A zoo official said that the deaths were mainly due to old age and infighting among animals. ■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

death, we will analyse it and take corrective measures if needed," the official said, adding that a similar report would be made every month from now on to make sure that there is no death due to negligence. The official said that the deaths were mainly due to old age and infighting among animals.

Multiple irregularities in the zoo, including false post-mortem reports of

activist Gauri Maulekhi on alleged "abnormal mortality rate" of animals in the Delhi zoo and "criminal conspiracy by the zoo officials".

Though two tiger cubs born in the zoo died in August 2018, they were not part of the birth and death table in the inventory report submitted to the court.

"Three cubs were born in total. One was stillborn, another lived only for a day and the third died before even opening its eyes. Such births and deaths are noted in a separate register," said a senior zoo official.

"It's a scam. The census was ordered by the court and the separate register was not part of the submission made in the court. Now they (zoo authorities) claim that there is an additional register, but it's simply not possible," claimed Ms. Maulekhi.

Male white tiger latest addition
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi zoo on Monday got a male white tiger in an exchange programme with Lucknow zoo. The Delhi zoo will now initiate the process to transfer a female white tiger, Geeta, to Lucknow.

The zoo had initiated the process for the exchange about seven months ago.

HC acquires six in 1996 Samleti blast case

All of them, including 5 J&K residents, spent 23 years in jail

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

Twenty-three years after 14 persons were killed and 37 injured in a bomb blast in a roadways bus near Samleti village in Dausa district, the Rajasthan High Court on Monday acquitted six persons, including five residents of Jammu and Kashmir, who were sentenced to life imprisonment by a lower court in the case. The court upheld death penalty and life sentence pronounced to two convicts in 2014.

The blast took place in a Rajasthan Roadways bus headed from Agra to Bikaner on the Agra-Jaipur national highway on May 22, 1996, a day after Delhi's Lajpat Nagar bomb blast which had led to the death of 13 persons.

A sessions court in Dausa district's Bandikui town had convicted six of the eight accused of murder, conspiracy, damage to public property and violation of Explosives Act and one of them only of conspiracy, while accepting the claim made in the chargesheet that the J&K residents were associated with the bus driver and two policemen, travelling in the same bus, who had identified the prime accused.

Act and one of them only of conspiracy, while accepting the claim made in the chargesheet that the J&K residents were associated with the bus driver and two policemen, travelling in the same bus, who had identified the prime accused.

Abdul Hamid, a medical doctor and native of Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh, was sentenced to death as the prime accused.

Syed Shahid Hasan, counsel for the J&K residents who had filed an appeal against the September 29, 2014 judgment of the sessions court, said he had contended that there was no evidence to link his clients with the incident and no explosive material was recovered from them.

Branded militants

"Despite their innocence, they were branded Kashmiri militants and they spent 23 years behind bars, a period longer than life imprisonment," he said.

The case was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department (Crime Branch) of Rajasthan Police.

death sentence awarded to Hamid and life imprisonment awarded to Salim alias Pappu, while giving credence to the evidence of the bus driver and two policemen, travelling in the same bus, who had identified the prime accused.

Syed Shahid Hasan, counsel for the J&K residents who had filed an appeal against the September 29, 2014 judgment of the sessions court, said he had contended that there was no evidence to link his clients with the incident and no explosive material was recovered from them.

Branded militants

"Despite their innocence, they were branded Kashmiri militants and they spent 23 years behind bars, a period longer than life imprisonment," he said.

The case was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department (Crime Branch) of Rajasthan Police.

M ND-NDE

IN BRIEF

Accountant robbed of ₹10 lakh in Keshav Puram

NEW DELHI

Two bike-borne men robbed ₹10 lakh from an accountant at gunpoint on Monday in north-west Delhi's Keshav Puram, the police said. A police officer said, Jagat, the accountant, was going towards his employer's house in Keshav Puram after collecting money. He was with a colleague. When they reached Lawrence Road, two bike-borne men came and robbed him at gunpoint, the police said. A case has been registered.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	112	Gurugram	89
Ghaziabad	127	Faridabad	58
Noida	111	Greater Noida	124
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	Poor 201-300
Very poor 301-400	Severe >401		
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

19 cases of vector-borne diseases reported

NEW DELHI

With the onset of monsoon, up to 19 cases of vector-borne diseases were reported in the city according to the weekly report compiled by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation. Up till now there have been a total of 126 cases of such diseases, including malaria, dengue and chikungunya. Of these, there have been 75 cases of malaria this year so far with nine having been reported this week. Apart from this there have been 32 cases of dengue this year so far.

Plea seeks equal status for 'Vande Mataram'STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A plea before the Delhi High Court has sought directions to the Centre to frame a policy to equally propagate the national anthem and the national song – 'Vande Mataram'. BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, in his plea, has sought that 'Vande Mataram', written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, be given the same respect as the national anthem – 'Jana Gana Mana', penned by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

National policy
In a plea, which is likely to be heard on Tuesday, Mr. Upadhyay has said that the national song played a vital role in the Independence movement and was first sung in a political context by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. The petition also sought a direction to the government to frame a national policy to promote and propagate both the national anthem and the national song.

The plea also urges the court to direct the government to ensure both songs are sung in all schools on every working day.

In October 2017, a petition was filed in the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to treat the national song at par with the national anthem.

The High Court had dismissed the petition after the Central government had opposed the plea saying 'Vande Mataram' occupies a "unique and special place" in the psyche of Indians but it cannot be treated at par with 'Jana Gana Mana'.

DELHI TODAY

Dance: India International Rural Cultural Centre (IIRCEN) presents a Kathak dance recital by Sulagna Banerjee from Hoogly at Sarovaraya Kanya Vidyalaya, No.1, West Patel Nagar, 9 a.m. and Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Prasad Nagar, 11 a.m.

Exhibition: "Spirituality, Serenity and Beauty", a solo painting exhibition by Gouri Seth at Convention Centre Hotel, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "The Food Diplomacy Makan Naga Makan Asal Kumpai", a group art show by curated by M. Harry Automo at Exhibition Gallery, Korean Cultural Center, A-25, Lajpat Nagar, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Youth intervenes in brawl, stabbed to death

Two accused arrested; weapon used in crime seizedSTAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An 18-year-old youth was stabbed to death when he was trying to pacify a scuffle between two parties in central Delhi's Nabi Karim, the police said on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Yaseen. A 15-year-old Farman was also injured in the incident, the police said.

According to the police, the incident took place on July 21 night.

After having dinner, Yaseen was sitting on a rickshaw near the staircase outside his house with a friend.

Meanwhile, Danish (17) and Farman were coming down from the first floor of the building.

Danish, who was behind Farman, was busy talking over the phone.

At that point, one Mohammad Rizwan (29) and his friend, Shahnawaz (23) were climbing upstairs. An argument broke out between Danish and Rizwan after they brushed past each other.

Phone conversation

Danish was angry that his phone conversation was interrupted due to the 'collision', the police said.

Even though Farman, Rizwan, Shahnawaz and Danish came downstairs, their fight did not end, they said.

Shahnawaz pushed Rizwan towards the staircase



The accused, Rizwan and Shahnawaz, in police custody; video grabs show the two groups engaged in a scuffle.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and hearing their argument, Yaseen intervened to pacify the situation, the police said.

During the argument, Farman abused Shahnawaz.

An enraged Shahnawaz took out a knife to attack Danish and Farman but instead ended up stabbing Yaseen.

Farman tried to catch hold of him while he was attacking Yaseen but he also sustained knife injuries, the police said.

Farman and Yaseen were

rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where Yaseen succumbed to his injuries, they added.

Farman is undergoing treatment and is stated to be stable, the police said.

Case registered

A case has been registered and Rizwan and Shahnawaz have been nabbed. The bloodstained knife used in the commission of crime has also been seized, the police said.

HC asks Delhi govt. to implement apex court order on nurses' wages

Nurse bodies want implementation of expert panel's suggestionsSTAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the city government to implement the Supreme Court directions and recommendations of an expert panel regarding the wages and working conditions of nurses employed in private hospitals of the Capital.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar issued the direction to the Delhi government while hearing pleas by two nurse associations.

The associations demanded the implementation of the Central government-appointed panel's recommendations on the minimum wages and working conditions of nurses in private hospitals.

Minimum wage
The panel, set up by the Central government on the apex court's direction, had re-



pitals and nursing homes in the national capital were directed to comply with the panel's recommendations.

However, the Delhi government's order was challenged by several private hospitals and associations representing them, who contended that paying the enhanced wages to the nurses would make their business "unviable".

Without consultation
The private hospitals had told the Bench that the Delhi government took the decision in this regard without consulting them.

The Bench observed that nothing much was required to be done except implement the apex court's direction and the committee's recommendations.

It then directed the Delhi government to do so "in accordance with law and policy as early as possible and practicable".

Residents throng city mall to observe Kargil Diwas, pay tributes to martyrs

Shopping centre organises series of events to mark the day; families of bravehearts share memories of their loved onesANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

To commemorate 20 years of the Kargil War (1999), several Delhiites gathered at an event organised at Select Citywalk in Saket here to pay tribute to the martyrs and their families as part of Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations.

A series of events was organised that included an Army Band Display by the Gorkha Rifles, movie screening, felicitation of Inder Sharma Kargil awards for academic excellence, Gatka performance by Daler Khalsa Group.

Attending the event, were family members of several martyrs. Army veteran Col. V.N. Thapar speaking about his son Captain Vijayant Thapar from 2 Rajputana Rifles who was martyred in the war said, "I spent 37 years in the Army, my father was also in the Army and my grandfather was also in the Army, so the normal kind of apprehension which a civilian has, we don't have. It might be

glorifying for you all, for the civilians, but we know what damage it can cause."

No communication
As far as Vijayant is concerned, we never came to know that he had left for the battle because there were no communications. I was in Alwar and Vijayant's mother

was in Noida. One day, she called me and said that Vijayant was in Kargil where the war is going on," he said.

"Vijayant Thapar's last letter is for every Indian. His presence and spirit is always there, we don't think that he is not there, most of our activities are rotating around him," Col. V.N. Thapar said.

Parents of martyr Captain Vijayant Thapar at the event; a memorial dedicated to the martyrs at Select Citywalk in Saket. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Road rage: motorcyclist dies after assault

Pickup van occupants hurled abuses, bashed up victim, his brother; 3 detainedSPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

A motorcyclist died after being beaten up by a group of young men travelling in a pickup van in an alleged road rage incident on Sunday night. His brother too was injured in the incident.

Three persons have been detained in connection with the case, the police said on Monday.

Alternative route
Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Nagar residents, Ajay and his brother Lakhami, were on their way home on a motorcycle around 10.30 p.m. when they had an altercation with two men in a pick-

up van. "On reaching Mulla hotel, we decided to take an alternative route to home since the road near the hotel was waterlogged. There was a huge pothole on the other route and my brother swerved to avoid hitting it. At this point, the driver of the pickup van coming from the opposite direction hurled abuses at him. My brother then stopped and questioned the driver for his misbehaviour. It led to an altercation," said Mr. Ajay.

It soon turned violent and the pickup van driver called his brother and friend as well to the spot.

The four then beat up Lakhami and Ajay with the

former receiving injuries in the stomach and the head.

Severe pain

The duo then went to Civil Hospital and left for home after treatment.

After Lakhami complained of severe stomach pain a few hours later, he along with his brother went to a private hospital and got an ultrasound done.

The two then again went to Civil Hospital where Lakhami was declared brought dead.

The Civil Hospital authorities informed the police about the death and the Station House Officer, SGM Nagar Police Station, reached

the hospital. A case of murder was registered at the instance of Ajay.

The accused were identified with the help of the closed-circuit television footage and detained. While the two accused in the pick-up van supply drinking water, the third is the brother of the van's driver and works as a helper.

The van has been impounded. The fourth accused is at large.

ACP Badkhal, Sukhbir Singh said the police had got information in the morning that four men in a pick-up van had a fight with two brothers and one of them died due to injuries.

Man shot dead outside office by bike-borne assailants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

A man was shot dead by unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants outside his office in Sector-60 here on Monday morning, the police said.

The victim, identified as Imran Ahmed, who was in his 20s, was killed around 8 a.m. outside the office of Uflex Company where he worked as a project supervisor, the police also said.

"He was working on the night shift and had completed his duty around 7 a.m. While he was leaving the office building around 8 a.m., some unidentified bike-borne men opened fire on him," Circle Officer, Noida 2nd, Piyush Kumar, said.

The officer added that Ahmed, who sustained a bullet injury on the neck, was rushed to a hospital but succumbed to the injury.

"We have so far not received any input about any dispute at his workplace that could have led to this incident. We are talking to his family for more information," he said.

Mr. Kumar added that a case has been registered at Sector 58 police station and an investigation is under way.

Cloudy weather to continue in Capital

Minimum temperature likely to stay at 24°C for rest of the week

A rickshaw puller caught in heavy rain in the city on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

After receiving the season's heaviest rainfall of 50.2 mm in the 24 hours preceding 8.30 a.m. on Monday, it was a humid start to the week with the maximum temperature being recorded at 36.4 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal.

The minimum however, dipped to a pleasant 24.6 degrees Celsius that was three degrees below normal. Hu-

midity was high and hovered between 56% and 100%.

The city received light showers in the evening as well with the Safdarjung Observatory recording 3.6 mm of rain.

The station located on the ridge recorded the most amount of rain at 25 m.m. on Monday.

The Met Department has forecast cloudy skies for July 23 as well.

"Generally cloudy sky

with light rain/thunderstorms to occur. Temperatures will be between 37 and 24 degrees Celsius," reads the weather forecast.

Rain is likely to continue in the city with moderate to heavy rain forecast for July 25 and July 26 that is also likely to bring a drop in the maximum temperature by four-five degrees.

The minimum is likely to stay around 24 degrees Celsius for the rest of the week.

CAIT demands dissolution of SC-appointed panel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Monday demanded the "dissolution" of the Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee and announced to the launch a "campaign".

Over the last 13 years, trade in the city has suffered a lot due to sealing and the government has not taken

any steps for its remediation, the traders' body said.

As a consequence, traders would be forced to flee to neighbouring States to carry out their businesses, it claimed. The traders' body attacked the SC appointed monitoring committee for launching a "campaign".

The union also criticised the lack of intervention by the Delhi government. "Their apathy towards the trading community is highly ques-

<p

IN BRIEF

Housing scheme 2019: draw of lots today

NEW DELHI
The DDA will conduct the draw of lots for the housing scheme 2019 on Tuesday. The scheme launched in March offered 18,000 flats across Vasant Kunj and Narela and the DDA received over 40,000 applications. Of the total number of flats, 450 are high-income group, 1,550 are middle-income group, 8,300 are low-income group and 7,700 are under EWS category.

NCBE delegation meets Finance Minister

NEW DELHI
A delegation of the National Confederation of Bank Employees met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday to discuss the delay in the 11th bipartite wage negotiation for more than two years and requested her to expedite the same.

Fire breaks out at Kidwai Bhawan, no casualty

NEW DELHI
A minor fire broke out at an office located on the fourth floor of Kidwai Bhawan in central Delhi's Janpath Road on Monday. No casualty has been reported. The Delhi Fire Services received a call around 4.45 a.m. The fire was contained by 7 a.m. A short circuit is suspected to have led to the blaze.

Dry day



A woman collecting clothes drying on a road divider at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg in the Capital. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

'Diluting RTI Act to impact daily fight against corruption'

Group of residents take to the streets against proposed amendment to the law

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI
As Lok Sabha MPs debated the Right to Information Act (Amendment) Bill on Monday, a small group of people – mostly women – for whom the Act is a lifeline, took to the streets less than a km away to protest the proposed changes.

Critics said the amendments to give the Centre power to set the tenure and salary of Information Commissioners will compromise their autonomy and independence.

Having marched from Janata Mantar to Constitution Club, women, accompanied by a sprinkling of activists from the RTI, Right to Food

Gang which robbed people after offering them lift busted, 3 held

Accused committed dozens of robberies in Delhi-NCR; one on the run

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

With the arrest of three robbers, the Delhi police claimed to have solved a case where a Canadian national working with an international airlines as a pilot was held hostage and robbed near IGI Airport, the police said on Monday. The fourth member of the gang is absconding, they said.

Sanjay Bhatia, DCP (Airport) said that the arrested persons were identified as Mehraj Salmani, Asif and Farman. All belong to Meerut district in UP. Salmani was the mastermind of the gang. They had been arrested for several heinous crime cases in the past and were out on bail.

"Salmani was plying taxi for the last seven years and his vehicle was registered with an online cab aggregator. To earn quick money, he roped in others and formed a gang and started robbing passengers on the pretext of offering them ride. The gang, however, never targeted passengers who booked



■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

cab online to avoid getting caught," said Mr. Bhatia.

The arrested confessed to have committed about a dozen of robberies in Delhi-NCR. They were also involved in an attempt to murder case in Ghaziabad, said Mr. Bhatia. After every robbery, they would divide the booty in five shares – four for themselves and one for the cab's EMI, he added.

Recent targets

The police said on the intervening night of July 12 and 13, Mohammad Mehdi Ghanzanfani, a Canadian national, who belongs to Iran and works with Indigo airline as

a pilot, arrived at IGI Airport from Kolkata. He was waiting for an Indigo cab which was supposed to come to pick him up. He reached the main road near metro gate no. 2 while talking to the cab driver, when one person offered to drop him in his cab for ₹100.

"When Mr. Ghanzanfani boarded the cab, he found three others inside. He was overpowered and ₹1.30 lakh was withdrawn from his ATM cards. He was dropped on Mahipalpur flyover. He reported the case at Domestic Airport police station," said Mr. Bhatia.

In a similar case, on June

26, one Gauri Shanker, who was offered lift by the gang, was robbed of ₹90,000, gold chain, ring and mobile phone. The same gang robbed a doctor of ₹20,000 cash, ATM cards and a gold ring on June 20 after he was held hostage.

During investigation, the police zeroed in on the said cab, but the number was found to be fake. "With the help of technical surveillance, CCTV footage and other leads, the police finally traced the accused to Meerut. However, before they could nab them, an UP police team arrested them in an attempt to murder case registered at Sahibabad police station," said Mr. Bhatia.

During interrogation, the accused said that they would turn on the child lock in the car and removed the handle to roll down the glass of the windows in order to stop their target from getting out of the cab during a robbery. They used to pick up targets from bus stops, railway stations and near airports.

DCW notice to EC on Nirbhaya convict's photo

Hoardings put up in Punjab's Hoshiarpur

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women on Monday issued a notice to the Election Commission over a Punjab district poll panel allegedly putting the photograph of a death row convict in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case on a hoarding.

An EC official said that a report has been sought on the same from the Punjab Chief Electoral Officer by Tuesday morning.

Mother's complaint

The women's commission took cognisance of media reports as well as a complaint by Nirbhaya's mother who apprised the commission of a picture circulating on social media in which the convict, Mukesh Singh, was seen on display flex boards put up by the electoral office in Hoshiarpur.

The photo has since been removed from all hoardings. Deputy Commissioner Isha Kalia has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

(With inputs from Vikas Vasudeva)

Accept Centre's conditions on regularisation of colonies: CM

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has directed his Ministers to immediately accept all conditions in the Centre's communication to the Delhi government related to the proposed regularisation of unauthorised colonies in the city. State government sources said on Monday.

They said a direction was issued at a meeting of Cabinet of Ministers on July 20 where Mr. Kejriwal reviewed points regarding the regularisation of the colonies. It also comes in the wake of the city government releasing ₹500 crore for developmental works in such colonies, last week.

"It is not the time for blame game. Even a minute's delay will not be tolerated. It has been decades since the residents of unauthorised colonies have been waiting to lead life with dignity. We have to cooperate with the Centre on this issue to every extent possible," a source quoted Mr. Kejriwal as having said at the meeting.

Father gets life term for sexually assaulting girl

The daughter, then 10-year-old, was assaulted twice at their residence in 2015

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has sentenced a man to life imprisonment for sexually assaulting his 10-year-old daughter twice at their residence in north Delhi in 2015.

Additional Sessions Judge Seema Maini also awarded a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the victim. The Judge asked the Delhi Legal Services Authority, North District, to

pay the money to the victim's mother within one month.

"The scenario is horrific and when this offence is committed by one's own father, who for the child is supposed to be a saviour and a protector, the resultant physical, mental and psychological damage is of such magnitude, which is immeasurable and unfathomable," the Judge said.

According to the prosecution, the accused assaulted his daughter when she has

gone to take a nap after returning from school. The victim's mother was at work, while her two younger brothers were at school. The victim kept mum as her father had intimidated her against sharing it with anybody.

However, the victim informed her mother about the incident when the accused repeated the offence the next day.

JetPrivilege



JP Miles.

More powerful than ever.

Now earn and redeem JP Miles on

flight bookings **across airlines worldwide**,

on **all hotel bookings** around the globe,

every time you **shop**, online or at a store,

on every swipe of our **co-brand cards**,

at hundreds of amazing **restaurants**,

at thousands of **petrol pumps**

and countless **other ways**.

Discover more at jetprivilege.com

Man involved in over 100 car thefts arrested

Accused also committed murders

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A vehicle thief involved in eight cases of murder, one kidnapping and more than 100 car thefts reported in several States has been arrested, the police said on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, a Delhi Police team rushed to Lucknow in U.P. on Sunday and apprehended Sharad Pandey, a resident of Delhi's Uttam Nagar.

"The team found out that Pandey had constructed a bungalow in Woodland Township in Lucknow and would be coming there to sell it," said Ram

Gopal Naik, DCP (Crime).

The Delhi and Haryana police had declared a reward of ₹1 lakh each on him.

In February 2017, Pandey and his accomplices killed three men. In December 2015, he killed two men in Bhatinda, in Punjab and in 2009-2010, he killed two persons in U.P.'s Shamli. He also kidnapped a doctor in 2015 from Delhi's Nabi Karim. Mr. Naik said Pandey was the leader of a gang which had stolen more than 100 luxury vehicles from different areas in south Delhi.

SyndicateBank

Why pay more?

Switch to SyndicateBank

Home Loans & Save through reduced EMIs.

8.60%*

p.a.

SyndNivas Take-over Features

- Hassle-free processing & quick sanction
- Processing & documentation charges waived
- No pre-payment charges

Tell Free: 1800 3011 3333 | 1800 208 3333

Follow us on

Earn and redeem across:

Domestic or International Flight Bookings | All Hotel Bookings | Leading e-Commerce Partners | Fuel at IndianOil

Day 1 at Delhi University: future, friends, fun on minds of freshers

Students talk about their aspirations; want all-round development, exposure

ARUNIMA MAJUMDAR
EVA THAKUR
NEW DELHI

As classes for undergraduate courses commenced at Delhi University on Monday, freshers arrived at colleges with high expectations and nervous excitement. For many, clearing the cut-off and getting admission in the university was a stepping stone to a bright future.

Nimisha Malik, a first-year student of B.A. Economics at Lady Shri Ram College, came loaded with aspirations. "I want to do masters after graduation. So what I am looking for is to boost my future aspiration," she said.

But for others, the first day in the college (after orientation programme on Saturday) was not everything they hoped it would be. "Even though my first day was not as I imagined, there is a lot of diversity and I liked it. There are people from all parts of the country and I am looking forward to making new friends," said Gauri Khandelwal of Gargi College.

One of the hot topics of the conversation among students was about the cultural



Freshers enjoying the first day of class at Miranda House on North Campus. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

society. Looking for all-round development and wholesome exposure, first-year student Vyoma Garg, studying B.A. History (Honours) at Kamala Nehru College said that apart from academics, she was more excited about joining societies. "The ones I found interesting were the fashion, photography, dance and music societies," she said.

For first year student Tracy studying Political Science at LSR, societies are what "DU is all about." She is interested in joining a society connected to the HRD Ministry. "Based on how active you

are, you will get credited for your work. It sounds interesting and I am looking forward to join the society," she said.

Talking about her experience with the college administration, first year student, Shubhangi Sharma, studying English at Daulat Ram College for Women, said "My first day has been overwhelming. Every student or professor I met was incredibly supportive. Even the administration was helpful, which came as a pleasant surprise to me."

Meanwhile, to allay the fear of first year students, the

university administration has issued extensive anti-ragging guidelines to colleges. It has said that two joint control rooms have been set up for the North and South campuses respectively which will be operational till July 27.

Safety measures

Police have also been alerted to maintain safety at various sensitive locations. They will be placing special pickets at every college with special assistance being extended to women's colleges. Besides this, women police in plain clothes will also be deployed in the university as well as outside the colleges. All colleges have been instructed to form anti-ragging committees and take special assistance from NCC and NSS volunteers to monitor ragging.

While the college has released the last list of scheduled cut-offs, the admission process is not over for everyone.

Depending on the number of seats that remain vacant after the completion of admission under the fifth list, the university may issue the next cut-off list soon.

The students took up the protest as the JNU administration in its effort to spruce up the campus before the start of the new session started clearing the walls to

JNU students embark on mass poster-making drive on campus

In protest against 'censorship' on posters on brick walls

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Students of Jawaharlal Nehru University on Monday organised a mass poster-making drive on the campus to protest against the "censorship" on posters on brick walls that JNU is synonymous with. The students said "JNU's walls speak, debate and dissent with you. At JNU, walls are not just walls, they are spaces of democracy, academics and art."

The All India Students' Association, one of the organisations that took part in the creative protest, said: "JNU's wall posters and wall paintings are popular, loved and cherished by students, teachers, workers and others not only within the campus but also are internationally acclaimed. Those walls have communicated with visiting Ambassadors, High Commissioners, bureaucrats, professors, politicians, heads of the State and who is who of the world."

The students took up the protest as the JNU administration in its effort to spruce up the campus before the start of the new session started clearing the walls to



Students gear up for the protest by making posters on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

paintings," he added.

JNUSU president Sai Balaji said that numerous stories were written in the national and international media, and dissertations and thesis written by students researching the contributions the walls had for society. But today the attack on them shows how much the administration "trembles at their presence".

Fear of creativity

"These walls have become mirrors of oppression, exploitation and injustice. The censorship shows how much they fear creativity of young minds and freedom of students to speak their mind through art, words and

the world," he said.

Two die of electrocution in south Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A motorist was electrocuted and a passer-by who tried to rescue the motorists also met with the same fate in south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri, the police said on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Saleem Saifi (32), a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Amroha district, and Hoshiyar Singh (54), a resident of Badarpur, they said.

According to the police, Saifi was on his way to work on his bike around 2 p.m. on July 21, when a live wire fell on his vehicle and it slipped, the police said. He came in contact with the wire and started shuddering. Singh who was passing by saw Saifi and tried to save him. But he also got electrocuted.

After coming to know about the incident, the police reached the spot. They informed BSES officials and asked them to disconnect the power supply. The victims were rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre, where the two were declared brought dead, DCP (South) Vijay Kumar said.

Saifi was a carpenter and Singh ran a timber factory in south Delhi's Jonapuri.

Trial stayed against CM in Rail Bhawan dharna case

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday stayed the trial proceedings against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and others in the 2014 Rail Bhawan dharna case.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Samar Vishal had on July 6 framed charges of rioting and violating prohibitory orders against them.

Additional Sessions Judge Arun Bhardwaj stayed the trial and issued a notice to the Delhi police on a petition by the accused persons challenging the framing of charges. The case will now come up for hearing on July 31.

"It is ordered that charges be framed against accused Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Rakhi Birla and Somnath Bharti for commission of offence under Sections



Arvind Kejriwal

143 [being member of an unlawful assembly], 145 [joining and continuing in an unlawful assembly], 188 [disobedience of an order] of the IPC and under Sections 147 [rioting], 186 [obstructing public servant], 353 [assault or use of criminal force to deter a public servant] and 332 [voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant] of the IPC read with Section 149 of the IPC," the ACMM had said while framing the chargesheet.

Man dies of 'illness' in police custody

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old man, wanted in a case of kidnapping, died allegedly due to illness in outer Delhi's Mundka on Monday, the police said. The deceased identified as Mukesh, a resident of Mundka, was a tuberculosis patient, they said. However, his family members alleged that Mukesh was beaten up by the police.

A case of kidnapping was registered against him on July 19 after he eloped with a minor girl, the police said.

According to the police, Mukesh complained of uneasiness and was rushed to a hospital. He was declared dead by the hospital authorities, the officer added. An enquiry will be conducted by the SDM, the police said.

While in police custody, Mukesh complained of uneasiness and was rushed to a hospital. He was declared dead by the hospital authorities, the officer added. An enquiry will be conducted by the SDM, the police said.

The Delhi government has made payment for 8,089 classrooms built up to March 2019 but the physical verification has revealed that less than 6,000 classrooms have been constructed," Leader of Opposition in the Delhi As-

'L-G referred matter to Chief Secretary and assured of inquiry'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) delegation called upon Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal here on Monday complaining against what it alleged was a "massive scam" in the construction of classrooms at Delhi government schools.

According to the delegation, the L-G has referred the matter to the Chief Secretary and assured them of an inquiry into the allegations. The delegation claimed that behind the "facade of massive propaganda" of claiming to have constructed 8,089 classrooms during 2015 to 2019 and constructing 12,748 during 2019-20, the Delhi government had engaged in "the biggest fraud of very serious nature."

"What happened to the fund meant for construction of 2,000 classrooms? Kejriwal must tell the truth to the people of Delhi. The L-G assured that he is going to seek a report in the matter from Chief Secretary, Delhi government and refer the matter to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on the basis of the report," Mr. Gupta said further.

Three violations

According to Mr. Gupta, there were three major violations highlighted by the dele-

gation. These included the execution of construction work "without calling tenders", enhancing the cost of construction to the tune of 30-90% in name of "richer specifications" again without calling tender and interchanging the specifications of "construction of rooms" with "equivalent rooms actually constructed with criminal impunity."

The second violation, the delegation claimed, pertained to alleged "siphoning off" of funds and the third violation alleged was the "duplication of works and subsequent duplicate payment."

"Payment has been made twice for the same work. For instance, under the requisition for Extra Ordinary Repairs (EORs), an amount of ₹1,000 crore was sanctioned during 2016-17 and 2017-18. Simultaneously, similar amount were spent from regular head under Priority - 1 on the same schools implying duplicate payment for the same work," Mr. Gupta said.

MADHUR TANKHA
NEW DELHI

The recent communal conflagration might have left a bad taste in the mouth of Lal Kuan residents, but the iconic locality in the Walled City area that is rich in heritage and syncretic traditions is now back on track. There is now a general bonhomie and people are seen going about their daily chores.

"Residents of Lal Kuan have been living in peace and amity. However, on the night of June 30, a scuffle broke out between two men over a trivial parking issue. Later, the situation snowballed," says M. Nafis, a social worker, who resides near the iconic Lal Masjid.

Recalling his memorable years spent at Lal Kuan, Sanjay Jain, a retired bank employee, says: "We lived in a Jain-dominated area. We often walked down to the iconic Jama Masjid. We had good friends like the nihari wali. Since Jain food doesn't

have onions and garlic, our Muslim brothers served us special vegetarian food in their weddings. We have seen that kind of generosity then and even now."

While he speaks glowingly about "mehman nawazi" (hospitality) of neighbours, he laments that outsiders violate the atmosphere to give a communal colour.

"It happened even during post-Babri Masjid demolition. Tension was visible at the Bara Hindu Rao area," says Mr. Jain.

The bond between Hin-

NGT gives AAP govt. last chance to deposit ₹25 cr.

Govt failed to curb unregulated plastic use

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

and the cost of restoration. It is also not clear whether the polluting activities have been stopped," the Bench observed.

Noting that out of more than 30,000 identified polluters, action has been taken against "hardly 150 vehicles" the Bench observed, "The action taken against identified polluters by way of prosecution and recovery of deterrent compensation is hardly adequate for meaningful enforcement of rule of law and protection of environment and public health."

The report submitted to the tribunal had stated that a sum of ₹6.40 lakh was recovered for the release of 150 impounded vehicles "found engaged in transporting pollutants."

No serious exercise

"Even though an action-taken report has been filed, the action hardly meets the magnitude of violation. There is no serious exercise of assessing the cost of damage to the environment

of the action taken.

Seeks monthly details

Directing the Delhi Chief Secretary to be present before the tribunal on August 5, the Bench directed authorities to file an affidavit with month-wise details of the action taken.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male

Age : Approx. 52 years, **Height :** 5'8", **Complexion :** Sallow, wearing white & grey colour check shirt-grey colour pant and black colour chappal in feet, was found unconscious on 14.07.2019, in the area of P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi. he was admitted in SGM Hospital, Mangolpuri, Delhi, during the treatment he died. In this regard DD No. 22-A dated 14.07.2019 has been lodged at PS Mangol Puri, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.

SHO - P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi.
Tel. No. 011-27921168, 27922186
DP/2478/OD/19

ty, says since Partition, no riots have taken place in Lal Kuan. "What happened on June 30 was at the behest of some politically motivated individuals who don't want peace and cordial relations between the two communities," says this former resident of Shahjahanabad.

Reminiscing her memorable evening spent at Kucha Bulaki Begam, Madhu Jain, a fashion designer, says she would go with her grandmother to Jama Masjid to buy vermicelli. "It is best dry seviyan in the world. Members of both communities would come to the terrace of our home to watch Ravan's effigy being burnt at Parade Ground."

Summing up his thoughts, Mr. Bakht said: "Koi mushkil nahin hei Hindu ya Musalman hona. Haan baad baat hei is daur mein insaan hona. [It is not difficult to be either a Hindu or Muslim. But it is a big thing to be a human in today's times.]"

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is here by informed that one girl Namely: Mamun@Monika, D/o Prem Narayan, R/o Mohan Pandit Chahar, Opp. Purjab & Sindhu Bank, Village Singholia, Narela, Delhi Age: 18 years 4 Months, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Light Brown Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and Red Colour Sandal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 04.07.2019

from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. ID Mark: Squint from left eye. She is mentally weak.

In this regard a DD No. 81-A dated 06.07.2019 has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Narela, Delhi
DP/439/ON/19

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
"A State Govt. Undertaking"
"PRESS TENDER NOTICE"

Expression of interest/ tenders are hereby invited for Empanelment of The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) accredited advertising agencies with HPSEBL for publications of classified and other advertisements on the print media, as per details given here under:-

T.E. No.	Tender cost+ GST@18% (Non-refundable)	Last Date & Time of Submission of tender	Date and time of opening of tender
CE(MM)-14/2019	₹ 500/- + GST@18% Extra	19.08.2019 Upto 5.00 p.m., 20.08.2019 Upto 5.00 p.m.	21.08.2019 at 11.00 a.m.

The tender documents can be had on any working day from the office of undersigned or can be viewed at our website (Ex. R.S. Jalta)
Chief Engineer(MM), HPSEBL, Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-4, Ph. No. 0177-2801265

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

LAL KUAN bounces back

Amity returns to the Old Delhi area where the walls of peace cracked for a short spell

have onions and garlic, our Muslim brothers served us special vegetarian food in their weddings. We have seen that kind of generosity then and even now."

While he speaks glowingly about "mehman nawazi" (hospitality) of neighbours, he laments that outsiders violate the atmosphere to give a communal colour.

"It happened even during post-Babri Masjid demolition. Tension was visible at the Bara Hindu Rao area," says Mr. Jain

CLASSIFIEDS MART

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

EDUCATIONAL



सामान्य अध्ययन कार्यशाला

सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में
समसामयिकी पर एक परिचर्चा
BY Sharad Tripathi

JULY 23 ▶ आज
11:30am

सामान्य अध्ययन बैच प्रारंभ
09 August, 11:30am

VENUE: ALS, Vardhman Plaza, Nehru Vihar
9999343999, 9910602288, 27651110

INDIAN ECONOMY For GS Mains cum PT

Offline/Online by RAMESHWAR

हिन्दी माध्यम
29th July 4:00 pm
Mains 30th July 12:00 Noon
www.rameshwarias.com

Rameshwari's
Path Towards A Bright Future
FOR CIVIL SERVICES

REUNION IAS IAS V.K.TRIPATHI PCS

राजनीति विज्ञान (Optional)

• सामान्य अध्ययन तथा निवध के
लिए, सर्वाधिक उपयोगी विषय
• सम्पूर्ण अद्यतन पाठ्य सामग्री
• सामान्य अध्ययन कार्यशाला
• मॉडल उत्तर की सुविधा

301, 307 TOP FLOOR, SATIJA HOUSE, MUKHERJEE NAGAR DELHI-9
9999421659-58

DISCOVERY THE IAS ACADEMY

सामान्य अध्ययन CRASH COURSE

मुख्य परीक्षा-2019
—C.B.P. Srivastava

प्रारंभ-25 जुलाई सायं 5:30

• 25 कक्षाओं में 404 प्रश्नों पर अंतर्विषयक द्विट्रिकोण के साथ
उत्तर-लेखन का अध्ययन • मॉडल प्रश्न-संह-उत्तर पुस्तिका

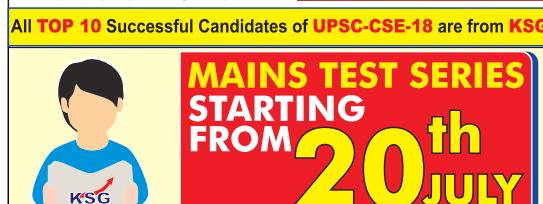
पुस्तक: निःशब्द राजस्त्रशन अनिवार्य

011-47076055, 9873703231 9555757505

B-14 (Basement), Commercial Complex, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110 009



All TOP 10 Successful Candidates of UPSC-CSE-18 are from KSG



FREE ESSAY CONTENT CLASSES

CONTENT
ENRICHMENT
CLASSES

*EXCLUSIVELY FOR MAINS

REGISTRATION
REQUIRED

To Register: www.ksgindia.com

7 QUESTIONS CHALLENGE

Get Feedback from
CSE Rank Holders

VISIT- www.ksgindia.com

GS FOUNDATION BATCH

BHOPAL 22nd JULY 7509975361

JAIPUR 31st JULY 8290800441

DELHI (Hudson Lane) 19th AUG 9717380832

DELHI (Central) 2nd SEPT 9811293743

www.ksgindia.com | DELHI - JAIPUR - BHOPAL - INDORE - PATNA - BENGALURU

CYK

CM

2 threatened,
forced to
chant Jai Shri
Ram', again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AURANGABAD

Two men were allegedly threatened and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' in Aurangabad city by some unidentified persons, the second such incident here in the last four days, the police said on Monday.

The incident, which took place on Sunday night at Azad Chowk, triggered tension in the area, following which police stepped up security.

A case has been registered and search is on to nab the miscreants, an official said.

Shaikh Amer (24), a delivery boy with food ordering app Zomato, and his friend Shaikh Nasir (26) were waiting to hire an auto-rickshaw when four to five men in a car allegedly intercepted them, abused their religious identity and threatened to kill them if they did not say 'Jai Shri Ram', he said.

The two men, out of fear, then chanted 'Jai Shri Ram', the police official said, adding that later on seeing some passersby, those in the car fled.

The incident was captured on a CCTV camera and the footage is being examined to identify the car, the official said, adding that it was not clear if the miscreants were armed.

Commissioner of Police Chiranjeev Prasad told reporters that a complaint has been received of two youths being intercepted and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' by four to five men in a car."

State road works under cloud as banks refuse more credit

Banking consortium says it has exhausted loan limits; govt. may look for bridge loans

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

Concerns are mounting for the State government after a consortium of leading public and private banks recently conveyed its inability to extend more credit for major infrastructure projects, especially road and highway works. The consortium of five to six banks, headed by the State Bank of India (SBI), has conveyed to the government that they have nearly exhausted their loan limits and credit cannot be extended to big-ticket projects until the government itself gives a guarantee or does so through the Centre.

According to government sources, there is no alternative but to look for temporary 'bridge loans' on its own for the time being to meet an immediate capital expenditure on the lines of ₹4,000 crore extended to the Mumbai-Nagpur Communication Expressway.

Maharashtra aims to complete construction of nearly 30,000 km of roads by the end of July 2020 under the Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojna. If the banks do not extend credit, much of these works could come under a cloud, said senior officials. "We have reviewed the situation with Chief Secretary Ajay Mehta, and are trying to manage the crisis for now. For now, it only threatens the road works since those have a greater exposure to bank credit, but we don't want it to spread to other projects," said a senior bureaucrat.



Maharashtra aims to complete construction of nearly 30,000 km of roads by the end of July 2020 under the Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojna, which could be affected if the banks do not extend credit. •FILE PHOTO

Last week, the government called an emergency meeting to clear a ₹4,000-crore 'bridge loan' for the Mumbai-Nagpur Communication Expressway. The State Cabinet, while clearing the proposal, said the 700-km highway will cost ₹55,000 with nearly ₹28,000 crore to be raised from private and public sector banks. The Cabinet decided to clear the proposal to extend a bank guarantee for the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), the implementing agency, to raise the bridge loan of ₹4,000 crore. The Cabinet had clarified the sanctioning

of loans was taking longer and MSRDC needed money urgently to continue work on the highway. However, sources said the emergency meeting was called after banks refused further extension of credit limits unless the financial closure was arrived at for the previously pending loans.

"This is surely a direct result of, as they (banks) have told us, the crisis in the banking sector following mess created by the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited scam. We didn't have a choice but to bail MSRDC out. This is likely to hit all road projects," said the bu-

reaucrat. MSRDC needs to pay ₹1,200 crore to the contractors every day for work on the Mumbai-Nagpur highway. The arrangement with banks is only to pay the interest on loans till a road is complete. Once the project is over, MSRDC will repay the banks through toll. The super expressway, which is scheduled to be completed in 2021, will cut the travel time between Mumbai and Nagpur to less than nine hours. With motorists expected to pay over ₹1,200 as toll for a one-way journey, it will be one of the most expensive roads in the country.

Cong.-NCP must take lead, reach out to smaller parties: Shetti

Says alliance should be finalised by first week of August

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Swabhiman Paksha chief Raju Shetti has urged the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to expedite efforts to bring on board Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) for an alliance to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena in the Assembly elections.



Raju Shetti

mani Paksha was ready to contest 50 Assembly seats if an alliance of opposition parties was not forged.

With the polls a little

more than a couple of months away, pre-pol alliances are in a fluid state in both camps.

While the Congress and the NCP and other smaller parties are yet to get their act together, there are rumblings that all is not quite well in the BJP-Sena camp.

Meanwhile,

newly-appointed Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief Balasaheb Thorat said that the Congress was disposed towards taking the VBA along in the polls. "In the Lok Sabha elections, the VBA played spoilsport [for the Congress] on at least nine constituencies.

This time, we are keen on

taking with us all progressive parties," said Mr. Thorat speaking in Shirdi in Ahmednagar district on Sunday.

At the same time, he said

the party was divided on

joining hands with Mr.

Thackeray's MNS.

The MNS chief had campaigned vigorously for the Congress-NCP alliance in

the run up to the Lok Sabha elections.

While Mr. Thackeray's rallies did draw large crowds, it failed to translate into votes, said Mr. Thorat, adding that Congress had received no proposal from the MNS yet regarding an alliance.

According to sources, while the MPCC was intent on bringing the MNS aboard, the Mumbai Congress was opposed to the idea.

Mr. Ambedkar, whose VBA had queued the pitch for the Congress-NCP in the general election, has said he would only discuss the matters of alliance with the Congress high command and not with the party's State leadership.

It is unlikely that the Congress' talks with Mr. Ambedkar will come to fruition as the latter is not inclined to part ways with the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimineen (AIMIM), the VBA's major ally. In such a scenario the VBA will contest all 288 seats with the AIMIM staking claim to 100 Assembly seats, and has begun preparations in earnest.

Seeking water



Up in arms: Congress party workers protesting at the Nagpur Municipal Corporation office on Monday after it decided to stop water supply on three days of the week. ■ S. SUDARSHAN

State to promote startups with competition

Each district to have one competition a year for innovative business ideas

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The State government will organise a Business Plan Competition (BPC) to give a boost to industrial and economic growth and promote budding entrepreneurs and startups.

Organised by the Maharashtra State Innovation Society (MSIns), the State government on Monday issued guidelines for conducting the BPC. Each district will have one such competition in every financial year. "Any individual, organisation, group or establishment can participate in the competition with an innovative business idea aimed at addressing a

Any individual, organisation, group or establishment with an innovative business idea can participate in the competition

problem faced by the district, which can be converted into a business model," said the guidelines.

wherein applicants will suggest an innovative solution to an existing problem, or come up with an innovative product/process or service for the growth and betterment of the district.

It also aims to provide a platform to schools, colleges and other institutions or individuals to propose innovative business ideas to address issues faced by local communities and society. The Maharashtra State Innovative Start-up Policy, 2018 provides for organising various events and competitions throughout the year to provide global exposure to the startup ecosystem and to further deepen the engagement

between the Government of Maharashtra and the startup ecosystem.

Participants will have to submit proof of concept and the business plan to participate in the competition. A total of 100 applications will be chosen from the entries in each district, and applicants will be asked to present their ideas on stage. "The winner will get a work order of up to ₹5 lakh from the department that the business model is related to. The district-level innovation society will mentor the winners for six months and they will be invited to participate in the Maharashtra Startup Week," the guidelines said.

Man held for blackmailing woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AKOLA

A quack and his two aides, including a woman, have been arrested for allegedly carrying out illegal abortions at a nursing home in Akola, police said on Monday.

The nursing home, being

run by Rupesh Telgote, who studied only till Class XII and does not hold any medical degree, has been sealed, said police inspector Milind Kumar Bahakar.

Acting on a tip-off, a special squad of the police along with medical experts laid

trap on Sunday evening by sending a decoy pregnant woman to seek termination of pregnancy at Mr. Telgote's nursing home in the Bhagwan Plot area, he said.

When Mr. Telgote agreed to conduct the abortion, the police nabbed him and two

of his aides – Vaishali Gawai and Ravi Ingle – who allegedly helped him in the procedure, the official said.

The police seized some injections and machinery used for carrying out abortions, and sealed the nursing home.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Mrs. Perinbamony
W/o Late Mr. S. Chellappan (Murasoli)
60F, Arutjithi Apts, Cathedral Road, Ch-86
Passed away on 21.07.2019

Families and Friends
9962880003

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

15th ANNIVERSARY



Smt. SUSILA SUBRAMANIAM
W/o Late K.P. Subramaniam
07-05-1928 - 23-07-2004

Fondly Remembered by
K.S. MOHAN, UMA MURALI,
SHWETHA, SHRADHA,
AMRUTHAVARSHINI & APSARA



K GOVINDAN
Retired By Managing Director,
State Bank of India,
Scion of the Anakara Vadakath family,
passed away on the
22nd of July

Funeral on 23rd July at 11 am

Deeply mourned by
Wife: Kumari,

Daughters: Hema and Shyama,

Son-in-law: Ajay Khanna,

Family and Friends

Phone: 044- 2641 3407

For enquiries on
announcements in this
section, please contact our
office at the following number
between 10a.m. and 8p.m.

New Delhi : 011- 43579797

Rate for New Delhi:
(Minimum Rs. 290/- 2 Lines
Extra Line - Rs. 145/-)

(B/W Display): Rs.50/Per Sq.cm

(Clr Display) : Rs.60/Per Sq.cm

Log on to
www.thehinduads.com

For Placing Advertisements
Online

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:

011-43579797

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &

For Placing Advertisements Online log on to

www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID No. 02/NDMC_176676_1

Name of tender- Supply of H.S. Type St. Th. Joint kits of Various sizes for L.T. XLPE/PVC Cables.

Estimated Cost : 19,34,846/- (Rupees Nineteen Lac Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Six Only).

Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 19.07.2019

Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 29.07.2019 at 3.00 PM

Date/Time for opening of bid through e-procurement solution : 29.07.2019 at 3.30 PM

Further details can be seen at <https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system of Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ELECT)

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD. Notice Inviting E-Procurement

(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company) Visheshwari Bhawan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

NIT NO. 02/P(M/E)/MKRSSU/RNN/PROCUREMENT/
suchana vibhag /19, dated -15.07.2019

The Unit Incharge, MKRSSU Electrical Unit invites for and on behalf of managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. online item rate bids in two system for the following work:

name of work : SITE OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEM WORK AT
PT. DEENDYAL UPDHAYAS SUCHANA BHAWAN "LUCKNOW"

Estimated Bid Value : Rs. 36.21 Lakh Earnest Money : Rs. 0.72 Lacs. Period of Completion : 6 Months from agreement. Last time and date of Submission of bid 06/08/2019 on Dt. 03:30 PM. The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website : <http://etender.upnic.in>. The Nit is also available on <http://www.upnnr.co.in>

THE HINDU
LET US KNOW YOU BETTER
Your feedback is valuable to us.
Please scan the QR code or visit
www.thehindu.com/feedback
You may call us at toll free
1800 3000 1878
or write to us at
customerservice@thehindu.co.in

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 9

IN BRIEF



Binoy moves Mumbai HC to quash rape case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Binoy Kodiyeri, son of CPI(M) Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, on Monday moved the Mumbai High Court to quash the case of rape and cheating filed against him by the Maharashtra police in June, following a complaint by a former Dubai-based woman. She had also alleged that he had fathered her child.

Three killed in accident at A.P. construction site

GUNTUR
Three construction workers from Bihar were killed in an accident at a construction site at Lingayapalem in Andhra Pradesh on Monday evening. The deceased are Rahul Kumar, 21, Krupal Kumar, 30 and Surendra Kumar, 50. They were trying to set up a lift on the fifth floor of the apartment complex being readied for MLAs and MLCs, when the accident happened.

Decide on rebels first, Speaker told

Confidence motion has no sanctity if it is put to vote before deciding on resignations: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The ruling Congress-JD(S) coalition in Karnataka on Monday appealed to Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar to put to vote the confidence motion moved by Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy after deciding the fate of 15 members who had tendered their resignations to the Assembly a few days ago.

Speaking on the motion on trust vote in the Assembly, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Krishna Byre Gowda quoted from audio tapes of alleged conversations between rebel MLAs, their family members and the BJP leaders, which have been doing the rounds in media over the past several weeks.

He also quoted several media reports and presented photographs to allege that the 15 rebels had been lured with enticements by BJP leaders, who also escorted the MLAs out of the city. "Then how can the resigna-

tions be deemed voluntary and genuine," Mr. Gowda argued.

He said the House was facing an "extraordinary situation" following the Supreme Court ruling against forcing the 15 members to attend the House. The confidence motion had no sanctity if it was put to vote before deciding on the resignations of members, he argued.

The Speaker had to take one of the three decisions – reject or accept resignations or disqualify members for violating the whip issued by the party. "I will urge the Speaker first to take a decision on the 15 members before putting the confidence motion for voting in the House," Mr. Gowda said.

Cites audio tapes
Lashing out at the BJP for undertaking 'Operation Lotus' to "grab power through unethical means", Mr. Gowda dwelt on the alleged telephonic conversations between rebel legislators and



Uncertainty continues: Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and his deputy G. Parameshwara at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. ■ PTI

the BJP leaders. Rebel Congress member Ramesh Jarkiholi had been hobnobbing with the BJP leaders for a long time, he said.

He referred to a telephonic conversation between Congress rebel member B.C. Patil and a BJP leader in which an offer of ₹25 crore was reportedly made to the former to resign from the membership to the House.

The BJP leader reportedly assured Mr. Patil that nothing could happen to him since the party was ruling at the Centre and it would come to power in the State as well.

BJP members J.C. Madhuswamy and Jagadish Shettar took objection to references made to Mr. Patil and Mr. Jarkiholi as they were not present in the House to defend themselves.

SC refuses to hear plea of two MLAs

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court declined an urgent hearing on July 22 to two independent Karnataka MLAs seeking a direction to the Speaker and the State government to conclude the ongoing trust vote in the Legislative Assembly on or before 5 p.m. on July 22.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi is likely to schedule the application, including a plea for implementation of legislators R. Shankar and H. Nagesh, for July 23. The legislators contended that the "minority" Congress-JD(S) coalition was taking "frenzied" executive decisions such as transferring police officers, IAS officers and other key officials.

have been on a hunger strike for the past eight days. Various objects were also thrown at the police that exercised much restraint, sticking to water cannons to disperse the protesters.

However, things went out of control when the protesters split into two groups and began to hurl stones and glass bottles at the police, prompting the latter to fire grenades and teargas shells and later resort to lathi-charging.

Six activists held

Mr. Abhijith and other protesters, who complained of uneasiness owing to the smoke from the teargas shells, were hospitalised. The demonstration was thus brought to an abrupt end.

Assistant Commissioner, Fort, R. Prathapan Nair, Mathrubhumi Online cameraman Praveen Das, and 13 KSU-Youth Congress activists were injured. Two police jeeps were vandalised by the protesters. The police have registered a case against 500 people. Six activists have been arrested.

The KSU declared a State-wide educational bandh on Tuesday in protest against the alleged police excesses.

15 injured in clash over varsity issue

Education bandh in Kerala today



Cracking down: Policemen lathicharging a Youth Congress activist in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. ■ S. GOPAKUMAR

Mother elephant 'avenges' calf's electrocution

Uproots transformer that killed her baby

K. UMASHANKER
CHITTOR

The episode of a wild elephant, which reportedly "avenged" its baby's death by uprooting a transformer pole on a farm near Palamaner in Andhra Pradesh on Monday, has baffled forest officials and public.

A two-year-old male calf was electrocuted on Sunday morning when it came into contact with an uninsulated cable of a transformer in a



Villagers gather around the baby elephant that was electrocuted at Gobbilla Kotur village in Chittoor district on Sunday. At right is the uprooted transformer. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



expecting that the mother elephant would return to the site of the tragedy.

Around 3 a.m. on Mon-

day, the mother elephant reportedly entered the same field and with all her might pulled down the transform-

er and snapped the cables, according to forest watchers camping at the site. The elephant also reportedly tried

to uproot a couple of transformers in the adjoining fields, but abandoned the move later.

Before retreating into the sanctuary by dawn, the pachyderm, trumpeting in agony, reached the burial site of her baby. Standing on the mound, it reportedly lifted its trunk in a show of grief and disappeared into the darkness.

"This proves that elephants are not only wise, but they love their family and their emotions are immeasurable," Forest Range Officer (Palamaner) Madan Mohan Reddy said.

Crew safe, says seized tanker's spokesperson

'Everything is being done to secure their release'

S. ANANDAN
KOCHI

While efforts are under way to secure the safe release of the 18 Indians, part of a 23-member crew of the U.K.-flagged chemical tanker *Stena Impero* seized by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, *The Hindu* has learnt that the ship's master is also an Indian.

Forty-nine-year-old captain P.G. Sunil Kumar is a native of Kodungallur in Kerala's Thrissur district. Its chief engineer Siju Vital Shenoy, 41, was born at Aluva in Ernakulam district, according to records.

The detained vessel has two chief officers, Abhishek Bonnerjee from West Bengal and a Latvian. The second officer is a Filipino, while both the second engineers

and the Engineering Systems Officer are Russian. Besides the captain and the chief engineer, there are two Keralites – Preejith Mele Kandy from Kannur and Dijo Pappachan from Kalamassery in Ernakulam district.

Preejith had joined the tanker in April this year, while the remaining three went on board in June.

The other crew members are from Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Puducherry and Diu.

William Marks, a spokesperson of the Swedish firm Stena Bulk that commercially manages the vessel, said that while there was no fresh information available, "the crew are in good health and that we are doing everything to secure their release,

alongside the U.K. and Swedish governments".

Sensitive issue

Back home, sources in the Directorate General of Shipping said the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian embassy in Tehran were trying to ensure the safe return of Indian sailors. "It is a very sensitive issue, as we have good relations with both the UK and Iran," an official pointed out.

Meanwhile, Hibi Eden, MP from Ernakulam, said that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had assured him that the government was doing all it could to get Indian crew members released from the ship detained by Iran and the vessel, Grace 1 seized by the UK a few weeks ago.

1,500 people in relief camps in Kerala

Storage in reservoirs goes up; fishermen warned about rough sea conditions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

More than 1,500 people have been relocated to relief camps across Kerala by Monday, even as the IMD predicted a gradual reduction in rainfall intensity in most districts by Tuesday. The northern districts, however, are likely to receive heavy rain for one or two days more.

In all, 379 families (1,519 people) have been relocated to 26 camps, the government said. In Thiruvananthapuram, where coastal erosion has been severe, 680 people have been shifted to four camps opened in three schools and a Fisheries Department godown.

Nine camps have been opened in Kottayam where 208 people have been relocated. In Pathanamthitta, 201 persons have been shifted to two camps, and in Alappuzha, 288 people have



Depth of devotion: A devotee trying to enter the Sreekanteswaram Temple in Kozhikode on Monday after heavy rain. ■ S. RAMESH KURUP

been moved to three camps.

The IMD has issued red alerts (extremely heavy rainfall) for Kannur and Kasaragod and orange alerts (heavy to very heavy rainfall) or Ma-

lappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad for Tuesday.

Fishermen have been cautioned against rough sea conditions.

The storage in hydel reser-

voirs has risen courtesy the heavy spells over the past several days. As on Sunday, storage in hydel dams stood at 18%, with enough water to generate 740.6 million units.

Centre to hold meet on reorganisation problems

M. RAJEEV
HYDERABAD

The Centre has convened a meeting of the Chief Secretaries of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on August 8 to discuss the issues arising out of the implementation of the AP Reorganisation Act.

Union Home Ministry Under Secretary Lalita T. Hedaao said the meeting is scheduled to be held under the chairmanship of the Union Home Secretary in New Delhi and the Chief Secretaries.

The Union Home Ministry took the initiative after the officials concerned of the two States failed to communicate a mutually acceptable date for holding a meeting to discuss the bilateral issues arising out of the implementation of the Reorganisation Act.

The Union government, in a letter addressed earlier, expressed concern over the repeated postponement of the meeting convened by it for one reason or the other.

The first meeting was scheduled on December 7 last year, but the Telangana government sought its postponement because of the Assembly elections the same day. The next meeting was convened on February 1 this year, but it was postponed following a request by the A.P. government which had its Budget session underway.

The meeting, if materialises, becomes all the more important since there is some movement in the resolution of the pending issues after Chief Ministers K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy agreed to adopt a give and take approach and the A.P. government had in fact handed over the Secretariat buildings in its possession recently.

In A.P. House, sparks fly between Jagan, Naidu

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy fumed at TDP national president and Leader of the Opposition N. Chandrababu Naidu in the Legislative Assembly on Monday when TDP MLAs trooped into the well of the House and some of them went on to the Speaker's podium and stood by his side demanding a chance for Mr. Naidu to speak. Mr. Naidu wanted to speak on Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy's statement on the funding of projects in Amaravati by the World Bank.

Mr. Reddy strongly objected to the disruption saying the Ministers were moving the motions for introducing various Bills. As the TDP MLAs shouted

slogans in spite of repeated

pleas by Speaker Tammie-ni Sitaram to go back to their seats, Mr. Reddy said he did not come across anywhere in India an Opposition leader like Mr. Naidu who encouraged his MLAs to obstruct the movement of important Bills.

Naidu twisting facts

He also accused Mr. Naidu of twisting facts on Amaravati projects in spite of the damning indictment of the TDP government for its 'misdeeds' by various agencies.

Earlier, Mr. Naidu challenged the government to prove its allegations instead of making sweeping comments and maintained that there was no corruption in the implementation of the capital city projects.

KCR showers sops on his native village

Telangana Chief Minister sanctions ₹200 crore and 2,000 two-bedroom houses for Chintamadaka

R. AVADHANI
CHINTAMADAKA

Many goodies: Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao at a meeting in Chintamadaka on Monday. ■ MOHD ARIF

village, brushing aside security concerns, Mr. Rao entered galleries, greeted villagers and shook their hands. The police had a

tough time controlling the villagers – many of whom were his friends, classmates and relatives. The programme was presided over

by MLA T. Harish Rao.

"This is my birthplace, which moulded me into a Chief Minister. I want to give back to my village and has decided to help each family to the tune of ₹10 lakh. These benefits must be extended to also those who migrated from the village, irrespective of their number. Villagers can buy tractors, autos, vans and cattle – whatever they feel like. They can also go in for harvesting machines and cultivators which will be remunerative in the long run," said Mr. Rao.

Tourism development

The Chief Minister also announced ₹1 crore each for the development of Guduru, Tornala, Gadda and Pullur villages – which were con-

cerned with his education.

Medical camps

He also announced ₹25 lakh for each of the 81 villages in the Siddipet constituency limits.

"There is no dearth of funds. It is your responsibility to get the things done," Mr. Rao told the villagers.

He said medical and eye camps would be held in the village and that the health profile of the residents would be recorded. K. Prabhakar Reddy, MP, Collector P. Venkataram Reddy, sarpanch B. Hamskethan Reddy and others were present.

IN BRIEF

**HC: why can't Bhandari, Vadra pleas be clubbed?**

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday asked why the pleas of arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari and Robert Vadra, seeking quashing of a money laundering case against them, can't be heard together. Justice Mukta Gupta said, "They are in the same ECIR [enforcement case investigation report]. When these matters are connected, these pleas should go to the Division Bench."

Gujarat Governor takes oath in Sanskrit

AHMEDABAD
Gujarat's new Governor Acharya Devratt was sworn in on Monday. He was administered the oath of office by the acting Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, Justice Anant S. Dave, at Raj Bhavan. Mr. Devratt, who is the 20th Governor of the State, took the oath in the Sanskrit language.

CSCs to soon resume Aadhaar updates

NEW DELHI
After nearly an year-long tussle with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for offering Aadhaar-related services, Common Service Centres – mainly located in rural areas of the country – will resume offering Aadhaar printing and updation services.

Plea in Supreme Court for 'shared parenting'

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court agreed to consider a plea seeking an end to certain provisions in family laws which allow exclusive custody of children to just one parent after, probably, an ugly marital separation. The petition has sought a reform in the family laws and raised several concerns regarding why children cannot enjoy the benefits of shared parenting.

Check dams will be built on Cauvery, says T.N.CM

SALEM
Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Monday said four check dams will be built across the Cauvery to stock up on water. Mr. Palaniswami said, "Four check dams with a storage capacity of 1 to 1.25 tmc each will be built across the Cauvery. One of them will be built near Karur. Studies are being done for constructing three other check dams across the river."

DMK, DK endorse D.Raja's elevation

CHENNAI
DMK president M.K. Stalin and Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani have congratulated veteran communist leader D. Raja on his election as general secretary of the Communist Party of India. Mr. Stalin said Mr. Raja was assuming charge at a time when fundamental principles of the Constitution were under threat.

Plea in SC seeks action to save numbers of indigenous cows

Plea seeks urgent directions against cross-breeding

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to respond to a petition to restrict the import of exotic bulls to prevent cross-breeding, which has led to the depletion of indigenous cows, and immediate shutdown of unauthorised slaughter houses.

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and M.R. Shah issued notice to the government on the appeal filed by Mathala Chandrapati Rao, a petitioner-in-person, who sought urgent directions from the court for the "protection of cow progeny in the country".

The Bench issued notice to over 90 respondents, including the Union, States, pollution control boards and biodiversity boards.

Third trip in works to bring back samples

ISRO has initiated talks with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency for a mission in 2024

**MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU**

After an Indian lander mission shot off to the Moon on Monday, a Chandrayaan-3 in the offing around 2024 to bring soil and rock samples back from the lunar South Pole?

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated talks on the nation's third moon shot in partnership with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), according to indications.

The first inkling about a Chandrayaan-3 came from the chiefs of ISRO and JAXA in November 2017 during the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum APR- SAF-24 in Bengaluru.

Joint mission
Two inter-governmental discussions during the Prime Minister's visit, in March this year and Octo-

**Rocket science:** Chandrayaan-2 lifting off from Sriharikota on Monday. ■ S.RAGHUNATHAN

er 2018, also mention a 'joint lunar polar exploration mission'.

Plans for an Indo-Japan lunar sample return mission were in the early stages and the initial studies and tasks of the two agencies were being worked out, then ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space (DoS), A.S. Kiran Ku-

mar and JAXA president Naoki Okumura said almost two years ago.

The two space-faring countries are friends but have had little space talk so far. ISRO should send a third lunar trip soon, once it completes the crewed space mission 'Gaganyaan' in 2022, Chaitanya Giri, fellow, Space and Ocean Studies

Programme of Gateway House (an international relations think tank based in Mumbai), told *The Hindu*.

"[Chandrayaan-2] is a precursor of Chandrayaan-3, which is scheduled to make a sample return mission in 2023-2024," said Dr. Giri, who has been part of the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission to

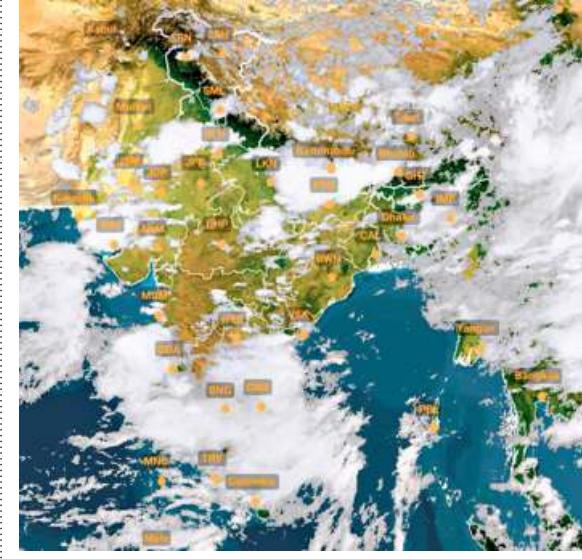
a comet and worked in the area in the U.S. and Japan.

India, which set out to pioneer explorations in the Moon's South Pole with the spacecraft launch on Monday, should not get left behind in the global space race. In the next 4-5 years alone, major space-faring nations are planning to send at least seven missions to the lunar South Pole.

There would be big dividends from that region, from mining to habitation, he said. The space agency should take up speedily construction of Chandrayaan-3 and develop a "public-private ecosystem of space capabilities," he said. In his view, the DoS must stop depending solely on ISRO and increasingly involve public and private sector entities, universities, start-ups, and research labs to get this and other projects quickly off the mark.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Tuesday: Light rains expected in Mumbai with sharp showers in some areas. Coastal Karnataka expected to receive moderate to heavy showers with one or two very heavy spells. Light to moderate rain and thunder shower with gusty winds expected over some parts of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar and West Bengal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...1...32.0...	26.0	23.0	Kozhikode	21.6	26.0	23.0
Ahmedabad	1...39.0...	29.9	20.1	Kurnool	10.1	35.0	24.0
Aizawl	3...28.0...	21.0	10.1	Lucknow	1	36.0	28.0
Allahabad	0...35.0...	30.0	20.0	Madurai	8	35.0	25.0
Bengaluru	16...28.0...	20.0	15.0	Mangaluru	15	30.0	24.0
Bhopal	0...34.0...	26.0	20.0	Mumbai	38.5	33.0	27.0
Bhubaneswar	12...36.0...	27.0	20.0	Mysuru	8	25.0	21.0
Chandigarh	0...35.0...	27.0	19.0	New Delhi	4	35.0	28.0
Chennai	4.0...30.0...	27.0	19.0	Patna	3	35.0	28.0
Coimbatore	29.0...31.0...	23.0	19.0	Port Blair	0	31.0	27.0
Dehradun	3...34.0...	24.0	17.0	Puducherry	10	30.0	35.0
Gangtok	20...28.0...	17.0	12.0	Pune	17	32.0	24.0
Goa	58...31.0...	25.0	20.0	Raipur	1	34.0	26.0
Guwahati	19...32.0...	26.0	20.0	Ranchi	1	34.0	23.0
Hubbballi	-26.0...	22.0	14.0	Shillong	14	23.0	18.0
Hyderabad	20...34.0...	23.0	19.0	Srimla	6	26.0	17.0
Imphal	0...29.0...	21.0	10.0	Srinagar	32	30.0	17.0
Jaipur	2...37.0...	29.0	19.0	Thiruvananthapuram	1	30.0	23.0
Kochi	0...28.0...	24.0	19.0	Tiruchi	0	33.0	25.0
Kohima	11...25.0...	19.0	12.0	Vijayawada	12	35.0	26.0
Kolkata	35.0...35.0...	28.0	20.0	Visakhapatnam	0	35.0	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	65	141	.82	...64	—	■
Bengaluru	.8	65	.86	—	—	■
Chennai	.7	30	.40	...55	—	■
Delhi	17	41	.62	179	—	■
Hyderabad	15	24	.18	23	52	■
Kolkata	.4	.32	.10	...55	.77	■
Lucknow	41	.26	.27	40	—	■
Mumbai	19	.22	107	...47	.60	■
Pune	68	.8	.65	27	.27	■
Visakhapatnam	19	.17	.19	...33	.46	■

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

Race for the moon gains mileage

China's Chang'e mission in December

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

July 2019 is a special year for space history. Other than it being the successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 into earth orbit, it also marks the 50th anniversary of the famed Apollo 11 mission of July 1969 that for the first time saw humans land on the moon.

However, there's widespread enthusiasm and commercial interest in several countries for moon missions as well as the European Space Agency.

As a precursor, companies have been given contracts to develop payloads that can be sent and successfully landed on the moon.

In the first stage, 9 companies have been shortlisted to design and send landers with at least 10 kg (22 lb) of payload by the end of 2021, according to a statement from the agency.

Dalit man set ablaze for theft in U.P. dies

Painter was mistaken for a thief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

A Dalit man, who was thrashed and set ablaze by locals in Barabanki district last week on suspicion of being a thief, succumbed to his injuries on Monday.

Sujit Kumar, 25, died at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civil Hospital in Lucknow early on Monday, said its chief medical superintendent Ashok Kumar Singh.

The body had been sent for post-mortem and the exact cause of death would be known after that, Dr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

The victim's family members said he was walking to his in-laws house, about 5 km away, late Thursday night when he was chased by stray dogs near Raghoghat.

Rekha, Sujit's sister, and her husband Alok Kumar, said Sujit gave his assailants the phone number of his family and full residential address to prove his innocence, but in vain.

Sujit, who belongs to the Jatav community, worked as a painter and had left behind wife and two infants.

Odisha renews effort to revive gharial population

Five reptiles, fitted with radio transmitters, released into Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has renewed its effort to revive the population of gharials, a "critically endangered" species of crocodile, in their natural habitat by releasing five reptiles into the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi – the southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India.

These gharials, including three females and two males, were bred at the Nandankanan Zoological Park. They were released into the gorge on Saturday. The gharials are individually marked and fitted with radio transmitters for future identification and



Wildlife officials releasing a gharial into the Mahanadi river in Odisha. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tracking of their migration route.



Soaring to the moon

Chandrayaan-2 will help India test the technologies for deep-space missions

A decade after the first successful mission to the moon with Chandrayaan-1, the Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched its sequel, Chandrayaan-2, to further explore the earth's natural satellite. Earlier this year, China landed a robotic spacecraft on the far side of the moon, in a first-ever attempt. Now India is attempting a similar feat – to land its rover Pragyan in the moon's South Polar region, attempted so far by none. The equatorial region has been the only one where rovers have landed and explored. The launch by itself is a huge achievement considering that it is the first operational flight of the indigenously developed Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mark-III) to send up satellites weighing up to four tonnes. The orbiter, the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan) together weigh 3.87 tonnes. Having reached the earth parking orbit, the orbit of the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft will be raised in five steps or manoeuvres in the coming 23 days before it reaches the final orbit of 150 x 1,41,000 km. It is in this orbit that Chandrayaan-2 will attain the velocity to escape from the earth's gravitational pull and start the long journey towards the moon. A week later, on August 20, the spacecraft will come under the influence of the moon's gravitational pull, and in a series of steps the altitude of the orbit will be reduced in 13 days to reach the final circular orbit at a height of 100 km. The next crucial step will be the decoupling of the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan) from the orbiter, followed by the soft-landing of the lander-rover in the early hours of September 7. Despite the postponement of the launch from July 16 owing to a technical snag, the tweaked flight plan has ensured that the Pragyan robotic vehicle will have 14 earth days, or one moon day, to explore.

Unlike the crash-landing of the Moon Impact Probe on the Chandrayaan-1 mission in November 2008, this will be the first time that ISRO is attempting to soft-land a lander on the earth's natural satellite. A series of braking mechanisms will be needed to drastically reduce the velocity of the Vikram lander from nearly 6,000 km an hour, to ensure that the touchdown is soft. The presence of water on the moon was first indicated by the Moon Impact Probe and NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper on Chandrayaan-1 a decade ago. The imaging infrared spectrometer instrument on board the orbiter will enable ISRO to look for signatures indicating the presence of water. Though the Terrain Mapping Camera on board Chandrayaan-1 had mapped the moon three-dimensionally at 5-km resolution, Chandrayaan-2 too has such a camera to produce a 3-D map. But it will be for the first time that the vertical temperature gradient and thermal conductivity of the lunar surface, and lunar seismicity, will be studied. While ISRO gained much with the success of Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan, the success of Chandrayaan-2 will go a long way in testing the technologies for deep-space missions.

What's NEXT?

National Exit Test should overcome legal and political opposition and avoid the NEET way

In its second iteration, the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill seems to have gained from its time in the bottle, like ageing wine. The new version has some sharp divergences from the original. Presented in Parliament in 2017, it proposed to replace the Medical Council Act, 1956, but it lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The NMC will have authority over medical education – approvals for colleges, admissions, tests and fee-fixation. The provisions of interest are in the core area of medical education. The Bill proposes to unify testing for exit from the MBBS course, and entry into postgraduate medical courses. A single National Exit Test (NEXT) will be conducted across the country replacing the final year MBBS exam, and the scores used to allot PG seats as well. It will allow medical graduates to start medical practice, seek admission to PG courses, and screen foreign medical graduates who want to practise in India. *Per se*, it offers a definite benefit for students who invest much time and energy in five years of training in classrooms, labs and the bedside, by reducing the number of tests they would have to take in case they aim to study further. There are detractors, many of them from Tamil Nadu – which is still politically opposing the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) – who believe that NEXT will undermine the federal system, and ask whether a test at the MBBS level would suffice as an entry criterion for PG courses.

The Bill has also removed the exemption hitherto given to Central institutions, the AIIMS and JIPMER, from NEET for admission to MBBS and allied courses. In doing so, the government has moved in the right direction, as there was resentment and a charge of elitism at the exclusion of some institutions from an exam that aimed at standardising testing for entry into MBBS. The government also decided to scrap a proposal in the original Bill to conduct an additional licentiate exam that all medical graduates would have to take in order to practise, in the face of virulent opposition. It also removed, rightly, a proposal in the older Bill for a bridge course for AYUSH practitioners to make a lateral entry into allopathy. It is crucial now for the Centre to work amicably with States, and the Indian Medical Association, which is opposed to the Bill, taking them along to ease the process of implementation. At any cost, it must avoid the creation of inflexible roadblocks as happened with NEET in some States. The clearance of these hurdles, then, as recalled from experience, become fraught with legal and political battles, leaving behind much bitterness. NEXT will have to be a lot neater.

The judicial presumption of non-citizenship

In further strengthening the Foreigners Tribunal, the judiciary has failed to fulfil its duty as the last protector of rights



GAUTAM BHATIA

On May 17, in a very short hearing, a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court (the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna) decided a batch of 15 petitions under the title *Abdul Kuddus v Union of India*. Innocuously framed as resolving a "perceived conflict" between two paragraphs of the Schedule to the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, the judgment – little reported in the media – nonetheless had significant consequences for the ongoing events in Assam surrounding the preparation of the National Register of Citizens ("the NRC").

Two parallel processes

What was the issue in *Abdul Kuddus*? In short, it involved the status of an "opinion" rendered by a Foreigners Tribunal, as to the citizenship (or the lack thereof) of any individual. The issue arose because, in the State of Assam, there are two ongoing processes concerning the question of citizenship. The first includes proceedings before the Foreigners Tribunals, which have been established under an executive order of the Central government. The second is the NRC, a process overseen and driven by the Supreme Court. While nominally independent, both processes nonetheless bleed into each other, and have thus caused significant chaos and confusion for individuals.

duals who have found themselves on the wrong side of one or both.

The petitioners in *Abdul Kuddus* argued that an opinion rendered by the Foreigners Tribunal had no greater sanctity than an executive order. Under the existing set of rules, this meant that an adverse finding against an individual would not automatically result in their name being struck off the NRC. Furthermore, the Tribunal's opinion could be subsequently reviewed, if fresh materials came to light. This was particularly important because, as had been observed repeatedly, citizenship proceedings were riddled with administrative (and other kinds of) errors, which often came to light much later, and often by chance. And finally, the petitioners argued that if the opinion of the Foreigners Tribunal was used to justify keeping an individual out of the NRC, then that decision could be challenged and would have to be decided independently of the decision arrived at by the Tribunal. In short, the petitioners' case was that the two processes – that of the Foreigners Tribunal and of the NRC – should be kept entirely independent of each other, and without accordig primacy to one over the other.

Flawed tribunals

The Supreme Court rejected the petitioners' arguments, and held that the "opinion" of the Foreigners Tribunal was to be treated as a "quasi-judicial order", and was therefore final and binding on all parties including upon the preparation of the NRC. There are, however, serious problems with this holding, which will severely impact the rights of millions of individuals.

To start with, neither in their



DAVID TALUKDAR/NURPHOTO/VIA GETTY IMAGES

form nor in their functioning do Foreigners' Tribunals even remotely resemble what we normally understand as "courts". First, Foreigners Tribunals were established by a simple executive order. Second, qualifications to serve on the Tribunals have been progressively loosened and the vague requirement of "judicial experience" has now been expanded to include bureaucrats. And perhaps, most importantly, under the Order in question (as it was amended in 2012), Tribunals are given sweeping powers to refuse examination of witnesses if in their opinion it is for "vexatious" purposes, bound to accept evidence produced by the police, and, most glaringly, not required to provide reasons for their findings, "... as it is not a judgment; a concise statement of the facts and the conclusion will suffice" (although the Court, as an offhand remark, also added "reasons" to "facts" and "conclusions"). Subject to provisions of this manner, Tribunals are left free to "regulate [their] own procedure for disposal of cases."

Unsurprisingly, over the last few months, glaring flaws in the working of the Foreigners Tribunals have come to light. Questions in Parliament showed that as many as 64,000 people have been de-

clared non-citizens in ex parte proceedings, i.e., without being heard.

Testimonies reveal these people are often not even served notices telling them that they have been summoned to appear. Alarmingly, an investigative media report featured testimony by a former Tribunal member who stated that his compatriots competed to be what was jokingly referred to as "the highest wicket-taker", i.e. the one who could declare the highest number of individuals "foreigners".

When adjudicating upon a person's citizenship – a determination that can have the drastic and severe result of rendering a human being stateless – only the highest standards of adjudication can ever be morally or ethically justifiable. But in further strengthening an institution – the Foreigners Tribunal – that by design and by practice manifestly exhibits the exact opposite of this principle, the Supreme Court failed to fulfil its duty as the last protector of human rights under the Constitution.

Unwelcome departure

The Court attempted to justify this by observing that "fixing time limits and recording of an order rather than a judgment is to ensure that these cases are disposed of expeditiously and in a time-bound manner". This, however, is the reasoning of a company CEO, not that of the highest Court of the land, adjudicating upon a matter that involves the rights of millions of people. When the stakes are so high, when the consequences entail rendering people stateless, then to allow such departures from the most basic principles of the rule of law is morally grotesque.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

A misleading presentation of a labour programme

The Economic Survey presents an unbalanced view of the technical interventions in MGNREGA



RAKSHITA SWAMY &
RAJENDRAN NARAYANAN

A chapter in the recent Economic Survey on the "transformational" impact of Aadhaar on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) merits scrutiny. It presents a skewed and unbalanced view of the programme's technical interventions instead of taking a comprehensive view of the implementation. The Survey draws heavily from the Indian School of Business's working paper titled "A Friend Indeed: Does The Use of Digital Identity Make Welfare Programs Truly Counter-Cyclical?"

A rebuttal of this working paper, published in November 2018, highlighted glaring flaws on three counts – factual, methodological and conceptual. Yet the paper has been uncritically accepted and widely cited in the Survey. This raises questions about the credibility of the Chief Economic Adviser's (an affiliate of the ISB) office. Here are six reasons why the Economic Survey's presentation of the MGNREGA is misleading.

Aadhaar has to be understood as merely being a pipeline for funds transfer in the MGNREGA. A lack of adequate financial allocation, pending liabilities and low wages have dogged the programme over the past eight years. About 20% of the Budget allocation in each of the last five years is of pending wage liabilities from

previous years. It was worst in 2016-17, when pending liabilities were 35% (₹13,220 crore) out of a total allocation of ₹38,500 crore. MGNREGA wages in many States are about 40% lower than the Ministry of Labour's national minimum wage. Instead of sufficiently funding MGNREGA, a legal right, in times of severe drought, there is disproportionate attention by the government towards creating a complex architecture based on technical solutions.

Technological inputs

Second, the Economic Survey misrepresents the continuous technological interventions in the MGNREGA since its inception. Electronic funds transfer started as far back as in 2011 through the Electronic Fund Management System (eFMS), and became symbolic of the Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT). This served as the basis for the National Electronic Fund Management System (N-eFMS), introduced, in 2016. The Survey uses the term "ALP" for Aadhaar-linked payments and conflates it with the DBT by repeatedly referring to the time before 2015 as "pre-DBT" to make its claims. The conflation of terms prevents one from making an honest assessment on the effect that different interventions have had.

Third, the Survey makes strong assertions that timely payment of wages have positively impacted worker participation. To support this, the Survey makes dubious causal claims on reduction in payment delays due to the introduction of Aadhaar. However, their understanding of payment delays is faulty.

Wage payments to MGNREGA workers happen in two stages. The



first is the time taken by the blocks to generate the electronic Funds Transfer Orders (FTO) and send it digitally to the Central government. The second is the time taken by the Central government to process these FTOs and transfer wages to workers' accounts. While it is true that delays in the first stage have reduced, those in the second stage continue to be unacceptably high. Only about 30% of the payments are credited on time; the Central government takes more than 50 days (which is the second stage) to transfer wages to workers.

The Survey only considers the delays in the first stage. Aadhaar has no role in reducing the delays in the first stage but comes into play only in the second stage. Therefore the claim in the Survey that the "ALP has positively impacted the flow of payments under the scheme" is a manipulation of facts.

Fourth, the Survey attributes an increase in demand for and supply of work in drought-affected areas to Aadhaar ignoring other crucial factors. For instance, it ignores the Supreme Court's orders on drought (*Swaraj Abhiyan vs. Union of India* (2015), which coincided with the duration of the working

paper's analysis. Taking cognisance of the Court's orders and continuing monitoring, the Ministry of Rural Development issued strict directives (between 2014 and 2017) to ensure allocation of works and on-time payment of wages.

These judicial-administrative directives, which came into effect after Aadhaar was introduced, played an important role in the increase in the MGNREGA work uptake in drought areas. Not accounting for the Court's orders as a contributing factor in their "causal" analysis makes their findings unreliable. In fact, in Rajasthan, under the new State government, the 'work demand' campaign initiated in December 2018 has resulted in a 67% increase in employment generated and a record number of households having completed 100 days of work under the MGNREGA. There is a three-fold increase in employment generation in Karnataka in 2019 compared to 2018. This demonstrates how political and administrative priorities can have a strong positive impact on the programme.

Fifth, while the Survey rightfully acknowledges the nature of positive targeting of the MGNREGA – with women, Dalits and Adivasis benefiting the most – it wrongfully attributes it wholly to the introduction of Aadhaar. The argument denies the unambiguous impact of the universal access of the MGNREGA without having to meet any eligibility criteria. It is disappointing that in independent India, an official document on the state of the economy compares a constitutionally backed legal guarantee to the largesse of feudal kings. This should have been expected as the Survey misses the

point that the programme was introduced as a legal right and not as an act of charity. Indeed, to this end, the Minister for Rural Development recently made an odd comment: "I am not in favour of continuing with MNREGA because it is for the poor and the government wants to eradicate poverty."

Sixth, the Survey's claims about the ALP identifying "ghost beneficiaries" is exaggerated as an RTI query showed that they accounted for only about 1.4% of total households in 2016-17.

Violation of rights

The technology historian, Melvin Kranzberg, wrote, "Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral." It is telling that the Survey completely ignores numerous instances where technology has resulted in violation of workers' rights under the MGNREGA – some examples are not registering work demand, not paying unemployment allowance and compensation for payment delays among others.

In fact, another ISB study, not cited in the Economic Survey shows that 38% of the Aadhaar-based transactions in Jharkhand were diverted to a different account. Overlooking these fundamental issues, cherry-picking studies and using flawed analyses to justify technocracy is an example of ethical paralysis. While the Economic Survey harps about an ill-designed technological pipeline, the fact is that a landmark labour programme is being put on a ventilator.

Rakshita is affiliated with the Social Accountability Resource Unit. Rajendran Narayanan teaches at Azim Premji University, Bangalore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Off to the moon

The quick resolution of the fault that affected the lift-off of the Chandrayaan-2 lunar mission leading to a successful launch yesterday is cause for celebration. The country looks forward to India becoming part of the 'space elite'. Our scientists at ISRO are the epitome of hard work, perseverance and team spirit. One hopes that the success stories of ISRO inspire Indian youth.

B. SURESH KUMAR,
Coimbatore

■ India has begun a new space journey and the scientists at ISRO deserve praise for their focus, hard work and perseverance.

Launching satellites at affordable rates in comparison to other global space agencies is another masterstroke. ISRO has not only failed to amaze and has also broken the stereotype of public sector undertakings being inefficient. Perhaps other public sector undertakings can emulate the work culture of ISRO.

MEJARI MALLIKARJUNA,
Nadigadda, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

■ India has begun a new space journey and the scientists at ISRO deserve praise for their focus, hard work and perseverance.

administration is not only using our funds but also delivering on its promises. Amending this to protect either the bureaucracy or the political system is against the spirit of not only the RTI Act but also our democratic credentials (Editorial page, "The tremor of unwelcome amendments", July 22). The right to information is as important as the right to vote and altering this equation and making the RTI chief subservient to the government of the day is both anti-democratic and setting a wrong precedent. If any amendments are contemplated, the government should only further strengthen the laws and make them more 'user friendly'.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

■ To say that the RTI Act has empowered citizens and brought transparency in government departments is not factual for the simple reason that replies to RTI queries are generally vague. Seldom does an applicant receive a pointed reply. The government should ensure that the Act should serve its true objective and is not shortchanged by government officials under the guise of technicalities. Another fact is that most of the information

friendly'. At a time when India's rank in the global transparency index is low, we cannot enact laws that cover up scrutiny.

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

■ To say that the RTI Act has empowered citizens and brought transparency in government departments is not factual for the simple reason that replies to RTI queries are generally vague. Seldom does an applicant receive a pointed reply. The government should ensure that the Act should serve its true objective and is not shortchanged by government officials under the guise of technicalities. Another fact is that most of the information

in the public domain is through whistle-blowers who need to be protected.

DEEPAK SINGHAL,
Noida

■ What matters The heart-warming story of a cancer survivor should inspire those with the disease (Open Page, "The tale of a gritty survivor's battles", July 21). Even members of the medical

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In a front-page report headlined "Govt. to roll out big push for infrastructure" (July 22, 2019), the projected spending in the infrastructure segment for the next five years was erroneously given as ₹100 crore. It should have been ₹1.5 lakh crore.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552663; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

What does it mean to oppose Brahmanism?

Anyone who adheres to the principles of the Indian Constitution is automatically anti-Brahmanical



RAJEEV BHARGAVA

A few months ago, a chilling report appeared in *Deccan Herald* stating that in 2017, 210 cases of atrocities against Dalits occurred in the urban districts of Bengaluru and 106 in its rural districts. Likewise, Kerala reported 883 cases of such crimes between June 2016 and April 2017. Other reports said that there has been a 66% growth in crimes against Dalits in the 10-year period of 2007-2017.

The horror of these statistics is made vivid when one examines concrete events. On April 12 this year, 200 people attacked a small group of Dalits for swimming in the Bhadra river in Karnataka. As they thrashed these people, the perpetrators screamed that the river belongs exclusively to the upper castes. Evidently, Article 15 of our Constitution is not worth the paper it is printed on. It remains toothless, impotent, ineffective.

What kind of thinking underlies these brutal attacks of social violence in which innocent folk are targeted merely because they belong to a particular caste? Since most atrocities revolve around the basic issues of land, wages and entitlements, poverty and powerlessness are viewed as the cause of such violence.

But such explanations do not go deep enough because they leave out the prime mover behind such atrocities – Brahmanism. This precisely was B.R. Ambedkar's contention, who argued that without a robust movement against Brahmanism, Dalit emancipation is impossible. But then, we must ask what exactly is being opposed? What are the core features of Brahmanism?

Not 'anti-Brahmin'

For a start, opposing 'Brahmanism' does not entail being 'anti-Brahmin'. To do so would imply that all Brahmins are responsible for these atrocities. This is as preposterous as ascribing blame to all Muslims for any wrong committed in, say, the reign of Alauddin Khilji, or all British people for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre or, for that matter, all Hindus



NAGARAJ PAL

for the lynching of an innocent Muslim. We should not fall prey to this crude notion of collective responsibility. In a society which is riven by caste, a person may belong to the caste of Brahmins but not adhere to the core ethic of Brahmanism. He may even have morally disassociated himself from it. The resolution to burn the *Manusmriti* and thereby oppose Brahmanism was taken by Ambedkar jointly with G.S. Sahasrabuddhe, a *chittavani* Brahmin.

Indeed, Ambedkar went even further. In a speech at the G.I.P. Railways Depressed Caste Workers' Conference in 1938, he claimed that "when I say that Brahmanism is an enemy that must be dealt with, I do not mean the power, privilege or interests of Brahmins as a community". On the face of it, this seems odd. For, what else could Brahmanism be except a defense of the power, privilege and interests of Brahmins as a community? In fact, this statement is not that perplexing.

Take an instance from our own history. The Rig Vedic society of 1500 BCE had a community of ritual specialists that transmitted its ritual related know-how from one generation to another. Others, the political rulers or ordinary householders, did not possess it. This group of Brahmins was granted some privilege on account of the knowledge it possessed. For satisfying the 'religious' needs of members of other communities, the group was even accorded respect not owed to others.

This produced an inequality but the resulting hierarchy was fluid, contingent and reversible. This contingently generated superiority of Brahmins was not systemic or integral to the structure of society, and therefore not necessarily demeaning to others. This sacrifice-centred Ved-

ic Brahmanism is not to be conflated with the Brahmanism Ambedkar despised and wished to destroy. One should refuse to conflate the privilege of such ritual-performing Brahmins with Brahmanism.

A deeply conservative ideology

What then is Brahmanism? It is a sociopolitical ideology that encodes a memory of an ideal past and a vision of society in the future, one in which Brahmins occupy the highest place not only as exclusive guardians of a higher, spiritual realm but also as sole providers of wisdom on virtually every practical issue of this world. They possess superior knowledge of what a well-ordered society is and how a good state must be run. More importantly, their superior position in society and their superior knowledge stems from birth. This makes them naturally, intrinsically superior to all other humans, so superior that they form a separate species (*jati*) altogether. Nothing can challenge or alter this fact. No one becomes a Brahmin, but is born so.

A person's acts may determine the position he occupies in the next life, but not in this one. Of course, this is true not only of Brahmins but of every other *jati*. The position of each *jati* is unalterably fixed at birth. The *ati-shudra*, the 'untouchable', is born into and therefore must occupy the lowest, most inferior rank; no action of his can alter this fact. This sociopolitical ideology makes hierarchy necessary, rigid and irreversible.

The hierarchical social order, it follows, corresponds to the natural order of things. No one can exchange his position with that of another, or move up or down. Any attempt to do so is morally wrong. Dalits, according to this view, must remain in 'their place' and if they try to move up,

they must be put down.

Brahmanism then is the most perfect form of conservatism, a status quoist ideology par excellence, entirely suitable to elites who wish to perpetuate their social status, power and privilege. Paradoxically, this is also the reason why it spread everywhere in India and beyond and why it endures: regardless of your religio-philosophical world view, if you are a privileged elite, you would find this ideology irresistible.

So, there can be Brahmanical Buddhists or Jains. And those who convert to, say, Islam or Christianity may still continue to embrace this sociopolitical ideology. Many Muslims and Christians, for all practical purposes, are Brahmins or Thakurs who continue to inferiorise Muslim or Christian Dalits.

Brahmanism naturalises existing power, privilege and higher status.

The kings love it, the wealthy merchants and landlords are happy with it. Indeed, because it gives them power over *ati-shudras*, even the high-placed *shudras* in this system of graded inequality are willing to acquiesce to it. In short, everyone at the top finds it appealing because everyone below is required to carry out the task as dictated by his current social position and to not ask for more. Anyone who consents to, endorses or justifies this hierarchical order, regardless of his caste, creed or gender, is then a 'Brahmanist'.

Because this ideology is fundamentally against any kind of social mobility, it restricts individual freedom; because it is totally enamoured of hierarchy, it is ineluctably inegalitarian; and because it separates one group of human beings from another, it is deeply incompatible with any idea of fraternity. No wonder Ambedkar defined Brahmanism as the negation of the spirit of liberty, equality and fraternity. This makes Brahmanism and the Indian Constitution fundamentally opposed to one another. Anyone who sincerely adheres to the core principles of the Indian Constitution is automatically anti-Brahmanical. And one committed to Brahmanism disabled from embracing the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

Rajeev Bhargava is a political theorist with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

Smoking e-cigarettes is more injurious to health

The government's ban proposal needs to be welcomed



AMIT YADAV

The Narendra Modi government's proposal to ban e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) needs to be welcomed as such a move will ensure that Indians, especially children, are kept away from these pernicious products.

Many Muslims and Christians, for all practical purposes, are Brahmins or Thakurs who continue to inferiorise Muslim or Christian Dalits.

Such a ban has also been recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which called for a "complete prohibition on ENDS and e-cigarettes in India in the greater interest of protecting public health, in accordance with the precautionary principle preventing public harm from a noxious agent."

The Health Ministry last year issued an advisory asking the States to ensure that products like e-cigarettes and e-nicotine-flavoured hookahs are not manufactured, distributed, advertised or sold. Following this, 15 States, including Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and Mizoram, banned them. Several of the bans were under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act or the Poisons Act, under which nicotine was included as a 'poison'. Further, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (Anti-Smuggling Unit) and the Drug Controller General of India directed all their officials to ensure compliance with the advisory.

Popularity among youth

Introduced about 10 years ago in India, e-cigarettes rapidly gained popularity, especially among the youth. A misconception among students, parents and teachers that these cigarettes are free of nicotine also contributed to their appeal. The reality is that the tobacco industry, hit by the success of the state's efforts to reduce tobacco use otherwise, had developed such products to hold on to customers who would have otherwise quit. Research suggests that many youngsters, who would otherwise have never started using nicotine, took up conventional smoking after being introduced to e-cigarettes.

While the tobacco companies promote e-cigarettes as a 'less risky' smoking option, some industry documents show that their real goal is to introduce ENDS products as an alternative to quitting. One company started selling its e-cigarette brand in 2014, promising that it will give the consumers the 'pleasure of smoking anywhere' (suggesting that they could use the product even

at public places, where smoking is banned).

Further, even though warnings on many ENDS products clearly indicate that they are not a 'smoking cessation product', e-cigarettes are often promoted that way. Dozens of studies show that smokers who use e-cigarettes are less, not more, likely to quit smoking. In fact, most of them become 'dual users', continuing to smoke cigarettes while also taking to e-cigarettes. This makes them vulnerable to added health risks.

The tobacco industry plans to expand by achieving these twin objectives – attracting more youngsters and reducing quitting by adults. After all, the industry's end goal is profit and not improvement in health indicators. The fact that the industry continues to produce and sell conventional cigarettes, its flagship product that brings it the greatest amount of profit, despite marketing e-cigarettes as an alternative is evidence enough of its sinister design.

Myths and reality

A recent white paper by the ICMR and several other research studies have contradicted several claims of the industry. First, the industry says that ENDS products provide a safer alternative to conventional cigarettes. However, the reality is that ENDS users are almost at the same risk of contracting lung diseases and cancer as conventional cigarette users. In fact, 'dual users' are at greater risk of heart attacks.

Further, the industry claims that the sale of ENDS products does not violate any regulations despite the fact that the companies are in clear violation of WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which prohibits the sale of any product that appeals to minors. The marketing of ENDS products, targeted at youth, also impacts minors and schoolchildren. The industry's assertion that e-cigarettes are safe is contradicted by the many fires and explosions caused by devices, resulting in injuries, loss of lives and property. Further, their accidental ingestion by children has also caused some deaths.

All these points make it clear that the Central government has shown great foresight in bringing out the ban proposal, a move that is likely to avoid causing another epidemic of nicotine addiction in the country. The ban needs to apply to all forms of ENDS products, including all 'heat-not-burn' devices that profess to be an alternative to the existing tobacco products.

Amit Yadav is a postdoctoral scholar at the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, University of California, San Francisco

Subverting the RTI regime

The recent Amendment will dilute the powers and functioning of Information Commissions

ANMOLAM
FARHEEN AHMAD

The recent passage of the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill by the Lok Sabha has reignited the debate on the future of important institutions in India. The Bill is being seen by many as an attempt to subvert the RTI Act and its machinery.

Two of the most controversial provisions of the Bill are: a) the stipulation that the terms of office of the Central and State Information Commissioners (CIC/SIC) will be determined by the Central government as against the existing provision which guarantees a fixed term of five years or up to an age of 65 years; and b) the proposal that their salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service will be determined by the Central government. This is contrary to the currently prescribed salaries and allowances, which are equivalent to that of the

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)/Election Commissioners (ECs) for the CIC/SIC; and the Chief Secretary to the State government for the other ICs.

Freedom from interference

Power has an inherent tendency to tempt governments to cajole or control institutions. Freedom from interference and pressures provide the necessary atmosphere where one can work with an absolute commitment to the cause of transparency. Discipline in life, habits and outlook facilitate a constitutional functionary to be fair. Its existence depends however, not only on idealistic and metaphysical aspects but also upon numerous mundane things – security in tenure, freedom from ordinary monetary worries, freedom from influences and pressures.

In the words of the Supreme Court, "The right to get information... is [a] natural right flowing from the concept of democracy. That right has reached new dimensions and urgency. That right puts greater responsibility upon those who take upon the responsibility to inform..." Instead of playing one institutional body against the other and diluting their powers, what is expected of the government is to focus on the real challenges faced by these institutions, such as pendency of applications; vacancies; and qualitative decline in adjudication standards.

Anmolam is a lawyer, running BDLAAC, a non-profit organisation; Farheen Ahmad is a research scholar at the South Asian University, New Delhi



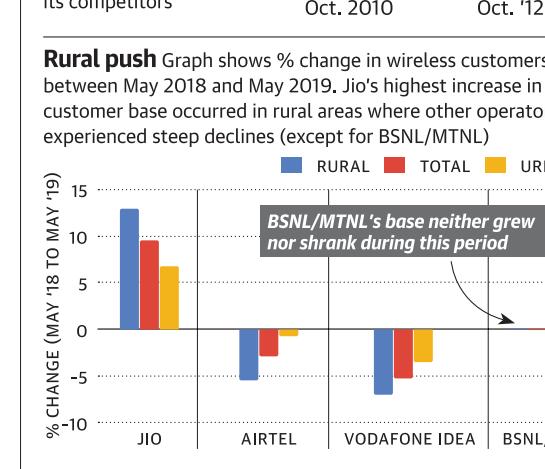
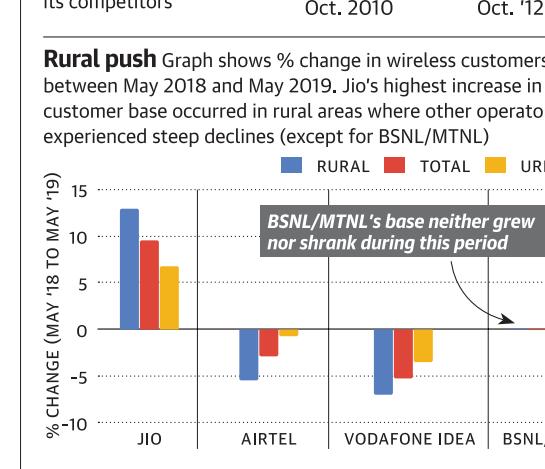
DATA POINT

On a fast lane

Snakes & ladders

Graph shows change in wireless subscriber base from October 2009 to May 2019. In this period the total base increased from 49 crore to 116 crore while the number of operators shrunk to six from 10. After Jio's arrival, many customers have ported out of its competitors.

Reliance Jio bypassed Bharti Airtel in wireless subscriber base to become the second largest telecom operator in India in May 2019. Jio is also bridging the gap with market leader Vodafone Idea, which experienced massive outflows recently. An increase in its rural base has helped Jio's recent surge. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 23, 1969

EMS called to Delhi for remarks

The Home Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, has asked the Kerala Chief Minister, Mr. E.M.S. Nambiar, to come to Delhi to discuss the reported statement issued by the latter jointly with Mr. A.K. Gopalan, Marxist Communist leader, declaring their intention to "break the Constitution from within." This was disclosed by Mr. V.C. Shukla, Minister of State for Home, while replying to a call-at-tention motion tabled by a Congress member, Mr. A.G. Kulkarni, in the Rajya Sabha today [July 22]. Mr. Shukla turned down a suggestion for banning the Communist Party, saying that the Government had no power to do so. The discussion on the motion was marked by sharp exchanges between the Marxist Communist members on the one side and Swatantra and Congress members on the other. The Marxist Communist members made a futile bid to have the discussion put off. At one stage, the interruption and wordy duel, reached such a pitch that the Deputy Chairman, Mrs. Violet Alva, said that she would put off the discussion. But the Swatantra leader, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, was quick to tell the Chair that was exactly what the Communists wanted and pleaded that the Chair should not oblige them.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 23, 1919.

Trade with East Africa.

The committee of the Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau [in Bombay] have addressed the Government of India on the question of trade between India and East Africa. They point out that trade could be developed to a very large extent if the present disabilities are removed. The committee state that they are given to understand for sometime past that colour prejudice, which is responsible for a great deal of mischief, has begun to make itself felt even in East Africa. If the allegations are true the committee for Indian trade in East Africa will be subjected to the same sort of harassment as in South Africa. With the removal of all grievances and inequalities there will be a natural development in the trade between India and East Africa without any interference from the Government on the lines suggested by Major Mackellar in his scheme for a trading company. While the committee are opposed to the proposal of floating a concern with the assistance of the Government they strongly approve the idea of the appointment of an Indian Trade Commissioner to watch and develop the interest of trade between India and East Africa.

FROM PAGE ONE

I'd love to be a mediator on Kashmir: Trump

Asserting India's traditional stand of rejecting any third party mediation on the Kashmir issue, Mr. Kumar said, "It has been India's consistent position that all outstanding issues with Pakistan are discussed only bilaterally."

"Any engagement with Pakistan would require an end to cross-border terrorism," he said, referring to the agreements between India and Pakistan to resolve issues between them, as they did in the Shimla agreement of 1972 and the Lahore declaration of 1999.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said India has never accepted third party mediation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"To ask a foreign power to mediate in J&K by PM Modi is a sacrilegious betrayal of country's interests. Let PM answer to the Nation!" he tweeted.

"I honestly don't think

90 rescued from fire in Mumbai MTNL office

The fire brigade had initially categorised this as a level II (minor) fire but by 4 p.m., it was escalated to level IV (major).

Besides the fire engines, it deployed six jumbo tankers, two turntable ladders, two aerial platforms, one quick response vehicle and one firefighting robot for the job and including officers, firemen, a team of 175 turned

up for the operation.

Initially, some vehicles blocking their entry had to be removed.

The building had a large number of optic fibre cables that led to carbon monoxide build-up and thus, caused breathing difficulty for employees and firemen.

Meanwhile, the nearby Anjuman Islam School let its students go home early.

Perfect launch for Chandrayaan-2

Sixteen minutes after the rocket rose into the cloudy skies leaving a trail of bright orange plumes and its engines let out a majestic roar before vanishing behind the clouds, the spacecraft was injected into orbit at a perigee of 169.7 km and apogee of 45,475 km, the apogee more than what was targeted.

Defined orbit

"The GSLV-Mark III vehicle has successfully injected Chandrayaan-2 in the defined orbit. In fact, the orbit is 6,000 km more than what was intended. The satellite will have more life, more fuel and more time to play with the manoeuvres. It is the beginning of a historic journey of India towards Moon and to land at a place near the South Pole to carry out scientific experiments to

explore unexplored [areas]," ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said from the Mission Control after the launch.

The successful placing of the satellite in the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) was only the first step in a very complex operation. With ISRO tweaking the duration of the Earth-bound Phase and the Lunar-bound phase, it aimed to soft-land the Lander and the Rover on the lunar surface on September 7, a day later than what was planned.

"On the landing day, we are going to experience 15 minutes of terror to ensure a safe landing of the Lander-Rover duo near the South Pole," Mr. Sivan told *The Hindu*. "This is because a soft-landing is new to us and everything should go as per plan and be perfect," he noted.

Speaker breaks House convention

House adjourned only till 2 p.m. for death of LJP member Ramchandra Paswan

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Breaking away from the tradition of adjourning the House for the entire day if a sitting member dies, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday adjourned the Lok Sabha until 2 p.m. at the death of Lok Janashakti Party (LJP) member Ramchandra Paswan, the younger brother of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury urged Mr. Birla to follow convention and adjourn the House for the entire day without transacting business as a mark of respect.

Opposition leaders, including Trinamool's Saugata Roy, followed it up by meeting the Speaker in his chamber to stress conventions.

"Parliament has started a new convention so that it can resume its normal duties after 2 p.m.," said Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan. "Ramchandra Paswan had been a voice and a leader of Dalits and the weak. No pol-



Changing the rules: Speaker Om Birla conducting proceedings in the Lok Sabha on Monday. ■ LSTV/PTI

itics should be done over this".

As Lok Sabha Speaker, Sumitra Mahajan set a precedent on February 1, 2017, by allowing the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to present the Union Budget despite sitting member and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader E. Ahmed passing away on Budget day.

Clarifications on replies
However, on any other working day of Parliament, the convention is to adjourn for the day after paying homage

to the departed leader on the floor of the House.

But this is not the only change that the new Speaker has brought about is to allow as many MPs as possible to raise matters during the Zero Hour, a time slot reserved for MPs to raise issues of importance related to their constituencies or their State.

On July 18, Lok Sabha proceedings went on close to midnight as 162 members were allowed to raise issues under Zero Hour mentions after the Finance Bill was passed.

For example, last week when Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari was replying to the debate on the Demands for Grants on his Ministry, the Speaker allowed mem-

bers to ask for clarifications. The same was the case with Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar when the Lok Sabha was debating about agriculture and rural development.

While it is a norm for Rajya Sabha members to seek clarification from a Minister after a debate, a Minister has to agree for an MP to seek a clarification. But now, Mr. Birla has made it a norm for Ministers to reply to clarifications sought by the members.

Extended Zero Hour
Another change that the Speaker has brought about is to allow as many MPs as possible to raise matters during the Zero Hour, a time slot reserved for MPs to raise issues of importance related to their constituencies or their State.

On July 18, Lok Sabha proceedings went on close to midnight as 162 members were allowed to raise issues under Zero Hour mentions after the Finance Bill was passed.

Addressing a meeting of

BJP workers in Madhya Pradesh, Ms. Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case who is currently out on bail, had said the job of an MP is to work with MLAs, corporators and public representatives to ensure development.

"So keep this in mind... We are not here for cleaning a drain. Is it clear? We are absolutely not (here) for cleaning your toilets. The work which we are supposed to do and elected for, we will do it honestly. This we had said in the past, saying it today and stick to it in future as well," she said.

Pejorative tone
The remarks were not only seen as mocking "Swachh Bharat" but were also termed casteist in nature due to implied pejorative tones towards those engaged in sanitation work.

Addressing a meeting of

BJP workers in Madhya Pradesh, Ms. Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case who is currently out on bail, had said the job of an MP is to work with MLAs, corporators and public representatives to ensure development.

"So keep this in mind... We are not here for cleaning a drain. Is it clear? We are absolutely not (here) for cleaning your toilets. The work which we are supposed to do and elected for, we will do it honestly. This we had said in the past, saying it today and stick to it in future as well," she said.

Press freedom
The Rajya Sabha Chairman has also refused to admit the Opposition notice to hold a short-duration discussion on press freedom on the government's recommendation, sources said. "We were told that the government feels that there has been no change in the state of media

Opposition says Bill dilutes RTI Act

Lok Sabha clears amendments, MPs of various parties call it the 'RTI Elimination Bill'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019 three days after it was introduced. It seeks to amend the landmark transparency law and bring in changes involving the salaries and tenures of Information Commissioners (ICs) at the States and the Centre.

As per the amendment, the ICs – who currently have five-year tenures – will have "terms as may be prescribed by the Central government" and salaries, instead of being on a par with those of Election Commissioners, will be decided by the Centre.

Speaker Om Birla announced that the Bill was passed with 218 'yes' votes as against 79 'no'.

The Bill states that the functions being carried out by the Election Commission and the Central and State In-

formation Commissions are totally different. The Election Commission is a Constitutional body. On the other hand, the Central Information Commission and the State Information Commissions are statutory bodies established under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

The Bill saw sharp opposition with allegations that the government was trying to dilute the effectiveness of the law. Some MPs even called it the "RTI Elimination Bill".

Leader of the Congress in

the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "The amendments they [Centre] are trying to bring are dangerous. They are trying to attack our democratic right to information. This government wants to keep a tab on the Commission, and kill its freedom."

Mr. Chowdhury also accused the government of not having distributed copies of the Bill to members of the House two days in advance.

"This Bill is removing the two greatest armours of in-

stitutional independence and on top of that, by controlling the State Information Commissioners, by taking over the power to determine their salaries, the Central government is destroying it," Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said.

"Are you bringing this amendment because an Information Commissioner asked the PMO to reveal the PM's educational details? What is the hurry in bulldozing every Bill without scrutiny? Why is the government delaying constituting the parliamentary Standing Committees?"

'Blackest day'

A. Raja of the DMK dismissed the government's argument that the CIC could not be equated with the CEC since the former is a statutory body, while the latter is a constitutional body. "Today is a dark day for democracy. Democ-

racy is a continuous process, it doesn't end with elections," he said.

Arguing that this was the "blackest day" for democracy, N.K. Premachandran, Revolutionary Socialist Party MP, said: "This Bill weakens every known institution in the country and compromises the power of Parliament as well as the judiciary. It will adversely impact our democracy for benefiting the Central government and we cannot allow that to happen."

Trinamool MP Saugata Roy said, "This Bill seeks to dilute the Information Commission of its powers." He alleged that of the 11 Bills passed by Parliament, no Bill had been sent for legislative scrutiny to a Standing Committee.

The government, however, said that there is no question of degrading the ICs and it was only trying to remove some anomalies in the Act.

Governor of J&K regrets remark

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik has regretted his remark asking "militants to go after corrupt politicians and bureaucrats," a statement that drew sharp reactions from regional parties on Monday.

"As Governor, I should not have made such a comment. But my personal feeling is what I said. Many political leaders and big bureaucrats are steeped in corruption here," Mr. Malik said. "The statement was made in a fit of anger and frustration due to rampant corruption in J&K."

Mr. Malik irked regional parties with the remark he made in Kargil on Sunday. "These boys [militants] who have picked up guns are killing their own people; they are killing PSOs [personal security officers] and SPOs [special police officers]. Why are you killing them? Kill those who have looted the wealth of Kashmir. Have you killed any of them?" the Governor had said.

National Conference (NC) vice-president and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, "Save this tweet – after today any mainstream politician or serving/retired bureaucrat killed in J&K has been murdered on the express orders of the Governor of J&K Satyapal Malik," tweeted Mr. Abdullah.

"This man, ostensibly a responsible man occupying a constitutional position... Perhaps the man should find out about his own reputation in Delhi these days before sanctioning unlawful killings and kangaroo courts," Mr. Abdullah had said.

In his retort, Mr. Malik said, "He [Mr. Abdullah] is a political juvenile tweeting on everything."

Human Rights Bill cleared amid protests

Amit Shah counters opposition charge that amendments will pack NHRC with 'yes men'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was cleared by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha amid criticism from the Opposition that the legislation will ensure that only the government nominees are appointed to the National Human Rights Commission. The Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Responding to the criticism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at the conclusion of the debate that such an apprehension was unfounded. "The chairperson is not appointed by Prime Minister on recommendation of Home Minister. There

is a committee which includes Prime Minister and Opposition leaders of both the Houses. The House should trust the wisdom of such a committee"

Choice of Chairperson

The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 amends the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to include the provision that apart from a former CJI, a former judge of the Supreme Court can be the Chairperson of the NHRC. Under the Act, only a person who had been the CJI could be made the NHRC chairperson.

Congress MP Vivek Tankha, speaking during the debate, said many provisions in the Bill gave discretionary

powers to the government to pack the NHRC chairperson.

"The Bill says that if a Chief Justice of India is not available for the post, then there is an option to appoint a Supreme Court judge. But there is no clarity that if there is an existing Chief Justice, will he be overlooked and a certain hand-picked judge be appointed chairman," Mr. Tankha said.

RJD MP Manoj Jha echoed the criticism saying the Bill paved the way for appointment of "yes men" on the body.

The discussion on the Bill started amid an uproar from the Opposition benches who had been protesting since morning on the Sonabhadra

killings and political crisis in Karnataka. The House was adjourned at 2.20 p.m. Later when the house met at 3 p.m., Trinamool Congress leader Sukendu Shekar Ray registered his protest saying that the House did not get enough time to study or move amendments.

Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien, while opening of the debate, had raised the same point saying that the Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha on Friday and moved in Rajya Sabha this morning. None of the amendments moved by members were circulated. It is a violation of the rights of members he said. The party members walked out of the House.

Sonbhadra, Karnataka disrupt House

Opposition raises slogans; Congress MPs stage protest outside Parliament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha witnessed repeated disruptions on Monday as Opposition members raised slogans over the Sonbhadra killings, the political crisis in Karnataka and mob lynchings.

Opposition members trooped into the well and started raising slogans. ■ PTI

hadra incident. Soon after Deputy Chairman Harivansh called for the Question Hour around noon, Opposition members trooped into the Well and started raising slogans on various issues in

cluding the political crisis in Karnataka and the killings in Sonbhadra.

Protesting members shouted slogans like "Dictatorship will not be allowed" and "Dalit virodhi yeh sarkar, nahin chalegi (anti-Dalit government will not be accepted)".

"The members in the Well are requested to go back to their seats and allow the Question Hour to continue," the Deputy Chairman said. As his pleas went unheeded, Mr. Harivansh adjourned the House till 2 p.m.

As soon as the House res-

umed, the Deputy Chairman asked Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nitaynand Rai to move the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Raising a point of order, Congress leader Anand Sharma said members should get at least two days notice to file their amendments. Mr. Sharma said when Bills were not being referred to standing committees, members should be given time to submit their amendments to the Bill. He said the government was in a tearing hurry to pass the Bill.

"Not all Bills need to be sent, but there are definitely a few that need further scrutiny which has not happened in this session," Congress Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma said. The standing committees were yet to be constituted. The Opposition, however, argued that even in the absence of the committees, select committees could be formed.

"Democracy and parliamentary procedures are being murdered. Eleven Bills have so far been passed by the Rajya Sabha and none of them has gone through any scrutiny by standing committees or select committees," Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien said. "Time for talks are over. It is time to put our thoughts on paper," he said.

Sources in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said the Opposition parties were to be blamed for the delay in the formation of the standing committees. There are 24 department-related committees. Despite several reminders, the BJP and the Congress are yet to send the list of their nominees.

Joint letter

A few parties are of the opinion that a joint letter should be sent to the Chairmen and the Speaker on the issue.

Giving an example of how parliamentary propriety is being done away with, the leader said the Human Rights (Amendment) Bill that was cleared by the Lok Sabha on Friday was listed for passing in the Rajya Sabha on Monday without giving the Opposition enough time to study and move amendments. A lot of business of the Houses is conducted in din without paying heed to the Opposition's protests.

There has been speculation that the Parliament

INTERVIEW | GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

'Success in water sector development depends on a jan andolan'

An integrated approach will change water situation and the subject is being dealt with holistically, says Jal Shakti Minister

NISTULA HEBBAR
PRISCILLA JEVARAJ

People's participation – a jan andolan – and a holistic approach are crucial to ensure the success of the scheme to supply piped water to all, says Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat.

The Jal Shakti Ministry has brought together many departments under your leadership. Are you prioritising one aspect, and is there any concern that some areas may be ignored?

■ This is the first time that the subject of water is being dealt with in a holistic manner, and I believe that no subject which is dealt with holistically ends up ignoring any aspect of it. We would have gained a lot if such a synergy had been attempted earlier. There are five pillars for this: rainwater harvesting; judicious use of water by individuals, agriculture, industry; use of technology for groundwater recharge, sewage treatment and desalination; reuse and recycling of water; and afforestation. If these five principles are followed, you will see change in the country's water situation.

One of your priorities is to

provide piped drinking water by 2024. However, the previous National Rural Drinking Water Programme failed to reach its goals of piped water to half the population by 2018, reaching only 18% of households. What is going to be done differently this time?

■ Today, there is so much more money. We have been given ₹10,000 crore in the budget allocation. But as importantly, we are following an integrated approach on the issue now.

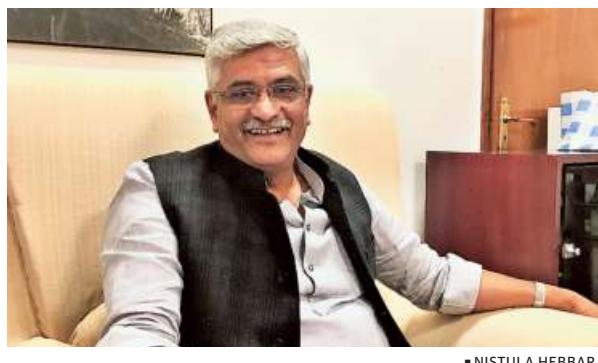
It is not only about piped water supply. Prior to that is source sustainability, which can be attained in India by groundwater recharge only. Second is piped water supply and third is grey water disposal and reuse, either after treatment or for groundwater recharge. So it's a holistic approach. Previous drinking water programmes did not achieve at this pace because

these aspects were not there. In the previous programme, the CAG had shown that States did not even use the funds given to them.

■ This time, we have said it will be in challenge mode. So whichever State performs better, we will give more incentive to that State. If you do more work, you will get more funds. We are also taking a district-wise approach. Let each District Collector make the plan for his own district. Otherwise, what happens is that the bulk of the money just sits unused with the State.

If anyone wants to do work on these issues, there is no shortage of funding. What is needed is commitment and will to get it done. For that commitment, the *jan andolan* is the way forward. Anywhere in the world, you will find that success in water sector development has only happened because there has been a *jan andolan* in that country, not because of what the government has done.

What kind of policy changes are you looking to make to incentivise a *jan andolan*?



■ NISTULA HEBBAR

I have given a deadline to finish aquifer mapping in 256 water-stressed districts by March

■ The biggest incentive is that in your house, you will get water. For every woman, what greater incentive does she need?

You have previously been in the Agriculture Ministry, and have said India has the most inefficient use of water in terms of agriculture, with 89% of our water going to that sector.

■ The lowest productivity of water in the world is in India. To grow one kilogram of rice, we require 5,600 litres of water, whereas the same is done in China with just 350 litres. We have rice in surplus today and if we want to diversify our crops, we have to incentivise it. In this context, I

appreciate the work done by [Chief Minister] Manohar Lal Khattarji in Haryana; he went to the basic reason why the farmer was growing paddy, which is that there is government procurement and hence an assured market for the crop. So paddy farmers were asked to switch to maize and told that the government would procure it, and simultaneously give a ₹2,000 per acre subsidy. At one shot, 18,000 hectares of land transferred from paddy cultivation to maize.

In Maharashtra, a similar thing was done by Devendra Fadnavis [Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis] in the case of sugar cane, which is the largest water guzzler. He announced that no sugar cane could be grown without precision drip irrigation. They will be saving 75% of their water.

We have scheduled a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture this week itself, on how best to take it forward nationally.

How will you ensure that State governments will get on board with all this? Are you going to put water on the concurrent list?

■ That is no solution. This will have to be a *jan Andolan*, a people's mission. The day people's participation gets into the mission, then only it will work.

In my childhood, the entire village used to be concerned about water bodies, their health and recharge. Now after tap water, the catchments of ponds was impaired, there was encroachment on ponds, and this slowly finished off the catchments, mainly because peo-

ple were not invested as communities.

I have given a deadline to finish aquifer mapping by March in 256 water-stressed districts. If they are given the knowledge, laymen on the ground can do so much. For example, in Latoria village in Rajasthan, 40 years ago, there was not a single drop of water.

One man, Laxman Singh, started working on water harvesting and groundwater recharge. Today, Latoria is water secure, and so are 58 nearby villages. Israelis came and studied our technology to replicate in their place.

There have been a number of steps taken to clean the Ganga... But in terms of impact, when you measure the presence of faecal

coliform in the river, it's still high.

■ Faecal coliform is just one parameter. If you look at the levels in 2018 in comparison to 2017, you will see there is some improvement. But also, there is a gestation period for capacity building being done by States, and you will start seeing the impact all together. By the end of the

year, we will be able to stop any untreated sewage flowing into the Ganga up to Haridwar and in Jharkhand. In U.P., it will take another year or so.

We have planned till 2035, taking into account the expected increase in population. You ask by what date the Ganga cleaning mission will be done. When you and I are not there any more, the Ganga will still be there. This is not an issue that will finish today.

That is true, but we keep setting deadlines and then extending deadlines...

■ We have planned targets for 2035. Previous experience shows that you make the STP, but nobody in the States has the money to run it. So we took another approach, where the manufacturer has build, operation and maintenance responsibility for 15 years.

So at least till 2035, we do not have to look at that again. Also under the 'One City, One Operator' concept whoever is building a new STP, will have to run the existing STPs for the next 15 years in that city.

Kureshi file under study: Centre

Seeks two weeks to decide on collegium recommendation on his elevation

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday sought from the Supreme Court two weeks to decide on the collegium recommendation to appoint Bombay High Court's Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta submitted before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi that the file was still under consideration and sought a fortnight more.

The court decided to hear the case on August 2 even as senior advocate Falu Nariman, for the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association, said the government should act as a "distinguished communicator" and



could not resort to what seemed "deliberate inaction" in a recommendation made by the Supreme Court Collegium as way back as May 10.

The Centre should clarify whether it had sought any feedback from the Madhya Pradesh government.

The association alleged that Justice Kureshi's elevation was singled out for uncertainty while those of other judges recommended

It said the "recommendation is rendered moot by the arbitrary inaction by the respondent in withholding the appointment of Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi".

Other appointments

The association said 18 other additional judges of different High Courts had been appointed since May 10, but the government had kept its decision on Justice Kureshi pending inexplicably.

In June, the government appointed Justice Ravi Shanker Jha as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court even as it gave no word on Justice Kureshi.

The association described Justice Kureshi as a judge who commanded "tremendous admiration and respect".

Panel for ban on digital currencies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The committee set up to look into the legality of cryptocurrencies and blockchain has submitted its report to the Finance Ministry and recommended that private cryptocurrencies be banned in India.

It has drafted a law, the "Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019", which mandates a fine and imprisonment of up to 10 years for offences. The committee, however, said the government should keep an open mind on the potential issuance of cryptocurrencies by the Reserve Bank of India.

The government constituted the Inter-Ministerial Committee on November 2, 2017, under the Chairmanship of Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg and including senior officials of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, SEBI and the RBI. "The committee notes with serious concern mushrooming of cryptocurrencies almost invariably issued abroad and numerous people in India investing in these," the report said. "All these cryptocurrencies have been created by non-sovereigns." The report says cryptocurrencies do not have any intrinsic value of their own and lack any of the attributes of a currency. They neither act as a store of value nor are they a medium of exchange in themselves.



"not conducting himself independently and had been galvanising the independent directors and acting pre-judicially".

They had been charged with Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 (punishment for defamation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Defence plea

On April 18, senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Mr. Tata, told the Division Bench that the case had been filed with non-application of mind as it was the fallout of a corporate dispute between Mr. Tata and Mr. Wadia, who is a strong supporter of Mr. Mistry.

He said the complaint was not defamatory *per se* and relied upon letters and minutes of the meeting circulated by Tata Sons to its group companies. He said those were sent seeking Mr. Wadia's removal as he was acting against the company's interest.

Tata Sons had also said,

"Mr. Wadia is acting without bona fides and putting the future of Tata Steel and its employees in grave jeopardy."

He was also accused of

Slain jawan's brothers join Army in Jammu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday quashed the criminal proceedings initiated by a magistrate court against industrialist Ratan Tata and directors of Tata Sons on a complaint by businessman Nusli Wadia.

A Division Bench of Justices Ranjit More and Bharati Dangre was hearing a petition filed by Mr. Tata, Ajay Piramal, Amit Chandra, Ishaaq Hussain, Nitin Nohria, Ranendra Sen, Vijay Singh, Venu Srinivasan, Ralf Speth, N. Chandrasekharan and F.N. Subedar to quash all criminal proceedings against them in a defamation suit.

On December 17, 2018, the magistrate court at Ballard Pier issued notices to them. They have been accused of making defamatory statements against Mr. Wadia after the removal of Cyrus Mistry as the chairman of the Tata Group in 2016.

The statements included that "Mr. Wadia was acting against the interests of the Tata Group and was acting in concert with the former manager designed to cause harm to the Tata Group despite being an independent director on the Board of a few Tata companies."

Tata Sons had also said,

"Mr. Wadia is acting without bona fides and putting the future of Tata Steel and its employees in grave jeopardy."

They neither act as a store of value nor are they a medium of exchange in themselves.

Suit against Ratan Tata quashed

Nusli Wadia had filed the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday quashed the criminal proceedings initiated by a magistrate court against industrialist Ratan Tata and directors of Tata Sons on a complaint by businessman Nusli Wadia.

Ratan Tata

"not conducting himself independently and had been galvanising the independent directors and acting pre-judicially".

They had been charged with Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 (punishment for defamation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Defence plea

On April 18, senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Mr. Tata, told the Division Bench that the case had been filed with non-application of mind as it was the fallout of a corporate dispute between Mr. Tata and Mr. Wadia, who is a strong supporter of Mr. Mistry.

He said the complaint was not defamatory *per se* and relied upon letters and minutes of the meeting circulated by Tata Sons to its group companies. He said those were sent seeking Mr. Wadia's removal as he was acting against the company's interest.

Tata Sons had also said,

"Mr. Wadia is acting without bona fides and putting the future of Tata Steel and its employees in grave jeopardy."

They neither act as a store of value nor are they a medium of exchange in themselves.

M.M. Naravane to be next Vice-Chief of Army

He is the senior-most officer in the force, after Army Chief General Bipin Rawat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-General M.M. Naravane, currently General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Army Command, has been appointed the next Vice-Chief of the Army Staff in a series of changes in the Army's top brass, defence sources said on Monday. He will take over from Lt.Gen. D. Anbu when he retires on August 31.



M.M. Naravane

Lt.Gen. Naravane, the senior-most officer in the force after the Chief of the Army

Staff, General Bipin Rawat, is in line to succeed him on his retirement on December 30.

Lt.Gen. R.P. Singh will take over as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Army Command, from Lt.Gen. Cherish Matheson, who retires on August 31. Lt.Gen. I.S. Ghuman will take charge of the Lucknow-based Central Command from Lt.Gen. Abhay Krishna who retires on September 30.

rector-General, Military Training, Lt.Gen. A.S. Kler, has been appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South-Western Command and will take over from Lt.Gen. Cherish Matheson, who retires on July 31.

Lt.Gen. Anil Chauhan, currently Director-General of Military Operations, will replace Lt.Gen. Naravane in the Eastern Command. Di-

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI CHITTOOR (DIST) ANDHRA PRADESH 'e' - PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE					
Adv.No.14/TA/SE-II/TTD/TP/2019-20 Dated:22-07-2019					
SI. No.	NIT No.	Name of the work	Estimate Amount Rs.in Lakhs & Period for completion	Schedule Download Start Date	Down load End Date & Last Date for Bid Submission
1	99/SE-II/TTD/2019-20	Disposal of Hazardous Solid Waste from Tirumala	EOI OFF LINE TENDER 5 years	26-07-2019 5.00 p.m.	13-08-2019 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m.

For NIT No.9

ELSEWHERE



UN nuclear watchdog chief Amano dies at 72

VIENNA
The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog, Yukiya Amano, has died after suffering poor health for some time, the International Atomic Energy Agency said on Monday. The Japanese diplomat, who was 72, held the IAEA's top job since December 2009. AFP

Microsoft pays \$25mn to settle corruption charges

NEW YORK
Microsoft agreed on Monday to pay about \$25.3 million, including a criminal fine, to settle U.S. charges that it made improper payments to bribe government officials in Hungary and other countries. AP

Sri Lanka extends emergency by a month

COLOMBO
Sri Lanka on Monday extended the state of emergency by a month in the interest of maintaining "public security" after the deadly Easter bombings that killed nearly 260 people. PTI

China says Hong Kong protests are 'absolutely intolerable'

Beijing calls for use of 'all necessary measures to safeguard Central govt. agencies'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING/HONG KONG

China reacted furiously on Monday to anti-government protesters vandalising the walls of its representative's office in Hong Kong and defacing the national emblem, branding their actions "absolutely intolerable".

Thousands of masked pro-democracy demonstrators briefly occupied the road outside the office in the semi-autonomous city on Sunday and targeted the building with eggs, projectiles, laser lights and graffiti in a stark rebuke to Beijing's rule.

Hong Kong has been shaken by massive, sometimes violent, protests initially organised to oppose a now-suspended bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China. They have now morphed into a wider movement for democratic reforms.

"Actions by some radical demonstrators have affected



Crowd control: A policeman firing a tear gas shell at protesters in Hong Kong late on Sunday. •AFP

the bottom line of the 'one country, two systems' principle, and that is absolutely intolerable," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in Beijing.

He added that Beijing opposes all acts of violence and "firmly" supports the use of "all necessary measures to safeguard Central government agencies in Hong Kong".

Protesters have vowed to sustain pressure until their core demands – including universal suffrage and the re-

signation of the city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam – are met.

"These (acts)... have seriously damaged the feelings of all Chinese people including seven million Hong Kong compatriots," Wang Zhimin, China's top envoy to the city, told reporters, calling on authorities to pursue the "rioters".

Protesters attacked
Meanwhile, anger soared in Hong Kong on Monday over a vicious assault on pro-de-

mocracy protesters by suspected triad gangsters late on Sunday that left dozens wounded. Footage broadcast live on Facebook showed gangs of men – most wearing white T-shirts and carrying bats, sticks and metal poles – attacking the protesters. The men beat multiple protesters and journalists in Yuen Long station and inside subway trains, leaving pools of blood on the floor.

Hospital authorities said 45 people were wounded in the attack, with one man in critical condition and five others seriously injured.

Critics accused the city's embattled police force of taking more than an hour to reach the site and failing to arrest the armed assailants who stayed on the streets around the station into Monday morning.

Some men in white shirts were later filmed leaving the scene in cars with Chinese mainland number plates.

U.S. working with Pak. to find way out of Afghan war: Trump

Imran Khan says a peace deal with the Taliban was possible

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump voiced optimism on Monday that Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan could help broker a political settlement to end the nearly 18-year-old U.S. war in Afghanistan and held out the possibility of restoring aid to Islamabad.

"I think Pakistan is going to help us out to extricate ourselves," Mr. Trump said, with Mr. Khan sitting next to him at the start of a White House meeting.

Hospital authorities said 45 people were wounded in the attack, with one man in critical condition and five others seriously injured.

Critics accused the city's embattled police force of taking more than an hour to reach the site and failing to arrest the armed assailants who stayed on the streets around the station into Monday morning.

The U.S. and Pakistan have a complicated relationship. Mr. Trump last year complained on Twitter that the Pakistanis "have given us nothing but lies & deceit" and "give safe haven" to militants. Pakistan has denied



Donald Trump

the accusations.

"They were really, I think, subversive. They were going against us," Mr. Trump said on Monday, adding that the U.S. relationship with Pakistan had improved.

Mr. Khan told Mr. Trump that a peace deal with the Taliban was closer than it had ever been. "We hope that in the coming days we will be able to urge the Taliban to speak to the Afghan government and come to a settlement, a political solution," Mr. Khan said in the Oval Office meeting when re-

porters were present.

Mr. Trump wants to wrap up the U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan and sees Pakistan's cooperation as crucial to any deal to end the war and ensure the country does not become a base for militant groups like the Islamic State.

Pressure tactics

Washington wants Islamabad to pressure Afghanistan's Taliban into a permanent ceasefire and participation in talks with the Afghan government.

The Pentagon said Pakistan's Army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, will meet later on Monday with the top American military officer, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford.

Analysts believe General Bajwa will play a key role in behind-the-scenes discussions, with the military looking to persuade Washington to restore aid and cooperation.

Britain plans European-led naval mission in the Gulf

Prime Minister Theresa May holds emergency meeting; Hunt terms Iran's capture of tanker 'state piracy'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Monday said it was planning a European-led protection force for shipping in the Gulf after Iranian authorities seized a British-flagged tanker in a dramatic escalation of tensions in the region.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt made the announcement following an emergency ministerial meeting,

chaired by Prime Minister Theresa May, to respond to Friday's incident.

"We will seek to establish this mission as quickly as possible," Mr. Hunt said, condemning Iran's actions as "state piracy" while at the same time emphasising that Britain did not want confrontation.

The mission "will not be part of the U.S. maximum pressure policy on Iran be-

cause we remain committed to preserving the Iran nuclear agreement," Mr. Hunt told Parliament. The U.S. pulled out of the nuclear deal last year. He also said a second warship that Britain has sent to the region would arrive by July 29.

Legal measure: Tehran
In a dramatic escalation of tensions, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized

the *Stena Impero* on Friday in the Gulf's strategic Strait of Hormuz. The move came two weeks after British authorities seized an Iranian tanker off its overseas territory of Gibraltar on suspicion of breaching EU sanctions against Syria against a backdrop of brinkmanship between Washington and Tehran.

Iran impounded the tanker after claiming it failed to

respond to distress calls and turned off its transponder after hitting a fishing boat.

"Seizing the British tanker was a legal measure by Iran," a spokesman for the Iranian government, Ali Rabiei, told a news conference in Tehran on Monday.

However, Britain has said there was no evidence of a collision and said the vessel was in Omani waters, with its transponder switched on.

Iran claims it busted CIA spy ring; zero truth, says Trump

Tehran says it arrested 17 suspects & sentenced some to death

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran arrested 17 suspects and sentenced some to death after dismantling a CIA spy ring, an official said on Monday, as tensions soar between the Islamic republic and the United States.

U.S. President Donald Trump dismissed the report as "totally false".

Security agencies "successfully dismantled a (CIA) spy network," the head of counter-intelligence at the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, whose identity was not revealed, told reporters in Tehran.

"Those who deliberately betrayed the country were

handed to the judiciary... some were sentenced to death and some to long-term imprisonment." The suspects were arrested between March 2018 and March 2019.

"The report of Iran capturing CIA spies is totally false. Zero truth," Mr. Trump tweeted.

Sensitive centres
Iran said last month it dismantled a network linked to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, state news agency IRNA said at the time, saying it was conducted in cooperation with "foreign allies".

On Monday, the counter-intelligence chief said 17 people suspected of espionage

had been identified, all of them Iranians. The suspects had been "employed at sensitive and crucial centres and also the private sector related to them, working as contractors or consultants," said the official.

The Intelligence Ministry released a CD with images of what it said were CIA operatives abroad as well as business cards of U.S. diplomats in Austria, Finland, India, Turkey and Zimbabwe allegedly involved in the network. The announcement came as state television started broadcasting a "documentary" titled *The Mole Hunt*, a trailer of which was on the disc.

Israel tears down 'illegal' homes in Jerusalem area

Palestine calls for international support

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SUR BAHER, PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Israel demolished a number of Palestinian homes it considers illegally constructed near its separation barrier south of Jerusalem on Monday in a move that drew international condemnation.

Palestinian leaders slammed the demolitions in the Sur Baher area which straddles the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem, but Israel defended them as essential to its security and stressed they had been approved by its Supreme Court.

UN officials and the European Union condemned the demolitions and called for an immediate halt to the policy.

Destroying our dreams'
Before dawn, hundreds of Israeli police and soldiers sealed off buildings in the area close to the Israeli separation barrier which cuts off the West Bank. Residents and activists were dragged out of homes, though most of the buildings under demolition orders – a total of 10 – were still under construction.

Earthmovers then demolished at least three multi-storey buildings. An eight-storey building still under construction was later partially destroyed by explosives.

One man yelled "I want to die here", after being forced



Israeli forces demolishing a building on Monday. •AFP

out. The owner of one demolished building, Akram Zawahra, said "they are destroying our dreams and the dreams of our children."

Israel says the buildings were constructed too close to the separation barrier and posed a security risk. It has established a buffer zone around the barrier in the area of between 100m and 300m, according to UN humanitarian agency OCHA.

OCHA says demolishing all 10 buildings would see three households of 17 people displaced and another 350 people affected.

"What is painfully happening here is the biggest and most dangerous demolition operation outside of war operations," Walid As-saf, the Palestinian Minister in charge of monitoring Israeli settlements, said in a video from the site.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas called on the "international community to intervene immediately to stop this aggression against our people".

Pak's lobbyist in U.S. is a controversial ex-lawmaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

The Embassy of Pakistan here has hired the services of a former American lawmaker as a lobbyist, who had resigned from the House of Representatives amid a scandal.

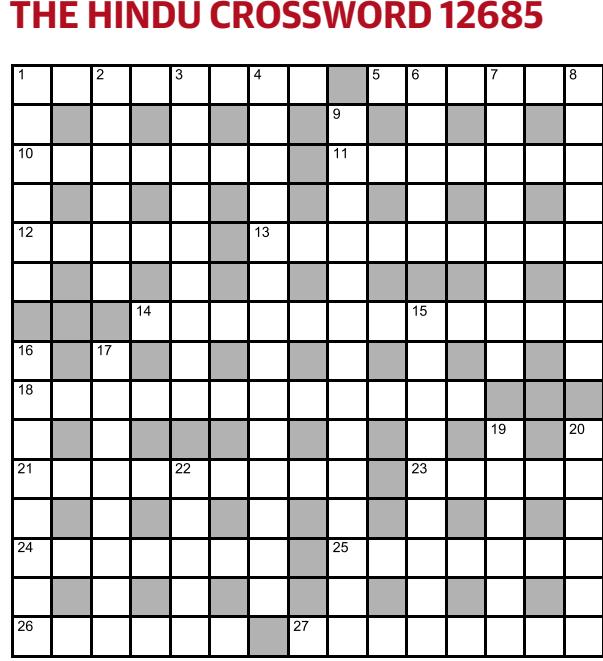
On Saturday, Pakistan's U.S. Ambassador Majeed Khan signed a contract with former Republican Congressman Tom Reynolds, representing Holland and Knight lobbying firm, to advance Pakistan's interests in the U.S.

"Joining former Congressman Reynolds will be a team comprising other former members of Congress, former senior administration officials, capitol Hill veterans and other professional experts," the Embassy said in a media release.

Mr. Reynolds represented New York's 26th Congressional District for about a decade from 1999 to 2009. Amid a raging demolition controversy surrounding a paedophile ring, and financial scandal involving National Republican Congressional Committee, he announced on March 20, 2008 that he would not run for a sixth term.

At that time, he was the fourth most powerful Republican Congressman in the House of Representatives.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12685



ACROSS

- Seize endless photographs featuring hot visual images (8)
- Soldiers about to chase man in float – a terrorist (6)
- United in passionate love, turned emotional (7)
- Worm in lane, possibly dead (7)

DOWN

- Plot to keep alien in cell (6)
- Neighbour's endless worry about an inability to act decisively (6)
- Upset by director chasing one model in a passage (8)
- Cheat upset about charge made a speech (6)
- Bit of unpleasantness disregarded for love in marriage, it could make one cry (5)

SUDOKU

9	5		4	2	7		1	
		6						
	1		9			8		
				1		7	9	
9	7		6	8				
1	6	9						
7			5	4				
					1			
4		2	6	9	8	5		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12684

D	E	C	I	P	H	E	R	A	F	F	O	R	D
E	H	E	S	I	P	R	E						
C	L	A	S	T	A	N	I	N					
L	A	R	E	S	O	E	N	S					
A	R												

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	38,031	-0.80
US Dollar	68.92	-0.17
Gold	35,970	0.27
Brent oil	63.43	2.27

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	407.20	1.70
Asian Paints	1404.20	35.10
Axis Bank	727.45	-1.80
Bajaj Auto	2562.90	4.65
Bajaj Finance	7162.45	-403.90
Bharti Airtel	3246.60	-76.50
BPLC	353.50	2.50
Britannia Ind	2734.50	-14.65
Cipla	530.95	-5.75
Coal India	221.40	-0.50
Dr Reddy's Lab	2632.50	19.35
Eicher Motors	17072.00	-592.00
GAIL (India)	138.00	0.40
Grasim Ind	892.15	12.20
HCL Tech	1018.95	3.35
HDFC	2186.90	-116.65
HDFC Bank	2297.25	-78.40
Hero MotoCorp	2403.70	16.30
Hindalco	202.40	6.40
Hind Unilever	1680.70	-39.70
Indiabulls HFL	655.90	20.95
ICICI Bank	411.50	1.20
IndusInd Bank	1418.40	-3.75
Bharti Infratech	264.05	4.55
Infosys	784.00	-1.00
Indian Oil Corp	147.95	1.45
ITC	264.40	-3.90
JSW Steel	264.40	5.35
Kotak Bank	1454.30	-44.60
L&T	1403.70	-7.85
M&M	564.90	-6.40
Maruti Suzuki	5912.50	143.40
NTPC	130.85	0.95
ONGC	146.65	2.75
PowerGrid Corp	204.10	-1.60
Reliance Ind	1280.50	31.50
State Bank	350.85	-5.15
Sun Pharma	430.25	8.90
Tata Motors	156.75	1.90
Tata Steel	465.55	7.50
TCS	2109.90	32.95
Tech Mahindra	671.95	-3.10
Titan	1085.55	-5.50
UltraTech Cement	4584.00	61.15
UPL	638.85	-4.60
Vedanta	167.25	6.00
Wipro	264.80	0.10
YES Bank	91.15	7.90
Zee Entertainment	364.05	11.10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.71	69.03
Euro	77.07	77.43
British Pound	85.70	86.10
Japanese Yen (100)	63.66	63.96
Chinese Yuan	9.99	10.03
Swiss Franc	70.03	70.36
Singapore Dollar	50.52	50.76
Canadian Dollar	52.54	52.78
Malaysian Ringgit	16.69	16.79

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI
July 22 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)..... 44.5..... (44.6)
22 ct gold (1g)..... 3348..... (3363)

IN BRIEF



Flipkart simplifies norms for onboarding sellers

BENGALURU

Flipkart has simplified its onboarding process to make things easy for its first-time vendors. The e-tailer has set up 13 regional teams that will assist sellers, from small towns across the country, list their products on the platform and reach out to over 150 million customers. "By simplifying the number of steps, we are making it easier for sellers to list on our platform and get started from day one," said Nishant Gupta, head, marketplace business, Flipkart.

L&T Tech to partner UTC for Collins Aerospace

MUMBAI

L&T Technology Services (LTTS) has been selected as a strategic partner by United Technologies Corporation (UTC) for Collins Aerospace, a subsidiary of UTC. Collins Aerospace comprises former UTC Aerospace Systems, Rockwell Collins and BE Aerospace, and is one of the leading providers of intelligent solutions for the global aerospace and defence industries. L&T Technology Services has been a long-standing engineering partner for UTC.

Laurus's partner rolls out Pregabalin in U.S.

HYDERABAD
Laurus Labs on Monday said its exclusive distribution partner Rising Pharmaceuticals had launched a generic version of Lyrica (Pregabalin) capsules in the U.S. market. A product indicated for management of neuropathic pain, Pregabalin capsules had U.S. sales of around \$5.4 billion for the 12 months ended March, Laurus Labs said, citing IMS Health figures. Rising had received the final approval from the USFDA for the abbreviated new drug application.

Sensex tanks over 300 points

Driven by weak global cues, tepid earnings and unabated selling by FIIs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

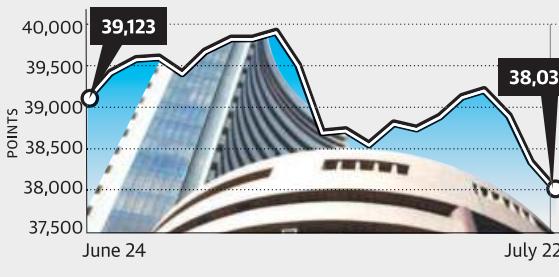
Equities fell for the third consecutive session on Monday as investors remained jittery amid weak corporate numbers and unabated selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs).

A fall in most global markets also acted as a catalyst.

The losses in the Indian stock market were led by financials after HDFC Bank on Friday reported a 2% rise in net profit but also said that retail loan growth slowed and the gross non-performing asset ratio moved up. The 30-share Sensex lost 305.88 points or 0.8% to close at 38,031.13. In the last three trading sessions, the index has lost a total of nearly 1,200 points. HDFC was the biggest loser in the Sensex

In a free fall

Market has been volatile since Budget day as FIIs have been selling after the 'super rich tax' was announced



pack, shedding more than 5%, followed by HDFC Bank, which lost 3.32%. The broader Nifty closed at 11,346.20, down 73.05 points or 0.64%. The India VIX index inched up nearly 4% on Monday.

"Market has been falling since Budget day as FIIs have

started selling after the 'super rich tax' was announced," said Rajiv Singh, chief executive officer, Karvy Stock Broking. "Today's fall was caused by follow-on selling by FIIs in the index heavyweights, besides weak global cues. Market has also started

factoring in weak corporate results, slow progress of monsoon, lack of any stimulus package from the government to spur consumption and no concrete steps being taken by the government to address liquidity crunch."

Foreign investors have been net sellers at nearly ₹9,000 crore in the July. After selling equities worth ₹4,262 crore in January, foreign investors were net buyers for five consecutive months till June, pumping in a net ₹82,910 crore in Indian equities. On Monday, the market breadth was extremely weak with over 1,700 stocks losing ground on the BSE, against only 768 gainers. Sectoral indices representing banking, realty, financials and FMCG lost over 1% each on Monday.

Govt. must reduce borrowing by divesting stake in PSEs: Acharya

'Cut subsidies that do not deliver long-term growth'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral Acharya said that disinvestment in public sector enterprises (PSEs) would alleviate crowding-out effects of the government's borrowing in the country.

"One possible solution is for the government to improve the share of capital expenditures, which currently stand at a meagre 14%," he had said at an event in IIT-Bombay last week on the subject, "Why less can be more: on the crowding-out effects of government financing." The same speech was delivered at a Federal Bank event in Kochi in November.



Viral Acharya

He said serious rationalisation could be undertaken including cutting back on subsidies and programmes that are not delivering long-term growth, and instead, focussing on providing education, health and infrastructure. Mr. Acharya had decided to quit the RBI six

months before his tenure ends. His last working day is July 23. "Another way is for the government to reduce its borrowings in the market by divesting more of its public sector enterprise shares," Mr. Acharya said.

The Deputy Governor argued there could be efficiency gains if there are more private investors playing an effective role in the governance of public sector enterprises, which will also reduce the need for market borrowings by the government and reduce crowding-out. "The much-needed land, labour and agricultural reforms could be undertaken, all of which can help crowd-in private sector growth," he added.

Deloitte exits as auditor of two B.M. Khaitan group companies

Auditor PwC had earlier exited group flagship Eveready

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

The audit woes of the B. M. Khaitan Group companies continue with Deloitte Haskins & Selli LLP exiting two companies – Mcleod Russel India Ltd. (MRIL) and McNally Bharat Engineering Company Ltd.

About a month ago, PwC had exited group flagship Eveready Industries India Ltd. (EIIL). MRIL said this in a regulatory filing while also announcing the resignation of its chief financial officer K. K. Baheti, who has made way for Pradip Bharat, an employee of the group.

Stating its intent of not continuing with the audit functions of McNally Bharat,

MRIL also announced the resignation of its chief financial officer K.K. Baheti

Deloitte said that the decision was linked to the adverse audit opinion on the financial state of the company and also considering the fact that the company did not meet with clients' acceptance and continuance norms.

Deloitte was one of the two joint auditors, the other being V Singh & Associates, who will continue.

In the case of tea company MRIL, the reason for the change in auditors has been given as "resignation in view of the matters stated in the

adverse audit change opinion on the financial statements of the company for the year ended March 31, 2019 and the matters of the Company reported to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs."

Sharp adverse opinion Lodha & Co have been appointed as MRIL auditors. Deloitte had earlier given sharp adverse opinion about the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

PwC had exited Eveready audit duties a month ago citing its concerns over issues of financial controls. Both MRIL and EIIL have also seen credit downgrades by the rating agencies.

Investors evince interest in DHFL stake'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Mortgage lender DHFL, which is facing a cash crunch and has decided to sell promoter stake, said investors are showing interest in picking up a stake in the company.

"The board took on record that the company has received non-binding indicative term sheets as part of the proposed corporate restructuring of the company and any proposals approved will constitute a part of the resolution plan," DHFL informed the exchanges after its board meeting on Monday.

DHFL promoters are looking to divest half of their stake (about 39%) to raise about ₹5,000 crore.

SC puts on hold Essar Steel sale to ArcelorMittal

We would like to settle the issue once and for all, says court



sought the quashing of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order which had given financial creditors equal status with operational creditors in the distribution of ArcelorMittal's bid amount.

Essar Steel was auctioned under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to recover ₹54,547 crore of unpaid dues of financial lenders and operational creditors.

The tribunal had said the CoC will have no role in the distribution of the bid amount and allowed claims of operational creditors such as Daksin Gujarat, Gujarat Energy, Bharat Petroleum, Indian Oil, GAIL, ONGC, and the NTPC.

IL&FS gets nod to sell wind energy arms to ORIX Bid amount to go into escrow account

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

IL&FS has received approval from Justice (retired) D. K. Jain for the proposed sale of wind energy subsidiaries, held under IL&FS Wind Energy Limited (IWEL), to ORIX Corporation of Japan, the firm said in a statement.

Justice (retired) Jain was appointed by the NCLAT to supervise the resolution process of IL&FS Group companies.

"The approval has been granted on the conditions that the proposal will now be placed before the NCLAT for its approval and the bid amount realised from the sale be kept in an escrow account. This amount will only be disbursed in accordance with the directions in the proceedings pending before NCLAT/NCLAT," the

TVS Motor Co. initiates major cost reduction plan

Cites liquidity crunch, new norms and an increase in costs



Meet the METRO ARTIST

K. Rajesh, a muralist, tells us how he has carved a niche for himself in the art space at Delhi metro stations

MADHUR TANKHA

Have you ever stopped for a moment to look at the murals in the Delhi Metro? Most of us have, but with the rush of the underground and of life itself, it's not a space in which you stand and stare.

Which makes K. Rajesh's brief clear: he must produce large artistic impressions that capture the ethos of the context in which a particular station sits, along with larger-than-life ideas and execution that gets people to pause, take a look.

"Themes vary," says the soft-spoken man. For instance, at Kailash Colony station he has explored the idea of yoga and spirituality, in a nod to the sudden spurt of ac-

tivity around it, with yoga studios springing up all over south Delhi. Digitally printed polycarbonate sheets were used; that were later hand-touched by artists.

There are trees and flowers at Akshardham: roses, orchids, tiger lily, (he was given just two days to complete this), to bring alive the walls for the Commonwealth Games, welcoming its participants who may have been able to pick out at least one flower from their home country. At Vaishali and Kaushambi, the theme is peace and unity, a message to people, in an area where law and order is a concern.

Of his works in 26 stations, there are several that have his

tory-led murals depicting mostly Mughal-era monuments like Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort, Purana Quila, Jama Masjid, Safdarjung Tomb, and even earlier ones like Agrasen Ki Baoli, and the Qutub Minar.

"I have a fascination for monuments built in Delhi, during the reign of Mughals. Delhi is dotted with these - they convey our syncretic culture," says the artist, who last project was at I.P. Extension.

The man behind the art
Rajesh is a shy, reticent artist, originally from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He grew up in West Delhi and even today lives and operates from Dwarka. His take on art is philosophical as well as practical.

"Art is a creative language which an artist uses to articulate his or her beliefs and emotions." But work is not a luxury, and the DMRC has deadlines they must meet.

"At times, when I embark on a project, I realise that I have to start two or three days late as another party has not finished its job. This means that I have just a day to complete the work. So meticulous planning has to go before I start work," he says.

The biggest achievement he says was the artwork at Tri Nagar metro station (rechristened Inderlok metro station).

"We completed the project within two months. It involved 15 artists of my company. It was a big project and a

lot of tile work had to be done in an 800-square-feet area."

Before his work with the Metro, Rajesh worked at residences, in the early 2000s. Creatively satisfied, he was however, never paid in time, or "money came in dribs and drabs or was below the market rate or even below what we'd decided upon. Once I wrapped up a project but was told bluntly that I could either accept the money or leave the house."

Feeling both disillusioned and cheated, he decided to approach corporate clients to get his due.

A bond with people

Each time Rajesh gets a project, he knows he has to keep in mind a few things: his sub-

ject should allow for bold strokes and bright colours, so they catch people's attention.

Sometimes commuters reach out to him with words of appreciation, and he's seen many bloggers show off the art as one of the attractions of Delhi.

A part of his team are batchmates from the Rajasthan School of Art, in Jaipur. "I like working with like-minded people. So when I set up East Craft Designs in 1997, I made sure that they were there. Nine of them assist me as artists and sculptors."

He now has his eye on a Guinness World Record for doing the most number of art works in metro stations in one city. "I need recognition," says Rajesh.

Taking art to commuters

(Clockwise from left) The Hauz Khas metro station; K. Rajesh; art at Anand Vihar station

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



PEOPLE

Warmth from the valley

Parsa's, the food chain from Jammu and Kashmir, is 'rolling' in Delhi with 'food for all'



Having travelled more than 800 km from Srinagar, Parsa's, one of Jammu and Kashmir's largest food chains, is now in New Friends Colony, Delhi. In 2017, Parsa's took Kolkata's kathi rolls to the valley, becoming a huge success there. In just a year-and-a-half, they opened 10 branches in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

This is Parsa's first outpost outside of the state; it is also the brand's first woman-owned franchise.

Ramsa Jaan, 25, from Kupwara district came to Delhi 10 years ago. She got here to study, and has stayed on ever since. "I wanted to do something for the last two years. I started to follow Javid on Instagram, around the time he opened his franchise in Leh. Then, I thought why can't we have Parsa's in Delhi."

Ramsa was keen to not restrict herself to a 9-to-5 job. She now aims to run her branch of the restaurant alongside a PhD course for which she's applied.

Originally, the brainchild of Javid Parsa, 31, the restaurant was to ideally provide community space and revive reading culture through Kashmir.

"The best way to explain is that I try to reclaim lost social spaces in Kashmir," says Javid, who wanted to give back to his community. "My whole idea was to introduce something new and innovative, with which Kashmiris aren't acquainted," he adds.

Mr. Parsa says that his venture is the first in the state, that tries to expand the understanding of restaurants as spaces to eat in. Parsa's has book banks within its spaces, with close to 10,000 books across their branches. They also hold public awareness campaigns on road safety and saving chinari trees in their space.

Back in J&K, Parsa's has also opened branches in remote corners of Leh and Kargil - the latter is their 12th and latest. The idea is to integrate the whole state through food and provide much-needed social spaces for the community.

Parsa's Delhi branch resembles its counterparts from the home state - from the wood-and-green interiors, to the menu, as well as the push towards creating a culture of reading. Visitors can become members of the book-bank and borrow a book from the library, by donating at least one book in return.

The space will also provide specially curated Kashmiri food, and serve as a gallery for artists from the valley.

Shop No. 8 Community Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi; closest metro station: Sukhdev Vihar, Magenta Line

PREEKSHA MALHOTRA

SHOUT-OUT

A big display



The India Art Fair is looking for artists to design the facade at its next edition. The event, held annually in the capital, is one of the biggest platforms for showcasing and discovering South Asian art. While there is no given theme that artists can interpret for this assignment, the idea is for to showcase a design that's minimal, contemporary, and impactful. The final shortlist will look for ideas that can translate well onto a large-scale format. The India Art Fair is scheduled to take place at the NSIC Grounds from 30th January to 2nd February, 2020.

Deadline: 30th July. For more details: indiaartfair.in/careers

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

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



PERFORMANCE

Music appreciation
Ustad Imamuddin Khan Dagar Indian Music Art and Culture Society & The Dagar Archives Jaipur present Gurjan Sabha - Verse 51 this evening. Noted Khayal and Thumri singer, Padmaja Chakraborty will perform and interact with the audience on the subject "Purity of Khayal & Creativity of Thumri".

VENUE: Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.

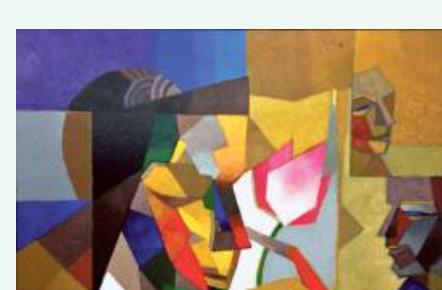


FOOD

Chicken wings fest
The ongoing Messy Wings Fest at The Irish House offers a special chicken wings menu. Valid till August 10, guests can pick from a variety: Jamaican Jerk, Sriracha Honey, Hot Apricot, Smoked BBQ, German Curry, and Ghost Pepper Chicken Wings. All this with a mug of beer. Cheers!

VENUE: The Irish House, Nehru Place & Noida

TIME: 12 noon - 1 p.m.

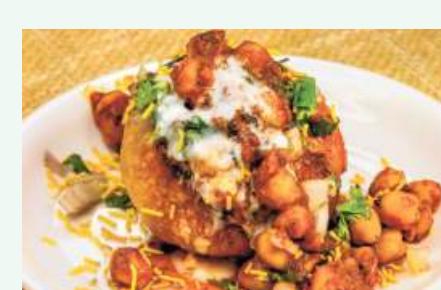


EXHIBITION

Canvas
Tres Maestros is a group show by three artists: Niren Sen Gupta, Niladri Paul and Nupur Kundu, on display at IHC. Curated by Nipun Soin, the representational art is a collective of fresh canvases, in large formats, that with brilliant colours, bear a strong narrative, triggering liberating moods.

VENUE: Visual Arts Gallery, IHC

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



CUISINE

Street food festival
Plaza Premium Lounge, all-day dining restaurant at the New Delhi airport, has organised a month-long street food festival for travellers to indulge in Indian flavours from all over the country. The dishes on offer include Ragda Kachori, Khasta Kachori, Samosa Chaat, Misal Pav, Potato Bonda, Masala Podi Idly and Dal Vada.

VENUE: Plaza Premium Lounge, IGI Airport

TIME: 24 hours



GIG

Tibtee live
The Piano Man at Gurugram is hosting a live show featuring Dehradun-based singer Tibtee. Anurag Panwar, better known by his stage name Tibtee is an independent performing artist. Having experimented with guitar, harmonica and electric bass, the singer plays a plethora of old classic retro popular songs from '60s to '90s.

VENUE: The Piano Man, Sector 15, Gurugram

TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



BENITA CHACKO

India has a lower share of women's contribution to GDP at 17%, compared to the global average of 37%. Sexual harassment also continues unabated, despite the presence of Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) committees in many organisations. That said, Pride Month may be over but the fight for equality in all spaces continue.

A Bengaluru-based startup, Engendered, is hoping to further that. It proposes to attain gender equality through data intelligence and behaviour change. It equips companies to tackle workplace biases and, in the long term, plans to make a business case for gender inclusion. "We will be certifying companies for their gender inclusion and help them in preparing a roadmap for improvement," says Prajaka Kuwalekar, the founder and chief evangelist.

Back story

To begin with, it has floated an employee rights platform where former and current employees can evaluate a company's culture by taking a simple quiz. A 'perception score' can be attained through this method, and a 'facts score' based on the available public data.

"In case a company has any discrepancies between the two scores, Engendered will help bridge the gap. While we will

In good company

Engendered, a Bengaluru-based startup, aims to provide women comprehensive data about workplaces to help them make better career choices

draw a roadmap for them, we will also put them in touch with existing solution providers that can help them bring change. People interested in joining these companies can see these scores on our website to make a better decision," she said.

Engendered also proposes to provide data about companies, to

help women make better career decisions, given there's the paucity of open data. Ipsita Sen, co-founder and COO, says, "In the next phase, we hope to provide information like the management team's composition, facilities like flexible work timing, paternity leave and even past records of any sexual harassment cases."

International presence
Started in April 2018, it has already received international recognition. It was selected as among the 15 members for empowEr, Zone Startups India's flagship initiative for women entrepreneurs. Apart from receiving ₹50,000 as equity-free seed fund, the company was invited

by the Quebec government for a two-week-long market access trip to Quebec in Canada, to gauge the possibilities. They also organised B2B, B2G and ecosystem meetings for it in Montreal.

The trip revealed that there is more demand for Engendered's platform in Canada. "The unemployment rate there is only around 3% and companies there are vying to hire women. The cost of employee acquisition is also high. They are open to experimenting to keep a diverse workforce in their organisation," said Kuwalekar.

They are running a pilot project with Canadian companies and will also be launching their certification and employee rights platform in Canada.

Going forward, Engendered is hoping to expand to tier II and tier III cities like Pune and Ahmedabad. "This is where businesses are evolving and the employees are increasingly becoming aware of their rights," said Sen.

Engendered also proposes to gradually move into the gig economy sector. "We plan to do exploratory impact work from the profit we make from MNCs. We can then work for the women from low socio-economic backgrounds," Kuwalekar said, envisioning a bright future.



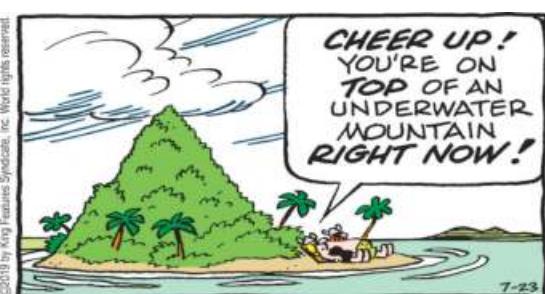
POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



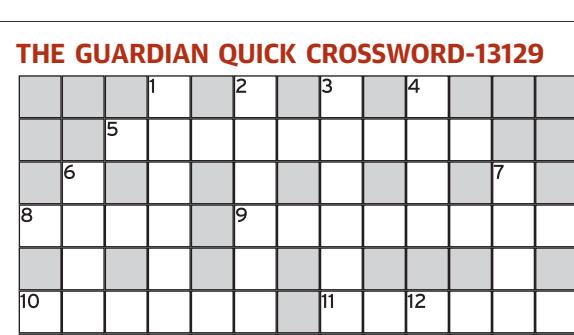
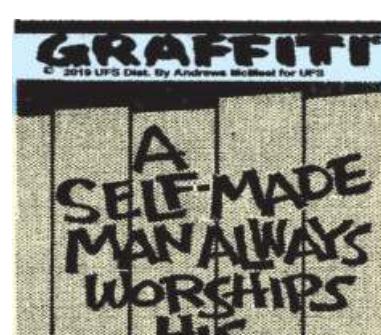
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES

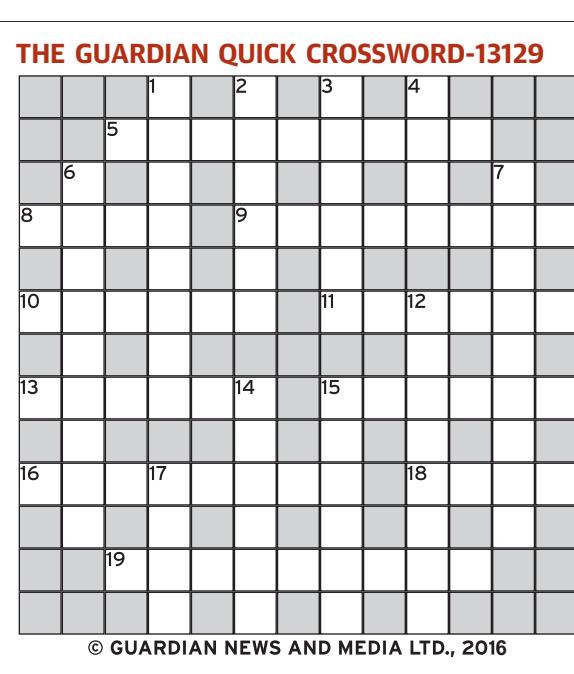


TIGER



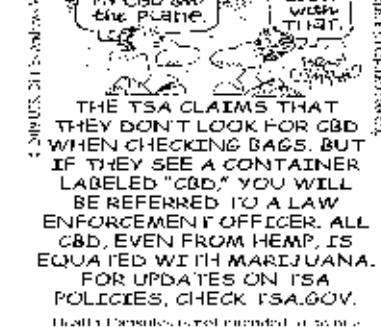
7 Preserve (9)
12 (Of a problem) difficult to handle and requiring great tact (8)
14 The Quiet American author (6)
15 Lecture on a moral topic (6)
17 Gas used in fluorescent lighting (4)

WUMO

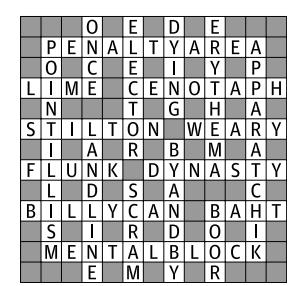


Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 24, 2019.
Solution No. 13128

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



15 Glitch (6)
16 Night light? (8)
18 Master (4)
19 Seemingly without limit (9)
20 Down
1 Tirade (8)
2 Bright yellow shade (6)
3 Lacking social polish (6)
4 Parody (4)
6 Croc's close relative (9)



Team India embraced changes to regimen: Basu

Received the backing of the entire support staff, including coach Ravi Shastri, says the fitness guru

TALKING HEADS

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Shanker Basu's rise from a humble background to a fitness guru who transformed the Indian cricket team has the ingredients of a movie script.

The son-in-law of renowned director, the late J. Mahendran, Basu, in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*, spoke about the support he received along his journey from wife Anurita, son Arjun, who has just completed his Masters in Strength and Conditioning from the Leeds Beckett University, and daughter Shruthi.

And as he grew up, Basu's mother Shantha Shankar was his driving force. How does it feel leaving after a four-year tenure when the nucleus of the team still wants you? It is immensely satisfying.

I've been a leader of sorts with a vision. I wanted to make changes. And, Virat was for fitness. Everyone embraced the changes. Bringing in technology, assessment, load-monitoring, accountability, and translating all that into performance with the backing of the entire support staff including coach Ravi Shastri and before him Anil Kumble... it was a team effort.

Would you be available if the Indian team really needs you?

I've given it my all. But I will be available for the Indian team whenever it needs me without seeking any monetary benefits.

Were you satisfied with the team during the World Cup?

Everyone was talking about the team's fitness, not Australia's or South Africa's. We were the best. Our bowlers go on and on. If you look at



In the fitness of things: Shanker Basu says he will be available for the Indian team whenever it needs him. ■ M. KARUNAKARAN

last year, our total turnaround time was only 17 days. Our recovery was fantastic

but for the odd niggles. India's fitness culture

The fitness culture we have developed is mind boggling. Bumrah and Shami bowed

India on the field

CATCHES TAKEN: 43

• Dhoni 7 Kohli 6
Jadhav 4 Chahal 4
Rohit 4 Jadeja 3
Karthik 3 Shami 3
Pandya 3 Vijay Shankar 2
Pant 1 Bhuvneshwar 1
Bumrah 1 Rahul 1
Dhawan 0 Kuldeep 0

STUMPINGS: 3 (DHONI)

with great pace throughout, Ishant, Umesh, Bhuvneshwar have been remarkable. We have got a method now. We now understand load-monitoring and its dynamics.

Apart from international cricket, we have the IPL too... Other countries pull players out of IPL. We have been playing a double dose. In-

dian cricketers played around 200 days last year. And, there is a minimum of a day's travel after every match. But our players did not get injured.

The Yo-Yo controversy

After Yo-Yo was introduced, the whole country is driven by fitness. It was not something I brought in. Everyone was on board. I suggested system changes. Not just Yo-Yo, we did 20 more tests that many did not hear about.

In India everything will be questioned. We have to make a start somewhere. Yo-Yo is not the be-all-and-end-all, but we needed to make a beginning. You had to clear Yo-Yo to make the Indian side, only then the players would get serious.

If I tell someone, "You can fail in all the subjects, still you will be passed," why would he study? The idea was to bring in some serious-

ness into fitness and training. Your observations on some India cricketers

Among the Indian cricketers, lifting weights in a scientific manner really worked well with Virat. Made him stronger. There are different routines for different cricketers and K.L. Rahul does a lot of jumping. Shami does sprints.

Increasing Bhuvneshwar Kumar's speed was a challenge. He did weight training and 20m sprints to get that explosive energy, strength and speed. He was extremely dedicated.

M.S. Dhoni is man from the mountains, he is flexible, fast and explosive. Ravindra Jadeja is an astonishing natural road-runner.

Future plans

I am now 50 and have been coaching for 25 years. Fitness always evolves and there are several more peaks to conquer.

A legendary player like Dhoni knows when to retire: Prasad

Says that the road map is, however, in the hands of the selection committee

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

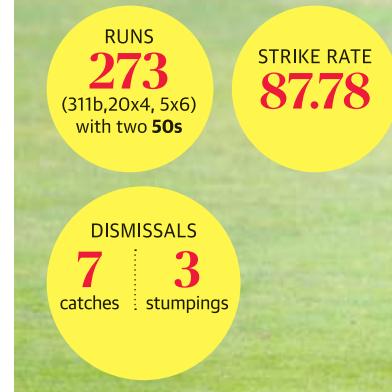
While the Indian cricketing fraternity is clueless with regard to M.S. Dhoni's future plans, the chairman of the senior national selection committee M.S.K. Prasad, when asked if the former India captain would be in the scheme of things for the 2020 T20 World Cup, said: "He is unavailable for this (West Indies) series. He has expressed it. Having said that, we had a certain roadmap and plans till the ICC World Cup (in England)."

Grooming Pant

"Post the World Cup, we have laid down few more plans and we thought of giving as many opportunities as possible to Rishabh Pant to groom him. This is our plan right now. Pant is going to play in all three formats. Definitely (Wriddhiman) Saha and K.S. Bharat will come into the picture at some point in time."

Prasad admitted he had spoken to Dhoni. When asked if he and the committee would have picked Dhoni if he had made himself available, Prasad said: "I cannot answer that question, it's up to him. When he is available, we will look at it."

S.No	Opposition	Runs Scored	Balls Played	4s/6s	Catches/ Stumpings
1	South Africa	34	46	2/0	0/1
2	Australia	27	14	3/1	1/0
3	Pakistan	1	2	0/0	0/0
4	Afghanistan	28	52	3/0	0/1
5	West Indies	56*	61	3/2	1/0
6	England	42*	31	4/1	0/0
7	Bangladesh	35	33	4/0	1/0
8	Sri Lanka	dnb	-	-	3/1
9	New Zealand	50	72	1/1	1/0



Compiled by ANANTAJITH RAJ

There were two more questions around Dhoni. One was if he (Prasad) was surprised Dhoni didn't announce his retirement after World Cup and two about

Dhoni's strike rate at the World Cup.

"Retirement is purely individual. A legendary cricketer like Dhoni knows when to retire. But what is the future

course of action, what is the road map is in the hands of the selection committee.

"I don't think we need to discuss (the strike rate). First of all, he is not available and

secondly we have already started grooming some youngsters."

Has Prasad given sufficient hints that Indian cricketers will move without Dhoni?



Note: The league match against New Zealand not included as it was washed out

Compiled by ANANTAJITH RAJ

in Australia, that India won 2-1, he scored eight runs in the one match he got to bat and took two wickets at 75 in three matches. However, Jadeja has always been a scintillating fielder point and this added to his wicket-to-wicket bowling kept him in the fray.

The selectors kept this in mind and he was chosen ahead of a fourth specialist fast bowler. They also looked at him as a second left-hander after Shikhar Dhawan (Rishabh Pant to be seven and eight) in 10 innings and 21 wickets at 39.67 in 183 overs. He did not figure in 44 ODIs after the 2017 Champions Trophy.

All said, Jadeja should be up for the challenges that come his way in the Caribbean Islands.

Bright finish to series

India romps to an eight-wicket victory



Firing away: Ruturaj Gaikwad was the star in India-A's win in the final match. ■ FILE PHOTO: N. SUDARSHAN

IND-A IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ANTIGUA

India-A's top-order, led by opener Ruturaj Gaikwad, fired in unison to steer the team to a convincing eight-wicket win in the fifth and final unofficial ODI against West Indies-A, completing a 4-1 series triumph here.

Rahul Chahar (two for 53) and his cousin Deepak (two for 39), along with pacer Navdeep Saini (two for 31) picked up wickets at regular intervals to help India-A dismiss West Indies-A for 236.

Unlucky Ruturaj (99) then led the chase but missed out on a well-deserved century. His fellow opener Shubman Gill (69) and first-down Shreyas Iyer (61) also blasted half-centuries as India-A overhauled the target in 33 overs at the Coolidge Cricket Ground.

Gill hit eight fours and three sixes in a 40-ball 69 to share an opening stand of 110 with Ruturaj. He was dismissed by off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall in the 12th over. Ruturaj then took India-A to the brink of victory before being dismissed by Keemo Paul with the visitor needing just 15.

Century partnership

Shreyas, who added 112 for the second wicket with Ruturaj, remained unbeaten on 61 off 46 balls.

Earlier, electing to bat, West Indies-A made a good start with opener Sunil Ambris cracking a 52-ball 61 studded with seven boundaries and two sixes to give the team early momentum.

The scores: West Indies-A 236 in 47.4 overs (Sherfane Rutherford 65, Sunil Ambris 61, Khary Pierre 35 n.o.) lost to India-A 237 for 22 in 33 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 99, Shubman Gill 69, Shreyas Iyer 61 n.o.).

Dark horses' Harmeet and Ayhika topple the favourites for the title

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

Harmeet Desai and Ayhika Mukherjee lived up to their dark-horse status by scalping top guns in the men's and women's singles finals here on Monday, the concluding day of the 21st Commonwealth table tennis championships.

Harmeet, who halted giant-killer Pang Yu En Koen in the morning session, stunned top seed G. Sathiyan in a thrilling final that went right down to the wire to cap a memorable week.

Ayhika, meanwhile, continued her sensational run by first sending top seed Ho Tin-Tin of England home in the semifinals and virtually running over second seed Mad-

huriya Patkar in the final.

Harmeet made a strong comeback after conceding the first two games to favourite Sathiyan, the World No. 24, by levelling the match at two games apiece.

Staying cool
He then held his nerve in the tie-break of the fifth, even-

tually clinching the game 17-15, using his forehand down-the-line winners at crunch moments.

Sathiyan then bounced back to stretch the match into the decider. At 3-all in the decider, with the chief guest entering the packed auditorium, the match had an unanticipated

stoppage. Sathiyan then ran up a 6-3 lead, but Harmeet regained his composure and finished the match in style combining his key weapon of down-the-line top-spin with back-hand punches.

Even before the final session began, India was assured of a clean sweep of gold medals, with the four fi-

nals being all-Indian affairs. The summit clashes saw the favourites succumbing under pressure and the fans getting a fine feast.

The results:

Men: Final: Harmeet Desai bt G. Sathiyan 9-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-8, 17-15, 7-11, 11-9; **Semifinals:** Sathiyan bt Ho Tin-Tin (Eng) 11-6, 11-7, 11-11, 11-4, 11-12; Amalraj & Thakkar bt Samuel Walker & Thomas Jarvis (Eng) 11-9, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5.

Women: Final: Ayhika Mukherjee bt Madhurika Patkar 11-6, 11-3, 11-6, 11-6, 11-2.

Doubles: Final: A. Amalraj & Manav Thakkar bt A. Sharath Kamal & G. Sathiyan 8-11, 11-6, 13-11, 12-10; **Semifinals:** Sharath & Sathiyan bt Pang Yu En Koen & Chu Shao Han Josh (Sin) 12-10, 11-4, 14-12; Amalraj & Thakkar bt Samuel Walker & Thomas Jarvis (Eng) 11-9, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5.

Women: Final: Ayhika Mukherjee bt Ho Tin-Tin (Eng) 11-6, 11-7, 11-11, 11-4, 11-12; Madhurika Patkar 11-8, 11-9, 11-7, 11-5, 11-6.

Doubles: Final: Pooja Sasrabudhe & Krittika Sinha Roy bt Sreeja Akula & Mousumi Paul 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 12-10; **Semifinals:** Ayhika Mukherjee bt Madhurika Patkar 11-6, 11-7, 11-11, 11-4, 11-2.

Singles: Final: Sathiyan bt Thomas Jarvis (Eng) 11-14, 11-6, 11-7, 11-9; Harmeet Desai bt Ho Tin-Tin (Eng) 11-6, 11-7, 11-9, 11-8, 11-7.

Commonwealth Games mixed doubles silver medalists: no qualms in admitting India is cruising towards becoming a "major superpower".

Having seen the Indian system from the periphery during his playing days and been an integral part of it for a month, Clarke – the 2002

Commonwealth Games mixed doubles silver medalists – has no qualms in admitting India is cruising towards becoming a "major superpower".

opponents in the 21st Commonwealth table tennis championship.

It may have been barely a month since the 47-year-old Australian has taken over as the junior national coach. But with senior head coach Dejan Papic's arrival prolonging due to administrative hassles, Clarke has been thrust with the task of looking after the seniors as well.

Malinga to quit ODIs



Malinga. ■ AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO

Veteran Sri Lankan pace bowler Lasith Malinga will retire from ODIs after the first game of the three-match series against Bangladesh, skipper Dimuth Karunaratne said on Monday.

Malinga was named in the 22-man Sri Lanka squad for the series, with matches scheduled for July 26, 28 and 31.

However, speaking at the press conference in the Sri Lankan capital, Karunaratne confirmed that the 36-year-old fast bowler and former captain would only appear in the first ODI.

"He is going to play the first match, after that he is retiring. That's what he said to me. I don't know what he said to the selectors," said Karunaratne.

Malinga, 35, will leave as Sri Lanka's third-highest wicket-taker in ODIs with 335 scalps in 219 innings so far. Only Muttiah Muralitharan (523) and Chaminda Vaas (399) have taken more.

Seven pugilists in last eight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Asian Championships silver-medallist Deepak Singh (49kg) and former junior World champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) were among seven Indian boxers to enter the quarterfinals of the Thailand Open in Bangkok on Monday.

Joining Deepak and Strandja Cup gold medalist Nikhat were Manisha Moun (57kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Manju Rani (48kg) and Brijesh Yadav (81kg).

In women's 75kg, Bhagyabati Kachari has already reached the quarters after receiving a first-round bye.

IN BRIEF



Isner claims his fourth Newport title

NEW YORK American John Isner captured his fourth title at the ATP grass court tournament at Newport, Rhode Island, beating Alexander Bublik 7-6(2), 6-3. Isner was the top seed in the tournament that he also won in 2011, 2012 and 2017. ■ AFP



Lajovic wins maiden ATP crown

UMAG (CROATIA) Fourth seed Dusan Lajovic of Serbia claimed his first career ATP title on Sunday with a 7-5, 7-5 win over Hungarian Attila Balazs. Lajovic, the World No. 36, had lost his only other previous final appearance to Fabio Fognini at the Monte Carlo Masters in April. ■ AFP

India hoopsters to open against Japan

BENGALURU India will open against Japan in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2019 (Division A) to be held here from September 24 to 29. The Group Phase will be played from September 24 to 26, followed by the quarterfinals and semifinals on September 27 and 28. The final is slated to be held on September 29.

Peaty and Dressel's domination continues

MacNeil stuns Sjostrom even as Hosszu asserts her supremacy in Individual Medley

WORLD SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE GWANGJU (KOREA)

Britain's Adam Peaty completed a world treble in the men's 100 metres breaststroke on Monday, while American Caeleb Dressel continued to feed his obsession for gold by romping to the 50m freestyle title.

Peaty completed what was deemed a formality after smashing his own breaststroke world record at the weekend, clocking 57.14 seconds to win gold – although his forlorn expression on seeing his time told its own story.

'Bit disappointed'

"A little bit disappointed, but that will fuel me for next year," said the Briton, who set a new World mark of 56.88 at the weekend, becoming the first swimmer to break 57 seconds.

"I know how bad I want to go near 56, even faster."

The 24-year-old, unbeaten in five years over the distance in major competitions, puffed out his cheeks and shook his head despite becoming the first to do it.

The 22-year-old retained his 50m freestyle crown in a championship record of 22.35 seconds with Russian Oleg Kostin second (22.70) and Brazil's Nicholas Santos



Three-peat: Adam Peaty reacts after completing a hat-trick of triumphs in the 100m breaststroke. ■ AP

na's Yan Zibei bronze in 58.63.

Dressel, one of the few swimmers with more body ink than Peaty, swept to seven gold medals at the 2017 World championships in Budapest – 10 years after American great Michael Phelps became the first to do it.

The 22-year-old retained his 50m freestyle crown in a championship record of 22.35 seconds with Russian Oleg Kostin second (22.70) and Brazil's Nicholas Santos

third (22.79). "I'm in a better place than two years ago. If I try to be fast then I'm no good, so it's better just to shut everything off and let instinct take over," said Dressel.

Elsewhere, Canadian teen Margaret MacNeil stunned Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom in the women's 100m butterfly.

Sjostrom was looking to become the first female swimmer to win five gold medals in a single individual event, and the Olympic champion turned first – and

five hundredths inside her own world record.

But MacNeil came roaring back over the last 25m to claim her first World title, touching in 55.83 with Sjostrom second in 56.22 and Australia's Emma McKeon third.

"I didn't expect that," said the 19-year-old MacNeil.

"I've looked up to Sarah forever so it means the world."

At the medal ceremony, the swimmers sent a mes-



Teen sensation: Margaret MacNeil pulled off a big upset in the 100m butterfly, upstaging Sarah Sjostrom.

■ CATHERINE IVILL/GETTY IMAGES

wen of China.

The results: Men: 100m breaststroke: 1. Adam Peaty (GBR) 57.14, 2. James Wilby (GBR) 58.46, Yan Zibei (Chn) 58.63.

50m butterfly: 1. Caeleb Dressel (USA) 22.35, 2. Oleg Kostin (Rus) 22.70, 3. Nicholas Santos (Bra) 22.79.

Women: 100m butterfly: 1. Maggie MacNeil (Can) 55.83, 2. Sarah Sjostrom (Swe) 56.22, 3. Emma McKeon (Aus) 56.61.

200m IM: 1. Katinka Hosszu (Hun) 2:07.53, 2. Ye Shiwen (Chn) 2:08.60, 3. Sydney Pickrem (Can) 2:08.70.

Starting trouble

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE GWANGJU

An Italian swimmer was forced to make three attempts to complete a heat after a string of malfunctions with the starting equipment.

Simone Sabbioni accidentally kicked off his wedge, the angled block swimmers use to push off, and came to an abrupt halt as his fellow swimmers splashed down the pool.

Sabbioni, 22, was told he could race again – this time alone – but the device gave way for a second time, making him slip.

"It's just unbelievable this kind of thing can happen at the world championships," he told AFP.

Sabbioni – who eventually got away cleanly at the third attempt – squeezed into one of the last qualifying spots.

Minutes earlier Dylan Carter of Trinidad and Tobago also suffered issues with his block and after a protest by his coach, was granted the same opportunity for a second lonely swim.

Panthers off to flying start

U Mumba comes a cropper

PKL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Jaipur Pink Panthers started its ProKabaddi League Season-7 campaign in style with a 42-23 win over U Mumba in the league phase at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Monday.

Captain and star raider Deepak Hooda led from the front scoring a 'Super 10' to finish with 11 points out of 15 raids attempted. Amit Hooda, who notched up a High-5 in defence, was the other star performers for Panthers.

It was not the kind of performance expected from U Mumba, which outplayed Telugu Titans in the season opener here.

The first-half was clearly dominated by Panthers with raider Nitin Rawal scoring five points from his seven raids. It was a phase that saw the U Mumba's defence and raiding go awry. U Mumba was also 'all-out' twice in this session.

Though Dong Geo Lee tried to restore parity with a

couple of raid points, it was obvious that U Mumba was up against a defence which was solid and rarely conceded any space.

It was no surprise that Panthers led 22-9 at the break.

The second session was no different. With defenders Amit Hooda and Surinder Singh, who scored three points from eight tackles, putting up an impressive show, raiders Deepak Hooda, Ajinkya Pawar and Deepak Narwal had the liberty to attack.

For U Mumba, raider Abhishek Singh was the lone bright spot with seven points from 13 raids.

In the second match of the evening, Haryana Steelers recorded an impressive 34-24 win over Puneri Paltan with raider Naveen being the lead performer with 12 points. For the loser, Pawan Kadian excelled with a Super-10.

Tuesday is a rest day.

The results: Jaipur Pink Panthers bt U Mumba 42-23; Haryana Steelers bt Puneri Paltan 34-24.



No escape: U Mumba's Rohit Balyan fails to find a way past a wall of pink. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

Peter McNamara passes away

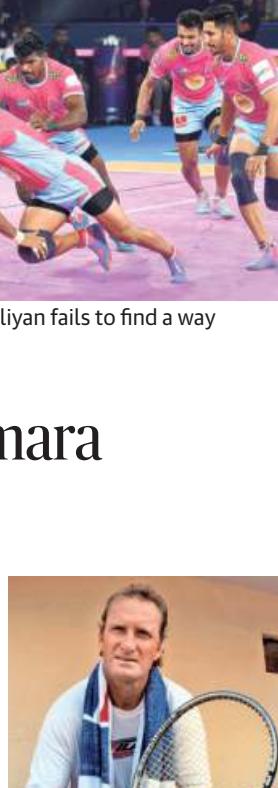
ASSOCIATED PRESS MELBOURNE

Peter McNamara, who won three Grand Slam doubles titles with fellow Australian Paul McNamee and reached a career-high No. 7 in singles, has died. He was 64.

McNamara formed a long and successful partnership with McNamee the pair dubbed the "Super Macs" in Australia to win the Wimbledon doubles titles in 1980 and '82 and the Australian Open title in 1979.

"Hard to believe that after 50 years of friendship Macca is gone ... you lived life to the full mate and will be missed," McNamee said in a social media post.

McNamara also won five singles titles, reaching the Australian Open singles



Peter McNamara

■ FILE PHOTO: M. MOORTHY

semifinals in 1980, the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 1981 and the last eight at the 1982 French Open. A knee injury effectively ended his playing career at age 28.

Tennis Australia described McNamara as a much-loved and respected member.

NATIONAL CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KARAIKUDI

Bhakti Kulkarni (Air India) and Vantika Agrawal (Delhi) played out a draw to remain joint leaders, with 4.5 points, after the fifth round of the 46th National women's chess championship here on Monday.

Playing with white in a King's Indian defence game,

Bhakti enjoyed a slight edge in the middle game but failed to convert the advantage and agreed to split the point after 59 moves.

Top seed Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) and Maharashtra's Mrudul Dehankar were locked in a similar position.

The former found it hard to crack the latter's defence and signed the peace treaty after 42 moves by three-fold repetition of position arrived

out of Trompowsky Attack.

Important results (fifth round, TN unless specified): Bhakti Kulkarni (AI) 4.5 drew with Vantika Agrawal (Delhi) 4.5.

Meenal Gupta (J&K) 3.5 drew with Nisha Mohota (PSPB) 3.5; Sunyasa Saktha Patpathy (Odi) 3 lost to Swati Ghate (LIC) 4; Ishita Sharma (Kar) 4 bt Nandini Saripalli (Goa) 3.

Meenakshi Subbaraman (AI) 4 bt Sriishi Pandey (Mah) 3; Nitayata Jain (MP) 4 bt V. Rindhyia 3.

C.M.N. Sunyuktha 3 lost to Bagyashree Thipsay (Mah) 4.

The Lowry File

Age: 32 years

Birthplace: Mullingar, County Westmeath, Ireland

FedEx Cup Rank: 18

PROFESSIONAL CAREER TITLES

Majors:

1 (British Open 2019)

World Golf Championships: 1 (WGC-Bridgestone Invitational 2015)

Roxie Series:

1 (Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship 2019)

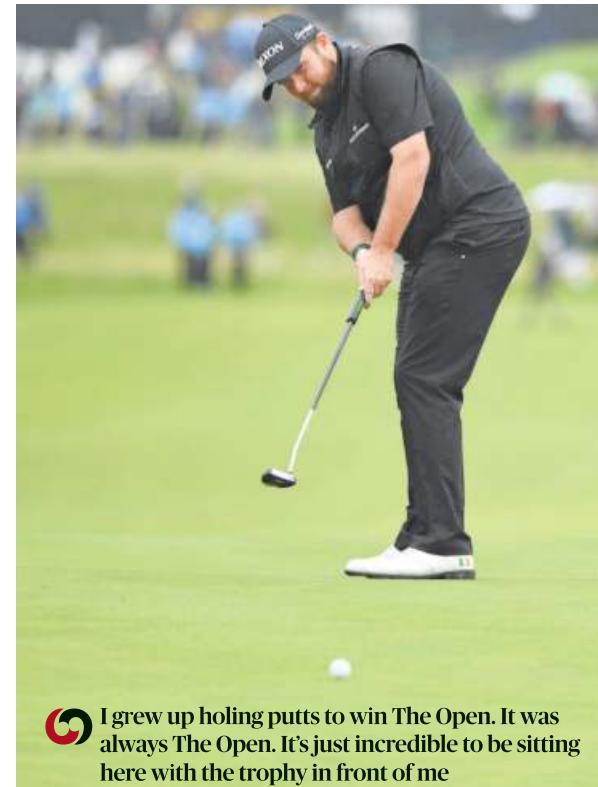
European tour:

2 (Irish Open-3 2009, Portugal Masters 2012)

■ The 2019 British Open triumph is Lowry's maiden Major, the previous best being tied second at the US Open at Oakmont, 2016

■ His third-under 63 in the third round, a course record, helped him win by a whopping six strokes

■ The Irishman is now the owner of the British Open's 54-hole record (197)



I grew up holing putts to win The Open. It was always The Open. It's just incredible to be sitting here with the trophy in front of me

LOWRY on his Major breakthrough

heading into the fourth round that Sunday in 2016, but he cracked, falling to a 76 and a tie for second, three strokes behind winner Dustin Johnson.

But he said that experience had put him in good stead this time around.

"Obviously I learned a lot that day. I learned a lot about myself at Oakmont."

Northern Irishman Graeme McDowell, the 2010 US Open winner, said that Lowry has always possessed the game of a major champion.



Devesh Chauhan.

■ ASHWIN ACHAL

Lack of goalkeeping depth hurting India, says Chauhan

"There is no competition at the moment for India cust

ATK ropes
in Vidosic



Dario Vidosic. ■ FILE PHOTO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Former ISL champion ATK roped in Croatia-born Australian footballer Dario Vidosic to strengthen its midfield ahead of the new season, according to a release from the club.

Vidosic, who has 23 international caps with the Australian national team, began his club career with the A-League club Brisbane Roar in 2006.

He next moved on to the German club FC Nuremberg before having stints with a host of German, South Korean and Chinese clubs. Vidosic's last outing was with Melbourne City before he moved to ATK.

"Dario is an experienced campaigner and a wonderful addition to the team."

"I am looking forward to working with him and create a strong attacking midfield that will support the strikers ably," Coach Antonio Lopez Habas said in the statement.

The stage is set for a scintillating finale

The suspense of still not knowing who will win, with just six of the 21 stages remaining, is refreshing for the fans

TOUR DE FRANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NIMES

A Tour de France jam-packed with unexpected plot twists is saving its biggest surprise for last.

With six riders within reach of the podium heading into the toughest final stages in the Alps, the race that resumes on Tuesday after the final off-day is tantalizingly poised. Furious racing over the first 2,500 kilometres (1,500 miles) through Belgium and France and the uncertain outcome ahead of the grand finale in Paris are conspiring to deliver the most engrossing Tour in recent memory.

Refreshing

The suspense of still not knowing who will win with just six of the 21 stages remaining is exquisitely refreshing for cycling's greatest race after years of implacable domination by the uberrich, super-calculating British Ineos team, formerly Team Sky.

"Nobody is really controlling the race as such. It's way more exciting but it's more like chess in another sense. It's brilliant fun," Ineos team boss Dave Brailsford said on Monday's rest day.

"We've sat here on the second day of a Grand Tour so many times and people say we've closed the race down and it's not been exciting. That's not been the case this time. It's fun to be involved



Keeping pace: Cyclists ride between Limoux and Foix Prat d'Albis, in Foix Prat d'Albis. ■ AFP

in one of most exciting editions in a long time."

Either one of Geraint Thomas, Ineos' struggling defending champion, or Thibaut Pinot, the French climber who rebounded in the Pyrenees from what had seemed a decisive loss of time on the flat before the mountains, could still ride up the Champs-Elysées in the yellow jersey on Sunday.

A Pinot victory would trigger delirium across France, which has had no home-

grown champion to celebrate since Bernard Hinault in 1985 and suffered the indignity of many years when Lance Armstrong and other dopers hijacked the race that is as much part of the French national identity as romance and the baguette.

But Thomas' Colombian teammate Egan Bernal or dark horses Steven Kruijswijk from the Netherlands and German rider Emanuel Buchmann could put French champagne back on ice.

Making few waves and avoiding the misfortunes, mistakes and big off-color days that sank other riders' title hopes, they're very much in the podium picture. But their stealthy consistency could hit its limits in the Alps, where conservative riding might not be enough to win if Pinot and others attack, as expected.

Just 39 seconds, practically nothing in cycling where riders often lose minutes when they wilt on big climbs, separate Thomas in second place overall, from Buchmann in sixth, Kruijswijk is third, Pinot fourth and Bernal fifth.

Missing from this script, of course, is the yellow jersey himself, France's sweetheart Julian Alaphilippe. His punchy, unpredictable style has endeared him to fans bored with the by-the-numbers wins that Sky, now Ineos, secured with Bradley Wiggins in 2012, four-time winner Chris Froome and, last year,

C The main thing is going into the Alps I feel motivated to try and finish this Tour off well.

— GERAINT THOMAS

with Thomas. But in the Pyrenees, Alaphilippe started to pay for the energies he expended in taking, losing, getting back, and then extending his race lead in weeks one and two.

A big unknown

Another big unknown is whether uncharacteristic signs of weakness at Ineos, with Thomas off-color on the Tourmalet and his usually solid teammates not setting a punishing pace up climbs, were just blips or perhaps some sort of devilish rope-a-dope strategy cooked up by Brailsford that, in the Alps, will see the team return to its can't-catch-us best. Thomas talked a big game on the rest day, saying he hopes for an Alpine scrap with Pinot.

"I'd love it, I'd relish it. Bring it on," he said. "The main thing is going into the Alps I feel motivated to try and finish this Tour off well. It's been a slightly up and down race compared to last year but the main thing is I finish strong and I'm itching to go a lot better."

But the talking that counts will be done on the road. The Alpine stages from Thursday to Saturday will see the Tour ascend six times to above 2,000m in the three days, with two uphill finishes.

Keshav, Prasun to get Mohun Bagan Ratna

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Two-time Olympic gold-medal winning hockey player Keshav Dutt and former India football captain Prasun Banerjee will get this year's Mohun Bagan Ratna Award, the club said in a press release on Monday.

Dutt, 93, who played as a half-back, was part of the team that won gold in the 1948 (London) and 1952 (Helsinki) Olympics.

This is the first time that the club is conferring the award on a sportsperson from a discipline other than football.

Prasun, 64, younger brother of iconic footballer P.K. Banerjee, was a prominent midfielder of his times. He played in three Asian Games in 1974, 1978 and 1982 and was part of an Asian All Star XI team.

The Best Footballer for the 2018-19 will be given to Arjit Bagui.

Mohammed Shami would also be felicitated for his noteworthy performance during the recently concluded ICC World Cup.

Footballer Ashok Chatterjee will get the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The awards will be given away on Mohun Bagan Day on July 29. The club will give life membership to distinguished personalities such as Chunilal Goswami, Dr. Vece Paes, Sourav Ganguly, Prasenjit Chatterjee and Deb Shankar Halder.

Yogee rallies to down Aryan

AITA SUPER SERIES

SPORTS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

Yogee Panwar of Haryana recovered from the brink of defeat to beat Aryan Thakur 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-3 in the under-16 boys first round of the AITA Super series junior tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Monday.

In the girls' under-16 event, Snigdha Sran fought her way past Harleen Kaur Dhanda 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(5).

The results (first round): Boys: Under-18: Krishan Hooda bt Vaibhav Singh Bisht 6-2, 6-4; Karan Parashar bt Maan Kesharwanji 7-5, 6-4.

Shashikant Rajput bt Lokesh Pun 6-1, 6-0; Rishi Jalota bt Aryan Thakur 6-2, 6-2; Dhanay Shah bt Tanish Nahata 6-4, 6-0; Ajay Singh bt Arjun Kundu 6-1, 6-4; Divanshu Hooda bt

Jeffery Sam Prakash 6-1, 6-1; Bhupender Dahiya bt Jitin Kumar Chetry 6-1, 6-1; Atul Chhillar bt Ansh Kundu 6-2, 6-1; Sonu Khan bt Abhay Dogra 6-1, 6-4.

Under-16: Arjun Kundu bt Yuvraj Singh 7-5, 6-3; Akash Deb bt Yuvraj Chhoda 6-3, 6-0; Ajay Kundu bt Hardik Choudhary 6-1; Yogee Panwar bt Aryan Thakur 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-3; Ansh Kundu bt Lokesh Pun 7-5, 3-6, 6-4; Sarthak Gandhi bt Sahil Tambar 6-4, 6-3; Sarabjeet Singh bt Shrey Vir 6-1, 6-3; Rishi Jalota bt Shashank Singh 6-1, 6-1; Ajay Singh bt Divanshu Hooda 6-3, 6-2.

Samir Bir Singh Sidhu bt Rakshit Dhandkar 6-2, 6-2; Jitin Kumar Chetry bt Anirudh Sangra 6-3, 6-0; Dhanya Shah bt Aditya Chauhan 6-2, 6-0; Gurustat Singh Makkar bt Yashraj Dalvi 2-6, 6-4, 6-0; Sukhpreet Singh Jhote bt Lakshay Vivek Kumar 6-3, 6-2; Gaurav Kumar bt Yashavini Hooda 6-1, 6-2.

Tanushri Pandey bt Ananya Dogra 6-0, 6-0; Nandini Dixit bt Anandita Sharma 6-0 (retired); Snigdha Sran bt Harleen Kaur Dhanda 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(5); Maitreyi Phogat bt Bhumika Gupta 7-6(5), 6-2; Sanvi Ahluwalia bt Vanita Tyagi 6-1, 6-1.

Double for Shlok, Rutaparna

Kiran George wins men's title but Mugdha claims silver

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Indian shuttlers reaped rich dividends at the JE Wilson International Series with doubles specialists Shlok Ramchandran and Rutaparna Panda claiming two titles each at Accra, Ghana.

The top-seeded Indian pair of Shlok and M.R. Arjun beat Nigerian pair of Godwin Olofola and Anuoluwapo Jiwon Opeyori 21-11, 21-12 in a lop-sided men's doubles final that lasted 24 minutes.

Shlok also combined with Rutaparna to defeat top-seeded fellow Indian pair of Arjun and Maneesha K. 21-19, 21-15 in the mixed doubles summit clash.

The women's doubles



Fruitful campaign: It was a tournament to remember for Shlok Ramchandran and Rutaparna Panda. ■ INSTAGRAM/SHLOK95

pair of Maneesha and Rutaparna emerged victories after thrashing Nigerian combination of Dorcas Ajoke Adesokan and Uchechukwu Deborah Ukeh 21-11, 21-11 in the final.

Kiran George beat Azerbaijan's Ade Resky Dwicahyo 25-23, 19-19 to win the men's title. Second seed Mugdha Agrey lost 21-10, 21-6 to Vietnam's Thi Trang (B) Vu in the women's singles final.

Smith's preparations hit manic levels

Khawaja expected to be fit for first Test



Heart on his sleeve: Smith has been giving batting coach Hick long and taxing work-outs in the nets. ■ RYAN PIERCE/GETTY IMAGES

THE ASHES

REUTERS
MELBOURNE

Sixteen months after leaving Test cricket in disgrace over the ball-tampering furore, Steve Smith's preparations for the Ashes have gone up to a manic level as the former skipper looks to return to red-ball cricket in top form.

Australia captain Tim Paine said Smith had given batting coach Graeme Hick long and taxing work-outs in the nets as he looks to hone his formidable game ahead of the Ashes opener in Edgbaston on August 1.

Smith is back in the Test squad along with David Warner and Cameron Bancroft, the other two players hit with long bans for their in-

Minerva and five other I-League clubs write to FIFA

Request Infantino to set up an enquiry to probe the manner in which AIFF is functioning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Top I-League clubs like Minerva Punjab, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal have written to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, asking for his help in their fight for survival in Indian football.

Churchill Brothers, Aizawl FC and Gokulam Kerala FC are among the six clubs to have written to the sport's global body, with Minerva owner Ranjit Bajaj signing the letter.

Bone of contention

The clubs' biggest bone of contention is the top tier status accorded to Indian Super League (ISL) by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) as per the Master Right Agreement (MRA) signed between the AIFF and IMG-Reliance in 2010.

"Recent media reports and press statements from the AIFF itself have indicated that the AIFF is seeking to make the ISL, which came into existence in 2013, the seniormost league in the country, whereas I-League, that dates back to 2007 when it was launched as India's first-ever professional football league is sought to be made into a se-

C ISL is a purely commercial venture played by franchise-based clubs owned by the clubs. It has no relevance. More importantly, players invariably are in the 35-plus age bracket

cond tier and inferior league," the clubs wrote in the letter.

This comes days after the aggrieved clubs wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, briefing him about the crisis facing Indian football.

The clubs also requested Infantino to set up an enquiry to probe the manner in which the AIFF is functioning.

Sharp decline

"There is a sharp decline in the standard of Indian football. Football is one of the most popular sports in the world, including India, but this popularity has not been matched by necessary and good administration as far as the national body is concerned," the letter further read.

Earlier this month, AIFF president Praful Patel as-

sured the I-League clubs that their future was secure and said he would approach the AFC to ensure that I-League continues to co-exist with the ISL for another two or three years.

Regarding the franchise-based league, the clubs said in the letter: "The ISL is a purely commercial venture played by franchise-based clubs owned by the clubs. It has no relevance.

"More importantly, players invariably are in the 35-plus age bracket.

"Players who have no takers abroad are roped in, leading to a decline in the standard of Indian football."

No recognition

"ISL is just like the IPL of football and so the question that arises is how can a purely commercial league be made into the seniormost league of the country which has no international recognition or standing."

Esha thrilled with her medals

Her career is on the upswing as she aims for bigger targets

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVAS
NEW DELHI

She is only 14, but Esha Singh is not exactly taking baby steps in the world of shooting. Esha was quite thrilled to win the junior women's air pistol silver and the mixed air pistol bronze with Gaurav Rana, in the Junior World Cup.

Back home from Suhl, Germany, the ninth standard student was able to savour her medals. "I am really thrilled with my performance. It was the biggest Junior World Cup. It was tough competition. Staying healthy and focused was the key.

"And my father helped me achieve that," said Esha, quite thankful her dad Sachin Singh accompanied her to Germany.

The scores may not have been her best – she won the Asian junior gold with better scores in Chinese Taipei earlier this season – but considering the intensity of competition Esha was quite happy with her performance.

Different thrill

"Winning at the Asian level felt good. But it is a different thrill to win on the world stage. I am grateful to the NRAI (national federation)

form your best," she said. After topping the first stage of qualification in mixed air pistol, Esha and Gaurav missed a chance for a better medal in the second qualification phase. "The match was tough. We were actually happy and satisfied to beat the Chinese team for the medal," Esha recalled.

Her goal is to be ready for the Youth Olympics, and subsequently the Olympics in 2024.

25m sports pistol

To make things more interesting, Esha also competes in the 25-metre sports pistol, which is a lot more challenging.

"The 25-metre is a fast game. I really enjoy it and am getting good at it. I focus on both 10-m