

IN BRIEF



Goel takes out tiranga yatra with Ministers

NEW DELHI
Raising the slogan *Lal Quila se Lal Chowk tak tiranga hi tiranga*, MP and former Delhi BJP president Vijay Goel undertook a tiranga yatra on bicycle with party members here on the eve of I-Day. Mr. Goel, along with Union Ministers Babul Supriyo and Sanjiv Balyan, cycled to Amar Jawan Jyoti during the yatra.

'Make legal marriage age same for men, women'

NEW DELHI
A plea in the Delhi High Court has sought equalising of the legal age of marriage for men and women. It stated that the limit of 18 years for a woman amounts to "blatant discrimination" while that of men is 21. It contended that the age difference was based on patriarchal stereotypes. PTI

| Air quality of Delhi-NCR | | | |
|---|---------|---------------|----------|
| Delhi | 63 | Gurugram | 46 |
| Ghaziabad | 71 | Faridabad | 65 |
| Noida | 52 | Greater Noida | 73 |
| Good | ■ | Satisfactory | ■ |
| 0-50 | 51-100 | 101-200 | Moderate |
| Poor | ■ | Very poor | ■ |
| 201-300 | 301-400 | >401 | Severe |
| AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB | | | |

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Panel discussion on the book *Vanshavriksha*, a modern Kannada classic written by S. L. Bhryappa. Panellists: Dr. T.S. Satyanath, Professor of Comparative Literature, Delhi University, Rashmi Doraivamby, Film scholar and culture critic, Jamia Millia Islamia and Prof. Rita Kothari, translator and literary theorist, Ashoka University at India Habitat Centre, 7 p.m.

Dance: "Miracles on Wheels", a unique dance skit by differently-abled artists from Bangalore, drawing from mythological sources and social issues at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Rainbow", a group exhibition by artists belonging to the army family at All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

'Deshbhakti' curriculum in schools from next academic year: Kejriwal

'It will be on the same lines as that of Happiness, Entrepreneurship curricula'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

On the eve of Independence Day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that the Delhi government plans to introduce a 'Deshbhakti' curriculum in all schools from next academic year.

The government said that its Happiness Curriculum and Entrepreneurship Mind-set Curriculum were already in place and on the same lines, the 'Deshbhakti' curriculum would be introduced to help students become "true patriots".

Three goals

"The 'Deshbhakti' curriculum is aimed at achieving three important goals. First, each and every child must feel pride for the nation. Children must be taught about the glories of the country. Second, each child must be made aware of their responsibility and duty towards the country. India has a hundred problems. We are poor, our farmers commit suicide. But who will solve these problems? It is us who will have to find solutions," the CM said.



Arvind Kejriwal at the launch of 'Constitution @ 70' at Thyagaraj Stadium on Wednesday. ■ V. V. KRISHNAN

He added that there was a need to create a sense of ownership among all children that they have to take on the challenges we are facing as a country, head on and address them. "Third, we have to instill among children the commitment to be prepared to sacrifice anything for the nation," the CM said.

Mr. Kejriwal in his address to the students at a function organised at the Thyagaraj Stadium where the announ-

cement was made said: "Ordinarily we are reminded of our love for the country either when there is an India-Pakistan match or when there are tensions on the border. In our day-to-day lives we forget about our country. The 'Deshbhakti' curriculum is being introduced so that each and every citizen of this country truly loves their country."

He said that when our children grow older and start

Envoy congratulates CM on his style of governance

NEW DELHI

The Ambassador of Nepal to India, Nilamber Acharya, on Wednesday called on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia at the Delhi Secretariat. The Ambassador greeted them on the eve of I-Day and extended best wishes on behalf of the Nepalese government, the Delhi government said in a statement. "The CM shared with the Ambassador, the keen interest shown by many private schools of Nepal in the Happiness Curriculum introduced in the Delhi schools," it added.

working, and at any point if they accept a bribe, then they must feel from within that they are betraying Bharat Mata. When they jump a traffic light, they must feel they have wronged their country.

While announcing the scheme, Mr. Kejriwal said that he and Education Minister Manish Sisodia had come up with the idea at a meeting to discuss how to take concrete steps towards building a class of patriotic citizens.

BJP asks AAP to fulfil concessional pass promise

Gupta warns of stir if elderly, students, differently abled are deprived of their rights

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Opposition on Wednesday demanded that AAP fulfil its electoral promise of providing concessional passes to senior citizens, students and the differently abled on public transport in the Capital.

"This promise is recorded at serial number 53 of AAP's 70 point action-plan. But the

[Delhi] government has deprived these citizens of what could have been their right during the last four and a half years...the government should start working on fulfilling the promise without any further delay...the BJP will come out on the streets if senior citizens, students and the differently abled are deprived of their right," Mr. Gupta said.

The Leader of Opposition asked the Chief Minister and Deputy CM to "remove the dust from the election manifesto" and see the "pitiable condition" of the promises made to the people of Delhi four-and-a-half years ago.

"Neither does the government remember the promises made nor does it want to be reminded about them," he alleged.

No child will have to pay to take CBSE exam: Sisodia

Minister says cost would be borne by State government

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said that students of Delhi government schools and aided schools would not have to pay any fees to take the Class X and Class XII examination as the cost would be borne by the government and that they were working out the modalities.

He added that talks were on with the CBSE to rollback the recent hike in examination fee but no child would have to pay the fee.

On Tuesday, the CBSE had said that they were in talks with the Delhi government with regard to reimbursement of fee and said



Manish Sisodia

gory students for Classes X and XII were doubled from ₹750 to ₹1,500 for five subjects and for SC/ST students from ₹375 to ₹1,200 for five subjects. In Delhi, SC/ST students were only paying ₹50 with the Delhi government giving subsidy.

Justifying the hike in its examination fee, the CBSE said that its expenditure on conducting the Class X and XII exams amounted to approximately ₹500 crore last year while the earnings from student exam fees was less than ₹250 crore. Now, since it was not conducting professional entrance examination that were a source of revenue, it was going back to a non-profit, no-loss model.

'AAP govt. had nothing to do with temple demolition'

CM responds to Mayawati's remarks

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday took to Twitter to state that the Aam Aadmi Party government had nothing to do with the demolition of the Guru Ravidas temple in Tughlakabad, Delhi.

part of which she also alleged that the incident reflected a "casteist mentality".

Mr. Kejriwal said he felt sad that she held AAP dispensation "guilty" along with the Central government in connection with the incident.

Deeply anguished
"Mayawati ji, we all are deeply anguished. We strongly oppose it. I feel sad that you consider us guilty along with the Centre. In Delhi, land comes under the Central government. We have nothing to do with the demolition of this temple," the CM tweeted in Hindi.

Earlier during the day, the BSP president had demanded that the temple be reconstructed.

DDA hurt sentiments of Dalits: Cong.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Condemning the demolition of the 600-year-old Guru Ravidas temple and Chamar Wala Johad at Tughlakabad, Delhi Congress working president Rajesh Lilotia on Wednesday said that the DDA had hurt the sentiments of the Dalit community by demolishing the historic temple.

"The temple has been a revered religious centre for the Dalit community for centuries. Its demolition has not only inflicted a deep scar in the minds of the Dalit community in the country, but also exposed the narrow mindedness and anti-Dalit policies of the BJP towards the marginalised people," Mr. Lilotia said.

दिल्ली सरकार की ओर से
सभी देशवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

-अरविंद केजरीवाल
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली



सूचना एवं प्रचार निदेशालय, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

KITE CRAZY

Kites are flying off the shelves in shops at Lal Kuan as Delhi prepares to celebrate Independence Day



AN ENTHUSIAST Hasan Ali, 18, came to Lal Kuan with his friend to buy 200 kites. "We go to the terrace in the morning and start flying kites. It goes on till the evening," he says. "What I enjoy the most is cutting the string of other flyers' kites and grabbing them," he smiles.



FAMILY BUSINESS

Noushad Ansari, 49, says he is the sixth-generation craftsman from his family to make kites. "I have been making kites since I was 15. I am known in the area by my father's name *Kallan Bhai Patangwala*," says the father of three. Showing off the violet and red kites he has made, Mr. Ansari says that after the kite season ends in Delhi, he will go to Jaipur and make kites there for two months. "Then I will go to Meerut for 15 days. From there, I will go to Bikaner and then Gujarat."

GIANT KITE

On the wall of 19-year-old Mohammad Ali's dimly lit shop hangs a kite thrice the size of a normal one. Called a *Teen Tawa*, the kite costs ₹150. A normal kite costs between ₹2 and ₹20. "The *Teen Tawa* comes from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh... we have been selling such kites for the past five years," says Mr. Ali.



TEXT BY NIKHIL M BABU; PHOTOS BY SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

HC stays JNU inquiry against teachers

Faculty members of university had taken part in a protest in July last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Wednesday stayed the inquiry initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru University against 45 of its faculty members for alleged participation in a protest in July last year.

Justice Suresh Kait sought response of the JNU administration on the plea by the teachers challenging the chargesheets issued by the university against 48 faculty members for allegedly taking part in the protest. The court

listed the matter for further hearing on October 10.

The teachers, represented by Kapil Sibal, said they had sent individual responses to the showcase notices stating that no misconduct or violation of rules had taken place, as alleged by JNU.

The petition, filed by 45 teachers, said the chargesheets issued against them relied on three grounds to implicate them in the alleged "mala fide inquiry".

One of the grounds was that the CCS (Conduct) Rules

prohibit government servants from resorting to or abetting strikes, coercion or physical duress in matters pertaining to service.

The petition, filed through advocates Abhilash Chinni, Maanav Kumar and Nupur, also referred to a direction of the High Court in its August 9, 2017, order which placed certain restrictions on locations of protests being organized by students.

It said the petitioners and JNU teachers in general are not governed by the CCS

(Conduct) Rules. "Application of CCS rules and accompanying penalties is highly prejudicial... If the teachers are subjected to enquiry under CCS rules, there will be a grave risk of the respondents (authorities) taking coercive steps against them, including placing the petitioners under suspension during enquiry; reducing pay-scale, grade or their post to a lower stage... compulsory retirement, removal or dismissal from service," the petition said.

NGT unhappy with timeline for clean air

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Expressing disapproval over the timeline to reduce air pollution, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Environment Ministry to modify the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which proposes 20%-30% reduction in air pollution by 2024.

While asking the authorities to move up the timeline, the NGT also directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards to ensure assessment and installation of requisite number of real-time online air quality monitoring systems.

The green panel also directed States where there is high level of air pollution to evolve an "enforcement mechanism" to close or shift industrial units other than household industries from residential or non-conforming areas.

Directing States to make action plans to curb air pollution, the Bench said, "States must initiate time-bound action on remediation within three months."



अशोक गहलोत
मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

बढ़ते चलें
सत्य, अहिंसा के पथ पर...

इस पुनीत अवसर पर
हम सब सङ्घावना, एकता, सत्य,
अहिंसा, शांति के मार्ग पर चल कर
प्रदेश को उज्ज्वलि की ओर बढ़ायें

सभी प्रदेशवासियों को
73 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, राजस्थान सरकार

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार
राजस्थान सरकार
YEARS OF
CELEBRATING
THE MAHATMA
150

Dept. of Art, Culture & Languages Govt. of NCT of Delhi
URDU ACADEMY, DELHI
Organise
**Independence Day All India
MUSHAIKA**



Mr. Manish Sisodia,
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chief Guest | : Mr. Manish Sisodia, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi |
| Guest of Honour | : Mr. Imran Husain, Hon'ble Minister for Food & Civil Supplies, Govt. of Delhi |
| Distinguished Guest | : Mr. Dilip Pandey, Renowned Writer & Member Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi |
| To be presided by | : Prof. Waseem Bareilvi, Renowned Urdu Poet |
| Welcome Speech | : Prof. Shehpar Rasool, Vice Chairman, Urdu Academy, Delhi |
| Vote of Thanks | : Secretary, Urdu Academy, Delhi |
| Date & Time | : 16 th August, 2019 at 6.30 p.m. |
| Venue | : Aiwan-e-Ghalib, Mata Sundari Lane, New Delhi-2 |

Invited Poets: ● Zia Farooqui ● Moazzam Ali Khan ● Agha Sarosh ● Tahir Faraz
● Popular Meerathi ● Kauser Keranvi ● Tariq Qamar ● Ubaid Azam Azmi ● Hamid Bhusawali ● Suhail Usmani ● Maikash Azmi ● Jaleel Burhanpuri ● Nusrat Mehdi
● Deepi Mishra ● Shabeena Adeeb ● Saba Balrampuri ● Tabish Mehdi ● Muneer Hamdam ● Mushfiq Bachhrauni ● Surender Shahar ● Ahmad Alvi ● Waris Warsi
● Akther Azmi ● Ana Dehlavi ● Comperor: Moin Shadab

You are cordially invited.
C.P.O. Building,
Kashmere Gate, Delhi
(23865436, 23863858)

If you are interested in Delhi Government's activities of Art, Culture and Literature,
then simply give a missed call on 9323300300

S. M. Ali
Secretary

Dip/Shabdarith/D/0089/19-20

Prohibitory orders in parts of Jaipur

Confrontation between kanwariyas and local residents had erupted on Sunday night

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Prohibitory orders were imposed in 15 police station areas here on Wednesday after violence and communal tension gripped some parts of the city for the third consecutive day, affecting the law and order situation since Sunday. A confrontation between kanwariyas and local residents had erupted during the Id-ul-Azha festivities earlier this week.

25 injured

Mobile internet services were suspended till Wednesday night and additional police force was deployed in the areas where tension was prevailing in view of Independence Day and the Raksha Bandhan festival. About 25 people, including seven policemen, were injured in the stone-pelting incidents and more than 50 vehicles were

damaged. Police said 15 people had been arrested after registration of five separate cases in connection with the violence during the last three days and some more would be nabbed shortly.

Cases were also registered for obstructing public servants from discharge of their duties, thrashing policemen and blocking the national highway.

Several persons who spread rumours through social media have also been identified. After the violence broke out on Sunday night, police resorted to tear-gas shelling to prevent the situation from going out of control, as the groups of people fought on the roads.

The 15 police station areas where prohibitory orders under Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code have been imposed with the ban on the assembly of four or more persons are Galta Gate, Brahmputri, Subhash Chowk, Ramganj, Manak Chowk, Bhatta Basti, Shastri Nagar, Kotwali, Sanjay Circle, Transport Nagar, Lal Kothi, Adarsh Nagar, Moti Dungri, Nahargarh and Jawahar Nagar.

3 held for attacking Raebareli Cong. MLA

They carry a bounty of ₹25,000 each, says U.P. STF

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh police have arrested three persons in connection with the attack on the Congress MLA from Raebareli, Aditi Singh.

Ms. Singh was attacked in May while she was on her way to participate in a no-confidence motion against zilla panchayat head Awadesh Singh. Other panchayat members were also part of the convoy when unidentified persons attacked it.

Ms. Singh had received injuries after her car overturned in the incident.

Rebel MLC

Mr. Awadesh is the brother of Dinesh Singh, a Congress MLC



Raebareli MLA Aditi Singh was attacked in May. ■ FILE PHOTO

who rebelled and contested the Lok Sabha election from Raebareli against Sonia Gandhi on a BJP ticket in 2019. He, however, lost.

The three accused who were arrested were identified as Awadesh Kumar, Rohit Singh and Jitendra Singh by the U.P. Special Task Force.

Carrying a bounty of ₹25,000, the three were arrested near Ambedkar Park in Lucknow, the STF said.

DELI Timings

THURSDAY, AUG. 15

RISE 05:00 SET 19:01

RISE 19:10 SET 05:24

FRIDAY, AUG. 16

RISE 05:51 SET 19:00

RISE 19:46 SET 06:17

SATURDAY, AUG. 17

RISE 05:51 SET 18:50

RISE 20:19 SET 07:10

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 34 26
Safdarjang 34 26
Palam 33 26

Delhi Palam Today
35°C A cloudy and windy weather with humid conditions. Short spells of rain or thunder shower to affect.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34°C Fall in temperature. A cloudy and warm weather with moderate breeze. Good spells of rain and thunder shower to occur.

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'No aarti, namaz on roads'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh police have issued directives barring any "spill-over" of religious activities, like offering of namaz and aarti, on roads in the State, citing hindrance to movement of traffic.

Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police Om Prakash Singh said that verbal orders have also been issued to organise peace committee meetings to see that this directive is enforced in a harmonious manner.

**Greetings to the people of Delhi on the occasion of
73rd Independence Day**

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

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

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

-: Special Attractions :-

Cultural programme and performance by CISF Band

Ram Niwas Goel
Speaker, Legislative Assembly

Visitors are requested to carry their photo Identity Card and cooperate with security personnel at the gate so that their entry could be facilitated.

**समर्पण देशवासियों को
73^{वें} स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की
हार्दिक शुभेच्छाएँ**

साथ हैं हम... उत्तराखण्ड

**हमारा प्रयास
ईमानदारी, विकास
और विश्वास**

प्रमुख घटक:

- सड़क एवं परिवहन**
 - 734 गावों को सड़क से जोड़ा गया।
 - डाट काली मंदिर दू-लेन टाल एवं देहरादून में तीन नए पलाईओवर का निर्माण एवं संचालन शुरू।
 - 5592 कि.मी. मार्गों का नवनिर्माण, 2105 कि.मी. में पुनर्निर्माण तथा 181 पुलों का निर्माण।
- शिक्षा एवं रोजगार**
 - देहरादून में सीपैट की स्थापना।
 - कक्षा 1 से 12वीं तक एनसीईआरटी की पुस्तकें लागू।
 - लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा 2511 तथा अधीनस्थ सेवा चयन आयोग द्वारा 3109 नई नियुक्तियां।
 - जून 2019 तक विभिन्न उद्योगों में 80 हजार लोगों को रोजगार।
 - देहरादून में कौरस्ट गार्ड भर्ती केन्द्र।
- फिल्म**
 - फिल्म शूटिंग का प्रसंगीदा डेरिनेशन बना उत्तराखण्ड, 2017 से अभी तक 220 से अधिक फिल्मों एवं प्राराधारिकों की हुई शूटिंग।
 - 65वें राष्ट्रीय फिल्म पुरस्कार, 2017 में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य को "स्पेशल मैशन सर्टिफिकेट" का पुरस्कार।
 - 66वें राष्ट्रीय फिल्म पुरस्कार, 2018 का उत्तराखण्ड राज्य को "मोस्ट फिल्म फ्रेन्डली स्टेट" का प्रथम पुरस्कार।
- उद्योग**
 - इन्वेस्टर समिट से 16 हजार करोड़ के कार्य आरम्भ।
 - जून 2019 तक 11027 उद्यमों की स्थापना।
 - 11 हिमालयी राज्यों का उत्तराखण्ड में पहला सफल सम्मेलन।
- कृषि**
 - किसानों के लिए कृषि ऋण 0% ब्याज पर।
 - जूलाई 2019 तक 2.4 लाख किसान हुए लाभान्वित।

प्रिय प्रदेशवासियों...

आप सभी को 73वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। इस अवसर पर मैं स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के नायकों व देश की सुरक्षा में शहीद हुए सैनिकों को नमन करता हूँ। हमारी सरकार ईमानदारी, भ्रष्टाचारमुक्त व पारदर्शी शासन के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। आईंये, इस स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर हम सभी मिलकर उत्तराखण्ड राज्य तथा राष्ट्र के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए संकल्पबद्ध हों।

जय हिन्द, जय उत्तराखण्ड। **श्रीनेत्र सिंह रावत**
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

कार्यालय :- असेंगिक शब्द चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा



फोन नं.- 06522 259859 E-Mail- cswestsinghbhum@gmail.com

चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी / विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी की नियुक्ति हेतु संशोधन विज्ञापन की सूचना।

विज्ञापन संख्या 02/2019 जिसका PR No. 214232 द्वारा पूर्व में संविदा के आधार पर विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी की नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञापन प्रकाशित किया गया था, को संशोधित करते हुए जिस स्वारूप्य समिति एवं DMFT पॉ सिंहभूम, चाईबासा द्वारा संविदा के आधार पर विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी / विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी की नियुक्ति हेतु योग्य अभियोगों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किया जाते हैं-

| क्र. सं. | पद का नाम | स्लॉक्यूलर पद | आरक्षण कोटि | मासिक मानदेय | उम्र (दिनांक 01.12.18 को) | आवेदन फारम जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि |
|----------|---|---------------|---------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | ENT Surgeon | 01 | UR -01 | | | |
| 2 | Ophthalmologist | 01 | UR -01 | | | |
| 3 | Radiologist | 01 | UR -01 | | | |
| 4 | Orthopaedics | 01 | UR -01 | 1,80,000.00 (105,000.00 NHM + 75,000.00 DMFT) एवं 10% मकान कियारा भत्ता | | |
| 5 | Psychiatrist | 01 | UR -01 | | | |
| 6 | Dermatologist | 01 | UR -01 | | | |
| 7 | Medical Consultant Medicine(NCD Specialist) | 02 | UR -01 | | | |
| 8 | Pediatrician (SNCU / NBSU Specialist) | 01 | UR -01 | 67 वर्ष | दिनांक 20.08.2019 को 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक | |
| 9 | Medical Officer (SNCU) | 03 | UR -02 ST -01 | 80,000.00 | | |
| 10 | Medical Officer (NBSU) | 04 | UR -02 ST -02 | (63,000.00 NHM + 17,000.00 DMFT) | | |
| 11 | Medical Officer (District NCD Cell) | 01 | UR -01 | एवं 10% मकान कियारा भत्ता | | |
| 12 | Medical Officer (CHC NCD Cell) | 05 | UR -03 ST -02 | | | |
| 13 | Medical Officer (NUHM) | 01 | ST -01 | | | |
| 14 | Epidemiologist - District NDC Cell (NCD Specialist) | 01 | UR -01 | 60,000.00 | | |
| 15 | Medical Officer (Part Time) (NUHM) | 02 | UR -01 ST -01 | 35,000.00 | | |

आवेदन फारम मेजर का पता :- "असेंगिक शब्द चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, पॉ सिंहभूम, चाईबासा"। विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सकों को NHM बजट से 1,05,000.00 प्रतिमाह तथा DMFT बजट से 75,000.00 कुल 1,80,000.00 प्रतिमाह मानदेय देय होगी एवं विशेषज्ञ पदाधिकारियों (DMFT) को NHM बजट से 63,000.00 प्रतिमाह तथा DMFT बजट से 17,000.00 कुल 80,000.00 प्रतिमाह मानदेय देय होगी। इसके अतिरिक्त DMFT मद से मानदेय का 10% मकान कियारा भत्ता की राशि देय होगी।

इसकुल अपर्याप्त उपयुक्त पद के लिए आवेदन का विहित प्रत्र एवं विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए ये वेबसाइट www.chaibasa.nic.in पर पढ़े सकते हैं।

रिपोर्टर सर्जन सह सचिव,
जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति, पॉ सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

P.R.214374 West Singhbhum (19-20):D

Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads
Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency,
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastadrada Road, Dehradun.
BHARAT NIRMAN UNDER
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA(PMGSY)

e-Procurement Notice
(Second & Fifth Call)

The General Manager(Project), BRIDCUL on behalf of URRDA Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system(Second & Fifth) for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Gairsain(District Chamoli) for 02 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 805.38 Lakh including their maintenance 2 year for stage-1 & 5 year for stage-2 from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 14-08-2019.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the Projects related to Garhwal Mandal at Office of BRIDCUL HQ Opp. Govt. ITI Majra, Niranjanpur, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun-248001 on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering 30.08.2019 01:00PM For further details please log on to www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer,
URRDA, Dehradun.

*Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2522941 number may be contacted 10:00AM to 05:00PM. in any office days.

DIPR/UK/8840

**SECTION-II NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)-
CHANDIGARH TRANSPORT UNDERTAKING
(PLOT NO.701, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-1, CHANDIGARH)**

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders (Online Tenders) are invited for "SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 02 NOS LATHE MACHINE FOR WORKSHOP, DEPOT NO.1 AND WORKSHOP, DEPOT NO.II, CTU, CHANDIGARH" on the terms and conditions and technical specifications as set out in the Tender documents which can be downloaded from the website <http://etenders.chd.nic.in> or [chdctu.gov.in](http://ctu-chd.nic.in). The important dates with regard to tenders are as under:-

| | |
|---|--|
| Bid Reference | : SPA/CTU/2019/7872 Dated: 14/8/19 |
| Date of commencement of downloading of bid document | : 17-08-2019 at 11.00 am onwards |
| Last date for seeking clarification if any. | : 27-08-2019 Upto 04:00 pm |
| Pre-bid meeting | : 27-08-2019 at 11:30 am in the office room of GeneralManager-1, CTU, Plot No.701, Industrial Area, Phase-1, Chandigarh. |
| Last date and time for EMD in physical form and uploading of bid(Technical and Financial) in e-procurement platform http://etenders.chd.nic.in | : 11-09-2019 upto 02:00pm |
| Date and time of opening of technical bids | : The bids will be opened online by the Authorized Officers on 11-09-2019 Hrs 3:00pm |
| Date and time of opening of Financial Bids | : Will be intimated to technically responsive bidders |
| Place of opening of bids and address for communication | : Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (I/o Director Transport cum Divisional Manager, Plot No. 701, Industrial Area Phase-1, Chandigarh) |
| In case of any query/clarification | : The bidders can approach General Manager, Depot-1 CTU Chandigarh on any working day between 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM (till the date of pre-bid meeting) in case of any clarification/query regarding e-tender (Phone No. 2679002) or mail at ctu-chd@nic.in |

No tender except EMD shall be accepted in physical form.

The Director Transport, U.T. Chandigarh cum Divisional Manager, CTU Chandigarh shall have every right to cancel/withdraw/amend the advertisement or extend the due date at his sole discretion or accept or reject any tender without assigning reason.

Asstt. Controller
For Director Transport, UT-cum-
Divisional Manager, CTU
Chandigarh

Invitation of bids for disposal of ROMDAS Equipment

Sealed online bids are invited by Joint Secretary PRBDB, SCF 61-62, Phase-2, Mohali for disposal of Road Measurement and Data Acquisition System (ROMDAS), a class-I laser road Profilometer on "As-is where-is" basis. The details of the equipment alongwith other information pertaining to invitation of bids can be seen at www.eproc.punjab.gov.in, www.prbdb.gov.in. The on-line bids will be received on the portal from 19th Aug, 2019 to 23rd Sept, 2019 (3.00 PM).

Addenda/Corrigenda, If any, Will be published only on the websites.

Mukesh Kumar Goel
Joint Secretary
PRBDB

DPR PB 6679-C

Chilika faces oil spill threat from stuck ship

Coast Guard warning to Odisha govt.

of oil from the vessel causing pollution to the area, the ICG said.

The Coast Guard also advised to undertake action on priority basis either through a local agent or any professional salvor.

According to reports, a salvage team from Singapore-based Smit Salvage Pte limited had reached Odisha on Sunday.

The vessel – Jin Hwa 32 – with deadweight tonnage of 7,500 had sailed from Mongla Port on August 2 and was heading towards Visakhapatnam Port. It was caught in stormy waters and drifted towards Odisha.

"We have visited the spot where the vessel is stuck. Though the place is far from Chilika's jurisdiction, it is apprehended that in the event of spillage, the oil could drift towards Chilika," said Susanta Nanda, Chief Executive of Chilika Development Authority.

Assam club promotes flags that grow into plants

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI**

A club in southern Assam's Hailakandi town is promoting biodegradable flags that grow into plants.

These handmade cotton flags are embedded with seeds of marigold.

"After use, a flag should be planted with respect and some soil and water poured on it. The flag will germinate into a plant in two-three days' time," said Shankar Choudhury of Inner Wheel Club.

The club's president Kabita Das said the initiative was undertaken to discourage the use of plastic flags on Independence Day as well as Republic Day. "Such flags are discarded to snowball into an ecological problem. We are promoting the seed-embedded cotton flags toward making the country plastic pollution-free," she said.

THE HINDU

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THE HINDU

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THE HINDU

Government of Jharkhand
Urban Development and Housing Department
Directorate of Municipal Administration
Phone No.: 0651-2401955, 2401182(Fax)
E-mail: - director.ma.goj@gmail.com/pmaytender@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice

Tender Notice

NIT No.: NIT/PMAY/TPQMA/Cluster/2019/01 Date: 09.08.2019

| | | |
|----|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Name of the work | Third Party Quality and Monitoring Agency (TPQMA) Services For PMAY Housing Projects At Various Locations In Jharkhand State. |
| 2. | Mode of Bid Submission | (e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) |
| 3. | Estimated | |

Need permanent solution: Pawar

NCP chief calls for better coordination between Maharashtra and Karnataka

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

If waters from the Almatti dam in north Karnataka had been released on time, people of Kolhapur and Sangli would not have had to endure the devastating floods, said Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar on Wednesday, while stressing that a permanent solution to the problem must be found through proper coordination with the neighbouring State.

Mr. Pawar was on a tour of the worst-hit talukas in Kolhapur and Sangli district. "There is an urgent need for the Central government to hold talks with both States on this matter. There was no proper communication and coordination between the two governments this time," he said, speaking in Kolhapur's Shirol taluk.



Aftermath: A man shows how high the floodwater had reached in his home at Walva village in Sangli. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

The NCP chief said the magnitude of the floods was unprecedented and that it was a mistake to take the water level of the 2005 floods as the 'danger mark'.

He urged the government to undertake a massive construction drive of building new and durable houses for

the flood-affected population akin to the rehabilitation efforts post the 1993 Latur earthquake. "Thousands of homes and structures have been weakened by the floods, even at a higher altitude. With the onset of summer, these structures will crumble under the severe heat," Mr. Pawar said.

Expressing concern for farm labourers, The NCP chief urged the government to ensure that they received work through employment guarantee schemes. He also reiterated on the need for a complete loan waiver, as the two districts are the most important sugar-producing regions in the State.

He also rebuked the administration for failing to fulfill its task of distributing flood aid. "A lot of aid is being sent by individuals, outfits, trusts, political parties from all over the State. But it appears that this help is not reaching the flood-affected people," Mr. Pawar said.

PMAY funds may be used to build damaged houses

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The State government is likely to use funds from the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) to construct over one lakh homes destroyed in the floods.

The State had set a target of constructing 19.4 lakh houses by 2022 under the PMAY - Housing for All (Urban/Rural) programme, but is likely to divert focus to rebuild nearly 1.4 lakh homes, both kuccha and pukka, that have suffered damages in Kolhapur and Sangli.

"We are still assessing the damage but it is estimated that 23,000 homes have been completely destroyed while others have been partially damaged. The govern-

ment will use its machinery but will have to take up rebuilding under the group housing projects. There is no alternative but to channelise funding for PMAY from other central schemes," said an official.

The decision to use the schemes until funding arrives from the Centre came up for discussion during the Cabinet meet on Tuesday. The Cabinet decided to pay ₹6,602 as compensation for destruction to a pukka home while approving ₹5,200 for partial damages. Meanwhile, ₹4,000 will be compensated for a hutment.

Senior officials said the Cabinet may eventually have to tap into other schemes to rebuild these homes.

Buffalo attacks two in Bhiwandi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THANE

The Thane police are looking for the unidentified owner of a buffalo which attacked two people in Bhiwandi two days ago.

Shamsuddin Choudhary (30), said that he was look-

ing for an autorickshaw to visit his sister's house for Eid, when something hit him from behind. After he regained consciousness in a hospital, he was told that a buffalo had run into him.

The animal had also knocked down another man.

| Name of Work | Approx. value of work | EMD |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Construction of Dormitory building for men workers (400 nos) in Nerupurichal at Tiruppur (N) Taluk in Tiruppur District. | Rs 816.40 lakhs | Rs. 4,18,200/- (Payment by Demand Draft in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., Chennai) |

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.sipcot.com

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
SIPCOT, Chennai-8.

Gujarat IAS officer suspended on charges of bigamy, cheating

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Wednesday suspended senior IAS officer Gaurav Dahiya.

ya over the allegations of bigamy and cheating levelled against him by a Delhi-based woman.

"Mr. Dahiya has been put

under suspension in the wake of the ongoing probe against him. He will also face disciplinary action," a government statement said.

The woman has alleged that they got married at Tirupati in February 2018, while the IAS officer kept her in the dark about his first wife.

73वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस
के पावन अवसर पर
प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक बधाई

आजादी की लड़ाई और देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा के लिए
शहीद देशभक्तों एवं सेनानियों को शत् शत् नमन!

आईए संकल्प लें भावी पीढ़ी को
आजादी के दीवानों के सपनों का भारत सौंपेंगे

जल की बूँद-बूँद बचाएंगे
पर्यावरण शुद्ध रह हरा-नहा बनाएंगे
वृक्ष असंख्य लगाएंगे
नशा मुक्त समाज बनाएंगे

- जय राम ठाकुर, मुख्यमंत्री, हिमाचल प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हि.प्र. द्वारा जारी

सबका साथ—सबका विकास—सबका विश्वास

150
YEARS OF
CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA

गगन में लहराए तिरंगा प्यारा
समृद्ध भारत का संकल्प हमारा

73 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस
एवं
रक्षाबंधन पर्व की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

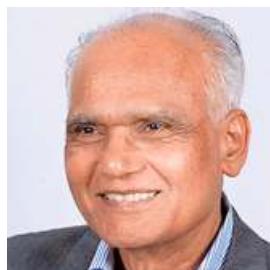
अमर शहीदों के सपनों को साकार करने के लिए यशस्वी प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने एक नये,
श्रेष्ठ, स्वच्छ एवं खुशहाल भारत का संकल्प लिया है। आइए, नये भारत के निर्माण के इस संकल्प
की सिद्धि के लिए हम सभी प्राणपण से योगदान करें।

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

रेलवे क्रॉसिंग पर यदि लाल बत्ती जली हुयी है तो स्टॉप लाइन पार न करें

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

IN BRIEF



Writer S.L. Bhyrappa to inaugurate Mysuru Dasara

BENGALURU

Writer S.L. Bhyrappa has been chosen to inaugurate the 10-day Mysuru Dasara festival in September. A high-level committee chaired by Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Wednesday selected Mr. Bhyrappa, 85, for the inauguration of the festival, scheduled to be held from September 29 to October 8.

TTD to probe 'misuse' of funds by advisory panel

TIRUMALA

TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy on Wednesday expressed concern over misappropriation of funds allegedly by the New Delhi-based Local Advisory Committee (LAC). The LACs formed in various States have the power to spend funds not exceeding ₹5 lakh a year. But the LAC in New Delhi was accused of spending ₹5 crore. Further complicating the matter, the panel got its accounts audited by a local Chartered Accountant instead of submitting them to the TTD's financial and chief accounts officer.

Three boys electrocuted in Andhra Pradesh

ONGOLE

Three boys — Ameen Peer, 11, Ghous Basha, 10, and Sk. Hussain, 10 — were electrocuted when they reportedly came in contact with a live electric wire at Koppam village, near Santamagaluru in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. Five boys were playing close to the YSRCP flag post and it accidentally touched an overhead electric wire leading to instantaneous death of three of them, while the other two escaped with minor burns, the police said.

Death toll in rain-hit Kerala rises to 102

Seven more bodies recovered from Kavalappara

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The death toll in rain-related incidents in Kerala crossed 100 on Wednesday with seven more bodies being recovered from Kavalappara, Malappuram district, where a massive landslip wreaked destruction on August 8.

A Wednesday evening update put the State-wide death toll in the rain fury at 102. Thirty-seven people are still missing, 29 in Malappuram, seven in the landslip-hit Meppadi in Wayanad, and one person in Kottayam, the government said.

With more people returning home, the number of relief camps have come down from 1,206 on Tuesday to 1,119 on Wednesday. As many as 58,508 families (1,89,649 people) are still being accommodated in the camps.

A review meeting convened by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday



Tough task: Work being carried out at the landslip site in Malappuram. ■ SAKEER HUSSAIN

evening concluded that it would be wise to maintain a high alert despite the reduction in rainfall. He also stressed the need to speed up the rescue and relief effort.

An India Meteorological Department (IMD) weather bulletin predicted a marked decrease in monsoon activity over Kerala during the next few days. Orange alerts indicating isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall (up to 20.4 cm) have been issued

for Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kannur and yellow alerts for isolated heavy rainfall (up to 11.5 cm) have been issued for Wayanad and Kasaragod for Thursday.

High waves likely
The IMD has advised fishermen not to venture into the sea as strong winds from a westerly direction with speeds reaching 45 kmph to 55 kmph are likely along and off the Kerala coast till Thursday evening.

High waves in the range of 3.3-4 m are likely along the southern Tamil Nadu coast from Colachel to Dhanushkodi till Friday night, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services said.

The losses to the farm sector have crossed ₹1,000 crore, the Chief Minister said. The lashing rains, flooding, and landslips had caused crop damage in 28,000 hectares, affecting 1.13 lakh farmers, he said.

Rahul urges RBI to extend moratorium

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has written to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to urge that the moratorium on repayment of crop loans be extended to December 31 for farmers in Kerala who have been hit by floods.

Mr. Gandhi, who represents the Wayanad constituency, argued that the State had not only witnessed the worst floods in over a century, but its impact had been further compounded by the inability of farmers to repay loans on account of crop loss and extensive damage to productive assets. A sharp fall in the global commodity prices of cash crops had also adversely affected the ability of farmers to bounce back, he said.



Rain fury: A damaged bridge at Kakkineji in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. ■ H.S. MANJUNATH

In Karnataka, farmers desert homes, cattle

Families fear landslips and flooding

RAVIPRASAD KAMILA
DIDUPU

Over 300 members of about 55 farmer families living in four areas at the foot of the Western Ghats in Malavanthe gram panchayat in Belthangady taluk, on the border of Dakshina Kannada with Chikkamagaluru districts have deserted their homes leaving their cattle behind.

With portions of the mud roads leading to the areas getting washed away, it takes about four hours for them to cover 6 km on foot from Didupe-Somanathdka main road. Some of them venture into their villages on foot — an arduous journey — to take care of the cattle but return in the evening.

Vasantha Gowda from Nandikkad area, who has taken shelter in a relative's house at Didupe, said unless the torrential rain stopped, none would dare to sleep in their houses overnight as there were chances of landslip and flooding.

With the memories of flash floods, which hit many areas in the gram panchayat limits on Friday afternoon, still haunting them, they have been taking shelter in relief camps and in the homes of relatives in the taluk for the past five days.

Flooding by the waters of the rivers and rivulets, which carried sludge and

Autopsies in mosque as humanism triumphs

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
MALAPPURAM

recent memory.

As shifting the bodies to a hospital for post-mortem became tough because of the remoteness and inaccessibility of the region, the mosque authorities offered a portion of the prayer hall and other facilities for performing post-mortem examinations.

"The bodies of Mohammed, Chandran, Saraswati, Chacko and all are brought inside this masjid for post-mortem. You won't find a better example for humanism. The whole world should know this. I salute the masjid officials," said Parameswaran, attendant from



Noble deed: The Salafi Juma Masjid in Malappuram district has been converted into an autopsy room. ■ SAKHIR HUSSAIN

Government Medical College Hospital, Manjeri.
Forensic surgeon P.S. San-

jay, who conducted the post-mortem on several bodies, said he was humbled by the

humanistic values displayed by the locals of Pothukal.

"Converting a sacred place like mosque into an autopsy room is a wonderful gesture from this land of communal amity," Dr. Sanjay said.

The desks and benches used at the madrasa attached to the mosque were put together to make post-mortem tables. The area set apart for 'wudu' or ablutions was used for bathing the bodies. A set of volunteers were engaged in cleaning and bathing the bodies, giving due respect to the victim's faith.

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.
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T. No. - 0657 - 2371593, Fax No. - 0657 - 2371367 Email : ese_jsrcircle@gmail.com

e-Tender Notice

online e-tender Notice is invited from reputed agencies/Contractor having past experience of Underground cabling, Overhead Line, providing /handling of 33 KV/ 11 KV/ LT line,distribution transformer maintenance and 33 /11 KV Power Sub Station maintenance and providing technical resources in the electricity distribution system and financially sound for the works mentioned below

| NIT No. | Name of Work | Estimated labour cost(in Rs) | EMD Cost (in Rs) | BOQ Cost (in RS) | Completion of Work (in days) |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 70/PR/JBVN L/2019-20 | A new HT line(11 KV dedicated feeder) from 33 KV P/S/S Adityapur-2 to intake well of PHED beside swarnrekha river at SapdaMajua, Domuhani Upstream, near Uttamdhunder deposit head under Electric supply Sub division, Adityapur-2 under deposit head for FY 2018-19. | 28362558/- | 700000/- | 12000/- | 90 days |

Note: - ROW (Right Of Way) issues must be cleared in all aspects by the agencies/Contractor itself before commencement of work with no extra cost.

IMPORTANT SCHEDULE OF DATES

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 Availability of tender document on website | :- From 14.08.19 to 05.09.19 upto 15.00 Hrs. |
| 2 Last date and time for submitting e-tender | :- 05.09.19 upto 15.00 Hrs. |
| 3 Last date and time of submission of original DD towards Cost of BOQ & EMD etc. | :- 05.09.19 upto 17:00 Hrs. |
| 4 Date and time of opening of tender (Techno-Commercial Cover) i.e Cover-I | :- 06.09.19 at 15:00 Hrs. |
| 5 Pre-Bid Meeting | :- 21.08.19 at 11:10 AM |
| 6 Opening of Drop Box containing bidder's NIT's Cost of BOQ & EMD etc. at ESC, Jamshedpur | :- 05.09.19 at 17:10 Hrs. |

Note:-

- a) Due date as stated above may be extended at the discretion of the Nigam and in event of any such extension the extended date will be applicable.
- b) In case of the above date is declared holiday by nigam/ local administration the stipulated date will automatically get extended to next working days.

For any clarification please contact: 94311359-02 / 03.

- 1 Guidelines for online submission of bids can be downloaded from the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.
- 2 Interested bidders can download the bid from the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. The tenders will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
- 3 E-Tender document and BOQ including terms & condition, specification etc. can be downloaded and submitted online on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours. NIC Help line no - 01204200462 , for any clarification regarding NIT publication Contact -06512400011.
- 4 Demand Draft from any nationalized bank of India towards cost of BOQ and earnest money will be in favour of Accounts Officer, Electric Supply Circle, Jamshedpur.

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PR 214358 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)19-20#D

Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Daltonganj.e-Procurement Notice 2nd Call (अन्तर्कालीन)

Short e-Tender Reference no.- RCD/Daltonganj/1080 Dated :- 13.08.2019

| | |
|--|--|
| 1 Name of Work | IRQP Work for Chhamuan to Barwa Chowk via Bus Stand for the year 2019-20 |
| 2 Estimated Cost (Rs) | Rs. - 1,19,17,062.00 (One Crore Nineteen Lacs Seventeen Thousand Sixty Two Rupees) Only |
| 3 Bid Security | Rs. - 2,39,000.00(Two Lac Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred) Only |
| 4 Time of Completion | 03 Month |
| 5 Date of Publication of Tender on website | 21.08.2019 from 10.30 A.M. |
| 6 Last date / Time for receipt of bids | 03.09.2019 upto 12.00 Noon |
| 7 Date & Opening of Place | 05.09.2019 at 12.30 PM. Chief Engineer (Com)/Nodal Officer, e-Procurement Cell, RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No.-2, Dhanbad, Jharkhand-834004 |
| 8 Name & address of office Inviting tender | Executive Engineer, R.C.D., Road Division, Daltonganj |
| 9 Contact no. of e-Procurement officer | 06562 - 225019 |
| 10 Helpline number of e-Procurement cell | 0651 - 2403007 |

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

जल्दी बढ़ावा के लिए आपको यहाँ वापसी की जरूरत है।

Executive Engineer,
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Daltonganj.

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PR)-I
SHAHDARA SOUTH ZONE

E-1/2, Krishna Nagar, Delhi - 110051
Email: eprprshahsouth@gmail.com

No. EE (Pr)-I/Sh.S/2019-20/D-308 Dated 14.08.2019

The Executive Engineer (Pr)-I/Sh. South on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites tender for the works of 1 Imp./Dev of road from H No. H-9, Shiv Murti Gol Chakker to C-1/15, Ghondi Chowk, Krishna Nagar and H No. A-74 to A-22, Balaji Traders, Old Anarkali, AC-60 Shahdara South Zone. 2 Improvement/Development of lanes near H No. 10/1, 10/39, 10/165, 10/111 and 10/135 in 10 Block Geeth Colony by pdg. CC Pavement in W. No. 21-E, Krishna Nagar AC-60 Shah(S) Zone. 3 Imp./Dev of road from H No. 663D, Pandit Park to H No. B-8/ 1 Lal Qtrs road and links in B Block Krishna Nagar by pdg. RMC AC-60 Shahdara South Zone 4 Imp./Dev of road from H No. 446/2 to Dhalao near Jain Dhaba, Krishna Nagar, AC-60 Shahdara South Zone. 5 Imp. Dev. Of Gali No. 5 from Property No. 1466 to Property No. H-458/4 upto Gali No. 6 and Gali No. 8 near Shambunath Compound, Friends Colony in AC-62 Shahdara South Zone

As per details given in NIT No. EE(Pr)-I/Sh.S/TC/2019-20 dated 14.08.19. Further details can be seen on website <http://engineering.mcdetenders.com>.

Sd/-
R.O. No. 31/DPI/East/2019-20

EE (Pr)-Shah. South

EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is here by informed that one girl

Namely: Sayma, D/o Mr. Safi Mohammad, R/o H.

No. I-30, Elka Public School, Khadda Colony,

Jaitpur, Delhi Age: 16 years, Height: 157CM,

Complex

IN BRIEF



Hardik tries to meet Sanjiv Bhatt, detained

AHMEDABAD
Congress leader Hardik Patel and two legislators, along with their supporters, were detained by the Gujarat police when they were on their way to Palanpur jail to meet sacked IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt. Others detained were Mahesh Patel and Kirit Patel.

Man killed by tiger at Corbett reserve

DEHRADUN
A daily wager patrolling with a team of forest guards in the Corbett Tiger Reserve was mauled to death by a tiger, an official said on Wednesday. The big cat pounced on Bishan Ram (55) and dragged him away. His half-eaten body was later recovered from the interiors of the forest. PTI

CVC seeks models to curb loan diversion

NEW DELHI
The Central Vigilance Commission has recommended uniform models for financing farmers growing sugar cane and other crops, to prevent fraudulent diversion of bank loan funds. "As these farm loans are at concessional rates, no action is taken against the sugar companies," it said.

Policemen suspended on molestation charges

RAIPUR
Three policemen have been suspended after a video showing them molesting a minor boy at a railway station here in Chhattisgarh went viral on social media, an official said on Wednesday. The incident apparently took place on August 9.

Act fast on reverse tendering, says Jagan

VIJAYAWADA
A day after the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) made it clear that reverse tendering would lead to cost escalation, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy stressed the need to hasten decisions to take the process forward.

'Swachh' to look beyond toilets

ODF+ phase will focus on waste management

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Obstacle course: Plastic garbage dumped in a canal at Chepauk in Chennai. ■ M. KARUNAKARAN

In a nascent effort to look beyond toilets and kick off its ODF+ phase – that is, Open Defecation Free Plus – focussing on solid and liquid waste management, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) has included the prevalence of plastic litter and water-logging in villages as indicators of cleanliness in its 2019 rural survey.

For the last five years, ever since the SBA was launched on Gandhi Jayanti in 2014, its main focus has been on eliminating open defecation by constructing toilets and promoting their usage through widespread behaviour change programmes. With the October 2, 2019 deadline looming near, and the original goal almost achieved according to

government data, the mission is moving on to its next phase.

Four main verticals

"ODF+ will have four main verticals – solid waste management divided into biodegradable waste and plastic waste, and liquid waste management divided into grey water, or kitchen waste water, and faecal waste," said Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra

Singh Shekhawat, speaking at the launch of Swachh Surveykhan 2019. "We are working out the specific protocols for the different modules... Right now, there is no mechanism for plastic waste collection or waste disposal in most villages."

A senior official explained that the protocol for plastic waste would call for bans on single use plastic, as well as the collection and sorting of

waste at the Block level. If possible, plastic waste would be sent for recycling, or baled and shredded.

"There are also proposals to use it in cement plants and brick kilns. There is potentially a profitable market available for this waste if handled correctly," said the official. "We don't want to create landfills across rural India in the name of waste management."

Village-based survey

The survey aims to cover 18,000 sample villages – approximately 30 per rural district – and take feedback from over 2.5 crore villagers. In fact, citizen feedback will account for 35% of the ranking of districts.

"Continuity is the basis of behaviour change. This survey is one step to ensure continuity of ODF achievements," said Mr. Shekhawat.

The survey will be conducted from August 14 to September 2.

Chandrayaan-2 moves out of earth's orbit

It is to enter the lunar orbit on Aug. 20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Chandrayaan-2 lunar lander-orbiter was on Wednesday set on course to exit earth's gravity as it began a seven-day journey to the moon in the wee hours, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

The spacecraft, which was launched on July 22, is scheduled to reach the vicinity of the moon on August 20.

Engineers at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru raised the orbit of the spacecraft for the sixth and last time on the earth side. The 20-minute operation was carried out at 2.21 a.m. by firing the space-

craft's engine.

"With this, Chandrayaan-2 entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory," ISRO said in a statement. "Earlier, the spacecraft's orbit was progressively increased five times during July 23 to August 6. All systems on board Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft are normal," the space agency added.

The spacecraft carries lander Vikram and rover Pragyan on it. The mission is the country's first lunar soft-landing attempt and would also be the first-ever arrival on the moon's southern polar region by any country.

Vikram is slated to touch down on the moon on September 7.

Freedom fighter's Tricolour to flutter again

Khadi flag was specially made in 1947 after it was clear that the British were leaving

RAHUL KARMAKAR

GUWAHATI

Nurul Hussain had intended to display his father's most prized possession – a khadi Tricolour of 1947 vintage – to mark India's 75th Independence Day.

But friends and neighbours in Sivasagar district's Demow town, about 380 km east of Guwahati, advised him not to wait that long. He agreed to unfurl the National Flag on Thursday. "They have a point. I am 78 and the only survivor among Mohammed Hussain's five sons," he said.

'Commander Sahib'

Mohammed Hussain spent the later part of his life as a cleric. Locals, however, knew him more as Commander Sahib than a maulvi. "He



Nurul Hussain, centre, and his family with the flag that will be unfurled for the first time since 1947. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

had sown the seeds of revolt against the British. People began to call him Commander Sahib.

The British were so angry with his rebellion that they confiscated 47 'bighas' of land he owned,"

Mr. Hussain told *The Hindu* from Demow.

After Commander Sahib died in 1971, his youngest son took over the responsibility of preserving what his father referred to as his trea-

sure box.

"The box contains much more than the spotless khadi flag. There are records pertaining to his joining the freedom movement under Mahatma Gandhi, his joining the Indian National Congress and assorted items associated with many a great leader," said Mr. Hussain, who was the founder-teacher of the Demow Town High School in 1970.

The flag was specially made in 1947 after it became clear that the British were leaving India. The records, Mr. Hussain said, trace the history of the movement in eastern Assam from 1938 to 1947, including the Quit India movement. Many among the town's 30,000 people will turn up at the courtyard of the Hussain house for the unfurling of the flag at 7 a.m.

Knee implant cost to stay below 10%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A day after the Central government noted that the ceiling price of orthopaedic knee implants will be monitored to ensure that the cost does not increase beyond 10% in a given year, the medical device industry has said that it expected more from the government.

Medical Technology Association of India's (MTA) chairman and director-general Mr. Pavan Choudary said, "We were seeking a 20% increase in the selling price of knee implants to make up for two years of price control combined with continuing pressures of rupee devaluation and inflation."

'Partial relief'

"Having said that, it is reassuring that the government has begun to acknowledge the financial pressures on medical device companies and has decided to provide partial relief by letting companies increase the price by 10% in the next one year, as per paragraph 20 of DPCO (Drugs Prices Control Order), 2013. As we move ahead, we will continue to engage with the government for a long-term solution," he added.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPRA) notified the ceiling price of orthopaedic knee implants on August 16, 2017 by invoking extraordinary powers, in public interest, under paragraph 19 of the DPCO, 2013 for a period of one year.

Subsequently, the applicability of ceiling prices fixed for orthopaedic knee implants was extended for another year, up to August 15, 2019.

Accordingly, the cost of knee implants was reduced significantly, by up to 69%, resulting in a notional saving of ₹1,500 crore per annum to consumers.

Temple in Odisha worships the Father of the Nation

An idol of Mahatma Gandhi within the complex of a Jagannath temple in Berhampur hogs attention

STAFF REPORTER

BERHAMPUR

An idol of Mahatma Gandhi is being worshipped within the complex of a Jagannath temple in Odisha's Berhampur for the past six decades.

The worship of the Father of the Nation continues in this temple since its establishment at Gosainuagaon in Berhampur in 1960. Like other deities, Bapu also has a separate small temple for

him called Bhagavat Gadi. In it the Mahatma's idol is worshipped along with the *Odia Bhagavat*, written by poet-saint Jagannath Das, and pictures of Lord Rama and Shiva.

Like all Hindu deities, the idol of Gandhiji is worshipped every day as per traditional rituals. According to Panchanan Choudhury, the managing trustee, while the temple complex was being

built, senior citizens of Gosainuagaon had decided to worship Gandhiji's idol in it. At that time, the Mahatma was seen as someone who had ushered in the new age of independence.

Stalin: pass anti-NEET bills again

STAFF REPORTER

CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin urged Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami to call a special session of the Assembly to pass two anti-NEET bills again, and send it for Presidential nod.

He was reacting to the Tamil Nadu government's statement that the State was kept in the dark for two years with regard to the President having withheld his assent to two anti-NEET bills.

He alleged that Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar did not share information that the assent was not given and the bills returned.

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

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RUSA 2.0 Advt. No.01/2019-20, dated 13.08.2019

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Last date of online application is 29th August 2019.

Dated: 13.08.2019 Nodal Officer, RUSA 2.0, OU

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CIN L13100TG1958GOJ001674

Tender No. HQMM/2019-51X0451 340 Dt. 13/08/19

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Symptom as cause

The auto sales slump reflects a pervasive lack of demand

India's automobile industry is experiencing a snowballing crisis of demand that shows no signs of abating, leave alone reversing. Domestic sales across all vehicle categories slid 19% year-on-year in July, as passenger vehicle despatches plunged 31% to register the segment's steepest fall in almost 19 years. And with the wheels having come off both two-wheeler deliveries and commercial vehicle shipments, with the former contracting 17% and the latter slumping 26%, the picture is one of widespread gloom. The straightforward interpretation of the data is that demand has dried up in all corners and among all key consumer segments – urban, semi-urban and rural and personal and institutional. Nine straight months of contraction in passenger vehicle sales has also begun extracting a toll in terms of showroom closures and lay-offs at dealerships, component suppliers and vehicle makers themselves. While the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations recently warned of more jobs being at risk, on top of about two lakh positions that have already been shed, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers admitted that the industry had laid off at least about 15,000 contract workers in the last three months. That the broader economy is experiencing a serious slowdown has been evident for some time now and the latest data from the auto sector only bears testament to it. And as the RBI acknowledged last week "private consumption, the mainstay of aggregate demand" remains sluggish.

While some of the factors currently bedeviling demand in the auto sector are well established – the liquidity crunch in the NBFC industry and the resultant tightening of credit availability to finance vehicle purchases, an increase in up front insurance costs and the 28% GST charged on cars, motorcycles and scooters – the fact that manufacturers overestimated demand when setting up capacity, especially of fossil-fuel powered vehicles, has largely been overlooked. For example, Maruti Suzuki, India's largest car maker, has announced plans to stop selling diesel cars from April 1 as demand has slumped. In 2012, the company decided to invest ₹1,700 crore in a new diesel engine plant in Gurugram, capacity that it now needs to repurpose or idle. Simultaneously, the ride-share industry has mushroomed in recent years, especially in urban areas where choked roads and lack of parking space have incentivised rapid adoption of app-based commuting. The outlook too, especially for the near term, looks far from hopeful. The RBI's July round of its Consumer Confidence Survey, which reflected a decline in consumer confidence in July, shows 63.8% of respondents expect discretionary spending will stay the same or shrink one year ahead. In June 2018, the comparable reading was 37.3%. The onus now lies on the government to urgently formulate policy interventions to address this sectoral crisis or risk wider contagion.

Unethical actions

The mass defection of MLAs makes a mockery of democracy in Sikkim

The switching of sides by 10 MLAs from the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) to the Bharatiya Janata Party in Sikkim on Tuesday and later two others from the SDF to the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) brings a sense of déjà vu. The en masse shifts are reminiscent of what happened in Arunachal Pradesh in 2016, when rebel Congress MLAs joined the People's Party of Arunachal in order to get over the legal hurdles to defection. These actions have reduced the SDF, which ruled the State for 25 years with Pawan Kumar Chamling as the Chief Minister with the longest tenure in India, to just one MLA – Mr. Chamling himself. Such a shift might well have helped the former SDF legislators stay clear of the anti-defection law, which stipulates that a breakaway group must constitute at least two-thirds of the legislative party's strength and that it must merge with another party. But this was an unethical manoeuvre, as the elections to the Sikkim legislative Assembly were held barely three months ago and the BJP had come a cropper without winning a single seat and just 1.6% of the overall vote. The BJP has shown no qualms – as seen elsewhere in Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh among others – about poaching legislators instead of winning over support organically through a democratic mandate. The Sikkim defections have added yet another chapter to the hollowing out of the anti-defection law. The SDF, which finished with 15 seats (two since vacated), was a National Democratic Alliance member, but has now been replaced by the 18-member SKM in the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance.

The SKM might have secured a clearer majority with the defection of two SDF MLAs to its fold, but a cloud of uncertainty hangs over its party leader and Chief Minister P.S. Golay alias Prem Singh Tamang. Mr. Golay was convicted in 2016 in a case of corruption and had served a sentence in prison for a year till August 2018. The People's Representation Act, 1951, mandates that a person convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act cannot contest an election for six years after release. The fact that he is serving as the Chief Minister (he did not contest the Assembly polls) despite the conviction goes directly against a Supreme Court order in a similar case dealing with the eligibility of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in 2001. The court had then said that the "appointment of a person to the office of Chief Minister who is not qualified to hold it should be struck down at the earliest". In line with the drastic change in the party composition in the Assembly due to the defections, the continuance of Mr. Golay as chief minister makes a mockery of democratic and legal principles. Something is rotten in the State of Sikkim.

Assam's humanitarian conundrum

Neither Delhi nor Dispur has been working on a proper plan for those who will soon be declared stateless



UDAYAN MISRA

With the final date for publication of the National Register of Citizens drawing near, the dividing lines are becoming sharper. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been expressing doubts about an "error-free" (read Bangladeshi free) NRC, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and minority organisations such as the All Assam Minority Students' Union, the Assam State Jamia Ulama and the All India United Democratic Front have welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to observe the August 31 deadline.

The two sides

The stand by the leading minority organisations points to their viewing the NRC as an instrument to remove the "Bangladeshi tag" from lakhs of Bengali Muslims. For the AASU and other ethnic organisations, the final register will be a closure of sorts to a long struggle against foreign influx and demographic change. Therefore, given their support extended to the NRC process, apprehensions of wide-scale social unrest on the final day could be incorrect.

However, what is worrying in the long run is that neither political parties and student organisations nor civil society groups seem seriously engaged with the major humanitarian crisis that is about to unfold as large numbers of people would be declared foreign nationals by the Foreigners Tribunals

(FTs) following their exclusion from the NRC.

Although there have been vague assurances from the Central and State governments that the question of immediate detention and scrapping of rights does not arise with avenues of appeal being open to them, it is disturbing that neither Delhi nor Dispur has been working on any well-thought out humanitarian plan for those who will soon be declared as stateless people. This becomes grave especially when there is awareness of there being errors in an exercise of such a scale.

Status before tribunals

On the contrary, statements from some BJP leaders that the country would be finally rid of the "termites" and that every single illegal infiltrator would be thrown out have only added to the overall panic and confusion. The resolution of the cases of these undocumented stateless people passing through the FTs, then the High Court and finally the Supreme Court would, naturally, take years, even if the final number of those left out runs into a few lakhs after all claims and objections are met.

Assam has 100 FTs, of which 70 may be said to be functional. The State has pledged to create 200 more FTs by September, but there is uncertainty over their being functional soon after. The Central government has approved 400 out of the 1,000 FTs the State government has asked for. The State government is not in a position to further increase the number of FTs because of infrastructural and administrative issues. Thus the process of deciding on the citizenship status of those left out of the NRC would be cumbersome, long, and involve suffering.



Finally, there would be lakhs of poor people without the means to seek judicial redress. For them, the decision of the FTs would be final and they would be sent to detention centres. Then, there are those who have already been declared ex-parte as foreigners but tagged as "untraced foreigners". Clearly, the government has no mechanism in place to keep track of them; a State government affidavit in the Supreme Court cites a figure of some 70,000 people. Assam's Parliamentary Affairs Minister recently said that FTs had identified as many as 1,17,164 persons till March 31. There is also the issue of 'Doubtful' or 'D' voters (some 1.2 lakh people) who would be left out of the NRC till the courts resolve their cases.

Legal issues

In addition to this is the yet unresolved issue of the children of those deemed non-citizens. Recently, there was a government notification on the basis of a Supreme Court order (based on Sections 3(l)(b) and (c) of the Citizenship Act of 1955) that births up to December 3, 2004 would be eligible for citizenship if either parent was an Indian citizen. However, in the case of those born after December 3, 2004, the Supreme Court, on Tuesday, while categorically ruling out reopening

verification of the NRC, held that children born after December 3, 2004 would not be eligible for inclusion in the NRC if either parent is a DV (Doubtful Voter), DF (Declared Foreigner) or PFT (persons with cases pending at the FTs). This would virtually leave out those born within the last 15 years to those parents, either one of whose citizenship is in doubt.

Legal issues apart, it is absolutely critical that the government, in due consultation with political parties and civil society groups, draws up a viable plan to deal with those who would be declared stateless. The State government has limited its exercise to the setting up of more detention centres to house all those declared as foreigners by the FTs. The plight of detainees – some are to be released on certain conditions – has been made worse as they are not covered by the jail manuals which are supposed to ensure the minimum standard of dignified living. A full-fledged detention centre with a capacity to hold 3,000 detainees is under construction at Matia in Goalpara at a cost of approximately ₹45 crore; the State government has already sent a proposal to the Central government to build 10 more such centres.

What would be the infrastructural costs involved in holding these prisoners with basic dignity in place? How long would these detentions last especially when the question of deportation to the country of origin does not arise? What would be the fate of these people after they are released on completion of the specified period?

Apart from losing their voting rights, would they also be shorn of their rights to land and property?

And will they be denied access to government welfare measures such as health and education both for themselves and their children? How would the state deal with those declared stateless but who already hold some cultivable land? There have been suggestions to declare those declared stateless not to be allowed to acquire landed property.

Potential crisis

The idea of holding lakhs of people in detention centres is bound to be a self-defeating and disastrous one which would go against all fundamental humanitarian principles and international covenants involved in the treatment of migrants, even if they happen to be illegal ones. The State cannot absolve itself of its responsibility by declaring someone a foreigner, placing him or her in a detention camp for a certain period to begin with and, after that, just allow him or her to continue to live on with some restrictions and without most of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

There is a lot of speculation that after all the claims and objections are finally met, the final number of the excluded might touch 15 lakh people, which would include the four lakh out of the initial 40 lakh people excluded who did not file any claims. In addition to this figure would be the one lakh people left out in a recent revision as well as 'D' voters. However, this is just an estimate. It is obvious that the State of Assam would be faced with a humanitarian challenge of massive proportions, one for which it seems least prepared.

Udayan Misra is a former National Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

A playing field for political violence

History offers a narrative on why it is so entrenched in Bengal, irrespective of political affiliations



SUVOJIT BAGCHI

Why Bengal witnesses large-scale political violence is a question that is often asked. The answer is complex and multi-layered. The people in Bengal, mainly the poor, developed a sense of entitlement, largely as a result of the Left's long rule. Many argue that such entitlement is what shaped people to express their opinion vociferously.

For example, Amala Naiya, 65, a domestic worker in a south Kolkata neighbourhood, said that she felt "hugely empowered" after the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) came to power. She said, "They told us to report to [the] party office on [an] employer's [act of] misconduct. It was a relief." This "relief" that the working class experienced taught people to dissent; this is perhaps why Bengal witnessed protests recently when a doctor was manhandled in comparison to the silence that has greeted the killing of tribals in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh.

Bengal's protests, which have often been violent, go back in its history, where as tribals to Nawabs, peasants, ascetics, fakirs (musician mendicants) to underground revolutionaries often chal-

lenged the British in what was its largest Presidency. When the Congress was dislodged in 1967 and 1977, the State witnessed intense violence. The quelling of the Naxalbari uprising witnessed unprecedented State repression, while an unknown number of citizens were killed when the Left was dislodged by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in 2011. Thus, the thread of violence compounded by British policies ended up damaging the economy.

Economy and violence

Undivided Bengal – the Bengal Subah – flourished under the Nawabs as Hooghly and Murshidabad attracted investors from overseas centuries ago. Problems began under British rule as a result of multiple factors. British revenue collection was "higher" in the year of the famine (1769-73) than in previous years, if one is to go by Prasannan Parthasarathy's book, *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not*. In addition, anti-peasant regulations and Winston Churchill's policy to block food import in the 1940s triggered another famine, crippling the economy even further. Partition sounded the death knell. After Independence, big capital did not engage in the region like it had done in west India to pull the State out of its crisis. This is partly owing to the State's reduced size and population growth due to in-migration. Till 2001, the Census recorded the State as having had the highest



population density among the big States. This increased pressure on land accentuated by small holdings making it difficult for industry to acquire land. In addition, the post-Independence policies of the Congress government debilitated the economy. Thus growth of capital, other than in trading was stunted, resulting in people's extreme dependence on political parties and their local 'satraps'.

As Amitava Gupta, a columnist, has argued in a recent article, "The biggest industry in West Bengal is politics and [the] biggest employer is [the] Trinamool Congress." Such dependence turned realpolitik violent as people are often required to defend their employer (the political party of the day), in turn boosting polarisation. However, physical violence, a factor to reckon with even today, is deeply political in Bengal rather than being driven by caste violence. Religious communalism has had a different story behind it.

Communal riots were common especially in the areas north of Kolkata from the late 19th century due to a rise in settlements of "up

country men... the Hindi or Urdu speaking migrant workers", as Dipesh Chakravarty says in his paper, *Communal Riots and Labour: Bengal's Jute Mill-Hands in the 1890s*. Communal violence escalated during Partition but ebbed during Left rule; there has been a revival recently. The key explanation of recent episodes of communal violence is not difficult to understand.

A sense of power

Almost always, the depressed castes such as homegrown Dalits or Dalit refugees from Bangladesh, and unemployed youth from other States (who continue to live in extreme poverty) are engaged in violent fights against equally poor Muslims. Till recently these communities were solidly with the TMC. Bhagnu, a retrenched jute mill worker turned rickshaw puller in Kakinara, an area witnessing communal violence, argued succinctly why he shifted allegiance from the TMC to the Bharatiya Janata Party: "What has secularism given me?"

He did not deny that he participated in orchestrating attacks against the minorities and made it clear that protecting Bengal's secular fabric or the Constitution was not his priority given his tough life. While secularism or the Constitution failed him, Hindutva, he admitted, gave him "a sense of power".

"Having a gun," as political philosopher Frantz Fannon observed,

is often "the only chance... of giving a meaning to your death." The story of the rickshaw puller who lives without any social security, underscores why a set of the poor is attacking another set of the poor in the name of political or religious ideology in Bengal.

From Amala Naiya's "relief" during Left rule to Bhagnu's "sense of power" during the Right's rise, Bengal's politics has always had one narrative: empower the poor (rather than the rich) politically and rule. The BJP has realised that poverty, which is real, combined with religion is the ideal formula to have the TMC on the defensive. The West Bengal Chief Minister was expected to imbibe this well, combating the Left with "a pro-peasant narrative... borrowed from the Left". But she could not drive a fresh political narrative against the Right and instead focused more on soft Hindutva. It worked till the 2016 Assembly election, but the script has changed since 2019.

The faster the Chief Minister invents a political narrative that promises to empower people the better her chances of a fightback. But can a party invent a new narrative out of the blue? Whatever happens, the violence will not reduce. But the bottomline is this: whether the TMC gains ground or the BJP, political violence is entrenched in the history of Bengalis – in Bangladesh and in West Bengal.

suvojibagchi@thehindu.co.in

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.

Legislative business

The recent Budget session of Parliament not only transacted a high volume of legislative business but also remained free of noisy disruptions (Editorial, "Deliberate, don't disrupt", August 14). This is a welcome development that should become the norm rather than an exception. However, Parliament's productivity cannot be merely measured by the number of bills passed. Legislative oversight of the political executive must not only be carried out but also seen to be in place through debates, amendments to bills and enlisting the services of committees to scrutinise important bills. Although the presiding officers of the two Houses ensured that the Opposition's voice was heard in the discussions, the general perception seems to be that many bills

sailed through without adequate scrutiny. Therefore, the model code of conduct for legislators proposed by the Vice President, while formalising the rules for parliamentary behaviour should also scaffold the privilege of the executive to propose new bills within a framework of guidelines – like, for example, formulating a legislative calendar. The bottomline is there should be a minimum time between the introduction of bills and their voting so that members can examine the proposals and come up with reasoned responses.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

most productive in this session, the credit should go to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Our representatives should create the perception that they are serious about debating the country's problems by maximum optimisation of parliamentary proceedings.

R. KRISHNAMACHARY,
Chennai

■ Some time ago, "logjam", "deadlock", "disruption" and "boycott" were the usual phrases readers came across when Parliament was in session. If Parliament was

longer periods. So be it.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

Unrest in Hong Kong

With pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong remaining firm in their demands, the city appears to be sitting on a ticking time bomb which could affect its status as a leading financial hub. There is every likelihood of strong and decisive action using force against protesters. China with its rising super power status could be flexible and promise more autonomy to Hong Kong.

M. JEVARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

M. JEVARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Medical education

It was a surprise to read that the ratio of doctors in urban and rural areas is 3.8:1, with less than 27,000 doctors to serve about 650,000 villages (Editorial page, "Writing on a clean Bill on health",

August 14). Some facts. In my batch of 250 medical students only four or so hail from a rural background. After we graduate we want to go back to our hometowns and start practice. So why are there so few students from the rural areas? The answer is the NEET-UG, which favours urban students; 90% of students in medical colleges have attended coaching institutes, which also charge exorbitant fees. It is time the NEET-UG is made more rural student friendly. The government should also provide quality and free preparatory materials to students from a rural background. More quality medical colleges and hospitals are needed in rural India, as a chunk of the population lives here.

SHRIKA G.,
Navi Mumbai

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

Wrong headline: "Six killed in HP landslides" read a headline (some editions, Aug. 13, 2019) while the text was about Utarakhand and not Himachal Pradesh.

A sentence in the story headlined "No harmful chemicals in PET bottles, finds CSIR study" (Aug. 13, 2019) that read "BPA is a synthetic organic compound and used in the manufacture of PET bottles but is now phased out after research found a link between the presence of BPA and the disruption of hormone regulation, as well as breast cancer" is wrong. It should have been polycarbonate and not PET bottles.

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: +91-44-28525963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings,

Envisioning Ladakh's future as UT

Will a greater centralisation of decision-making help the region's already-fragile terrain?



ASHISH KOTHARI

Amidst the babble of voices on the sudden abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)'s special constitutional status, the simultaneous transformation of Ladakh into a Union Territory (UT) has not received much attention. During last week's parliamentary debate on this decision, Ladakh's Member of Parliament Jamyang Tsering Namgyal argued powerfully that Ladakhis had been demanding UT status for the region for many decades. Finally achieving it, he said, will enable the region to achieve its full development potential. But are the prospects for his constituency that clear?

For decades, a substantial part of Ladakh (specifically, Leh district) has felt stifled or alienated by J&K's decision-making apparatus, which was centred in Srinagar. The J&K government has often been insensitive to the region's ecological and cultural uniqueness, whose incredible beauty masks the extreme fragility of its cold desert ecosystems and the highly adaptive traditional livelihoods of its people. These are so unlike the topography of the rest of India that people from other parts of the country cannot even understand them.

Pressure on ecology
This landscape has found it difficult to weather the pressure being put by the infrastructure projects, the presence of armed forces and excessive tourism. Further, these activities, and the inappropriate educational systems foisted on Ladakhis, have disrupted the lifestyles of the region's traditional ethnic groups. The bifurcation of Ladakh, which was once a single district, into Leh and Kargil, clearly on religious grounds, has also been seen by many local people to have driven an unnecessarily divisive wedge between Buddhist and Muslim populations.

Given the above factors, the demand to make Ladakh a UT appears to have been backed by strong reasoning. One can wonder, though, why the demand was not for a sepa-



The Chang La pass in Ladakh in a 2012 photo. ■ GETTY IMAGES

rate State, or at least, for a territory having its own legislature, for there is little evidence to suggest that coming under the direct control of the Central government will signal greater autonomy for the region. The way New Delhi has treated Andaman and Nicobar Islands, largely ignoring its ecological fragility and the sensitivities of its indigenous peoples, does not inspire much confidence. Moreover, the aggressive Hindu nationalist agenda of the current Central regime could only pose more challenges to Ladakh.

Being home to enormous mineral reserves and tourism sites, Ladakh could easily find itself getting exploited by commercial interests even more once its economy is opened. This would only put greater pressure on its already fragile ecosystem, and consequently impact the mores of its pastoral and agricultural communities that are dependent on it. The region has already been facing environmental issues due to landslides, soil erosion, accumulation of solid waste, disturbances to its wildlife population and diversion of commons for development projects.

More infrastructure projects
However, the J&K government's financial and administrative ability to scale such activities up was extremely limited. The Central government, not constrained by such fetters, may

press ahead with more hydropower, mining and road construction programmes, making sensitive areas more vulnerable.

The third danger to the region will possibly come from an increased presence of the armed forces. Given the importance the present government attaches to threats, real and perceived, coming from China and Pakistan, the likelihood of more personnel getting stationed is high.

Thousands of hectares of pasture land have already been occupied by the forces, with disruptive consequences for wildlife and local communities. The Army is yet to give us an accurate figure on how much of the region's land has been diverted for use by its personnel.

Ladakh has had its own Autonomous Hill Development Council for more than two decades. However, during a study trip in March this year, we learned from political functionaries, activists and civil society members that there was, on the ground, no true autonomy. Decisions were mostly made from Srinagar and, to some extent, New Delhi.

This is not to say that had Ladakh been given greater autonomy, it would necessarily have chosen a different path; sections of the region's mainstream do aspire for greater 'development'. But we need to stress here that many sections of Ladakh's society also have a different vision

for its future. This includes civil society groups such as the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh; the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust; the Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation; and the Ladakh Ecological Development Group. These groups have done innovative work on various fronts – including education, ecotourism, and arts. With power receding further away from the region and now firmly resting in New Delhi, their voices are likely to be heard even less.

Need for a sensitive plan

A Ladakh 2025 Vision document, formulated in 2005 after substantial consultation, was shelved both because the Hill Council did not push it, and because Srinagar and New Delhi were not interested. The plan contained several innovative proposals to address the needs and aspirations of Ladakh's population, including by providing sustainable livelihoods for its rural people and youth. How will the state of affairs in Ladakh change now with its new constitutional status? Without its own legislature, the region will have only limited power; further, it is not clear if its Hill Council will continue. A lot will depend on what vision New Delhi and Leh can jointly come up with.

In March, when we met Mr. Namgyal, who was then heading the Hill Council, we found him sensitive to the ecological and cultural issues the region faces. He had just brought out a draft for a mission on ecological farming and sounded receptive towards an alternative vision I proposed through a presentation.

Will he and others around him, through whom New Delhi's decisions will be channelled, be willing and able to mould the proposals to suit the region's requirements? Will they revive the Vision 2025 document, updating it if necessary? Will Ladakh's farmers, pastoralists, women and youth get a more meaningful voice in the new dispensation than they have had so far within the Hill Council status, or will they be marginalised even further? And even if they do get a voice, will they opt for a sustainable, culturally rooted future? For the sake of one of the world's most remarkable bio-cultural landscapes, let us hope so.

Ashish Kothari is with Kalpvriksh, Pune

A reality check on India's renewable energy capacity

It has not been able to make full use of reduction in costs



SHOUVIK CHAKRABORTY

Addressing the plenary session of the World Environment Day celebrations on June 5, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated, "We are engaged in a massive push towards renewable energy generation. We have targeted [the] generation of 175 GW of solar and wind energy by 2022. We are already the fifth-largest producer of solar energy in the world. Not only this, we are also the sixth largest producer of renewable energy." Along with Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, Mr. Modi also won the Champions of the Earth Award last year.

True, the expansion of renewable energy capacity in India is a step in the right direction. There are benefits not only from an environmental perspective but also in terms of generating more employment opportunities. However, the question is whether the government has put forth enough efforts to take advantage of the extremely favourable cost conditions on renewable energy, especially solar photovoltaics and onshore winds. The costs of electricity generation from these sources have declined at a rapid pace over the years and generating power from these renewables now costs more or less the same as fossil fuels.

Taking advantage of these lower costs, other developing economies like China and Brazil have performed much better than India in renewable energy generation. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency, these countries currently rank the first and third respectively in terms of production of renewable energy.

China way ahead
China is way ahead of India in its expansion. Over the 2014-17 period, China's addition to its renewable energy capacity (207.2 GW) was nearly six times India's (33.2 GW). Over the same period, China increased its installed capacity in solar energy by 105.5 GW, while India increased its capacity by only 14.3 GW – a mere one-seventh of the former. Advanced economies like the U.S. and Japan installed almost twice the amount of solar capacity over this period compared to India.

Despite the reduction in costs due to global technological advancement in the field of renewable energy, India has been unable to reap these benefits to their full extent. Furth-

er, the recent imposition of safeguard duty on imported solar photovoltaic cells, and the ongoing depreciation of the Indian rupee vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar, have only lessened some of these cost advantages. If the government is concerned enough about the deteriorating environment, there is an immediate need to spend more on the research and development of these renewable energy sources.

One of the primary objectives for advocating the use of renewable energy sources is to limit, and finally eliminate, the use of fossil fuels, especially coal. But, according to Reuters, India's annual coal demand rose by 9.1% to nearly one billion tonnes during the year ending March 2019. Coal features among the top five imports of India, with total imports rising from 166.9 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 235.24 million tonnes in 2018-19.

More coal, more pollution

Coal is the dirtiest fuel – the carbon emissions from coal are almost double the emissions from natural gas, and also much higher than those from petroleum. A study by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, shows that Indian coal-fired thermal power plants are considered the most inefficient and polluting in the world. More than 75% of these plants don't comply with governmental regulations. With the passage of the Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, the expansion of domestic coal usage for power-generation has only worsened the existing problems of pollution.

A report published by the Centre for Financial Accountability in June 2018 showed that out of a total lending of ₹83,680 crore for 72 energy projects, 12 coal-fired power plants with a combined capacity of 17 GW obtained loans of ₹60,767 crore. The 60 renewable energy projects, with a combined capacity of 4.5 GW, were able to mobilise only ₹22,913 crore. The report also added that eight out of the top 10 lenders to these coal-fired power plants were public sector banks. Most of these coal-fired plants have been around for sometime, while the renewable plants are predominantly new and need more financial assistance. This apparent favouring of coal-fired plants is highly problematic; if the use of coal continues to expand, then even with an expansion of renewable energy sources, the increasing emission levels cannot be controlled.

Shouvik Chakraborty is a Research Assistant Professor at the Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The story of India's integration

The coming together of a fifth of all mankind into a single nation is one of the great events in history

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

India barely found the inclination to celebrate its independence from Britain on August 15, 1947. Communal riots and a massive influx of refugees following Partition threatened to fragment the fledgling country. Broke and traumatised, it had nothing like the Marshall Plan to cope with the challenges it faced, despite significantly contributing to the Allied victory in the Second World War.

It was in such bleak conditions that India took up the task of convincing the heads of hundreds of princely states to accede to it. That it succeeded in doing so in less than two years after Independence was no miracle. The 'integration project' was the personal achievement of two remarkable men – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister and Deputy-Prime Minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet; and his efficient confidant V.P. Menon.

Together, they persuaded the rulers of one princely state after another – nearly 600 in all – to sign the Instruments of Accession to the Indian state. It helped that India, as the successor state to British India, maintained a tenacious control over the princely states to, as Menon explained, "protect their territories against external aggression and to preserve peace and order throughout the country."

Largely peaceful
India's integration, historian Ian Copland observed "represented a major watershed. It swelled the area of the new Indian state by over half a million square miles and its population by nearly 90 million people, redrew the political map of the subcontinent and overthrew an entire governing order." The process was largely peaceful with a few exceptions, the most prominent being Jammu and Kashmir and Hyderabad.

In his book, *The Story of the Integration of the Indian States*, Menon urged us not think of the project "only in terms of the consolidation of the country," but also "pause to consider the toils and anxieties that had to be



INTEGRATION OF INDIAN STATES



DATA POINT

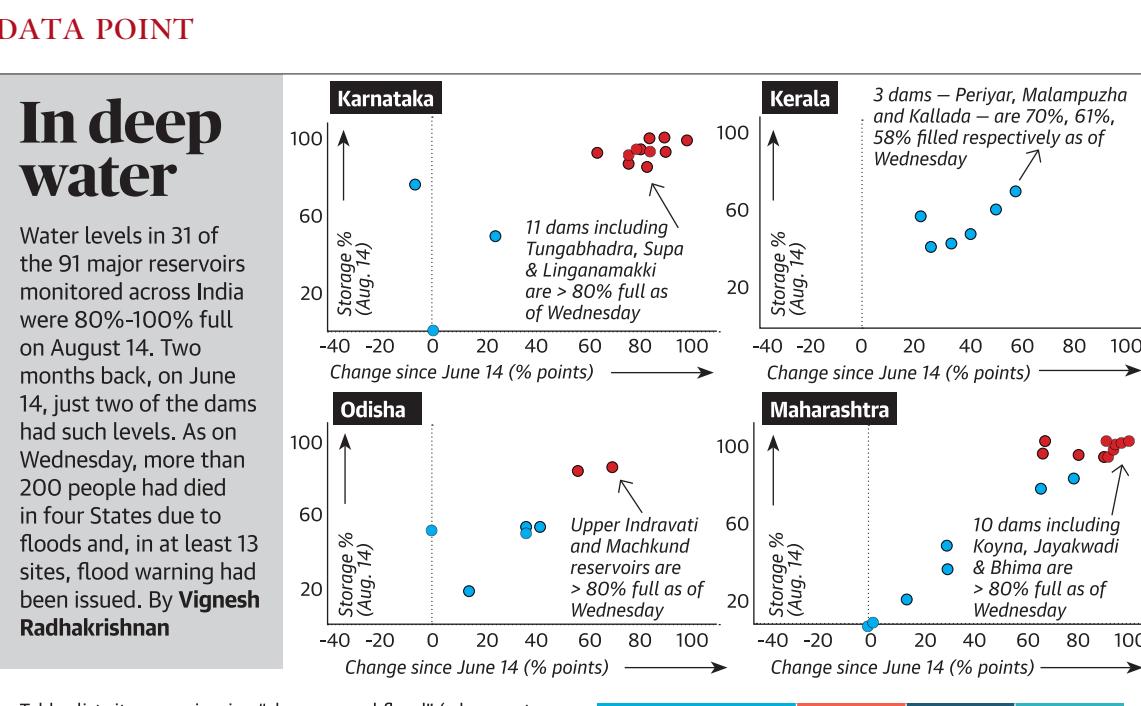
In deep water

Water levels in 31 of the 91 major reservoirs monitored across India were 80%-100% full on August 14. Two months back, on June 14, just two of the dams had such levels. As on Wednesday, more than 200 people had died in four States due to floods and, in at least 13 sites, flood warning had been issued. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Tables list sites experiencing "above normal flood" (where water level has exceeded the warning mark (WM) but is less than the danger mark) or "severe flood" (where water level has exceeded danger mark (DM)) as on Wednesday at 4 p.m. Figures in metres

| Severe flood | DM | Actual | Trend |
|------------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Kachhlabridge, U.P. | 162 | 162.11 | Steady |
| Neamatighat, Assam | 85.04 | 85.23 | Steady |
| Baltara, Bihar | 33.85 | 34.49 | Steady |
| Runisaipur, Bihar | 53.73 | 53.75 | Steady |
| Kurundwad, Maharashtra | 535.5 | 538.95 | Falling |

Source: Central Water Commission



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1969

Insulin's structure discovered

British Nobel prize winning scientist Dorothy Hodgkin yesterday [August 13] announced the discovery of the crystalline structure of insulin, the life saving drug used by diabetics. Dr. Hodgkin made her announcement at a Press conference held on the first day of a 10-day meeting of the Eighth International Congress of Crystallography at the State University of New York here [Stony Brook]. Scientists at the meeting believe the discovery could lead to an understanding and elimination of the side effects of insulin. It also could make possible the development of insulin by a synthetic process instead of the present costly production of the drug from natural elements. Since two Canadian scientists, Dr. Frederick Banting and Dr. Charles H. Best, isolated insulin in 1921 a search has been in progress to discover how the substance works in the body. Biologists have a virtual blueprint for this search now that Dr. Hodgkin has discovered insulin's crystalline structure", Dr. Edwin Templeton, of the University of California at Berkeley said. Dr. Hodgkin said work on the discovery was carried out at research laboratories at Oxford University.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1919

Some Difficulties in Social Work.

The Hon. Mr. S. Sreenivasa Iyengar delivered a lecture yesterday evening [August 14 in Madras] at the Y. M. C. A., on "Some difficulties in social work". The Hon. Dewan Bahadur Justice T. Sadasiva Iyer took the chair. In the course of his address [Mr. Sreenivasa Iyengar] said that the caste system was no longer what it was. It was yet to some extent effective in the villages and in the more orthodox circles. It could not be at any rate said that the vast majority of the people still adhered to the caste system and enforced all the old terror of boycott and excommunication. In the place of the old social structure a new one with fresh ideals and a new programme of work should be built. The discovery of social formulae was yet incomplete. Attempts made in various directions had been unsuccessful. Till they discovered new formulae there would be discontent and restlessness. The second difficulty was the conventional work in social service. The feeling between the Brahmana and the Non-Brahmana showed that all did not end with interdining. The next difficulty was the profound disharmony amongst the educated classes. Those disharmonies were bound to produce a bitter cleavage in the Hindu society.

FROM PAGE ONE

Let's give development a chance, says PM

"I have assured people that elections in Jammu and Kashmir will continue and it is the people of these regions only who will represent the larger public. Yes, those who ruled Kashmir thinking it is their divine right to do so will dislike democratisation and peddle incorrect narratives. They do not want a self-made,

younger leadership to emerge.

"These are the same people whose own conduct in the 1987 elections has been suspect.

"Article 370 has helped the local political class avoid transparency and accountability. Its removal will only empower democracy even more," he said.

Court acquits six in Pehlu Khan lynching case

While giving the benefit of the doubt to the accused, the court noted "contradictions" in the investigation carried out by the police and the prosecution's evidence.

The court ruled that the video footage of the incident that went viral on the social media could not be treated as admissible evidence in the absence of its certification by the forensic science laboratory.

Besides, Khan's sons reportedly could not identify the accused and the prosecution could not prove that they were the ones visible in the video.

Those let off by the court

Changes to J&K will bring benefits: Kovind

In his address to the nation on the eve of the 73rd Independence Day – the first since the Centre took away J&K's special status by annulling Article 370 – President Kovind said the generation that fought for India's freedom did not view Independence as "mere transfer of power but as a stepping stone in a longer and larger process of nation building."

"In this backdrop, I am confident that the recent changes made in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh would be of immense benefit to those regions. They will enable the people to access and enjoy the same rights, same privileges and same facilities as their fellow citizens in the rest of the country," he said.

"These include progressive, egalitarian laws and provisions related to the Right to Education; accessing public information through the Right to Information; reservations in education and employment and other facilities for traditionally deprived communities; and justice for our daughters by abolishing unequal practices such as instant triple talaq," the President added.

In an address where the President talked about the relationship between the state, its citizens and the government, he said, "India's history and destiny, India's legacy and future, are a function of coexistence and conciliation, of reform and reconciliation – of expanding our hearts and embracing

Vir Chakra for Wing Cdr. Abhinandan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force personnel who were part of the February 26 Balakot air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terror training camp in Pakistan and the air engagement a day after have been awarded gallantry medals on the eve of Independence Day.

Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was caught by Pakistan after his MiG-21 Bison fighter jet went down across the Line of Control (LoC) on February 27 and was returned three days later, has been awarded Vir Chakra, the country's third-highest gallantry award. During a dogfight, he shot down a Pakistani F-16 but his jet was shot down soon after. He was

handed over by Pakistan at the Wagah-Attari border crossing on March 1.

"President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, has approved 132 awards to armed forces personnel and members of paramilitary forces," the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

These include two Kirti Chakras, one Vir Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras, 98 Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and five Yudh Seva Medals. Kirti Chakra was posthumously awarded to Sapper Prakash Jadhav. The Army also got eight Shaurya Chakras, 98 Sena Medals (Gallantry) and four Mention-in-Dispatches.

At this point, the Bench intervened to point out that Tiefenthaler seemed to have two varied accounts of the demolition of a temple in the area – one, that it was

under no compulsion to lie.

Mr. Vaidyanathan pointed out that travelogues of foreigners like the missionary Joseph Tiefenthaler, and others like William Finch and Montgomery Martin about the history of Ram and ruins of a temple in Ayodhya could be accepted as credible as the foreigners were under no compulsion to lie.

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Leaders to stay under detention on I-Day

Former Chief Ministers and local MPs are unlikely to attend the celebrations in Srinagar

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Former Chief Ministers and the local MPs are unlikely to attend the first-ever Independence Day celebrations in J&K after its special status was revoked on August 5, as the current dispensation has put in place stringent security measures for celebrations in all districts.

Asked if the regional party leaders, including incarcerated National Conference president and Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah and two former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, would be allowed to attend the function in Srinagar, J&K government spokesman Rohit Kansal avoided a direct answer.

Careful analysis

"Any decision on this is taken only after careful analysis. The local assessment [of



Covering all flanks: BSF men patrolling the Chenab on Independence Day eve at Akhnoor. • PTI

law and order] is also incorporated," Mr. Kansal said.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Khan has prepared the list of invitees, which, sources said, includes the regional leaders and three local MPs of the NC.

However, the police are unlikely to release any mainstream leader on the occasion.

The NC's two other MPs, Hasnain Masoodi and Akbar Lone, are avoiding travel to J&K since the revocation of the special status.

"Only those invitees whose list is prepared by the Divisional Commissioner will be allowed to attend the I-Day celebrations," Additional Director-General of Police Syed Mujtaba Javaid Gillani said.

Nearly 250 regional lead-

ers have either been detained or put under house arrest.

The main function will be held at the Sher-i-Kashmir Park here where Governor Satya Pal Malik will hoist the tricolour. The government plans to hold such functions at all district and sub district levels.

Additional deployments and drone surveys of the venue had been completed to ward off any militant attack. "All preparations are complete," Mr. Kansal said.

Situation improving'

The authorities said the overall situation in Kashmir had remained calm "due to which the government has further relaxed the prohibitory orders".

Mr. Gillani said only two persons were injured during street protests and were admitted to the hospitals here.

Lift all gags on freedom of speech in Valley: activists

'People of J&K must be allowed to express their protest'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A group of activists who visited the Kashmir Valley have demanded that all means of communication – landline telephones, mobile phones and Internet – be restored with immediate effect.

The group comprising economist Jean Dreze, Kavita Krishnan of the CPI(ML), Maimoona Mollah of the All India Democratic Women's Association and Vimal Bhai of the National Alliance of People's Movements toured the Valley from August 9 to 13.

Additional deployments and drone surveys of the venue had been completed to ward off any militant attack. "All preparations are complete," Mr. Kansal said.

Situation improving'

The authorities said the overall situation in Kashmir had remained calm "due to which the government has further relaxed the prohibitory orders".

Mr. Gillani said only two persons were injured during street protests and were admitted to the hospitals here.



Jean Dreze
down and because they had run out of newsprint that came from Delhi.

"We demand that the gags on the freedom of speech, expression and protest be lifted from J&K with immediate effect."

The activists were not allowed to show video clips and photographs by the

management of the Press Club of India where they spoke.

Mr. Dreze said, "Permission was refused to us to show the videos. We were told that the projector was not working but the management is under pressure and surveillance."

When asked how the group moved around since the Valley had been under "curfew" like conditions, one of them said "it was difficult to move but not impossible". "We met two victims of pellet gun injuries in SMHS hospital in Srinagar. The two young men [Waqar Ahmad and Wahid] had faces, arms and torso full of pellets. Their eyes were bloodshot and blinded," the activists said in a statement.

Shah Faesal detained in Delhi, taken to Srinagar

Former IAS officer was barred from going abroad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Kashmiri leader Shah Faesal, a former IAS officer, was stopped from flying out of the country at the Delhi airport and packed off to Srinagar where he has been placed under preventive detention, a friend and a government official confirmed.

The friend told *The Hindu* that when Mr. Faesal reached the immigration desk around 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday, he was told that he had a lookout notice against him.

"The authorities had his photograph and the notice,



Shah Faesal

on the basis of which he was stopped from boarding a flight to Istanbul. He was on the way to Harvard Kennedy School in the U.S. to complete his course," the friend said.

According to him, Mr. Faesal telephoned his wife

from New Delhi and told her that he had been questioned by the authorities at the airport regarding an interview he gave to the BBC on Tuesday.

Mr. Faesal, a topper of the 2009 UPSC Civil Services Exam, had told the channel, "It's my generation which has now got the taste of betrayal."

A senior government official said that Mr. Faesal was flown to Srinagar where he has been held under "preventive detention". The official clarified that he was not arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

At present, the entire State administration is preoccupied with making arran-

Will get back, J&K govt. tells Rahul

Congress leader had offered to visit the Valley without any conditions

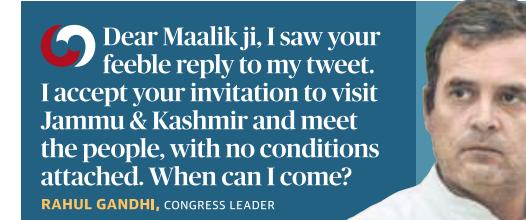
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said it would get in touch with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his request to visit the proposed Union Territory.

Governor Satya Pal Malik has already referred the matter to the local administration, an official spokesman said. "The administration will get in touch with the MP at a convenient time," the official said.

He said Mr. Gandhi had taken four days to respond on the issue.

At present, the entire State administration is preoccupied with making arran-



gements for the celebration of Independence Day," the spokesman added.

Mr. Gandhi, in response to a statement made by the Governor, on Tuesday had tweeted his desire to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

On Wednesday, he again asked the Governor when he can visit J&K.

"Dear Maalik ji, I saw your feeble reply to my tweet.

statement accusing Mr. Gandhi of putting too many conditions and trying to create "unrest" over the Centre's decision to end J&K's special status.

"Rahul Gandhi is politicising the matter by seeking to bring a delegation of Opposition leaders to create further unrest and problems for the common people. He has put forth many conditions for visiting J&K, including meeting mainstream leaders under detention," the statement said. "Since the Governor had never invited him with so many preconditions, he has referred the case to the police and administration to examine the request further," it added.

Restrictions lifted in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

Restrictions in Jammu have been completely lifted but will continue for a while longer in some places in

Kashmir, a senior Jammu and Kashmir police officer said on Wednesday and emphasised that the situation is totally under control.

Additional Director-General Munir Khan said there were localised incidents in various parts of Srinagar and other districts in the Valley, but these were contained and dealt with locally.

There have been no major injuries to anyone, he said at a press conference.

Imran Khan vows to raise Kashmir at global level

Pakistan PM addresses PoK Assembly

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed a special session of the PoK legislative assembly on Wednesday, marking Pakistan's Independence Day.

Mr Khan said he would be the Ambassador of Kashmir at all international forums and raise his voice for hapless Kashmiris.

Comparing the ideology of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to Nazism, Mr Khan spoke of a battle of ideologies.

"Now the world is looking at Kashmir and also Pakistan. We will internationalise the issue of Kashmir. The world must understand how dangerous RSS ideology is...the kind of statements coming out regarding Kash-



Imran Khan

miri women is the result of sick-minded ideology," he said.

The Prime Minister said even those Kashmiri leaders who were considered pro-India are saying today that Jinnah was right.

"The genie of RSS will not go back in the bottle. After Muslims, it will target Sikhs, Dalits, Christians."

Review of detentions likely after Thursday

'Mufti, Omar are in preventive custody'

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah were in "preventive custody" and the decision to release them will be reviewed after August 15.

There is no clarity under what law several political leaders in the Valley have been detained since the night of August 4.

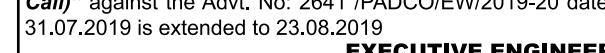
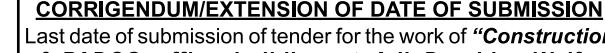
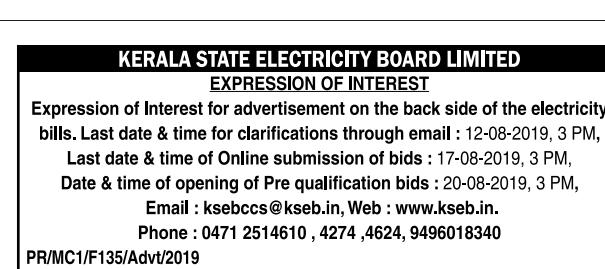
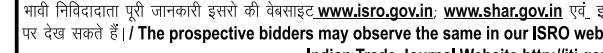
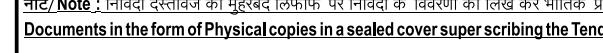
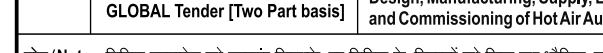
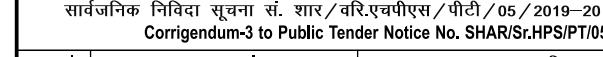
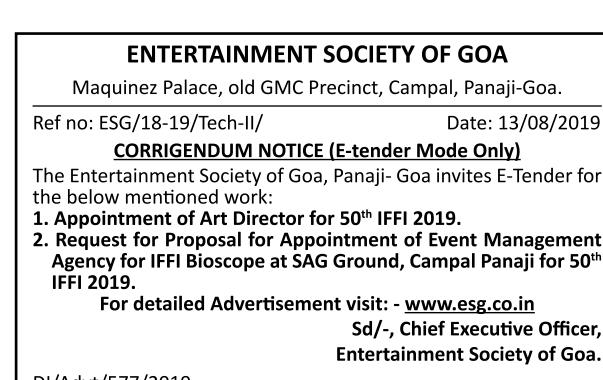
"The two leaders are under preventive custody," Mr. Reddy told *The Hindu*.

An order signed by Srinagar's Executive Magistrate placing Ms. Mufti in detention said, "Keeping in consideration present situation in Kashmir and strong apprehensions of breach of peace and tranquillity it has



become imperative to take such necessary measures for preventing and deteriorating and escalating further any law and order situation in Kashmir."

These are called magisterial orders and several others are in preventive custody," a senior J&K police officer said. An official said such orders are issued by the executive and are "precautionary" in nature.



Hong Kong protests 'near terrorism': China

Protesters apologise after chaotic airport violence; flights resume after two days of disruptions

REUTERS
HONG KONG

China said Hong Kong's protest movement had reached "near terrorism" on Wednesday, after a night of ugly clashes at the city's airport where demonstrators set upon and detained two men they suspected of being government sympathisers.

Flights out of the financial hub resumed after two days of disruptions caused by thousands of protesters swarming the terminal at one of the world's busiest airports, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of departures.

China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office in Beijing called the behaviour at the airport no different to terrorism and said it must be severely punished.

Ten weeks of increasingly violent clashes between police and protesters have plunged the city into its worst crisis since it reverted



City in turmoil: A Hong Kong policeman takes a fall during a scuffle with protesters. ■ AFP

from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

"We're deeply sorry about what happened yesterday," read a banner held up by a group of a few dozen demonstrators in the airport arrivals hall.

In chaotic scenes that would once have been unthinkable for Hong Kongers,

a peaceful sit-in at the airport turned violent late on Tuesday as protesters confronted and held a man they believed was an undercover Chinese agent.

Later, the seizure by protesters of a reporter from China's *Global Times* newspaper, a nationalistic tabloid run by the ruling Communist

Party's official *People's Daily*, and their harassment of the man they believed to be a mainland agent drew China's strongest language yet.

Bus loads of riot police arrived in response, clashing with furious demonstrators before withdrawing once the man was removed..

Protesters, who occupied

the airport for five days, mostly withdrew by daybreak.

It's not clear whether the ugly scenes have eroded the broad support the movement has attracted in Hong Kong, while the city's faltering economy has also taken a hit in recent months.

"We promise to reflect and to improve," protesters said in one message distributed on social-media app Telegram.

Tricky, says Trump

In addition to Beijing's condemnation, the *People's Daily* called for "using the sword of the law" to restore order, and mainland social media users lauded the detained reporter as a hero.

On Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump described the volatile situation as "tricky", and said China's government had moved troops near the border with Hong Kong.

Infighting over presidential candidate heightens in UNP

Ranil, Sajith Premadasa and Karu Jayasuriya are in the fray

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Days after former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa named his brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa as opposition presidential candidate, the battle over candidacy within the United National Party (UNP) has intensified, with no indication of a decision yet.



Ranil Wickremesinghe

eyes on the highest office. Their disagreement now is manifesting over the draft Constitution of the National Democratic Front, a UNP-led alliance that the party hopes to form with some of its current coalition partners, including minority parties. Further, while the PM wants the alliance formed before their candidate is named, Mr. Premadasa, according to political sources, has been insisting that the candidate be named first.

With the deadlock persisting, restless supporters of Mr. Premadasa organised a party rally in the central Badulla district earlier this week, giving him centre stage, but stopping short of naming him their candidate.

However, those backing the Prime Minister are in no mood to buy that line of argument. A prominent Minister termed the claim "nonsense". "Can he [Mr. Premadasa] get Sinhala-Buddhist votes? Can he get urban, middle-class votes? Can he draw minority votes? Can he draw the youth?" he asked, making a case for 70-year-old Mr. Wickremesinghe.

"We need someone like him to take on Gota," said another supporter. Even senior figures in the UNP, such as Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera have openly backed a Premadasa candidacy.

Meanwhile, a group of civil society members is galvanising around Speaker Jayasuriya. Nearing 80, Mr. Jayasuriya is seen as a "seasoned democrat" by many activists and intellectuals.

But party members continue to question his popular support. The three camps may not converge on the "right candidate" for this election, but the one thing they agree on is that "time is running out" for the party, as a senior member put it.

Chinese state media voice support for police

People's Daily calls for 'sword of the law'

REUTERS
HONG KONG/BEIJING

Chinese state media called on Beijing on Wednesday to deal with protests in Hong Kong more decisively after a reporter from one of China's largest government-backed newspapers was caught up in overnight clashes.

Ten weeks of violent clashes between police and pro-democracy protesters, angered by a perceived erosion of freedoms, are posing one of the biggest challenges for Chinese President Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012.

A front-page commentary on the overseas edition of the Communist Party's official *People's Daily* newspaper said on Wednesday Hong Kong had reached a critical juncture. "Using the sword of the law to stop violence and restore order is overwhelmingly the most important and urgent task for Hong Kong!" it said.

Another commentary by a Shenzhen University researcher, published by the *China Daily*, said the Central government should deal with Hong Kong issues more decisively.

Cathay Pacific fires two pilots

The airline is under pressure from China's aviation regulator

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Cathay Pacific said on Wednesday it has sacked two pilots, as the Hong Kong carrier comes under huge pressure from Beijing to clamp down on staff supportive of anti-government rallies.

"One is currently involved in legal proceedings. The other misused company information on Flight CX216/12 August," the airline said in a statement.

Cathay Pacific Chief Executive Rupert Hogg warned staff on Monday that they could be fired for supporting



The airline needs to submit manifests of staff on flights going to the mainland. ■ AP

"illegal protests".

The airline said last week it had suspended a pilot accused of rioting after allegedly participating in protests.

It also said it had fired two

ground staff, without specifying why. Local media reported that they were accused of leaking the travel details of a Hong Kong police football team that was travelling to the mainland.

Cathay has struggled to find middle ground in the increasingly bitter standoff between protesters and authorities. The airline is now subject to new regulations announced last week by Beijing's aviation regulator. The rules require the airline to submit manifests of staff working on flights going to the mainland or through its airspace.

Khamenei meets Yemen rebels

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader has held talks with a senior Yemeni rebel official just days after the long-running intervention against the rebels by its regional foes Saudi Arabia and the UAE suffered a major setback.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei hosted Houthi rebel spokesman Mohammed Abdul Salam at his Tehran residence on Tuesday after UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC) seized Yemen's second city Aden on Saturday.

Mr. Khamenei renewed his support for the rebels, who control the Yemeni capital Sanaa and much of the north.

Spies are watching our scientists, says Kremlin

Avoid meetings with foreign colleagues'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Foreign spies keen to get their hands on Russian research are monitoring Russian scientists around the clock, the Kremlin said on Wednesday, after experts denounced a new security decree as a Soviet throwback.

The Kremlin's comments came after scientists criticised a Ministry directive calling on researchers not to meet foreign colleagues one-on-one and requesting filed reports after every encounter – even a cup of coffee.

"Of course we must be somewhat vigilant, because foreign special services are

on alert," said President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov when questioned on the decree.

Scientific espionage

"There is such a thing as scientific and industrial espionage," Mr. Peskov said. "It exists 24/7 and is targeting our scientists, especially young scientists."

He noted, however, that some of the decree's provisions "sound excessive", adding that Russia "should not be bound by some rules that won't lead to anything good."

The document imposes significant red tape on any visits by foreigners into Russian institutes.

3 Malaysian Ministers want Naik expelled

REUTERS
KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia's Cabinet discussed the permanent residency of Indian Islamic preacher Zakir Naik on Wednesday, with three Ministers – M. Kulasegaran, Gobind Singh Deo and Xavier Jayakumar – demanding his expulsion for his alleged racial remarks.

Naik, who lives in Malaysia and faces charges of money laundering and hate speech in India, has come under fire for his comments that Hindus in Malaysia had "100 times more rights" than the Muslim minority in India.

Muslims make up about 60% of Malaysia's population.

ELSEWHERE



Guaido warns Maduro on moves to advance polls

CARACAS Venezuela's opposition leader Juan Guaido warned President Nicolas Maduro on Tuesday that any attempts to bring forward parliamentary elections would end in "disaster" for the government. AFP

Twitter to let users follow interests, people

SAN FRANCISCO Twitter users will be able to follow a small number of interests by this year end in the same way they follow people, the company said on Tuesday. They can follow certain topics on a curated list. AFP

It says the transcriptions were made with permission



Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's CEO, at the firm's annual conference in San Jose. ■ AP

Facebook did not respond to a request for comment.

The contractors were testing the ability of the social network's artificial intelligence to interpret messages, and the only users affected were those on Facebook

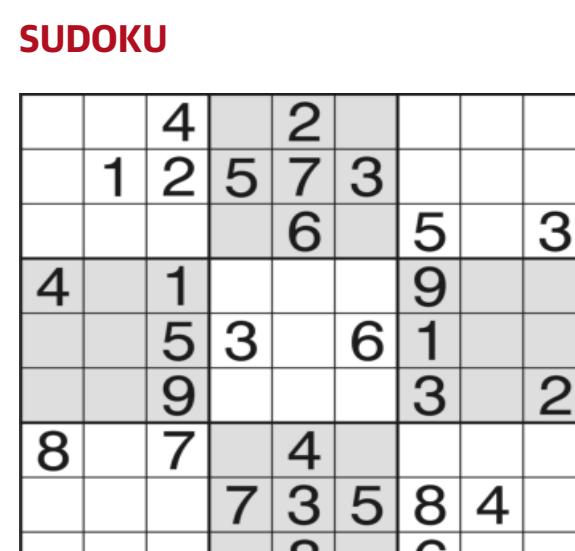
Messenger app who had opted to have their voice chats transcribed.

Bloomberg said the contractors working on the project were "rattled" by listening to private audio whose origin wasn't disclosed and which sometimes contained vulgar content.

The contractors also weren't told the reason why they were doing the transcribing, the news agency reported.

Apple and Google have in recent weeks said they've halted the practice, while Amazon gives users the option of blocking the collection of their voice by Alexa.

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

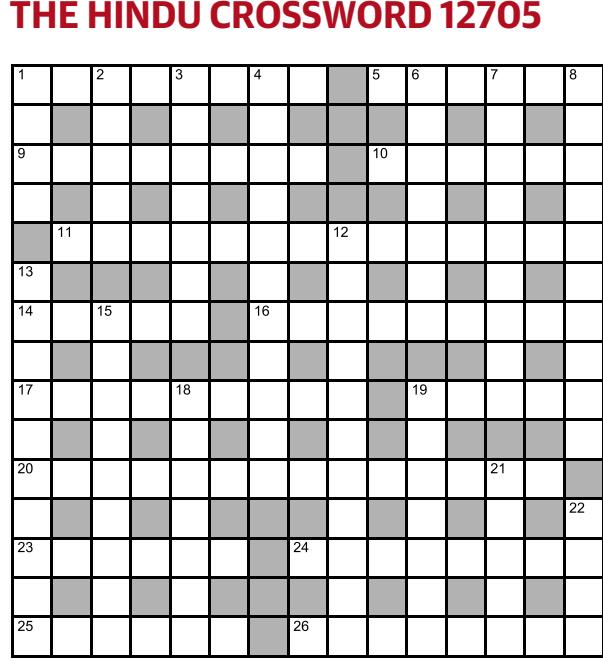
Solution to puzzle 12704

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| O | J | A | T | T | I |
| A | K | L | M | N | P |

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

No.SS446 Distribution: www.nigntfutures.com

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12705



ACROSS

- 1 Language trouble eases after the entry of the American uncle (8)
- 5 Challenge the goal (6)
- 9 All of the inert compound found inside an English city (8)
- 10 Ancient Romans conveying where it originally was (2,4)
- 15 Job location (9)
- 16 Grovelling with soiled livery in the pig pen (9)
- 17 Animal on the ark with seeds for some trees (5,9)
- 18 Language of the abdicating king upsets the guru allowed to return at first (6)
- 19 Set off to find a good leader for the navy of an African country (5)
- 20 English writer getting letters from Simpson's Ayers Rock address (6)
- 21 Formal apology in a clue? Pam solved it! (3,5)
- 22 Son climbs up with the sparkling white wine to the European composer (5)
- 23 Language discovered by a sailor in a retreat between Massachusetts and Hawaii (7)

DOWN

- 1 State of the leading actor visiting extended relatives (4)
- 2 Travelling time for the judge taking part in a medieval joust (10)
- 3 Tension influenced by weight could alter one's appearance (6,5)
- 4 Pet shop has pivoted to supply some fertilizer components (10)
- 5 Brown turns up with a partner to go around the old city, as might be expected (9)
- 6 Male sheep reportedly with a base at a meteorological observation post (7,7)
- 7 Drawing out the thing embedded in the damaged ceiling (9)
- 8 One settling a score with rage seen around the outskirts of Vellore (7)
- 9 Language spoken in the large and noisy party with no limits (5)
- 10 Language discovered by Tesla before reaching a capital city from the south (5)
- 11 Male worker to cook this after the Frenchman hiding behind the forest trees is caught (11)
- 12 Job location (9)
- 13 Set off to find a good leader for the navy of an African country (5)
- 14 Language spoken in the large and noisy party with no limits (5)
- 15 Language discovered by a sailor in a retreat between Massachusetts and Hawaii (7)
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- 18 One settling a score with rage seen around the outskirts of Vellore (7)
- 19 Language spoken in the large and noisy party with no limits (5)
- 20 Formal apology in a clue? Pam solved it! (3,5)
- 21 Son climbs up with the sparkling white wine to the European composer (5)
- 22 Language discovered by a sailor in a retreat between Massachusetts and Hawaii (7)

FAITH

Krishna the strategist

In the Mahabharata, behind every episode we find the Lord's planning, said V.S. Karunakarachari, in a discourse. Satrajit was the father of Satyabhama, who married Lord Krishna. Satrajit owned the rare gem called Syamantaka given to him by Surya. Satrajit would not part with it. A plot was hatched to do away with Satrajit, and steal the gem. Satrajita killed him, while Akrura and Kritavarma stood guard. When Krishna and Balarama came to know that Satrajita was behind the murder, they gave chase. Satrajita went up to Mithila (Nepal). However, when they caught up with him and killed him, they found that the gem was not with him. Krishna returned to Dwaraka, but Balarama stayed back, and Duryodhana came to him to learn how to use the mace in fighting. Krishna kept checking on Duryodhana's progress, and when Duryodhana's lessons were complete, he went to Balarama and asked him to return. Why did Krishna wait for so long to call his brother back home? The reason was that only when Duryodhana was a skilled fighter would he dare to challenge the Pandavas, and war would break out. And the war was necessary to establish righteousness in the world.

In the same way, Subhadra's marriage to Arjuna was also brought about by Krishna. Balarama wanted Subhadra to marry Duryodhana, but she wanted to marry Arjuna. Arjuna turned up in the guise of a sanyasi, and Balarama, not recognising him, suggested that he stay near Subhadra's palace. Krishna opposed a plan, Balarama would stubbornly go ahead with it. All this eventually facilitated the marriage of Subhadra and Arjuna. Thus, it was Krishna who did all the behind the scenes work, and ensured the success of His plans.

MARKET WATCH

| | 14-08-2019 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex | 37,312 | 0.96 |
| US Dollar | 71.27 | 0.18 |
| Gold | 37,945 | -1.10 |
| Brent oil | 58.84 | -3.03 |

NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Adani Ports | 358.85 | -1.70 |
| Asian Paints | 1569.70 | -3.65 |
| Axis Bank | 663.20 | 13.75 |
| Bajaj Auto | 2713.90 | 43.35 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 7415.20 | 326.05 |
| Bajaj Finance | 3289.95 | 68.10 |
| Bharti Airtel | 361.20 | 9.55 |
| BPLC | 354.45 | 11.35 |
| Britannia Ind | 2478.90 | -33.00 |
| Cipla | 478.30 | 2.55 |
| Coal India | 200.50 | -3.25 |
| Dr. Reddy's Lab | 2511.95 | -44.40 |
| Eicher Motors | 16574.65 | -70.35 |
| GAIL (India) | 126.75 | 0.75 |
| Grasim Ind | 734.50 | 24.85 |
| HCL Tech | 1076.15 | 3.65 |
| HDPC | 2117.70 | 17.60 |
| HDFC Bank | 2299.45 | 9.10 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2634.15 | 67.35 |
| Hindalco | 180.60 | 4.35 |
| Hind Unilever | 1839.05 | 14.30 |
| Indiabulls HFL | 551.35 | -21.75 |
| ICICI Bank | 417.30 | 7.05 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1400.85 | 27.40 |
| Bharti Infratel | 248.85 | 2.20 |
| Infosys | 774.80 | 10.05 |
| Indian Oil Corp | 126.45 | 0.55 |
| ITC | 248.75 | 2.45 |
| JSW Steel | 227.75 | 7.60 |
| Kotak Bank | 1491.80 | -19.60 |
| L&T | 1333.70 | 20.45 |
| M&M | 523.55 | 11.15 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 5816.00 | 0.55 |
| NTPC | 117.60 | 0.45 |
| ONGC | 126.85 | -0.90 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 205.15 | 3.15 |
| Reliance Ind | 1288.25 | 13.50 |
| State Bank | 289.75 | 6.40 |
| Sun Pharma | 417.15 | -22.10 |
| Tata Motors | 120.90 | -1.05 |
| Tata Steel | 364.65 | 15.95 |
| TCI | 2204.40 | 4.95 |
| Tech Mahindra | 659.10 | 19.95 |
| Titan | 1084.00 | 20.15 |
| UltraTech Cement | 4225.90 | 44.75 |
| UPL | 527.20 | 24.10 |
| Vedanta | 146.55 | 6.80 |
| Wipro | 251.05 | -7.45 |
| YES Bank | 76.55 | 2.95 |
| Zee Entertainment | 341.60 | 14.30 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|--------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 71.07 | 71.39 |
| Euro | 79.49 | 79.84 |
| British Pound | 85.78 | 86.17 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 67.15 | 67.46 |
| Chinese Yuan | 10.13 | 10.17 |
| Swiss Franc | 73.21 | 73.54 |
| Singapore Dollar | 51.20 | 51.44 |
| Canadian Dollar | 53.44 | 53.68 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 16.96 | 17.05 |

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

| Retail Silver (1g) | 47.9 | (47.5) |
|--------------------|------|--------|
| 22 ct gold (1g) | 3578 | (3569) |

Source: Indian Bank

July trade deficit narrows to \$13.43 bn

Overall exports in April-July rise 3.13%; trend seen as positive amid low expectations on demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit narrowed to \$13.43 billion in July 2019, from \$15.28 billion in the previous month, according to official data released on Wednesday.

"India's overall exports [merchandise and services combined] in April-July 2019-20 are estimated to be \$181.47 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 3.13% over the same period last year," the government said in a statement.

"Overall imports in April-July 2019-20 are estimated to be \$214.37 billion, exhibiting a negative growth of 0.45% over the same period last year."

Services data for July is an estimation and will be revised next month when the

Imports in low gear

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

| Metrics | Overall Trade* | Growth (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Exports (\$ bn) | 181.5 | 3.1 |
| Imports (\$ bn) | 214.4 | (0.4) |
| Trade deficit (\$ bn) | 32.9 | |

*Merchandise plus services for the period April-July 2019-20

Consumer durables and non-durables have outperformed overall export growth for July

MOHIT SINGLA
Chairman, Trade Promotion Council of India

Reserve Bank of India releases the final figures.

India's merchandise exports stood at \$26.33 billion compared with \$25.75 billion

in July last year. In rupee terms, exports stood at ₹1,81,190.34 crore in July, up 2.42% from July 2018.

Sectoral growth
The sectors that witnessed strong growth in exports included electronic goods (51.39%), drugs and pharmaceuticals (21.74%), organic and inorganic chemicals (13.45%), and ready-made goods of all textiles (7.06%).

"Consumer durables and consumer non-durables such as electronic goods, pharma, marine and textiles have outperformed the overall export growth of 2.25% for July 2019," Mohit Singla, chairman, the Trade Promotion Council of India, said.

"This brings good news to exports despite an expected global slowdown in demand for these products. This shows that Indian products

have started gaining acceptability in the global market."

"Imports in July 2019 were \$39.76 billion (₹2,73,579.71 crore), which was 10.43% lower in dollar terms and 10.28% lower in rupee terms over imports of \$44.39 billion (₹3,04,916.76 crore) in July 2018," the release added. Imports of pearls, precious and semi-precious stones shrank 22.15%.

Low domestic demand

"This is juxtaposing the current slowdown prevailing in the economy primarily and at the global level overall," Mr. Singla added.

"Since consumption rates in India have plummeted, demand has been squeezed," Mr. Singla added.

Wholesale inflation eases to 1.08% in July

Fuel and power sector contracts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Inflation at the wholesale level eased for the fourth consecutive month to a 25-month low of 1.08% in July, on lower inflation in the manufacturing and fuel sectors, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The decline in the wholesale inflation can be attributed to deflation in the fuel and power group for consecutive two months and decline in inflation in manufactured group to a nearly three-year low," Care Ratings said in a report.

"Inflation in primary articles continues to increase in July 2019, albeit at a slower pace compared with the previous month. However, it continues to rise when compared with the corresponding period last year."

IDBI Bank's Q1 loss widens to ₹3,800 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

IDBI Bank reported widening of net loss for the April-June quarter to ₹3,800.84 crore due to higher provisioning, as compared to ₹2,409.89 crore reported in the same period of the previous financial year.

Provisioning for NPAs surged to ₹7,009.49 crore during period under review, from ₹4,602.55 crore in the year-ago period.

Gross NPAs came down to ₹51,657.63 crore, or 29.12% of total advances at end of June, from ₹57,806.84 crore or 30.78% in the year-ago period. Gross NPA, however rose sequentially. Net NPA declined sharply to 8.02%, from 18.76% a year ago.

These measures could push up banking sector risk if they make banks accept higher credit risk than they previously had the appetite for, Fitch said.

India's constant nudging of banks to lend more to non-banks is in contrast to the global trend of authorities trying to break the linkages between banks and NBFCs, it said.

"India's overarching approach across the financial system is aimed at achieving a more inclusive financial system in which bank savings can support lending to parts of the economy that are beyond the banks' distribution network or risk appetite.

Risks in India's banking sector may rise as a result of the central bank's recent steps encouraging banks to lend more to non-banking financial institutions (NBFI) and retail borrowers, Fitch Ratings said.

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Risks in India's banking sector may rise as a result of

IN BRIEF



Free limit not to include failed ATM transactions

MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank of India has clarified that failed transactions in automated teller machines (ATM) will not be included in the number of free transactions which banks are mandated to offer to their customers. The RBI further said that non-cash withdrawal transactions like balance enquiry and cheque book request will also not be part of the number of free ATM transactions.

Cox & Kings defaults on CPs worth ₹149 crore

NEW DELHI,
Tours and travel services firm Cox & Kings on Wednesday said it has defaulted on commercial papers (CPs) worth ₹149 crore. The company defaulted on unsecured commercial paper, Cox & Kings said in a regulatory filing. "The company is working closely with its lenders to optimise its strong asset base globally and bring the situation back to normal as soon as possible," it said. PTI

Central Bank cuts MCLR by 20 bps across tenors

MUMBAI
State-run lender Central Bank of India has reduced the benchmark lending rate or the marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 20 basis points across all loan tenors, with effect from Thursday. As a result, the one-year MCLR will be reduced to 8.3% from 8.5%. The bank is also planning to link its retail loan rates to the Reserve Bank of India's repo rate for faster transmission of monetary policy.

Coffee Day to sell IT park to Blackstone for up to ₹3,000 crore

Board also approves divestment of subsidiary AlphaGrep to a software firm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A fortnight after the demise of billionaire-entrepreneur V.G. Siddhartha, Coffee Day Enterprises, founded by him, has decided to sell a piece of its real estate located on Mysore Road in the city for almost ₹3,000 crore.

The board of directors of Coffee Day Enterprises on Wednesday approved the disinvestment of Global Village Tech Park, owned by its realty subsidiary Tanglin Developments Ltd., to New York-based private equity major Blackstone Group.

As per a stock market filing, the transaction value would be in range of ₹2,600 to ₹3,000 crore.



Lighter brew: The IT park is owned by Coffee Day Enterprises' realty subsidiary Tanglin Developments. ■REUTERS

Global Village Tech Park is spread over 120 acres with a total built-up area of 3.3 million sq. ft. Closure of the transaction is subject to completion of Blackstone's

due diligence, documentation and receipt of requisite regulatory approvals, which is expected in the next 30-45 days. The board also discussed ways for further de-

leveraging of the group.

It also provided an in-principle approval for the disinvestment of its step-down subsidiary, AlphaGrep Securities in favour of Illuminati Software for about ₹28 crore.

"The above mentioned transactions will significantly help in deleveraging the Coffee Day Group, and ensure smooth operations while safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders," said the company in a statement.

Coffee Day Global, Tanglin Developments, Sical Logistics, Way2Wealth and Coffee Day Hotels & Resorts that own brands like Serai are the main subsidiaries of Coffee Day Enterprises.



At a standalone level, there has been volume growth in both VSF and caustic soda

PBT (before exceptional item) went up by 35% to ₹2,814 crore driven by excellent performance of its cement and financial services subsidiaries.

"At a standalone level, there has been volume growth in both VSF and caustic soda. However, profitability was impacted due to global softening in prices," the company said in a statement.

Grasim Industries reported revenues during the quarter went up by 13% to ₹18,861 crore. The company's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) during the quarter stood at ₹4,217 crore, registering a growth of 31% and

fibre prices saw a sharp decline of -21% YoY and -8% QoQ. This was on account of new capacities commissioned in recent past (CY2018) and the negative impact of the US-China Trade War," the company said. Chemicals business reported an EBITDA of ₹446 crore on revenue of ₹1,503 crore during the quarter.

The firm is planning to invest ₹7,800 crore at a standalone level for raising capacities in both the viscose and chemical businesses, apart from ongoing modernisation capex at various plants. This capital expenditure will be incurred over FY20-FY22.

Grasim Industries shares on the BSE rose 3.52% to close at ₹734.65 in a firm Mumbai market on Wednesday, valuing the company at ₹48,311.89 crore.

Grasim Q1 net rises 10.25%

Better performance by UltraTech and ABCL arms aids profit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Grasim Industries reported a 10.25% increase in its first quarter consolidated net profit to ₹1,230.57 crore due to better performance of its subsidiaries UltraTech Cement and Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL).

On a stand-alone basis, the company's profit fell by 68.6% to ₹201 crore on a one-time loss of ₹290 crore on impairment value of its investment in a payment bank.

"Grasim Industries' consolidated revenues during the quarter went up by 13% to ₹18,861 crore.

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For years, IL&FS may not have divulged bad loans'

Many borrowers were unrated: RBI

REUTERS
MUMBAI

Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), which collapsed late last year, may not have disclosed bad loans on its books for years despite a big part of its loan book having soured, a report from central bank said.

The government took control of IL&FS late last year after it defaulted on some of its debt, triggering wider concerns about risk in the rest of the country's financial system. The government also appointed a new board.

The central bank's report, included in regulatory filings by IL&FS on Wednesday, found that IL&FS, one of India's biggest non-banking finance companies, had not declared bad loans in the four years to March 31, 2018.

High NPAs

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report, dated March 22, found that non-performing assets on IL&FS's books were as high as 70% of its total loans and advances by March 31, 2018.

IL&FS declined to comment on the findings within the report.

The RBI also declined to comment.

A significant number of IL&FS' borrowers were either unrated or had poor credit ratings, the RBI report had said.

Insolvency proceedings initiated against Karuturi Global

Producer of cut roses has outstanding debt of ₹86 crore

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) has been initiated against Bengaluru-based Karuturi Global, one of the world's largest producers of cut roses.

Karuturi Global owns large rose farm holdings in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Pune and Bengaluru, and grows over 555 million stems of roses a year across 300 hectares.

In a stock exchange filing, Karuturi Global announced that CIRP has been initiated in respect of the company under the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code by way of an order dated August 2, 2019 of the Na-



tional Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Bengaluru bench. Karuturi Global managing director Ram Karuturi was not available for comment.

Karuturi Global's affairs, business and assets are being managed by Ghanshyam

Das Mundra, the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) appointed by the National Company Law Tribunal, the company said in a stock exchange filing.

Karuturi Global has outstanding debt of over ₹86 crore in loans taken from Axis Bank. Under the new development, Karuturi Global has been prohibited from transferring, encumbering, alienating or disposing of any of its assets.

On an average, India ships over 100 million stems of red roses to markets including the U.K., West Asia, Australia, China and Netherlands.

More than half of these roses are produced by Karuturi Global.

Dr. Reddy's shares fall after it gets USFDA letter

Launch of 2 products may be affected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories stock fell 8% intraday on Wednesday on the back of an update from the company about the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) communication that is likely to have a bearing on the early launch of two generic products.

"Received Complete Response Letter (CRL) from USFDA; Preparing for response," is what the company had said in an investor update for August 2019 on the launch of the generic versions of Copaxone and NuvaRing.

According to USFDA, a CRL is issued to an applicant "if the agency determines

that we will not approve the application or abbreviated application in its present form for one or more of the reasons..." Copaxone (glatiramer acetate injection) is indicated for relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis, NuvaRing is used to prevent pregnancy.

Meanwhile, the stock recovered some lost ground and closed at ₹2,511.20, 1.83% lower from the previous close. In response to a clarification sought by the exchange, Dr. Reddy's mentioned the update provided the previous day to investors as well as referred to the earnings call on July 29 when it had pointed to possible queries from USFDA on NuvaRing.

73rd INDEPENDENCE DAY

August 15, 2019

**Heartiest Greetings
to
People of Haryana**

- Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana





Maharaja's College, Kochi

Cochin State was one of the first to sign a Standstill Agreement with the Indian Union in the build-up to Independence. On August 14, 1947, Cochin maharaja, Kerala Varma VII, issued an order that all government buildings in the State hoist the tricolour alongside the Cochin State Flag, both at the same height. Indian Students Union, the student wing of the Indian National Congress at Maharaja's College objected to hoisting the Cochin State Flag on August 15, after the formation of India. The leaders of the students agitation were V Vishwanatha Menon, TCN Menon and Ambat Sulochana. This led to conflict between the elected college union and them. There were clashes and a hartal was called the next day. The incident resulted in the resignation of the Prime Minister of the Cochin State, Panampilly Govinda Menon.

Priyadarsini S

Destination freedom

Despite the passage of time, the emotional resonance of our freedom struggle has never lost its glow. When we think of our Independence Movement, some places have instant recall, while others have faded to the fringes. Here, some of these lesser-known places from across the country:



Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru

Listed amongst the must-visit museums in Bengaluru, the serene Gandhi Bhavan on Kumara Krupa Road, is located on the grounds where the Mahatma enjoyed strolls on his visits to the city. "There are pictures from his childhood to the last day of his life as well as letters written by him," says V. N. Tippanna Gowda, vice president, Gandhi Bhavan. The charkhas that Gandhi used are also on display. Apart from being a venue for seminars, Gandhi Bhavan's new ₹10-crore venture, Mahatma Gandhi Multimedia Project has a display of 1,000 photos, cartoons, film, animated movies and writings accessible on touch screen. The display is being made ready. "The project will be in English and Kannada and uses the Mahatma's voice to answer FAQs," says Gowda. Entry is free. Closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Ranjani Govind

Kashmere Gate, Delhi

Past the Red Fort, near St. James Church, Kashmere Gate is a culmination of the lead up to it: a Mughal structure with British additions. In the mostly-exposed-brick structure, narrow Mughal-style Lahori bricks coexist with the bigger colonial-era ones. "In 1803, the British captured Delhi from the Marathas. The colonisers invested in fortifying the gates so that guns could be mounted on them," says Gaurav Sharma, who leads heritage walks. The Gate was built as an exit to Shahjahanabad on the road to Kashmir, when the Mughal capital was shifted to Delhi in 1638. It became a site for the First War of Independence in 1857, when sepoys, in the employ of the British took hold of it. The British troops maintained steady bombardment on the bastions, around Kashmere Gate from the Ridge. After four months, the gate was breached on September 14, 1857, says the Go UNESCO website.

Sunali Mathew



Tilak Bhavan, Chennai

Ask an autorickshaw *anna* to take you to WelcomHotel, and he'd probably drop you at this hotel on Cathedral Road. A hundred years ago, at this very place stood Tilak Bhavan, where Gandhi spent quite some days, the most memorable of them being March 18, 1919, around the time when the Rowlatt Bills were passed. Gandhi spent the entire night mulling about how to battle it. "I was still in that twilight condition between sleep and consciousness when suddenly the idea broke upon me...that we should call upon the country to observe a general hartal," writes Gandhi about that memorable evening he spent at the house owned by Kasturiranga Iyengar, Proprietor of *The Hindu*. He called for the nation to observe April 6 as 'Protest Day', which would subsequently become a huge success.

Srinivasa Ramanujam

Getting involved Visitors at Lodhi Garden

• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

day area-specific bird checklists.

At the time of their launch in India, only 118 observers were a part of the programme. We uploaded 332 checklists highlighting 189 species of birds from various habitats in Delhi-NCR. Today, the portal celebrates contributions from over 1,472 observers in Delhi-NCR with over 16,000 checklists reporting over 400 different species from the region.

More than 70 million observations from the Ebird citizen-science project helps drive the bird identification app, Merlin, developed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, called ebird.org was introduced to India. The 17-year-old initiative has documented birds globally, with enthusiasts and observers from all across the world diligently uploading their day-to-

dy the intricate conditions that butterflies deem sustainable, which in the long run lays the foundation for a conservation action plan.

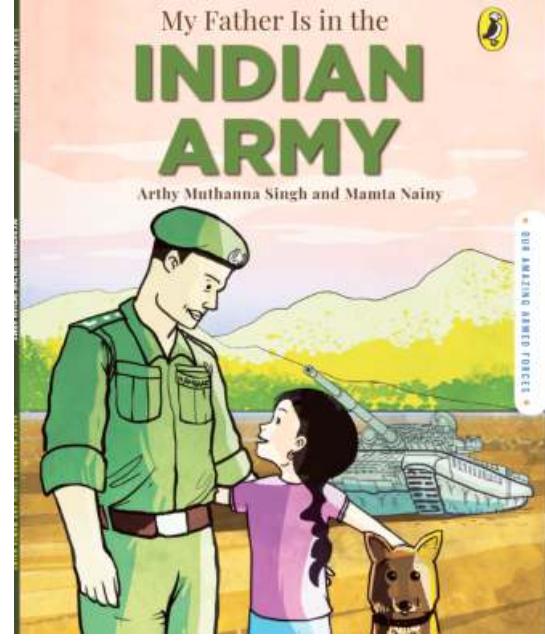
In short, anyone can be a citizen scientist and contribute towards the environment.

The writer is the founder of NINOX - Owl About Nature, a nature-awareness initiative. He is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds. He formerly led a programme at WWF India.

PEOPLE

Finally, stories about fauji kids

Three new books for young readers bring alive the experience of growing up in an defence family



The illustrations are fun without being frivolous, and the stories are informative, yet simple and sensitive for an early teen to relate to, without getting bored. In each of these three new Puffin books, releasing today, it also helps that the protagonists, Rohan, Beena, and Nikky, are as old as their readers, going through similar situations and emotions – missing friends when your parents move, or taunts from older siblings when parents aren't looking.

But what ties the three characters and their separate worlds together in a series by authors Arthy Muthanna Singh and Mamta Nainy, is that their immediate family members belong to India's defence forces.

The first book, Rohan's story, is *My Mother is in the Indian Air Force*; the second is Beena's *My Father is in the Indian Army*; and the third story is Nikky's, titled *My Sister is in the Indian Navy*.

"We found that children not from the armed forces background, have no clue about transfers and deployments, and making new friends," says Arthy, a children's writer, freelance journalist, and cartoonist, recalling one of their motivations for doing this series. With many of her relatives in the forces too, she says it was "an honour" to write about the nitty-gritty of their lives.

For Mamta, one of the major drivers behind this project, was to explore "deployments and reunions, tender family moments and patriotism...from a child's perspective, and also to put together a tribute to the armed forces."

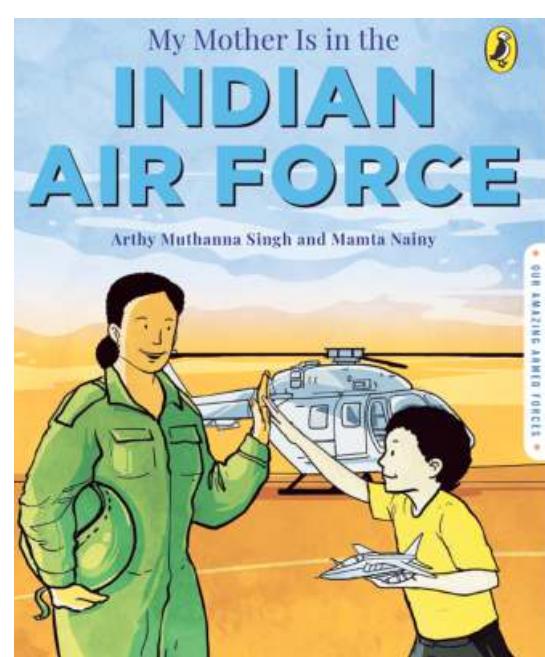
The duo recalls how the publishers had to get these fictionalised accounts vetted by multiple people in the forces for accuracy of representation. This becomes important not just for the story, but also for the helpful informative tidbits littered through the books – there are illustrated panels for rank hierarchy for each force, trivia like inclusion of women and their participation and more.

Arthy says they've tried not to become like a "textbook" on the army, navy, and air force, but the attempt was also to fill a "lacuna in the market" for this genre of books for children. She recalls speaking to the family of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, who were "surprised that [such a project] had never happened before."

The books, as Mamta says, also "keep it as real as possible", bringing in a single-parent family, too. In *My Mother is in the Indian Air Force*, Rohan's family consists of him, his inspiring mother who insists on the importance of discipline, and his naani (maternal grandmother). In *My Father is in the Indian Army*, Beena and her mother cope with her father being called to Kargil, and wonder if he'll be able to make it back on time for her birthday. In *My Sister is in the Indian Navy*, the sister's boyfriend, a subject of fascination for Nikky, is a fun presence in their lives, with the father too serving, albeit at a higher rank.

Available across bookstores; ₹199 each

VANGMAYI PARAKALA



Contact us at: delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



GOURMET

Rakshabandhan offer

The Artful Baker, known for its artisanal breads and patisserie, has special gift hampers on offer for Rakshabandhan. The hampers consist of assorted cakes and cookies like blueberry oat muffins, banana walnut muffins, cranberry and white chocolate-chip cookies, chocolate brownies, and more.

VENUE: Khan Market and Vasant Vihar outlets

TIME: 8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.



CUISINE

Special menu

Punjab Grill, a restaurant that serves North Indian cuisine, is celebrating Independence Day with a special buffet menu. The spread includes soups, an extensive range of starters, the main course, and dessert. The dishes on offer include Bahurangi Biriyani, Nalli Nihari, Teen Mirch da Paneer, Tiranga Paneer Tikka, and more.

VENUE: Punjab Grill, Sector 104, Noida

TIME: 12 noon - 4 p.m.



CUISINE

Coastal fare

Zambar, a restaurant that serves South Indian cuisine, is offering a special buffet with an array of coastal dishes. The main menu includes dishes like Nadan Veg Korma, Onion Garlic Curry, Nilgiri Mutton and Alleppey Fish Curry, and a Tiranga Phirni.

VENUE: Zambar, Ambience Mall, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon - 11:30 p.m.



DINING

Freedom special

In 2011, the restaurant at The Imperial, has a 'freedom special' lunch buffet for Independence Day, with tricolour themed treats. The menu boasts an array of signature dishes such as Hariyali Butter Chicken, Basanti Jheenga, Azadi ke Gole, Tiranga Pulao, and desserts like Kesaria Phirni, a saffron rice pudding.

VENUE: The Imperial, Janpath

TIME: 12:30-3 p.m. and 6:30-11:45 p.m.



GOURMET

Special platter

Elan, a food court that specialises in South-East-Asian dishes, will offer some of India's traditional dishes to mark the spirit of Independence. The platter includes Go'a's Mutton vindaloo, Meen Moilee from Kerala, Rajasthani Murgh Ka Soweta, Bengal's Aloosto, authentic Hyderabad Mutton Biriyani, and more.

VENUE: The Lodhi, Lodhi Road

TIME: 12 noon - 4 p.m.



Motorcycle diaries (Clockwise from top left) Rashtriya Riders at the war memorial in Tanot, Rajasthan; on the road to Kargil; and a rider in full gear

* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

from varied backgrounds – professionals, businessmen and students. Apart from some of them sporting mutton chops sideburns and handlebar moustaches, and all of them wearing gloves, jackets and full-face helmets, their unifying force is that they are not in the ride for mere adventure or sport, but to respect the armed forces. "We are one of the very few groups in India that ride to celebrate their valour," says Shekhawat.

What started with a focus on Army locations has now extended to the Border Security Force in the western sector. "We have covered most of the North, riding through Punjab, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where the maximum number of personnel is posted," says Shekhawat, adding, "we rode 3,500 kilometres through the borderland salt pans of Gujarat and the searing sands of Jaisalmer when it was 45 degrees Celsius, to appreciate the service of the Border Security Force."

A new focus is to meet the families of soldiers and officers killed in battle or counter-insurgency operations. "With help from Vikas Manhas of DESH (an organisation that visits such families on special occasions) we were able to get in touch with them. We started with visits across Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to 12 families of heroes from the Kargil War. We gifted them a framed copy of a photograph and a poem *Amar Jyoti Jaldi Rahe*, written by one of our team."

RR has mostly Bullets in its entourage, although "any disciplined biker with a bike of any make that is 350cc is welcome". Self-funded and driven by pooled resources, it rides with the mandatory head and tail riders, navigators and bike experts, camping where possible with the forces, in hotels or in tents in the great wide open.

"Siachen Base Camp has been on our agenda. But, it has been deferred by the Doklam issue and, more recently, by Article 370," says Shekhawat, adding that they did an exclusive ride to commemorate the 1965 Indo-Pak War by visiting the battle site of Asal Uttar and Patton Nagar (Punjab), where nearly 70 captured Pakistani tanks lie in trenches – tilted, bullet marked and sun-bleached. They also plan to raise a memorial in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan, home to the highest number of men who died serving the Flag.

As RR with its cross-sabres and handlebar logo navigates through golden wheat fields, past prayer flags hung out like festive bunting, dry riverbeds and walnut orchards, its members don't often do it with the whoops of delight that accompany other intrepid travellers.

"We are linked by an overwhelming sense of pride. We want the civil population to visit accessible places and dwell a moment or two on these stories of bravery and sacrifice. We want them to see a soldier in uniform and say 'thank you'. We ride to remember."

The men who stop FOR HEROES

Snow-bound Kargil, heat-seared Tanot, memorials in crowded metropolises, battlefields across India that have fallen off the map... Jaipur-based Rashtriya Riders' mission is to never let the Indian soldier be forgotten

DEEPA ALEXANDER

Light glows from the film reel being played on stage at the Major General Samir Sinha auditorium, United Service Institution of India, New Delhi. In that strange twilight, the lives of war heroes are told in brief, as part of the book launch of *Kargil: Untold Stories from the War*. A group of men in black T-shirts sporting the name of Capt Anuj Nayyar, MVC (Maha Vir Chakra) and camouflage pants walk in. They are saddle-sore, dusty and exhausted, having set out that morning from Jaipur, with pit-stops at the newly-constructed National War Memorial and Param Yodha Sthal in Delhi, before heading to the South of the city to commemorate 20 years of the Kargil War with the families of heroes.

Jaipur-based Rashtriya Riders (RR), a group of motorcycle enthusiasts, was founded in 2016. Since then, it has been putting tyre to tarmac and conquering hair-raising bends, chaotic traffic and splendid scenery with the sole purpose of celebrating India's armed forces.

Himmat Singh Shekhawat, 36, who co-founded RR with Shivaditya Modi and Ravin-

dra Jangir, says, "My family has a defence forces background, but I was unable to join the services. Four years ago, when we met at a coffee shop, Shivaditya, Ravindra and I decided to do something with our passion for the forces and show our gratitude to them. We thought of a biking group that would travel to wherever the forces have fought or served and simply thank them. In keeping with the ethos of India's armed forces, our members do not identify with a particular caste or creed."

Rite of passage

RR's first foray to celebrate 'the few, the proud' was to visit serving soldiers in the Kargil sector. Flagged off by the Army on Kargil Vijay Diwas 2016 (July 26), from Jaipur, RR travelled the conventional route to Kargil that is considered a rite of passage for bikers.

To the deep bubbly rhythms of their Royal Enfield Bullets, RR's first six members rode through cosmopolitan Chandigarh, fern-forested Shimla, wind-swept Rohtang and screed-dotted Leh, before pit-stopping at the Kargil War Memorial at cold, unforgiving Drass. They completed the gravel-lined circuit

through Srinagar, Jammu and Pathankot, before being flagged in by the Army at Jaipur. "It was a 4,000-kilometre journey that was both poignant and exhilarating. I was 16 when the Kargil War broke out and had keenly followed it in the media. When I reached Tololing peak, where the 2 Rajputana Rifles won a decisive victory, I was overwhelmed. This ride for the Indian Army was a revelation."

Though the Indian Army, with its long history, has drilled and fought around the globe – in the Opium Wars in China, swarmed up the ridge from which the Turks dominated Gallipoli during the First World War, stemmed the rush of Rommel's forces in the western Sahara during the Second, and fought Pathans in windswept forbidding terrain over the past century – its fight today is confined to the inhospitable harsh valleys of Kashmir and the dense jungles of the Northeast. "Getting access to visit these border zones in India calls for plenty of logistics and planning. It's not as if we can turn up overnight and knock on the doors of a unit stationed in a field area, although once we have the requisite permission, the Army is a won-

A MATTER OF HONOUR

In snowbound Ladakh, stands the Rezang La memorial inscribed with words from Lord Macaulay's poem *Horatius* – 'How can man die better/ Than facing fearful odds/ For the ashes of his fathers/ And the temples of his gods'.

The memorial commemorates the heroic stand of Major Shaitan Singh, PVC, and the Ahirs of C Company, 13 Kumaon Regiment in the Indo-China War of 1962. Major Singh and his men, grossly outnumbered, were brutally massacred by the Chinese, and died following the orders, "You will fight till the last man and the last bullet".

The National War Memorial, inaugurated in 2019, stands near India Gate, New Delhi. It has been built as a tribute to soldiers killed during the Indo-China War in 1962, the Indo-Pak Wars in 1947, 1965 and 1971, the Kargil Conflict in 1999, and the Indian Peace Keeping Force Operations in Sri Lanka. It is designed in the 'Chakravuh' formation and is spread over 40 acres. The names of 25,942 war casualties have been inscribed on 16 walls. Adjacent to the main complex, the 21 recipients of the Param Vir Chakra are commemorated with a bronze bust. It is open from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (November to March) and from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (April to October).

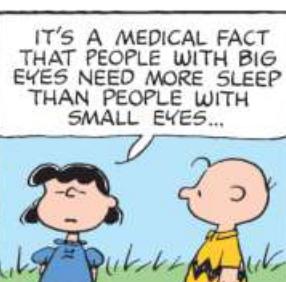
derful host. At the beginning of the year, we chart out our itinerary – two long rides that are over 4,000 kilometres, two medium rides around 1,000-1,200 kilometres and two short rides, around 500 kilometres, like this one from Jaipur to Delhi. We are now 62 members, and it's not possible for all to ride together; ideally, we look at 10-25 members,' says Shekhawat.

The members aged between 21 and 48 hail

POOCH CAFE



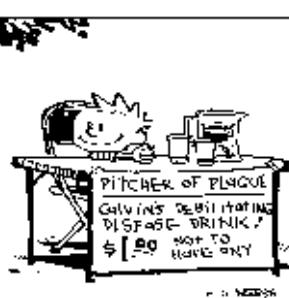
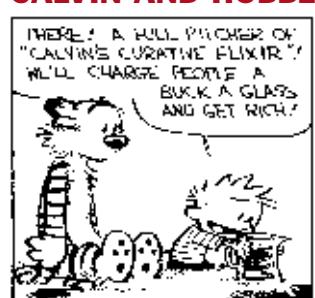
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



GRAFFITI



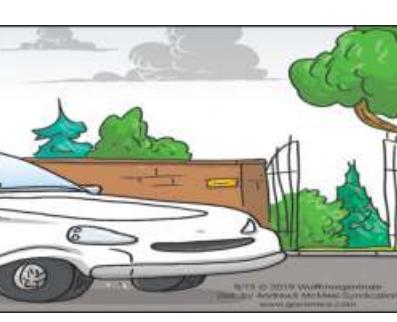
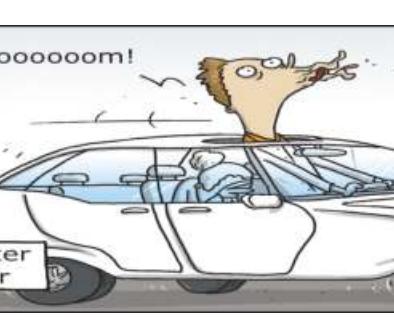
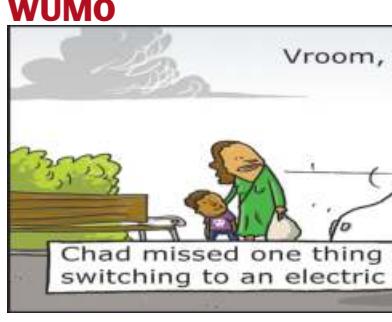
THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13149

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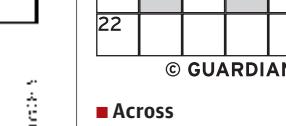
- 4 Haggard (5)
5 Government's income (7)
6 Take the Queen's shilling (6)
11 Create a commotion (5,4)
13 Safety features in a motor car (3,4)
14 Lowest lake in the world (4,3)
15 Extended exchanges of tennis strokes (7)
16 Llama-like domesticated animal, valued for its wool (6)
18 Upstanding (5)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 16, 2019.
Solution No. 13148

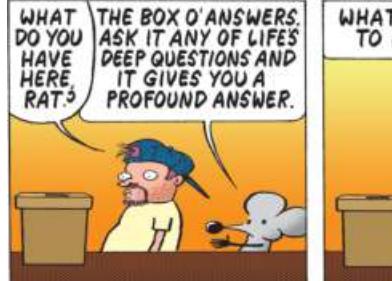
WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



MASSONIUM, ONE OF THE MACROMINERALS THAT IS PRESENT IN LARGER QUANTITIES IN THE BODY, IS REQUIRED IN OVER 300 METABOLIC PROCESSES. ALMOST EVERYONE SHOULD SUPPLEMENT MAGNESIUM. IT LOWERS STRESS, BLOOD PRESSURE AND BLOOD SUGAR. IT IS PLENTIFUL IN VEGETABLES, FRUITS, SEEDS AND WHOLE GRAINS.

Massonius is not intended to be a diagnostic measure.

- Across
1 Death (6)
4 Funeral song (5)
7 Long tapering flag (6)
8 Wonderful or astonishing person (6)
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12 Instrument for determining the distance of an object (11)
17 Generosity (8)

- Down
20 Showy ornamental shrub (6)
21 Descend a cliff by rope (6)
22 Something valuable to have (5)
23 Historical records (6)

- CATCH UNAWARES
ARA A A A A
DRAINER NAPES
I G R D I P
BALE BONE IDLE
Y E O W R N
SHROUD BEHEAD
T T B R L E
ALLUSION TIER
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REMORSELESSLY

Rain forces players off the field in final ODI

Gayle drops enough hints that this could be his last game

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

West Indies was 158 for two in 22 overs after electing to bat against India when rain halted play for the second time in the third and final One-Day International here on Wednesday.

Shimron Hetmyer (18) and Shai Hope (19) were at the crease for the hosts who need to win the match to level the three-match series.

West Indies lost Chris Gayle (72 off 41 balls) and Evin Lewis (43 off 29).

After India had bowled 22 overs, the skies opened up again. There had been an interruption in the second over.

India is leading the series 1-0 after winning the second ODI. The first match was abandoned due to rain.

The weather has affected almost every game since India landed in the Caribbean.

Warm send-off

Meanwhile, Chris Gayle may have played his last interna-

tional game given the theatrics by cricket's showman and the send-off accorded by the Indian players at the end of a typically thunderous innings.

In Wednesday's ODI, Gayle also experimented with his jersey number, sporting '30' to indicate the number of games he has played in the format.

West Indies 217 for five

■ West Indies was 217 for five in 32 overs in a match restricted to 35 overs.

Holder was batting on 13 and Brathwaite on one.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES

Chris Gayle c Kohli b Khaleel 72 (41b, 8x4, 5x6), Evin Lewis c Dhawan b Chahal 43 (29b, 5x4, 3x6), Shai Hope (batting) 19 (40b, 1x4), Shimron Hetmyer (batting) 18 (23,1x4); Extras (lb-2, w-3, nb-1); 6; Total (for two wkts. in 22 overs): 158.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-115 (Lewis, 10.5 overs), 2-121 (Gayle, 11.4)

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 5-1-48-0, Shami 3-1-31-0, Khaleel 4-0-43-1, Chahal 6-0-21-1, Jadhav 4-0-13-0

Toss: West Indies.

Scoreboard incomplete



Signature celebration: Chris Gayle raises a toast after reaching his half-century. ■ GETTY IMAGES

I want to improve both as a cricketer and as a person: Pant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Rishabh Pant is on a learning curve in international cricket and his only endeavour is to improve each day, not only as a player but also as a human being.

The nascent international career of M.S. Dhoni's heir apparent has been an eventful one – a few eye-catching knocks interspersed with indiscreet shot selections that invited a lot of critical comments.

With India having a packed schedule in the next six months, Pant was asked about how he sees things panning out for him.

"Every match is crucial for me and it is not about the next six months. Every day of my life is crucial and I want to improve both as a cricketer and as a person. That's what I am looking forward to," Pant said.

He scored an attractive half-century in the third and final T20I but some of his dismissals after getting set have left a lot to be desired.

"As an individual, I would like to have a big score but every time I go in, I am not focussing on that. I have been getting out after being



Key player: Rishabh Pant is happy that the team management is supporting each and every player and giving them chances. ■ AFP

set, so I want to play normal, positive cricket that can help my team win matches," Pant said.

He is happy that the team management is supporting each and every player and giving them chances.

"We are not experimenting as we are giving chance to everyone, whoever is in the team.

"Everyone is getting a proper chance and treatment. Everyone is confident of their position as the team management is supporting

them," the 21-year-old said.

Time to move on

The World Cup semifinal exit was a disappointment but the young 'keeper insisted it's time to move on.

"We felt bad after losing the World Cup semifinals but as professionals we knew that we hadn't played badly. It was just 45 minutes of bad cricket (against New Zealand). As we play more cricket, we need to learn and keep on improving," he said.

Dananjaya has Kiwis in a spot of bother

Spinner picks up five-for on rain-affected day; Taylor holding fort

KIWIS IN SL

REUTERS
GALLE

Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya spun a web around New Zealand's batsmen, picking up all five wickets to fall, on a rain-shortened opening day of the first Test.

Ross Taylor held firm with an unbeaten 86 against the guile of Dananjaya to take the touring side to 203 for five when rain forced early stumps. Mitchell Santner was the other unbeaten batsman at the crease.

Both sides selected three spinners and the 25-year-old Dananjaya, who in the past has been suspended from bowling in international cricket for an illegal bowling action, made a quick impact.

After Kane Williamson chose to bat, the opening pair added 64 before Dananjaya struck twice in the space of four deliveries to send back Tom Latham (30) and Williamson (0).

Dananjaya then induced an edge from Jeet Raval to dismiss the other opener for 33 at the stroke of the lunch break to reduce New Zealand to 71 for three.

Taylor staged a fight back



Wrecker-in-chief: Akila Dananjaya, second from left, celebrates the exit of Tom Latham, one of his five New Zealand wickets on Wednesday. ■ AFP

SCOREBOARD SL VS NZ, 1ST DAY, 1ST TEST

New Zealand – 1st innings: J. Raval c de Silva b Dananjaya 33, T. Latham c Dickwella b Dananjaya 30, K. Williamson c Karunaratne b Dananjaya 0, R. Taylor (batting) 86, H. Nicholls lbw b Dananjaya 42, B.J. Watling lbw b Dananjaya 1, M. Santner (batting) 8; Extras (nb-1, lb-2); 3; Total (for five wkts. in

68 overs): 203.

Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-64, 3-71, 4-171, 5-179.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 10-5-14-0, Kumara 10-1-37-0, Dananjaya 22-2-57-5, de Silva 6-0-20-0, Embuldeniya 20-1-73-0.

Toss: New Zealand.

Cricket ball goes vegan!

Phanase shines in PD World Cricket Series final

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

W.G. Grace and Don Bradman may be spinning in their graves at the news an English cricket club have switched to using a vegan ball from the traditional leather one.

Earley Cricket Club in Reading, 64 kilometres west of London, had introduced a vegan tea for their players. That was down to their founder and chairman Gary Shacklady, who found most cricket club teas consisted of ham sandwiches, not much use to him when he became a vegan.

Now the club has gone the full hog and introduced a vegan cricket ball – a synthetic animal products-free one covered in rubber instead of leather.

"It does behave like a leather cricket ball, but it bounces more and it's more difficult to grip," Shacklady told the Daily Mail. "But we're enthused by it and we're hopeful of finding a better version."



Top of the world: The victorious India Physically Disabled squad with its reward. ■ BCCI/TWITTER

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Kunal Phanase's 36 (35b, 3x4) and two for 15 helped India Physically Disabled beat host England Physically Disabled by 36 runs in 36 runs in the final of the T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series, organised by England & Wales Cricket Board, at the Blackfinch New Road stadium in Worcester.

Earlier, India had earlier topped the six-team round-robin league stage to qualify directly for the final. The Indian team called itself Wade-

kar Warriors, in memory of former India captain Ajit Wadekar, who played an active role in All India Cricket Association for Physically Challenged (AICAPC), who organised the selection and preparation for the event.

The scores: India 180 for seven in 20 overs (Kunal Phanase 36, Vikrant Keri 29, Ravindra Sante 53, Suganesh Mahendran 33, L. O'Brien two for 35) bt England 144 for eight in 20 overs (A. Brown 44, C Flynn 28, Phanase two for 15, Sunny Goyat two for 23).

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I have to reprogramme my thinking'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Struggling with his form, West Indies all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite said he is working on his fitness and trying to "reprogramme" his thoughts to get his batman back in order.

Brathwaite scored nine, 10 and zero across formats in the ongoing limited-overs series against India.

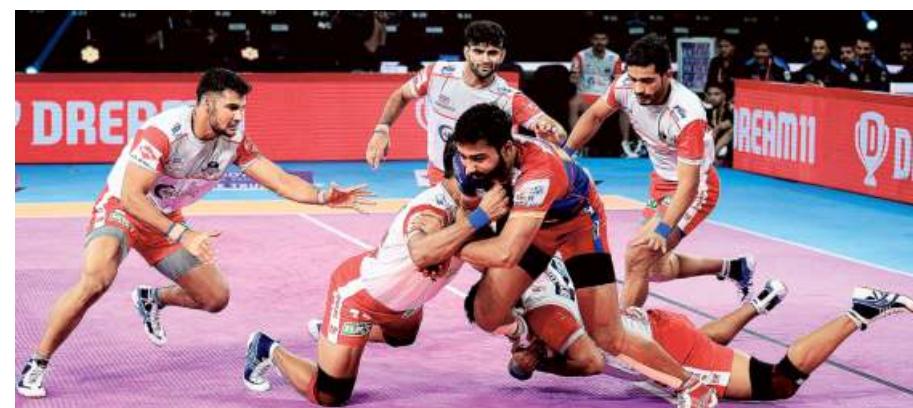
"I think batting-wise I have to reprogramme my thinking about hitting and swiping and batting properly," he told reporters on the eve of the final ODI against India.

"We are having a lot of honest conversations with the coaches and the staff and I think one thing that's kept me back is my fitness. I have been working very, very hard in the past 12 to 14 months on my fitness – I believe I can get a bit stronger as well."

Brathwaite's last memorable innings came in the World Cup when he blasted an 82-ball 101 to take West Indies to the brink of victory against New Zealand.

But his attempt to hit a match-winning six in the penultimate over cost him dearly as his team lost by five runs.

Kandola's left foot floors Yoddha



Falling short: Monu Goyat & Co.'s efforts were not enough against Steelers. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

PKL

G. VISWANATH
AHMEDABAD

Vikash Kandola deployed his left foot three times in the last three minutes to steer Haryana Steelers to a thrilling 36-33 win against UP Yoddha in the ProKabaddi League at the Arena by TransStadia here on Wednesday.

The action-packed tussle turned into a scrap between Haryana Steelers and UP Yoddha in the ProKabaddi League at the Arena by TransStadia here on Wednesday.

Kandola's splendid effort reduced the UP side to three men on the court, as against its full seven, when the teams took positions after a time-out. It was a complete mismatch that eventually contributed to Steelers' hard-earned win – its fourth

in seven matches. With this victory, it climbed to the third spot.

Midway through the second half, Steelers changed the course of the contest, thanks to Sunil's solid tackles with which he weighed in with six points.

Warriors win thriller In the second match of the day, Gujarat Fortunegiants, after pulling level at 26 through two super tackles, suffered a 26-28 reverse against Bengal Warriors.

The three-man raiding team of Prapanjan, Maninder Singh and Mohammad Nabibaksh contributed 18 points for Warriors.

The results: Haryana Steelers bt UP Yoddha 36-33; Gujarat Fortunegiants lost to Bengal Warriors 26-28.

BCCI asks Subramaniam to stay back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Wednesday went back on its decision to call back the administrative manager, Sunil Subramaniam, after he tendered "an unconditional apology" for misbehaving with senior officials from the country's High Commissions in the West Indies.

In what could have been a first in Indian cricket, the BCCI had contemplated calling back the manager midway through the tour, but the Committee of Administrators (CoA) chief Virender Sehwag let him off with a severe reprimand following his apology.

"Sunil Subramaniam didn't know that it was a request from the government of India. I had initially thought of recalling him, but in the evening, after he tendered an unconditional apology, I decided to keep him for the remainder of the tour," said Sehwag.

"He will complete the tour as his apology has been accepted," added the CoA chief.

Rain washes out day one

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LORD'S

Jofra Archer received his England Test cap but was still to deliver a ball after the opening day of the second Ashes Test against Australia was abandoned without a ball bowled at a soaking wet Lord's.

Chris Jordan, his Sussex teammate, presented Archer with the cap in England's pre-match huddle.

With rain still lashing an increasingly gloomy 'home of cricket', umpires Aleem Dar and Chris Gaffaney finally abandoned play for the day after tea.

Jordan may only have made eight Test appearances, but has been something of a 'cricket brother' for fellow Barbados-born county legume Archer.

Ashes holder Australia lead the five-match series 1-0 after its 251-run win at Edgbaston last week.

In 17 of the last 19 Ashes, the team that has led 1-0 has won the series. The exceptions were in 1997 when Australia lost at Edgbaston, but won the six-match series 3-2 and 2005 when England lost at Lord's but won the five-Test series 2-1.

With this victory, it climbed to the third spot.

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'The goal was to finish'

Aishwarya Pissay was returning from an injury

MOTORSPORTS

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

Aishwarya Pissay returned home on Wednesday after her triumph in the 2019 FIM Bajas World Cup.

The 24-year-old rider, who emerged on top of the women's section and second in the junior category, described the reaction to her feats as "overwhelming."

Last year, Aishwarya had suffered a serious injury in her first international event – the Baja Aragon – where a crash left her with a ruptured pancreas.

She expressed delight at having been able to finish all four rounds of the Bajas World Cup this time around.

"Last year, I could not ride for two and a half months after surgery. I could not work on my core because the injury had not healed. I stayed in hospital for a month, after which I still had a tube hanging off my body when I came back to India. Psychologically, I had to work on my riding after the accident. This year, I got a lot more seat time, which itself is progress," the TVS rider said.

Aishwarya's cause was helped by the fact that she was the only woman rider to compete in all four rounds, enabling her to gather more points than her rivals. She was the sole woman rider in the first round in Dubai, finished third out of three women in the second round in Portugal, fifth out of five at the Baja Aragon in Spain, and ended the season with a fourth place among four women riders in Hungary.

Aishwarya did not feel, though, that the size of the field diminished her accomplishment. "It does not devalue the achievement," she said. "In the Olympics, if there are five people on the track, would you say the same thing about them? Overall, if you look at the women's field in motorsports worldwide, five is a good number. The women I raced against have ridden in the Dakar (Rosa Romero and Sandra Garcia Alvarez). It wasn't easy."

Aishwarya, who was ranked 23rd overall (and second out of 11 riders in the Junior section), was positive in her assessment of her own performance. "Honestly, to even be able to finish these races is a huge task," she said.

"For a person like me, after having that big crash last year, the first goal was to finish each race, no matter what. The bonus was that we won the championship. I definitely finished a lot better than I thought I would."



Smile of success: Aishwarya Pissay expressed delight at having been able to finish all four rounds of the Bajas World Cup this time around. ■ SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

Kovac can build an era at Bayern, says Matthaeus

Lahiri, Shubhankar look for PGA cards

The two will play at the Korn Ferry Series final

GOLF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLUMBUS (USA)

Bayern Munich legend Lothar Matthaeus believes under-fire coach Niko Kovac can define an era at the club and walk in the footsteps of managerial greats Ottmar Hitzfeld and Jupp Heynckes. In an interview with AFP ahead of Bayern's Bundesliga opener against Hertha Berlin on Friday, the 1990 World Cup winner said that Kovac could emulate the achievements of Bayern's most successful coaches and lead it to Champions League glory.

"I think Kovac could even build an era in the way Ottmar Hitzfeld, Jupp Heynckes and Udo Lattek did at Bayern," Matthaeus, 58, said.

Constant pressure

Kovac was under constant pressure in his first year at Bayern last season and faced repeated criticism from inside the dressing room, despite eventually leading the club to the domestic double.

"He won the double in difficult conditions last year. He showed he can fight," said Matthaeus.

"He is a football expert and I think this season will be easier for him."



Shubhankar Sharma. ■ GETTY IMAGES

gory is 126th to 200th on FedExCup standings), Shubhankar comes in as one of the six non-members who had points equivalent to 126th-200th on the FedExCup standings.

Lahiri, who has played the PGA Tour for the past four years, is in a similar spot as he was in 2015, the year he broke out on the world scene with two European Tour wins and an entry into the World's Top-50.

Lahiri will tee off with Jonathan Randolph and Jamie Arnold, who finished in the Category of 26th to 75th on the Korn Ferry Tour this year, while Shubhankar plays with Brady Schnell, who was just inside Top-200 on FedExCup standings, and Ben Kohles.

In 2015, Lahiri was at his best. He was coming off a great season with two wins, the Malaysian championships and the Hero Indian Open, the latter being the last win for him.

Lahiri earned his PGA tour by playing just two of the four events in the Korn Ferry Series finals. He was Tied-6th at Hotel Fitness and T-16 at the Small Business Connection Championships and that sufficed to get him into PGA Tour for 2016.

He skipped the last as he became the first Indian to make the Presidents Cup team in Korea. He kept his



card till last year and this year a disappointing run saw him finish 178th on the FedExCup standings, forcing him to play the Korn Ferry Final Series.

Global attention

Shubhankar, who like Lahiri in 2015, shot to fame with two European Tour wins in the 2018 season, attracted a lot of global attention. He did not play the Korn Ferry series last year, but comes this year on the strength of having earned enough points equivalent of the FedExCup standing between 126th and 200th despite being a non-member.

Even Biles admitted she couldn't wait to see the re-

Meiraba and Samiya – the next big thing

Duo says the tag motivates and spurs them on

BADMINTON

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

For the 16-year-old shuttler Maisnam Meiraba (singles player), this year has been phenomenal in terms of overall performance.

Following the recent bronze medal in the Bulgarian junior International, he's now in Panchkula playing a junior ranking tournament which is also a selection tournament for the upcoming World juniors. There will be another in Bengaluru that he will play as well.

"We have a lot of shuttlers now. The popularity of and interest for the sport has been on the rise," he says over phone, referring to his home State Manipur that people mostly associate with football. Boxer Mary Kom and Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu are a couple of other sportspersons who've made

their name from the region. Now Meiraba, though it's too early, is observed by experts as a potential star player for the future.

Four-in-a-row

Since January, he notably has won four consecutive junior (u-19) ranking tournaments in Bengaluru, Vijayawada, Chennai and Trivandrum, reached the quarterfinals in the German junior International, won bronze in the Yonex-Roza Bty junior International in Thailand, won gold in the White Nights junior International in Russia.

While Meiraba shuttles between Imphal and Bengaluru where he's been training at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, Samiya Farooqui (16), who won the girls' singles gold in Bulgaria and is considered as another potential star in the making, hails from and trains in Hyderabad.

Meiraba responds saying he's always been working on his fitness and agrees that he might be found lacking when compared to the other Asian

players, especially from China and Indonesia. "They are physically dominating," he says.

He says he's particularly been working on his smash and forecourt play for now.

Reducing errors

Meiraba's strengths are his speed, power, and accuracy. He has to work on fitness; improve his stamina. For instance, to reach the final of, say, a five-day tournament, you need to win four or five matches in a tight schedule.

Samiya, I think, has to work on power. She's very good with half smashes; deception, in general. Also, she's a fighter; doesn't give up easily," he adds.

Meiraba responds saying he's always been working on his fitness and agrees that he might be found lacking when compared to the other Asian

Samiya is even being touted the next Saina Nehwal!

This year, UTT found its mojo: Sharath

Team balance the reason for Chennai Lions' success'

TABLE TENNIS

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Chennai Lions captain Sharath Kamal said the team balance was the main reason for it to pick up the Ultimate Table Tennis crown. He credited Germany's Petrissa Solja for playing a major role.

"This season we had a fantastic team. The main factor [for the win] was Petrissa. She has already qualified for [Tokyo] Olympics in the European Games in both the team and mixed doubles. This is Tiago [Apolonio]s third season and he knows how it works," said Sharath.

"For us, the best team was Goa that had Cheng-I-Ching, women's world No.9, India's A. Amalraj and Archana Karanam, both were in fine form, and the foreign player Alvaro Robles [Spain].

"We were trailing 1-5 but fought back to level at 6-6. And Madhurika [Patkar]

won a tough final match against Archana. We came back from the jaws of defeat and that helped us be strong in the final," said the 37-year-old.

"Petty [Petrissa] had nine points in every tie together. She had three singles and three mixed doubles while I played the same number of matches.

"Petty was in fantastic form and she went on to win the best player of the tournament award," said the Com-

monwealth Games champion.

Lions started off on a wrong note losing to U Mumba TT, but slowly picked steam.

Motivating win

The semifinal victory over Goa Challengers, which Sharath said was the team to beat, gave Lions the required motivation in the final.

"For us, the best team was Goa that had Cheng-I-Ching, women's world No.9, India's A. Amalraj and Archana Karanam, both were in fine form, and the foreign player Alvaro Robles [Spain].

"We were trailing 1-5 but



Sharath Kamal ■ AMAL JOHN

beat the Indian 3-0.

"Tiago was in great shape. His win over Sathiyan gave us the momentum. Dabang is a one-man army [Sathiyan]. Once we took Sathiyan out, we were very confident," said Sharath.

Ok for new format

Sharath gave a thumbs-up to the new UTT format. "I am really happy with the format. It is very short, compact and very intense.

"There were lots of emotions and expressions, which were captured well on television.

"That we could finish each tie in around two hours was encouraging. I think this year, UTT found its mojo. It was a packed stadium in the final.

"From here, it will only go upwards. The viewership has gone up, the production values were top-class. So many moments were captured well on television, which increased people's interest in the sport."

The next major assignment for the Indian table tennis teams (men & women) will be next year, where it will be participating in the World team qualification championship in Gondomor, Portugal from January 22 to 26.

Sharath believes that the team has a fair chance to make it to Tokyo.

"If we qualify as a team, then the top two places are guaranteed in singles. That makes a lot of things easier for all of us. We'll have enough time to prepare for Tokyo," he said.

Sasi Kumar overcomes King's challenge

SPORTS BUREAU
PORTOROZ (SLOVENIA)

Sasi Kumar Mukund battled to a 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory over Evan King of the United States in the second round of the Challenger tennis tournament.

The results: \$46,600 Challenger, Portoroz, Slovenia: Singles (second round): Sasi Kumar vs Evan King (US) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia: Singles (first round): Niki Poonacha bt Rhett Purcell (Nzl) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1; Aryan Goveas bt Dusty H.

Boyer (US) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; Aaron Addison bt Kunal Anand 6-4, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Kunal Anand & Manish Suresh Kumar bt Soichiro Moritani & Kento Takeuchi (Jpn) 6-3, 7-6(3).

\$15,000 ITF men, Sintra, Portugal: Singles (first round): Nuno Borges (Por) bt Digrvijay Pratap Singh 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Luis Faria (Por) bt Terence Das 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF women, Huangshan, China: Singles (first round): Ye Xin Ma (Chn) bt Ria Bhatty 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ye Xin Ma (Chn) & Zuzana Zlochova (Svk) bt Lou Bruleau (Fra) 6-1, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Nairobi, Kenya: Singles (first round): Mahak Jain bt Anfisa Danilchenko (Rus) 6-0 retd.; Samiya Vigt Manuela Maria Lisa Nyonda (Gab) 6-2, 6-1; Sathwika Sama bt Deeksha Marju Prasad 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sravya Shivan Chikalapudi & Snehal Mane bt Manuela Maria Lisa Nyonda (Gab) & Sariaka Radilofe (Fra) 6-3, 6-2.

Deepak Punia is World Champion

WRESTLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Grappler Deepak Punia on Wednesday became India's first junior World Champion in 18 years after he claimed a gold medal at the junior worlds with a win over Russia's Alik Shebzukhov at Tallinn, Estonia.

The score was tied 2-2 at the end of the 86kg men's freestyle bout but the Indian was declared champion because he had scored the last point.

The last Indian to emerge gold medallist at the junior world championship were Ramesh Kumar (69 kg) and Palwinder Singh Cheema (130 kg) who stood atop the podium in 2001.



On a high: Deepak Punia pipped Russia's Alik Shebzukhov for the 86kg gold. ■ PTI

over a minute left he scored two points by pushing his opponent twice to emerge a 3-2 winner.

Punia will also represent India at the upcoming World Championship in Kazakhstan, having won the trials.

In the 92kg, Viky edged out Mongolia's Batmagnai Enkhjargal 3-2 to claim a bronze.

Before prevailing over Shebzukhov, Punia, who also won a gold at 2016 Cadet World Championship, comfortably defeated Milan Korcsog of Hungary 10-1 in his opening bout.

He then defeated Hunter Lee of Canada 5-1.

In the semifinal Georgia's Miriani Maisuradze 3-2, Punia trailed 1-2 but with just

play of the move, whipping out her phone between rotations to check out the video. "I didn't want to be the last person to see it," she said.

Biles – who already has a vault skill and a floor exercise manoeuvre named for her as the originator – pressed the limits in balance beam in Kansas City, too, with a double-flip, double-twist beam dismount.

Lee was more than content with her silver, while Morgan Hurd, who finished fourth, called Biles 'super-human'. "I do consider it a win, just because she's unbeatible," Lee said.

Even B

TV PICKS

Sri Lanka v New Zealand: First Test Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
The Ashes: Second Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
TNPL: Final, Star Sport 3, 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Cincinnati Open tennis: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Steyn not 'medically fit' for India tour

CAPE TOWN
South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn is not 'medically ready', said Cricket South Africa's (CSA) acting director Corrie Van Zyl citing the reason for the omission of the pacer from the squad announced for the India tour. "He is not yet medically ready and our information makes that very clear," Sport24.co.za quoted Van Zyl as saying. The Proteas announced their squad for India tour on Tuesday and Dale Steyn was a notable absentee from the announced squad. ANI



Injured del Potro out of US Open

NEW YORK
Former champion Juan Martin del Potro, who had surgery in June to repair a broken right kneecap, won't be ready for the US Open, organisers said on Tuesday. The 2009 champion's withdrawal sent USA's Denis Kudla, who was previously announced as a wildcard, into the main draw. AFP



Chris Morris wants to play for South Africa

CAPE TOWN
Cricket South Africa (CSA) acting director Corrie van Zyl on Wednesday said South African all-rounder Chris Morris, whose contract was not renewed after the World Cup, now wants to play after he made himself unavailable for the India tour. Van Zyl said that negotiations for a new contract will begin after the India tour. ANI



Sala and pilot 'exposed to carbon monoxide'

LONDON
Footballer Emiliano Sala and the pilot flying his plane when it crashed were likely exposed to "potentially fatal" levels of carbon monoxide, investigators announced on Wednesday. "Toxicology tests found that the passenger had a high saturation level of COHb (the combination product of carbon monoxide and haemoglobin)," Britain's Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) said in a special bulletin. ANI

Stosur, Gauff headline US Open wildcards

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Former champion Samantha Stosur and teenage Wimbledon sensation Coco Gauff highlight the list of US Open wildcards announced on Tuesday.

Gauff is joined by four other teenagers among eight wildcard invitees in Caty McNally, Whitney Osuigwe and Katie Volynets and Diane Parry.

East Bengal seals last-four spot

Gokulam FC and FC Goa keep their chances alive with facile wins

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Bidyashagar Singh proved to be a super-sub once again as he scored twice in the second half to help East Bengal erase a goal's deficit and beat Bengaluru FC 2-1 in a Group-A match of the 129th Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium on Wednesday.

The win helped the Kolkata side seal a semifinal spot.

In other matches, Gokulam Kerala FC brightened its semifinal chances by blanking Indian Air Force 3-0 in Group-D, while FC Goa's developmental side got the better of I-League champion Chennai City FC by the odd goal in three in a Group-C match to stay in the hunt.

Needing a draw to ensure a spot in the last-four, East Bengal topped the group with an all-win record (nine points) after besting BFC's second team.

Ajay Chhetri gave BFC the lead latching on to a rebound after teammate Edmund Lalrindika's 17th minute effort came off the crosspiece.

Bidyashagar delights

East Bengal coach Alejandro Menendez introduced Bidyashagar after the break and he found the equaliser by the hour mark with a nice half-volley. A product of the



Leading from the front: Gokulam Kerala FC's skipper Marcus Joseph netted twice against IAF on Wednesday. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

East Bengal youth system, Bidyashagar scored the winner in the 74th minute with a fine solo effort.

Brace by Marcus

Gokulam Kerala, which outplayed Chennaiyin FC's development side 4-0 in its first outing, found Trinidad and Tobago import and skipper Marcus Joseph striking twice and Shibil Muhammed netting the other against IAF.

FC Goa, which got the better of Army Green by a solitary goal in its previous match, lined itself up for a last-four spot in Group-C.

Liston Colaco put Goa ahead in the 10th minute before CCFC restored parity in

the 18th minute through Mashoor Shereef's header. Nestor Dias scored in the 31st minute to help FC Goa net full points.

The results: **Group-A:** East Bengal (Bidyashagar Singh 59, 74) bt Bengaluru FC 1 (Ajay Chhetri 17); **Group-C:** FC Goa 2 (Liston Colaco 10, Nestor Dias 31) bt Chennai City FC 1 (Mashoor Shereef 18); **Group-D:** Gokulam Kerala FC 3 (Marcus Joseph 43, 86, Shibil Muhammed 56) bt IAF 56.

"We do not have an ambassador any longer in Islamabad," the AITA stressed, in its communication to ITF on Wednesday.

AITA also pointed out that

a tie between India and the

Indian boys and girls post wins

ASIAN U-12 TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
KAZAKHSTAN

Nov 6-4, 6-3; Manas Dhamne & Ramaiah Senthil Kumar bt Yerassy Bakhtiyar & Artem Sidorov 7-5, 6-2].

Girls: Thailand bt India 3-0

[Pariyakorn Sirisriyapatkul bt Ika Raju Kanumuri 6-4, 6-1; Kamron Yodpetch bt Riya Sachdeva 6-1, 7-5; Yosita Sriporn & Kamonwan Yodpetch bt Ika Raju Kanumuri & Riya Sachdeva 6-3, 6-1].

India bt Hong Kong 2-1 [Ika Raju Kanumuri bt Tsz Lu Lee 6-1, 6-1; Riya Sachdeva bt Jane Ling Chun Wong 6-4, 7-5; Samiksha Dabas & Riya Sachdeva lost to Jane Ling Chun Wong & Tsz Lam Yeung 3-6, 6-7(4)].

India bt Uzbekistan 3-0 [Ika Raju Kanumuri bt Mlana Tomashewich 6-4, 7-6(5); Riya Sachdeva bt Zlata Chinnova 6-3, 6-4; Samiksha Dabas & Riya Sachdeva bt Shakhsoda Arzikbaeva & Zlada Chinnova 6-4, 6-2].

The results (league):

Boys: India bt Hong Kong 3-0 [Ramaiah Senthil Kumar bt Jacob Kailiang Shen 7-5, 5-7, 6-2; Manas Dhamne bt Bob Chan 6-3, 6-1; Manas Dhamne & Arnav Paparker bt Kui Chi Antonio Lee & Jacob Kailiang Shen 6-2, 6-0].

India bt Kazakhstan 2-1 [Ramaiah Senthil Kumar lost to Artem Sidorov 2-6, 3-6; Manas Dhamne bt Amir Omarkha-

Chandigarh to play in Ranji Trophy

VRV Singh appointed team's head coach

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Former Test fast bowler VRV Singh was on Wednesday appointed the Head Coach of Chandigarh which was recently granted affiliation by the Board. Chandigarh will field teams in all the age groups of the Board and importantly participate in the Ranji Trophy.

The Union Territory Cricket Association (UTCA) president Sanjay Tandon told *The Hindu*, "we are all so excited at the opportunities that have come our way."

"For 15 long years we had been pleading for recognition and now that it has finally happened we want to live up to the expectations."

"It is a welcome development for the growth of

the game in the region."

According to Tandon, the affiliation granted last month restricted Chandigarh's participation only to the under-23 age group.

"Last night I got this communication that Chandigarh can participate in the Ranji Trophy too along with all the senior tournaments like Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy. Our women's team will compete in all the age groups," he said.

Huge responsibility

Tandon described the development as a "huge responsibility" on his team of workers.

"No doubt it is a huge challenge. In the next four days we shall finalize all the required committees. It's a gigantic task but we are ready. I promise all our

supporters that we shall maintain transparency in our functioning," the UTCA president added.

The UTCA has invited players to register on its website.

"We are holding trials from August 21 to pick the senior men's team which will participate in the JP Atray tournament (starting September 1)," said Tandon.

Chandigarh has given quite a few cricketers who have represented India — Kapil Dev, Yograj Singh, Ashok Malhotra, Chetan Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Dinesh Mongia.

The Sector 16 Stadium, where Kapil, Chetan, Malhotra and Yograj trained under coach Desh Prem Azad, will host the matches, including Chandigarh's debut in First Class.

DAVIS CUP

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has requested the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to view the India-Pakistan situation in the proper perspective and take a *suo moto* decision to either postpone or shift the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan out of Islamabad.

Earlier in the day, AITA had asked ITF to

ITF says no

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Wednesday refused to either postpone or shift the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan out of Islamabad.

Earlier in the day, AITA had asked ITF to

either postpone the tie or take it to a neutral venue *suo moto* given the current diplomatic tension between the two countries. Instead, the ITF has shared its security plans with AITA and offered them to have a discussion with their security consultants.

US had been postponed, despite the Indian team already being present in North Carolina in September 2001, "even though there was no further security threat".

The ITF had postponed the tie then, "considering the overall mood in USA", AITA highlighted in its communication.

Suggesting that good atmosphere was extremely important for Davis Cup ties, AITA observed that, "the recent developments have resulted in an atmosphere which is not conducive for a happy friendly tie between the two teams which have immense respect for each other."

"In case, AITA is not satisfied with the security arrangements and discussion between our respective teams, everything will be in order."

AITA has, in fact, sought to interact with the ITF Board of Directors on the subject.

No worries
About ITF's concern over AI-

TA not securing Pakistan visa for the team, the AITA said that there was enough time as the procedure required only a "few days".

Asking for the security reports of ITF's consultants in Pakistan, AITA has said that it would consult its security agencies to confirm and satisfy itself of the arrangements. It has also asked for a telephonic interaction with the security agencies on August 16.

"If AITA is satisfied with the security arrangements and discussion between our respective teams, everything will be in order."

"In case, AITA is not satisfied with the security arrangements and discussion between our respective teams, everything will be in order."

Anjum Moudgil in awesome form

Finishes with five gold and a silver

SPORTS BUREAU
CHENGDU (CHINA)

World championship silver medallist and the current World No. 2 Anjum Moudgil shot a perfect 600 out of 600 in winning the air rifle gold in the World Police and Fire Games here on Wednesday.

Along with Elizabeth Susan Koshy, who won the individual silver, Sahil and Maneesh Kumar, Anjum also won the team gold.

It was a memorable outing for Anjum as she finished with five gold and a silver. She had earlier won the individual gold in prone and a silver in the three-position event. She was part of the three gold winning team in prone, 3-position and air rifle.

The results: **Mixed air rifle:** 1. Anjum Moudgil 600; 2. Elizabeth Susan Koshy 592; 3. Sahil 560.

Team: 1. India 2371; 2. India-A 2343; 3. Vanguard Sports Association of China 2332.

Shreya in lead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD

Amateur Shreya Pal fired three birdies in the last five holes for a superb five-under 67 in the first round of the 12th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here Wednesday. Shreya was fifth in the 11th leg, where Sneha Singh, also an amateur, won the title.

On Wednesday, Shreya went even better in terms of scores as she shot six birdies against a sole bogey in the first round.

Gaurika Bishnoi and Sneha were tied fourth with rounds of even par 72 each.

Ishvari Prasanna was sixth with 73, while Siddhi Kapoor, Amadeep Drall and Afshan Fatima shot 74 each to be tied-seventh.

Serena pulls out with back trouble; Venus shocks Bertens

CINCINNATI MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CINCINNATI

Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic overwhelmed opponents at the WTA-ATP Cincinnati Masters on Tuesday, where Serena Williams withdrew because of back trouble.

The 23-time Grand Slam champion said her back was "still not right" casting a

further shadow on her chances at the US Open starting in Flushing Meadows on August 26.

Federer, seeded third, remained unruffled by a one-hour rain interruption at 2-2 in the second set, eventually defeating Argentina's Juan Ignacio Londero 6-3, 6-4 to reach the third round at the event he has won seven times.

"This is the start of a long, long hardcourt swing. It's

good to begin with a win," said Federer.

Venus Williams kept the family flag flying, the 39-year-old American putting her decades of experience to good use in a 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(4) victory over defending champion Kiki Bertens.

The results: **Men: Second round:** Novak Djokovic bt Sam Querrey 7-6(2), 6-1; Roger Federer bt Juan Ignacio Londero 6-3, 6-4; Pablo Carreno Busta bt John Isner 6-4, 6-7(1), 7-6(6).

First round: Denis Shapovalov

bt Joao Sousa 2-6, 6-3, 6-2;

Songs from the soil: a unique tribute to Pulwama martyrs



Patriotic mission: Umesh Gopinath Jadhav during a halt in Bhopal on Wednesday. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

U.G. Jadhav is visiting the birthplaces of the 40 CRPF men killed on February 14

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

On February 14, 2019, Umesh Gopinath Jadhav couldn't possible foresee that a two-hour flight delay would prod him to embark on a year-long patriotic mission.

As the news of the Pulwama attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed began trickling in, he sat for two hours watching the news on TV at the Ajmer airport, on his way back to Bengaluru af-

ter a musical performance. "I couldn't sleep for three nights straight," Mr. Jadhav recalls. "I wondered how relatives of the martyrs felt at that point."

Today, in his modified sedan with a Maruti Suzuki 800 in tow as a trolley, 39-year-old Mr. Jadhav is travelling to the homes and villages of each of the martyrs across 16 States and to war memorials across the country collecting soil.

He's collecting samples

from two spots – where the martyr took his first step and where he was given final rites.

Mr. Jadhav hopes to reach Pulwama a year after the attack and create a map of the country using the soil. "A soldier does what he does for the country's soil. Although we are born in different parts, we are all part of the same nation," says Mr. Jadhav.

Spending nights inside his car at petrol pumps, fed by

strangers at roadside eateries and given fuel by benevolent drivers, Mr. Jadhav has driven 12,000 km through Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Puducherry and Madhya Pradesh.

He began his crowdfunded journey on April 9, Valentine's Day, from Bengaluru.

"I didn't want to say rest in peace to martyrs on social media. Rather, I am meeting their families to say that we stand with them," says Mr. Jadhav.

Eggshells used to synthesise natural bone implant material

Nanopowder may replace commercially available substitute

V. GEETANATH
HYDERABAD

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, have developed a process by which bone implant materials can be synthesised from eggshells.

The research seeks to produce bone substitute materials such as tricalcium phosphate, a commonly-used bone substitute material, from natural sources. Eggshells are made of largely of minerals (95.1%) along with small amounts of proteins and water. Calcium is the main mineral component.

"Tonnes of eggshells are dumped as waste across the world but bioceramics made from them exhibit greater biocompatibility than other synthetic powders



C Bioceramics made from eggshells exhibit greater biocompatibility than other synthetic powders

R. UDAY KIRAN
Researcher

mited quantities," said research student R. Uday Kiran, department of biomedical engineering, IIT-H.

In modern medicine, damaged and missing bones are replaced with bone from either the patient or a donor or by using artificial materials containing calcium, such as Plaster of Paris, and more recently, phosphate

compounds like hydroxyapatite and calcium phosphate.

Ball milling process

For their study, researchers synthesised pure and thermally stable tricalcium phosphate nanopowder – powder a hundred thousand times smaller than the width of a single human hair – from eggshells. They used a milling process called 'ball milling' to produce these activated calcium phosphate powders.

Results showed that eggshell waste is promising enough to replace the commercially available tricalcium phosphate (produced by using harmful chemicals) and has the capability to develop implantable biomaterial for tissue regeneration, according to the research paper published in *Ceramics International*.

The paper was co-authored by Mahesh Kumar Sah, Subha Narayan Rath and Bharat B. Panigrahi.

V. Balakrishnan's stark new script bags *The Hindu* Playwright Award

GOWRI S.
CHENNAI

The Hindu Playwright Award 2019 was awarded to V. Balakrishnan for his play *Sordid*. The ₹2 lakh award for the best new unpublished and unperformed play script in English was presented at the launch of the 15th edition of *The Hindu Theatre Fest* at Taj Coromandel, Nungambakkam, on Wednesday.

The shortlisted works included Ajay Krishnan's *Gajram the Great*, Deepika Arwind's *Phantasmagoria* and Deepro Roy's *Azad Theatre*, chosen by a panel of three judges from among the 82 entries received. This year's award was judged by scholar and author Arshia Sattar, playwright and director Ramu Ramanathan, and author and playwright Annie Zaidi (who was the winner of last year's award).

Sordid paints a picture of the starkly disturbing truth of water wives in a drought-ridden region. The citation prepared by the judges for the winning play read: "Personal and political at once, it



N. Ram, Chairman, The Hindu Group Publishing Pvt Ltd., presenting the award to V. Balakrishnan. ■ R. RAGU

speaks simultaneously of the gender conflict within the family as well as the larger, equally exploitative system that emerges out of a battle over scarce natural resources."

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Balakrishnan said, "If *The Hindu* hadn't created this competition, I wouldn't have attempted to write a play every year."

The award was presented by N. Ram, Chairman, The Hindu Group Publishing Pvt Ltd. "The award has helped to make the transition from

writing to performance – thereby creating an important synergy between the award and the festival," said Mr. Ram.

Theatre fest

The Hindu's Editor Suresh Nambath welcomed the gathering, and speaking about *The Hindu* Theatre Fest said, "This year is a milestone year and we are very happy to celebrate it with a line-up of 15 plays across three cities – Chennai, Hyderabad and Coimbatore."

To commemorate

the loss of celebrated theatre practitioner Girish Karnad, JustUs Repertory led by Gowri Ramnarayan showcased play reading sessions of *Tughlaq* and *Taledanda*.

The decision to stage more plays was also mentioned by the curator of the festival, Mukund Padmanabhan, who added, "It was ambitious, but it also made us look for smaller and more diverse performance spaces, including Goethe-Institut and Alliance Francaise of Madras."

The sponsors include Apollo Hospitals, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, SRM University, Union Bank of India, Casagrand, One Crest, Radio One, Fever FM and Air India.

The Hindu Theatre Fest will begin on August 16 and will be held until September 1 at Museum Theatre, Goethe-Institut, The Music Academy and Alliance Francaise of Madras.

Tickets are available on Paytm, www.insider.in and www.hindu.com/theatre-fest and at the venue.

NASA to use lava field for Mars practice

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LAMBAHRAUN

To prepare for the next mission to Mars in 2020, NASA has taken to the lava fields of Iceland to get its new robotic space explorer ready for the job.

With its black basalt sand, wind-swept dunes and craggy peaks, the Lambahraun lava field at the foot of Iceland's second biggest glacier, Langjokull, was chosen as a stand-in for the red planet's surface.

For three weeks, 15 scientists and engineers sent by the U.S. space agency descended on the site, 100 km from the capital Reykjavik, last month to develop a prototype.

It will aim to continue the work of the "Curiosity" rover, which has been exploring Mars since 2012 in search of signs of ancient life and making preparations for human exploration.

Experts say that Iceland, a volcanic island in the middle of the North Atlantic, is in many ways reminiscent of Mars.

Captain Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

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15th August 2019

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