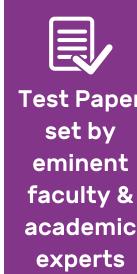




BYJU'S
The Learning App
IAS 2020

In Association with

THE HINDU**FREE SCHOLARSHIP TEST IAS 2019-20****IAS FOUNDATION 2019-20**

Test paper set by eminent faculty & academic experts



National Level Rank to help compare your performance with thousands of aspirants across the country

Top 10 will win Tablets preloaded with BYJU's exclusive IAS 2020 prep course

Top 100 will get the complete GS & CSAT course for free

7TH JULY (Sunday) at 1.30 PMOffice : Apsara Arcade,
Near Karol Bagh Metro StationFor FREE Registration, SMS or CALL < ST, Name > to **98736 43487****WEEKDAY BATCH**Batch 1 : 8th July 2019 | Batch 2 : 15th July 2019
MORNING : 7:00 AM to 9:30 AM | AFTERNOON : 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM
EVENING : 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM**WEEKEND BATCH**Batch 1 : 6th July 2019 | Batch 2 : 20th July 2019
Saturday : 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM | Sunday : 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM**NEARBY****Chawri Bazar tense after scuffle over parking**

NEW DELHI

Tension prevailed at Chawri Bazar in central Delhi on Monday, a day after a scuffle between two men over parking took a communal turn and a temple was vandalised, the police said. Three FIRs have been registered but no arrests have been made in the case so far. The police said that they have obtained CCTV footage from the area to identify the miscreants. Security has been beefed up to avoid any untoward situation.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

FOUNDATION COURSE 2020
Complete Notes of GS Prelims, GS Mains, CSAT & Essay (Handcopy & E-book)
Topic-wise Weekly Study Plan for 55 Weeks
Weekly Test and Doubt Clearing Session
Video Learning Program
Call Now!
9217070707
crackiesquery@gmail.com

SC slaps contempt notice on Bengal in Mamata memo case

Court asks why BJP leader was not released on May 14 after being granted bail

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued a contempt notice to West Bengal for keeping BJP youth wing leader Priyanka Sharma behind bars overnight despite its order on May 14 to release her immediately on bail.

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, issued the notice returnable in four weeks.

It has thus carried out what a Vacation Bench, led by Justice Indira Banerjee, threatened on May 15 when the latter heard that Ms. Sharma had not yet been released by the State authorities despite the specific order of the court.

Ms. Sharma was arrested and sent to 14 days of custody for allegedly posting a morphed image of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on social media.

The court called her ar-

Delay questioned

The chain of events leading to the contempt notice on Bengal

May 10: West Bengal police file a complaint against Priyanka Sharma, convenor of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, for allegedly posting a photo-shopped picture on her Facebook page of West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

May 11: Priyanka Sharma is arrested and sent to custody

May 14: Supreme Court orders the State police to 'immediately release' Ms. Sharma

July 1: SC issues contempt of court notice to West Bengal

rest "prima facie arbitrary" in the first place. However, on May 14, while granting Ms. Sharma bail, the Vacation Bench asked her to apologise for the "memo".

The apology was not a condition for her release, though.

But the next day, senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul for Ms. Sharma informed the

Vacation Bench that the State chose to defy the judicial order of her release. He said Ms. Sharma was not released from jail on May 14. Her lawyers, who went to secure her release, were told off by the jail authorities. The latter had even asked them to either produce certified copies of the bail order or approach the local court

for her release.

Counsel for West Bengal tried to placate the court, saying the jail authorities were merely following the jail manual. "A Supreme Court order for immediate release has precedence over a jail manual," Justice Banerjee shot back at the lawyer.

Closure report

Mr. Kaul also informed the court that the police had filed a closure report in the case of criminal defamation foisted against Ms. Sharma. The report was filed on May 13, but the information was not disclosed to the Supreme Court by the government during the May 14 bail hearing.

Ms. Sharma had shared on Facebook a photo in which Ms. Banerjee's face was photoshopped onto actor Priyanka Chopra's picture from the MET Gala event in New York.



+ 27-seater vehicle was carrying 52 persons; helicopters shift injured

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Thirty-five passengers died and 17 were injured when an overloaded minibus failed to negotiate a curve on the Keshwan-Thakrai road and fell into a gorge at Sorgwari in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

Governor Satya Pal Malik announced ₹5 lakh in ex gratia to the next of kin. "Most accidents take place due to careless and untrained drivers who drive without any regard for rules and regulations and become the reason for the loss of so many precious lives," he said.

A case was registered and investigation ordered, he added.

The 27-seater bus, with 52 passengers, was heading to Kishtwar from Keshwan when the accident took place

(With PTI inputs)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

THREE KILLED IN SHIMLA ▶ PAGE 9

+ 27-seater vehicle was carrying 52 persons; helicopters shift injured

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Iran has broken the limit set on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, international inspectors and Tehran said on Monday, marking its first major departure from the unravelling agreement a year after the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from it.

The announcement by Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and later confirmation by the UN nuclear watchdog put new pressure on European nations trying to save the deal amid President Donald Trump's maximalist campaign targeting Tehran. Iran separately threatens to raise its uranium enrichment closer to weapons-grade levels.

The "actions of the Europeans have not been enough so the Islamic Republic will move ahead with its plans as it has previously announced," Mr. Zarif said.

we are going to do," he said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency later said its Director-General had informed officials that it verified on Monday that Iran had broken through the limit.

Under the nuclear deal, Iran agreed to have less than 300 kg of uranium enriched to a maximum of 3.67%. Previously, Iran enriched as high as 20%, a short technical step away from weapons-grade levels.

The "actions of the Europeans have not been enough so the Islamic Republic will move ahead with its plans as it has previously announced," Mr. Zarif said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency later said its Director-General had informed officials that it verified on Monday that Iran had broken through the limit.

Some carried road signs, others corrugated iron sheets and pieces of scaffolding as about thousand people gathered around the Legislative Council building in the heart of the former British colony's financial district. Some sat at legislators' desks, while others scrawled "anti-extradition" on the chamber's walls.

Work on Bill stopped
The government called for an immediate end to the violence, saying it had stopped all work on extradition Bill amendments and the legislation would automatically lapse in July next year.

"Some radical protesters stormed the Legislative

Council Complex with extreme violence," a government spokesman said in a statement.

A small group, comprising largely of students wearing hard hats and masks, had used a metal trolley, poles and scaffolding to charge again and again at the compound's reinforced glass doors, which eventually gave in. The Council issued a red alert, ordering the protesters to leave immediately.

The Legislative Council

we are going to do," he said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency later said its Director-General had informed officials that it verified on Monday that Iran had broken through the limit.

Some radical protesters stormed the Legislative

CM YK



Mohammad Javad Zarif says EU measures are not enough to save the deal. ▶ AP

REUTERS

HONG KONG

Hundreds of protesters in Hong Kong stormed the legislature on Monday – the anniversary of the city's 1997 return to China – destroying pictures and daubing walls with graffiti, in a direct challenge to Beijing as anger over an extradition Bill spiralled out of control.

Some carried road signs, others corrugated iron sheets and pieces of scaffolding as about thousand people gathered around the Legislative Council building in the heart of the former British colony's financial district. Some sat at legislators' desks, while others scrawled "anti-extradition" on the chamber's walls.

Work on Bill stopped
The government called for an immediate end to the violence, saying it had stopped all work on extradition Bill amendments and the legislation would automatically lapse in July next year.

"Some radical protesters stormed the Legislative

Council Complex with extreme violence," a government spokesman said in a statement.

A small group, comprising largely of students wearing hard hats and masks, had used a metal trolley, poles and scaffolding to charge again and again at the compound's reinforced glass doors, which eventually gave in. The Council issued a red alert, ordering the protesters to leave immediately.

The Legislative Council

we are going to do," he said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency later said its Director-General had informed officials that it verified on Monday that Iran had broken through the limit.

Some radical protesters stormed the Legislative

CM YK

REUTERS

HONG KONG

Under siege: Protesters trying to smash a glass door at the government headquarters in Hong Kong on Monday. ▶ AP

Council Complex with extreme violence," a government spokesman said in a statement.

A small group, comprising largely of students wearing hard hats and masks, had used a metal trolley, poles and scaffolding to charge again and again at the compound's reinforced glass doors, which eventually gave in. The Council issued a red alert, ordering the protesters to leave immediately.

The Legislative Council

Secretariat released a statement cancelling business for Tuesday. The central government offices said they would close on Tuesday owing to security considerations.

A small group, comprising largely of students wearing hard hats and masks, had used a metal trolley, poles and scaffolding to charge again and again at the compound's reinforced glass doors, which eventually gave in. The Council issued a red alert, ordering the protesters to leave immediately.

Banners hanging over flyovers at the protest site read: "Free Hong Kong."

The police retook the legislature from protesters early on Tuesday after firing tear-gas shells.

Last week, Hailakandi's

District Transport Officer Syed Rafiqul Mannan issued an order saying a majority of the licences were purportedly issued by his counterpart in Manipur's Bishnupur district while the rest were issued by a "certain district" of Nagaland. These licences were flagged as doubtful.

There have been cases of people acquiring driving licences from neighbouring States after their applications were rejected in Assam.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

More than 88% of the driving licences issued in Hailakandi district of Assam have come under the scanner. The southern Assam district has 45,300 driving licence holders. A scrutiny during an attempt to convert the laminated paper licences to smart cards revealed that some 40,000 of them could be "doubtful" or purchased fraudulently.

The Legislative Council

CM YK

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

More than 88% of the driving licences issued in Hailakandi district of Assam have come under the scanner. The southern Assam district has 45,300 driving licence holders. A scrutiny during an attempt to convert the laminated paper licences to smart cards revealed that some 40,000 of them could be "doubtful" or purchased fraudulently.

The Legislative Council

CM YK

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

More than 88% of the driving licences issued in Hailakandi district of Assam have come under the scanner. The southern Assam district has 45,300 driving licence holders. A scrutiny during an attempt to convert the laminated paper licences to smart cards revealed that some 40,000 of them could be "doubtful" or purchased fraudulently.

The Legislative Council

CM YK

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

More than 88% of the driving licences issued in Hailakandi district of Assam have come under the scanner. The southern Assam district has 45,300 driving licence holders. A scrutiny during an attempt to convert the laminated paper licences to smart cards revealed that some 40,000 of them could be "doubtful" or purchased fraudulently.

The Legislative Council

CM YK

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

More than 88% of the driving licences issued in Hailakandi district of Assam have come under the scanner. The southern Assam district has 45,300 driving licence holders. A scrutiny during an attempt to convert the laminated paper licences to smart cards revealed that some 40,000 of them could be "doubtful" or purchased fraudulently.

The Legislative Council

CM YK

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IN BRIEF



DCW forms transgenders' grievance committee

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Commission for Women on Monday set up a transgender cell to address complaints of violence and harassment against members of the community. The move comes following a meeting between DCW Chairperson Swati Maliwal and members of the transgender community on June 29. "Almost all members of the community described instances of discrimination and insensitivity of the police towards the community," said a DCW spokesperson.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	183	Gurugram	164
Ghaziabad	209	Faridabad	173
Noida	213	Greater Noida	236
■ Good	50-51	■ Satisfactory	51-100
■ Poor	101-200	■ Very poor	201-300
■ Severe	301-400	■ Catastrophic	>401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Mysteries of the Brain and Mind Series: "Brain Modulation: Synergy of Brain with Technology" by Dr. Shambhu Sodhani, Chairman, PSRI Institute of Neurosciences at Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Delhi Evolution through Flora and Time", a solo show by Vidur Sodhani at Delhi's O'Dell Foyer, IHC, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Art convergence", a group paintings and sculptures exhibition at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

Screening: "Tender Waves", a Czech film will be screened as part of the ongoing European Union Film Festival at Gulmohar Hall, IHC, 7 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Businessman robbed at gunpoint inside house

After the crime, accused fired shots at patrol officers, fled spot

HEMAMI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old businessman and his wife were robbed at gunpoint inside their bungalow's parking lot in north-west Delhi's Model Town in the small hours of Sunday, the police said on Monday.

Varun Behl, a trader in Chandni Chowk and resident of Gujranwala Town, was parking his high-end car when the incident took place, they said. His wife was sitting in the passenger seat with their minor daughter while their son and a house help were on the back seat.

CCTV footage

The CCTV footage from the camera installed in the house showed three masked men with two of them wearing black caps entering the main gate after Mr. Behl parked his car.

The accused can be seen showing him a weapon and asking him to part with his belongings. Meanwhile, another masked man approaches the victim's wife



A video grab of the incident. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and takes her phone. "The woman can be seen trying to make a call when the accused took it from her," said an officer said.

A house help at the victim's residence said the accused had threatened Mr. Behl and other occupants to not call for help or they would hurt them. In about a minute, they robbed Mr. Behl's gold chain, rings, cash from his wallet and his wife's mobile phone and fled the spot, the police said.

Were being followed

Mr. Behl told investigators that they had suspected a few men following him when he was on his way. "So, the victim said he had taken a detour and reached home at 3 a.m.," the officer added.

said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-West) Vijayanta Arya said the three accused drove towards Adarsh Nagar where officers on patrolling duty had asked them to stop.

"The accused got scared, left the bike and started running. The officers chased them for 1.5 km after which there was an exchange of fire between the robbers and policemen. The accused fired about 4-5 rounds and officers about 2-3. However, they managed to flee into the jungle area," Ms. Arya said.

Mr. Behl reported the matter at Model Town police station around 2 p.m. on Sunday. A case has been registered on charges of robbery and under Arms Act.

An officer said this gang that wears masks and caps while committing robbery has been active for two months in the district.

The police have been briefed about identifying and nabbing the accused, he added.

Two die after car catches fire in Mundka

Cartons of various liquor brands found inside vehicle: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two men died after their car rammed a metro pillar in outer Delhi's Mundka and caught fire, the police said on Monday.

Monu (28) and Hariom (24), both from Rohtak, were coming from Bahadurgarh

when the accident happened on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. They are suspected to be smuggling liquor at that time.

Delhi Fire Service officials said they received a call at 12.16 a.m. after which two fire tenders were sent to the spot. "We managed to rescue

the two victims. The fire was doused by 3.20 a.m.," a fire official said. The injured were rushed to a hospital where they were declared brought dead, said DCP (Outer) Seju Kuruvilla. Burnt cartons of various brands of illicit liquor were found in the car, the officer said.

Pending DU admissions under first cut-off list to continue today

Relief for students facing issues over CGPA conversion

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Admissions to Delhi University's undergraduate courses will remain open for grievances today, Dean of Students' Welfare Rakesh Gupta said late on Monday.

While earlier in the day, university officials had told parents and students gathered at the help centre that the last date of admission would be extended, Mr. Gupta, in a message, said: "Pending admissions, including grievances will be processed by the University of Delhi on July 2, 2019. Grievances include those of the students from And-

hra Pradesh regarding their grades/marks."

Students from the Board of Intermediate Education, Andhra Pradesh were facing issues with regard to conversion of a grade point average into percentage.

Their CGPAs were being multiplied by 9.5 to convert into percentage instead of 10 as prescribed on the mark sheet by the State board.

Alternative conversion

Mr. Gupta, however, did not clarify whether an alternative conversion would now be applied or to whom exactly the extension would apply. Mixed

messages from different university officials who are part of the admissions committee are likely to cause confusion among applicants on Tuesday.

Effectively, admissions to the university were shut on Monday with 19,886 having been admitted. The next list is scheduled to be released on July 4. There are approximately 63,000 seats up for grabs at DU colleges this year.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Games gold medalist shooter Manu Bhaker has applied for admissions under the sports quota, an official said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Flight attendant's death: HC rejects husband's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday denied bail to the husband of a flight attendant who allegedly committed suicide last year.

Justice Mukta Gupta dismissed the bail plea of Mayank Singhvi, husband of the victim - Anissa Batra.

Anissa (39), who was married to Mayank for two years, worked with a German airline. She had allegedly jumped from the terrace of her house in Panchsheel Park in south Delhi on July 13, 2018.

Mayank was arrested on July 16 last year. He had sought bail saying he was in custody since July last year.

The High Court had on November 20, 2018 granted bail to the parents of Mayank, saying the elderly couple were primarily accused of instigating their son against her and not of demanding dowry. Anissa's family had alleged that her husband physically abused her and often demanded money.



Police and residents face-off in Chawri Bazar on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Chawri Bazar tense after scuffle over parking

Altercation between members of two communities; mob vandalises temple

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Tension prevailed in Chawri Bazar in central Delhi on Monday, a day after a scuffle broke out following an argument between two men over a parking issue, the police said. Three FIRs have been registered in the case.

The police said that a PCR call was received at 9 p.m. on Sunday over a scuffle near Gali Durga Mandir on the main road of Chawri Bazar.

Minor injuries

Sanjay Gupta, who owns a food cart and Aas Mohammaed, a businessman engaged in a scuffle following an argument when Mohammaed parked his scooter outside Gupta's house. Both of them sustained minor injuries, said a police officer. The two were held and brought

to Hauz Quazi police station for further investigation.

"As the news of the scuffle spread in the area, locals gathered outside the police station and raised anti-police slogans. But police officers pacified them and asked them to disperse as both parties were submitting complaint against each other," said a police officer.

At 11.30 p.m. a mob entered Gali Durga Mandir and vandalised the temple. Soon after, a police team rushed to the spot. However, the attackers had managed to flee.

Restoring normalcy

DCP (Central) Mandep Singh Randhawa said that alteration and scuffle over the parking issue in Hauz Qazi triggered tension between the two groups of people from different communities.

"We have taken legal action and all efforts are being made to pacify tension and bring peace. People are requested to help in restoring normalcy," said Mr. Singh.

A senior police officer said that they have registered three FIRs, two cross FIRs against both the parties and a third FIR for vandalising the temple and an attempt to create communal tension in the area.

Meanwhile, Babita Gupta, wife of Sanjeev Gupta said that Mohammaed had parked his scooter outside their house where her husband parks his cart everyday. "My husband asked Mohammaed to remove the scooter but he got agitated and started abusing him. Before leaving, Mohammaed threatened to return and teach him a lesson. He re-

turned with around 15 men and thrashed my husband," said Ms. Babita.

Avoid such incidents'

Locals told that it was a minor issue that could have been dealt amicably but Gupta triggered the fight by abusing and thrashing Mohammaed. "We are living peacefully in the area for the past several generations, and we should avoid getting into fight over petty issues," said Irshad Ali, an RWAs member of Lal Kuan area in Chawri Bazar.

The police said that they have obtained CCTV footage from the area to identify the miscreants who vandalised the temple. No arrests have been made so far. Security personnel have been deployed to avoid untoward situations.

Man has to pay maintenance for his kids even if mother is earning'

Expenses can't be divided equally between both parents: HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday observed that a man cannot avoid the responsibility of maintaining his children on the ground that his estranged wife is earning as a lot of time and effort also go into the upbringing.

Upholding the interim maintenance awarded to the woman, Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva said it would be incorrect to hold both parents equally responsible for the expenses of a child.

Challenged order

"One cannot put value to the time and effort put in by the mother in upbringing of the child. No doubt mother, if she is earning, should also contribute towards the expenses of the child but the expenses cannot be divided equally between the two," the High Court said.

The court noted that the lower courts had found

there was substantial inflow and outflow of money from his accounts, even though he claimed to be a pauper, and there was also evidence that he was running a travel agency whose accounts revealed transactions running into several lakhs.

Dependency factor

"Keeping in view of the dependency factor and the fact that the only dependent member of the petitioner [husband] are his three minor daughters, who are presently in the custody of the respondent [wife], who is taking care of them, the award of interim maintenance of ₹60,000 per month, to my mind, is not unjustified," the High Court ordered.

The man and the woman got married on November 28, 2004, under the Special Marriage Act. They separated in March 2015.

Man booked over 'triple talaq' in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

A man allegedly divorced his wife through "triple talaq" and threw her out of the house after a heated argument broke out between them when she asked for money to buy vegetables in Greater Noida, the police said on Monday.

Sabir and Zainab, both in their mid-30s, have four children. The couple would frequently have fights and disputes, said an official of the Dadri police station where the matter was reported.

The incident took place on June 29 when Sabir got furious after Zainab asked for money to buy vegetables, the police said, citing eyewitness accounts of the case.

Zainab's parents later approached the police and a case was registered against Sabir on allegations of domestic violence and others, the officer said.

After nearly four decades, 95-year-old freedom fighter wins battle for pension

HC directs Centre to pay dues and ₹1 lakh cost to nonagenarian

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Centre to pay pension, along with ₹1 lakh cost, to a 95-year-old freedom fighter, who had to fight for nearly 40 years to secure his pension.

The High Court noted that freedom fighter Heera Singh had applied for grant of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme (SSPS) in 1982. However, he had to fight a battle for nearly 40 years to secure his entitlement.

"Complacency and inertia are endemic to mankind, and the instant case presents a classic example thereof. Ensnared in our ivory towers, we have become blind, and deaf, to the plight of those who made a cosy existence, for us, possible," Justice C. Hari Shankar observed.

The judge remarked that of the



quarters as well as from Patna. Following this, criminal proceedings were initiated against him and others by the British government. As he was absconding, a non-bailable warrant was issued against him and he was declared a proclaimed offender.

Mr. Singh said he had remained underground from August, 1942 to December, 1946, which exceeded the requisite period of six months as prescribed under the SSPS Pension Scheme, and for this reason, he was declared a proclaimed offender in 1944.

The court said it was of the opinion that the decision of the Centre to deny pension to Mr. Singh under the scheme is "capricious in the extreme" and that he fulfilled all the entitlements for grant of pension.

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
JKPL
LOOK OUT NOTICE
Phone No. 0191-2561578
Fax No. 0191-2547807
As reported by SHO P/S Nagrota, Jammu applicant namely Shah Mansha S/O Noor Aliyah R/O Sitri, Byepass, Nagrota reported that his wife was missing since 10.05.2019, regarding which missing report vide DDR No. 28 has been lodged at P/S Nagrota on 28.05.2019. Despite thorough search her whereabouts are still unknown.
As such photograph of missing Ruksana W/O Shah Mansha R/O Sitri, Byepass, Nag

Man murders wife, daughter and son before ending his life

Accused claimed responsibility in note; no apparent signs of struggle, say police

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

A 55-year-old former scientist with a pharmaceutical company allegedly murdered his wife, daughter and son by hitting them with a hammer and a sharp-edged weapon, before ending his life in Sector 49 here on Monday morning.

He had lost his job a month ago and was slated to join a company in Hyderabad later this month, said the police.

No specific reason

"There are no signs of forced entry into the house, ruling out any foul play. The man has claimed responsibility for the murders in a note recovered from his pocket. However, he has not given any specific reason," said Assistant Commissioner of Police, DLF, Karan Goel.

The autopsy revealed that the woman had maximum 19 injuries and her throat was slit. The boy had 12 injuries and the girl had eight.

"All injuries were on the head with a blunt and a sharp-edged weapon," said Deepak Mathur, who con-



Policemen at the scene of the crime in Gurugram Sector 49 on Monday. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

ducted the post-mortem.

No sedatives given

Dr. Mathur said there was little possibility of the three being given sedatives before the murder.

The bodies of the man's wife, their 21-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son were found in one of the bedrooms, while he himself was found in the living room.

The woman was lying on the floor near the bed, the boy behind the door and the girl on the bed.

The police said there

were no apparent signs of struggle.

The girl was a science graduate and her brother was a Class IX student.

The family had been staying at their present address for around a decade. The woman ran four schools, including one for underprivileged children.

Four pet dogs of the family were inside.

R.K. Mathur, neighbour, claimed that he had last seen the man two days ago.

He said the scientist did not seem upset. Mr. Mathur, a retired senior manager with

Maruti Udyog Limited, said relations between the couple seemed normal.

The murders came to light when a domestic help came around 6 a.m., but there was no response to her repeated ringing of the doorbell.

She informed Mr. Mathur, who in turn tried to call up the couple on their mobile phones. "Both the phones were switched off. I knocked on the window glass, but there was no response. We then informed the residents welfare association office and the police were called," said Mr. Mathur.

The police pulled out the grill to the washroom and sent the domestic help inside. Though the door leading to the rooms from the washroom was closed, she spotted blood.

The police then broke open the door.

The family originally belonged to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

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

City sees highest-ever peak power demand

Electricity discom cites 'cooling load' as main reason behind increase

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Peak power demand in Delhi hit an all-time high on Monday to touch 7,241 MW.

The State Load Dispatch Center's website recorded the spike at 3.29 p.m.

The previous highest peak power demand was recorded on July 10 last year when it reached 7,016 MW.

With an average temperature of over 40 degrees Celsius on Monday, electricity discom BSES stated that "cooling load" was the main reason behind the increase in the city's power demand.

"Almost 50% of Delhi's power demand in summers is because of the cooling load," it added.

Delhi's peak power de-

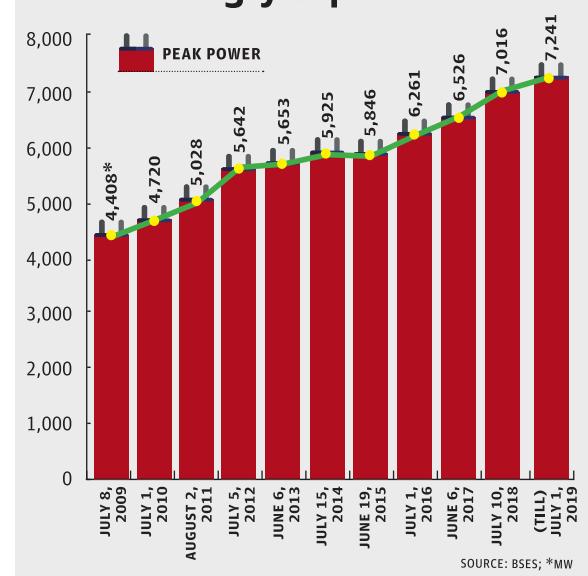
mand is more than that of Chennai and Mumbai combined and is over three times that of Kolkata, a BSES spokesperson said. The discom has also estimated that peak power demand may cross 7,400MW this year.

Arrangements made

In order to meet the demand and transmission requirements, various arrangements have been made, including the use of different forecasting methods which afford high accuracy planning, the discom said.

While peak power demand in Delhi crossed the 6,000MW mark for the first time in 2016, that line has been crossed at least 24 times so far this year.

Power-hungry Capital



Four arrested for murder, robbery cases

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Four persons, including a hardened criminal from Uttar Pradesh – Deepak Tomar, have been arrested for their alleged involvement in several cases of murder and armed robberies, the police said on Monday.

DCP (Special Cell) Manishi Chandra said the other accused have been identified as Harish alias Sanda (28), Umed Sharma alias Tinda (26) and Neeraj Luhach (29), all from Haryana. "On Saturday, the four were arrested on a tip-off. They were in the final stages of planning a gruesome murder," Mr. Chandra said.

Repeat offender

Deepak from Baghpat allegedly killed a man while trying to murder the village head in Rohtak's Sangi in 2008. For this, he was awarded a life term. In 2010, he conspired another murder from inside the jail.

In 2014, he was given 21-day parole from Bhondsi jail after which he went missing, the police said.

Brothers found dead at their house in Janakpuri

'Had graduated from engineering colleges'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two siblings were found dead at their house in West Delhi's Janakpuri on Monday, the police said.

A call was received at the police control room at 12.30 p.m. regarding the incident after which a team reached the spot and found the two brothers dead. Their father, a railway contractor, is paralysed for the past 20 years and mother died of cancer in March this year.

The father was upset after his wife's death.

Retired Wing Commander found dead

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A retired Wing Commander was found dead at his residence in Vasant Kunj on Sunday night, the police said. No foul play is suspected so far, they said.

An officer said Deepak Kumar Seth used to live alone. "A call was received regarding death of a man. The police found Seth lying unconscious. He was taken to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. No external injury was found," the officer said. His body was handed over to his wife after post-mortem.

Rise in cases of vector-borne diseases

With monsoon approaching, numbers likely to see a surge

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Cases of vector-borne diseases – malaria, dengue and chikungunya – has picked up this week, according to a report from the three municipal corporations on Monday.

Last week, 13 cases of malaria were registered, taking the total cases to 44 this year. At the same time last year, 46 cases of malaria were recorded.

Apart from this, there have been eight cases of dengue, taking the total number of such cases to 22 this year, compared to 30 at the same time last year.

Five cases of chikungunya were also reported last week, taking the total to 10,

compared to 16 last year.

Measures taken

The number of cases of vector-borne diseases is expected to rise during the monsoon, which is expected to arrive later this week. The three municipal corporations have been undertaking several measures

such as door-to-door surveys and spraying insecticides to prevent mosquito breeding. The South Delhi Municipal Corporation's report stated that 2,37,466 houses have been sprayed with insecticides. Around 80,165 houses have been sprayed in north Delhi and only 12,542 in east Delhi.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEMS LTD

Admission Notice

IAS 2020

KAROL BAGH

PUSA ROAD

ALS

Alternative Learning Systems

2,837+
SELECTIONS IN
IAS RESULTS
OVER PAST 18 YEARS

4 IAS
TOPPERS

1 OUT OF EVERY 5
STUDENTS IN TOP 100 RANKS
IS FROM ALS

OVER 5600
STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OFFICERS ARE ALS ALUMNI

"UNFOLDING THE SECRET OF CONSISTENT HIGH SCORE IN GS PAPERS"



Strategy Discussion
with RISHABHA GARG
(AIR 200, UPSC 2019)

2nd Highest Marks in GS 2019

OPEN SESSION

You are cordially invited.

JULY 07
5:00pm
PUSA ROAD
KAROL BAGH

GS SCORES
460²⁰¹⁹ | 450²⁰¹⁸

GENERAL STUDIES EXTENSIVE

GS BATCH BEGINS WITH
OPEN SESSION
ESSAY & ANSWER WRITING
By Sachin Arora

TODAY
02 JULY
6:15PM

Stalwarts Combine to form
THE BEST EVER TEAM

Jojo Mathew, Hemant Jha, R.C. Sinha, Shashank Atom, Manoj Kumar Singh, Manish Gautam, Sachin Arora, K.M. Pathi, Ajay Srivastava, Dharmendra, Dr. Sanjay Pandey & Madhukar Kotawale

THE MOST METICULOUSLY DESIGNED CLASSROOM PROGRAMME FOR GENERAL STUDIES

General Studies Main Paper-I, II, III, IV + General Studies Prelims Paper-I + CSAT + All India Weekly Current Affairs Programme + Current Affairs Crash Course (Prelims) + Current Affairs Crash Course (Main) + Essay + GS Prelims Test Series + GS Main Test Series + Writing Skill Development Programme + Exclusive Classes for Prelims

GS BATCH BEGINS WITH OPEN SESSIONS AT KAROL BAGH

MORNING BATCH

JULY 10 & 25 | 08:00am

AUG 16 & 27 | SEP 10 | 11:30am

EVENING BATCH

JULY 02 & 17 | AUG 05 | 06:15pm

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

BATCHES BEGINS WITH OPEN SESSION

HISTORY

Hemant Jha

Batch Begins

30 JULY

3:00PM

GEOGRAPHY

Sachin Arora

Batch Begins

08 JULY

3:00PM

SOCIOLOGY

Dharmendra

Batch Begins

08 JULY

3:00PM

POLITICAL SC

C K Singh

Batch Begins

10 JULY

3:00PM

ALS MAIN TEST SERIES

GENERAL STUDIES

05 JULY | 11:00 AM

GEOGRAPHY

06 JULY | 12:00 PM

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEMS

PUSA ROAD, KAROL BAGH

ALS, 20 Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station,
Opposite Metro Pillar No. 97, Delhi-110005

Register online @ www.alsias.net

Admission Enquiry

9999648884

9891990011

011-28751379

IN BRIEF



Two former Delhi MLAs joins BJP

NEW DELHI

Two former Delhi MLAs, including former president of the BSP's Delhi unit, Chaudhary Surendra Kumar, joined the BJP here on Monday. Two-time Congress MLA from the Timarpur Assembly Constituency MLA Surendrapal Singh Bittu also joined the BJP, slamming his former party saying it is "seeped in dynastic politics". He also accused the AAP of being involved in "corruption".

ITBP constable dies of cobra bite at U.P. barrack

NOIDA

A 31-year-old Indo-Tibetan Border Police constable died on Monday allegedly after a snake bit him at his barrack in UP's Greater Noida, the police said. "After the snake bite, he was given first aid at the unit and then rushed to a private hospital where he died," Station House Officer, Surajpur police station, Munish Chauhan said. PTI

Public Service Commission for Delhi: HC seeks reply on plea

PSC would expedite selection of officers, says petition

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought response of the city government on a petition seeking establishment of a Public Service Commission (PSC) for the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar asked the Delhi government to file its reply to the plea, which claims that a PSC for the national capital would expedite selection of officers for its administration as well as "bring greater accountability and transparency".

The petition has been moved by Abhijit Mishra who has alleged "critical failure" on the part of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) to comply with

Hindu Rao doctors meet North body officials, continue strike

Demand increase in deployment of security officials to ensure their safety

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Protesting doctors at the Hindu Rao hospital on Monday met civic body officials demanding an increase in the deployment of security officials to ensure safety of doctors on duty. The agitating doctors additionally demanded the setting up of a police chowki inside the campus.

The demands were put forth by the Resident Doctors Association (RDA) of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation-run hospital on the second day of the agitation.

"There are about 120 guards deployed for a hospital with over 1,000 beds, making it very difficult for the guards to be competent and handle such situations. We want the number of guards to be increased to ensure safety of the doctors on duty. We also demand the deployment of bouncers within the campus, similar to those present in other hospitals," said Ma-



Doctors at the hospital are on strike since Sunday against the alleged assault on two doctors by a patient's family.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

that is what we do. But unless we ourselves are safe, how can we treat patients? It is impossible to work in such conditions."

Arun Yadav, Director, Hospital Administration of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation said, "The demands of the RDA have been accepted and the security at the hospital have been beefed up. Additionally, a police chowki has also been set up at the hospital on Monday afternoon after having spoken

to the authorities have asked for 24 hours to meet all the demands. We will wait till Tuesday morning to take a call on whether to continue the strike or not

MANOJ BEHRI
Vice-President, RDA, Hindu Rao Hospital

to the area SHO."

As of Monday evening, the agitating doctors said that a call will be taken on Tuesday on whether the strike will be continued.

The authorities have asked for 24 hours to meet all the demands. So we will wait till Tuesday morning to take a call on whether to continue the strike or not. Till then only senior doctors will be attending to the patients at emergency wards and OPDs," said Mr. Behri.

Similarly, Mr. Bharadwaj sought the disqualification

AAP seeks disqualification of two more rebel MLAs

For their association with BSP, BJP

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has moved a petition in the Delhi Assembly seeking the disqualification of two more of its rebel legislators here before the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

The petition, moved by AAP Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj, sought the disqualification of Sultanpur Majra legislator Sandeep Kumar and Karawala Nagar MLA Kapil Mishra, for their association with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), respectively.

According to his petition seeking the disqualification of Mr. Mishra, Mr. Bharadwaj submitted that the Karawala Nagar MLA had on January 27, 2019 given up the membership of AAP "by way of campaigning for the BJP" at an event hosted by BJP Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel.

Similarly, Mr. Bharadwaj sought the disqualification

Saurabh Bharadwaj moved a plea in the Delhi Assembly.

of Mr. Kumar "by way of stating that his party was now Bahujan Samaj Party" on February 1, 2019.

On June 10,

Mr. Bharadwaj had moved a petition in the Delhi Assembly to disqualify AAP Gandhi Nagar MLA Anil Bajpai and suspended Bijwasan MLA Col. Devinder Sehrawat as both the legislators had joined the BJP within days of each other, under the anti-defection law.

He had later told *The Hindu* that similar proceedings were in store for legislators who had won on an AAP ticket but were now "working for other parties".

Khyala sewer deaths: third worker's body found

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The body of a worker, who was swept away three days ago while constructing a cemented wall on a 30-foot-deep drain in west Delhi's Khyala, was found on Monday, Delhi Fire Service said.

Ankit (19) was working on the project along with two other workers on June 28 when the DJB suddenly resumed water supply to the drain, they said.

The police, along with the fire department and the District Disaster Relief Department, resumed the operation at 9 a.m. Monday and managed to trace the body by afternoon.

Three workers – Ankit, Devinder Sharma and Shahrukh – were swept away on June 28. While Devinder's body was found on Sunday, Shahrukh was pulled out of the drain on the day of the incident but was declared brought dead by doctors at a hospital.

BJP accuses AAP govt. of partaking in ₹2,000-crore scam

₹25 lakh spent per school room that can be built in ₹3-5 lakh: Tiwari; Sisodia challenges BJP to arrest him

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia of partaking in financial "bungling" to the tune of ₹2,000 crore, nepotism and endangering the lives of children studying at government schools across the Capital.

Based on a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) query related to the cost incurred for the construction of schools as well as rooms on school campuses under its jurisdiction, filed by BJP Delhi spokesperson Harish Khurana, the BJP, quoting figures from a reply furnished by the Public Works Department (PWD), alleged that a single room had cost the state exchequer an estimated ₹24.85 lakh.



Manoj Tiwari ■

Mr. Sisodia, who also holds the Education portfolio, res-

ponded to the allegations by challenging the BJP to "arrest" him if he had done wrong or apologise to the people of the Capital for levelling such allegations.

"The AAP is answerable to the people of the city who have the right to know how a single school room can cost close to a whopping ₹25 lakh.

Simple calculation reveals this much and this is, clearly, a scam. The BJP is not going to take this matter sitting down. The party will file complaints with both Delhi Police and the Delhi Lokpal in addition to taking the details of this scam to the people," Mr. Tiwari said.

construction," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari alleged that the cost of constructing rooms, which was possible in about ₹3 to 5 lakh, notwithstanding, the Kejriwal government had awarded contracts of ₹25 lakh per room to those "favoured" by it.

"Most of the persons, out of 34 who have been awarded contracts for constructing classrooms, are either relatives of Mr. Kejriwal or Manish Sisodia or close to them. Stone slabs and T-iron have been used in these classrooms, which are among the most cheapest materials, for

Court orders framing of charges against Jindal and four others

Accused acquired coal block by misrepresenting facts to Screening Committee over end use of coal: CBI

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI

A special court here on Monday ordered framing of charges against industrialist Naresh Jindal, his company Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) and four others.

The others against whom Special Judge Bharat Parashar ordered framing of charges under IPC Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating) are D.N. Abrol, Vik-

rant Gujral, Anand Goel and Sushil Maroo.

The case pertains to allocation of Urta North coal block in Madhya Pradesh jointly to JSPL and Messrs Monet Ispat and Energy Limited.

The CBI alleged that the accused persons had acquired the block by misrepresenting the facts to the Screening Committee regarding the end use of the coal.

Counsel for the probe agency submitted for procuring equipment for a sum of ₹4,340 crores for its Odisha project.

It was a clear-cut case of dishonesty misrepresentation by the accused before the Screening Committee, and by dishonestly claiming a higher

status/stage of preparation, the accused deceived Ministry of Coal to have it believe their claim and allocate the coal block in favour of JSPL, counsel for the probe agency further submitted.

A number of other coal blocks were also earlier allotted to JSPL but it did not disclose it while seeking allocation of another block.

"A perusal of the application form of JSPL shows that

only two coal blocks i.e. Gare-Palma IV/2 and Gare-Palma IV/3 were stated to have been earlier allocated to it. The notings of the Ministry officers in the file, however, show that other coal blocks such as Utikal B-1, Gare-Palma IV/6 and Jitpur coal blocks were also earlier allocated to the company. The said information was, however, not disclosed in the application form," the Special Judge said.

One killed in Noida wall collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NOIDA

A 33-year-old worker died, while three others sustained injuries on Monday after a mud wall collapsed at an under-construction building here, the police said.

The construction work was under way in C Block of commercial hub in Sector 62. The incident was reported around 9 a.m., a police officer said.

The deceased person has been identified as Ram Lekhan, who hailed from Shahjahanpur district, while Ravinder, Veerpal and Rajkumar – all from Badarpur – were injured in the incident, said Pankaj Rai, Station House Officer at Sector 58 police station.

"Immediately after the mud wall collapsed on them, all the four workers were rushed to a private hospital, where Ram Lekhan succumbed to the injuries. The injured persons are currently under treatment," Mr. Rai also said.

The Station House Officer added that the police have not received any compliant in the matter so far.

Consider body cameras for cops, HC tells govt.

'To ensure foolproof prosecution'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Centre and the Delhi government to consider the suggestion of an advocate for providing body cameras to police officials to monitor their conduct as also of the public.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar asked the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Delhi government and Delhi Police to consider the representation given by advocate and social activist Amit Sahni and take a decision on it.

Mr. Sahni, in his plea, sought direction to the police to curb excess use of force and maintain cordial relation with the public following an alleged assault by the police on a tempo driver and his son in city's Mukherjee Nagar.

In his petition, he suggested that body cameras be provided to police officers to monitor and ensure proper conduct, behaviour of officials as well as public and to ensure foolproof and transparent prosecution in case of any violation.

The petition said the courts, while dealing with

brutality of police in various judgments, have observed that the object of the police is to control the situation and not to punish the person at the spot.

"Police brutality is a civil rights violation that occurs when a police officer acts with excessive force by using an amount of force with regards to a civilian that is more than necessary," he added.

Mr. Sahni said body-worn cameras with audio and video options are used by police officers in the US. He claimed that the police in various cities like Gurugram, Ahmedabad, CISF personnel at the Delhi Airport etc. have been using body-worn cameras to check the behaviour of police officers and public dealing with them.



A body camera. ■ PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



Army Public School, Delhi Cant, conducted an orientation programme for the parents of students from classes IX to XII. The main agenda of the programme was to make the parents aware of their role and responsibility in helping their wards accomplish their goals and help in the smooth functioning of the institution. Ms. Mira Bera, senior co-ordinator, began the proceedings by welcoming the parents. Counsellor Ms. Panchanathan briefed the parents on the functioning of the school and suggested that the parents should regularly check the school almanac for important dates like exam schedule, PTM, etc.

GOING BEYOND CURRICULUM



Bharti Public School, Mayur Vihar organized a Bikeability Challenge in the school premises for the students of Pre-primary to class II under the supervision of the school teachers. It was a day activity that offered a welcoming, positive, safe and diverse environment where children could gain and build confidence and self-esteem.

FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS



Noida Billabong celebrated Father's Day at Logix Mall Billabong High International School with over 100 fathers and child duos. Contests, activities and games were conducted. The students penned down heartfelt messages for their fathers and hung them on the Billabong Message Tree.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar:
Handphone: +91 98100 89457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in



DELHI Timings

TUESDAY, JULY 02	
RISE 05:27 SET 19:23	
RISE 04:47 SET 19:02	
WEDNESDAY, JULY 03	
RISE 05:28 SET 19:23	
RISE 05:46 SET 20:02	
THURSDAY, JULY 04	
RISE 05:28 SET 19:23	
RISE 06:50 SET 20:58	

Delhi Weather
max min
Delhi City 42 31
Safdarjung 42 31
Palam 43 31

Delhi Palam Today
39°C Day will be hot/ humid with very light winds. Few pocket may have thunderclouds. Pollution level to improve.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
38°C Marginal drops in temperature and humidity would increase. Spell of rain likely at some parts.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiry before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, shall not be liable for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products or services. The publisher, the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company shall be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Meerut tense day after police lathi charge on protesters

Cops foil another protest bid in Mawana town against Jharkhand lynching

ANUJ KUMAR
GAZIABAD

Meerut remained tense on Monday after a group of Muslim men protesting against the lynching of Tabeer Ansari in Jharkhand were lathi-charged by the police on Sunday evening.

It was followed by an anonymous WhatsApp message that called for a 'Bharat Bandh' to raise voice against alleged atrocities being committed against Muslims. On Monday morning, Meerut police used force to prevent another group of Muslim men in the Mawana town of the district from protesting against the Jharkhand lynching.

Internet services remained blocked for the major part of the day.

Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai, former State president of the



Police keeping a vigil in Mawana town. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BJP, described the lathi charge at Faiz-e-Aam College as an administrative failure. "They should not be allowed to gather on the college premises. What happened in Jharkhand was sad, but what was the point of protesting about it in Meerut," he asked.

Retired AMU professor Zainus Sajidin Siddiqui, a Meerut resident and Sheher Qazi who was one of the catalysts for the protest, said once the videos of lynching went viral, popular eruptions were going to be widespread. "There seems to be a pattern. They want to create

fear among Muslims. We called for a peaceful assembly after the administration refused the protest march. While going back, one of the groups got slightly agitated but the police used brute force and abused old men... 10-15 people were injured. It is an emotive issue and should have been handled carefully."

Section 144 imposed

Akhilesh Singh, SP (City) Meerut, said that Section 144 was in place and the organisers were warned against taking out a procession.

The bandh call didn't impact businesses in Meerut city on Monday.

In Mawana, SP Rural Avinash Pandey said "vested interests" wanted to spoil the peaceful atmosphere. "We only used mild force."

Locust outbreak in Rajasthan's Barmer

Efforts on to control the menace

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

An outbreak of desert locusts in the villages of Rajasthan's Barmer district, adjoining the India-Pakistan border, has posed a threat to the crops. Swarms of locusts were detected in the villages of Tamlor, Gadra Road, Gudamalani and Sheo regions of the district over the weekend.

The Union Agriculture Ministry's Locust Warning Organisation (LWO), headquartered in Jodhpur, has launched efforts on a war footing to control locusts. Teams carrying equipment have been rushed to the villages to spray high-intensity malathion insecticide to prevent the spread of locusts to other areas.

The LWO has set up a helpline for farmers in the State. An attack of locusts, flying in from Pakistan's Sindh province, was reported in Ramdeora-Pokhran region of Jaisalmer district during May this year. The last major outbreak of locusts took place in Rajasthan in 1993, according to the LWO.

LWO Plant Protection Officer in Barmer, Mahesh Chandra, told *The Hindu* on Monday that a warning had been issued to all areas



Warning issued to keep an eye on incoming swarms. ■

along the international border to keep an eye on the incoming swarms. "The spray of insecticide will prevent breeding of locusts, which is often witnessed in vegetation during rains after the drought spell," Mr. Chandra said.

Invasive through Thar

The tropical grasshoppers emerged in January this year from Sudan and Eritrea on Africa's Red Sea Coast and travelled through Saudi Arabia and Iran into Pakistan, where they invaded the cotton-producing belt of Sindh. The swarms of locusts are now entering the Thar desert, threatening the crops in western Rajasthan.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned that more hatching and formation of hopper groups were expected in the coming weeks in Rajasthan, while the swarms of adult locusts would arrive from the "spring breeding areas".

Report sought on fly ash management

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging unscientific handling of fly ash generated by a unit of NTPC, the National Green Tribunal on Monday sought a report from the authorities on the current status on disposal and management of fly ash.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed Aravalli Power and Jhajjar Power to provide a report on the current status of fly ash disposal and management.

Authorities were also directed to furnish an action plan along with timelines within one month.

Additionally, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board was directed to furnish a report on the status of air quality and stack monitoring with respect to the two units within one month.

Further, the Bench said, "Report from the Chief Medical Officer, Jhajjar district, about the health impact of fly ash in the area in question has to be provided within one month." The directions came when the NGT was hearing a plea which claimed that unscientific handling of the fly ash was affecting public health.

Deol names 'representative' for Gurdaspur

Move comes under fire from Cong., which terms it as betrayal of mandate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GURDASPUR (PUNJAB)

Bollywood actor and MP Sunny Deol has appointed a writer as his "representative" to the Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency, a move that came under fire from the ruling Congress, which described it as a "betrayal" of the voters' mandate.

In a letter issued on the letterhead of the Gurdaspur MP, Mr. Deol appointed Gurpreet Singh Palheri as his "representative" to "attend meetings and follow important matters".

"I hereby appoint Gurpreet Singh Palheri, son of Supinder Singh, resident of village Palheri, district Mohali, Punjab, as my representative to attend meetings and follow important matters



Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol. ■

pertaining to my Parliamentary constituency, Gurdaspur (Punjab), with concerned authorities," the letter signed by Mr. Deol reads.

Mr. Palheri, who is a writer and line producer, said the letter was issued on June 26. He tried to downplay the issue, saying, "It (appointment)

is for local issues. It is likely being in 24-hour service of people of Gurdaspur."

He, however, asserted that the Gurdaspur MP and the BJP were taking care of the public issues of the Lok Sabha constituency.

Visit every month
Mr. Palheri said Mr. Deol would visit the Gurdaspur constituency every month. "He will now come to Gurdaspur after Parliament session is over," he added.

Meanwhile, Punjab Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa lashed out at Mr. Deol for appointing a representative and dubbed the move a "betrayal" with the voters of the border constituency.

"Sunny Deol has betrayed voters of Gurdaspur constituency by appointing a representative," said Mr. Randhawa, an MLA from Dera Baba Nanak, an Assembly segment which is part of the Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency.

ing his tenure [as Deputy Chief Minister] then he would do well to go through the Section 363 to 367 of the manual in which it is clearly mentioned that the jail officers are fully authorised to use weapons as per the jail manual.

Petty politics'

Hitting out at Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal, who had sought the resignation of the Minister following the incident, Mr. Randhawa accused him of indulging in "petty politics".

The Minister, in a letter to the Akali president, wrote, "If Sukhbir Singh Badal has not read the jail manual dur-

said that had Mr. Badal, who was former Home Minister of Punjab, known the jail manual, he would not have demonstrated his "intellectual hollowness" by making such a demand.

Soon after the incident, Mr. Badal had sought immediate sacking of the State's Prisons Minister and blamed the State government for the "complete breakdown of law and order". Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema had also accused the Congress government of failing to control the "deteriorating law and order" in the State.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had dismissed the demand for his Minister's resignation, maintaining that the incident did not reflect any law and order breakdown in Punjab.

FIR filed over celebratory firing in M.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INDORE

A case has been registered in Indore in Madhya Pradesh after a man was seen indulging in celebratory firing while people welcomed BJP MLA Akash Vijayvargiya after the latter was released on bail on Sunday.

Mr. Vijayvargiya was arrested on Wednesday for assaulting a civic official with a cricket bat during a demolition drive.

After the video of the celebratory firing, which took place outside the MLA's office here, went viral, the ruling Congress had demanded that the police lodge a case and arrest the culprit.

Thrashed official dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

A water department official in Punjab, who was assaulted last month while distributing bills at a village in the State's Sangrur district, has succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at a hospital, police said on Monday.

He was admitted at a private hospital in Ludhiana where he was undergoing treatment. He died on Sunday, they said.

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS
(Telecom Technology Centre of Govt. of India)
Electronics City - Phase I, Hosur Road
BENGALURU - 560 100.

TENDER REF NO. CDOT/TENDER/2019-2020/003

e - TENDER NOTICE

C-DOT a Telecom Technology Centre of Government of India invites On-line bids from prospective, reputed and experienced bidders to quote for Triennial Rate Contract for the following facilities contracts:

Sl.No	Tender Notice No.	Rate Contract for:
1	CDOT/TENDER/2019-2020/003 - A	Photo Copying Services
2	CDOT/TENDER/2019-2020/003 - B	Pest Control Services

Tender details are uploaded in CPP Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> or C-DOT web site www.cdot.in. Interested Bidders may download all documents and refer to all details of Tender from the above portal or website only.

Important details of the Tender:

Cost of Tender Document : Rs. 1,050/- payable by way of NEFT to CDOT Bengaluru

Last date for Bid clarification : 1400 hours 04/07/2019

Last date for receipt of bids : 1400 hours on 26/07/2019

Technical Bid Opening : 1430 hours on 29/07/2019

All amendments / corrigendum to this tender will be uploaded on the website and portal only. Hence it will not be published in the Newspaper/s. Bidders are advised to check the website / portal before submitting the Tender.

Manual or offline submission of bids will not be accepted.



**YOUR KIDS WILL CALL THIS
THE BEST SUMMER HOLIDAY EVER
VISIT ABU DHABI**

FUN-FILLED ABU DHABI | 4 DAYS ₹19,900*

Stay in Yas Island
Visit: Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld, Warner Bros World™ Abu Dhabi

DELIGHTS OF ABU DHABI | 5 DAYS ₹31,500*

Stay in Abu Dhabi & Yas Island
Visit: Louvre Abu Dhabi, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld/Warner Bros World™ Abu Dhabi

SERENE ABU DHABI | 5 DAYS ₹38,100*

Stay in Arabian Nights Village & Abu Dhabi
Visit: Abu Dhabi City tour, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi

TRAVEL TOURS

**Unbeatable
SINCE 1977**

CLASSIFIEDS MART

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

EDUCATIONAL

PAVAN KUMAR'S IAS
(An Academy of General Studies & Public Administration)

NEW BATCHES

PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION
22nd JulyETHICS
22nd JulyOffline www.pavankumarias.com Online
8447412868, 8447532310, 9911366520
18/4, First Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, Opp. Aggarwal Sweets, New Delhi-110060

m PHILOSOPHY

CONSISTENTLY DELIVERING TOP RANKS

2018 : RANK 27 (SALONI) ; RANK 40 (GARIMA)

OUR PAST RESULT : RANK 2, 11, 33, 40, 44, 45,

HIGHEST MARKS OF OUR STUDENTS | MANY CANDIDATES IN PAPER 1:163 & PAPER 2:158 GOT 300+

MANY CANDIDATES CRACKED IN THEIR VERY FIRST ATTEMPT

NEW BATCHES 15th JULY & 29th SEPT.
EPOCHE (REVISED & UPDATED TESTS)Mitra's IAS 39, PUSA ROAD (SAMYAK TOWER,
OPP. METRO PILLAR NO. 120)
8826469839/9560928172/45505509

mitrasiastclasses@gmail.com • Visit us : www.mitriasisas.com

Triumph IAS An Institute for Civil Services Examination & Expert Guidance for IAS
Innovating Knowledge, Inspiring Success

SOCIOLOGY

CSE-2019-20 by Vikash Ranjan Sir

FOUNDATION WITH DAILY ANSWER WRITING
08 JULYTEST SERIES PERSONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME
ADMISSION OPEN

ESSAY FOUNDATION WITH DAILY ANSWER WRITING 2019-20 by Vikash Ranjan

ADMISSION OPEN ESSAY TEST SERIES ADMISSION OPEN ONLINE OFFLINE

www.triumphias.com 7840888102

23-B, 3rd Floor Pusa Road, Old Rajender Nagar, New Delhi-110060 info@triumphias.com

LUKMAAN IAS The New Emerging Alternative... Lead with Edge... OFFLINE

Geography

OPTIONAL BY DR. G.R. PATIL (IRS)

Batch commences with Strategy Session on 05th July

4.5 months Comprehensive Classes.

Emphasis on greater conceptual clarity of the subject

Complete syllabus of Geography optional as per changed pattern of Questions.

After Every session study material will be provided

Weekly test of Five Questions to boost your confidence

Special emphasis on Map Marking and Diagrams

Extensive answer writing practice in the class itself

Test Series including 10 Tests with explanation and Model Answers

05 FREE DEMO CLASSES

Test Series

COMMENCING FROM 05th JULY

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE BHOPAL CENTRE

15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) 871, FIRST FLOOR (OPP. BATRA CINEMA) S-95, SANCHI COMPLEX, SHIVAJI NAGAR, DELHI-110029. MOBILE: 9810959373/ 9809999193 / 9811419881 & 9811419882 / 9811419883

enquiries@lukmaanias.com | www.lukmaanias.com | 9654034293 | 8506099919

Geography OPTIONAL BY DR. G.R. PATIL (IRS)

Batch commences with Strategy Session on 05th July

4.5 months Comprehensive Classes.

Emphasis on greater conceptual clarity of the subject

Complete syllabus of Geography optional as per changed pattern of Questions.

After Every session study material will be provided

Weekly test of Five Questions to boost your confidence

Special emphasis on Map Marking and Diagrams

Extensive answer writing practice in the class itself

Test Series including 10 Tests with explanation and Model Answers

05 FREE DEMO CLASSES

Test Series

COMMENCING FROM 05th JULY

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE BHOPAL CENTRE

15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) 871, FIRST FLOOR (OPP. BATRA CINEMA) S-95, SANCHI COMPLEX, SHIVAJI NAGAR, DELHI-110029. MOBILE: 9810959373/ 9809999193 / 9811419881 & 9811419882 / 9811419883

enquiries@lukmaanias.com | www.lukmaanias.com | 9654034293 | 8506099919

Geography OPTIONAL BY DR. G.R. PATIL (IRS)

Batch commences with Strategy Session on 05th July

4.5 months Comprehensive Classes.

Emphasis on greater conceptual clarity of the subject

Complete syllabus of Geography optional as per changed pattern of Questions.

After Every session study material will be provided

Weekly test of Five Questions to boost your confidence

Special emphasis on Map Marking and Diagrams

Extensive answer writing practice in the class itself

Test Series including 10 Tests with explanation and Model Answers

05 FREE DEMO CLASSES

Test Series

COMMENCING FROM 05th JULY

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE BHOPAL CENTRE

15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) 871, FIRST FLOOR (OPP. BATRA CINEMA) S-95, SANCHI COMPLEX, SHIVAJI NAGAR, DELHI-110029. MOBILE: 9810959373/ 9809999193 / 9811419881 & 9811419882 / 9811419883

enquiries@lukmaanias.com | www.lukmaanias.com | 9654034293 | 8506099919

Geography OPTIONAL BY DR. G.R. PATIL (IRS)

Batch commences with Strategy Session on 05th July

4.5 months Comprehensive Classes.

Emphasis on greater conceptual clarity of the subject

Complete syllabus of Geography optional as per changed pattern of Questions.

After Every session study material will be provided

Weekly test of Five Questions to boost your confidence

Special emphasis on Map Marking and Diagrams

Extensive answer writing practice in the class itself

Test Series including 10 Tests with explanation and Model Answers

05 FREE DEMO CLASSES

Test Series

COMMENCING FROM 05th JULY

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE BHOPAL CENTRE

15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) 871, FIRST FLOOR (OPP. BATRA CINEMA) S-95, SANCHI COMPLEX, SHIVAJI NAGAR, DELHI-110029. MOBILE: 9810959373/ 9809999193 / 9811419881 & 9811419882 / 9811419883

enquiries@lukmaanias.com | www.lukmaanias.com | 9654034293 | 8506099919

Geography OPTIONAL BY DR. G.R. PATIL (IRS)

Batch commences with Strategy Session on 05th July

4.5 months Comprehensive Classes.

Emphasis on greater conceptual clarity of the subject

Complete syllabus of Geography optional as per changed pattern of Questions.

After Every session study material will be provided

Weekly test of Five Questions to boost your confidence

Special emphasis on Map Marking and Diagrams

Extensive answer writing practice in the class itself

Test Series including 10 Tests with explanation and Model Answers

05 FREE DEMO CLASSES

Test Series

COMMENCING FROM 05th JULY

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE BHOPAL CENTRE

15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) 871, FIRST FLOOR (OPP. BATRA CINEMA) S-95, SANCHI COMPLEX, SHIVAJI NAGAR, DELHI-110029. MOBILE: 9810959373/ 9809999193 / 9811419881 & 9811419882 / 9811419883

enquiries@lukmaanias.com | www.lukmaanias.com | 9654034293 | 8506099919

Geography OPTIONAL BY DR. G.R. PATIL (IRS)

Batch commences with Strategy Session on 05th July

4.5 months Comprehensive Classes.

Emphasis on greater conceptual clarity of the subject

Complete syllabus of Geography optional as per changed pattern of Questions.

After Every session study material will be provided

Weekly test of Five Questions to boost your confidence

Special emphasis on Map Marking and Diagrams

Extensive answer writing practice in the class itself

Test Series including 10 Tests with explanation and Model Answers

05 FREE DEMO CLASSES

Test Series

COMMENCING FROM 05th JULY

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE BHOPAL CENTRE

15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) 871, FIRST FLOOR (OPP. BATRA CINEMA) S-95, SANCHI COMPLEX, SHIVAJI NAGAR, DELHI-110029. MOBILE: 9810959373/ 9809999193 / 9811419881 & 9811419882 / 9811419883

enquiries@lukmaanias.com | www.lukmaanias.com | 9654034293 | 8506099919

Geography OPTIONAL BY DR. G.R. PATIL (IRS)

Batch commences with Strategy Session on 05th July

4.5 months Comprehensive Classes.

Emphasis on greater conceptual clarity of the subject

Complete syllabus of Geography optional as per changed pattern of Questions.

After Every session study material will be provided

Weekly test of Five Questions to boost your confidence

Special emphasis on Map Marking and Diagrams

Extensive answer writing practice in the class itself

Test Series including 10 Tests with explanation and Model Answers

05 FREE DEMO CLASSES

Test Series

COMMENCING FROM 05th JULY

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE BHOPAL CENTRE

15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) 871, FIRST FLOOR (OPP. BATRA CINEMA) S-95, SANCHI COMPLEX, SHIVAJI NAGAR, DELHI-110029. MOBILE: 9810959373/ 9809999193 / 9811419881 & 9811419882 / 9811419883

enquiries@lukmaanias.com | www.lukmaanias.com | 9654034293 | 8506099919

Geography OPTIONAL BY DR. G.R. PATIL (IRS)

Batch commences with Strategy Session on 05th July

4.5 months Comprehensive Classes.

Emphasis on greater conceptual clarity of the subject

Complete syllabus of Geography optional as per changed pattern of Questions.

After Every session study material will be provided

Weekly test of Five Questions to boost your confidence

Special emphasis on Map Marking and Diagrams

Extensive answer writing practice in the class itself

Test Series including 10 Tests with explanation and Model Answers

05 FREE DEMO CLASSES

Test Series

COMMENCING FROM 05th JULY

OLD RAJINDER NAGAR CENTRE MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTRE BHOPAL CENTRE

15 GROUND FLOOR (OPP. MOTHER DAIRY) 871, FIRST FLOOR (OPP. BATRA CINEMA) S-95, SANCHI COMPLEX, SHIVAJI NAGAR, DELHI-110029. MOBILE: 9810959373/ 9809999193 / 9811419881 & 9811419882 / 981

Workers' union seeks 'sensitive' officers

Writes to CM, says labour welfare board had no proper records of deaths at construction sites

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

The Bandhkaam Kamgar Sena, a city-based outfit working with labourers at construction sites, has written to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday demanding recruitment of more 'sensitive' labour officers to preclude tragedies like the Kondhwa wall collapse that resulted in the death of 15 workers and their kin, including women and children.

The letter, also addressed to the Labour Minister, has strongly condemned the apathy and corruption in the labour office in Pune.

"We urge the State government to ensure that after this tragedy, the Labour Welfare Board wakes up and register construction labourers so that they can avail of the benefits of the 28 welfare schemes announced by the State government... We hope in the near future that the labourer, who has done so much to change the face of Pune district, can at least dream of travelling by an airplane instead of his corpse being transported for last rites by the same conveyance," reads the letter by Jayant Shinde, founder, Bandhkaam Kamgar Sena.

In the letter, Mr. Shinde pointed out that in June 2013, a committee had been formed under the Deputy Labour Commissioner comprising a police officer, a labour officer and two staff inspectors.

This panel was tasked with inspecting construction sites especially during the monsoon season so as to prevent tragedies like this.

No action taken'

"But after a month, no action was taken by this committee which has long faded into oblivion. So, we have every reason to fear that despite the bureaucratic buzz following the Kondhwa tragedy, nothing will ultimately change and that any fresh policy directives drafted would only be confined to paper," he said, speaking to *The Hindu*.



Ravaged: Fifteen people were killed in a wall collapse in Pune on Saturday. ■ FILE PHOTO

Probe committee formed

Opposition demands case of culpable homicide

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil on Monday said that a five-member committee is probing the wall collapse incident in Pune in which 15 people were killed on Saturday.

Replying to a discussion on the issue in the Assembly, Mr. Patil said that the probe panel will comprise the additional district collector, officials of the labour commissionerate, Pune Police, Pune Municipal Corporation and the deputy director of town planning.

"A total of 11 people have been booked for culpable homicide and two have been arrested so far. The construction work was going on in a very narrow

lane. There was no space for ambulances to arrive at the site of the accident. I wonder how permissions are given for construction of residential premises," Mr. Patil said.

The minister informed that the licenses of the structural engineer and the building's architect have been suspended and they have been blacklisted, adding that the registration of the RCC (structural design) consultant has been stayed.

Earlier, Nationalist Congress Party MLA Ajit Pawar demanded that the accused be booked for culpable homicide. "The poor should get justice. Developers should be punished," he said.

Congress MLA Amit Deshmukh asked if labour-

ers from other States were registered with local authorities. "Accountability needs to be fixed and stricter laws are necessary," he said.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) Vijay Wadettiwar said residents of the building adjacent to the compound wall had complained to local authorities about defects in the wall four months ago.

Fifteen people, including four children, were killed and two others injured on Saturday when a portion of a 22-feet high compound wall of a housing society in Kondhwa area of Pune collapsed on adjoining slums of construction workers following incessant rains. All the deceased labourers belonged to Katihar Bihar.

Accusing the Labour Welfare Board of being in cahoots with builders, Mr. Shinde alleged that the office, ostensibly set up for the welfare of labourers, had no proper records of the number of labourer deaths or casualties at construction sites.

Mr. Shinde said that in February this year he had written to the Labour Commissioner in Pune detailing instances of rampant corruption in the labour office.

"We discovered instances of labour officials stamping blank registration forms and siphoning off government money intended for labourers. But no action was forthcoming on our letter. Again, when we sought information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act in March this year regarding labour fatalities in the past year, we were informed of deaths of only 40 labourers which is in stark contrast to our information of 80 deaths at construction sites and elsewhere," Mr. Shinde said.

He said that of these 40 'officially recorded' fatalities, the labour office could fur-

nish details of only half the casualties.

As per rules, the builder or contractor has to pay the labour office ₹85 per worker as one-time registration fees which holds good for five years. "Very often, it is found that labour agents demand high sums for registration and end up not registering him at all. Aware of the corrupt practices of the authorities, the builder does not care about registering his workforce as he is aware that they will migrate soon after their work with him is done. This way, the labourer ends up an 'orphan', with no financial protection at all in the event of a mishap," Mr. Shinde said.

Suspend ward engineer'

Meanwhile, the Sambhaji Brigade has held authorities of the Pune Municipal Corporation responsible for the Kondhwa wall collapse.

It accused PMC officials of corruption and demanded that a case of culpable homicide be lodged against city engineer Prashant Waghmare and the civic body authorities in Kondhwa.

"We demand that Mr. Waghmare and the ward engineer and other civic authorities be held responsible for the Kondhwa incident and be immediately suspended. The PMC always gets into its 'cover-up' mode whenever such accidents occur and is prompt to pass the blame onto the builder," said Santosh Shinde, Pune district president of the Brigade.

He said nearly 60% of all new constructions coming up in Pune district were 'illegal', and alleged that corrupt civic body officials gave permission to builders without even visiting the site.

An experts' committee comprising Pune civic body officials and a team from the College of Engineering Pune (CoEP) have conducted a preliminary investigation of the mishap site. The committee has indicated that there were significant flaws in the construction of the retaining wall which crashed on to the labourers' huts in the wee hours of Saturday.

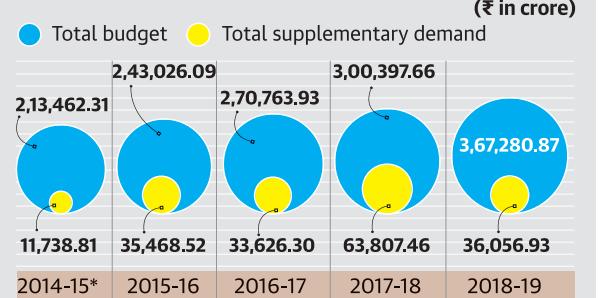


Devendra Fadnavis arrives for the monsoon session of the Assembly on Monday ■ P. SRUSHTI

Supplementary demand touches 12.95% of budget

₹2,500 crore allotted to farm loan waiver schemes

Pushing the limits



Departments with major demands above ₹2000 cr. (₹ in crore)

Department	Supplementary Demand
Co-operation, Marketing, Textile	3,808.71
Industries, Power, Labour	3,651.13
Rural Development	2,340.42
Urban Development	2,205.57
Public Works Department	2,067.42
Water Resources	2,037.86

* 2014 Dec-2015 March

lotments, ₹2,500 crore were allotted for the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Samman Scheme (2017), the farm loan waiver scheme. With focus on farmers, ₹387.3 crore provision is made as an assistance to onion producing farmers while ₹320.07 crore is the provision for the ancillary expenditure for purchase of farmers' produce through Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd.

According to Samarthan, an organisation which specialises in analysis of the State budget and provision of supplementary demands, neither the present government nor the previous one has managed to keep the percentage of supplementary demands within the limit of 5% to 10%.

App to track your carbon footprint to be launched

Government to reward those who achieve neutral status

SHARAD VYAS

MUMBAI

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday announced that the State government will now track citizens' carbon footprint through an app and reward those who achieve an emission neutral status.

He said it will be floated next month with an aim to reduce pollution and carbon emission in Maharashtra.

The State Forest Department is developing the app, which will be able to count the everyday carbon emission of a citizens and suggest measures to reduce it depending on the count, Mr. Fadnavis said speaking on the sidelines of an event to

launch the drive to plant 33 crore saplings in the State. He said that citizens would be awarded a certificate and tax rebate once they achieve a neutral status.

Bring down pollution

The idea of the app was initiated after Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised international organisations to bring India's pollution levels to 2005 levels by 2030.

The PM had also announced India's aim to generate 175 GW (gigawatt) of renewable energy by 2022, of which 100 GW is to be solar, Mr. Fadnavis said.

"The PM has kick-started several other schemes to reduce pollution by planting

trees and improving ground water levels. I feel every person must contribute by learning how much carbon they are emitting, and then take efforts to reduce pollution accordingly," he said.

The footprints of an individual, as per the app, will include his use of electricity, air conditioning, kitchen activities among others.

India has, as part of the Paris Summit, promised to reduce green house gas emission by 20% to 25%.

A senior official of the Forest Department said the app is ready and will be launched in August.

"We will also use it to create awareness on climate change," he said.

House passes Bill to cut quota for Marathas

Move comes after HC order on row

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

The State Assembly on Monday unanimously passed an amendment in the Maratha reservation Bill whereby instead of earlier 16% reservation, 12% and 13% seats will be reserved in education and jobs respectively.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis presented the amendment in the Maharashtra State Reservation (for seats for admission in educational institutions in the State and for appointments in the public services and posts under the State) for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).

Act, 2018 citing a High Court order.

"The State government had passed the Act with 16% reservation. While the High Court validated the reservation, its percentage has been struck down. The court order mentioned 12% and 13% reservation in education and jobs respectively."

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis presented the amendment in the Maharashtra State Reservation (for seats for admission in educational institutions in the State and for appointments in the public services and posts under the State) for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).

The High Court on June 27 had passed an order upholding the minority category reservation.

SpiceJet plane overshoots runway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SURAT

A SpiceJet plane from Bhopal to Surat on Sunday overshot the runway while landing at the Surat Airport, although none of the passengers and crew members on board were hurt in the incident, an airport official said.

The incident, which occurred around 8.15 pm, was a result of heavy rain and wind.

"All the 43 passengers and four crew members are safe and they are being handled by the SpiceJet officials," Surat airport director S.K. Panigrahi said.

The airport operations were suspended for the night, and three flights were diverted.



The Gorewada lake, which supplies water to Nagpur, has dried up for the first time in 49 years. ■ S. SUDERSHAN

Council clears Bill on property tax exemption

Units below 500 sq.ft. to not pay cess

SHARAD VYAS

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Legislative Council on Monday unanimously passed a Bill to amend the Municipal Corporation Act to allow exemption in property tax to units up to 500 sq. ft. in size.

The bill was earlier passed in the Lower House, where it was tabled by the Government as part of the poll manifesto and assurances made by alliance partner Shiv Sena during the last local body polls in Mumbai.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the waiver would benefit as many as 30

Use paper ballots for Assembly polls: NCP

Jayant Patil says it will show who the people of the State truly stand with

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Jayant Patil on Monday dared the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led State government to conduct the Assembly polls on ballot instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

"In Lok Sabha you (BJP) won a massive mandate. It is being said that you will win more than 220 Assembly seats. Everyone is wondering how you won. Therefore, I dare you to hold the next Assembly elections on ballot paper instead of machines," Mr. Patil said while initiating a resolution in the Assembly asking

sition's resolution.

"If the election is held on ballot paper, the government's real popularity will be clear," he said, prompting uproar from the ruling benches.

BJP's Baburao Pacharne raised the point of order claiming it was NCP leader Ajit Pawar who had discarded the EVM malfunction theory. Mr. Pawar replied saying in a democracy everyone is entitled to their views and Mr. Patil's opinion cannot be judged from his own statement outside the House.

Mr. Patil appealed to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to bring a resolution in the Assembly asking

the Election Commission of India to hold elections on ballot paper.

"Just like the act for Maratha reservation we will pass this resolution unanimously. It will show whom Maharashtra supports," Mr. Patil said.

Earlier, Mr. Patil accused Mr. Fadnavis of aiding irregularities in the construction of Seven Eleven Hotel within the Mirabaiander Municipal Corporation by cutting man-groves. The hotel has a partnership of BJP MLA Narendra Mehta's brother," Mr. Patil said.

He also alleged that Darshan Developers, a company which extended donations to the BJP formed four shell companies and raised loan worth ₹2,000 crore without having any project.

He also alleged that Darshan Developers, a company which extended donations to the BJP formed four shell companies and raised loan worth ₹2,000 crore without having any project.

Jayant Patil

the Election Commission of India to hold elections on ballot paper. "Just like the act for Maratha reservation we will pass this resolution unanimously. It will show whom Maharashtra supports," Mr. Patil said.

CM YK

IN BRIEF



Court to decide on Binoy's bail plea today

MUMBAI The Dindoshi Sessions Court in Mumbai on Monday deferred its decision on the anticipatory bail plea filed by Binoy Kodiyeri, son of CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, in a rape and cheating case to Tuesday. Binoy had been booked by the Oshiwara police on charges earlier this month after a Mira Road resident alleged that he had been exploiting her for several years and that she even had a son with him.

Tourist omnibuses resume services to Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The 360-odd all-India tourist omnibuses (AITOB) operating inter-State services from key southern cities to Kerala and back resumed their services on Monday after a week. The AITOBs will run as contract carriages with fares prevailing as on June 21 and a 12-13% increase in fares during weekends and holidays. The AITOB operators withdrew buses to the State on June 24 citing harassment by the Motor Vehicles Department under the guise of Operation Night Riders, a drive to keep tabs on such vehicles.

Server trouble delays 29 IndiGo flights

BENGALURU/MUMBAI IndiGo passengers had a difficult time on Monday after 29 flights were delayed for more than half-an-hour at the Bengaluru airport owing to a server glitch. The reservation system, which conked out at 4.29 a.m., could be restored only at 5.07 a.m., IndiGo said in a statement. As the IndiGo staff moved to manual bookings due to the server trouble, it resulted in long queues at the airline's check-in counters across the airport, according to sources. PTI

10 more arrested for attack on forester

24 detained for assault in Telangana; govt. employees, community members stage protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ADILABAD

The Kumram Bheem Asifabad district police on Monday arrested and remanded 10 more persons for the attack on forest range officer C. Anitha and other personnel at Sarasala village in Telangana's Kagaznagar mandal on June 30. This takes the number of accused arrested to 24. Following the attack, a case was registered against 30 persons.

Ms. Anitha, who was on a sapling plantation drive on degraded forest land, was attacked with bamboo sticks by a group, led by Zilla Parishad vice-chairman and ruling TRS leader Koneru Krishna, claiming that the land belonged to them.

Ms. Anitha is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Hyderabad.

As many as 14 accused, Mr. Krishna and his follower Burra Pocham, were arrested a few hours after the incident. They are now lodged in the Adilabad district jail.

'Sirpur MLA should quit'

Meanwhile, protests against the attack on the forest personnel continued on the second day too. The Telangana Rashtra Vanjari Sangham staged a rally and a dharna in front of the district collectorate at Asifabad. Ms. Anitha belongs to the Vanjari community.

The Sangham also demanded resignation of Sirpur MLA Koneru Konappa who is the elder brother of Mr. Krishna.

The Telangana Joint Action Committee of Employees and Teachers and Gazetted Officers and Workers staged a demonstration in Adilabad condemning the Sarasala incident. It also demanded strict implementation of laws so that government servants could function properly.



Renewed vigour: Forest officers and personnel planting saplings on Monday in the degraded forest land near the Sarasala village in Telangana's Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, where a forest range officer was attacked on Sunday. ■ S. HARSH SINGH

TRS MLA booked for obstructing staff

Will not tolerate attack on officials, says Javadekar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BHADRADRI-KOTHAGODEM

An MLA of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi was booked on Monday for stopping forest department personnel from constructing a protection wall around a reserve forest in Kothagudem.

Following a complaint lodged by M.R.P. Rao, deputy forest range officer, Kothagudem, the Laxmidipallipalli police booked TRS MLA Vama Venkateswara Rao, his son Raghava and three others on charges of obstructing the Forest Department staff from discharging their duties and under various sections of the IPC and Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage

to Public Property (PDPP) Act.

In his complaint, the forest officer alleged that around 80 villagers led by

official in Telangana.

Mr. Javadekar said during Question Hour that such incidents cannot be tolerated. "We are taking the attack very seriously because this cannot be tolerated. We, as a regulator, will do whatever possible."

former Laxmidipallipalli MPTC Srinu forcibly stalled the protection wall construction works in the Lothuvagu compartment of the Chath-

konda reserve forest block at Yellandu crossroads on Saturday. The villagers stopped the work staking claim over the site, though the field staff appealed to them to approach the higher authorities with patta, if any, in their possession, he said.

He sought action against Mr. Rao, his son Raghava and others for obstructing the work and instigating the villagers against the staff.

Mr. Rao, however, refuted the charges. "I have only tried to represent the grievances of Adivasis, who claim that they have been in possession of the said land at Laxmidipallipalli mandal since 1956," he said.

Cabinet reshuffle likely in Karnataka to tide over crisis

Bid to make room for dissidents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Hours after two Congress MLAs – Anand Singh and Ramesh Jarkiholi – resigned from the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, several senior Congress leaders huddled at the residence of former Chief Minister Siddaramiah to take stock of the situation and chalk out a strategy to keep the party's flock together.

It is believed that some senior leaders will be asked to step aside to accommodate the dissident legislators.

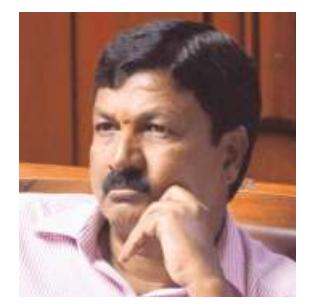
Waiting for CM's return
KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao, senior Ministers D.K. Shivakumar and G. Parameshwara, and some MLAs held discussions with Mr. Siddaramiah on the various options, including reshuffling of Ministry, for preventing the disgruntled MLAs from quitting.

Plans are afoot to reshuffle the Ministry soon after Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy returns from his U.S. trip and before the extended budget session of the legislature begins on July 12, sources said.

The senior leaders discussed a list of probable MLAs who are likely to quit the party and the BJP's game plan to topple the coalition government.

With no clarity on the number of Congress and JD (S) legislators who might quit their membership to the Assembly and the party, the game plan to topple the coalition government.

Nearly a dozen Congress legislators such as B.C. Patil, Mahesh Kumathalli, B. Nagendra, and Basanagouda Daddal are apparently calculating the risks and benefits of deserting the Congress.



have opposed continuation of the alliance after the rout in the Lok Sabha election in the State.

More resignations likely
As a couple of MLAs are expected to resign in the next few days, the BJP has plans to embarrass the coalition government by asking the Chief Minister to prove majority in the House during the extended session of the State legislature.

The Congress is expected to call its legislators' party meeting soon. A few legislators, including suspended MLA Roshan Baig, skipped the CLP meeting held a few days ago.

Nearly a dozen Congress legislators such as B.C. Patil, Mahesh Kumathalli, B. Nagendra, and Basanagouda Daddal are apparently calculating the risks and benefits of deserting the Congress.

Act by RTI Act, court tells information officers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The Public Information Officers, appellate authorities and the Kerala Information Commission shall only act implicitly in terms of the Right To Information (RTI) Act, ordered the Kerala High Court on Monday.

Justice Devan Ramachandran issued the order while considering a writ petition filed by RTI activist D.B. Binu challenging a government order which ordered that "all documents/information related to inter-State matters and documents/information, which the government feels privy and the disclosure of the same may hamper the interest of the State shall be exempted from revealing to the public even in request under the RTI Act."

'Disquieting move'
The court said it failed to understand how the government could issue the order when the RTI had a well-defined hierarchy of officers, with the State Information Commission at its head, which is expected to be autonomous and resistant to any pressure from the executive.

"It is disquieting that the government order appeared to be an attempt to influence the various information officers and appellate authorities under the RTI act by dictating that they shall not make available certain types of information, no matter what the mandate of the RTI Act is. This is certainly a very dangerous proposition and it is incomprehensible how the government could arrogate to itself the power to issue such an order, knowing fully well that this is grossly affront to the provisions of law," the court noted.

Opposition alleges cover-up in Kerala custodial death

Police narrative riddled with discrepancies, says Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Opposition walked out of the Kerala Assembly on Monday, accusing the State police of "deceitful attempts" to shift the blame for the custodial death of financier Rajkumar, 49, to debtors who had allegedly cheated.

Congress legislator V.D. Satheesan, who gave notice to prorogue routine business to discuss the matter, said the Idukki police, as an afterthought, had on June 28 booked the people who had apprehended Rajkumar and turned him over to law enforcers unharmed.

Loose ends

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was parroting the

same set of lies his officers had told him. The police narrative about the incident was full of holes. There was a discrepancy of three days between the day Rajkumar was detained (June 12) and the date the Nedukandam police recorded his arrest (June 15), he said. Rajkumar died on June 21 at the Peerumade taluk hospital.

The police had tortured Rajkumar as part of their "treasure hunt" to retrieve the money he had allegedly secreted away. Rajkumar, from a weak economic background, was a front for CPI (M) leader Gopalakrishnan who headed the Pattom Colony Cooperative Bank, Mr. Satheesan said.

He briefly ran Haritha Finance, which invited people to deposit ₹1,000 in the bank to avail themselves of a loan of up to ₹1 lakh.

CM's warning

Mr. Vijayan said district SPs could not escape the responsibility for custodial deaths in their jurisdiction. "Such persons would not remain in service. Supervisory officers should know the status of persons in custody and prevent illegal detention if any," he said.

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala was critical of the magistrate who remanded a "dying" Rajkumar in custody.

Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan found Mr. Vijayan's statement satisfactory and disallowed an adjournment motion.

Washed out



Police using water cannon to disperse members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, who were protesting in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday against the Kerala government's decision to implement the recommendations of the Khader Committee aimed at revamping the school education sector. ■ S. GOPAKUMAR

Don't demolish Secretariat, says Cong.

Telangana CM urged not to waste public money in the name of Vaastu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee has announced its resolve to stop the demolition of the Secretariat complex here, saying it would explore various options to do so.

The Congress alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's decision to dismantle the complex exposed his "dictatorial attitude". The party was determined to "stop the wastage of huge amounts of public money".

Last week, the Chief Minister had laid the foundation stone for a new Secretariat complex.

Delegation visits

A team of senior Congress leaders led by Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday visit-



The Secretariat complex in Telangana. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

ed different blocks in the Secretariat that were tipped to be dismantled, to pave the way for the construction of the new complex. The delegation consisted of MP A. Revanth Reddy, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, MLAs D. Sridhar Babu and D. Seethakka and senior leader V. Hanumanth Rao, among others.

The leaders alleged that the Chief Minister was acting according to his whims and fancies, as was evident from his plan to demolish blocks on the basis of "Vaastu considerations". These structures were set to last several decades, they said.

"Moreover, there is adequate space available since

Andhra Pradesh has handed over the blocks in its possession," Mr. Vikramarka said. He advised the government to get its priorities right and spend public money judiciously to address unemployment and other issues.

Mr. Revanth Reddy charged the Chief Minister with wasting valuable public money for his "superstitious beliefs".

Though the government was claiming that the construction of the new complex would cost around ₹400 crore, it could, in fact, go beyond ₹1,000 crore. He recalled the Chief Minister's promise of constructing a befitting memorial for martyrs who laid down their lives for the cause of separate statehood and said no step had been initiated in this direction so far.

Ex-servicemen question rule of destroying service records

They ask why a digital format is not retained as a backup

LAJQH A. KHAN

MYSURU

When Belliappa Motaiah, 65-year-old veteran of the 1971 Indo-Pak war, recently made an application with all necessary documents to the regiment he served for inclusion of his wife C.M. Jancy's name in the records, he was shocked to learn that his service documents had been destroyed.

Acknowledging that he had served in the Army from April 20, 1968, to October 21, 1981, and was discharged at his request without pension, the Army said, "Being a non-pensioner your service documents have already been destroyed on completion of its preservation period of 25 years. Hence, it is not possi-

ble to publish marriage at this belated stage." The letter was signed by the Captain of the Record Office in the Madras Engineer Group (MEG).

"It is also intimated that your family is not eligible for any benefit from the Army side being non-ESM [ex-servicemen] status," the letter added. The Army's practice has come under strong criticism from veterans of the forces and voluntary organisations working for their welfare.

While Col. Manmeet Singh (retd), SM (Gallantry) of Foot Infantry and Military Intelligence, New Delhi, described the practice as a "retrograde policy", VeKare Ex-Servicemen Trust (VKET),

an NGO engaged in assisting ex-servicemen and their dependents, has taken it up with the Commandant of the MEG and Centre, Bengaluru.

Col. Singh, in an email, wondered why a digital format was not retained as a backup. "Sepoy Motaiah retired in 1981. Add 25 years and that is 2006, an era when digital format is very much in vogue in Government of India," he said.

Sepoy Motaiah joined the Army as 'boys company' in MEG & Centre. He married Jancy in May 1986, about five years after he was discharged. "Had he worked for a few more months, he would have become eligible for pension," said M.N. Subramani, president of VKET.

IN BRIEF



I-T searches premises linked to Rajeev Saxena

The Income Tax Department has searched multiple locations linked to AgustaWestland case accused Rajeev Saxena as part of a tax evasion probe against him, officials said on Monday. The department has obtained vital leads related to alleged tax evasion and undisclosed assets abroad linked to Mr. Saxena from a sister agency. Mr. Saxena and his firms are being probed under the new anti-black money law related to certain defence deals undertaken in the past. PTI

CBI carries out searches in Bengal in ponzi cases

NEW DELHI
The CBI on Monday carried out searches at 22 locations in West Bengal, including the offices and residential premises of promoters and directors of New Land Agro Industries, one of the accused companies in a ponzi scam case probed by the agency, officials said. The firm is accused of swindling ₹140 crore from gullible investors who deposited their savings in the schemes upon being promised lucrative returns, they said. The investors were not repaid their money at the time of maturity. PTI

SC rejects plea to punish officials for T.N. drought

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea attributing the drought in Tamil Nadu to encroachments in water channels and water lines, and calling for the 'punishment' of officials responsible for the current state of affairs. The petition filed by activist K.K. Ramesh, through advocate C.R. Jaya Sukin, said 2,000 tanks in the State dried up and they did not receive "a single drop of water." The plea came even as the world's attention is drawn to the water scarcity in Chennai. Public Works Department officials did not clear the encroachments. Therefore, water did not reach the tanks, the petition said.

Officials blame climate change as Mumbai goes under again

540 mm of rain in 48 hours leaves city inundated; More showers forecast

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

With 540 mm of rainfall over two days, Mumbai woke up on Monday morning to water-logging across the city, inconveniencing officer-goers, school and college students. Inundation was reported at Hindmata junction and King's Circle in Sion for almost six hours.

The city received 91.9 mm rainfall on Monday alone. The Meteorological Department has warned of "extremely heavy" rainfall in adjoining areas of Thane and Palghar on July 2, 4 and 5. A few places in Mumbai could get heavy to very heavy rainfall Monday and Tuesday, it added.

Private weather agency Skymet said Mumbai is at "serious risk of flooding"



Water-world: Vehicles stuck in the water-logged King's Circle in Sion in Mumbai on Monday morning. ■ PRASHANT NAKWANE

between July 3 and 5. "Close to 200 mm or more rain per day is likely during this period," it said.

Meanwhile the civic administration sought to disown responsibility for the lack of preparedness. Municipal Commissioner Praveen Paradeshi said the 540 mm of rain was the highest over a

two-day period in a decade, and blamed "climate change and changed geographical conditions" for water-logging at several places.

In a few areas like Chembur, houses were flooded.

Long distance passenger trains arriving and departing from the city were affected due to two separate inci-

dents early on Monday in Palghar and the ghat section between Karjat and Lonavala. Several intercity trains from Mumbai to Pune and Surat were also cancelled.

Commuters stranded

Though there was a respite from the heavy showers in the afternoon, many suburban trains were running late.

Western Railway tweeted that Railway Minister Piyush Goyal was keeping a close watch on the situation especially on arrangements for safety of commuters.

A huge crowd was seen at the Thane station as rains delayed train services on the Central Railway line.

Crowds increased at stations leading to a near stampede situation at some places.



Mangled remains: The bus carrying seven students that fell off a hill in Shimla on Monday. ■ AFP

3 killed as bus falls into gorge in Shimla

2 students of a school among victims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHIMLA

Three persons, including two students of a local school, died and six others were injured when a State bus fell into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district on Monday, an official said.

The accident occurred at Jhunjharia near Khalini, Himachal Road Transport Corporation regional manager

Deva Singh Negi told PTI.

The official said several private vehicles were parked on one side of the road and the bus, carrying seven students, was going from the other side when it fell into the 400-foot gorge. There was neither any crash barrier nor parapet on the road side to avoid accident.

Some agitated persons damaged the parked vehicles by pelting stones at them.

Justice Indu Malhotra opts out of beef case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge, Justice Indu Malhotra, on Monday recused herself from hearing a clutch of petitions and cross-petitions challenging a Bombay High Court order on possession, storage and consumption of beef brought into Maharashtra from other States.

Justice Malhotra, who was part of the Bench led by Justice A.M. Sapre, said she had appeared as a lawyer in the case. Justice Sapre ordered the case to be put up before the CJI Ranjan Gogoi to be referred to an appropriate Bench.

In May, 2016, the HC had upheld the ban on slaughter of bulls and bullocks imposed by the State while de-criminalising the storage and possession of beef brought from outside.

MoD floats tenders for ships and crafts

Tenders worth ₹15,000 crore issued

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has issued four shipbuilding Requests for Proposal (RFP) amounting to ₹15,000 crore for the acquisition of various ships and craft for the Navy and the Coast Guard.

"While the RFP for six next generation missile vessels has been issued to seven shipyards, the RFPs for eight fast patrol vessels and 12 Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) and eight missile-cum-ammunition Barges have been issued to short-listed Indian shipyards," the Ministry said in a statement on Monday. In addition, a few more RFPs for shipbuilding projects are likely to be issued in the next few months. The RFP for ACVs also includes the initial requirement for six ACVs of the Army.

The RFP for ACVs also has a feature to encourage joint development of design by Indian shipyards in collaboration with a foreign design house or by sourcing the design for construction of ACVs with substantial Indian content, the statement added.

Hospitals unable to treat AES patients, says Nitish

Bihar CM breaks silence on deaths

AMARNATH TEWARI

PATNA

Breaking his silence over the deaths of over 100 children due to suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in Muzaffarpur, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday admitted in the Assembly that most hospitals in the State lack facilities to treat patients.

"The government is taking all possible measures to ensure cure as well as prevention of the disease," Mr. Kumar said, adding that, "If needed, the State government will bring in a supple-

mentary budget to improve health condition of the people."

The Opposition, however, has demanded the resignation of State Health Minister Mangal Pandey and an investigation by a central agency into the deaths of children.

Facing flak from the Opposition for his silence, Mr. Kumar said "expressing grief is not enough as it is extremely an unfortunate and a serious issue". He said that the exact cause for the disease could not be ascertained.

Japanese Encephalitis claims 22 lives in Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

At least 22 people have died of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Assam, officials said on Monday.

The toll is almost double the figure during the same period in 2018.

The State Programme Officer of National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme, said that JE had claimed 21 people till June with 59 more positive cases having been reported.

Assam has had a history of JE and malaria outbreak, especially during the rainy season. But the gravity of the situation saw the Union Home Ministry send a team headed by Additional Secretary Sanjeeva Kumar.

The Central team met officials of the State's Health Department on Monday and suggested measures to check the outbreak of the vector-borne disease.

'Thermal plants are wasting water'

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

With the monsoon nearly a third less than normal in June and the government on Monday launching a massive awareness campaign on water conservation, key thermal plants across the country are wasting water and contravening a 2015 order by the Union Environment Ministry to use water efficiently, according to a compilation of Right To Information queries by the activist group

PARADIP PORT TRUST
E-TENDER-CUM-E-AUCTION NOTICE
A e-Tender-cum-e-Auction Notice invites for "Allotment of Port land about 100.00 Acres under "Paradip SIPC" Project for Port Based Capital Intensive Industries as part of Industrial Park for the period upto 30(Thirty) years on lease basis". The date of availability of documents in website is from 29.06.2019 to 17.08.2019. For details, please log on to the Website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Dy. Secretary, PPT/PR/163/19-20, Dt.29.06.2019

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GACHIBOWLI, HYDERABAD-500 032.
Ref : BDL/CC/OT/GT/01/2019-20 Dt : 02.07.2019
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Inviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding
SL.No. Tender ID Description
1 61238 Establishing Single Impact Test Setup at BDL, Bhanur
Please visit website <https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com> for further details. Bids should be submitted online only.
"Corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers".
Dy. General Manager (Corp. Comm.)

were using sea water, they are exempted from the regulations," the statement said.

Thermal power plants consume, on an average, 5-7 cubic metres/MWh of water. Every reduction of 0.5 cubic metres/MWh in a 1000 MW plant could save enough water in a year to irrigate 700 ha of land; or provide drinking and domestic use water to 68,000 people for an entire year, said a Central Electricity Authority report from 2012.

For another 46 plants, either data was not available, or replies were ambiguous or the plants were closed. As other 14 plants

CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

Upal Road, Tarnaka, Hyderabad - 500 007, Telangana, India.

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to CSIR-IICT Advt. No. 03/2019 published on 30-06-2019. It is hereby notified that the Total Emoluments (approx.) for the post of Senior Scientist in the Pay Matrix Level 12 [GP-7600 (pre-revised)] may be read as Rs.1,15,232/- instead of Rs.1,01,696/- All other terms & conditions shall remain unaltered. Please visit our website <https://www.ictindia.org> for complete details

Sd/- Controller of Administration

Ministry of Science and Technology

Department of Science and Technology

16th ADVERTISEMENT call - 2019

INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship Scheme: a component under INSPIRE

Applications/Nominations for the 2019 are invited for INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship. INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship: a component under INSPIRE for young researchers in the age group of 27-32 years. The upper age limit as on 01 January 2019 is 32 years for General Category (i.e. those born on or after 01 January 1987) and 35 years for SC and ST (i.e. those born on or after 01 January 1984) candidates only.

> Eligible candidates, either in Direct (A) or Nomination (B) mode, should apply only through online. Please visit the website: www.online-inspire.gov.in and follow the process prescribed therein. After submission of online application, the candidate must obtain a printout of the application thus submitted for their records only. The last date for ONLINE submission of application is 31st August 2019.

> Use of more than one Mode shall call for rejection of application.

> Detailed Guidelines of the component are available at the Websites: www.inspire-dst.gov.in and www.online-inspire.gov.in.

DIRECTORATE OF ADMINISTRATION & H.R.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION

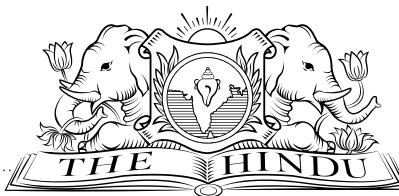
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India

Gramodaya,3, Irla road, VileParle (W), Mumbai- 400 056

Website: www.kvic.org.in

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

संसदीय नियमों के अनुरूप वित्तीय संस्थाएँ।



Imitation registry

Nagaland should take note of the minefield that is Assam's NRC process

Nagaland is following on the footsteps of its western neighbour, Assam, in the task of setting up a Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN). This is a variant of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that Assam has adopted with decidedly mixed results so far. Nagaland claims to have watched the process unfold in Assam, followed it closely, and it will now complete the task of identifying and registering indigenous inhabitants in less than five months, by December 10, 2019. This is more or less the kind of time-line that was followed by Assam, which is yet to publish its final NRC a year after the process began. In two months from July 10, Nagaland hopes to have a list of indigenous inhabitants, after which it will be published and time given till October 10 to file claims and objections, before finalisation. It sounds simple, and Nagaland is considerably less populated than Assam. But the Assam experience shows that in the complex demographics of the Northeastern States, it may not turn out that way. As many as 40 lakh people were left out of the NRC listing in Assam, which seemed aimed to filter out 'illegal immigrants'. Indeed, in Nagaland, various local attempts have been made to determine nonlocals, non-tribals and non-Nagas, and identify what some people refer to as the 'Illegal Bangladeshi Immigrant'. Two years ago, a town not farther than 15 km from Dimapur, the largest city and the commercial capital of the State, passed a resolution to place curbs on IBIs and devised ways to prevent them from integrating, living or trading in the town. When such is the situation on the ground, in an already volatile region where the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is routinely extended, it is best that Nagaland proceeds with caution in this enterprise. The RIIN should not ultimately become a vehicle to make outsiders of insiders.

The Assam experiment has no clear end-point. Bangladesh has repeatedly suggested that the process going on in Assam is "an internal matter" of India, implying that there is no deportation possibility here. Other than deepening the existing fault-lines in its own State and rendering the situation even more volatile, it is unclear what the Nagaland government hopes to achieve through the exercise. What happens to the people who are in the end found to be on the wrong side of the Nagaland list? The right to appeal and a humane hearing should be in-built in this exercise. The NRC experiment in Assam witnessed extremely divisive political posturing. Other Northeastern states are sure to be watching with keen interest what is unfolding in Assam and Nagaland. Emotive political issues cannot be allowed to drive the compiling of a registry of citizens.

Miles to go

India has some distance to cover before making self-care interventions freely available. Self-care, which mostly happens outside the formal health system, is nothing new. What has changed is the deluge of new diagnostics, devices and drugs that are transforming the way common people access care, when and where they need them. With the ability to prevent disease, maintain health and cope with illness and disability with or without reliance on health-care workers, self-care interventions are gaining more importance. Millions of people, including in India, face the twin problems of acute shortage of health-care workers and lack of access to essential health services. According to the World Health Organization, which has released self-help guidelines for sexual and reproductive health, over 400 million across the world already lack access to essential health services and there will be a shortage of about 13 million health-care workers by 2035. Self-help would mean different things for people living in very diverse conditions. While it would mean convenience, privacy and ease for people belonging to the upper strata who have easy access to healthcare facilities anytime, for those living in conditions of vulnerability and lack access to health care, self-help becomes the primary, timely and reliable form of care. Not surprisingly, the WHO recognises self-care interventions as a means to expand access to health services. Soon, the WHO would expand the guidelines to include other self-care interventions, including for prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases.

India has some distance to go before making self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health freely available to women. Home-based pregnancy testing is the most commonly used self-help diagnostics in this area in India. Interventions include self-managed abortions using approved drugs – morning-after pills taken soon after unprotected sex, and mifepristone and misoprostol taken a few weeks into pregnancy – that can be had without the supervision of a healthcare provider. While the morning-after pills are available over the counter, mifepristone and misoprostol are scheduled drugs and need a prescription from a medical practitioner, thus defeating the very purpose of the drugs. The next commonly consumed drug to prevent illness and disease is the pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention. India is yet to come up with guidelines for PrEP use and include it in the national HIV prevention programme. Despite the WHO approving the HIV self-test to improve access to HIV diagnosis in 2016, the Pune-based National AIDS Research Institute is still in the process of validating it for HIV screening. One of the reasons why people shy away from getting tested for HIV is stigma and discrimination. The home-based testing provides privacy. India has in principle agreed that rapid HIV testing helps to get more people diagnosed and opt for treatment, reducing transmission rates.

A blatant quest to consolidate power

'One Nation One Poll' limits to a single moment the opportunities to judge, evaluate and vote — the essence of freedom



DOLLY DAFTARY

Just over a month after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won an absolute majority in the 17th Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now urged parties to fall behind his 'One Nation - One Election' (ONOE) proposition: that State and national elections be held at a single point.

The idea exposes the subversion of democracy. The ONOE puts the nationally incumbent party at an advantage in State elections, a position that the BJP now enjoys. The incumbent can deploy government machinery for State campaigns, a mega persona birthed for a national campaign can be fed into State ones, and a last-ditch sleight-of-hand that wins the Centre may land victories in the States. Perhaps the BJP sees the ONOE as the remedy to the spectre of its losses in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in the 18 months before a national win. Perhaps the party would have won in those States in the currents of an exploitative military nationalism launched in February 19.

Roots in Gujarat

The ONOE catchphrase harks back to a moniker from Mr. Modi's rule in Gujarat, where he introduced the idea of samras village panchayats – sarpanches selected 'unanimously' or by 'consensus'. First floated in 2002, the idea was repeated in 2006. Sarpanches command significant resources, wield power, and deliver development

largely through clientelism, echoing the workings of elected leaders at the highest level. Elections give voters the same chance to oust a sarpanch who has skewed the distribution of development, as to expel a ruling party at the State or Centre. Samras gave incumbents an advantage in being reappointed as sarpanch (they were already panchayat leaders, had financial and tactical resources, and were networked with government officials and party actors).

In Dahod, a predominantly Adi-vasi district bordering Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where I was doing fieldwork on how panchayats delivered rural development, bureaucrats confided that samras sprang partly from the Gujarat government's failure to respond to the floods in Surat in 2006. The government's incompetence was on display across national TV. Surat could have been the tipping point in a series of anti-people policies, including programmes of purported 'greening' and beautification that had displaced the urban poor, and rural schemes such as Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana remaining largely unimplemented, with funds later found to be 'unavailable' and the scheme quietly withdrawn.

Panchayat elections were due in December 2006, and Assembly elections in 2007. Political parties mobilise votes for Assembly elections through sarpanches, and as the ruling party, the BJP had close ties with incumbents. Perhaps Mr. Modi feared that new sarpanches would be more equivocal about supporting the party in 2007. Perhaps the act of ousting a panchayat incumbent would make people feel more adventurous about ousting the State's incumbent. The germs of many of Mr. Modi's ideas lie in Gujarat, and their finessed



forms have been deployed on a national scale since he emerged as the BJP's prime ministerial candidate in 2014. The ONOE is the next point in the Prime Minister's attempt to quash the Opposition that a democratic exercise may throw up.

Why does Mr. Modi seek to reduce the electorate's verdict on his performance to a single point in time? Does another spectre, this time viewed from New Delhi, haunt the Prime Minister: that of multiple disenchanted constituencies (rural voters, the poor, Other Backward Classes, Adivasis, Dalits, religious minorities, and others) voicing their verdict in State election after another, and the domino effect this may have on the 2024 Lok Sabha poll? Assembly polls are due in Haryana, Jharkhand and Maharashtra in 2019, Bihar and Delhi in 2020, and West Bengal in 2021. Assembly elections are related to myriad pressing issues, the result of complex interactions of State and national government policies.

As the BJP enters a second term at the Centre, several crises loom larger than before such as a banking crisis, unemployment, an economic slowdown, agrarian distress, a water crisis, and privatised health care and education systems. Mr. Modi appears to count on the din of a national campaign that the ONOE would invariably

produce to carry both State and national elections for the incumbent at the Centre.

Similar justifications

Mr. Modi justified samras by citing extreme spending by contestants and a drain on the exchequer, rationales now used to justify the ONOE. This, while proposals for State funding of elections languish, the Modi government introduced the electoral bond scheme in 2017 which renders donors to political parties opaque, and the BJP ran the most expensive campaign in India's history in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll. In Dahod, voters remarked that samras would simply shift contestants' spending from voters to other contestants to take them off the race. In the lead-up to Gujarat's panchayat elections in 2006, block development officers, revenue collectors and local BJP leaders pressured candidates to drop out of the race. Defiant candidates were verbally threatened with jail terms, and defiant villages were threatened with the withdrawal of development schemes.

Despite that, in Mahipura village where I did long-term fieldwork, and many others, contestants rejected samras, knowing that an election rather than 'unanimous selection', accorded legitimate power. A common comeback was 'Why doesn't Mr. Modi implement samras for his own seat?' At the end of the panchayat elections in December, Dahod had one of the lowest samras rates across Gujarat. Incidentally, the district is overwhelmingly rural, resource-poor, and inhabited largely by Other Backward Classes, Adivasis and Dalits. Political freedom must appear particularly hard-won to its denizens. One contestant returned to a block development officer, saying, "Consen-

sus pending consent, else not." Candidates knew that samras gave an edge to an incumbent sarpanch, just as the ONOE would tilt the scale in favour of the nationally incumbent party. Like samras seeks to dismantle the institution of panchayati raj, the ONOE seeks to undermine the institution of a federated government by giving a tailwind to the national incumbent. The question that voters in Dahod posed to Mr. Modi in 2006 inspires another question today: why propose the ONOE a month into an overwhelming national win? Why does the party that has equated punctuated electoral wins with the legitimacy of governance seek to discard punctuated elections?

Thwarting possibilities

'One Nation One Poll' is a blatant quest to consolidate power by limiting, to a single moment, the opportunities for citizens to judge, evaluate and vote — the essence of freedom that an election promises. Mr. Modi announced a 'development fund' of ₹5 lakh to every panchayat in Gujarat that eschewed an election in 2006, roundly seen by the public as a bribe. Of 14,292 village panchayats in Gujarat, about 2,500 are currently samras. A fixture in BJP-ruled Gujarat, samras attempts to minimise the points, in space, of democratic choice. 'One Nation One Election' seeks to minimise these points, in time, to a single dot. The catchphrase is a giveaway, suggesting the goal of a single election for the country, and a single outcome from it.

Dolly Daftary is Assistant Professor of International Development at the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, University of Massachusetts, Boston, U.S.

Lessons from Bhutan

The incentive of an enviable income for teachers could mitigate many ills that affect India's education system



LOUIS JUDE SELVADORAY

Bhutan's teachers, doctors and other medical staff will earn more than civil servants of corresponding grades, if a policy recently announced by the country's government is implemented. The new salary scales will benefit about 13,000 teachers and doctors. This is a novel move. No other country has accorded teachers and doctors such pride of place in its government service, both in terms of remuneration and symbolism. Remarkably, the proposal was announced by Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, himself a qualified doctor – which suggests that professional experience informs the policy.

Inspired or fanciful?

Let us examine the policy's educational aspect. Is the proposal part of a coherent strategy, or an inspired announcement that is resolute in intent but likely effete in effect?

The policy's tonal reference is to be found in Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan (2018-23), published by its Gross National Happiness Commission, the country's highest policy-making body. The commission's strategy to achieve desired national outcomes through educa-

tion opens with the notation, "making teaching a profession of choice". The proposal then is evidently at the core of a larger governmental strategy to achieve the country's human developmental objectives. The decision also comes in the wake of high levels of teacher attrition, especially the best. Clearly, the government has formulated the policy as a stypic to stop the serious haemorrhage.

Intuiting the correlation, as Bhutan has, between attracting the best talent to a profession and the renumeration it potentially offers is easy. But importantly, is it possible to demonstrate that improving the status of the teaching profession positively influences educational outcomes?

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study that measures and compares student ability in reading, mathematics, science and global competence, with financial literacy an option. Accordingly, it ranks educational systems of countries. An independent study led by the economist, Peter Dolton, has demonstrated a distinct correlation between student outcomes in a country, as measured by PISA scores, and the status that its teachers enjoy. The initiative's latest report, Global Teacher Status Index 2018, based on its own surveys across 35 countries, goes on to make a strong case for high wages to improve teacher status.

Policies act as levers that go-



vernments use to achieve desired results in focus areas. The results of Bhutan's policy, if implemented, will take a few years to emerge for critical evaluation. It is, however, based on credible research.

The fiscal implications

Bhutan already spends about 7.5% of its GDP on education. The fiscal implications of the new salary structure are unclear now. Generally, teachers constitute a considerable portion of government employees. Therefore, governments looking to emulate Bhutan's lead will inevitably be asked questions about the financial viability of such a momentous administrative decision. For instance, the Minister concerned in Tamil Nadu, one of India's better performing States on educational indices, turned down demands of striking teachers for better pension explaining that wages, pensions, administrative costs and interest repayments already amounted to 71% of the State's expenditure. He asserted it leaves little for other developmental programmes.

Can India afford a similar policy?

India currently spends about 3% of its GDP on education, accounting for about 10% of the Centre's and States' budgetary expenses. Salaries constitute a large portion of this expenditure. The NITI Aayog in its report last year recommended that India raise this to 6% of GDP by 2022. Paying teachers (and doctors) significantly higher salaries may seem like a tall order, but the Central and State governments could consider rationalising both teacher recruitment and allocation of funds to existing programmes. Some programmes may have outlived their purpose, while others could be pared down or better directed. In fact, improving accountability in the system could free up huge savings. A World Bank study found that teacher absenteeism in India was nearly 24%, which costs the country about \$1.5 billion annually. Absenteeism could be the result of many factors, including teachers taking up a second job or farming to boost incomes, providing parental or nursing care in the absence of support systems, or lacking motivation. The incentive of an enviable income which is girded with unsparing accountability could mitigate many ills that plague the system, free fiscal space and help meet important national developmental objectives.

Piloting a policy of such consequence may also be easier in a smaller State, say Delhi. Education is a key focus area for the Delhi government; the State invests 26% of its annual budget in the sector (much more than the national average). The administration has also worked on improving teacher motivation as a strategy for better educational outcomes. The base has been set. The political leadership in the State, which is unafraid of the bold and big in the social sector, could build on this. Moreover, since the State is highly urban and well-connected, it would be easier to enforce accountability measures, which must underpin so heavy an expenditure.

Ultimately, no investment that enables an educated, healthy, responsible and happy community can be deemed too high by any society. The short-term GDP-minded would do well to consider these words in OECD's 'Education at a Glance 2018' report: "The quality of education can be a strong predictor of a country's economic prosperity. Shortfalls in academic achievement are extremely costly, as governments must then find ways to compensate for them, and ensure the social and economic welfare of all." Governments intent on improving the quality of education they offer must step out of incrementalism in policy-making. Improving teacher status by offering top notch salaries to attract the best to the profession could be that revolutionary policy-step forward, which Bhutan has shown a willingness to take.

Louis Jude Selvadoray is Communications Consultant with the World Bank Group. The views expressed are personal

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.

Handshake in Korea

U.S. President Donald Trump took everyone by surprise by announcing a sudden meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and then coming face to face with him in the Demilitarised Zone ("After surprise Trump-Kim meeting, n-talks to resume," July 1). The decision taken by the two countries to resume talks is a positive development, especially after the deadlock in the Hanoi summit earlier this year. Mr. Trump also created history by becoming the first sitting U.S. President to enter the isolated country. Both sides should take substantial steps to bring peace to the Korean peninsula.

TALA B. RAGUNATH,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

The one-to-one meeting augurs well for thawing of relations between the U.S. and North Korea. It is encouraging that both the tough-talking and strong-willed leaders realise that there is no option to the resumption of stalled talks to settle differences and disputes. That the meeting lasted for nearly an hour indicates that it was more than a handshake and a photo-op. The three things that Mr. Trump did – the announcement of creation of a team to resume denuclearisation talks; the downplaying of latest short-range missile tests by North Korea; and the extension of an invite to Mr. Kim to visit the White House – showed his keenness to find some common ground and arrive at an agreement. The Korean peninsula is one of the

potential flashpoints today and any diplomatic step that heralds peace in the region must get international support.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

The G20 spectacle
The G20 deliberations did not result in any substantial outcomes ("Among members," editorial, July 1). Mostly, they have only made the participating nations reiterate their stated positions. It is distressing that the leaders couldn't reach a consensus on the important issues of trade protectionism and climate change funding. Even the "very big deal" between India and the U.S. promised by President Donald Trump did not materialise. It is important that preparatory discussions are held prior to

such events. Otherwise, they'll remain grand spectacles for a few leaders to show off.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

Water and voter
Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted two important issues in his recent *Mann Ki Baat* programme – water conservation and the need to deepen democracy ("Democracy is our heritage, says Modi," July 1). As regards the first point, there can be no disagreement – many parts of our country are facing water scarcity, requiring people's participation to overcome the crisis.

However, it was amusing to hear someone whose party enjoys a brute majority talking about not taking

democracy for granted. The people are not and will not be capable of going against democracy. They cannot snatch away the rights ensured by the Constitution – the political class can. The dark phase of Emergency was possible as the then ruling dispensation, not the people, had taken democracy for granted. As long as the ruling party is mindful of democratic spirit, there won't be any risk to its glory. But as Mr. Modi has rightly said, everyone should be alert enough not to allow it to be dented.

D.V.G. SANKARARAO,
Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh

Taste of defeat
India's first loss in the Cricket World Cup to favourites England made the weakness of its middle order apparent ("India loses to England,

tastes first defeat of the tournament," July 1). The debate on the 'No. 4' position is yet to be settled, especially following the exit of Vijay Shankar due to injury. M.S. Dhoni's role in the team also needs to be discussed and a potential alternative like Dinesh Karthik can be considered. One's place in the team shall not be reserved just for the sake of advice during referrals to the third umpire. Both the present captain and vice-captain have enough experience to spearhead the team. The bowling side appears alright but inconsistency in the death overs has cost the team dear, including in the match they lost on Sunday.

SATEESH REDDY, K.
Nalgonda, Telangana

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/

Is there a case for free rides for women?

Revenues from appropriately charging personal transport can make public transport cheap



SANDIP CHAKRABARTI & AKSHAYA VIJAYALAKSHMI



"Free public transport can bring more women to public spaces, and, consequently, make those spaces safer for women." A Metro train coach in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Women may soon get to travel for free on buses and Metro trains in Delhi. This gender-based public transport fare subsidy programme, announced by the Aam Aadmi Party government, has not been tested anywhere in India in the past. Propponents claim that the policy will protect and liberate women. Critics argue that it is financially unviable and unfair. As polarised debates over the intent and impact of the policy continue, it is useful to assess whether this idea, in principle, has any merit.

Subsidies to the disadvantaged
Cities often provide public transport fare subsidies to all or some citizens to encourage them to use public transport, or for easing their travel cost burdens. Singapore, for example, offers a discount to rail commuters who are willing to travel before the morning rush-hour. Public transport is free for residents in Estonia. Luxembourg, with a population of about 600,000, has made public transport free for those under the age of 20. Paris, with a population of over 2 million, has announced a comparable plan. Hong Kong has implemented a public transport fare concession scheme for people aged 65 years or more. Berlin offered women a 21% ticket discount for one day in March this year to highlight the gender wage gap. In India, however, urban transport fare discounts are less common, although concessions for seniors, students, and other socio-economic groups are available for government-operated flights and long-distance railway services.

Fare discounts intend to make public transport truly public as some people are at a relative disadvantage in urban transportation markets due to their unique social, economic, and health circumstances. Article 13 in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises freedom of movement as a basic human right. If we consider transportation as a fundamental social need

and providing mobility for the transportation-disadvantaged as our collective responsibility, then any urban transport policy should include subsidies targeted at the disadvantaged. Specific supply-side investments or fare price discounts to help the disadvantaged travel, conduct activities and prosper are therefore justified. Public transport may even need to be free for some. In this context, let's take the case of women.

Women in India travel far less than men, and this has significant impacts on their education, employment, and enjoyment. A study in Delhi found that college girls, compared to boys, chose lower ranked colleges with safe and reliable transport access. Similarly, an estimated 60% of women workers in India choose to work from home or at a place which is less than a km from home, according to the 2011 Census. The remaining working women tend to rely excessively on public transport, according to a World Bank Study conducted in Delhi. An RTI application revealed that, in 2013, only 13% of Delhi driving licences were issued to women. These findings are suggestive of gender differences in travel choices and patterns.

Wage discrimination, gender segregation in employment, and household labour divisions contribute to gender inequality in transportation. Because men's jobs are considered to be more valuable, they tend to own the household vehicles and com-

mute privately. This lopsided rationing of household transport budgets also results in women taking slower commute options to save on expenses. When Delhi Metro hiked fares last year, around 70% of women surveyed in a study suggested that they would have to choose a less safe travel option for work, or travel less. Compromises on education and jobs for travel purposes is one of the reasons for women earning less than men, leaving the workforce, and consequently being more cash-poor than men. Finally, limited money to travel also means that women are willing to forgo hospital visits, significantly affecting their health.

There may be a case for free or discounted public transport for women. A subsidy like this is most likely to benefit women who might consider taking up jobs for which they are better suited but are further away from home. Women can engage in a range of activities that promote their well-being. Free public transport can therefore bring more women to public spaces, and, consequently, make those spaces safer for women.

The high cost of free rides

Two questions remain. Who will pay for the subsidies aimed at the transportation-disadvantaged? And will such subsidies make it difficult for public transport to achieve its other major goal – reducing car use and cleaning up the air?

To address these questions, we

must first recognise that personal motorised vehicle travel is highly subsidised globally, including in India. Believe it or not, driving is cheap. Car and motorised two-wheeler users are not required to pay for the full costs their travel choices inflict on society in the form of traffic congestion, environmental pollution, and distortions in urban form.

Promotion of cleaner fuels and vehicle-sharing can reduce but not eliminate the costs. Indian cities must consider pricing interventions such as congestion charges, mileage-based road use charges, parking charges, and higher petrol taxes so that private driving costs better reflect social costs. London and Stockholm, for example, have been charging for congestion for over a decade. Such measures, in addition to discouraging driving, can help governments generate funds for expanding, improving, and operating relatively cleaner transportation alternatives such as public transport. Better public transport service is key to getting people out of cars, reducing air pollution, and making cities more liveable. It is possible that revenues from appropriately charging personal motorised travel will be sufficient to make travel by public transport cheap or free for the transportation-disadvantaged, without any additional public subsidy requirement.

Even if free public transport for women makes economic sense and seems fair, would all women support the policy? Informal surveys conducted after the Delhi government's announcement suggests that women are divided in their preference for the policy. Women who feel this policy treats them as lesser citizens should have the choice to opt out. Whether a free public transport pass for women should be income-based is unclear; means-testing for a public transport fare concession programme may not be worth the effort.

Finally, this debate is not for Delhi alone. It's time that all Indian cities crafted efficient, effective, fair, and context-specific public transport policies. Men and women do not enjoy equal freedom to move in India, and policymakers should act.

Sandip Chakrabarti is faculty in the Public Systems Group at IIMA and Akshaya Vijayalakshmi is faculty of Marketing at IIMA

Whither the Congress Party?

Weeks after its electoral drubbing, the party is yet to reflect on why it is so out of sync with 'New India'



SMITA GUPTA

the CWC that poor leadership is the overwhelming reason why the Congress is in such a sorry state – and that it is up to the family to clean up the mess.

Ms. Gandhi, of course, continues as chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party; and five-time West Bengal MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who is unlikely to challenge the family's authority, has been made the party's leader in the Lok Sabha. Given the belief in the Congress that the family is the glue that holds it together, many party seniors feel that Ms. Gandhi should once again take over the reins. She may have run out of ideas, but still enjoys wide respect within the party. But can she transform a family enterprise into a democratic modern party?

In 2014, the Congress was reduced to an all-time low of 44 Lok Sabha seats. Since then, there has been little visible effort to re-vamp the party organisation, give it a direction or marshal its forces for the serious, sustained ideological battle it clearly needed to embark on. Senior leader A.K. Antony's report in August 2014 had blamed the media for the party's defeat. However, a series of structured discussions in end-2014 led neither to a blueprint for revival nor a reorganisation of the Congress.

In end-2017, a reluctant Mr. Gandhi finally took charge of the party. Under him, the Congress reduced the BJP to less than 100 seats in Gujarat and regained Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, but failed to build on those victories. In the election this year, the party suffered a wipe-out even in these four States.

No analysis this time

This time, even the mandatory 'Antony Committee' has not been constituted. Instead, there has been in-house name calling. Mr. Gandhi has faced criticism for relying on data crunchers rather than on political professionals. There has been no analysis of why the party fared so poorly, on whether the Congress is out of sync with the 'New India' that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is building, on trying to understand why there has been a rightward shift among voters, or why a young leader like Mr. Gandhi cannot attract the 18-40 years demographic.

Regardless of who eventually heads the Congress, the next leader's first task must be to let all the voices in the party be heard. The 'Grand Old Party' deserves more than a stick of glue – it needs a transformational leader who has the confidence to hear all the bad news, and then find a way forward – if it does not want to wither away.

Smita Gupta is Senior Fellow, The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy

Violation of reservation in top posts at universities

They occupy only around 1% of top teaching posts

ANISH GUPTA & AALEYA GIRI

the Central University of Rajasthan has almost reached the last step of recruitment is questionable.

Though OBCs account for about 50% of the country's population, their representation in all faculty positions in all central educational institutions is only 9.8%. According to a recent report by the University Grants Commission, only 13.87% of positions at the Assistant Professor level in central universities were occupied by OBCs. The representation became almost negligible at higher levels, i.e. those of Associate Professor and Professor, accounting for just 1.22% and 1.14%, respectively.

Noticeably, the representation of OBCs was less than that of Muslims at higher levels of teaching. Certain communities of Muslims are recognised as OBCs, and if we exclude them, the representation of non-Muslim OBCs in the institutions would become negligible.

However, recent advertisements by 13 central universities are in clear violation of the ordinance. Of these, only Aligarh Muslim University and Dr. Harisingh Gour University have followed fully the reservation policy by earmarking positions for OBCs at all levels, while the Central University of Kashmir has reservation at all levels except that of 'Professor'.

In case of violations
Generally, the decision-making power at universities rest upon the Professors and Associate Professors. Professors, who play a significant role in the recruitment process, at times misinterpret the constitutional provisions.

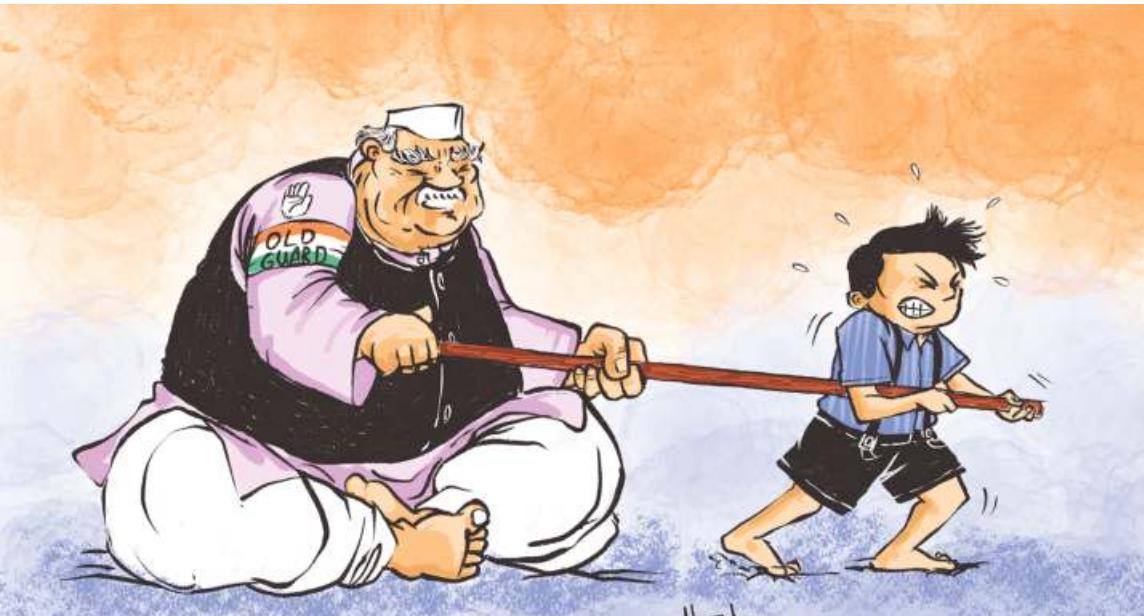
Even if a violation is found, the maximum a court does is to order a correction to the institution's advertisement, without awarding any compensation to the petitioner or punishment to the violators. Moreover, legal procedure is tedious and hence is generally avoided.

Noticeably, implementation of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs in higher educational institutions funded by the Centre was delayed for more than 15 years after the announcement, while the same for EWS was done within a month of the announcement. Such differential treatment results in imbalanced representation of a social group at higher levels of teaching and decision-making.

Anish Gupta and Aaleya Giri teach at Delhi University. Views are personal



DATA POINT
Generally, the decision-making power at universities rest upon the Professors and Associate Professors. Professors, who play a significant role in the recruitment process, at times misinterpret the constitutional provisions.



Moving to Metro?

1. Public transport

The table shows how people in Delhi commuted to work in 2011. Close to one-third of women used the bus, 5% used the train. Expansion of the Metro network and an increase in the number of coaches would have hiked Metro ridership in recent years eating into bus' share

Mode	Men	Women
On foot	25%	32%
Bicycle	12%	2%
Two-wheelers	19%	5%
Car/JEEP/Van	12%	18%
Tempo/Autos	2%	5%
Bus	25%	32%
Train	3%	5%

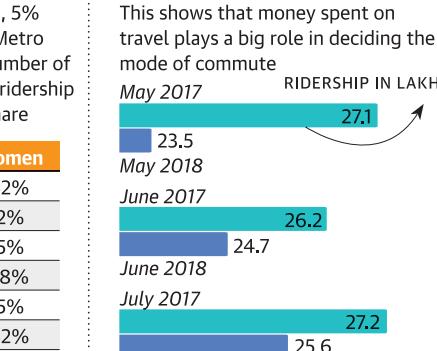
2. Bus vs train

The Metro (■) is quicker but costlier than the bus (→). If both the fares drop to zero, bus riders may prefer the Metro as it is faster and more comfortable. The chart compares travel time and fares between the two modes along the Blue Line and Yellow Line of the Delhi Metro

Source: Census 2011, DMRC, RTI by Shrinjini Ghosh

3. The money speaks

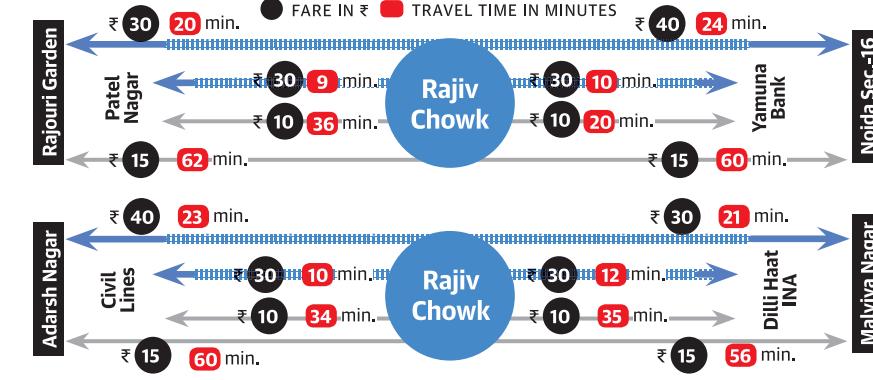
Metro ridership dipped in 2018 following sharp fare hikes in 2017. This shows that money spent on travel plays a big role in deciding the mode of commute



4. Level of burden

The table shows the number of women who travel to work by bus/car/jeep/van/tempo/autos. If train rides become free, the Metro lines that criss-cross the south and north-western part of the city may register the biggest increase in ridership

Area	Women commuters
South	64,476
North West	60,600
West	55,427
South West	53,380
East	38,385
North East	16,580
North	12,026



FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 2, 1969

Charles crowned Prince of Wales

Queen Elizabeth to-day [July 1] placed a gold coronet on the head of her eldest son, Prince Charles, formally appointing him Prince of Wales and heir to the throne. The moment was the high point in an ornate ceremony by which the Queen presented the 20-year-old Charles to the 2,800,000 people of Wales as their own Prince – and as the future monarch of over 850 million subjects in Britain and the Commonwealth. Before an illustrious gathering of 4,000 in medieval Caernarvon Castle, and an estimated television audience of 500 million, the crowned Prince knelt and placed his hands between those of the Queen, clad in dazzling yellow. The Queen also placed a golden ring on her son's finger symbolising unity with Wales, handed him a golden rod, symbolising temporal power, and then wrapped an ermine cape round his shoulders, buttoning it in motherly fashion. After crowning him, the Queen and Prince exchanged the kiss of fealty – a tradition dating back to the middle ages to symbolise the recognition of loyalty.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO (FROM THE ISSUE OF JULY 3, THERE HAVING BEEN NO ISSUE ON JULY 2)

On the Indian Situation.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall [in Nagpur on July 1] under the auspices of the Provincial Congress Committee Provincial Association and the Home Rule League, Dr. Gour, President, Nagpur Municipality, presiding. Resolutions (1) strongly protesting against the Viceroy's decision refusing to suspend the executions of accused in the Punjab trials under Martial Law and appealing him to reconsider his decision, (2) endorsing practically the All India Congress Committee's resolution cabled by the Hon'ble Pundit Madan Mohan Malaviya and requesting the provincial land holders' constituency to reelect Rao Bahadur Bishnu Dutt Shukul for the Imperial Council recognising his services in protesting against the passage of the Rowlett Act were proposed and carried unanimously. [Separately], at a meeting held last Sunday, the Central Provinces National Liberal Association deeply deplored the decision of His Excellency the Viceroy in declining to postpone the execution of death sentences passed by the martial law commission pending intended appeal to the Privy Council and also protesting against the undeserved punishment on Mr. Kalinath Roy, editor of the 'Tribune'.

FROM PAGE ONE

Karnataka govt. rocked as two Cong. MLAs quit

Several legislators have been openly critical of the party and staying away from legislature party meetings.

Both JD (S) and Congress, however, exude confidence on the survival of the government. Mr. Kumaraswamy from the U.S.: "I am watching all the developments from here. BJP is daydreaming about destabilising the government."

Meanwhile, Congress leaders were closeted at the residence of CLP leader and former chief minister Siddaramaiah till late in evening to evolve a counter-strategy.

On the other hand, BJP leaders continued to maintain that they were monitoring the situation but were not involved in "Operation Lotus" to destabilise the government.

Karnataka BJP president and former chief minister B.S. Yeddyurappa said party members were "not sanyasis" and would explore possibilities of forming a government if the Congress-JD(S) coalition goes.

35 killed as minibus falls into gorge in J&K

Mr. Malik said the reasons for such incidents would be probed thoroughly and strong decisions would be taken in the next state administrative council (SAC) meeting to ensure strict action.

A few months ago, the Governor had directed Transport Department officers to take unfit vehicles and untrained drivers off the road, according to a Raj Bhawan spokesperson.

GST collection dips below ₹1 lakh crore

"The lower-than-expected collections would lead to more analysis of the data available with the GSTN [GST Network] to detect and plug any leakages."

No single rate: Jaitley
Meanwhile, former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in a blog post to commemorate two years of GST, on Monday, wrote that a single rate under the GST system would not be possible in a country with poor people.

He added that the increasing collections have meant that 20 States currently do not need any compensation from the Centre for any revenue loss they might have incurred due to GST. "Those who argued for a single slab GST must realise that a single slab is possible only in extremely affluent countries where there are no poor people," Mr. Jaitley, who was the Finance Minister for the bulk of the first two years of GST,

SIT probing anti-Sikh riots to reopen cases

The SIT secured its first conviction in November 2018, when a Delhi court awarded death sentence to one of the accused and life imprisonment to another accused for killing two Sikh men – Hardev Singh, 24, and Avtar Singh, 26, in Mahipalpur. The case had been closed by Delhi Police in 1994 for lack of evidence.

The MHA has since increased the scope of investigations after it received a representation from the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC).

"Looking at the seriousness of criminal cases relating to 1984 riots cases, the competent authority has decided that the SIT may also investigate/ further investigate/ re-investigate the appropriately serious cases, which have been closed on

government falls on its own. In his resignation letter Mr. Singh maintained that he was "raising a voice against injustice" meted to district.

"I have placed my demand before the government. I will take my next decision after seeing the response from the government on executing lease-cum-sale agreement on land to JSW Steel," Mr. Singh said after meeting Governor Vaibhav Vala.

The Cabinet had taken a decision to sell 3667.31 acres at ₹1.20 lakh per acre to the steel manufacturer. In fact, several Congress leaders, including former Minister H.K. Patil, asked the government to scrap the decision in the interest of the State.

Following the Congress legislators' opposition, a few days ago, the government constituted a Cabinet Subcommittee headed by Home Minister M.B. Patil to look into the issue. Interestingly, Mr. Singh has not made any submission before the panel.

10% quota: SC to hear pleas for Constitution Bench on July 30

The reservation is a move towards a classless and casteless society, says govt.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider on July 30 a batch of petitions to have a Constitution Bench examine the validity of a constitutional amendment providing 10% economic reservation in government jobs and educational institutions.

A Bench led by Justice S.A. Bobde said the pleas would be taken up for hearing on July 30, a non-miscellaneous day on which the case could be heard at length.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan made a strong pitch for referring the issue to a Constitution Bench.

Mr. Dhavan argued that the economic reservation violated the 50% reservation ceiling limit fixed by a nine-judge Bench in the Indra



Sawhney case. Further, the 1992 judgment had barred reservation solely on economic criterion.

In a 6:3 majority verdict, the apex court, in Indra Sawhney, had held that "a backward class cannot be determined only and exclusively with reference to economic criterion... It may be a consideration or basis along with and in addition to social

backwardness, but it can never be the sole criterion". After a gap of 27 years, the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act of 2019 has provided 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for the "economically backward" in the unreserved category.

The Act amends Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution by adding clauses empowering the government to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness. This 10% economic reservation is over and above the 50% reservation cap.

Pleas from Kerala

The court on Monday also allowed a petition filed by Kerala Munnoka Samudaya Akya Munnani, represented by advocate V.K. Biju, who

argued against a stay of the constitutional amendment. Mr. Biju submitted that the "real situation of the social and educationally backward general category and their living condition in the country, especially in Kerala, is extremely poor, therefore there cannot be any stay at this stage without hearing all the aggrieved parties".

Justice Bobde responded that a stay had not been sought for in this hearing.

The court also allowed a plea by P.K. Santhosh Kumar, general secretary of the Federation of Central Government SC & ST Employees of Kerala, represented by advocate Kaleswaram Raj, who argued that the amendment clearly excluded the citizens belonging to OBC/SC/ST who are economically weaker.

Caste matrix

Last week, the Yogi Adityanath government in U.P. had issued a directive to include 17 OBCs in the Scheduled Castes list.

The 17 castes: Mallah, Kashyap, Kumhar, Dheemar, Bind, Prajapati, Dheevan, Bhar, Kewat, Batham, Kahar, Machhuwa, Rajbhar, Nishad, Turha, Manjhi and Godia.

Opposition leaders say the move is illegal and unconstitutional.

This is a big fraud. The members of these 17 castes will neither be able to receive benefits under 27% quota of the OBC, nor under the SC category as the State government cannot list or remove them from any of the categories through its orders.

MAYAWATI

BSP chief

Mayawati slams U.P. move to expand SC list

17 MBCs to be included in the category

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

The contentious issue of including 17 Most Backward Castes (MBCs) in the Scheduled Caste category has once again triggered a political controversy in Uttar Pradesh after the Yogi Adityanath government directed all districts to issue caste certificates to these castes subject to an ongoing writ petition.

suant to the impugned order, those certificates shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition," the government directive quotes the HC order.

The 17 castes include Malalah, Kashyap, Kumhar, Dheemar, Bind, Prajapati, Dheevan, Bhar, Kewat, Batham, Kahar, Machhuwa, Rajbhar, Nishad, Turha, Manjhi and Godia.

Ms. Mayawati said the Yogi Adityanath government's directive was the "biggest betrayal" of the 17 MBC castes and said they would now be deprived of benefits of both OBC and SC categories.

These castes would not enjoy the benefits of OBC as they won't be counted in the category after the order, while they will also not be able to avail benefits of the SC category because no State can through its orders add or remove a caste to or from the SC list, Ms. Mayawati said here on Monday.

Totally illegal

Ms. Mayawati on Monday said the move was "totally illegal and unconstitutional", while Mr. Rajbhar said it was to "mislead" these castes to gain votes.

In a directive to all District Magistrates and Divisional Commissioners, the State Social Justice department asked them to "issue" SC caste certificates to these OBC communities as per rules after scrutiny of relevant documents.

The June 24 directive is vague and merely instructs the DMs and DCs to ensure the implementation of the Allahabad High court order dated March 29, 2017. The High Court order itself, however, does not direct issuing any new caste certificates.

"In the event, any caste certificates are issued pur-

+

State's role questioned
These castes would not enjoy the benefits of OBC as they won't be counted in the category after the order, while they will also not be able to avail benefits of the SC category because no State can through its orders add or remove a caste to or from the SC list, Ms. Mayawati said here on Monday.

Mr. Gehlot addressed a press conference to respond to Congress leader and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's statement that the election results were not a defeat of Congress ideology but rather the BJP hiding its "huge failures behind their fanatic nationalism with help of enormous resources and government machinery at hand." This, Mr. Patra said, were excuses made by those who had lost.

He is saying that Modiji won because of fanatic nationalism and not because of the people. The irony is that the Congress never learns its lesson," Mr. Patra told reporters.

The June 24 directive is vague and merely instructs the DMs and DCs to ensure the implementation of the Allahabad High court order dated March 29, 2017. The High Court order itself, however, does not direct issuing any new caste certificates.

Mr. Gehlot said including the 17 MBCs into the SC list was not in the power of the State government.

Congress CMs urge Rahul to stay as party president

'Party needs his leadership during the Assembly polls'

SANDEEP PHUKAN

NEW DELHI

Factionalism in the Congress and taking charge of poll-bound States like Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand were part of the arguments made by Chief Ministers of the Congress-ruled States before party chief Rahul Gandhi on Monday when they met and urged him to continue in his post.

Sources familiar with the deliberations, however, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Gandhi made no indication about change in his original decision of stepping down. On May 25, Mr. Gandhi had informed the Congress Working Committee that he would step down as the party chief and his position was 'non-negotiable'.

"It was a good meeting that lasted around two hours. We expressed our feelings and it was a heart-to-heart talk in detail. We



Show of support: Congress workers staging a sit-in in New Delhi on Monday, urging Rahul Gandhi to stay on as party president. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

conveyed and apprised him about the feelings of Congress workers across the country and urged him to continue to lead the party," Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot told reporters after the meeting.

Mr. Gehlot said the BJP managed to hide its "huge failures" behind "fanatic nationalism" and the mandate was not a rejection of the Congress ideology.

The Rajasthan Chief Minister was accompanied by other Chief Ministers, Captain Amarinder Singh (Punjab), Kamal Nath (Madhya Pradesh), Bhupesh Baghel (Chhattisgarh) and V. Narayanasamy (Puducherry).

Sources said the Chief Ministers urged Mr. Gandhi not to step down at a time when the party needed his leadership in poll-bound Maharashtra and Haryana.

Rajya Sabha to debate poll reforms tomorrow

First synchronised effort by Opposition with a coordinated floor strategy after the Lok Sabha election

SOBHANA K. NAIR

NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha will debate electoral reforms on Wednesday following notices given by 12 Opposition parties. This is one of the first synchronised efforts by the Opposition to come up with a coordinated floor strategy after the recent debacle in the Lok Sabha election.

The notices were given by the Congress, Trinamool Congress, RJD, SP, BSP, AAP, CPI, CPI(M), DMK, Kerala Congress(M), IUML and NCP. BJP MP R.K. Sinha too had given notice.

The ruling party is pushing for the "One nation, one election" idea whereas the Opposition wants to raise discrepancies in the EVMS.



Keeping count: Opposition parties have been demanding that more VVPATs be tallied with EVM counts. ■ FILE PHOTO

Last Wednesday, key Opposition parties had an informal meeting on the subject with Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Na-

bi Azad. According to sources, Satish Chandra Mishra of the BSP will be raising the issue of EVMS and the need to go back to the paper ballot.

SC rejects plea on LS seats in POK, Gilgit

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a PIL petition asking the court to direct the Union of India to create two Lok Sabha seats in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The plea, filed by a former officer of the Research and Analysis Wing, R.K. Yadav, asked the court to issue a mandamus to the government to carve out the two seats "against the 24 MLA seats earmarked in the Jammu & Kashmir Constitution for PoK and Gilgit/Baltistan".

A Bench said the judiciary could not interfere in the matter.

AFSPA in Nagaland extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Centre has declared the entire State of Nagaland a "disturbed area" for six more months under the controversial AFSPA, which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without notice.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said the Central government is of the opinion that the area is in such a "disturbed and dangerous condition" that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary.

LS passes Bill for quota in teachers' posts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill 2019, which seeks to replace an ordinance issued in March and help fill about 7,000 existing vacancies in 41 Central universities.

The House unanimously passed the Bill, which terms the university a unit, rather than a department, for the purpose of providing reservation in teachers' positions in Central educational institutions.

With rampant water scarcity in the spotlight, whether in urban centres such as Chennai or in drought-hit central India, the Centre rolled out the Jal Shakti Abhiyan on Monday as a *jan andolan*, or people's movement, on water conservation.

However, there is no additional funding or specific targets for the campaign to achieve, according to Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Instead, the campaign is meant to "bring sensitivity on the sub-

ject, and give focussed approach," he told presspersons.

Over the next two-and-a-half months, the campaign will push to implement existing water conservation schemes and increase awareness in 256 water-stressed districts. As *The Hindu* reported last week, 256 Indian Administrative Service officers of Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary rank have been deputed to monitor its implementation, along with 447 Deputy Secretary-level officers. Despite this huge

central deployment for a scheme on water – which is purely a State subject under the Constitution – Mr. Shekhawat said that this was not a top-down scheme.

"...As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his

Mann ki Baat, water conservation is everyone's responsibility. It needs to become a mass people's movement, just like we made sanitation into a people's movement with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," he said.

Asked about any budget allocation or additional funding for the scheme, the Minister said that there was plenty of money already allocated for existing schemes under the Central and State budgets.

"They can be converged into a single scheme, with a focussed approach," he said.

A ND-NDE

Mann ki Baat, water conservation is everyone's responsibility. It needs to become a mass people's movement, just like we made sanitation into a people's movement with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan," he said.

Asked about any budget allocation or additional funding for the scheme, the Minister said that there was plenty of money already allocated for existing schemes under the Central and State budgets.

"They can be converged into a single scheme, with a focussed approach," he said.

A ND-NDE

Will provide citizenship to Hindus: Shah

Minister vows to ensure peace as Rajya Sabha passes resolution extending President's Rule in Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that the government would bring a Bill in Parliament to provide citizenship to "Hindu refugees" left out of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Mr. Shah made the remark in the Rajya Sabha after Trinamool member Derek O'Brien raised the issue of the probability of 23 lakh Bengali Hindus losing citizenship when the final NRC is published by July 31 in Assam. Nearly 41 lakh people have been excluded from the final draft NRC, of which 36 lakh have filed claims against the exclusion.

"I want to repeat our stand on NRC. We want to stop infiltration and also push every single infiltrator out of the country. As far as Hindu refugees are concerned, we are bringing the Citizenship Amendment Bill to give them Indian citizenship," Mr. Shah said. In its 2019 election manifesto, the BJP said it would compile NRCs across the country. President Ram Nath Kovind's speech this month also mentioned that NRC would be implemented on "priority basis in areas affected by infiltration".

At present, on Supreme Court directions, the Registrar-General of India (RGI) published the final draft of the NRC on July 30 last year to exclude those who had illegally entered the State from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971. The RGI on Monday a month's extension to complete the enumeration process for updating the NRC in Assam.

VIIJITA SINGH

NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah told the Rajya Sabha on Monday that innocent village boys in the Kashmir Valley were lured with money to throw stones at security forces, while the children of those who incited them studied and worked abroad.

He asked the people in the Valley not to be afraid and not be swayed by negative publicity.

"People from the Valley, please come forward and work with the Indian government. Protecting you and your property is our responsibility," he said.

He said he would ensure peace in the Kashmir Valley, and was waiting for the day when Kashmiri Pandits and Sufis prayed together at the

Kheer Bhawani temple.

He said the Lok Sabha and the Assembly elections could not be held together in J&K because giving security to all candidates was impossible.

The Kashmir issue has been lingering since 1947, he said responding to the discussion on the statutory resolution to extend Presi-

dent's Rule in the State for another six months. "We need a new vision and new thinking to solve it. [Kashmir] Valley is ours, we want it to progress like other parts of the country. But as far as terrorists and separatists are concerned, there is no place for them in this country. We will use tough measures against them."

"But what are children of those leaders, on whose directions these schools were burnt, doing? One of their sons studied in Saudi Arabia and is working there at a package of ₹30 lakh per month. Some studied in London... Asia Andrabi's sons are studying in London and Malaysia... I want to tell the Kashmiri youth, don't be mis-

led by these people."

Participating in the debate, Ghulam Nabi Azad of the Congress demanded that shrill television debates involving Kashmir should be stopped.

Responding to this, Mr. Shah said, "I cannot stop TV channels, we don't want to bring Emergency. There will be peace despite the TV debates, we will embrace the Valley."

No plebiscite

"All of Kashmir's problems were due to Nehru declaring ceasefire when one-third of Kashmir was with Pakistan," he said. He went on to ask why the Nehru government went to the UN despite Kashmir's accession to India and agree to hold a plebiscite, "which is in any case out of question today".

This is the job of the Speaker, says Om Birla

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday told Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal not to take on the job of the Speaker.

The "direction" came after the Minister allowed Supriya Sule of the NCP to seek a clarification on his speech about the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2019.

The Speaker said: "I would advise all MPs to refrain from granting permission to each other to speak. This is the job of the Speaker."



Devendra Fadnavis

time-bound implementation of reforms by the States and Union Territories.

Up for discussion are two model Acts circulated by the Centre to the States: the Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 and the Agriculture Produce and Livestock, Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018.

The panel will also examine various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 and suggest changes to attract private investment in agricultural marketing and infrastructure. It will also suggest a mechanism for linking market reforms with existing Centrally sponsored schemes such as e-NAM.

The committee has been asked to "discuss measures for transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income." It will also suggest modalities for adoption and

CMs' panel to suggest agriculture reforms

Focus on marketing, investment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will head a new high-power committee to recommend structural reforms in Indian agriculture, including changes to the way farmers market their produce and norms for contract farming and essential commodities.

It will suggest measures to attract private investment and modernise the agricultural market system.

The Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh, and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will be the members of the committee, said an official statement from NITI Aayog on Monday. It will submit its report in two months.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced its formation at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meet in June.

The committee has been asked to "discuss measures for transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income." It will also suggest modalities for adoption and

Trinamool for resolution against lynchings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

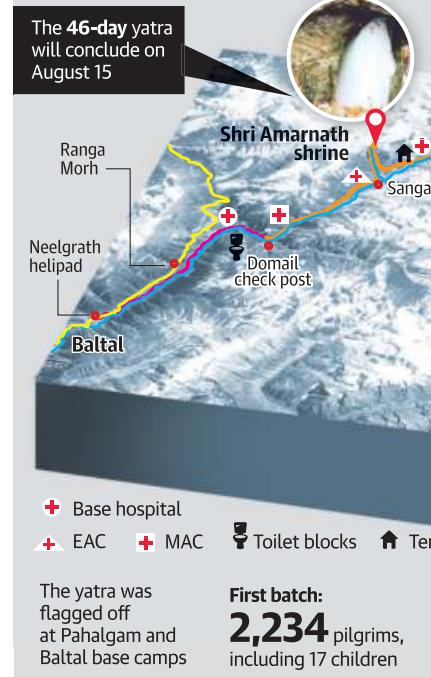
KOLKATA

minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Tapas Roy told presspersons that he had spoken to Leader of the Opposition Abdul Mannan and Leader of the Left legislature party Sujan Chakraborty on tabling a joint resolution in the House.



Home Minister Amit Shah speaking during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. ■ PTI

YEARLY RENDEZVOUS



The annual Amarnath yatra to the 3,880-m holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir region began on Monday amid tight security

Motorable road (Black top)

Track
Motorable road (WBM)
River

Chandanwari

Nagarkot

Pahalgam

Nunwan camp

Baltal

Ranga Morh

Neelgragh helipad

Domial check post

Base hospital

EAC

MAC

Toilet blocks

Tent

MAP NOT TO SCALE

Stringent security arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage, with the CRPF at the forefront of the security operations. ■ NISSAR AHMED

First batch: 2,234 pilgrims, including 17 children

Over 1.5 lakh pilgrims from across the country have so far registered themselves for the 46-day pilgrimage, which takes place from the 36 km Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and the 14 km Baltal route in Ganderbal district

EAC: EMERGENCY AID CENTRE; MAC: MEDICAL AID CENTRE | SOURCE: AGENCIES; MAP: SHRIAMARNATHJISHRINE.COM

The 46-day yatra will conclude on August 15

The yatra was flagged off at Pahalgam and Baltal base camps

Online tenders are invited for Supply and commissioning of 01 no. Bull Dozer for 2 x 250 MW, Unit#1 to 4, CTPP, Chhabra. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/> (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvnu/ & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/RVN/PR-3240

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Online tenders are invited for Supply and commissioning of 01 no. Bull Dozer for 2 x 250 MW, Unit#1 to 4, CTPP, Chhabra. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/> (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvnu/ & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/RVN/PR-3240

SAMWAD/C/1059/2019-2020

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

Dy. Chief Engineer (TD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
O/o DY. CHIEF ENGINEER (TD-II), 307, Vidyut Vinayak Bhawan
Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005, email id : setd@jaipur@gmail.com

E-TENDER NO. TN-05 (RVU1920GLOB00340)

N. Korea hails 'historic' Kim-Trump meet

'The two leaders agreed to resume dialogue for making a breakthrough in denuclearisation'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SEOUL/WASHINGTON

North Korea on Monday hailed the weekend meeting between leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump in the Demilitarized Zone as "historic", as analysts said Pyongyang was looking to shape the narrative to its own agenda.

The two leaders agreed to "resume and push forward productive dialogues for making a new breakthrough in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula", the official Korean Central News Agency said.

Twitter invitation

After a Twitter invitation by the U.S. President on Saturday, the two men met a day later in the strip of land that has divided the peninsula for 66 years since the end of the Korean War, when the two countries and their allies



In print: People reading publicly displayed newspapers reporting the Sunday meeting between Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump, in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Monday. •AP

fought each other to a standstill.

Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump shook hands over the concrete slabs dividing North and South before Mr. Trump walked a few paces into Pyongyang's territory – the first U.S. President ever to set foot on North Korean soil.

"The top leaders of the DPRK and the U.S. exchanging historic handshakes at Panmunjom" was an "amazing event", KCNA said, describing the truce village as a "place that had been known as the symbol of division" and referring to past "inglorious relations" between the

countries. The impromptu meeting in the DMZ – where the U.S. President said they agreed to resume working-level talks within weeks on the North's nuclear programme – was full of symbolism.

Mr. Trump's border-crossing, which he said was uncertain until the last moment, was an extraordinary sequel to the scene at Mr. Kim's first summit with Moon Jae-in last year, when the young leader invited the South Korean President to walk over the Military Demarcation Line, as the border is officially known.

Pictures from the meeting – including a sequence of images from the Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim emerging from opposite sides for a handshake and a skip across the border – were splashed across the front page of the official *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper, which carried 35 images in total.

Regional powerhouse China on Monday said renewed discussions between North Korea and the U.S. are of "great significance".

"It is hoped that all parties concerned will seize the opportunity, move in the same direction, actively explore effective solutions to each other's concerns and make progress on the peninsula," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters in Beijing.

In tears

In Washington, Mr. Trump said many North Koreans were literally in tears when he stepped into their country. "I actually stepped into North Korea and they say it's a very historic moment," he told American soldiers at Osan Air Base after his meeting with Chairman Kim.

"Many people, I noticed, from Korea were literally in tears," he added.

Six dead, 50 children wounded in Taliban car bomb explosion

Five schools damaged in the blast, says Afghan Ministry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

At least six people were killed and dozens, including 50 children, wounded on Monday when the Taliban detonated a powerful car bomb in Kabul, officials said – the latest deadly attack in one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be



Caught in the crossfire: Wounded people receiving treatment in a hospital in Kabul on Monday. •AP

killed, including one child and two special forces, said Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi.

The Health Ministry put the wounded toll at 116 people. Among the injured were 50 children, officials said, adding that most had been hurt by flying glass and were in stable condition.

Mr. Rahimi said all five gunmen and the driver of

the car had been killed, and a clearing operation was over.

Some social media images purportedly taken at a hospital showed wounded, stunned children in school uniforms, still clutching books as they arrived for treatment.

Five schools were damaged in the blast, the Education Ministry said.

Trump bets big on diplomacy to solve Korean nuclear crisis

After meeting the N. Korean leader in DMZ, the U.S. President said 'speed is not the object' of his outreach but a 'good deal' is

STANLY JOHNY

On Sunday, Donald Trump became the first sitting American President to have stepped into North Korea. After a historic handshake with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at the demilitarised zone (DMZ) that divides the two Koreas, President Trump crossed the demarcation line. The two leaders walked a few metres on the North Korean side and then crossed back and had talks.

They have decided to resume stalled nuclear talks. Mr. Trump's visit to the DMZ, which followed his surprise offer for talks via Twitter a day earlier, suggests

that he is keen on pursuing the diplomatic option to achieve his goal – denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

A war with North Korea would be catastrophic. North Korea is a nuclear power that boasts of long-range ballistic missiles, with the U.S. in their range.

The North has also stationed thousands of pieces of ready-to-fire artillery along the DMZ that could target Seoul, the South Korean capital with a population of 10 million that lies roughly 50 km from the border. U.S. troops deployed in East Asia could also be targeted.

Ever since his Singapore

summit with Mr. Kim last year, Mr. Trump, otherwise known for his incendiary tweets and threats, has stayed away from attacking North Korea. On Sunday, after holding talks with Mr. Kim for nearly an hour, he said "speed is not the object", but a "good deal" is.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mr. Kim, on the other side, has shown interest in engaging with the U.S. and opening up the North's economy, which needs relief from sanctions. Also, North Korea's nuclear programme is primarily rooted in deterrence, not in expansionism.

One is the historic mistrust between the two nations. North Korea, especially, believes that they were

betrayed by the U.S. several times beginning the Korean war. In the 1990s, North Korea and the U.S. (Clinton administration) had signed the 'Agreed Framework' to freeze the North's nuclear activities. But Pyongyang pulled out of it when the George W. Bush administration turned hostile towards it. So the North needs guarantee that another administration would not turn against it even if it reaches an agreement with President Trump.

Two, Mr. Trump's other foreign policy decisions would hardly assure the North Koreans. He pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal, which his predecessor

Barack Obama had signed with Tehran and other world powers. Iran agreed to scuttle its nuclear programme under the agreement in return for the lifting of sanctions. The Trump administration is now on a warpath with Iran, with U.S.-imposed sanctions squeezing the country.

For the North Korean regime, its nuclear weapons are its greatest insurance against a potential regime change war. While Mr. Trump's diplomatic outreach keeps the possibility for a deal alive, he may have to address the contradictions in his foreign policy doctrine to clinch it.

her husband and former Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa.

"The incident that happened in recent months has led to controversies and disputes between the public and the government," she said. "This has made me fully realise that I, as a politician, have to remind myself all the time of the need to grasp public sentiment accurately."

+ 12 JuD, Jaish members jailed for terror funding

They were arrested in Punjab province

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

The anti-terrorism courts in Pakistan's Punjab province have handed down up to five years imprisonment to 12 members of the banned Jamat-ud-Dawah (JuD) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) on the charges of terrorism financing.

According to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab Police, it arrested the JuD and JeM members some time ago on the charges of terror financing and presented them before anti-terrorism courts of different districts of Punjab for trial.

"The ATCs sentenced four leaders of JuD – Asghar Ali, Junaid Irshad and Ijaz Ahmad of Rawalpindi and Abdul Khaliq of Rahim Yar Khan – for two years each imprisonment with fines," the CTD said in a statement here on Monday.

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

The statement said that eight local leaders of JeM have been convicted by ATCs for a term of up to five years.

The JeM had claimed responsibility for the February 14 Pulwama attack in Jammu and Kashmir that left 40 CRPF personnel dead, increasing tensions between India and Pakistan.

Former Sri Lanka officials failed to prevent attacks: AG

'Charges should be framed against them'

REUTERS
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's police chief and its former Defence Secretary should be charged with crimes against humanity for failing to prevent attacks on churches and luxury hotels that killed more than 250 people in April, the Attorney General said on Monday.

The attacks, claimed by the militant group Islamic State, took place despite repeated warnings from Indian intelligence that an attack was imminent.

Attorney General Dappula de Livera wrote to the acting police chief urging him to bring charges against his predecessor Pujith Jayasundara and the former Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Hemasiri Fernando.

"There is sufficient information to prove negligence of official duties ... and criminal negligence. It is also considered a grave crime against humanity under international law," Mr. Livera said in the letter.

President Maithripala Sirisena has accused Mr. Fernando and Mr. Jayasundara of failing to act on an April 4 intelligence report about an attack planned for April 21, Easter Sunday. Both of them have denied all allegations.

Mr. Jayasundara last month told a parliamentary committee that the President had asked him to take the blame for the bombings and resign, promising him a diplomatic posting in return.

considered a grave crime against humanity under international law," Mr. Livera said in the letter.

President Maithripala Sirisena has accused Mr. Fernando and Mr. Jayasundara of failing to act on an April 4 intelligence report about an attack planned for April 21, Easter Sunday. Both of them have denied all allegations.

Mr. Jayasundara last month told a parliamentary committee that the President had asked him to take the blame for the bombings and resign, promising him a diplomatic posting in return.

Barack Obama had signed with Tehran and other world powers. Iran agreed to scuttle its nuclear programme under the agreement in return for the lifting of sanctions. The Trump administration is now on a warpath with Iran, with U.S.-imposed sanctions squeezing the country.

For the North Korean regime, its nuclear weapons are its greatest insurance against a potential regime change war. While Mr. Trump's diplomatic outreach keeps the possibility for a deal alive, he may have to address the contradictions in his foreign policy doctrine to clinch it.

Many clapped as protesters held up a poster of Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam inside a bamboo cage. Organisers said 5,50,000 people turned out. The police said there were 1,90,000 at their peak.

A tired-looking Ms. Lam appeared in public for the first time in nearly two weeks, before the storming of the legislature, flanked by

Russian Opposition leader sentenced to 10 days in prison

Navalny had taken part in a protest in support of a journalist



Alexei Navalny

punity of law enforcement agencies. He was released several hours later.

The protest was held on a public holiday after the police suddenly dropped trumped-up charges against respected journalist Ivan Golunov. It was initially called to press for the freedom of Mr. Golunov who was released on the eve of the march following several days of public outrage.

Over the last decade, Navalny has emerged as one of the key opponents of President Vladimir Putin, organising some of the biggest anti-Kremlin protests in recent years.

IN BRIEF



Zardari arrested in separate graft case

Pakistan's anti-corruption body on Monday arrested jailed former President Asif Ali Zardari in another corruption case. He is already in the custody of the National Accountability Bureau in a multi-million dollar money laundering case. PTI

Ex-Pakistan PM indicted in corruption case

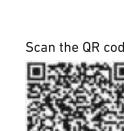
An anti-corruption court in Pakistan on Monday indicted former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in a corruption case related to construction of Rental Power Plants in the country. PTI

Presenting
STEP COACH UNLIMITED

A powerful English learning programme fuelled by unlimited* Expert calls, comprehensive modules and interactive sessions.

Unlimited* Coach calls with Expert trainers **12 Live Classes** **1 year unlimited access** **The Hindu certification** **70% off on future STEP courses**

*Please visit the website to see associated terms and conditions



To know more,
visit BIT.LY/COACHUNLTD

Introductory Price ₹ 9999/-

Use coupon code: **UNLIMITED**



THE HINDU GROUP

MARKET WATCH

	01-07-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,686	0.74
US Dollar	68.94	0.13
Gold	34,100	-0.37
Brent oil	65.04	-2.38

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	413.25	3.05
Asian Paints	1353.85	-4.30
Axle Bank	810.45	1.90
Bajaj Auto	2911.95	84.90
Bajaj Finance	8521.05	-3.60
Bharti Airtel	348.50	1.85
BPCL	376.20	-16.25
Britannia Ind	2737.55	-6.15
Cipla	555.80	2.35
Coal India	249.25	-4.55
Dr Reddy's Lab	2654.85	104.40
Eicher Motors	19625.30	486.50
GAIL (India)	312.70	0.75
Grafix Ind	920.00	5.90
HCL Tech	1049.10	-15.55
HDPC	2245.90	53.80
HDFC Bank	2485.55	41.80
Hero MotoCorp	2616.50	35.00
Hindalco	208.90	1.85
Hind Unilever	1780.20	-7.40
Indiabulls HFL	621.95	14.25
ICICI Bank	439.00	1.90
IndusInd Bank	1433.60	23.10
Bharti Infralet	265.65	-1.40
Infosys	731.30	-0.70
Indian Oil Corp	151.65	-4.25
ITC	274.95	1.10
JSW Steel	275.75	-0.85
Kotak Bank	1481.20	4.10
L&T	1556.65	3.45
M&M	660.00	4.65
Maruti Suzuki	6507.85	-26.80
NTPC	142.55	1.20
ONGC	161.00	-6.75
Power Grid Corp	207.05	0.15
Reliance Ind	1268.85	15.75
State Bank	361.55	0.30
Sun Pharma	405.35	4.40
Tata Motors	168.00	5.45
Tata Steel	506.95	2.55
TCS	2239.55	12.35
Tech Mahindra	704.65	-1.95
Titan	1323.20	-11.50
UltraTech Cement	4526.65	-29.20
UPL	948.20	10.75
Vedanta	174.05	-0.30
Wipro	282.00	1.50
YES Bank	109.15	0.40
Zee Entertainment	358.35	19.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 01
CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar 68.75 69.07
Euro 78.02 78.38
British Pound 86.93 87.34
Japanese Yen (100) 63.48 63.78
Chinese Yuan 10.04 10.10
Swiss Franc 70.05 70.38
Singapore Dollar 50.79 51.03
Canadian Dollar 52.48 52.75
Malaysian Ringgit 16.61 16.70

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI
July 01 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g) 40.7... (40.6) 22 ct gold (1g) 3216... (3254)

+ CRI Group invests \$5 mn in U.S., Mexico

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA COIMBATORE

CRI Group, which is into fluid management solutions, has invested ₹35 crore (\$5 million), setting up facilities in the U.S. and Mexico. G. Soundararajan, vice chairman, said the plant in the U.S. will take up minor assembly works of units exported from here and supply borewell products, waste water pumps, pressure boosting and industrial pumps in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean countries.

"We have been catering to the U.S. and Mexico markets, supplying through distributors. We wanted to provide after sales service and have facilities to grow there. One of the products launched there is for mining application," he said.

Core sector growth slows to 5.1%

For May, refinery sector leads slowdown with 1.5% contraction; steel grows 19.8%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Growth in the core sectors of the economy slowed to 5.1% in May 2019 led by slowing growth in the coal and refinery products sector, according to official data released on Monday.

The Index of Eight Core Industries saw growth slowing in May from the nine-month high of 6.3% registered in April. Nevertheless, the growth in May is the highest since July 2018, not counting April.

Coal slows to 1.8%

The slowdown in May was led by the refinery sector, which saw a contraction of 1.5% compared with a growth of 4.3% in the previous month. The coal sector also saw growth slowing to 1.8% from 3.2% over the



Losing steam: The coal sector saw growth slowing to 1.8% from 3.2%. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

same period. The crude oil sector witnessed a continued contraction for the eighteenth consecutive month in May, with growth contracting 6.96% in that month compared with a contraction of 6.75% in April.

The natural gas sector re-

mained flat in May, registering zero growth, compared with a contraction of 0.75% in April. The strongest performer of the eight sectors under consideration was the steel sector. The sector grew 19.8% in May, up from a growth of 18.97% in the pre-

Fertilizers shrunk again in May by 1.03%, compared with a contraction of 4.4% in April

vious month. The fertilizer sector contracted again in May, by 1.03%, compared with a contraction of 4.4% in April.

Cement growth subdued

The cement sector continued to witness subdued growth, of 2.75% in May, up marginally from the 2.28% seen in April.

The sector averaged a growth of 13.3% in financial year 2018-19. The electricity sector, further buoyed by increased demand in the summer months, grew 7.23% in May, compared with 5.99% in April.

stressed assets. Sources said

the possibility of signing an intercreditor agreement (ICA) on the lines of the June 7 circular was discussed.

However, to implement the RBI norms on resolution of stressed assets, a borrower needs to be in default with the bank, which is not the case for DHFL. Sources said DHFL is an SMA O category for some banks which means principal or interest payment has not been overdue for more than 30 days but that the account is showing signs of incipient stress.

Banks can still restructure the loan if there is a mutual agreement between the lender and the borrower, a senior official from a public sector bank said. In case of a debt restructuring, the account has to be classified as non-performing. "We have

to see if certain dispensations are permitted by RBI," said the official. Bankers will meet again later this week to discuss the contours of the road ahead for the housing finance company (HFC).

Many HFCs have been facing a liquidity crunch since September after the IL&FS debt default, as banks have become reluctant to lend to the sector. Hence, the cost of funds for HFCs has gone up sharply, impacting business growth.

DHFL has been monetising assets to pay its dues in the absence of bank finance.

It is also looking for a partner to sell promoters' stake.

Ratings agency ICRA has downgraded the DHFL commercial paper to default grade after the firm delayed interest payment to NCD holders.

ICICI Bank, PNB slash lending rates by 10, 5 bps

Home, auto loan interest rates to fall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Interest rates on home and auto loans are set to come down with leading commercial banks beginning to reduce their MCLR, the benchmark lending rate, in response to the Reserve Bank of India's decision to cut the repo rate last month.

ICICI Bank has reduced its one-year MCLR (marginal cost of funds based lending rate) by 10 basis points (bps) to 8.65%, while Punjab National Bank has reduced it by 5 bps to 8.4%.

The new rate is effective from Monday. Most floating rate loans are linked to one-year MCLR. More banks are expected to follow suit. Last month, the central bank re-

duced the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.75%. In 2019, the repo rate has been reduced by a cumulative 75 bps.

Slow response

Banks' response to interest rate reduction by RBI has been slow as lending rates have fallen by only 21 bps in response to 50 bps rate cut by RBI between February and April.

"Transmission of the cumulative reduction of 50 bps in the policy repo rate in February and April 2019 was 21 bps to the weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said during the last monetary policy review on June 6.

The new rate is effective from Monday. Most floating rate loans are linked to one-year MCLR. More banks are expected to follow suit. Last month, the central bank re-

Automobile sales continue to slump

Poor consumer sentiment drives figures down a spiral in June; only Mahindra's PVs buck trend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Indian auto industry continued to pass through a tough time in June 2019 with declining sales due to the ongoing NBFC crisis, liquidity issues, high interest rates and economic uncertainties in the market.

Maruti Suzuki Ltd. reported an overall sales decline of 14% to 1,24,708 units compared to 1,44,981 units in June 2018, including exports.

While exports were up 5%, the total domestic passenger vehicles sales were down 17.2% at 1,11,014 units.

Hyundai Motor India also reported a dip in sales of 3.2%. The firm posted a domestic sales of 42,007 units as compared to 45,314 in the same period last year and ex-

ports stood at 16,800 units against 15,408 units.

However, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) despite reporting overall lower sales volume has become the only automaker to report positive numbers in the passenger

vehicles (utility vehicles, cars and vans) segment for the month of June, 2019.

The passenger vehicles segment grew 4% in June 2019 to 18,826 vehicles. Growth was led by its three recent product launches

namely XUV 300, Marazzo and Alturas G4.

For June 2019 M&M sold 17,723 utility vehicles, a growth of 8%. Commercial vehicles sales were down 15% at 16,394 units, medium and heavy commercial vehicles sales were down 36% and exports were also down at 11%. The company's overall sales stood at 42,547 vehicles, compared to 45,155 vehicles in June 2018.

Veejay Ram Nakra, chief of sales and marketing, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd. said, "The market sentiment continued to remain subdued, especially in the passenger vehicles segment."

Ashok Leyland Ltd reported a 19% decline in total vehicles sales at 12,810.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor reported a 19% decline in total sales at 11,365 units.

Manufacturing PMI dips to 52.1

'Softer rise in new orders led to slower increase in output'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Manufacturing activity slowed in June due to lesser number of new orders, according to a private sector survey.

The Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index stood at 52.1 in June, down from the three-month high of 52.7 in May. A reading over 50 indicates an expansion, while one below 50 denotes a contraction in activity. "The Indian manufacturing sector lost growth momentum in June, following an acceleration in May," the report added.

"That said, the average PMI reading for the opening quarter of FY20 was the lowest recorded since the second quarter of FY18."

According to the report, consumer goods was the key source of growth, with the sector registering robust increases in sales, output, and employment in June.

The intermediate goods sector saw a modest expansion in production and new work, but employment stagnated. Operating conditions in the capital goods sector were broadly unchanged, the report added. "PMI data highlighted a slight setback in the Indian manufacturing sector during June," Polyanne De Lima, Principal Economist at IHS Markit said.

"Upbeat growth projections continued to underpin job creation and the stocking of inputs, but cracks appeared in the form of a softer rise in employment and waning optimism," she added.

A continued decline in unfinished business indicates excess capacity among goods producers, which could

IN BRIEF



SFIO files complaint in Bhushan Steel case

NEW DELHI
The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) filed a 70,000-page complaint in the Bhushan Steel case wherein the probe agency has found "extreme misuse" of the corporate structure by the promoters which reduced corporate governance requirements to paper formalities, sources said. Bhushan Steel had defaulted on loans and the banks had to take a haircut of over ₹20,000 crore as part of the resolution process. PTI

SBI, NIIF in pact for funding infra projects

MUMBAI
India's banking behemoth, the State Bank of India (SBI), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) on Monday to boost availability of capital for infrastructure projects, the bank said in a statement. The scope of the agreement includes equity investments, project funding, bond financing, renewable energy support and take-out finance for operating assets.

OMCs reduce aviation turbine fuel, LPG prices

MUMBAI
State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have reduced the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for domestic and international airlines effective July 1. For domestic airlines, the ATF prices were reduced by between ₹3,200 and ₹3,900 per kilolitre in the four metros. They also reduced the price for a non-subsidised LPG 14 kg cylinder by ₹100 and that of a subsidised cylinder by ₹3.

Auditor sees loss understatement, net worth erosion at McLeod

Marks bulk tea producer's net loss at ₹1,826.1 cr. against ₹4.4 cr. reported earlier

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The statutory auditor of bulk tea producer McLeod Russel India Ltd. (MRIL) has made several adverse observations about the company's 2018-19 financial statements, including a ₹1,821.7-crore loss understatement, a negative networth, and a trail of intercorporate deposits (ICDs) for which no provision had been made.

A regulatory filing by MRIL, which has been on an asset-selling spree for over a year, showed that after adjustment for audit qualifications, MRIL's net loss was ₹1,826.1 crore against the ₹4.4 crore reported earlier, while its net worth was ₹147.7



Way uncertain: The auditor felt that recovery of ₹1,744.7 cr. of ICDs given to companies was doubtful. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

crore negative against ₹1,763 crore shown earlier. The management of MRIL, which has tea estates in Assam, Africa and Vietnam, however, disagreed with most of the ICDs extended to group

its losses were due to the downturn of the tea industry and also operational issues such as increased production costs. The MRIL management said that many of the ICDs extended to group

companies have been repaid and it was looking for further refinancing to address its present liquidity issues.

The statutory auditor – Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP – said at the end of fiscal 2019, ₹1,744.7 crore of ICDs had been given to promoter group companies and other companies. However, it felt that recovery was doubtful considering the financial conditions of these companies. The company had not made any provision for the outstanding amounts.

Drawing attention to recognition of ₹67.8 crore of sundry income by MRIL, it said that these may have been reflected only by book entries.

Allow debt-linked savings scheme, says MF association

Seeks tax parity for retirement, pension schemes and NPS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) wants the government to allow introduction of debt linked savings scheme to deepen the bond market and bring parity in terms of tax treatment for pension and retirement schemes of mutual funds and the national pension scheme.

Besides, it also seeks to remove the tax arbitrage between investment products like equity mutual funds and unit linked insurance plans.

As part of its proposals submitted to the government ahead of the Union Budget, the umbrella body

of asset management companies of India has stated that a debt linked savings scheme (DLSS) can be introduced on the lines of equity linked savings scheme (ELSS) that will aid in the government's plans of increasing investment in the infrastructure segment.

"It is proposed to introduce 'Debt Linked Savings Scheme' on the lines of Equity Linked Savings Scheme to channelise long-term savings of retail investors into corporate bond market, which would help deepen the Indian bond market," the AMFI paper stated.

"At least 80% of the funds collected under DLSS shall

be invested in debentures and bonds of companies as permitted under SEBI Mutual Fund Regulations," it added.

The industry body has further suggested that the government can provide tax benefits for investments up to ₹1.5 lakh in DLSS with a lock-in period of five years, similar to a tax-saving bank fixed deposit.

The association has further requested the government to do away with the levy of capital gains tax in instances where an investor switches within the same scheme like moving from growth option to dividend or vice versa.

These seven sites employ over 14,000 people.

Liberty Steel buys Arcelor's Europe assets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Liberty Steel said on Monday it had acquired seven steel making units and five service centres from ArcelorMittal in Europe for €740 million (around ₹5,782 crore), according to a company statement.

Indian-origin metals tycoon Sanjeev Gupta-owned company has acquired the major integrated steel works at Ostrava in the Czech Republic and Galati in Romania as well as rolling mills at Skopje (North Macedonia), Piombino (Italy), Dudelange (Luxembourg) and two plants near Liege in Belgium, it said.

"Reliance Infrastructure will continue to own the premises and monetisation will be by way of long-term lease. The company will utilise 100% of the proceeds for debt reduction," the company said in a statement.

The company is in talks with a group of global private equity firms, including Blackstone, to raise about ₹3,000 crore from the asset monetisation plan.

Madhu Jayanti in ₹6 cr.-deal for Eveready's tea packet brands

Sees domestic business rising nearly threefold in five years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Kolkata-based Madhu Jayanti International Pvt. Ltd. (MJIPL) said it sees major gains in the acquisition of tea packet brands of Eveready Industries India Ltd., through a national footprint, especially in rural areas where the brands are well-distributed via EIIL's distribution channels.

C We expect this buy to give us a single-shot entry into the rural areas and tier 1 and 2 towns

SUMIT SHAH, Executive director, MJIPL

MJIPL, said at a press meet. The ₹6-crore acquisition is set to be formalised on July 4.

Mr. Shah said that he did not expect the turn of events at EIIL, where PwC has stepped down as auditor, to cast any shadow on the forthcoming deal.

The 75-year-old MJIPL's business comprises packet teas, tea bags and private labels, with exports at ₹261 crore in 2018-19 accounting for a bulk of its ₹390-crore

turnover in 2018-19. The company sees its ₹129-crore domestic business rising to ₹350 crore in five years.

It hopes to utilise EIIL's distribution channels to sell its tea in rural areas too. MJIPL has tea packaging plant in Kolkata, Guwahati, Coimbatore and Vladivostok in Russia.

In a regulatory filing with exchanges, Eveready Industries India Ltd. said that it would enter into an asset transfer/assignment, licence agreement with Madhu Jayanti International for transfer and/or licence of the relevant trademarks, valued at ₹6 crore and other identified assets relating to packet tea products.

Reliance Infra plans to lease out Mumbai corporate office building

Company is in talks with PEs to raise about ₹3,000 crore



Money spinner: Reliance Center (in pic) is spread across 6.95 lakh square feet area. ■ PRASHANT WAYDANE

across 6.95 lakh square feet area on a plot of 15,514 sq m.

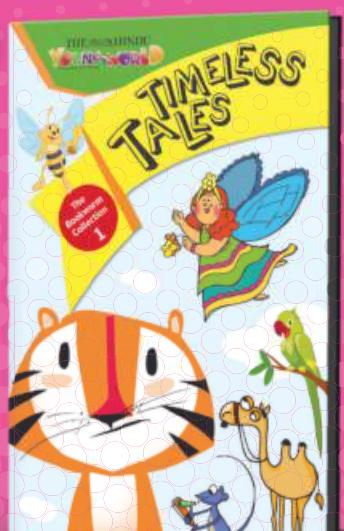
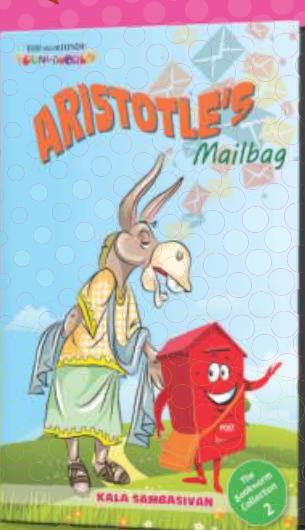
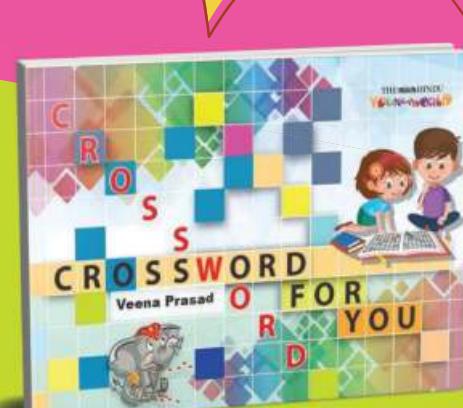
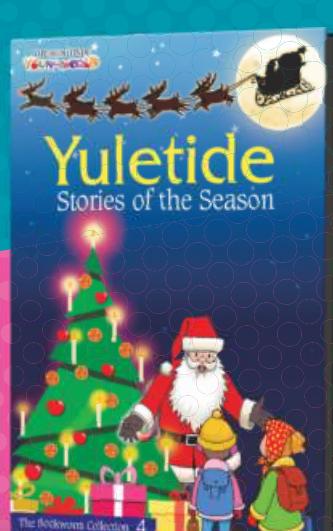
The office is adjacent to Mumbai's Western Express Highway and is in proximity to Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Terminal, the Bandra-Kurla-Complex

business district, and close to the upcoming Santacruz Metro Station. The staff operating from the centre would be relocated to multiple properties owned by the group across Mumbai, including Ballard Estate.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP



KEEP YOUR KIDS ENGAGED WITH **BOOKS** FROM THE HINDU YOUNGWORLD



BOOK YOUR
COPY ONLINE



To book your copy, Visit: www.thehindu.com/publications | For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in

For any enquiries call: 1800 3000 1878

India needs a win to seal semifinal spot

Bangladesh yearns for a victory to keep its almost improbable last-four hopes alive

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

Virat Kohli's men had a smooth World Cup campaign until they found their first hurdle in England. In a game that the host dominated at Edgbaston here on Sunday, India stumbled. But it is time to move on as Tuesday's match against Bangladesh awaits the Men in Blue.

The neighbours will clash on the same pitch that yielded a weekend run-fest of 643, a number further embellished by centuries from Jonny Bairstow and Rohit Sharma. The venue with its short square boundaries can



High hopes: Hardik Pandya has the ability to swing games with his explosive batting. ■ AP

punish bowlers when they err in their radars and the rival attacks will be wary of muscular batting like the kind England displayed.

Despite an acutely slow start and a relative crawl in the slog against Eoin Morgan's men, India has a strong set of willow-wielders. Rohit and Kohli are in sublime form while K.L. Rahul suffered his lone failure during Sunday's joust. The middle-order of Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, M.S. Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav needs to maximise the fine work from the men atop the batting tree.

Early days for Pant

The quartet have had their stints in the middle but in all the runs they collectively made ranging from veteran Dhoni to rookie Pant, who just played a lone contest, it is obvious that the trait of explosive batting largely vests with Pandya. May be Pant could move into that zone but these are still early days for him in cricket's showpiece event.

The youngster was a bundle of nerves in his initial stint against England, sprinting for non-existent runs, diving to save himself and then emerging dishevelled

SERVO CRICKET TRIVIA

In 2000, all 4 innings between England and West Indies were played in one day at a Test match at Lord's.

THE FACE-OFF		India vs Bangladesh	
EDGBASTON		HEAD-TO-HEAD	
KOHLI	MORTAZA	KOHLI	MORTAZA
Matches	Ind	Ban	Tied
Overall	35	29	5
World Cup	3	2	1
LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.			

*till the Sri Lanka-West Indies match on July 1; Q: Qualified E: Eliminated

'We are happy with Dhoni's intent'

Bangar says the veteran has delivered in five out of the seven games

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM

The Men in Blue's final stretch in the World Cup's league phase has raised queries about their middle-order's lack of punch when it comes to hastening the run-rate.

Ahead of Tuesday's game against Bangladesh, batting coach Sanjay Bangar said that the playing eleven's composition is flexible keeping in mind the nature of the opponent and the surface on offer.

The neighbour's challenge: We are playing (Bangladesh) on the same track (that was used against England) and we know the wicket and the dimensions well. We also have to assess from the bowling perspective on how to improve. In the last six to seven overs, we gave plenty of runs, whether that's an area where the game slipped, we need to look. We will assess the things that went wrong and correct those.

Rishabh Pant's role: The team management felt the absence of a left-hander after Shikhar (Dhawan) got injured. It was a ploy to use the right-left combination in the middle overs to upset England's bowling plans. Because of that Adil Rashid couldn't bowl the number of overs he would have usually bowled.



On the job: India's batting coach Sanjay Bangar gives valuable tips to Kedar Jadhav. ■ AP

Sluggish climax: I don't think so, because if you look at the way England bowled towards the end, the (ground) dimensions were used well. It created difficult angles for our batters to hit, especially with the type of balls they were bowling – slower bouncers, into the wicket deliveries and slower balls. In last few overs, the difference between runs required and balls left were too much. Had we tried bigger shots earlier, we might have ended a few runs short. It also helps the net run-rate a bit with the extra runs.

Spinners' nightmare: It was one of their off-days. But they have been doing really well for us and we need to continue to back them. In the next few games, they will

have a crucial role.

Dhoni the finisher: Five out of seven games he has done the job. Against South Africa he stitched a partnership with Rohit (Sharma). After that he did what was required of him against Australia. In Manchester, on a difficult track (against the West Indies) he got a vital 56. Here also he was striking the ball well (against England). I am surprised that this question comes up but we are happy with his intent.

Extra seamer: We are open to all combinations where three seamers can play with Hardik (Pandya). We are also looking at (Ravindra) Jadeja coming in. Bhuvneshwar (Kumar) is also available for selection and everybody is in the mix.

It's not going to be easy, says Mortaza

'Shakib has been our best performer'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM

Mashrafe Mortaza harbours hopes of a semifinal berth for his men. The Bangladesh captain is aware that the circumstances are difficult especially with a strong rival like India lined up for Tuesday's World Cup game but is keen that his team plays hard. Mortaza spoke to reporters at Edgbaston here on Monday afternoon. Excerpts.

The India game: If we can manage to win, that will be great. India is a very strong side and it's not going to be easy but we have to play hard.

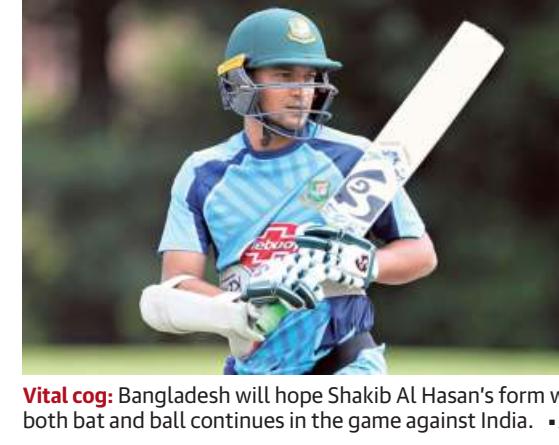
Good thing is that we are still in the tournament, may

be, may be not, but let's see.

Countering spin: If we look at their stats in last few years, both Indian spinners have done well. We just can't think that what England did (hammering the spinners), we will do the same and get success. We will stick to our plans and our batting has been good through the tournament. We will play it our way.

Shakib's brilliance: Shakib (Al Hasan) has been doing whatever he can do, be it batting, fielding or bowling. He has been our best performer in this World Cup. We still have two matches left and hopefully he will keep doing whatever he has done so far and finish on a good note.

Vital cog: Bangladesh will hope Shakib Al Hasan's form with both bat and ball continues in the game against India. ■ AP



Vijay Shankar has to return home

Injures toe in the nets; ICC okays team management's plea for Mayank as replacement

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

or during an Asia Cup encounter at Dhaka in 2012. The last-referred clash featured Sachin Tendulkar's 100th international ton but Mashfiqur Rahim and company ruined the maestro's party.

Shakib, the pivot

Bangladesh has shown that it can punch above its weight and it did that against South Africa and the West Indies. Shakib Al Hasan has been the pivot, crafting stupendous efforts, be it in batting or while wheeling his left-arm spin. The all-rounder has aggregated 476 runs and 10 wickets so far in this World Cup.

With other seniors around him like Tamim Iqbal, Mashfiqur and Mortaza, Shakib has lent hope to the denizens back home. Perhaps he mirrors the following line from Monica Ali's book Brick Lane that chronicled the Bangladeshi diaspora's angst in London: "If you are strong, you withstand the storm."

India needs a triumph to seal its semifinal berth while Bangladesh yearns for a win to keep its almost improbable last-four hopes alive. Time to say 'game on' and this is far superior to the debates about which hilsa fish is tastier, the one you savour in Kolkata or the other you relish at Dhaka!

The teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, M.S. Dhoni, K.L. Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav and Rishabh Pant.

Bangladesh: Mashrafe Mortaza (Capt.), Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan, Mashfiqur Rahim, Abu Jayed, Liton Das, Mahmudul, Mehidy Hasan, Mohammad Mithun, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mosaddek Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain, Sabbir Rahman and Soumya Sarkar.

Umpires: Ruchira Palliyaguruge and Marais Erasmus; **Third umpire:** Aleem Dar; **Match referee:** Ranjan Madugalle.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

Fracture

Parikh wrote: "Vijay Shankar sustained a non displaced fracture of the left big toe, which will require a minimum of three weeks to heal. The injury rules him out of the ongoing World Cup. The Indian team management has requested the ICC to consider Mayank Agarwal as replacement. Later in the afternoon, cricket's governing body approved India's request.



Vijay Shankar. ■ AFP



Mayank Agarwal. ■ FILE PHOTO

new ball and that's the reason for his consistency. In those 15 minutes you have to make sure that you are on top of your game otherwise there can be trouble."

Back then, the spearhead too was asked about his methods at training and Bumrah replied: "We don't obviously want to injure the batsman. But when we play in the nets, nobody tells the batsman not to hit. He hits you as well. It's unfortunate that he got hit, but he is okay."

Not so lucky
Looks like, the second time around, Shankar wasn't so lucky. He will get on the return flight to Chennai while Karnataka player Agarwal could become a back-up opener or whatever slot the team-management pencils him in.

For now K.L. Rahul will partner Rohit atop the batting tree and Pant is bound to get more fixtures at number four. But there is a perplexing issue as Ambati Rayudu, who was in the original list of standbys, continues to be overlooked by the think-tank.

Bumrah is known to test batsmen at the nets and Kohli had said: "What you see him bowling in the match, he bowls exactly like that to us in the nets. He doesn't care who is standing in front of him.

KOHLI ON BUMRAH

turing Pakistan, Afghanistan and the West Indies, and against whom he scored 15 n.o., 29 and 14 respectively. He also got a crucial two for 22 in the face-off involving Pakistan at Manchester's Old Trafford.

Shankar had stepped into the playing eleven after a left-thumb fracture sidelined Shikhar Dhawan. Subsequently the opener was ruled out and Pant was flown in. Now it is Shankar's turn to be present in the orthopaedic's consulting room.

There was much speculation at the toss on Sunday when Virat Kohli revealed that Rishabh Pant would play and mentioned about Shankar having a toe niggle.

There was more clarity after the match concluded with England's triumph as Rohit Sharma mentioned that the Tamil Nadu player was struck on his toes by Jasprit Bumrah at practice.

Incidentally, Shankar had

sustained a similar injury earlier in the tournament but without the fracture, and the perpetrator was Bumrah. However, the niggle did not affect Shankar, who played the contests fea-

tured at the toss on Sunday when Virat Kohli revealed that Rishabh Pant would play and mentioned about Shankar having a toe niggle.

There was more clarity after the match concluded with England's triumph as Rohit Sharma mentioned that the Tamil Nadu player was struck on his toes by Jasprit Bumrah at practice.

But I would like to see him use more variations while operating in the end overs. He's bowling fast and that's the addition India would love. An excellent seam position makes it hard to score runs off him with the new ball.

There's talk about India lacking punch in the middle-order. To be honest, I feel

pushed to No. 4 where he can

bide time before upping the ante.

Rahul has to step up

Mayank Agarwal will replace Vijay Shankar who has been ruled out with a toe injury, but I don't see him playing against Bangladesh. India will stick to the same line-up.

I would like K.L. Rahul to take some initiative initially, just to take the pressure off Rohit Sharma during the PowerPlay. Rahul certainly has got the ability.

(Tune in to Select Dugout on Star Sports Select 1 on India matchdays and Sundays)

M.S. Dhoni is being wasted at No. 5. He's at that stage of his career where instead of playing him at the position where he used to be exceptional at one point, he should be pushed to No. 4 where he can

Dhoni is being wasted at No. 5

Mohammed Shami picked his first five-wicket haul in ODIs in the match against England, but he conceded quite a few runs at the death. He has been exceptional with the new ball and has got the old one to reverse.

But I would like to see him use more variations while operating in the end overs. He's bowling fast and that's the addition India would love. An excellent seam position makes it hard to score runs off him with the new ball.

There's talk about India lacking punch in the middle-order. To be honest, I feel

pushed to No. 4 where he can



Mike Hesson
SELECT DUGOUT CORNER



On fire: Fernando fended the West Indies bowlers. ■ AFP

Lanka beats WI in high-scoring game

SHAYAN ACHARYA
CHESTER-LE-STREET

Two youngsters, two centuries and a close finish! That's how the inconsequential league fixture panned out at the picturesque Riverside on Monday, with Sri Lanka's 21-year-old Avishka Fernando and West Indies' 23-year-old Nicholas Pooran dishing out magnificent tons before the Islanders won the high-scoring thriller by 23 runs.

Put in, Sri Lanka posted a mammoth 338 for six, riding on Fernando's 104. In reply, Pooran's clinical 118 gave the West Indies a fighting chance before it was restricted to 315 for nine.

After the team had slid to 71 for three, Pooran revived the innings. The aggressive

team remained on course till the 47th over before Angelo Mathews, who

last bowled in December 2017, dismissed Pooran who struck 11 boundaries and four sixes.

Earlier, Fernando made 104 off 103 balls with nine fours and two sixes.

Pooran put together two partnerships – 54 with Carlos Brathwaite and 83 with Fabien Allen.

The team remained on course till the 47th over before Angelo Mathews, who

(Fernando, 47.2), 6-327 (Udara, 48.6).

WEST INDIES BOWLING
Cottrell 10-0-69-1, Thomas 10-1-58-1, Gabriel 5-0-46-0, Holder 10-0-59-2, Brathwaite 7-0-53-1, Allen 8-0-44-1.

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Wimbledon: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.
FIFA Women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF



Sania as an expert on Star Sports and Hotstar

HYDERABAD
Six-time Grand Slam winner Sania Mirza will be an expert on Match Point for Wimbledon tennis championships on Star Sports Select and Hotstar. "It feels good to be sharing my views with millions of tennis lovers about a game that has been my life," Sania said in a statement here on Monday.

Vaibhav wins WBC Asia welterweight title

PATTAYA
Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav became the WBC Asia silver welterweight champion after defeating Fahpeth Singmanassak here. Vaibhav, a cousin of CWG gold-medalist Vikas Krishan, clinched a third-round knockout over the Thai in the bout conducted by the Asian Boxing Council and approved by the World Boxing Council. PTI



Aditi ends T-18 for her best 2019 finish

ROGERS (USA)
Aditi Ashok completed a bogey-free week with a final round of three-under 68 to finish tied 18th, with 12-under 201, for her best finish this season, at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship here. She was six shots behind Korea's Sung Hyun Park, who won her second LPGA Tour victory of the season and seventh overall. The win also made Park the new No.1 PTI



Sairaj Bahutule named Gujarat coach

VADODARA
Former India leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule, 46, has been roped in as the coach of the Gujarat team for the forthcoming season, according to the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) vice president Parimal Nathwani. Mumbai-born Bahutule, who played two Tests and 8 ODIs for India, took 630 wickets in 188 First Class games. PTI

Gauff takes out her idol Venus; Osaka also ousted

Djokovic and Wawrinka begin with straight-set wins; Raonic too good for Prajnesh



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

No.1 World ranking but it did not show against a talented opponent on Centre Court.

Goran's help

Defending champion Novak Djokovic got his campaign for a fifth title off to a winning start with newly-hired coaching team recruit, and 2001 winner, Goran Ivanisevic helping steer the ship.

Chasing a fifth title at the All England Club, the Serb saw off 35-year-old Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-3, 7-5, 6-3. But he had to recover from early breaks in both of the first two sets against a player who beat him at Indian Wells this year, as well as a nasty fall on the Centre Court grass.

The American – who was not even born when Venus had won her first two Wimbledon singles titles – showed not an ounce of fear on Court One, making light of the 24 years age difference.

"I don't really know how to feel," said the 313-ranked Gauff, who sunk into her chair and cried in the aftermath of her victory. "This was definitely the first time I ever cried after a match, winning!"

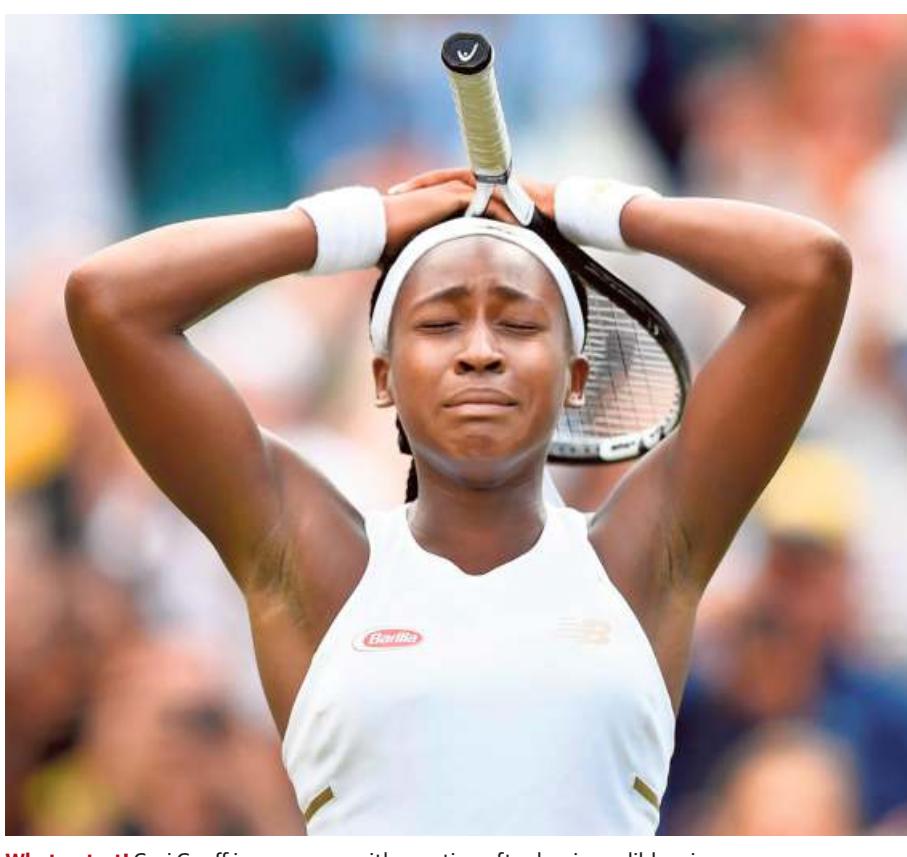
Earlier, Naomi Osaka's bid to win a third Grand Slam title came to a premature end when she lost to Kazakh Yulia Putintseva, 7-6(4), 6-2.

The 21-year-old Japanese said she had felt a weight lifted from her after losing her

Pragnesh Gunnepuram's campaign was cut short in the opening day itself as the Indian was taken out by 15th seed Milos Raonic, the Canadian winning 7-6(0), 6-2, 6-2.

Fourth seed Kevin Anderson, runner-up to Djokovic in 2018, eased into the second round beating Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

In the women's event,



What a start! Cori Gauff is overcome with emotion after her incredible win. ■ REUTERS

third seed Karolina Pliskova made it through, beating China's Zhu Lin 6-2, 7-6(4).

Sabalenka exits

Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova, a semifinalist in 2017, caused the first big upset of the tournament when she put

out 10th seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-4 in just 70 minutes.

Former French Open champion Simona Halep overcame an injury scare to make the second round with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: 1-Novak Djokovic (Seb) bt Philipp Kohlschreiber (Ger) 6-3, 7-5, 6-3; 19-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Vasek Pospisil (Can) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3; 10-Karen Khachanov (Rus) bt Soonwoo Kwon (Kor) 7-6(6), 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; 4-Kevin Anderson (RSA) bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 22-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt Ruben Bemelmans (Bel) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 23-Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) bt Peter Gojowczyk (Ger) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Jiri Vesely (Cze) bt 6-Alexander Zverev (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5; Thomas Fabbiano (Ita) bt 6-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7(8), 6-3; 15-Milos Raonic (Can) bt Pragnesh Gunnepuram (Ind) 7-6(1), 6-4, 6-2; 11-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Paolo Loenzini (Ita) 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(2); Ugo Humbert (Fra) bt 16-Gael Monfils (Fra) 6-7(6), 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, 3-0 retd.; 28-Benoit Paire (Fra) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (Arg) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(4); 21-David Goffin (Bel) bt Bradley Klahn (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 30-Kyle Edmund (GBR) bt Jaume Munar (Esp) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) 32-

Dusan Lajovic (Srb) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Women: 8-Elena Svitolina (Ukr) bt Daria Gavrilova (Aus) 7-5, 6-0; 31-Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt Bernarda Pera (USA) 7-6(4), 6-3; 17-Madison Keys (USA) bt Luksika Kumkhum (Tha) 6-3, 6-2; 27-Sofia Kenin (USA) bt Astra Sharma (Aus) 6-4, 6-2; 24-Petra Martic (Cro) bt Jennifer Brady (USA) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 3-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt Zhu Lin (Chn) 6-2, 7-6(4); 12-Anastasija Sevastova (Lat) bt Kristie Ahn (USA) 6-3, 6-4; 20-Anett Kontaveit (Est) bt Shelby Rogers (USA) 6-0, 3-6, 6-4; 7-Simona Halep (Rom) bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich (Blr) 6-4, 7-5; Magdalena Rybarikova (Svk) bt 10-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) 6-2, 6-4.

Cori Gauff (USA) bt Venus Williams (USA) 6-4, 6-4; Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan (Kaz) bt 2-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) 7-6(4), 6-2; 14-Caroline Wozniacki (Den) bt Sara Sorribes Tormo (Esp) 5-4 retd.; 28-Hsieh Su-wei (Tpe) bt Jeļena Ostapenko (Lat) 6-2, 6-2; Ajla Tomljanovic (Aus) bt 29-Daria Kasatkina (Rus) 6-3, 6-1.

the Wimbledon soundscape stretching back decades.

Prefixes will continue to be used for code violations, medical announcements and player challenges. The women's honours board is staying the same. Prefixes do not appear on the scoreboard.

Semenya underlines her class

Says will not defend the 800m World title if testosterone rules affect her participation

ATHLETICS

REUTERS
STANFORD



Brooking no challenge: Caster Semenya canted to victory in the 800m in the Prefontaine Classic on Sunday. ■ AFP

take a vacation, and then come (back to competing next year.)"

Next three Olympics

But Semenya, who is challenging International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) testosterone rules that could affect her career, is looking towards the next three Olympics.

"I expect to be in Tokyo, Paris and Los Angeles," she said.

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m: Christian Coleman (USA) 9.81s; **400m:** Michael

Norman (USA) 44.62; **110m hurdles:** Orlando Ortega (Esp) 13.24; **400m hurdles:** Benjamin Rai (USA) 47.61; **Shot put:** Darlan Romani (Bra) 22.61m; **Pole vault:** Armand Duplantis (Swe) 5.93.

Women: 100m: Marie-Josée Ta Lou (CIV) 11.02s; **200m:** Blessing Okagbare 22.05; **800m:** Caster Semenya (RSA) 1:55.70; **1500m:** 1. Faith Chepgeitich Kipyegon (Ken) 3:59.04; **3000m:** Sifan Hassan (Ned) 8:18.49; **3000m steeplechase:** Beatrice Chepkoech Sitonik (Ken) 8:55.58; **High jump:** Mariya Kuchina (Rus) 2.04m; **Shot put:** Gong Lijiao (Chn) 19.79.

Later, Semenya said on Sunday she would not defend her World title in Doha next September if she could not run in the 800m because of new testosterone regulations imposed by the sport's governing body.

"If I am not running 800 metres, I'm not running in the World Championships," said the 28-year-old South African. "No 1,500 (metres), nothing. I am just going to

Jayachandra holds top seed Aronyak

NATL. U-17 CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Tamil Nadu's 12th-seeded Jayachandra Srinivas forced West Bengal's top-seeded Aronyak Ghosh to a draw in the third round of the 30th National under-17 open chess championship here on Monday.

Minor upset

There was a minor upset with Tamil Nadu's M. Mohammed Anees, seeded 20th, defeating seventh-seeded State-mate Ayushi 5.93.

Ravikumar. The top-board game in the girls' section between Delhi's second-seeded Shanya Mishra and Tamil Nadu's B. Kiruthika, the No. 15, also ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, Telangana's Sneha Bharathakoti (26) and Tamil Nadu's S. Srimozhi (19) created a ripple with wins over higher-ranked Diya Chowdhury (5) and Nitya Laheri (6).

The results (third round):
Open: Jayachandra Srinivas (Tel), 6-2, drew with Aronyak Ghosh (WB), 2.5; Neelesh Saha (WB), 3-0 Arjun Gup-

Anand draws yet again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The annual general meeting of the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) in Ahmedabad on Sunday decided to confer its highest honour – the SJFI Medal – to badminton stalwart Prakash Padukone on Sunday.

Padukone was chosen for the honour for his whole-some contribution to sport and for record-breaking reign in the National and international scene.

Besides, the meeting also decided to jointly award Pankaj Advani (billiards and snooker) and Bajrang Punia (wrestling) with the SJFI

(Del, 2); J.J. Nawin (TN, 2.5) drew with Vatsal Singhania (Jha, 2.5); Utsab Chatterjee (WB, 3) bt M. Shyam Kumar (TN, 2); R. Sibi Vasili (TN, 3) bt Hari R. Chandran (Ker, 2); M. Mohamed Anees (TN, 3) bt Ayush Ravikumar (TN, 2); Rakshit Srinivasan (Kar, 2) lost to Avishkar Wankhede (Mah, 3).

Girls: Shanya Mishra (Del, 2.5) drew with B. Kiruthika (TN, 2.5); Garima Gaurav (Bih, 2) lost to L. Jyothsna (TN, 3); Sneha Bharathakoti (Tel, 3) bt Diya Chowdhury (WB, 2); Nitya Laheri (Guj, 2) lost to S. Srimozhi (TN, 3); Saina Saloni (Odi, 2.5) bt S. Swara Lakshmi Nair (Kar, 2).

R. Ashwin scalped Tom Westley (42) for Nottinghamshire in its match against Kent. Notts was earlier all out for 213.

Ferrari not to appeal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SPIELBERG

Ferrari decided not to appeal the decision to uphold Max Verstappen as winner of Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix in the best interests of Formula One, said team boss Mattia Binotto.

Ferrari believed the decision to confirm Red Bull's victory, after examination of Verstappen's wheel-banging passing move on Charles Leclerc was wrong, but they respected the stewards' decision.

FAITH

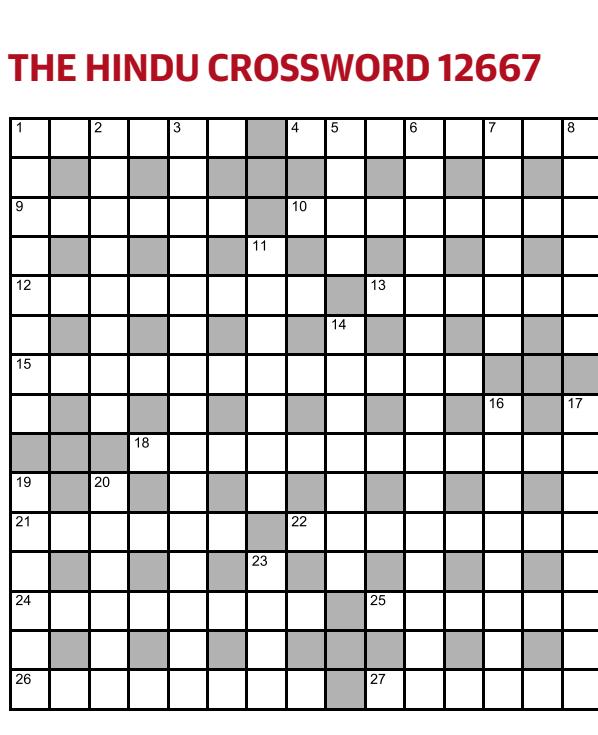
Liberation made easy

Among the Supreme One's many avatars, the Varaha avatar is particularly important, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. Bhu Devi asks Varaha to suggest some easy way for atmas to be liberated. Varaha says that a person must think of Him when he is healthy in mind and body. If such a person is unable to think of Him when he is on his deathbed, then that does not mean that the Lord will not grant him liberation. The Lord will think of the person's devotion and will grant him moksha.

The Lord pointing to such an easy route for us is significant. One can resort to one of the three yogas spoken of in the Bhagavad Gita. But there are many hurdles that we will have to surmount. One may resort to bhakti yoga, and may focus on Him throughout one's life. But the last thoughts of a person must be of the Lord for bhakti yoga to have its effect of achieving liberation for the jivatma. If a person's last thoughts are not of Him, then an entire life spent in bhakti will still not get him the desired result, namely moksha. This difficulty is avoided if we surrender to Him when we are strong and healthy. So, thinking of Him when the end is near is not necessary.

But then it may be argued that if this is the case, then it goes against the Sastras which say that 'thought' is necessary at the end of one's life. That is not so is explained by Acharyas. They point out that the Lord in the Varaha avatar promises that He will think of a person's devotion to Him. So thought is not absent. The only difference is that instead of the jivatma doing the thinking, it is the Paramatma who does the thinking! It is because Varaha revealed such an easy way to attain moksha that He is known krtAnta krt – the One who gave us a valuable krtAnta (siddhanta).

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12667



ACROSS

- Regular chit chat, deal with the insect (6)
- Extremely courageous – visitor takes its place (8)
- Gets scared to criticize old bureaucracy (6)
- Climber working in Oracle (8)
- What Sam perhaps stole before comes to boil (8)

(set by Arden)

3 Medication, not an alternative for a clean up (15)

5 Supported by not company voucher (4)

6 Glistening tents set up with plants (8,7)

7 It makes you throw up – throw up the thing in church (6)

8 Herb's tense, standby (6)

11 Clue, goes in through Great Britain (7)

14 Foreign character will ignore China in short (7)

16 Boat's tidy, guaranty from the centre (8)

17 Left in the head, block this coagulant (8)

19 Open and stop the investigators (6)

IN BRIEF



Harden apologises for China traffic violation

SHANGHAI Houston Rockets' James Harden who was blocked by a traffic officer in China for allegedly riding against traffic and in an area where scooters are forbidden has apologised for his action. "I would like to apologize for violating traffic rules during my scooter ride today. Not a good example obviously but I was just trying to enjoy the city as much as possible. Thank you for your understanding and I'll make sure to abide by the rules next time here," Harden wrote on his Weibo account.



Rashford pens new four-year deal at United

LONDON Marcus Rashford has committed his long-term future to Manchester United after agreeing a new four-year contract, reportedly worth £250,000 a week, with the option for a further year on Monday. AFP



Juventus snaps up Luca Pellegrini

ROME Luca Pellegrini became reigning Serie A champion Juventus' first summer signing after moving from Roma on a €22-million, four-year deal. The promising Pellegrini, 20, came through the ranks at Roma before spending last season on loan at Cagliari. Fellow defender Leonardo Spinazzola moved the other way as part of the deal. AFP

Indian team bounces back to make final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DOHA

Led by 21-time World champion Pankaj Advani and Laxman Rawat, India fought back from the brink of defeat to beat Ireland 3-2 and give itself a chance of defending the IBSF Snooker World Cup title, here on Monday.

The final will be played Wednesday against Pakistan, which overcame Qatar 3-1 in the other semifinal.

Jehan's podium run continues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SPIELBERG

India's racing sensation Jehan Daruvala continued his amazing streak of podiums, with a second place finish in Round 3 of the FIA Formula 3 Championship here.

Jehan once again proved his mettle in the sprint event of the championship late on Sunday, a support race for the Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix at the 4.318km long, Redbull Ring Circuit.

In qualifying, Jehan was on a quick lap before the red flag stopped the session. In the short time available once the session resumed, Jehan was able to qualify fourth, with a lap-time of 1:19.934.

I have my own game, says Pujara

His style, though, like Dravid's is based on sound defence and composure

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

His eyes are firmly set on the goals. He walks the hard yards. Cheteshwar Pujara oozes commitment.

Here, he is, in Chennai's searing heat, to play in the TNCA first division league for MRC-A. "I want to get some match practise ahead of the Test series in the West Indies," he said to *The Hindu*.

Although he is tuned in to the demands of the modern game, an old fashioned goodness in Pujara is unmistakable. There is this honesty in his smile, strength in his dedication and truth in his words.

Here is a man who fought the forces that threatened to consume him with sweat, mind, heart and technique to emerge India's leading batsman on the historic tour of Australia.

Contemporary great

His 521 runs in the four Test series down under included three centuries and came at a whopping 74.42. Pujara, much like his inspiration Rahul Dravid, is unassuming, humble, but already has a place among the contemporary greats of the game with

5426 runs in 68 Tests at 51.18.

Growing up Pujara was hugely influenced by Dravid and often sought the maestro's guidance during the years that shaped his cricket. "But I do not try to copy him. I have my own game."

Like Dravid, his game is based on a sound defence and he too has composure during times of distress. "Keeping my mind blank helps. I do not overthink. Between deliveries too I keep my mind blank and it helps me concentrate better."

Technical change

A crucial technical change in Pujara's game a couple of years ago made his batting more secure. He worked on his backlift, got his willow to come down straighter rather than from third-man.

Talk to Pujara about this and he responded, "That certainly was one of the factors that improved my batting. Technique is important but there are other elements such as your preparation and your mind."

It is Pujara's belief, that strength of mind, that enabled him make comebacks when he was according to many, rather unfairly,

dropped from the Test side.

"You do become sad but you reflect and come out stronger. I always had the confidence in my game to come back," said Pujara.

Ask him about showing 'intent' in the middle and Pujara replied, "It is more about how you respond to different situations. You need to see the conditions, the quality of the bowling, and the needs of the team."

Back-foot play

Pujara's strong back-foot play has enabled him take on the fast and furious bowlers away from the sub-continent. "I can play the cut and the pull shot. Footwork is important."

The Saurashtra batsman said he could score runs quickly if the occasion demanded. "I have played a lot more strokes when I am with the tail and there is a need to score faster for the team."

Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel are the toughest pace bowling pair Pujara has faced. "Pace, bounce and movement, they had it all."

Now Pujara is eyeing another season of sunshine and glory.



In full flow: Cheteshwar Pujara will be action in the TNCA First Division for MRC-A as he attempts to gain match practice ahead of the West Indies series. •FILE PHOTO: M. KARUNANKARAN

Abhijeet outwits Thipsay

Arvindh and Thej Kumar checkmate rivals

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Fierce battles were the order of the day, leaving only three players with perfect scores following the third round of the Commonwealth chess championship here on Monday.

Top seed Abhijeet Gupta was the notable winner over Pravin Thipsay, the country's oldest Grandmaster, in their top-board encounter. National champion Aravindh Chithambaram, seeded three, and M.S. Thej Kumar, seeded 13, weaved checkmating nets to emerge as leaders.

Among the overnight leaders, R. Vaishali holding Arjun Erigaisi, the young seventh seed, in a 67-move battle was the biggest surprise. But fourth seed M.R. Lalit Babu, trailing the leaders by half a point, was the highest



Abhijeet Gupta. •FILE PHOTO

seed to split the point after facing Bhakti Kulkarni.

Clinical victory

Abhijeet's 35-move triumph in Sicilian was a clinical one. In an encounter where the margin for error was very slim, Abhijeet captured one of white's central-pawn on the 19th move to seize the

edge. After simplification on the queen-side, Abhijeet appeared to be pressing for a decisive advantage when Thipsay gave up.

On the second board, Aravindh came up with a superb finish against S. Nitin. Playing aggressively after employing the Sicilian defence, Aravindh managed to post his knight on a strategic square in line with the castled white king and delivered a classy checkmate with a rook-blow.

The results (third round):

Pravin Thipsay (2) lost to Abhijeet Gupta (3); S. Nitin (2) lost to Aravindh Chithambaram (3); R. Vaishali (2.5) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (2.5); Swapnil Dhopade (2.5) drew with K. Ratnakaran (2.5); Rahul Sangma (2) lost to M.S. Thej Kumar (3); P. Karthikyan (2.5) drew with L.R. Srihari (2.5); Ajay Karthikyan (2.5) drew with R.R. Laxman (2.5) V. Varshini (2) lost to C.R.G. Krishna (2.5); M.R. Lalit Babu (2) drew with Bhakti Kulkarni (2).

'Messi, Aguero will have to sweat it out'

They will have work cut out against Brazilian defence; Jesus



Influential duo: If Argentina is to unlock Brazil's stingy defence, Sergio Aguero and Lionel Messi will have to bring their A-game. •REUTERS

"Obviously they have Messi, who is the best player in the world, and they have Aguero, one of the best centre-forwards, but they're going to have to sweat to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch.

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Obviously they have Messi, who is the best player in the world, and they have Aguero, one of the best centre-forwards, but they're going to have to sweat to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and says Brazil's defence won't give Argentina's forward line an inch."

"It's tough to get behind a defence that doesn't concede goals," he said.

"It's also a long time since we conceded a goal. It's very important to have a solid defence."

"Jesus expects a tight contest in

50% of Raymond's sales comes from the casual section selling twice as much as in tier-1 and 2 cities.

Roses are still the most popular flower, shares Ferns N Petals.

Colorbar's primer is the top seller in tier-3 cities.

HP is seeing strong purchasing in gaming and entertainment.

Cycle sales are higher per capita in most tier-3 cities, according to Track and Trail.

SUNALINI MATHEW

There is, in Gangtok, a store called Harrods Hari that has shoes, bags and clothes on sale. In Agartala, Infosys is a computer accessories shop. And in Raichur, men buy clothes from 'Mango', where shirts and trousers cost ₹390 on sale.

The aspirations of small-city India is a hackneyed subject. Except now it may not be a single story of people racing to get to the big city. For instance, the Raichur store's owner also has a Raymond's store in Kurnool. There's an ASICS outlet in Sri Ganganagar, where 30 years ago there was next to no retail. You can shop at Vans in Gangtok, buy a bike at the Firefox store in Kakinada, and go to an Imagine store, Apple's "premium reseller", in Udupi.

Going beyond GRT Jewellers and Lucky Silks, so many of our category Z cities, classified such by the Government of India to fix HRA (₹1,800+ per month) for its staff, have Samsung Smart Cafes, mobile phone-only showrooms. There are Adidas-Puma-Reebok stores practically everywhere, along with fashion brands AND-Global Desi double act, W and Biba. With bigger brands moving into smaller cities, it is changing the landscape and the people.

Into the hinterland

There are roughly 170-200 Z category cities, with a population of two to six lakh, with distances of less than 15km that are being tapped into. Swapna Seth - who heads digital advertising agency, ThisContent, and luxury platform, Luxortium - lived in Delhi, until he recently moved to Naldehra, in Himachal Pradesh. He says if you look at people across the world, they now have four 'wearables' in common: "a phone, a pair of earphones, a backpack, and sneakers, irrespective of where they live. I see girls here in *salwar kameez* with their backpacks and keds."

This ties in with what former ad man and design thinker V Sunil says about global hipster fashion. "The reference point is the same, so you see the beard, a similar haircut, loose shorts. You may be a student, design professional, movie maker or a trade-union leader. You may not live the same

Why brands are seeing 'Z'

With metro cities reaching saturation levels for retail, the big India brand story is now moving to tier-3 cities

the same experience back home." People moving back to their home towns after spending time in cities also help take back change. Fabindia's partner in Imphal was working in Delhi, and wanted to start something of his own once he retired from a government job.

Brands found that customers are on the same page as sustainability advocates today: shop less, buy quality. "We realised that consumers in tier-3 cities prefer buying one-time quality products rather than shopping frequently for cheaper products," says Harikirat Singh, MD, Woodland Worldwide. The footwear brand has its own stores in Palakkad, Kannur, Rohtak, Karnal and Dharmsala.

Lifestyle-product drivers like 'fancy' cycles for recreation and health, are also changing how people interact in small cities. Track and Trail stores that sell cycles and related gear, have found their Fun Fitness Freedom rides, which use the



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

store as a hub to assemble, bring "doctors, army officers, police officers, top brass government officials, district collectors and other bureaucrats together temporarily", says Sheriyar Unwalla, GM, Retail. This creation of cycling communities is easier in small cities, where distances are not as great.

Clovia, the innerwear brand, found that 50% of its online sales were from small cities, pushing them to open stores in places such as Gandhidham, Purulia, Bhilwara. While many things were similar ("fashion styles") moved just as well in non-metros, Neha Kant, the founder, also found differences. Advertising, for one, works better in smaller towns. "We've done hoardings in Delhi - people don't see it and walk into a store. In a smaller city, they will. And they'll talk to the store manager about it, so interactions are more personal," she says.

Taking it further

Raymond, which has been in retail for 60 years, and has 990+ stores, including Mini TRS (The Raymond Shop), in 600+ towns, was one of the first who went into tier-2 and 3 cities, realising as early as 2008, the importance of emerging markets. Today, they're going deeper, based on a study of over 100 outlets in tier-4 and 5 markets. While tier-3 cities give them 9-10% of total revenue, tier 3+ give them 38-40% revenue, says

Amit Kumar Sirrohi, Head, Raymond Retail Business, Strategy and Project Management.

A 2017 report by global management consulting firm BCG, titled *The New Indian: The Many Facets of a Changing Consumer*,

stated that "more than half of all new internet users will be in rural communities". HP, the multinational information technology company, is responding to this, with a presence in 150 tier-3 and 40-50 tier-4 cities. But they're doing more, with an integration of their back-end systems that will see HP World and online retail merged on to a single platform. With this, the company will soon be able to tell exactly what is selling from what store, says Gurpreet Singh Brar, senior director, HP India Sales. It will help them send customers targeted messages later (like upgrading a laptop bag or a battery). This is another factor for looping small pockets into the big plans of giant brands. With access to similar incentives as stores in big cities, employees feel a part of a global entity.

Last mile connectivity

Another link in this network is Boonbox, a six-year-old Chennai-based digital rural retail start-up that supplies to *talukas* and below, with a sub-50k population, where Amazon and Flipkart don't reach across categories. They have tie-ups with affiliates, 60% of whom are women. These women have phones with online catalogues. They share the catalogue with people and place orders. Boonbox, which is present in 15 states, has 650 fulfilment centres at the *taluk* level, which deliver the product to the person's doorstep.

They reiterate the fact that consumer behaviour here is no different from a metro, with people demanding certain brands: Samsung, Oppo, Redmi. "They want LED screens and they would rather compromise on the size, than the brand or opt for a lower product category like an LCD," says Karthik Natarajan, co-founder and director. The most popular TV is a 32-inch LED, LG. With fridges, it's a 210-265 litre Whirlpool, Samsung or LG. "Consumers are aware and brand loyal," he says.

Will luxury ever reach category Z? Unlike, says Dinaz Madhukar, Executive VP, DLF Retail, Luxury and Hospitality. The perception will always be that the big city has the latest, and people may have a fear of things being dumped there, she says. There's also the infrastructure problem, and the fact that people are willing, even waiting, to come to the big city to shop luxury.

PRODUCT



Homegrown heritage

Ishaavi, a sustainable clothing brand, has a new collection called Glass Bamboo, featuring muslin jamdani sourced from Kolkata weavers. Nisha Arora, Creative Director & Co-founder, says she uses this to produce minimalist silhouettes. Glass bamboo is a reference to the technique known for its detailed, diaphanous motifs woven into the fabric on the loom itself. The brand positions itself as responsible, given that it sources natural fabrics from weaving communities across India, with the dyeing process being carcinogen (azo vat)-free.

Available on Instagram @ishaaviofficial, ₹2,500 upward

For a listing or to be featured here, email us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



FOOD

Special menu
Gurugram's brew-pub and diner, Vapour Bar Exchange, has some additions in their Arabian, European, and Indian sections. For starters, the new menu offers smoked greg galawati, Mexican mollettes, mutton pasanda, yum bocai and sui mai din sums, and a great deal more, all pairing well with the brew.

VENUE: Vipul Trade Center, Sector 48, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight

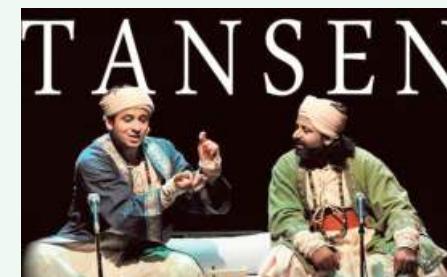


EXHIBITION

Modern art
To coincide with the 3rd death anniversary of Indian modern artist Raza, the Raza Foundation presents an exclusive art show titled, *Sang Saath*. Besides Raza's works, the show also features the works of renowned artists namely, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, M F Husain and Akbar Padamsee.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



THEATRE

Musical drama
The Trialogue Company will stage Hindi play, *Tansen*, this evening. It explores the journey through the life of legendary poet Tansen. It answers questions about what made him great, and about his search till the end of his life. It is not only a documentation of Tansen's life but also a viewer's parallel exploration of the artist.

VENUE: The Attic, Regal Building

TIME: 6 p.m.



MUSIC

Salsa nights
This Tuesday, music lovers can visit DonTelMama, a restaurant-cum-lounge, and get entertained with Latin grooves like Salsa, Bachata and Kizomba. Try out Salsa moves, challenge yourself to cha-cha-cha with DJ Harneet Ajmani and DJ Sunny. To refresh yourself between dances, sip a handful of mocktails.

VENUE: D-14, 3rd Floor, South Extension 2

TIME: 9 p.m. onwards



FILM

African thriller
Alliance Francaise de Delhi is screening, *Wulu*, an African thriller this morning. Written and directed by Daouda Coulibaly, it is a tale of Ladji, a 20-year-old hard worker. When he doesn't get a promotion, Ladji decides to get involved in high-end drug trafficking, to get out from the poverty he feels stuck in.

VENUE: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Lodhi Estate

TIME: 10 a.m.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



FOOD

Special menu
Gurugram's brew-pub and diner, Vapour Bar Exchange, has some additions in their Arabian, European, and Indian sections. For starters, the new menu offers smocked greg galawati, Mexican mollettes, mutton pasanda, yum bocai and sui mai din sums, and a great deal more, all pairing well with the brew.

VENUE: Vipul Trade Center, Sector 48, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight

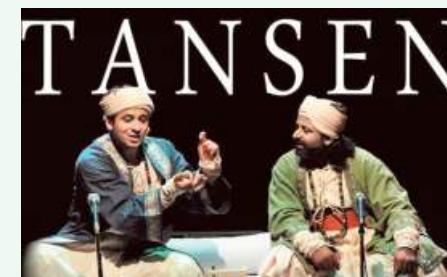


EXHIBITION

Modern art
To coincide with the 3rd death anniversary of Indian modern artist Raza, the Raza Foundation presents an exclusive art show titled, *Sang Saath*. Besides Raza's works, the show also features the works of renowned artists namely, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, M F Husain and Akbar Padamsee.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



THEATRE

Musical drama
The Trialogue Company will stage Hindi play, *Tansen*, this evening. It explores the journey through the life of legendary poet Tansen. It answers questions about what made him great, and about his search till the end of his life. It is not only a documentation of Tansen's life but also a viewer's parallel exploration of the artist.

VENUE: The Attic, Regal Building

TIME: 6 p.m.



MUSIC

Salsa nights
This Tuesday, music lovers can visit DonTelMama, a restaurant-cum-lounge, and get entertained with Latin grooves like Salsa, Bachata and Kizomba. Try out Salsa moves, challenge yourself to cha-cha-cha with DJ Harneet Ajmani and DJ Sunny. To refresh yourself between dances, sip a handful of mocktails.

VENUE: D-14, 3rd Floor, South Extension 2

TIME: 9 p.m. onwards



FILM

African thriller
Alliance Francaise de Delhi is screening, *Wulu*, an African thriller this morning. Written and directed by Daouda Coulibaly, it is a tale of Ladji, a 20-year-old hard worker. When he doesn't get a promotion, Ladji decides to get involved in high-end drug trafficking, to get out from the poverty he feels stuck in.

VENUE: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Lodhi Estate

TIME: 10 a.m.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



FOOD

Special menu
Gurugram's brew-pub and diner, Vapour Bar Exchange, has some additions in their Arabian, European, and Indian sections. For starters, the new menu offers smocked greg galawati, Mexican mollettes, mutton pasanda, yum bocai and sui mai din sums, and a great deal more, all pairing well with the brew.

VENUE: Vipul Trade Center, Sector 48, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight

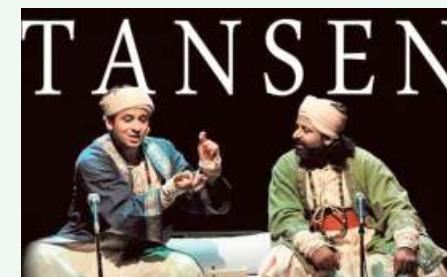


EXHIBITION

Modern art
To coincide with the 3rd death anniversary of Indian modern artist Raza, the Raza Foundation presents an exclusive art show titled, *Sang Saath*. Besides Raza's works, the show also features the works of renowned artists namely, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, M F Husain and Akbar Padamsee.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



THEATRE

Musical drama
The Trialogue Company will stage Hindi play, *Tansen*, this evening. It explores the journey through the life of legendary poet Tansen. It answers questions about what made him great, and about his search till the end of his life. It is not only a documentation of Tansen's life but also a viewer's parallel exploration of the artist.

VENUE: The Attic, Regal Building

TIME: 6 p.m.



MUSIC

Salsa nights
This Tuesday, music lovers can visit DonTelMama, a restaurant-cum-lounge, and get entertained with Latin grooves like Salsa, Bachata and Kizomba. Try out Salsa moves, challenge yourself to cha-cha-cha with DJ Harneet Ajmani and DJ Sunny. To refresh yourself between dances, sip a handful of mocktails.

VENUE: D-14, 3rd Floor, South Extension 2

TIME: 9 p.m. onwards



FILM

African thriller
Alliance Fran

On the money

A team of Delhi high-schoolers have made their mark at an MIT-led global youth entrepreneurship platform with their low-cost home automation device

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

When they joined the LaunchX club in their school in July last year, Neil Dey (17), Akaash Parthasarathy (14), Arya Srivastava (14), and Aryan Chand (15) thought their interest in tech would carry them through. Dey was in Class XI, and the rest were in Class IX.

"The idea is to help us prep for and build an actual company, which solves an existing problem in the market at the end of the day. It's not just about a 'school project,'" explains Chand.

The solution

Home automation, the tech that lets you switch your electrical appliances on and off remotely, isn't really a new concept at all. But its adoption rate in India is low and slow. The sheer expense of making a home 'smart' is the primary reason.

"This adds to the mindset that people have right now, where they just don't see the point of home automation. Not only is it convenient, but it also helps you gain insights into your power usage patterns, especially if the

Affordable tech
Swifti has been thoughtfully created to fill a market gap in home automation

* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

THINKING OF PRIVACY

Swifti believes that "eventually, we're moving into a world where every little bit about us is going to be available to everyone." Having said that, they have thought of the data that their devices collect. "We're doing everything to protect privacy – the data is not even going to be accessible to us, only to the device," Dey says.

device comes with an app, like ours does," says Dey. "People are more willing to experience it if it's a small investment, so cost-efficiency is a massive selling point."

To tackle this price barrier, Swifti sources all parts of their standard switch-board-sized device from the local electronics market. This reduces their overheads. Additionally, instead of investing in an injection moulding, they're currently only 3D-print-

ing. "We'll only invest in a one-time injection moulding once this is finalised," Dey says.

Giants like Philips Hue offer only individual smart lights between ₹2,500 and ₹3,000. Another competitor, Sonoff, has a device much like Swifti's, which can control four to eight smart appliances for a price of ₹8,000; however, Swifti's device distinguishes itself in this segment not only with a lower price (₹2,500 to ₹3,000), but also by offering control to bigger appliances like air-conditioners and geysers.

The team has also added a remote-control for the devices, in addition to their compatibility with smart assistants like Google Home and Alexa, as well as an in-house app.

Still self-funded and helped along through the resources of family and friends, the four students behind Swifti are now planning to participate in national competitions such as Techronext, an ICT conclave by the Punjab Public School in Nabha, Patiala. They will also soon start a crowd-funding campaign to be able to take it to market. The immediate aim is to start selling their devices by the first quarter of the 2020 fiscal year.



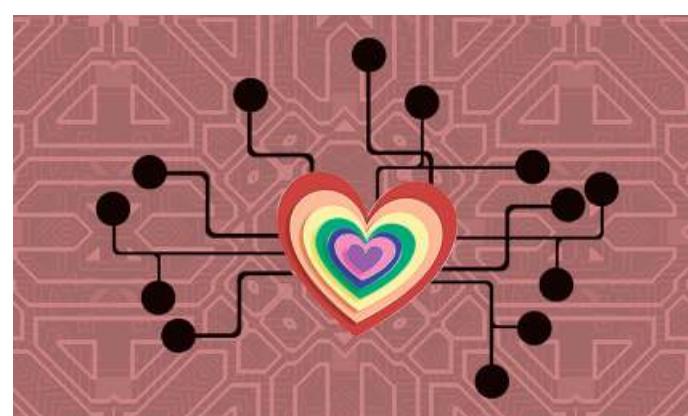
Coming together

Through the pre-programme test and course work phases, Dey found that he engaged with tech best through a business development perspective; Parthasarathy realised he was good with numbers and with money; Srivastava, that he has a knack to understand the tech market; and Chand, his passion for the nitty gritty of the tech itself.

It is this alchemy of talents, brought together as their startup-in-the-making Swifti, that saw them through the Asia finals of LaunchX in Bangkok this March. Here, Swifti, which makes affordable home automation systems with manual control options in case of Wi-Fi failure, was given the Top Inventor and Global Finalist titles, pushing them to qualify for the main summer LaunchX programme at MIT later in May.



WANDERING AROUND THE WEB



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI
Only for online besties?

I recently came across a survey done by Snapchat, the app which is defunct on my phone. The Friendship Report, commissioned in partnership with Protein Agency, polled 10,000 people in the age group of 13 to 75 from Australia, France, Germany, India, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the UK and the US. In India, 2,004 respondents participated in the survey in April 2019.

The results say, "Indians have on average six best friends". Best Friends are when you stay 'in touch' with someone via Snaps for two months in a row. Seeing 'six' seems like a lot of work to me; my friends know I appreciate them, already.

Then it claims "Gen Z is turning away from large friendship circles." This is true; the digital age has made cliques redundant. We now have a friend for movies, a friend for ranting with, a friend we call a 'work friend'. A 25% portion of said Gen Y believes chatting through apps has brought them closer to their friends.

Cheesily enough, "73% of Indians say that video and photos help them to express what they want to say in a way that they can't with words."

With TikTok and Dubsmash being the platforms where the multimedia does the talking for you, why not? You can admit your true feelings to your friend through a poorly lip-synced version of 'Channa Mereya.'

The statement in the survey of "love is central to friendship in India" had me clueless. But the explanation had me nodding and then laughing out loud,

"Indians are most ready to fall fast for a friend, 23% became best friends at 'first like,' as if this is *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. Wasn't Rahul just the worst, though?"

#WeMetOnTwitter

Over the weekend, for barely a blink of a second, the #WeMetOnTwitter was trending, before the cricket hype started. The hashtag has been alive on the platform, complete with its own automated little blue heart next to it, for as long as I can remember, but I found myself welling up at some of the newer stories from friendships to marriages with kids.

Storyteller @darthdevi shared with the hashtag, "We were following each other for a while and I decided to slide into his DMs in 2017. He was in Dubai then. We now live together."

More such tweets circulated, enough to make me feel so sweet and yet so sickly.

However, I would have loved to have seen more LGBTQIA+ posts around the hashtag, not just for Pride Month but through the years.

Some, however, weren't so happy. @clumsyassdani shared, "Please listen carefully, Twitter is not a dating app!"

@bricaprii responded, "Ma'am you're wrong Twitter is the new dating app #WeMetOnTwitter."

Well, I guess that settles that.

Then there were the tweets which had me choking on my Pepsi (not sponsored).

@drunknibba says, "Guys I think it's time to make it official and let you all know that @depression and I are engaged. #WeMetOnTwitter."

Rants and rambling across cyberspace

POOCH CAFE



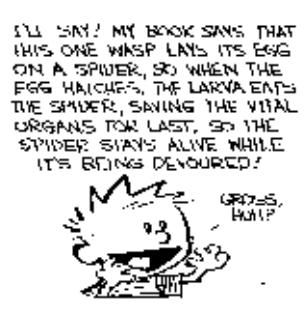
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



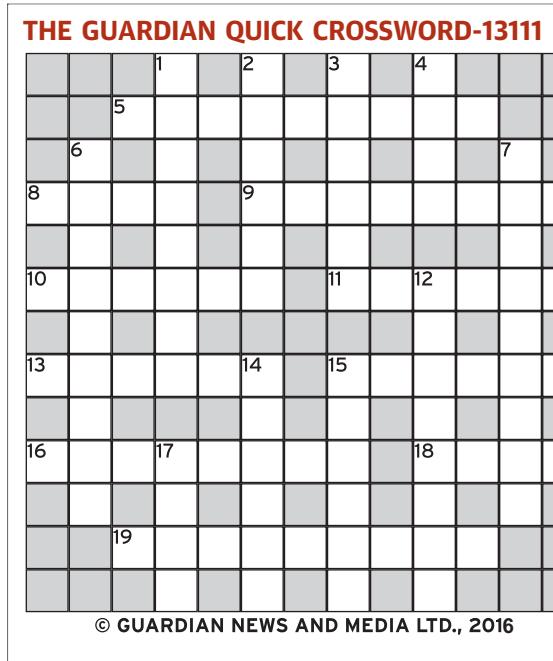
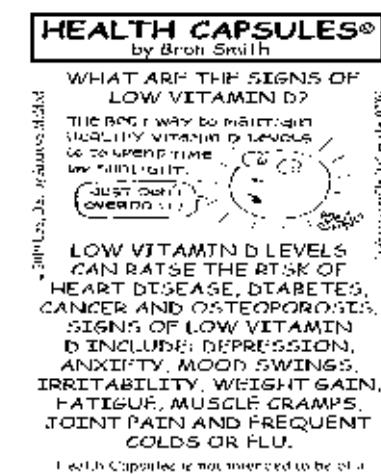
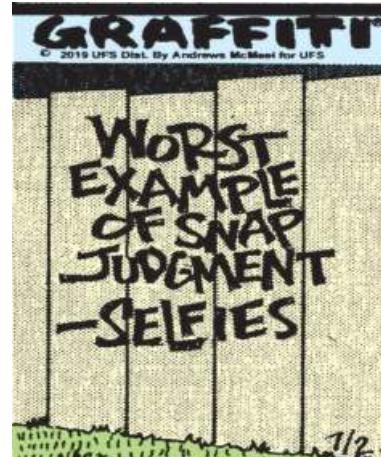
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



WUMO



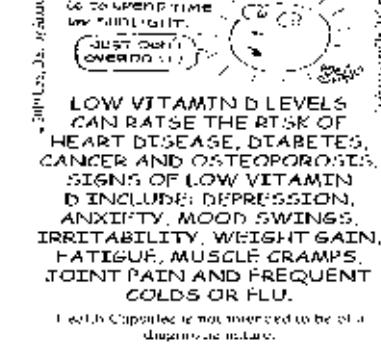
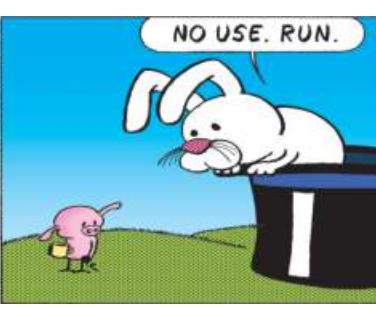
- 4 Fairy of Persian folklore (4)
- 6 Size (9)
- 7 Without offspring (9)
- 12 Relevant (8)
- 14 More profound (6)
- 15 Duty list (6)
- 17 Fruit of the blackthorn (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated July 3, 2019.

Solution No. 13110



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



- 16 Homeric wanderer (8)
- 18 Sliding window frame (4)
- 19 Short work of fiction (9)
- 20 Down
- 1 Jewish festival celebrated in March or April (8)
- 2 Worldwide (6)
- 3 Ascore (6)

CM YK

IN BRIEF



Paris clamps down on old diesel vehicles

PARIS
Paris on Monday banned all diesel vehicles aged 13 years or over from the city centre, the latest move in a campaign to tackle pollution. Diesel vehicles over 18 years and petrol vehicles over 21 years are already banned in the city. A Greenpeace report listed Paris as the worst western European capital for small particle air pollution in 2018. AFP



Warren Buffett donates \$3.6 billion to charities

NEW YORK
Warren Buffett is donating roughly \$3.6 billion of Berkshire Hathaway Inc stock to five charities, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the biggest contribution in Mr. Buffett's plan to give away his fortune. The donation will boost the total amount Mr. Buffett has given to the charities to more than \$34.5 billion. REUTERS



Kim Kardashian to rename 'Kimono' brand

WASHINGTON
Pop culture icon Kim Kardashian West said on Monday that she will change the name of her new "Kimono" line of underwear, after being accused of cultural appropriation. She had faced backlash from many Japanese for "disrespecting" their traditional outfit. AFP



A 3,000-year-old stone bust of Tutankhamun is set to be auctioned. AFP

Tutankhamun auction in U.K. sparks outcry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON
A 3,000-year-old head sculpture of an eternally young Tutankhamun, the Egyptian pharaoh, goes under the hammer this week in London despite an outcry from Cairo.

Christie's expects the 28.5 cm (11 inch) brown quartzite relic from the private Resandro Collection of ancient art to fetch more than £4 million (\$5.1 million) on Thursday.

But Egyptian authorities overseeing the north African country's unparalleled collection of antiquities want to see the auction halted and the treasure returned. "The Egyptian embassy in London requested the British foreign affairs ministry and the auction hall to stop the sale," Egypt's Foreign Ministry said on June 10. Former antiquities minister Zahi Hawass said that the piece appears to have been "stolen" in the 1970s from the Karnak Temple complex of Egypt's great monuments. "They have not shown any legal papers to prove its ownership."

"Ancient objects by their nature cannot be traced over millennia... It is important to establish recent ownership and legal right to sell which we have clearly done," Christie's said.

Soon, first of its kind audiovisual archive on the northeast

Shillong will house the non-commercial venture, where users can access cinema, documentaries and anthropological material from October

NAMRATA JOSHI
MUMBAI

It was three years ago, while making his film *La Mana* ('Not allowed') on his marriage to a Khasi woman and the anxieties in the hill tribe in general about such mixed marriages, that filmmaker Tarun Bhartiya came face to face with the difficulties in procuring archival footage and relevant images and videos for his subject. "There are very few places to go to for accessing the visual history of the northeast," he said.

A representative of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan, who was attending a seminar in Guwahati with Mr. Bhartiya, suggested that he commenced research on it, and thus the base for the North East India Archive was

laid. Come October and the first of its kind, public, non-commercial audiovisual archive on and in the northeast will be formally functional.

Addressing access

It will be situated at the Department of Mass Media, St. Anthony's College, Shillong, where students, scholars, researchers, filmmaker and film enthusiasts would be able to access the material offline. The archive will also have a digital/web platform of its own.

Supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the launch will be held at St. Anthony's College and simultaneously announced at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (YIDFF). To mark the



Welsh missionaries being transported from the Bangladesh plains to Khasi hills by human porters. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

launch, YIDFF will have a special section of films from northeast India this year, titled 'Rustle of spring, whiff of gunpowder: From the North East India Archives', and curated by Asako Fujioka.

An important component

of the archive will be the cinema of the northeast. There are also news reels and Films Division documentaries, and footage from early local cable news channels. "It's difficult for filmmakers and students to access even each other's films," says Nathaniel Nam-pui Majaw, Project Director of the archive and Assistant Professor in the Mass Media Department of St. Anthony's College. "We are not even able to access films from the States next door," said Mr. Bhartiya – a gap that the archive hopes to plug.

Mr. Bhartiya, who is the research consultant for the project, has also gathered material from sources such as the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, the British Library and the National Library of Wales. Veteran Manipuri filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma has already pledged all his films to the archive. There is one available roll of the first Khasi film made by a Khasi filmmaker – well-

known historian Hamlet Barreh's *Ka Synjuk Riki Lai-phew Siem*, on the 30 chiefs who founded Khasi society. A film conservation workshop will be held in December under the tutelage of filmmaker and founder-director of the not-for-profit Film Heritage Foundation, Shivendra Singh Dungarpur.

User-friendly

Besides films, the archive will also feature audiovisual material of anthropological value, like a set of pictures of indigenous people taken by Welsh Calvinist missionaries from late-19th and early-20th centuries from the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth. There is also a 1919 documentary on tea, and *Headhunters*, a BBC documentary on the Nagas.

"It won't just be a repository but [a] properly catalogued [archive] for easy access," said Mr. Bhartiya, a native of Bihar who grew up, married and settled in Shillong. "Users can interact with the images and offer multiple levels of information."

Mr. Majaw concurred, "It's not just about collecting material and putting it under lock and key." An interactive space has been conceptualised for the users. "They can have their own vision, and create their own narratives and playlists from the material available," he added.

In preparation for the formal start of the archive, a northeast India Archive Summit will be held in Shillong on July 19 and 20.

Insect apocalypse: German bug watchers sound alarm

Insects, comprising two thirds of terrestrial species, are dying at alarming rates

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KREFELD

For almost 30 years they passed as quirky eccentrics, diligently setting up their insect traps in the Rhine countryside to collect tens of millions of bugs and creepy crawlers.

Now, the group of German entomology enthusiasts can boast a world-class scientific treasure: evidence of what is described as one of earth's worst extinction phases since the dinosaurs vanished.

Insects, which comprise two thirds of all terrestrial species, have been dying at alarming rates, with disastrous impacts on food chains



Martin Sorg checking bottles of collected insects in Krefeld, Germany. ■ AFP

and habitats, researchers say.

The home of the Amateur Entomology Society of Krefeld on the Dutch border is a former school building where thick curtains block

out the sunlight. Inside, in glass cabinets are stored thousands of butterflies, their wings bleached by time, along with exotic fist-sized beetles and dragonflies, brought back from around the world by amateur collectors.

Treasure trove
Traditionally, "entomology was mainly about drying and collecting rare specimens," says the society's president Martin Sorg.

"Since 1982, the traps we manufacture ourselves have been standardised and controlled, all of the same size and the same material, and they are collected at the

same rate in 63 locations that are still identical," explains Mr. Sorg.

If he is visibly proud of the society's research, the outcome terrifies him. In the test period, the total biomass of flying insects here has plummeted by 76%.

To demonstrate the rapid decline, a lab technician holds up two bottles – one from 1994 containing 1,400 gm of trapped insects while the newest one just 300 gm.

"We only became aware of the seriousness of this decline in 2011, and every year since then we have seen it get worse," said Mr. Sorg, the man who sounded the alarm.

Vessels set sail as Japan resumes commercial whaling

The country brushes aside outrage, calls it a Japanese tradition

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KUSHIRO

Japan began its first commercial whale hunts in more than three decades on Monday, brushing aside outrage over its resumption of a practice that conservationists call cruel and outdated.

Five vessels from whaling communities left port in northern Japan's Kushiro and by afternoon, a first whale had been caught.

The country's Fisheries Agency said it had set a cap for a total catch of 227 whales through the season until late December.

The hunts come after Japan's withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission.



Big catch: A captured Minke whale is unloaded after commercial whaling at a port in Kushiro, on Monday. ■ AFP

mission, a move slammed by anti-whaling activists but welcomed by Japanese whaling communities.

Whaling has long proved

a diplomatic flashpoint for Tokyo, which says the practice is a Japanese tradition that should not be subject to international interference.

'Wellbeing buses': a home for London's homeless

Occupants can sleep, dine and cook

REUTERS
LONDON

jority of whom were new to bedding down in parks or doorways.

Mr. Atkins, who devised the initiative after seeing a friend sleeping in a coach luggage compartment, said he wanted to "understand how and why people become homeless, and help reintegrate them into society".

The buses which were donated by transport company Stagecoach will provide a three-month programme during which passengers can learn to cook, receive basic business training or enjoy a yoga class.

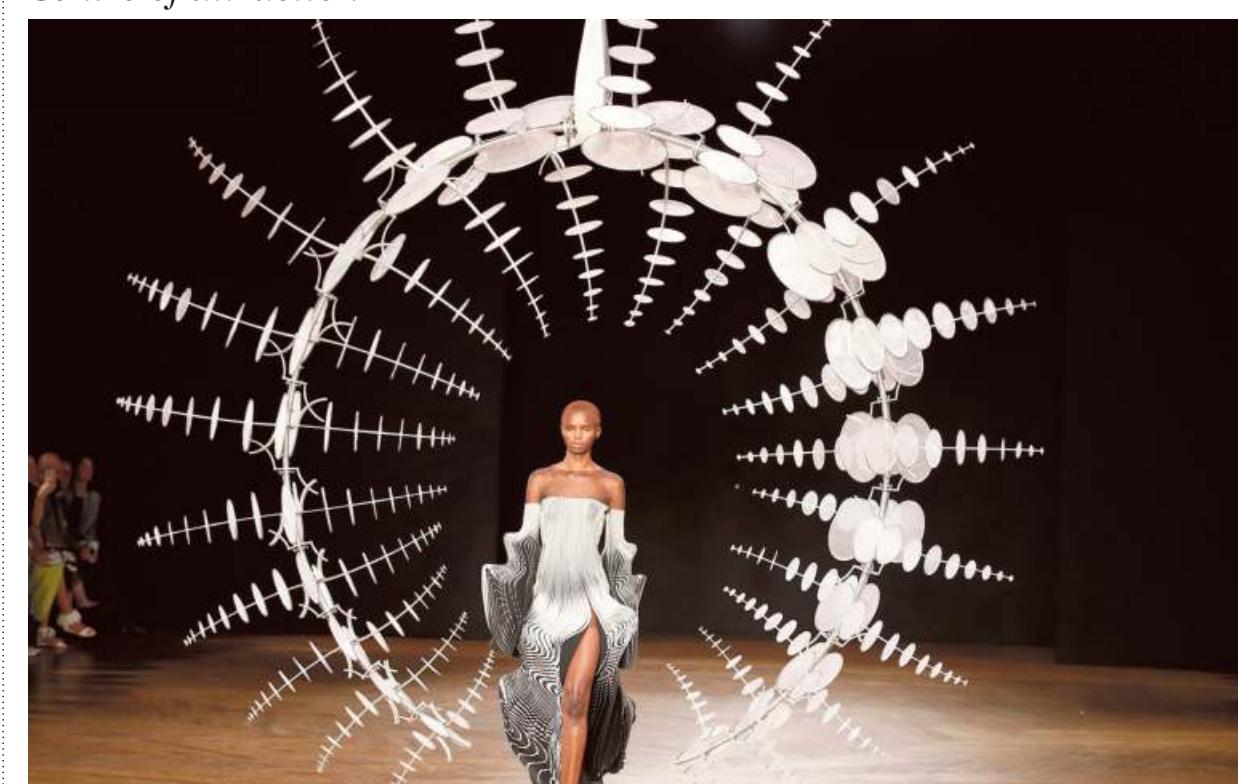
Alternative shelter
Slouched on a wooden bench on the grass-covered top of the fleet's "wellbeing bus", a man in his fifties animatedly types on his mobile phone. Mr. James, homeless since threats from a drug-dealing neighbour forced him to leave his Brixton flat last October, has been sleeping on one of the buses after meeting Atkins although the shelter has not officially opened yet. "It was either leave (my home) or end up dead... but the housing association never found me another flat," said Mr. James, whose name has been changed to protect his identity.

"And that's what's sorely missing in London as the number of beds in night shelters gets slashed and housing remains unaffordable for too many," he added.

Homelessness has been rising in England for nearly a decade amid rising private rents, a freeze on welfare benefits and a shortage of social housing.

Rough sleeping in London rose by 18% over the last year, hitting a decade high of 8,855 people, a database funded by the mayor of London showed in June, the ma-

Centre of attraction



A model presenting a creation by Iris van Herpen during the Women's Fall-Winter 2019/2020 Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris on Monday. ■ AP

Think of Jesus when online, says Church

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

The Church of England on Monday urged Christians to follow the example of Jesus when interacting on social media, as it launched a new digital charter to create a "positive atmosphere" online.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby visited the British headquarters of Facebook to launch the charter, which asks individuals and churches to pledge to be truthful, kind and welcoming online. "Social media has transformed the way we live. As Christians we are called to engage in a way which is shaped by the example of Jesus," he said in a statement before the visit. "Each time we interact online we have the opportunity either to add to currents of cynicism and abuse or to share light and grace."

Finally, aircraft carrier INS Viraat to be scrapped

Navy has been incurring expenditure on its upkeep and provision of electricity and water

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over two years after it was decommissioned from service, aircraft carrier INS *Viraat* is going to be scrapped, Parliament was informed on Monday. Efforts to keep it intact by converting it into a museum or other means have not been successful.

"INS *Viraat* could not be handed over to any State government because of non-receipt of a self-sustaining financially complete proposal. Thus, in view of considerations of safety, security etc., a decision to scrap INS *Viraat* has been taken in due consultation with Indian Navy," Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in a



In unison: A file photo of Navy personnel performing yoga on the deck of INS *Viraat* in Mumbai. ■ PRASHANT NAKH

written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

"The Navy had been incurring expenditure on its upkeep, on services such as

provision of electricity and water, and repairs till date," Mr. Naik said.

The carrier was in the news in the run-up to the

Lok Sabha elections a few months back as Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed in an election speech that former PM Rajiv Gandhi had used *Viraat* for a holiday in 1987 along with his family. However, this was promptly rejected by the top brass of the Navy a day later. They stated that Rajiv Gandhi was onboard on an official trip en route to Lakshadweep.

There had been demands from various quarters to not let *Viraat* go the INS *Vikram* way, India's first carrier that was eventually scrapped. Several States had submitted proposals, but none of them fructified. Andhra Pradesh, headed by former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, had made several attempts.

In 2018, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved a proposal to convert the carrier into a museum and hospitality centre on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis, but there were no takers.

INS *Viraat*, a Centaur class aircraft carrier, was commissioned in May 1987.



All aboard: Four decommissioned buses were converted to provide shelter to 40 homeless people. ■ BUSES4HOMELESS