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How Naresh Goyal was stopped from flying out of the country
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Rouhani says talks with U.S. are possible if sanctions are lifted
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Nadal and Federer ease into the third round of French Open
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NEARBY



Fire breaks out at girls' hostel; 50 rescued

NEW DELHI
Fifty girls had a narrow escape when a fire broke out at a two-storey girls' hostel in west Delhi's Janakpuri on Wednesday. Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg said the fire broke out at the Kaveri girls' hostel. No casualty was reported. Five girls were rushed to Arya Hospital after they fell unconscious due to smoke inhalation.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

DU admission process to begin today

NEW DELHI
The admission process to Delhi University's undergraduate courses will start on Thursday. Registrations for PG, MPhil and PhD programmes, however, will start on June 3. The process for all courses and quotas will be online.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Another Trinamool Cong. MLA joins BJP

NEW DELHI
In another jolt to the Trinamool Congress, its MLA, Monirul Islam, on Wednesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, the third legislator to desert the ruling party in West Bengal after the reverses it suffered in the Lok Sabha poll.

EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Kargil war veteran declared a foreigner



Mohammed Sanaullah

RAHUL KARMAKAR
ITANAGAR
The family of a retired soldier, who fought in the Kargil war two decades ago, approached the Gauhati High Court on Wednesday, less than 24 hours after he was sent to a detention centre for foreigners or illegal migrants.

Mohammed Sanaullah, who retired as an honorary Lieutenant in the Army, was arrested soon after he was summoned by the Assam Police Border Organisation, or the Border Police, in Guwahati on Tuesday.

The arrest followed the order of a Foreigners' Tribunal that adjudged him a non-citizen.

Lt. Sanaullah, 52, ironically, was serving as an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) in the Border Police that is tasked with identifying, detaining and deporting doubtful citizens and illegal migrants. This unit of the State police often employs retired defence and paramilitary personnel.

Exactly 100 Foreigners' Tribunals in Assam hear and dispose of cases of people deemed foreigners by the Border Police. Such people need to prove their Indian citizenship with documentary evidence.

A Foreigners' Tribunal in Boko had served notice on Mr. Sanaullah last year.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 13

Citing ill-health, Arun Jaitley opts out of ministerial position

In a letter to Modi, former Minister said that treatment requires his full attention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has ended all speculation over his health and inclusion in the new Cabinet by writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he is opting out of any ministerial position.

The letter, released by Mr. Jaitley on social media, makes it clear that his health requires his full attention.

The Council of Ministers will be sworn in on Thursday evening.

Due to his ill-health, Mr. Jaitley could not present the last Union Budget.

ment and my health, and therefore not be part of any responsibility, for the present, in the new government," Mr. Jaitley wrote to Mr. Modi.

Apart from handling the Finance and the Corporate Affairs Ministries, Mr. Jaitley had, at various stages in the last five years, handled the Defence and Information and Broadcasting portfolios. While no word is out on who will get the Finance portfolio now, Mr. Goyal appears to be the front runner.

Mr. Jaitley is the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.

"I am writing to you to formally request you that I should be allowed reasonable time to myself, my treat-



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Amit Shah to get on board Modi Cabinet?

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah held marathon meetings on Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon to finalise the list of Ministers to be administered the oath of office on Thursday at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Senior leader Rajnath Singh, too, met Mr. Modi, with sources saying the issue of what Mr. Shah's role in the new government would be was also on the anvil.

Sources said Mr. Shah was

keen on retaining the top party post, with several Assembly elections ahead, including in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana, but his presence in the Cabinet, tweaking the old "one man, one post" rule of the BJP, was also being considered.

Principal secretary to the Prime Minister Nripendra Mishra and Additional Principal Secretary P.K. Mishra were at Mr. Shah's residence.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 13
FOREIGN LEADERS START ARRIVING ▶ PAGE 13

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 17

Having discarded the ear-

lier practice of teams being split into two groups, the World Cup has embraced the round-robin league from where the top four in a field of 10 will battle it out in the final stretch culminating in the summit clash on July 14.

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| DELHI Timings | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--|
| THURSDAY, MAY 30 | | |
| RISE 05:25 | SET 19:13 | |
| RISE 02:50 | SET 15:19 | |
| FRIDAY, MAY 31 | | |
| RISE 05:24 | SET 19:14 | |
| RISE 03:23 | SET 16:14 | |
| SATURDAY, JUNE 01 | | |
| RISE 05:24 | SET 19:14 | |
| RISE 03:58 | SET 17:12 | |

| Delhi Weather | max | min |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Delhi City | 43 | 25 |
| Safdarjung | 43 | 25 |
| Palam | 45 | 26 |

Delhi Palam Today
44°C Heat wave will prevail. A comfortable night is likely. Warm moderate winds are likely to affect.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
45°C Rise in temperatures is likely. Heat wave is likely to prevail. A mainly clear sky will prevail.

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IN BRIEF

HC issues notices over gambling websites

NEW DELHI
The Delhi HC on Wednesday issued notices to the Centre and the RBI on a plea alleging that operation of websites, which allow people to gamble, bet and play games of chance, like poker, online are "illegal". The HC declined to pass any interim order for putting on hold the operation of such websites. The plea has claimed that the problem of online gambling was "a rising menace that has ruined the lives and financial security of several persons".

| Air quality of Delhi-NCR | | | |
|---|---------|---------------|---------|
| Delhi | 185 | Gurugram | 167 |
| Ghaziabad | 201 | Faridabad | 261 |
| Noida | 151 | Greater Noida | 189 |
| Good | 51-100 | Moderate | 101-200 |
| Poor | 201-300 | Very poor | 301-400 |
| | >401 | Severe | |
| AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB | | | |

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: A solo painting exhibition celebrating Delhi's unique heritage by Soumen Dutta at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Energy that inspires her soul" a solo painting show by Sneha Agarwal at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: Imagination Fine Academy presents Annual Fine Arts Show of Paintings at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Italy, Across the Street" by Arvind Hoon at Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, 50-E, Chandragupta Marg, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Payal Tadvi death case leaves medical fraternity divided

IMA calls it an isolated case; other health networks term incident 'institutional murder'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Calling the death of Mumbai resident doctor Payal Tadvi allegedly due to caste-based harassment from her seniors an "institutional murder", members of two health networks have said that "this type of harassment is rampant in educational institutions and must be urgently recognised and stopped".

"We demand urgent action against caste oppression, humiliation by upper caste senior doctors that forced Payal to take this harsh step," the groups – Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) and Medico Friend Circle (MFC) – said.

Breaking barriers

"This young medical doctor broke through barriers of social discrimination to become the first doctor in her family and the first woman from her community to pur-



The victim was continuously harassed by the three accused senior doctors.

sue post-graduation. As per reports, she was continuously harassed and faced gender and caste-based abuse and discrimination by the three accused senior doctors which led her to take the extreme step of ending her life in the hostel of Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC)-run Topiwala National Medical College (TNMC) and BYL Nair Charitable Hospital, Mumbai," the group said in their statement.

While a group of doctors are demanding "exemplary" action against the three senior doctors, Indian Medical Association (IMA) national president Santanu Sen, speaking to *The Hindu*, said, "This is an isolated incident and is a kind of ragging. This is unfortunate and now law should take its course."

A case was finally registered against the three doctors under the SC/ST Atrocities Act, anti-ragging Act, and IT Act after Payal's death.

Measures in place

Meanwhile, talking about measures put in place to ensure that students coming into medical institutions feel integrated, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) registrar Sanjeev Lalwani said, "Multiple programmes are run by the institute from the point the students come in, including an orientation

programme where students are encouraged to talk about their strengths and interests. We do activities to inculcate team building and then through the year students are given the support of mentor programme, round-the-clock counselling etc. and even language teachers to cope with the medium of teaching."

Professor N.N. Mathur, principal, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, said, "We have an anti-ragging squad and zero tolerance towards any form of ragging. Support of mentors, seniors is also offered to the students. At a time, we have 3,000 students here and the college ensures that we are constantly available to them for all kinds of support."

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

Eye on Assembly polls, Tiwari spends night at Balmiki Colony

BJP to prioritise issues being faced by residents of JJ clusters



Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari at the Balmiki Colony on Wednesday.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of the poor people," Mr. Tiwari said.

The senior BJP leader claimed that by "failing" to implement the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna in the Capital, Mr. Kejriwal had shown citizens his "anti-people attitude".

"Had Mr. Kejriwal been serious about providing houses to the people of Delhi, then lakhs of people would have been allotted houses. But due to its anti-people attitude, the Kejriwal government in place of allotting houses is spending lakhs of rupees on their maintenance," he said.

"To mislead the people of Delhi, AAP spoke a new lie every day. The Kejriwal-led government had promised to turn Delhi into London-Paris but it has betrayed the people of Delhi," he claimed.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION OLD SECRETARIAT, DELHI-110054

Public Notice for Compilation of list of Books/ Titles of Reputed Publishers for Procurement of Books for Government Schools

Directorate of Education proposes to compile a list of Books/Titles on General Readings (Fiction, Non-Fiction etc.) in different languages, namely, English/ Hindi/ Sanskrit/ Punjabi/ Urdu for students of Government Schools for procurement by the school libraries. All publishers applying under this scheme are required to submit the proposals on the above titles/languages along with the list of Books/Titles with one sample copy of each title. Interested publishers may submit the proposals along with the list and sample copies of books on 10/06/19, 11/06/19, 13/06/19, & 14/06/19 between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (see Guidelines) in GBSSS, Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, (1309003) Delhi - 110009. A Book Fair will be organised subsequently to showcase the selected Books/Titles at the time of procurement by DOE schools. The detailed guidelines are available at www.edudel.nic.in under 'Public Circulars - for publishers'.

DIP/Shabdarth/0110/19-20 DIRECTOR (EDUCATION)

DU admissions to UG courses start today

'Open days' to be held for applicants

SIDHARTH RAVI

NEW DELHI

The admissions process to Delhi University's undergraduate courses will start on Thursday.

Registrations for PG, MPhil and PhD programmes, however, will start on June 3. This year, the admission process had been delayed due to multiple reasons, including finalisation of a tie-up with the National Testing Agency, which will conduct the entrance tests for PG courses, and because the CBSE had asked DU to coordinate its admissions with the evaluation process of the school board.

A help desk will also be set up at the conference centre of the university to assist students while colleges will also be setting up separate help desks at their premises. The university is considering giving full scholarship to students whose both parents are deceased and half scholarship to students whose earning member is deceased.

The process for all courses and all quotas this year will be online. The university has also said that it will be carrying out 'forensic verification' of submitted documents and any falsification would be met with a penalty.

Details of the admission process will be made available on the bulletin to be issued by DU. To understand the admission process, applicants and their parents can attend 'open days' to be organised by the university.

HC seeks Centre's reply on exam fee regulation

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Centre on a plea seeking directions to regulate the fees charged for competitive examinations by various public bodies.

The petition, filed by local resident Ateet Bansal, highlighted the exorbitant fees charged by various public bodies as entrance fees for competitive and recruitment examinations.

"The manner in which fees in the name of conduct of examination is being demanded is unfair to the candidates barring a few agencies like the Union Public Service Commission and the Service Selection Commission," the petition contended.

High costs

"In an entrance year post-Class 12/graduation, if a candidate wishes to secure a good rank in a college of his/her choice, he/she has to spend minimum of ₹20,000-₹30,000 for only applying to various colleges," the plea said.

"The commercialisation of education at the very threshold of fighting a competitive examination needs to be checked," it added.

Mr. Bansal said the Railways Ministry in 2019 advertised for over one lakh jobs in Grade III and IV. The application fee to apply for a General Category male was ₹500. Around two crore candidates applied meaning that the Ministry garnered almost ₹1,000 crore from recruitment application fee alone, Mr. Bansal said.

The plea stated that people from less privileged backgrounds would not be able to sit for many of the competitive/recruitment exams due to the high application fee.

Direct AAP govt. to provide funds for infrastructure works'

BJP urges L-G, alleges govt. deliberately starving North body

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday urged L-G Anil Baijal to direct the Delhi government to provide civic bodies their share of funds for the construction of road overbridges (ROBs) and road underbridges (RUBs) in the interest of decongesting the Capital.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta alleged that the AAP government was deliberately starving the North Delhi Municipal Corporation of funds in spite of the Central government's decision in this regard.

"The Delhi government's

denial of funds is putting obstacles in the implementation of various schemes aimed at larger public interest. The Delhi government has annulled the allocation of plan funds under the transport sector and has not made any alternative funding arrangements despite its responsibilities to do so, Mr. Gupta alleged.

He claimed that due to the non-availability of funds to the tune of ₹46 crore, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation was not able to construct ROBs/RUBs at Kirari, Ghevaria and Narela Mandi. Since the Delhi government had, he argued further, not

released ₹47.31 crore to the North Corporation, work related to the construction of a bridge at Sultanpuri, near Nangloi, had also been held up.

In public interest

"These bridges are well-planned and their construction is in larger public interest. It is, therefore, essential that the Delhi government releases the requisite funds for construction. The attitude of the Delhi government smacks of political vendetta. It is starving these projects of the required funds despite directions of the Centre," he added.

Plea seeks education regulation in religious schools

High Court asks Centre to reply; plea wants uniform standards of proficiency

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought response from the Centre on a plea seeking directions to it to regulate the education being imparted in the madrasas, maktabs and gurukuls in the country.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice Brijesh Sethi asked for response of the Ministries of

Human Resource Development and Minority Affairs on the petition filed in public interest.

Not trained for jobs

The petition filed jointly by Right to Information (RTI) activist Sunil Saraoji and Congress MLA from West Bengal Khruzzaman, has sought to establish uniform standards of proficiency and excellence with respect to

education being imparted in all madrasas, maktabs and gurukuls.

"In India, there are more than 30,000 maktabs and madrasas and approximately 2,000 gurukuls. Such maktabs, madrasas and gurukuls are acting as primary source of education to more than 15 lakh young individuals in the country," the plea said.

The students educated in

such institutes are generally not well-equipped for jobs in comparison to students educated in private and governmental schools which violates their right under Article 21A of Right to Education.

The petition stated that the young students are being educated at such institutes without any comprehensive and holistic framework, devoid of any standards of excellence.

Noida Sector 147 metro station averaging just 20 riders a day

Maximum footfall seen at Aqua Line Noida Sector 51 station

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

In the first five months of operations, the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC)'s Aqua Line has seen an average daily ridership of just over 13,000.

Noida Sector 147 metro station saw the lowest ridership with a daily ridership average of just 20.

The approximately 30-km-long Aqua Line runs between Noida and Greater Noida. With a daily average of 23, Noida Sector 145 station also featured among the top five stations with the lowest ridership figures. This is followed by Noida Sector 144 and 146 stations, which saw a daily ridership average of 36.</p

IN BRIEF

Govt. planning to set up crèche at Secretariat

NEW DELHI
Deputy CM Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said that the government is planning to set up a crèche at the Secretariat for the convenience of women. The Minister has asked the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) to submit a plan by June 15 after holding meeting with departments concerned.

Man arrested for killing gym trainer

NEW DELHI
A 32-year-old man allegedly involved in the killing of gym trainer Mohit Mor was arrested from Najafgarh, the police said on Wednesday. The accused has been identified as Sandeep Pehalwan of Najafgarh, the police said.

'Could not explain why one should vote for AAP'

NEW DELHI
AAP was not able to explain to the people why they should vote for them in the Lok Sabha polls, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday in an open letter to party workers, days after his party suffered a crushing defeat in the general election. In the letter, Mr. Kejriwal lauded his party workers for running a "superb" campaign that was considered to be one of the best in the country.

DJB approves new water treatment plant

Will augment production by 11%

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Wednesday approved the construction of a drinking water treatment plant in Chandrawal at a cost of ₹598 crore.

The plant, which is expected to be completed in three years, will have a capacity of 48 crore litres (477 MLD) per day.

It will augment the total drinking water production capacity by 11%.

Advanced technology

Advanced technology of ozonation and activated carbon will be used to ensure uninterrupted working of the plant. It will be able to treat high ammonia content up to the extent of 4 PPM (parts per million) in the raw water.

"The current plant can treat only up to 0.8 PPM of ammonia, but the new plant can treat up to five times more than the level of ammonia in the raw water by ozonation," a Delhi Jal Board official said.

The DJB had complained in the past that water being released by Haryana to Delhi, which was then treated to use as drinking water,

had high level of ammonia.

The new plant will cater to about 22 lakh people living in Old Delhi, Civil Lines, Karol Bagh, Rajender Nagar, Naraina, parts of Delhi Cantonment area and NDMC areas among others, according to the DJB.

The city needs 1,120 million gallons (MGD) of water per day. But the average water production is about 900 MGD and on certain days, it peaks to 935 MGD.

The board has also approved the construction of a water museum, training centre and a waterbody at Kilkoti on a 3-acre plot at a cost of ₹12 crore.

The water museum will spread information on the historical relation of Delhi with the Yamuna and its transition from water utility to comprehensive solution provider.

"It will also have a dedicated training centre for schoolchildren, professionals, RWAs, NGOs and public at large on water conservation, rainwater harvesting, de-centralised waste water treatment, waterbody conservation and lake rejuvenation and groundwater recharge," a Delhi Jal Board spokesperson said.

"Now, untreated waste is

India's biggest STP to come up at Okhla: DJB

The ₹1,161-crore plant is likely to be completed by June 2022

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

India's largest sewage treatment plant (STP) will come up at Okhla at a cost of ₹1,161 crore. The work for setting up the plant has been awarded to France-based Suez Group and it is likely to be completed by June 2022, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said on Wednesday.

The plant with a capacity of 56.4 crore litres per day, when functional, will complete the Yamuna Action Plan III, which was envisioned to clean the river, said DJB vice-chairperson, Dinesh Mohanija.

The plant will remove 41,200 kg of organic pollutant load and 61,600 kg of solid load per day. This will help in reducing the pollutants in the Yamuna, according to the DJB.

The plant will cater to around 40 lakh residents of Chandni Chowk, Daryaganj, NDMC areas, Nizamuddin, Okhla, Badarpur, Kalkaji, Malviya Nagar, Katwaria Sarai, Lajpat Nagar, Greater Kailash and South Delhi - from Munirka to Badarpur - among others.

Since the closure of the

Sewage treatment plant

- The facility will have a capacity of **56.4 crore litre per day**
- Estimated to be operational by June 2022
- Total cost is pegged at **₹1,161 crore**
- To help reduce pollution in the Yamuna
- Treated water will be redirected to the river
- It will cater to around **40 lakh residents**

pond remains non-utilised and the revival work is estimated to be completed in 18 months. Once the ash pond becomes functional, it will reduce the organic load pollutant flowing into the Yamuna by 675 kg.

14 mini STPs

The DJB also approved construction of 14 mini sewage treatment plants under the Najafgarh drain zone, along with laying of internal sewage system in Somesh Vihar, Jhuljhuli and Dichaon Kalan group of colonies, covering a population of around eight lakh. The treated water from these plants will be used to revive 56 waterbodies in the area, said Mr. Mohanija.

2 bike-borne men snatch gold chain from woman

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two bike-borne men allegedly snatched a 36-year-old woman's gold chain in North East Delhi's Jaffrabad on Wednesday, the police said. The incident took place at 3.30 p.m. when the woman, a staff at a nursing home here was returning home after work, they said.

Spotting the miscreants, the public tried to chase down the two men, DCP

(North-East) Atul Kumar Thakur said. In a bid to scare the people, one of the accused fired in the air. No one was injured in the incident, the officer said. The police received one empty round from the spot.

CCTV footage of the incident has been scanned and some suspects have been identified, he added.

One of the suspects have been apprehended and taken into police custody.

Man wanted in several cases held after gunfight

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

(Special Cell) P.S. Kushwah said.

According to the police, among others, the accused was involved in 2011 dacoity at Muthoot Finance and another case of robbery at Sunlight Colony.

On August 28 last year, he along with his accomplices Dhoon Singh, Gautam Ghish and Dinesh robbed a cash agent of ₹18 lakh near IP Park at Sunlight Colony, the police said.

The arrest was made following a tip-off that the accused would come to meet Dhoon Singh near Khajuri flyover.

Directorate of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand MDI Building, 2nd floor, HEC Campus, Dhurwa, Ranchi - 04
Tele Fax : 0651-2331828
Email: dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com / jtdcl@gmail.com

Ref. No. :- 533/2019
TENDER NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ADVENTURE SPORTS EQUIPMENTS AT CHANDIL AND NETARHAT ON PPP MODE

The Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Limited (JTDCL) an undertaking of Government of Jharkhand intends to select agency for Procurement, Installation, Development, Operation and Management of Adventure Sports Equipments at Chandil and Netarhat On PPP Mode (for 5 (five) years), therefore invites interested agencies to submit their Bids.

Interested agencies may download the document from 29/05/2019 onwards from the Department of Tourism website:-www.jharkhandtourism.gov.in/and submit their Applications. The Application Due Date is on 18/06/2019 at 1400 hours.

A pre-application conference will be held on 07/06/2019 by 1600 Hours at Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Limited, 5, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Ranchi, Jharkhand – 834001, Phone No: +(91)-651-2331828 & 2331643 Fax: +(91)-651-2331828, E-MAIL: jtdcl@gmail.com.

All subsequent notifications, changes and amendments will be posted only on the website www.jharkhandtourism.gov.in/. Tender/Bid Document Fee is Rs. 2,240/- (Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty only) inclusive of GST (Not Refundable).

JTDCL reserves the right to cancel this invitation and/or invite fresh Applications with or without amendments to this invitation, without liability or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Director
PR 207287 (Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs) 19-20#D

Government of Jharkhand Water Resources Department Office of the Executive Engineer Waterways Division, Chaibasa Email Address :- eewwdchais-cer-jhr@nic.in

Very-Short e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender Reference No.: - WRD/WWD/CBSA/F2-01/2019-20 Dated. 24-05-2019

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Name of the work | Construction of New Divisional Office Building and Circle Office Building at Chaibasa |
| 2. | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Rs. 14877000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Eight Lacs Seventy Seven Thousand Only.) |
| 3. | Tender Fee & EMD | Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only.) and Rs. 2,98,000.00 (Rupees Two Lacs Ninety Eight Thousand Only.) |
| 4. | Period of Completion | 1 Years /365 Days |
| 5. | Date of Publication of Tender on website | 28-05-2019 at 11.00 Hrs. |
| 6. | Date / Time for download/Upload of bid documents | 28-05-2019 at 10.00 Hrs. to 15-06-2019 at 17.00 Hrs. |
| 8. | Last Date/ Time/ Place for receipt of bids | 17-06-2019 at 10.00 hrs to 15.00 Hrs. in Executive Engineer, Waterways Division, Chaibasa. |
| 9. | Date/Place of Bid Opening | 17-06-2019 at 15.00 Hrs. in Executive Engineer, Waterways Division, Chaibasa. |
| 10. | Name & address of office Inviting tender (Procurement Officer) | Executive Engineer, Waterways Division, Chaibasa. |
| 11. | Contact no. of Procurement officer | M. No. 9431103735 |
| 12. | Telephone number of e-Procurement cell | M.No. 8292322880 |

Note :- Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Estimated cost may vary.

Further details can be seen on website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR207125 (West Singhbhum)19-20*D

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Lucknow invites Open tender through E-tendering system on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender in Two packet systems from Advertising Agencies in prescribed proforma to permit three years contract of Sole advertising rights for commercial publicity at Various Station of Lucknow Division, payment of EMD and Tender Fees is paying through net banking or payment gateway.

Details of stations & Tender notice no., Reserve Price, EMD and Cost of bid document are as under-

| Tender Notice No. & Description of works | Estimated Value for 01 year (Reserve price in ₹) through online payment | Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (in ₹) through online payment |
|--|---|---|
| S.No.1-10-2019-GKPLC-SOLERIGHT | ₹ 42,58,868/- | ₹ 2,55,600/- |

Sole right advertisement of Gorakhpur Level crossing/Circulating area For 03 years.

Cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) (in ₹) through online payment: For S.No. 1 & 2: ₹ 5,000/-, Date and Time of Closing of Tender: For S.No. 1 & 2: Up to 14.00 hrs on 24.06.2019, Date and Time of Tender Opening: For S.No. 1 & 2: Up to 15.00 hrs on 24.06.2019, Validity of Tender: For S.No. 1 & 2: 90 days, Period of contract: For S.No. 1 & 2: 03 years, Web Site address: www.reps.gov.in.

CPR0/C-37 Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Lucknow

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Open Tender Notice

Regd. Office & Factory: (6th Milestone Gurugram Jaipur Highway, Behrampur Road, Khandwa, Gurugram (Haryana)) Tel. 0124-2215660, Tel/Fax 0124-2215389

E-mail: gm.hrec27@gmail.com

No. 386/EA/HREC

Dated: 28/5/19

INVESTIGATION DIVISION, GARHWA E – Procurement Short Notice

Tender Reference No- WRD/INVESTIGATION DIV GARH – 01/2019-20 (2nd Call)

1 Name of Work ERM Work of Uttamahi Irrigation Scheme

2 Estimated Cost of Work 11,36,91,725.00

3 Tender Fee 10000.00

4 Time of Complition 450 days

5 Date of Publication of Tender on Website 30/05/2019 2:00 pm

6 Last Date/Time for receipt of e – Tender on Website 15/06/2019 5:00 pm

7 Date of Opening e – Tender 18/06/2019 2:00 pm

8 Name & Address of Office Inviting Executive Engineer Investigation Division,Garhwa

9 Contact No. of e – Procurement Cell 8809866990

10 Helpline Number of e – Procurement Cell 06562-240841

11 Last Date of receipt of Hard Copy, Cost of Bid Document & EMD 17/06/2019 5:00 pm

Note : 1. Only e – Tender will be accepted.

2. Quoted Amount lesser than 10% of BOQ Amount will not be accepted.

3. Estimated cost may vary. Online BOQ Amount shall prevail.

Further Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer Investigation Division, Garhwa

P.R.201784 Water Resource(19-20):D

INVESTIGATION DIVISION, GARHWA E – Procurement Short Notice

Tender Reference No- WRD/INVESTIGATION DIV GARH – 01/2019-20 (2nd Call)

1 Name of Work ERM Work of Uttamahi Irrigation Scheme

2 Estimated Cost of Work 11,36,91,725.00

3 Tender Fee 10000.00

4 Time of Complition 450 days

5 Date of Publication of Tender on Website 30/05/2019 2

Now, FIRs at SP offices in Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday directed the registration of FIRs at the offices of the superintendents of police from next month if a local police station refuses to lodge the case.

The decision was taken in the wake of Alwar gang-rape case, where there was a delay in registering the first information report by the local police.

CM meeting

Mr. Gehlot said at a high-level meeting that the FIR registered with an SP's office would be forwarded to the concerned police station. The police station will get back to the SP's office with the FIR number within three hours, a statement said.

The Chief Minister said every single case where the FIR was not lodged in the local police station should be inquired. He also asked the officials to initiate action against the police personnel for not registering a case.

Attachment of AJL land in Panchkula confirmed

It was 'illegally' reallocated, says ED

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act Adjudicating Authority has confirmed the attachment of a Panchkula property worth more than ₹64 crore by the Enforcement Directorate in a case against the Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and others.

The land was "illegally" reallocated to the company, which runs *The National Herald*, when Bhupinder Singh Hooda was the Haryana Chief Minister.

NGT directs Railway Board to look into plea on pollution

'Loading, unloading from goods trains affects air quality'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking remedial action against pollution around a railway godown in U.P.'s Faizabad, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Railway Board to look into the plea and take appropriate action.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel also directed the Railway Board to consider devising in-house measures to curb pollution in the area.

"The Railway may consider in-house mechanism to ascertain causing of pollution at and around its premises and take remedial measures."

C Railways may consider in-house mechanism to ascertain causing of pollution at and around its premises and take remedial measures

JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL
NGT Chairperson
environmental norms," the Bench said.

The directions came after a report furnished by the Utter Pradesh Pollution Control Board acknowledged the fact that the area was affected due to pollution.

The UPPCB appears to have accepted the fact of pollution as it is stated in the report that UPPCB has issued direction to the station superintendent and goods

superintendents to construct a covered shed apart from undertaking sprinkling of water to contain the pollution caused due to loading or unloading from goods trains at the railway siding," the Bench observed.

Directing the pollution control board to assess the amount of compensation to be levied, the Bench added, "In view of the findings that air pollution is being caused, the UPPCB may assess and recover compensation for damage caused and the cost of restoration from the polluters."

The plea moved at the N.G.T. alleged that the loading and unloading of cement, fertilisers and grains was affecting the air quality adversely and causing respiratory problems.

New approach sought to deal with juveniles in conflict with law

28% children in 6-10 age group go missing in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

About 28% of children in Rajasthan in the age group of 6 to 10 go missing. Among the juveniles of 11 to 15 years, one out of three runs away from home. These children constitute 27% of those who need care and protection under the law.

These figures were released at a workshop on "Child protection and dealing with children in contact with railways" here earlier this week.

Experts attending the workshop called for adopting a new approach, guided by compassion and empathy, as well as behavioural

Rajasthan Cong. urges Rahul to continue as party president

Authorises him to carry out organisational changes in party's State unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Amid the bickering over the party's rout in Lok Sabha elections, the Rajasthan Congress's executive committee on Wednesday passed a resolution requesting Rahul Gandhi to continue as the Congress president and authorised him to carry out organisational changes in the party's State unit, if needed.

AICC general secretary in charge of Rajasthan Avinash Pande said after the PCC meeting at the party's State headquarters here – the first after the declaration of election results in which it lost all the 25 Lok Sabha seats in the State – that the "spirit of struggle and commitment to principles" remained unchanged despite the defeat.

"The executive committee has accepted all the challenges, failures and shortcomings which led to this mandate... It is our collective responsibility," Mr. Pande said, while indicating that



Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Deputy CM Sachin Pilot at a party meeting in Jaipur on Wednesday. ■ PTI

there would be no immediate changes in the party's State leadership.

In its hour-long meeting attended by PCC president and Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, CM Ashok Gehlot, State Ministers and the party's election candidates and office-bearers, the PCC endorsed the Congress Working Committee's resolution passed in New Delhi on May 25, which had asked Mr. Gandhi to continue in office.

While the executive com-

mittee reposed faith in Mr. Gandhi's leadership, there was no discussion at the meeting on the factors responsible for the party's humiliating defeat in the State, where it could not win even a single seat despite its victory in the Assembly polls barely five months ago. PCC vice-president Archana Sharma said the matter would be discussed in other meetings to be convened shortly.

No reference was made to the purported resignation of Agriculture Minister Lal-

chand Kataria and the demand raised by Ministers Uday Lal Anjana and Ramesh Meena for introspection and a detailed analysis of the defeat. Uncertainty prevailed over Mr. Kataria's "resignation letter", which was released to the media on WhatsApp, as he was unreachable.

BSP support

Meanwhile, the Bahujan Samaj Party has announced that it will continue to support the Congress government in the State in order to "stop communal and casteist forces". The six BSP MLAs elected in the 2018 Assembly polls have extended support to the State government.

BSP vice-president Ramji Gautam said in a statement that the party chief Mayawati had instructed the MLAs not to go against the party's ideology or play into the hands of communal forces. Any MLA flouting the instructions would be expelled from the party, he warned.

Congress skips Grand Alliance meeting in Patna

RJD resolves to take LS poll drubbing as a challenge

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Amid dissenting voices demanding introspection and accountability over the past few days, the Rashtriya Janata Dal on Wednesday asserted that the party is united and would contest the next State Assembly elections scheduled for 2020 under Tejashwi Yadav's leadership. RJD leaders also said Mr. Yadav would continue as the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly.



Tejashwi Yadav will remain Leader of the Opposition. ■

The RJD had called a two-day meeting of party leaders and legislators to mull over its humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha poll. The party contested 20 of the State's 40 parliamentary seats as part of a Grand Alliance but couldn't win any, ally Congress picking up a solitary seat.

After the conclusion of the RJD's two-day meeting, Grand Alliance leaders reached former CM Rabri Devi's residence for a meeting. Alliance party leaders Sharad Yadav, Upendra Kushwaha and Mukesh Sahni attended the meeting but no leader from the State Congress turned up.

"I was not aware of any such meeting," said State Congress chief Madan Mohan Jha. The panel will submit its re-

port in two weeks.

Earlier, senior party leader Raghuveer Prasad Singh had said that "delay in seat-sharing arrangement and uneven distribution of tickets" had led to party's defeat. He also had admitted that the Grand Alliance was not united from the start and existed "only on paper". Mr. Singh, who lost in Vaishali against Lok Janshakti Party candidate Veena Devi, also held the rift between Mr. Yadav and Tej Pratap, the two sons of party chief Lalu Prasad, as one of the reasons for the party's drubbing.

At the meeting, a three-member panel comprising senior party leaders Jagannand Singh, Abdul Bari Siddiqui and Alok Mehta was constituted to interact with party workers and leaders to ascertain the reasons behind the party's poor performance in the Lok Sabha poll. The panel will submit its re-

Tension in Haryana village over land

Stockyard 'set on fire'; police deployed in strength

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Tension gripped Tibbi village in Haryana's Fatehabad district on Wednesday after Scheduled Caste families in the village accused the upper caste men of setting a stockyard on fire and killing a calf. The SC families have given a written complaint to the police in this connection.

The two communities have been at loggerheads for the past couple of months over a panchayat land with the upper caste men accusing the SC families of encroachment.

According to the police,

the blaze was set off around noon when a team of Revenue Department officials accompanied by the upper caste men in the village was carrying out the measurement of the disputed panchayat land.

No eyewitness

"The stockyard, around 200 metres away from the place where the team was carrying out measurement, suddenly caught fire. The cow managed to free itself and escaped with minor burns. The calf, however, died. It is not clear whether the fire was accidental, caused by negligence or done inten-

tional. There is no eyewitness for the incident," Fatehabad SP Vijay Partap Singh told *The Hindu*.

However, the SC families have given a written complaint to the police in this connection accusing around six upper caste men of being behind the incident.

Mr. Singh said an FIR would be lodged in the matter soon.

Police deployment

As a precautionary measure, adequate number of police personnel have been deployed in the village under the supervision of a DSP-

Farmers' protest



Farmers seeking loan waiver protest in Bhopal on Wednesday. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-III UDHAMPUR

Email: tlmdudh@gmail.com Fax No. : 01922-270287

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (RE-TENDER-2)

E- NIT NO.: TLMD-III/UDH/13 OF 2019-20, DATED: 23-05-2019

Executive Engineer (TLMD-III) Udhampur, for an e-tender of Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites to receive online e-bids for "Survey, Soil Testing/Investigation, Engineering Design, Fabrication of Lattice Type Tower Structures, Galvanization, Supply of Structures, Laying of Foundations, Protection Works, Erection of Towers, Laying & Stringing of ACSR/PANTHER Conductor Testing and Commissioning including transportation, insurance, handling, storage of material at site for realignment of 132 KV D/C Chennani-Srinagar Transmission Line due to four lanning of NH-44 near village Karol Tehsil RamganDist, Ramgan,approx. 1,532km in all respects as specified in technical specification.. Submission of e-bid against this standard Bidding Document (SBD) shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedure, terms and conditions of the standard bidding document with full understanding of its implications. The tender document is available at website <http://tlmdtenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view/download the e-bid online and update time mentioned in the table below:

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Scope of Work:- | Survey, Soil Testing/Investigation, Engineering Design,Fabrication of Lattice Type Tower Structures, Galvanization, Supply of Structures, Laying of Foundations, Protection Works, Erection of Towers, Laying & Stringing of ACSR/PANTHER Conductor Testing and Commissioning including transportation, insurance, handling, storage of material at site for realignment of 132 KV D/C Chennani-Srinagar Transmission Line due to four lanning of NH-44 near village Karol Tehsil RamganDist, Ramgan,approx. 1,532km | | | |
| Estimated Cost:- | Rs 212.43 Two hundred twelve Lacs and fort three thousands only | | | |
| Earnest Money:- | Rs 4.25 lacs (Rupees Four lacs twenty five Thousands only) | | | |
| Cost of Tender Documents:- | Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) | | | |
| Last date of e-bids submission online:- | 05-06-2019 upto 3:00 PM | | | |
| Class of Contractor:- | "A" Class | | | |
| OTHER DETAILS | | | | |
| 1) Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document | The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://tlmdtenders.gov.in from date 23-05-2019 (6:00 PM onwards) | | | |
| 2) Pre Bid Meeting | Shall be conducted on 30-05-2019 at 11:00AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-III Udhampur JK& | | | |
| 3) e-Bid submission (starts) date & time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format), | 23-05-2019 from 7:00 PM onward | | | |
| 4) e-Bid submission (end) date & time | 05-06-2019 up to 3:00 PM | | | |
| 5) Online Commercial & Technical E-Bid opening date & time. | 06-06-2019 at 11:00PM | | | |
| DIP/J-791-P | | | | |
| Sd/- Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maint., Division-III, Udhampur | | | | |

CCRS
CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN SIDDHA, Chennai, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India
Anna Govt. Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai - 600106
Phone: 044-2611925, 26214809, Web: <http://crisiddha.tn.nic.in>

CORRIGENDUM

Walk in interview for the post of Research Associate (Siddha) and Consultant (IT) scheduled to be held on 03.06.2019 has been postponed to 07/06/2019 Friday at 10.30 AM due to administrative reasons.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 98203 50726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL

PH: 98110 06590

gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E)
BUILDING MAINTENANCE DIVISION-4
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ROOM NO. 4, 3RD FLOOR, MOHAN SINGH PLACE, BKS MARG,
NEW DELHI-110001, TELEPHONE NO. 011-23365769
e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID No.: 2019_NDMC_173065_1
Name of work: Repair & maintenance -Buildings
Sub Head: Celebration of 5th International Day of 'Yoga' 2019 providing video wall and sound system
Estimated Cost: Rs. 6,53,074/-
Date of release

Another Trinamool Cong. MLA joins BJP

Monirul Islam is the third legislator to desert the ruling party in West Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
In another jolt to the Trinamool Congress, its MLA, Monirul Islam, on Wednesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, the third legislator to desert the ruling party in West Bengal after the reverses it suffered in the Lok Sabha poll.

Two TMC legislators and over 50 Councillors had joined the BJP on Tuesday.

Vindicates PM's slogan

The BJP projected the decision of the TMC's Muslim MLA to join the party as a vindication of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas* (together with all, development for all, trust of all).



TMC MLA Monirul Islam joining the BJP in the presence of Mukul Roy and Kailash Vijayvargiya in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mr. Modi gave the slogan in his first address to the MPs of the BJP-led NDA after the Lok Sabha poll results were declared. He had asked them to win over the trust of mi-

norities with their work.

Besides Mr. Islam, who represents Labpur in Birbhum, a few other TMC leaders, including former MLA Gadadhar Hazra, also joined the

BJP in presence of senior leaders Mukul Roy and Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Mr. Roy, a former TMC leader, termed the development as "very significant" and said it vindicates Mr. Modi's call to the party to win over the trust of minorities.

Asked about some controversial comments made by Mr. Islam earlier on supporting violence, Mr. Vijayvargiya said the BJP does not believe in any form of violence and there is no place for such views once a leader joins the party.

More to come

BJP leaders claimed that more TMC MLAs will join the party in the coming days.

Mr. Islam said that minorities are now "supporting"

Mr. Modi for his development agenda.

Meanwhile, BJP sources in Kolkata claimed that some former MPs and six more TMC legislators – four from south Bengal and two from north Bengal – are likely to switch sides in a few days.

"Six TMC MLAs are likely to join us soon. Many more Councillors are also in line. Just wait and watch," a senior BJP leader said.

The Trinamool Congress, however, tried to downplay the desertions. "One suspended MLA of Trinamool joined BJP yesterday. The others were from the Congress and the CPI(M). The number of Councillors is 6. That too they were forced at gunpoint to do so," the TMC claimed in a tweet.

Saradha scam: CBI quizzes IPS officer

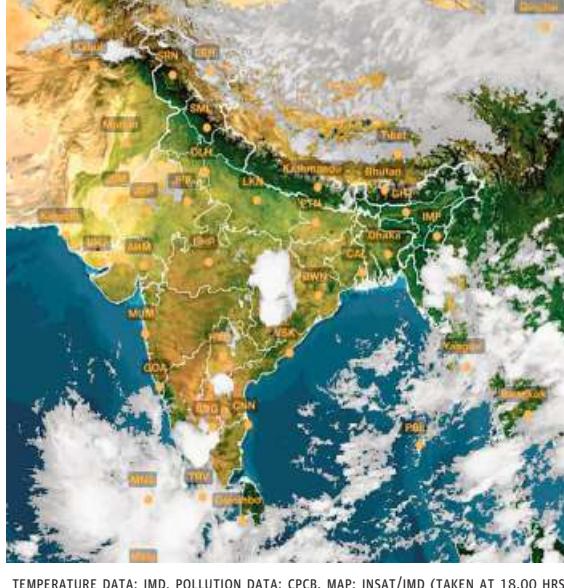
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA
Police officer Arnab Ghosh, one of the members of the SIT that initially probed the Saradha scam, was grilled for more than nine hours by the Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday over alleged suppression of evidence, sources said.

The IPS officer has been asked to face interrogation again on Thursday, sources in the probe agency said. Mr. Ghosh had reached the CBI office at the CGO Complex in Salt Lake at 10 a.m. after he was served summons. The interrogation continued late in the evening for more than nine hours, the sources said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over south interior Karnataka, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Heat wave conditions likely in many/isolated parts over west Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana and Tamil Nadu

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|-------------|-------------------|------|-----|---------------|-------------------|------|-----|
| Agartala | ... 36.5 ... | 27.0 | 2.0 | Kozhikode | 15.6 ... | 24.5 | 2.0 |
| Ahmedabad | ... 44.3 ... | 28.3 | 1.0 | Kurnool | ... 43.5 ... | 31.3 | 2.0 |
| Aizawl | ... 31.7 ... | 19.4 | 1.0 | Lucknow | ... 43.9 ... | 23.4 | 2.0 |
| Allahabad | ... 47.6 ... | 26.8 | 1.0 | Madurai | ... 41.2 ... | 29.0 | 2.0 |
| Bengaluru | 0.3 ... 34.0 ... | 23.0 | 1.0 | Mangaluru | ... 35.3 ... | 26.8 | 2.0 |
| Bhopal | ... 44.2 ... | 29.2 | 1.0 | Mumbai | ... 34.4 ... | 27.2 | 2.0 |
| Bhubaneswar | ... 39.1 ... | 26.6 | 1.0 | Mysuru | ... 19.6 ... | 20.2 | 2.0 |
| Chandigarh | ... 42.4 ... | 24.4 | 1.0 | New Delhi | ... 43.1 ... | 24.6 | 2.0 |
| Chennai | ... 38.0 ... | 30.6 | 1.0 | Patna | ... 41.5 ... | 27.0 | 2.0 |
| Coimbatore | 60.5 ... 35.2 ... | 22.4 | 1.0 | Port Blair | 7 ... 27.2 ... | 24.8 | 2.0 |
| Dehradun | ... 39.7 ... | 20.9 | 1.0 | Puducherry | ... 36.8 ... | 29.2 | 2.0 |
| Gangtok | ... 33.5 ... | 20.2 | 1.0 | Pune | ... 39.7 ... | 23.4 | 2.0 |
| Goa | ... 34.5 ... | 27.2 | 1.0 | Raipur | ... 43.1 ... | 29.2 | 2.0 |
| Guwahati | 1.6 ... 34.2 ... | 24.6 | 1.0 | Ranchi | ... 41.0 ... | 24.9 | 2.0 |
| Hubballi | ... 38.0 ... | 23.0 | 1.0 | Shillong | 14.2 ... 25.1 ... | 16.0 | 2.0 |
| Hyderabad | ... 41.8 ... | 30.6 | 1.0 | Shimla | ... 28.5 ... | 18.2 | 2.0 |
| Imphal | ... 32.6 ... | 17.7 | 1.0 | Srinagar | ... 29.7 ... | 11.3 | 2.0 |
| Jaipur | ... 44.5 ... | 30.2 | 1.0 | Trivandrum | ... 34.6 ... | 27.1 | 2.0 |
| Kochi | 3.2 ... 34.0 ... | 25.6 | 1.0 | Tiruchi | ... 41.2 ... | 26.8 | 2.0 |
| Kohima | 3.2 ... 28.0 ... | 16.6 | 1.0 | Vijayawada | ... 39.4 ... | 30.0 | 2.0 |
| Kolkata | ... 37.6 ... | 28.8 | 1.0 | Visakhapatnam | ... 33.4 ... | 27.0 | 2.0 |

(Rainfall in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Yesterday

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

| CITIES | SO ₂ | NO ₂ | CO | PIN 2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|---------|------------|------|
| Ahmedabad | 95 | 93 | 88 | 69 | — | — |
| Bengaluru | 13 | 82 | 55 | 50 | ... 85 ... | ■ |
| Chennai | 13 | 16 | 55 | 195 | ... 29 ... | ■ |
| Delhi | 19 | 49 | 34 | 199 | 299 | ■ |
| Hyderabad | 17 | 84 | 24 | 93 | 136 | ■ |
| Kolkata | 3 | 22 | 13 | 81 | 108 | ■ |
| Lucknow | .9 | 35 | 51 | 250 | — | ■ |
| Mumbai | 14 | 12 | 84 | 25 | 60 | ■ |
| Pune | — | 32 | — | — | — | ■ |
| Visakhapatnam | 26 | 55 | 51 | 61 | 108 | ■ |

In observation made at 4.00 pm, Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 265 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Elor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 39

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.

NO₂: 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

12 Manipur Congress MLAs quit posts

'They want to reach out to the people'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL
Less than a week after the Congress lost Manipur's two parliamentary seats, 12 MLAs of the party on Wednesday resigned from their posts in the Pradesh Congress Committee.

Speculation on

Their resignation triggered speculation about their possible defection to the Bharatiya Janata Party which heads a coalition government in the State.

Eight of the 28 Congress MLAs had joined the BJP around the time the coalition was forged.

Govindas Konthoujam, one of the 12 MLAs who gave up party posts, said their move did not mean leaving the Congress.

"There is no question of

Naveen's team approves BJD poll manifesto

Chief Minister asks his Ministers to work towards 'a new, empowered Odisha'

EDUCATIONAL



Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, CM Naveen Patnaik and his newly appointed Ministers in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

where women are equal partners in growth and development, an empowered Odisha which is inclusive of all vulnerable sections in its landscape of development, an empowered Odisha where the dreams of our youth come true. The world should know that Odisha's time has come. And our times start now," Mr. Patnaik added.

Addressing the meeting hours after the swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Patnaik said that 365 days from today on May 29, 2020, his government will present before the people the government's achievements vis-à-vis promises.

Urging the Council of Ministers to put in their best efforts in this regard, he asked the Ministers to focus on transformation towards "a new Odisha - an empowered Odisha - where poverty will be a thing of the past".

"They have just relinquished their posts of office-bearers for concentrating on reaching out to the people," said Congress spokesperson Ningombam Bupendra Meitei.

An empowered Odisha

the State had once again blessed them to serve them, Mr. Patnaik emphasised on the Ts of governance - Teamwork, Transparency and Technology leading to Transformation.

Fifth dimension
Adding a fifth dimension to this - Time - Mr. Patnaik said that time is of critical essence. He said that the State

government got international recognition during Cyclone Fani because of timely evacuation.

The State Cabinet approved enhancement of the number of beneficiaries under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentationscheme to 75 lakh families.

"This is 33 lakh more than the existing 42 lakh families. Fund release through direct benefit transfer starts from today with immediate effect and about 25 lakh additional families will be assisted in a week's time," Mr. Patnaik said after the meeting. As promised by Mr. Patnaik before the elections, the Cabinet also approved ₹1,000 crore worth of government business to be done by women self-help groups through the Mission Shakti programme.

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S

Facing dip in demand, State approves 'realistic' ₹4.24 lakh cr. annual credit plan

Poor loan offtake in agricultural sector necessitates move

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

Faced with a resource and credit crunch in the banking sector, the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) on Wednesday lowered the bar for the Annual Credit Plan (ACP), also called the total priority plan, for 36 districts in the State.

The target is a "realistic" ₹4.24 lakh crore as against ₹4.34 lakh crore the previous year, in the face of consistent negative year-on-year growth owing to low offtake in the agriculture sector, officials said. Last year's target was one of the highest in the country.

The committee members said there is a dip in demand for credit. The total plan for agriculture has been set at ₹87,322 crore this time, as compared to ₹85,464 crore the previous year. "There is generally a low demand for credit. Otherwise too, banks are facing a resource crunch. This is one of the reasons the target set this time appears



Think agriculture: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis urged bankers to think "less commercial and more agriculture" and asked banks to give maximum loans to farmers. ■ FILE PHOTO

to be more realistic in nature," said a senior bureaucrat.

In 2018-19, the committee had accepted an ambitious plan target of ₹4,34,591 crore but managed to achieve only 73% of it at the end of the financial year.

During the corresponding period of the previous year, the achievement was 76%, and 96% in 2016-17, accord-

ing to the data.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis urged bankers to think "less commercial and more agriculture". He appealed to banks to fully achieve the latest target, giving maximum loans to farmers and bringing them into institutional credit system.

"This forum is not commercial. Crop loans are to save our farmers from private

borrowing. We need to understand the socio-economic aspect. Agriculture is the most important aspect of our economy and (a major) contributor to GDP. Bankers need to make agriculture their priority," said Mr. Fadnavis.

The 143rd meeting of the SLBC also discussed the poor monsoon scenario in the State, with only 73.60% of

the normal rainfall recorded between June 2018 and October 2018. As many as 41 talukas received below 50% rainfall, the forum was told.

The banks also presented the latest additions to various schemes, including 11.22 lakh subscribers under the Atal Pension Yojana, 40.22 lakh enrolment in the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and 97 lakh in the Pradhan Mantri Suvarsha Beema Yojana.

Under the newly-approved Stand Up India, ₹62,973 lakh was disbursed to 3,717 beneficiaries.

The Government of India had launched the scheme to facilitate loans between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe borrowers.

Officials said preparations for the Annual Credit Plan begin in February every year. The State credit plan is prepared by consolidating the District Credit Plan and after discussing it in the SLBC.

Raj Thackeray meets Pawar

Sets off talks on MNS joining Opposition front

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A day after opposition parties hinted that the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) could be part of the larger front to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Shiv Sena alliance in the Assembly polls, MNS chief Raj Thackeray reportedly held a meeting with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Tuesday evening.

The meeting, which took place at Mr. Pawar's residence, lasted for about 45 minutes. Earlier on Tuesday Opposition parties had agreed to keep the Congress-NCP on track for the Assembly polls, despite the drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls.

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MNS president Raj Thackeray campaigned against the BJP in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, holding several rallies which drew crowds. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

did not have any idea on the discussion between two leaders. "If the meeting has taken place, then it is better between the two top leaders of the each party and we have no details," said NCP's national spokesperson Nawab Malik.

Both leaders had several meetings prior to Lok Sabha polls. The MNS did not contest the Lok Sabha polls, but Mr. Thackeray campaigned against the BJP, holding several rallies which drew crowds.

However, the saffron alliance won 41 of the 48 seats in the State. The Congress and NCP could win only five seats together.

The poll result was also seen as a failure of Mr. Thackeray as it was claimed that he failed to convert his party's votes in favour of the opposition.

Where's the dam?



Dry days: The Vena dam near Nagpur, which caters to the needs of MIDC, Ordnance Factory and the Wadi area, dried up completely on Wednesday. The intense heatwave in the region, with the temperature at 47.2 degree Celsius on Wednesday, has this year claimed 13 lives. ■ SUDARSHAN

Congress workers to meet, introspect

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

After it's drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections, Congress organisations in the State are set to introspect on what went wrong.

The State unit Youth Congress has called for an open dialogue on June 3 to introspect the results. Former and current office-bearers of the party's student wing National Students Union of India (NSUI) and Youth Congress

are among those who have been invited to voice their opinion to find out where did the party go wrong and to discuss the future strategy.

"Though Lok Sabha elections results are shocking for the Congress, we humbly accept the mandate given by the nation. The Congress is going through a difficult phase and youth need to stay united in same old fighting spirit in such adverse political circumstances," said Sa-

cjeejet Tambe-Patil, president, Maharashtra Youth Congress.

Mr. Tambe-Patil said it is time for the young workers of the Congress to come together and put a formidable fight against the Bharatiya Janata Party-Shiv Sena in Maharashtra. "It is our duty to ensure that Congress comes back to power in the State and for which we have to decide the future strategy," he said, adding that the meeting will dis-

cuss how to go forward for Assembly polls and which programs should be highlighted in front of the people.

"Assembly polls are different than the Lok Sabha polls. We have invited all the workers to ensure the focus is back on party organisation and to let everyone talk as openly as possible. It will bring out some negative points which can be tackled in the course of time as well," he said.

Sena MP Mane calls upon Raju Shetti

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A rare moment of political grace was witnessed on Wednesday when Dhairya Sheel Mane, newly-elected Shiv Sena MP from Hatkanangale, called upon Raju Shetti, the Swabhiman Paksha chief, and sought the blessings of Mr. Shetti's kin.

Mr. Shetti welcomed the 38-year-old Mr. Mane to his office in Kolhapur where they embraced each other. Mr. Mane later went to Mr. Shetti's home and sought the blessings of his 86-year-old mother, Ratnabai and his wife, Sangeeta Shetti.

"I regard him [Mr. Mane] as my grandson and hope he will work for the welfare of his constituency [Hatkanangale] like my son has been doing for so many years," said the octogenarian Ms. Shetti.

On his part, an emotionally overwhelmed Mr. Mane said he had made this visit

specially to seek the blessing of Mr. Shetti's mother, who he referred to as *aaji* (grandmother).

"Raju Shetti is my elder and a tall farmers' leader in this region. But most of all, I wanted to seek the blessings of Mr. Shetti's mother, who is akin to my grandmother, to begin my work as a newly-elected MP on a positive note," said Mr. Mane.

Mr. Shetti said he was happy and pleased that Mr. Mane had visited him.

"Whether we like it or not, the onset of any election comes with its baggage of personal animosity and antagonism. However, once the fight is over, it is not right for this acrimony to persist," Mr. Shetti said.

A two-time MP from Hatkanangale in Kolhapur, Mr. Shetti, lost to Mr. Mane by a margin of 96,000 votes in what turned out to be one of the biggest upsets in the State.

Will treat waste I generate, says Goa CM

Pramod Sawant nominates three others to take similar oath

PRAKASH KAMAT
PANAJI

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday took an oath to take responsibility for treating waste generated in government offices and nominated three others, including leader of the Opposition, to take a similar oath.

Addressing a press conference at his official residence, Mr. Sawant said he would be setting up bio-digesters in all government offices to treat waste, and urged citizens to do so as well.

"I will treat the waste I generate myself. My secretariat, my government offices will also be part of this process," Mr. Sawant said after taking the oath, a day ahead of Goa Statehood Day.

"I have also nominated Deputy Chief Ministers Vijai



Going green: Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant looks at a home compost machine to treat the garbage generated at his official residence on Wednesday. ■ ATISH POMBURFEL

Sardesai, Manohar Aigaonkar and Leader of the Opposition to take a similar oath. Let leaders start treating their own waste. People will emulate them," said the Chief Minister.

Mr. Sawant said schools and panchayats would also be involved in the oath-

taking process on the occasion of Goa Statehood Day, in order to improve cleanliness and rein in the garbage menace.

The Chief Minister also said households should start investing in bio-digesters or make them on their own, but said that while the

government would look to subsidise bio-digesters, there was no question of the government giving them away for free.

"Home composters cost ₹1,000 to ₹7,000. You could also make one from a bucket," Mr. Sawant said.

Piling up of garbage on the State's beaches as well as in rural and urban areas in recent years has been a cause for concern for the government and tourism industry.

A garbage dump in South Goa's Sonsoddo has been emitting smoke due to a fire triggered by combustible methane gas pockets in the dump, and the government has been unable to douse it. "I am monitoring the situation on a day-to-day basis. Four firefighting vehicles are already there. We will be controlling it in a few days," he said.

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IN BRIEF



Jagan Reddy invokes divine blessings

TIRUMALA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister-designate Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy offered prayers at the Lord Venkateswara temple here on Wednesday. He was on his maiden visit to the temple after leading his party to a landslide victory in the election. Later, Mr. Reddy, wearing the traditional red headgear, visited the Pedda Dargah in Kadapa and offered 'chadar'. Then he took a helicopter to reach Puliwindula, where he offered prayers at the CSI Church.

WB to give first tranche of \$250m loan to Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Extending support to the government's comprehensive flood recovery efforts and to build greater resilience to future shocks, the World Bank on Wednesday agreed to provide development policy loan of \$250 million as the first tranche for the Rebuild Kerala Initiative. The World Bank's commitment was made after three days of tripartite negotiations among the Kerala government, Department of Economic Affairs of the Union government, and the World Bank officials in New Delhi.

Masala bond repayment will be prompt: Minister

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Repayment of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board's (KIIFB) rupee-denominated masala bonds by 2030 would not be an issue despite the financial crisis looming over the State, Finance Minister T. M. Thomas Isaac said in the Assembly on Wednesday. He reiterated that the repayment would be prompt as the petrol cess and up to 50% of motor vehicle tax being collected in the State would be given as grant to KIIFB.

Jagan to be sworn in today

Thousands expected to arrive in Vijayawada for the event

G. VENKATARAMANA RAO

VIJAYAWADA

The stage is set for the swearing in of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh at a modest function at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium here on Thursday.

The ceremony will be held at 12.23 p.m. While a large number of people are expected to come from every corner of the State to witness the event, arrangements could be made to accommodate just about 40,000 people in and around the stadium.

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and DMK president M.K. Stalin will attend the function. Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan, who will administer the oath to Mr. Jagan Reddy, is in the city.

The Chief Minister-designate personally made calls to invite BJP State president



All set: Preparations on for the swearing-in of Jagan Mohan Reddy in Vijayawada on Wednesday. • CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

Kanna Lakshminarayana, national leaders of the Left parties Sitaram Yechury and Suravaram Sudhakara Reddy, Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan, matinee idol K. Chiranjeevi, Congress leaders N. Raghuveera Reddy and Rajya Sabha member K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao.

Naidu not to attend

Mr. Jagan Reddy also invited leader of the main Opposition in the State, TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu,

to the ceremony, but Mr. Naidu has decided not to attend and would instead send senior MLAs Payyavula Keshav, K. Achannai and Ganta Srinivasa Rao to greet Mr. Jagan Reddy at his residence. They would be carrying Mr. Naidu's congratulatory message.

Later, Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao and Mr. Jagan Reddy will travel together to New Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

No consensus on Cabinet reshuffle

Karnataka leaders divided on whether it should be a rejig or an expansion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Leaders of the Congress and the Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S), who held a series of meetings with Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and All India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge of Karnataka K.C. Venugopal on Wednesday, did not arrive at a consensus on the proposal to expand or reshuffle the Cabinet.

The issue may now be placed before the Congress high command.

Quelling dissidence

The leaders have been discussing the Cabinet rejig as an option to quell dissidence and stop MLAs from switching over to the BJP. Coordinating committee chief Siddaramaiah, speaking after the Congress Legislature Party meet, claimed that the issue was not discussed.

On Wednesday morning,



Hard times: G. Parameshwara, Siddaramaiah and others at the CLP meeting on Wednesday. • V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

ers of ministerial berths.

It is learnt that differences cropped up between the coalition partners on the issue. While Mr. Kumaraswamy was in favour of a Cabinet reshuffle, Mr. Siddaramaiah wanted only an expansion by filling three vacancies. The Congress leaders, it is said, will approach the high command

'A victory for self-esteem'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANDYA

Sumalatha, MP-elect, said on Wednesday that her victory against Nikhil, son of Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, was for the "self-esteem" of the people of Mandya. She was speaking at the 67th birth anniversary of her husband M.H. Ambareesh.

for the final word, though the high command itself in disarray after party president Rahul Gandhi's plans to step down from the chief's post. Though there are three vacant Cabinet berths, nearly a dozen Congress MLAs are aspiring for them. Moreover, some MLAs have rejected the offer of posts of chairman to government boards.

Gaganyaan astronaut training pact finalised

Air Force and ISRO to work together

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Indian Air Force and the Indian Space Research Organisation signed an MoU on Wednesday for imparting training to Indian astronauts for the ISRO's Gaganyaan programme.

The development formally involves IAF's Bengaluru-based medical arm, the Institute of Aerospace Medicine, as the nodal centre to train the first set of Indian astronauts. The ₹10,000-crore Gaganyaan is planned for 2022, the 75th year of Independence.

ISRO chairman K. Sivan, who was present at the event, said from Delhi: "This is the formal beginning of the screening and training of IAF candidates for the human space mission. We, that is ISRO and the IAF, will do it together." It would be a long process, taking about one and a half years – till the end of 2020 roughly.

ISRO has suggested that eventually 10 candidates be trained for the space travel.

But only three astronauts will be involved in circling the Earth for about seven days from a distance of 400 km.

Power poles shifted to make way for statue

Steps being taken to ensure smooth journey of massive Vishnu statue that will be installed in Bengaluru



Mammoth effort: Vishwaroopam Mahavishnu statue at the Ejipura bus station in Bengaluru on Wednesday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Over 35 electric poles are being shifted, while footpaths are cleared and a few houses are being demolished at Ejipura in Bengaluru to make way for the journey of the massive 64-foot Vishnu statue that will be installed at the Kothandaramaswamy temple in the area.

Single rock
The statue, which has been carved out of a single rock at Korakkottai village near Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu, reached the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border on Sunday night. The idol of Vishwaroopam

pa Mahavishnu, that weighs 300 tonnes, is being transported in the bed of a long 240-wheeled truck.

After a halt at Madiwala, it

has been parked close to the Vivek Nagar police station on Wednesday night. After having traversed nearly 300 km over six months, the last 4

km stretch through the congested, narrow bylanes of Ejipura is proving to be a hurdle.

While Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officials cleared out footpath encroachments, more than 35 electric poles stand in the way.

'A challenge'

Bescom officials said they were shifting the poles on Wednesday and Thursday, and over 30 workers were being engaged in the work. "It is a challenge, but we are doing it in two phases: 15 electric poles on Wednesday, and further 20 more on

Thursday. Electricity supply has been cut to around 1,000 people, who have been intimidated in advance," said a Bescom engineer supervising the shifting operations.

Meanwhile, three small houses have been identified for shifting and demolition as part of efforts to widen the road. The Kothandaramaswamy Charitable Trust, which is monitoring the project, will compensate for the losses, said a member of the Trust.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic-East) K.V. Jagadeesh said the movement was being coordinated without affecting traffic.

Row in Kerala Assembly over education reforms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Members of the Opposition locked horns with the government in the Kerala Assembly on Wednesday over the reforms mooted for restructuring school education and walked out in protest.

IULM's K.N.A. Khader, who gave notice for an adjournment motion on the problems thrown up by the move to implement the report of Khader Commission appointed for restructuring school education, said that the recommendations, if implemented, would lead to centralisation of powers and disrupt the smooth functioning schools. It would derail the conduct of examinations, and lead to chaos, he said.

Education Minister C. Ravindranath clarified that the move was aimed at toning up school administration and ensuring academic excellence by treating different units on a campus as one unit. Though the report covers 14 areas in school education, the government plans to implement only the recommendations for restructuring and enhancing academic excellence.

One principal

The committee has recommended for one principal in a school from Classes I to XII. Headmasters will become vice-principals.

The posts of Deputy Director of Education, Regional Deputy Director, and such others will be retained. Implementation of the report would not affect the promotion and other benefits of teaching and non-teaching staff. Prof. Ravindranath clarified that the government had held discussions with stakeholders with an open mind and was ready to incorporate changes, if needed.

Dramatic rescue



A man who slipped from the Indrakeladri hill above the Kankadurga temple in Vijayawada being rescued during the visit of Andhra Pradesh CM-designate Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday. Right, the man being rushed to hospital. • V. RAJU

Home most unsafe for children: childline report

Data show close relatives and neighbours are key offenders

STAFF REPORTER

KOZHIKODE

Childline Kozhikode is planning to launch a new project titled 'Safe neighbourhood for every child' in the district soon, in view of the increasing physical and sexual offences on children in the district. The project will be implemented with the help of various agencies including residents associations and Kudumbashree.

A recent data released by Childline show that close relatives and neighbours are the key offenders in most of the sexual and physical abuse cases in which children are victims. Members of the family are behind at least one-third of the total abuse cases.

"This is an alarming recent trend and we are not

sure if this is a Statewide trend," said Childline District Coordinator Mohammed Afsal.

Of the 130 physical abuse and corporal punishment cases reported in the city in 2017-18, family members were the accused in 43 cases. While uncles, cousins and grandparents coming into the picture occasionally, in a large number of cases it is either of the parents who abuse the child. While the father was the abuser in 15 cases, the mother was in 14 cases.

Of the 120 sexual abuse cases reported, the abuser is a relative in 28 cases while it is a neighbour in 43 cases. It is alarming that parents and step-parents too have been found guilty in 7 cases. The abuse happened inside the

Heat wave may continue in Telangana

Adilabad recorded the maximum temperature of 46.3 degree Celsius

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

There is unlikely to be any respite from the scorching heat for the people in Telangana as the prevailing heat wave conditions are expected to continue for at least two more days.

According to the India Meteorological Department forecast, heat wave conditions are very likely to prevail in isolated pockets in all the districts on May 30 and May 31.

People were advised not to get exposed to direct sunlight and take necessary precautions as heat wave conditions prevailed in Adilabad, Khammam, Medak, Nalgonda, Warangal, Peddapalli, Rangareddy, Mahabubnagar and Nizamabad districts.

On Wednesday, Adilabad recorded a maximum temperature of 46.3 degree Celsius, Nizamabad recorded 45.7 degree Celsius, Hanam-



A bat cooling itself off at the Hussainsagar Lake in Hyderabad on Wednesday. • NAGARA GOPAL

kond 45.8 degree Celsius, Ramagundam 45.2 degree Celsius, Khammam, Medak and Nalgonda saw maximum temperatures in excess of 45 degree Celsius while Mahabubnagar (44 degree Celsius) and Hyderabad (41.8 degree Celsius) were a shade cooler.

The IMD forecast said there could be rain or thunderstorms at isolated places in the State in the next five days as the trough from east

heavy rain at isolated places.

Chittoor district witnessed the highest temperature and also experienced heavy rainfall. A woman and her grandson were reportedly killed due to lightning in Palamaneru of Chittoor district. In Pedda Panjani which is close to Palamaneru, heavy rainfall of 37.5 mm was recorded on Wednesday, according to Real-Time Governance Society report.

The highest rainfall of 57 mm was recorded in Araku Valley in Visakhapatnam followed by Srirangarajapuram (47.5mm) of Chittoor district.

According to the report of AP State Disaster Management Authority (APSMA), the maximum temperature recorded in the State was 45.6 degree Celsius at Rapur of Nellore and Renigunta of Chittoor.

(With inputs from Vijayawada)

A ND-NDE

Registration software helps unearth illegal abortions in Tiruvannamalai

Tip-off comes from PHC medical officer, who asked a Village Health Nurse to visit a registered woman who had not turned up for antenatal check-up for 8 weeks

SERENA JOSEPHINE M
TIRUVANNAMALAI

Every pregnant woman has to register on a software, PICME (Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation), in Tamil Nadu. It was one such registration in Kadaladi Primary Health Centre (PHC) that helped district officials zero in on illegal abortions in Tiruvannamalai town.

One registered woman had not turned up for her antenatal check-up for eight weeks. The PHC's medical officer asked the Village Health Nurse (VHN) to visit her – a common procedure when pregnant women do not arrive for check-up.

"The VHN found that the woman had undergone an abortion, but was unable to get any details from her

about the procedure. The medical officer reported the incident to us, and we decided to use the details of her antenatal registration to find out what had happened," Collector K.S. Kandasamy said. He was not immediately able to confirm the gestational age of the mother.

The first lead

The woman's mobile number registered on PICME gave the district and police officials the lead.

"We decided to trace her call records. Her phone had never been switched off in the last six to seven months. But it was turned off on a particular day that fell during the week, and it struck us that it could be the day she underwent the abortion. We looked up the calls



At the Kadaladi Primary Health Centre, the medical officer finds that a woman had not turned up for antenatal check-up.

made the previous day, and picked the last call made by a relative, Kutty," M.R. Sibi Chakravarthi, Superintendent of Police, said.

Mr. Kutty told the police that the woman took an ultrasound scan at a centre in Tirukoilur and found that the foetus was a girl. This was her third pregnancy,



He intimated the village health nurse, who visited the woman only to find out that she had undergone an abortion.

and her first two children were girls.

"She decided to abort the foetus. Mr. Kutty informed her about a quack, Kavitha, who performed an abortion on his wife six months ago," he said.

Kavitha and her husband Prabhu had set up the illegal clinic behind a grocery store



As the woman was unable to provide any details of the procedure, the medical officer immediately informed the authorities.

on Girivalam path in the town.



The phone number given by the woman to register for the PICME app provided clues to the police, who studied the call records.

This led the police to a relative, who had given her information about the quack. The police raided the clinic and arrested two people.



rested and remanded," he said.

The scan centre at Tirukoilur was sealed recently after violations of the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act were noticed. The Collector said they were periodically monitoring scan centres in the district.

What's PICME

Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME) is a project implemented by the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. It is mandatory for pregnant women to register themselves on PICME. K. Kandasamy, Director of Public Health, said this registration helped track and monitor pregnant women.

"If a pregnant woman is due for check up and does not turn up, the software automatically throws up the detail, and our health staff visit her. After delivery, it also monitors the vaccination status of the baby," he said.

IN BRIEF



Dhanoo takes over as Chairman of COSC

The outgoing Chief of the Naval Staff and Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), Admiral Sunil Lanba, on Wednesday will hand over the baton of the COSC chief to the Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal, Birender Singh Dhanoa. "ACM Dhanoa will be the Chairman of the COSC with effect from May 31," the IAF said in a statement.

ED summons Vadra for recording statement

NEW DELHI
The ED has summoned Robert Vadra, husband of Congress leader Priyanka Vadra, for questioning on Thursday in connection with an alleged overseas assets case. In February, the agency had recorded his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in the same case. He has refuted all the charges. Meanwhile, a Delhi court on Wednesday reserved its order on a plea by Mr. Vadra to go abroad for medical reasons.

12-year-old Surat girl to become a Jain monk

SURAT
Khushi Shah, a 12-year-old girl from Surat, said she will renounce worldly pleasures and embrace monkhood. "The pleasures we enjoy aren't permanent as this world is temporary. The only way to peace and salvation is to lead a simple life," said Khushi, who left school in last November after scoring 97% marks in Class VI. The "diksha" ceremony will be held on Wednesday. ANI

ATF to hear dispute over Navy chief in July

NEW DELHI
The Armed Forces Tribunal, which hears Vice-Admiral Bimal Verma's petition on his being superseded in the appointment of the next Navy chief, has deferred the case to July 17, allowing Vice-Admiral Karambir Singh to assume office on May 31. The government sought time to submit the record on Singh's appointment.

Farmers get ₹5 lakh for defective seeds

NCDRC orders co-operatives to pay up

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

After a seven-year fight, two Haryana farmers have been granted compensation of almost ₹5 lakh from cooperative giant Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), which sold them defective guar seeds that led to 70% crop failure. The farmers won their case at the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) earlier this month.

Vinod Kumar and Vijay Kumar, both farmers from the Shahpur village in the Hisar district of Haryana, had purchased 180 kg of guar seeds manufactured by IFFCO subsidiary Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative (IFFDC) in 2012. Guar, or cluster beans, is grown not just for the vegetable, but for its gum, which is one of India's major agricultural exports to the



United States. Haryana is the second largest producer in the country.

According to the farmers, IFFDC assured them that the guar seeds would give proper yield of 8 to 10 quintals per acre. Despite following proper instructions and procedure, even ploughing their fields thrice for better yield, "the crop was not up to the mark", the farmers said.

2 more held for abetting suicide of Mumbai doctor

All accused remanded in police custody till May 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The two absconding doctors booked for allegedly abetting the suicide of Payal Tadvi, a second year resident doctor with the BYL Nair hospital, were arrested in the early hours of Wednesday by the Agripada police.

Hema Ahuja, Bhakti Mehta and Ankita Khandelwal, all third-year resident doctors, were booked on May 23 this year, a day after Tadvi killed herself in her hostel room on the hospital's premises. They had been on the run since then.

Dr. Mehta was arrested from Mumbai on Tuesday when she came to meet her lawyer in connection with their anticipatory bail application. Dr. Ahuja was picked up near the Andheri railway station by a team from the Agripada police station on Tuesday night and Dr. Khan-



them after sunset. As per law, such an arrest can only be made with a magistrate's order," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone III) Abhirash Kumar said.

The two were then taken to the office of the Assistant Commissioner of Police Deepak Kundal, Agripada division, who is spearheading the probe and placed under arrest. All the three accused were subsequently produced in court on Wednesday morning and remanded in police custody till May 31.

An investigating officer said the three had gone to Dr. Tadvi's room the day she committed suicide.

"Dr. Tadvi's mother has expressed suspicion that the trio might have found a suicide note blaming them and destroyed it. We will be interrogating the accused late at night and got a signed order permitting us to arrest

Aid to relative for buying property not a benami transaction: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Mere financial assistance provided to purchase property for the welfare of family members cannot be classified as a benami transaction, the Supreme Court held in a recent judgment.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao upheld a Karnataka High Court order, which dismissed a plea that the financial help given by G. Venkata Rao to his family members to purchase property was a benami transaction.

Financial assistance or source of money cannot be sole determinative factor or circumstance to hold that a purchase of property is benami.

"It is further observed by this court as to what the intention of the person was, who contributed the purchase money, has to be decided on the basis of the surrounding circumstance," the Bench said.

The court reiterated its own precedents while considering the nature of benami transactions. "The source of money had never been the sole consideration. It is merely one of the relevant considerations but not determinative in character," Justice Rao wrote in the verdict.

It referred to the Supreme Court's judgment in the Thakur Bhim Singh case, in which it held that "while considering a particular transaction as benami, the intention of the person who contributed the purchase money is determinative of the nature of transaction."

"It is further observed by this court as to what the intention of the person was, who contributed the purchase money, has to be decided on the basis of the surrounding circumstance," the Bench said.

84 cities submit plans for improving air quality by 2024

Centre plans period review ahead of Environment Day

JACOB KOSHY NEW DELHI

Eighty-four out of the 102 cities that have been tasked with reducing toxic particulate matter levels by 20%-30% by 2024 have submitted proposals, C.K. Mishra, Secretary, Union Environment Ministry, said at a press conference.

"We haven't set any annual targets for the cities but are looking at a periodic review." Mr. Mishra said at a function to announce the government's plans to celebrate World Environment Day on June 5. One hundred and two cities, considered India's most polluted, have been tasked with reducing PM (particulate matter) 10 and PM 2.5 levels by 2024, as



increasing the number of monitoring stations, providing technology support, conducting source apportionment studies, and strengthening enforcement. For achieving the NCAP targets, cities would be expected to calculate the reduction in pollution, keeping 2017's average annual PM levels as the base year.

The NCAP requires cities to implement specific measures such as "ensuring roads are pothole-free to improve traffic flow and thereby reduce dust" (within 60 days) or "ensuring strict action against unauthorised brick kilns" (within 30 days).

It doesn't specify an exact date for when these obligations kick in.

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Plea seeks curbs on coaching institutes

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A petition in the Supreme Court has sought a direction to the Union government to regularise private coaching institutes by laying down regulations to provide for minimum standards for their operation.

The petition, filed by advocate Pawan Prakash Pathak, follows the death of 22 students in a fire at a coaching institute in Surat. It sought to protect the fundamental right of students by framing a guideline or passing directions to the department concerned to look after the safe

ty measures that needed to be adopted by these coaching institutes.

The petitioner contended that the mushrooming of coaching classes had led to a "parallel education system." These institutes largely remained unregulated and were not governed by any rules or statutes. The regularisation of private institutes and aspects such as basic facilities, fees and safety measures would have to be in consonance with the guidelines, the plea said. The petition said the institutes fell within the ambit of Article 12 of the Constitution.

DIRECTORATE OF ADMINISTRATION & H.R. KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India

Gramodaya 3, Ida road, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 056

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Email: adm.kvic@gov.in

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Applications are invited in prescribed format from suitable officials, working under the Central Govt./State Govt./Statutory Authorities/Autonomous Bodies having scale of pay at par with Central Govt. agencies, for filling up 26 (Twenty Six) posts of Executive (Finance, Budget, Audit & Accounts) on Deputation basis including Short-term Contract in Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Pay Matrix Level-6 under the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India.

Last date for submission of Application: 05th July, 2019.

Forms and other details for applying to the above post can be downloaded from our website www.kvic.org.in

Director (Adm. & HR)

What's in a surname? Ask Goyal

Spelling error in LOC helped him clear immigration

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

A spelling error almost helped promoter and former Chairman of Jet Airways Naresh Goyal fly out of the country from Mumbai airport last week, but for an alert immigration official.

A senior government official said Mr. Goyal could clear immigration as the look-out circular (LOC) issued against him spelt his surname differently.

The LOC issued on the request of Ministry



of Corporate Affairs (MCA) against Mr. Goyal's passport number spelt his surname as "Goeil."

In a dramatic turn of events on May 25, Mr. Goyal and his wife Anita were deplaned from a Dubai bound Emirates flight (EK 507) when it was taxying on the runway and was about to take off.

The LOC was opened to stop Mr. Goyal from travelling abroad. "When Mr. Goyal arrived at the immigration

said the official. After Mr. Goyal had cleared the immigration, the official, recognising him contacted the central office to cross check if he was allowed to travel abroad.

"By the time the immigration official checked and got a confirmation from his superiors that an LOC existed against his name the aircraft was about to take off. It was recalled and the couple were deplaned," said the official.

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ADMISSION NOTICE FOR B.DES PROGRAMME 2019-20

Delhi Technological University invites applications for its Bachelor of Design Programme (B.Des.) for the academic session 2019-20. Application form for admission is to be filled on-line w.e.f. 08.06.2019 (Saturday) from 10:00 AM to 30.06.2019 (Sunday) 12:00 Midnight through the University's website: www.dtu.ac.in. Admission Brochure may be downloaded from the University website www.dtu.ac.in for complete details of B. Des. Programme.

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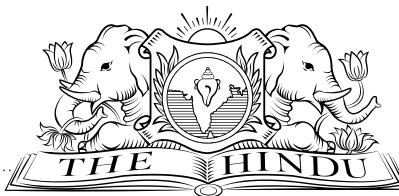
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

Tel. No. 080-23579467 Date : 24-05-2019

NOTIFICATION OF WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in-Interview on 18.06.2019, for engagement of Senior Residents (On Contract Basis) Part Time Radiologist & Pathologist, Part Time Ayurveda Pharmacist & Homeopathy Pharmacist (on contract) at ESIC Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru. The details are available on our official website: www.esic.nic.in & www.esichospitals.gov.in

Sd/- Medical



The second coming

The invitation list for the swearing-in signals the Modi government's foreign policy focus

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to invite leaders of the other six BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries to the swearing-in ceremony of his Council of Ministers sends out several messages on his new government's foreign policy focus. To begin with, as the Foreign Ministry's announcement notes, the invitation to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand is a continuation of the "neighbourhood first" policy behind Mr. Modi's invite to leaders of South Asia for his 2014 swearing-in ceremony. Second, by not inviting leaders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Maldives on this occasion, the government is underlining that its regional preferences have shifted from the SAARC grouping to BIMSTEC, given the logjam at SAARC because of India-Pakistan tensions. Unlike in 2014, when he invited Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with an element of hope and a desire to turn the page on bitter bilateral ties, Mr. Modi is signalling that he does not hold the same optimism in 2019. Thailand is not just a member of BIMSTEC but also holds the chair of ASEAN this year, and an invitation is as much about India's "Act East" initiative and outreach to East Asia. Finally, the separate invitation to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation chairperson, President Sooronbay Jeenbekov of Kyrgyzstan, indicates India's commitment to the Central Asian grouping led by China and Russia, with Mr. Modi slated to attend the SCO summit in June. The other separate invitation to Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth of Mauritius, who visited India in January this year as chief guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya conference, is an affirmation of the close affinity between the two countries. It would be unwise, however, to read meanings into Mr. Modi's choice of international dignitaries beyond this symbolism.

India's engagement with both BIMSTEC and the SCO, which India joined as an observer in 2005, is at a promising but incipient stage. After its formation in 1997, BIMSTEC made very little progress and didn't even have a fully working secretariat until recently. Its deliberations on subregional connectivity have been delayed owing to concerns in Bhutan, while Nepal and Thailand sent only observers to the military exercises last year due to other misgivings. Even so, India sees BIMSTEC as a possible alternative to SAARC, which has failed to meet for five years. The SCO, which inducted India and Pakistan as full members last year, is yet to demonstrate its utility for India, but is seen as a possible balancer at a time when the U.S. is taking a more aggressive position on trade, sanctions against Iran, Venezuela and Russia, all of which are sources of concern for India. As a result, the attendance at Mr. Modi's swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, and the bilateral meetings that will follow on Friday, may represent little by way of actual outcomes. Rather, it is a statement of intent on new avenues of India's multilateral engagements.

A Cup to win

It's anyone's game at the ICC World Cup, but India would fancy its chances

The ICC World Cup remains the last word on cricket's hierarchy. There are multiple rankings linked to the game's formats ranging from five-day Tests to abridged Twenty20s, but when it comes to bragging rights about what constitutes the best squad, it is essential to have won the World Cup. Debates vanish and the champion unit is allowed its swagger. As the quadrennial event returns to England, with Thursday's opening game pitting the hosts against South Africa at the Oval, it is an opportunity for captains and their teams to reshape their legacies. Interestingly, the inaugural fixture features two under-achievers in cricket's showpiece event. England and South Africa have often flattered to deceive. The former failed to get past stronger opposition in some summit clashes while the latter repeatedly remained a bundle of nerves and choked at climactic stages. Both now get another shot at correcting these anomalies, and the first step among many more to follow will be made on Thursday. A history of under-performance is not among Australia's worries as it has five World Cup titles in its kitty. But it needs to wrest back its reputation as a standard-bearer. Last year's ball-tampering crisis drove a knife into a proud sporting nation's heart; two of the perpetrators, Steve Smith and David Warner, are back in the squad, keen to recover their lost space and respect. Redemption is not just a yearning, it is a burning need.

India, cricket's commercial heart, steps in under a captain who is as combative as ever. Virat Kohli was a rookie when M.S. Dhoni's men triumphed in the 2011 World Cup final at Mumbai; now he leads the squad and remains batsman-supreme. An experienced batting component, a clutch of all-rounders and a fine pace-bowling unit helmed by Jasprit Bumrah are at India's core, and it would be an upset if this squad doesn't prevail in the round-robin league and qualify for the semifinals. But this is anyone's game as Kapil Dev and his men showed at Lord's in 1983 while stunning the West Indies in a gripping World Cup final. That 'David quelling Goliath' tale found many repetitions in subsequent World Cups, and any outfit from among Pakistan, New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh can be the world-beater on its day. There is Afghanistan too as cricket's latest illustration of its power to be about more than the competition itself. It is thus disappointing that driven by commercial considerations, the ICC chose to limit the 2019 tournament to just 10 teams. In the end, World Cups are won by captains who believe nothing is impossible and lead from the front. India will hope that it will be Kohli when the final concludes on July 14.

Breaking out of the middle-growth orbit

The second Modi government faces a challenging economic agenda — it must back key reforms



RAGHUVIR SRINIVASAN

As the euphoria over a historic victory in the general election of 2019 settles and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) gets down to government formation, a challenging economic agenda awaits the new Finance Minister. Important economic indicators are flashing red indicating a slowdown in the economy.

Dismal picture

The financial sector is gasping under a liquidity crunch. A crisis is building up in the NBFC space that could snowball across the entire sector and worse, even the economy itself. This, even as banks are still clawing their way back to health after digesting large write-offs.

Making matters worse is the fact that policy-making has been at a standstill for more than two months since the election schedule was announced. And, come May 31, we are likely to see a dismal set of fourth quarter GDP numbers being announced by the Central Statistics Office. Going by the high-frequency data on the economy, it is likely that GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2018-19 will be below 6.5%; it was 6.6% in the third quarter that ended December. At this rate, it might be difficult to touch the 7% mark for fiscal 2018-19.

The picture is not as bad as it was when Narendra Modi assumed office as Prime Minister for the first time in May 2014 but there

is no denying that there is cause for worry and the new government has to move quickly. So what's on the plate?

Rescuing NBFCs

This should be the first priority for the new Finance Minister. Even as banks are showing incipient signs of recovery from the non-performing assets (NPAs) issue, the non-banking financial sector seems to be lapsing into trouble. Beginning with the IL&FS collapse, the NBFC space has been hit by one problem after another and the thread running through them all is the drying up of liquidity.

Even well-known NBFCs and housing finance companies have been hit by asset-liability mismatch; they have borrowed short-term funds and lent them to long-term projects leading to cash flow problems. As a result, they have been unable to meet commitments to their own lenders. The NBFCs have been crying hoarse for liquidity support from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), but the regulator has been reluctant to do the one thing that will help them the most — open an exclusive funding window.

The central bank may have its own valid reasons for not conceding the demand but the truth is that there is a real crisis out there and a risk that the contagion will spread. Usually it is the real sector's problems that spread to the financial sector but in this case there is a real possibility of the reverse happening. The new Finance Minister will have to work with the RBI and banks to resolve this issue at the earliest.

Drive consumption

The high-frequency data coming out over the last few months point



to a demand slowdown in the economy. Commercial vehicle off-take has been in the negative territory for the last few months following a drop in freight volumes and also tariffs. Passenger car sales, that were weak through 2018-19 with growth of just 2.7%, actually fell by 17% in April, which is the sharpest drop in eight years. Two-wheeler sales fell by 17% in 2018-19.

Consumer durable and fast-moving consumer goods sales have been tepid too. Even domestic air traffic growth fell for the first time in six years in April. These trends are validated by the monthly factory output data — after a flat, no-growth February, output contracted by 0.1% in March.

In an economy such as India's excessively dependent on domestic consumption, a fall in consumer spending spells trouble.

In its first term, the Modi government did an admirable job in pushing public investment to prop up growth; the new government should, in addition, push consumption spending. And the best way to do that is to put more money in the hands of the people by cutting income tax sharply. It requires guts and gumption to do this though, considering the overall commitment to maintain fiscal discipline.

Yet, this may be the much-needed fillip to consumption as it is the

middle class which will go out and spend the extra money in its hands. This may also be shrewd politics as the middle class has backed the BJP in this election. In fact, this argument can be extended by suggesting a cut in corporate taxes as well to unleash the animal spirits in the economy. Remember P. Chidambaram's "dream budget" of 1997 when he cut personal and corporate tax rates sharply and how it spurred growth?

In this respect, the outgoing government — much against its philosophical leanings — has behaved more like the previous United Progressive Alliance governments by sticking to high tax rates and refusing to cut them. Maybe it was scolded by the "suit-boot-ki-sarkar" jibe of the Congress but the stage is now nicely set for the new government to try an alternative economic approach more aligned to the BJP's economic philosophy. Would it be too much to suggest that the Prime Minister place faith in the economist Arthur Laffer, who theorised that lower tax rates not only boost revenues but also spur economic growth?

Cutting taxes will be akin to administering a dose of steroids to private investment, which desperately needs a leg-up. In the 2018-19 Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley cut corporate tax to 25% for companies with a turnover less than ₹250 crore, which account for 99% of those filing returns. It may not be a bad idea to extend the concession, at least partly to start with, to the remaining 1% that represents the cream of business.

Key tasks ahead

A return of private investment is crucial to ensure the other important objective of this government: creating jobs. As businesses invest

more to expand capacities, hopefully more jobs will be created.

The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and demonetisation were in no small measure responsible for the slowdown in the economy. Despite frequent tweaks to rates, product classifications and procedures, the GST remains a work in progress and needs to be streamlined.

The best that the new government can do is to quickly move to a set of just three rates from the six now. About 62% of goods and services are now taxed at 18% and above, which is rather high. The median rate should be reduced to 12% in phases — certainly 16% to start with — given that the GST is a regressive tool that taxes the rich and the poor alike. Revenues have stabilised at around ₹1 lakh crore a month now despite a number of products being moved to lower tax slabs over the last few months. It is time to get bold and reduce rates to spur consumption. Widening the basket and stricter enforcement are better ways to increase revenues compared to high rates.

Meanwhile, the farm sector is crying out for attention too. The new government will certainly be focussing on the crisis in agriculture, and the outcomes will determine the health of the rural economy.

Mr. Modi expended tremendous political capital in his first term on measures such as demonetisation which had questionable returns. He should use his renewed capital now to push through important reforms that will help the economy break out of the shackles of middling growth and push it into a high-growth sphere.

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Why the integrity of data matters

The merger of the NSSO into the Central Statistics Office is a cause for concern



A. VAIDYANATHAN

The announcement that the government has decided to merge the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) into and under the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has caused both surprise and concern. What exactly the 'merger' means remains unclear. Recent attempts to question the veracity of National Sample Survey (NSS) data and the way the issue has been handled have given rise to apprehensions within academia, State governments and the media about the prospect of radical changes in the present system for deciding substantive issues of scope, design, scrutiny and validation of the surveys.

The present system

Under the present system, every year various departments of government send a list of subjects that they would like to be investigated by the NSSO. The requests are sent to the National Statistical Commission (NSC), which has respected economists, subject matter specialists and statisticians from government, including the head of the CSO and senior officials of the NSSO responsible for technical aspects of design and conduct of field work, as well as representa-

tives of State governments. Subject matter specialists in particular fields are also brought in. The proposals are discussed at length keeping in view the budget allocations, availability of trained field staff and supervisors. In doing so, the conduct of periodic surveys on important issues is also considered. (It should be noted that budget allocations, and personnel of the NSSO have always been under the Department of Statistics.)

After providing for periodic repeat surveys (at quinquennial or decennial intervals) of some important aspects (notably consumer expenditure, employment, social consumption, land holdings, rural savings and investments), the subjects to be covered in a particular year and the scope of the inquiry are decided.

The tasks of sampling design, the scope and content of information to be collected, design of schedules and protocols of field work are left to be decided by special working groups. These groups are chaired by experts from academia, and senior officials of the CSO and the NSSO, State government representatives as well as select non-official experts. These working groups are in continuous session from the inception of each round through all the subsequent steps. Discussions of concepts, questionnaire design, field work schedules and supervision are continuous, detailed and highly professional. Once the field work is over, the groups decide the detailed tabulation programme, and



the tables to be prepared for publication. The tabulated results are discussed in detail by the NSC and are published after its approval.

After considerable hesitation and prodding, the government decided some years back to put all tabulations and the primary data on open access, especially to academic and other interested users. This decision has stimulated and facilitated the use of these data for intensive analyses by numerous researchers. They have been used extensively for monitoring of trends and critical assessment of several important aspects of the economy and society, such as poverty and inequality, consumption patterns, employment, household savings and investment, and health-seeking behaviour. They have spawned intense as well as creative controversies over survey methodology, quality of data, and interpretation of structure and trends. These have played an important role in shaping policy and in improving the surveys.

The NSSO surveys command wide respect among academics, State governments and non-governmental organisations as the

most reliable and comparable basis for discussions in the public, policy and even political arenas. This is based on their well-earned reputation for professionalism, independence and integrity. Widespread apprehensions that the proposed absorption of NSSO into the CSO could compromise the surveys by subjecting their review and publication to government approval must therefore be allayed promptly in an unqualified manner. The existing institutional arrangement in which the NSC, as a professional body independent of government, has not only functioned smoothly but also commands confidence and respect both within the country and abroad must be maintained. Any attempt or even a suggestion that its substantive work, publication and free dissemination of data are subject to the department's approval will hugely dent the credibility of the Indian statistical system.

Scope for improvement

Urging this forcefully does not in any way suggest that the present institutional arrangements are flawless or that the NSSO is perfect. On the contrary, it is widely recognised that there is scope for improvement in the functioning of the institution and the way data are collected. These problems are well known: the NSSO doesn't have adequate budgetary allocations; there is an acute shortage of trained field staff; the scale of surveys is unmanageably large mainly because the users demand a de-

gree of detail in content and regional disaggregation of estimates. The NSC is fully conscious of these difficulties. The solutions call for action by the institutions responsible for gathering data by investing in continuing research on improving sampling design, field survey methods and validation of data. Correcting these deficiencies is entirely in the domain of government.

But there are also serious difficulties inherent in trying to get reliable and complete information through the interview method. Most respondents do not maintain any records or accounts of their transactions. Since most respondents rely on recall, it is unrealistic to expect them to provide reliable information on the scope and detail sought by questionnaires. Memory lapses and respondent fatigue lead to high incidence of non-response, indifferent response and biased response. These problems are particularly serious among the more affluent and better-educated sections of respondents. Increasing the role of CSO officials in running the NSSO will not solve these problems, but they can help by providing funds for specialised research on survey design and methodology. The necessity and importance of such research calls for far greater attention and resources than they receive at present.

A. Vaidyanathan, an economist, is a former member of the Planning Commission and RBI board

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.

Political crossovers

The BJP seems to be misusing the landslide verdict of 2019 to develop the party rather than the nation. When it boasts by calling itself a principled and patriotic party and denouncing the Congress's Emergency day in and day out, why is it bent upon forming its own governments in West Bengal, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan using questionable means and in a hurried manner? The 2019 mandate was to resolve burning issues such as agrarian distress, bad loans and unemployment (Page 1, "3 West Bengal MLAs, 50 councillors join BJP", May 29). KSHIRASAGARA BALAJI RAO, Hyderabad

by transcending caste and communal equations. Is it necessary and fair on its part, when it is in such a strong position, to resort to short cuts to capture power in Opposition-ruled States? Why can't it allow the present regimes to continue and instead aspire for power through a proper mandate? Poaching through 'lucrative offers' makes a mockery of the democratic ethos. The act of certain political persons who have hitherto had a diametrically opposite stand to the policies of the BJP all this while before 'defecting' and then changing tack can only be termed a selfish move. Unfortunately, the Indian National Congress is in dire straits, while for the BJP, it is an opportune time to fish in troubled waters. Such a practice is not new as the BJP has successfully gained

power in some States by adopting such dubious methods.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

■ There are many who cannot forget the statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in West Bengal while campaigning, of 40 Trinamool Congress partypersons being in touch with him and ready to desert the TMC. Even more shocking is the BJP general secretary in-charge of West Bengal, Kailash Vijayvargiya, saying that crossovers would continue in seven phases (May 29). If Mr. Modi bowed before the Constitution while seeking to dispel fears of majoritarianism, why should he not initiate a march towards observing fair and decent political norms? Why encourage defections, which are another form of

corruption? Is the BJP's 'takeover strategy' of the entire country State by State underpinned by this? Is this what we voted for?

BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE,
Faridabad, Haryana

■ Lakhs of voters in India have given the mandate to the BJP led by Mr. Modi to run the government. It was not to destabilise elected governments. As far as West Bengal is concerned, the BJP should wait for the Assembly elections in 2021 to win the mandate fair and square. No backdoor methods, please.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

■ Turning a statesman The thumping majority that the BJP has got should lead to a review of its economic policies of the past five years which either failed miserably or caused havoc to

development. For example, projects found detrimental to agrarian interests should be dropped. Instead of continuing to polarise people, development should be the main goal. Those elected must be given a work schedule to be executed within a stipulated period. This is also a great opportunity for Mr. Modi to blossom into a statesman. In the last five years, he was only a politician.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

■ Insights from the field Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been the pillar of the Indian cricket team for years and his splendid 113 runs off only

78 balls in the warm-up match against Bangladesh at Cardiff shows that he is in tremendous form. K.L. Rahul, with his 108 runs, appears to be key to resolving the long running discourse over the fourth slot in the Indian batting order. The middle order has the potential to guide the team to noteworthy totals even if there is a chance of the opening partnership failing to deliver in some of the World Cup matches ('Sport' page, "No. 4

Horses for courses: choices differ for Assembly, Lok Sabha

The BJP makes a clean sweep despite satisfaction with the AAP government



BISWAJIT MOHANTY

The BJP with a more than 56% vote share simply outdistanced the AAP (18%) and the Congress (22.5%), whose cumulative vote ended up being less than that of the BJP in the seven constituencies in Delhi. The Congress remained a distant second in almost all the constituencies.

There are two key factors responsible for the AAP's ignominious defeat and the BJP's spectacular victory. First, the common pool of the support base of the Congress and the AAP got split between them because of the failure to forge a pre-poll alliance. The Muslim votes shifted to the Congress *en bloc*.

With the core upper caste support base of the BJP remaining intact, addition of other caste group votes to the party's kitty contributed to its victory. The vote share of the AAP and the Congress among the upper class and Other Backward Classes did not match the BJP's huge support among them. Even 44% of Dalits voted for the BJP, which is 2 percentage points more than that of the two parties combined.

The survey shows that among college-educated voters, the BJP



Voting preference for a snap Assembly election

| | INC (%) | BJP (%) | AAP (%) | BSP (%) | Did not reveal/undecided (%) |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| Congress voters in 2019 LS | 56 | 2 | 25 | - | 17 |
| BJP voters in 2019 LS | 3 | 57 | 24 | - | 16 |
| AAP voters in 2019 LS | 6 | 1 | 82 | - | 11 |
| Others' voters in 2019 LS | - | 28 | 33 | 28 | 11 |

got nearly seven of every 10 votes and among middle and upper class voters, its vote share was close to two-thirds. This is not unusual though as the party has always done much better than average among these segments.

The survey found that Congress and AAP supporters were not in favour of the two parties coming together. One-third of those who had voted for the Congress in this election as well those who had voted for it in 2014 and two-fifths of those who voted for

the AAP in 2019 and 2014 were of the opinion that the two parties did the right thing by not coming together.

The second factor that contributed to the BJP's win is the popularity of Narendra Modi. More than half the respondents (56%) said that they wanted Mr. Modi as Prime Minister again. Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal were the choice of just 14% and 5% respondents, respectively. Mr. Modi's popularity seems to have helped the BJP overcome anti-in-

cumbency at the constituency level as only 44% of the voters were found to be satisfied with the sitting BJP MP's performance.

The survey found over two-thirds of voters to be satisfied with the performance of the BJP government at the Centre. Though the satisfaction with the AAP-led Delhi government was higher still at 72%, the voters seem to have made a distinction between a State election and a national election.

This is because we find that the BJP secured far more votes than the AAP among even those voters who said they were satisfied with the Kejriwal government's performance.

This finding, in fact, indicates that the AAP need not be disheartened by the electoral defeat because in the Assembly election next year, many of those who have voted for the BJP may well vote for the AAP.

Asked who they would vote for if Delhi were to have a snap Assembly election, one-fourth of those who voted for the BJP were found to have switched to the AAP. One-fourth of Congress supporters too indicated the same. Moreover, it was found that 54% of Delhi's voters were in favour of giving the AAP another chance to govern and 36% said the next Chief Minister of Delhi should be Mr. Kejriwal again, including many of those who indicated a preference for Mr. Modi as PM. .

(Biswajit Mohanty is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, Deshbandhu College, Delhi University)

Beyond the binaries of caste

The BJP's crushing victory was due to the support of Jats and non-Jats



KUSHAL PAL
ANURAG JAIN

The BJP won all seats in the State, securing a 58% vote share and trumping the Congress by a margin of 30%. The Indian National Lok Dal got just 2% of the vote share. The JJP-AAP and the LSP-BSP alliances proved to be a damp squib, securing 9% and 4%, respectively.

In eight of the 10 seats, the margin of victory for the BJP was more than three lakh. The margin extended up to six lakh in Faridabad and Karnal.

Moving beyond the traditional contest between Jats and non-Jats, the BJP has managed to secure a rainbow coalition across all the major caste groups. After the 2016 violent protests over Jat reservations, the BJP was often characterised as the only party that could reduce the political clout of Jats by taking ad-

If Modi was not PM candidate, BJP voters...

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Would have voted for some other party | 48 (+16) |
| Would have made no difference | 28 (-10) |

Note: The figures in brackets indicate the difference from 2014 election

Popularity of PM and CM

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Narendra Modi | 58 (+11) |
| Manohar Lal Khattar | 24 |

Note: The figures in brackets indicate the difference from 2014 election

vantage of the consolidation of non-Jat votes. However, defying this expectation, every second person from the Jat community itself voted for the BJP.

And every three of four people from the non-Jat upper caste community voted for the BJP. The biggest boost it received was from Dalit and OBCs with a rise of 39% and 30% votes, respectively, from the 2014 tally. Clubbing OBCs, the Scheduled Castes and the upper castes together, the total "non-Jat" vote share for the BJP is a whopping 69%.

The performance of the local MP appears to have mattered very little to the voter. Overall, there was net "dissatisfaction" of 9% for the local MLA and 10% for the local MP. There was a net satisfaction of 26

percentage points for the Union government with about six of every 10 voters wanting to see Narendra Modi again as Prime Minister.

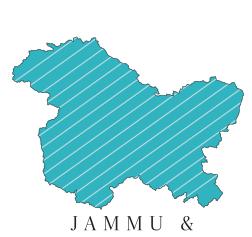
Three-fifths of those who were completely dissatisfied with their MP still wanted to give the BJP a chance at the Centre and about half reported having voted for the BJP. Mr. Modi seems to have been a deciding factor, as about half the BJP voters reported that they would have voted for another party if he was not the PM candidate.

The Balakot air strikes seemed to have no impact on the voting preference for the BJP. More or less, an equal proportion of people irrespective of whether they heard about Balakot strikes reported having voted for the BJP. About eight of every 10 of the Jat community support the 10% reservation introduced by the Centre for the economically backward class in government jobs and the education sector. Among those Jats who support this reservation, about half reported to have voted for the BJP as opposed to four of every 10 voters among those who were against this reservation.

(Kushal Pal is the Head of the Department of Political Science, Dyal Singh College, Karnal, and Anurag Jain is a research assistant at Lokniti-CSDS, Delhi)

PDP loses its standing in Kashmir, BJP unchallenged in Jammu

The election results yet again highlight the polarised nature of the political landscape and the vast differences between the State's regions



ELLORA PURI
AIJAZ ASHRAF WANI

The election results in J&K yet again highlighted the polarised nature of the political landscape of the State. While the BJP retained its two seats in the Jammu division and one in Ladakh, the National Conference (NC) replaced the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the three in Kashmir.

Jammu

Except for the large victory margins (three lakh plus) of the BJP in Jammu and Udhampur seats, the result did not surprise many. Union Minister Jitendra Singh's margin of 3.57 lakh in the latter seat is one of the 10 highest victory margins in the country. He

defeated Vikramaditya Singh, son of senior Congress leader Karan Singh.

It was the national parties – the BJP and the Congress – which were the main contenders in Jammu. Parties based in the Jammu region did not fare well. Former Minister Choudhary Lal Singh, who was expected to cut into the BJP votes, having quit the PDP-BJP government and the BJP after participating in a rally organised by the Hindu Ekta Manch on the Kathua case, lost his deposit in both Udhampur and Jammu, as did National Panthers Party candidates.

The survey found the Kathua case to have been a voting consideration for only about one-fifth of the voters. Moreover, importance attached to the issue was found to be far greater among Muslim voters than Hindu voters, 40% as opposed to 11%.

The NC and the PDP supported the Congress candidates in Jammu and Udhampur, hoping that consolidating the votes of the three parties would help defeat the BJP. That clearly did not happen. The reasons

seem to be three-fold: their voters could not be mobilised enough to vote for the Congress, which traditionally had been the rival of Kashmir-based parties; almost negligible campaigning by the Congress; and the strong support the BJP had in Hindu-majority areas in Jammu.

The survey data suggest that the Jammu region this time has perhaps witnessed an unprecedented polarisation on religious lines – 87% Hindu respondents said that they had voted for the BJP, while 90% of the Muslims respondents said that they had voted in favour of the Congress.

The Modi factor too seems to have been clearly at work among the BJP voters. Six of every 10 respondents said that they wanted Narendra Modi to be the next Prime Minister. Two in

every five said they would have vot-

An outlier in the North

The only State in the region where Congress won handsomely

Disenchantment with SAD among Sikh voters



JAGRUP SINGH SEKHON
ASHUTOSH KUMAR
JYOTI MISHRA

Punjab is the only State in the northern region and the second after Kerala in the whole of India where the Congress performed well, bagging eight seats.

The older order of bipolarity, with the SAD-BJP and the Congress forming the two poles, has returned to the State. The AAP, which emerged as the main Opposition party in the 2017 Assembly election, had to be satisfied with only one seat and 7% of the vote share. The Congress and the SAD-BJP alliance improved their vote shares by seven and two percentage points, respectively.

The Congress has secured a 40% vote share and the Shiromani Akali Dal and the BJP in alliance has bagged a 37% vote share and four seats, a loss of two seats from the 2014 tally.

The AAP's loss has benefited the Congress as one-fourth (24%) of those who had voted for the former in 2014 voted for the Congress in 2019. The Congress also attracted close to one-fifth (18%) of the voters who voted for the SAD-BJP alliance in 2014; only one in every 10 (10%) of the Congress voters voted for the alliance in 2019.

Hindu voters who voted for the AAP have shifted towards the SAD-BJP alliance. The data suggest that in 2014, 30% of the Hin-

du voters had voted for the AAP, but in 2019, 44% of them voted for the SAD-BJP alliance, 22 percentage points higher than the last election.

However, both the Congress and the SAD-BJP alliance saw a decline in their support among Dalit Sikhs.

The Modi wave was not evident in Punjab. Only three of every 10 respondents preferred Narendra Modi as the next Prime Minister. There was also not much traction for the BJP narrative of national security or the Balakot effect.

(Jagrup Singh Sekhon is a Professor at the Department of Political Science, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar; Ashutosh Kumar is a Professor at the Department of Political Science at Panjab University, Chandigarh; and Jyoti Mishra is researcher at Lokniti-CSDS)

Modi factor swings it for the BJP

Seven in every 10 voters in the State wanted to see him back as PM



RAMESH K. CHAUHAN
SAKSHI KHEMAMI

The Himachal Pradesh verdict stands out for the sheer scale of the BJP's victory, sweeping all four seats with a vote share of over 69%, the highest for a party among all States.

The Congress saw a decline of around 13 percentage points in its vote share. Though the Congress lost all four seats in 2014, it was able to hold on to over 40% votes. Not only did the BJP win all four seats in the State again in 2019 but it also won them by a huge vote margin of over 3 lakh votes. The victory came on the back of a turnout in excess of 70%, the highest even in the State.

The survey data show that one of the prime factors that worked in the BJP's favour was the strong support for Narendra Modi. Seven in every 10 voters in the State wanted to see Mr. Modi as the Prime Minister. This number was not only higher than in 2014 but also 24 percentage points

Satisfaction with government and sitting MPs

| | BJP-led NDA Central government | BJP-led State government | Sitting BJP MP |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Fully satisfied | 41 | 38 | 33 |
| Somewhat satisfied | 43 | 41 | 37 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 5 | 9 | 11 |
| Fully dissatisfied | 9 | 10 | 16 |

Note: rest of the respondents did not respond

higher than the national average. Asked what mattered to them the most while voting, three of every 10 respondents said it was the prime ministerial candidate. Here too, this figure was much lower for the rest of the country (17%).

Among BJP voters, for four of every 10, the PM candidate was the most important consideration. For a little over half of the Congress voters, the party was the most important consideration. Data suggest that one in every four BJP voter would have voted differently if Mr. Modi had not been the PM candidate. This figure has doubled from the previous Lok Sabha election.

What further helped the BJP in the State was the growing factionalism in the Congress. The party was divided into two factions – that of Virbhadra Singh and Sukhwinder Sukhu. Another factor had been the delay in the announcement of, and allotment of ticket to, the Congress

candidates. Allotment of ticket to the grandson of Sukh Ram may have irked some traditional Congress supporters, especially in the Virbhadra camp.

In the above scenario, the Congress workers were not found enthused about the election campaign. Where only one-fourth of the respondents reported that a Congress worker had come to their house to ask for vote, four of every 10 respondents said that someone had come from the BJP. The Balakot air strikes played a part in this victory but it will be wrong to say that it was solely because of the strikes. Six of every 10 respondents who had not heard of the strikes voted for the BJP. However, seven of every 10 of those who had heard of the strikes voted for the BJP.

(Ramesh K. Chauhan teaches at the Department of Political Science, Shimla; Sakshi Khemani is a researcher at Lokniti-CSDS)

Kashmir region

The National Conference (NC) made a resounding comeback in an election that saw one of the lowest turnouts. After its 2014 debacle, the NC bounced back winning all three seats in the Kashmir region.

National conference patron Farooq Abdullah retained the prestigious Srinagar seat by 70,050 votes.

Perhaps the biggest surprise came from Anantnag where a political

novice, Hasnain Masoodi (former High Court judge), of the NC defeated State Congress chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.

South Kashmir is considered a traditional bastion of the PDP. However, since PDP's decision to align with the BJP in 2014 to form a government in the State, its political fortunes have been facing

FROM PAGE ONE

Amit Shah to get on board Modi Cabinet?

Reports indicated that calls to prospective ministers would be made through the night and early morning, for the 7 p.m. swearing-in on Thursday.

Sources said that many of the senior ministers of the previous government were to be retained, however, no portfolios were discussed. Senior former ministers like Piyush Goyal, Narendra Singh Tomar and Arjun Ram Meghwal were seen visiting Mr. Shah at his residence but excused themselves from confirming whether they were being made ministers.

Senior leaders said Prime Minister Modi's warning at the NDA's parliamentary party meet on Saturday that discretion on government business was to be maintained meant that most of those called will await official announcements to be made.

NDA allies are expected to get one Cabinet and one Minister of State berth in the Council of Ministers. As for the BJP's quota, sources did not confirm any names, but added that regional aspirations and the BJP's own political imperatives with regard to expansion in West Bengal and State elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana were likely to inform the selections from those States. The BJP's good performance in the southern States of Karnataka and Telangana (the party won four seats, one of them being Nizamabad earlier held by K. Kavitha, daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao) will also be re-

warded with ministerial berths.

According to Rashtrapati Bhavan sources, nearly 6,000 invites have been sent in India and abroad for a ceremony that will be attended by several heads of government of BIMSTEC countries, opposition leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Significantly, 50 family members of BJP workers killed in alleged political violence in West Bengal have also been invited, which prompted Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to withdraw her acceptance to attend the ceremony.

Arrangements have been made for a high tea following the ceremony for guests and a dinner for invited VIPs especially international heads of government. Dal Raisina, a speciality of the Rashtrapati Bhavan kitchen, which requires cooking for 48 hours is also on the dinner menu. Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanaswamy said he would be attending the ceremony while his party colleagues and chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh (Kamal Nath), Rajasthan (Ashok Gehlot) and Chhattisgarh (Bhupesh Baghel) may likely skip it, although apart from Mr. Baghel, nobody has officially announced this.

Prime Minister Modi will, along with BJP MPs visit the Samadhi of late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the National War Memorial at India Gate, in the first half of the day.

Naveen, Khandu take oath as Odisha, Arunachal CMs

At Mr. Patnaik's swearing-in, his siblings – eminent writer Gita Mehta and industrialist Prem Patnaik – were present. Hundreds of women self-help group members from different parts of the State also attended the ceremony.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Mr. Patnaik. In a tweet, he said, "I assure complete cooperation from the Centre in working for Odisha's progress."

Khandu Cabinet
Those who took oath along with Mr. Khandu included Nakap Nalo and Taba Tedir, who had won the elections to the 60-member Assembly for the first time.

There was no woman in the Council of Ministers whose portfolios would be allocated soon.

Three of the BJP's 41 legislators are women, including giantkiller Jumnum Ete Deori who defeated State Con-

gress president Takam Sanjyo.

Huge responsibility'
In a brief interaction with newsmen after the swearing-in, Mr. Khandu said: "With their mandate, the people have given us a huge responsibility to transform Arunachal Pradesh under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Our priority sectors will be law and order, health, and education besides addressing unemployment through investments in viable sectors. I assure the people that we will run a clean, transparent and corruption-free government."

The Chief Ministers of five north-eastern States attended the ceremony. They were Assam's Sarbananda Sonowal, Manipur's Nongthombam Biren Singh, Meghalaya's Conrad K. Sangma, Nagaland's Neiphiu Rio, and Tripura's Biplob Kumar.

Kargil war veteran declared a foreigner

He appeared before the tribunal at five hearings. At least six other retired personnel of the Army and paramilitary forces have been served such notices.

'Heart-breaking'
"Nothing is more heart-breaking than an ex-service man being treated like this," said his cousin Mohammed Ajmal Hoque from Boko, about 60 km west of Assam's principal city Guwahati.

"Is this his reward for giving 30 years of his life to the Army defending the country, including fighting in the Kargil War?"

Mr. Hoque, who retired as a junior commissioned officer in the Army, was also served notice by a Foreigners' Tribunal.

The case was disposed of and the Border Police apologised to him after finding out it had served the notice on the "wrong Ajmal

Hoque."

Sanaullah joined the Army in 1987, twenty years after his birth in Assam. He joined the Border Police after retiring from the Army in 2017. He had, at one of the hearings, mistakenly mentioned the year of his joining the Army as 1978. Based on this mistake, the tribunal declared him a foreigner, arguing that nobody can join the Army at the age of 11," Mr. Hoque said.

Voted too
Mr. Sanaullah voted in the last parliamentary election.

Assam's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary had tabled a report in the State Assembly a few months ago. The report said the State has 125,333 D-voters (doubtful voters, marked by the Election Commission) and that 131,034 of the 244,144 cases sent to Foreigners' Tribunals have been disposed of.

The AAI is expected to revoke its earlier NOTAM and issue a new one in the next couple of days.

A Civil Aviation Ministry official said that after Pakistan lifted the ban, it will take nearly 14 hours to resume normal operations. (With inputs from Dinakar Peri)

All set for Modi's swearing-in today

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Foreign leaders began arriving here from Wednesday evening to attend the swearing-in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The first to arrive was Bangladesh President Mohammed Abdul Hamid.

Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lotay Tshering, President of Myanmar U. Win Myint, President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena and President of Kyrgyz Republic Sooronby Jeenbekov will attend the function. With the exception of Mauritius and Kyrgyz Republic leaders, the invitees are from the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) grouping. Most of the leaders will land here by Thursday afternoon.

Special envoy
Thailand, which is a leading member of BIMSTEC, will be represented by Agriculture Minister Grisada Boonrach. He will be a Special Envoy of

Foreign leaders start arriving



Bangladesh President Mohammed Abdul Hamid being greeted upon his arrival at the Air Force Station, Palam. • PTI

the country to the evening ceremony. However, there is uncertainty over the participation of Tibetan President or Sikyong in Exile Lobsang Sangay. Tibetan sources indicate that they have not received any information from the Indian authorities. It is learnt that Dr. Sangay had left for an official tour of the U.S. and was unlikely to be present in Delhi.

2014 incident
Dr. Sangay's presence in the swearing-in of 2014 created ripples and hinted at India's

continued commitment to the Tibetan cause. Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama congratulated Mr. Modi on May 23 after he won a landslide election and his recent comments indicated at a desire for a dialogue with China.

Mr. Modi is expected to meet President Xi Jinping in Bishkek during the June summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the presence of President Jeenbekov is likely to contribute to building the atmospherics for the meet.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is also not attending as his presence is required at the swearing-in of the new Assembly members on Thursday.

Mamata, Naveen to skip ceremony

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA/ Bhubaneswar

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said she will not attend the swearing-in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday as the BJP is spreading information which is "untrue".

Congratulating Mr. Modi, Ms. Banerjee said in a tweet that it was her "plan to attend the oath-taking ceremony. However, I am seeing media reports that the BJP [is] claiming 54 people have been murdered in political violence in Bengal. This is completely untrue."

She said, "These deaths may have occurred due to personal enmity, family quarrels and other disputes."

The only consolation for the Opposition is that with the addition of 23 members of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), numerically, they are in a better position than they were in 2014. Along with 52 Congress members, 22 of the Trinamool Congress, the Opposi-

Opposition parties trying to regroup

'Like-minded' parties to meet on May 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Recovering from the Lok Sabha poll setback, Opposition parties are coming together on May 31, a day after the swearing-in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to sources, the Congress is leading the effort, with its leader Ahmed Patel making a round of calls inviting "like-minded" parties to come together for consultations.



Ahmed Patel
has 121 members in the 17th Lok Sabha.

YSR Congress

A section of the Opposition parties has maintained that there is a need to include the YSR Congress, which, along with the Trinamool, is the fourth largest party in the house. "We should have courted YSR Congress before the results...but, even now, it's not too late to try and get them in the Opposition block, except that the TDP (Telugu Desam Party) has been invited, but the YSR Congress will not be called for the meeting."

IN BRIEF



SC returns Karti plea, asks him to do MP's duty
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed Congress MP-elect Karti Chidambaram's plea for the return of ₹10 crore which he had deposited with the court's registry as a condition for being allowed to travel abroad.

"Having heard counsel for the applicant [Karti], we are not inclined to allow the prayer made. The application is accordingly dismissed," a Vacation Bench said in its order. "Now you pay attention to your constituency," it said. PTI

CPI seeks merger of Left parties

NEW DELHI
As the Communist Party of India (CPI) is in 'danger' of losing its national party status after winning just one seat in the Lok Sabha poll, it has appealed to the CPI (M) and other Left parties to merge as one entity. "The marginalisation of the Left will have a very serious implication on the future of the country...the situation demands the reunification of the communist parties and reworking of strategies," party general secretary Sudhakar Reddy said.

50 injured in J&K as protesters, forces clash

Srinagar
Clashes broke out between protesters and security forces during a search for militants in Kulgam of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, leaving more than 50 persons injured. "Three Jaish-e-Muhammad militants managed to escape after an initial round of fire. We called off the operation in the afternoon," Kulgam SP Gurinder Pal Singh said.

Pakistan extends airspace ban

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Pakistan on Wednesday extended the ban on the use of its airspace for flights from and passing through India by a fortnight.

The earlier NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued by Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority was until 3.30 p.m. on May 30. It has been replaced by a new one effective until 5.30 a.m. on June 15, a senior official of the Civil Aviation Ministry said.

According to data maintained by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, a total of six airlines, majority of them from Central Asian countries, have cancelled as many as 33 weekly flights from Delhi.

However, in what can be seen as a sign of de-escalation of tensions, the IAF has written to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to revoke restrictions imposed by it for certain regions in response to Pakistan's ban. "The IAF issued a letter to AAI on Wednesday that there are no restrictions on airspace from our end," a defence source said.

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The AAI is expected to revoke its earlier NOTAM and issue a new one in the next couple of days.

A Civil Aviation Ministry official said that after Pakistan lifted the ban, it will take nearly 14 hours to resume normal operations.

(With inputs from Dinakar Peri)

Dying words not clinching proof

If victim is in an unfit state of mind, other evidence is needed for conviction: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A dying declaration given by a victim in a possible unfit state of mind needs to be corroborated by other evidence to secure conviction, the Supreme Court has held.

A Bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and Deepak Gupta has referred to past judgments of the apex court to observe that though a dying declaration is entitled to great weight, it is worthwhile to note that the accused has no power of cross-examination.

"Such a power is essential for eliciting the truth as an obligation of oath could be.

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However, in what can be seen as a sign of de-escalation of tensions, the IAF has written to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to revoke restrictions imposed by it for certain regions in response to Pakistan's ban. "The IAF issued a letter to AAI on Wednesday that there are no restrictions on airspace from our end," a defence source said.

The AAI is expected to revoke its earlier NOTAM and issue a new one in the next couple of days.

A Civil Aviation Ministry official said that after Pakistan lifted the ban, it will take nearly 14 hours to resume normal operations.

(With inputs from Dinakar Peri)



This is the reason the court also insists that the dying declaration should be of such a nature as to inspire full confidence of the court in its correctness. The court has to be on guard that the statement of deceased was not as a result of either tutoring or prompting or a product of

imagination. The court must be further satisfied that the deceased was in a fit state of mind after a clear opportunity to observe and identify the assailant," the apex court said.

Once the court is satisfied that the declaration was true and voluntary, undoubtedly, it can base its conviction without any further corroboration, the court quoted a precedent, to acquit a person on the charge of murder of his wife in Pune.

"No doubt, a dying declaration is an extremely important piece of evidence and where the Court is satisfied that the dying declaration is

truthful, voluntary and not a result of any extraneous influence, the court can convict the accused only on the basis of a dying declaration," Justice Gupta observed in the recent verdict.

The judgment was based on appeals filed by the accused, Sampat Babu Kale and his family members, against the judgment of the Bombay High Court in 2010 in a case of murder and dowry harassment.

It pertains to death of his wife due to 98% burn injuries at their home in Chinchwad in July 1989. The court ordered Kale to be released immediately.

GST evasion: SC to examine power of authorities to make arrests

Seeks Centre's response; three-judge Bench to hear case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to consider the question of power of authorities to make arrests for Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion.

A Vacation Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Aniruddha Bose asked the government to address the court on the issue, particularly in the backdrop of varying decisions on the question by several High Courts.



The Bench scheduled the case for hearing before a three-judge Bench.

On May 27, the court dismissed a challenge against the Telangana High Court

decision that said individuals cannot be protected from arrest for GST violations.

On April 18, the High Court said it was not inclined to grant relief against arrest to petitioners who had approached it challenging the summons issued by the Superintendent (Anti-Evasion) of the Hyderabad GST Commissionerate under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 and invocation of penal provisions under the law.

West Bengal govt. to go on a statue spree

Tagore, Vidyasagar figures planned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

College Street and its adjoining areas in north Kolkata, which witnessed violence during BJP president Amit Shah's roadshow during the height of the Lok Sabha

ELSEWHERE



Nasheed elected Maldives Speaker

MALE
The Maldives's Parliament on Tuesday overwhelmingly voted Mohamed Nasheed as the Speaker of the house. He received 67 votes from among 87 members. The Speaker in Maldives also has a role in the Judicial Services Commission that regulates the Supreme Court. AP

Myanmar hard-line monk summoned

YANGON
Ultra-nationalist monk Wirathu was summoned for reprimand by Myanmar's top religious council, as police pursue him on charges of stirring up unrest. A court issued an arrest warrant for the abbot late on Tuesday under article 124(a) which targets anyone who "excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government". AFP

Bangladesh police seek death penalty for 16 over girl's killing

She was set on fire after complaining of sexual harassment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DHAKA
The Bangladesh police on Wednesday sought the death penalty for 16 people accused of killing a school girl, who was burnt to death by her madrasa principal for reporting a sexual harassment case against him, according to a media report.

The 18-year-old girl was set on fire at her school (madrasa) on April 6 by four burqa-clad assailants, days after she complained against principal Siraj-ud-Daula for inappropriately touching her.

The Police Bureau of Investigation submitted the chargesheet in the court of senior judicial magistrate,

Iran behind attacks on ships: Bolton

Oil tankers belonging to Saudi Arabia, UAE and Norway were targeted near the Strait of Hormuz

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ABU DHABI/TEHRAN

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said on Wednesday that naval mines "almost certainly from Iran" were used to attack oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates this month and warned Tehran against new operations.

Mr. Bolton said the "prudent and responsible" approach taken by the United States, which has beefed up its military presence in the region, had made it clear to Iran and its proxies that such actions risked a "very strong" U.S. response.

Emergency summit

He was speaking to reporters in Abu Dhabi ahead of an emergency summit of Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia on Thursday called to discuss the implications of the tanker attacks and drone strikes two days later on oil pumping stations in the kingdom.

The UAE has not yet blamed anyone for the sabot-



Fixing the blame: An Emirati-flagged bunkering tanker off the coast of Fujairah, UAE, earlier in the month. AP

age of four vessels, including two Saudi tankers, near Fujairah emirate, a major bunkering hub just outside the Strait of Hormuz.

Riyadh has accused Tehran of ordering the drone strikes, which were claimed by the Iran-aligned Houthis who have been battling a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen in a four-year conflict seen as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Iran has denied involve-

ment in either attack.

"I think it is clear these (tanker attacks) were naval mines almost certainly from Iran," Mr. Bolton said. "There is no doubt in anybody's mind in Washington who is responsible for this and I think it's important that the leadership in Iran know that we know."

A UAE bunker barge and a Norwegian-registered oil products tanker were also hit. France has a naval base

in Abu Dhabi. Mr. Bolton said the tanker attacks were connected to the strike on oil pumping stations on the kingdom's East-West pipeline and a rocket attack on the Green Zone in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

He said there had been a fourth unsuccessful attack on Saudi Arabia's Yanbu port a few days before the tanker operation but that it was unclear if it was linked to the others. Saudi officials were not immediately available to comment.

Iran strongly rejected Mr.

Bolton's accusations. "Making such laughable claims... is not strange" coming from the U.S., Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said in a statement on its official website. "Mr. Bolton and other warmongers and chaos seekers should know that the strategic patience, high vigilance and complete defensive readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran... will prevent the fulfilment of their evil desires for chaos in the region," he added.

Talks possible if sanctions are lifted'

REUTERS
LONDON

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani signalled on Wednesday that talks with the U.S. might be possible if Washington lifted sanctions, days after U.S. President Donald Trump said a deal with Tehran was conceivable.

Mr. Rouhani said in remarks carried by state television: "Whenever they lift the unjust sanctions and fulfill their commitments and return to the negotiations table, which they left themselves, the door is not closed... But our people judge you by your actions, not your words."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi had said on Tuesday that Iran saw no prospect of negotiations with the U.S.

which went into effect in early November last year, months after the United States pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an international deal to curb Iran's nuclear programme. That waiver expired on May 2.

During the press briefing, Ms. Ortagus also said that the Secretary of State Michael Pompeo will have a very robust discussion on a range of issues".

It is unclear which discussion she was referring to. The Hindu had reported that Mr. Pompeo is expected to lead a delegation to New Delhi in the third week of June, which would set the stage for talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump in Osaka, Japan, on the sidelines of the G-20 summit on June 28-29.

The State Department did not confirm Mr. Pompeo's New Delhi visit for The Hindu.

Johnson faces court hearing over 'Brexit lies'

Accused of misleading the public

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON
Boris Johnson, the frontrunner to become Britain's next Prime Minister, must attend court over allegations that he knowingly lied during the Brexit referendum campaign, a judge announced on Wednesday.

Mr. Johnson will be summoned to appear before a court over allegations of misconduct in public office, Judge Margot Coleman said in a written decision, without specifying the date.

The case is over the claim that Britain sends £350 million (\$440 million) a week to the European Union (EU).

Businessman Marcus Ball has crowd-funded the private prosecution.

Judge Coleman's decision follows a hearing last week



Boris Johnson AP

at Westminster Magistrates Court in London.

The summons application made by Mr. Ball's lawyers alleges that Mr. Johnson "repeatedly lied and misled the British public as to the cost of EU membership" and "knew that such comments were false or misleading".

The maximum penalty for misconduct in public office is life imprisonment.

18 killed in Taliban strike near Jam Minaret

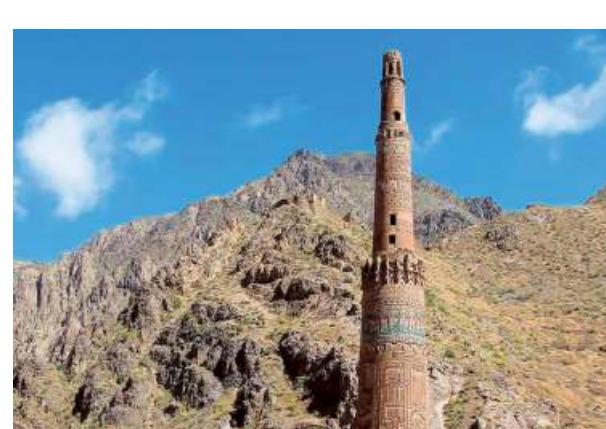
Militants shut off telcom towers, cut access to the UNESCO heritage site

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HERAT
Taliban fighters have stormed many security posts providing protection to Afghanistan's historic minaret of Jam, cutting access to the UNESCO World Heritage Site and killing 18 security forces, officials said on Wednesday.

The attack comes less than a week after the revered 12th-century minaret, located in a remote part of the western province of Ghor, was threatened by surging floodwaters.

The Taliban have captured some checkpoints around the minaret. We had to retreat because more fighting would cause damage



Vulnerable state: Located in an area under Taliban control, the Jam Minaret is the world's second tallest brick tower. AP

to the minaret," said Sayed Zia Hussaini, the deputy police chief of Ghor.

Abdul Hai Khatibi, the provincial Governor spokesman, said 15 pro-govern-

ment militias and three policemen had been killed in the attacks, which started on Monday. "The Taliban have shut off telecommunication towers and have cut any access to the area," said Fakhrudin Ariapur, the Ghor province director of information and culture.

On Monday, the government said it had hired about 300 local workers to channel floodwaters away from the tower. The work appeared to have saved the minaret from imminent danger. Located in an area largely under Taliban control, the Jam Minaret is the world's second tallest made of bricks, reaching a height of 65 m.

Pakistan man murders HIV-positive wife

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KARACHI
A Pakistani man killed his HIV-positive wife on Wednesday in southern Pakistan, where hundreds of people have tested positive for the virus in recent weeks.

Police said the murder took place in a village near the epicentre of the outbreak on the outskirts of Larkana city in Pakistan's Sindh province.

The victim tested positive in recent days, according to a local police officer, with her husband accusing her of having an extramarital affair.

"This morning the husband strangled (the victim) with a rope and then hung her from a tree outside his home," said Roshan Ali, a police officer in Shikarpur, adding that the suspect was now in custody.

Health officials say nearly 700 people have tested positive in recent weeks as experts warn of a surge in infection rates due to the use of unsanitary equipment and rampant malpractice.

U.S. digs its heels on Iran oil sanctions

No new exemptions after May 2

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON
The U.S. has said that there is no change to its position on the import of Iranian oil by other countries. State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus reiterated the U.S. stand in response to reports in the Indian media that New Delhi was trying to continue limited imports of Iranian oil which it intended to pay for in rupees.

"...I would just say that the Secretary has been very clear since April 22nd that we are going to zero," Ms. Ortagus told reporters on Tuesday.

"We have stated that there are no new exemptions after May 2nd as it relates to importing Iranian oil. The U.S. position there remains quite firm."

Six-month waiver

India was one of eight countries that had a six-month waiver from sanctions against buying Iranian oil,

which went into effect in early November last year, months after the United States pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an international deal to curb Iran's nuclear programme. That waiver expired on May 2.

During the press briefing, Ms. Ortagus also said that the Secretary of State Michael Pompeo will have a very robust discussion on a range of issues".

It is unclear which discussion she was referring to. The Hindu had reported that Mr. Pompeo is expected to lead a delegation to New Delhi in the third week of June, which would set the stage for talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump in Osaka, Japan, on the sidelines of the G-20 summit on June 28-29.

The State Department did not confirm Mr. Pompeo's New Delhi visit for The Hindu.

India removed from currency monitoring list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON
The U.S. on Tuesday removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners, citing steps being taken by New Delhi that addressed some of the Donald Trump administration's major concerns.

Switzerland is the other nation that was removed from the list.

"India has been removed from the monitoring list in this report, having met only one out of three criteria – a significant bilateral surplus with the United States – for two consecutive reports," the Treasury Department said in its report on macroeconomic policies.

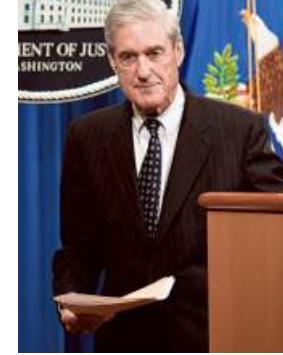
Charging Trump was not an option: Mueller

Special Counsel on the Russia probe makes his first public comments

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON
Special Counsel Robert Mueller has said that charging President Donald Trump for obstructing the probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 elections was not an option for his team. "...Under long-standing Department [of Justice] policy, a President cannot be charged with a federal crime while he is in office. That is unconstitutional," Mr. Mueller said.

"...The Constitution requires a process other than the criminal justice system to formally accuse a sitting President of wrongdoing," Mr. Mueller said, presumably referring to Congress which has the power to start impeachment proceeding against the President and the power – which it is currently



Special Counsel Robert Mueller AP

exercising – to investigate the President's activities.

No exoneration

Mr. Mueller also reiterated what the report concludes – that was not enough evidence to exonerate Mr. Trump. Yet the report,

which was partially released in April, had detailed several instances of potential obstruction of justice. "And as set forth in the report, after that investigation, if we had confidence that the President clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so. We did not, however, make a determination as to whether the President did commit a crime," Mr. Mueller said.

These are Mr. Mueller's first public remarks since his investigation began in 2016, and he said they were to be his last on the subject. "Now, I hope and expect this to be the only time that I will speak to you in this manner. I am making that decision myself. No one has told me whether I can or should testify or speak further about

this matter," Mr. Mueller said, adding that the scope of any testimony to Congress would not exceed what was presented in the report.

The U.S. House of Representatives has been attempting to get Mr. Mueller to testify but that has not happened yet. While Attorney General William Barr, who is Mr. Mueller's boss, has said that he will not prevent Mr. Mueller from testifying, Mr. Trump has left the decision to the Attorney General, although he has pushed back against the idea. "Why does he have to testify? That's ridiculous." Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Mueller, who said he will retire shortly, ended his remarks with a reminder about the probe's findings that Russia had sought to interfere in the elections.

THE ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED



OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

CAD-36:

CORRIGENDUM NO. 8

SELECTION OF MINE DEVELOPER CUM OPERATOR (MDO) FOR KURMITAR IRON ORE MINE

Reference: RFP No. 32/OMC/PROJ/13 dated 02.03.2019

In inviting reference to the above, it is for the information of all interested parties who wish to participate in the bidding process that in consideration of requests made by some interested parties, the management of OMC has revised the schedule of the following events of the bid document to as follows:

| Schedule of Bidding Process | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Sl.No. | Event | Revised Scheduled Date |
| 14 | Last date for downloading the bid documents | 18.06.2019 Time:1600 Hours |
| 15 | Bid due date (also the last date and time for physical submission of copies of documents related to Techno-Commercial Proposal) | 19.06.2019 Time:1600 Hours |
| 16 | Opening of Techno-Commercial proposals (on the website of MSTC) | 20.06.2019 Time:1100 Hours |
| 17 | Opening of documents submitted physically by bidders (in presence of Bidders who choose to attend) | 21.06.2019 Time:1100 Hours Venue: OMC House Bhubaneswar |

30005/11/0006/1920

General Manager (Projects)

| GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH E-Procurement Notice, Online - RWSESN-02 of 2019-20 Letter No.1115/Dtd.27.05.2019 22-0: | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

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MARKET WATCH

| | 29-05-2019 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex | 39,502 | -0.62 |
| US Dollar | 69.83 | -0.20 |
| Gold | 33,020 | 0.45 |
| Brent oil | 68.67 | -1.97 |

NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| Adani Ports | 406.55 | -6.10 |
| AAsian Paints | 1358.25 | -6.10 |
| Axis Bank | 804.70 | -3.70 |
| Bajaj Auto | 2925.50 | -62.50 |
| Bajaj Finance | 8131.75 | 3.20 |
| Bharti Airtel | 338.80 | -6.80 |
| BPCL | 399.15 | -2.80 |
| Britannia Ind | 2917.00 | 30.00 |
| Cipla | 564.35 | -13.60 |
| Coal India | 250.70 | 0.00 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 2610.75 | -41.20 |
| Eicher Motors | 20423.75 | -366.35 |
| GAIL (India) | 353.75 | 5.00 |
| Gasim Ind | 910.50 | -0.45 |
| HCL Tech | 1085.00 | 13.70 |
| HDPC | 2147.45 | -0.40 |
| HDFC Bank | 2416.90 | 0.70 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2725.50 | -17.60 |
| Hindalco | 199.30 | -2.55 |
| Hind Unilever | 1780.85 | 3.95 |
| Indiabulls HFL | 777.80 | -6.65 |
| ICICI Bank | 423.30 | -11.00 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1608.65 | -11.00 |
| Bharti Infralet | 275.70 | 6.70 |
| Infosys | 727.80 | -0.30 |
| Indian Oil Corp | 160.35 | -3.10 |
| ITC | 288.10 | -0.80 |
| JSW Steel | 280.55 | -12.40 |
| Kotak Bank | 1513.90 | 2.90 |
| L&T | 1552.45 | -22.05 |
| M&M | 672.15 | 1.60 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 6891.45 | -163.20 |
| NTPC | 130.90 | -1.70 |
| ONGC | 171.55 | -3.75 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 190.15 | -0.05 |
| Reliance Ind | 1313.05 | -10.70 |
| State Bank | 348.65 | -11.40 |
| Sun Pharma | 423.80 | 11.05 |
| Tata Motors | 176.35 | -3.90 |
| Tata Steel | 493.30 | -13.75 |
| TCS | 2107.55 | 33.80 |
| Tech Mahindra | 738.85 | 1.70 |
| Titan | 1234.65 | 3.10 |
| UltraTech Cement | 4719.85 | -53.10 |
| UPL | 997.00 | -18.55 |
| Vedanta | 165.85 | -3.70 |
| Wipro | 285.70 | 2.75 |
| YES Bank | 151.70 | -1.10 |
| Zee Entertainment | 372.55 | -9.25 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|--------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 69.63 | 69.95 |
| Euro | 77.68 | 78.04 |
| British Pound | 88.08 | 88.49 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 63.72 | 64.01 |
| Chinese Yuan | 10.08 | 10.12 |
| Swiss Franc | 69.25 | 69.57 |
| Singapore Dollar | 50.42 | 50.66 |
| Canadian Dollar | 51.60 | 51.84 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 16.59 | 16.69 |

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

May 29 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g) 39.2... (39.3)

22 ct gold (1g) 3047 (3035)

M&M net skids on liquidity, falling demand

Board recommends 170% dividend, approves merger, absorption of Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Automotive major Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd's (M&M) standalone net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 31 declined 20% to ₹849 crore compared with the ₹1,059 crore in the year-earlier period.

This was on account of the liquidity crisis bogging the sector down and lack of demand from the market.

Muted demand in rural India coupled with the NBFC crisis led to a tight liquidity situation, resulting in a fall in demand for tractors and automobiles in general, the firm said. "After seven successive quarters of growth, the domestic automotive industry witnessed a reversal in Q4, mainly due to negative growth of 2% and 5.9% in

Strong headwinds



After seven quarters of growth, the domestic auto sector saw a reversal in Q4 mainly due to negative growth of 2% and 5.9% in PVs and CVs, respectively

Pawan Goenka
MD, M&M

| Metrics | Q4 FY19 | Q4 FY18 | Growth (%) |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Revenue from operations (₹ cr.) | 14,035 | 13,308 | 5.5 |
| Net profit (₹ cr.) | 848.9 | 1,059 | (19.8) |
| Earnings per share (₹) | 7.13 | 8.9 | - |
| Dividend (₹) | 8.5 | 7.5 | - |

passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles, respectively. Despite such headwinds, M&M successfully weathered these challenges. The launch of XUV 300, Marazzo and Alturas G4 helped to maintain growth in the utility vehicles segment," said Pawan Goenka, MD, M&M. During the quarter, the company reported a total income of ₹14,272 crore compared with ₹13,479 crore, up about 6% from the year-earlier period. The company sold

1,63,937 units in the quarter, compared with 1,56,453 units, up 5%. It sold 56,903 tractors compared with 66,885 units, down 15%. Exports rose 8.7% to 13,541 units compared with 12,459 units in its same quarter last year.

For the financial year ended March 31, the company reported a net profit of ₹4,808 crore compared with ₹4,346 crore, up 11%.

Total income rises

During the year, the company's total income increased to ₹55,303 crore compared with ₹50,481 crore in the previous year, up 19.6%.

On a consolidated basis, M&M reported a profit after tax of ₹6,017 crore compared with ₹7,958 crore in the previous year, down 24.4%. The board has recom-

mended a dividend of ₹8.50 (170%) per equity share. The board has also approved, subject to regulatory approvals, the merger and absorption of Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers Ltd. (MVML), its 100% subsidiary, into itself effective April 1, 2019.

Combined profit drops
M&M and MVML reported a 16% decline in profit after tax after exceptional items to ₹969 crore for the Q4 as against ₹1,155 crore. Revenue during the period increased 5% to ₹4,055 crore.

For the fiscal, M&M and MVML jointly reported 17% growth in profit after tax after exceptional items to ₹4,808 crore compared with ₹4,346 crore, up 11%.

Adani Power clocks profit on more sales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), the flagship firm of the Adani Group, reported a 50.5% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹283 crore for the fourth quarter.

The rise in profit came on a 36% increase in revenue to ₹13,237 crore even as EBIDTA for the quarter fell 5% to ₹943 crore.

Commenting on the results, Gautam Adani, chairman, Adani Group said, "Adani Enterprises continues to focus on incubating businesses of national importance, building second generation infrastructure and utilities. A stable government emphasising on policy initiatives paves the way for growth opportunities across sectors. Our endeavour is to

establish businesses of the future, creating better value for the stakeholders in long term." For FY19, the company's net profit fell 5% to ₹717 crore and EBIDTA fell 3% to ₹2,541 crore, even as revenue increased by 12% to ₹40,379 crore.

"Shareholders' value increased by a CAGR of 65% in

last two years by demerger of renewable generation and city gas distribution businesses," said the company in a statement.

The AEL board has recommended a dividend of ₹0.40 per equity share of face value of ₹1 each fully paid up for FY19 subject to approval by the shareholders of the company with effect from Wednesday.

Reappointed to board

The board has reappointed Rajesh S. Adani as a managing director of the company

The company plans to raise ₹5,000 crore and will seek shareholders' approval for an enabling resolution to raise the funds.

AEL shares fell 1.43% to ₹155.3 on the BSE in a weak Mumbai market on Wednesday.

The company sold 16.6 billion units (BUs) in the quarter as compared to 7.9 BUs during Q4 FY18.

The company reduced its losses to ₹984.4 crore as revenue went up by 25% to ₹26,362 crore and EBIDTA grew 20% to ₹7,431 crore.

The company will view the return of the Modi government positively; it will expect the government to announce further economic and governance reforms over the next few months," said Morgan Stanley, pegging its June

Marketmen bet on lower volatility, rate cut, positive re-rating

'Domestic flows may return stronger'

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

A decline in market volatility, rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and an overall re-rating of the equity markets, especially that of the financial sector stocks, appear to be the key themes of market participants post the election results that saw the BJP-led NDA getting a huge majority.

While many brokerages have raised their Sensex and Nifty targets, there are quite a few who believe that the mid-cap and small-cap segments, that have been in the doldrums for long, could see value picking by institutional investors.

"With political and policy uncertainty abating significantly, we believe the market volatility (VIX) will decline," stated a report by Reliance Securities.

"Apart from a decline in market volatility, another round of rate cut by the RBI is likely. All these factors point towards a higher market multiple, which is likely to sustain," it added, while upgrading its December Nifty target to 13,000.

Incidentally, the India VIX index, which is looked upon as a barometer for near-term volatility, lost about 30% on May 23, when the election results came in.

'More accommodative'

Similarly, Morgan Stanley said it expected the RBI to be more accommodative and the economy to come out of its soft patch.

"Earnings could be heading into a new cycle and domestic flows should return stronger," said Morgan Stanley, pegging its June



2020 target for Sensex and Nifty at 45,000 and 13,500, respectively.

While the Sensex had risen marginally since the election results were announced, it did breach the psychological 40,000-mark for the first time ever on May 23.

Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), which had been facing liquidity issues for quite a few months now, are on the radar of many market participants who expect the new government to infuse liquidity and revive the segment.

"With the formation of a stable government at the Centre, we expect a definite solution being offered to resolve the NBFC liquidity crisis," said Emkay Global.

To avoid triggering retail NPA cycle, some kind of bailout of the NBFCs is necessary, it said, highlighting that NBFCs have played an important role in increasing overall credit expansion in India, especially in the rural and semi-urban areas.

"The market will view the return of the Modi government positively; it will expect the government to announce further economic and governance reforms over the next few months," said Kotak Institutional Equities in its recent report.

RBI forms task force on corporate loans

Move to develop secondary market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday constituted a task force to suggest policy and regulatory interventions required for development of secondary market in corporate loans, including loan transaction platform for stressed assets.

The six-member body, headed by Canara Bank chairman T. N. Manoharan, has been set up to review the existing state of the market for loan sale/transfer in India as well as international experience in loan trading, the central bank said.

Restricted to ARCs
Secondary loan market in India is largely restricted to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) and ad hoc sale to other lenders,

IN BRIEF



3M India appoints Ramadurai as new MD

BENGALURU
3M India, the Indian subsidiary of Minnesota-based 3M Co., has appointed Ramesh Ramadurai as MD with effect from June 1. Mr. Ramadurai takes over from Debarati Sen, who had led the company for the past three years and is now returning to 3M USA as the vice president and general manager for 3M Abrasives Systems Division. 3M India reported a consolidated annual revenue of ₹3,053.65 crore during FY19.

GST fraud: Doshi resigns as Manpasand director

MUMBAI
An independent director of Manpasand Beverages has resigned in wake of search and seizure proceedings by the Commissioner of Central GST and Customs at various premises of the company. "... we would like to inform Chirag Doshi, independent director of the company, has tendered resignation. This resignation is mainly due to the press release issued by the GST department," the company said in a filing. PTI

KVB to form venture with Centrum Wealth

CHENNAI
Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. has entered into a pact with Centrum Wealth Management Ltd. (Centrum) to form a private limited joint venture (JV) to offer wealth management services to its clients. The private sector bank will hold 51% of the share capital of the JV, Centrum 45% and the balance by the JV's staff. The board would comprise five directors of whom three would be from the bank.

Need infra focus, says Srivats Ram

Investment in sector can result in positive sentiment, spurring growth again

K.T. JAGANNATHAN
CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd. has reported a net profit of ₹19.7 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2019 as compared to ₹19.5 crore in the same quarter of the previous year. Revenue for the quarter stood at ₹855.1 crore (₹705.1 crore).

The company registered a 5.4% rise in net profit for the year ended March 2019 at ₹75.7 crore as compared to ₹71.8 crore in the previous year. Revenue for FY19 increased by 26.7% to ₹3,188.8 crore (₹2,517.1 crore). The board has recommended a final dividend of ₹4.75 per share.

"If you take away the one-time gain of ₹12 crore last year due to slump sale of our passenger car steel wheel business, the profitability in



On track: Despite a slowdown since November, Wheels India did not halt its investments, says Srivats Ram. ■ BIJOY GHOSH

FY19 is in line with the strong revenue growth," said Srivats Ram, MD.

"While we had targeted ₹122 crore last year in capital expenditure, we actually ended up investing ₹144 crore, driven by demand from our customers in all

our business segments. The growth was fuelled by additional capacity that came on stream. Even though there was a slowdown in the second half of last year, we did not cut down on our investments. We will continue to invest in our business," he

said. "We saw very good growth in the first 7-8 months of last year, whereas typically Q4 is the period when one sees volume growth. There has been a slowdown since November.

"The first half of this year may not be dramatically better than last year. Change in emission norms next year could result in some amount of pre-buy," he said.

Stating that the sentiment had been poor in the recent past, he said, "with the majority government, the uncertainty is over and there is definitely hope." He said that continued investment in infrastructural development could result in positive sentiment and that could have a multiplier effect on the commercial vehicle segment and spur growth again.

Rajapalayam Mills to merge A.P. unit with Tamil Nadu plant

Reappoints Sudarsanam as MD for three more years

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Rajapalayam Mills Ltd. (RML), a Ramco Group company, has decided to merge its spinning mill in Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) with its mother plant in Rajapalayam in Tamil Nadu, said a top official.

"The board of directors have decided to shift a majority of the machines installed in A.P. with its parent unit for better control over operation and costs," said Gnanagurusamy, chief financial officer, RML. "The entire exercise is expected to be completed over the next two months."

RML has a total installed capacity of about 1.38 lakh

C The entire exercise is expected to be completed over the next 2 months
GNANAGURUSAMY
chief financial officer

spindles and 5,480 rotors, of which 4,800 spindles and 1,800 rotors are in A.P.

"As of March 31, 2019, the AP unit generated a revenue of ₹38.43 crore and this constituted 9% of RML's total revenue. There will not be any reduction of revenue or profits since majority of the machinery is being shifted to the parent unit at Rajapalayam," he said.

After shifting the machinery, RML would initiate the process of selling the resi-

dual machines, land and building in the A.P. unit.

The board reappointed R. Sudarsanam (77) as managing director for a period of three years from April 2020 to March 2023, subject to the approval of shareholders. She is a promoter and managing director and has been on RML's board since 1996, said a company statement.

RML has reported a loss of ₹15 lakh in its standalone results for the fourth quarter ended March 2019 against a profit of ₹38 lakh reported year earlier, due to taxation. Total revenue rose to ₹120.56 crore from ₹123.37 crore. The board declared a dividend of ₹4 per share.

Samsung set to double online smartphone sales

Eyes \$1 billion worth B2C business

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

about \$6 billion. Of this, the B2C or consumer segment is about \$4.5 billion. We aim to end 2019 with 25% share of the consumer segment," Mr. Warsi said.

Pointing out that since the launch of the new portfolio in February, the company had sold more than two million M series devices, Mr. Warsi said Samsung was on track to double its online smartphone business this year.

The company plans to strengthen the series with launch of M40 model in June, which is expected to be priced about ₹20,000. Its existing M series phones – M10, 20 and 30 – are priced in the range of ₹8,000-₹18,000.

MM Forgings Q4 net profit dives 36%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

MM Forgings Ltd. standalone net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 2019 plunged 36% to ₹17.52 crore from ₹27.37 crore registered in the corresponding quarter last year, following an increase in raw material costs, power and fuel costs.

Total income for the period rose 17.29% to ₹238.91 crore from ₹203.69 crore.

The board declared two interim dividends of ₹2.50 each per share. However, it did not recommend any final dividend for FY19.

For the full year, net profit improved to ₹81.35 crore from ₹68.51 crore. Total income rose to ₹919.76 crore from ₹632.73 crore.

Chola Investment gets \$222 mn from International Finance Corp.

Funds to be lent to small transport operators, MSMEs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (CIFCL), a Murugappa Group company, has received an investment of \$222 million from a foreign investor anchored by the IFC.

This is the company's first U.S. dollar-syndicated deal since January 2019, when RBI permitted NBFCs to tap into offshore credit market.

CIFCL would use the funds to help small road transport operators (SRTOs) and micro, small and medium (MSMEs) borrowers, especially in the rural and semi-urban areas.

The present round of funding was anchored by

million), said a company statement.

"IFC's strong commitment to the NBFC space and support in helping us access credit from foreign investors will reinforce the important role played by the NBFC sector in providing last-mile credit. This arrangement, led by IFC, has helped CIFCL tap a new investor base for its borrowings at competitive rates, which will support its growth plans," said Arun Alagappan, executive director, CIFCL.

CIFCL's core business is providing commercial vehicle finance and loan against properties. It had entered the affordable housing finance segment recently.

Bandhan to open 16 more branches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

City-based Bandhan Bank will open 16 more branches by June following the approval received from the Reserve Bank of India in 2018-19 to open 64 new branches.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, managing director & chief executive officer, Bandhan Bank, said that while 48 branches were opened by March 2019, the remaining branches would be opened this quarter.

Speaking on the occasion of opening a branch at Boral in South 24 Parganas, Mr. Ghosh said: "We are further strengthening our presence in West Bengal."

The bank has 370 branches in the State.

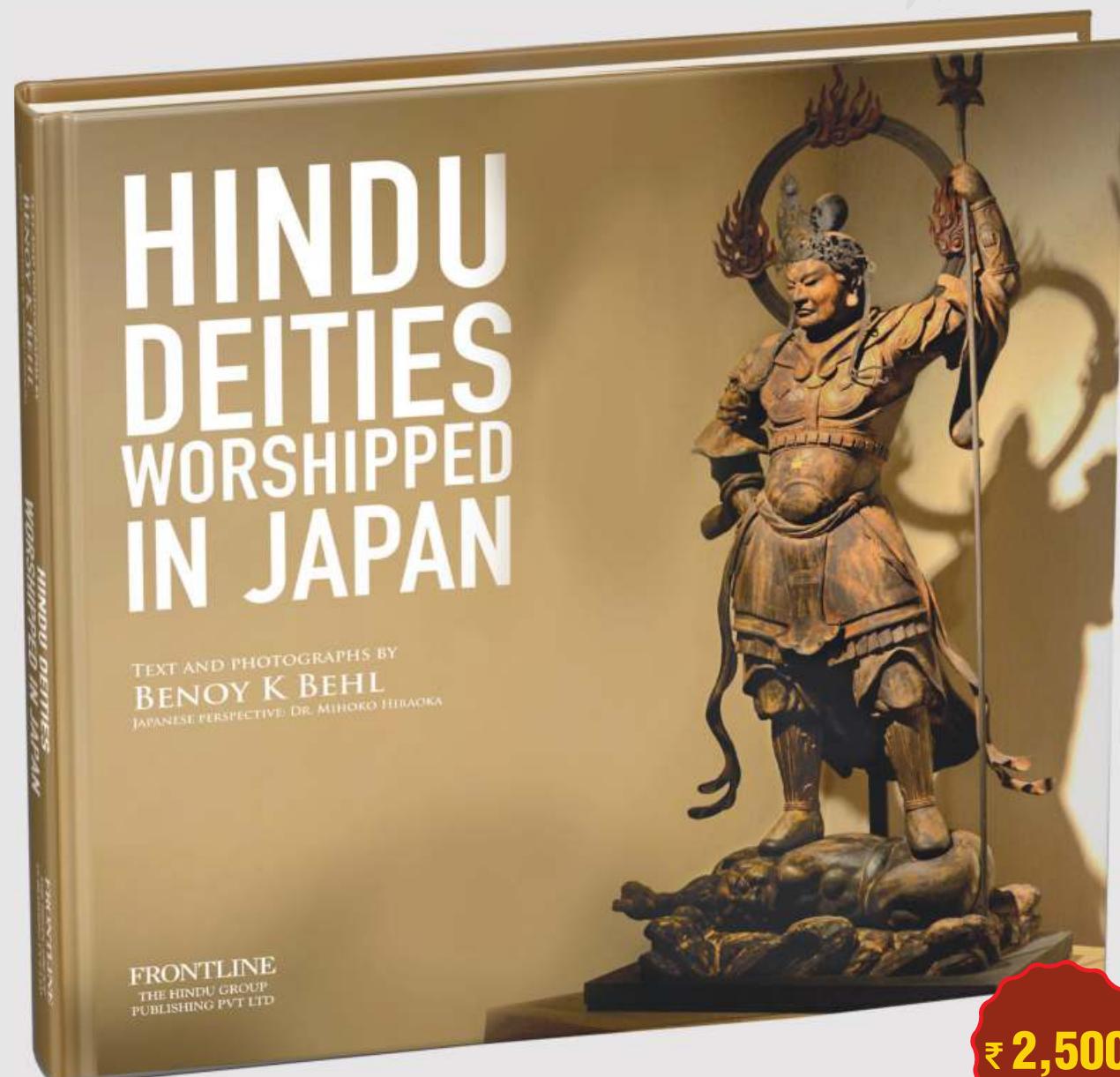


A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

This coffee-table book opens a window to the practice of Buddhism in Japan, right from its arrival in that country 1,000 years ago to its growth through the worship of deities of Indian origin. Benoy Behl's images illuminate the pages and present an invaluable account of Japan's links with Hinduism and with its Buddhist past

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World Cup returns to its roots; England keen to make the most of it

Kohli's India will be determined to reinforce its known ODI prowess, while Australia must put behind the ball-tampering fiasco and ride its form



THE PREVIEW

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

Just a few kilometres from the bustling markets in Lambeth, a London suburb where Asians, West Indians and Africans sell bananas, rice, dal curry and spicy chicken, England's sporting gift to the Commonwealth – cricket – returns with its showpiece event: the World Cup.

The nearby Oval will host the opener featuring England and South Africa on Thursday and over the next 45 days, fans will be glued to contests at venues ranging from Lord's to Edgbaston.

Cricket's premier championship surely lacks the universal heft of its counterpart in football, yet, in pockets across the globe where British colonial imprint lingers, the World Cup will prevail over a range of issues, be it Brexit in England or post-election ennui in India.

Having discarded the earlier practice of teams being split into two groups, the World Cup has embraced the round-robin league from where the top four in a field of 10 will battle it out in the final stretch culminating in the summit clash on July 14. It is a gripping format and ensures that whoever wins, can claim that the squad had competed against all teams.

Missing piece

Host England, placed first in the International Cricket Council's ODI rankings, has often struggled in big tournaments and the World Cup is missing in a cupboard which has its share of Ashes urns. Skipper Eoin Morgan is confident that his fellow-batsmen and pace-ace Jofra Archer could make a difference.

South Africa, meanwhile, needs to shed its defensive reflex when the word 'choke' is whispered. Faf du Plessis leads a talented bunch and gets an opportunity to silence the nay-sayers, who recall final over melt-downs and comical run outs from the past. It may not help that Dale Steyn is ruled out for the first match but the Proteas still have adequate fire-power.

Among the rest, defending champion Australia must for-



Who will it be? Ten captains will vie for the cup, but only one of them will lift it after 45 days. ■ COURTESY: GULBADIN NAIB/TWITTER

get the scalding embers emanating from the ball-tampering crisis that laid low Steve Smith and David Warner, fine players but fragile men. The duo is back and there cannot be a bigger stage for redemption than the World Cup.

If Australia is all about finding its way back, India just has to reinforce its

known ODI prowess. Virat Kohli's men have talent and experience but expectations from the Indian Diaspora can either become an inspiring springboard or a shroud that suffocates the nostrils.

Mercurial teams

Pakistan, New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka and Bangla-

desh are all part of an interesting mix. These are merciful teams that can flourish or implode and make us misty-eyed, especially if you have a soft spot for the men from the Caribbean islands and cannot forget the gun-shot sound from the bat of Vivian Richards.

And finally, you have Af-

ghanistan, which imbibed cricket from refugee camps at Peshawar in neighbouring Pakistan, and has players with their sordid stories of having lost a dear one to the scourge of extremism. The World Cup may be a lodestone for most but for Gulbadin Naib's men, it's a balm for wounded souls.

World Cup in numbers

Highest individual score

237*
Martin Guptill, New Zealand vs West Indies, Wellington (WTS), March 21, 2015



Highest run aggregate
2,278 Sachin Tendulkar in 45 matches between 1992 and 2011

Most hundreds

6 Sachin Tendulkar

Most fifties

15 Sachin Tendulkar

Most fours

241 Sachin Tendulkar

Best bowling figures

7/15 in 7 overs,
Glenn McGrath, Australia v Namibia, Potchefstroom, February 27, 2003

Most wickets

71 Glenn McGrath in 39 matches between 1996 and 2007

Most dismissals by a wicketkeeper

54 Kumar Sangakkara in 37 matches

Most catches by a fielder

28 Ricky Ponting in 46 matches

Most ducks

5 Ijaz Ahmed (Pakistan) and Nathan Astle (New Zealand)

Most sixes

37 Chris Gayle (West Indies) and A.B. de Villiers (South Africa)

Most runs

3,685 Sachin Tendulkar in 45 matches



Getting ready: England's Ben Stokes and Liam Plunkett prep themselves for the inaugural match against South Africa. ■ AP

Moment of reckoning for Morgan's men

Host's line-up of big-hitters take on Rabada-led South African attack in the opener

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

England will put four years of planning to the test when it faces South Africa in the opening match at The Oval on Thursday.

Batting has been the basis of England's ODI rejuvenation, with Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root, Morgan and the dynamic Jos Buttler among a top seven who can all change the course of an innings in the blink of an eye.

"It's an exciting feeling be-

ing in this team as you have world-class players all around you and the opposition might get 370, but there's a belief in the dressing room we can chase it down," said England leg-spinner Adil Rashid.

South Africa has suffered plenty of World Cup heartache but having been losing semifinalists four years there is a sense the Proteas are going under the radar this time around.

South Africa coach Ottis

Gibson is convinced the pressure is all on the tournament hosts. The team will be without Dale Steyn on Thursdays

as the outstanding fast bowler nurses a shoulder injury but South Africa has become used to his absence.

| THE FACE-OFF | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|--------------|-----|
| ENGLAND V SOUTH AFRICA | | HEAD-TO-HEAD | | |
| EOIN MORGAN | | FAF DU PLESSIS | | |
| Overall | Matches | England | South Africa | Tie |
| World Cup | 6 | 3 | 3 | - |
| LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD, 3 P.M.) | | | | |



Lucky charm: Rohit Sharma's wife Ritika, seen with their daughter, is seen as a positive influence on his career. ■ PTI

should change his school for his cricket to flourish," he said and convinced the school management to accept him after admissions were over "without donation."

For nearly a year after being a regular at Lad's nets, Rohit was the primary spinner for the school team. Then one day, as Lad entered the school, he saw from a distance a batsman – with his back to the coach – knocking the ball.

"I was amazed at the swing of the bat and the grip and started wondering where this talented batsman had cropped up from. Only when I went closer did I realise it was Rohit. In the next match, he was promoted to bat at No. 4 and he scored a scintillating hundred. Since then, Rohit's bat hasn't stopped talking," Lad says.

The setback
Rohit quickly rose through the junior ranks. He was spotted early on by Vasu Paranjape, who was instrumental in picking him for the Mumbai under-17 team for the first time, with Naik as captain.

Then having impressed

the likes of Dilip Vengsarkar and Pravin Amre, he was called up for the India under-19 side, which was followed with a Mumbai Ranji cap and an India debut.

Then came the IPL. With Rohit lacking consistency, there were murmurs of him losing focus.

What followed was a big setback – exclusion from In-

dia's 2011 World Cup squad. While watching the World Cup with his close friends, he turned to Nayar. "He looked at me and said, 'I am ready to do anything. I want to get back into the Indian team.' That's when it started for both of us," says Nayar.

The next six weeks saw Nayar changing Rohit's lifestyle. A rigorous schedule was chalked out till the start of the 2011 IPL, and it paid rich dividends.

Rohit today is the most successful captain in the IPL,

with a team owned by India's richest family. But he still retains his suburban charm, though his friends stress that his wife Ritika has been instrumental in bringing out the sophisticated SoBo-ite (South Bombay) in the brash kid from Borivali wherever it's required.

Rohit's childhood friends will be hoping that he and his India teammates will once again bring Mumbai's traffic to a standstill.

The Ro file

Date of birth: April 30, 1987

From: Mumbai

What friends and family call him: Ro

First school: Our Lady of Vailankanni High School, Borivali

First coach: Dinesh Lad

Passionate about: Cars, Bollywood films featuring Govinda and Rajpal Yadav

| ODI record | M | Runs | HS | Avg | S/R | 100/50 |
|------------|-----|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| Overall | 206 | 8,010 | 264 | 47.39 | 87.95 | 22/41 |
| In England | 15 | 687 | 137* | 57.25 | 82.87 | 2/5 |

CM YK

THE FIXTURES

| Date | Match | Venue | Time | Date | Match | Venue | Time |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------|--------|---------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| May 30 | England v South Africa | The Oval | 3 p.m. | June 16 | India v Pakistan | Old Trafford | 3 p.m. |
| May 31 | West Indies v Pakistan | Trent Bridge | 3 p.m. | June 17 | West Indies v Bangladesh | Taunton | 3 p.m. |
| June 1 | New Zealand v Sri Lanka | Cardiff | 3 p.m. | June 18 | England v Afghanistan | Old Trafford | 3 p.m. |
| June 2 | Afghanistan v Australia | Bristol | 6 p.m. | June 19 | New Zealand v South Africa | Edgbaston | 3 p.m. |
| June 3 | South Africa v Bangladesh | The Oval | 3 p.m. | June 20 | Australia v Bangladesh | Trent Bridge | 3 p.m. |
| June 4 | England v Pakistan | Trent Bridge | 3 p.m. | June 21 | England v Sri Lanka | Headingley | 3 p.m. |
| June 5 | Afghanistan v Sri Lanka | Cardiff | 3 p.m. | June 22 | India v Afghanistan | Southampton | 3 p.m. |
| June 6 | Bangladesh v New Zealand | The Oval | 6 p.m. | June 23 | West Indies v New Zealand | Old Trafford | 6 p.m. |
| June 7 | Australia v West Indies | Trent Bridge | 3 p.m. | June 24 | Pakistan v South Africa | Lord's | 3 p.m. |
| June 8 | England v Bangladesh | Bristol | 3 p.m. | June 25 | Bangladesh v Afghanistan | Southampton | 3 p.m. |
| June 9 | Afghanistan v New Zealand | Taunton | 6 p.m. | June 26 | England v Australia | Lord's | 3 p.m. |
| June 10 | South Africa v West Indies | Southampton | 3 p.m. | June 27 | New Zealand v Pakistan | Edgbaston | 3 p.m. |
| June 11 | Bangladesh v Sri Lanka | Bristol | 3 p.m. | June 28 | Sri Lanka v South Africa | Chester-le-Street | 3 p.m. |
| June 12 | Australia v Pakistan | Taunton | 3 p.m. | June 29 | Pakistan v Afghanistan | Headingley | 3 p.m. |
| June 13 | India v New Zealand | Trent Bridge | 3 p.m. | June 30 | New Zealand v Australia | Lord's | 6 p.m. |
| June 14 | England v West Indies | Southampton | 3 p.m. | July 1 | Sri Lanka v West Indies | Chester-le-Street | 3 p.m. |
| June 15 | South Africa v Afghanistan | The Oval | 3 p.m. | July 2 | Bangladesh v India | Edgbaston | 3 p.m. |
| June 16 | India v Pakistan | Old Trafford | 3 p.m. | July 3 | England v New Zealand | Chester-le-Street | 3 p.m. |
| June 17 | West Indies v Bangladesh | Taunton | 3 p.m. | July 4 | Afghanistan v West Indies | Headingley | 3 p.m. |
| June 18 | England v Afghanistan</ | | | | | | |

Federer and Nadal power through

Pliskova eases past Slovakia's Kucova; Divij-Marcelo duo progresses

ROLAND GARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Roger Federer breezed into the third round at Roland Garros for the 15th time on Wednesday by seeing off German lucky loser Oscar Otte, while 11-time champion Rafael Nadal and Stefanos Tsitsipas also progressed.

The 37-year-old Federer held off a persistent World No. 144 Otte, saving all four break points he faced in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Next up for the 20-time Grand Slam title winner is a clash with Norway's Casper Ruud, who put out Italian 29th seed Matteo Berrettini 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.

"The Grand Slams are incredible. You can meet a player who qualified who (you) have not heard of before," said Federer, who last played at Roland Garros in 2015.

"It was difficult, he really played a great match."

Nadal continued the strong start to his bid for a record-extending 12th title with a comfortable victory over German qualifier Yannick Maden. The 32-year-old Nadal was in near-total control against World No. 114 Maden, bar some nervy moments in the third set, winning 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov



Gutsy: Grigor Dimitrov twice came from a set down to outlast 11th seed Marin Cilic. ■ AFP

twice came from a set behind to outlast 11th seed Marin Cilic.

The former World No. 3, unseeded this year after falling to 46th in the rankings, produced a gutsy display laced with pure shot-making to win in five sets.

Bertens retires

Dutch fourth seed Kiki Bertens, one of the title favourites, retired from her second round match through

illness. The 27-year-old was trailing Slovakia's Viktoria Kučmárová 3-1, 40-15 when she called for the doctor, complaining she was suffering from "shaking and having no energy".

"I felt fine yesterday in practice but this morning I woke up at three o'clock. I was vomiting and had diarrhea all day," said Bertens.

"I was a little bit better before the match but it started again when I was warming

up. There was no energy left."

Ukrainian Elina Svitolina will face 2016 champion Garbiñe Muguruza in the women's third round after the ninth seed's compatriot Kateryna Kozlova pulled out of the tournament before their match with a viral infection.

Spain's Muguruza, seeded 19th this year, eased to a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Swede Johanna Larsson to advance.

Second seed Karolina Plíš-

ková also clinched a straight-set win in round two, beating Slovakia's Kristína Kučmárová 6-2, 6-2 to set up a tie with Croatian 31st seed Petra Martić.

Tough encounter

India's Divij Sharan and his Brazilian partner Marcelo Demoliner beat Hungary's Márton Fucsovics and Sweden's Robert Lindstedt 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 to make the men's doubles second round.

Thursday's picks

MEN

1-Djokovic vs Laaksonen

4-Thiem vs Bublik

5-Alexander Zverev vs Ymer

8-del Potro vs Nishioka

14-Monfils vs Mannarino

WOMEN

1-Osaka vs Azarenka

3-Halep vs Linette

10-Serena vs Nara

14-Keys vs Hon

24-Garcia vs Blinkova

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Second round: Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt 11-Marin Cilic (Cro) 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-6, 7-6(2), 6-3; Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) bt 21-Alex De Minaur (Aus) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.

3-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Oscar Otte (Ger) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4; 24-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt Cristian Garin (Chi) 6-1, 6-4, 6-0.

Casper Ruud (Nor) bt 29-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) 6-4, 7-5, 6-3; 6-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Hugo Dellien (Bol) 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 7-5; Nicolas Mahut (Fra) bt Philipp Kohlschreiber (Ger) 6-3,

6-3, 6-3; 7-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) bt Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (Fra) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 31-Laslo Djere (Srb) bt Alexei Popyrin (Aus) 6-4, 7-6(4), 6-4.

Juan Ignacio Londero (Arg) bt Richard Gasquet (Fra) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Corentin Moutet (Fra) bt 19-Guido Pella (Arg) 6-3, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5; 27-David Goffin (Bel) bt Miomir Kecmanović (Srb) 6-2, 6-4, 6-3; 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt Yannick Maden (Ger) 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Doubles: First round: Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Divij Sharan

bt Marton Fucsovics (Hun) & Robert Lindstedt (Swe) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Women: Second round: Viktoria Kučmárová (Svk) bt Kiki Bertens (Ned) 3-1 retd.; 26-Johanna Konta (Grb) bt Lauren Davis (USA) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; 23-Donna Vekic (Cro) bt Rebecca Peterson (Swe) 1-6, 6-1, 6-2.

7-Sloane Stephens (USA) bt Sara Sorribes Tormo (Esp) 6-1, 7-6(3); 19-Garbiñe Muguruza (Esp) bt Johanna Larsson (Swe) 6-4, 6-1; 9-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) w/o Kateryna Kozlova (Ukr) 6-2, 6-2.

Marketka Vondrousova (Cze) bt Anastasia Potapova (Rus) 6-4, 6-0; 28-Carla Suárez Navarro (Esp) bt Shelby Rogers (USA) 6-1, 6-7(4), 6-3; 20-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt Diane Parry (Fra) 6-1, 6-3; 12-Anastasija Sevastova (Lat) bt Mandy Minella (Lux) 6-2, 6-4; Veronika Kudermetova (Rus) bt Zarina Diyas (Kaz) 7-5, 6-1; Kaia Kanepi (Est) bt Shuai Zhang (Chn) 6-7(4), 6-0, 7-5; 31-Petra Martić (Cro) bt Kristina Mladenovic (Fra) 6-2, 6-1; 2-Karolina Plíšková (Cze) bt Kristina Kučmárová (Svk) 6-2, 6-2.

Manu wins air pistol Olympic quota

SPORTS BUREAU

MUNICH

Manu Bhaker missed a medal by 0.1 point but captured the Olympic quota place in women's air pistol in the shooting World Cup here on Wednesday.

Despite shooting a 10.3 Manu was overtaken by eventual gold medallist Anna Korakaki of Greece.

The 17-year-old Manu had by then ensured her quota as both Korakaki and bronze medallist Kim Jung-jung of Korea had already secured their quota.

Two-time Olympian Heena Sidhu shot 570 for the 45th place, while Yashaswini Singh Deswal did relatively better with 574 for 22nd spot.

Manu's quota is India's seventh for Tokyo 2020, behind Anjum Moudgil, Apurvi Chandela, Saurabh Chaudhary, Divyansh Singh Panwar, Abhishek Verma and Rahi Sarnobat.

The results: Women: 10m air pistol: 1. Anna Korakaki (Gre) 241.4 (582); 2. Qian Wei (Chn) 239. (580); 3. Kim Minjung (Kor) 220.8 (578); 4. Manu Bhaker 201.0 (582); 22. Yashaswini Singh Deswal 574; 45. Heena Sidhu 570.

MQS: Shweta Singh 576; P. Shri Nivetha 565.

50m rifle 3-position: 1. Yulia Zyko (Rus) 461.6 (1175); 2. Seonaid McIntosh (Gbr) 461.4 (1176); 3. Katrine Lund (Nor) 450.2 (1177); 9. Sunidhi Chauhan 1175; 52. Gaayathri Nithyanandam 1162; 70. Kajal Saini 1140.

MQS: Anjum Moudgil 1166.

Rahul waxes eloquent on Hardik

Says the all-rounder takes up any job given to him with a smile

WORLD CUP EXTRAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CARDIFF

K.L. Rahul has heaped praise on Hardik Pandya, saying the all-rounder revels in taking extra responsibility for the team.

Rahul, who sealed the number four spot for the World Cup opener against South Africa with a fine hundred here on Tuesday, said Hardik has grown immensely as a cricketer over the last two years.

The key to India's chances in the mega-event beginning May 30, the two look in good shape, having done well in the IPL.

has the skill. But how he has used that skill and grown in the last two years," said Rahul.

The key to India's chances in the mega-event beginning May 30, the two look in good shape, having done well in the IPL.

Rahul backed him to have a successful tournament. "Give him any role and Hardik takes it up with a smile on his face. He wants to do it for the team and gives his all. That's what makes him who he is," he added.



Man for the occasion: India skipper Virat Kohli will bank on Hardik Pandya to deliver with both bat and ball. ■ AP

Shai Hope backs Windies to get 500

REUTERS

LONDON

West Indies has the firepower to post the first 500 total in one-day internationals, top-order batsman Shai Hope has said ahead of the first team to cross that mark, and I am sure we have the batting firepower to do it.

"It is definitely a goal we can try to achieve at some point," said Hope. "Definitely, it would be great to be the first team to cross that 500 mark, and I am sure we have the batting firepower to do it."

"If you are asking me if we are capable of it, definitely we are," said another big hitter Carlos Brathwaite.

Tuesday's warm-up match against New Zealand.

"It is definitely a goal we can try to achieve at some point," said Hope. "Definitely, it would be great to be the first team to cross that 500 mark, and I am sure we have the batting firepower to do it."

"If you are asking me if we are capable of it, definitely we are," said another big hitter Carlos Brathwaite.

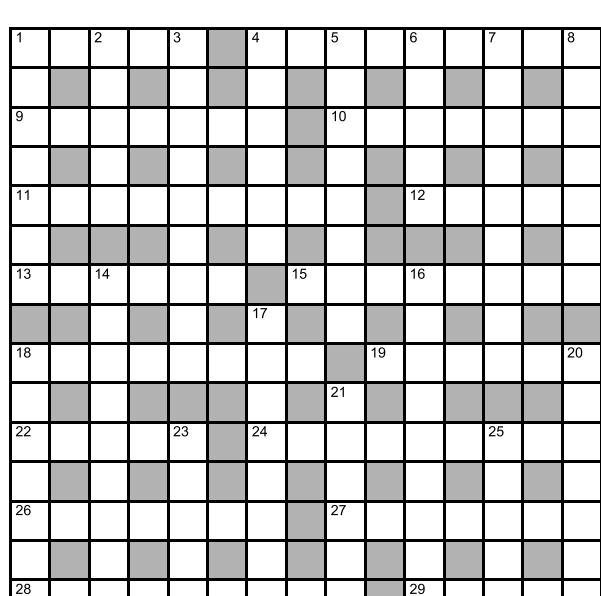
Favourite Warriors take on a Leonard-led Raptors powerhouse

Toronto, playing in its maiden final, is the most complete side that Golden State has faced so far; the latter sweats over Durant and Cousins' injuries



Two to tango: Golden State Warriors can well do the 'three-peat' if Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson bring their A-game against the Raptors. ■ AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12639



ACROSS

- 1 Instant justice provided, borders on foolhardy (5)
- 4 Embargo on plastic to backfire (9)
- 9 I court cracking romantic partner say (7)
- 10 Dead extraterrestrial drops from the sky alight (7)
- 11 Certain term entailing burying (9)
- 12 Spell F.A.Z.E for the audience (5)
- 13 Be lippy having to follow master plan (3,3)
- 15 Wear and tear light on fabric ultimately (8)
- 18 Harsh satire indeed not seen often (8)
- 19 One way to deliver and mostly rear children (6)
- 22 Pretentious person expected special wheels (5)
- 24 Professional job without staff (9)
- 26 A question and answer about atmosphere in fish tanks (7)
- 27 Selfie accidentally captured leader of the sinister people? (7)
- 28 Nothing necessary to work out answer right? (4-5)
- 29 Relationship that is essential to preserve (3-2)
- 30 He who betrayed over a million in the name of religion (7)
- 31 Dead extraterrestrial drops from the sky alight (7)
- 32 Yes in Russia Bolshevik is challenged (5)
- 33 Truth about English side (5)

- DOWN
- 1 He who betrayed over a million in the name of religion (7)
- 2 Truth about English side (5)

NBA FINALS

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

No team had reached the NBA Finals five consecutive times since Bill Russell and his Boston Celtics did in the 1960s until the Golden State Warriors, following a 4-0 sweep of Portland Trailblazers in the Western Conference finals, a week ago.

On Friday, Warriors take on Toronto Raptors, which has never been this far since the team was incorporated in the NBA in 1949.

The formidable Warriors are chasing their third consecutive title. Despite a calf injury to forward and last

two years' Finals MVP Kevin Durant, the Warriors are better placed to "three-peat" as they have other players of a high pedigree who can make up for his absence and a flexible system that can dominate without Durant at its apex.

Curry-Thompson combo
Sharpshooters Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson have shone in the post-season by scoring when it matters.

Swiss army-knife Draymond Green continues to parlay his unique skill set - stout defense to go along with high IQ, passing abilities and vision in offence, while Andre Iguodala has always risen to

the playoff occasions for the Steve Kerr-coached team.

Add the currently injured center DeMarcus Cousins to the mix, as it is expected soon into the finals, and it makes full sense to anoint the Warriors as the clear favourite.

Enter Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard into the conversation and there would be enough naysayers to suggest that this final is not all done and dusted.

Leonard has been a thorn in the Warriors' path in the past, while he was playing for the San Antonio Spurs. An unfortunate ankle injury to him in 2016-17 helped the Warriors overcome his team

with ease, but Leonard will seek vengeance in this go-around.

Outstanding

He has been outstanding this post-season, willing the Raptors to beat two formidable sides - Philadelphia 76ers and Milwaukee Bucks in difficult match-ups through his sheer two-way excellence on defence and offence.



The custom life Simran (right) and an array of his products

* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Simran Sahn's Urban Essentials was born out of his fascination for handmade leather shoes and a seat cover for his Triumph

PRABALIKA M BORAH

It isn't a bad thing at all to be a stickler for style. At least not if it leads you to create a brand of your own and have people flooding your social media with orders. Simran Sahn's 12x12 studio, Urban Essentials in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad is an example of just this.

All started with Simran's eagerness to wear a pair of handcrafted leather shoes, custom made according to his style and design sensibilities. When enquiries at various stores failed to yield results, he turned to the Internet. "I found a man in Gujarat who seemed to understand exactly what I wanted and delivered my shoe even before I'd made the payment," he recalls, as he works on a piece of vegetable tan leather, drawing curves for a cut out.

Soft music from his iPad fills the silence in the room. Light from a table lamp focuses on a spot on the table, his only work area. The table is messy with tools and instruments used to cut leather in different shapes and sizes. The walls are studded with photo collages of products he's crafted by hand. Other than this, the cosy little studio has a few other things on display – travel totes, backpacks, business cases, wallets, belts and motorcycle memorabilia.

Riding to design

Clearly, he's a lover of bikes. This started in parallel with the joy of designing leather accessories. "Until then I wasn't a serious rider," he



says. His prized possessions: Ducati Diavel, a Harley Davidson 48, and a Custom Bonneville T120.

A mechanical engineer by qualification, Simran worked as an engineer in their family-run business, which manufactures bags, jackets and other knick-knacks. Simran's work on leather usually involves fine detailing using emboss, colour, texture, and even thickness of leather.

high-end bikes," says Simran.

While he works on smaller things from his studio, his factory in Gujarat, which was set up two years ago, manufactures bags, jackets and other knick-knacks. Simran's work on leather usually involves fine detailing using emboss, colour, texture, and even thickness of leather.

Eye for detail

One cannot help but wish to call him an artist, but Simran demurs. "In no way am I an artist. Their work is in a different league. I am a craftsman who wants to be good at his job. When I get feedback from customers like 'how did you have the heart to sell this to me,' I feel like I have been able to meet their expectations," he says.

He is currently working to ace a case-design for ear-pod holders. This, after he delivered an eight-foot leather wrapped wooden door for a designer. "This is how I relax. I keep thinking about what new to make next. My handmade watch

straps are pretty popular with those who love custom leather straps," he says.

Simran's Instagram page has an enviable leather collection – pencil pouches, leather seat covers, belts, jackets, and even cases for car remotes, detailed with saddle stitch.

"Sometimes the feel and shade of the leather is all it takes to make it glamorous. In such cases I embellish them with stitches on the edges," he adds.

Simran says the craft 'felt' easier to relate to, because of his experience in his dad's precision tool companies; since he knew the tools to use for various purposes, he has an edge in this niche craft. Simran has so far delivered custom-made goods to customers in the UK, US, Africa, and Germany. "All through Instagram. Social media has helped me connect with lovers of this craft," he says.

For orders, message on his Instagram account @3000lights or sahni.simran76(at)gmail(dot)com



'Music should be taught in schools'

N ANAND

This birthday will be a special one for music composer Ilaiyaraaja. He will don the role of a guide in his Centre of Excellence (CoE), an announcement for which will be made on June 2nd, his 76th birthday. He will also present a concert on that day, which will also see his reunion with singer SP Balasubrahmanyam. Excerpts from a chat:

It is said that music is a healer of many diseases. Do you plan to use music as a tool?

• Yes, definitely. It will happen soon. My music therapy centre will come up in five places. I have already started the recordings for it.

What type of disorders will be addressed in the centres?

• It is meant for all age groups and will tackle all types of modern is-

Composer Ilaiyaraaja on designing basic lessons for students and setting up an institution that will tackle stress-related issues

sues like BP and stress. Also, in my view, elementary music has to be taught in schools, to children from a young age, along with physical activity and sports.

I have designed some basic lessons that can be taught in schools from Class I to Class XII. The process is on to identify some schools [to implement this]. The best students will be selected and trained in our CoE for further fine-tuning.



How different will this be from existing music colleges?

• We are trying a different type of concept. Talks are on to tie up with a world-renowned institution to offer graduation, certified, and diploma courses. My music has always been for the masses. I am working to make this affordable.

What's your opinion on TV reality shows that sometimes push children towards winning the prize money rather than learning music?

• Children are guided on the lines of success, success and success instead of music, music and music. They should have a competitive spi-

A living legend Ilaiyaraaja ■ R RAGU

rit and not winning spirit alone. It will not do good for them.

Your music is said to have an effect on people who don't even understand the language it is set in...

• I remember an incident when composing the 'Neramithu Neramithu' song (from Tamil movie *Rishi Moolam*, 1980) at a hotel in Mamallapuram. A French lady, who was passing through, entered my room after listening to the tune. She asked me to play it again, we exchanged notes and soon, she played it on her piano. All the while, she was crying, saying the song touched her heart despite her not understanding the language.

Tamil film fans are happy that your spat with SP Balasubrahmanyam has come to an end.

• That was a different issue; the misunderstanding came due to non-payment of royalty. Now that he is paying royalty, there is no problem. I feel that it is my right to protect my songs.

Why can't directors and producers make the same claim to a song?

• They did not create the song... I created it.

#DELHIMOVES

Ballet to Bharatanatyam

A ballet dancer from Croatia, trained in Bharatanatyam in India, says dance is for everyone



Nikolina Nikoleski came to India when she was just a couple years shy of 30. The ballet dancer from Croatia – she'd trained at the Folkwang Hochschule Essen in Germany – had won a scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to expand her practice.

When she arrived in 2004, she was to learn Bharatanatyam. For six years she would train under noted exponent and Padma Bhushan awardee Saroja Vaidyanathan, who has a school in the Qutab Institutional Area. A student whose discipline was informed by her years with ballet, Nikolina was ready for an arangetram within a year. People usually take close to eight.

She struck the conservative route though, performing only in April 2010, when she was closing out her scholarship period. But Nikolina hasn't left India since.

Teaching at the Lycée Français de Delhi, the Japanese School, and later also hosting a number of workshops, Nikolina soon decided to start a dance school of her own in Delhi. The Nikolina Nikoleski Academy, which began in 2013 is still going strong. Currently, they've opened registrations for classes for all those who're interested: children, young adults, and seniors.

"In Delhi there's still this perception that dance is for girls and not boys," says Nikolina, who is keen to break this stereotype. "We are starting classes especially for boys and senior dancers after the summer holidays," she says.

The idea is that movement

is for everyone. In keeping with this and her training, Nikolina's academy will be offering beginner classes in both ballet and Bharatanatyam, with a focus on dance-fitness and what she calls "creative social dance for seniors". This means her academy will see a whole range of dancers, ranging from a 3-year-old to someone 55 and over.



Nikolina is sticking her guns with her school, especially

buoyed by a "transformation" she's witnessed from when she arrived. "There was no foreign dance companies touring when I first came. In the last 7-8 years, the interest has grown, and so many dance schools have been opening," she says of the interest in Western art forms like ballet. But what she is concerned about is indiscriminate forms of fusion.

"I hope ballet and Bharatanatyam don't mix," she says. "If you're not well-versed in either, you can bastardise the form. I hope interface will not happen anytime soon," says Nikolina who still frequently collaborates with and learns from her gurus from her ICCR days.

Classes for 2019/2020 will begin on 5th August, 2019, and will be held at the Nizamuddin East Community center and at Vasant Vihar Passion studio. To register, email nikolinanikoleskacademy@gmail.com

VANGMAYI PAKAKALA

PRODUCT

Nature fresh

Remember khus and vetiver cooler-mats that, with some splashes of water, kept your rooms delicately fragrant and cool back in the '90s? Reminiscent of this, Ohri Ayurveda has recently launched natural deodorants that claim to cool you down with a little fragrance.



The Raatrani & Mint Natural Deodorant for instance is infused with khus, aloe vera, basil, mint, and sandalwood, in addition to the scent of raatrani flowers. Also present are nagarmootha, anantmool and bilva, which act as skin brighteners. The Amalata and Khus Natural Deodorant, similarly made, will match Delhi streets this season, given how almost each corner in the city is bursting into life with these flowers.

Ohriayurveda.com; ₹750 upwards

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

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



On climate change

India International Centre is conducting a discussion titled *Is the Climate Changing?* Panelists include the scientist Dr. M. Mohapatra and Prof. A. L. Ramanthan, from JNU. The discussion will address the imminent threat to our planet, and raise awareness about the looming danger of rising temperatures.

VENUE: Conference Room I, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



EXHIBIT

Mixed media

Yugen, an ongoing solo show of paintings, features the works of artist, Ana Jain. The title is a Japanese word that describes a profound sense of awareness about the universe. The exhibit showcases a broad variety of work, including watercolours, acrylic, and mixed media work on paper and canvas.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

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



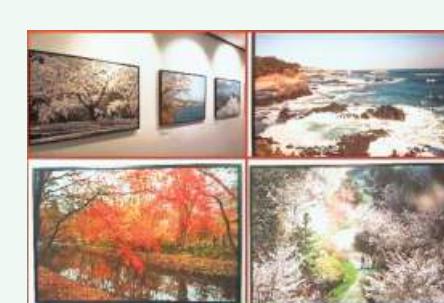
FOOD

Global Indian

Kiyani, the signature all-day-dining restaurant is offering Indian dishes served in a contemporary, global style. There's an array of Indian dishes, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian: kadhai paneer croquettes, tandoori mascarpone broccoli risotto, Kerala-inspired tempura prawns, Kalamata olive chicken tikka, and more.

VENUE: Kiyani, The Roseate

TIME: 24 hours



EXHIBIT

Korean art

The Korean Cultural Centre India is hosting an art show titled *Impressions: A journey backwards*, with the aim to bring the spirit of South Korea to Delhi. These works, a mix of calligraphy, pottery, paintings, and photographs, have been collected over years via donations from both Korean and Indian artists.

VENUE: Korean Cultural Centre, Lajpat Nagar

TIME: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



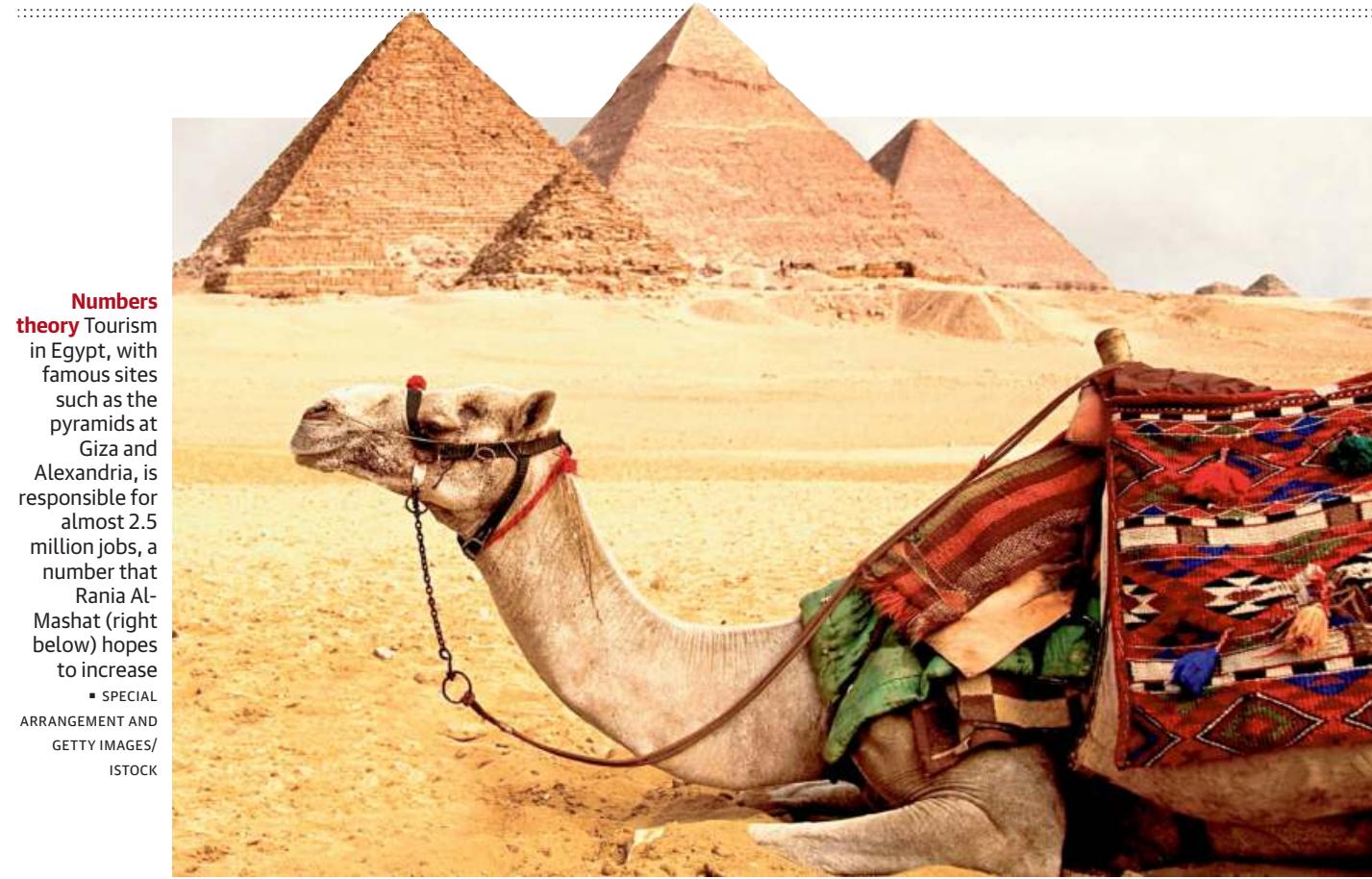
GIG

Big Bang Blues live

Hard Rock Cafe, the popular American restaurant chain, is hosting Delhi-based rock-n-roll band, Big Bang Blues. The band has performed over 300 shows, and will play a wide mix of contemporary Blues Rock, ranging from Joe Bonamassa, SRV, and Jimi Hendrix, to the good old blues of Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf.

VENUE: Hard Rock Cafe, DLF Place, Saket

TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



Numbers
theory Tourism in Egypt, with famous sites such as the pyramids at Giza and Alexandria, is responsible for almost 2.5 million jobs, a number that Rania Al-Mashat (right below) hopes to increase.

■ SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT AND
GETTY IMAGES/
ISTOCK

TOURISM FOR A FINITE PLANET

Rania Al-Mashat, Egypt's Minister of Tourism, recently commended by the UN World Tourism Organization for her work, on reforming the country's travel industry to make it sustainable and involve more women

JAVIER DELGADO RIVERA

Although the industry is stuck in a legislative framework that has not been revised in about 40 years, tourism in Egypt is responsible for almost 10% of its employment – or 2.5 million jobs – and contributes to nearly 12% of the country's GDP.

Last year, Rania Al-Mashat, who holds a PhD in International Economics, was appointed Egypt's Minister of Tourism with the bold mandate to modernise this embattled sector along the lines of the United Nations Global Goals – a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity everywhere by 2030. She speaks about sustainable tourism just as

the UN World Tourism Organization commended her for her plans to reform the Egyptian tourism industry.

Around 98% of the tourism industry in Egypt is controlled by private companies operating under the supervision of your Ministry. How are you encouraging firms to follow the sustainability path?

Our Tourism Reform Programme embraces the inclusion of international trends, of which green tourism is a leading feature. For example, when it comes to classifying hotels, we added a 'green' category that comprises

accommodations like eco-lodges. My Ministry has also introduced a 'Green Star Hotel' accreditation, so today 10% of the country's hotel rooms are green-star compliant. We also encourage lodgings to intro-

C Sustainable tourism is not just about places but about people in places



Youth unemployment in Egypt stands at 32%. Is there

duce environmental-friendly policies into their projects as well as investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. All of this is happening as we improve the infrastructure in key tourist areas, like the modernisation of stations for water desalination, sewage treatment and electricity generation.

a role for tourism to help tackle this issue?

Our youth is one of the key drivers behind the new narrative of tourism in Egypt. For instance, we are advising universities around the country to offer more disciplines related to tourism, such as hospitality, transportation, promotional marketing, gastronomy, Egyptology or cultural preservation. All these fields offer vast employment opportunities.

Environment in hotels and other establishments is more women-friendly. This way, the sector not only becomes better suited for the ones already employed in the industry, but also encourages more women to work in it. We are also increasing the number of women in every training course offered, [like the ones for startups]. Moreover, we run awareness campaigns (eg. with female role models) to combat sexual harassment, as well as a programme to empower women in the workplace.

As Egypt's Tourism Reform Programme characterises it, "sustainable tourism is not just about places but about people in places".

How can the economic gains generated by the country's international tourism – \$12 billion last year – benefit host communities, instead of entirely failing to large corporations?

As illustrated in our promotional campaigns, our aim is that tourists, rather than just taking pictures or paying a fee to visit a museum or venue, also buy handicrafts, join a locally-run workshop, hire a resident guide, try regional cuisine, or take local transport. It is a win-win: while visitors directly support local communities, their trip is enriched with a more authentic experience. This is the reason why our flagship campaign is called Experience Egypt.

FATFILE

2017 figures according to UN World Tourism Organization for Egypt and India

- International Tourist Arrivals – 8,157,000 / 15,543,000
- International Tourism Receipts in USD – \$7,775,000 / \$27,365,000
- UNESCO World Heritage sites – 7 / 37

Let's not forget that the employment multiplier effect of the sector is a whopping 1 to 3: for every direct job in tourism, three other jobs are indirectly created.

The participation of women in Egypt's workforce is a low 23%. Does your Ministry consider this, as it helps revitalise the sector?

A key Global Goal is gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. One of our priorities is to make sure that the working envi-

Following the recent terrorist attack in Cairo, this interview could not end without asking about the security situation. Is Egypt today safe for visitors?

In April 2019, Egypt was awarded the World Travel & Tourism (WTTC) Global Champion Award for promoting tourism resilience. It is important to not be complacent when it comes to the safety of our guests. Therefore, we are continually reviewing – and when and where appropriate, enhancing – our security measures. The award from the WTTC recognises that when an incident occurs, we are quick to respond to any issue in a professional way.

The writer is a freelance journalist covering the United Nations from New York



FATFILE

2017 figures according to UN World Tourism Organization for Egypt and India

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POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



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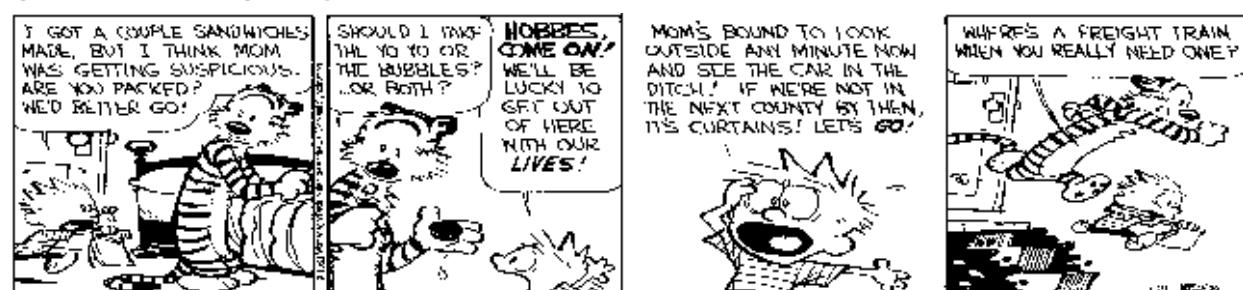
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13083

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jacket (6)
5 Musical instruction to play gently and sweetly (5)
6 Wine steward (9)
7 Perish (4,3,4)
8 Skid lid (5,6)
12 Overbearing pride (9)
16 Under control (2,5)
17 Ornamental clasp (6)
19 Pay for – minister to – deal with (5)
23 Reverential fear (3)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated May 31, 2019.

Solution No. 13082

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GRAFFITI
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GOSSIP TURNS EARFULS INTO MOUTHFULS
MIRA
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5/30

HEALTH CAPSULES® by Brian Smith
WHAT ARE SOME NATURAL REMEDIES FOR PAIN RELIEF?
TURMERIC HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE COMPARABLE TO ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS... WITHOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS.
NATURE OFFERS A NUMBER OF REMEDIES TO HELP WITH PAIN MANAGEMENT AMONG THEM: GLUCOSAMINE, CHONDROITIN, COLLAGEN, OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS, BOSSWILIA AND CURCUMIN (TURMERIC). IN ONE STUDY, DAILY TURMERIC SUPPLEMENTATION HAD ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AND ANALGESIC PROPERTIES COMPARABLE TO IBUPROFEN. Health Capsules is not intended to be a substitute for medical advice.

- Across
 - 1 Parched (2,3,2,4)
 - 9 Agitated (2,7)
 - 10 Spoil (3)
 - 11 Led an (anag) – antelope (5)
 - 13 Long-lasting – sea legs (anag) (7)
 - 14 Trouble constantly (6)
 - 15 Bring to an end (6)
 - 18 Sirius (3,4)
- Down
 - 20 Lobster or crab roe (5)
 - 21 Descendant (3)
 - 22 Absolve (9)
 - 24 Formally submitted (4,3,4)
 - 25 Hooded waterproof (4)

IN BRIEF



3D-printed corneas mimic human eye: study

Using bioink made from stem cells, scientists have 3D-printed artificial corneas that mimic the human eye. The researchers produced the artificial cornea with the lattice pattern of the human cornea by regulating the shear stress to control the pattern of protein fibrils, a study published in *Biofabrication* said. PTI



Apple unveils new generation iPod model

Apple has introduced its first new iPod model in four years, highlighting music and games as it continued to make a priority of serving up digital content. The new-generation iPod touch, essentially an iPhone without the phone calls, is now available in more than two dozen countries starting at \$199. AFP



GoT star Kit Harington getting stress therapy

Game of Thrones actor Kit Harington is undergoing treatment after the end of the HBO series, his representative has said. "Kit has decided to utilise this break in his schedule as an opportunity to spend some time at a wellness retreat to work on some personal issues," he said. REUTERS

+ Being transgender is no longer a mental disorder, says WHO

Activists and doctors welcome the resolution

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) will no longer categorise being transgender as a "mental disorder".

The change was brought in after a major resolution to amend the WHO health guidelines was approved earlier this week on May 25.

Health care needs

The global health organisation said, "Evidence is now clear that gender incongruence is not a mental disorder, and indeed classifying it as such can cause enormous stigma for people who are transgender. Also there remain significant health care needs that can best be met if the condition is coded under the ICD (International Classification of Diseases)."

Virus-packed laptop sells as artwork for over \$1.3 million

Artist Guo O Dong says the computer is a representation of all digital threats

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

For Chinese artist Guo O Dong, the simple black Samsung laptop computer, loaded with six potent viruses, symbolises one of the world's most frightening threats.

This week, his creation "The Persistence of Chaos" rocked the art world, selling for more than \$1.3 million in a New York online auction.

There's nothing special about the 2008 10-inch Netbook, running Microsoft's now-outdated Windows XP.

But loaded onto its memory chips are the computing world's equivalents of the most deadly infectious diseases: "I LOVE YOU" from 2000, "Sobig" of 2003, "MyDoom" (2004), "DarkTequila" (2013), "BlackEnergy" (2015), and the most notorious of all, the "WannaCry"



The virus-laden computer. ■ THE PERSISTENCE OF CHAOS

ransomware from two years ago.

It is a powerful symbol of digital threats that the world faces. The six trojans, worms and malware loaded on it have caused at least \$95 billion in damage around the world, according to Mr. Guo.

Mr. Guo is an Internet artist "whose work critiques

modern day extremely online culture", the auction site, organised by cybersecurity group Deep Instinct, said.

The computer, viewed via an online video stream, is harmless in its auction state – turned on, but not connected to any network or the Internet.

The auction site says it is "airgapped" – a security measure to isolate it from wireless and Internet connections. But the laptop comes with an ominous warning to the buyer not to unleash its pathogenic programs – possibly by unplugging its connection hardware, or by simply inserting a thumb drive.

The site stresses that the artwork is for research use only, saying that anyone who submitted a bid contractually agreed that they "have no intention of disseminating any malware".

The warning added, "Please remember that these are live and dangerous malware samples. Running them unconstrained means that you will infect yourself or others with vicious and dangerous malware." The buyer was not identified.

Mumbai writer Annie Zaidi wins \$100,000 global prize

She is set to expand her award-winning essay into a book

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Writer Annie Zaidi was on Wednesday announced as the 2019 winner of the \$100,000 Nine Dots Prize, an award for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues.

Mumbai-based Zaidi, a freelance writer whose work includes reportage, essays, short stories, poetry and plays, won the prize for her entry 'Bread, Cement, Cactus' – a piece that combined memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging.

The site challenges entrants to answer the question 'Is there still no place like home?' in a 3,000-word essay. The winner is supported to develop their response into a full-length book, which will be published by the Cambridge University Press. The award



Annie Zaidi

also gives the recipient the opportunity to spend a term at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at Cambridge University.

"I had been working towards a similarly themed project for a while but didn't have the financial, or even mental, bandwidth to do it justice. The prize will allow me to dedicate time to the examination of this question, which is of critical im-

portance in the modern world," said Ms. Zaidi.

The 40-year-old has published both fiction and non-fiction, including a collection of essays *Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales* and *Love Stories #1 to 14*, a collection of short fiction published in 2012.

Her proposed book, based on the prize-winning essay, will be published in May 2020 and will examine how a citizen's sense of home might collapse, or recover. The varied themes it will address include the politics and economics of death in India, the crossing of caste and religious lines in marriage, and the Partition of India as a great cultural and emotional sundering.

The Nine Dots Prize is funded by the Kadas Prize Foundation, a U.K.-registered charity.

New species of wasp identified in Goa

PRAKASH KAMAT
PANAJI

A new species of wasp from the genus *Kudakrumia* has been recently identified by scientists in Goa.

The wasp, *Kudakrumia rangnekari*, has been named after Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar.

"A species being named after me comes as a complete surprise. Mixed feelings at the moment, of joy and for some unknown reason slightly uncomfortable," Mr. Rangnekar said. The new species was collected in the forests of the Western Ghats.

Mr. Rangnekar's quest to



document the butterflies of this unique region resulted in a record of 220 species, of which 13 species had not been spotted before.

Mr. Rangnekar, who is the founder-president of the Goa Bird Conservation Network, has now taken up the documentation of the dragonflies in the State.

Teacher forces 7-year-old to eat grass

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani schoolteacher has been booked for forcing a primary school student to eat grass as punishment in class.

The video of the incident at Government Primary School in Fatehpur, Lodhran, went viral on social media. It showed a seven-year-old being told to either eat grass or read out a chapter in front of his classmates.

The video clip shows the boy failing to read the chapter and instead eating grass after being forced by his teacher Hamid Raza.

The boy's parents told the *Dawn* newspaper that they have forgiven the teacher. District Police Officer Malik Jameel Zafar, however, took notice of the episode and directed the police to investigate the matter.

Nepal marks anniversary of Everest ascent

This comes amidst an increase in the death of climbers leading to a debate over number of permits



Runners participating in the world's highest marathon in the foothills of Mount Everest on Wednesday. ■ AFP

Everest in Nepal, likely due to altitude sickness, which is caused by low amounts of oxygen at high elevation and can lead to headaches, vomiting, shortness of breath and mental confusion.

Mountaineers described traffic jams caused by exhausted rookies in the "death zone", the final phase

reach the top before they are at risk of a pulmonary oedema, when the lungs fill with liquid causing respiratory distress.

Mountaineers described

of the ascent from Camp Four at 8,000 metres to the 8,850-metre-tall peak.

On Wednesday, Nepal Minister Gokul Prasad Baskota said the congestion on Everest wasn't due to the mismanagement of climbing permits but rather the inadequate training of some climbers.

Scale back'

Renowned mountaineer Um Hong-gil of South Korea, who was honoured by the Nepal government at the event commemorating the 66th Everest anniversary, said the number of climbers should be scaled back and only those with training should be allowed.

The Nepal Mountaineering Association, an umbrella

body of expedition operators, said it would push the government to require climbers to adequately prepare for what Mr. Um described as an extremely taxing physical and mental task.

"The government needs to come up with strict policies to control the inexperienced climbers from attempting to scale Everest," said the association's president Santa Bir Lama. He also faulted private trekking companies that are more focused on expanding their client base than safety.

Expedition operators said they do vet climbers' experience and ability before signing up them up and that even seasoned mountaineers sometimes lose their lives on Everest.

India has 20 health workers for 10,000 people, study finds

The ratio is close to the WHO threshold of 22.8

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

India has 20.6 health workers per 10,000 people, a study based on data from the National Sample Survey reveals.

While it is less than the World Health Organisation's minimum threshold of 22.8, the numbers have increased from 19 health workers per 10,000 people in 2012.

"This is welcome news as the numbers have increased since 2012. This shows that we are moving in the right direction and the size of the health workforce is steadily improving," says Dr. Himanshu Negandhi, additional professor at the Indian Insti-

tute of Public Health, Delhi. Unfortunately, the distribution of health workers is uneven between urban and rural areas.

Rural areas with nearly 71% of India's population have only 36% of the country's health workers.

"This is not just in our country. Many countries have this divide," adds Dr. Negandhi. Delhi has the highest concentration of health workers followed by Kerala, Punjab, and Haryana.

The data also showed that approximately 25% of currently working health professionals do not have the required qualifications as laid

down by professional councils, notes a study published in *BMJ Open*.

Dr. Anup Karan, additional professor at Indian Institute of Public Health, Delhi, and lead researcher of this paper is of the opinion that "the public sector can collaborate with the private sector to overcome the shortages in human resources for health. However, this will not influence the overall size of the health workforce in the country."

The paper notes that policy should focus on enhancing the quality of health workers and bringing professionally qualified persons into the health workforce.