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WEEKDAY BATCH STARTS
5th AUGUST 2019

MORNING : 7:00 AM TO 9:30 AM | AFTERNOON : 2:00 PM TO 4:30 PM

EVENING : 5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

WEEKEND BATCH STARTS
20th JULY 2019

SATURDAY : 3:00 PM TO 8:00 PM | SUNDAY : 9:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

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NEARBY



My resignation letter is with CM: Sidhu

CHEMIDGARH In the wake of widespread criticism over submitting his resignation letter from the Punjab Cabinet to party leader Rahul Gandhi instead of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu on Monday said his resignation has been delivered to the Chief Minister. Capt. Amarinder said if Mr. Sidhu did not want to do his job, there was nothing he could do about it.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

Foreign national held hostage in cab, robbed

NEW DELHI A foreign national employed as a pilot with IndiGo airlines was allegedly held hostage for two hours in a private cab and robbed of over ₹1 lakh by three men before being dumped in the Delhi Cantt. area, the police said on Monday. DCP (IG) Sanjay Bhatia said the taxi has been identified and the accused will be arrested soon.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

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Moon mission launch aborted

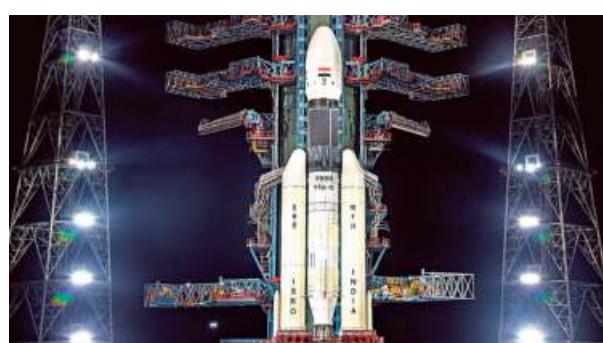
ISRO stops Chandrayaan-2 countdown 56 minutes before scheduled lift-off

T.K. ROHIT
SRIRAKOTA

India's ambitious second lunar mission, Chandrayaan-2, suffered a temporary setback in the early hours of Monday, with the launch of the rocket being aborted 56 minutes before the scheduled lift-off.

The mission was aimed at putting a rover on the moon's South Pole, where no country has gone before.

The countdown was stopped at 'T Minus 56 minutes' after Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientists found a glitch in the launch vehicle system. ISRO had completed filling of liquid hydrogen in the cryo-



For a fresh start: The countdown was stopped after a glitch in the launch vehicle GSLV MK-III-M1 on Monday. ■ PTI

genic stage of the GSLV MK-III-M1, which is capable of carrying satellites of up to four tonnes, at 1.34 a.m. But 22 minutes later, the countdown clock stopped ticking

at 56.24 minutes to launch.

"The launch is called off due to a snag. It is not possible to make the launch within the window. The launch schedule will be announced

later," a mission control official said on the public address system at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Kovind flies in

President Ram Nath Kovind had flown in by helicopter to witness the launch, after visiting Tirupati. Confusion prevailed in the media centre, as the announcement over the PA system was not heard indoors. With the clock stuck, ISRO officials at the auditorium scrambled to find out if the launch had been cancelled.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
WAITING FOR DAYBREAK
► EDITORIAL

Babri Masjid case trial judge seeks more time

U.P. govt. asked to suggest a way out

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Uttar Pradesh to suggest a way out after the sessions judge conducting the joint trial of the Babri Masjid cases sought six more months.

On April 19, 2017, the court gave the judge two years, reviving the criminal conspiracy charge against L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharti.

The court had evoked the



maxim – 'Let justice be done though the heavens fall' – to flex its extraordinary constitutional powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to bring the cases to justice.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

POTA repealed to save Cong. vote bank: Shah

LS debates changes to NIA Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Assuring the Lok Sabha that the Modi government will never misuse any anti-terror law on the basis of religion, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday accused the Congress-led UPA government of repealing the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) to save its "vote bank and not misuse".

His remarks came during the debate on the National Investigation Agency (NIA)

(Amendment) Bill, 2019. The debate saw sharp exchanges between the Home Minister and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Assaduddin Owaisi.

"The Modi government has no intention of misusing this law. Let me put this on record – the POTA was not repealed because of misuse, but to safeguard vote banks," Mr. Shah said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Use drones to identify waterlogging sites: HC

'File status report before July 24'



The city on Monday received 28.8 mm of rainfall, the first heavy shower of the season. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has suggested use of drones to aid civic authorities in identifying sites where waterlogging takes place so as to tackle traffic snarls in the city during the monsoon.

A Bench of Justices G.S. Sistani and Jyoti Singh further suggested setting up of a control room for quick reporting on traffic jams and waterlogging for remedial action to be taken as quickly as possible. "We have no hesitation in saying that all the departments would cooperate with each other to ensure that the citizens are not inconvenienced during the coming monsoon," the Bench said.

The High Court directed the city government to file a status report before July 24, the next date of hearing. The Bench also asked the authorities to look into the aspect of rainwater harvesting.

During the hearing, the Delhi government's counsel submitted a status report stating that they have identified problematic areas of waterlogging and highlighted the proposed long-term and short-term measures. "We are informed that at

most of the sites, water pumps are installed and on the remaining sites they shall be installed shortly. We are also informed that in the past, the water pumps were not effective as desilting was not complete. Counsel submits that they are hopeful that this problem would not arise this year as desilting of drains has already been carried out and the water will be thrown into the drains," the High Court noted.

Manning of pumps
The court also asked the authorities to ensure that the pumps are manned by operators every day during the monsoon season and the moment water starts collecting, the pumps should be put to use so that there is no waterlogging and the citizens are not inconvenienced by traffic jams.

The court, which has taken up the issue on its own, had earlier said the fallout of waterlogging was not only loss of man-hours with people unable to reach their destinations, including hospitals, on time but the idling engines of vehicular traffic would also add to air pollution in the city.

Sakshi, who married a Dalit against her father's wishes, "shall not interfere in the married life" of the couple. "The police should see that counsel for the petitioners and also the family members of the petitioners are not brought to any harm in any manner whatsoever," a Bench of Justice Siddhartha Varma said in its order.

The court directed the police and the administration to ensure that the family of Ms.

Sakshi and her husband Ajitesh to get

their marriage registered under the U.P. Marriage Registration Rules, 2017 within

two weeks.

There were also reports that while appearing in court, Mr. Ajitesh was roughed up by unknown persons. However, there was no police confirmation of the incident.

The High Court witnessed high drama on Monday when another couple were allegedly abducted from outside its premises hours before it was to hear the case of Ms. Sakshi and Mr. Ajitesh. The couple –

a young man and a minor girl from Moradabad and Amroha districts respectively – were taken away in a black SUV. The vehicle was intercepted at a toll booth in neighbouring Fatehpur district.

Six persons, including the father of the girl, were taken into custody along with the couple, said Additional Director General, Prayagraj, S.N. Sabat.

Solan building collapse toll mounts to 14

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The toll in Sunday's collapse of a building in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh rose to 14, with six more bodies being retrieved on Monday. Thirteen Army personnel are among the dead.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 9

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

High Court orders protection for MLA's daughter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Monday granted police protection to BJP MLA Rajesh Misra's daughter Sakshi and her husband Ajitesh, who had last week alleged threat to their lives from the legislator over their inter-caste marriage.

The court directed the police and the administration to

ensure that the family of Ms. Sakshi and her husband Ajitesh in a video clip that went viral.

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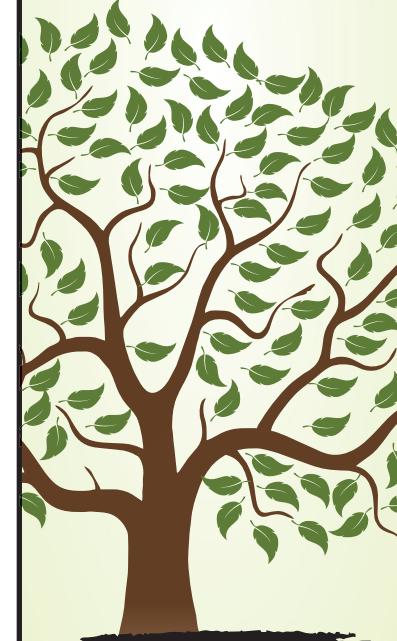
**10
AIR**



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Prelims Cum Mains 2020

DELHI

Regular Batch
11 July 6 PM | **25 July 9 AM** | Weekend Batch
6 July 9 AM

LUCKNOW
13 Aug 5 PM

HYDERABAD

15 May

PUNE

3 June

AHMEDABAD

15 May

JAIPUR

22 June

फाउंडेशन कोर्स

सामान्य अध्ययन 2020

हिन्दी माध्यम में

DELHI: 6 Aug | **LUCKNOW: 25 July** | **JAIPUR: 22 June** | **Batch also @ AHMEDABAD**

- प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निवंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज
- एनीमेशन, पॉवर प्लाइट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
- मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
- अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास
- मुख्य परीक्षा, निवंध, PT, सीसैट टेस्ट सीरीज
- निवंध लेखन - शैली, PT 365, Mains 365, सीरीट कक्षाएं
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**ENGLISH
Medium** | **25 July
5 PM**

**हिन्दी
माध्यम** | **1 Aug
5 PM**

Monthly CURRENT AFFAIRS Revision 2020 GENERAL STUDIES (PRELIMS + MAINS)

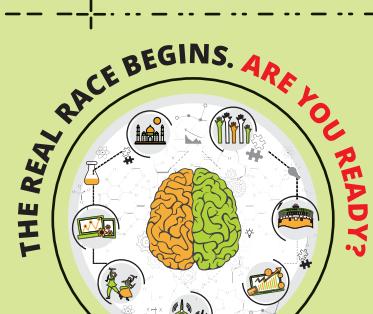
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हिन्दी माध्यम
10th July | 5 PM

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IN BRIEF



Cabinet reshuffle: Gahlot gets environment dept.

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday carried out a minor reshuffle of his Cabinet giving Law Minister Kailash Gahlot additional charge of environment. Imran Hussain, who was looking after portfolio, will now have sole responsibility of the Food and Supply Ministry. PTI

Rebel AAP MLA submits plea to disqualify Kejriwal

NEW DELHI

Rebel AAP MLA Kapil Mishra on Monday said that he has submitted a petition to disqualify Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as an MLA. Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel said that he is yet to receive the petition, but added that it will be rejected. Mr. Mishra alleged that the CM had campaigned for the Congress, TMC, BSP and other parties.

Court to hear defamation case against news channel

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday agreed to hear a criminal defamation complaint filed by Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra against a news channel and its editor-in-chief Sudhir Chaudhary for alleging that her June 25 speech in Parliament on the 'Seven Signs of Fascism' was plagiarised. The court has listed the matter for July 20. PTI

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi **168**

Gurugram **194**

Ghaziabad **168**

Faridabad **69**

Noida **182**

Greater Noida **162**

Good 0-50

Satisfactory 51-100

Moderate 101-200

Poor 201-300

Very poor 301-400

Severe >401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

Foreign national held hostage in cab, robbed

Victim, a pilot, was picked up by 4 men from IGI Terminal 1

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A foreign national employed as a pilot with IndiGo airlines was allegedly held hostage for two hours in a private cab and robbed of over ₹1 lakh by three men before being dumped in Delhi Cantt. area, the police said on Monday.

Sixty-year-old Mohammad Mehdi Ghazanfari, an Indian origin Canadian who works as a domestic airline pilot and lives in Gurugram, told the police that he was waiting outside Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal 1 for his office cab late on Friday, but his ride was late. He decided to walk towards the main road, near gate number 2 of the metro station, in search of the cab.

DCP (IGI) Sanjay Bhatia said that as the victim was

The men asked the victim for the PIN to his debit cards... they withdrew ₹1 lakh in ten instalments from an ATM

SANJAY BHATIA
DCP (IGI)

searching for his ride, a private taxi approached him and offered to drop him off at IndiGo's parking area.

The driver asked for ₹100, which the victim accepted. When he sat down in the taxi, he found that there were three other passengers already in the cab.

"As soon as he was in the car, the four men, including the taxi driver, forced Mr. Ghazanfari to hand over his wallet and other valuables. They also asked him for the PIN number of his debit

cards. They stopped the taxi at an ATM and withdrew ₹1 lakh in ten instalments. Later, they released the victim at Mahipalpur flyover and fled," said Mr. Bhatia.

Taxi identified
With the help of a passer-by, the victim approached the Domestic Airport police and lodged his complaint. Mr. Bhatia said that the taxi has been identified based on the details provided by the victim. The accused will be arrested soon, he added.

"On the complaint of the victim, we have registered an FIR under IPC Sections 386 (Extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt), 342 (wrongful confinement) and 34 (common intention)," said Mr. Bhatia.

Plea to link voter ID with Aadhaar

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A plea before the Delhi High Court has sought a direction to the Election Commission (EC) to link Voter ID with Aadhaar numbers to stop bogus and duplicate voting.

The petition, filed by advocate and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay, sought a direction to the poll panel to take appropriate steps to implement 'Aadhaar-based voting system' to ensure maximum participation in polls and curtail fake and fabricated votes.

"Authentication of voters, security of the voting process and protecting the voted data – these are the main challenges of current election voting. That is why it is necessary to generate a secure voting system," the plea said.

Mr. Upadhyay proposed an e-voting system using finger print and face biometric. "In this system, the database would be updated every time before an election," he said. "After verification, the system shows voter's information like Aadhar number, Name, Address and Date of birth, that are already stored in Aadhar's database and the system further asks for voter's finger print. If the fingerprint matches the template image stored in Aadhar's database, the next page will open to show the candidate's list with party symbols. After the voter selects a candidate and confirms his or her choice, the system will show 'Vote successful.'

Trial runs on Grey Line

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Trial runs on the Delhi Metro's Dwarka-Najafgarh corridor started on Monday.

The over 4-km-long stretch is part of the 5-km Grey Line, which will go up to Dhansa Stand. The corridor is likely to begin operations by September, said officials of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. Commuters travelling on the Grey Line will be able to get on the Blue Line at the Dwarka station interchange.

"Trial runs have started on the 4.29-km-long corridor. This section comprises three stations: Dwarka, Nangli and Najafgarh. The line is targeted for completion by September 2019," said DMRC officials.

Of the three stations, two are elevated and only the Najafgarh station is underground. A 1.18-km section, which will extend the line to Dhansa Stand, is slated for completion by December 2020," the official said.

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Heavy rain brings relief, traffic snarls follow



Commuters caught in the rain on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Monday's rainfall was the heaviest since the onset of monsoon on July 5

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The long wait for monsoon showers in the Capital ended on Monday with the city receiving 28.8 mm of rain.

The delayed monsoon had reached the city on July 5, but Monday's rainfall was the heaviest since then.

The rainfall, however, caused traffic snarls across the city. In south Delhi, motorists on Aurobindo Marg,

from Mehrauli to AIIMS, witnessed severe congestion after a tree got uprooted due to strong winds.

According to the Delhi Traffic Police, around 4 p.m., a large neem tree got uprooted during the rain and blocked the entire carriageway, affecting traffic movement.

Three cars were also trapped under the tree but fortunately, no occupants

of the car sustained any injuries, said the police.

The lanes were cleared by 6.45 p.m., said the police.

The rainfall was evenly distributed across the city with weather stations at Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge, Ayanagar, Nafajgarh and Sports Complex recording 25.8, 23.2, 13.2, 19.9, 4 and 7 mm of rain respectively.

The rain brought relief from the heat as the maxi-

mum temperature dropped from 38 degrees Celsius recorded on Sunday to 34.7 degrees Celsius on Monday.

The Met department said that a generally cloudy sky can be expected on Tuesday with light rain and thundershowers likely.

The extended forecast shows that the skies will be generally cloudy till July 21 with light rain on Wednesday and later in the week.

CM asks for 1.5 lakh more CCTV cameras

1.4 lakh cameras already being installed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday directed the Public Works Department to expedite procurement of 1.5 lakh more CCTVs for installation in residential areas across Delhi.

Now, a total of nearly three lakh CCTVs will be installed in residential areas, against the original plan to install 1.4 lakh cameras. Work is currently being carried in the city as per the original plan.

The direction was given by the Chief Minister in a meeting to review the progress of ongoing installation of CCTV cameras. He directed officials to seek necessary approvals to bring the matter to the Cabinet at the earliest.

'Speed up installation'

Mr. Kejriwal also directed the PWD to speed up the ongoing work and increase the capacity, so that by next week it is able to install at least 1,000 cameras daily.

He told the officers that residents were coming forward



Arvind Kejriwal ■

with their suggestions on where to install cameras in their respective areas and how further improvements could be done.

"The feedback from across Delhi shows that people are satisfied with the CCTV camera installation since it instils a sense of security and deters crime," the Chief Minister said.

Reviewing the progress of Mohalla Clinics, the Chief Minister directed that the construction work, hiring of doctors, paramedics and procurement of medicines be all done simultaneously so that new clinics can be made functional for the public at the earliest.

Govt. to give free safety kits to sewer workers

CM administers oath of safety to them

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

while working at a DJB sewer project earlier this month.

Mr. Kejriwal was speaking at a workshop organised by the Delhi Jal Board on sewer safety and awareness of the field-level sewer workers, at Talkatora Stadium.

He also administered an oath of safety and security to the workers. The oath said that no worker will enter any sewer without proper safety gear and will take proper care of safety.

"When any of our workers dies during the cleaning of sewers we get so upset and sad. We have to end this at any cost; we have to do this together," said Mr. Kejriwal.

Three workers had died

Will get god-man declared an absconder, CBI tells HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

the proceedings with regard to the two rape cases against Dixit and to send it to a Sessions Court so that trial can commence at the earliest.

The HC also issued directions to the Appellate Tribunal MCD to dispose of, preferably within eight weeks, the appeals against the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's decision to demolish the ashram, Adhyatmik Vidyalaya.

Demolition order
The Bench also asked the corporation as to why no steps were taken to vacate the stay granted by the tribunal against the demolition order.

During the proceedings, the Central Bureau of Investigation told the court that it has filed chargesheets in both the rape cases against Dixit.

Maithili to be optional subject in schools: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

here, Mr. Sisodia said that the Delhi government will also arrange free coaching for students taking Maithili as optional subject in the civil service examinations.

Now, there will also be awards of upto ₹2.5 lakh cash prize for those who work for Maithili-Bhojpuri arts, culture, journalism, theatre and others, he said.

Moon Carnival at planetarium

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

show "Back to the Moon" has been created and will be available for public viewing. The show is a retrospective look at Moon explorations ahead of the Chandrayaan-2 Mission.

Other events planned are "Ask an astronomer", a discussion on the Moon, and a story session "One Giant Leap for Mankind: Apollo XI".

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION / DIVERSION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / REGULATION AND RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK AT TILAK BRIDGE STATION			
In order to further strengthen the infrastructure, Northern Railway will undertake the Non-Interlocking work at Tilak Bridge station in connection with 5th & 6th line between New Delhi and Tilak Bridge stations. To execute this work, Railways will take appropriate traffic blocks upto 22.07.2019. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected on the dates shown against each:-			
CANCELLATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)		
12419/12420 Lucknow-New Delhi-Lucknow Gomati Express	18 to 21.07.2019		
12459/12460 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Express	19 to 21.07.2019		
14205 Faizabad-Delhi Jn. Express	18 & 19.07.2019		
14206 Delhi Jn.-Faizabad Express	19 & 20.07.2019		
14207 Paratapgarh-Delhi Jn. Padmavat Express	18 & 19.07.2019		
14208 Delhi Jn.-Paratapgarh Padmavat Express	19 & 20.07.2019		
14211/14212 Agra Cantt.-New Delhi-Agra Cantt. Intercity Exp.	19 to 21.07.2019		
14315/14316 Bareilly-New Delhi-Bareilly Intercity Express	19 to 21.07.2019		
14323/14324 New Delhi-Rohat-New Delhi Express	19 to 21.07.2019		
14521/14522 Delhi Jn.-Ambala Cantt.-Delhi Jn. Express	19 to 21.07.2019		
14681/14682 New Delhi-Jalandhar City-New Delhi Express	19 to 21.07.2019		
15035/15036 Delhi Jn.-Ramnagar / Kathgodam-Delhi Jn. Uttaranchal Sampark Kranti Express	20 & 21.07.2019		
19565 Okha-Dehradun Uttaranchal Express	19.07.2019		
19566 Dehradun-Okha Uttaranchal Express	21.07.2019		
14085 Tilak Bridge-Sirsia Express	20 & 21.07.2019		
14086 Sirsa-Tilak Bridge Express	21 & 22.07.2019		
51911/51912 Delhi Jn.-Saharanpur-Delhi Jn. Passenger	19 & 20.07.2019		
54055/54056 Moradabad-Delhi Jn.-Moradabad Passenger	20.07.2019		
64012/64013/64014/64016 Shakur Basti-Palwal-Shakur Basti EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64018 Shakurbasti-New Delhi EMU	19 & 20.07.2019		
64031/64032/64034/64036 Ghaziabad-Shakur Basti-Ghaziabad EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64053 Palwal-Ghaziabad EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64071 Ballabgarh-Shakur Basti EMU	19 & 20.07.2019		
64075/64077/64078/64080 Palwal-New Delhi-Palwal EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64082 New Delhi-Palwal EMU	19 & 20.07.2019		
64087 H. Nizamuddin-New Delhi EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64089 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19.07.2019		
64091 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64092 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19.07.2019		
64093 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Shakurbasti EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64095 New Delhi-Shakurbasti EMU	19 & 20.07.2019		
64096 Shakurbasti-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19.07.2019		
64097 New Delhi-Shakur Basti EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64401 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	20.07.2019		
64403 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64406/64408 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	20.07.2019		
64411 Sahibabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	20.07.2019		
64412 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	19.07.2019		
64418 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	20.07.2019		
64423/64424/64425/64427/64430 Ghaziabad-New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64426 New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU	20.07.2019		
64428 New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU	19.07.2019		
64431 Ghaziabad-New Delhi EMU	19 & 20.07.2019		
64439 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU	20.07.2019		
64445 Ghaziabad-Delhi Jn. EMU/64449/64450 Ghaziabad-New Delhi-Ghaziabad EMU/64469/64470 New Delhi-Panipat-New Delhi EMU	19.07.2019		
64491/64492 Palwal-New Delhi-Palwal EMU	19 & 20.07.2019		
64493/64494 Palwal-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Palwal EMU	20.07.2019		
64569/64570 Kosi Kalan-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Kosi Kalan EMU	20.07.2019		
64434 Delhi Jn.-Ghaziabad EMU	20.07.2019		
64420 Ghaziabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin EMU	19 to 21.07.2019		
64567/64568 Bulandshahr-Tilak Bridge-Bulandshahr EMU	20.07.2019		
DIVERSION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted via	Date(s) (from originating station)	
12055 New Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi	Delhi Jn.	19.07.19	
12171 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Haridwar AC Superfast	Agra Cantt.-Mitawali-Aligarh-Khurja-Meerut City	18.07.19	
12172 Haridwar-Lokmanya Tilak (T) AC Superfast	Meerut City-Khurja- Aligarh-Mitawali-Agra Cantt.	19.07.19	
12204 Amritsar-Saharsa Garib Rath	Ambala-Saharanpur-Moradabad	20 & 21.07.19	
12259 Sealdah-New Delhi Duronto Exp.	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	18.07.19	
12260 New Delhi-Sealdah Duronto Exp.	New Delhi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	19.07.19	
12274 New Delhi-Howrah Duronto Exp.	Delhi Jn.	20.07.19	
12392 New Delhi-Rajgir Shramjeevi Exp.	Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19	
12398 New Delhi-Gaya Mahabodhi Exp.	Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19	
12483 Kochuveli-Amritsar Express	Okhla-Delhi Safdarjang-Adarsh Nagar	17.07.19	
12484 Amritsar-Kochuveli Express	Adarsh Nagar-Delhi Safdarjang-Okhla	21.07.19	
12501 Guwahati-New Delhi Poorvotter Sampark Kranti Express	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	20.07.19	
12561 Jaynagar-New Delhi Swatantra Sainani Express	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	19 & 20.07.19	
12562 New Delhi-Jaynagar Swatantra Sainani Express	New Delhi-Delhi Jn.-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	20.07.19	
12566 New Delhi-Darbhanga Bihar Sampark Kranti Express	Delhi Jn.	19 to 21.07.19	
12581 Manduadih-New Delhi Superfast	Sahibabad-Delhi Shahdara-Delhi Jn.-New Delhi	19 & 20.07.19	
12582 New Delhi-Manduadih Superfast	New Delhi-Delhi Shahdara-Sahibabad	20.07.19	
12715 H. Sahib Nanded-Amritsar Sachkhand Express	Okhla-Delhi Safdarjang-Adarsh Nagar	19 & 20.07.19	
12903/12904 Mumbai Central-Amritsar-Mumbai Central Golden Temple Mail	Khutbav-Math		

DELHI Timings		
TUESDAY, JULY 16		
RISE 05:34 SET 19:21		
RISE 19:03 SET 04:49		
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17		
RISE 05:34 SET 19:21		
RISE 19:50 SET 05:42		
THURSDAY, JULY 18		
RISE 05:35 SET 19:20		
RISE 20:32 SET 06:36		

Delhi Weather

max min

Delhi City 35 27

Safdarjung 35 27

Palam 37 27

Delhi Palam Today

33°C Few spell of light to moderate rain with gusty wind will occur. A hazy morning and cloudy sky is expected.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

35°C Fall in temperatures. Hazy and comfortable morning. Spell of light rain/thundershower. Improvement in pollution level.

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THE HINDU

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IN BRIEF**DCW busts 2 prostitution rackets, rescues minors**NEW DELHI
The Delhi Commission for Women on Monday said that four minor girls were rescued after two prostitution rackets operating in Bawana was busted in the last one week. The panel said that action was taken after a girl approached its mahila panchayat and alleged that she was being forced into prostitution by agents in the area.**Juvenile among 3 held for robbing woman**NEW DELHI
Two men were arrested and a juvenile was apprehended for allegedly robbing an elderly woman by threatening her with a dagger and a countrymade pistol in north-west Delhi's Shalimar Bagh, the police said on Monday. On July 9 afternoon, an elderly woman identified as Suman Aggrwal (65) who was alone at home in Shalimar Bagh was robbed by the accused.**Councillor dumps waste at municipal office**NEW DELHI
A Congress councillor from Malka Ganj dumped garbage in front of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation Commissioner's office, in Civic Centre on Monday protesting against poor sanitation conditions in her ward. Gudi Devi argued that if people in her ward were expected to live next to garbage, "big officials" should also be doing the same.**IP University: admissions to B.Voc. courses open**NEW DELHI
IP University on Monday announced the opening of its online admission process for those students seeking to apply for its various B.Voc. courses. The university is offering 900 seats in total for the various programmes. The university said the students can apply online till July 24.

Haryana Cong. in disarray amid leadership dispute, infighting

Party's drubbing in LS poll has renewed tension between Tanwar, Hooda camps

ASHOK KUMARGURUGRAM
Marred by sharp division among its cadres and leaders over the party's State leadership, the Congress in Haryana seems to be in disarray ahead of the Assembly elections which are due in October.

Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar. ■ FILE PHOTO



refusing to step down from his post.

Divided house

A large section of the party, including the sitting MLAs, has long been demanding that Mr. Hooda be made the party's State unit chief in place of Mr. Tanwar. Though the appointment of Mr. Hooda as the party's State coordination committee chairman just before the general election pacified his supporters a bit, the infighting resumed after the party suffered one of its worst defeats ever, losing all 10 parlia-

macy seats to the ruling BJP.

Political analysts believe that more than the factionalism, the delay on the part of the central leadership to settle the State leadership issue has hit the Congress harder. For almost five years the party has not had any units at the district and block levels, putting it at a disadvantage vis-a-vis its main rival BJP, which is in the process of appointing 'panna pramukhs' (page in-charge at the booth level) in the State.

The Congress, which seemed to be upbeat over a year ago with huge turnout

in the public meetings of its leaders, gradually lost the momentum as the party high command kept mum on the infighting and the leadership issue. The consecutive losses for the Congress in the municipal elections, Jind by-poll and then the general election have proved that the situation has only worsened for the party in the State.

Though the Congress failed to win a single Lok Sabha seat in Haryana, it had led in around a dozen Assembly segments, mostly in the Rohtak-Sonipat region.

"While the BJP in Haryana has already started its Assembly poll preparations, the Congress seems directionless. Both the Congress cadre and the leaders are in a state of confusion. Leadership change following a loss in election has been a norm. Though much precious time has been lost, the high command would do good to settle the issue at the earliest," said a senior party leader.

Initiate process to sanction more faculty posts, UGC tells colleges

Teachers' union welcomes move but refuses to call off strike

STAFF REPORTERNEW DELHI
The University Grants Commission (UGC) wrote to principals of all Delhi University colleges on Monday initiating the process for sanctioning of additional posts on account of expansion of the university to accommodate OBC reservations.

mediately increased to accommodate expansion of the university on account of reservations for Economically Weaker Sections.

During the day, the union had called upon teachers to strike work and had staged a protest at the North Campus demanding that EWS reservation be deferred till additional posts were sanctioned.

It demanded that the allocation of posts must be im-

all ad hoc teachers be renewed before the start of the academic session on July 20.

The strike affected admissions under the fourth list which began on Monday. Non-teaching staff posted at the economics department of KIIT College had told students coming for admissions to come back on Wednesday when the strike would be over. At other departments, however, some teaching staff were present. Volunteers staffed help desks at Ramjas College said that some issues were faced in the morning but admissions went smoothly in the afternoon.

The DUTA has called for a strike on Tuesday and plans to protest at the UGC office to demand additional allocation of posts.

ABVP protests against DU's UG syllabus

Demonstrates in front of V-C office

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The ABVP staged a protest in front of the Vice-Chancellor's office against the inclusion of "objectionable and unilateral material" in the undergraduate syllabus of some Delhi University courses, on Monday.

In a statement, the students' group said, "It strongly condemns the efforts made by some departments of the University of Delhi to impose the Leftist ideological agenda on students and demand the removal of biased articles on nationalistic organisations and objectionable content on Hindu religion."

This comes after objections were raised against certain sections of syllabus proposed by the Left to impose propaganda in Delhi University. Lies and biased articles have to be removed from the new syllabus.

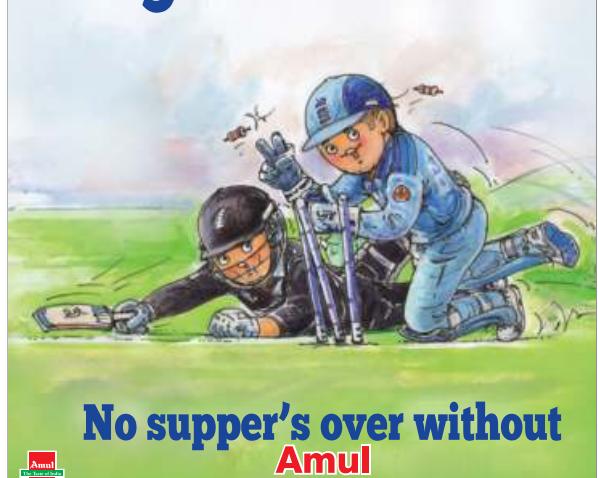
demic matters at a recent meeting. Syllabus of several undergraduate courses at Delhi University are to be revised before the start of the new academic session.

'In bad light'

The standing committee member, Rasal Singh, had raised objections over a story included by the English department which he alleged showed the RSS and Bajrang Dal in "bad light" with regard to the 2002 Gujarat riots, among other incursions in the history and journalism courses.

Delhi University Students' Union president Shakti Singh said, "We will not allow the attempt of the Left to impose propaganda in Delhi University. Lies and biased articles have to be removed from the new syllabus."

Tie-ghtest of wins!



No supper's over without Amul

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NGT directs Army to shift ammunition dump

To ensure restoration of jumbo corridor

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Army to shift its ammunition dump in Raiwala, Uttarakhand to ensure restoration of the Chilla-Motichur Elephant Corridor.

The directions came after the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary filed a report stating that a suitable site is being explored and will be finalised by the Army.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "Let the Army authorities concerned finalise the pending issue expeditiously so as to ensure restoration of the elephant corridor in question after shifting of the ammunition dump to a suitable location."

tion after compliance of provisions of Forest [Conservation] Act, 1980."

Threat to wildlife

The green panel was hearing a plea moved by NGO, Centre for Wildlife and Environment Litigation which alleged that the ammunition dump was a threat to the wildlife and ecology of the Chilla-Motichur corridor.

The directions came after the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary filed a report stating that a suitable site is being explored and will be finalised by the Army.

Recently a female leopard died because of coming into contact with iron fencing fixed at Raiwala Army ammunition dump," the plea had alleged. Earlier, the tribunal had sought a factual and action-taken report in the matter from the State government and directed the Chief Secretary to furnish report on the same.

Supreme Court raps North civic body for misconduct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

"Is this the way you want to scandalise this institution," an irked Supreme Court blasted the North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Monday for committing "height of impropriety" by suppressing facts before its Vacation Bench to obtain an order in its favour.

While recalling the order passed by the Vacation Bench on May 16 regarding registration of diesel vehicles for the civic body, a Bench also imposed a cost

of ₹50,000 on the North body.

The Bench was anguished that the matter was mentioned for hearing before a Vacation Bench despite the fact that the regular Bench had passed an order on May 7 that it would be heard in July. When the counsel appearing for the North body said that the matter was mentioned before the Vacation Bench due to some urgency owing to the onset of monsoon, the Bench shot back: "Do not try to overpower us."

Geography

By : Neetu Singh

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Goa to have staff selection commission soon: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said in the Assembly that his government was in the process of creating a State Staff Selection Commission (SSSC) to bring about more transparency in filling vacancies.

Mr. Sawant told the House during Question Hour that Inter Departmental Committee of Officers (IDCO) has been working on finding out the exact number of vacancies in government departments.

He said necessary steps were being taken to ensure that the process of filling vacancies in various government departments was transparent in the absence of an SSSC, with written exams being conducted by the Goa University or the Goa Education Development Corporation.

"The previous government (under late Manohar Parrikar) had started the process to have SSSC. We will complete it," he said.

Mr. Sawant told the Assembly he had come across instances of people applying for jobs far below their educational qualifications.

"I know about a person who had an engineering degree but applied for a person's post in a government department. It is not possible to give employment to every one. So the private sector should absorb these youngsters. At present, there are 55,000 government employees, and we can add a maximum of 10,000. Where will the rest go?" he asked.

Oil refinery row simmers again

Pro, anti groups threaten to hold simultaneous rallies in Ratnagiri town

ALOK DESHPANDE
ANAGHA DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The row over a ₹3 lakh crore oil refinery to be built in coordination with Saudi Arabia's Aramco on Maharashtra's coastline seems to be far from over.

A pro-refinery group will organise a rally in Ratnagiri town on Saturday demanding that the project be not shifted out of its original location at Nanar in Ratnagiri district, while the anti-refinery faction has decided to hold a counter protest on the same day at the same place.

An organisation called Konkan Vikas Samiti (KVS) held a press conference in Mumbai on Monday to demand that the project be not shifted out of Ratnagiri. Claiming that it would bring employment and opportunities to the local people, Avinash Mahajan of the KVS said the refinery is capable of providing employment to over 1.5 lakh people, which will lead to the development of the region as the increase in the number of employees will bring with it more facilities. "People were initially ready for the project but pressure was created to force them to oppose the project," he said.

The July 20 rally to the Collector's office is aimed at sharing knowledge with the local people about the benefits of the refineries and to correct any misunderstanding, he said.

Opponents of the project see it as a concerted attempt to push it among the local people. "There seems to be an effort from the government to bring non-political groups to the fore to push the project in Ratnagiri. There have been



People's power: The mega oil refinery in the coastal district has seen many protests by local residents, farmers and groups like the Konkan Refinery Virodhi Sangharsh Sanghatana, before it was stalled by the State government. ■ FILE PHOTO



Keshav Bhatt (right) and Avinash Mahajan of Konkan Vikas Samiti at a press conference in Mumbai on Monday.

■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

systematic campaigns in schools, colleges and markets from this group to promote the project," said Satyajit Chavan, convener, Konkan Vinashkari Prakalp Virodhi Samiti.

Mr. Chavan also referred to the recent meeting between Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray. "If the pro-refin-

ery group is going to organise the rally, we will take to the streets to oppose them on the same day," he said.

On April 11, 2018, three Indian public sector oil companies had signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Aramco to set up the refinery at Nanar. Following protests from local residents and the ruling coalition partner Shiv Sena lending support to them, the notifica-

tion issued by the State Industries Department to acquire land was cancelled and it was decided to shift the project out of Nanar.

In a written reply in the Assembly in the recently-held monsoon session, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had said the City and Industrial Development Corporation is developing an Integrated Industrial Cluster in 40 villages in Alibaug, Murud, Roha and Shrivardhan tehsils of Raigad over 13,409.52 hectares.

Newly-elected MP from Raigad Sunil Tatkare also said on Sunday he would be studying the project in the event of its coming to his district, before deciding on whether to support it or oppose it. "I will be meeting the Chief Minister and Union minister to discuss the issue. We will decide our position only after going through its pros and cons," he said.

Aaditya Thackeray to begin Jan Ashirwad Yatra on July 18

Attempt to replicate campaign by Andhra CM

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Taking a cue from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy's 'Praja Sankalpa Padayatra', launched before the State Assembly polls there, Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray will set out on the first phase of his 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' from July 18 in Jal-

yatra, Mr. Thackeray will start from Jalgaon on July 18, be in Dhule and Malegaon on July 19 and proceed to Nashik the next day. After covering Nashik rural on July 21, the first phase will end at Shirdi on July 22.

Commenting on whether the Sena was copying Mr. Reddy's model in Andhra Pradesh, the Yuva Sena leader said the yatra is not a copy of anyone. "But if certain steps in other places have helped others, then there is no harm in replicating it in Maharashtra," Mr. Sardesai said.

In the first phase of the

gaon, in north Maharashtra. "Aadityaji had visited all Lok Sabha seats from where Shiv Sena candidates were contesting in the State. It was due to his hard work that the party won 18 LS seats. It is the demand of the people that he visit every tehsil before Assembly elections," said Varun Sardesai, secretary, Yuva Sena.

"He will interact with youngsters, and people across various sections of the society," he said and added that the yatra will cover 4,000 kilometres.

In the first phase of the

yatra, Mr. Thackeray will start from Jalgaon on July 18, be in Dhule and Malegaon on July 19 and proceed to Nashik the next day. After covering Nashik rural on July 21, the first phase will end at Shirdi on July 22.

Commenting on whether the Sena was copying Mr. Reddy's model in Andhra Pradesh, the Yuva Sena leader said the yatra is not a copy of anyone. "But if certain steps in other places have helped others, then there is no harm in replicating it in Maharashtra," Mr. Sardesai said.

In the first phase of the

RENTAL

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Sanjay Aggarwal (Advocate)
Ch. No. 25, Old Court Kashmiri Gate, Delhi-6 M - 9871699-999

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

44th Year Remembrance

In Fond Loving Memory of our Beloved Father & Founder

Late Shri Batchu Purushottam Guru

12.09.1901 to 16.07.1975

From Family Members, Partners & Staff

M/s. B. Purushottam & Co., Chartered Accountants

Chartered Accountants

9444043982 - 9443273394

7th ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of our Beloved Father

A.R.RAMAKRISHNAN, B.E

City Engineer (Retd), Corporation of Chennai

10.08.1944

Fondly Remembered by Sons

R.Arunk Prasad

R.Surendira Prasad

R.Goutham Prasaath

Daughters-in-Law

Mital Surendra & Jayanthi Arun

Grandson S.Aswin & S.Harshad

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

DEATH

OBITUARY

Serankulam R. PARTHASARATHY

Ex DGS & D & R&C (1972) Ltd

Attained Acharya Thiruvadi on 12.07.2019. Deeply mourned

by Family Members

P. Venkatesan, P. Ranganathan

9444043982 - 9443273394

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Cong-NCP meet today, to discuss sharing of seats

New MPCC chief set to begin crucial exercise

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Days after the appointment of Balasaheb Thorat as the new president of Maharashtra Congress Committee, the first meeting with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has been scheduled for Tuesday over seat-sharing for the upcoming Assembly polls.

"We will be holding a joint meeting, aimed at discussing the Assembly polls and the strategy on how to go forward," said NCP's State unit president Jayant Patil.

On Monday, Mr. Thorat met Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) leader Sonia Gandhi and former party president Rahul Gandhi in Delhi on Monday. ■ INC TWITTER HANDLE



Balasaheb Thorat, newly-appointed Maharashtra Congress Committee chief, with Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) leader Sonia Gandhi and former party president Rahul Gandhi in Delhi on Monday. ■ INC TWITTER HANDLE

Both parties however, are far from reaching a consensus on the division of the 288 Assembly seats as they may have to incorporate several players, such as farmer leader Raju Shettai-led Swabhiman Shetkari Sanghatna (SSS), and Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA), among others.

Ajit Pawar's remark sparks buzz over candidate from Indapur

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

With the State Assembly polls round the corner, rumour mills are abuzz with the candidacy of the crucial Indapur Assembly segment which forms part of the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, the bastion of the Pawar clan.

A remark by senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar to his party colleague and sitting Indapur MLA Dattatreya Bharne, at a public event on Sunday has sparked renewed speculation over whether Mr. Bharne would be supported in the event of its coming to his district, before deciding on whether to support it or oppose it. "I will be meeting the Chief Minister and Union minister to discuss the issue. We will decide our position only after going through its pros and cons," he said.

"I hope that our bonds [between the NCP and Mr. Bharne] of mutual affection will continue to endure in the future," said Mr. Pawar to Mr. Bharne sarcastically, drawing mirth and laughter from those present.

The Indapur Assembly seat has been the stronghold of Mr. Patil's family. A former State cabinet minister for four consecutive terms, Mr. Patil has been winning from Indapur since 1995 before



suffering a humiliating defeat at Mr. Bharne's hands in the 2014 Assembly elections when both parties contested separately.

Despite the bad blood between the Pawar and the Patil clans, aggravated by Mr. Patil's loss in 2014, the NCP had sought to mollify the Congress leader to ensure that he campaigned for the re-election of NCP MP Supriya Sule, NCP chief Sharad Pawar's daughter and Ajit Pawar's cousin, from Baramati Lok Sabha constituency.

Given the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) – and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's – singular resolve to root out the Pawars' influence from Baramati and western Maharashtra, Mr. Pawar had personally conferred with Mr. Patil at the latter's residence in Pune despite the bad blood between the two families.

However, in view of the BJP's mandate in the general elections, and with Mr. Pawar's party and the Congress facing a tough battle, Mr. Pawar had personally conferred with Mr. Patil at the latter's residence in Pune despite the bad blood between the two families.

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Climate Change Division
Call for proposals through Climate Action Innovation Challenge

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is inviting innovative ideas and projects on climate change through this Climate Action Innovation Challenge. This call is open for individuals, Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, R&D organizations, Think Tanks and Universities. The focus areas for innovation challenge, general guidelines, eligibility criteria and prescribed format for submission of ideas/ projects are available on the website: <http://moefc.gov.in/whats-new/>. Interested applicants are requested to submit their ideas or proposals within three weeks (21 days) from the date of publication of advertisement in newspaper.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas as complaint has been made before me that (1) Sandeep@Baja, S/o Rohtash, R/o Ishwar Colony, Bawana, Delhi (2) Sumit, S/o Sh. Rampal, R/o VPO-Kheri Mannajoot, PS Kundli, Distt Sonipat, Haryana (3) Sunil, S/o Jagdish, R/o VPO-Katwal, PS Sadar Gohar, Distt Sonipat, Haryana are involved in case FIR No.

IN BRIEF



10-year-old dies in fire at hostel in Telangana

KHAMMAM A 10-year-old girl staying at a hostel at NSP Colony here in Telangana died of asphyxiation and burns after the bunk bed on which she was sleeping reportedly caught fire owing to a short-circuit around Sunday midnight. Around 15 inmates of the Scheduled Castes Development Department's girls' hostel (B) were rescued by locals. The victim was identified as Spandana. The warden was placed under suspension and the woman security guard sacked.

Three found murdered in temple complex in A.P.

ANANTAPUR Three elderly persons, including two women, were found murdered on Monday at the Shiva temple complex at Korthikota village in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district. The victims were S. Shivaramreddy, 70, his elder sister Kadapala Kamalamma, 75, and Satya Lakshmiamma, 70. Villagers suspect the hand of treasure hunters as the three were the custodians of the 15th century temple and stayed at the complex.

Woman injured in bear attack in A.P. forest

TIRUMALA A woman was injured after she was attacked by a bear in the Kakulakonda forest in the vicinity of the Gogarham dam in Andhra Pradesh on Monday. Vijayalakshmi, a native of Nagarkurnool, is said to have entered the forest as she was upset about differences of opinion with her family members. She was then attacked by a bear. On hearing her cries, the health workers who were working in the vicinity, came to her rescue and rushed her to the TTD-run Aswini hospital.

Speaker not letting us quit, MLAs tell SC

Rebels in Karnataka say they are being forced to support government; court will hear them today

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

is acting in violation of their fundamental right," the MLAs said.

No need for probe

The legislators, represented by advocate Subhranshu Padhi, said there was no need for a probe by the Speaker into whether their resignations were "voluntary or genuine," as they had submitted their letters in person. Besides, they had filed separate sworn affidavits in the court, saying their signatures on the resignation letters, which they tendered in person, were their own and genuine. The affidavits have been filed to obviate any doubts of the voluntary nature of their resignations.

They said this would answer the conditions mandated under Article 190 of the Constitution and under Rule 202 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. The writ petition filed by the rebel MLAs should be allowed on this ground alone.

The MLAs said there was no disqualification proceedings against them at the time of their resignation. Subsequent disqualification proceedings on the basis of a complaint by the Congress party was infructuous.

Seeking impleadment, the MLAs said the court should implement its order of July 11 asking the Speaker to decide on their resignations forthwith or within the remaining part of the day. They said they were manhandled and confined by certain persons within the premises of the House when they sought to submit their resignations on July 10. Police personnel had to escort them to safety.

The court had asked the Speaker to defer any decision on disqualification or resignation of the 10 MLAs for now.



Confident team: Karnataka BJP president B.S. Yeddyurappa with party leaders at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Citing Cong. threat, rebels seek help from police in Mumbai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The 14 rebel Congress-JD(S) legislators holed up in a hotel here have once again written to the Mumbai Police Commissioner demanding better security.

The Powai police have imposed Section 144 of the Cr.PC even as the legislators have said they anticipate 'serious threat' from the senior Congress leadership in the city and at the Centre, including leaders such as Malikarjun Kharge or Ghulam Nabi Azad, who are slated to arrive here to hold talks with the senior MLAs.

'No plan to meet anyone'

"We the respected members of the Karnataka Assembly are currently staying at the Renaissance Hotel in Powai. The letter is signed by 14 rebel legislators, including Shivram Hegde, B.C. Patil, Mahesh K. Vishwanath, Muniratnam, Narayan Gowda, R. Shankar, H. Nagesh, Pratap Patil, Gopalaiyah, Ra-

We would like to inform you that we have absolutely no intention of meeting Mr. Kharge and Mr. Azad or other Congress leaders from Maharashtra," reads the letter, also addressed to the Senior Inspector of Powai Police, Mumbai.

The MLAs claim a 'serious' threat to life and limb from the Congress leadership in Maharashtra and Karnataka. "We therefore make a request to kindly make the necessary arrangements to stop these people from meeting in case the situation arises," reads the letter.

The letter is signed by 14 rebel legislators, including Shivram Hegde, B.C. Patil, Mahesh K. Vishwanath, Muniratnam, Narayan Gowda, R. Shankar, H. Nagesh, Pratap Patil, Gopalaiyah, Ra-

mesh J., MTB Nagaraju, Somshankar and Basavaraja. The letter is titled "Threat from a few Congress leaders."

The Karnataka crisis has been playing out of Mumbai and Bengaluru the past fortnight and many believe it to be orchestrated by BJP MLC Prasad Lad and youth leader Mohit Kamboli who have also been spotted among the MLAs the past few days. Earlier, the rebel MLAs flew back to Mumbai last week after submitting resignations to the Speaker of the Karnataka Assembly.

The crisis had spilled over onto the streets of Mumbai with the detention and later forced departure of Cabinet Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who had arrived to meet the rebel legislators earlier this month.

2 more SFI leaders held for attack on student in Kerala

He was stabbed on college campus

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police on Monday arrested two leaders of the Students Federation of India (SFI), the student wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), in connection with the near-fatal knife attack on a University College student and SFI activist on the campus last Friday.

The arrested are Nazeem, 29, and Sivarenjith, 21. Investigators believe Sivarenjith stabbed Akhil on the chest with a penknife while at least seven other SFI activists held him down. They said Akhil had a running a feud with Sivarenjith. Both are athletes - Akhil is an accomplished weightlifter while Sivarenjith had emerged first in State archery competitions.

An investigator said the final straw in their strained relationship was Akhil rebuffing the direction of unit committee members not to sing in front of the 'union office.'

Five held till now

The two accused were arrested from Kesavadasapuram early on Sunday, amidst allegations that local CPI(M) leaders turned the suspects in following negotiations with a senior officer.

Officials said the second accused Nazeem had been around in the college for years. He repeatedly gained admission to various MA courses to remain active in campus politics. He is an accused in several criminal cases, including attacks on police officers.

In the wake of the seizures, the police are verifying how Sivarenjith came first in the Public Service Commission test for recruitment as constable to the Kerala Armed Police Battalion (Four). The PSC published the rank list on July 1 in which Nazeem is ranked 28th.



Sivarenjith and Nazeem being taken to a court in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. ■ S. GOPAKUMAR

under intensive care following a surgery. The stabbing had triggered a spontaneous protest by University College students against the 'tyranny' of the SFI.

The accused were remanded in judicial custody till July 30.

Another probe The police have opened a separate inquiry into the seizure of what appeared to be Kerala University validated answer books during a search at the house of Sivarenjith at Attukal on Sunday.

Investigators also stumbled upon a seal used by the varsity's Director of Physical Training. Officials said a preliminary inquiry revealed that the seal was forged. The director told the police that the original was in safe custody at his office, they said.

In the wake of the seizures, the police are verifying how Sivarenjith came first in the Public Service Commission test for recruitment as constable to the Kerala Armed Police Battalion (Four). The PSC published the rank list on July 1 in which Nazeem is ranked 28th.

Central panel to examine Polavaram cost escalation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has constituted a committee to examine the cost escalation of the Polavaram irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh, under the instructions of the Ministry of Finance.

Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in reply to a question on the Polavaram Project Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) raised by YSR Congress MP V. Vijaya Sai Reddy in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, said the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh government submitted an RCE for ₹57,297 crore at the 2017-18 price level to the Central Water Commission (CWC) in January 2018.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects, Department of Water Resources, at its 141st meeting on February 11, "accepted" the Revised Cost Estimate for ₹55,548.87 crore at the 2017-18 price level. The cost of the irrigation component was put at ₹50,987.96 crore.

CBI inquiry The RCE was reduced "mainly on account of reconciliation in estimated cost of certain land under submergence, land for which compensation is payable, cost of remaining works as per relevant schedule of rates, etc." the Minister said in his reply.

Mr. Shekhawat, however, did not say when the Revised Cost Committee would submit its report.

Meanwhile, in a tweet, Mr. Reddy said the Minister "inadvertently" said that it was up to the State government to have a discussion on any CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the resettlement programme.

Worry-free farming



Farmers sowing the Pokkali-variety of paddy at Kalluvechakadu in Kochi. Mostly grown on fields below sea level, this indigenous variety is favoured by farmers in Kerala for its resistance to saltwater and floods. Pokkali farming is now being revived on fallow lands on the island with the help of a farmers' collective and the Tripunithura municipality. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

Sans readers, rare manuscripts fade in A.P. research institute

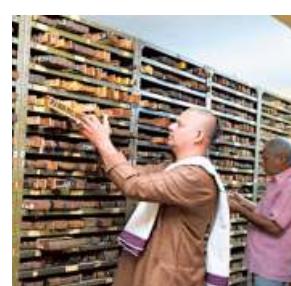
Staff strength has gone down from 35 to a mere two

A.D. RANGARAJAN

TIRUPATI It is a treasure trove with a glorious history. But Andhra Pradesh's only repository of rare manuscripts - the Oriental Research Institute (ORI) - is a pale shadow of its past, and today stands as a symbol of neglect.

Eighty years after its establishment, the premier institute is not visited by any scholars, and the 65,000 rare manuscripts face grave risk of termite attack and eventual destruction.

When the ORI was established by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in 1939, it was meant to decipher and publish the palm leaf manuscripts and to undertake research. When the



There are 65,000 rare manuscripts at the Oriental Research Institute.

Sri Venkateswara University was established in 1956, the TTD transferred the ORI to the former for achieving academic synergy and also built the present 'Tiruppanalwar Bhavan'. In fact, it was the ORI that

deciphered poet-saint Anna-macharya's literature when the copper plates were unearthed from the Tirumala temple walls.

Acclaimed scholars including Veturi Prabhakara Sastry, Rallapalli Anantakrishna Sarma, D.T. Thathacharya and Manavalli Ramakrishna Kavi were associated with the ORI. Even the inscriptions on Tirumala temple walls were deciphered by its then curator Sadhu Subrahmanyam Sastry.

ORI was let down even on the digitisation front. Only 40% of the manuscripts have been scanned. From a staff strength of 35, it has fallen to a just two assistant professors today.

Speed cartoon show a social media hit

Video clip on Jithesh's event held in Kerala crosses one million views in five days

RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOOR
PATHANAMTHITTA

A video clip on an Indian cartoonist's performance at a public show has crossed one million hits (views) on social media in five days.

The ambidextrous cartoonist, S. Jithesh aka Jitheshji, who had set a world record in speed drawing by sketching caricatures of 50 celebrities in just five minutes in 2008, is reportedly the first Indian cartoonist to achieve this feat.

It was a Bangalore-based group, Media Today, that had first uploaded the video clip of the high-speed cartoon stage show, 'Varayarangu', of Jithesh held at Changanacherry in Kerala on its Facebook page on July 7. The page views

crossed one million in the next five days itself. Many other groups too followed suit and these FB posts too have crossed one million hits (views) besides over half-a-million shares.

Jithesh, 46, is regarded as one of the fastest performing cartoonists in the country since he drew 50 world personalities in five minutes at a stage show to pay tributes to his teacher (guru) M.S. Valiyathan at Pandamal 11 years ago.

From canvas to stage Drawing line sketches has been Jithesh's forte since childhood and he began staging cartoon shows, christened 'Varavega Vismayam', in the 1990s. Jithesh says it was the late Malayalam poet



S. Jithesh has set a world record for drawing the caricatures of 50 celebrities in five minutes in 2008.

Kadammanitta Ramakrishnan who inspired him to explore the potential of cartooning as a stage art. That was how he came out with the infotainment cartoon stage show, 'Varayarangu' in 2008. He

later obtained patent and trade mark for Varayarangu.

Basically a pictorial speech, Varayarangu is a blend of poetry, anecdotes and socio-political satire, effectively utilising the medium of speed drawing.

Jithesh interfaces his brush strokes with interesting anecdotes and draws celebrity caricatures with the accompaniment of captivating background music. While he draws Mahatma Gandhi *Vande Mataram* rents the air and Gitanjali verses rise while he draws Rabindranath Tagore.

So far, Jithesh has conducted 7,500 stage shows in different parts of the country and abroad. He is planning to perform in Austria and the Oceania region in August.

IN BRIEF



ED summons Satabdi Roy in Saradha chit fund case

KOLKATA/NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday summoned six persons, including Trinamool Congress MP Satabdi Roy (in picture) and former party MP Kunal Ghosh, for questioning in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam case, sources said. According to sources, Ms. Roy was called last week but had said that she would not be able to meet the officials due to the ongoing parliament session. IANS

CRPF constables rescue girl from drowning

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI
A 14-year-old girl was rescued from drowning in a stream in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, by two CRPF constables who jumped into the gushing waters in the nick of time, officials said on Monday. The minor, Nageena, slipped into the fast moving stream at Taramarg and was washed away by the strong current, the officials said. They said a group of six Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, who were nearby, rushed to save the girl. PTI

Vaccine trials to check TB spread begin

NEW DELHI
The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has started a vaccine trial with a view to preventing the occurrence of tuberculosis among the close contacts of a patient. "India has the highest number of TB cases in the world, and the ICMR is undertaking this first vaccine clinical trial after the BCG vaccine trial undertaken decades ago," the ICMR said in a statement. Senior officials said that two vaccines – VPM1002 and MIP – had been short-listed for the phase III trial among the healthy household contacts of a sputum smear-positive patient.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal

CITY **RAIN** **MAX** **MIN**

Agarata	3.8...	27.6	24.4
Ahmedabad	...38.8...	28.6	
Aizawl	...24.0...		
Allahabad	...36.8...	27.6	
Bengaluru	0.2...	30.8	21.4
Bhopal	...33.2...	25.4	
Bhubaneswar	...34.5...	26.0	
Chandigarh	29.3...	27.7	22.8
Chennai	...36.9...	26.5	
Coimbatore	...21.7...	29.5	21.8
Gangtok	35.4...	18.9	17.5
Goa	51.2...	29.8	23.0
Guwahati	27.0...	28.8	25.0
Hubballi	...27.0...	22.0	
Hyderabad	5.0...	34.7	25.2
Imphal	1.0...	27.4	15.3
Jaipur	...36.8...	29.1	
Kochi	10.4...	24.0	
Kohima	6.4...	25.3	17.2
Kolkata	...37.1...	29.3	

CITY **RAIN** **MAX** **MIN**

Kozhikode	1.0...	25.2	
Kurnool	...37.1...	26.3	
Lucknow	...36.3...		
Madurai	...37.4...	26.0	
Mangaluru	18.6...	25.5	
Mumbai	2.8...	31.2	27.4
Mysuru	...20.1...		
New Delhi	...37.7...	26.0	
Patna	...34.4...	28.2	
Port Blair	0.2...	30.7	25.7
Puducherry	0.3...	31.7	24.2
Pune	...30.3...	22.6	
Rajpur	...35.5...	26.2	
Ranchi	...34.4...	24.8	
Shillong	24.4...	23.4	16.1
Shimla	9.4...	22.9	15.4
Srinagar	4.2...	31.8	17.3
Thiruvananthapuram	...24.7...		
Tiruchi	...37.8...		
Vijayawada	1.2...	35.0	25.2
Visakhapatnam	...34.5...	28.1	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES **SO₂** **NO_x** **CO** **PM2.5** **PM10 CODE**

Ahmedabad	113	120	49	65	...101
Bengaluru	29	40	62	70	...101
Chennai	5.5	15	60	90	
Delhi	12	32	33	302	
Hyderabad	3	24	11	28	43
Kolkata	14	58	16	109	123
Lucknow	...29	43	144	...49	
Mumbai	...18	102	17	49	
Pune	.68	9	68	42	42
Visakhapatnam	...37.1	29.3			

Yesterday

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

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

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

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

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

13 Army men among 14 dead in Himachal building collapse

Operations continue in Solan district to rescue people trapped in the rubble

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The toll in Sunday's collapse of a multi-storied building in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh rose to 14, with six more bodies being retrieved on Monday. Thirteen Army personnel are among the dead.

"Besides the 13 defence personnel, who were all Junior Commissioned Officers, one civilian also lost his life," an official statement said.

Twenty-eight people, including 17 Army personnel and 11 civilians, were injured after the four-storey building, which housed a restaurant, collapsed on the Nahan-Kumarhatti Road on Sunday evening following heavy rains, officials said.

Additional Superinten-



Digging deep: Rescue activities being carried out at the building collapse site near Kumarhatti in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh on Monday. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

dent of Police (Solan) Shiv Kumar told *The Hindu* that rescue operations, jointly conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the police and the district administration, were over.

The injured have been admitted to the Maharishi Markandeshwar Medical College at Kumarhatti and the Civil Hospital at Dharampur.

"The operation is still underway to find out if any other person is still trapped under the rubble," Deputy Commissioner K.C. Chaman said.

"We have registered a case against the owner," said CM Jai Ram Thakur who visited the site at Kumarhatti.

With PTI inputs

PM calls Sonowal as flood toll rises; over 4,000 villages hit

95% of Kaziranga inundated; Brahmaputra, Barak in spate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called up Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to take stock of the flood situation that has claimed 15 lives and affected 42.86 lakh people so far.

Floodwaters have inundated 95% of the 430 sq km Kaziranga National Park (KNP) and other one-horned rhino habitats such as the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. Forest officials said 17 of the herbivores have drowned or died in accidents while moving to safety.

Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said the



Safer shores: Victims moving to safety in country boats in Morigaon district of Assam on Monday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

rising Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and their tributaries have inundated 30 of the State's 33 districts.

"As on Monday, 42.86 lakh people across 4,157 villages have been affected and

83,180 of them have taken shelter in 183 relief camps across 26 districts," an ASDA official said.

Sixteen persons also died of AES and Japanese Encephalitis on Monday.

The students are stated to be out of danger, officials said.

When the wire fell, the students were at a distance but water had collected in the compound after rainfall due to which they came into contact with electricity, District Magistrate Karun Karunesh said.

They were shifted to nearby hospitals, he said.

Taking a serious note, the Chief Minister ordered the District Magistrate of Balrampur to provide medical aid to the children while di-

recting officials to probe the matter and take action against the guilty within 24 hours.

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government on Monday began organising gram sabhas in villages to consider afresh rejected claims of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers to forest land rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

As the Supreme Court hearing on July 24 to receive affidavits from States with regard to the status of pending cases gets closer, Additional Chief Secretary (Pan-chayat and Rural Development) Gauri Singh directed District Collectors to hold gram sabhas from July 15-20 wherever claims were rejected.

On June 30, out of 6,26,511 claims to forest rights in the State, 3,60,181 (57.49%) had been rejected, and are now being reviewed.

In several cases, he added, it was found that due opportunity to produce evidence to stake claim was not

given to claimants, no reasons were stated for the rejection of claims, and claimants lacked awareness about the application procedure. "During gram sabhas, we will review whether officials followed rules in rejecting claims, and the sites in question need to be revisited," said Rakesh Singh, Commissioner, Directorate of Tribal Area Development and Planning.

To streamline the process, and deal with the bulk of claims, the State has launched an online applica-

tion system, Van Mitra, in the Hoshangabad district on a pilot basis, said Rishi Garg, Additional Commissioner, Tribal Welfare Department.

Review order

On February 28, the Supreme Court had stayed its controversial February 13 order that lakhs of those whose claims were rejected be evicted from forests. It had acknowledged the need to delve into whether due process was followed by State governments before claims were rejected.

Query on role of Governor causes flutter

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
NEW DELHI

A question asked in the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) exams held on Sunday to examine whether a Governor was a "mere puppet" has caused a flutter in political circles.

"Critically examine the role of Governor in the State politics in India, particularly in Bihar. Is he a mere puppet?" the question in the GK Paper-II examination of the BPSC Mains read.

The question paper has come under attack from Ministers.

Water Resources Minister Sanjay Jha said it was unfortunate that such a question was asked and denied any role of the government in it.

Opposition MLA Bhai Virendra demanded action against the person responsible for the question.

High tension wire falls on school, injures 50

Yogi Adityanath has ordered a probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BALRAMPUR/LUCKNOW

About 50 students were injured on Monday when a high-tension wire fell on a primary school in Naya Nagar Vishnupur area here, prompting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to order a probe into the incident.

Government officials said rivers in north Bihar had crossed the danger level and flooded 64 blocks. Around 280 to 300 mm rainfall was recorded in the past three-four days in Terai region of Nepal against 50 mm of average rainfall in the past years.

As many as 23 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and SDRF have been deployed in the flood-hit districts.

The students are stated to be out of danger, officials said.

When the wire fell, the students were at a distance but water had collected in the compound after rainfall due to which they came into contact with electricity, District Magistrate Karun Karunesh said.

They were shifted to nearby hospitals, he said.

Taking a serious note, the Chief Minister ordered the District Magistrate of Balrampur to provide medical aid to the children while di-

recting officials to probe the matter and take action against the guilty within 24 hours.

He also directed Principal Secretary Energy and MD, UP Power Corporation to run a campaign to safeguard people from high-tension wires and repair them whenever needed.

"Strict action will be initiated against those showing laxity in this regard," Mr. Adityanath said.

Two employees of the Power department were suspended and a departmental inquiry was ordered against the junior engineer concerned.

Mr. Karunesh said the basic education officer and the executive engineer of the Power department were directed to conduct a survey of schools and remove any such wires passing over them.

Water Resources Minister Sanjay Jha said it was unfortunate that such a question was asked and denied any role of the government in it.

Opposition MLA Bhai Virendra demanded action against the person responsible for the question.

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Waiting for daybreak

Chandrayaan-2 missed this rendezvous with the moon, but the next date is not too far

India's second moon mission, Chandrayaan-2, was pulled back from launch just 56 minutes before its scheduled liftoff on July 15. This was owing to a technical glitch in the GSLV Mark-III rocket launcher. No rescheduled date has been announced for launch. This has no doubt served as a damper on those who eagerly looked forward to India being only the fourth country to launch a mission that would land on the moon, and the very first to land on and explore its south pole region. Yet, it was best that the glitch was discovered before the launch. Rocket launches always have a nail-biting finish. Even the GSLV-D1, the slighter predecessor to the GSLV Mark-III, suffered such a setback when it was about to be launched for its first developmental test flight in 2001. It was called off exactly one second before launch, as it was discovered that one of the four liquid propellant strap-on stages had not developed the required thrust. This test flight was conducted just 21 days later, paving the way for several successful launches of the GSLV rocket subsequently.

What seems to have touched the popular imagination is that the current launch window ends on July 16 and if this window is missed there could be an indefinite delay in rescheduling the launch. Coupled with news reports that checking and correcting the error could take up to 10 days, this has led to dire pronouncements of an indefinite postponement of the mission. The 'launch window' is determined by several factors. One of the most important considerations is that any spot on the moon receives sunlight for approximately 14 (earth) days before being plunged in night for another fourteen. The landing has to be timed so that it maximises the overlap with the sunlit days on that spot. This is because the lander and the rover need solar energy to power them and to keep the instruments warm. Therefore, given a landing spot that can be seen from the earth, the landing date has to coincide with the sixth phase of the moon (first quarter) as seen from the earth, on that spot. Secondly, once placed on the moon orbit, Chandrayaan-2 must have full visibility to the ground station, which will determine the time of operation of the landing. From the date of launch to the date of landing, the planned interval is about 54 days. Much of this time is needed for the Chandrayaan-2 mission to make various orbital manoeuvres and operations, but there is a leeway of a day or two to take some decisions. A window that takes all this into account, is available for about 10 minutes on each day now for about a week. Such a window can be found every month. Other tighter windows are available but are high-risk options. So even if Chandrayaan-2 misses its rendezvous with the moon this month, it will find a date, perhaps even next month, that will be suitable.

Closer than close

England did well to win the World Cup, but New Zealand did not deserve to lose

Summit clashes of global sporting tournaments can often be underwhelming. One team revels in the occasion, the other wilts, and a lopsided climax occurs. But Sunday's ICC World Cup final involving England and New Zealand at Lords wasn't cut from the same cloth. Never has a cricket match invested with such magnitude concluded in a tie. The same finish line was again replicated after the super over was taken to break the stalemate. The rivals scored 241 apiece in their respective innings and drew level at 15 in the super over. Ideally both units should have shared the trophy but the quest for a singular winner and a tournament law that mentioned cumulative boundaries as the ultimate deal-breaker, helped England pip New Zealand. The host had 26 strikes past the ropes, well ahead of the visitor's 17. For a contest of gladiatorial proportions, it was perhaps an unfair judgment. In the current popular imagination both squads are champions, but after many years when only cold statistics linger, England will have the halo and New Zealand will remain the bridesmaid. The tussle that kept London agog had many stars, but one player shone the brightest. Ben Stokes, who had spoken about how England cannot be denied, rose to the occasion, and his splendid unbeaten 84 helped Eoin Morgan's men keep pace with Kane Williamson's unsung heroes.

England, the willow game's birthplace, needed this triumph to resuscitate the sport which is waning across the country. The game's followers belong to an older demographic space and Asian immigrants, while the youth root for football. A win of this scale should increase footfalls at various training academies and grounds, and the talent base will widen. For New Zealand, the second consecutive loss at the last hurdle will hurt, but unlike in the 2015 edition where it succumbed meekly to co-host Australia, here it fought with all its might, be it crucial runs or decisive wickets. The Black Caps dished out outstanding fielding, and in a face-off of slender margins every run saved has deep ramifications. Williamson, who excelled with the bat and amassed 578 runs, was a brilliant captain and he never lost his sense of grace. Judged the 'Player of the Tournament', the Kiwi skipper and his men can return home with their heads held high. For a championship that featured skewed games and four rained-out fixtures in its first part, the second stage proved engrossing and the final was the piece-de-resistance. The World Cup also held a mirror to cricket's overall health. Except for England, New Zealand, Australia, India and to some extent Pakistan, the other squads have become weak and the respective boards have to address structural flaws. The sport needs robust competition, not jaded outfits.

A test of law and justice

The challenges made to the 103rd constitutional amendment present a more difficult judicial examination than usual



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

Constitutional challenges are often described as hard cases. This is, however, seldom true. Invariably, disputes possess a simple solution. We can debate over what theories of interpretation to apply and over whether the text of a clause needs to be read literally or in light of its historical background, but in most cases, the Supreme Court's own precedent and commonly accepted legal theories provide an easy enough guide to finding a principled answer. The challenges made to the 103rd constitutional amendment, though, which a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court is slated to hear this month, present a rather more difficult test.

Here, the issues involved concern questions both over whether the amendment infringes the extant idea of equality, and over whether that idea is so intrinsic to the Constitution, that departing from it will somehow breach the document's basic structure. The court's answers to these questions will operate not merely within the realm of the law but will also likely have a deep political bearing – for at stake here is the very nature of justice that India's democracy embodies.

The law, which was introduced in January this year, amends Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution, and grants to government the power to provide for reservation in appointments to posts under the state and in admissions to educational institutions to "economically weaker sections of citizens [EWS]". At first blush, this reservation, which can extend up to 10%

of the total seats available, may not appear to impinge on the existing constitutional arrangement. But what it does mandate is a quota that will apply only to citizens other than the classes that are already eligible for reservation. Consequently, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and persons who are not part of the creamy layer of the Other Backward Classes will not be eligible to the seats available under the quota.

According to the petitioners in the Supreme Court, the central hypothesis of the amendment, where reservation is predicated on individual economic status, violates the Constitution's basic structure. In their belief, the law, by providing for affirmative action unmindful of the structural inequalities inherent in India's society, overthrows the prevailing rationale for reservations. In doing so, they argue, the amendment destroys the Constitution's idea of equal opportunity. The Union of India argues that while the Constitution demands equality, it does not confine Parliament to any singular vision. According to it, the power to amend the Constitution must necessarily include a power to decide how to guarantee equal status to all persons.

Meaning and purpose In some senses, as sociologist Gail Omvedt wrote in these pages ("The purpose of reservation - I", March 24, 2000), "the whole history of the struggle for reservation has also been a debate about its very meaning and purpose". When reservations were first introduced by some of the princely states the policy was seen largely as an alleviative measure. For instance, in the princely State of Mysore, where privileged castes had cornered virtually every post available under the government, a system of reservations was



introduced denominating communities as "Backward Classes", and providing for them a larger share in the administration. By the time the Constitution was being drafted as a reading of the Constituent Assembly's debates shows us, the rationale for reservations had broadened. The Constitution's framers saw the measure as a promise against prejudice, as a tool to assimilate deprived groups into public life, and as a means of reparation, to compensate persons belonging to those groups for the reprehensible acts of discrimination wrought on them through history. Marc Galanter has called this a compensatory discrimination principle.

Yet, despite the expanded justification, the basic foundational logic for reservations was still predicated on a demand for a fairer and more representative share in political administration. This is demonstrated by R.M. Nalavade's comment in the Constituent Assembly. "Our experience in the provinces, though there are provisions for reservation in the services, is bitter," he said. "Even though the depressed classes are educated and qualified, they are not given chances of employment under the Provincial Governments. Now that we have provided for this in the Constitution itself, there is no fear for the Scheduled castes. According to this clause we can be adequately represented in the provincial as well as in the Central

services."

By providing for a more proportionate distribution of the share in administration, the programme of reservations, it was believed, would end at least some of caste-based domination of jobs, particularly of employment in the public sector – a domination that was built over thousands of years, where Dalits and Adivasis were denied access to equal status. As Ms. Omvedt has pointed out, the strategy behind reservations could, therefore, never have involved an attack on pure economic backwardness. The idea was always to disavow caste-monopoly in the public sector.

Theory of justice

Even when the Constitution's first amendment was introduced in 1951, to allow the state to make special provisions beyond reservations in public employment for "the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes", the rationale, as the lawyer Malavika Prasad has argued, remained constant. Attempts made at the time to categorise individuals on the basis of economic status were expressly rejected. Behind this thinking was a distinctive theory of justice: that by acceding a greater share in public life to historically disadvantaged groups the relative position of those groups would stand enhanced. No doubt such a policy would not, in and of itself, help eliminate the various inequalities produced by the caste system, but it was believed it would represent a resolute effort to eliminate at least some of the caste-based domination prevailing in society.

Indeed, the policy and the idea of justice that undergirds it have been seen as so indispensable to the Constitution's aims and purposes that the Supreme Court in

State of Kerala v. N.M. Thomas (1975) held that reservations based on social and educational backwardness, far from being an exception ought to be seen as an intrinsic facet of the idea of equality.

Unseating equality

It is in departing from this logic that the 103rd amendment unseats the Constitution's code of equality. Pure financial ability is a transient criterion; it doesn't place people into a definite group requiring special privileges. If anything, allowing for reservation on such a principle only further fortifies the ability of powerful castes to retain their positions of authority, by creating an even greater monopolisation of their share in administration. If such an end is indeed the vision, it's difficult to see how the elementary conception of equality guaranteed by the Constitution can continue to survive.

Now, no doubt the Supreme Court may, on the face of things, consider Parliament as possessing the power to altogether dismantle the Constitution's existing idea of equality without simultaneously demolishing the document's basic structure. But, if nothing else, when the court hears the challenges made to the 103rd amendment, it must see the petitioners' arguments as representing a credibly defensible view. The least the court ought to do, therefore, is to refer the case to a constitution bench, given that Article 145(3) mandates such an enquiry on any issue involving a substantial question of law concerning the Constitution's interpretation, and, in the meantime, stay the operation of the amendment until such a bench hears the case fully. Should the court fail to do so the government will surely one day present to it a cruel fait accompli.

Suhirth Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

A hand-to-mouth Budget

It is inescapable from the arithmetic that revenue expenditures and tax revenues are in need of serious corrections



PUJA MEHRA

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman began a new practice in the Union Budget, presented on July 5, when she relegated the numbers, or the budgeting, to the fine print, in a break with tradition; they are usually presented as a part of the speech on the floor of the House in Parliament.

What are the compulsions that could have made her shy away from stating the numbers as her predecessors have done earlier, no matter how uncomfortable the fiscal position?

Falling tax revenues

The Central government's tax revenues for the financial year ending March-end 2019 – as reported by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) – fell short of the Interim Budget's estimates (that the Modi government presented in its first tenure) in February by a whopping 0.9% of GDP.

The CGA's figures show that direct tax collections for 2018-19 fell short by ₹4,774 crore while those of indirect tax collections were by ₹93,198 crore.

The Budget Speech saved the Modi government the embarrass-

ment of owing up to this shortfall on the floor of the House, although this is not the first time that a government has overestimated tax collections.

Ms. Sitharaman has now budgeted for lower tax revenue in the ongoing financial year, 2019-20, than her predecessor, Piyush Goyal had in the Interim Budget.

The new Budget estimate for gross tax revenue is ₹90,936 crore lower than what was projected in the Interim Budget. This is despite the higher surcharge Ms. Sitharaman has imposed on income-tax for those earning more than ₹2 crore and a range of hikes she has levied on customs duties.

The new Budget estimates show that the government does not expect to improve its performance on tax collections in the current year: Gross tax revenue-GDP ratio is budgeted to slip from 11.9% in 2018-19 to 11.7% in 2019-20. While the direct tax-to-GDP ratio is expected to go from 6.4 to 6.3, the indirect tax-to-GDP ratio will reduce from 5.5 to 5.3.

To fill the gaping hole on the tax revenue side, significantly higher non-tax revenues have been budgeted than the estimates of the Interim Budget. Dividends and profits from public sector enterprises are budgeted at ₹1,63,528 crore compared to ₹1,36,072 crore in February. This includes an extraordinarily large increase in dividends from the Reserve Bank of India from the ₹68,000 crore it paid last



year to ₹90,000 crore.

The Budget now estimates ₹1,05,000 crore to be raised through disinvestment, higher than the ₹90,000 crore that Mr. Goyal had projected in the Interim Budget and the ₹80,000 crore raised in 2018-19.

Tapping public enterprises

On the revenue side, therefore, the government proposes to make up for its below-expectations performance by extracting more from profitable public sector enterprises (PSEs); the economy would have been better off had these enterprises taken the lead in rolling out fresh investments, thereby generating growth impulses for the rest of the economy.

As a percentage of GDP, non-tax revenue is budgeted to grow from 1.3% in 2018-19 to 1.5% in 2019-20.

The expenditure estimates show that the money the government is raising from assets, through disinvestment and extracting from the PSEs through di-

vidends, is not going towards significantly expanding public investments. This is because much of it is getting spent on providing for salaries, pensions, subsidies and interest payments on past borrowings.

This is why the Budget presented by Ms. Sitharaman is a hand-to-mouth Budget. She did well in resisting demands for a fiscal stimulus to pump prime the economy. That is also what has made it a fiscally prudent budget.

The revenue expenditure is budgeted to grow to ₹24,47,780 crore in 2019-20, an increase of 14.3% over the revised estimate for the previous year.

The fiscal gap between expenditures and revenues will be financed by borrowing ₹7.10 lakh crore. In 2019-20, the outgo towards interest payments is budgeted at ₹6,60,471 crore, or more than a third of the total revenue raised.

The government's interest payments for past borrowings, the largest component of the revenue expenditure, are budgeted to grow in nominal terms, from 11.1% in 2018-19 to 12.4% in 2019-20, or faster than even the estimated GDP growth.

Capital expenditure of the government is budgeted at ₹3,38,569 crore for 2019-20 which reflects a growth of 6.9% over the revised estimate of 2018-19. In other words, capital expenditure is projected to grow at a rate slower than the pro-

jected rate of GDP growth.

This comes when the Budget speech made much about the need to revive investments to accelerate GDP growth. Ms. Sitharaman emphasised in her speech that investments of ₹100 lakh crore would be needed cumulatively over the next five years to boost infrastructure; this works out to be around ₹20 lakh crore a year.

She did not say where this money would come from. Current savings and investment rates in the economy cannot provide for such large sums. Perhaps the hope is that foreign investors will deploy in India cheap funds they will be able to raise in advanced economies where the costs of borrowings are expected to reduce as the global economy enters a phase of weak economic growth and trade.

But as that it may, what is not clear is how the government expects the Budget to be called 'pro-investments'.

It is inescapable from the Budget arithmetic, though, that revenue expenditures and the tax revenues are in need of serious corrections. If they were in better shape, significant expansions in public investments would have been possible.

Puja Mehra is a Delhi-based journalist.

She is the author of the book, *The Lost Decade (2008-18): How India's Growth Story Devolved Into Growth Without a Story*

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.

Chandrayaan-2 delay

Indians need not lose heart after the launch of the Chandrayaan-2 mission was stopped due to a technical glitch. The Indian Space Research Organisation is one of the finest institutions of the country and has carried out several world-class missions successfully over the past few decades, despite the absence of a lavish budget. The institution is the pride of India and should be an inspiration to many developing countries.

MEENA YADEM,
Hyderabad

The Karnataka crisis

Whatever be the rights or legality of the actions of the MLAs in Karnataka, are they performing their duties as elected

representatives of their constituencies (Editorial, "Karnataka conundrum," July 15)? Are they looking after the interests of the people? Are they being true to the oath taken at the time of their induction as legislators? They seem to be just blatantly advancing their own interests to claim power and position, which is their sole objective of getting into politics.

Political parties nurture them for their own survival. Why doesn't the public see through this game and protest against such grand betrayals?

M.K. ANANTHA SWAMY,
Bengaluru

Honours tied

The semi-final clash between Australia and South Africa in 1999 was to see a new World Cup

long considered the greatest World Cup match ever played ('Sport' page, "Ecstasy for England, agony for New Zealand in a humdinger," July 15). This Sunday's contest, also hosted by England, can now lay its claims over the epithet. Following the humdinger, neither

England nor New Zealand deserved to lose. It is a shame for cricket's governing body that such a great match had to be decided on the basis of such a farcical metric. It is high time the International Cricket Council revisits its rule book to provide some predictability when it comes to giving closure to such fiercely fought encounters. However, for a cricket fan, it is heartening to see a new World Cup

champion emerge for the first time since 1996.

L.S. HAREESH,
Chennai

■ A 'Super Over' at the end of a Cricket match is meant to decide the winner of a knock-out contest. But what happens if the tie-breaker itself ends up in a stalemate?

England was handed over the World

Creating a fair digital payments market

Local firms will be at a disadvantage if big tech companies are given plum roles



PADMASHREE GEHL SAMPATH



Since early last year, WhatsApp has busily piloted its payment system in India. WhatsApp Pay relies on the Indian government's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system to facilitate inter-bank transactions. Regulatory approval that would allow its nationwide introduction is stuck on one point: the Indian government has asked WhatsApp to localise all data processing related to payment transactions in India and not on Facebook's servers in the U.S. This is well in line with the government's existing technology vision for the digital economy, which hinges on data localisation as the magic bullet to solve multiple problems ranging from prevention of personal data misuse to promotion of local enterprises. Unfortunately, it misses a number of other issues and hidden costs of this current deal and raises broader issues on big tech's foray into financial services, especially payments.

The case of WhatsApp Pay

In the case of WhatsApp Pay, its parent company, Facebook, has come under scrutiny for harmful content, lack of privacy, and data misuse in recent years. The large amounts of social media data that Facebook sits on, its habit of using private user data to promote business, and its reluctance to adhere to policy have led to radical suggestions of breaking up big tech. Facebook, in response, has rolled out a new plan to reinvent its business, which is to build a new privacy-focused platform that integrates WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger. This will provide end-to-end encryption for consumers and business services along with direct payment options. As *The Economist* recently noted, if this succeeds, it would make it more difficult to argue for big tech to be sliced up.

The only hitch in this new business plan is that Facebook is relatively new to the digital payments market and cannot gain a foothold in the U.S., where PayPal has the largest consumer base. This is where it becomes important to make WhatsApp

Pay successful in India. India is WhatsApp's largest market in the world with over 250 million monthly users. Once WhatsApp Pay catches on in India, Facebook intends to introduce it in other developing countries. Thus, the decision to allow WhatsApp Pay in India can catapult Facebook into the big league in the global digital payments market where companies like Alibaba's Alipay and Tencent's WeChat are making waves.

India's digital vision talks about data sovereignty and giving domestic firms an advantage. The digital payments market, with 800 million mobile users in the country of which more than 430 million have Internet access, is estimated to grow to over \$1 trillion by 2025. If India is serious about giving local firms an advantage, it should leverage this immense opportunity. With the right policy incentives, local firms could capture large shares of the digital payments market to become e-commerce players on a global scale, as China's experience shows. In China, domestic enterprises were strategically enabled to use the local market to emerge as global champions. Today, WeChat combines the functional features of several online platforms including Facebook, WhatsApp, PayPal and Uber Eats. Over 300 million users worldwide use WeChat payments for everything, right from ordering food to paying hospital bills, a model that all firms want to emulate.

But giving WhatsApp Pay a plum role in the digital payments market achieves the opposite because if the deal goes ahead, it will automatically give WhatsApp Pay a large advantage

over all other Indian firms that are currently operating without the advantage of relying on a large social media and messaging base as WhatsApp does. This creates a 'winner-takes-most' dynamic that competition authorities worldwide are becoming wary of: simply because WhatsApp already has the economies of scale and network externalities, it will manage to integrate it into an entirely new sector, with undue advantages that it should normally not benefit from. To top it all, Facebook will also receive a cut in all WhatsApp Pay transactions conducted in India. Similar concerns with market power can exist with allowing other large firms like Google Pay and Amazon Pay, but these will need to be assessed individually while making decisions for the national digital payments market. What matters most is that without a level playing field, even the most well-meaning policy incentives will not safeguard the expansion of local firms in the digital payments arena, thus severely limiting the capacity of local firms to benefit from the potential of India's own digital payments market.

Fallouts for privacy

The largest fallouts of granting market approval to a global player will be in the area of privacy. In the particular instance of WhatsApp Pay, the deal will give Facebook access to data on how people across countries are spending their money. Even if WhatsApp agrees to set up data localisation in India, the localisation requirement of the government is limited to payments data only. As a result, Fa-

cbook will still have access to metadata on all payment transactions, which can be matched with the data that the company already has access to on Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp for the same users. With all of that, Facebook will be able to match user profiles on its social media websites with the user profiles that are authenticated by the UPI system in India. This would not only make Facebook the second biggest identification issuer in India after the Indian government, it would also make Facebook the best repository of data covering all areas of life – social and financial – on all Indian users. This kind of data pooling would never be allowed in the U.S. where financial privacy laws protect against such an outcome, so why should this be allowed in India? Similar risks exist in the case of Google Pay or Amazon Pay, where payments data can be matched with other existing repositories with outcomes that are not desirable and may/may not be as drastic as in the case of WhatsApp Pay.

These examples of big tech and finance help illustrate some of the complexities of digital markets. To address safe digital transformation, we need a policy that focuses on the nitty-gritty of implementation and coordination. We need to be clear on how digital technologies will transform different sectors, especially finance and payments, with a view to promoting competition, enabling local firms, protecting consumer welfare and promoting data sovereignty. In the specific case of the digital payments market, we need the elaboration of clear guidelines that enable the development of a digital payments market, going beyond requirements for storing and processing payments. Data localisation is costly, and consumers not only need protection that these compliance costs will not be passed on to them by businesses, but they also need clarity on how their data will be stored, for how long, and what uses will be prohibited. Local firms will need much more space and support in the digital payments market to be able to create new jobs, new prospects and digital dividends. These are crucial to guarantee the rights of all Indians as we move from a cash-based to a cashless economy.

Padmashree Gehl Sampath is a Fellow at Harvard University

A WASH for healthcare

Without adequate water, sanitation and hygiene amenities, infection control is severely compromised



POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH

Healthcare facilities are many and varied. Some are primary, others are tertiary. Many are public, some are private. Some meet specific needs, whether dentistry or occupational therapy, and some are temporary, providing acute care when disaster strikes.

Whatever their differences, and wherever they're located, adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) amenities, including waste management and environmental cleaning services, are critical to their safe functioning. When a healthcare facility lacks adequate WASH services, infection prevention and control are severely compromised. This has the potential to make patients and health workers sick from avoidable infections. As a result (and in addition), efforts to improve maternal, neonatal and child health are undermined. Lack of WASH facilities also results in unnecessary use of antibiotics, thereby spreading antimicrobial resistance.

As a joint report published earlier this year by the World Health Organization and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) outlines, WASH services in many facilities across the world are missing or substandard. According to data from 2016, an estimated 896 million people globally had no water service at their healthcare facility. More than 1.5 billion had no sanitation service. One in every six healthcare facilities was estimated to have no hygiene service (meaning it lacked hand hygiene facilities at points of care, as well as soap and water at toilets), while data on waste management and environmental cleaning was inadequate across the board.

Enhancing primary health-care

In WHO's South-East Asia region, efforts to tackle the problem and achieve related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets are being vigorously pursued. As outlined at a WHO-supported meeting in New Delhi in March, improving WASH services in healthcare facilities is crucial to accelerating progress towards each of the region's 'flagship priorities', especially the achievement of universal health coverage. Notably, improving WASH services was deemed essential to enhancing the quality of primary healthcare services, increasing equity and bridging the rural-urban divide.



A World Health Assembly Resolution passed in May is hoping to catalyse domestic and external investments to help reach the global targets. These include ensuring at least 60% of all healthcare facilities have basic WASH services by 2022; at least 80% have the same by 2025; and 100% of all facilities provide basic WASH services by 2030.

For this, member states should implement each of the WHO- and UNICEF-recommended practical steps. First, health authorities should conduct in-depth assessments and establish national standards and accountability mechanisms. Across the region, and the world, a lack of quality baseline data limits authorities' understanding of the problem. As this is done, and national road-maps to improve WASH services are developed, health authorities should create clear and measurable benchmarks that can be used to improve and maintain infrastructure and ensure that facilities are 'fit to serve'.

Educating the health workers

Second, health authorities should increase engagement and work to instil a culture of cleanliness and safety in all health-care facilities. Alongside information campaigns that target facility administrators, all workers in the health system – from doctors and nurses to midwives and cleaners – should be made aware of, and made to practise, current WASH and infection prevention and control procedures (IPC). To help do this, modules on WASH services and IPC should be included in pre-service training and as part of ongoing professional development. In addition, authorities should work more closely with communities, especially in rural areas, to promote demand for WASH services.

And third, authorities should ensure that collection of data on key WASH indicators becomes routine. Doing so will help accelerate progress by promoting continued action and accountability. It will also help spur innovation by documenting the links between policies and outcomes. To make that happen, WHO is working with member states as well as key partners to develop a data dashboard on health facilities, including WASH services, with a focus on the primary care level.

As member states strive to achieve the 'flagship priorities' and work towards the SDG targets, that outcome is crucial. Indeed, whatever the healthcare facility, whoever the provider, and wherever it is located, securing safe health services is an objective member states must boldly pursue.

Poonam Khetrapal Singh is regional director, WHO, South-East Asia

It no longer runs in the family

Political power in the Indian subcontinent seems to be drifting away from dynasties

SYED MUNIR KHASRU

Ever since the British left the Indian subcontinent, most South Asian nations have seen dynastic leadership. India's Congress Party, led by the Nehru-Gandhi family, has been in power for a better part of the country's post-Independence modern history. Similarly, the Bhuttos/Zardaris and the Sharifs led Pakistan for years. Sri Lanka was governed by the Bandaranaike for years and the Rajapakas later. In Bangladesh, two political families – those of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Zia ur-Rahman – have dominated the political landscape.

That said, leaders belonging to political dynasties have not always had a glorious reign. We only need to consider the tragic fate that befell the Bhuttos – Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and his daughter Benazir Bhutto – both of whom died untimely deaths. In India, Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv Gandhi were both assassinated.



could not bring young voters into the party's fold. However, refreshingly, Mr. Gandhi desisted from playing the blame game.

Inspiring hope

Further, while Mr. Gandhi may have failed to have his finger on the pulse of the electorate, he did inspire some hope for the future of his party by owning up to its lapses and seeking to forge a more democratic future for the organisation. Thus, his resignation has opened a pathway for educated, charismatic and able leaders to assume charge, not just those from his own family.

Mr. Gandhi sought to distinguish himself from his political adversaries by saying: "Where they see differences, I see similarity. Where they see hatred, I see love. What they fear, I embrace." He certainly made an indelible impression when he concluded his resignation letter with these powerful words: "It is a habit in India that the powerful cling to power, no one sacrifices power. But we will not defeat our opponents without sacrificing the desire for power and fighting a deeper ideological battle."

Looking at other countries, as South Asia sheds dynastic politics, space is being created for leaders like Nepal's K.P. Sharma Oli, Bhutan's doctor-turned-Prime Minister Lotay Tshering and The Maldives's Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

However, voters need not reject a candidate solely because he/she is from a political family. There can be meritocracy even when a dynast works his way up the political ladder by virtue of his skills. The challenge here is to ensure that those from humble origins have the same access to the corridors of power as the most privileged. As one of the world's most vibrant democracies, India can inspire merit-based democratic societies. On that note, Mr. Gandhi has led by example.

Examples of Imran, Modi

However, today, political power in the subcontinent seems to be drifting away from dynasties. In Pakistan, Imran Khan, a cricketer-turned-politician, and in India, Narendra Modi, a swayamsevak, have become Prime Ministers.

Here, the resignation of Rahul Gandhi as Congress president can be considered a significant development for India. Mr. Gandhi, who decided to relinquish the post after his party's defeat in the general elections, formally entered electoral politics as a 34-year-old MP in 2004 and was expected to have a major sway over India's youth. However, successive defeats of Congress in 2014 and 2019 have demonstrated that he



DATA POINT

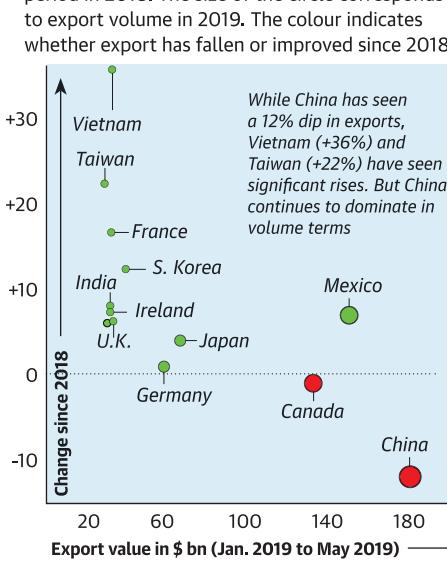
Shifting origins

The U.S. has seen a drop in imports from China due to the tariff war between the two countries. Vietnam and Taiwan have benefited from the tariff escalation with their exports to the U.S. surging. However, India is yet to cash in.

By Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Niharika Pandya

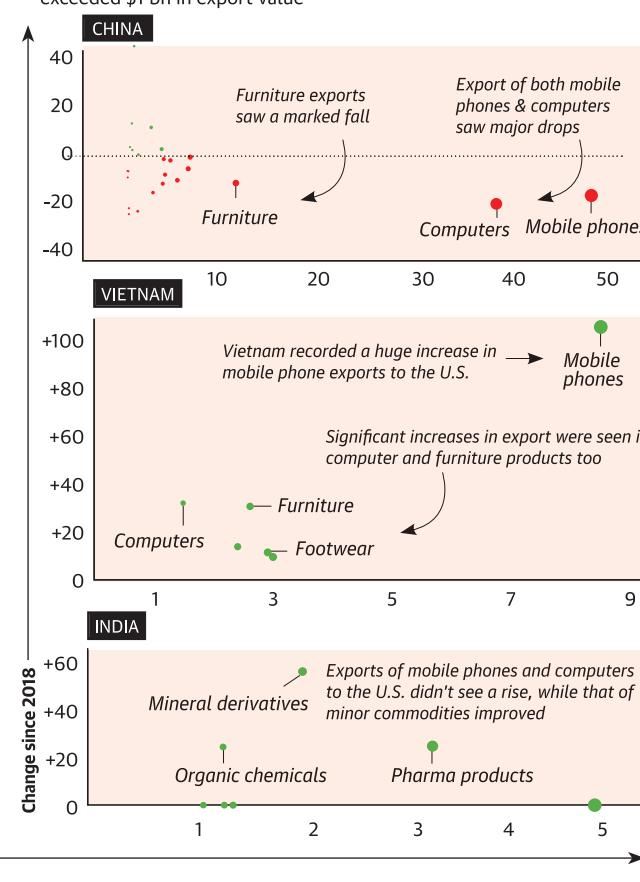
Ebbs and flows

Graph 1 plots the volume of goods sent to the U.S. by select countries between Jan. and May 2019 against the change in volume from the same period in 2018. The size of the circle corresponds to export volume in 2019. The colour indicates whether export has fallen or improved since 2018



Gains and losses

The graphs plot the same indicators as those in graph 1 for select nations: China, Vietnam and India for specific commodities. Each circle is a commodity. The graphs consider commodities which exceeded \$1 bn in export value



FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 16, 1969

Hurdles to reconciliation

The chances of reconciliation between the Prime Minister and the "Syndicate" over the Presidential nomination are being hampered by an almost conspiratorial atmosphere of crisis being built up by the busybodies on both sides on the eve of the Congress Parliamentary Party meetings this week-end. It was thought by some well-meaning intermediaries that they would be able to calm tempers after the dust had settled – and the debris of the explosion in the Parliamentary Board had been cleared – but unfortunately the hot-heads in both the camps are running around with oil cans instead of water and stoking fires in the name of stamping them out in good time. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has not yet come face to face either with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, or the Home Minister, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, after the showdown in Bangalore. And no Cabinet or committee meetings have been fixed for the next day or two to avoid them personal embarrassment before they are ready to sit together again to transact Government business and settle some pending policy matters before Parliament meets on Monday [July 21]. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi to-day called on the acting President, Mr. V. V. Giri, who told her that there was no question of his withdrawing from the Presidential contest.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 16, 1919.

Coal Prices. Strong Labour Criticism.

A White Paper is issued [in London] showing the basis on which the box shilling increase in the cost of coal per ton is calculated. The deficiency in working the coal industry for twelve months beginning July 16th is estimated at over forty six millions sterling. The output is estimated at 217 million tons. Deducting the quantity on which increased price will not be effective namely 56 million tons comprising 18 millions for consumption at collieries, six million for miners' use and 32 million sold at open market prices above the minimum for export and bunkers, there remains 161 million tons over which the estimated deficiency is spread necessitating an increase in price of 5-9/2 d. The increase in the price of coal is absorbing the public. Manufacturers are drawing the gloomiest picture of the effects on home export trades. The estimated cost of Lancashire cotton industry is five millions extra and all industries are proportionately affected. The miners are furious at the Government announcement.

FROM PAGE ONE

Karnataka CM to seek trust vote on Thursday

Before the meeting, the BJP submitted a petition to the Speaker on moving a no-confidence motion against the coalition government since the Chief Minister had made only a statement on the trust vote but had not fixed the day.

Summarising the issues discussed and the outcome of the BAC meeting, the Speaker said the BJP members decided to abstain from the session till the trust vote was taken up for discussion. Since he was not in favour of conducting the House proceedings in the

absence of Opposition members, the House would meet on Thursday at 11 a.m. and immediately take up discussion of the confidence motion, said Mr. Kumar.

"I am going by the true spirit of the Constitution and rules and regulations of the House," he said. He told members to be careful about the language they use during the debate on the motion.

Besides the Speaker's statement, the House did not transact any business. The Speaker adjourned the House till Thursday.

Babri case: SC asks U.P. govt. for a way out

Now, the trial is yet to be completed and the sessions judge is due to retire on September 30. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has scheduled a hearing on Friday.

In 2017, the top court extolled its "power, nay, the duty to do complete justice in a case when found necessary. In the present case, crimes which shake the secular fabric of the Constitution of India have allegedly been committed almost 25 years ago" on a 40-page judgment.

It transferred the Rae Bareilly case, languishing in a magistrate court, to the CBI court in Lucknow for a joint trial. The court ordered the Lucknow CBI court judge to hold day-to-day trial and pronounce the judgment in two years. It forbade the transfer of the judge and also adjournments. Any grievances, the Bench said, should directly be addressed to the Supreme Court. Its directions had to be complied with in letter and in spirit, it cautioned.

The Rae Bareilly case ac-

cuses the BJP and Sangh Parivar leaders of having given speeches to promote enmity and threatened national integration. The Lucknow case, investigated by the CBI, is against "lakhs of unknown kar sevaks" and deals with the actual act of demolition and violence.

With the clubbing of the cases and revival of the conspiracy charge, the accused political leaders would be tried under the composite charge sheet filed by the CBI on October 5, 1993.

Joint trial
The Bench agreed with the CBI chargesheet's finding in 1993 that both the criminal conspiracy by the political leaders and the actual demolition by kar sevaks were part of the "same transaction" and warranted a joint trial.

If convicted, the accused would face punishment of three to five years. This would mean that they would be barred from contesting elections for the six years following the completion of their sentence.

Moon mission launch aborted

An official announcement came at 2.40 a.m., when ISRO's PRO read out a short statement on the launch being called off.

"A technical snag was observed in the launch vehicle system at 1 hour before the launch. As a measure of abundant precaution, Chandrayaan-2 launch has been called off for today. Revised launch schedule will be announced later," ISRO said in a tweet at 3.09 a.m.

ISRO had a launch window between July 9 and 16. Officials are tight-lipped about the aborted mission. Postponing the launch would help ISRO identify and address the snag.

The mission is set to be a test bed for technologies required for deep-space ventures. The Chandrayaan-2 module, carrying indige-

nous rover 'Pragyan' and lander 'Vikram', was set to have separated 16 minutes after take-off, and touch down on the moon 54 days after lift-off.

The launch of Chandrayaan-2 has had several setbacks with ISRO missing multiple deadlines since 2018. It was again planned to be launched in a window between January and mid-February last, but was put off yet again. When the launch window in July was fixed, ISRO Chairman K. Sivan had told *The Hindu* that it was final and would be met. But that fell apart as well in the early hours of Monday.

According to sources, the members of the business advisory committee at a meeting on Monday told the government that these Bills were critical and would have a far-reaching impact. "These legislation need to be examined at length and clearing it without a stand-

POTA repealed to save Cong. vote bank: Shah

"It was repealed by the UPA for vote bank and I pray that this House be not used for politics," Mr. Shah said amidst protests from the Opposition members.

"Let me make it clear. The Modi government has no such intention. Its only goal is to finish off terrorism but we will also not look at the religion of the accused while taking action," he said.

The Minister's intervention came as several Opposition leaders expressed the view that the government was using its investigating agencies for "political vendetta".

When former Mumbai police commissioner and now BJP MP Stayal Singh claimed that a former Hyde-

rabad police commissioner was threatened by a former Chief Minister after the police had picked up 'some suspects from the Muslim community', Mr. Owaisi, who represents Hyderabad, objected to it.

The Hyderabad MP asked the BJP member to authenticate his claims by placing all records on the table of the House.

Mr. Shah then got up and told the Hyderabad MP to have patience to listen to a ruling party member. Mr. Owaisi responded by asking Mr. Shah not to point fingers at him as he [Mr. Owaisi] won't be frightened.

To this Mr. Shah shot back, "When you have fear in your mind then what can I do."

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'My resignation letter is with CM'

Navjot Singh Sidhu faces flak for submitting letter to Rahul Gandhi

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

In the wake of widespread criticism over submitting his resignation letter from the Punjab Cabinet to party leader Rahul Gandhi instead of Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh (retd.), cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu on Monday said his resignation has been delivered to the Chief Minister.

"Today, I have sent my resignation to the Chief Minister Punjab, has been delivered at his official residence," he said in his official Twitter handle.

Capt. Singh said if Mr. Sidhu did not want to do his job, there was nothing he could do about it.

"The Minister should have accepted his new portfolio instead of shunning the work in the middle of the crucial rice [paddy] sowing season. If he doesn't want to do the job, there is nothing I can do about it." How a soldier could refuse a job assigned by the General, he asked. There had to be some disci-



Navjot Singh Sidhu

pine in the government if it was to function effectively, he said.

Capt. Amarinder, who was in New Delhi, told reporters that he had been informed that Mr. Sidhu's resignation has been sent to his residence in Chandigarh but he was yet to see it. He would have to read it first to be able to comment on it. He pointed out that he had reshuffled the portfolios of 13 of the 17 members of his Cabinet after the Lok Sabha elections and Mr. Sidhu was the only member who had problems. The reshuffle was de-

cided on the basis of their performance, and Mr. Sidhu should have accepted his new department..

"Mr. Sidhu was given the crucial Power portfolio, which was particularly important at this time in view of the rice [paddy] season, from June to October. With many parts of the State not receiving adequate rain, the power situation is critical, requiring day to day monitoring," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed his unhappiness with the statement issued by Mr. Sidhu and his wife on the latter's candidature for the parliamentary elections. He clarified that he had never opposed Mrs. Navjot Sidhu's candidature and had suggested she should contest from Bathinda, which the couple rejected.

Capt. Amarinder and Mr. Sidhu have been at loggerheads since the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. It started with Ms Navjot Kaur Sidhu accusing Capt. Amarinder of blocking her Lok Sabha tick-

et from Chandigarh. Later, the Chief Minister blamed Mr. Sidhu for not handling his department well, which he claimed had resulted in the Congress's "poor performance" in urban areas in the general election.

Amarinder's take

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday stressed about the need to have discipline in the government and said that if his colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu did not want his job, there was nothing he could do about it.

"If Mr. Sidhu doesn't want to do the job, there is nothing I can do about it," Mr. Singh said in Delhi hours after Mr. Sidhu claimed that he had sent his formal resignation to the Chief Minister.

Mr. Singh, however, said he did not see any harm in the minister sending his papers to the Congress president as the Cabinet was constituted in consultation with the Congress party's high command.

Scrap Postal Dept. exam, say T.N. MPs

'Hold it afresh in Tamil for State'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Two Tamil Nadu parties on Monday demanded cancellation of a Postal Department recruitment examination since it was only held in English and Hindi, skipping regional languages including Tamil.



Tiruchi Siva of the DMK

the posts of postman, mail guard and assistants who will be serving in rural areas, where there is no use of English or Hindi proficiency.

He urged the Union government to conduct a fresh examination in Tamil for Tamil Nadu candidates.

"Already there is a sense of feeling that our students are being deprived of Central government jobs, especially in Railways," Mr. Siva said.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu asked Union Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot to look into the issue.

Amended Motor Vehicles Bill reintroduced

Provisions not binding on States, says Gadkari; Health Minister brings back Surrogacy Regulation Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amendments to the Motor Vehicle (MV) Act and the Surrogacy Regulation Bill were re-introduced by the Narendra Modi government in the Lok Sabha on Monday. These Bills had lapsed since they had not been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

The proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act seeks to provide a compensation of ₹5 lakh for death and ₹2.5 lakh for grievous injury in a motor vehicle accident case.

Among the provisions, the Bill seeks to increase penalties for violations, facilitate grant of online learning licence, simplified provisions for insurance to provide expeditious help to accident victims and their families,

and protection of good samaritans.

The Bill also proposes to raise the time limit for renewal of driving licence from one month to one year before and after the expiry date.

Trinamool objection

Trinamool members Saugata Roy and Mohua Moitra opposed certain provisions in the Bill. Mr. Roy said it would take away the powers of the State governments and infringe on their rights. Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said he was opposing a few provisions of the Bill and not in entirety.

With several Opposition members expressing apprehension about the Bill taking away the rights of the States,

Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari tried to reassure them and urged the House to pass the legislation to help save lives. "My department has failed to pass the Bill in the last five years, but the number of accidents has reduced by 3-4% in the past five years while the incidence came down by around 15% in Tamil Nadu during the same period," he noted.

The Bill states that a woman should be allowed to act as a surrogate only once, should be a close relative of the intending couple and "should be an ever-married woman having a child of her own and between the age of 25-35 years".

added.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan re-introduced the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha, which seeks to prohibit commercial surrogacy in the country.

'Altruistic surrogacy'
The Bill seeks to "allow ethical altruistic surrogacy to the intending infertile Indian married couple between the age of 23-30 years and 26-35 years for female and male, respectively."

The Bill states that a woman should be allowed to act as a surrogate only once, should be a close relative of the intending couple and "should be an ever-married woman having a child of her own and between the age of 25-35 years".

Opposition calls for greater scrutiny on key Bills

In Rajya Sabha, the parties are seeking to move legislation to standing committees for a hard look

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha are seeking to move key Bills, including the NIA (Amendment) Bill 2019, the DNA (Use and Application) Regulation Bill and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 for further parliamentary scrutiny under standing committees.

According to sources, the members of the business advisory committee at a meeting on Monday told the government that these Bills were critical and would have a far-reaching impact. "These legislation need to be examined at length and cleared it without a stand-

ing committee scrutiny cannot be condoned," a top Opposition leader said. The government remained non-committal about the move.

The NIA (Amendment) Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha on Monday, while the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill has been introduced in the House. The NIA Bill seeks to give greater powers to the National Investigation Agency by expanding its jurisdiction to offences committed outside the country. The latest amendments will enable the NIA to additionally investigate offences related to human trafficking, counterfeit currency, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cy-

berterrorism, and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

The UAPA Bill is aimed at strengthening India's security framework.

It seeks "to introduce fourth schedule to add or re-

move the name of individual terrorists".

The DNA Bill seeks to regulate the use of DNA technology for establishing the identity of persons in respect of matters listed in a Schedule. These include criminal matters (such as offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860), and civil matters such as parentage disputes, emigration or immigration, and transplantation of human organs. This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 8.

The Opposition has been complaining that the government, in its last tenure and now, has been trying to bypass the standing committee system. According to statistics given by the Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien, the system was adopted in 1993. From 1993 till 2003, 70% of legislation went to committees. But in the last two years, the frequency has reduced. Only 26% were referred to standing committees.

Opposition strength

As per the current seat arithmetic in the Upper House, the Opposition, led by the Congress's 48 members, has 107 seats and the BJP, along with its allies, is a little ahead with 115 members. There are 13 members from neutral parties such as the Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the YSR Congress Party.

The letter to Mr. Naidu signed by the party's leader in Rajya Sabha, Derek O'Brien, stated that as per Rule 47 (XIV) of the rules of procedure and conduct of business, a question "shall not repeat in substance questions already answered".

He said 10 advisories had gone to the State in 10 days. "We strongly protest this," he said.

Violence breaks out again in Bhatpara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Troubled Bhatpara-Kankinara region in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district witnessed fresh violence on Monday, police said.

Miscreants allegedly ransacked the Bhatpara Municipal Matri Sadan (maternity home) and hurled bombs in front of the hospital, creating panic among patients. They also hurled bombs at different places of Kankinara during the day.

There were sporadic explosions of crude bombs in the area since Saturday evening, the police said, adding two persons were arrested.

Two held for transporting beef in M.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INDORE

Two persons were arrested on Sunday night for allegedly transporting beef in a four-wheeler here in Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Monday.

The two accused, picked up from Kesarganj Road under the Rajendra Nagar police station limits, were identified as Rameez, 23, and Imran Gamu, 26, both residents of Mhow tehsil, Inspector Sunil Sharma said.

The police officer denied media reports that the two were assaulted by a crowd. "A veterinarian examined the seized meat and said it was that of cow and buffalo," he said.

Traditional medicine finds support

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha members on Monday sought more funding for the Ayush Ministry, better regulatory mechanisms, quality education and research infrastructure to promote traditional systems of medicine in the country.

Initiating the discussion, Samajwadi Party's

IN BRIEF



Man arrested for Arunachal MLA's killing

GUAHATI A joint team of the Army, paramilitary Assam Rifles and Assam Police on Sunday arrested an extremist leader linked with the murder of Arunachal Pradesh MLA Tirong Aboh and 10 others in May. A Defence spokesperson said the arrested, 'major' Anok Wangsa, was the area commander of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) for the Longding-Chairaideo-Mon region.

SP's Neeraj Shekhar resigns from Rajya Sabha

LUCKNOW/ NEW DELHI Samajwadi Party MP Neeraj Shekhar resigned from the Rajya Sabha on Monday. Mr. Shekhar, son of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and a two-time former Lok Sabha MP from Ballia in eastern Uttar Pradesh, did not, however, disclose any reason for his decision. His six-year term as a member of the Upper House from U.P. was not due to end till November 25, 2020. This move is seen as a blow to the party.

CBI arrests 2 NPCC officials on graft charge

NEW DELHI The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested seven persons, including two senior officials of the National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC), zonal manager Rakesh Mohan Kotwal and manager Latif Pasha, for allegedly demanding a bribe of ₹40 lakh to clear bills related to the construction of Border Security Force outposts. The officials had initially asked for ₹33 lakh to pass the bills.

Plea in Supreme Court to decriminalise abortion

Seeks to lift curbs on women's choice

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Monday admitted a writ petition seeking to decriminalise abortion and allowing women the right to exercise their reproductive choice.

"The right to exercise reproductive choice is the right to choose whether to conceive and carry pregnancy to its full term or to terminate it at the core of one's privacy, dignity, personal autonomy, bodily integrity, self-determination and right to health recognised by Article 21 of the Constitution," the petition filed by Swati Agarwal, Garima Sekeria and Prachi Vats said.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi issued notice to the Centre on their contention that several provisions of the 48-year-old Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 imposes severe restrictions on the reproductive choice of a woman, her personal liberty and bodily autonomy. The court asked the government to respond to the petition.

For example, the law lar-

12 Indian beaches in the race to crest the 'Blue Flag' challenge

International recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

International standards

"To achieve the internationally recognised highest standard for the purpose of beach management, planning and execution of projects for infrastructure development, cleanliness, safety and security services, these beaches have been identified for Blue Flag certification in different States and Union Territories," reads a notification by the



The Radhanagar beach in Havelock, Andaman. ■ R. RAVINDRAN

Ministry. The Blue Flag programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education). It started in France in 1985

and has been implemented in Europe since 1987, and in areas outside Europe since 2001, when South Africa joined. Japan and South Korea are the only countries in South and southeastern Asia to have Blue Flag beaches. Spain tops the list with 566 such beaches; Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively.

33 criteria

There are nearly 33 criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification, such as the water meeting

certain standards such as waste disposal facilities, disabled-friendly facilities, first aid equipment and no access to pets in the main areas of the beach. Some criteria are voluntary and some compulsory.

India is set to apply for certification for two beaches, at Shivrajpur and Ghogla, by July-end. About ₹20 crore have been spent on each and the FEE jury will decide by October if these beaches meet the mark, an official in the Ministry told *The Hindu*.

If approved, beaches are

given the qualification for a year and must apply annually to continue merit the right to fly the flag at their locations.

To help Indian beaches meet these criteria, the Union Ministry has allowed structures such as container toilet blocks, change rooms, shower panels, mini greywater treatment plants in an enclosed structure, mini solid waste recycling plants and off-grid solar photovoltaic panels to come up, provided they are a minimum 10 metres from the high tide line.

SC startled by delay in child rape cases

Court is hearing a plea it opened after statistics showed 24,000 such cases were filed in six months

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

"Putting up cartoons on the walls of the courtroom will not make it child-friendly... It is ultimately the attitude of the judge that should change... there was an inexplicable delay in giving justice to children subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation despite the enactment of the POCSO Act"

JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA



dren subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation despite the enactment of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Identifying handicaps

The court is trying to identify the handicaps facing law enforcement and trial proceedings.

The Act calls for exclusive

courts, devoted public prosecutors, special forensic department, child-friendly courts and sensitised judges and court staffers to create a conducive atmosphere for children to testify without fear.

The CJI, referring to a report prepared by the Supreme Court which has become the basis of the *suo motu* petition, orally said

796 child rape cases were registered in the past six months (January to June 2019) in Delhi alone.

But only two had been disposed of. "If this is the case with the national capital, what will be the situation in other parts [of the country]?" the CJI asked *amicus curiae* and senior advocate V. Giri.

In fact, the court report said trial could be completed in only 900 of 24,000 cases across the country from January to June.

The Bench asked Mr. Giri to prepare a detailed report suggesting ways for speedy investigation and trial of child rape cases.

The government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, also intervened with an assurance to

assist the Supreme Court in the endeavour.

The Bench had last week directed the court registry to register the case as a writ petition titled "In-re [with regard to] alarming rise in the number of reported child rape incidents".

Referring to the data on sexual crimes against children, the court's report said that 24,212 FIRs were filed across India from January 1 to June 30 this year.

Under investigation

Of these, 11,981 were still being probed by the police. Charge sheets had been filed in 12,231 cases, though trials had commenced only in 6,449 cases. The trial courts had till now decided 911 cases – that is, about 4% of the total cases registered.

Rajasthan HC seeks to dispense with 'My Lord'

'Call us Sir or Srimanji instead'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JODHPUR

In a first for any High Court, the Rajasthan High Court has asked lawyers to abandon the colonial practice of addressing its judges as 'My Lord' or 'Your Lordship'.

address judges simply as "Sir" or "Srimanji".

The resolution to abandon the practice of judges being addressed as 'My Lord' was passed in the first Full Court meeting chaired by new Chief Justice S. Ravindra Bhatt.

More than a decade ago, the Supreme Court too had ruled that addressing judges as 'My Lord' or 'Your Lordship' was not mandatory and that the judges could simply be addressed as 'Sir' as a mark of respect to them.

Following a lively debate between the Bench and the Bar over 15 years ago as to whether lawyers should abandon the colonial form of address like 'My Lord', judges had opined that they were comfortable with being called 'Sir'.

As a culmination of this debate, the Bar Council of India had passed a resolution in April 2006, doing away with the practice of addressing judges as 'My Lord' or 'Your Lordship'.

The Rajasthan HC Advocates' Association president Ranjeet Joshi has hailed the resolution.

Deliberate inaction' on judge's elevation

Supreme Court orders issue of copy of petition to the Solicitor-General

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed that Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta be served a copy of the petition filed by the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association against the "deliberate inaction" of the Union government in deciding a May 10 recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium to appoint Bombay High Court's Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi called for an early hearing and posted the case for hearing on July 22.

Singled out

The association was represented by senior advocate Arvind Datar, who said Justice Kureshi's elevation had been singled out for uncertainty.

"The restriction puts an undue burden on the exercise of free reproductive choice and renders it meaningless," the petition said.

The first trimester of pregnancy entails lesser risk for abortion. Besides, the State has no legitimate interest for interfering in the right of reproductive choice of a woman, curtailing her right to terminate her pregnancy.

"The restriction puts an undue burden on the exercise of free reproductive choice and renders it meaningless," the petition said.

For example, the law lar-



Tushar Mehta

tainty while those of other judges, who were recommended along with him, had sailed through.

"The deliberate inaction of the respondent [Centre] in not appointing Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court impinges and diminishes the primacy of the judiciary in the matters of appointment and transfer of judges to High Court and Su-

preme Court," the petition filed by the association through its president and senior advocate, Yatin Oza, submitted.

It said the May 10 recommendation was made by the collegium in accordance with the law laid down in the Second Judges Case and Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments and transfers. It said the "recommendation is rendered moot by the arbitrary inaction by the respondent in withholding the appointment of Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi".

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

The government in June

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

"Withholding of advice by the respondent to the President only with respect to recommendation of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Akil Kureshi for appointment as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court amounts to direct participation of the Executive in the appointment of Chief Justice that is not countenanced at law," the petition said.

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

His non-appointment was violative of Articles 14 and 217 of the Constitution and was subversive of the rule of law, it submitted.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

HTN's Tiranga TV news channel has significantly curtailed operations and is set to lay off most of its 200 employees with only a month's notice and salary, according to staff at the six-month-old channel.

All the live programming has been cancelled for 48 hours and staff, including journalists, are likely to be sacked soon, said the employees. A first round of sackings took place in mid-June when more than two

dozen employees were laid off. Employees held a sit-down protest at the channel's office in Noida, demanding that Congress MP Kapil Sibal, whose wife Pramila Sibal is the main backer of the company, come to meet them.

Television journalist Barkha Dutt, who had worked with the channel, in a series of tweets lashed out at Mr. Sibal and his wife.

Mr. Sibal declined to comment, saying, "I am neither shareholder nor director in the channel."

Jyoti Basu and his way with children

Family-run foundation now aims at imparting skill training to poor students

SUVOJIT BAGCHI

KOLKATA

"Dadu [grandfather] was so fond of all my friends," says Subhajyoti Basu, grandson of former Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu. Subhajyoti, a second year student of the New York University film school, paused to add: "He was not just my friends, but Dadu was so fond of all the kids around."

"He got two bananas once, gave one to me and the other to Sarbeshwara's [the family cook] son and said 'I am standing here...let me see who finishes it first,'" said Subhajyoti. Memories galore surfaced as Jyoti Basu's immediate family gathered earlier this week – the week that marked Jyoti Basu's 106th birth anniversary – at the sprawling south Kolkata residence of Chandan Basu, son of Jyoti Basu. They discussed how the Jyoti Basu Memorial Foundation, dedicated to work among underprivileged children, may



Favourite grandpa: Jyoti Basu at a party. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ratutes to 115 schools. The objective, Ms. Basu said, is first to ensure "quality education" and then "to impart skill training to ensure jobs" as the children grow up.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too focussed on skill development and West Bengal has emerged as the "top performing State" as far as skill training and employment is concerned, a recent BJP release noted. The Foundation is not aligned to the Prime Minister's programme, Ms. Basu said though there could be "converging areas".

"It has nothing to do with politics," she said.

Mr. Chandan Basu distanced the Foundation's work from politics when asked if Jyoti Basu's relevance in today's politics is more than ever before. "That is a political question," he smiled. "Rather I would say I have very fond memories of my father with children."

भारतीय विमानपत्रन प्रधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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PARADIP PORT TRUST

ADDENDUM-1 TO

TENDER NO EM/WS-26/2019

DTD. 17/07/2019

The clarification to the pre-bid

queries held on 06.07.2019, which

was uploaded on 12.07.2019 may

please be treated as Annexure-I to

the e-TENDER NO.EM/WS-26/2019

dt.17/07/2019.

Executive Engineer(M)

(Work

Trump targets Congresswomen again

President asks the four freshman lawmakers to apologise to him and 'the people of Israel'

EILEEN SULLIVAN
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Monday increased his attacks on four first-term Democratic Congresswomen and warned the party about uniting "around the foul language & racist hatred spewed" from the American women whom he recently told to "go back" to their own countries.

Mr. Trump demanded that the four Congresswomen, Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna S. Pressley of Massachusetts, issue their own apologies to him and "the people of Israel". Ms. Omar is the only one of the four who was born outside the U.S.

"When will the Radical Left Congresswomen apologise to our Country, the people of Israel and even to the Office of the President, for the foul language they have

used, and the terrible things they have said," he wrote. "So many people are angry at them & their horrible & disgusting actions!"

"If Democrats want to unite around the foul language & racist hatred spewed from the mouths and actions of these very unpopular & unrepresentative Congresswomen, it will be interesting to see how it plays out," he wrote in another tweet. "I can tell you that they have made Israel feel abandoned by the U.S."

Aim higher

Few Republicans have responded to Mr. Trump's comments, widely seen as racist. On Monday, Sen. Lindsey Graham encouraged Mr. Trump to "aim higher", while also calling Ms. Ocasio-Cortez and the other three lawmakers communists.

"We all know that AOC and this crowd are a bunch of communists," Mr. Graham



(From left) Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib and Ayanna S. Pressley in Washington last week. •NYT

said on Fox News. "They hate Israel, they hate our own country." But he also pushed back against the President's suggestion that the women are not American.

"They are American citizens," he said. "Mr. President, you're right about their policies. Just aim higher."

On Sunday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., responded

ed to the President and suggested he was advocating white nationalism.

"When @realDonaldTrump tells four American Congresswomen to go back to their countries, he reaffirms his plan to 'Make America Great Again' has always been about making America white again," she said in a Twitter post. •NYT

Completely unacceptable, says May

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Outgoing British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday condemned U.S. President Donald Trump's tweets telling progressive Democrat congresswomen to "go back" where they came from as "completely unacceptable".

"Her view is that the language which was used to refer to the women was completely unacceptable," Ms. May's spokesman told reporters.

Mr. Trump and Ms. May have endured a rocky relationship, which took a turn for the worse last week following the leak of diplomatic British cables highly critical of his presidency.

'No intent to exclude India from Afghan diplomacy'

China says it is in close coordination with all stakeholders

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

China on Monday sought to reassure India that it does not intend to "exclude" New Delhi from international diplomacy on Afghanistan, following last week's quadrilateral talks in Beijing among China, Russia, the U.S. and Pakistan.

Fresh from his visit to Qatar where he held talks with the Taliban and Afghan government officials, U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad first joined his counterparts from Russia and China for the third trilateral mechanism on Afghanistan.

This was followed by the first quadrilateral meeting on Afghanistan, in which Pakistan was also present.

"Last week, the U.S. special envoy Khalilzad attended the third trilateral consultation with India, which also has high stakes in Afghanistan. You said that (at) the trilateral meeting and the China-U.S.-Russia-Pakistan meeting, these countries, they have decided to hold such meeting based on April 25, 2019 in Moscow..."

mutual understandings. I believe China, the U.S. and Pakistan, we do not exclude India in discussing and helping the early settlement of the Afghan issue."

However, analysts say that with the institutionalisation of the quadrilateral mechanism, India is not on the table where key decisions on Afghan reconciliation will be taken.

A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting points out that a broader group that includes "other stakeholders" will meet only after an internal dialogue among Afghans has begun.

"The four sides agreed to maintain the momentum of consultation, will invite other important stakeholders to join on the basis of the trilateral consensus agreed on April 25, 2019 in Moscow..."

Pak. court grants interim bail to Saeed, three aides

Case pertains to JuD's illegal use of land

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Mumbai terror attack mastermind and JuD chief Hafiz Saeed and three of his aides were granted pre-arrest bail on Monday by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in a case pertaining to the banned outfit's illegal use of land for its seminary.

The Anti-Terrorism Court in Lahore granted interim bail to Saeed and his aides – Hafiz Masood, Ameer Hamza, and Malik Zafar – until August 31 against surety bonds of Rs. 50,000 each, Dawn newspaper reported.

During the hearing,

Saeed's counsel insisted that Jamat-ud Dawah (JuD) was not using any piece of land illegally and urged the court to accept bail pleas.

Saeed-led JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The U.S. declared the LeT as a foreign terrorist organisation in June 2014.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, and the U.S. has offered a \$10 million reward for information that brings him to justice.

Hong Kong leader condemns 'rioters'

Lam throws her weight behind city's beleaguered police after weekend clashes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Anti-government protesters who fought police inside a Hong Kong shopping mall were "rioters", Carrie Lam, the finance hub's pro-Beijing leader, said on Monday as she threw her support behind the city's beleaguered police force following another weekend of clashes.

Hong Kong's ongoing political crisis deepened further on Sunday as riot police and protesters fought running battles inside a shopping complex packed with luxury stores.

Police used pepper spray and batons against small

groups of protesters, who responded by hurling umbrellas, bottles and other projectiles, in a night of fresh violence.

Both officers and protesters were injured in the chaotic melee which left bloodstains on the floor and at least 28 people needing hospital treatment.

Ms. Lam rounded on protesters after visiting injured officers on Monday.

"They were committed to the duties, and also very professional and restrained. But they were wantonly attacked by rioters – I think we can really describe them as rioters," Ms. Lam told reporters.

Hong Kong has been rocked by more than a month of largely peaceful protests – as well as a series of separate violent confrontations with police – sparked by a law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China and other countries.

Last month, Parliament was trashed by hundreds of protesters in unprecedented scenes. The Bill has since been suspended, but that has done little to quell public anger which has evolved into a wider movement calling for democratic reforms, universal suffrage and a halt to sliding freedoms in the semi-autonomous hub.

Ms. Lam's use of the word "rioters" will likely infuriate protesters, who have balked at that description.



Carrie Lam

Canadian citizen held for drug offence: China

REUTERS
BEIJING

Chinese police have detained a Canadian citizen in relation with a drugs case involving students, China's Foreign Ministry said on Monday, an incident that comes amid a deep chill in relations between the two countries.

Last month, Parliament was trashed by hundreds of protesters in unprecedented scenes. The Bill has since been suspended, but that has done little to quell public anger which has evolved into a wider movement calling for democratic reforms, universal suffrage and a halt to sliding freedoms in the semi-autonomous hub.

Canada's government said on the weekend that a Canadian citizen had been detained in Yantai in the eastern province of Shandong, though did not provide details.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that police had recently discovered a case of a Canadian student being involved with drugs. The case was being processed, he added.

The issue has nothing to do with another drugs case involving foreigners, in which four British citizens were arrested in Jiangsu province last week, he said.

Relations between China and Canada nosedived last December after Vancouver police detained Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Co, on a U.S. arrest warrant. Beijing is demanding her return.

After Ms. Meng's arrest, China detained two Canadians, accusing them of stealing State secrets.

Some Iranian women take off hijabs as hard-liners push back

Debate on dress code, sparked by social media, has intensified

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

The simple act of walking has become a display of defiance for a young Iranian woman who often moves in Tehran's streets without a compulsory headscarf, or hijab. With every step, she risks harassment or arrest by Iran's morality police.

"I have to confess it is really, really scary," the 30-year-old fire-safety consultant said in a WhatsApp audio message, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But she is also hopeful, saying she believes the authorities will find it difficult to suppress protests as more women join in. "They are running after us, but cannot catch us," she said. "This is why we believe change is going to be made."



Winds of change: A file photo of women walking on the shore of the Persian Gulf Martyrs' Lake in Tehran, Iran. •AP

Women could be seen in the streets without a hijab. Many others opt for loosely draped scarves that show as much hair as they cover.

Public debate has intensified, sparked by social media. Last month, a video showed a security agent violently pushing an unveiled teenage girl into the back of

23 killed in flash flood in PoK's Neelum Valley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

At least 23 people were killed and several others are missing after a cloudburst caused flash flood in the Neelum Valley of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, officials said.

A large number of homes in the Laswa area of the Valley were damaged and dozens of people were swept away in the flooding caused by relentless rainfall after the cloudburst overnight.

"The Laswa area was badly hit, where many houses were swept away. There were also reports of landsliding in some areas. A total of 23 people have been killed," Syed Al-Rehman Qureshi, Director of Operations, State Disaster Management Authority, said.

He said several people, including women and children, are still missing.

Traffic flow in the area has been severely disrupted.

Videos of brutal Sudan raid go viral, spark anger

Protesters were violently dispersed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KHARTOUM

Days after a blackout on mobile internet services ended, Sudanese are shocked by the content of online videos and photographs that appear to document last month's deadly raid on demonstrators.

Crowds of protesters were violently dispersed – and dozens killed – by men in military fatigues during a pre-dawn raid on protesters outside army headquarters in Khartoum on June 30. •AP

The brutal scenes of killings and beatings left me very angry," said Hussein Hashim, a 19-year-old university student. "The perpetrators have no mercy, religion or humanity."

Demonstrators who had



Protesters shouting slogans against the military council in Khartoum on June 30. •AP

Indian man's body found in Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

The body of a 21-year-old Indian student in Australia who went missing was found on Monday in Victoria's Marysville region, according to the police, who also emptied a local dam during the search.

Poshik Sharma, a university student in Melbourne, was reported missing last Friday. The body was found in bushes on the outskirts of Marysville on Monday, four days after Mr. Sharma left a Marysville pub alone following a "minor disagreement" with friends, police was quoted as saying by The Age.

The police said that the death is not being treated as suspicious.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PLANNING AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT (RCD), RANCHI

Nirupan Bhawan, 3rd Floor, Room No. 401, 56-Set, Doranda, Ranchi-834002

e-Procurement (Short Tender Notice)

Letter of invitation (LOT) no-03/2019-20

1st Call

Dated- 12-07-2019

1	(a) Name Of Work	Consultancy services for Preparation of Detailed Land Acquisition Proposal, Detailed Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal & Detailed Forest Diversion Proposal for Widening and strengthening of Birsa Munda Airport-Namukam (at Katiatua More NH-75 Ext.) via Hethu, Tumbaghat Road under Road Division Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand. (Length - 6.90 Km).
2	Tentative Length	6.90 KM
3	Period of Completion of Work	30 Days
4	Cost of Tender documents	Demand Draft/Banker Cheque of any Scheduled Bank (non-refundable fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand) only). EMD->2 % of the quoted amount (Net of GST) in the form of current issue of NSC, Fixed Deposits of a Scheduled Bank (all the above mentioned form of Security deposits money issued with the State of Jharkhand), Bank draft and Bank Guarantee issued by any Scheduled Bank anywhere in India payable at Ranchi in favour of Executive Engineer, Planning & Investigation Division, Road Construction Department (RCD), Ranchi for a period of 45 days beyond the validity of bid.
5	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering(http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	15.07.2019, 10:30 AM
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	22.07.2019, 15:00PM
8	Last Date/Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	22.07.2019, 15:00PM
9	Date and Time of Bid opening	24.07.2019, 15:30 PM
10	Bid Validity	120 days
11	Bid Submission Address	Chief Engineer (Communication), Road Construction Department, 1 st Floor, Engineer Hostel No. 2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
12	Designation and Contact no of Tender inviting Officer / Office	Executive, Engineer, Planning and Investigation Division, RCD, Ranchi Mob-9431165712

Note:- Only e-Tender shall be accepted.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PLANNING & INVESTIGATION DIVISION

ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT (RCD), RANCHI-834002

READ SPORTSTAR EVERY FORTNIGHT

North Eastern Railway
E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

MARKET WATCH

	15-7-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,897	0.41
US Dollar	68.54	-0.21
Gold	35,470	-0.28
Brent oil	66.85	-0.10

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	409.10	-6.20
Asian Paints	1353.15	-8.80
Axius Bank	749.75	-6.05
Bajaj Auto	2714.00	-8.55
Bajaj Finance	7714.45	-11.25
Bharti Airtel	3412.10	34.60
BPLC	347.40	1.65
Britannia Ind	350.60	-5.50
Britannia Ind	2773.60	-7.00
Cipla	550.55	-6.25
Coal India	230.40	-0.85
Dr Reddy's Lab	2627.60	-1.00
Eicher Motors	18833.85	-12.45
GAIL (India)	145.50	-1.15
Grasim Ind	922.30	6.25
HCL Tech.	1027.50	3.60
HDPC	2265.35	7.55
HFDC Bank	2394.75	0.85
Hero MotoCorp	2545.55	-24.25
Hindalco	200.15	1.30
Hind Unilever	1716.95	3.75
Indiabulls HFL	638.95	-27.00
ICICI Bank	422.30	-4.75
IndusInd Bank	1475.10	-34.40
Bharti Infralet	262.25	-0.70
Infosys	779.35	52.60
Indian Oil Corp	145.40	-1.45
ITC	270.95	-4.10
JSW Steel	270.95	3.05
Kotak Bank	1508.10	24.45
L&T	1440.60	-26.25
M&M	631.85	-0.05
Maruti Suzuki	6079.70	108.25
NTPC	127.95	0.15
ONGC	150.70	1.00
PowerGrid Corp	204.95	-1.75
Reliance Ind	1276.10	-4.40
State Bank	360.05	-3.55
Sun Pharma	422.95	15.25
Tata Motors	160.95	1.65
Tata Steel	468.30	-4.60
TCS	2145.70	38.10
Tech Mahindra	677.90	12.10
Titan	1089.40	-11.80
UltraTech Cement	4597.00	31.15
UPL	647.40	17.35
Vedanta	166.75	-0.90
Wipro	259.90	0.95
YES Bank	93.20	-1.00
Zee Entertainment	345.60	-5.10

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 15		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.34	68.66
Euro	76.99	77.36
British Pound	85.67	86.08
Japanese Yen (100)	63.31	63.60
Chinese Yuan	9.94	9.99
Swiss Franc	69.55	69.88
Singapore Dollar	50.38	50.62
Canadian Dollar	52.42	52.67
Malaysian Ringgit	16.63	16.71

Source: Indian Bank

WPI inflation eases to 2% in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wholesale price-based inflation declined for the second consecutive month to its 23-month low of 2.02% in June, helped by decline in prices of vegetables as well as fuel and power items, according to official data released on Monday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was at 2.45% in May. It was 5.68% in June 2018. Inflation in the food articles basket eased marginally to 6.98% in June, from 6.99% in May. Vegetable inflation softened to 24.76% in June, down from 33.15% in the previous month. Inflation in potatoes was (-)24.27%, against (-)23.36% in May.

However, onion prices continued the rising trend with inflation at 16.63% in June, as against 15.89% in May. WPI inflation in June is the lowest in 23 months, since July 2017, when it was at 1.88%. Inflation in 'fuel and power' cooled substantially to (-)2.2%, from 0.98% last month. Manufactured items too saw decline in prices with inflation at 0.94% in June, against 1.28% in May.

Private carriers make hay post Jet closure

Augment capacity on international routes as Air India not very 'aggressive'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

After the closure of Jet Airways, the international segment continues to offer huge opportunity for Indian airlines, mainly private carriers, as Air India is shying away from aggressive capacity expansion.

According to a report by ICICI Securities Ltd., Air India could manage to increase its international capacity by only 1% in the first two months of FY20.

IndiGo, SpiceJet
While IndiGo could increase its international capacity share from 15% in the first two months of FY19 to 19% in the first two months of FY20, SpiceJet managed to grow it from 22% to 24% in the same

Trade deficit shrinks 8% in June

Exports fall nearly 10% to \$25 billion as against \$27.7 billion in June 2018

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit narrowed by nearly 8% to \$15.28 billion during the last month, as against \$16.6 billion in June 2018, according to official data released on Monday.

In June 2019, merchandise exports fell nearly 10% to \$25.01 billion as against \$27.70 billion in the year-ago month, the Commerce Ministry data showed. In rupee terms, exports stood at ₹1,73,682.55 crore, down 7.52% from ₹1,87,800.20 crore in June 2018.

"Department of Commerce is proactively pursuing an export promotion strategy involving conscious engagement with the EPCs and exporters to quickly address domestic and overseas constraints impacting exports... A special initiative is underway with respect to

Trade woes

The negative growth is consistent with global trends that have impacted India's exports in recent months



China and the U.S. in light of opportunities offered by their trade dispute," an official release said.

The data showed that merchandise imports too declined during the month under review from \$44.30 billion to \$40.29 billion, a fall of 9.06%.

"The decline in exports in June 2019 is due in large part to a base effect of an extraordinarily good month in June

2018 impacting growth figures for June 2019. While average exports in June have been \$22.23 billion since 2015-16, exports in June 2018 were relatively quite high at \$27.70 billion," the release said.

It added that the negative growth is consistent with certain global trends, which have impacted India's exports in recent months. The World Bank, in its Global

Economic Prospects (June 2019), has projected weakening of global trade in 2019. Global trade is projected to grow at 2.6% this year - a full percentage point below their previous forecast.

The major commodities which led to this decline were petroleum products, rice, cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, gems and jewelry, ready-made garments, organic & inorganic chemicals, and engineering goods.

On imports, the Commerce minister said that import of petroleum crude & products in June 2019 (\$11.03 billion) has recorded a negative growth of 13.33% from a year earlier.

Meanwhile, reacting to the decline in exports, FIEO President Sharad Kumar Saraf said that such a decline in exports is a reflection of sluggish global demand and rising tariff war.

DHFL stock tanks 29% after ₹2,223 crore Q4 loss

NHB finds capital adequacy ratio well below requirement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Cash-strapped mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.'s (DHFL) stock tanked 29% on Monday after the lender reported a ₹2,223 crore loss in the January-March quarter of 2018-19 on Saturday.

The lender, while announcing its earnings, disclosed that housing finance regulator National Housing Bank (NHB), in a letter dated July 3, 2019, observed that the company's capital adequacy ratio had reduced to 10.24%, as on March 31, 2019. Regulations mandate housing finance companies to have a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 15%.

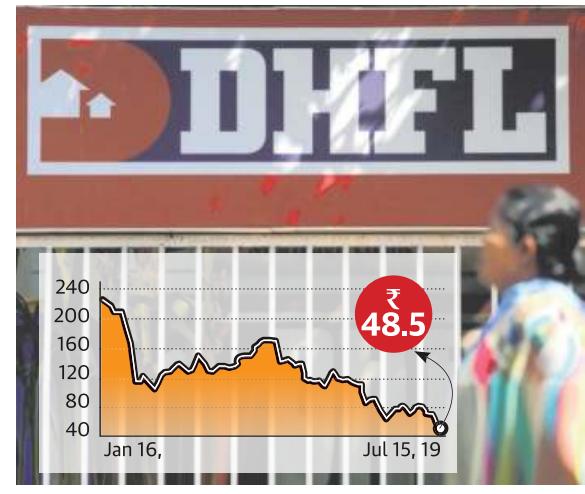
"The management does not concur with the observation of the NHB and will provide an appropriate response within the stipulated time," DHFL said.

Documentation flaws

Admitting certain discrepancies in loan documentation in certain projects and mortgage loans, DHFL said, "the management is actively engaged with the loanees to remediate certain lacunae in loan documentation and expects to complete this exercise by September 2019." Also, there were documentation deficiencies with respect to grant/roll-over of inter-corporate deposits, which are being rectified, it said.

The mortgage lender further said it no longer held the project loans, SRA (slum rehabilitation authority) loans and wholesale mortgage loan portfolio for the purposes of solely collecting the principal and interest, and aimed to monetise the wholesale loan portfolio.

As a result, such loans of ₹3,481 crore had been reclassified as Fair Value Through Profit or Loss (FVTPL) as on March 31, 2019. "As required under Ind AS



109, these assets have been fair-valued as on March 31, 2019, based on internal valuations which involve management's judgment and assumptions, at ₹31,628 crore, and the resultant fair value loss aggregating ₹3,190 crore has been charged to the statement of profit and loss," it said, citing the reason for the loss.

Following a rating downgrade to default grade in June, its ability to raise funds had been substantially impaired and business had been brought to a standstill with minimal or virtually no disbursements, DHFL said.

It said the ability of the company to continue as a going concern was "predicated upon its ability to monetise its assets," and secure funding from the bankers, investors, restructuring its liabilities and recommence its operations.

"In view of all the actions that are currently under way, these financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the company is a going concern."

Following the stock price collapse, the home financier issued a statement saying, "the entire set of management notes are basis our intent to be prudent and conservative in adequately providing for our results," and the company continued to remain strong and solvent.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI NOTICE INVITING TENDER							
e-tenders are invited for procurement of Annual Requiment of Miscellaneous Materials to TTD Press, Tirupati. The intending participants may participate in e-tender by log-in to www.aepprocurement.gov.in in secure mode only by signing with Digital certificate. OR by downloading the Bid Document from TTD Website: www.tirumala.org . Contact for further details: 0877-2264292.							
Roc.No,PR4/13908/Adv.No,164/PRO/2019/15-07-19. EXECUTIVE OFFICER							
Lanka IOC PLC							
NOTICE INVITING TENDER							
Tender no: LIOC / ENG / GT / 02/ 2019 – 20							
Lanka IOC PLC invites global tender in prescribed tender form under two bid system from bidders contractors/ suppliers for the following works:							
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of Work</th> <th>Sale / Download Period (both Days Inclusive)</th> <th>Contact Person</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Supply, delivery, installation, testing & commissioning of laboratory equipments at Lanka IOC terminal, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.</td> <td>12th July, 2019 From 0900 Hrs To 15th Aug, 2019 Up to 1700 Hrs</td> <td>Sr. Vice President (Engg) TEL: +94 11 2475707 Email: elamarank@lankaio.com</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name of Work	Sale / Download Period (both Days Inclusive)	Contact Person	Supply, delivery, installation, testing & commissioning of laboratory equipments at Lanka IOC terminal, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.	12th July, 2019 From 0900 Hrs To 15th Aug, 2019 Up to 1700 Hrs	Sr. Vice President (Engg) TEL: +94 11 2475707 Email: elamarank@lankaio.com
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Please visit our website www.lankaio.com for further details on this tender.							

IN BRIEF



Sun Pharma unveils lipid disorder tablets in U.S.

NEW DELHI Sun Pharma announced the launch of Ezallor Sprinkle capsules, used for treatment of elevated lipid disorders in people who have difficulty swallowing, in the U.S. market. The Ezallor Sprinkle (rosuvastatin) capsule is indicated for three types of lipid disorders in conjunction with diet in adults, Sun Pharma said in a regulatory filing. The company said this problem is estimated to affect 30-35% of long-term care residents. PTI

STFC to issue NCDs worth ₹10,000 crore

CHENNAI Shriram Transport Finance Company (STFC) is issuing Secured Redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) to raise up to ₹10,000 crore. The funds will be used for onward lending, financing, and repayment/prepayment of interest and principal of existing borrowings of the firm and for general corporate purposes. The public issue opens on July 17 and closes on August 16.

USFDA audit of Chennai unit successful: Natco

HYDERABAD Natco Pharma said a US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) inspection of its active pharmaceutical ingredient facility in Chennai had been completed without any observations from the regulator. Announcing the successful completion of the inspection, the Hyderabad-headquartered firm said the audit resulted in zero observations. The inspection was conducted in the period July 8-12, a release said.

China's GDP growth slumps in Q2

Hits a 27-year low thanks to the trade war with U.S. and weak global demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING

China's growth has slumped to 6.2% in the second quarter of this year, its lowest level in nearly three decades, the government said on Monday, as the economy feels the pinch of a bruising trade war with the U.S. and weak global demand.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth slid from 6.4% in the first quarter of 2019, according to government data released on Monday.

While the slowdown to 6.2% is a 27-year low, it raised concerns as the once resilient Chinese economy did not dip below 6.4% even during the 2009 world economic crisis during which the largely export-dependent country came under



Domestic strength: China has been trying to rejig its economy so that it depends less on exports. ■ AFP

heavy pressure due to the steady fall in its foreign trade.

China's GDP expanded 6.3% year-on-year in the first half of 2019 to about 45.09 trillion yuan (about \$6.56 trillion), according to the data released by China's National Bureau of Statistics

(NBS). The growth, however, was in line with the government's annual target range of 6-6.5% for the whole year, down from the 6.6% growth in 2018. A breakdown of the data showed output of the service sector, which accounted for 54.9% of the total GDP, rose 7% in the first

half of the year, outpacing a 3% rise in the primary industry and a 5.8% rise in the secondary industry.

Consumption-led growth

Consumption appeared to play a bigger role in driving economic growth as it contributed 60.1% to the economic expansion in the January-June period, which officials consider encouraging. But the concerns remain as China's imports declined by 7.3% in June.

Since 2009, China has been trying hard to rejig its export-dependent economy to one more dependent on domestic consumption to halt the slowdown.

The economic data is still facing downturn pressure (in the second half of the year).

ago, ALL chairman Dheeraj Hinduja, in his message to shareholders, had detailed the performance of the medium and heavy commercial vehicles (M&HCV) segment and said that it witnessed higher than usual inventory levels, which could take a few months to correct.

During 2018-19, the 2.4% increase in ALL's M&HCV sales came amid the uncertainty caused by NBFCs liquidity crisis and the revised axle norms in the second half of fiscal.

However, the company witnessed contraction in its year-on-year M&HCV sales in June 2019 at 2% to 7,325 units and by 7% to 6,253 units in July.

A company official, re-

questing anonymity, said multiple reasons could be attributed to the decline in the company's sales, including a slowdown in overall manufacturing output and delays in infrastructure projects.

Moreover, consumers are postponing their purchases till the beginning of 2020 to buy BS-IV vehicles at discounted rates, while the industry itself is gearing up to halt production of BS-IV vehicles so that it does not build up a huge inventory," he said.

On whether BS-VI vehicles would come with a high price tag, the official said: "There would be a increase in the price of BS-VI vehicles, but it cannot be quantified at this moment."

Ashok Leyland to shut Pantnagar unit for nine days

Cites weak demand and outlook for commercial vehicles

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd., the flagship company of the Hinduja Group, said it is closing down its Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) plant for nine days and said that it witnessed higher than usual inventory levels, which could take a few months to correct.

The commercial vehicle (CV) manufacturer annually produces about 1.5 lakh trucks at its Pantnagar plant. The plant will remain shut from July 16 to July 24, the company said in a regulatory filing. This is the second time that the truck major is shutting down its Pantnagar plant to align its production with the sales requirement.

The previous shut down happened on June 24, 2019, lasting six days. A few days

Greaves Cotton raises stake in Ampere

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Engineering firm Greaves Cotton has acquired an additional 13.89% stake in its subsidiary Ampere Vehicles, which makes electric two-wheelers, for ₹38.5 crore by way of primary and secondary share purchases.

With this, Greaves' total investment now stands at ₹120.49 crore, the company said on Monday. It had first picked up 67.34% in 2018 for ₹77 crore.

"As a private company in operation for more than 22 years, we are investing in long-term growth and crafting the very best business solutions for our customers," Sridhar Vembu, CEO and founder of Zoho, had said earlier.

Tie-up with Mastercard

Zoho

University

graduates.

Zoho University will be replicated at the new campus in Austin, the statement said. While the India campus offers deep technical training, the Austin campus would focus on business administration and marketing.

Zoho employs more than 7,000 workers in its 12 offices across the world. It post-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

375-acre campus at Austin will also house Zoho University



Sridhar Vembu

ed a 39% growth in revenue last year, the statement said.

Cloud services firm Zoho has announced that it will be moving its headquarters in the U.S. to Austin from Pleasanton, California.

The new campus will spread across 375 acres, including a 100,000 sq. ft building. It will become operational by 2021.

This facility will employ 'hundreds' of new workers, with a focus on finding and training local talent, a company statement said. The new facility will also house the Zoho University.

Zoho University is a company-funded technology school, headquartered in Chennai, which trains engineers and developers. About 15% of Zoho's engineering workforce is made up of Zoho

₹350-crore amusement park in local tax tangle

Waiver of levy on entry fee sought

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

A ₹350-crore investment by Wonderla Holidays Ltd. in setting up an amusement park in Chennai has been held up due to a local tax tangle, said a top company official.

M. Ramachandran, chairman, Wonderla Parks and Resorts, said, "Our next destination is Chennai. We have already bought 64 acres. Its development awaits an exemption of local body tax of 10% from the Tamil Nadu Government."

Wonderla had asked the Tamil Nadu Government to remove the 10% levy on admission fee to the Park. "Once the local levy is withdrawn, we expect to com-

plete the project within two years," he said.

Asserting that the matter was being pursued with the government officials, he said: "Although the government agreed to issue a notification in this regard, we are waiting for a formal decision on the same. This has held up investment of ₹350 crore in our Chennai project."

Till date, the company has invested close to ₹105 crore in the project and construction is expected to commence in the next fiscal.

For the year ended March 31, 2019, the company reported a net profit of ₹55.41 crore against ₹38.50 crore last year.

Tata Metaliks net falls 35% to ₹19.62 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Group firm Tata Metaliks reported a 35% dip in its first quarter net profit to ₹19.62 crore due to increased cost of raw materials and other expenses.

The profit was reported on 6.7% growth in revenue to ₹499 crore during the quarter. "The loss from discontinued operation is totally attributable to the ordinary activities and do not include gain/loss on disposal of assets or settlement of liabilities," the company said in a filing with the exchanges. Its shares on the BSE closed down marginally at ₹581.1 in a firm Mumbai market on Monday, valuing the company at ₹1,469.49 crore.

Zoho to shift U.S. headquarters

375-acre campus at Austin will also house Zoho University

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Cloud services firm Zoho has announced that it will be moving its headquarters in the U.S. to Austin from Pleasanton, California.

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Zoho University is a company-funded technology school, headquartered in Chennai, which trains engineers and developers. About 15% of Zoho's engineering workforce is made up of Zoho

Join Hand with Delhi Government to run RESOURCE CENTRES

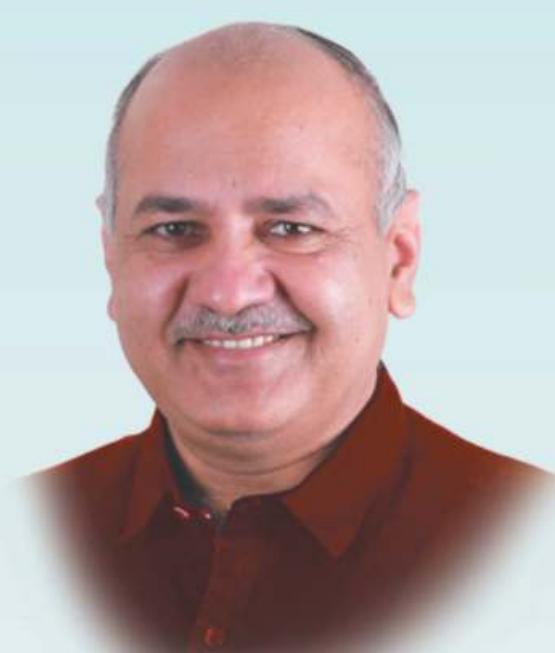
Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi is setting up 14 Resource Centres across Delhi to provide therapeutic services to Government school going children with disabilities

WHO TO APPLY?

The organisation should have five years experience in running multidisciplinary services for children with disabilities/early intervention services/special school alongwith related services

For more details, please visit
<http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Last Date: 5th August 2019



Manish Sisodia
Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi



In the end, England claimed the cup, New Zealand the hearts

Hosts' win may spur youngsters to take to cricket as opposed to football; Williamson continues Kiwi tradition of using sum of team's parts to beat fancied opposition



Ruling the world: The jubilant England players with the ultimate prize. ■ AFP



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LONDON

A long-drawn championship with its starting grid harking back to May 30, finally wound to a close through se-

conds that stretched inexorably at Lord's here on Sunday. The finest World Cup final since the quadrennial tournament's inception in 1975, twisted and turned as both eventual champion England and runner-up New Zealand fought the good fight.

Drawn level at 241 after the full duration of the contest and again on par at 15 following the super-over's conclusion, boundaries scored through the day became the last word. It was a touch unfair on New Zealand, which with 17 hits, paled to Eng-

land's 26.

The boundary rule evoked questions and asked for his reaction. England captain Eoin Morgan said: "If you could give me an alternative, I would be able to compare the both. But I can't think of an alternative at the moment. The rules are obviously set out a long time ago and we have no control over them."

Ambivalent

Morgan's New Zealand counterpart Williamson felt ambivalent: "It is pretty hard to

swallow when two teams have worked really, really hard to get to this moment in time and when sort of two attempts to separate them as winner and loser and it still doesn't perhaps sort of shine with one side coming through. It is what it is. The rules are there at the start."

The climax had its multiple talking-points but there is no denying that England and New Zealand deserved to be in the summit clash. All this summer, England has roused itself to the 'it is coming home' slogan and Morgan's

men would hopefully weave in multiple narratives into the cricket story at the game's birthplace.

Age-old rivalry

Traditionally, the Old Blighty has an enduring fondness for Tests and the Ashes. Even in the post-final press conference, a scribe asked Morgan about the trophy triumph giving a fresh impetus to the imminent Ashes series commencing on August 1! It is a rivalry for the ages but ODIs have a role too and finally England is warming up to it and

the Twenty20s. Morgan and his merry bunch have carved a space for the distilled pleasures of limited overs cricket amidst the languid joys of Tests. Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow, the indefatigable Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer have played their stirring parts and Morgan harnessed his resources. Perhaps the latest epochal win would lure some youngsters to prefer a bat over their football boots and that constitutes the bigger picture about where cricket belongs especially in

a landscape leaning towards the English Premier League.

Losing on a technicality

At the other end, New Zealand showed that nice guys can almost finish first. The Black Caps never lost the cup except on a technicality that was keen on extracting the singular champion. And Williamson has continued the glorious tradition of Kiwi skippers using the sum of their team's parts to ambush fancied opposition.

The late Martin Crowe was the lateral-thought exponent

in the 1992 edition, employing off-spinner Dipak Patel in the early overs and using Mark Greatbatch as the pinch-hitting opener. They were ideas well ahead of their times and a similar chutzpah courses through Williamson and his men.

Fantastic finish

It was amply evident during the weekend in which England won the cup while New Zealand wrenches our hearts. The World Cup couldn't have asked for a better finish.

Umpires' error: Taufel

'Only five should have been awarded'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON/MELBOURNE

Former international umpire Simon Taufel on Monday said officials standing in the World Cup final made an "error of judgement" in awarding six runs, instead of five, to England for an overthrow.

"It's a clear mistake... it's an error of judgment. They (England) should have been awarded five runs, not six," Taufel, a five-time ICC Umpire of the Year, told foxsports.com.au.

The onfield umpires, Kumar Dharmasena and Mairais Erasmus, added six to the England total – two runs plus four overthrows for the ball reaching the boundary.

Taufel, however, defended the officials. "In the heat of what was going on, they thought there was a good chance the batsmen had crossed at the instant of the throw," Taufel said.

Proving otherwise

"Obviously TV replays showed otherwise. The difficulty you (umpires) have here is you've got to watch batsmen completing runs, then change focus and watch for the ball being



WHAT THE LAW SAYS
According to Law 19.8, pertaining to "Overthrow or wilful act of fielder", the law states: "If the boundary results from an overthrow or from the wilful act of a fielder, the runs scored shall be any runs for penalties awarded to either side, and the allowance for the boundary, and the runs completed by the batsmen, together with the run in progress if they had already crossed at the instant of the throw or act."

picked up, and watch for the release (of the throw)," Taufel said. "You also have to watch where the batsmen are at that exact moment."

'The bat of God' didn't decide it

In a tie, you start looking at every delivery: Williamson

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LONDON

Shortly after England won the World Cup at New Zealand's expense on Sunday, a meme began to do the rounds on WhatsApp. It had a picture of Ben Stokes lying on the ground with an outstretched bat, and the caption was: 'The bat of God.' It was a reference to 'The hand of God' phrase which Diego Maradona uttered after his upper limb played a part in a goal against England in the 1986 FIFA World Cup quarterfinal at Mexico City.

Cut to the present when everyone was losing his head during the nail-biting final over at Lord's, Stokes slammed a six off Trent Boult. Off the next ball, the all-rounder swung towards mid-wicket and attempted a two. Martin Guptill's throw, zooming in at the striker's end, struck the outstretched willow held by Stokes and ricocheted to the boundary. England got six in the kitty (an all-run two, plus an overthrown four) and the summit clash slipped into a climax that will be spoken about for generations to come.

The sliver of luck, the am-



Turning point: The four overthrows, after the ball deflected off Ben Stokes' bat, proved crucial. ■ REUTERS

bit of sportsmanship and the rules pertaining to such overthrows came up for discussion with both captains. First up New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson said: "The (overthrow) rule has been there for a long time. Well, you can't sort of look at that and think perhaps that decided the match. There were so many other bits and pieces to that game that were so important. When it comes down to a tie, you start looking at every single delivery, don't you? It was a pretty tough pill to swallow."

Later, his England counterpart Eoin Morgan said: "I wasn't quite sure what had happened. I was trying to figure out, did he hit it, did the 'keeper hit it? I was trying to stay in the moment. I wasn't celebrating. It is not something you celebrate or cheer... well, I didn't because that could be us on the other side of it."

With acclaimed former umpire Simon Taufel questioning the merit of awarding six for the overthrow, the last word is yet to be heard on this controversy.

It took a little bit of luck: Morgan

Skipper says the Black Caps and Williamson were 'incredible'

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LONDON

Eoin Morgan sat in the makeshift press conference hall at the tennis courts inside the Lord's complex. An unforgettable Sunday was ebbing away amidst whoops of delight outside from the excited fans. He kept the World Cup trophy next to him and it sparkled in the light.

The host captain's eyes were moist, England had just edged past New Zealand in a classic final and the skipper was overwhelmed. He lauded his squad and empathised with Kane Williamson's men.

Excerpts
A special moment: To me and to the team, and everybody who has been involved over the last four years, it means absolutely everything. The planning, hard work, dedication, commitment and a little bit of luck today really got us over the line. It's been an incredible journey. I still can't quite believe, that is why I am carrying it (the cup) around as much as I can. I can't believe we do it in a fashion that



Unreal! 'I still can't quite believe, that is why I am carrying the cup around as much as I can,' an overwhelmed Morgan said at the press conference. ■ CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

sometimes is about fine margins. It was the finest of margins but I am thankful it went our way.

The Black Caps: I commend the Black Caps and Kane, they have been incredible. The fact the trophy is sitting here is because we got the rub of the green. New Zealand, throughout the group stages, was absolutely outstanding and in the semi-final was very ruthless against India. They compete against the very best and they do it in a fashion that

you would have no qualms in turning around to your kid and saying, "Please idolise these guys, they are very admirable."

Super Over: To play in a Super Over at the end of an extremely draining day takes a huge amount out of you, so it was about remaining calm. Jofra (Archer) was pretty easy. We were trying to keep it simple and bowl yorkers until he bowled that short ball, so it was about reaffirming what he was trying to do and he did a great job.

Feels that there were a couple which were hard to swallow

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LONDON

Mindful of the fact that staying neutral is of paramount importance, journalists aren't the types that reveal much. But the mask slipped briefly at Lord's on Sunday night when Kane Williamson concluded his post-final press-conference.

New Zealand had just lost the World Cup to England and the visitor's skipper put a lid on his grief, managed a few weak jokes and spoke at length about varying emotions and his team. Just as he walked away, the hall broke into spontaneous applause. It was a singular moment when respect and empathy merged. Excerpts

Visceral sorrow: Obviously, just gutted. The guys put in a huge amount of work to get this opportunity, to come and play in another World Cup final. Throughout this whole campaign, in a lot of my press conferences, I have spoken about 'uncontrollables' and there were a couple which were hard to swallow.

England's moment: Not just this match, but throughout, for all the cricket they have played, England are deserving winners. Either side walking away with the title probably feels fortunate after having it go down to a tie.

Fighting total: We sort of wanted 250, 260. We knew that it wasn't easy and we were expecting it to dry a lit-

tle more and it did do that. In the first 10 overs, the movement we were able to get and picking those early wickets were due to the pitch and the bowlers putting the ball in great areas.

Player of the tournament: An individual performance is only a contribution to something greater than yourself and that is the team. The only thing you can perhaps think of at this point in time is what more could I have done? Individual accolades are secondary to the efforts that everybody within the whole squad and the support staff are putting into the match we have just

Williamson talks about the 'uncontrollables'

Will Morgan talk about the 'uncontrollables'

ICC Team of the Tournament

Rohit Sharma
Jason Roy
Kane Williamson (c)
Joe Root
Shakib Al Hasan
Ben Stokes
Alex Carey (wk)
Mitchell Starc
Jofra Archer
Lockie Ferguson
Jasprit Bumrah
12th man: Trent Boult (in batting order)

witnessed.

Player of the tournament: An individual performance is only a contribution to something greater than yourself and that is the team.

The only thing you can perhaps think of at this point in time is what more could I have done? Individual accolades are secondary to the efforts that everybody within the whole squad and the support staff are putting into the match we have just

WI tour: squad to be picked on July 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Indian team for next month's tour of the West Indies will be announced on July 19, but there is no clarity on M.S. Dhoni ahead of the limited-overs leg beginning on August 3.

No clarity on Dhoni
"The selectors will meet in Mumbai on July 19. We have not heard from Dhoni but what is relevant is the communication between the player and selectors," said a BCCI official.

Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah are likely to be rested.

Need to reapply
The BCCI will also invite fresh applications for the support staff, including head coach, and Ravi Shastri will need to reapply.

Bashtri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R. Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup.



Moving past it: Williamson put a lid on his grief, managed a few weak jokes and spoke about varying emotions and his team. ■ MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R. Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup.

A NDE

Mentally the toughest match: Djokovic

Says he coped with the crowd by hearing 'Novak' when they chanted 'Roger'



N. SUDARSHAN

LONDON Novak Djokovic termed his nerve-wracking 7-6(5), 1-6, 7-6(4), 4-6, 13-12(3) victory over Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final as "mentally the toughest match he was ever part."

"I had the most physically demanding match against [Rafael] Nadal that went almost six hours [Australian Open 2012]. But mentally, this was at a different level," the 32-year-old said.

"For most of the match I was on the back foot. I was one shot away from losing. [But] in the most important moments, all three tie-breaks, I found my best game. It was a flashback to the US Open when I saved two match points against Federer as well [2010 & 2011]."

"It was a huge relief in the end, honestly. These kind of matches give sense and value to every minute you spend



One for the ages: Djokovic believes the marathon final against Federer was the kind of match that gives sense and value to every minute they spend on the court, training. ■ AFP

on the court training and working. I try to play the match in my mind before I go on the court. I probably could not play this kind of scenario (smiling). But I always try to imagine myself as a winner. I think there is a power to that."

This one will sting

For Federer the defeat will

silently sting. Even in 2018, he had lost to Kevin Anderson in the quarterfinals after be-

ignored it, but it's quite hard," he said. "So, when the crowd is chanting 'Roger' I hear 'Novak' (smiling). It sounds silly, but it is like that. I try to convince myself that it's like that."

The 37-year-old had also denied the Serb – arguably the greatest of returners – an opportunity to break till deep inside the fourth set.

More importantly, to beat two of your greatest rivals back-to-back to claim a ninth Wimbledon and 21st Grand Slam overall would have ranked very high in the list of achievements.

"One shot I guess, don't know which one to pick, your choice," said the distraught Swiss about the two missed championship points. "If I could have picked before the match to be at 9-all in the fifth, that wouldn't be a terrible thing. But it was definitely tough having those chances. I don't know what I feel right now. It's such an incredible opportunity missed, I can't believe it."

It hurts, and it should'

Asked how he would recover, Federer said: "take it on your chin, and move on. You try to forget, try to take the good things out of this match. Similar to '08 maybe [versus Nadal], I will look back and think, well, it's not that bad after all. For now, it hurts, and it should, like every loss does at Wimbledon. I think it's a mindset. I'm very strong at being able to move on because I don't want to be depressed about an amazing tennis match."

Celebrating the champs



The prize: Wimbledon men's champion Novak Djokovic and women's winner Simona Halep pose for a photograph with their trophies. ■ AFP

TV PICKS

Hero Intercontinental Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 8 p.m.

Blind cricket team for Jamaica tour

SPORTS BUREAU
BENGALURU

The Indian blind cricket team will travel to Jamaica to play a limited-over series. World champion India will compete in three one-dayers and two T20 matches against the Jamaican blind cricket team. The tour starts with the first ODI on July 20.

The Indian squad: B1 Category (totally blind): Amol Karche, Jafar Iqbal, Basappa Waddagol, Soni Golkar, K.N. Chandrashekhar.

B2 Category (partially blind): Ajay Kumar Reddy, D. Venkatesh, Surajit Ghara.

B3 Category (partially sighted): Sunil Ramesh, Durga Rao, Pankaj Bhue, Deepak Matik.

Anahat and Neel triumph

SPORTS BUREAU
AMSTERDAM

Anahat Singh and Neel Joshi claimed the girls' under-13 and boys' under-17 titles in the Dutch junior Open squash tournament here on Sunday. Paarth Ambani finished runner-up in the boys' under-15 category.

The results (finals only): Girls: U-13: Anahat Singh bt Lauren Baltayan (Fra) 11-6, 11-7, 9-11, 7-11, 11-8; **Boys: U-17:** Neel Joshi bt Hassan Khalil (Eng) 10-12, 12-10, 11-4, 11-6; **U-15:** Rowan Damming (Ned) bt Paarth Ambani 11-6, 7-11, 11-9, 11-8.



Navdeep Saini. ■ FILE PHOTO

India-A makes it 2-0

Gaikwad, Gill and Saini have a field day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Openers Rituraj Gaikwad and Shubman Gill struck fine half-centuries before Navdeep Saini's fifer guided India-A to a 65-run win over West Indies-A in the second unofficial ODI of the five-match series here.

India-A leads the five-match series 2-0 after the visitors won the first ODI by an identical 65-run margin.

Decision backfires

The home team's decision to invite India-A to bat on Sunday night backfired as Gaikwad (85, 102b) and Gill (62, 83b) shared 151 runs for the opening wicket to set up a total of 255 for eight at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

While defending the target, pacer Saini's five for 46 saw West Indies-A capitulate for 190 in 43.5 overs.

Gaikwad and Gill batted for nearly 31 overs and struck nine boundaries and three sixes between them.

While Gaikwad hit five fours and two sixes, Gill found the fence four times and crossed it once.

Manish Pandey (27), Hanuma Vihari (23) and Ishan Kishan (24) all got starts, but Romario Shepherd (four for 36) made a solid comeback

National women's chess from July 19

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

The National women's chess championship will be organised and sponsored by the Chettinad Public School in Karaikudi from July 19 to 27. The Championship carries a total prize money of ₹1 lakh.

The competition has attracted 106 players from 20 States and four affiliated units of the All India Chess Federation. It will feature two International Masters, seven woman Grandmasters, 13 woman International Masters, and eight woman FIDE Masters.

The winner will represent India in the World Cup, a stepping stone for the World championship cycle. The championship will be conducted under the Swiss league system (with 11 rounds) for nine days.

Soumya Swaminathan (Petroleum Sports Promotion Board) is the top seed.

Ashwin shines with bat and ball

SPORTS BUREAU
NOTTINGHAM

India all-rounder R. Ashwin followed his six wickets in the first innings with another six-wicket haul in the second but could not prevent his side Nottinghamshire from going down to Surrey by 167 runs in a Division One match of the English county championship on Monday.

Ashwin, who had claimed six for 69 in Surrey's first innings, finished with six for 75 in the second, operating with the new ball. Surrey declared at 224 for nine, setting Notts a target of 349. The latter was dismissed for 181, with Ashwin top-scoring with 66.



R. Ashwin. ■ FILE PHOTO

Umashankar keeps winning; stays on top

Ishaan Madesh dominates Cadet section opens massive lead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar kept up his winning run to remain on top of the Senior standings in the JK Tyre-FMSCI National Karting Championship (X-30 class).

Nirmal won three of four races at the Meco Kartopia track here on Saturday, before following that up with three more podium finishes on Sunday. It took his points tally to 137 from four rounds, putting him on top of the standings ahead of Debarun Banerjee (81) and Aditya Swaminathan (79).

Meanwhile, in the Junior category, Bengaluru's Ruhana Alva turned in a fine performance on the weekend, claiming 33 points on Saturday and a perfect 40 on Sunday to move to 130 points. He leads the standings from Arjun Nair (101) and M.R. Rishon (74).

In the Cadet section, Bengaluru's Ishaan Madesh continued to dominate proceedings, opening up a massive gap at the top of the standings. Madesh leads with 153 points, ahead of Shriya Lohia (107) and Sai Shiva Sankaran (89).



Ishaan Madesh, centre, who leads the Cadet standings in the JK Tyre-FMSCI National Karting Championship (X-30 class), flanked by Shriya Lohia, left, and Sai Shiva Sankaran at the Meco Kartopia track here on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Elavenil pips Mehuli to retain air rifle crown

Priya Raghav and Vibhuti Bhatia pick up medals in 50m pistol

JUNIOR WC

SPORTS BUREAU
SUHL (GERMANY)

Elavenil Valarivan defended her air rifle title with a majestic performance in the final at the junior World Cup here on Sunday.

Fresh from her outing in the Universiade, where she won silver, Elavenil shot 251.6 in the final to beat compatriot and qualification-topper Mehuli Ghosh (630.4) by 1.4 point. Elavenil had qualified in the eighth place for the final from a strong field of 124 shooters.

Together with Shreya



Top shot: Elavenil Valarivan, flanked by Mehuli Ghosh, left, and Oceanne Marianne Muller is all smiles after her triumph. ■ ISSF / FACEBOOK

Agrawal who shot 625.4, Elavenil and Mehuli clinched the team gold, as India sat pretty on top of the table

with six gold, six silver and two bronze medals.

In the women's 50m pistol, Priya Raghav and Vibhuti

Bhatia claimed silver and bronze with 535 and 531 points respectively. Russia's Nadezhda Koloda won with 543. The Indian team also got a silver.

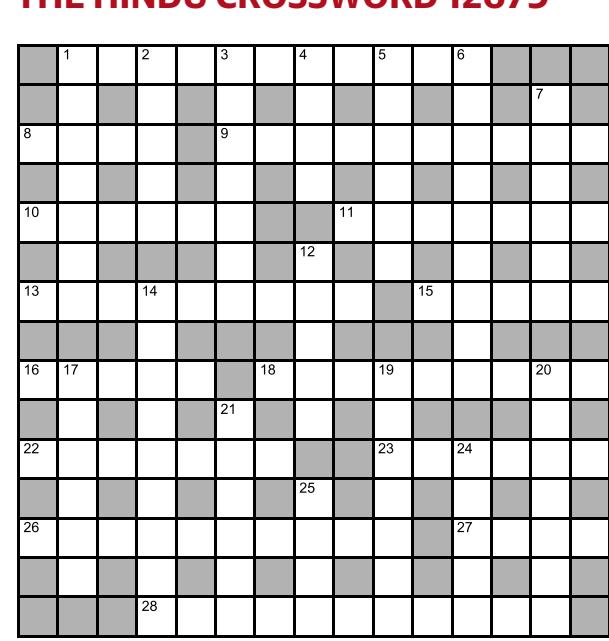
In junior men's trap, Bhowneesh Mendiratta shot 116 to miss the final by three points. Manavadiya Singh Rathore 72 out of 75 overnight, slipped following rounds of 22 and 20. He was 31st with 114, one spot ahead of Vivaan Kapoor (113) while Vishwa Kundu had a total of 112. The Indian trio of Bhowneesh, Vivaan and Vishwa had a total of 341 to missed the medal by two points.

In junior women's trap, Preeti Rajak and Kirti Gupta shot identical score of 106 to place 15th and 16th respectively. The duo missed the final by three points.

The results: Junior women: 10m air rifle: 1. Elavenil Valarivan 251.6 (627.5); 2. Mehuli Ghosh 250.2 (630.4); 3. Oceanne Marianne Muller (Fra) 228.0 (628.2); 17. Shreya Agrawal 625.4. **Team:** 1. India 1883.3 WRJ; 2. Hungary 1880.0; 3. Singapore 159.4.

50m pistol: 1. Nadezhda Koloda (Rus) 543; 2. Priya Raghav 535; 3. Vibhuti Bhatia 531; 14. Harshada Nithave 491. **Team:** 1. Russia 1559; 2. India 1557; 3. Belarus 1524.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12679



ACROSS

- Separation from insanely dramatic one (11)
- Brand, and what one drives, society is attracted to it basically (4)
- One term brought about to describe young ones (celebrities) (10)

(set by Vulcan)

- Sneak through a hedge intentionally to hide (4,2)
- Pardon me, nasty is nasty (7)
- Significant distance to one's last stop (9)
- Starting to shiver – wears fur in this European capital (5)
- Old physician, one that draws blood (5)
- Honest one got to win (2,3,4)
- Upper limit, say, for coating (7)
- Large gathering is happy, it's casual inside (6)
- Meeting Anne and Meg get prepared for (10)
- Excellent selection of Indian eateries (4)
- In addition, heartless drifter is wasteful (11)
- Had energy drink after day's final game (7)
- Unite and rise without leader (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12678

P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	N	T
E	I	B	O	A	A	A				
M	I	N	E	R</td						

IN BRIEF



Barty holds on to No. 1 ranking

Ashleigh Barty hung on to top place in the WTA rankings on Monday despite crashing out of Wimbledon in the last 16. The top three – Barty, Naomi Osaka and Karolina Pliskova – remain unchanged although none of them reached the quarters.

The top five: 1. Ashleigh Barty (Aus, 6,605); 2. Naomi Osaka (Jpn, 6,257); 3. Karolina Pliskova (Cze, 6,055); 4. Simona Halep (Rom, 5,933); 5. Kiki Bertens (Ned, 5,130). AFP



Agut makes massive jump in rankings

PARIS Novak Djokovic's successful defence of his Wimbledon crown ensured the Serb remained World No 1 in the ATP rankings released on Monday. The biggest climber is Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut (in pic) whose ride to the semifinals, where he lost to Djokovic, sees him rise nine places to 13 with 2320 points, equaling his best ranking.

Top five: 1. Novak Djokovic (Srb, 12,415); 2. Rafael Nadal (Esp, 7,945); 3. Roger Federer (Sui, 7,460); 4. Dominic Thiem (Aut, 4,595); 5. Alexander Zverev (Ger, 4,325). AFP

Frittelli takes maiden Tour crown; Lahiri T-47

LOS ANGELES India's Anirban Lahiri carded a three-under 68 for a nine-under total and finished tied 47th at the John Deere Classic on Sunday. Lahiri has not qualified for The Open next week and is skipping the Barbasol Championships. South Africa's Dylan Frittelli won his first Tour title, closing with a seven-under 64 for a two-stroke victory over Russell Henley. PTI



Kim takes title; Aditi finishes T-59

SYLVANIA (USA) India's Aditi Ashok carded a modest one-under 70 in the final round to finish tied 59th at the Marathon Classic golf tournament here on Sunday. Aditi finished with a total of two-under 284. On the final day, Aditi had two birdies against one bogey, all in a span of five holes between 13th and 18th. Kim Sei-Young of South Korea posted her second Tour victory of the season with a six-under 66 for a two-stroke victory over Lexi Thompson of the US. PTI



Boxing legend 'Sweet Pea' Whitaker no more

LOS ANGELES Former Olympic boxing gold medalist and four-weight world champion Pernell Whitaker passed away after a traffic accident in Virginia, police confirmed on Monday. The 55-year-old was killed after being struck by a vehicle on Sunday, police said in a statement. Whitaker won gold as a lightweight at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. He fought 46 times as a professional, winning 40 with 17 knockouts. He suffered four defeats, one draw and no contest before his retirement in 2001. He won world titles in lightweight, light welterweight, welterweight and light middleweight. AFP

Indian men should win all golds, says Sharath Kamal

He could skip singles to concentrate on two doubles in Commonwealth TT

EXCLUSIVE

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Given the feeble overseas challenge, Sharath Kamal is confident of the Indian men making an unprecedented gold medal sweep in the upcoming Commonwealth table tennis championship at Cuttack this week.

"Since England, Nigeria and Singapore are not fielding their best players, Indian men should win the team and open events," said the winner of 10 medals, including the 2004 singles and team championship golds.

"With the Commonwealth Games getting all the attention it deserves, the focus has slowly moved away from the Commonwealth championship. Thanks to the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), which has come forward to hold the event and offered free hospitality to all the teams, this edition has been made possible."

"In recent years, there are few takers for this championship but creditably, India has kept it going," said the 37-year-old.

Praises Sathiyan
Looking ahead to the competition, Sharath said: "The way G. Sathiyan (ranked



Elite club: Sharath Kamal, right, with Cheteshwar Pujara, Prithvi Shaw and Rohan Bopanna at the Indian Oil sports conclave on Monday. ■ RAKESH RAO

Issues pertaining to visas and funding of passage to India has forced a few countries, including Pakistan and Nigeria (Aruna Quadri and Segun Toriola) are not coming. Singapore, too, is fielding a young side. Other teams are not so strong."

24th in the world) has been playing, we should not face much difficulty in the team events. He is in the form of his life.

"That apart, two sea-

soned campaigners each from England (Liam Pitchford and Paul Drinnah) and Nigeria (Aruna Quadri and Segun Toriola) are not coming. Singapore, too, is fielding a young side. Other teams are not so strong."

Given a choice, Sharath would like to play in the team events and the two doubles.

"It has been quite a tiring month for all of us. If I can be allowed to skip singles, I feel

I'll be able to perform better in team event and doubles," he said.

A decision on whether Sharath will figure in the singles draw will be taken in a couple of days.

Meanwhile, issues per-

taining to visas and funding of passage to India has forced a few countries, including Pakistan, to stay away. So far, 12 countries in both sections are part of the draw.

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Indebted to Stimac: Anas

Thanks coach for calling him back from retirement

FOOTBALL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
AHMEDABAD



Even as he was trying to come to grips with the decision to end his international career came the recall to the National team.

E. Anas. ■ FILE PHOTO

E. Anas reveals that apart from personal reasons, the decision to hang up his boots, also came from a sense of rejection.

He thanked the new head coach of the National team, Igor Stimac, for reposing faith in his abilities when many of his compatriots were beginning to forget him.

"I would like to thank our head coach for calling me back from retirement. It felt like my mother was calling me back after I had decided

to leave home," Anas said during an interaction here.

"The coach made me feel important, explained why I was required in the team. I had thought of the Asian Cup as the last important tournament and decided to end my international career," he said.

"I always thought that I was given a late entry into

the National side. Perhaps, there were better players in the team's defence. But after having finished the Asian Cup assignment (in January, 2019), I thought I would not last till the next big assignment," Anas, rated as one of the best defenders in the country that made him one of the most expensive Indians in the 2017 ISL, shared his thoughts.

On the changes being effected by Stimac, Anas said: "He is a very good coach, especially for youngsters, who get to learn a lot of technical and physical aspects."

Hard work'
"Everyone looks for good results, but that does not happen overnight. The coach is putting in the hard work and working on the players individually to make it happen."

AFI puts its money on Ultra running

Submits bids to host various international events

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

is ed to further develop the sport.

India has bid for hosting the IAU 24 Hour Asia & Oceania Championships in 2020 and the 100 Km Asia and Oceania Championships in 2021.

Having joined the International Association of Ultra-runners (IAU) only in February 2017, India won its first individual and team medal at the 2018 24 Hour Asia and Oceania Championships

In August, the AFI would be inviting a US-based coach for a training camp for top Indian ultra runners.

"I am glad that India joined IAU family only in

2017 and have already made

to the podium at the Asia-

held at Taipei with Ullas Narayana covering 250 km in 24 hours to finish third.

The Indian team of Narayana, Sunil Sharma and Lallu Meena also managed third spot.

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"I am glad that India joined IAU family only in

2017 and have already made

to the podium at the Asia-

Oceania 24 Hour Championships at Taipei in 2018. Such results will definitely motivate other Ultra runners in the country and we expect more such results in coming continental events," IAU president Nadeem Khan said.

The Ultra and Trail Running Committee of the AFI also announced the Ultra and Trail running awards for 2017-18 with Anjali Saraoji and Narayana being named winners.

Five cleared for support

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

National 1500m record holder Jinson Johnson, shooters Manu Bhaker and Deepak Kumar and paddlers Manika Batra and G. Sathiyan were among the elite athletes cleared for financial support in the latest review of TOPS by SAI.

The decision was taken in SAI's Mission Olympic Cell meeting on Monday. In all, proposals amounting to ₹57 lakhs across five sports – athletics, table tennis, wrestling, para-athletics and shooting – were approved.

Johnson would be training in USA under Scott Simmons for a year till the Tokyo Olympics while the committee sanctioned reimbursement of fees for discus

thrower Seema Punia's coach and fitness trainer during the Asian Games 2018, along with cost of medical treatment incurred by Punia earlier this year. The recovery equipment for triple jumper Arpinder Singh was also sanctioned.

The committee also approved the participation of Sathiyan and Manika in the ITTF Bulgarian Open and travel of Sathyam's fitness trainer for a week at the Czech Open. International training and competition stints for Greco-Roman wrestler Sajan and coaching, equipment and tournament participation proposals of shooters Anjum Moudgil, Mehuli Ghosh, Bhaker, Deepak and Rahi Sarnobat were approved.

This will be preceded by the Shotgun World Cup in

Nicosia, from March 4 to 13.

The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) has confirmed the dates (March 15 to 26) for the World Cup in rifle, pistol and shot gun here to be hosted at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, here in 2020.

The World Cup in rifle, pistol and shotgun, a test event for the Olympics, will be staged in Tokyo from April 15 to 27. It will be followed by the World Cup in rifle and pistol in Munich from June 2 to 9, and the combined World Cup for all three events in Baku from June 22 to July 3.

India to host 2020 ISSF WC
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

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Sharath voted IOC Sportsperson-of-the-Year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Sharath Kamal was voted Sportsperson-of-the-Year at the annual Indian Oil sports conclave here on Monday.

Sharath, a Chennai-based chief manager who turned 37 last week, was among five nominees for whom votes were polled by over 60 elite sportspersons employed with the oil major.

Other nominees were cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara, Grandmaster B. Adhiban, hockey player Simranjeet Singh and table tennis player Manika Batra.

Delighted
A delighted Sharath said,

"It is a great honour to be chosen ahead of such achievers. After my parents, Indian Oil has played a major role in my career."

In 2003, they took me when I was not even a National champion. Since then, they have taken care of all my needs and it is an absolute privilege to be part of the Indian Oil family."

The annual conclave, attended by the majority of 87 active sportspersons employed by Indian Oil, brought together Rohan Bopanna, Pujara, Sharath, Prithvi Shaw, Simranjeet, badminton coach P. Gopi Chand, table tennis coach Soumyadeep Roy and

several members of the National hockey team, among others.

Among those who could not attend the function were cricketer Rohit Sharma, Manika, shuttler P. Kashyap and Grandmaster D. Harika.

Speaking on the occasion, IOCL director (HR) Ranjan K. Mohapatra announced that the company planned to add sports like football, boxing, volleyball, basketball, shooting, archery, wrestling and kabaddi as the thrust games and recruit players.

"We are also in the process of including Paralympic players in our scheme of things."

DPR Korea downs Tajikistan

Stays in title hunt as Ri Hyong Jin scores the winner

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
AHMEDABAD

DPR Korea downed Tajikistan by a solitary first-half goal in a round-robin league match here on Monday to brighten its chances of making it to the final of the Intercontinental Cup.

Ri Hyong Jin scored the all-important goal to see DPR Korea end the league campaign on six points from two wins and a draw.

Tajikistan also has six points from two wins and a draw and it now depends on the result of the last league match between host India and Syria on Tuesday to have a clear picture of the line-up for the final.

Syria, with three points, needs a win to stay in the hunt as India has crashed out of the tournament.

DPR Korea established the lead in the 33rd minute

when Han Thae Hyok set up Ri Hyong Jin with a short tap inside the box and the latter made no mistake with his angular effort that beat Rustam Yatimov in the Tajikistan goal. Tajikistan tried hard for the equaliser after the break but found the Korean defence make a valiant effort to deny the former a clear look at the goal.

The result: DPR Korea 1 (Ri Hyong Jin 33) bt Tajikistan 0.

Griezmann trains for first time with Barca

Atletico to present its case to FIFA regarding transfer amount

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BARCELONA

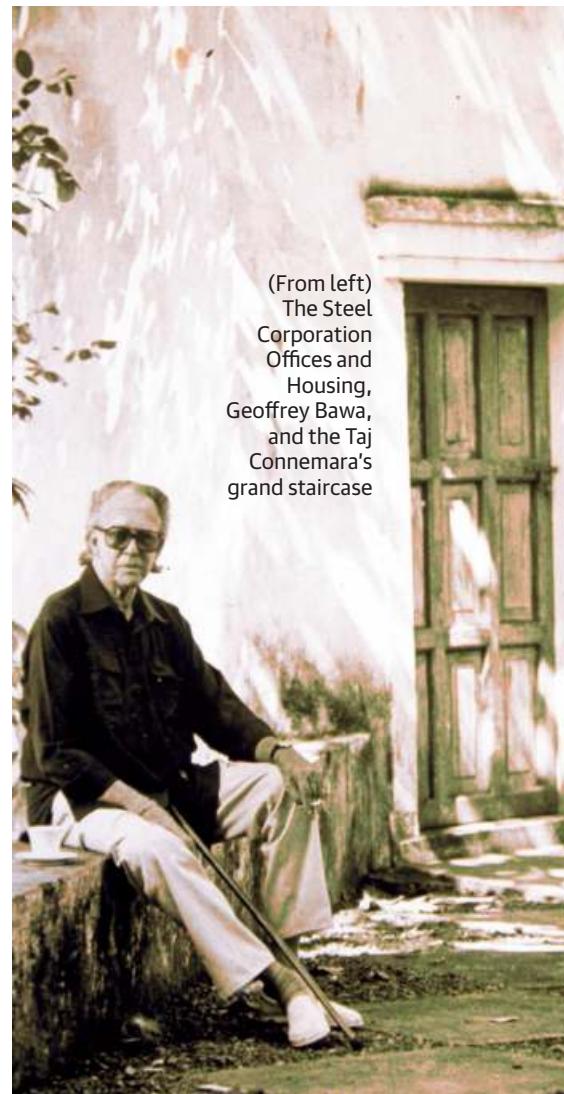
French striker Antoine Griezmann trained with his new Barcelona teammates for the first time on Monday following his controversial move from Atletico Madrid last week.

"The first

The legendary Sri Lankan architect's centenary year is replete with tributes, exhibitions and more. Some of India's top architects and interior designers weigh in on his genius



• GEOFFREY BAWA TRUST



(From left)
The Steel Corporation Offices and Housing,
Geoffrey Bawa, and the Taj Connemara's grand staircase



Bawa's buildings are, in many ways, understated, but the experiences they create are iconic. The way **they moved from smaller spaces to larger, the use of courtyards to illuminate the interiors.**

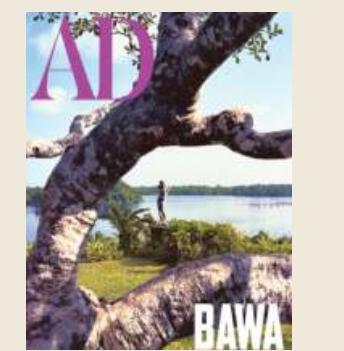
I'm impressed by the way he leveraged vernacular architecture to create modern interpretations. The textures of the buildings – the stark contrast of plastered walls and the traditional half round roof tiles he used – the proportions, the scale, the integration of the landscape and the building. His tropical modernism is particularly relevant for India, where streetscapes are being obliterated for faceless buildings, with bad climatological adaptations.

Vikram Phadke,
interior designer, Chennai



Bawa's works are very 'human'; you can identify with everything. There are no flourishes, no unnecessary details. His works have always been an influence because they are timeless.

What interests me
most is his sense of landscape. A visit to Lunuganga was a revelation – his understanding of the environment, the clean vistas and the large trees all around. Closer home, he did the extension block at the Taj Connemara. Much of it is no more, but I remember the gentle landscape with pebbles, blocks of stones containing water and plumerias. He used the classic white flower with the yellow heart – the common thread through his landscapes.



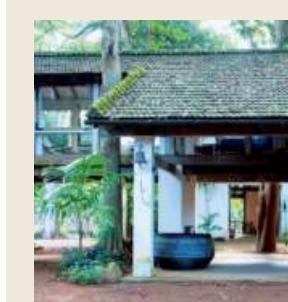
On the stands: The latest edition of *Architectural Digest* is a tribute to Bawa, with never-seen-before homes, pages from the guest book at his Colombo home/office, and more.



Ena de Silva House: The open-plan house, conceived as a series of pavilions and verandas (and later moved to Bentota), will be opened to the public for the first time later this year.



Bawa Staircases: By David Robson, Bawa's official biographer and a friend, the Laurence King publication explores the architect's iconic staircases and how they are often "the most theatrical spatial elements of a building". ₹2,060, on amazon.in



The Gift: A series of installations at Lunuganga – by six artists and makers, including architect Kengo Kuma, artist Lee Mingwei, and photographer Dayanita Singh – will respond to one of the world's most unique gardens. Details: bawa100.com

Becoming Bawa

Jyothi, architect, Kochi

Bawa's style is so minimalist, with in-built furniture and designs in tune with nature. I've referenced this often. Like his work with oxides, or how **he'd use leaves and other materials from the immediate surroundings as inlay to create texture**. But, above all, his designs use the skill of the craftsman – the masons, the stone workers. If you look at the wall finishes in homes from a 100 years ago in Kerala, it's the same as what Bawa used. His work reminds us how we've lost so many of our skills and why we must revive them.



SURYA PRAPHULLA KUMAR

My introduction to Geoffrey Bawa was over a decade ago, at Number 11 in Colombo, a gnarly plumeria standing guard outside. Inside, stark white walls, illuminated by skylights and courtyards, drew the eye, as did the painted door by Australian artist Donald Friend, the mix of antique and contemporary furniture, and the textures of the ceilings and red oxide floors.

Rejecting ornamentation, embracing minimalism, and drawing from the environment around him, the father of Tropical Modernism (born on July 23) showed generations of Southeast Asian designers how to stay local, indigenous and yet be international. "He helped us build a sense of pride in tradition-inspired modern architecture," says Goa-based architect Raya Shankhwalker, who is most im-

pressed by Lunuganga, the 25-acre country estate created over 40 years where Bawa tinkered and tried out his architectural ideas until his death in 2003. The Sri Lankan architect had also done a few projects in India, including at the Taj Connemara in Chennai. "The grand staircase is an exemplary work of Bawa's. It still remains [after the extensive renovations the hotel recently undertook], embellished with wooden carvings that date back to the 16th and 17th century from the old temples of Mahabalipuram, and a statue of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati," says Ahmar Sidiqui, General Manager of Taj Connemara.

With Bawa's centenary celebrations on – till July 2020, across multiple venues in the island nation – it is a great time to revisit his legacy. We speak with six architects and interior designers on why his works still matter and the lessons we can draw from his designs.

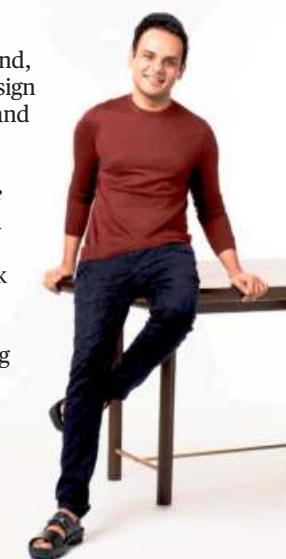
Ravi Vazirani, interior designer, Mumbai

There is a certain sense of restraint in Bawa's works that really resonates with my design ideology. **The use of the colours white, black and grey, the use of concrete** – that drew me in. I visited Lunuganga and Number 11 this February. It was the latter I found impactful. The house is something I'd design today. The lower levels and staircase are finished in epoxy, one of my favourite components. There is a rawness to his materials, and at the same time a chicness.



Ashiesh Shah, architect, Mumbai

Bawa was the master of landscape and, at the same time, one of the best design aesthetes. I've been to Lunuganga, and to see the frugality and high level of design in the same space was inspiring. **He has this very intense idea of scale** – using large pots or a large chair, and then softening it with the landscape. A lot of my work is inspired by him. His penchant for using things out of proportion and making it look dramatic is something I've always aspired to. In a house I recently did in Hyderabad, we used South Indian pots and antiques to create scale, something that was inspired by Bawa's aesthetic.



#DELHIMOVES

Rolling stones

Fight gravity to build strength at an indoor bouldering gym

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

The award-winning National Geographic film *Free Solo* captures the heart of rock climbing without a harness, as a sport that tests the limits of human achievement and courage. The haunting sound of calculated breaths taken at deadly heights is hard to shake off. Bouldering is a form of rock



climbing: "It's a sub-set; you scale shorter walls or boulders without the use of safety equipment," says Vrinda Bhageria, who with Yadu Bhageria (both climbers) have built Boulder Box in Vasant Kunj (boulderbox.in).

A pair of climbing shoes, a bit of chalk to soak up the sweat off your hands and a dollop of grit is all you get. Down to its bare essentials, the sport offers a glimpse of the risks primitive

man took to survive. Bouldering keeps the brain sharp and builds its problem-solving ability. It requires the climber to think of the safest and the quickest route possible. "A climber uses a foam mattress called a crash pad to break one's fall onto the ground," says Vrinda.

At the indoor centre, the boulders aren't very high, so the risk of serious injury is lower compared to it you

Fearless climber in an indoor bouldering gym • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

were doing it in the open. Since the climbing focusses primarily on movement, technique and strength, it's advisable to have some fitness level before you begin.

Inside a gym, plastic 'holds' are screwed into vertical or semi-vertical walls. These are colour-coded and tagged to signify level of difficulty. A climber chooses a colour and a difficulty level: this is called the 'problem'. All that remains is to navigate the 'problem'. In keeping with the problem-solving view, the position of the holds is changed from time to time. Boredom is hard to find.

Unlike rock or wall climbing, bouldering involves climbing heights of about 15 feet. Falling technique is taught so that you can fall in a controlled way that minimizes the risk of broken bones or sprained joints. The

MEET OTHER CLIMBERS

The sense of community is built with 'socials'

WOMEN'S SOCIAL: Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., for women over 18

BOULDER BUDDY: Friday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., for mixed groups

SUNDAY SOCIALS: 10 a.m. to 12 noon, for those looking to meet new climbers

thrill of the climb attracts adults and children alike. You'll discover and train the dormant muscles in your body. The instinct of self-preservation kicks in. It will make you more alert. At a stretch it's akin to moving-meditation, because you need to be in the moment. "It is not an activity that you do for an hour and head home. We created a space with a café and library so climbers can engage with each other on breaks. It's a place where you can spend your whole day," says Yadu.

PLACE

Slow down

An initiative of the Slow School, a Delhi-based space that promotes self-reflection, the Slow Library curates books, films, documentaries, and readings exploring non-religious philosophies. Authors here include the likes of Alan Watts, an English theologian; and Joseph Campbell, who writes on comparative religion and mythology. Nirat Bhatnagar, 39, the founder of Slow School, and Divyangan, 25, the school's community manager, handpick the collection. For members only.

Email: contact@slowschool.com; N102, 2nd floor, Panchsheel Park; Closest metro: Panchsheel Park

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

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



Economy

Dr. Bina Agarwal and Prof. Bharat Ramaswami will lead a discussion on the book *What the Economy Needs Now*. Edited by Abhijit Banerjee, the book provides solutions on key issues such as labour reforms, healthcare, education and environment, ultimately focussing on the economic growth of the nation.

VENUE: Conference Room - I, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FOOD

French fiesta
On the occasion of the French Bastille Day, celebrated annually on July 14, the all-day dining restaurant, 1911, has organised a ten-day French food festival. The dishes on offer include Terrine de Foie de Volaille au Chutney de Mangue, Poêlée de St. Jacques et Salade de Fenouil aux Agrumes, and Riz Noir et Beurre Citron.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.



PERFORMANCE

Folk music
To celebrate Teej Festival and the arrival of monsoon, singer Pankaj Sakha and his troupe will perform folk songs and dances of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. A well-known artiste, Pankaj sings about Sawan, Jhula Kajri, Chaiti, Hori and Banna-Banni in the Awadh, Poorvi and Brij languages.

VENUE: Hall No. 8-11, Pragati Maidan

TIME: 7 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Textile fair
A three-day event, called the Textile Fairs India 2019, is now on at Pragati Maidan. The exhibition is seeing the participation of 265 manufacturers and suppliers from India, Austria, China, Hong Kong and Japan, all showcasing their latest innovation in fibers, yarns, apparel fabrics, trims & embellishments, and garments.

VENUE: Hall No. 8-11, Pragati Maidan

TIME: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FILM

Bornadi Bhotiai
IIC, in collaboration with Council for Social Development, will screen an Assamese film *Bornadi Bhotiai*. Directed by Anupam Kaushik Borah, the film is set in the island of Majuli, and follows the story of four boys who fall in love with the same girl. The hilarious misadventures to win her heart form the crux of the film.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6 p.m.

REVIEW

A snazzy game of give and take

Taiwan tech company Asus pulls off quite the package for a reasonable price with the 6Z

ARCHIT MEHTA

If a smartphone company can stay in business after selling phones with a dozen pre-loaded apps then they must be doing something awfully right. Hardware was never an issue with Asus; Google did trust them with the Nexus 7 tablet in 2012.

So why haven't they made at least one memorable flagship phone. Can you name one? Asus 6Z changes that, for sure. The unique motorised camera design, along with flagship specifications, makes the 6Z hard to forget.

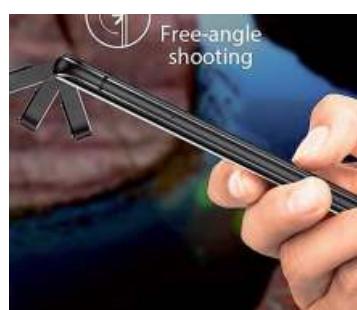
Ergonomically challenged?

The phone has a candy bar form factor fitting well in one hand. Unfortunately, I just couldn't reach the corners with my thumb. So for those of you who prefer one-hand usage, Google's Pixel 3a is the better bet.

The three buttons on the phone are on the right side. The top-most key is the smart key, in addition to traditional buttons. As a default setting, smart key brings up the assistant in a single click; however, it can be customised as per Asus. Hopefully, Asus will make it truly customisable with an update. The concept is great; unfortunately, the design fails, as it's just impossible to reach it. Another area in which Asus does an oopsie is the rear fingerprint scanner. It's tiny. One would imagine without snappy face unlock Asus would have got this right for sure. The ideal size for the scanner is on the back cover .

Anatomy of it all

Naturally, I dived into the camera immediately after I powered up the 6Z. The rear camera flips up and doubles up as a front camera. The result is that not only does Asus nail its first notchless phone in style, but it could take the crown for the best selfie phone yet. To sum it up, video or photos, front camera or rear, the 6Z will deliver. It has tons of cool features such as automatic panoramic shots, wide angle pictures, 2160p video recording at 60fps with electronic stabilisation and a night-mode which actually makes a difference.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

PROCESSORS 7nm Qualcomm Snapdragon 855 Mobile Platform, 64-bit Octa-core CPU, Qualcomm Adreno 640 GPU

CAMERA Sony IMX586 48MP image sensor (main); 13MP (ultrawide); Automated panoramas; Laser autofocus sensor, 4K UHD (3840x2160) video at 30/60 fps with EIS on the main camera sensor, slow motion, motion tracking

STORAGE UFS2.1 64GB/128GB/256GB; microSD, up to 2TB (dedicated slot)

RAM LPDDR4X 6GB/8GB

SCREEN 6.4 inches; Corning Gorilla Glass 6, 92% screen-to-body ratio, 600nits outdoor readable brightness

OS Android 9.0 (Pie), guaranteed update to Android Q and Android R, ZenUI 6 (Basically, Stock Android)

COST ₹31,999 (64GB), ₹34,999 (128GB) and ₹39,999 (256 GB, only model with 8GB RAM)

Verdict?

If your response to this phone is 'Who takes selfies?', then this phone probably isn't for you. But if you are a vlogger or someone who uses both front and back camera, then 6Z will up your production considerably. A bit of advice: get it insured because chances are just a single fall could kill the camera.

When body meets gadget

Wearables are all the rage in 2019. But is 'over reliance' going to be an issue? We take two gadgets we've reviewed and put them neck-to-neck

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY AND DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

The likes of *Black Mirror*, *Love, Death & Robots* and even *Archer* have taught us to be wary of the dependency we may end up experiencing with the advent of wearable technology, nicknamed wearables. So much of the pull of wearables is geared towards trend up-keep – which some may dub 'sheepism.'

So here we are to bust some myths through some long-term experience with our own wearable to which we may have raised a brow.

Fitbit Charge 3 and Cardiogram

'Listen to your heart', famously sang Roxette in 1988. That's advice I've taken seriously... which is why when Cardiogram (a smartphone app which functions as a digital health and fitness diary and also helps detect heart conditions) recently partnered with Fitbit, the app was promptly added to my list of downloads. Cardiogram makes use of heart rate and sleep rate data from wearable devices to monitor the wearer's conditions and understand their symptoms.

The Fitbit Charge 3 I've been using – primarily to calculate calories burnt – now also functions as my personal cardiologist. While these wearables are equipped with heart rate and sleep trackers, coupled with this app, it is said to detect signs of conditions like diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea, and atrial fibrillation using heart rate data.

The aforementioned also probably explains why the device is on my wrist for longer durations than before. But given its good looks, I am not complaining. With a sporty white strap that has a perforated design, this version is much more glamorous than its earlier siblings. That said, it's not restricted to the boot camp or badminton court alone. The watch is versatile and, much to my delight, fits in just as well in a formal brunch setting or a cocktail party. And what a conversation starter this gadget is: people almost always ask 'what you are wearing?', even if they are sporting the most elegant Breitling themselves. The bands of Charge 3 come in different colours: Standard (black or blue grey), Horween leather (plum and midnight blue), Woven bands

INTO THE PSYCHE

According to a 2018 study 'Perceptions on the influence of wearable devices on life and work satisfaction' by Stefan Catic for Modul University Vienna, "It was expected that components from life and work satisfaction would have a significant effect on openness to share data and wear wearable devices at the workplace, but this assumption was disproved... One crucial element should not be missing, fostering social cohesion in the company with common challenges and goals. This does not only affect positively the interaction between people, it could also improve physical health."



(charcoal and periwinkle) and Special edition (white band with a graphite case or purple band with a rose gold case). The latter even comes with an additional black band in case you need options.

On the whole, the design is sleek. It is light and sits snug on the wrist. The font is easy to read and doesn't have you squinting and feeling years older. It lets you receive messages, phone calls and emails if you choose. In terms of syncing with my phone, it's a lot more hassle-free than the Fitbit Alta. There's an all-day real-time sync option that keeps the activities of the watch

updated on the app on the phone. My only qualm is the sleep tracker that shows a few abnormalities in terms of hours slept and deep and light sleep. The battery life is commendable and lasts for up to a week after it's fully charged. So if you're travelling for a few days, you don't have the hassle of carrying the charger along. The watch, like most fitness tracking

devices, is like a persistent sibling. It vibrates and nudges when you've been sitting on your bottom for too long. It also encourages you with badges when you've outdone yourself in terms of steps taken. It is for this token of appreciation that on many days – when I could have just bullied the youngest in the department to collect my Swiggy order from the gate – I've found myself bounding to the gate under the scorching sun to collect my delivery.

The Charge 3 is water-proof. A big plus point because I've often wondered

how many calories I burn when I swim. I finally have an answer. And that also means I need to throw in a few more laps and cut down on socialising during pool time. It also lets you choose from exercise modes such as run, yoga, bike...

And at the end of it all, when you need to slow down and catch your breath, this device lets you do that with its Relax mode and breathing guidance. 3.2...Okay, time to close my eyes and breathe



Livia

In the world of wearables, the design is a huge aspect which we cannot place low on our priorities. After all, nowadays, the customisable factor is everything and tech brands market wearables as an extension of the self. The Livia, a menstrual pain-cancelling device, is customisable as far as the skin colour goes. Perhaps the electrode pads which one sticks to their lower abdomen could be the same or even similar colour as the user's skin... for those less keen on being super vocal about sporting this device. I had to shave my shirt over it.

Just like when you switch between Apple or Android, there is considerable acclimatisation in navigating the device. But with the Livia, there's no screen so you don't need to worry.

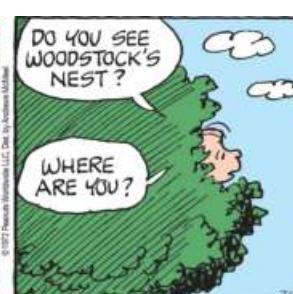
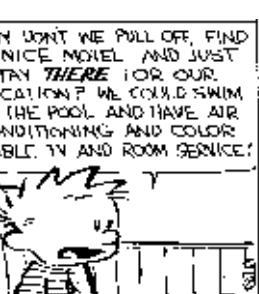
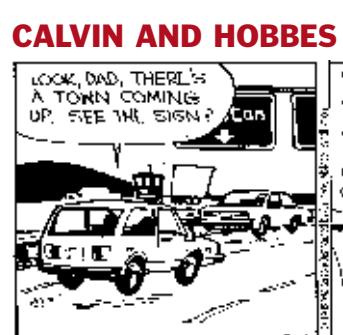
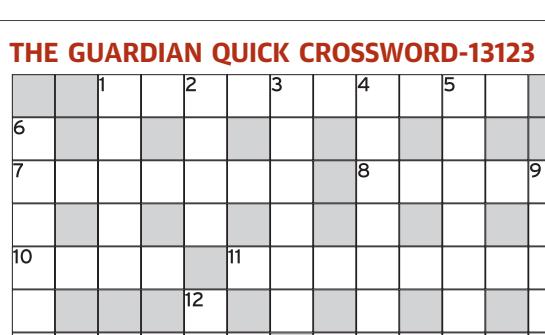
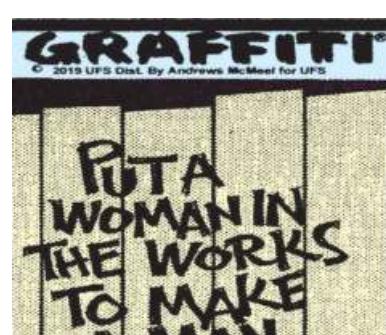
There are some days during my cycle when I find myself panicking at the smallest fraction of a cramp, quickly reaching for the device. Like most wearables, the Livia has a battery life users have to be well aware of. Because I was becoming so reliant on the Livia as part of my monthly routine, my charging station at home changed too.

I set up a wide adapter with different outlets, including one for my Livia. But what did this tell me? I wasn't shy about it, even at work where I'd hook it up to my CPU. When colleagues would ask what the adorable-looking device was, I'd be pretty honest about it.



Power up The Fitbit Charge 3 and the Livia device

*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

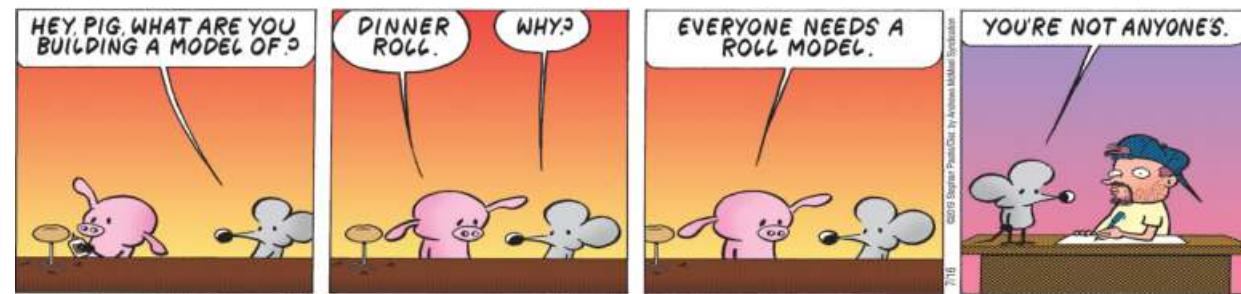
POOCH CAFE**PEANUTS****HAGAR THE HORRIBLE****TIGER**

- 2 Direction taken when going from the US towards Ireland (4)
- 3 Pompous and boring (6)
- 4 Herb with narrow leaves (8)
- 5 Witty drawing (7)
- 6 Mule, for example (4,6)
- 9 Strong tremor (10)
- 12 Spout ending in a grotesquely carved figure (8)
- 14 Improvised song of the Caribbean (7)
- 16 Address of a religious nature (6)
- 19 Annoy continually (5)
- 20 Retired (4)

WUMO

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 17, 2019.

Solution No. 13122

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

- Across
- 1 Self-governing American commonwealth in the Caribbean (6,4)
- 7 Person bringing charges (7)
- 8 Bout (5)
- 10 The Garden of England (4)
- 11 American thriller or detective movie style of the '40s and '50s (4,4)
- 13 Drink of the gods (6)
- 15 11am meal? (6)
- 17 Defamed (8)
- 18 You in olden times (4)
- 21 Cheeky (5)
- 22 President of Egypt, 1981-2011 (7)
- 23 In a position to reach a goal without much further difficulty (4,3,3)
- Down
- 1 Nut tree of the southern United States and Mexico (5)
- 20 Retired (4)

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Rao Tula Ram flyover opens for public

Inauguration Ceremony

Tuesday 16th July, 2019 at 10:30 A.M.

Venue: New RTR Flyover, Outer Ring Road, Delhi

**"We will make Delhi
the best city in the world"**

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

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