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NEARBY



Rain pounds Gujarat, throws life out of gear

AHMEDABAD
Heavy rain hit normal life in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, while 10,000 people from rural and urban areas here were shifted to safer places after the Sabarmati river swelled. Officials said the number of people who had lost their lives due to the downpour in the State stood at 123 till Wednesday.

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

SC declines plea to stay release of 'Indu Sarkar'
NEW DELHI
Noting that it will not curb artistic licence to dramatise historical facts, the Supreme Court on Thursday refused to stay the scheduled release of Madhur Bhandarkar's film Indu Sarkar on July 28. The film portrays the Emergency days of 1975-77.

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

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FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 12 PAGES
(TABLOID)
DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Doval holds talks with Chinese counterpart

Expectations of de-escalation of crisis

ATUL ANEJA
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
BEIJING/NEW DELHI
National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Thursday held talks with Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi, covering "bilateral issues and major problems," signalling that the stand-off in Doklam between Chinese and Indian troops in the Sikkim sector was likely on the agenda.

Referring to the three National Security Advisers of the BRICS countries, including Mr. Doval, who are in the Chinese capital, the official Xinhua news agency said: "(Mr.) Yang also separately exchanged views with the three senior representatives on bilateral relations, international and regional issues and multilateral affairs, and set forth China's position on bilateral issues



Ajit Doval

and major problems." Back home, Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar, speaking in the Rajya Sabha, highlighted the agreement reached in June in Astana between the countries to intensify "development partnership" and "people-to-people contact," even as External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said India had not discriminated against Chinese companies.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

3 Gujarat Cong. MLAs quit party, join BJP

One of them will take on Ahmed Patel

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

In a bid to take on Congress veteran Ahmed Patel in the Rajya Sabha elections, the BJP on Thursday fielded Balwantsinh Rajput, hours after he resigned as Congress chief whip in the Assembly and as a legislator.

BJP president Amit Shah and Union Minister Smriti Irani are the other BJP candidates for the elections, scheduled for August 8.

Mr. Rajput's entry has made the elections a high-stake political battle for Mr. Patel, Congress president Sonia Gandhi's political secretary, who is seeking a fifth term in the Rajya Sabha.

"It has become a tightrope walk for Mr. Patel," a BJP leader said. "BJP president Amit Shah and rebel Congress leader

Shankarsinh Vaghela, who recently resigned from the party, have joined hands to ensure the defeat of Mr. Ahmed Patel," he said.

Mr. Vaghela had said earlier that he would vote for Mr. Patel and then resign as Congress legislator.

Two other Congress MLAs – P.I. Patel and Tejashri Patel – also submitted their resignations to the Assembly Speaker and then joined the BJP.

A few more Congress legislators are likely to resign on Friday when the BJP candidates file their nominations.

Mr. Rajput is a senior Congress legislator and is a relative of Mr. Vaghela, who split the party ahead of the Assembly elections in the State.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

The 'Dr' is in (or is it?)

MBBS holders will soon have an exclusive symbol, but the IRCS may be cross



JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI
Doctors who have MBBS degrees often grumble about practitioners of traditional Ayurvedic or Unani medicine and homeopaths calling themselves doctors, and worse, prescribing allopathic medicines (which they refer to as 'crosspathy'). The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has a solution: a unique emblem.

The IMA has received a no-objective certificate from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to trademark a red cross with the letters 'Dr' in the centre, in white, and is now registering it. Allopathic practitioners will be able to use it on their

prescriptions and signage to indicate that they have studied modern medicine.

Dr. K.K. Aggarwal, president of the IMA, said that the umbrella body had put out a call for designs and suggestions in 2015, and that it had received over 110 designs from doctors across

the country. Dr. Jayesh Lele, of the Maharashtra IMA, said that the aim was to have something simple and easily identifiable with medicine. "The emblem would be of great service to the public. Also, it will empower us to initiate action against crosspathy practitioners or quacks who wrongly use the emblem."

All not well? The potential problem: the emblem closely resembles one of the emblems of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and has been recognised since the 1864 Geneva Convention as a distinctive sign for medical

relief teams on battlefields. "We have used a lighter red shade for the cross, and we also have the abbreviation 'Dr' in the centre, which will differentiate the logo," Dr. Aggarwal said.

No duplication

Later, Dr. Aggarwal added, "There is no duplication as far as we are concerned." India's Geneva Convention Act, 1960, Section 12, prohibits the use (without the Central government's permission) of 'any design or wording' that resembles the Red Cross emblems closely enough to be mistaken for it.

Neel Kamal Singh, deputy secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), told *The Hindu*, "Even if one changes the colour or slightly changes the pattern of the cross or applies any other filter, it will not be permitted. This is a rule set by the Geneva Convention and the Indian government has committed to it."

Union Health Secretary C.K. Mishra said he was not aware if any objection had been raised over the emblem. "As of now we have no information on the matter," Mr. Mishra said.

(With inputs from Bindu Shajan Perappadan in New Delhi)

Geelani's son summoned for terror funding

NIA had registered case against separatist, secessionist leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency has issued summons to Naeem Geelani, the elder son of hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, in connection with the ongoing probe against separatists for funding unrest in the Kashmir Valley.

The agency sent the summons to Naeem, asking him

to appear before it for questioning on July 31.

This is not the first time that Naeem has been summoned by the NIA. On August 29, 2016, the NIA had called Naeem for questioning in connection with a preliminary enquiry it was conducting to detect the suspicious flow of a huge amount of cash from overseas in five

bank accounts.

A surgeon by profession, Naeem had returned from Pakistan in 2010.

The NIA had registered a case on May 30 against separatist and secessionist leaders

who have allegedly been acting in connivance with active militants of the Hizbul Mujahideen, Dukhtaran-e-Millat, the Lashkar-e-Taiba other outfits.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY
ENGINEERING WORK**File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/17-18/E-Tender/9
Dated : 26.07.2017(1) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-SOUTH-KUR-
88-2017, Dated : 18.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** VARIOUS P.WAY WORKS
SUCH AS MANUAL DEEP SCREENING OF
TRACK AND POINTS & CROSSINGS,
DESTRESSING, WELDING OF RAIL JOINTS,
OVERHAULING OF LEVEL CROSSINGS,
SHALLOW SCREENING OF TRACK BALLAST
AND OTHER ENABLING WORKS UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL
ENGINEER, BALUGAON OF KHURDA ROAD
DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 176.44 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 2,38,220/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.(2) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-SOUTHKUR-
89-2017, Dated : 18.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** PROPOSED FORMATION
TREATMENT FOR 5.87 TR. KMS. ON UP &
DOWN LINE IN DIFFERENT PATCHES OF
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 208.12 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 2,54,060/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 10,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 18(Eighteen) Months.(3) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-CENTRAL-KUR-
70-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS
AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING
STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND
MAINTENANCE W O R K S O F
MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES
EACH COSTING Rs.2,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE
SECTION RETANG TO RAJATHAGARH (EX)
(INCLUDING BRIDGES) UNDER ASSISTANT
DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / BHUBANESWAR
FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2018.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 63.30 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,26,610/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.06.2018.(4) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-
72-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
267.47 TO 334.74 BETWEEN BHADRAK /
JAIPUR-KEONJHAR ROAD STATION UNDER
SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)
BHDRAK OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 79.43 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,58,870/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.(5) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-
73-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
153.00 TO 153.00 BETWEEN JAIPUR /
KEONJHAR ROAD - JENAPUR STATION AND
KM 159.00 TO 147.00 ON J-D LINE UNDER
SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY) /
JAIPUR-KEONJHAR ROAD OF KHURDA
ROAD DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 74.39 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,48,790/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.(6) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-
74-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
16.298 TO 84.30 ON SITABINJ - JAROLI
SECTION UNDER SENIOR SECTION
ENGINEER (P.WAY) / KENDUAHARGH OF
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 70.69 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,41,380/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.(7) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-
75-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
84.30 TO 151.10 ON TOMKA - SITABINJ
SECTION UNDER SENIOR SECTION
ENGINEER (P.WAY) / HARICHANDRANPUR OF
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 71.58 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,43,160/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.(8) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
76-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
353.80 TO 399.20 ON JENAPUR - NERGUNDI
SECTION UNDER SENIOR SECTION
ENGINEER (P.WAY) / DHANMANDI OF
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 90.34 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,60,690/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.(9) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
77-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
399.20 TO 418.363 ON NERGUNDI - BARANG
SECTION AND KM 397.30 TO 419.37 ON THE
LINE UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER
(P.WAY) / CUTTACK OF KHURDA ROAD
DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 80.84 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,61,680/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.(10) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
78-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017**DESCRIPTION :** ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
418.363 ON JENAPUR - NERGUNDI - BARANG
SECTION AND KM 397.30 TO 419.37 ON THE
LINE UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER
(P.WAY) / CUTTACK OF KHURDA ROAD
DIVISION.**Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :**
₹ 80.84 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,61,680/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.

(10) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
78-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
447.90 - 481.66 ON RAGHUNATHPUR -
PARADEEP SECTION UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION
ENGINEER (P.WAY) / GORAKHNATH OF
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 85.50 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,71,000/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.

(11) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
79-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : ALL REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS
FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2018 FROM KM
409.70 - 447.90 ON CUTTACK -
GORAKHNATH SECTION UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION
ENGINEER (P.WAY) / KANDUPUR OF
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 79.93 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,59,870/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 30.09.2018.

(12) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
80-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : EXECUTION OF BALANCE
WORK OF PRE AND POST OPERATION AND
OTHER ENABLING WORKS WITH BCM
WORKING BETWEEN KM. 409.70 TO 490.00
ON UP & DOWN IN PATCHES BETWEEN
CUTTACK - PARADEEP SECTION OF KHURDA
ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 101.14 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 2,00,570/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(13) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-
81-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED
STRENGTHENING / REPAIR TO THE
FORMATION OF FLY OVER LINE FROM KM.
177/16-18 & KM. 178/1 - 179/1 BETWEEN
SUHKNA ROAD - JAKHAPURA STATIONS OF
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 356.70 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 3,28,140/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 10,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(14) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-
83-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT
OF PLATFORM SURFACE BY PROVIDING
KOTA STONE FLOORING IN COVERED AREA
AND MISC. REPAIR OF THE PLATFORM
SURFACE, WATER BATHS, RAIN WATER
PIPE, GUTTER ETC. AT BHADRAK AND
JAIPUR-KEONJHAR ROAD STATIONS OF
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 72.94 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,45,880/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 10(Ten) Months.

(15) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
84-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF LIMITED
HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) IN LIEU OF THE
EXISTING MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO.177
AT KM.408/6-8 IN BETWEEN KENDRAPARA
ROAD - CUTTACK STATION OF KHURDA
ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 209.02 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 2,54,510/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 10,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 10(Ten) Months.

(16) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-HQ-
85-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED CLOSURE OF
UN-MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO.KP-17 BY
CONSTRUCTION OF DIVERSION ROAD FROM
LEVEL CROSSING NO. KP-17 TO LEVEL
CROSSING NO. KP-18 (MANED) IN KHURDA
ROAD - PURI SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD
DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 113.74 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 2,08,870/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 06(Six) Months.

(17) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
86-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS OF
WASHABLE APRON AT ROUTE NO. 1 & 3 AT
CUTTACK RAILWAY STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 7.90 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,18,000/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(18) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-BKRK-
87-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PAINTING OF GIRDER
BRIDGES UNDER SENIOR SECTION
ENGINEER (BRIDGE) / NORTH / KHURDA
ROAD & SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER
(BRIDGE) / SOUTH / KHURDA ROAD IN
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE YEAR
2017-18.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 12.60 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 2,14,820/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 07(Seven) Months.

(19) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
88-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS OF
WASHABLE APRON AT ROUTE NO. 1 & 3 AT
CUTTACK RAILWAY STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 7.90 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,18,000/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(20) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
89-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PAINTING OF GIRDER
BRIDGES UNDER SENIOR SECTION
ENGINEER (BRIDGE) / NORTH / KHURDA
ROAD & SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER
(BRIDGE) / SOUTH / KHURDA ROAD IN
KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE YEAR
2017-18.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 12.60 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 2,14,820/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 07(Seven) Months.

(21) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
90-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS OF
WASHABLE APRON AT ROUTE NO. 1 & 3 AT
CUTTACK RAILWAY STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 7.90 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,18,000/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(22) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
91-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS OF
WASHABLE APRON AT ROUTE NO. 1 & 3 AT
CUTTACK RAILWAY STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 7.90 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,18,000/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(23) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
92-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS OF
WASHABLE APRON AT ROUTE NO. 1 & 3 AT
CUTTACK RAILWAY STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 7.90 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,18,000/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(24) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
93-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS OF
WASHABLE APRON AT ROUTE NO. 1 & 3 AT
CUTTACK RAILWAY STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 7.90 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,18,000/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(25) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
94-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS OF
WASHABLE APRON AT ROUTE NO. 1 & 3 AT
CUTTACK RAILWAY STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) :
₹ 7.90 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 1,18,000/- Cost
of Tender Document : ₹ 5,000/- Completion
Period of the work : 12(Twelve) Months.

(26) Tender Notice No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-
95-2017, Dated : 19.07.2017

Outbreak of diseases feared in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IMPHAL
After the flood, spread of vector-borne and other diseases looms large in various parts of Manipur, particularly in Imphal Valley and Churachandpur district, a State Health Department official said on Thursday.

The official said, "As of Thursday morning, 136 individuals tested positive for Japanese Encephalitis (JE), dengue, swine flu and the recent scrub typhus."

Officials have attributed contamination of stagnant water bodies, improper access to potable water, and bites by mosquito and other insects as the reasons behind the outbreak of diseases.

Malaria cases spike in Odisha

Most cases of vector-borne diseases at residential schools in Kandhamal district

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Cases of malaria reported from residential schools located in remote pockets of Kandhamal district of Odisha have become a major source of worry for the local administration.

Most malaria cases reported so far this year have been detected from residential schools in Daringbadi, Tumudibandi and Kotagarh blocks of the district. Many residential schools are man-

aged by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department of the State government and located in remote pockets prone to malaria outbreaks.

Major menace

District Welfare Officer Ganeshwar Bharimal, who looks after the management of these schools, admitted that malaria was a major menace in these remote schools. "We had sprinkled the walls of hostels at these schools with DDT before the

start of monsoon. After the rain, DDT was sprayed in the hostels once again. All students have also been provided medicated mosquito nets," he said.

He said around 120 malaria cases among students were detected in three schools. As precaution, mobile health units have been pressed into service in residential schools for periodic health check-ups of the students. The Auxiliary Nurse and Midwives attached to residential schools have

been provided anti-malaria medicines. Besides this, areas around school hostels are also being cleaned up.

On Wednesday, 37 students of Rangaparu residential school of Tumudibandi block left their hostel as their demands, including better sanitary conditions in and around the hostel, were not met. This, according to them, was a major reason for the rise in cases of malaria. Other demands included provision for a science teacher and better food.

Students washed away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ITANAGAR

Three high school students from Geku in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh are feared to have drowned while bathing in the Siang on Wednesday.

A group of seven students had gone for a bath in the Siang on Wednesday and three of them got swept away by the river, an official communiqué stated on Thursday. The remaining students are reportedly safe.

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Cochin Shipyard Limited, a Miniratna PSU, the largest public sector shipyard in India in terms of dock capacity*, has a multitude of offerings for a broad range of vessels across life cycles. CSL believes that its modern facilities and integrated capabilities helped it build a reputation for quality and timely delivery, amongst its Indian and international clients.

- Building India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier for the Indian Navy.
- Builders of the largest Double Hull oil tankers ever built in India*.
- Diversified offerings to Defence Sector in India and Commercial Sectors across the globe
- One of the largest shipyards in India with Shipbuilding dock of 110,000 DWT and Ship repair dock of 125,000 DWT capacities.

- Built and delivered vessels across broad classifications including Bulk carriers, Tankers, Platform Supply Vessels, Anchor Handling Tugs, Load out Barges, Passenger vessels, FPVs, Fire Fighting Tugs etc.
- Only yard in India to undertake Drydock-refits of Indian Navy's prestigious aircraft carriers - INS Viraat and INS Vikramaditya.
- Offers Marine Engineering Training – rated 'Excellent' by CARE.

(* As of March 31, 2015, according to the CRISIL Report titled "A study on ship building and ship repairing industry" dated March, 2017)



COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED

www.cochinshipyard.com

Cochin Shipyard Limited is proposing, subject to statutory and regulatory requirements, market conditions and other considerations, an initial public offering of its equity shares and has filed a red herring prospectus dated July 21, 2017 ("RHP") with the Registrar of Companies, Kerala at Ernakulam on July 21, 2017. The RHP will be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, BSE at www.bseindia.com, NSE at www.nseindia.com and the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers at www.scbips.com, www.edelweissfin.com and www.jmfi.com. Any potential investor should note that investment in Equity Shares involves a high degree of risk. For details, potential investors should refer to the section titled "Risk Factors" in the RHP. Investors should not refer to the draft red herring prospectus filed with SEBI for making any investment decision.

This announcement has been prepared for publication in India and may not be released or distributed into the United States. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") or the securities laws of any state in the United States and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) in the United States only to persons reasonably believed to be "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the Securities Act) pursuant to Rule 144A or another available exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act, and (ii) outside the United States only in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act and pursuant to the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur.



TOWARDS QUALITY EDUCATION

'Learner Enhancement Programme' in 3222 primary schools.

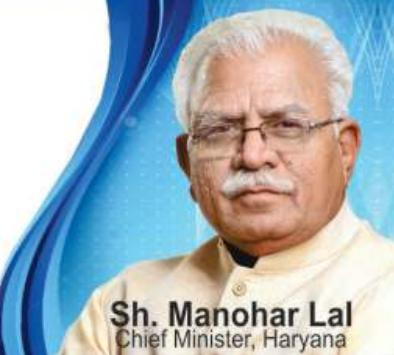
Semester System discontinued for classes 9th to 12th.

Monthly Tests started for classes 1st to 12th with Online Monitoring.

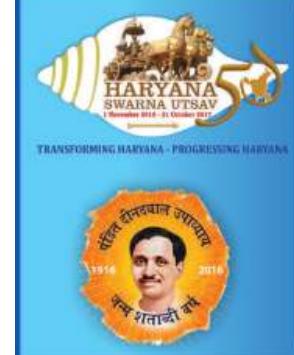
Emphasis on Vocational Education in schools to boost 'Skill India Programme'.

8 New Government Colleges started.

28 New Government Colleges under construction.



Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana



IN BRIEF



A.P. appoints Sudhi as Deputy Collector

Ace shuttler Rio Olympics silver medallist P.V. Sudhi was appointed as Deputy Collector, a group-I service post in the A.P. government. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu handed over the order to Ms. Sudhi on Thursday. PTI

Godman innocent, Kerala woman says now

KOCHI The woman, who allegedly chopped off the genitals of godman Gangeshananda, informed the Kerala High Court on Thursday that he was innocent and had not sexually abused her. In an affidavit, she said the police had forced her to make statements contrary to the facts.

Dharam Singh no more

Was Karnataka CM from 2004 to 2006

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Dharam Singh

dead at 11.30 a.m. Mr. Singh is survived by wife and three children. His two sons are members of the State legislature.

Born on December 25, 1936, at Nelogi village in the Jewarji taluk of Kalaburagi district, Mr. Singh was elected to the Legislative Assembly eight times in a row.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FROM CONSULTANTS FOR INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

KSIDC invites EOI from agencies, with proven experience in setting up and operating waste management facilities, for providing an integrated solution for treating municipal waste in the state of Kerala. The detailed EOI document can be downloaded from www.ksidc.org. For more details, contact:

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation
T.C. XV/265, Keston Road, Kowdiar, Thiruvananthapuram-695 003
Ph: 0471-2318922 Fax: 0471-2315893
www.ksidc.org

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

MPEDA-RGCA INVITES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM FISHERIES ENTREPRENEURS

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) is a Society established under the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, which is actively involved in the development of various state-of-the-art and sustainable aquaculture technologies that are bio secure, eco-friendly and traceable for seed production and grow out farming of various aquatic species, having export potential in particular. RGCA invites Expression of Interest from the interested entrepreneurs for the operation of its following facilities.

1. Broodstock Multiplication Centre

A State of the Art Facility in 3.97 acres of land at Mangampetra Village, Vishakapatnam. The facility is currently having a capacity to produce 60,000 L.vannamai brooders/ annum. The Facility is built and operated in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Re-establishment and Operation of SPP Broodstock Multiplication Centers' issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAH&F, MoA, Government of India). Applications are invited strictly for operation of the facility to augment the production, sale and export of L.vannamai broodstock only.

2. Cobia Hatchery and Sea Cage Farm Facility

A complete finfish hatchery and grow-out facility with world class machineries and assets, comprised in 4.82 acres of land at Pozhyoor, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The Hatchery Facility has a total water holding capacity of 1500 tons in various storage and rearing systems. The sea cage farm facility in Muttom, Tamildu has 42 HDPE cages with a production capacity of 50 tonnes of fish/annum. The project is also equipped with two FRP Boats, One Speed boat with 4 no's of Out Board Motors and all other accessories which are essential for the operation of the open sea cage farm. Applications are invited strictly for operation of the facility to augment the production, sale and export of marine finfish broodstocks only.

3. Domestication of Tiger Shrimp Project

A State of the Art Facility complete with world class machineries and assets; The Facility consists of a Primary Quarantine Unit(PQU), Secondary Quarantine Unit(SQU), Nucleus Breeding Centre(NBC) and an Administrative Complex. The PQU facility consists of a quarantine area, maturation tanks, spawning hatching area, larval and post larval rearing section, microbiology lab, ETS, back up diesel generators, pumps, blowers, filtration, disinfection systems, dormitory, kitchen and stores. The Secondary Quarantine Unit (SQU) and Nuclear Breeding Centre (NBC) established in a 5.43 acre site at South Andamans. The Secondary Quarantine Facility has a floor area of about 1100m² and is provided with sophisticated seawater intake systems, filtration / disinfection systems and twelve number of 1.5 MT tanks with individual recirculation systems for high end biosecurity. The facility is designed to receive provisionally qualified founder families from Primary Quarantine Unit and to grow them until the stocks are qualified for transfer to Nucleus Breeding Centre based on growth performance and health status. The Nucleus Breeding Centre(NBC) is one of the largest shrimp selective breeding centres built in an area of 8500 sq. m. consisting of dedicated facilities required for maturation, spawning, hatching, larval rearing, live feed production, nursery rearing and grow out. The facility is well equipped with Recirculation Aquaculture Systems and other supporting systems. The grow-out facility of Nucleus Breeding Centre can rear 4000 animals at a time. Applicant must use the facility (a) to augment the production and sale of tiger shrimp seeds / broodstock only and (b) for research purposes including technology improvements in domestication of tiger shrimp only.

4. Grouper Facility:

The Grouper facility comprises of a sea cage farm and hatchery at A&N Islands. The sea cage farm is using for the broodstock maintenance and the production of marketable size fish whereas hatchery is using for the seed production of various species of Grouper. The sea cage farm has 21 HDPE rats moored near Ruttland Island, South Andaman to condition wild caught grouper broodstocks and for grow-out farming of grouper fish in floating cages. The facility is having a capacity of production of 2 tonne of grouper fish. Applications are invited strictly for operation of the facility to augment the production, sale and export of marine finfish/broodstocks only.

5. Aquaculture Demonstration Farm

This facility located at Mahendrapalai, Tamindu is a multispecies aquaculture farm having a total area of 18.4 acres (7.4 Ha). The farm has 10 ponds with WSA of 5.0 Ha, and is further equipped with Electrical cum Parlor room, Farm office with store room, Bowels etc. Applications are invited strictly for operation of the facility to augment the production, sale and export of finfish/shellfish only.

6. The Odisha Shrimp Seed Production and Research Centre (OSSPCR)

This facility is located in 5.5 acre land at Gopalpur-on-Sea, Odisha. The facility has a total water holding capacity of 1500MT in various storage and rearing systems. The rearing systems include maturation, hatching and Spawning, larval rearing, Post Larvae rearing, micro algae section, Artemia section and laboratories. The storage facilities include 6 numbers of 100 ton reservoirs and the associated water filtration units. The facility is having a production capacity of 150 million shrimp seeds. Interested Applications are invited strictly for operation of the facility to augment the production, sale and export of shrimp seeds/broodstock only.

HOW TO APPLY: Interested Applicants are invited to participate in the Pre-Application Conference on payment of ₹5000/- towards RFQ Documents and ₹3000/- towards RFQ Process by Demand Draft drawn in favour of 'Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture, Sirkali, Tamindu.'

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE VENUE, DATE AND TIME: The Pre-Application Conference shall be held at the office of the 'President, RGCA, Marine Products Export Development Authority', P.B.No. 4272, anampilly Avenue, Panampilly Nagar, Ernakulam - 682 036, on the 30th day of September, 2017 at 11.00 hours. Further details about the facilities can be obtained by visiting our website www.rgca.gov.in in your queries, if any, may be addressed to rgca@mpeda.gov.in

Drugs case: focus turns to IT companies, education institutes

Notice served on 13 firms, 50 schools and colleges: Telangana Excise Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

After the film industry, the Telangana excise department has turned its attention to IT companies and private education institutions, names of employees and students of which figured in the drugs case.

The department has served notice on 13 IT companies and 25 schools and an equal number of colleges which figured in the list. "We will call them for questioning once the officials gather sufficient proof," Excise Minister T. Padma Rao Goud said.

'Tollywood not targeted' He refuted the claims of a section of the film industry that the government was targeting Tollywood and sparing others. "The government is helping the film industry,



Prompt appearance: Mumait Khan at the SIT's office in Hyderabad on Thursday. ■ PTI

not targeting it. The ongoing investigation is being done on the basis of proof gathered by the department," he said.

The Minister asserted that

the government was firm on rooting out the menace from Hyderabad. If necessary, it would consider setting up an exclusive wing to tackle the issue.

The special task force of the excise department was keeping tabs on the movement of drugs, he said.

Mumaith questioned

Taking one-day off from the Big Boss Telugu reality show, actor Mumait Khan appeared before the investigators in the drugs case on Thursday. She was among the 12 film industry persons who were served summons by the SIT for examination in the case. Ms. Khan was the eighth person to be questioned by the SIT sleuths so far. The interrogation was held for nearly seven hours.

The SIT will interrogate Ravi Shankar Raju Bhupathiraju, popularly known as Ravi Teja, on Friday. His brother Bharath, who died in a road accident in the city recently, was arrested in a drugs case a few years ago.

Medical seat results postponed

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's decision on Wednesday night to postpone the publication of results for the first round of medical and dental seats has had a domino effect on students aspiring for seats in other streams. The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has now decided to postpone the second extended round for admissions into engineering, architecture, farm science, AYUSH and other courses.

As per the revised schedule announced on Thursday, the allotment of results for the second extended round will be published on July 30, and candidates can pay their fees on July 31 or August 1.

The last date to complete admissions for engineering courses as per the Supreme Court deadline is July 30.

HC 'no' to termination of rape victim's pregnancy

State to take care of 12-year-old & child

K.S. SUDHI

KOCHI

The 12-year-old rape victim of Kerala will give birth to her baby as the High Court has denied her permission, on health grounds, to terminate her pregnancy.

The court decided not to permit the termination after considering a report from a team of medical experts of the Government Medical College, Alappuzha.

A Division Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of Kerala, held that the State shall be responsible for the welfare of the girl and her child.

Impregnated by brother

A medical examination of the victim, who was impregnated by her own brother, also a minor, found that the foetus was 28 weeks old. The medical board was of the view that the "termination of pregnancy at this stage would be more haz-

ardous than going through a term delivery. Apprehension has also been raised that if there is forced medical termination of pregnancy, the girl may suffer permanent damage affecting her future life," the Bench noted in its judgment.

'State's obligation'

On the issue of welfare of the girl and the child to be born, the court held that "it would be the obligation of the State to ensure that the child and the mother, who herself is a child, are sufficiently provided for and looked after, which shall include educating the mother child so as to enable her to get employment."

The court directed the Child Welfare Committee, Kakkad, Kochi, which is in charge of the pregnant girl, to take necessary steps to ensure her welfare.

Carbon dating confirms T.N. site is from Sangam era

Samples sent from archaeological excavations at Keezhadi have been identified as nearly 2,200 years old

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN

CHENNAI

For several years, experts had surmised that the archaeological site at Keezhadi in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu dates back to the Sangam era.

Now, carbon dating has confirmed that two samples sent from the site are indeed nearly 2,200 years old.

The Keezhadi dig that started in 2013 provides archaeological evidence of ancient Tamil life that has so far been known largely from texts like Sangam literature.

While replying to DMK MP Kanimozhi in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the

Union Ministry of Culture informed the Upper House that the Archaeological Survey of India had sent two carbon samples from Keezhadi for carbon dating to Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA.

"Radio Carbon dating suggests that the samples go back to 2,160-30 years and 2,200+30 years," stated the Ministry.

Archaeologists found deposits up to 4.5 metres deep and the samples (of carbon elements) sent for carbon dating were from the middle part - i.e. 2 metres, says ASI's Superintending Archaeologist K. Amarnath

Ramakrishna in Guwahati who led the excavations in Keezhadi earlier.

"We can now say for sure that the samples were from 3rd century BC," says Mr. Ramakrishna.

Major find

Unlike many other archaeological sites excavated in Tamil Nadu, Keezhadi is a major habitation site.

"The last time habitation sites were excavated in Tamil Nadu was at Arikamedu. We zeroed in on Keezhadi after studying both banks of Vaigai river through its entire stretch from Western Ghats

till the point it reaches the Bay of Bengal," he says.

A total of 72 potsherds with Tamil Brahmi script were found at Keezhadi which had several Tamil names.

"Iyanaan, Uthiran, Vendhan, Santhanavathi and Saathan were some of the Tamil names found," he says. When asked whether the Archaeological Survey of India was planning to set up any museum at Keezhadi, Superintending Archaeologist of Chennai Circle A.M.V. Subramanyam said such policy decisions have to be taken at New Delhi.

Historical calendar

Carbon dating is a widely accepted tool to ascertain the age of archaeological and historical remains



• Samples sent were collected from a depth of 2 metres

• Carbon dating suggests Keezhadi samples belong to 3rd century BC

• Findings could help reconstruct ancient Tamil society

• Findings can be compared with ancient literary texts/sources

ICAR-NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR BANANA

Thayyanur Post, Thogamalai Road, Tiruchirapalli - 620 102 (Tamil Nadu)

Telephone: 0431-2618125 (30 lines) E-mail: directorrcfb@ymail.com / arackey@ymail.com

E.No.30 (1)/2017/SPI Date: 27.07.2017

TENDER NOTICE NO: 02/2017

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed and registered agencies for providing separate SERVICE CONTRACT AND SECURITY CONTRACTS at ICAR - National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchirapalli. Tender form with detailed terms and conditions are available at our website: www.nrcb.res.in. Completed Tender form should reach this office latest by 02.00 PM on 17.08.2017 (Thursday) for service contract and 02.00 PM on 18.08.2017 (Friday) for security contract. The technical bid for service contract will be opened at 03.00 PM on 17.08.2017 (Thursday) and for security contract will be opened at 03.00 PM on 18.08.2017 (Friday). Director, ICAR - NRCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FIRE SERVICE, HOME GUARDS & CIVIL DEFENCE, ODISHA NUAPATNA, CUTTACK-753001

RE-TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.- 05/2017-18

1. Sealed tenders are invited from the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or their authorized agent/ dealer for purchase of Portable Fire Pumps during 2017-18. The details of items with requirement are as follows.

- | SI No. | Name of the item | Approximate Quantity |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Portable Fire Pump (800 LPM) | 40 Nos |
2. The tender document with detail technical specification may be seen from the state website www.odisha.gov.in

**IN BRIEF**

U.P. to recruit doctors via walk-in interviews

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government will conduct walk-in interviews, apart from its regular recruitment process, to fill the shortage of general physicians and specialists in various State-run hospitals. State Health Minister Sidhartha Nath Singh on Thursday informed the Legislative Council that there was a shortage of 7,338 doctors in government hospitals. PTI

4 killed, 27 injured in truck-bus collision

SITAMARHI

Four persons were killed and 27 others injured on Thursday when a truck collided head-on with a bus in Bihar's Sitamarhi district, a police officer said. The accident happened near Kanti Chowk. The victims have been identified as Mahendra Paswan (48), Irishad Alam (42), Amit Kumar Paswan (40) and Kaushal Kishore (27). PTI

122 children from Kota, Bundi districts rescued

KOTA

As many as 122 children from Kota and Bundi districts, who had gone missing, have been rescued under an ongoing special drive, 'Operation Muskan-III', officials have said. Many of these children have been reunited with their families. PTI

Uttarakhand tiger count goes up to 242

DEHRADUN

The count of tigers in Uttarakhand has gone up to 242 with an increase of 63 big cats this year, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has said. Also 11 cubs were found in the two tiger reserves, he had said on Wednesday releasing the latest figures for the year 2016-17. PTI

Contractual teachers protest SC order

Apex court had ruled that only those who clear Teachers' Eligibility Test in UP could be regularised

STAFF REPORTER
MEERUT

Up in arms: Shiksha Mitras holding a protest in Meerut on Thursday. •PTI

Thousands of *Siksha Mitras* (contractual teachers) in Bareilly, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Bijnor, Shamli, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Hapur, Moradabad, Mathura and Kannauj boycotted work and took to the streets to protest against the Supreme Court order that effectively cancelled their regularisation and made it contingent on their clearing the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET).

Uttar Pradesh has over 1.73 lakh *Siksha Mitras* who teach in primary schools. Their jobs were regularised by the State government in 2014 and they became assistant teachers on the payroll of the government. But on Wednesday, the Supreme Court quashed their appoint-

ment and declared that their contractual positions would not be converted into government jobs unless they clear TET.

UP is looking at a prolonged teaching crisis as primary schools remained closed on Wednesday due to the absence of teachers.

Senior officials of the basic education department told *The Hindu* that hundreds of schools across the State are manned only by the contractual teachers.

Violent protests were reported from Etawah, Agra, Meerut, Mainpuri, Farrukhabad, Bareilly and

Bijnore. Police fired water cannons and tear gas shells on protesting teachers in Gorakhpur, the home town of Chief Minister Adityanath, when they marched to the Gorakhpur temple to submit a memorandum. In Varanasi, the Parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, teachers blocked the main road when the police prevented them from organising a march.

Conversion threat

In Muzaffarnagar, hundreds of protesting teachers threatened to convert to Islam if the State government did not take steps to counter the SC order. The Minister for State for Basic Education in the Adityanath government Anupama Jaiswal said that the State government sympathised with the agitating teachers but had "no op-

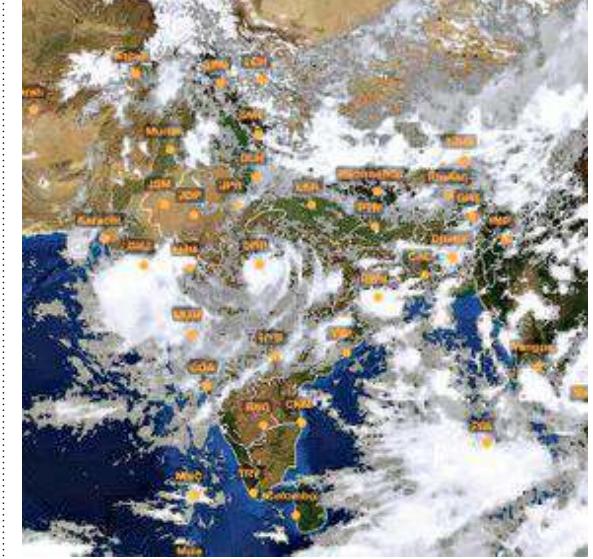
tion but to implement the apex court order".

Saurabh Chaudhry, the west UP coordinator of Adarsh Samajyoit Shikshak Sangh, told *The Hindu* that the agitation would not stop until the government resolves the crisis. He said the SC order was like a "death warrant" for the 1.73 lakh contractual teachers.

"In 1999, as part of the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, we were appointed as *Siksha Mitras* by the BSP government to create educational awareness among people living in rural areas. We taught students on a salary as low as ₹3,500 per month. It was only in 2012 that our salaries were brought on a par with that of normal teachers, to ₹30,000, when the Akhilesh initiated the process of our regularisation," Mr. Chaudhary said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Friday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, west Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Saurashtra & Kutch, central Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6.2	34.0	25.5	Kozhikode	3.4	33.6	25.8
Ahmedabad	179.6	26.2	23.4	Kurnool	0.7	36.3	25.8
Aizawl	15	29.6	13.4	Lucknow	1.2	31.8	26.2
Allahabad	12.2	28.7	26.7	Madurai	—	41.6	27.2
Bengaluru	—	31.1	20.5	Mangaluru	2.1	30.6	24.5
Bhopal	3	29.5	22.4	Mumbai	4.1	30.1	25.9
Bhubaneswar	—	33.2	25.8	Mysuru	1.8	29.3	19.1
Chandigarh	—	35.5	27.9	New Delhi	—	35.4	28.6
Chennai	3.3	36.1	25.2	Patna	—	33.0	25.8
Coimbatore	—	37.5	23.4	Port Blair	5.2	29.9	22.7
Dehradun	0.3	30.1	23.4	Puducherry	—	39.0	26.4
Gangtok	12	22.7	17.4	Pune	—	28.1	21.6
Goa	5.8	31.4	25.3	Rajpur	1.7	29.0	24.1
Guwahati	20.8	35.1	26.2	Ranchi	24	23.6	20.3
Hubballi	—	27.0	21.0	Shillong	—	23.7	15.3
Hyderabad	—	32.2	27	Shimla	25.7	22.6	16.1
Imphal	0.4	31.8	22.8	Srinagar	—	31.7	20.2
Jaipur	—	33.7	24.4	Trivandrum	—	32.7	25.2
Kochi	5.6	31.0	25.2	Tiruchi	—	40.1	28.0
Kohima	18.4	25.4	19.0	Vijayawada	—	35.8	26.8
Kolkata	19	32.5	25.7	Visakhapatnam	—	32.7	27.8

Particulate matter in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bengaluru	9	50	59	—	97	—
Chennai	6	16	35	119	—	—
Delhi	23	54	44	59	57	—
Hyderabad	49	25	7	48	84	—
Kolkata	12	70	42	—	36	—
Lucknow	9	45	37	29	—	—
Mumbai	7	21	59	23	50	—
Pune	22	31	78	22	36	—
Vishakhapatnam	22	12	42	66	110	—

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

(Individual pollutant data for various cities are averages for the previous day)

Oriental white ibis nesting in Ganjam

Environment conducive for breeding

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

A group of Oriental white ibis birds have nested at Beguniapada in Ganjam district of Odisha.

According to ornithologist Dr Gohar Abedin, this indicates that these birds feel secure at Beguniapada and that the environment was conducive for breeding.

Usually Oriental white ibis are seen in large number in the Chilika lake during winter months.

Locals of Beguniapada said since the past few years they were finding Oriental white ibis in their agricultural fields during rainy season.

These birds had started building nests on a few

coconut trees. This year these birds have built nests on trees with a large canopy and on coconut trees at Kumbh Sahi, Garda Sahi and Paika Sahi areas.

"Ample availability of food material for these birds in Beguniapada is also one of the major reasons behind their nesting," said Dr Abedin.

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GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND**DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES, MINES & GEOLOGY****DIRECTORATE OF MINES**

Dated: 24-07-2017

IN BRIEF



Send Sanjay back to jail if we erred: Maharashtra

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Thursday told the Bombay High Court that it could direct actor Sanjay Dutt to go back to jail if it was of the view that the State had erred in granting him early remission. The State government made this submission when it was asked by the court had asked how Mr. Dutt, 58, was granted parole and furlough in quick succession, and within two months of surrendering to serve his five year sentence in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case.

No information on visa to Jadhav's mother: India

NEW DELHI

India has no official information on Pakistan's position on providing visa to Kulbhushan Jadhav's mother, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday. There has been no reply from Pakistan either to the request handed over by the High Commissioner or the letter written by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to her Pakistani counterpart Sartaj Aziz for grant of visa to Jadhav's mother, Avantika, Ministry's spokesperson Gopal Baglay said. The ICJ had on May 18 restrained Pakistan from executing Jadhav's death sentence. PTI

A.P. mountaineers scale Mount Elbrus in Russia

VIJAYAWADA

It was a moment of pride for adventure sports enthusiasts, as two young mountaineers from Andhra Pradesh created a record of sorts by scaling Mount Elbrus in Russia, which is the highest peak in Europe. They displayed a 50-ft Indian tricolour atop the summit at 5,640 metres. The team will reach Vijayawada on August 1.

Rain pounds Gujarat, throws life out of gear

Ahmedabad receives 200 mm of rainfall; schools, colleges closed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat continues to be battered by heavy rains causing floods. On Thursday, Ahmedabad received 200 mm of rainfall, flooding major parts of the city. The Centre has rushed three more teams of the National Disaster Response Force to the State.

The toll in Banaskantha has reached 46 while in Patan district, five persons were washed away in the floods. The total toll has reached 150 in the State since June 1.

"More than 10,000 people were relocated from vulnerable areas as a precautionary measure as torrential rain continues in the State," said a senior government official, adding that more than 1,000 people were rescued by various agencies.

Grim situation'

"Situation continues to be grim because of constant rainfall. After north Gujarat and Saurashtra, the rain is now spreading to central and south Gujarat, causing floods there," the official added.

Portions of at least 20 buildings collapsed due to

Rescue work continues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

All three arms of the military continue will carry out intense rescue and relief operations across Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The Air Force said a large scale Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise involving medium and Chetak helicopters was going on in the flood-hit areas of the two States. In Gujarat's Deesa area, the IAF undertook 12 sorties, while two Chetak helicopters were deployed in Mehsana and Ahmedabad.

heavy rains and water-logging. Three persons were injured when a building crumbled in the Gaekwad Haveli locality in the early hours, Ahmedabad Chief Fire Officer M. Dastoor said.

"Three persons were injured when a building collapsed in the city. Parts of nearly 20 buildings collapsed since midnight, while 64 trees have been uprooted.



Timely relief: People carry packets of food they received from civil defence volunteers in a flooded neighbourhood of Ahmedabad on Thursday. ■ REUTERS

Eleven instances of fire were reported due to short-circuits," he said.

The government authorities have ordered all schools and colleges to remain closed in the affected areas. Examinations have also been postponed.

As on Thursday, more than 300 roads were closed and hundreds of villages submerged in darkness due to

power outage as floods have damaged the power distribution infrastructure.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani visited the affected areas in Ahmedabad and conducted inspection of rescue works. The administration has warned people against venturing out. The Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation issued a warning of heavy rains on Friday and

asked people to stay indoors.

According to Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, 18 teams of the NDRF, six teams of the BSF, six columns of the Army, two teams of the Navy and over a dozen helicopters of the Air Force were involved in the rescue work across the State, mainly in the two worst affected districts of Patan and Banaskantha.

The Ahmedabad airport runway was partly flooded due to heavy rains, though it did not affect the air traffic, its director Manoj Gangal said. Apart from Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Khera also received heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours, affecting thousands of people who had to be relocated to safer areas.

(With inputs from PTI)



Face of devastation: A car being pushed on a waterlogged road in Ahmedabad; villagers crossing a flooded road at Burdwan in Bengal; and a washed away road near Jalor, Rajasthan. ■ VIJAY SONEJI & PTI

Indu Sarkar to release today after SC declines plea to stay it

The film portrays the Emergency days of 1975-77

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Noting that it will not curb artistic licence to dramatise historical facts, the Supreme Court on Thursday refused to stay the scheduled release of Madhur Bhandarkar's film *Indu Sarkar* on July 28.

The film portrays the Emergency days of 1975-77. It was opposed to by a woman, who claimed to be the biological daughter of Sanjay Gandhi, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's son. "We are not inclined to curtail rights of artists to portray or dramatise historical facts," a Bench led by Justice Dipak Misra said.

"National interest and right to know is more important than individual's reputation," the Bench, comprising Justices Amitava Roy and A.M. Khanwilkar, added.

The court rejected the woman's plea that the

In support: A demonstration backing Madhur Bhandarkar's film *Indu Sarkar* in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ PTI

movie is "full of concocted facts and is totally derogatory."

The petitioner, Priya Singh Paul, had contended that the movie contained "derogatory facts" to malign the image of Indira Gandhi.

The court, however, refused to comment on petitioner's claim of being the daughter of Sanjay Gandhi.

The Bombay High Court on July 24 dismissed her plea to stay the release of the film.

Topsy woman kisses police constable

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA

This is one kiss which the recipient could have never expected. A policeman who stopped and hauled up a drunk woman for rash driving ended up being hugged and smooched, police said on Thursday.

The woman, in her late 30s, was driving her car while returning from a party in an allegedly heavily inebriated condition.

She apparently lost control at the Chingrihatra crossing on the Eastern Metropolitan bypass close to Salt Lake and hit a divider. However, when a taxi driver tried to rescue her, the woman thrashed him.

Then a constable tried to bring out the woman and her two friends from the car.

But the woman pulled him towards her, hugged him tightly, and started raining kisses on him.

The woman has been booked for rash driving.

SC for panels to examine dowry cases

Set up 'family welfare committees' in all districts under NALSA, says Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Committees of social workers, homemakers, retired persons and other upstanding citizens will form the vanguard against frivolous complaints of dowry harassment in their localities.

They will sift the genuine cases from the trivial ones. No suspect shall be arrested in a dowry case immediately after a complaint is registered.

Police and the courts will have to wait for the committee's inquiry report. The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the setting up of 'family welfare committees' in all districts under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

The three-member family welfare committees will be set up by the district legal services authorities. Members can be appointed from para legal volunteers, social workers, retired persons, "wives of working officers" and other citizens.

Every complaint received by the police and the Magistrate will be passed on to the local committee, which will enquire into the genuineness of the complaint and file a report with the police official or Magistrate concerned

within a month. The committee can directly get in touch with the parties involved, but the members will not be called as witnesses in case there is a trial.

Till the report of the committee is received, no arrest should normally be effected, the court said.

Trial judges should close Section 498A cases based on matrimonial disputes once parties reached a settlement. In fact, bail should be given the same day, the court directed.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant the Circular issued by the Director of Legal Metrology Division, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India on 4th July 2017, M/s. India Pistons Ltd hereby notifies that consequent to the change in GST, the revised MRP of all their products effective 1st July have been published and made available in their official Website : www.indiapistons.com, Distributors and retailers are advised to refer the After Market Section of Website.

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

VISAKHAPATNAM PORT TRUST
ISO 9001:2008, OHSAS 18001, ISMS 18001
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
(PERSONNEL DIVISION)
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE NO. 7/2017, dated : 26-07-2017

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Visakhapatnam Port Trust, requires Consultant (Media) to Work in General Administration Department (Personnel Section) of Visakhapatnam Port Trust, on contract basis for a period of one year on consolidated remuneration.

Post	Qualifications	Age	Remuneration (Consolidated)	Number of Posts
Consultant (Media)	Essential Qualification (i) Post Graduate Degree in Mass Communication/Journalism / Public Relations from a recognized National/ International University. Experience : ii) 7 years work experience in Public Relations/Mass Communication/Media, Desirable : Diploma in Computer Applications.	Above 35 Years	Rs. 40,000/- 1 (One)	

Preference will be given to the candidates who worked in Nationwide Non-Work Channels and must know local language.

Venue : 1st Floor Administrative Office Building, Visakhapatnam Port Trust.

Date : 26-07-2017 Time : 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM

For further details, visit Port Website i.e. www.vizagport.com

NEW MANGALORE PORT TRUST
MARINE DEPARTMENT, Panambur, Mangalore - 575 010.
NIT No. NMPT/DC/FFT/2017 Dated 28.07.2017
TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are invited from experienced contractors for "Hiring of Foam Fire Tender for a period of 5 years" through MSTC Portal vide E-Tender Event No. NMPT/17-18/ET/65. For more details visit www.newmangaloreport.gov.in, <http://tenders.gov.in> and http://www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/nmpt/buyer_login.jsp Sd/- Deputy Conservator

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
(Govt. of India Undertaking)
TRANSMISSION BUSINESS GROUP, TBSM, SECTOR-142, Noida - 201 305
PHONE NO. 0120-6748454 / 8440
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed bids are invited for (i) Civil Works of 400kV GIS switchyard at Ennore in Tamilnadu (ii) Gravel Spreading work for 400/220kV switchyard at North Karapuram in Jharkhand and (iii) Preparation of fabrication drawings of GI structures on rate contract basis. For EMD, due date & other details refer NIT No. 33809, 33810 and 33811 respectively in tender notifications on www.bhel.com. All amendments, time extensions, clarifications, etc., will be uploaded on this website only. Bidders should regularly visit this website to keep themselves updated.

Last date & time for online submission : 28.08.2017 (up to 11:30 Hrs.)

For details kindly visit website : www.nhni.org or <https://etenders.gov.in>

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT Roc.No:M1/647/MRK/2017 Dt:26-07-2017

e-PROCUREMENT (e-tender and e-reverse auction) NOTICE

e-bids are invited for procurement of 40,000 Kgs (Four months quantity) of Cardamom (ELACHI) 8mm size (AGEB) through M/s MSTC e-tender No. TTD/17-18/ET/20 and e-reverse auction No. MARKETING DEPARTMENT TTD/17-18/RA/20. Interested bidders should submit techno-commercial documents, EMD and the transaction fee at least one working day before the date of reverse auction to any office of MSTC. Technically qualified bidders will be allowed to participate in the E-Reverse Auction.

Detailed auction catalogue: NIT terms can be downloaded from MSTC website: www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/ttd. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, MSTC: Mobile No. 9666040679 / 9441487624.

●EMD: Rs 11,64,000/- • Schedule Date & time of e-tender: Submission of price bid up to 1-00 PM on 02-08-2017. e- Reverse Auction: 03-08-2017 from 11.00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.

For details kindly visit website : www.apbsnl.etenders.in and <http://www.telangana.bnsl.co.in>

For details kindly visit website : www.ttdonline.gov.in and <http://www.ttdonline.gov.in>

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For details kindly visit website : www.ttdonline.gov.in and <http://www.ttdonline.gov.in>

CPWD- E - TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE/ CORRIGENDUM

The last date of uploading of e-tender documents for the following NITs are here extended up to 02.08.2017 at 15.00 Hrs.

(1). NIT No. 07 /CLTCD/2017-18. Name of work: SITE of 25 Kwp Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant at IISR Main Campus, Chelavoor, Calicut.

(2). NIT No. 08 /CLTCD/2017-18. Name of work: Providing 40Kw Solar Photovoltaic Power generating system at NRIP Cheruthuruthy.

(3). NIT No. 09 /CLTCD/2017-18. Name of work: SITE of 1 number 150 KLD Modular type Sewage Treatment plant i/c construction of Plant Room for 500 Rooms Girls Hostel at NIT Calicut. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD and www.cpwd.gov.in

Project Implementation Unit
Technical Assistance & Capacity Building of DRM
Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project, Dehradun Pin-248001, Uttarakhand
Plot No. 29, IIE, IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Tel: +91-135-2708358 (O)
E-mail: piu.wb.drm@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Credit No. 5313 - IN, Reference:
IN-PIU-CBDRM-20725-CS-QCBS Dated: 29-07-2017
Assignment Title: SELECTION OF CONSULTING FIRM FOR BUILDING REGULATION FOR RESILIENCE IN UTTARAKHAND

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project in Uttarakhand, India and intends to apply a part of proceeds for Consultancy services for Selection of consulting firm for building regulation for resilience in Uttarakhand. The Expressions of Interest (EOI) are being invited for the assignment. Details for the assignment can be downloaded from the website: <a href="http://www



The shift in Bihar

As Nitish Kumar switches allies, the BJP appears to be the only winner

Nitish Kumar's impending split from the Mahagathbandhan, or Grand Alliance, in Bihar had been the subject of speculation for months so that when it came, the only surprise was the swiftness and finality of the separation from Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal – and of his embrace of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The sequence of events suggests that Mr. Kumar had secured the new alliance and his continuation as Chief Minister before he resigned. This is why the proffered reason for his resignation – the allegations of corruption against his Deputy Chief Minister and Mr. Prasad's son, Tejashwi Yadav – lacked conviction. Mr. Kumar's record of shifting fast and loose between allies is a story of political expediency and it is not entirely clear what political compulsion or personal ambition the latest move was born of. If it was naïve to believe that in 2013 he led the Janata Dal (United) away from the BJP, with which he led a coalition government in Bihar, because of a sudden aversion to prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi and communalism, then it is just as ingenuous to think that his recent move is a result of a principled fight against corruption. Surely, Mr. Kumar knew he had teamed up with a party led by a man convicted for corruption in the fodder scam when he joined hands with Mr. Prasad to fight the 2015 Bihar Assembly election? The record shows that Mr. Kumar's rallying cry changes depending on which political party he chooses to be up against.

As Mr. Kumar inched closer to the BJP, praising demonetisation, supporting its presidential candidate and even colouring a lotus at a public function, the war on corruption became his overriding theme once again. While it is likely he will steer the JD(U) on this political realignment in the days to come, a question mark remains on how long the new arrangement will last. In the BJP's take-no-prisoners project to expand its electoral footprint, a multi-cornered contest in Bihar, on the lines of the last Lok Sabha election, could be the best-case scenario for the party in 2019. Will it have any use for the JD(U) then? As for Mr. Kumar, he has since 2005 built a constituency made up of vulnerable subsections of the electorate: women and the more backward among the Other Backward Classes, Dalits (Mahadalits), and Muslims (Pasmanda Muslims). These are voters he has sought to tie in to the development narrative with his various allies and forge winning coalitions. Whether this tactic has run its course will be known at the next election, mid-term or otherwise. The gains to the JD(U) from the patch-up are not immediately evident, if indeed Mr. Kumar sees something more durable than a settling of scores with Mr. Prasad. What is without doubt is that opposition unity has suffered a setback. The Mahagathbandhan was perceived as the template for taking on the BJP nationally – what's more, there were many people who hoped, and once again naïvely, that Mr. Kumar would be at the heart of it.

A crisis of trust

Trump's actions are driving a wedge between his White House and the Republican Party

During the past week, it became evident that U.S. President Donald Trump takes a dim view of his Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, a man whose appointment to that key role he fought resolutely for in the face of serious objections. This is not a clash of egos, but another instance of Mr. Trump's disdain for constitutional propriety regarding conflicts of interest and the murky issue of Russia's influence on the 2016 presidential election. The current episode dates back four months, to when Mr. Sessions recused himself from the FBI's inquiry into whether Moscow had interfered in the election. Although Mr. Trump at the time dismissed the notion that such action was called for, Mr. Sessions's recusal was consistent with settled norms and with his own reassurances on Capitol Hill that he would consider being removed from any process where he thought his "impartiality might reasonably be questioned". The President's anger at the FBI investigation then swelled, leading to the abrupt firing of the Bureau's Director James Comey in May. Mr. Comey had previously told the House of Representatives' Intelligence Committee that the FBI was investigating whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia during the election. Since July 24, Mr. Trump has stepped up his public attacks on Mr. Sessions, describing the recusal as "very unfair", and suggesting that Mr. Sessions showed bias in favour of Democratic election rival Hillary Clinton by not probing her emails as he should have.

Observers are not surprised that Mr. Trump, a man of his own making, has shown himself to be comfortable with a casual approach toward conflicts of interest. Yet what they may not have anticipated is the extent to which his desire to protect the personal interests of his family and the business interests of the Trump Organization could eventually lead to a chasm between the White House and the Republican Party. After all, many among the party's traditional conservatives believe firmly in the established traditions of checks and balances within the government system and would view the suspected Russian meddling through the lens of fierce patriotism. The clearest indication that trust is fraying between the Oval Office and Capitol Hill is the fact that Representatives this week passed a tough sanctions bill with proposed measures targeting Moscow, by an overwhelming 419-3 vote. This would hamper Mr. Trump's strategy of extending the hand of friendship to Vladimir Putin. Mr. Trump can ill afford such a trust deficit, especially when his own officials appear to be uncertain over their boss plans. This would apply, for instance, to Defence Secretary James Mattis, who was on vacation when Mr. Trump unexpectedly announced a ban on transgender persons in the military.

Country without a PM

Nawaz Sharif is a distracted leader; the Supreme Court's next step will determine if he's seen to be victim or culprit



AYESHA SIDDIQWA

The office of Pakistan's Prime Minister is subject to pulls and pressures far in excess of those in other democracies. But even by these standards, Nawaz Sharif is under inordinate stress. He is facing a court case and a scathing media trial.

A three-member Bench of the Supreme Court is yet to give a final verdict regarding his disqualification. The decision will be based on the report by a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) established by the orders of the court to investigate Mr. Sharif and his family's assets after the leak of the Panama Papers related to holdings in offshore companies.

The question now is whether the Chief Justice will give a verdict based on the decision of the three judges or call for a larger Bench. The judiciary might like to get the decision popularly accepted by calling for a larger Bench. It is not as if all onlookers are convinced about the judges or the JIT being bipartisan.

Odds stacked against PM

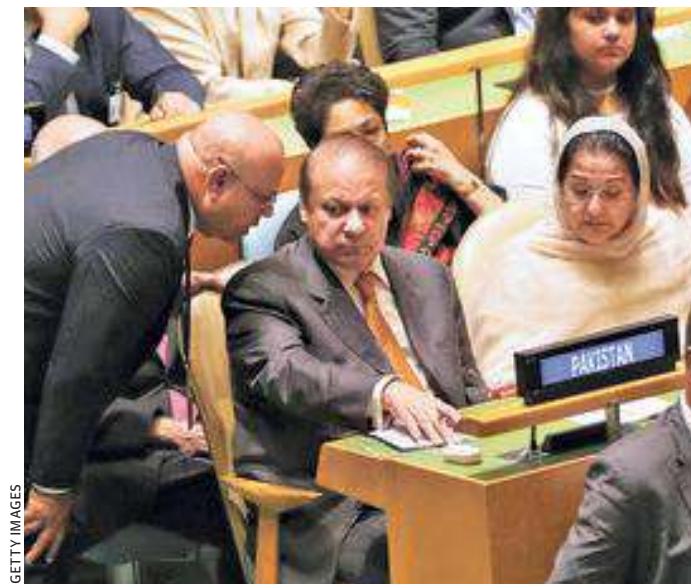
It is a fact that corruption investigations are not easy, especially when the country's main anti-corruption institutions, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), lack forensic investigation expertise. Even in the case of some of the Sharifs' assets, the JIT hired the services of a foreign company. Notwithstanding such lacunae, the highest court was willing to open

up a Pandora's box of investigating "a constant murmur nationally as well internationally about respondent No. 1 (Nawaz Sharif) indulging in corruption, corrupt practices and money laundering". If proven guilty, Mr. Sharif cannot hold office as per Article 62 (I) (F) of the 1973 Constitution as he would be declared as not being sadiq (truthful) and ameen (honest). Even if the judges feel uncomfortable using the JIT report as the basis of their decision, the axe could still fall on Mr. Sharif on the basis of him officiating as a director in a company registered in the UAE while he was heading the government.

There are today very few people betting on Mr. Sharif completing his term, which if he does, he'd be the first Prime Minister to do. But as far as the popular narrative in the country goes, Mr. Sharif is already gone. The working of the state bureaucracy has already slowed down in anticipation of some transition.

There are even rumours of Mr. Sharif's current Interior Minister, Chaudhry Nisar, being favoured by both the Establishment and the rival Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party as one of the candidates to replace him while the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) government is allowed to complete the term.

In any case, there will be no hurry to hold the next elections due to the need for a new delimitation of constituencies based on the recently held census – senior judges believe the delimitation should take place. Meanwhile, Mr. Sharif's future role in politics will be determined by how far the court proceedings drag and how it turns out personally and politically for him in the months and years to come. What is certain is that Mr.



Sharif is not inclined to resign, as was expected of him, but, if it comes to that, to go down as a political martyr – a man politically victimised by non-parliamentary institutions of the country.

The media campaign aims to make him bleed politically and increase his losses the longer he stays. Interestingly, there are serving state officials in numerous WhatsApp groups who are gently directing conversations in a certain direction, or watching while their partners do the same. It is not that lack of accountability is not a huge problem in Pakistan but that accountability has always been used as a political tool to punish rivals. Hence, ordinary people forgave Dr. A.Q. Khan, the architect of Pakistan's nuclear programme, and accept him as a hero despite his confession on television regarding illegal sale of nuclear technology because in their eyes he did return something for all he took. Also, in the absence of the enact-

ment of a strong law or principle of the rule of law, even courts are perceived by the man on the street as either corrupt or highly political. Moreover, when the law is meant to selectively conduct accountability (excluding the military and the judiciary), many raised eyebrows at an earlier judgment in the Panama Papers case that quoted Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* but no law.

Post-verdict scenarios

Since the power rests with the judges, their verdict will influence the short- or longer-term future of the Sharif family. The real conversation in the drawing rooms these days is whether it is just Mr. Sharif who will be disqualified or whether it would extend to his entire family – two sons and a daughter who are the ones actually named in the Panama leaks. With his eyes already on the 2018 elections, Mr. Sharif would hope that his daughter and political heir,

Maryam Nawaz, survives this crisis. If the entire family is disqualified, it will certainly send a signal that things are up for grabs.

This means that even if the PML (N) remains, it would be mired in infighting and could be as easily manipulated as the Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam) was. While parts of central and north Punjab will remain aligned with Mr. Sharif, there will much greater activity in south and southwest Punjab where people will be influenced by, as per local political lingo, 'whichever way the strong wind blows'. This is translated as a clear indication that the Establishment is not in a party's favour.

But the process of shifting gears will essentially start with electable candidates moving to another party or contesting elections as independent candidates. In urban centres, the anti-corruption slogan, compounded with the anti-incumbency factor, will play a role.

The case against Mr. Sharif is indeed critical as the manner in which the court proceeds will determine not only his short- to medium-term political moves but also his long- to longer-term future. If the judges do not appear bipartisan and use the principle of law rather than their opinion – a fashion that dates back to Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry's days – Mr. Sharif will be perceived as a victim rather than a culprit.

Even his disqualification will then generate the myth that he was punished for something else rather than what the court and the JIT tried him for. This may not save Mr. Sharif now but will haunt the Establishment in a few years.

Ayesha Siddiqua is author of 'Military Inc. – Inside Pakistan's Military Economy', and research associate at SOAS South Asia Institute

What's at stake in Hyderabad

India must counter Japan's U.S.-style pressure at the RCEP talks and ensure affordable generic medicines

FEROZ ALI

Leaked texts are like leaked gases – you may never find the one responsible for it, but the mayhem caused by its release is hard to contain. Unsurprisingly, all public discussions on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) are centred around leaked documents. As India negotiates the RCEP – a free trade agreement that looks remarkably similar to the now failed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) but for the absence of the chief protagonist and dissenter, the United States – Japan now appears to be playing the role that the United States is known for: policing the intellectual property (IP) regimes of its trading partners. Unlike the TPP, where India and China were not parties, the RCEP will open two of the world's fastest-growing economies to new standards of IP protection with some unforeseen consequences.

IP, investment and RCEP

One of the conditions that have been put forth both in the TPP as well as the RCEP is the formation of an Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanism and to include IP as an investment. Treating IP as an investment would allow private

companies to raise investment disputes against the host country whenever they feel that the legal regime does not favour them. These disputes could be initiated by MNCs and especially the pharmaceutical industries that have until now had their hands tied in front of the Indian laws and the judiciary. Japan's insistence on the inclusion of this clause comes as no surprise as it is the third-largest RCEP investor country. Countries like India and China, which will be the destinations for the investments, should include safeguards against these measures.

The IP chapter in RCEP is at risk of including provisions far stricter than those mandated by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The leaked IP chapter shows that both Japan and South Korea are mounting pressure to implement a TRIPS-plus regime in IP. Adhering to TRIPS-plus standards would be detrimental to developing countries that have benefited from generic competition and lower-priced medicines through the use of the flexibilities in TRIPS such as stricter patentability criteria and the absence of



data exclusivity provisions. The few IP reforms discussed in the RCEP include data exclusivity, patent term extension, and much more lenient criteria for patentability.

This would mean delay in the entry of generic versions of medicines, extension of patent monopoly for a longer time, and exclusivity for drugs that should not be patented if strict patentability criteria were to be applied. The RCEP negotiations on these fronts spearheaded by Japan appear to be an extension of the arm-twisting that developing countries like India

have been repeatedly subject to by the U.S. as reflected in the most recent Special 301 Report released by the U.S. Trade Representative.

The strong MNC lobby growing in Japan, especially on the pharmaceutical side, is a reason for its insistence on stricter IP rules. An example of this is the drug patented by Otsuka for the treatment of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB).

The company has been strategically withholding the registration of the patent in India, thereby preventing a generic version of the drug from being manufactured. In the event that a provision of data exclusivity is passed, the millions of TB patients in India would have to buy the high-priced drugs, which would have no cheaper generic alternative.

MFN clause

The WTO has a most-favoured-nation (MFN) clause that obliges the concessions offered to the MFN to be offered to others. In essence, if India has an agreement with Japan (through the RCEP), India will be obliged to offer the same concessions to the U.S. as well as the other members of the WTO. The negotiating pattern reflects the reality of

international law making. It is evident that developed countries are using FTAs to expand the existing standards of IP.

At the 19th round of the RCEP negotiations currently on in Hyderabad, India must resist Japan's U.S.-style pressure in this regard. Developing countries like India which have taken the leadership in instituting and using balanced intellectual property protection for pharmaceuticals should not only proudly protect their laws in the RCEP negotiations, they should also encourage other countries to adopt and use similar measures that ensure generic competition. The international trading system is not an end in itself and instead of adopting U.S. style lobbying on behalf of multinational companies in the RCEP negotiations, Japan would do well to recall its international commitments on health care and sustainable development and support developing countries in the region in their quest to ensure sustainable access to affordable medicines.

Feroz Ali is the IPR Chair Professor at IIT Madras. He is part of a Shuttleworth Foundation project on access to medicines.

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.

Nitish's 'ghar wapsi'?

Given the recent overtures made by Nitish Kumar to the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance), the turn of events in Bihar came as no great surprise. The resignation and the swearing-in as Chief Minister within a span of 14 hours follow a script to perfection. The plot has left people wondering how Mr. Kumar could be so calculating, opportunistic and petty. That he could not think of dissolving the Assembly and calling fresh elections reflects his desire to stay in power. It is an irony that Mr. Kumar, who left the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government as a mark of protest against Narendra Modi's ascendancy, has now chosen to put himself at his mercy, blissfully oblivious of the "effect" of Mr. Modi's rise to power, like lynchings across the country. By realigning with the NDA, Mr. Kumar has lent legitimacy

sighted action cannot but be seen as a betrayal of the people's mandate which was for the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance). He could not have done worse for the cause of Opposition unity and the emergence of a secular alternative to the BJP.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ The resignation of Mr. Kumar to form a new government with support of the BJP is, to say the least, a highly immoral act. The people of Bihar in 2015 had voted an anti-BJP alliance to power. If Mr. Kumar was dissatisfied with the functioning of his alliance partners, he should have gone for a new election in alliance with the BJP. This episode brings out the need for a constitutional amendment to make fresh elections mandatory in the event of such developments.

S. VENKATARAMAN,
Pune

Privacy as right
The debate on right to privacy should result in

consensus on data protection and not opposition to the use of data for greater public good ("Privacy in the public domain," July 27). There is nothing exciting about the formation of a nine-judge Bench by the Supreme Court. This is because right to privacy has already been recognised by the Supreme Court as an offshoot of 'right to life and personal liberty' (Article 21).

However, we must remember that no right, howsoever sacrosanct it may be, is not absolute. It has to be regulated for the larger public good. In this age of technology-driven life, data analysis can serve many purposes like better targeting of welfare schemes, transparent and direct transfer of benefits, monitoring and detection of crimes, ensuring of tax compliances, and tracking of anti-national and terror activities. At the same time, unauthorised and illegal use of individual data may result in fraud and loss of privacy for individuals. Therefore, it is high time that the

Central government constitutes a task force comprising experts from the Law and Information Technology Ministries and comes out with a comprehensive data protection law.

M.K. BHANDARI,
Mumbai

■ The article has exposed the hypocrisy of singling out the government and its agencies as arch-violators of the citizens' privacy while turning a blind eye to the surreptitious and invisible collection, storage and unauthorised use of private data by technology companies. Strictly speaking, there isn't much of a difference between privacy lost through the coercive actions of the government and that caused by the voluntary parting of personal information by netizens. In fact, the latter is more insidious because while the citizens can always haul the government before the courts, no such legal recourse is available against the American technology companies if personal

information falls into the wrong hands. Privacy activists should be more worried about the Internet's oligopolistic architecture where the control and command systems lie in the hands of a couple of technology companies. Sure, users can sign out of Facebook and Google, but these companies have colonised the digital space to such an extent that pulling the plug involves the risk of inviting social isolation and ostracism.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Save the wetlands
The heavy floods of 2015 in Chennai were a man-made disaster. Unplanned urbanisation, coupled with encroachment of wetlands in and around the city and their conversion into sites for waste disposal, commercial establishments and residential constructions were the primary reasons for the floods. The damage caused should have been a wake-up call for the governments at the State and the Centre but it is shocking that they are

planning for more disasters by diverting Ennore wetlands for industrial installations ("Time to change course," July 27). Wetlands are of great ecological and economic importance. They help to maintain water at normal levels in lakes, ponds, rivers and also act as recharge and purification aquifers.

Occupation of wetlands modifies the course of the overflowing rivers and disturbs the ecosystem. India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971), whose mission is the conservation and wise utilisation of wetlands through local and international cooperation. Governments have to comply by the convention's rules. Construction cannot be forbidden but proper planning and mandatory environmental audit can do great good both to the government and the wetland ecosystem.

ARCHANA VENKATAMADHVARAJ,
Theohukudi

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LEFT, RIGHT, CENTRE



AMIT SENGUPTA
is a trained physician
and Associate Global
Coordinator in the
India chapter of
People's Health
Movement



MANOJ JHALANI
is Additional Secretary
and Director, National
Health Mission



K. SRINATH REDDY
is President, Public
Health Foundation of
India (PHFI)

Public health, private players?

Private providers will be able to cherry-pick the lucrative districts where patients have a higher paying capacity

LEFT The NITI Aayog has recently unveiled a grand plan to effectively privatise district hospitals in Tier-I and Tier-II towns. It has developed what it calls a "model concessionaire agreement" for provision of healthcare services for cardiac and pulmonary (lung) diseases and cancers. It is proposed that public facilities in district hospitals would be outsourced to private providers. They would be free to charge full treatment costs from patients not covered by government schemes (such as the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana) and the providers would be reim-

bursed by the government for treating patients referred by the government

Red-carpet treatment

Private providers will be able to cherry-pick the most lucrative districts where patients have a higher paying capacity. The scheme also provides for an escrow account that would offset the risk to private providers posed by possible delays in reimbursement by the government. Providers would also secure access to public facilities such as ambulance services, blood banks and mortuaries. Clearly no effort has been spared to roll out the red car-

pet and ensure that private companies are able to freeload on public assets.

What are the implications for accessible healthcare services? First, the proposal implies that most patients would have to pay for care even in public facilities. The promise that patients covered by government health insurance schemes would access care free of cost needs to be seen in the context of recent surveys which show that just 12-13% of people are covered by public-funded insurance.

Second, the proposal is designed to further worsen inequity in access to healthcare services. Private providers will concentrate on better-off



districts, leaving the poor and remote districts for the public sector to manage. This will further weaken the ability of public hospitals to attract and retain trained doctors and other health workers.

Third, the scheme will expose thousands of patients to unethical practices by private providers, compromises in quality and rationality of services and additional 'top-up services'. A specific section in the document on 'risk management' is primarily concerned about risks of private providers, with very little about robust mechanisms to protect patients from unethical practices.

Fourth, outsourcing of hospital

care to private providers inevitably becomes increasingly unsustainable over time as they ratchet up demands on reimbursements and fees. The proposal to hive off hospital care to the private sector is justified by the argument that public services are not financed adequately and face an acute shortage of trained human resources.

The simple remedy could be to significantly enhance investment in public healthcare services, including in the training of health workers. The government's singular resistance to follow such a path is linked to its ideological moorings, which find virtue in private enterprise and view public services as inherently inefficient. This scepticism regarding public services needs to be tempered by the experience that

success stories of public health, in diverse settings such as the U.K., France, Cuba, Thailand and Sri Lanka, are all related to public systems.

The NITI Aayog's proposal involves the handing over of public assets to for-profit companies, and represents a clear abdication of duty by the government. The NITI Aayog describes itself as a 'think tank', unlike the Planning Commission of yore.

It is understood that the scheme will be piloted in a couple of districts, presumably in Bharatiya Janata Party-governed States. Health care is primarily a State subject and State governments must first question the legitimacy of a supposed think tank to pronounce public policy.

Government cannot remain oblivious to present needs even while building capacity of the public health system

RIGHT The issue of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in health has been highlighted by the recent draft NITI Aayog document about a PPP arrangement for certain non-communicable diseases (NCD). To infer from this that the government is forfeiting its role in public health care is totally misplaced. The National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 clearly prioritises strengthening of public health systems as a key approach. However, it also recognises a critical gap-filling through strategic purchasing to be directed "to-

wards those areas and those services for which currently there are no providers or few providers". It further envisages that "the order of preference for strategic purchasing would be public sector hospitals followed by not-for-profit private sector and then commercial private sector in underserved areas".

Recent policy decisions and funding support to States to undertake universal screening and management for common NCDs, provide comprehensive primary health care through health and wellness centres, strengthen district hospitals (DH) to provide

multi-specialty care, upgrade DHs to medical colleges, and ensure access to free essential drugs and diagnostics in government health facilities indicate purposeful actions to strengthen public health systems. For instance, this year there is a jump from ₹ 445 crore to ₹ 3,300 crore in Central allocation for upgradation of DHs to medical colleges in districts without any medical college.

Reality check

However, we do need to acknowledge a few facts. Despite recent efforts, current capacities in public facilities to manage disease conditions in cardiology, pulmonology

and oncology are practically non-existent in Tier-II and Tier-III towns in most States, even in the private sector. It leads to overcrowding in tertiary-level facilities in big cities, compromising quality of care and leading to high out-of-pocket expenditures.

The waiting time in premier public institutions like AIIMS, Delhi for certain procedures can range from several months to a few years. The disease burden on account of NCDs is increasing rapidly. A 2014 study by Harvard University for the World Economic Forum shows that India stands to incur a cost of \$2.17 trillion between 2012 and 2030 due to

cardiovascular diseases alone. The government cannot remain oblivious to the present need, even while building capacity of the public health system.

If successful, the NITI Aayog pro-

posal, developed in broad consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will expand access to care for key NCDs to such populations that have not hitherto had access. While the proposal envisages that care will be provided free for BPL families and those covered by government insurance schemes, the rates will be negotiated at Central government health scheme/State government insurance rates for others so that even the non-poor will receive care at a rate much lower than market rates. This

The proposed PPP model in district hospitals will improve access but may not deliver equitable care

CENTRE The proposal to invite private sector investment in district hospitals is based on five premises: district hospitals need upgrading to provide good-quality secondary care and some elements of tertiary care to reduce dependence on and over-crowding of medical college hospitals and corporate hospitals; NCDs are affecting increasing numbers of people; most government-run district hospitals are presently unable to provide this care; incentivised private sector investment and participation in care delivery in such

hospitals can fill this gap; and the proposed PPP model can function smoothly with shared facilities and a dual payment system.

The first three premises are uncontested. The fourth premise is open to debate on whether higher levels of private investment should be the preferred approach to strengthen district hospitals. PPP proponents argue that it will take time, resources and management skills to reach an acceptable level of public sector capacity and the rising tide of NCDs can brook no delay.

Is the government seeing the PPP

as temporary gap-filling during the phase of public sector capacity build-up? However, if this model of 'one hospital, two systems' is envisaged as a permanent feature, the risks and returns of such cohabitation require serious scrutiny. Cannot the financial support provided to the private sector be directed to create public sector capacity?

Gaps in the proposal

In a mixed health system, it could be efficient to engage the services of the private sector to supplement the capacity of the public sector. However, cost and quality must be controlled for delivering appropri-

ate and affordable care with accountability.

Listing of angioplasty as the only treatment in the cardiology segment is an open invitation to unnecessary procedures. Coupled with the conveyor belt of referrals

from mass screening in primary health care, this can be a bonanza for the private sector but can deliver inappropriate care. Surprisingly, even the less expensive thrombolytic treatment for heart attacks is not listed.

It is proposed that the nested private facility will provide NCD care to two categories of patients – those referred and paid for by government schemes and self-referred

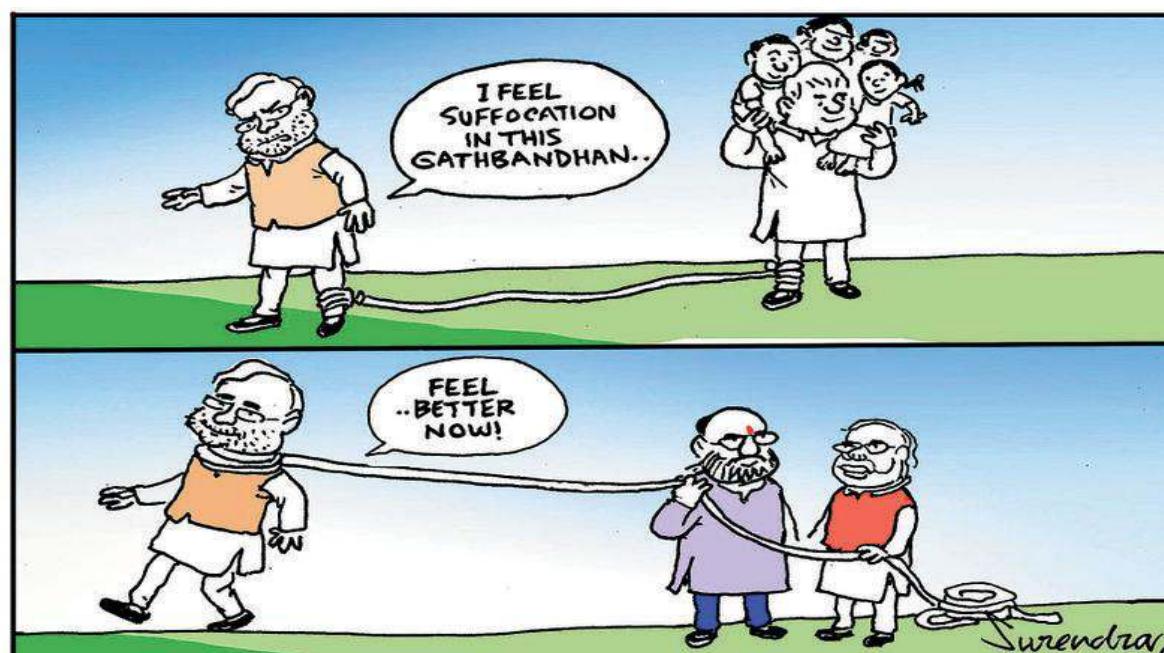
patients who will pay from pocket. In the absence of a minimum number of beds reserved for the former, how can we prevent predominant capture by the latter? How will financial protection be provided to the near-poor who have to self-pay? Even if package costs for the latter are transparently displayed, who will negotiate those costs and prevent add-ons during hospitalisation?

If private sector participation were to be via empanelment of independent private facilities, the contract can be time-bound, with provision for early termination or non-renewal for poor performance. When the private sector unit is embedded within the district hospital through investment in infrastruc-

ture and equipment, and is initially contracted for 30 years, it would be difficult to dislodge a poorly performing private partner. The scope for litigation will be high in this arrangement.

Given the large presence of the sector, a well-defined role in the provision of NCD care is welcome but has to be accommodated within a well-designed framework of Universal Health Coverage that integrates pre-paid primary, secondary and tertiary care through a combination of tax funding and social insurance. The proposed PPP model will improve access but may not deliver appropriate and equitable care.

The views expressed are personal



CONCEPTUAL Heimat SOCIOLOGY

Heimat, a German concept for "home" or "homeland", describes the relationship of a being to a place through spatial and temporal dimensions. Historically, it has connoted the positive aspects of a relationship with one's homeland but it was misappropriated by the Nazis to further their ideology. Towards the end of the 20th century, there was renewed interest in the concept in Germany but more as a construct rather than a place. Some scholars have thought of Heimat as a practice – a notion that can be harnessed to order an entity's surroundings in a meaningful manner, such as to manage the environment.

ACT ONE Regulation of DNA profiling

A bill to aid DNA data collection for investigation, research

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

As the debate on whether or not privacy is a fundamental right rages, the Law Commission has drafted a Bill on the use and regulation of human DNA profiling. The 27th report of the Commission has prepared the draft Bill named 'The DNA Based Technology (Use and Regulation) Bill, 2017' after examining various judicial pronouncements and constitutional provisions.

The exercise was initiated by the Commission after the Department of Biotechnology forwarded its draft of 'The Use and Regulation of DNA based Technology in Civil and Criminal Proceedings, Identification of Missing Persons and Human Remains Bill, 2016' in September last year.

The Commission records that DNA profiling is used for disaster victim identification, investigation of crimes, identification of missing persons and human remains and

for medical research purposes. It notes that privacy concerns and the ethics involved in this scientific collection of data are very serious.

The Commission notes that the question whether privacy is an integral part of the right to personal liberty is still under consideration of the Supreme Court. However, it also makes the point that the procedure for DNA profiling, if given statutory recognition, should be as per constitutional provisions.

Primarily, the Bill provides for the setting up of a statutory DNA Profiling Board to spell out procedures and standards to establish DNA laboratories. The Commission's draft Bill restricts DNA profiling to the specific purpose of identification of a person and not for extracting other information.

It provides for the creation of DNA data banks, at national and regional levels, which would be re-

sponsible for storing DNA profiles received from the accredited laboratories. They will also be responsible for maintaining certain indices, like crime scene index, suspects' index, offenders' index, missing persons' index and unknown deceased persons' index. DNA experts would be notified as government scientific experts.

Sharing of DNA profiles with foreign governments or other government agencies, organisations or institutions would only be for the purpose of this Act or any of its agencies, including identification of missing persons, disaster victims, suspects. Any violation would lead to imprisonment, which may extend up to three years, and a fine which may extend up to ₹ 2 lakh.

The Bill gives the right to an individual to request for another DNA test in case of doubts that his earlier samples may have been contaminated.

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1967

Andhra holds objections to project untenable

The Chief Minister, Mr. K. Brahmananda Reddi declared in the State Assembly to-day [July 27, Hyderabad] that the Government of India was fully committed to sanctioning the ultimate phase of the Nagarjunasagar Project and said that this giant project, one of the biggest in the world, could be economical only when it was executed in its entirety. Mr. Reddi was replying to the two-hour debate on the Nagarjunasagar project. The Chief Minister maintained that there was nothing like a first or second phase of the project. The whole was an integrated project and even the "first phase" would take three more years to complete. He was therefore unable to understand the objections raised by Mysore and Maharashtra. Mr. Reddi pointed out that the issue could not be taken to the Supreme Court.

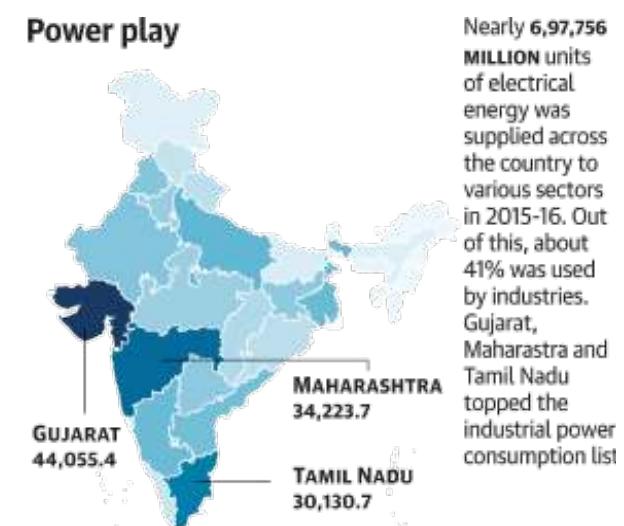
A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1917

The Western Front.

The French feat in beating off German attempts to recapture the important positions between Reims and Soissons is more highly appreciated as it becomes clear that the German object is to bleed the French white. The German offensive strength in the west has been concentrated in this effort for the past three months and the only result of a series of sanguinary battles has been a slight pushing back of the French outposts here and there at immense cost. Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters wiring yesterday evening [July 26] emphasises that the Germans are in dead earnest. The great attack on Craonne plateaux from July 19th to 24th was carried out by two picked Divisions of Guards and Brandenburgers stiffened by a storming line of Stosstruppen. A temporary success was purchased at reckless sacrifices and it was wiped out by magnificent counter-attacks by a single Touraine Division that had borne the brunt of a week's fighting.

DATA POINT

Power play



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FROM PAGE ONE

Nitish-Sushil Modi back at the helm

"I took decision in the interest of Bihar and my commitment is to serve Bihar and its people...development with justice has been my government's mantra and it will continue to be so," Mr. Kumar said. He said when the time would come "he will explain everything" (on why he chose to part ways with the Grand Alliance government).

BJP sources told *The Hindu* that other senior members would be inducted into the new Cabinet after the government wins the trust vote on Friday.

Names of leaders Nand Kishore Yadav, Prem Kumar, Mangal Pandey, Sanjeev Chaurasia, Nitin Navin, Arun Sinha and Bhagirathi Devi are among those doing

the rounds. Former Chief Minister and HAM(S) leader Jitan Ram Manjhi too could get a ministerial berth in a bid to address Dalit aspirations.

According to sources, as in the previous NDA government, 14 Ministers each from the JD(U) and BJP are likely to form the Cabinet with "few alterations".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted to congratulate both Mr. Kumar and Mr. Sushil Modi. Later, Mr. Kumar and Mr. Modi tweeted to thank Mr. Modi. "Thanks for the good wishes... There will be no compromise on the issue of corruption. I trust that with the help of Centre, development in the State would get pace," tweeted Mr. Kumar.

Rumblings in JD(U)

During the presidential polls, Mr. Veerendra Kumar had voted for the Opposition candidate Meira Kumar and is well on his way to joining the ruling LDF in Kerala. Mr. Kumar reportedly told Mr. Yadav that the JD(U) was committing a "historic blunder" by joining up with the BJP again.

Mr. Yadav had invited him to his residence in the evening along with Mr. Anwar. Quite what transpired at that meeting wasn't clear but it was enough for Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to contemplate a late evening meeting with Mr. Yadav. Sources say Mr. Yadav's sulk could be just positioning for a situational ad-

Developed India best tribute to Kalam: PM

Island named after Kalam

Stating that the Centre and State governments together should take the country in the path of development, Mr. Modi congratulated the Tamil Nadu government for implementing the centrally sponsored schemes and taking the benefits to the people. He assured that the Centre would help Tamil Nadu in its development programmes.

In his welcome address, after the inauguration of the memorial, NDA vice-presidential candidate M. Venkiah Naidu described both Mr. Modi and former President Kalam as 'karma yogis' (selfless workers), committed to the growth of the country.

Mr. Naidu also hailed late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa and said, "God has taken away the two great souls from Tamil Nadu – one Abdul Kalam and the other

'Puratchi Thalaivi' (revolutionary leader) Jayalalithaa."

At the Prime Minister's request, the audience gave a standing ovation to the more than 450 workers who worked overtime but never claimed extra payment to build the memorial. Mr. Modi also complimented the DRDO for building the memorial within a short span of time.

Doval holds talks with Chinese counterpart

Mr. Akbar, responding to a question regarding China's recent denial of visa to a group of journalists to Tibet and the remedial measures being taken to defuse the Doklam stand-off, said the two countries had agreed to work together.

"[I] want to state one thing certainly... that when Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping met in Astana, a closer development partnership was discussed and both countries decided that we will intensify our people-to-people contacts and do whatever is necessary to bring both countries closer."

Ms. Swaraj maintained that despite commitment to improve bilateral ties, India had not hesitated to protest

whenever differences arose with China about issues like stapled visas for Indian citizens from Arunachal or the visit of Dalai Lama to Tawang. She, however, maintained that India remained open to Chinese companies. "There is no policy to deny China [business opportunities]," she said to a question.

The statement about closer developmental partnership was also reiterated by MEA spokesperson Gopal Bagay who described bilateral ties between the two countries as a "factor of stability" and reiterated the June 8 "Astana consensus" under which both sides had agreed to resolve bilateral disputes peacefully through negotiations.

3 Gujarat Cong. MLAs quit party, join BJP

With the resignation of the three legislators, the Congress's tally in the 182-seat Assembly has come down to 54, making the Rajya Sabha elections an important political battle before the Assembly elections due in December this year.

Two MLAs of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the lone JD(U) MLA have supported the nomination of Mr. Patel, but the exit of a large number of MLAs from his own party makes the battle a tightrope walk for him.

C.M.Y.K

Privacy built into Aadhaar Act, says UIDAI

It was responding to concerns raised by Supreme Court Bench about personal data landing in the hands of private players

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, that citizens could not claim informational privacy when the state asks for data for a legitimate purpose such as Aadhaar. "There is no denying that it [Aadhaar] is a social welfare scheme, but you [the government] must first concede that the state is obliged to put a robust personal data protection mechanism in place," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said.

"There may be a billion Aadhaar card holders. I don't want the state to pass on my personal information to some 2,000 service providers who will send me WhatsApp messages offering cosmetics and air conditioners ... That is our area of con-



Venugopal then pointed to Section 28 of the statute dealing with "security and confidentiality of information". It was in the State's legitimate interest to keep personal data secure as this would make Aadhaar acceptable to one and all, he submitted.

"So does this mean you do recognise privacy as a fundamental right?" Justice Bobde persisted.

Here, Justice Rohinton F. Nariman observed that the government had dedicated an entire chapter in the 2016 Act to the protection of privacy and security. "So is this not a statutory recognition of privacy as a fundamental right?" he asked Mr. Venugopal.

"A law [Aadhaar Act] may

specifically provide for the protection of privacy because privacy is not recognised as a fundamental right," said Mr. Venugopal, turning the judge's question on its head.

Justice Chandrachud said informational privacy was the most "vexed" portion of the ongoing debate as parts of personal data were already in the public domain. To this, Mr. Venugopal said informational privacy can never be a part of fundamental rights. There was no informational privacy against compelling state interests and public utility, for which the state can ask for fingerprints. But again, individuals can refuse if the information sought was totally irrelevant," he said.

Not a right: Maharashtra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP-ruled Maharashtra government has argued before the Supreme Court that privacy is not a fundamental right but only a "concept."

The State contended that the Supreme Court cannot inject privacy into the Constitution as a new right, and this can only be done through a constitutional amendment. Senior advocate C.A. Sundaram, for the State, said the Constitution makers had considered and rejected the idea of privacy as a fundamental right.

Musharraf mulled using nuclear arms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Pakistan's former military dictator General Pervez Musharraf says he mulled the use of nuclear weapons against India amid tensions following the 2001 terror attack on the Indian Parliament, but decided against doing so out of fear of retaliation, according to a media report.

Mr. Musharraf, 73, also recalled that he had spent many sleepless nights asking himself if he could deploy nuclear weapons, the Japanese daily *Mainichi Shimbun* said.

At the time, neither India nor Pakistan had nuclear warheads on their missiles, so it would have taken one to two days to make them launch-ready, he said. Asked if he had ordered that missiles be equipped with nuclear warheads, he said: "We didn't do that and we don't think India also did that, thank God."

Zakir Musa heading Al-Qaeda in Kashmir?

Reports say the global terror group has announced the establishment of a Kashmir-based wing

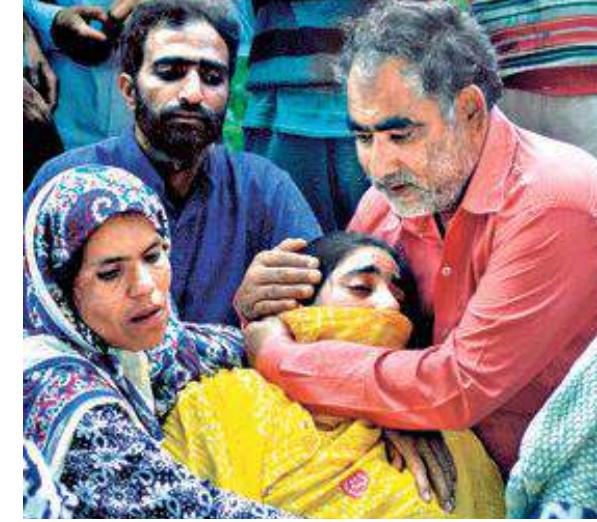
PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The counter-insurgency cell of the J&K police is monitoring the write-ups and the propaganda material of the Al-Qaeda that mention Zakir Musa as the commander of its new Kashmir group.

A top police officer told *The Hindu* that the cell was keeping a watch on Musa, a Kashmir-born militant, whose name first appeared in an Arabic publication close to the Al-Qaeda in May. "We are monitoring the Musa group's activity and its connections across the borders," the officer said.

New outfit
The U.K.-based *Guardian* newspaper reported that Al-Qaeda "has formally announced the establishment of a new Kashmir-based terror group Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind headed by Musa."

The Global Islamic Media Front, the online propaganda distribution arm of Al-Qaeda, has also mentioned



Family members mourn Tauseef Ahmad, a Hizbul Mujahideen militant killed in an encounter, in Kashmir on Thursday. Zakir Musa quit the Hizb in May. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Musa's name.

On May 13, Musa quit the Hizbul Mujahideen after the United Jehad Council took exception to his statement threatening to "behead separatist leaders, especially those who describe Kashmir

as a mere political issue" and not a religious war for an Islamic State. Musa hails from a middle-class family. One of his brothers is a doctor in Pulwama.

Musa joined the militant ranks during slain com-

Infiltrators killed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Army on Thursday killed three infiltrators in the Gurez sector, 200 km north of Kashmir, on the Line of Control in Bandipora. "The operation is in progress," the Army said.

Last week, two terrorists were killed in the sector. The operation was conducted by 36 Rashtriya Rifles. On July 17, security forces killed three terrorists in Anantnag district.

(With ANI inputs)

death anniversary of Wani in the first week of July.

In a statement issued in Srinagar on Thursday, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) alleged that India was trying to label the legitimate freedom struggle of Kashmir as terrorism by implying the entry of terror groups such as Al-Qaeda and IS into the Valley. "[National Security Adviser] Ajit Doval is up to this conspiracy. We would like to inform the masses that the militant groups, with their mutual understanding and unity, are fighting against Indian forces.

"On the other hand, groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS are being brought up to label the legitimate freedom struggle as terrorism. Al-Qaeda and ISIS thrive on *takfeer* [discord]. All that they have done has greatly affected Muslims and brought upon them injustice, brutality and oppression. This conspiracy is far more dangerous," LeT spokesman Mahmood Shah said.

No ban on Chinese firms: Sushma

Says denial of security clearance for one company is not a matter of policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said on Thursday that denial of security clearance to a particular Chinese company which wanted to invest in India was not done as a "matter of policy" and it "cannot determine the relation between the two countries."

In the Rajya Sabha, T. Subbarao Reddy (Congress) asked Ms. Swaraj that while security clearance was denied to a Chinese company, it was given to those from Japan, Korea, Italy and other countries. Would it not have an adverse impact on relations with China, he asked.

Recently, the Home Ministry denied clearance to



Sushma Swaraj speaks in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. ■ PTI/TV GRAB

were denied security permission. She objected to a member raising the issue of a particular Chinese company in the House. She said Japanese or Korean companies might have got the clearance as per the existing procedure. She also said there was "no quid pro quo with China" on the issue of sufferings of the Tibetan people and stapled visas being given to Arunachal Pradesh residents by Beijing.

Stapled visas

Responding to supplementary questions on the issue of stapled visas to Arunachal residents by China, she said, "The issue has been raised in every bilateral meeting at various levels, be it at my level or that of the Prime

Minister. The issue has been raised by us."

Asked about India's stand on Tibet, she said, "We used to earlier talk of 'One China' policy, but we used to say that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. And when we say that, we want that China should also recognise this. Our policy has been made very clear."

Asked if India remained a mute spectator towards the alleged atrocities in Tibet, she said, "We are not sitting as a mute spectator. Whenever there are differences, we raise them."

She said the Dalai Lama wanted to visit Tawang and "we allowed him to". This is not the first time but the fifth or sixth time that he was visiting that place, she said.

Why will I mislead House, asks Minister

Rebuts allegation over Iraq abductions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that she had no "concrete proof" on whether the 39 Indians, abducted in Iraq three years ago, were "dead or alive."

The Minister's response came amid attacks from the Opposition that she was misleading Parliament, asking her to disclose the "sources" who had been telling her that the Indians were alive.

Ms. Swaraj retorted that the sources who gave the government the confidence of not abandoning the search for the abducted Indians include a "head of state and a Foreign Minister of another country."

Ms. Swaraj also said the Congress was using the issue as a political agenda.

Making a statement in response to a Zero Hour motion on the issue raised by Pratap Singh Bajwa (Congress) on July 19, Ms. Swaraj vehemently denied that she had ever misled Parliament or the country on the fate of the abducted persons.

'Will be a sin'
"In absence of concrete proof, it is a sin at personal level and irresponsible act on the part of the government to declare them

V.K. Singh to travel to Iraq

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

With Iraq promising all cooperation in tracing the 39 missing Indians in Mosul, Minister of State for External Affairs V.K. Singh will travel to Badush near Mosul, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

At a meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari here, Minister Sushma Swaraj reiterated the request for tracing the 39 Indians abducted in Mosul in June 2014.

dead," Ms. Swaraj said. "Why will I mislead? What will I gain, what will my government gain by misleading?" Ms. Swaraj asked.

Escapee's claim
Mr. Bajwa countered her, asking what would Harjit Masih, one of the abducted Indians who had escaped, gain by claiming that he had witnessed the 39 persons being shot dead.

The Minister said that according to Iraqi officials, the Indians had been shifted to a prison at Badush, some 30 km from Mosul early in 2016. "That is their last known location."

C-130J arrive at Bengal IAF station

Officials say part of plan to form an eastern squadron and not linked to Doklam

SUVODIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

While the standoff with China continues in Doklam, the Air Force Station at Panagarh in Bardhaman district of West Bengal has got its first set of the U.S.-made C-130J Super Hercules multi-skilled transport aircraft.

Two of these aircraft manufactured by Lockheed Martin have arrived recently, while the station – named after Marshal of Air Force Arjan Singh – is awaiting four more within a month. The six medium-lift capability C-130Js will complete the first squadron of such aircraft in eastern India.

Senior Defence Ministry officials did not want to connect the arrival of the aircraft with the Doklam standoff, and described it as "the fruition of an old plan."

The giant aircraft are described as one of the finest



Air power: A C-130J Super Hercules at the Air Force Station at Panagarh in Bardhaman district of West Bengal. ■ FILE PHOTO

transport aircraft which can perform many duties simultaneously. The fuel-efficient aircraft can carry up to 40 tonnes and can move faster and provide better crew comfort than the Ilyushin-76 (IL-76), a Russian-made aircraft the Air Force had been using for a long time. While the IL-76 could also carry 40 tonnes, it was a "fuel guzzler".

le", a senior Army official said.

The C-130Js will be used by the Special Forces and a division of the Mountain Strike Corps, recently raised by the Army.

The Corps has two divisions, instead of the usual three, with a strength of 80,000 personnel. One of the divisions will be sta-

tioned at Panagarh once it is

C Whatever decision we have taken will be in the interest of Bihar and of its people. It will ensure development and justice. It will also ensure progress. This is a collective decision. I ensure that our commitment is towards the people of Bihar

NITISH KUMAR, Bihar CM



Congratulations to @NitishKumarji & @SushilModi ji. Looking forward to working together for Bihar's progress & prosperity

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Bihar had given an anti-communal mandate but Nitish Kumar has gone back to them [the BJP] for his personal political gains

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress vice-president

Nitish Kumar is an opportunist. He has not only betrayed the mandate of the people of Bihar, which was against the communal forces, but also the people of India

LALU PRASAD, RJD chief

It's an unfortunate, negative development. We are all shocked though we knew the crisis was deepening

S. SUDHAKAR REDDY, General secretary, CPI

C This was to happen. None can stay comfortable in the company of 'egoistic' [Lalu] Yadav. Nitish always looked under a spell of tension when he was with Yadav. The BJP-JD(U) is a natural alliance

RAM VILAS PASWAN, Union Minister and LJP leader

Nitish cheated people of Bihar: Lalu

The script of his return to his former alliance partner was written by BJP much earlier, says RJD chief

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Stung by Nitish Kumar's "betrayal", Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Thursday said Mr. Kumar had not only cheated but also stabbed the people of Bihar in the back.

Mr. Prasad also said the "script" of Mr. Kumar's alliance with the BJP was written much earlier and the "match was fixed."

RJD workers observed Thursday as "betrayal day" and held protests at several places across the State.

"Nitish Kumar has not only cheated but stabbed in the back the people of Bihar and the mandate given to him to fight against the BJP... mid-way he joined hands with the communal forces... The match was fixed," Mr. Prasad told journalists in Ranchi, where he had appeared before a special CBI court in connection with a fodder scam case.

'Part of strategy'
He further said, "It [the resignation] was all part of their [Nitish Kumar and the BJP] strategy to attack me



Left in the lurch: Lalu Prasad, centre, arrives in Ranchi to appear in a court in connection with a graft case. ■ AFP

and my family members on false corruption charges."

The RJD chief also waved a sheaf of papers and said, "Nitish Kumar himself is a murderer accused and the court has taken cognizance of it."

However, senior JD(U) leaders Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lallan Singh and R.C.P. Singh later told journalists in Patna that, "Lalu Prasad has a habit of twisting facts...the murder in which Nitish Kumar was named had taken place when Lalu Prasad was

the Chief Minister in 1991. After investigation, it was found that Nitish Kumar was innocent and his name was even omitted from the case."

Quotes statements

Mr. Prasad said, "It was Nitish Kumar who had said in the State Assembly that he would prefer to be destroyed than join hands with the BJP again...mitti mein mil jayenge, lekin BJP se ab nahi mil jayenge," said Nitish Kumar and in the proceedings of the House."

ED to record statements against RJD chief, others

DEVESHWAR PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is preparing to record statements of accused persons and witnesses in connection with the money-laundering probe initiated earlier this month on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI against

former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, son Tejaswi, and others.

In another money-laundering case involving shell companies, the ED has asked Mr. Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti and her husband to submit certain documents.

Kumar has betrayed their mandate," he said.

On the role of the Bihar Governor in not inviting the RJD as the largest party with 80 MLAs, to first stake claim to form the government, Mr. Prasad said he would appeal in the Supreme Court against the decision.

Former Deputy CM Tejaswi Yadav tweeted: "I entered government with a clean slate with a keen desire of writing a positive story for people of Bihar, only to find an opportunist rival!"

Former Deputy CM Tejaswi Yadav tweeted: "I entered government with a clean slate with a keen desire of writing a positive story for people of Bihar, only to find an opportunist rival!"

Slow disenchantment led to drastic change

Deep tensions in Nitish-Lalu politics

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's shift from being allied to the RJD to forming a government with the BJP was effected in barely 14 hours. The speed of the transition seems to reflect a certain inevitability to the events after investigations into cases of graft involving RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his family.



Back together: Nitish Kumar and Sushil Kumar Modi at a ceremony in Patna on Thursday. ■ PTI

Dishonour of people's mandate: Mayawati

LUCKNOW
BSP supremo Mayawati on Thursday lashed out at Bihar CM Nitish Kumar for abandoning the anti-BJP 'grand alliance' and forming a government with the BJP, calling it a "betrayal of the people of Bihar". Ms. Mayawati said the people of Bihar had voted against the 'Modi wave' and handed a full majority to "secular parties". That mandate should have been honoured for its full term of five years, she said here in an official statement.

Akhilesh lets song speak about developments

LUCKNOW
Though there was no official response from the Samajwadi Party, its president Akhilesh Yadav took to Twitter to provide a hint of his views. He tweeted two lines from a song of the 1965 Bollywood film *Jab Jab Phooj Keile: Na karke pyar tumhi se kar baite, Bihar today.* In the song, the actors talk about eventually coming together as lovers despite their initial denials and assertions that they would not fall for each other.

Will back BJP in both Houses: JD(U) spokesman

PATNA
The JD(U) on Thursday said it would support the BJP-led NDA government in both Houses of Parliament, shortly after Nitish Kumar was sworn in as Bihar Chief Minister. JD(U) national spokesperson K.C. Tyagi hit out at the Congress, saying it did not have any credibility and accused it of not being serious about fighting corruption. "It was a blunder on our part to trust the Congress, which does not have any credibility," Mr. Tyagi said. ■ PTI

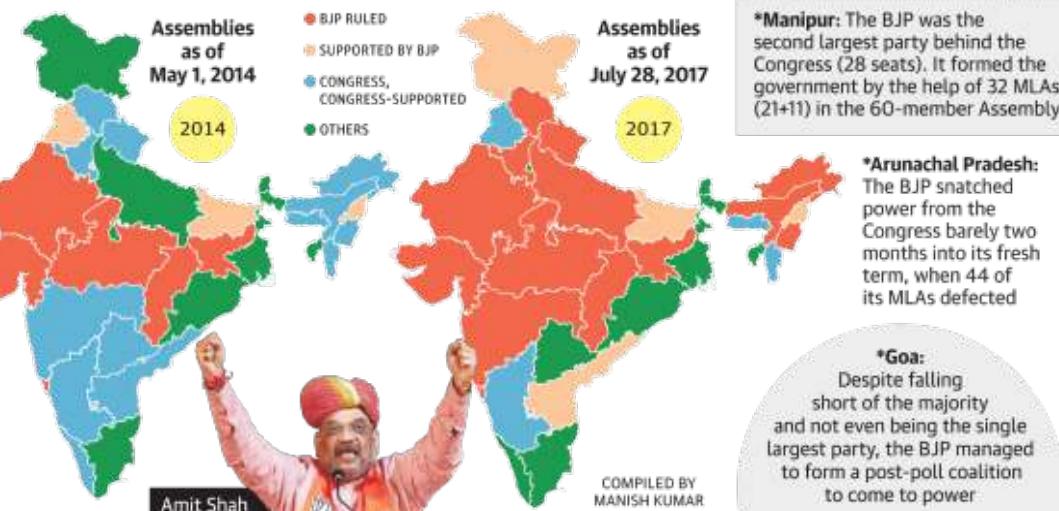
Rahul, Advani get cosy in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI
A day after the break-up of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi was seen in a deep conversation with senior BJP leader L.K. Advani in the Lok Sabha, although there is no word yet on the contents of the conversation. Just before the House was to assemble at 11.30 a.m. following a brief adjournment, the Congress vice-president walked over to the treasury benches and spoke to Mr. Advani, who was sitting in the front row. He was seen leaning over but did not sit next to Mr. Advani.

BJP - growing gains

Three years since it won the Lok Sabha polls in 2014, the BJP has managed to increase the number of States where it is in power to 18

- In 11 States - Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand - it has come to power on its own after outright wins
- In three States - Andhra Pradesh, J&K, Nagaland - the BJP is supporting the ruling party
- In 3 States - Arunachal, Goa, Manipur - the BJP swung numbers in its favour despite being in a minority*
- In Bihar, it took advantage of a split in the ruling coalition to regain power as a junior partner



Opposition may be weakened in RS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Opposition could have lost more than a State government on Thursday, with JD(U) president Nitish Kumar being sworn in as Bihar Chief Minister, with the BJP replacing the RJD and the Congress. It might also stand considerably weakened in the Rajya Sabha, if the JD-U's nine MPs in the Upper House take the logical next step and decide to henceforth vote with the ruling party.

On Thursday evening, some of these MPs, including Anwar Ali and Veerendra Kumar, met JD(U) floor leader Sharad Yadav on Thursday evening at his residence to express their

unhappiness with the turn of events. Veerendra Kumar had, party sources said, explained long before this crisis that since he is from Kerala, he would have to vote either with the Congress United Democratic Fund (UDF) or the LDF: he is with the latter.

Natural corollary

Mr. Sharad Yadav is learnt to have said he would consult other party leaders and State units before deciding what stand to take in the Rajya Sabha. Simultaneously, another senior JD(U) leader said if the JD(U) had accepted the help of the BJP in Bihar, it would be a natural corollary for it to reciprocate that support in Delhi.

Mr. Gandhi also said he had been aware for the last few months that Mr. Kumar was hobnobbing with communal forces.

"We knew three to four months ago that such plan-

ning was going on. When a person could go to any extent to remain in power, it showed a lack of credibility," Mr. Gandhi said.

Meanwhile, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Sujewala described Mr. Kumar's joining of hands with the BJP to remain in power as a "black day" for Indian democracy.

Pointing out that Mr. Kumar had pledged never to join hands with the BJP, he alleged that Mr. Kumar's

mar's joining of hands with the BJP to remain in power as a "black day" for Indian democracy.

As Nitish Kumar took the oath of office barely 14 hours after resigning as Bihar Chief Minister, this time with the BJP's help, JD(U) State president Bashishtha Narayan Singh dismissed the allegations of opportunism against him.

"Those accusing Nitish of opportunism should instead question the RJD that

"Nitish Kumar took this decision in keeping with his kind of politics: good governance and zero tolerance of corruption. The first duty of any political leader is to make governance a priority," Mr. Singh said.

"Those accusing Nitish

of opportunism should instead question the RJD that

put family ties above the alliance. After all, Nitish wanted Tejaswi Yadav to respond to the charges against him and not to break the alliance. It was the RJD that made it a deal-breaker. The presence of heavy internal contradictions between the allies brought on the recent events," Mr. Singh said.

"political DNA" ahead of the 2015 State polls. "It has been proved today that the political DNA of the BJP and the JD(U) is identical - opportunism, treachery, hunger for power and disregard of people's mandate," he said.

INTERVIEW | GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

'Assert the right to criticise, but do it with courtesy'

The vice-presidential candidate says: "...when the right to express oneself is challenged ... everybody who cares for it has to say, 'Sorry, you cannot take it away'"

VIKAS PATHAK

The Opposition nominee Gopalkrishna Gandhi tells The Hindu that freedom to criticise the government is crucial, but courtesy in doing so is also important.

What is your assessment of the Modi government after three years of its coming to power?

■ The Modi government should not be seen as all anti-democratic and anti-freedom. For, elections have been held; opportunities have been given for people to express their political preference against the Modi government. And yet... the dominant spirit in the last three

years is of extreme intolerance to criticism. And the conveying of the idea that if you are not supporting the government, you are betraying the nation has created an atmosphere of fear.

I want the Prime Minister to say - "Do not be afraid of making criticism. Criticise me. If I am wrong, I will correct myself". Perhaps it will come, and if it comes, I will welcome it. I must also say that because there is fear, those who want to break out of the pall of fear tend to go overboard. Courtesy in political criticism is as important as freedom.

What are your views on frequent disruptions of

Parliament in the last few years?

■ These disruptions are completely out of tune with the concept of Parliamentary democracy and legislative debate. Even under the utmost provocation, disruption and any kind of insult to the Chair are just not done.

Since it has been much discussed recently, what do you think nationalism should mean in our times?

■ In the decolonised world, nationalism and patriotism have historical roots and they are great phenomena of which we should be proud. But hyper-nationalism has been ad-

vanced as a great virtue, and has either co-opted or persuaded simple people, who are not jingoists, to forget the appeal of democracy and the appeal of harmony to become super-nationalists.

In the context of alleged slogans in JNU and a Kashmir petition in the university where you teach, to what extent do you think freedom of expression should be upheld?

■ It is impossible to prescribe limits. In any case, who is to prescribe limits? There has to be an internal line that anybody draws on what she or he expresses. I

think we have reached a situation when the right to express oneself is being challenged. And if that is the case, everybody who cares for that freedom guaranteed by our Constitution has to stand and protest and say - "Sorry, this is my prerogative and you cannot take it away from me." The question of limits is also very important since when a person wants the freedom of thought and expression, that person must regard that freedom as a priceless possession which if misused and squandered is likely to lose its credibility.

Do you feel, like some do, that the rights of Paranjay Guha Thakurta as Editor

of the EPW were curtailed, leading to his resignation?

■ I should not say much on the EPW matter as I do not know most of the details. But this I would say that editors of journals are not just employees. The editor of a journal is a supremely important figure whose personality and word has to be seen as an expression of free thought; an expression of fearlessness.

How concerned are you about cow vigilantism?

■ I am as concerned as anybody can be for the reason that cow vigilantism has nothing to do with the cow

and has everything to do with hatred for communities, majority of them being Hindus, particularly Hindus of what are called the lower castes who are dependent on cattle trade.

People questioned your role in the Yakub Memon incident, saying you tried to save him.

■ As for the question of death penalty, most countries in the world have moved away from it and India is also in the process of moving away from it. The Law Commission of India under Justice A.P. Shah has itself made major recommendations on it.

ELSEWHERE

**Maduro lashes out at 'insolent' U.S. sanctions**

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro branded U.S. sanctions levelled at his regime on Wednesday as "insolent", as pressure piled up on him abroad and at home over his controversial plan to elect a new body to rewrite the Constitution. AFP

Iran claims successful rocket test

DUBAI
Iran has successfully tested the Simorgh (Phoenix) space launch vehicle that can deliver satellites weighing up to 250 kg in an orbit of 500 km, state television reported on Thursday – an event likely to raise tensions with the United States because of its potential use in a ballistic missile. REUTERS

Trump may let Sessions stay, for now

If President wanted to fire Attorney-General, he would have done so by now, say White House aides

PETER BAKER
JENNIFER STEINHAUER
WASHINGTON



Divided we stand: Senate Republicans have made it clear they will not tolerate Donald Trump's repeated threats to Attorney-General Jeff Sessions's tenure. • AP

volatile President. Mr. Trump has not spoken with Mr. Sessions since the President's public complaints began a week ago.

Among those urging Mr. Trump to spare Mr. Sessions have been Reince Priebus, the White House Chief of Staff; Stephen K. Bannon, the President's chief strategist; and Donald F.

McGahn II, the White House counsel, according to officials who asked not to be named describing internal deliberations. Sharing the President's frustration have been people in his family, some of whom have come under scrutiny in the Russia investigation.

For the White House, the attacks on the Attorney-General have touched off a serious problem on Capitol Hill. Senate Republicans, who almost never link arms in unison against a President from their party formed a cordon around Mr. Sessions, making it clear they neither concurred with nor would tolerate Mr. Trump's repeated threats to the Attorney-General's tenure. Senate leaders made clear they would block Mr. Trump from replacing Mr. Sessions if he tried to do so during the coming recess.

Direct message

"I would hope the public discussion of that would end immediately," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tennessee, who said he delivered the message directly to the White House. Those sentiments were echoed publicly by at least a dozen Republican Senators, including their top two leaders, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the majority leader, and John Cornyn of Texas. Mr. Sessions' removal, Mr. Cornyn said, would be "incredibly disruptive". The presidential barrage against Mr. Sessions "says more about President Trump than it does Attorney-General Sessions, and to me, it's a sign of great weakness on the part of President Trump," said Sen. Lindsey Graham. "I hope Jeff Sessions doesn't give in to this humiliation campaign."

Message

The President's pique at Mr. Sessions stems from the Attorney-General's decision to step aside from overseeing the investigation into Russia's interference in last year's election and any possible ties to Mr. Trump's campaign team because he had been a top campaign surrogate and met with the Russian Ambassador himself. After Mr. Sessions's refusal, his deputy appointed a special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, to lead the investigation. A new Attorney-General could in theory fire Mr. Mueller. NYT

U.K. student visa breach figures challenged

Statistics regulator says govt. estimate doesn't provide a complete picture of those leaving Britain

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

The British government's insistence that a substantial number of non-EU students overstay their visa faced further questions on Thursday, as the statistics regulator warned that estimates did not "bear the weight that is put on it in public debate".

The government's contention that large numbers of students overstay their visas is one of the reasons it has insisted on keeping students in the net migration figure despite pressure from universities, the House of Lords, and even some members of its own Cabinet to remove them from the figures.

"This estimate should add clarity on the pattern of student migration in the U.K., but instead, it creates doubts by not providing a complete

and coherent picture of former-student emigration, since these figures alone do not provide information on all the different outcomes for international students," wrote Ed Humpherson, the director general of regulation at the Office for Statistics Regulation, in a report published on Thursday, which called on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to report the data it collected as "experimental" data.

The estimate may not provide a complete and coherent picture of former-student emigration," said the report, which went over reasons for why the current method used for gathering the data could be underestimating the number of students leaving Britain.

The government had been relying on International Pas-

senger Survey (IPS) data gathered at airports and other departure points, which is published by the ONS. Its most recent estimates suggested that as many as 90,000 non-EU students could be overstaying their visa.

"This is a bombshell report... I feel completely vindicated – this is something

I've been saying non-stop... We are not in control of our borders and rely on the International Passengers Survey, which has a number of problems with its methodology, including missing out on certain flights that students may be travelling on," said Lord Karan Bilimoria a cross-bench member of the House of Lords, who has long been campaigning on the issue of international students.

Accurate picture
Though the government has introduced some exit checks, he believes a more robust system would provide a far more accurate picture of those leaving and entering the country. He believes these more accurate figures would be likely to show far lower levels of overstayers by

the IPS, but it would destroy the basis for the government's "illogical" immigration policy.

Last year, the Times reported that a government study that showed just 1,500 individuals, or 1% of international students, overstay their visa had been buried as it threatened to "undermine [Prime Minister] Theresa May's case for a crackdown on foreign student recruitment.

The number of Indian students fell to 16,745 in the year 2015-16 from 29,900 in 2011-12. While the government believes much of this is a result of the crackdown on bogus educational establishments, many believe that students are put off by a mix of factors, including the limited opportunities to work once the course is over.

Pak. revenge rape: court takes notice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Pakistan Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar on Thursday took *suo motu* notice of the rape of a teenage girl in front of her family on the orders of the village council as a punishment, even as police arrested 25 people in the case.

The 16-year-old girl was raped by a man as punishment on July 18 after her brother was accused of raping the man's sister in Rajpur village in Muzaffarabad in Punjab province.

Justice Nisar has ordered the Inspector General of Punjab Police to submit a report.

Meanwhile, the police arrested 25 members of the village council, including its chief. The panchayat had ordered Ashfaq to rape the girl in revenge for the earlier rape of his sister.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif visited Rajpur village and met both the victims and assured that they would get justice.

He sacked all police officials of the Muzaffarabad police station for their "criminal role" in the incident.

Ms. Renho became her party's first female leader and was considered a possible future Prime Minister, when the Democrats were in power from 2009 to 2012. Since then they have lost significant ground in parliamentary and local elections, including Tokyo city assembly elections earlier this month.

Ms. Renho, a former television personality who uses one name and is known for her sharp tongue, said she decided to step down after only 10 months to help reunite and strengthen the party, which was founded in the 1990s. There was no im-

mediate announcement of her successor.

Alleged cover-up

Meanwhile, the popularity of Mr. Abe's administration, which has plunged over recent scandals, suffered another blow as Defence Minister Tomomi Inada, a protégé of Mr. Abe, is likely to step down on Friday over the alleged cover-up of military documents from UN peacekeeping operations.

The Defence Ministry is accused of hiding parts of a daily log of activities by Japanese UN peacekeepers in South Sudan that referred to dangers faced by the troops,

and a sensitive topic.

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MARKET WATCH

	27-07-2017	% CHANGE
Sensex	32,283	0.00
US Dollar	64.11	0.40
Gold	29,450	0.78
Brent oil	51.23	1.18

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
ACC	1732.00	+25.65
Adani Ports	392.50	-0.55
Ambuja Cements	264.60	-0.30
Astan Paints	1148.80	+14.80
Aurobindo Pharma	738.75	-8.95
Axis Bank	524.65	-4.20
Bajaj Auto	2840.30	-1.05
Bank of Baroda	160.95	-2.40
Bharti Airtel	416.05	-10.20
Bosch	23982.60	-297.65
BPCL	477.20	+5.80
Cipla	568.70	-6.75
Coal India	255.25	-5.40
Dr Reddy's Lab	2620.35	-87.00
Eicher Motors	29102.25	+99.80
GAIL (India)	378.70	+3.05
HCL Tech.	890.25	-2.45
HDFC	1728.20	+94.75
HDFC Bank	1789.65	+42.10
Hero MotoCorp	3703.55	+13.90
Hindalco	221.25	-0.30
Hind Unilever	1171.90	+7.35
Indiabulls HFL	1158.85	-30.40
ICICI Bank	307.20	-3.15
IndusInd Bank	1606.70	+26.50
Bharti Infratech	411.05	-2.45
Infysofts	971.05	+23.00
Indian Oil Corp	368.90	-4.75
ITC	288.55	-5.10
Kotak Bank	998.15	+11.60
L&T	1182.05	+1.80
Lupin	1110.05	-13.55
M&M	1398.20	+15.30
Maurit Suzuki	7599.60	+34.35
NTPC	165.40	-0.95
ONGC	162.90	-1.10
PowerGrid Corp	216.65	-0.65
Reliance Ind	1594.80	-27.95
State Bank	298.35	+2.55
Sun Pharma	572.10	-7.40
Tata Motors	445.40	-11.90
Tata Motors DVR	262.30	-8.20
Tata Power	82.00	-0.55
Tata Steel	561.25	-4.50
TCS	261.70	-74.30
Tech Mahindra	377.25	-12.10
UltraTech Cement	4042.95	-31.45
Vedanta	279.90	-1.05
Wipro	289.70	+0.35
YES Bank	1785.85	+73.90
Zee Entertainment	539.30	+8.65

EXCHANGE RATES	
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 27	
CURRENCY	TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar	63.91 64.23
Euro	74.81 75.19
British Pound	83.96 84.38
Japanese Yen (100)	57.38 57.67
Chinese Yuan	9.48 9.53
Swiss Franc	66.60 66.93
Singapore Dollar	47.07 47.31
Canadian Dollar	51.33 51.59
Malaysian Ringgit	14.94 15.02

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI	
July 27 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses	
Retail Silver (1g)	41.30 (40.60)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2,730 (2,709)

Source: Indian Bank

Panel seeks details on AI divestment

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport set to meet government officials on Friday

SOMESH JHA
NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary Standing Committee has sought details from the government on its strategic disinvestment plans for national carrier Air India.

The department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, chaired by Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Mukul Roy, is set to meet the Central government officials on Friday.

Hearing views

"To hear the views of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Ministry of Finance) and Air India," the agenda of the meeting said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on June 28



Tell all: The panel will seek the views of officials from AI and the Finance and Civil Aviation ministries. ■AP

gave its in-principle approval for the strategic disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries.

The CCEA also set up a Group of Ministers under Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to examine the modalities of

the national carrier's stake sale. The Ministerial group will decide upon the "treatment of unsustainable debt of Air India, hiving off of certain assets to shell company, de-merger and strategic disinvestment of three profit-

making subsidiaries, quantum of disinvestment and the universe of bidders."

Hours after the Union Cabinet gave its nod for Air India's strategic disinvestment, India's largest low-cost carrier IndiGo expressed interest in acquiring the flag carrier's airline business, mainly related to its international operations. Tata Sons was also said to be reportedly in talks with the government to seek more details about the national carrier's strategic disinvestment.

Fragile finances'

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that the decision to divest a stake in Air India was based on government think-tank NITI Aayog's recommendations in May this year.

In its recommendations, the Aayog had given the rationale for the disinvestment of Air India and has attrib-

uted the main reason as fragile finances of the company. AI has been incurring continuous losses and has huge accumulated losses," Mr. Sinha said in a written reply.

"Further, NITI Aayog in its report on Air India says that further support to an unviable non-priority company in a matured and competitive aviation sector would not be the best use of scarce financial resources of the government," Mr. Sinha added.

Sliding market share

Mr. Sinha told the Lok Sabha on Thursday that Air India's market share on domestic routes had declined to 14.2% in 2016-17, from 17.9% in 2014-15. Air India had accumulated total debt of ₹48,876 crore till March 31, 2017.

The carrier has been reporting continuous losses due to its high debt with its net loss at ₹3,728 crore in 2016-17, compared with ₹3,836 crore in 2015-16.

On the asset quality front, Ms. Kochhar highlighted that net non-performing assets had come down on a sequential basis from ₹25,451 crore (4.8%) to ₹25,306 crore (4.8%).

"Addition to gross NPAs, which was ₹4,975 crore, was the lowest in seven quarters," Ms. Kochhar said, adding that the addition to NPAs in the current financial year would be lower than the previous year.

The bank had seen healthy recovery during the quarter, about ₹2,575 crore, aided primarily by loan repayment by a large cement firm.

The bank had made a provisioning of ₹2,609 crore during the quarter, as compared to ₹2,515 crore, and except for ₹160 crore which was standard asset provisioning, the remaining provision was for bad loans.

Axis Bank acquires FreeCharge

Lender to pay Snapdeal owner ₹385 crore in all-cash deal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Private sector lender Axis Bank has decided to acquire digital wallet FreeCharge from e-commerce firm Snapdeal in an all cash deal worth ₹385 crore.

Axis Bank said in a statement that it had entered into an agreement with Jasper Infotech Private Limited (which owns and operates Snapdeal) to acquire 100% stake in its subsidiaries viz. FreeCharge Payment Technologies Private Limited and Accelyst Solutions Private Limited, which together constitute the digital payments business under the FreeCharge brand.

"This acquisition will give us a new set of customers,"

Sharma gets extension

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Axis Bank has extended the term of its MD & CEO Shikha Sharma by another three years with effect from June 1, 2018. The decision was taken by the bank's board in its

meeting on Wednesday. Ms. Sharma (58), joined the third largest private sector bank as its chief executive in 2009.

The announcement also puts to rest speculation about her quitting the bank.

Rajiv Anand, executive director, Axis Bank, told *The Hindu*. "The kind of customers we will get is the mobile first, digital only customers who are in the age bracket of 17-25 years," he said adding that Axis Bank had a 5% market share which meant 95% were not their custom-

ers indicating the opportunity to scale up. The acquisition would need approval from the RBI.

FreeCharge wallet can be used to make payments for telecom, DTH and broadband recharge and for utility payments including electricity, gas and water bills.

Centre may cut import duty on gold

LALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI

The Centre may reduce the import duty on gold to 2% from 10% to make Indian jewellery competitive in the international market, said a top official.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recommended to the finance ministry to drastically reduce the import duty, said Manoj Dwivedi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

"We have urged the Finance Ministry to reduce import duty on gold. The CAD position has substantially improved and now there is a case to look at it. We have recommended 2% duty," he said.

Maruti Q1 net profit rises 4.4%

Revenue from operations increased 16.3% to ₹19,777.4 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki on Thursday posted a 4.4% increase in its net profit to ₹1,556.4 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2017, impacted by higher deferred tax provision.

The country's largest car maker said its revenue from operations grew to ₹19,777.4 crore, up 16.3% from ₹16,996 crore in the year-earlier period. "Profit Before Tax in the quarter stood at ₹2,298.7 crore, reflecting a growth of 12.3% over same period previous year. However, the net profit in Q1, ₹1,556.4 crore, grew by 4.4% compared to previous year due to higher deferred tax provision," the company said.

The automaker also said



The firm sold over 3.94 lakh vehicles during the quarter.

there was a one-off impact of compensation given to dealers for the tax loss incurred on vehicles in stock at the time of transitioning to GST regime that came into effect on July 1.

Maruti Suzuki sold more than 3.94 lakh vehicles during the quarter under review, a growth of 13.2% from the same period in the previous

+ Idea Cellular posts third straight loss

Firm reports Q1 loss of ₹815 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Kumar Mangalam Birla-led Idea Cellular reported a net loss of ₹815 crore for the quarter ended June, its third successive quarterly loss, as a brutal price war in the mobile services market triggered by Reliance Jio hurt the new entrant's rivals. The third-largest mobile operator had posted a net profit of ₹220 crore in the year-earlier period and a loss of ₹325 crore in the immediate preceding quarter.

Idea's revenue during the quarter fell 14% to ₹8,166.5 crore. Idea attributed the steep decline in voice and mobile data realisations to aggressive tariffs led by unlimited voice and data bundle plans.

"However, the fall in realisation rate was largely com-

ITC first-quarter net increases by 7.4 %

Hotel segment revenue rose by 6%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

FMCG company ITC Ltd. closed its first quarter with a 7.4% increase in its net profit over that of a year earlier on a 4.3%

IN BRIEF



U.K. to scrap Libor rate benchmark by end 2021

The head of Britain's financial markets watchdog said on Thursday that a substitute index for the Libor interest rate benchmark should be in place by 2021-end. Andrew Bailey, chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, said in London that work must "begin in earnest" on shifting to an alternative index, saying the end of 2021 would offer time to ensure a smooth transition. REUTERS

Mylan unveils Hepatitis C drug

HYDERABAD Mylan N.V. subsidiary Mylan Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., has unveiled Velpatasvir 100 mg/Sofosbuvir 400 mg tablets, for treatment of chronic Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, in the country. The fixed-dose combination product is used in treatment of the infection in adults, including all six major HCV genotypes. The company said in a release it has non-exclusive right to manufacture and distribute the product in about 100 developing countries via a licence agreement from Gilead Sciences.

Amazon India opens centre in Lucknow

BENGALURU Amazon India has announced its second Fulfilment Centre in Uttar Pradesh. Spread over about 50,000 sq.ft. with over 35,000 cubic feet of storage space, Amazon said the new centre would empower thousands of small and medium businesses to leverage the growth of the digital economy and reach a wider customer base. With this, Amazon now has two fulfilment centres in Uttar Pradesh, offering close to 1,50,000 cubic feet of storage space to ensure faster delivery.

Dr. Reddy's profit slumps 57%

Price erosion in U.S., destocking ahead of GST rollout in India hurt margins'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. (DRL) consolidated net profit slumped almost 57% to ₹66.6 crore in the quarter ended June 30, hurt by price erosion in the U.S. market and destocking by channel partners ahead of the July 1 GST rollout in India.

The "below expectations" results as co-chairman and CEO G.V. Prasad described them, in a statement, saw the drugmaker's shares slide 3.3% to close at ₹2,621.45 on the BSE on Thursday.

DRL, which had posted a profit of ₹153.5 crore in the year-earlier period, reported a marginal increase in first-quarter revenue from operations at ₹3,333.2 crore (₹3,244.7 crore).

A lower contribution from new product introductions in the U.S. combined with the price erosion triggered by the ongoing customer consolidation in DRL's largest overseas market and



Market pressures: Lower contribution from new products in the U.S. and price erosion hurt performance, says CEO Prasad.

the GST-eve jitters to affect overall performance, according to Mr. Prasad.

The impact of GST is "largely behind us," CFO Saumen Chakraborty said. COO Abhijit Mukherjee added price erosion had become a new norm in the U.S. generics market.

In the global generics segment, revenue from North America declined 4% year-on-year to about ₹1,495 crore and from India by 10% to

₹468.7 crore. Overall growth in the segment was 3% and driven by Europe and emerging markets, which grew 28% and 34% respectively.

Noting that it was one of the worst possible results the company had declared, Mr. Chakraborty said the run-up to GST, saw a sharp contraction in offtake from the second fortnight of May despite an offer of additional discounts. Domestic sales in June was less than 50%

the ₹180 crore normal monthly average.

DRL aims to introduce 10-15 new products this fiscal, of which it unveiled three last quarter.

Licensing pact

Separately, DRL announced a global licensing pact with CHD Bioscience Inc. for the clinical development and commercialisation of its phase III clinical trial candidate, DFA-02. DFA-02 is intended for use in the prevention of surgical site infections, following elective colorectal surgery.

DRL will receive \$30 million in equity in CHD upon an IPO or a minimum of \$30 million in cash within 18 months of execution of the agreement.

The Indian firm will also get milestone payments of \$40 million upon USFDA approval. CHD also agreed to pay DRL double-digit royalties on sales and commercial milestones, it said.

Bandhan Bank's NPAs rise

Darjeeling stir, repayment misconceptions impact recovery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Bandhan Bank Ltd.'s (BBL) recovery of loans has been impacted by talk of farm-loan waivers in three States and the ongoing strike in Darjeeling and adjoining areas, said founder and managing director Chandra Sekhar Ghosh.

Addressing a press meet to announce BBL's first-quarter results, he said that gross NPAs had increased to ₹175 crore in the quarter ended June 30, 2017, from ₹86 crore at March-end. The bank ended the first quarter with a net NPA of 0.49% against 0.14% a year earlier.



Chandra Sekhar Ghosh

where repayment was affected as borrowers were misled into thinking that they need not repay their loans, Mr. Ghosh said. "Things are improving now."

On the impact of the Darjeeling stalemate, he said that the prolonged strike had begun to impact recoveries and feared that the worst was yet to come.

"Residents are unable to carry on their trade.. our people are unable to access the area up to Sikkim," Mr. Ghosh said, adding that he

anticipated the Darjeeling effect to show sharply in the next quarter.

Bandhan Bank is planning to sell mutual fund and general insurance products initially through 50 of its 840 branches, Mr. Ghosh said. The tie-up with perhaps about three asset management companies, is to be finalised by September.

BBL closed the first quarter with a 35% rise in profit at ₹327 crore with a matching credit growth and a 51% growth in savings deposits.

Its CASA (current and savings account) ratio was 26.3% against 14.7% a year earlier. BBL aims to grow the MSME (medium, small and micro enterprise) portfolio, which accounted for 90% of its ₹21,389 crore advances in the first quarter.

It is also looking to boost the affordable housing sector. The erstwhile MFI started its banking journey in August 2015.

Diageo to Mallya: repay \$40 million

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON/NEW DELHI

British liquor giant Diageo said on Thursday it had asked beleaguered businessman Vijay Mallya to return \$40 million paid to him as part of the \$75 million (₹515 crore) sweetheart deal for his exit from United Spirits Ltd.

Diageo has stopped payment of \$7 million a year to Mr. Mallya as part of the deal and sought compensation for the losses incurred by the company.

Citing violation of the agreement by Mr. Mallya, Diageo has also ruled out the future instalments to him, saying "it was not liable to pay such amount."

Cholamandalam Q1 profit jumps 25%

Disburses ₹3,819 cr. in vehicle finance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (Chola) reported a 25% increase in its standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 30, 2017, at ₹207 crore against ₹166 crore recorded in the corresponding year-earlier period.

During the period under review, the company reported a total revenue of ₹1,235 crore against ₹1,109 crore.

It disbursed ₹3,819 crore in its vehicle finance business against ₹3,326 crore, recording a growth of 15%.

Home equity disbursements declined to ₹740

crore from ₹991 crore. Chola's net interest margin stood at 8% against 7.1% in the comparable period last year. It had a capital adequacy ratio 19.37%.

Focus on collections

"We continued our enhanced focus on collections. The company was able to ride out the traditionally difficult first quarter by restricting the gross non-performing asset at 4.7% (at three months' overdue) and net non-performing asset at 3.2% and maintaining the same levels as of March 2017," said Vellayan Subbiah, MD, Chola.

HCL net rises 6.1%; bags U.S., Europe 'deals'

Posts growth across segments including financial services and manufacturing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

HCL Technologies on Thursday posted a 6.1% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹2,171 crore for the April-June quarter, on the back of broad-based growth across various business verticals.

The fourth largest IT firm in the country had a net profit of ₹2,047 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. HCL Technologies' consolidated revenue stood at ₹12,149 crore, a growth of 7.2% from ₹11,336 crore in the year-ago period.

"We continue to propel forward on our Mode 1-2-3 growth strategy, delivering a revenue growth guidance of between 10.5-12.5% in constant currency terms.

"We saw broad-based growth across verticals. Al-



CFO Anil Chana says almost all service lines, except BPO, are growing at the firm.

said C. Vijayakumar, president and CEO, HCL Technologies.

The company maintained its revenue growth guidance of between 10.5-12.5% in constant currency terms.

"We saw broad-based growth across verticals. Al-

most all service lines are growing for us except BPO, which is a very small portion of our revenues," HCL Technologies Chief Financial Officer Anil Chana said.

In dollar terms, the company's net profit increased 10.3% to \$336.7 million, while revenues grew 11.4% to \$1884.2 million. For most domestic IT services companies, the dollar figures are important as clients overseas get billed in that currency.

The company saw a 6.6% decline in net profit on a sequential basis. "This is because there was a tax settlement last quarter which was in our favour. This led to a gain of \$45.5 million," Mr. Chana said.

During the quarter, 13

transformational deals were signed. "The deal wins are led by U.S. and Europe, followed by rest of world, ranging across financial services, manufacturing, consumer services, life sciences and healthcare," he added.

₹2 dividend

The company announced a dividend of ₹2 per share. The shares ended at ₹899/share, up 0.71%. Financial services vertical grew 19.2%, manufacturing 17.1%, life sciences and healthcare 10.6%, public services 6.4%, retail and CPG 7.1%. However, telecommunications, media, publishing and entertainment posted a decline of 2.7% y-o-y in constant currency.

LET THE YOUNG MIND CREATE PICTURES OF SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Inviting participation of School Children
for Painting Competition on Energy Conservation

The Ministry of Power, Government of India, invites school children to paint for clean, green and energy efficient future - sustainable future. Participants also stand a chance to win cash prizes worth Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 and showcase a new world of their imagination for sustainable life.

Theme Topics

GROUP A

- घर हो या दफ्तर, ऊर्जा बचत है बेहतर*
- ऊर्जा बचत के सितारे दोस्त हमारे**
- Be polite, Turn off the light

How To Participate In Painting Competition

GROUP B

- Switch off light when outside is bright
- No excuse for energy misuse
- Energy Saving Mission, Make it a Passion

• School Principals are requested to organize painting competition of the 2 hours duration for 4th, 5th & 6th standard students under Group 'A' and for 7th, 8th & 9th standard students under Group 'B'.

• Selected Students shall participate at State and National Level.

• Students can use any size of paper but preferably A4 size and painting material such as pencil, colour pencils, crayons & water colours.

• Students can select any one of the themes topics marked for their respective Group for Painting.

• School principals will select 2 best paintings from each Group 'A' & 'B' and send them along with the information on total number of students participated in each

Group at School Level Painting Competition to the Nodal Officer of the State/UT whose address is given below so as to reach him by 30th September, 2017 positively.

For More Details visit www.beeindia.gov.in

• All participants will be issued certificate of participation.

• State Nodal Officer's address for (Delhi/NCR):

Shri S.S. Rao, Additional General Manager (PR), Power Finance Corporation Limited, "URJANIDHI"

1, Barakamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110 001, (O) 011-23456726

(M) 09811467202, Fax: 011-23412545/23456000, Email: ss_rao@pfcindia.com, ssrao.pfc@gmail.com

State/Union territory Level

Awards	Group 'A'	Group 'B'
First Prize	Rs 20,000/-	Rs 20,000/-
Second Prize	Rs 15,000/-	Rs 15,000/-
Third Prize	Rs 10,000/-	Rs 10,000/-
Consolation (10 nos)	Rs 5,000/-	Rs 5,000/-

* Home or Office, Saving Energy is better

** Get Friendly with Energy Saving Stars

National level

Group A

Group B

Awards	No of Prizes	Amount	No of Prizes	Amount
First Prize	(1nos)	Rs 1,00,000/-	(1nos)	Rs 1,00,000/-
Second Prize	(4nos)	Rs 50,000/-	(2nos)	Rs 50,000/-
Third Prize	(8nos)	Rs 25,000/-	(3nos)	Rs 25,000/-
Consolation (10 nos)	(10nos)	Rs 10,000/-	(6nos)	Rs 10,000/-

TV PICKS

India vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, Sony Six & Sony Six HD, Sony TEN 3 & Sony TEN 3 HD, 10 a.m.

England vs South Africa: 3rd Test, SS Select 1, SS Select HD 1, 3.30 p.m.
Pro Kabaddi League: STAR Sports 2, 2HD, 7.50 p.m.
Ultimate Table Tennis: SS Select 2, 2HD, 7.40 p.m.

IN BRIEF



CA says it is ready for arbitration

MELBOURNE
Cricket Australia Chief Executive James Sutherland said on Thursday the long-running pay dispute with players would be taken to independent arbitration if agreement could not be reached by early next week, with a tour of Bangladesh looming. AFP

CoA issues notice to BCCI

NEW DELHI
The Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Thursday slapped a notice on the Board of Control for Cricket in India for preventing CEO Rahul Johri from attending the Special General Meeting here on Wednesday. The CoA had recognised Johri as its representative at Board meetings. The Board, however, cited the Supreme Court directive that only office-bearers be allowed to attend the meeting. The Board had also stopped representatives from Punjab and Odisha from attending the SC since they were not office-bearers of their associations.



Massive win for India Under-19

CHESTERFIELD
Manjot Kalra (picture) slammed 122 and Kamlesh Nagarkoti picked up 10 wickets as the touring India U-19 team notched up a crushing 334-run win over England U-19 in the opening four-day 'Test' here on Wednesday. **The scores:** India U-19 519 (Manjot Kalra 122, Harvik Desai 89, Prithvi Shaw 86, Riyan Parag 68, Shubman Gill 29; Josh Tongue three for 69, Henry Brooks three for 85, Amar Virdi three for 134) & 173 for six dec. (Shaw 69, Das 50, Gill 25; Matty Potts three for 20) bt England U-19 195 (Will Jacks 46, Max Holden 32, Ryan Patel 38; Kamlesh Nagarkoti five for 49, Shivam Mavi four for 51) & 163 (Holden 60; Nagarkoti five for 63). PTI

India in control as lower-order fires, bowlers strike

The visitors amass 600 as Ashwin and debutant Pandya chip in; Sri Lanka, precariously placed at 154 for five, has a mountain to climb

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
GALLE

India holds the reins in the first Test. Its batting combined top-order supremacy with the tail's chutzpah and the resultant first innings total of 600 meant that it has half-sewed up the contest.

At close on the second day here at the Galle International Stadium, Sri Lanka replied with 154 for five. An effort structured more in hope as the host's playing eleven has been reduced to 10 following the exit of the injured Asela Gunaratne.

Wednesday night displayed the oscillating weather patterns of the tropics. It was about sharp spells of rain and blustery winds, but the elements favoured the visitors as the skies cleared on Thursday.

India built a strong batting edifice and when Sri Lanka walked out for its first hit, Virat Kohli's men had the edge.

Dimuth Karunaratne, debutant Danushka Gunathilaka and Kusal Mendis fell to the pace duo of Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Shami. The arduous task of stabilising the innings was left to Upul Tharanga (64) and Angelo Mathews (54 batting), the two adding 57 runs for the fourth wicket.

Tharanga cut well and Mathews smote a few but the former got run-out while trying to unsettle R. Ashwin. Tharanga rushed forward but only deflected the ball to Abhinav Mukund at silly-point. The agile fielder relayed a throw to Wridhiman



Quick work: Upul Tharanga, who scored a useful 64, was caught short of the crease by an agile Abhinav Mukund at silly-point.

REUTERS

Saha and the Sri Lankan opener was left stranded. Once Niroshan Dickwella fell to Ashwin, with Abhinav again coming into play with a brilliant catch, Sri Lanka was down for the count.

Steady progress

In the morning, resuming at 399 for three, India made steady progress despite Cheteshwar Pujara (153, 265b, 13x4) and Ajinkya Rahane (57) being unable to substantially extend their overnight tenures.

Pujara eased past 150 before thrusting his bat at a Nuwan Pradeep delivery. The seamer, who was rewar-

ded for his consistency, later bagged a maiden five-for (six for 132) in Tests.

Pujara's dismissal ended the 137-run fourth-wicket partnership he forged with Rahane. The latter drove Pradeep, but in attempting an expansive drive off Lahiru Kumara, Rahane only managed an edge and the charged-up fast bowler, clenched his fists.

At 432 for five, India was staring at a Sri Lankan outfit that had suddenly found its spark.

India's tail then lent a twist to the tale. First up, Ashwin (47) and Saha added 59 runs for the sixth wicket.

Pandya (50) lofted a four off Herath before lunch. India scored 104 for four in 27 overs during the first session.

Missed chance

In the afternoon, Pandya was dropped on four with Karunaratne grassing the chance at first slip, leaving Sri Lanka captain Herath ruing his bad luck. Though Pradeep did the classic one-two – a bouncer followed by a yorker – to nail Ravindra Jadeja, Pandya continued unhindered.

Just as the schools in the neighbourhood closed for the day and the jaunty students stepped onto the roads, a merry evening was

Pandya (50) lofted a four off Herath before lunch. India scored 104 for four in 27 overs during the first session.

Ashwin used his bat like a wand on either side of the pitch. The drives were excellent and the whips past mid-wicket had irrelevance. Saha, dogged as ever, withstood a barrage of bouncers from Kumara.

Saha succumbed to Ranganath Herath, failing to clear the in-field, and Ashwin perished on the hook, edging Pradeep to wicket-keeper Dickwella. India's lower-half was, however, no dying flame. The desire to depart in a blaze of glory was evident when debutant Hardik

Scoreboard

INDIA - 1ST INNINGS:		R	B	4s	6s
Shikhar Dhawan c Mathews b Pradeep	190	168	31		
Abhinav Mukund c Dickwella b Pradeep	12	26	2		
Cheteshwar Pujara c Dickwella b Pradeep	153	265	13		
Virat Kohli c Dickwella b Pradeep	3	8			
Ajinkya Rahane c Karunaratne b Kumara	57	130	3		
R. Ashwin c Dickwella b Pradeep	47	60	7		
Wridhiman Saha c Perera b Herath	16	32	3		
Hardik Pandya c (sub) Dhananjaya b Kumara	50	49	5	3	
Ravindra Jadeja b Pradeep	15	24	2		
Mohammed Shami c Tharanga b Kumara	30	30	3		
Umesh Yadav (not out)	11	10	1	1	
Extras (b-2, lb-5, w-6, nb-3)			16		
Total (in 133.1 overs)			600		

Fall of wickets: 1-27 (Abhinav, 7.3 overs), 2-280 (Dhawan, 54.1), 3-286 (Kohli, 56.4), 4-423 (Pujara, 97.4), 5-432 (Rahane, 101.1), 6-491 (Saha, 114.1), 7-495 (Ashwin, 115.1), 8-517 (Jadeja, 121.2), 9-579 (Shami, 129.5).

SRI LANKA - 1ST INNINGS: Dilruwan 30-1-130-0, Herath 40-6-159-1, Gunathilaka 7-0-41-0.

SRI LANKA - 1ST INNINGS:		R	B	4s	6s
Dilum Karunaratne lbw b Umesh	2	9			
Upul Tharanga run out	64	93	10		
Danushka Gunathilaka c Dhawan b Shami	16	37	2		
Kusal Mendis c Dhawan b Shami	0	4			
Angelo Mathews (batting)	54	91	8	1	
Niroshan Dickwella c Abhinav b Ashwin	8	15	1		
Dilruwan Perera (batting)	6	15			
Extras (lb-3, w-1)			4		
Total (in five wks. in 44 overs)			154		

Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Karunaratne, 1.5), 2-68 (Gunathilaka, 14.2), 3-68 (Kusal, 14.6), 4-125 (Tharanga, 33.6), 5-143 (Dickwella, 39.2).

India bowling: Shami 9-2-30-2, Umesh 8-1-50-1, Ashwin 18-2-49-1, Jadeja 9-1-22-0.

in the making for India. Shami slammed three sixes off Herath, mighty heaves that left the fielders in the deep, redundant.

Not to be outdone, Pandya hooked a six off Pradeep and then played a pick-up shot that sailed over the ropes. By the time Shami and Pandya were dismissed, India had a massive score, thanks to its last five wickets

■ Pujara (153) and Rahane (57) failed to substantially extend their overnight tenures

■ Hardik Pandya scores a half-century

adding 168 runs. Sri Lanka needs another 446 runs to draw parity, a huge mountain to climb.

Happy to get Kohli out'

Pradeep is Sri Lanka's bowling hero

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GALLE



Nuwan Pradeep perhaps is a man of few words and many wickets. Or may be he is just painfully shy. After his career-best haul of six for 132 against India in the first Test, the Sri Lankan spearhead, with fast bowling coach Chamaida Vaas as a translator, told the media that he relished Virat Kohli's wicket.

Explaining his modus-operandi, Pradeep said in Sinhala: "Though I didn't start well, I got better as I kept bowling. I got some rhythm. Kohli is one of the best batsmen in the world. I am very happy to have got him out."

Pradeep stressed that he remained intense right through and that helped him get his maiden five-for in Tests. "When you get four wickets, you have to bowl 15 to 16 overs, and you are very tired after that. If you are bowling more than that you still have to maintain that intensity and still bowl quickly. I did that and bowled fast in

my later spells. I think I couldn't get to that fifth wicket before because of tiredness." As for employing the bouncer, Pradeep said: "I trained like normal with the bouncer. With the way the wicket was today, the bouncer became effective."

Vaas, too, shared his thoughts and when asked about the bouncers, he replied: "We had a few plans as well, but we saw that the wicket is really good for batting. We thought of surprising the Indian batsmen by

bowling a few bouncers."

Looking ahead, Vaas said:

"Angelo [Mathews] and Dilruwan [Perera] are batting well. Hopefully, they will stay at the wicket and bat well until lunch. If we can bat until tea we might be able to escape danger."

Cheteshwar Pujara racked up a Test score of 150+ for the sixth time and has converted three of them into double centuries.

bowling a few bouncers."

Looking ahead, Vaas said:

"Angelo [Mathews] and Dilruwan [Perera] are batting well. Hopefully, they will stay at the wicket and bat well until lunch. If we can bat until tea we might be able to escape danger."

Cheteshwar Pujara has registered his maiden five-for in his 25th Test.

2 India posted a total of exactly 600 in an innings for the second time. It had done so against Pakistan at Rawalpindi in 2004.

5 Number of times India has crossed 600 runs in an innings, over eight Tests, since December 2016.

Australia is the only other team to notch up a 600+ score in this period.

6 Cheteshwar Pujara has registered his maiden five-for in his 25th Test.

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19 Cheteshwar Pujara has registered his maiden five-for in his 25th Test.

20 Cheteshwar Pujara has registered his maiden five-for in his 25th Test.

21 Cheteshwar Pujara has registered his maiden five-for in his 25th Test.

22 Cheteshwar Pujara has registered his maiden five-for in his 25th Test.

IN BRIEF



Morris' late winner gives USA the Gold Cup

SANTA CLARA (USA) Jordan Morris' 89th-minute strike lifted USA to a 2-1 victory over Jamaica on Wednesday in the CONCACAF Gold Cup final. Morris sealed it in dramatic fashion with a goal in the 89th minute. Jozy Altidore opened the scoring in the 45th minute, with Jamaica's Je-Vaughn Watson equalising in the 50th. The result: United States 2 (Altidore 45, Morris 89) bt Jamaica 1 (Watson 50). AFP

Sehwag, Usha named in Arjuna award panel

NEW DELHI Former India opener Virender Sehwag and celebrated athlete P.T. Usha have been named in a 12-member committee to pick this year's Khel Ratna and Arjuna awardees. The committee, to be headed by Justice (retd) C.K. Thakkar, will meet on August 3. Other members: Mukund Killekar (boxing), Sunil Dabbas (kabaddi), M.R. Mishra (journalist), S. Kannan (journalist), Sanjeev Kumar (journalist), Latha Madhvi (para athlete), Anil Khanna (sports administrator), Injeti Srivastava (SAI DG) and Rajiv Singh (Joint Secretary, Sports Ministry).

Indian girls bow out of World junior squash

TAURANGA (NEW ZEALAND) The Indian girls' challenge in the team event of the WSF-World junior squash championship ended with a 2-1 loss to Hong Kong on the quarterfinals on Thursday. The result: Hong Kong bt India 2-1 [Chan Sin Yuk lost to Sunayna Kuruvilla 9-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-7; Liu Hui Lam bt Akanksha Salunkhe 11-5, 11-2, 11-4; Ka Wing Ho bt Aishwarya Bhattacharya 11-8, 11-5, 11-7]. PTI

Nirupama and Ajay win bronze medals

KATHMANDU Serum Nirupama Devi lifted a total of 178kg (79kg snatch, 99kg clean and jerk) to secure the youth girls' 69kg bronze medal at the Asian junior and youth weightlifting here on Thursday. Nirupama finished third in snatch and clean and jerk as well. Ajay Singh totalled 315kg (143kg snatch, 172kg clean and jerk) to bag the men's 77kg bronze.

Virdi takes the lead on day three

QUEPEM (GOA) Gurmeet Virdi (co-driver Kirpal Singh Tung) of Gerrari Offroaders (Chandigarh) took the lead with 1072 points on the third day of the Force Gurka RFC India 2017 motor rally. Siddhartha Santosh (co-driver Prithviraj AC) of Team BODA (Bangalore Offroad Drivers Association) with 1066 points is placed second and Jagat Nanjappa (co-driver Chetan Changappa) of the Coorg-based Team V5 Offroaders with 1021 points is third.

I take one fight at a time'

Up against the Chinese, Vijender says he has adopted some special training

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

In the backdrop of the Indo-Chinese border conflict, Vijender Singh is determined to best his Chinese opponent in his double-title fight in Mumbai on August 5.

In the last phase of his training in Manchester, Vijender, who wears his love for the Tricolour on his sleeve, said his date with Zulpikar Maimaitiali had to be an important fight in his short career in professional boxing.

"Any fight for any title is important. This one is also important. It is an India versus China fight. Everyday you see something or the other on the social media. It is more of a responsibility for me to do well in this fight. I have to win this anyhow and show that India is better than China," Vijender told *The Hindu* from Manchester on Thursday.

Thirty-one-year-old Vijender, who has remained undefeated in his eight fights so far, has had a dream run since getting into professional boxing in October 2015. He won the WBO Asia Pacific super middleweight



Gruell practice: Vijender, who will take on Zulpikar Maimaitiali, at a training session in Manchester. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

title by defeating Australian Kerry Hope in September last year and defended it by beating Tanzanian Francis Cheka in December.

In order to face the 22-year-old Maimaitiali, who has put his WBO Oriental title at stake and has remained undefeated in seven bouts, Vijender has adopted some special training. "My opponent is a southpaw. I am training as per the requirement, choosing my

sparring partners accordingly. I am also working on a few techniques."

Under the watchful eyes of his trainer Lee Beard, Vijender, a World and Olympic medallist, is getting ready for a grueling 10-round bout. "My Asia Pacific title bout and its defence were 10-round fights. So, I have the experience of that. We started off with eight to 10 rounds in training and then increased it to 10-12

rounds and 12-14 rounds. We are reaching a good level."

Looking ahead, Vijender said he would like to step up and progress to the next level in professional boxing. "I take one fight at a time. But I want to climb the ladder and feature in a World title fight two years down the line," said Vijender, who would return to the country by the month end ahead of his double title fight.

Chinki wins gold

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chinki Yadav beat two Olympians and World Cup gold medallists, Rahi Sarnobat and Heena Sidhu, in winning the women's 25-metre sports pistol gold in the 17th all-India Kumar Surendra Singh memorial shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Thursday.

It was an impressive performance by the 20-year-old Chinki, who is coached by Jaspal Rana and Ved Prakash, as she beat Rahi 34-30.

In the junior final Gauri Sheoran took the gold, ahead of Muskan and Chinki Yadav. There was more surprise in the men's 50-metre free pistol, as Jitu Rai ended up eighth, after qualifying in the second place in a field of 100 shooters.

All the three eventual medallists had scored 550 in qualification, and Tintin Dhanota beat Arjun Singh Cheema and Gurpal Singh for the gold.

A shot in the arm
In a big boost for new aspirants, Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel inaugurated a mini 10-metre shooting range at the Dr. Karni Singh

Range, Tughlakabad, on Thursday.

The mini range, to be used for air pistol and air rifle, with manual targets will be for beginners, and would serve as the ideal platform for them to hone their skills before graduating to the electronic targets.

The use of the mini range will be open for the public, and rates have been fixed as Rs. 200 for daily, Rs. 3000 per month and Rs. 36,000 per year.

Athens Olympics silver medallist, Col. Rajayavardhan Singh Rathore, who is also the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, congratulated the Sports Minister on the initiative and said it would help in popularising the sport.

The results: Men: 50m free pistol: 1. Tintin Dhanota 230.3 (550); 2. Arjun Singh Cheema 230.0 (550); 3. Gurpal Singh 206.6 (550).

Juniors: 1. Anmol Jain 224.2 (547); 2. Arjun Singh Cheema 222.8 (550); 3. Shubham Balyan 202.4 (536).

Women: 25m sports pistol: 1. Chinki Yadav 34 (572); 2. Rahi Sarnobat 30 (583); 3. Heena Sidhu 27 (579); Juniors: 1. Gauri Sheoran 31 (559); 2. Muskan 27 (574); 3. Chinki Yadav 24 (572).

Kannamma stuns Swati

CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Top seed Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) and fifth seed Bhakti Kulkarni (Air India) shared the lead with 7.5 points in the 44th National women's Challengers chess on Thursday.

In the day's biggest upset, unseeded Bala Kannamma shocked third seed Swati Ghate in 64 moves.

Important results (ninth round): C. Lakshmi (6.5) lost Bhakti Kulkarni (7.5), P.V. Nandhidhaa (6.5) lost to Soumya Swaminathan (7.5); Mary Ann Gomes (7) bt Arpita Mukherjee (6), Kiran Manisha Mohanty (6.5) drew with Meenakshi Subbaraman (6.5), P. Bala Kannamma (6.5) bt Swati Ghate (5.5); Nisha Mohota (6.5) bt Aashna Makija (5.5), L. Jyotsna (6.5) bt Mahalakshmi (5.5), Siddhali Shetye (5.5) lost Pranali S. Dharia (6.5), Sakshi Chitlangre (6.5) bt Palkin Kaur (5.5).

Aarthie Ramaswamy (5.5) lost to Sandhya G. (6.5), Srija Seshadri (5.5) drew with Sanskriti Goyal (6), K. Manasa (5) lost Rucha Pujari (6); A.G. Nimmy (5) lost to Samridhha Ghosh (6), Lasya (6) drew with Toshali V. (5.5), Divya Lakshmi R. (6) bt Archi Agarwal (5), Savitha Shri (4.5) lost P. Michelle Catherine (5.5).

Odisha fights back to hold Army XI

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

4-4 draw against a formidable Army XI team in a Pool B match.

Trailing 3-0 at one stage, Odisha exhibited wonderful team effort and rallied in a splendid fashion.

The results: Pool A: BPCL 2 (Kawaljit Singh 53, Sher Singh 10) bt HUTN 0.

Pool B: Army XI 4 (A.P. Siraju 19, Binay Bhengra 29, Anselm Hemrom 32, B. B. Machaiah 60) drew with Hockey Odisha 4 (Cyril Lugun 42, Sanjay Xaldo 45, Amit Chirmako 56, Sibren Lakra 66).

Pool C: Army XI 4 (A.P. Siraju 19, Binay Bhengra 29, Anselm Hemrom 32, B. B. Machaiah 60) drew with Hockey Odisha 4 (Cyril Lugun 42, Sanjay Xaldo 45, Amit Chirmako 56, Sibren Lakra 66).

AGENCIES
BUDAPEST

Italy's Federica Pellegrini became the first swimmer to win seven medals in a single event at the World Championships after a stunning victory in the women's 200 metres freestyle final on Wednesday.

On a glittering night for Italy, Gabriele Detti won his first World title in a close finish in the men's 800m freestyle, an emotional Chad le Clos of South Africa took gold in the men's 200m butterfly and Britain's Adam Peaty secured a breaststroke

double with 50m gold.

Pellegrini last won a World title at the 2011 championships, but rolled back the years to clock one minute 54.73s.

The oldest in the field at 28, Pellegrini stormed back from fourth at the final turn to take gold ahead of Katie Ledecky of America and Australia's Olympic bronze medallist Emma McKeon, who had led until the 150m mark.

In the mixed 4x100m medley relay, USA set its second World record of the day to take gold.

The results: Men: 200m butterfly: 1. Chad le Clos (RSA) 1:53.33s, 2. Laszlo Cseh (Hun) 1:53.72, 3. Daiya Seto (Jpn) 1:54.21; 50m breaststroke: 1. Adam Peaty (GBR) 25.99, 2. Joao Gomes Junior (Bra) 26.52, 3. Cameron van der Burgh (RSA) 26.60; 800m freestyle: 1. Gabriele Detti (Ita) 7:40.77, 2. Wojciech Woyda (Pol) 7:41.73, 3. Gregorio Paltrinieri (Ita) 7:42.44.

Women: 200m freestyle: 1. Federica Pellegrini (Ita) 1:54.73s, 2. Katie Ledecky (USA) & Emma McKeon (Aus) 1:55.18; Mixed 4x100 medley: 1. USA 3:38.56 (WR), 2. Australia 3:41.21, 3. Canada & China 3:41.25.

Did I do that? Federica Pellegrini seems to be wondering after upstaging favourite Katie Ledecky to claim a seventh gold in the 200m freestyle event. ■ AFP

TENNIS

Purav-Divij duo in semifinals

SPORTS BUREAU
ATLANTA

Fourth seeds Purav Raja and Divij Sharang fought their way past Santiago Gonzalez and Scott Lipsky 6-7(6), 7-6 (5), [10-3] to reach the doubles semifinals of the Atlanta Open on Wednesday.

Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and his Korean partner Hyeon Chung set up a quarterfinal against top seeds Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan.

The results:

\$720,410 ATP Atlanta Open, USA: Doubles (quarterfinals): Purav Raja & Divij Sharang bt Santiago Gonzalez (Mex) & Scott Lipsky (USA) 6-7(6), 7-6 (5), [10-3].

Pre-quarterfinals: Hyeon Chung (Kor) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Eric Sock & Jack Sock (USA) 6-3, 6-4.

€540,310 Swiss Open, Gstaad, Switzerland: Doubles (pre-

Pellegrini in seventh heaven

AGENCIES

Italy's Federica Pellegrini became the first swimmer to win seven medals in a single event at the World Championships after a stunning victory in the women's 200 metres freestyle final on Wednesday.

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Snehit, Yashini triumph

Snehit, Yashini triumph

SNEHIT

SNEHIT

SNEHIT

SNEH

Ghosh plays Challengers' saviour

Team books fourth semifinal spot; Sharath Kamal's heroics go in vain for Mavericks

NANDAKUMAR MARAR

MUMBAI

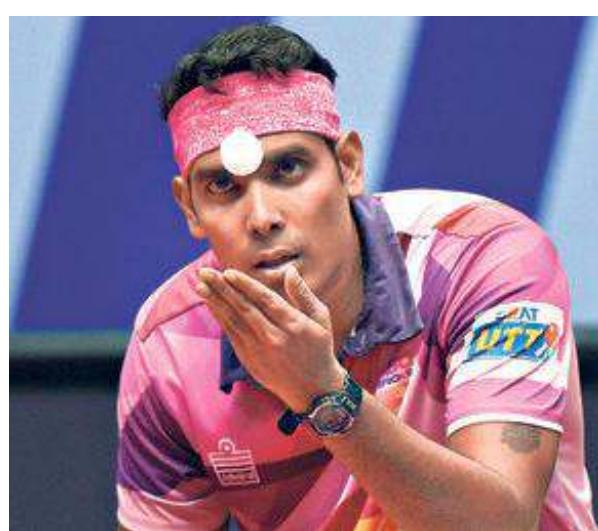
Sharath Kamal pulled RP-SG Mavericks off to a blazing start in an action-packed men's singles 11-7, 1-11, 11-7 win over Andrej Gacina, representing Slaze Challengers. The Indian hammered winners past his equally determined rival, played his part in the mixed doubles but was let down by his teammates and finished on the losing side.

Challengers, seven points short of confirming a spot in the Cet Ultimate Table Tennis semifinals, had to wait till the sixth match to turn the match around and qualify.

Soumyajit Ghosh was its saviour, smashing past Stefan Fegerl 9-11, 11-0, 11-8.

Han Ying then rode on the momentum created by Ghosh to outclass Archana Kamath in the women's singles.

Challengers' tactic of fielding quality players in the latter stages paid off, resulting



Unlucky: Sharath Kamal played his part for Mavericks but ended up on the losing side. ■ PTI

in a 15-12 victory.

Dabang Smashes, Falcon TTC, and Maharashtra United booked the other three semifinal berths.

The result:
Slaze Challengers bt RP-SG Mavericks 15-12 (Andrej Gacina

Soumyajit Ghosh bt Fegerl 9-11, 11-10, 11-8; Han Ying bt Archana Kamath 11-5, 11-6, 11-4; Li Ping bt Tiago Apolonia 11-4, 11-9, 11-10; Han Ying bt Policanova 11-3,

11-8, 10-11).

Semifinal line-up: Falcons TTC vs Maharashtra United; Slaze Challengers vs Dabang Smashes.

Kapil Dev's advice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Kapil Dev showed a preference for sliced returns during an exhibition table tennis game against Kamlesh Mehta during the Ultimate Table Tennis Mumbai leg.

The cricketer later spoke about the need for youngsters to enjoy sport before setting personal goals. He said: "Learn to enjoy playing your sport, whether table tennis or any other, before thinking of targets like representing the nation. If you enjoy playing, have the talent, results will

come naturally." Known for his natural ability to play different sports, the easy swing of shoulders and power in Kapil's wrist was evident in his looping returns across the net.

(Jisu Park 19, Lim Yung Hui 14, Joo Yeong Kwak 11) bt New Zealand 49 (Jillian Harmon 13, Micaela Cocks 11, Antonia Edmondson 11); Australia 81 (Alanna Smith 20, Sara Blicavs 13, Stephanie Cumming 11) bt North Korea 48 (Suk Yong Ro 22); Japan 73 (Moeko Nagaoka 28, Saki Mizushima 11, Maki Takada 10) bt Chinese Taipei 57 (Jen Huang Ping 17).

Division B: Uzbekistan 84 (Natalya Koneva 26, Elena Khustidinova 19, Anastasiya Sevastyanova 16) bt Singapore 79 (Jia Min Lim 18, Jacqueline Chu 13, Cheryl Poon 13, Yukie Yoshida 12).

Lebanon 86 (Lama Moukadlem 16, Nancy Maalouf 14, Narine Gyokchian 13) bt Sri Lanka 37 (Nadeeshani Kumarine Silva 17).

India 93 (Anitha Paul Durai 19, Grima Merlin 15, Rajapriyadarshini 12) bt Fiji 51 (M. Koya-mainavire 23).

Semifinal line-up: Division A: South Korea v Australia; Japan v China (Kanteerava). **Division B:** Uzbekistan v Kazakhstan (Koramangala); Lebanon v India (Kanteerava).



Star performer: Li Yueru top-scored for China in its rout of Philippines in the quarterfinals on Thursday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Yao Ming comes calling

Favourites enter last four in Division A



Yao Ming. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

ASHWIN ACHAL

BENGALURU

A short while before China's FIBA Women's Asia Cup quarterfinal match began here on Thursday, a 7'6" man quietly slipped into the arena. He took a seat in the VIP area beside the court, and watched the action unfold with minimum fuss.

Not many among the sparse crowd were aware that they were in the presence of an all-time great. The man in question was Yao Ming, eight-time NBA all-star and Houston Rockets legend.

Earlier this year, Ming was appointed president of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA). He is in the city to watch his national team's progress in the event.

The 36-year-old keenly followed every minute of China's lop-sided 117-43 victory over Philippines. He even stayed on for the Japan-Chinese Taipei fixture that followed.

Ming is expected to stay in the city until the end of the tournament.

Harikrishna draws with Morozhevich

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BIEL (SWITZERLAND)

Grandmaster P. Harikrishna played out a hard-fought draw against former World No. 2 Alexander Morozhevich of Russia in the third round of the 50th Biel International chess festival here.

After three rounds, Harikrishna was joint second with a 1-1/2 points.

Bronze for Prithvi and Jafreen

SPORTS BUREAU

SAMSUN (TURKEY)

Prithvi Sekhar and Jafreen Shaik won the mixed doubles bronze in tennis, with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over the second-seeded Chinese Taipei pair of Chun-Wei Wang and Chiu-Mei Ho, in the Deaflympics here on Thursday.

The results: Women's doubles (third place): Tatum Bangoglu & Asuman Saki bt

Gupta & Madhu Jaiswal 6-3, 6-2. Mixed doubles (third place): Prithvi Sekhar & Jafreen Shaik bt Chun-Wei Wang & Chiu-Mei Ho (Tpe) 6-4, 6-3.

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Teams ready for Season 5

The three-month-long season will feature 138 matches

PKL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

HYDERABAD

The Vivo ProKabaddi League Season 5 starting here on Friday could pose a serious challenge not just to the skills but also to endurance and fitness levels of the players given its three-month long duration featuring 138 matches in all.

But, the players seem to be geared up, if the captains' mood at the unveiling of the winner's trophy, is any indication at the launch of the edition here.

All the 12 men who are expected to lead their teams from the front were present – Rahul Chaudhari (Telugu Titans), Surjeet Singh (Bengal Warriors), Rohit Kumar (Bangalore Bulls), Miraj Shaik (Dabang Delhi), Manjeet Chhillar (Jaipur Pink Panthers), Deepak Hooda (Puneri Paltan), Anup Kumar (U Mumba), Suresh Hegde (Gujarat Fortune Giants), Surender Nada (Haryana Steelers), Ajay Thakur (Tamil Thalaivas), Nitin Tomar (UP Yoddha) and



All for this : Team captains with the ProKabaddi league trophy. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

which are expected to lend variety and intensity to the competition are UP Yoddha, Tamil Thalaivas, Gujarat Fortune Giants and Haryana Steelers.

Tamil Thalaivas outfit led by Ajay Thakur would be one of the most watched teams not only as has recruited a lot of youngsters but also for the fact that it is co-owned by Sachin Tendulkar (alongwith entrepreneur Nimmagadda Prasad).

Friday's schedule: Telugu Titans vs Tamil Thalaivas (8.00 p.m.) & U Mumba vs Puneri Paltan (9.00 p.m.).

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

16/J, Miller Tank Bed Area, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Phone: 080-2238 0140/41, 2238 2360/62 Telefax: 080-4907 1400

No.KRDCL/IFB/2017-18/18 Date: 27.07.2017

TENDER NOTIFICATION ON TURNKEY BASIS
(on e-procurement basis)

1. Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) proposes to take up the Construction of Bridges in Packages (each bridge costing more than Rs.10.00 cr.) widely spread at different locations on State Highways/ Major District Roads/ Village Roads/ Other Roads in the State of Karnataka on Turnkey Basis Based on Tenderer's own Design.

2. The work involves new construction/ re-construction/ rehabilitation of bridges on State Highways/ Major District Roads/ Village Roads/ Other Roads.

3. The details of works proposed to be taken up for implementation are as under.

Sl. No.	Bridge Package Details	No. Bridges	Approximate Cost of Work (Rs. in Crore)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 1% of the Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakh)	Period of Completion (including monsoon)*				
PACKAGE - I KALBURGI DISTRICT									
a. Kalburgi	4	7	207.00	Rs.1 lakh (e-portal) & Balance Amount in the form of Bank Guarantee as specified in the Tender Document					
b. Vijayapura	1								
c. Bagalkote	2								
PACKAGE - II BELAGAVI DISTRICT									
a. Chikkodi-Sadalagala	1	8	205.00	Rs.1 lakh (e-portal) & Balance Amount in the form of Bank Guarantee as specified in the Tender Document					
b. Rayabahaga	2								
c. Athani/ Kagavada	1								
d. Chikkodi/ Nippanni	1								
e. Gokak	1								
f. Bailahongala	1								
g. Savadatti	1								
PACKAGE - III DHARWAD DISTRICT									
a. Hubballi/ Navalagunda	1	11	188.00	Rs.1 lakh (e-portal) & Balance Amount in the form of Bank Guarantee as specified in the Tender Document					
b. Navalagunda	1								
PACKAGE - IV UTTARA KANNADA (KARWAR)									
a. Ankola	1								
b. Honnava	3								
c. Karwar	1								
d. Kumta	2								
PACKAGE - V HASSAN DISTRICT									
a. Aluru	1								
b. Arakalgud	2								
CHIKKAMAGALURU DIST.									
a. Mudigere	1	9	170.62	Rs.1 lakh (e-portal) & Balance Amount in the form of Bank Guarantee as specified in the Tender Document					
b. Koppar	1								
c. N.R. Pura	1								
MANDYA DIST.									
a. Maddur	1								
b. Srirangapatna	1								
BENGALURU DIST.									
a. Bengaluru/ Yeswanthpur	1								
4. Interested applicants may access bidding documents from the e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 07-08-2017 onwards.									
5. The technical bids along with EMD and Financial Bids are to be submitted in e-portals as per the instructions in the bidding documents.									
6. The schedule of dates for various activities are as follows:									
i) The Last Date for Submission of Pre-Bid Queries on 17-08-2017 (Through e-portals) upto 4.00 P.M.									
ii) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 11.30 A.M. on 23-08-2017 at the Board Room of KRDCL.									
iii) Deadline for Submission of Technical and Financial Bids is upto 4.00 P.M. on 11-09-2017.									
iv) Date and Time of Opening Technical Bids is on 14.09.2017 at 11.30 A.M.									
7. The Technical Bids (1st Part) of the agencies who satisfy the requirement of payment of EMD and other terms as per bidding documents will be opened first and the Financial Bids (2nd Part) of only the qualified agencies as per prescribed pre-qualification criteria will be opened and considered for award of contract.									
8. Further details could be obtained from the Registered Office of KRDCL.									
9. KRDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any/ or all tenders without assigning any reasons.									

* Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-portals/ KRDCL Website.

visit: <http://www.krdcl.in>

SD/- Chief Engineer
KRDCL

(* Period of Completion (including monsoon) for each of the Bridge in each of the Package may vary from 15 Months to 36 Months and for further details please go through the Tender Document uploaded on e-portals)

(iv) Date and Time of Opening Technical Bids is on 14.09.2017 at 11.30 A.M.

7. The Technical Bids (1st Part) of the agencies who satisfy the requirement of payment of EMD and other terms as per bidding documents will be opened first and the Financial Bids (2nd Part) of only the qualified agencies as per prescribed pre-qualification criteria will be opened and considered for award of contract.

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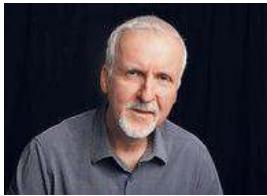
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* Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-portals/ KRDCL Website.

visit: <http://www.krdcl.in>

AN-NDE

IN BRIEF

James Cameron plans new *Terminator* trilogy

LOS ANGELES

Filmmaker James Cameron has revealed that he is considering relaunching the *Terminator* franchise. The director helmed and co-wrote both 1984's original *Terminator* and 1991's *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*. He is in discussion with David Ellison, who is the current rights holder globally for the *Terminator* franchise. PTI



Hand-pulled rickshaws get Durga Puja branding

KOLKATA
Celebrated in Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Zamin*, the once ubiquitous hand-pulled rickshaws of Kolkata have found a special place in Durga Puja branding this year. An initiative of the Kashi Bose Durga Puja Committee, a score of these rickshaws have been decked up in cloth ruffles and tassels. IANS



A billion people use WhatsApp daily

NEW DELHI
WhatsApp has globally garnered one billion daily active users who transfer over 55 billion messages and one billion videos every day, the company said on Thursday. The Facebook-owned app has over 1.3 billion monthly active users, the company said, and it supports 60 languages globally. IANS

82-year-old Sri Lankan teacher wins Ramon Magsaysay award

Gethsie Shanmugam is among six honorees chosen this year for serving society

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANILA

A Japanese historian who helped Cambodians preserve the Angkor temples and a Sri Lankan teacher who counselled war widows and orphans to overcome their nightmares are among the six winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards, regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize.

The other recipients named Thursday are an Indonesian working for the return of large tracts of forest land to indigenous communities, a Singaporean who leads the cooking of 6,000 meals a day for the destitute, a Philippine theatre group which stood up to a dictatorship and a Filipino who oversaw the opening of job-generating export processing zones. The awards, named after a Philippine president who died in a 1957 plane crash, are to be presented in Manila on August 31.

The winners were unafraid to take on large causes and "refused to give up, despite meagre resources, daunting adversity and strong opposition," said Carmencita Abella, president of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.

Work of a lifetime

Yoshiaki Ishizawa, a 79-year-old scholar of Southeast Asian history who has served as president of Japan's Sophia University, devoted 50 years of his life to help preserve Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple.

Conservation work at Angkor Wat was suspended for years under the Khmer Rouge. When the group fell from power in 1979, violence had decimated the pool of Cambodian conservationists.

Abdon Nababan from Indonesia's Sumatra Island was cited for leading an effort to return state-controlled forest land to indigenous communities.



Mr. Ishizawa led an effort in Japan and Cambodia to save the temple, putting Cambodians at the centre of the effort, the foundation said.

Gethsie Shanmugam, 82, a teacher and psychological counsellor from Sri Lanka's Tamil community, won for braving bombings and threats of arrests in conflict zones to counsel war widows, orphans and children traumatised by three decades of brutal civil war in her country, the foundation said.

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Singaporean businessman Tony Tay, who was abandoned by his father as a child and brought by his homeless mother to an orphanage, won the award for organising volunteers starting in 1983 to cook and distribute thousands of free meal packs every day to feed the elderly, migrant workers and low-income families.

Coming from a family of Philippine government officials, Lilia de Lima oversaw the opening of hundreds of job-generating export processing zones across the country as head of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, earning her the award.

The private Philippine Educational Theatre Association was founded in 1967 with an initial aim of creating a national theatre but served as an artistic platform for protest when dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law five years later. Its advocacy through the arts has since expanded to gender issues and disaster preparedness.

Arundhati Roy's latest in Man Booker longlist

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness commended for style

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Arundhati Roy's latest work of fiction, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, has made it to the longlist of this year's Man Booker Prize.

The judges described the book as "a rich and vital book" that "comes from the bowels of India" and has "extraordinary scale" and "extraordinary style and intelligence".

The author's debut novel, *God of Small Things*, won the Booker Prize in 1997. Ms. Roy is joined by four previously shortlisted writers — Ali Smith (2001, *Hotel World*); 2005, *The Accidental*; and 2014, *How to Be Both*; Zadie Smith (2005, *On Beauty*), Sebastian Barry (2005, *A Long Long Way Down*; 2008, *The Secret Scripture*); and longlisted in 2011 for *On Canaan's Side* and Mohsin Hamid (2007, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*).

"Together their authors — both recognised and new — explore an array of literary forms and techniques, from those working in a traditional vein to those who aim to move the walls of fiction,"



Arundhati Roy

longlist showcases a diverse spectrum — not only of voices and literary styles but of protagonists too, in their culture, age and gender. Nevertheless we found there was a spirit common to all these novels: though their subject matter might be turbulent, their power and range were life-affirming — a tonic for our times.

"Only when we'd finally selected our 13 novels did we fully realise the huge energy, imagination and variety in them as a group. The

Lola Young, the chair of this year's judges, said.

Other writers on the list include Emily Fridlund from U.S. (*History of Wolves*), Mike McCormack from Ireland (*Solar Bones*), Jon McGregor from U.K. (*Reservoir 13*), Fiona Mozley from U.K. (*Elmet*), George Saunders from U.S. (*Lincoln in the Bardo*), Kamila Shamsie from U.K. and Pakistan (*Home Fire*) and Colson Whitehead from U.S. (*The Underground Railroad*).

144 entries

The list, which was drawn up from 144 submissions published in the U.K. between October 1, 2016, and September 30, 2017, was selected by a panel of five judges: Baroness Lola Young, literary critic Lila Azam Zanganeh, Man Booker Prize shortlisted novelist Sarah Hall, artist Tom Phillips and travel writer Colin Thubron. The winner gets a prize of £50,000. A shortlist of six books will be announced on September 13.

Indian student at MIT makes wearable sensor to prevent assault

Manisha Mohan's device can alert people nearby with a loud noise or send distress signals to the smartphones of friends and family

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BOSTON/CHENNAI

An Indian scientist at MIT has developed a sticker-like wearable sensor that can detect sexual assault in real time and quickly alert the victim's friends and family and people nearby.

The sensor, which can be attached to any piece of clothing like a sticker, could be trained to learn the difference between when a person is undressing themselves and when they are being force-



The sensor can be attached to any piece of clothing. ■ MIT

fully disrobed, said Manisha Mohan, research assistant at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S.

This allows the sensor to detect signs of an assault even when the victim is unconscious or not in the position to fight the assailant.

An integrated bluetooth connected to a smartphone app can trigger a loud noise to alert people nearby and send out a distress signal to pre-set numbers of family members or emergency ser-

ving. The sensor works in two modes.

In the passive mode, the wearer is assumed to be conscious and can set off loud alarms or distress calls on their own by touching a button when they encounter an

approaching threat. In the active mode, the sensor tries to detect signals from the external environment.

For example, if somebody is trying to remove the clothing of a person, a message is sent to the smartphone asking if the person consents.

If the smartphone user does not respond within 30 seconds, the phone begins to emit a loud noise to alert people nearby.

If the victim does not stop this alarm using a predefined

password within the next 20 seconds, the smartphone app can automatically send distress signals to family or friends, along with the location of the victim.

Personal experience

Ms. Mohan's experience as an engineering student in Chennai inspired her to create the device, she said. "The proposed solutions aim to respond to initial signs of assault such as forced disrobing, researchers said. "The

Female students on campus were not allowed to work beyond certain hours. You were expected to be back in your dorm by 6:30 p.m.," Ms. Mohan said.

"Instead of asking them to remain indoors I think we should provide more safety for them," she said. The technology can seamlessly integrate with existing clothing to respond to initial signs of assault such as forced disrobing, researchers said. "The proposed solutions aim to combat child sexual abuse, college campus assault and abuse of elderly and disabled," Ms. Mohan said.

Bezos is world's richest person

Forbes says he has overtaken Microsoft founder Bill Gates



Jeff Bezos

computing hardware and artificial intelligence.

The company also recently announced plans to acquire U.S. grocer Whole Foods, which could help Amazon expand in that sector.

Amazon shares were up 1.7% at \$1,070.72 and have risen some 24% over the

S. Korea's Moon adopts abused dog

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

South Korean President Moon Jae-In has welcomed a new member into his family: Tory, a black mutt who was reportedly headed for the dinner table before being rescued two years ago.

The pooch's previous owner was an old man notorious for abusing dogs and eating them, according to CARE, the animal rights group responsible for rescuing Tory.

Mr. Moon, an animal lover who had pledged to adopt Tory during his presidential campaign, welcomed the animal home on Wednesday, his office said in a statement.

Karnataka
One state. Many worlds.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MONSOON FORECAST
SHOWERY SPELLS ACCOMPANIED BY COFFEE AND BOOKS

This monsoon, head outdoors and experience rain like never before at the hill-stations, coffee plantations, waterfalls and forests of Karnataka.

Agumbe, Shivamogga District
Bengaluru - 356 km

Mangaluru - 94 km

Udupi - 52 km

It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.

'Secret garden' opens after a century

The delicate wetlands near Lake Tahoe in Sierra Nevada are home to rare species



Pristine spot: The North Fork of Prosser Creek flows through the Lower Carpenter Valley near Truckee, California. ■ AP

fully verdant habitat areas with fens, they call them, these seeps and springs," said Elliott Wright, senior associate director of philanthropy for the Nature Conservancy.

The delicate wetlands are home to rare native sundew, small carnivorous plants that attract insects to sticky residue on their leaves.

The North Fork of Prosser Creek is fed by snow and lined by willows and once was home to native Lahontan cutthroat trout, a threatened species that could be reintroduced if no natural population has remains. The willows provide habitat for 40 of the 270 known nesting pairs of willow flycatchers, a small insect-eating bird once was common in the Sierra Nevada, Mr. Wright said.

The valley was initially settled by dairyman William Carpenter and his wife, Julia. It was purchased in the mid-20th century by a group of fishermen, including newspaper publisher James McClatchy, who used it as a private retreat.

The sensitive habitat includes "these incred-

ibly spongy underfoot as visitors step onto a deep bog that has formed along parts of the valley floor. Bird songs and the gurgle of a serpentine creek provide the soundtrack in the meadow a few kilometres from noisy Interstate 80. The ground suddenly turns spongy underfoot as visitors step onto a deep bog that has formed along parts of the valley floor. "It literally is a secret garden," said Kathy Englar, the Truckee Donner Land Trust's development director.

The Lake Tahoe region regularly draws tens of thousands of people to ski, hike and camp, but the piece of land along a creek near Truckee has been kept behind locked gates along a winding dirt road. The trust and the Nature Conservancy, with other partners, bought more than 5 sq.km. from the longtime owners for \$10.3 million. The partnership bought 600 acres in mid-July, but that

area is so sensitive it will initially be open only for guided visits. It includes about two-thirds of the vast meadow. It acquired about half the property last year, 637 acres known as Crabtree Canyon, that is now open to hiking and mountain biking.

Sensitive habitat

The partners have a contract to buy a final 80-acre parcel.

The sensitive 600-acre site includes "these incred-

FRIDAY REVIEW

In many ways, this is a landmark year for singer-composer
Shankar Mahadevan **Pages 6 & 7**

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INSIDE

The shrinking stage



Ashish Khokar focuses on the lack of opportunities for the solo male performers **P5**

Trending now:
Malhar



It is that time of the year when the romance and visual imagery associated with Mian Ki Malhar spur our imagination **P8**

The romance continues...



A fine blend of literary excellence and ideological commitment, Ali Sardar Jafri's inclusive poetry is very much alive in soirees **P11**

Remembering
Rafi



With a song for every emotion, Mohammed Rafi's voice continues to bind people across generations **P12**

TIME OUT



INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

JULY 28**STEIN AUDITORIUM**

7 P.M. The HCL Concerts "True To Our Roots - The Wave of Maihar" will celebrate the legacy of the Maihar gharana featuring Shiraz Ali Khan on sarod, Sourabh Goho on tabla) and Arindam Bhattacharyya on vocals.

GULMOHAR

7 P.M. Pendulum Dialogue, the Art Appreciation Series will present "Body-Mind Connect in the Classical Arts-Is This Overrated?" featuring Geeta Chandran, Sonal Mansingh, Shovana Narayan and Rajan Mishra.

AMALTAS

7 P.M. IHC will present a dramatised reading of "Topi Ki Dastaan" based on "Topi Shukla" by Dr. Rahi Masoom Raza which revolves around Topi, an embodiment of chaos in the post-independent era.

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

JULY 29**C.D. DESHMUKH AUDITORIUM**

6.30 P.M. IIC's Mehfil will present a performance by Pandita Shubhada Paradkar. For this special mehfil, she would present a select repertoire of ragas and compositions from the Agra and Jaipur-Atrauli gharanas.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

JULY 29**STEIN AUDITORIUM**

7 P.M. "Raagotsav - An Evening to Promote Indian Classical Music" will present a Guruvandana by students of RASIPA followed by a Hindustani classical vocal recital by Vishnu Mishra.



Mellifluous voice Sumithra Nitin at a performance

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

JULY 30**C.D. DESHMUKH AUDITORIUM**

10 A.M. In Homage to Past Masters of Violin will present a violin recital by R. Sridhar with Uma Ganesan. They will be accompanied by N. Padmanabhan (mridangam); N. Harinarayanan (ghatam); and J. Vignesh (kanjira).

ANNEXE LECTURE ROOM II

6 P.M. IIC will hold a Carnatic vocal recital by Sumithra Nitin who will be accompanied by G. Raghavendra Prasath on violin; Kumbakonam N. Padmanaban on mridangam and N. Hari Narayanan on ghatam.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

JULY 30**AMALTAS**

7 P.M. In Music and Talk "Nashit" will present "Dhai Aakhir Prem Ke" which will feature Prabhjot Prabhu Singh and Aman in a evening of music and conversation about Sufi and Bhakti kaal poetry. Both will sing Gurubani, Sufi, Nirgun.

Tribute to legacy Shiraz Ali Khan

Racing with the rain

Kuchipudi dancers Ranjini Nair and Moutushi Majumder demonstrated their finesse and technique at a dance festival in Delhi

RANEE KUMAR

The inherent trait of Kuchipudi dance as it is practised in the present day makes it vulnerable to censure for more than one reason. Firstly, it was carved out of the ancient Bhagavata mela where the priestly class of males practised, performed and propagated it as a vocation. Later solos were added to make it a repertoire and in doing so, the originators did formulate a pattern that went with the tenets of Natya Shastra to a large extent which is one reason for its 'classical' status. Secondly, since it was essentially performed by males impersonating as females, as and when the demand arose, the body kinetics and facial expressions had to be 'exaggerated' (going by today's standards). The core Bhagavata element had to be incorporated in the form of drama within the dance and so on. These very elements have the tendency to weaken the strong format of this art form, especially since it is now done by females also, on a sophisticated stage – no longer rural road shows of yore.

Keeping all this in mind the up and coming dancers and their teacher-gurus should be wary of minutest dilutions that tend to occur in the course of pursuing and performing this dance form. Having said this much, it must be said to the credit of up and coming Kuchipudi dancers – Ranjini Nair and Moutushi Majumder – had kept their bodylines on leash not succumbing to 'excesses' in the name of grace and fluidity which is a bane with this particular dance style during their performance at Varsha Ritu Festival at the India International Centre.

Their footwork, though repetitive, was well executed and together they presented a well synchronised act. The Papanasam Sivan's composition 'Uma Ramanam...' in Hindolam was presented with stylistic synchronisation



Well-coordinated Moutushi Majumder and Ranjini Nair in performance ■ INNI SINGH

of postures and gestures (mudras), drawing parallels between Shiva and Vishnu through artistic representation. The interpolation of Gajendra Moksh episode was picturesque as were the sancharis laden with lively dance movements.

The Dasavataram piece, customised and choreographed by Vempati Chinna Satyam which came towards the end of the performance left much to be desired in terms of choreography itself. The jatis (pure footwork) that prelude each avatar, for instance were all set to swara barring the first one, which was too racy to be savoured. And the adavus worked to this pace were executed in a breathless fashion where the gestures too had to be fleet-

ing leaving no room for clarity. Alternating the swara with mnemonics (syllabic utterances) for the verses would have set better for the pace of dance. The Vamana avatar was enacted with finesse and so was Narsimha.

Clash of speed and emotions

When it came to the solos, again the Jayadeva ashtapadi 'Radhika Krishna...' let us down merely because of being tuned differently which somehow did not gel with the emotion of the lyric. Ranjini had to balance between speedy dance movements and the emotional output she had to deliver was beyond her. There was a clear clash of speed and feeling and the final posture of a love-lorn

Radha seated in a pensive mood had nothing to do with all the earlier mime in this Ashtapadi.

Moutushi's Meera bhajan, 'Barasey bhadariya sawan ke...' to justify the title of this dance fest, was, however, interesting. Her emulating the fauna and the celebration of raindrops was impressive. Her expressive eyes could convey the varied emotions of joy and love in a convincing manner. Nattuvangam by Vanashree Rao could have been louder – it got drowned in the instrumental support provided by Manohar Balasubramaniam on mridangam, Raghavendra Prasath on violin and Rajat Prasanna on bamboo. S. Vasudevan's vocal was like a feat in fast-track.

Going strong

"Indian Ocean" mesmerises the audience

At a live concert presented recently by Samagam at Kamani auditorium in New Delhi, the popular group "Indian Ocean", displayed how it continues to be popular among the people.

The audience was in rap-

tures and fully participated synchronising with the beats of the band as they played several of their popular numbers like "Bandeh...", "Ma Rewa...", "Des Mera..." and many more.

What enhanced the per-



formance was the superb lighting on the stage.

The listeners consisting of

both young and elderly gave a standing ovation at the end of the concert.

When class goes crass...

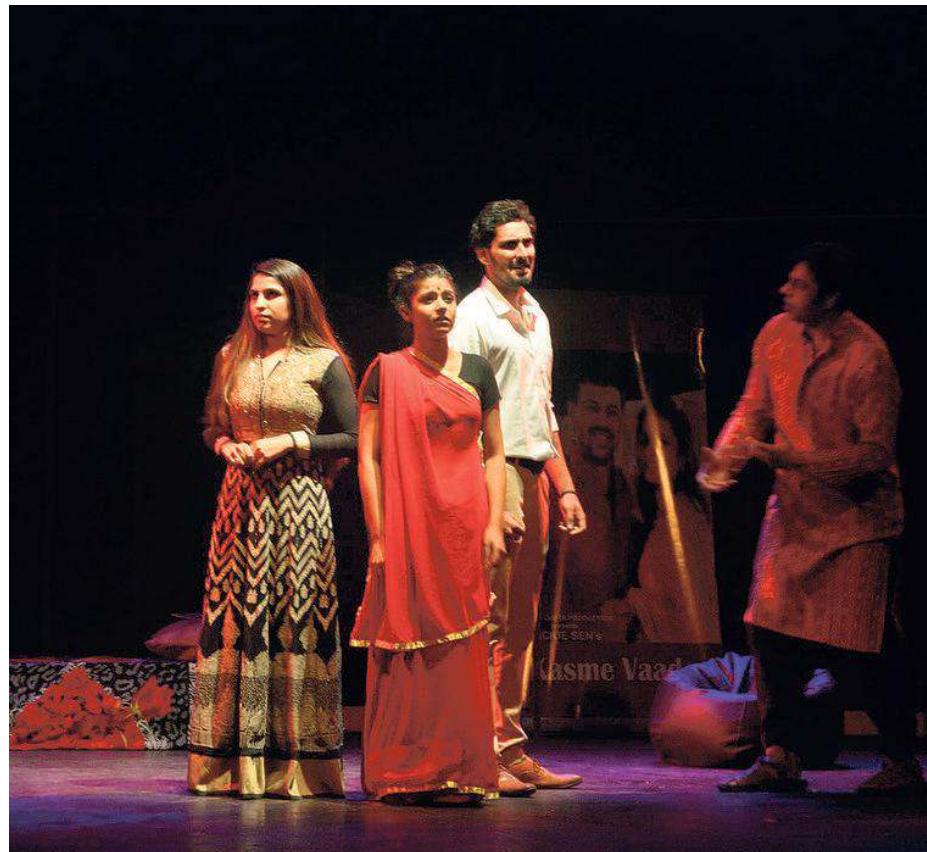
Brimming with energy, Suddho Banerjee's "Manasi" conveys George Bernard Shaw's attack on snobbery of upper class effectively

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

The play "Manasi", which was presented by Saanjhaati at India Habitat Centre recently, is yet another avatar of George Bernard Shaw's celebrated play "Pygmalion" (1913). The characters in the new script are recognisable and the situations have contemporary Indian urban flavour with emphasis on the problems being faced by people in the show business. The earliest adaptation of this play is "Azar Ka Khwab" by legendary theatre personality Begum Qudsia Zaidi. This adaptation in chaste Urdu continues to fascinate theatre practitioners as well as discerning theatre lovers.

Among the memorable productions of the Urdu adaptation is one by Yatrik under the direction of T. P. Jain. In this production veteran theatre and film actress Salima Raza played the role of Eliza named as Hajjo (Amroodwali) which according to old-timers continues to be the ultimate portrayal of Hajjo, the Indian version of Eliza set in Indian milieu. Another milestone production of this Urdu adaptation is produced by Repertory Company of National School of Drama under the direction of Bhanu Bharti. The more recent version of "Pygmalion" is "Laagi Lagan" in Hindi written and directed by Prof. Waman Kendre, director of NSD. The latest version "Manasi" in Hindi has its own freshness to captivate the attention of the audience.

Written and directed by Suddho Banerjee, senior theatre artist, "Manasi" is noteworthy for dramatic energy, clarity and brilliant acting by lead performers. While conveying Shavian satirical attack on the snobbery of upper class society, who disdain marginalised people, Suddho has changed the character



Mirroring reality A scene from "Manasi"; (below) writer and director Suddho Banerjee
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

traits of a few Shavian characters. Prof. Higgins, a scientist of phonetics, is changed to Jackie Sen, a director of soap opera and film, who has failed to discover new female face for his forthcoming serial. In place of Colonel, a linguist, we meet Sanjay Gupta, the producer. Both the characters are bachelors, who are also depicted bachelors in the original. In "Manasi" there is a female character Sangini – who conducts rehearsals and assists the director to hone the craft of actors. In the original the father of Eliza is named as Alfred Doolittle, alcoholic and devoid of moral qualms.

In Suddho's version the father is named as Raghu who is also incorrigibly alcoholic and lumpen. In most of the productions this character is given little space but Suddho gives it enough space to show his degeneracy and to provide light on the social background of Rammo. Towards the climax, Rammo goes to her father as a protest against upper class arrogance after the tense dramatic confrontation. The producer follows her and persuades her to join the director. In fact, this scene, where Rammo rejoins her father after emotional rupture with the director in the party, breaks the rhythm of action, weakening the impact of the production. The director should delete this sequence to make his

production sharper and compact.

The production ends on a happy note with Rammo, the flower girl, emerging as Manasi, the centre of all eyes. In fact, different directors have changed the ending according to their own world vision. Director Waman Kendre gives a new twist to the climax of his production of "Laagi Lagan" in which Prof. Higgins and Eliza (Flower Girl) are in love but the class antagonism stands in the way of the lovers.

Grand style

In the production under review, the party scene is effectively composed with optimum use of the action space charged with heightened emotional conflict and excitement. After the selection of Rammo for the glamorous role of heroine in the serial, the people of high society celebrate the occasion in a grand style. Praises are showered on the director. Rammo named as Manasi stands alone in the party with a co-actor in a corner. Nobody is interested in talking to her, much less to congratulate her. The director and producer are basking in glory. It dawns on her that she is treated an object of bet for the director and producer and a commodity for experiment.

The pain of her repressed wounds of humiliation and

torture, flares up. She shouts at the director and the high society assembled at the party and walks out from an inhuman society which is hypocritical.

The production is marked by brilliant performances by the cast. Shuddho Banerjee as Jackie Sen internalises the conflict of his character. His restrained artistry heightens the intensity of his dilemma. He creates a convincing portrait of a conceited, arrogant and autocratic artist who lives in the illusion that he is the ultimate director who can make and unmake the career of any actor. Over the years, Shuddho has performed a number of roles and his performance in the play under review is by far the best.

Enab Khizra as Rammo reveals with telling effect the crisis of her journey from a sexually abused slum-dweller girl who sells flowers to her torturous training culminating in the crowning victory. Imparting vitality and emotional power to her portrayal, she sustains these strong feelings throughout the show. Sagar Surinder is a senior actor of the Delhi stage who gives brilliant performance as the incorrigibly alcoholic and morally debased father of Rammo. Other noteworthy performances are given by Namanita as the helper of the director and Rajiv Verma as Sanjay Gupta, the producer of soap opera.

In father's footsteps

Guru Ratikant Mohapatra's students presented a visually pleasing performance at 'Upasaranam'

TAPATI CHOWDURIE

Srjan, Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa organised 'Upasaranam', an evening of Odissi dance at Bhubaneswar recently. It presented performances of its young and talented artistes at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar.

Ratikant Mohapatra, recipient of this year's SNA Award, was at his creative best. His objective in holding this festival is to discover new talent in Odissi and creating an opportunity for them to perform on a major platform. He is committed towards passing on the rare gifts of traditional art, which his father was instrumental in developing all through his life. Upasaranam, which means moving on the path to excellence, was unique in more than one sense.

Fresh and young artistes of Srjan, wearing Odissi costumes made in attractive Sambalpuri style, presented Mangalacharan. It was set to the primary rhythm of eight-beat structure, worshipping Parvati's son, Ganesha to start with. The piece was in raga Mishra Shudha Bibhas, which is a pentatonic raga and the rhythm was also a garland woven by different talas. This raga, belonging to Bhairav, is usually sung in day-break. Perhaps, the choreographer particularly chose this piece to signify the beginning of his performance much akin to the beginning of the day. The music was composed by legendary flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, who for sometime in his life was in Cuttack when he was with the All India Radio.

Guru Ratikant Mohapatra used two of the best choreographic works to embellish the evening.

One of them was a pure dance piece set to raga Vasant, a spring time raga and tala Ek Tali. The music was composed by Pandit



Bhubaneswar Mishra. After all music is an integral part of dance. Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra's choreographic dance pieces wouldn't have shone as it did without the inspired music of Pandit Bhuvaneswar Mishra. In fact, both Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra and Bhubaneswar Mishra have produced great pieces when they were in Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre.

Patriotic flavour

The other memorable choreographic work of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra was a nritya abhinaya piece of the patriotic song "Vandemataram" from Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's novel "Ananda Math". It was in raga Desh, a monsoon raga generally used in patriotic songs. Young dancers broke into myriads of visually spectacular designs much to the liking of the audience. 'Mahadev', set to Rag-Raag Malika and Tala - Tala Malika, was a piece which was only one of its kind. The presentation of the Pallavi set to raga Raga-Megh, Tala-Jhampa, music by Pradeep Kumar Das and dance choreographed by Ratikanta Mohapatra caused unbound rasa in the hearts of the audience.

Feminine Mythique

Sleeping beauty

A strange pact leaves Lakshmana's wife in a marathon slumber

G.V.

Valmiki's canvas is peopled by hundreds of characters, each doing his bit to take the story forward and all of them are acknowledged for their contribution. If Rama is Vishnu's incarnation to annihilate Ravana, all of them pitch in slowly pushing him to that moment of achievement. The sacrifice of Sita and Rama's siblings has been the subject of endless debates. Amidst all this glorification, one woman's selflessness goes almost unnoticed by the epic author. That of Urmila, Lakshmana's wife.

All ready to accompany Lakshmana just as Sita is, Urmila is stopped by Lakshmana. "I have to serve Rama and Sita. You'll be a distraction. Besides, you can take care of the elders by remaining behind," he says and she reluctantly obeys.

Unusual visitor

A 14-year separation is rather harsh on a young bride but Urmila's sacrifice doesn't end there. Standing guard over his brother and Sita, Lakshmana has an unusual visitor – Nidra, the goddess of sleep. "You are defying me by not sleeping," she says. "Leave me alone, I have a duty

to perform," responds Lakshmana. "I will, if I have a substitute for you," declares Nidra. Without a pause, Lakshmana says, "May be my wife Urmila can stand in for me. I'll be ready after 14 years." Is that a reflection of perfect understanding between the couple or a typical take-her-for-granted attitude? Today's woman will tick the latter, surely.

So off goes Nidra to Urmila and the young woman obliges, so that her husband can perform his duty – not a nice state to be in – by any stretch of imagination. Story goes that she sleeps continuously for 14 years thus denying herself not only the proximity of her husband and conjugal right, but the normal life of a human being. It turns out that, Indrajit can only be killed by a man, who has not slept for 14 years. This comes in handy on the battlefield.

Legend is stretched to say that at the end of 14 years, during coronation, Nidra promptly appears before Lakshmana and he falls asleep as Urmila wakes up. Not a scene that Valmiki situates in his epic or finds a place in any of the popular Ramayana narratives but a story that has moved simple folk so much so that a temple for this couple exists somewhere.



SATWIK GADE

In Search of Music

Resonating with history

From 1687, St. Mary's Church at Fort St. George has installed and replaced four Pipe Organs, the current one is the fifth

SRIRAM V



Visitors to the Church of St. Mary's, Fort St George, cannot miss the gigantic pipe organ that stands in an alcove to the left as you face the altar. At one time it was housed in the beautiful minstrel's gallery at the other end, but when that became the Governor's pew the organ moved to where it is now. If St. Mary's Church is historic, its organ is no less, deserving more attention than it now gets.

The present one is the fifth in a long line of pipe organs that graced the Church. The first was within the first 10 years of the construction of the edifice, and was purchased from a Capt. Weldten. Installed in 1687, it served St. Mary's till 1718. That year, a new organ was ordered from England and it was delivered complete with an organist – John Smith Windsor, who died in Madras in 1735.

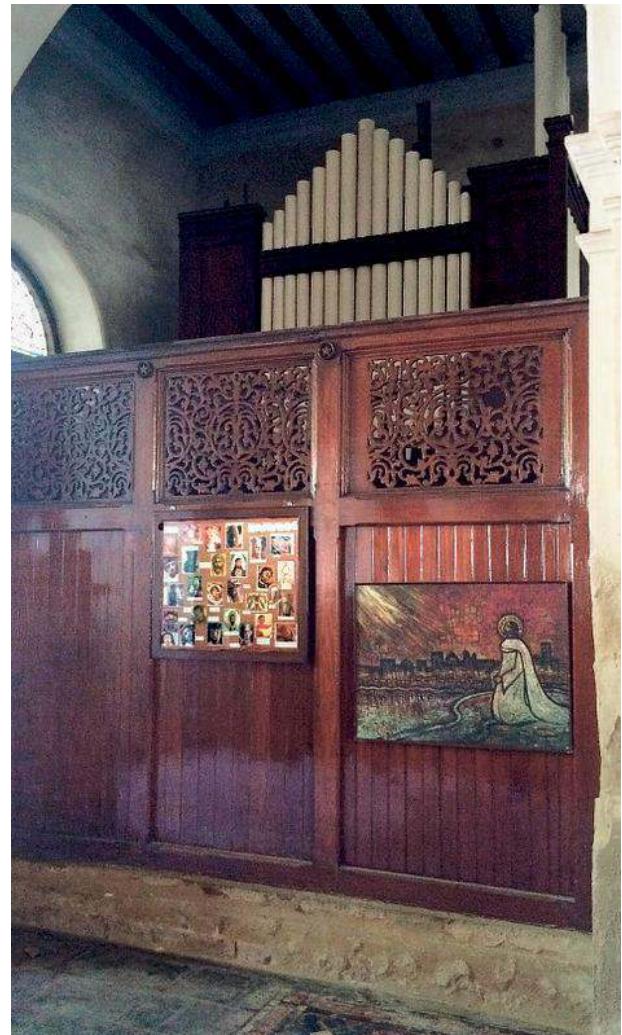
When the French attacked and conquered Madras in 1746, among the spoils they took back to Pondicherry was the pipe organ. There was much indignation when the English returned in 1749 and among the first decisions was to order a new organ from England. This was done in 1751, at a cost of £ 300. The supplier, a Mr Bridges took his time and it was only in 1759 that the new ensemble arrived and was installed.

Illustrious performers

The organ that Mr Bridges supplied to St. Mary's in 1759 lasted a century. It is in connection with it that we have an account of a concert of sacred music in Madras in 1794. Selections from the Messiah, Judas Maccabeus and Esther were rendered. The performers constituted a veritable who's who of Madras, including the Governor's wife. There were singers, performers on violins, violoncello, clarinets, bassoons, horns and drums, with the organ also being used.

One of the performers was a Mr. Haydn, though whether he was in any way related to the great composer Joseph Haydn is not known. In the audience were the two sons of Tipu Sultan, then being held hostage in Madras pending war reparations.

The organ that assisted in the above performance had to be replaced in 1859, the new one courtesy the munificence of Sir Adam Hay, Bart.



It had belonged to his son Capt. John, who was Military Secretary to Lord Harris, Governor of Madras and had died while here. The organ was, therefore, donated to the church in his memory. It lasted till the 1890s, when the present one was ordered and installed in the church.

That came about thanks to an appeal made by the Rev. A.C. Taylor in 1893 and was delivered in 1894, when his successor, the Rev. C.H. Malden installed and consecrated it. Malden, incidentally, was an indefatigable writer and among his works is a comprehensive account of the history of Freemasonry in Madras.

The fourth organ, which was removed to make way for the new one, was however not discarded. It was donated to the Holy Emmanuel Church in George Town and later, during the Second World War, when imports were impossible, parts of it were cannibalised and used for repairing the organ at the St. Mark's Church on Chapel Church Street, George Town.

It is noteworthy that the latter church now no longer has an organ. It was perhaps removed during its renovation in 2005.

The organ in St. Mary's Church has proved luckier. It was not played after the 1960s and would have gone the way of pipe organs in other churches were it not for the Church of South India commissioning Christopher Gray, an organ-builder from the UK to restore it, in 2004. That took a year and when complete, the pipes pealed again in a special recital by Dr. Richard Marlow, Fellow and immediate past Master of the Trinity College of Music, Cambridge University.

However, the organ has fallen silent once again, which is a pity. More and more churches are making do with the electronic keyboard. The skill to operate a pipe organ is also non-existent in India. Perhaps it is time for someone to train on it abroad and come back to find a ready market. Who knows, just as physical media for music is now making a return after having been beaten by digital music, pipe organs too may get a new lease of life. Their tonal quality can never be matched.

The author is passionate about Chennai History and Carnatic music and has several books to his credit

Raag Taal Gharana



Kirana star Prabha Atre

Derived from sarangi

The instrument's influence on the Kirana Gharana is evident

JYOTI NAIR

Kirana Gharana, which got its name from a small town called Kerna in North India and founded by Ustad Abdul Karim Khan has traversed the length and breadth of India, bringing into its fold artistes such as Abdul Wahid Khan, Suresh Babu Mane, Hira Bai Badodekar, Roshanara Begum, Sawai Gandharv, Basavraj Rajguru, Sangameshwar Gurav, Pt. Pran Nath, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Prabha Atre, Gangubai Hangal, Manik Verma, Begum Akhtar, Ustad Niyaz Ahmed Khan, Venkatesh Kumar, Kaivalya Kumar and Purvi Parekh to mention a few.

"Though the Kirana gharana claims its descent from the Binkar Dhrupadiya tradition of Binkar Bande Ali Khan and his sons, this descent has been exaggerated and actually points to the sarangiyas – the Mirasis – the hereditary musicians who accompanied the courtesans," says Sandeep Bagchee in *Raga Understanding Music*.

Influence of sarangi

There is an evident influence of Sarangi (which is supposed to be closest to the human voice) on the production of the voice with emphasis on midhs and gamaks, the long and soothing aakars, alaps and alapchari, melodic and emotional with kana-s and grace notes, traversing from one octave to the other sustaining and prolonging the note – Legato, giving it a movement and a pattern as it weaves through the rhythm. Ustad Faiyaz Khan of Bangalore, originally a Sarangi player, is an accomplished Kirana singer.

Ustad Abdul Karim Khan sang at a higher pitch and

Sawai Gandharv emulated him. As the singers evolved and punctuated the gayaki with their own embellishments, the 'Khadi' gayaki stood out. Bhimsen Joshi and Hirabai Badodekar sang full-throated, boldly retaining the beauty of the bolalaps and the sweetness of phrase, by the use of the vowels in aakars, bringing out the mood of the raag.

Madhu Bhaduri after a stint with the Indian Foreign Service has made Dharwar her home. A disciple of Pt. Pran Nath, she says, "Kirana is a relatively simpler gayaki compared to Agra which is more forceful, even aggressive. It is also less stylised." In a recent concert of Malikarjun Shetter, she appreciated how the artiste went straight to the heart of the raag before reaching the climax and gave the listeners immense pleasure.

I remember a concert of Prabha Atre in Chennai (2007), in which she showed good judgment of the audience taste. Rendering Bihag, she accomplished a feat characteristic of the practitioners of the Kirana Gharana. She took the entire scale in one continuous melodious wave – through the three octaves with midhs and gamaks in a single breath. The finish was incredible, her tonal quality not wavering at the crucial pressure points, thereby presenting the Kirana aura.

Abdul Karim Khan considered different forms as vehicles to carry musical messages and in his time khayal and thumri enjoyed the same status. This thumri was different from the Purab and Punjab thumri and laid emphasis on swaras as it ended by doubling the tempo and came closer to the khayal.

This Thing Called Culture

The dwindling species

Of the many challenges facing the solo male dancer

ASHISH KHOKAR

Nearly 99 per cent of first generation gurus and dancers were male. The Pillais and the Gopals, the Shankars and the Shambhus. It was also a time and clime when female dancers – except those born to the manner – were not encouraged in and by social norms of the 1920s and 30s to dance in public.

Today, the reverse has happened and few male solo dancers thrive or can be seen on stage or festivals. Husband-wife pairs are many all over the country and also male dancers in group or ensemble works. This is not the concern or context. The focus is the stand-alone male dancer in each classical form, who are marginalised and dwindling.

Parallel development

In a parallel development, girls have increasingly taken to the all-male forms such as Kathakali, Yakshagana and Kuchipudi, which are mellam (dance-dramas or group) traditions, or even celibate monks' Satriya.

In the past 30-40 years, more and more women have taken to dancing as a career and have made professional inroads. With the result, there are more women among teachers than ever before.

"We feel comfortable as parents, our girl child is safe in today's clime and can bond

closely with guru, even stay and tour with them, if needed," say the Radhakrishnans, whose two daughters Bianca and Natasha are with Radha Shridhar, Bangalore's popular Bharatanatyam teacher.

Male solo dancers face many odds. First on the list, sponsors. "They often want pretty girls on stage," avers Tushar Bhatt, who, when single, got shows in group works, rarely as a soloist but now

In the past 30-40 years, more and more women have taken to dancing as a career and have made professional inroads. With the result, there are more women among teachers than ever before

married to fellow kathakaar Pooja, gets many more shows as a pair. "Solo male dancer is an endangered species, more than the white tiger!" jokes this dancer originally from near Gir forest, Gujarat.

How many solo male dancers are there in Bharatanatyam, Kathak or Kuchipudi, why even in modern dance? Do the national bodies such as the Sangeet Natak Akademi have any schemes or scholarships for the same to encourage or reverse this trend?

If society does not support such artistes, who will? The case of Odisha and Odissi is uniquely different. Many boys learn and dance, partly owing to the Gotipua tradition (pre-pubescent boys dressed-up as girls, dancing) and Odissi has more solo male dancers than even Bharatanatyam today.

The coin has another side too. "Where there is a will, there is a way," says 22-year old Sujoy Shanbhag, a young Bharatanatyam dancer of Mysore. He takes an overnight bus to Hubballi just to teach dance to disadvantaged boys there. "Few are willing to go teach classical dance in the rural areas," he says. He has already performed in many festivals including Purush discourses.

The Purush Ensemble (five forms by five male soloists) was put together seven years ago to help reverse this situation and since then over 50 shows from Houston to Thiruvananthapuram have been performed, to raise an awareness on this aspect of Indian dance.

The attenDance Ram Gopal Best Male Soloist Award instituted seven years ago also supports this cause. The award helps practically by providing performing avenues nationally and internationally.

Also there are some talented dancers, who are working hard to make a mark – Bengaluru's Laxminarayan Jena and Lucknow's Anuj Mishra in Kathak; Mumbai's Pavitra Bhatt and Bengaluru's Nidhag Karunad in Bharatanatyam; Puducherry's Aneesh Raghavan and Bhubaneswar's Rahul Acharya in Odissi. Bengaluru's N. Gururaj, Vizag's Mrutyanjayam in Kuchipudi; Patna's Atul Kumar in Modern; Trichur's K. Suresh in Ottanthullal and Imphal's Sinam Basu in Manipuri.

The writer, a critic and historian, is the author of several books and edits attenDance

From Purush, an all-male dance ensemble



Musical traveller

Shankar Mahadevan has a special bond with the classical world. He has performed as part of ensembles that present classical music in a contemporary setting. He has often shared the stage with the late mandolin U. Shrinivas and tabla wizard Ustad Zakir Hussain. "It is hard to talk about Shrinivas without tears welling up in your eyes. As for the Ustad, he is a trailblazer. These collaborative projects satisfy the musician in me. They give me the freedom to express myself the way I want to without the worry of box-office success. They also bring about an exchange of creative ideas; helping me to constantly push the boundaries," says Shankar.

He also finds stage shows and albums equally exciting.

"The direct connect with the listeners sets the adrenalin rushing. What can be more gratifying for an artiste than hearing loud applause and requests for encores."

Shankar feels an artiste comes into his own when recording albums. "They reflect your creative dreams. These songs are what come from your heart."



Tracking his journey
(clockwise from right) Shankar Mahadevan with Ehsaan and Loy, guru T.K. Balamani, son Siddhartha and Javed Akhtar



Disagreements and clash of ideas are part of our work when I am with Ehsaan and Loy

and move with the times. What is important is not to let mediocrity creep in."

Shankar has performed with artistes of varied genres of music. Talking about these collaborations he says, "There is a need to have a bandhi with the fellow artistes. One must always remember the rules of theatre in these kinds of projects. Just as different actors play their parts and each of them are important for the success of the play, so also it is in collaborative concerts. Jugal-bandhi is when two artistes weave their styles to form a seamless tapestry, without upstaging one another."

When asked whether his training in classical music ever came in the way of his singing for films and other genres of music, he says, "The strong foundation has become a part of my system to such an extent that it has made me comfortable with every form of music. Besides training, you need to be focused and not shy away from hard work."

Three is company
As a film music composer, his association with Ehsaan Noorani and Loy Mendonsa has been another success story. The trio have managed to create music that strikes an instant chord with the listeners such as *Mission Kashmir*, *Kal Ho Na Ho* and *Viswaroopam*. Speaking about *Viswaroopam*, Shankar says, "We used a thumri in Tamil for the first time and it was an enjoyable experience. Collaborating with legends such as Pt. Birju Maharaj and Kamal Haasan were unforgettable moments".

When asked about their success formula? He says, "Reinventing ourselves constantly is the key to our longevity. We keep pushing the boundaries. We go through the whole process of creativity, disagreements and clash of ideas."

Of his team SEL (and they sell well as a brand), Shankar says, "We are all so different with our own likes and dislikes, yet the core commonality binds us. We are mature enough to respect differences and find our strengths to work on."

Speaking about the process of making music, he says, "It is a risk each time. Music is so abstract, it is a combination of words and melody. Is it going to appeal to listeners, is a constant question. So we keep looking for uncharted territories



The sound of his music

Shankar Mahadevan credits his ability to dabble with varied genres to his strong classical foundation

HEMA IYER RAMANI AND V.V. RAMANI

The mustard seeds begin to splutter in the kadai, freshly cut vegetables and seasoning ingredients are added. The hand moves, tossing the ingredients in a rhythmic manner with the same élan with which it moves on the harmonium.

From salads to soups, paneer sabjis to pastas, he is constantly in the kitchen throwing in ingredients to come up with dishes that become hits on the dining table. Shankar, the chef, enjoys making interesting dishes for his wife Sanjeetha and sons Siddhartha and Shivam, whenever he is at home in between his multifarious musical outings. This is another facet of this popular classicist, playback singer and music composer.

Shankar Mahadevan burst onto the musical arena with 'Breathless,' teaming up with poet-lyricist-writer Javed Akhtar. It went on to become one of the most iconic numbers. The collaborative album was commissioned by HMV and , Javed Akhtar's idea to have a song without a pause found resonance in Shankar and the two worked on this memorable album. No concert of

Shankar is ever complete without him singing the song. The album is gearing up for a twentieth year landmark in 2018. As he gets ready to celebrate this achievement, 2017 has also been a year when he has crossed many other milestones in his personal life, like completing 25 years of his marriage and 50 golden years of his life.

Many avatars

"Music is my friend, my constant companion," says Shankar, who in the past few decades has come up with chartbusters in various languages, performed classical and film music shows and judged and mentored youngsters in reality shows. A man of many avatars. How does he manage it?

He acknowledges the fact that his strong training in classical music under T.K.Balamani has been the pillar of his strength. "My Guru, a disciplinarian and a stickler for the traditional grammar, was also open minded enough to allow her students to listen to different kinds of music. Her methodology was such that she would not teach me how to sing Kalyani, Arabhi or Mohana ragas, but talk about how to structure, develop and embellish an alapana, whatever be the raga."

He continues, "She was one person who

could have achieved great fame had she chosen to seek it. But she decided to raise a body of students who would bring glory to her." He speaks of his Guru's magic formula of teaching principles along with the art of reading/learning by notation that steered him into a special place in the field of music.

It is quite common for the students to

I owe my musical journey to my guru T.K. Balamani's guidance and training. Her patience and approach keep me inspired. Both as a singer and composer, I have imbibed a lot from her and the classical repertoire. The diversity of musical forms that we can reach out to as an artiste is amazing. Though Indian classical and folk tunes are close to my heart, I am always open to experiment.

Trending now: Malhar

It is that time of the year when the romance and visual imagery associated with Mian Ki Malhar spur our imagination

SHAILAJA KHANNA

In the North Indian musical tradition, the link of raga Malhar with the monsoons is so widespread that recently a pan Indian retail chain called its new monsoon collection Malhar. Throughout North India, from early June till the end of August the various Malhars are performed with an almost religious fervour; generally speaking, artists daring to render other ragas are viewed askance!

It was actually raga Megh, one of the six main ragas (others being Bhairav, Shree, Malkaus, Deepak and Hindol) that was said to bring the rain in pre-Tansen times. Gradually the authentic use of raga Megh diminished, (there are different opinions in different gharanas of the Megh in vogue today) and Malhar became more popularly associated with rain from medieval times onwards, after Mian Tansen modified its structure. It is now called Mian Ki Malhar (Tansen was referred to as Mianji).

Whether Mian ki Malhar brings rain or not is a moot point. Variations of Malhar like Nat, Gaur, Des, Jayant, Chaya are all Malhar with the addition of another raga, and are generally deemed not to bring the rain. Other Malhars which were individual interpretations of saint musicians like Surdas, Ramdas, Meera bai, Nayak Charju also were not universally regarded as harbingers of the rain. Generally the belief is that it is only Mian Malhar with the careful



In tune with nature (Clockwise from above) Monsoon inspires singing of Malhar, Bombay Jayshree, Pandit Ravi Shankar

■ K. K. MUSTAFAH, K. PICHUMANI, PTI

use of two nikhads that is associated with the rains.

Cleansing effect

Tejashree Amonkar, musical heir of Kishori Amonkar disputes this; the very meaning of the word "Mal-har" means getting rid of the dirt (mal), as explained to her by Kishoriji, so all the Malhars, not just Mian Malhar would have had the effect of bringing the cleansing rain. She personally remembers it raining many times when Kishoriji sang Malhar.

Pratyush Bannerji is the immensely talented sarod playing disciple of Pt Buddhadev Dasgupta (his Guru's forbearer were the rabab playing descendants of Mian Tansen's son's line, and he also later learnt from a descendent of Mianji's daughter's line). He recalls his Guru telling him that while the sound of notes has an undisputed physical effect; association of emotions with certain notes is a very powerful factor. One is conditioned to expect the rain listening to Malhar, he felt. Rendering the raga outdoors also must make a difference, as the fact that the musician should be highly competent, he said.

Another very critical visual aspect of the monsoons used extensively by Mian Tansen in his delineation of his Malhar was the jhoola or swinging ef-

fect. A very old khayal attributed to Emperor Mohammea Shah Rangila, though probably composed by Shah Sadarang, descendent of Mian Tansen, is "Kahe laadalee". This composition's structure fully uses the movement between ni dha ni dha sa ni re sa.(using both nikhads). Another old Agra gharana khayal rarely sung nowadays is "Saawan ke kaare" in which again the jhoola movement is in the same notes.

In the Carnatic tradition, the raga Amrutavarshini is said to bring the rains. However, ace flautist Shashank Subramanyam says, "I feel only a handful of traditionalists believe that Amrutavarshini can indeed bring rain; I for instance do not believe this." Top vocalist Bombay Jayashri spoke of the fable of Muthuswami Dikshitar singing his composition in the raga whose lyrics included the evoking words "varshaya varshaya", and it indeed did rain. While she does not disbelieve the incident, she says, "I wish we could sing today in a way that we could bring the rain when it's sorely needed. But I believe that Muthuswami Dikshitar and his ilk were tapasvis (saints who had done a lot of penance) and they could indeed evoke nature's elements, like Tansen bringing light by



I believe that Muthuswami Dikshitar and his ilk were tapasvis and they could indeed evoke nature's elements...

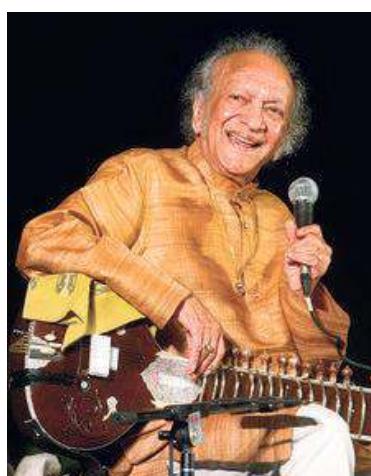
singing Raga Deepak. They were saintly, in the way they lived and their values, as their music was close to prayer, in every sense of the word. I don't really know if it happens any more. I will admit that it has rained a couple of times when I've sung the raga, but I don't claim that my singing brings rain. It could have been a coincidence." Sikkil

Gurucharan (eminent Carnatic vocalist) puts the issue in context - "I understand from my Gurus that it is of primary importance to believe more in the music, rather than the miracles that are said to have happened."

Reflecting joy

The romance that Malhars bring to the mind is inescapable - the cool breezes, the refreshing effect of scorching heat alleviated by the showers, the desire to be with one's beloved. As Pandit Ravi Shankar once said, while everywhere else in the world, rains are viewed as a nuisance; in the subcontinent they are welcomed and bring much needed respite. The music of this season reflects this joy - all versions of raga Malhar are lyrical, tender and easy on the ear. The emotive effect is soothing. The lyrics used emphasise the visual imagery - most of the vocal compositions, earlier dhruvads as well as khayals, and later even thumris that were composed in Mian Malhar all talk of heavy clouds, thunder, rain, rain drops, the parting from the lover in "saawan" - the use of alliterative words like ghan ghan, gara garajat, boond boondan all reinforce this.

Luckily, most parts of India are currently enjoying the monsoons!



Pandit Ravi Shankar once said, while everywhere else in the world, rains are viewed as a nuisance; in the subcontinent they are welcomed and bring much needed respite

Immersed in a sea of melody

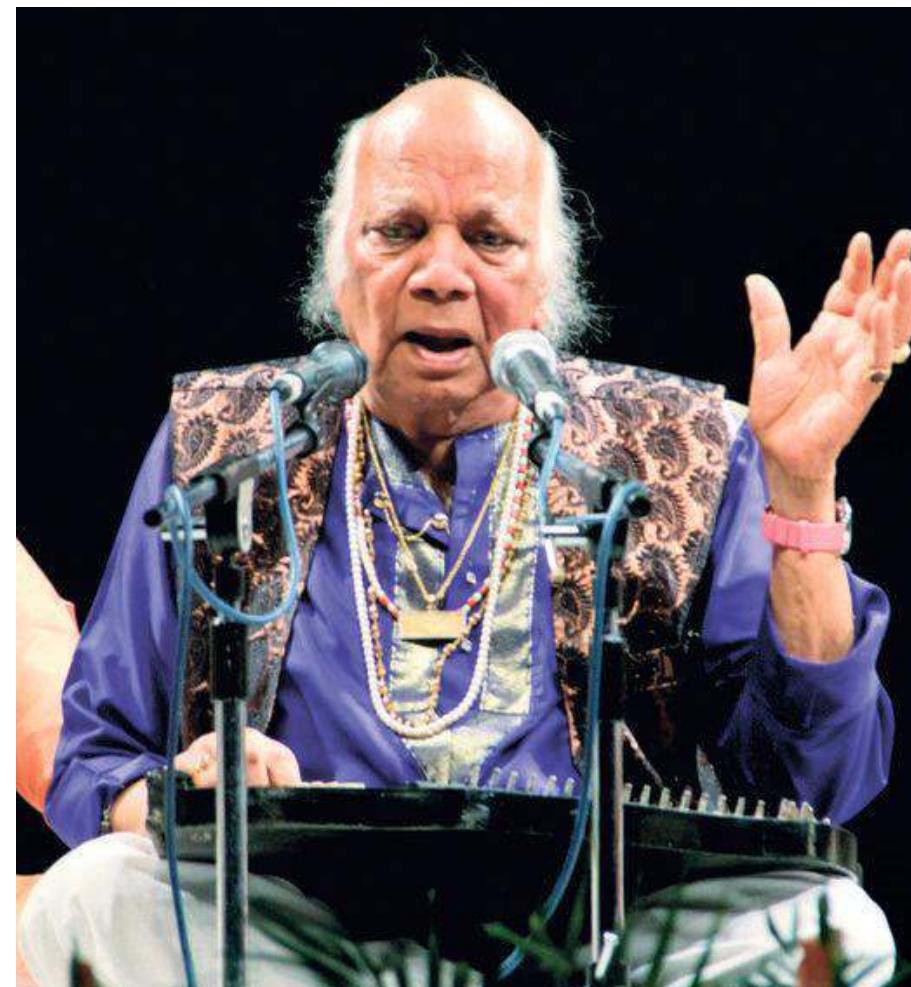
Scintillating performances by a mix of veteran and young musicians marked the "Sangeetotsava", organised jointly by Sangeet Natak Akademi and Kala Academy in Goa

MANJARI SINHA

The music of Gaan-Yogini Dhondutai Kulkarni, the doyen of Alladiya Khan's famed Jaipur Atrauli Gharana, proved that the emotional and intellectual expression of an authentic musician springs from the personal philosophy and values of the artiste. The living roots of her gayaki transmitted the sap of adrenaline through the rigorous training she received from the tender age of five under Ustad Nathan Khan, and later under Bhurji Khan, son and disciple of Ustad Al-ladiya Khan, his grandson Baba Azizuddin Khan and ultimately under Surashri Kesarbai Kerkar as her one and only Ganda bandh disciple. Extensive training under these stalwarts of Jaipur Atrauli Gharana enriched not only her repertoire but also her intellectual growth and approach towards the gayaki. The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) honoured her valuable contribution to Hindustani music, with the prestigious SNA Award in the year 1990.

The SNA and the Kala Academy Goa jointly organised "Sangeetotsava", a festival of Hindustani music dedicated to Dhondutai Kulkarni at the Dinanath Mangeshkar Kala Mandir, Goa from 21st to 23rd of July, featuring some of the leading musicians. The three-day festival reached its climax with the concluding concert by Dr. Prabha Atre.

Dr. Prabha Atre, the renowned musician, teacher, author and composer surprised the audience with her impressive performance with no trace of (nearing 85 years) age on her melodious voice or vibrant virtuosity. Dr. Atre opened her riveting recital with raga Jogkauns. The slow paced Bada Khayal "Jagat



Fine renditions (clockwise from above) Pandit Mani Prasad, Pandit Buddhadeva Mukherjee, Dr. N. Rajam ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sapna..." set to Vilambit Ek taal, gradually unfolded the raga with aalap barhat and a variety of sargam and aakar taans. The Chhota Khayal in Drut Ek taal was followed by a Tarana in Teen taal. The self-composed dadra "Bairan ratiyaan..." brought the concert to the concluding Devi Stuti, that she had instantaneously composed at Goa's Nava-Durga temple, which has become a must, whenever she performed in Goa thereafter.

Dr. Prabha Atre was ably accompanied by her disciple Chetna Banawat on vocal support, Madhav Modak on tabla and Rahul Gole on harmonium.

Homecoming

The concert of Alka Deo Marulkar, retired as the Dean Faculty of Music from Goa's this very Kala Academy, a few years ago, was like homecoming. Trained rigorously under her father Rajabhai Deo and M. S. Kanetkar of Jaipur gharana, Alka Deo is an authentic artiste of this famed gharana. Accompanied by Sanjay Deshpande on tabla, Shriram Hasabnis on harmonium and Shivani Dasakkar for vocal support, she opened her vocal recital in the morning ses-

sion, with raga Shubhra Gauri, also known as "Subah ki Gauri". The aesthetic elaboration of the raga through the Vilambit Khayal "Jogan Main To Bhai..." was followed by Chhota Khayal in Teen taal. After the serenity of this raga with Komal Rishabh and Dhaivat; Sur Malhar of Des Ang was a welcome contrast. The traditional khayal "Garaj Ghata..." in Jhap taal and "Barkha Ritu Bairi Hamar..." in Teen taal were treated melodiously, underlining the core sequences of the monsoon raga. Alka Deo concluded her sumptuous concert with a dadra in Bhairavi.

The vivacious violin recital by Dr. N Rajam with the detailed delineation of raga Bageshri in the typical tonal timbre of her mentor Pandit Omkarnath Thakur's gayaki, had reached the inaugural evening to its climax. Accompanied by her gifted granddaughter Nandini Shankar on violin and Mayank Bedekar on tabla, she opened with a composition set to Vilambit Ek taal, preceded with a succinct aalap to introduce the raga. If the opening Bada and Chhota khayals were treated in the Gayaki Ang, the concluding Drut Teen taal gat changed over to Tantrakari

Ang, culminating into the Jhala. She concluded with the popular bandish Thumri "Na Manoongi..." in Khamaj in the typical Banaras andaz.

The sonorous sitar recital of Pandit Buddhadeva Mukherjee, the outstanding sitarist of Imdadkhani gharana was another classy performance of the Sangeetotsava. The very tonal quality of his instrument makes a qualitative difference to whatever he plays. He chose raga Shuddha Kalyan this evening, which is rarely played on instruments like the sitar or sarod and dealt it in the Gayaki Ang, his gharana is famous for. Opening with an introductory 'Auchar' of the raga, he played the composition in madhya vilambit Teen taal, opening the raga petal by petal with great reverence. He explored the interior crevices of the raga, with a refined approach. The unobtrusive tabla accompaniment by Pandit Prasoon Chatterjee enhanced the sitar with matching restraint. Pandit Buddhadeva Mukherjee concluded his recital with a melodious aalap and a traditional bandish in raga Pilu.

Kirana gharana stalwart Pandit Mani Prasad was an-

other stalwart of the Kirana Gharana. Accompanied mostly by his family members, like his son Deepak on harmonium, other son Lalit, nephew Ramesh Jule and grandson Rahul for vocal support and Basava Raj on tabla, he presented raga Puriya Dhanashri with great verve and concluded with Thumri Des, "Sawan Jhar Lage..." set to Addha Theka.

Amongst the younger generation of artistes who participated in Sangeetotsav, Aditya Mohan Khandve from Mumbai left a lasting impact. A brilliant disciple of Pandit Ratnakar Pai, Yashwant Bua Joshi, Dhondutai Kulkarni, presently being groomed under Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar; Aditya has acquired the unbelievable authenticity of the gayaki. An 'A' grade artiste of the AIR, Aditya gave an impressive account of his in-depth training with raga Bhoop, followed by a composition of Dhondutai in Meera Malhar, being consistent in his approach in dealing with this rare variety of Malhar.

Ramdas Malhar on sarod by Joydeep Ghosh, raga Marwa on flute by Srinivas Satapathy, the vocal recital of Goojari Todi by Brajeswar Mukherjee, Miyan ki Malhar by Sandipan Samajpati and Megh on sitar by Amitav Chatterjee were the other offerings by the younger artistes. The professional compere by Dr. Rupa Chari and the thanksgiving by Dattaguru Amonkar from Kala Academy were all pitch perfect, the only thing conspicuously missing in the beautifully brought out brochure by the SNA, was no introduction or even a photograph of Dhondutai Kulkarni, to whom the three-day music festival was dedicated!



V. BALASUBRAMANIAN

It is an experience listening to the veena recitals of this young couple, as their serene music is soothing and meditative. J.T. Jeyaraaj Krishnan and Jaysri's aesthetic gayaki style is rooted in tradition and has tonal clarity. With shrine-specific Dikshitar kritis, they are able to take listeners on a virtual voyage to the sanctums of the deities. At the same time, they give equal importance to the kritis of Tyagaraja, Syama Sastri and other composers.

Jeyaraaj and Jaysri are probably the only husband-wife pair playing veena on stage today.

A visual treat awaits me at their fourth floor apartment in Mandaivel, where I go to learn about an app created by the couple. Hundreds of Vinayaka idols decorate their drawing room amidst art works on Durga and Saraswathi. A terrace garden, with Ixora (Virutchi) and Oleander (Arali) flowers in full bloom, also has a lawn with butterflies adding colour to the atmosphere.

As we settle down, Jeyaraaj says, "We belong to the Dikshitar-sishya parampara. Our Guru Anantharama Iyer and his sister Champakavalli of Kallidaikurichi were accomplished musicians and their father Ananthakrishna Iyer was a direct disciple of Ambi Dikshitar. Sri Guru Guha Gana Vidyalaya was established by them in 1943 in the city of Kolkata where they had settled down." Jaysri continues, "We were part of the music school from the age of five. Most of our time was spent in the veena and vocal classes, which were rigorous. Unless we got the pallavi of a song right, our guru never proceeded to anu pallavi. At the same time, he also inculcated discipline and encouraged us



Digital twist Jeyaraaj and Jaysri

Veena app, a virtual archive

Jeyaraaj Krishnan and Jaysri have created a repository of Dikshitar kritis

to play games for an all round development."

"The various swara exercises had to be done several times under his supervision. He insisted on assimilating a song before playing it on the veena. Stress was always on absorbing the technique in the process and a non-unisonal playing. At the same time, he also taught us the specialities of the instrument by creating sound effects with the main strings and tala strings in a limited fashion to add to the variety while playing tanam," Jaysri says. The choice of kritis to be taught rested with the teacher, who kept a close vigil on his wards' progress.

Jaysri and Jeyaraaj started playing concerts when they

were eight. Kolkata was their home. After completing CA and CWA courses, Jeyaraaj shifted base to Chennai in the 1990s. As both their families knew each other they got married, but only after Jaysri completed her M.Pharm.

Tutelage continued under Chingleput Ranganathan, as suggested by Anantharama Iyer and the couple was humbled by his simplicity. The couple never missed an opportunity to visit their guru in Kolkata to refresh themselves with lessons, till he passed away. Sri Guru Guha Gana Vidyalaya is now being run by the guru's daughter.

"Jaysri gave up her medical transcription work to focus on teaching music through our Veena Vadhini Trust. She

practises early in the morning, while I practise late at night as I have a corporate job. We play the veena together during weekends and teach students, whose age ranges from 7 to 70 years."

Guided tours

They teach both veena and vocal. Their students are taken to temples on which Dikshitar has composed kritis. These kritis are sung as a group. The significance of the deities, the temples' architecture are all explained to them. Students are also encouraged to choose temples and conduct such guided tours. Chamber concerts are held in their house frequently for which attendance is compulsory for students. Veena Venkatramani,

Ajay Parameshaan (U.S.) and Santhosh Jayaraman of Mumbai are some of their disciples, who have made their mark in the concert circuit. The couple also conduct Dikshitar utsavam every year.

How did the app come about?

"Once during a morning walk, a person, a regular at our thematic utsavams, was eager to know when we were organising our next event. Why not create a repository of rare Dikshitar kritis and those of other composers, we wondered. At the end of ten years, the project has taken a different shape. Using mobile technology, we embarked upon this veena app currently written for Android platform. It provides

access to ragas and kritis that we have played. The aim is to archive about 100 ragas and 1,000 kritis over a period of time. Streaming of the sahityam (lyrics) with notations, same raga-different kritis, same talas-different kritis and several other permutations and combinations are on the anvil. We will soon launch it on IOS too. Initially, this will be free and later, priced," Jeyaraaj explains.

Jaysri says that this move will help meet the cost incurred to record kritis and maintain the app with professional support.

They recall the support of Mannarkoil Balaji (mridangam) and Nerkunam Sankar (ganjira) as accompanists.

Humble throne of a great ruler

The location belies the historical significance of the monument

CHITVAN SINGH DHILLON

A documentary on a TV channel, triggered my journey to Kalanaur, close to the Pakistan border. It was at Kalanaur that the only other 'great' king in Indian history – apart from Chandragupta Maurya – kick-started his career. For me, it's an act of faith – something that's a little more than just curiosity.

The ill-timed demise of the heroic Mughal king, Humayun on January 19, 1556, had created a crisis for the Mughal Empire. The man behind the Grand Trunk Road, Sher Shah Suri had packed Humayun off on a 15-year ex-



ile. And Humayun's demise, within seven months of his hard-fought homecoming, had presented an opportunity to the opponents. The emperor's teenaged son, Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar, was away in Kalanaur with his guide Bairam Khan, crushing an uprising. The power vacuum in Delhi necessitated his return. But before that, the situation demanded that he was proclaimed as the Emperor. Which is exactly what Bairam Khan did in Kalanaur on February 14, 1556.

And the magnificent Takht-i-Akbari, a sandstone podium on which Akbar the Great was crowned, exists to this day. The place lies on the

highway from Amritsar to Pathankot. An hour later, I am in Kalanaur. It's taken that long from Chandigarh because the road is in such poor condition. And I'm not sure whether it warrants to be called a 'town' at all. True, there's a thick cluster of both kuccha and pucca houses on the road that leads to the

coronation place but an average Indian village would probably be more populous. The townsfolk are at least aware of their priceless heritage and are quick to guide us down the road. After about 10 minutes, I spot a shabby board on a post pointing the way to the Takht.

There are healthy albeit dirty cows and buffaloes tied

to the board that reads, "Takht-i-Akbari." The paint is peeling off. I scurry along and almost miss it, for it's a couple of metres deep amidst the golden wheat fields. And then I see it, the sandstone platform radiant yellow in the light of the blazing hot sun.

I climb up the steps to the plastered 'throne' with mixed feelings. The entire platform is neat, well maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. The green fields all around are beautiful, accentuating the ambience. And yet, there is an inexpressible despondency hangs in the air. Here sat the greatest king, Akbar, that the country has seen in the past 1,000 years. Yet, today, a huge chunk of his dominion lies across the border, just a few kilometres away as the pigeon takes its flight.

I sense a part of that melancholy spirals from the throne's loneliness. It's seldom talked about in our history textbooks and perhaps, never visited. It has none of the grandeur that Fatehpur Sikri or the Agra Fort boasts of. Of course, it has its design embellishments and flawless engineering but none of that is outstanding. In all probability, the best part of this humble platform is its cooling system. A small tank in the middle brims with water, which spreads across the exterior and then drains out of pipes at each end. Artless and yet effective.

I look back at the platform, one last time, taking in the grandeur of this monument built for the benevolent ruler who was crowned here a thousand years ago, the greatest of them all.

Hindi Belt

The romance continues...

A fine blend of literary excellence and ideological commitment, Ali Sardar Jafri's inclusive poetry is very much alive in soirees

KULDEEP KUMAR

*Har cheez bhula di jaayegi /
Yadon ke haseen butkhane se/
Har cheez utha di jaayegi/
Phir koi nahin yah poochhega/
Sardar kahan hai mehfil mein*

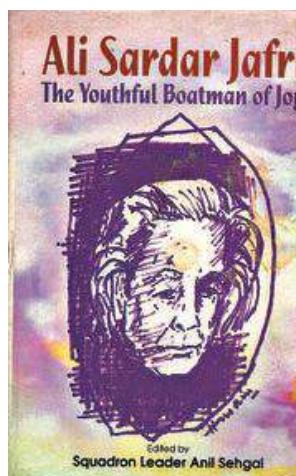
(Every memory will be erased from the beautiful temple of memories / every single thing will have gone / then, no one will ask: Where is Sardar in the soiree?)

Although it has been 17 long years since he bid adieu to this world, Ali Sardar Jafri continues to remain very much present in the mehfil of Urdu literature and nobody asks the question that he himself had posed in his celebrated poem "Mera Safar" (My Journey). Nothing has been forgotten about him and his memories are still fresh in the minds of those who loved and admired his poetry.

I heard him for the first time at a *mushaira* in Delhi in early 1970s when I was in my late teens. He had recited "Mera Safar" along with many other poems that evening. However, this one poem kept haunting me for many years because of its romantic universalism that was completely new to me.

New symbols of love

By declaring that every tale in the world was his tale and that *Har aashiq hai Sardar yahaan, har mashooqa Sultana hai* (Here every lover is Sardar and every beloved is Sultana), the poet and his beloved became the new symbols of love, replacing the age-old icons like Majnu and Laila or Shirin and Farhad



with whom lovers used to identify themselves. In his unique way, Ali Sardar Jafri was trying to evolve a new aesthetics by coalescing literary excellence with ideological commitment. By the way, Sultana was the woman he loved, married and spent 52 years of togetherness till his last breath.

Ali Sardar Jafri was a life-long communist, but as Quratulain Hyder confirmed in her article on him, "He never became an extremist and retained a liberal and balanced view of the political and social realities." When he married Sultana, he was a whole-time worker of the Communist Party of India and a prominent leader of the progressive writers' movement and Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA). Sultana offered a vivid description of the circumstances of their marriage in an article she penned after her husband's death. "On January 30, 1948,"

Sardar belonged to a generation that began with the participation in the freedom struggle and gradually moved from nationalism to Marxism.

she wrote, "Sardar and I royally rode in a local Bombay bus to the office of the Registrar of Marriages. Sardar, the bridegroom, had a princely sum of three rupees in his pocket! Krishan Chander, Ismat Chughtai and Khwaja Ahmad Abbas were the witnesses to our court marriage. Later, Ismat celebrated the occasion and took us all out for an ice cream! After marriage, our first abode was a commune in Andheri East, a faraway suburb of Bombay then, with Shaukat and Kaifi Azmi as neighbours. It was a godforsaken bungalow where some Italian prisoners were kept till 1945. It was the centre for the IPTA.

"Pandit Ravi Shankar, Uday Shankar, Shanti Burdhan, Sachin Shankar, Prem Dhawan, amongst others, stayed on the first floor of the main bungalow. The ground floor was the work place where everyone gathered to write revolutionary songs...."

Hard life

Sardar belonged to a generation that began with the participation in the freedom

struggle and gradually moved from nationalism to Marxism. In the process, they got dislocated from their comfortable aristocratic or upper middle class existence and were compelled to live a hard life. Prem Chand, who presided over the first conference of the All India Progressive Writers' Association held in 1936 in Lucknow, had issued the clarion call to "change the measure of beauty". Ali Sardar Jafri never forgot this and used this as an epigram to begin his famous nazm "Samandar Ki Beti" (Daughter of the Ocean) with.

To earn a living, Jafri had to write lyrics for films. And, who can ever forget this gem that he penned for film "Footpath"? Sung so evocatively by Talat Mahmood, "Shaam-e-gham ki kasam, aaj ghamgeen hain ham" remains as haunting as ever.

Born in an aristocratic family of Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh on November 29, 1913, Sardar participated in the national movement, got arrested many times and was expelled for his political activities by the Aligarh Muslim University where he was studying English Literature and had become a very close friend of celebrated poet Majaz. He began his literary career with a collection of short stories "Manzil" (Destination) in 1938 but made his mark as a poet with "Parvaaz" (Strength to Fly) in 1943. Many of his poems like "Nai Duniya ko Salaam" (Salute to the New World) and "Asia Jaag Utha" (Asia has Awakened) were translated into many Indian and foreign languages.

He struck a close friendship with Turkish revolutionary poet Nazim Hikmat and Chile's Nobel Prize winning poet Pablo Neruda. So fond of Nazim Hikmat he was that he named one son Nazim and the other Hikmat. His poetry had a place for Krishna and his Gokul, Buddha and his disciples Anand and Chandalika, the glory of the Vedas and the Radha of Vidyapati. He received many awards including Padma Shri, Pakistan's Iqbal Award and Jnanpith Award.

It was poetic justice that the same Aligarh Muslim University that had expelled him, honoured itself by conferring an honorary doctorate on him. He was a people's poet, and truly the Sardar of Urdu poetry.

The writer is a senior literary critic



Good old days Ali Sardar Jafri (left) with comrades Chittaprosad and Kalpana Joshi ■ SUNIL JANAH

Telling Voices Fear not!

Author Tim Ferriss addresses the need and method of negotiating hard choices in life to make it easy

SUDHAMAHI REGUNATHAN

Tim Ferriss, well known for his book "The 4-Hour Workweek" comes up with some simple suggestions on how to keep your head above water all the time. He has a long prelude which essentially says, "I have bipolar depression. And the tool I've found which has proven to be the most reliable safety net for emotional free fall is actually the same tool that has helped me to make my best business decisions...stoicism...people used stoicism as a comprehensive system for doing many, many things. But for our purposes, chief among them was training yourself to separate what you can control from what you cannot control, and then doing exercises to focus exclusively on the former. This decreases emotional reactivity, which can be a superpower."

Quoting Seneca the Younger, "We suffer more often in imagination than in reality," Ferriss goes on to say that to find a solution, "I created a written exercise that I called 'fear-setting,' like goal-setting. It consists of three pages. The first page is: 'What if I...?' This is whatever you fear, whatever is causing you anxiety, whatever you're putting off...It could be anything..."

"In the first column, "Define," you're writing down all of the worst things you can imagine happening if you take that step. You want 10 to 20... And then you go to the "Prevent" column. In that column, you write down the

answer to: What could I do to prevent each of these bullets from happening, or, at the very least, decrease the likelihood even a little bit? Then we go to "Repair." So if the worst-case scenarios happen, what could you do to repair the damage even a

little bit, or who could you ask for help?"

Ferriss asks, "Has anyone else in the history of time, less intelligent or less driven figured this out? Chances are, the answer is 'Yes'." The second page is simple: What might be the benefits of an attempt or a partial success?

Hard choices

Page three. This might be the most important, so don't skip it: "The Cost of Inaction. Humans are very good at considering what might go wrong if we try something new, say, ask for a raise. What we don't often consider is the atrocious cost of the status quo—the hard choices—what we most fear doing, asking, saying these are very often exactly what we most need to do. And the biggest challenges and problems we face will never be solved with comfortable conversations, whether it's in your own head or with other people. So I encourage you to ask yourselves: Where in your lives right now might defining your fears be more important than defining your goals?"

Ferriss's mantra: easy choices, hard life; hard choices, easy life. Hard is all that which you fear.

Blast From The Past

Rafi reigns

With a song for every emotion, Mohammed Rafi's voice continues to bind people across generations and geographies

DEEPAK MAHAAN

For millions, it was a heart breaking day when legendary singer Mohammed Rafi departed from this world. Apart from grief, what perturbed them was the painful prospect that their beloved artiste would be heard no more. But how wrong they were! Yes, of course, Mohammed Rafi offered no new albums but after his demise, Rafi Sahab was present everywhere; in fact, even more than ever before!

So what is the reason for this Rafi mania that shows no sign of abatement even after almost four decades and Rafi's voice stamps its in-

delible mark on every nook and corner of the globe? Indeed what is the secret behind Rafi's incredible popularity that continues to soar in spite of a generational change in taste, technology and culture? And pray what can explain the reasons as to why Rafi remains the most revered and most heard artist on internet and why from Birmingham to Banswara and Jerusalem to Jhumri Talaiyya, his birth and death anniversaries inspire several thousand musical tributes on stage, radio and television?

Music maestro Khayyam's worthy opinion perhaps provides a rational answer to this riddle. In an informal



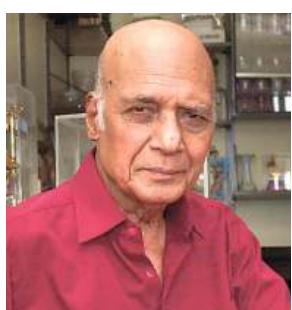
Timeless appeal Mohammed Rafi (24 December 1924-31 July 1980), (left) Khayyam

chat recently, he opined the mass adoration stems from "wholesome charm of Rafi's golden voice".

Khayyam said the tonal quality of most singers exhausts people after a certain period of listening but that is not so in Rafi's case. The veteran composer asserts "Rafi's sunshine voice was a blessing to music and poetry since he brought alive the character

with an ideal expression that stays in soul's memory forever."

While Khayyam signifies Rafi's singing was emotionally gratifying, music director Pyarelal ascribes the universal esteem to his divine prowess. Pyarelal informs music experts have long contended "Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Kishore Kumar and Manna Dey as great sing-



CRITIC'S SUNSHINE voice brought alive the character with an ideal expression that stays in soul's memory forever

The voice lives on

Annu Kapoor, anchor of popular retro shows, talks about the eternal bond with Mohammed Rafi

CHITRA SWAMINATHAN

It was July 31, 1980. Mohammed Rafi was recording a song for J. Om Prakash's film *Aas Paas* at Mehboob Studio. After the recording, he went down the staircase to get into his car. But within a few minutes, he was back in the studio to record the remaining four lines of the song that was to be completed the next day. He apparently told his driver, 'Why keep it for tomorrow, I will finish it today itself.' The musicians had almost packed up and everyone seemed to be in a mood to call it a day. Rafisaab insisted on recording those four lines... *Tere aaney ki aas hai dost, Shaam phir kyun udaas hai dost, Mehekni mehki fiza yeh kehti hai, Tu kahin aas paas hai dost.* Ironically, these were his parting lines, replete with poignancy. What better way to express the longing for a voice that still rules millions of hearts. That night the voice

fell silent.

It is fascinating to hear it from well-known raconteur of the golden era of Hindi film music, Annu Kapoor. He makes many such emotional stories his own by narrating them in an inimitable style that brings alive the time and those timeless tunes. A remarkable actor with several award-winning performances to his credit, Kapoor's musical leanings came to the fore as the host of the popular television show *Antakshari*. A fine singer, he won a huge following for *The Golden Era - With Annu Kapoor* on the Mastii channel. He continues to regale lovers of retro music with Suhana Safar on 92.7 Big FM.

Kapoor punctuates his recollections with his favourite Rafi songs. "Rafi saab was blessed to have worked with the finest composers such as C. Ramchandra, Naushad, Madan Mohan, S.D. Burman, Jaidev, Lakshmi Kant Pyarelal and Kalyanji Anandji," says Kapoor. "They came up with

compositions that showcased his versatility; his ability to bring out the mood of the song to match the film's character. Interestingly, he did not sing only for heroes. He lent his voice for comedians ('Sar jo tera chakraye' for Johnny Walker) and supporting actors. The lyricists of the era were also an integral part of his musical journey. Imagine his heart-warming voice without those soul-stirring verses." Rafi's oeuvre was diverse. It was an amazing mix of romantic ('Apake haseen rukh pe'), patriotic ('Jahan dal dal par sone ki chidiya'), bhajan ('Sukh ke sab saathi'),



What you heard is what he was. Everyone spoke of his politeness and humility



In awe of Rafi Annu Kapoor

classical ('Madhuban mein Radhika nache re'), festive ('Tan rang lo ji aaj'), qawwali ('Parda hai parda'), lullaby ('Main gaon tum so jao') and high-energy numbers for the dancing hero Shammi Kapoor.

His singing was not just about the voice, perfect enunciation and diction that came from his Kotla Sultan Singh (Punjab) roots made him a complete singer. He spent his early years in Lahore, which explained why he could lend a rare *nazakat* to the songs. He knew exactly how to convey the poetic expressions in the lyrics. His

ers but they have always bracketed Rafi Sahab in a superior category as 'God's Own Voice'." Pyarelal explains, "Rafi Sahab's expression came from the soul and not the throat as he was a human being par excellence, a Farishta (Divine Spirit)." Perhaps, Pyarelal is not wrong since just as saints provide vision and succour to weary souls, Rafi's soulful renditions have endowed listeners around the globe with hope, strength, happiness and contentment.

Celestial spectacle

It is a viewpoint shared by actor-director Manoj Kumar too. Recounting an anecdote when he took Rafi Sahab to a discourse of Sathya Sai Baba (of Puttaparthi) on the request of the spiritual Guru himself, Kumar elaborates he was privy to a celestial spectacle that is still vivid in his memory. As Rafi Sahab sang an impromptu bhajan on public request, "Sathya Sai Baba pointed out to me the ethereal aura of light that enveloped the humble singer's body while he sang in a meditative trance." The veteran says "Baba told me he had requested for Rafi Sahab as he was God's own soul" and confesses Rafi Sahab always had a heart warming smile and a sublime aura of serenity that was unique to his persona alone.

These different perspectives do help clarify why Rafi magic endures beyond boundaries and will not fade

till eternity. Yes, whenever saints and visionaries come upon this earth, they stamp their greatness with their exemplary creativity, simplicity, honesty and compassion. Analyse Rafi and we find a musical saint without trappings of power, fame, money and manipulations of the glamour world and it is no wonder why everyone from Manmohan Desai to Dilip Kumar and Meena Kumari to Rishi Kapoor called him the "Voice of God". Unlike any other recorded human voice, male or female, Rafi was endowed with an incredible texture, finesse and range that are akin to marvels of nature.

If it has the softness of a feather, the purity of dew drops, the force of thunder, it is also imbued with the intoxication of the spring air and the brightness of the sun. Blessed with soothing clarity of the moonlight to the verve and dazzle of lightening, it had an amazing ability to scale dizzying heights of passion just as effortlessly as it could conquer the oceanic depths of solemnity. That is why we find that in each musical creation, there is Rafi and yet no Rafi! The harmony of his skill and voice makes the character and emotion come alive. And it is this intense yet delicate fusion within the musical and poetical tapestry that makes Rafi tower above all singers. Like a sage who transcends meditation, Rafi becomes the song and continues to stay alive as Emperor of melody!

ity. Of course, we heard a different Rafi when it came to Shammi Kapoor. 'Chahe mujhe koi junglee kahe' was so unlike the singer yet the sincerity came through in every line."

"He was for Shammi Kapoor what Kishore Kumar was for Rajesh Khanna and Mukesh for Raj Kapoor. These legendary singers were the voice behind the superstars. They held their own space in the music sphere, a distinct identity that has given their songs an eternity."

Kapoor goes on to narrate an incident about how Rafi saab was disturbed when his trusted aide and driver Sultan could not tackle the left-hand drive Impala the singer had bought. "He felt uneasy about hiring a new driver. So he bought a taxi for Sultan," laughs Kapoor.

He shared a good rapport with other singers and even sang for Kishore Kumar in a film.

"Even if there were differences, for instance over the royalty issue with Lata Mangeshkar, there was no animosity. The two stopped working together for sometime, till S.D. Burman teamed them up again and created ripples in our hearts with 'Dil pukare, aare aare.'

DELHIMETRO



Sky-high tomato prices

Tomato prices have sky-rocketed, with the vegetable being sold at ₹100 a kilo in some areas **Page 2**



25-yr-old gifts life to four

Accident victim's heart transported via green corridor from Vasant Kunj to Okhla in 18.05 minutes **Page 4**



Six yards of Mumbai...

An interview with Vijayalakshmi Nachiar of Ethicus ahead of her first solo exhibition in the city **Page 5**



A vermouth summer

This Spanish grandmother's tipple, blended with heady botanicals, is gaining global popularity **Page 6**

IN BRIEF



Para athlete beaten up by friend, aides

NEW DELHI
Forty-year-old para athlete Anil Sharma, who is said to have represented India in international competitions, was allegedly beaten up by his friend and three of his associates early on July 22. The accused have been absconding since then, said the police. Mr. Sharma, a powerlifter and resident of Connaught Place, runs an eatery outside Hanuman Mandir.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Two-year-old girl run over by tempo, dies

NEW DELHI
A two-year-old girl was crushed to death by a tempo near her house in Narela here on Thursday. According to the police, Shilpi was playing in front of her house when the tempo ran her over. Driver Avdhesh, who fled, was arrested later. "According to eyewitnesses, Avdhesh tried to speed away after crushing Shilpi under the rear wheels. She was rushed to a hospital but was declared brought dead," said the police.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Man, son shot dead over desert cooler at eatery

One of four accused held, victims had asked them not to change direction of cooler

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 57-year-old dhaba owner and his 26-year-old son were allegedly shot dead by four men in Najafgarh on Wednesday night. The incident was triggered by an argument over a desert cooler.

One of the accused in the case has been apprehended.

Complaint lodged

Shyam Verma and his son Mayank Verma were shot dead at Sangeeta dhaba around 9.30 p.m. The men, one of whom has been identified as Kareem Khan, allegedly attacked the duo following an argument with Mayank over the direction of the cooler.

• All four have been identified. Kareem Khan has claimed that he didn't shoot at the father and son, but admitted that he was present there. The others will be arrested soon

M.N. TIWARI
DCP (Outer)



Late-night horror: Shyam (57) and his son Mayank (26) were shot dead at their eatery, Sangeeta dhaba, in Najafgarh on Wednesday night. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**



"The four men had turned the cooler in their direction. Mayank *bhaiya* had asked them to turn it back so that other customers were not inconvenienced. An argument followed," said Iqbal, a worker at the eatery, in his complaint.

Shot in the neck

Mayank was shot at after one of the men was allegedly instigated to do so by the others. "He was shot in the neck, after which he was semi-conscious," said his cousin on the condition of anonymity.

The gunshot triggered panic among other customers, who started running out. The accused, too, tried to get away.

Mr. Shyam attempted to catch them, but they shot at him too. "They fired two to three shots, of which one hit him on the forehead. He died on the spot," Mayank's cousin added.

According to Iqbal, the four accused fled the spot.

The people around called the police and an ambulance, which took more than 30 minutes to reach despite being just half-a-kilometre

away, Mayank's cousin alleged.

"A passerby took Mayank *bhaiya* to a hospital nearby, from where he was referred to Venkateshwar Hospital," said Iqbal.

Can identify all: worker

The police said he succumbed to injuries on Thursday.

Mr. Shyam was declared brought dead on arrival.

Iqbal said the accused referred to the man who allegedly shot at the victims as Monu.

"I can identify all four of them," he told the police.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) M.N. Tiwari said that Kareem was apprehended on Thursday.

"All of them have been identified. Kareem has claimed that he didn't shoot at the father and son, but admitted that he was present there. The others will be arrested soon," he said.

A case has been registered under Sections 302 (punishment for murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the Arms Act.

Yogesh's father Balbir said the doctors are not sure if he will survive. According to him, the three accused had held his son at gunpoint and forcibly made him consume a liquid from a plastic bottle.

Short Fuse

Youth forced to drink acid

3 booked; incident followed argument over cottage cheese

SHUBHAMOY SIKDAR

NEW DELHI

A young man is battling for life at the AIIMS Trauma Centre here after allegedly being forced to drink acid by three others in Sangam Vihar on Tuesday.

The reason: the trio was miffed over unavailability of cottage cheese at the shop owned by the victim's father. Two of them have been detained so far.

Yogesh's father Balbir said the doctors are not sure if he will survive. According to him, the three accused had held his son at gunpoint and forcibly made him consume a liquid from a plastic bottle.

Contrasting versions

"Yogesh was about to close the shop when Golu, our neighbour, came with two of his friends and began thrashing my son. They held him at gunpoint and forced a liquid down his throat even as he cried for help," Mr. Balbir added.

However, the statement



Yogesh's condition is still critical. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

provided by Yogesh's sister Garima, based on which an FIR was registered, did not mention the use of guns.

Ms. Garima purportedly told the police that she heard screams and came out from the house, which is next to the shop, only to see her brother trying to free himself from the three men who had pinned him down.

She claimed that vapours from the corrosive liquid lingered in the air for quite a while after Golu and his

friends left.

The bottle containing the liquid was recovered by the police.

Mr. Balbir added that Golu had come to the shop on Monday to buy some cottage cheese. He started arguing when he was told that none was available, Mr. Balbir added.

He insisted that he would enter the shop and check for himself. We resisted, but he managed to come in. Though we drove him out ultimately, he threatened to take revenge," said Mr. Balbir.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (south-east) Romil Baaniya said they had received information about the incident from Majeedia Hospital. Upon probe, Garima said three boys, one of whom has been identified as Sangam Vihar resident Golu, had poured acid into her brother's mouth.

"A case of acid attack has been registered at Sangam Vihar police station," he said.

After break-up, women call consensual acts rape: HC

+ Court upholds acquittal in rape case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

When a relationship ends, women tend to term consensual physical acts as rape, the Delhi High Court remarked while upholding the acquittal of a government official in a rape case.

Justice Pratibha Rani made the observation while rejecting the plea of a 29-year-old woman, who had recently filed a domestic violence case against her husband, seeking prosecution in a rape case she had lodged before marrying him in 2015.

The woman had moved the High Court challenging a trial court's order of March 2016 that acquitted him.

"This court has observed on a number of occasions cases where both persons, out of their own will, develop consensual physical relationship. When the relationship breaks up, the women use

the law as a weapon for vengeance and personal vendetta. They tend to convert consensual acts as incidents of rape, defeating the very purpose of the provision. This requires a clear demarcation between rape and consensual sex, especially in the case where complaint is that consent had been given on promise of marriage," the court observed.

The man had been let off by the trial court as the woman turned hostile before the lower court. Initially, after lodging a rape case, she, along with the man, had moved the High Court and later the Supreme Court seeking quashing of the FIR saying they wished to get married. However, both courts rejected their plea and asked them to face trial, during which the woman did not make any incriminating statement against him.

Midday scare



Grey cover: Smoke escapes from an underground drain in Dwarka on Thursday. Motorists and locals inhaled toxic fumes until the Delhi Fire Service doused the flames. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

Coming soon: a software to help you track your RC

The new programme seeks to reduce the rush of visitors and opportunities for touts at RTOs

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Thanks to a new software-based initiative of the Delhi Transport Department, you will be soon be able to check the status of your Registration Certificates (RC) in real time.

This, before it arrives at your doorstep and you make endless trips to government offices.

Change in schedule

The new programme, which seeks to reduce both the rush of visitors and opportunities for touts at Regional Transport Offices (RTOs), is ready and was to be unveiled later this week by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot.

It will now be launched after the Bawana bypolls on August 23.

The initiative is in line with the file tracking system, which is already operational. New vehicle owners will get SMS alerts about the status of their RCs till the time they are dispatched to their address through speed post," said a senior government official.

According to official estimates, an estimated nine lakh to 10 lakh RCs are issued by the Department every year.



Welcome step: The initiative will be launched after the Bawana bypolls on August 23. ■ FILE PHOTO

The initiative is in line with the file tracking system, which is already operational. New vehicle owners will get SMS alerts about the status of their RCs till the time they are dispatched to their address through speed post

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

begin as soon as the documents required are submitted to the MLO by a car retailer.

Looking to help people

"At the moment, vehicle owners have to either depend on car dealers or make multiple trips to RTOs to get the RC. This not only causes inconvenience to the average car owner, but also gives touts in cahoots with some corrupt officials at

RTOs the chance to make a quick buck. This will take a back seat once the new system is in place," the official added.

Speed bump

The initiative, however, has stumbled onto a roadblock due to the upcoming Bawana bypolls, in light of which the government cannot announce any scheme as per the Model Code of Conduct.

On Thursday, the Election Commission had announced bypolls to four assembly seats.

Byelections to Delhi's Bawana, Panaji and Valpoi in Goa and Nandiyal in Andhra Pradesh will be held on August 23.

A notification for the by-elections will be issued on July 29, beginning the nomination process.

The Bawana seat was vacated after AAP MLA Ved Prakash resigned to join the BJP. He will now contest from his new party.

JNU students must pledge to protect India's sovereignty'

Nothing wrong about battle tank on campus, says Lekhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Meenakshi Lekhi came out in support of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar on Thursday, defending his demand for a battle tank to be installed on campus.

It was during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha that the MP asked JNU students to take an oath that pledges to "protect the pride and sovereignty" of the country.

'Unnecessary' row

Ms. Lekhi said that an "unnecessary" controversy had been created over the V-C's demand. "It is very unfortunate that a controversy is being created over the V-C's view. JNU runs on the taxpayer's money. Anti-India slogans were raised on the campus. It is an insult to those protecting the border," she said.

"There was an aircraft at my son's school, which was encouraging for students. There is nothing wrong with the V-C's demand," she said.



Extending support: BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi defended the JNU V-C in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. ■ PTI

MP said.

It was on July 24, during an event marking Kargil Vijay Divas at JNU, that the V-C had requested Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. K. Singh to install a battle tank on campus. The call had triggered criticism from a number of political parties and students at the university.


Usually, we get 5 kg of tomatoes for ₹100. Today, we got them for ₹80 per kg

AMIT PAL SINGH,
Food stall owner at ITO


Heavy rain has damaged the tomato crop, leading to a rise in prices. It is a common occurrence during monsoon. Hopefully, the prices will drop after a month

SARLA YADAV,
Vendor in Laxmi Nagar


It is shocking that tomatoes are being sold at ₹100 per kg. I am skipping the vegetable for the next few days

ISHA GABA,
Rohini Sector 13 resident


Tomatoes are being sold at ₹100 per kg in Gandhi Nagar. They are the new onions now

HARISH AHUJA,
Gandhi Nagar resident


I need tomatoes almost daily. But the new prices are too high for me to afford. I wish the government provides tomatoes to poor people at subsidised rates

SHANTI HALDER,
Domestic help in Laxmi Nagar

Tomatoes go missing from kitchens as prices hit the roof

Shortage of supply, strike by Azadpur *mandi* vendors behind price rise in city; relief may take a while

SOUMYA PILLAI
NEW DELHI

Tomato prices have sky-rocketed in the city, with the vegetable being sold at ₹100 per kg in certain areas.

In north Delhi's Azadpur vegetable market, tomatoes are being sold at ₹65 per kg. The vendors said the price had stood at ₹20 per kg in the beginning of July.

Retail prices, on the other hand, stand at anywhere between ₹80 and ₹100 per kg, depending on the quality of tomatoes.

'25% of stock received'

"Last week, we only received around 25% of the tomato stock that we usually receive. Massive rain in Himachal Pradesh, from where we get most of our produce, has affected supply," said Anil Malhotra, general secretary, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC).

A strike called by various associations of the *mandi* on Friday may lead to a further spike in prices.

The vendors have been protesting against alleged illegal occupation of some shacks, and had met Labour Minister Gopal Rai last week over the issue.

Rohit Singh, a wholesaler, claimed that implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) had also affected the supply of tomatoes. He said with the Income Tax Department warning against cash transactions of over ₹2 lakh, saying that the receiver of the amount would have to cough up an equal amount as penalty, wholesalers had been buying less from farmers.

GST impact

"This is the way business has been happening for years. Transporters charge us certain fee and then show smaller amounts on bills. Similarly, wholesalers make up this amount in some other area. That's how we make profits. With GST, the law has gotten stricter and people are buying less," he said.



Hard times: Some vendors have stopped selling tomatoes due to high prices. (Above) In the Azadpur market, tomatoes are being sold at ₹65 per kg. ■ V.KRISHNAN, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

He also said that the number of transporters had reduced as they now had to carry an e-way permit for carrying goods above ₹50,000.

Rajini Kumar, a resident of south Delhi's Vasant Kunj, said getting tomatoes from

her local market had become a difficult task.

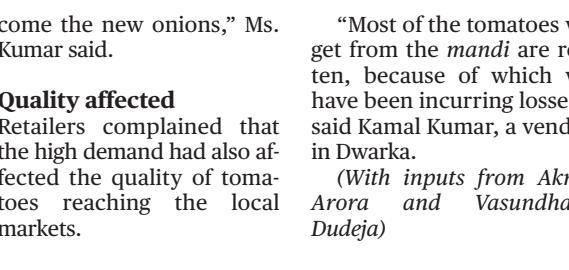
"The two times that I went to my local vegetable market around 8 p.m. to buy tomatoes, I got only rotten ones. Even the squishy ones were not less than ₹70 per kg. Seems like tomatoes have be-

come the new onions," Ms. Kumar said.

Quality affected
Retailers complained that the high demand had also affected the quality of tomatoes reaching the local markets.

"Most of the tomatoes we get from the *mandi* are rotten, because of which we have been incurring losses," said Kamal Kumar, a vendor in Dwarka.

(With inputs from Akriti Arora and Vasundhara Dubeja)



(With inputs from Akriti Arora and Vasundhara Dubeja)

Activists, doctors among nominated councillors

30 officials assigned to three civic bodies; members pledge to work for sanitation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

From social activists to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers, the 30 nominated councillors assigned to the three municipal corporations represent a range of backgrounds.

According to the list of nominated councillors cleared by the Delhi government, businessmen, social activists, doctors and party workers have been chosen for the post of Alderman. As per the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, each of the three corporations gets 10 nominated members. Though these members can't vote, they can attend meetings of the House and raise

questions.

One of those nominated to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, Dharmender Kumar of Motia Khan, said he had been involved with religious organisations and residents' welfare associations for years. The other nominated members are Pradeep Jindal, Vijender Yadav, Kuldeep Mittal, Jai Kumar Bansal, Neeraj Sharma, Jai Kisan Goel, Bharat Mathur, Vickie Gupta and Satpal Kain.

Associated with AAP

A nominated member in the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), Jitendra Kumar, said though he ran a property as well as an alu-

minum business, he had been associated with the AAP since January 2014, when he was part of the campaign of the party's Lok Sabha candidate from north-east Delhi, Anand Kumar.

"I have never contested elections, but have supported the AAP campaign. As an Alderman, I will focus on highlighting the problems of my area, particularly sanitation. Whether it is the BJP or the AAP, I will raise issues irrespective of party," said Mr. Kumar.

Dummy candidate

He added that he was the 'dummy candidate' for the Congress in Gokulapuri in the 2013 Assembly elections.

Usually, candidates get party workers or family members to file dummy nominations in case their nominations are not accepted.

In the EDMC, the nominated councillors are Mukesh Yadav, Hasib-Ul Hasan, Raj Kumar Garg, Haji Mohd. Yunus, Jyotsna Sharma, Raj Ram Tiwari, Dr. Atul Kumar Gupta, Anita Singh and Dr. Ashok Kumar.

The nominated councillors in the South Delhi Municipal Corporation are Suraj Prakash Jinghala, Bhupinder Singh Joon, Dinesh Kumar Doshi, Trilok Deep, Mohit Chaudhary, Ram Niwas Tanwar, Prabin Kumar Jha, Akul Singh, Sunil Kumar and Ajit Singh Sehra.

which aims to improve the literacy rate of children from disadvantaged sections across the country.

Educational goals

"One of the biggest challenges in this large population is the fact that children are made to work. They either stay in the same class forever or are forced to quit school," Shehzadi added.

According to a 2016 UNESCO report, "India will be half-a-century late in achieving its universal educational goals".

Katha founder Geeta

Dharmarajan said, "Children deserve quality education. We are saying that India will be a superpower. But who will participate in the functioning of this superpower? We cannot simply depend on English medium schools. We need to have all children at the same level so that India as a country can grow. Even though there is a Right to Education, there is hardly any quality education being provided to children in government schools. We intend to give a voice to these 300 million children across the nation."

DCW summons Hindu College principal over girls' hostel fee

Commission acts on complaints made by students' group

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has issued a notice to the principal of Hindu College asking her to appear before it on August 2 in regard to higher fee being charged for the institute's girls' hostel compared to the boys' hostel.

The DCW said it had acted on complaints made by members of Pinjra Tod, a students' group that advocates for women's rights in educational institutions.

The letter also mentioned how some colleges such as Delhi Technological University

matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution...the said Act empowers the Commission to seek any information, requisition of any public record or copy thereof from any office for the aforementioned purpose," the notice, addressed to Principal Anju Srivastava, read.

Letter to UGC
DCW chairperson Swati Malwal also sent a letter to the University Grants Commission (UGC) demanding an intervention in the matter.

The letter also mentioned how some colleges such as Delhi Technological University

city, Daulat Ram College and Shivaji College had cited pending issues with the UGC for unable to construct hostels for girls or ensure non-discriminatory fee.

The letter stated, "The Commission has sent several communications to the UGC in this regard. However, no response has been received on the same. In the light of the same, you are requested to kindly intervene in the matter[sic]."

Ms. Srivastava, however, denied having received a notice from the DCW. "I am not yet aware of any such notice. I will respond only when I receive it."

North body passes resolution against govt

BJP slams Kejriwal for sitting on delimitation file; AAP claims proposal illegal

SOUMYA PILLAI
NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Thursday passed a condemnation resolution against the Delhi government for not clearing the delimitation file.

'No action'

The motion was moved by BJP's Jai Prakash, who said the AAP government had been sitting on the file even though it had been three months since the new teams took charge.

"Since the government is not clearing the newly marked zones, the ward committees cannot be formed. How can we work for people if the government doesn't let us?" he

Since the AAP government is not clearing the newly marked zones, the ward committees cannot be formed. How can we work for people if the government doesn't let us?

JAI PRAKASH
BJP leader

asked the House.

The motion was also supported by the Congress.

Party leader Mukesh Goel said although it had been wrong on their part to have marked the boundaries of the new zones without tabling the proposal in the House, the Delhi govern-

ment's stalling the proposal was unacceptable.

Work held up

"What was the Arvind Kejriwal government doing for the three months? We are suffering because of their inaction," he said.

The AAP, however, said the delimitation proposal was illegal and thus, blaming the government would not help. "The creation of new zones is not in the power of the corporation. The BJP cannot blame the government for their mistakes," Leader of the Opposition Rakesh Kumar said.

On Wednesday, north Delhi Mayor Preety Agarwal had met Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal over the is-

sue and threatened to move court if the file was not cleared within a week.

Senior civic officials said the file was rejected by the office of the Urban Development Minister citing "frivolous reasons".

Ruckus in House

Meanwhile, a ruckus ensued in the House when Mr. Kumar demanded that contractual sanitation staff be made permanent and their working conditions be improved.

The AAP councillors also threatened to walk out after they were allegedly not allowed to speak. Ms. Agarwal adjourned the House for 10 minutes, after which the resolutions were cleared in a hasty.

IN BRIEF



Vijender Gupta slams govt, electricity panel

NEW DELHI
Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta on Thursday alleged that the "lackadaisical" attitude of the AAP government and Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) had allowed citizens to become debtors to private discoms. "Each citizen has become a debtor to the tune of ₹20,000. Due to this, the discoms will claim a large increase in power tariff," he alleged. STAFF REPORTER

HC takes note of medical facilities in Delhi jails

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the prison authorities about the number of doctors visiting jails in the Capital as well as the medical infrastructure available for inmates. The court also asked about the number of inmates in the city who were suffering from communicable and terminal diseases. PTI

PIL in HC against crash guards on vehicles

NEW DELHI
Metal bumpers, also known as crash guards, installed at the front and back of vehicles are a threat to lives of pedestrians as well as passengers and should be banned, a public interest litigation has claimed in the Delhi High Court. The court has also issued a notice to the Ministry of Road Transport in the matter. PTI

Girl run over by tempo, dies

The two-year-old was playing near her house in Narela at the time of incident

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
A two-year-old girl was crushed to death by a tempo near her house in Narela here on Thursday morning.

Accused arrested

According to the police, Shilpi was playing in front of her house when the tempo ran her over. Tempo driver Avdhesh, who fled the spot, was arrested later.

"According to eyewitnesses, Avdhesh tried to speed away after crushing Shilpi under the rear wheels of his vehicle as he heard the locals screaming and chasing after him. Sensing that escape would be difficult, he abandoned the tempo and fled. Shilpi was rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared brought dead," said a senior police officer.

The police said Shilpi's parents work with a private company in Narela.

Case registered

Locals and witnesses told the police that the speeding tempo hit the girl before she could move out of harm's way. The vehicle has been impounded. A case of rash driving and causing death due to negligence has been registered.

The police are checking

CCTV footage of the incident to ascertain the exact sequence of events.

Locals around pocket B4 of Narela, where the girl lived, accused truck and tempo drivers of choosing the narrow streets of the residential area to park their vehicles in absence of proper parking space. They added that any objections were met with an aggressive response.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Vinay Mittal, S/o Vipin Mittal, & (2) Vipin Mittal, S/o Surinder Mittal, both R/o 12/27, 2nd Floor, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi, (3) Namrata Mittal, W/o Vinay Mittal, R/o 12/27, 2nd Floor, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi and 2nd address, B-903, Golf City, Aims Max, Gardenia, Sec.-75, Noida (U.P.) have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 877/15, u/s-420/468/471/120B/34 IPC, dated 25.07.2015, P.S. Saket, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Vinay Mittal, (2) Vipin Mittal & (3) Namrata Mittal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Vinay Mittal, (2) Vipin Mittal & (3) Namrata Mittal has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Vinay Mittal, (2) Vipin Mittal & (3) Namrata Mittal of FIR No. 877/15, u/s-420/468/471/120B/34 IPC, dated 25.07.2015, P.S. Saket, New Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 18.09.2017

By Order

Sh. Sandeep Garg,
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 215, 2nd Floor,
Saket Court Complex,
New Delhi

DP/4165/SD/17(Court Matter)

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
The Dy Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shukurbasti, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under notched work:- 1. Name of work and location : P/Way Linking and other allied works such as Assembling, laying, linking & dismantling of B.G. Railway track, points & crossings, traps, leading of P/Way material & PRC sleepers, supplying and putting off 65 mm machine crushed stone ballast etc. for Train Handling facilities at Shukurbasti, period of work : 09 (nine) Months. 3. Approx. Cost of work : Rs.21078173.80 4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) : Rs. 255400/- 5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender : Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:00 hrs on 31.08.2017 date on IREPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 31.08.2017. 6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document : The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in. Above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in. All other terms and conditions of respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office. Tender Notice No. 316-AC5-C-SSB Dated : 19.07.2017

2274/17

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD

Notice Inviting single percentage/item Rate Online tenders

Memo.No. MCF/EE-II/2017/633

Dated:- 19/07/2017

E-TENDER/ COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION NOTICE

Sealed tenders on percentage basis and items rate basis inclusive all taxes & levies are invited on behalf of Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Faridabad for the works as mentioned below:-

Sr. No. Tender No.	Name of Work	DNIT Cost in Lacs	Bid Document Fee & eService Fee (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Document Download and Bid Submission Start Date	Tender Opening Date
1 51578	Estimate for construction of proposed senior secondary school at Delhi Mathura road near Adani CNG fuel pump station Faridabad	225.29	1000+5000 = 6000	450600/-	19/07/2017 17:01 Time 17:01 PM	01/08/2017 19:00 Time 19:00 PM 02/08/2017
2 51595	Estimate for Mtc/ repairing of Govt primary school sector 7 village sihi Faridabad in Ward No.34.	151.73	1000+5000 = 6000	303500/-	19/07/2017 17:01 Time 17:01 PM	01/08/2017 19:00 Time 19:00 PM 02/08/2017

Any resident of MCF who has a stake in any of these works and wishes to be a member of the Citizen Supervisory Committee to be set up by the MCF for supervision of the execution of works on the ground, may submit their willingness giving name, address, academic qualification, professional experience and contact phone number to the undersigned by 17.08.2017

Note:- The Terms and conditions is also available on <http://haryanaprourement.gov.in>

PRDH-53123

Man commits suicide

Blames payment dispute for his death

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 57-year-old allegedly committed suicide by jumping into the Yamuna from the DND flyway on Thursday.

In this suicide note, Vinu Kumar Madan has blamed a payment dispute for his death. The incident was reported around 4 p.m. when some passersby spotted a man standing on the railing of the bridge. However, he jumped before patrol teams could stop him. His body

has been recovered.

Prima facie, Mr. Madan, who retired as a storekeeper from the Navy nine years ago, had failed to repay the ₹10 lakh he had borrowed from a couple a year back. The Lajpat Nagar resident's suicide note stated that the woman had allegedly been harassing him since then.

According to DCP (south-east) Romil Baaniya, a case under Section 306 pertaining to abetment to suicide will be registered.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM		
Sub : Corrigendum to the NIT no. 08-TRD-NDL-S-2017-18 regarding 'Part-A: Shifting of ATMs from passenger Platforms, & Part-B: Provision of Structure bonds on both legs of Portal. Following Changes in the subjected NIT may kindly read as below:		
Description of Item	Existing	Revised
Earliest Money (Clause 1.6 & Top Sheet)	Rs. 59780/-	Rs. 59790/-

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer HPPWD Chopal Distt. Shimla H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1	G/o Road From Bateria to Kandal Road Km Rd. 0/0 to 10/405 (SH: MIT, Riwals, Cross - Drainage works V-shape Drain, Parapets etc. In Km Rd's 0/0 to 1/0)	Rs. 31,22,307/-	Rs. 64000/-	Rs. 1500/-	'D' & 'C' Class

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document will be available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hpbtenders.gov.in>.

Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hpbtenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	08.08.2017 10:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	08.08.2017 10:00 HRS upto 28.08.2017, 17:00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	08.08.2017 10:00 HRS upto 28.08.2017, 17:00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	29.08.2017, upto 10:00 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid	30.08.2017 11:00 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:
 i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility
 ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.
 5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Executive Engineer HPPWD Chopal H.P as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.
 6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 30.08.2017 at 11:00 HRS in the office Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Chopal H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
 7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 90 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
 8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delay due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer
HPPWD Division Chopal
Distt Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP/1848/17-18

THE BALLABGARH COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD.

MILK PLANT BALLABGARH-121004 (AN ISO-9001-2008 & ISO 22000:2005 CERTIFIED UNIT)

Phone : 0129-2242376/2244494

E-mail: vitablb@gmail.com

TIN No. 06971208866 dated: 21.07.92

SHORT TERM RE-E-TENDER NOTICE

RE-E-tenders under two bid system i.e. technical and financial bids are hereby invited for following through online bid.

S. No.	Item	Total Cost in Rs.	EMD	Bid Documents Fee + E-Service Fee (Rs.)	Start Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission	Expiry Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission
1	Hiring of chassis of TATA 909 or equivalent passed for 6 MT for mounting of tanker for carrying milk from BMGs/Chilling Centres, Chassis is required for Milk Plant, Ballabgarh. The Year of manufacturing of the vehicle should be 2014 or later.	Rs. 8.00 Lacs	Rs. 100000/-	500+1000=1500	25.07.2017	03.08.2017

For further detail and e-tendering schedule visit website <https://haryanaprourement.gov.in> & <https://vitaindia.org.in>.

For any query may contact on these no. 0129-2242376, 2244494

Chief Executive Officer,
Milk Plant, Ballabgarh.

PRDH-53122

TENDER NOTICE

No. 7545
e-Tenders are invited for purchase of below mentioned items in the bid system i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid:-

Sr. No.	Name of Group/ Item	Aprox.
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IN BRIEF

**Munaf Patel summoned in cheque bounce case**

NEW DELHI

Cricketer Munaf Patel was on Thursday summoned as an accused by a Delhi court in a cheque bounce case. This came after Delhi resident Sunil Kumar Aggarwal alleged that Nivas Promoters Pvt Ltd had issued him a cheque for ₹25.50 lakh last month which bounced. Mr. Patel is one of the directors of the firm. The complainant said the accused failed to pay up despite legal notices. PTI

IS man seeks interim bail to undergo surgery

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday sought a response from the National Investigation Agency and Tihar Central Jail authorities on the plea of an alleged Islamic State (IS) member seeking interim bail to undergo kidney surgery. The court asked the NIA and the jail authorities to file a response by July 31 on the plea moved by Mohd Shareef Moinuddin Khan, held for allegedly recruiting for IS. PTI

Gang-rape case: two men get prison till death

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has sentenced two rickshaw pullers to jail for the remainder of their lives for raping a woman here on the pretext of taking her home. The court said they committed the heinous crime on a hapless woman who had lost her way. Additional Sessions Judge Ramesh Kumar held UP resident Ehsaan and Bihar resident Umesh Giri guilty while awarding the sentence. PTI

Bawana bypoll on Aug 23, VVPAT set to be used

Seat fell vacant after AAP MLA defected to BJP in March

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Bawana Assembly constituency, which fell vacant when an AAP MLA defected to the BJP in March, is headed for a by-election on August 23, with the Election Commission of India (ECI) announcing the schedule on Thursday.

As per the ECI's statement, the poll would be notified on Saturday, the last date for filing nominations is August 5 and the date for withdrawal of candidature is August 9. While polling will be held on August 23, the counting of votes is on August 28.

In its statement, the ECI said that Electronic Voting Machines, along with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), would be used in each polling station. With the announcement, the model code of conduct was enforced in Bawana and the district in which it lies, north-west Delhi.

Bawana, which is reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates, was won by the AAP's Ved Prakash in 2015.

Inter-State gun traffickers arrested, 35 pistols seized

Police tipped off about 2 accused; held after brief encounter near Outer Ring Road

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Special Cell arrested two alleged inter-State gun traffickers after a brief encounter here. The police claimed to have seized 35 high quality semi-automatic sophisticated pistols, 69 magazines and four live cartridges of 0.32 calibre from the accused.

According to a senior police officer, the accused have been identified as Mohammed Manouar (26) and Mohammed Shahid (21). Both are residents of Bihar and were arrested after an encounter with the police two days ago.

Trap laid

"We received a tip off that Manouar and his associate Shahid would come to deliver a large consignment of illegal country-made pistols to one of their associates on Azadpur-Mukundpur Road near Outer Ring Road in Delhi," said the officer.

We laid a trap and the police team surrounded the accused when they reached the spot, he added.

Shots fired

"When surrounded, Manouar started ran towards an open area on the metro line side, whipped out a pistol and fired at the police party but the team overpowered him. Meanwhile, Inspector Rajesh Kumar and ASI Jaiprakash overpowered Shahid. A cursory search led to the recovery of arms and ammunition from their carry bags," said the officer.

The police claimed that the duo admitted to bringing

**In net:** Officers of the Delhi Police Special Cell with the pistols seized from the two accused (right).

• SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

the consignment from Munger to deliver it in the National Capital Region.

Over 600 pistols

"On sustained questioning, Manouar said he has been involved in the illegal trade for the past three years. He also disclosed details of Sonu, a gun runner operating the inter-State syndicate from Malda in West Bengal and Munger in Bihar. The accused were assigned the task of supplying the firearms to Delhi-NCR and Western Uttar Pradesh," said the officer.

He added that during the last three years, Sonu has supplied more than 600 automatic high quality illegal pistols. Manouar, said the po-



lice, hails from a farmers' family.

Purse making

After dropping out of school, he started a purse making unit in Kolkata and ran that business for about four

years. Thereafter, he manufactured purses in Mumbai for about 2-3 years.

"During a visit to his uncle's house he came in contact with Sonu, who lured into gun running to earn easy money," he said.

Para athlete beaten up by friend, aides in Paharganj

Victim undergoing treatment; accused absconding

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Forty-year-old para athlete Anil Sharma, said to have represented India, was allegedly brutally beaten up by his friend and three of his associates early on July 22. The accused have been absconding since the incident, said the police.



Anil Sharma

me out and started beating me too. Meanwhile, our friend Mohit fled out of fear," he said.

When a crowd started gathering, the four fled the spot leaving the two wounded. "We were taken to a nearby hospital by passersby and someone also called the police," he said.

The athlete is undergoing treatment at BL Kapoor Hospital and is out of danger, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) M.N. Randhawa.

"The motive for the crime is not yet known because the victim is unfit for statement," he added.

The police have registered a case against Ashu, who has several criminal cases against him, under Sections 308 (Attempt to commit culpable homicide), 323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), and 34 (common intention).

HC hears PIL on manual scavenging

Asks govt, civic bodies for steps to eliminate 'evil practice'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the AAP government and the civic bodies what steps they have taken to eliminate the "evil practice" of manual scavenging in the Capital.

A Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and S.P. Garg ordered that a joint survey of manual scavengers be carried out by the Delhi government, the three municipal corporations, the Northern Railways and the Canton-

ment Board here in accordance with the 2013 law enacted for their rehabilitation.

Survey report

The court directed that a report of the survey be filed before the next date of hearing on August 21. The authorities, in their report, have to "indicate the areas where manual scavenging is resorted to, the number of persons employed by each (of the authorities) for the work and the steps taken to eliminate the evil practice and

the alternatives to such work," it said.

The Delhi government, during the brief proceedings, did not want to be involved in the survey work, but the Bench said, since "there is one city government, you take charge of the survey". The court was hearing a PIL filed in 2007 for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers. It had earlier termed as "disgraceful" the existence of manual scavenging in the city despite a law prohibiting the practice.

Regional language academies to be set up

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Over a dozen regional languages from around the country that are spoken by Delhites would soon get dedicated academies to give them a boost, with the Delhi government initiating the project this week.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the Art, Culture and Languages department portfolio, on Thursday directed the Department to start work on a proposal to set up 12 different language academies.

These would be along the lines of existing academies for Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi and Maithili-Bhojpuri.

12 academies

The 12 academies would be for Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Odia, Assamese, languages spoken in Uttarakhand (Garhwali, Kumaoni and Jaunsari), Kashmiri and Marwari.

In his order, Mr. Sisodia said that being the Capital of the country, Delhi was home to people from all over, making it a diverse and cosmopolitan city.

Culture and tradition

"I have found that language academies... play an important role in promoting the languages of different parts of the country. Not only do they promote the language, but also the culture and tradition of different regions of the country," Mr. Sisodia said.

In fact, he had already made the announcement for more language academies to be set up while presenting the Budget 2017-2018.

The Deputy Chief Minister, who took over the Department earlier this month, had announced earlier this week that the government would boost Sanskrit education by setting up 75 new learning centres under the Sanskrit Academy.

In death, 25-year-old gifts life to four

Heart transported via green corridor from Vasant Kunj to Okhla in 18.05 minutes

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

In death, a 25-year-old accident victim helped save the lives of four people.

The donor's heart was transported via green corridor between Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj and Fortis Escorts in Okhla in 18.05 minutes despite peak traffic on Thursday, all thanks to efforts of the Delhi Police and hospital authorities.

Fast transport

"The Fortis Organ Retrieval and Transplant [FORT] unit of Fortis Healthcare Limited successfully transported the donor's heart via Outer Ring Road at 8.43 p.m. from Fortis Flt. Lt. Rajan Dhall Hospital at Vasant Kunj in south Delhi to Fortis Escorts Heart Institute in Okhla via Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, IIT Flyover, Malviya Nagar, Nehru Place and Modi Mill by 9.04 p.m. The distance of 14 km was covered in a matter of 18.05 minutes due to the green corridor," noted a release issued by the hospital authorities.

Declared brain dead

The donor, who is survived by his mother, father (a cancer patient) and elder brother, was brought to the



Following the transfer, a 24-year-old patient suffering from congestive heart failure underwent a life-saving heart transplant. The surgery lasted 4 hrs and the patient is recovering well

Z.S. MEHARWAL
Director, cardiovascular surgery, FEHI

emergency of Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj at 3.58 a.m. on Monday with multiple fractures and multiple organ failure, following which he was declared brain dead. The first declaration was made at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday and the second at 6.13 p.m. the same day.

Vishal Rastogi, the principal intervention cardiologist, head, advanced heart failure programme, FEHI said: "The 24-year-old patient suffered from myocarditis due to congestive heart failure. His heart muscles did not relax after each pumping and hence there was excessive water re-

tention in the body. Over the years, his condition became serious and he was in dire need of a heart transplant."

Corneas donated

The family has donated the corneas – which were sent to AIIMS, the heart – sent to FEHI in Okhla, the kidneys – one of which was used at Fortis Vasant Kunj and the other sent to another private hospital in the city, and the liver – sent to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Meanwhile, Rajeev Sood, director, urology, robotics and kidney transplantation, who performed a kidney transplant on a 59-year-old man at Fortis Vasant Kunj, said: "The patient had end-stage renal disease and was on dialysis for the past three years. It is his fortune to have received a 25-year-old's kidney which was in an excellent condition. The transplanted kidney will give him a new lease of life. He has been generating urine since the time of transplant. The patient is doing well and recovering well in the post-op ICU."

Former bank manager gets 3-year jail for graft

Bank cheated of ₹1.47 lakh in 1995

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has sentenced a former branch manager of the Oriental Bank of Commerce here to three years in jail for cheating the bank of ₹1.47 lakh by opening fake accounts and making fake credit and debit entries into them in 1995.

It also imposed a fine of ₹2,000 on him. However, Special Judge Kamini Lau granted bail to convict Ashok Pasrija to allow him to file an appeal in the Delhi High Court against the conviction and sentence.

"There is no quarrel... that there has to be zero tolerance to corruption and immediate drastic measures are needed to oust this malady. Corruption is the en-

'Cops being used to change public perception of AAP'

Cite court order quashing molestation charge against its MLA

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Citing a recent court order quashing molestation charges against its MLA Prakash Jarwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday said his case was the perfect example of how central agencies like the Delhi Police were being used to create an adverse public perception towards them.

Addressing journalists at a press conference here, party leader Atishi Marlena said when Mr. Jarwal was arrested on July 15 and charged with Section 354 IPC (molestation) based on the complaint of a BJP worker, the police misused the provision, which is an obvious attempt to malign the party, she further claimed.

"In the process, it has caused considerable damage to the reputation of Mr. Jarwal and his family as the media screams headlines of the arrest but when the court gives an order in our favour, the police's response is muted and the media cover-

age relegated," said Ms. Marlena. She added that his case was not an isolated one.

Routine harassment

"AAP MLAs have had to routinely face such harassment from the Delhi Police, on the directions of the BJP, but the courts have repeatedly given a clean chit in these cases. The party will not bend its knees before such an onslaught against its MLAs under any circumstances," she added.

The party was not going to succumb to such pressure tactics, and will always expose this conspiracy against our elected legislators which is an obvious attempt to malign the party, she further claimed.

The party was not going to succumb to such pressure tactics, and will always expose this conspiracy against our elected legislators which is an obvious attempt to malign the party, she further claimed.

IN BRIEF



Monsoon magic
Reynu Taandon showcased bold undertones of the Indian monsoon, intricate detailing and thread work in her outfit at her show at the ongoing India Couture Week in Delhi. In her collection Cyan- Time to Find the Calm in the Chaos, Reynu weaved in the mysticism of peacock blue hues. The underplay of carefully used patterns of stripe that break the monotony, use of bold whites, glittering gold and the many shades of heavily embroidered silhouettes of aqua blue and green orchestrate a melodic symphony that is hard to miss.

Natural line

Designer Renu Gupta presented a new line of eco-printed scarves and clothing, stoles and other accessories at Ogaan in Hauz Khas Village. Renu has used a natural process to use colour and prints from leaves and flowers, which tell their own stories. Her naturally dyed eco-prints come from a combination of plants and organic colours. The leaves are eucalyptus, rose, jamun and guava with touches of marigold, wine, vinegar, tea, indigo and iron water.

Orientation day

The Indian Institute of Art and Design conducted Orientation Day for its third batch of design students at the India International Centre in Delhi. On the occasion, Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, says: "Design heavily influences our perceptions and ability to interact with the product." He gave an insight into the role of art and design in giving impetus to Indian industry.

Have a heART!

The desecration of Balbir Singh Katt's sculpture at the Mandi House roundabout raises questions about the safety of art works in public spaces

UMA NAIR

Is a work of public art to be treated as a canvas for an anonymous irreverent artist who decides to decorate it with ugly graffiti? Can anyone walk up to a sculpture armed with paint and brushes and just stroke it with colours when it's made of marble and reflects an artist's sensibility?

Mandi House the most prominent space on the arts district roundabout at Copernicus Marg boasts of a series of sculptures that have been loaned to the New Delhi Municipal Council by Lalit Kala Akademi – the most important work is an untitled piece from 1977 by Balbir Singh Katt, former Dean of Visual Arts at Banaras Hindu University, who disappeared mysteriously in 2000.

NGMA Director General Adwaita Gadanayak stood in front of the sculpture on Tuesday night aghast. "I cannot believe that someone has actually done this to the work of one of the greatest sculptors. I am deeply saddened to see that someone has painted this deliberately and completely changed the power and beauty of this marble sculpture. Balbir Singh Katt was a senior sculptor, greatly revered and has created monumental works. How can an artist of one discipline destroy a work of another discipline?" is Gadanayak's query.

The painted sculpture was first noted by sculptor Arun Pandit last week. Pandit was alarmed that no one had noticed the vandalism. "Works are put in public places for appreciation and admiration, the NDMC has to

'Need for civic sense'

When contacted by *The Hindu*, a spokesperson of the NDMC promised to look into the matter but at the same time underlined the need of public support in the upkeep of art works. "We expect people to show civic sense as every art work can't be provided security."



Do we care? Photographs showing the violated sculpture and our indifference towards public art



• ABHIJIT PATHAK

stated the name Imran Tausif was written in bold letters on top of the sculpture – while the graffiti on the pedestal makes it look like a tablet of urban ugliness. The symbols and the colour tones smack of poster, slap dash design dictates that are crude and rough hewn. Obviously the artist is Tausif, he is a novice who has no clue about graffiti. But the manner in which Imran Tausif has been painted is far clumsier than the graffiti on the pedestal. Could the artist be someone else? Pathak also wonders how any artist who has studied art could actually come and deface the work of another artist. "When we study art we are taught to revere

our elders and respect their works of art," says Pathak. Pathak talked to the fruit seller sitting at Mandi House who claimed the painting was done at night a few weeks ago. Katt's marble slabs have been painted in a dirty yellow and indigo blue tones, so much so that the entire orientation of the sculpture has been destroyed. Indeed graffiti art is a rebellion across the world but you don't desecrate works belonging to an institution.

Some questions need to be answered by the NDMC that has placed art works throughout the city. Are art works safe from vandalism? Does the NDMC do a periodic check on the physical state of these sculptures? Some of the other sculptures at Mandi House have turned into utility items. Pathak's pictures show the reality of scant disregard and apathy for public works of art. While one work is a pole for underware, on top of Katt's pedestal you see lemons drying.

Whose responsibility?

The NDMC and LKA should see that Katt's marble sculpture is restored to its original brilliance and the paint taken off as soon as possible. The lender and the borrower of art both have a responsibility. The LKA too should have a dossier on the state of art works loaned and an up-

dated observation on their physical status. The Ministry of Culture, LKA along with NDMC need to draw up a blue print of rules and regulations for the protection of public art throughout the city. Otherwise great works of art by Indian artists will become fossils of ruination.

I am deeply saddened to see that someone has painted this deliberately and completely changed the power and beauty of this marble sculpture

ADWAITA GADANAYAK

with self proclaimed irreverent artists, leaving their salacious signatures on significant works of art.

One is reminded of an earlier incident in which French anti-war campaigners desecrated a statue of Winston Churchill in Paris on the anniversary of the death of Rudolf Hess.

They daubed the statue's hands in red paint to signify blood and scrawled the initials RH on the plinth. Of course, the alleged Imran Tausif does not have the intellectual wit or wealth of the anti-war campaigners so all we are left with is a pedestal that screams a few characterless symbols in its attempt to ape a lesser art.

SHORT TAKE



Tom Hanks gets into character for Steven Spielberg's next

Actor Tom Hanks was spotted as late Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee on the sets of Steven

Spielberg's new movie *The Papers*, which is set to cover the story of the infamous Pentagon Papers. Hanks portrays the legendary newspaper editor, who passed away in 2014, while Meryl Streep has been cast as Post publisher Katharine 'Kay' Graham.

Hanks was dressed in a grey jacket, matching pants, a striped shirt and a steel-coloured tie put together by the film's costume designer Ann Roth.

The film is set in the 1970s, around the time of the Vietnam War.

• IANS



Making a statement: A model sporting an Ethicus sari ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Six yards of Mumbai...

Ahead of her first solo exhibition in the city, Vijayalakshmi Nachiar of Ethicus talks about the importance of sustainable fashion

MADHUR TANKHA

Capturing the spirit of Mumbai, a two-day exhibition at New Delhi's Aga Khan Hall will present a riot of colours on a range of cotton saris. Starting today, as the title "Mumbai Meri Jaan" signifies, the collection speaks the language of flamboyance, how the city behaves during monsoon and its iconic flat taxis. All this would be seen in colourful tassels and bright selvedge as part of the sustainable movement started by Ethicus, a brand from Pollachi in Tamil Nadu. Using age old knowledge of organic farming methods, the cotton used in these saris are extra long in staple and soft to touch.

Excerpts from an interview with Vijayalakshmi Nachiar, co-founder and Creative Director, Ethicus, who is having first solo exhibition in Delhi. She will also participate at the upcoming Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai

On the love for Mumbai
I felt Mumbai was such an iconic city that we need to come up with a colour-based

collection inspired from iconic places. All those things which remind us of the city have been taken into the collection. Inspiration has been drawn from Gateway of India, Victoria's Terminus Railway Station and Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Even though we randomly took images from posters of Bollywood for our colour scheme, in terms of look and feel our saris are different from those shown in Hindi films. We even took inspiration from local trains of

On the variety of saris at exhibition

All our saris have 150 to 200 designs. We are collaborating with other artisans. Saris will be in Kalamkari, block print and a range of jacquard. While we are aware of the need to keep their traditions alive, we are constantly experimenting with new designs, themes and techniques to develop innovative designs for the women of today.

On methodology of creating exquisite motifs

First we work on a theme. Based on theme we create divergent motifs which are in sync with the theme. This time round motifs are from Mumbai's skyline, represent the train route, how we have motifs from one room bedroom apartment, the chawls of Mumbai which we have compared with beehive. We have changed the look and



Saris will be in Kalamkari, block print and a range of jacquard.

feel of cotton saris. Our innovation in cotton textiles results in textures and weaves. These textures have transformed the way we perceive a cotton sari.

On making eco-friendly cotton saris

Most people don't know

that cotton uses so much of chemical and pesticide. In 2005 when we realised, we decided to make a difference in the way our businesses are run.

We changed that by growing our organic cotton and starting contract farming.

Our handloom saris are pure organic. Neither chemical cotton nor middlemen are used. The concept of farm to fashion was started by us. We purchase cotton from our farmers, weave it and spin it in our design studio. Therefore we talk about how it is

affecting our wildlife, farmers and how we are making a difference by giving each weaver an identity. In every product, we inform how many days he has taken to weave a particular sari.

On innovations in cotton saris
If you look at cotton saris, we have changed the look and feel. Earlier more and more women were not using them as an everyday wear, but on special occasion like weddings. We changed the way cotton was seen. As we have control over raw materials, we are able to produce very good quality fabric. As we have looms with ourselves we are able to engineer a lot of weaves and textures.

These saris can be worn without starch and draped very easily like chiffon and Georgette. We have a range of saris which we call boardroom saris. Saris give women a certain degree of authority. There are saris which can be worn with office shirts and T-shirts and any kind of tank top. We have made sari a fashion statement.

On foreign brands slowly eating into the Indian handloom market
These are challenges that we face. The powerloom versus the handloom, the machine made versus the handmade. It keeps us on our toes. We need to ensure that what we do machines cannot do.

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



PERFORMANCE

Dhruv Angrih

Monkey Bar is holding a live performance by Dhruv Angrih who is a one man army of an artist, working his way through his music and keen lyrics. After composing music and writing numerous songs for almost 10 years he released his first single as "Main Hoon Chala" in 2016.

VENUE: Plot No 11, Pocket C 6 & 7, Vasant Kunj

TIME: 9 p.m.



PLAY

Vasundhar

Divya Diksha Centre for Performing Arts presents "Vasundhar". A devised folk theatre performance inspired by the folk pictorial art of Uttarakhand, Alipur. It deals with issues facing the State like migration leading to danger of loss of culture.

VENUE: Sammukh Auditorium, National School of Drama (NSD), Bahawalpur House, 1 Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi

TIME: 4.30 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Hope

Roopchand Art Gallery, National Galaxy of Modern Art Trust is holding "Hope", a group show of drawings and paintings. The participating artists include Aman Anand, Chitra Goel, Deepak Sharma, Harshvardhan Arya, Himanshu Maan and Muskan Mittal among others.

VENUE: F-104, Phase 1, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi

TIME: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



MUSIC

Bollyjazz

The July Jam Fridays at Fio Cookhouse will present a live performance by Bollyjazz. The group brings a refreshing approach to playing classic Indian Film tunes through Jazz rhythm and harmony formats, keeping the melodies intact and comprise of an impressive repertoire of 40 tunes.

VENUE: Epicura, Nehru Place, New Delhi

TIME: 9.30 p.m.



THEATRE

Aashad Ka Ek Din

Circle Theatre presents "Aashad Ka Ek Din". Directed by Bapi Bose and based on the story by Mohan Rakesh, on one level it depicts love between Mallika and Kalidas and on the other level, it explores the conflict between state patronage and creative freedom.

VENUE: Shri Ram Centre, Mandi House, New Delhi

TIME: 4 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

A vermouth-scented summer

This Spanish grandmother's tipple, blended with heady botanicals, is getting increasingly popular across the world. Try it spiked with olives and zesty orange peel

SHONALI MUTHALALY

Summer in Spain is warm, steamy and vermouth-scented.

We quickly graduate from robust riojas to cloudy ciders served with freshly-fried croquettes. We sample flinty Basque txacolis at ostentatiously trendy pintxo bars. Drink tall, chilled glasses of Mahou, the capital's popular pilsner, with crackly bags of potato crisps. Then, we discover vermouth, heady, herbaceous and deliciously pungent, served with a bright tangle of orange peels. We're hooked.

Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee's Spanish song 'Despacito' is the country's current soundtrack, blasting with equal fervour in clubs and supermarkets, and vermouth is its contemporary drink of choice. 'Despacito', an essentially Spanish track, has been sexed-up, glossed and accessorised so skilfully that it has become the world's most streamed music track in just six months, with about 4.6 billion plays across streaming platforms, according to Universal Music. Similarly, vermouth, once proudly provincial, is being downed in bars from London to San Francisco, in its current slick, urbane, updated avatar.

At a traditional bodega, sweltering with packed crowds, in Madrid's arty Lavapiés district, we drink it at the bar standing up, along with Patitas de Cala-



mar, freshly fried squid feet. In the city's cavernous indoor markets, filled with raucous families, we hurriedly down a glass (or three) between buying bushels of juicy cherries, sticky pistachio nougat and paper-thin slices of Jamón ibérico.

From granny's closet

At the immensely Instagrammable Mercado de San Miguel – a glamorous bartender serves it on tap, sliding our glasses across the bar along with a bowl of addictively tart green olives.

"This used to be the drink of our grandmothers," she says, before attending to a group of excited Japanese tourists, who attempt to order everything off the menu. The options are sweet and dry. If you're a first-timer, she

suggests you go with the sweet version. Served with a splash of soda and twist of orange peel, the drink is bright with an alluring chorus of synchronised flavours. I'm familiar with it as a cocktail ingredient – it is essential in Martinis, Negronis and Manhattans – but really comes into its own when treated as the headliner instead of just another spot boy.

This is an aromatised, fortified wine, flavoured with botanicals. Manufacturers start with a neutral grape wine, then add alcohol and a signature blend of about 40 or more, often bitter, botanicals, which include herbs, roots, barks, flowers, seeds and spices. The most notorious of these is wormwood, also present in absinthe. (Incidentally, vermouth is derived from the German word for wormwood, which is 'wermut'.)

Italian origins

The drink was first produced in Turin, Italy, in the mid-18th Century, according to liquor historians (and what a fun job that must be!). Italian and French blends have defined the drink internationally, some of the best known brands are Italian Martini and Rossi, Cinzano and French Noilly Prat. Spain, however, has some very high quality versions. There are those made by established companies, usually in Reus, like Yzaguirre and Miro. There are



Homemade old-fashioned cocktail with cherries and orange peel • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

also seasonal, hyper-local producers making Spanish vermouth, which is lighter and sweeter than the Italian and French versions.

You can order yours extra-dry white, sweet white, red, amber and even as a rosé. Admittedly, the extra-dry versions take some getting used to; they're sharp and austere. Dry has a touch more flavour; think of an arid land in spring time. Then comes the sweet, reminiscent of a lush, moist, tropical forest.

In America, the Quady winery makes Vya, an artisanal version that uses botanicals from India, Albania, Russia, Spain and Morocco. Australian Regal Rogue

Incidentally, vermouth is derived from the German word for wormwood, which is 'wermut'

range marries a Hunter Valley Semillon with native lemon myrtle, desert limes, thyme and elderflower. The Ethicurean restaurant in Somerset has a house vermouth called The Collector, which incorporates 20 botanicals grown in their garden, including bay, rosemary, and yarrow. In London, Mele e Pere, which has been making its own version for five years, even has a 'vermouth-in-chief' called Ed, who teaches customers how to blend their own for £25 a night.

Guide to vermouth

At a bookstore in San Sebastian, I stumble upon Ester Bachs Romaguera's *Guia del vermut* (Vermouth Guide). The lady who runs the bookstore spots me flipping through the Spanish book, and insists I visit Bar Roberto for a drink. This is

MOST EXPENSIVE MARTINI
Last year, a Scottish distillery created a Martini worth £50,000. It isn't covered in gold or diamonds; simply, it comes with a holiday on the side.

where I finally learn how to make the perfect cocktail: and it stars vermouth, of course.

In the tiny wooden bar, which is standing room only, the friendly proprietor hands me a complimentary gilda, comprising deftly skewered mellow guindilla chillies, anchovies and olive, then pours out a sweet vermouth with a flourish. His bar blackboard lists about 20 varieties, and the shelves behind him groan with bottles from all over the world. He adds ice cubes, bitters, netted orange zest and an olive-laced toothpick. I take a sip: It's like rain in a jungle on a warm summer day.

A loyal Roberto customer smiles and says, "I have eaten a smoked sardine and drunk a vermouth that has lifted my beret." (Or at least that's what Google Translate Spanish to English says.) Honestly, I couldn't have put it better.



LOCAVORE

Grin at those greens

Meet kulekhara, celebrated for its iron-rich properties that reportedly boost haemoglobin levels



PRABALI M BORAH

Did you know that there is an Indian herb that can reportedly boost haemoglobin levels? I certainly didn't. As a child, I was made to understand that this task was reserved for vegetables, fruits and leaves with a red hue; think beetroot and prunes. But on one of those unusual days when I was feeling particularly upbeat about including some greens in my diet, I stopped by at the local

vegetable vendor to pick up *laal saag* (red leafy vegetable). As luck would have it, he was out of *laal saag* and said, "Saturday *niye ashbo*. Kulekhara o *niye ashbo*, (I will get it this Saturday along with *kulekhara*)." Wait a minute. What is *kulekhara*? As I alighted from the car to ask him more about this *kulekhara*, he told me, "It is a very common herb used to increase the blood in our body." He meant haemoglobin, of course.

Kulekhara are so popular that a company called Branolia Chemical Works from West Bengal has even come up with a product called Kulerron which is enriched with *kulekhara*.

vayalculi, *neermulli*, *kolavanne* or *nerugobbi*, as it is known in various languages, tastes like rocket leaves. While I was yet to lay my hands on my stash, I was already looking up ways to consume it. Although, my vendor had suggested a raw *kulekhara* shake, I wasn't too keen. But it turns out the leaves are often used as a replacement for fresh *methi* and are also used to make fish curry. Now we're talking.

Kulekhara leaves are so popular that a company called Branolia Chemical Works from West Bengal has even come up with a product called Kulerron which is enriched with *kulekhara*.



Green power: Kulekhara is a great addition to one's diet

Kulekhara's botanical name is *Hydrophila* and it is also commonly known as swampweeds. This plant is common with those who

love to create ayurvedic preparations for a meal.

Also known as bitter greens by some, these leaves are very popular with the

tribes of Eastern and North-eastern India, where it is usually used either as a garnish or a vegetable by itself. *Kulekhara* is available until September, but one needs to know to identify it.

When I finally laid my hands on the herb, I saw that the plant has a nice leafy texture and is green throughout. The stalk, though, is slightly tough to be broken with hand.

To begin with, I tried brewing the leaves and drank the liquid as tea, as was suggested by an elderly acquaintance in Kolkata. On brewing, the leaves turned slightly pale, bleeding into the water. The water was tasteless but had a raw fragrance.

Hopefully, my haemoglobin levels are on their way up.

Oh, and according to old wives' tales, when one consumes this herb, it should be done so continuously for 10 days.

Eat before you take off



Roadside delicacy: A traditional dish on offer

As tempting roadside delicacies have become an integral part of the Indian culture, Plaza Premium Lounge is hosting a month long Street Food Festival at domestic departures of Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad Airports beginning August 1. Travellers keen to relish delicacies on offer, can try Aloo Tikki from Lucknow, Tawa Aloo Chaat adding a flavour of Old Delhi, tangy Moong Dal Pakodi from Uttar Pradesh, signature breakfast dish Akki Roti from Karnataka and famous Bhel Puri from bylanes of Mumbai.

EAT OFF THE PAGE

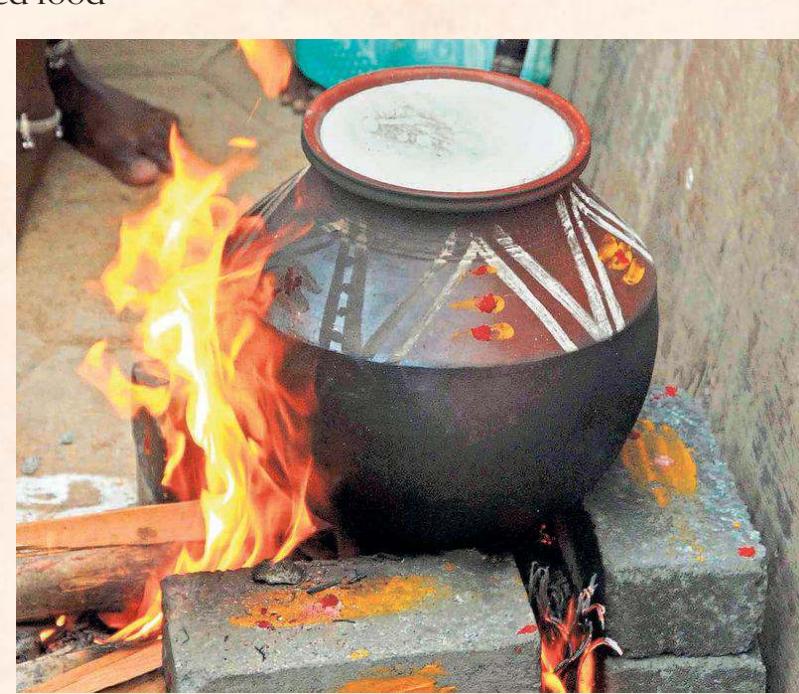
When huggi brings sadness

Veerabhadrapuram's *Huggi* is a bittersweet tale of life, hardships and home-cooked food

K SRIKALA

Look at it through a rose-tinted middle-class prism, and you might say that home food's "cannot be replicated" nature and the sense of belonging that it bestows cannot be had for money. Not even in the world's most expensive restaurants. For many of us, home food is "home". It is every day. It is always available. One can take it for granted. One can even afford to be bored by it. But not if you happen to be desperately poor. For lack of access or infrequent access to everyday home food is perhaps what best defines the state of the world's hungry people. Which is why the Kannada writer Veerabhadrapuram's story *Huggi* (A Sweet Dish, translated by GS Amur) hits us so hard, making us rethink our closely-held notions of "home food" and its taken-for-grantedness.

The story opens with its child protagonist, the poor and perennially hungry Basava, wondering why his father's face is dull, disappointed that the latter does not pat him and give him a five or ten paisa coin as he usually does. But this question is quickly forgotten when he walks into the kitchen, for what he sees there makes him happy. He finds his mother cleaning split Bengal gram in a *mora* and there is another *mora* with jaggery by her side. Basava asks her what she plans to cook today, as he picks up a



Huggi brings readers a reality check • A MURALITHARAN AND R RAVINDRAN

piece of jaggery and puts it in his mouth. His three siblings are sitting around the *mora*, their mouths watering, but unlike Basava they do not dare touch the jaggery for fear of punishment. In response to his repeated questioning, Basava's mother says that she plans to make *huggi*.

Huggi is akin to the *chakkari pongal* or sweet pongal that is made in Tamil Nadu.

It is jaggery-sweet, not sugar-sweet and that makes all the difference. To return to the story, Basava is beside himself with excitement and announces to all his friends that his mother is cooking *huggi*. But we begin to suspect that something is dreadfully amiss. For one thing, Basava's parents

seem obviously disturbed. Soon, his father tells him that they are all leaving the village, that Basava would have to live in the rich Gowda's house. Basava is upset, but the thought of *huggi* makes him forget everything. Finally, the *huggi* is done, but even before Basava can savour it properly, his mother asks him to deliver a vessel at the Gowda's place. Basava leaves, after asking her to save some *huggi* for him. To quote from the story, "If his mother had insisted that [Basava] should go before eating, he would not have known what to do. For two days he had had no food;

Huggi is akin to the chakkari pongal or sweet pongal that is made in Tamil Nadu

leave alone the vessel, he couldn't have carried even his own body." Basava reaches the Gowda's place and learns from the latter that he is now bonded to him in exchange for the debts his father has accumulated. Basava runs home to find that the door has been left wide open, that his favourite spotted dog is breathing heavily. Soon, the dog collapses and dies. Basava fails to see the traces of *huggi* sticking to the dog's mouth. "Appa, the dog has died," he shouts and enters the house. This is the terrible, heart-stopping point at which the story ends.

Basava's intense longing for *huggi* and his joyous anticipation of it colours the entire story, but so do his parents' despair and their foreknowledge of what is to come. *Huggi* may be a humble enough sweet dish, frequently made in middle-class homes all over Karnataka, but in this story it becomes a central player, something that Basava can only long for but never quite enjoy.

The author, a poet, fiction writer and professor at IIT-Madras, has written Bookmaking the Oasis and Table for Four.

