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## NEARBY



### NIA arrests separatist leader Shabir Shah

SRINAGAR  
An NIA team on Tuesday arrested separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah here. Mr. Shah, who heads the Democratic Freedom Party, was arrested from his Sananagar residence. Earlier in the day, Mr. Shah was placed under house arrest.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

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### STF to probe SI recruitment exam leak

LUCKNOW  
Online exams for recruitment of police sub-inspectors in Uttar Pradesh were cancelled on Tuesday after the question papers were allegedly leaked. Director-General of Police Sulkhan Singh directed the STF, which deals with organised crime, to probe the lapse.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 3

### Assembly session crucial for Bihar's grand alliance

PATNA  
With the monsoon session of the Bihar Assembly due to begin on Friday, the next 48 hours would be crucial for the fate of the ruling grand alliance in the State.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 4  
DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

## Diversity is key to India's success: Kovind

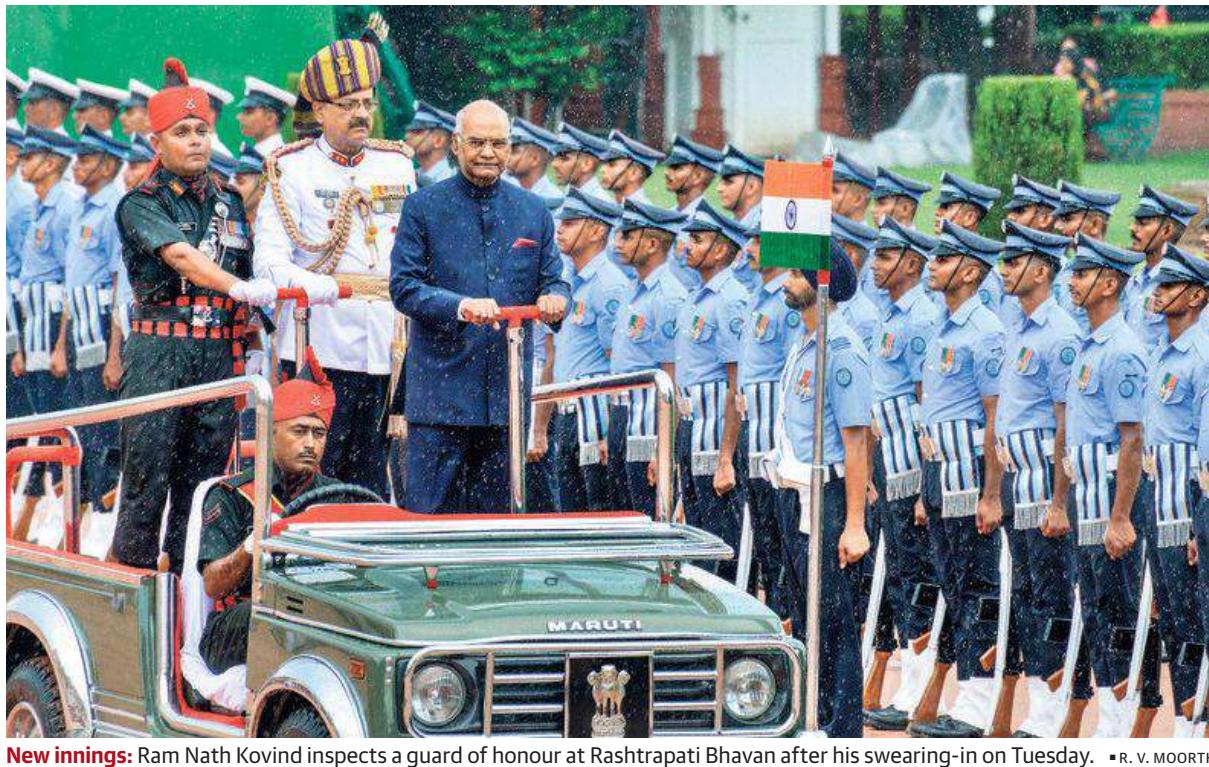
National pride required in our culture and in the little things we do, says new President

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI  
India's new President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday flagged pluralism and unity in diversity as cornerstones of the country's success.

Mr. Kovind said the "key to India's success is its diversity. Our diversity is the core that makes us so unique." Nations, he said, were "not built by governments alone" and required national pride, in the soil and water of the country, in its diversity and inclusiveness, in its culture and "in the little things we do everyday."

Earlier, he was administered the oath by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar at a ceremony in the Central Hall of Parliament.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10  
HOW THE WHO'S WHO WERE  
SEATED; IT'S GOING TO BE A  
DIFFERENT PRESIDENCY ▶ PAGE 11



New innings: Ram Nath Kovind inspects a guard of honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan after his swearing-in on Tuesday. ▶ R. V. MOORTHY

## Mumbai building collapse kills 12, injures 19

Rescue operations continuing as more people are suspected to be trapped under the debris



Rescue work: Fire brigade personnel and others busy at the site of the collapse in Mumbai on Tuesday. ▶ POONAM SHINDE

NEELOMI POPAT  
MUMBAI

Two wings of a four-storey building in Ghatkopar collapsed on Tuesday, killing at least 12 and injuring 19. Rescue operations were under way late into the night. Emergency responders said several people were trapped under the debris.

The 35-year-old Sai Darshan society building collapsed around 10.40 a.m. Multiple people in the area called the fire brigade and the police control room.

The fire brigade sent 15 fire-engines and two rescue vans, and the municipal corporation despatched four excavators, six dumpers, and 300 workers to clear the debris. The National Disaster Response Force sent a squad of 50. Residents and employees of commercial establishments in the neighbourhood also pitched in to help. The deceased and injured were taken to nearby hospitals.

The police set up barricades, deployed crowd control personnel and cleared

the roads to the nearest hospitals.

The deceased are Renuka Lalit Thak (three months), Amruta Lalit Thak, 40, Ranjanaben Shah, 62, Rutvi Shah, 14, Sulakshna Khanchandani, 80, Kishor Khanchandani, 51, Mukul Khan Chandi, Pandharinath Dongre and Manorama Dongre and their grandson Krishu Dongre (one-and-a-half), Mansukhbhai Gajjar, 85, and Divya Ajmera, 54.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

### NEET: private firm charged by police

VIDYA KRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police crime branch has filed a charge sheet against Prometric Testing Pvt. Ltd., the company hired by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) to conduct the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for postgraduate medical admissions, after uncovering an inter-State racket that tampered with the computers used for the common entrance test.

The crime branch is also investigating the role of NBE officials in the scam.

TAMPERED COMPUTERS GAVE  
APPLICANTS A LIFELINE ▶ PAGE 7

### In a first, Nifty breaches the 10,000-mark

Ends the day at 9,964.55 points

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Rising from its base value of 1,000 in November 1995 to 2,000 in December 2004, the 50-share Nifty of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) breached the 10,000-mark for the first time on Tuesday before profit-booking added to the resistance at the record level, resulting in the benchmark closing below the psychological mark.

While the index opened above the 10,000 mark, during intra-day trading on Tuesday it touched a high of 10,011.3 before closing almost flat at 9,964.55. The 30-share Sensex closed at 32,228.77, down 17.6 points. Incidentally, the Nifty took a

little over nine years to move from 1,000 in November 1995 to 2,000 in December 2004. But it took less than five months to move from 9,000 on March 3 to 10,000 on Tuesday.

As per data from the National Securities Depository Ltd, foreign investors have put in nearly ₹56,000 crore in Indian equities in the current calendar year. Market participants, though betting big on the long-term India growth story and market outlook, have a cautious undertone due to lack of near-term positive triggers and high valuations.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Gujarat, Rajasthan flood situation grim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The flood situation in north Gujarat and neighbouring Rajasthan remained grim on Tuesday, with several districts in both the States being cut off as a result of incessant rain.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit districts in Gujarat and announced a ₹500 crore relief package for immediate assistance.

Incessant rain and floods also claimed five lives in Kolkata and its adjoining districts in West Bengal.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10  
'INDIA WELL-DEFENDED IN  
TRI-JUNCTION' ▶ PAGE 10

## Govt. may not split Air India for stake sale

Officials fear investors may be put off



The decision may act as a hurdle to IndiGo's plan to buy a stake in Air India.

"AI's business cannot be split merely based on an expression of interest from a single private player. If we sell lucrative assets separately, it will make the divestment of the domestic unit and subsidiaries tricky," the official added.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

AIR INDIA  
TAMPERED COMPUTERS GAVE  
APPLICANTS A LIFELINE ▶ PAGE 7

REGULAR BATCH  
19 JULY 9 AM | 21 AUG

WEEKEND BATCH  
24 JUNE 9 AM | 2nd AUGUST

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9th August | 3rd July

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## HC judge wants *Vande Mataram* sung in T.N.

Schools, colleges, universities, factories to play and sing the song that 'instilled confidence' in people

R. SIVARAMAN  
CHENNAI

A Madras High Court judge on Tuesday ordered *Vande Mataram* to be played and sung in all schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions in Tamil Nadu at least once a week – preferably on Monday or Friday. Justice M.V. Muralidaran also directed that the song be played and sung in all government offices and institutions, private companies, factories and industries at least once a month.

The judge passed the order while disposing of a writ petition filed by a

teacher-aspirant, K. Veeramani, who had approached the court to ascertain the language in which *Vande Mataram* was originally penned by poet Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay – Bengali or Sanskrit. The petitioner had said in his answer to a question in the Teacher Eligibility Test, 2013, that the song was written in Bengali, while the Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB) denied him one mark contending that it was written in Sanskrit.

While directing the TRB to award him one mark, Justice Muralidaran also ordered the playing and singing of the song. "Patriotism is an essential ingredient for every citizen.... The fact that this country is our motherland

should always be remembered by every citizen... Several people have sacrificed their lives and families to the independence struggle... In these tough times, it was songs like our national song *Vande Mataram* which created a sense of belief and confidence in the people," the judge said. "Perhaps in today's modern era where we have marched ahead with technology, our lives have changed a lot. We have become [so] busy with our own lives that sometimes we forget our nation," he said.

The Director of Public Information should upload and circulate the translated

version of *Vande Mataram* in Tamil and English, the judge said, making it available on government websites and social media. The Chief Secretary should instruct the authorities. If any person or organisation had difficulty in singing or playing the song, he or she should not be compelled or forced to sing it, provided there were valid reasons for not doing so, the judge said. When the matter came up on July 7, an Additional Government Pleader said the national song was written in Sanskrit and later transcribed into Bengali. The court was then helped by three advocates to get the correct position.



ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINENZHI

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# Naveen asks depts to use social media

'Reach out to citizens, inform them about welfare programmes, listen to their issues, take action'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday urged the different government departments and agencies to be proactive in leveraging the power of social media for the welfare of people.

"I urge you all to be proactive in leveraging the power of social media for the welfare of the citizens of our State, by reaching out to them, informing them about

our programmes and works, listening to their issues and problems, and taking immediate action to resolve them as fast as possible," said Mr. Patnaik.

#### Integral part

Addressing a workshop on 'Delivery of public services through social media in association with Facebook' here, Mr. Patnaik said social media has become an integral part of good governance in today's world. "It brings the common public closer to the

government and ensures their direct participation in governance and policy matters."

Stating that the majority of youth were using social media which provides an opportunity to the government to engage with them in a more meaningful manner, Mr. Patnaik said social media was a dynamic mode of communicating with the citizens, building awareness, informing them about entitlements as well as redressing their grievances.

Observing that social media enables direct feedback, Mr. Patnaik expressed happiness that government departments and agencies, police and district administration have opened social media accounts and were becoming active on those platforms.

#### The 3 Ts

"I consider social media as a vital medium to galvanise the 3Ts - technology, teamwork and transparency -- enunciated by my govern-

ment for citizen-centric governance," he said. He added that his government has begun engaging with the public on development issues, welfare measures and citizen-centric public service delivery using social media.

Among others who attended the workshop included Electronics & Information Technology Minister Chandra Sarathi Behera, Chief Secretary A. P. Padhi, Development Commissioner R. Balakrishnan and Nitin Sajula of Facebook.

# Major rivers in spate in Odisha

Flood waters inundate several blocks in Bhadrak, Jajpur

Dasarathpur and Korei of Jajpur districts.

Meanwhile, the rise in water level of the Subarnarekha river at Rajghat triggered a flood-like situation in five gram panchayats of Baliahal block in Balasore district.

The authorities in Keonjhar also have stepped up their preparedness for rescue-and-relief operations, said officials. The situation in Balasore district was also being monitored, they added.

The water was flowing above the danger level in Burhabalang and Jalaka rivers too.

(With inputs from PTI)



A damaged bridge on the Nagavali river in Rayagada district. ■ FILE PHOTO

block, while the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force team has been stationed at Dhamnagar.

A similar situation has been noticed in Jajpur,

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH



Sankara Nethralaya expresses its deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the passing away of

**Recipient of Padma Bhushan and Norman Borlaug's award (The World Food Prize)**

### Dr. B.R. Barwale

on the 24th of July 2017

A pioneering agriculturist, visionary, freedom fighter and founder of the Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co Ltd and Shri Ganapati Netralaya.

Shri Barwale was among Sankara Nethralaya's greatest well-wisher and served as a member of its board.

**We pray for the noble soul to rest in peace**

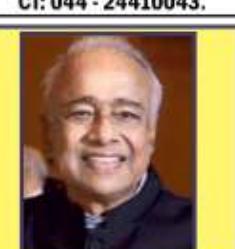
**Medical Research Foundation, Chennai**  
Ph. No. 044 2827 1616  
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### DEATH

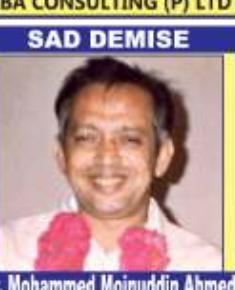


Prof. Dr. T. Jagathrakshan, (59) NITTTR/Narada Gana Sabha, attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Dashashu on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at T-8, NITTTR Staff Quarters, Gandhimandapam Road, Ch-25. CT: 044 - 24410043.



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Surrounded by family. He leaves a huge gap in our lives and will be dearly missed.  
Mourned by his loving family.

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DOD - 23/07/17

On 26.07.17 b/w 3-4 PM at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Patel Nagar, Opp. Satyam Cinemplex, Nr. Shadipur Metro Station

With profound grief we deeply regret to inform sad demise of Sh Jagdish Chander Khurana, Advocate, Supreme Court of India & Retd. Professor, Indian Law Institute.

In grief Khurana, Ahuja, Madan family  
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### DEATH

SMT. SUSEELA Kannan W/O Late N.S.Kannan passed away on 21/07/2017. Deeply Missed by Family & Friends. Contact no. 75502 65423

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1.Neeli Rav and another ... Claimants

... Vs

1. Mohd. Harun and 3 others ... Respondents

Notice

R1, Mohd. Harun S/o. Yakub, Owner of the Lorry bearing No.MP-09-HG-7427, residing at 23-T.P Nagar, Indore, M.P.

Please take notice that the above claimants filed M.V.O.P. Case against you and your insurance Company for compensation. The Case is posted to 07.08.2017 for your appearance you are required to appear before the Honble Tribunal on 07.08.2017 at 10.30 AM either in person or an Advocate, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

D.Ramesh, B.A., B.L., Advocate for the Claimants, Nellore.

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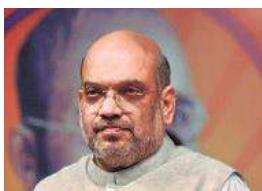
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INTERVIEW

34 38 59 75 ... 8 Selections in top 10

IN BRIEF



Amit Shah to visit

Lucknow on July 29

LUCKNOW

BJP national president Amit Shah will be on a three-day visit to Lucknow from July 29 to July 31. During his stay, he will meet party workers and ministers, said UP BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi. PTI

Retired IAS officer hurt in parking clash

ALIGARH

A retired IAS officer was injured after a clash with a police constable over car parking, the police said on Tuesday. Tulsi Gaur parked his car on Monday night outside an ATM near the PAC headquarters in the Kwasri police station area here. After a constable asked him to move his vehicle, an argument ensued between the two. In the blows exchanged, Gaur was severely injured, police said. PTI

Jail official dismissed for rude behaviour

PATNA

The Bihar Prisons Department on Tuesday dismissed an assistant jail superintendent from service for alleged rude behaviour with superiors and nexus with inmates. Director General of Prisons Anand Kishore announced in a statement here dismissal of assistant jail superintendent Sudhir Kumar. PTI

BSF seizes 2 kg of heroin along border

AMRITSAR

The Border Security Force has seized two kilograms of heroin in the area of responsibility of border outpost (BOP) Chhamulla in Amritsar sector, an official said on Tuesday. PTI

# Assembly session crucial for Bihar's grand alliance

JD(U), RJD call meeting of their legislators today to chalk out strategy

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA

With the monsoon session of the Bihar Assembly scheduled to begin on Friday, the next 48 hours would be crucial for the fate of ruling grand alliance in the State. Amid the continuing stand-off between the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Janata Dal (United), both parties have called meetings of their legislators on Wednesday to chalk out their strategy. The opposition BJP has declared that it would not allow the House to run over the issue of corruption charges made against Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Yadav.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy CM Tejaswi Yadav and senior state BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi were in New Delhi and it was expected that Mr Kumar would take a final de-



All smiles: Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar and party member K.C. Tyagi leave after attending the swearing-in ceremony of President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ PTI

cision on the simmering issue. Mr. Kumar is said to have had a very short meeting with Congress president Sonia Gandhi in the corridors of Parliament but it was not known what transpired between the two. Tejaswi Yadav met Ms. Gandhi

on Monday, said party sources, to explain his position.

Meanwhile, the JD(U) has forbidden its spokespersons from commenting on the issue of corruption charges against Tejaswi. Earlier, they had been attacking the RJD government.

and asking it to place facts in public domain. "Our party cannot compromise on corruption and has zero tolerance on the issue," was their refrain so far.

RJD leaders like Raghuwansh Prasad Singh and veteran socialist leader Shivanand Tiwari have urged Nitish Kumar to speak to RJD chief Lalu Prasad to sort out the differences. "Nitish Kumar is holding the steering of the alliance and we're sitting behind him...it is up to him to take a decision on how to drive the alliance ahead," said Raghuwansh Prasad Singh. Mr. Tiwari, a close aide of Lalu Prasad, said: "As a leader of the alliance, Nitish Kumar should take the lead and talk to Lalu Prasad...he should learn from A.B. Vajpayee, who had successfully run a bigger coalition government."

# CBI seeks information on Shimla gang rape-cum-murder case

Agency conducts second post-mortem on the body of accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
SHIMLA

The Central Bureau of Investigation has urged people to come forward and share any information regarding the gruesome rape and murder of a schoolgirl in Kotkhai village on July 6.

The agency has released two telephone helpline numbers and also requested information on SMS and WhatsApp.

On Tuesday, the CBI conducted a second post-mortem on the body of Suraj Kumar, an accused who was killed in police custody allegedly by another accused, Rajender alias Raju.

The first autopsy was conducted on July 19 by local doctors. The CBI has now brought its own forensic and post-mortem teams from Delhi. The doctors who conducted the autopsy on Tuesday were from AIIMS.

In another major development, the CBI has taken all the accused in its custody and started interrogations afresh. ■ FILE PHOTO



The CBI has taken all the accused in its custody and started interrogations afresh. ■ FILE PHOTO

the accused in its custody and started interrogations afresh.

The Himachal Pradesh police had taken six persons, who used to work in the orchards of local farmers, into custody. One of them, Suraj Kumar from Nepal, has died in custody.

The arrest of the labourers and not the accused whose photographs were initially released on the Facebook page of the Chief Minister himself had triggered violent protests all over the State leading to the demand for handing over the case to the CBI.

The alleged insensitive statements of the Chief Minister and his clean chit to the State police in the case had also fuelled protests in the State.

# STF to probe SI recruitment exam leak

Examination cancelled, new dates to be announced soon

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

Online examinations for recruitment of police sub-inspectors in Uttar Pradesh were cancelled on Tuesday after the question papers were allegedly leaked.

Director-General of Police Sulkhan Singh directed the Special Task Force to probe the lapse. The STF lodged an FIR at the cyber crime police station here under Section 66 of the Information Technology Act and relevant clauses of the UP Pariksha Adhiniyam or Examinations Act.

Expert teams have also

been instructed to assist the STF in the probe, a police spokesman said.

The UP Police Recruitment and Promotion Board (UPPRB) had scheduled online examinations for police recruitment from July 17 to July 31 across various centres of UP. However, on Monday night, several online users complained to the State government and the police that the papers were allegedly leaked on social media.

**Technical reasons'**  
Taking cognisance of the matter, an additional secretary of the UPPRB, which

conducts the tests, issued a statement late on Monday informing candidates that the exams scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday have been cancelled due to "unavoidable technical reasons" till further notice.

On Tuesday, the Board decided to cancel the entire process of recruitment, from July 17 to July 31, saying that reports of a leak had been brought to its notice.

"The entire recruitment test process has been cancelled to maintain the propriety, fairness and transparency of the examination," the Board said.

The Board said it would inform candidates about the re-scheduled examinations through SMS and email soon, while the admission letter would be available for download on the Board's website.

Anand Kumar, ADG Law and Order, said the system of the agency had been "compromised."

**'System hacked'**

"The Board informed us that the system of the agency, whose name we cannot disclose for confidential reasons, was reportedly hacked," Mr. Kumar said.

The Board said it would inform candidates about the re-scheduled examinations through SMS and email soon, while the admission letter would be available for download on the Board's website.

# Denied dowry, man chops off wife's nose

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHAHJAHANPUR

A man was booked for allegedly chopping off his wife's nose over non-payment of dowry in Lakhnau village of Hardoi district, the police said on Tuesday.

A case has been registered against five persons, including the husband.

**Fit of rage**  
Ranjit chopped off his wife's nose in a fit of rage when his in-laws failed to deliver a motorcycle and

a TV in dowry.

The couple was married for three years.

"Ranjit who was married to the victim, for almost three years, had been demanding a television and motorcycle from the woman's family. He often used to beat her," SP (City) Dinesh Tripathi said.

"The woman then came back to her native place, after which the police registered a case against five persons including her husband," he said.

# Child 'denied' treatment, dies in Baran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOTA

A nine-month-old sick tribal child, carried six km on the shoulders by his parents to a health centre, died allegedly after being denied medical treatment in the Shahbad area of Baran district, the family alleged.

Authorities, however, dismissed the allegations. They said the child was suffering from pneumonia and the parents were asked by a doctor to go to the emergency ward but they went home instead.

# + Mortal remains of 'Rajmata' consigned to flames

Amarinder's mother had passed away after a prolonged illness at her residence



Final journey: People taking part in the funeral procession of 'Rajmata' Mohinder Kaur, in Patiala on Tuesday. ■ PTI

brother Malwinder Singh and son Raninder Singh in lighting the pyre.

Besides the immediate family, the Chief Minister's

people had gathered at the Moti Bagh palace in the morning itself for a last glimpse (antim darshan) of their beloved 'Rajmata'.

Among those who paid their respects were Punjab Governor V.P. Singh Badnore, Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Speaker Punjab Assembly Rana K.P. Singh, Deputy Speaker Ajaib Singh Bhatti, Cabinet ministers Brahm Mohindra, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Santokh Chaudhary, MP, form CM Rajinder Kaur Bhattal and PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar.

Teachers from the Jaipur-based Quantum Career Academy are training the women in jewellery making, paper-mache and other trades related to arts and crafts. Some women are receiving training to become beauticians and

# Jaipur's women jail inmates turn to craft

Some got placements after their release

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Women inmates of the Central Jail here are turning into artisans, thanks to the support provided by the Rajasthan government's Department of Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship (SEE) to the skill development programmes run by livelihood institutions.

Some of the women have been able to secure quality placements after being released from prison.

The scheme is part of the skill training programme run by the SEE Department to cover the "untouched segments" of society, State SEE Commissioner Krishna Kunal said on Tuesday. Similar training is being provided to the jail's male inmates as well, he added.

Teachers from the Jaipur-based Quantum Career Academy are training the women in jewellery making, paper-mache and other trades related to arts and crafts. Some women are receiving training to become beauticians and

fashion designers.

"A woman inmate secure a job after her release recently and is earning ₹6,000 per month," said Shipra Bhutani, the academy's chief executive officer.

**Nursery management**

Male inmates are provided training in nursery management, vermicompost, agriculture and traditional crafts. The programme has benefited over 400 inmates, of whom 85% have been released from the prison so far.

Mr. Kunal said that the training is specifically targeted towards inmates who have six months or less to serve in jail.

"The inmates are also provided counselling to help them face society with confidence and lead a good life," he added.

The Department has partnered with Prayas Juvenile Aid Society, Sarthak Educational Trust, Dhara Foundation and Vidyas Kiran Education Society for conducting a series of such programmes.

# Himachal offers DSP post to woman cricketer

Sushma Verma is the first-ever cricketer from the hill State to have represented India



Sushma Verma for a career in sports after the then president of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA), Anurag Thakur, announced an academy for women

cricketers in Dharamsala in 2009.

Winning laurels An Adam Gilchrist fan, the wicket-keeper trained under Pawan Sen of the HPCA. Ms. Verma went on to captain the academy's under-19 team that emerged as the runners-up in the All-India Women's Tournament in 2011.

Thereafter, she started playing for the Railways due to fewer opportunities in domestic cricket. Some of the key players that she trained with were Mithali Raj and Punam Raut.

As a child, Ms. Verma would also play volleyball and handball.

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# 116 candidates empanelled for 36 depts in AIIMS-Bhopal

cial statement.

It said the addition empanelment is expected to give a big boost to the health care services at the All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal.

"It would be possible to add soon health care services in 14 new speciality departments as against existing 22 departments functional today," the statement said. The recruitment for another five departments is also in advance stage.

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## Corporate communications at the watercooler

It's sometimes necessary to look beyond formal channels to get information that is closer to the truth

MUKUND MENON

Once a new employee going through a formal induction, which included introductions to colleagues in the floor, was getting a picture that extremely welcoming and warm. It was very difficult to believe this could be the actual scene.

Being a little experienced, she took the initiative and called a colleague for coffee at the office pantry. They sat down, shared pleasantries and went on to talk about the office and company as a whole. She got a whole different perspective from what she heard in her induction and introductions.

She believed the story from her colleague and felt this was a trusted source of information. It made her go to the watercooler and pantry more and more and she would get more authentic information and gossip that had a fair amount of truth in it. As it gave her a close-to-real picture and an opportunity to validate the real story, her trust in that channel grew. The communication network in an organisation

works beyond the formal channels and flows beyond what has been set in a structured fashion.

### Authenticity

For any communication to be useful, it has to have these elements. One, authenticity. Authenticity is the spice of any form of effective communication. People want to know how real the communication is – and this can be achieved only through authenticity.

### Variety

In these times, the profile of the employees shapes the style of communication, considerably. From baby boomers to millennials, organisations today have many categories of employees. So, the mode, content and speed of communication should be changed keeping the category in mind. A baby boomer once complained that a millennial sends only messages on instant messenger to ask if he was free for a meeting while he sat across the desk. He expected the millennial to walk up to him and ask for the meeting or send a calendar request for the same. The baby boomer felt it was disrespectful. So, one day, he

walked up to the millennial why he couldn't walk across and ask for the meeting.

While asking this question, the baby boomer's eyes chanced upon the millennial's system, where he was working on three issues parallelly. The baby boomer was amazed and realised that unlike him who attends to only one issue at a time and follows a structured, and almost rigid process, here was someone who could multitask largely due to a mastery over technology.

We have to realise we have moved from hard-copy to digital communication. Now, quite a number of apps and tools are available for communicating and sharing information on time and effectively. It is a question of how savvy we are in communicating digitally and how much the company has moved into this space. However, communication in person is still extremely powerful, as it helps people understand the message better through the tone and body language.

(Mukund Menon is Director – HR & Communications at International Paper India.)



Sometimes, authentic information about the direction in which a company is headed can be gathered at the watercooler or cafeteria. PHOTO USED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

## GENERAL



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● Senior Manager (Product Specialist)  
● Vice President (Complaints Management)

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**Online registration of application and payment of fee** : 25.07.2017 to 10.08.2017

**Last date of receipt of print-out of online application alongwith enclosures** : 21.08.2017

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General Manager  
CRPD, Mumbai

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1. Applications are invited for recruitment to following posts in the Reserve Bank of India.

Sl. No.	Post	Vacancies
1.	Recruitment on contract basis of Legal Consultants: i. Legal Consultants in Grade 'E' (Legal Advisor); ii. Legal Consultants in Grade 'C'/'D' (Assistant/Deputy Legal Advisor)	02 03
2.	Communication Cadre: i. Director – Communication in Grade 'E' ii. Officer in Grade 'B' – Communication	01 01
3.	PhDs in Grade 'B' for Research Positions	03

2. For all other details such as eligibility criteria, reservation of vacancies, scheme of selection, submission of on-line application and other instructions, please refer to the detailed advertisement to be published on the Bank's website ([www.rbi.org.in](http://www.rbi.org.in)) on 24.7.2017. Candidates can apply for these posts only by online mode through the Bank's website.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Website Link Open - for online Registration of Applications and Payment of Fees/ Intimation Charges	24 July, 2017
Last date for receipt of online applications with prescribed fee.	11 August, 2017

NOTE: Corrigendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement, will be published only on the Bank's website.

iHindi version of this advertisement will be available in Navabharat Times, Dainik Jagran and Nai Duniya

Activity	Tentative Dates
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application & Payment of Application Fees / Intimation Charges	24.07.2017 to 14.08.2017
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training for Officer Scale-I	28.08.2017 to 03.09.2017
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training for Office Assistant	04.09.2017 to 09.09.2017
Online Examination – Preliminary	Officer Scale-I - 09.09.2017, 10.09.2017 & 16.09.2017 (if required) Office Assistant- 17, 23 & 24.09.2017 (if required)

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Candidates, intending to apply for CRP RRBs – VI should ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated date as specified in the detailed notification issued by IBPS.

Activity	Tentative Dates
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application & Payment of Application Fees / Intimation Charges	24.07.2017 to 14.08.2017
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training for Officer Scale-I	28.08.2017 to 03.09.2017
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training for Office Assistant	04.09.2017 to 09.09.2017
Online Examination – Preliminary	Officer Scale-I - 09.09.2017, 10.09.2017 & 16.09.2017 (if required) Office Assistant- 17, 23 & 24.09.2017 (if required)
Result of Online exam – Preliminary	Officer Scale-I – October 2017
Online Examination – Main/Single	Officers (I, II & III) – 05.11.2017 Office Assistant - 12.11.2017

Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website [www.ibps.in](http://www.ibps.in) for details and updates.

Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai Date: 22.07.2017 Director, IBPS

Director, IBPS Date: 22.07.2017

Director, IBPS Date:

IN BRIEF



Police given Vincent's custody till today

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM A magistrate court here on Tuesday granted police the custody of Congress legislator M. Vincent, who was arrested last week on the suspicion of having repeatedly raped a 51-year-old woman, and consequently prompted her to attempt suicide. The MLA's custody period ends at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

**Row over discharge of Cauvery water to T.N.**

MANDYA Widespread protests were staged in Mandya district on Tuesday to condemn the Karnataka government's decision to increase the quantity of Cauvery water being discharged to Tamil Nadu. Water was being discharged at the rate of around 2,000 cusecs till Sunday. It was increased to 4,014 cusecs on Tuesday.

## BJP leader held for abduction bid in Kerala, suspended from party

STAFF REPORTER

MALAPPURAM

The police arrested seven persons, including a Bharatiya Janata Party national leader, for trying to allegedly abduct an NRIs businessman at Kodur, near here, on Tuesday.

BJP Minority Morcha secretary Aslam Gurukkal was arrested along with his gunman and five others when they tried to forcibly enter the house of philanthropist and NRIs businessman K.T. Rabeeullah. The police recovered two guns from the seven-member gang that came from Mangaluru.

**'Have been framed'**  
The judicial first class magistrate court here remanded

## Kapu leaders firm on padayatra, say villagers being terrorised

A.P. police deny permission, brace themselves for showdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA

A curfew-like situation prevails in Kirlampudi in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, the native place of Kapu leader Mudragada Padmanabham.

While he looks determined to begin his "Chalo Amaravati" padayatra on Wednesday, demanding reservation for Kapus in government jobs, the police are all set to foil his attempt after denying him permission.

A showdown looks imminent between Mr. Padmanabham's supporters and the police, as the former have also given a call to "lay siege to every police station" en route the padayatra from Kirlampudi to Amaravati.

Sending a strong message to the Kapu leader's supporters, Andhra Pradesh Director-General of Police N. Sambasiva Rao said on Tues-



Taking no chances: Rapid Action Force conducting march past in Kirlampudi village on Tuesday. ■ S. RAMBABU

day that the police would act tough as nobody had sought permission for the padayatra. Nor was the police prepared to give it in the light of last year's arson at Tuni railway station.

A company of Rapid Action Force and Armed Reserve Police on Tuesday conducted a march past in Kirlampudi village.

Kapu Joint Action Committee leaders alleged that

the police were terrorising villagers with heavy deployment.

### Govt. writes to panel

Meanwhile, in an attempt to mollify the Kapus, the State government wrote to the Manjunath Commission, which is studying the inclusion of Kapus into notified Backward Classes list among others, requesting it to expedite the process.

## Woman officer to be present during Charmee's questioning

Actor had moved High Court seeking protection during SIT probe in drugs case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

In compliance with the Hyderabad High Court direction, the Telangana Prohibition and Excise (P&E) department will ensure that a woman officer is part of its Special Investigation Team (SIT) that examines actor Charmee Kaur in the narcotic drugs case on Wednesday.

Ms. Kaur, who was among the 12 Telugu film industry persons to have received notice in the drugs case, filed a writ petition in the High Court two days ago, seeking protective measures during her interrogation.

### 'No' to lawyer

While the actor pleaded that she be questioned in the presence of her lawyer, the High Court ruled that there was no need for a lawyer



Marking attendance: Art director M. Dharma Rao arrives for questioning in Hyderabad on Tuesday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

since she was not cited as an accused in the case.

As per the court direction, the actor should be questioned from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

She is the first actress from the Telugu film industry to be questioned in a drugs case. Out of the 12 from Tollywood who were served summons, six, including dir-

ector Puri Jagannadh, have been examined by the SIT.

Anticipating a huge crowd on Wednesday at the P&E office in Nampally (where SIT officials are examining people in the case) to see the actor, the city police are deploying additional personnel for security.

Altercations between me-

dia persons and the security personnel were witnessed when Mr. Jagannadh, accompanied by some persons, came to the office on July 19.

### Art director quizzed

Meanwhile, art director M. Dharma Rao alias Chinna was grilled for over three hours on Tuesday. Along with Chinna, SIT sleuths questioned three others – Sourabh Banothu, Akula Rithikesh and Ankith Agarwal – at their office.

The officials have decided to take into custody Puttkar Ronson Joseph, manager of film actor Kajal Agarwal, from judicial remand to question him further.

Investigators had seized narcotic drugs from his possession. They are hoping to get more details on the drugs case through his interrogation.

## Kavya Madhavan questioned in woman actor assault case

Court extends Dileep's remand, Sunil Kumar moves bail plea

STAFF REPORTER

KOCHI

The Special Investigation Team on Tuesday questioned actor Kavya Madhavan, wife of actor Dileep, in connection with the abduction and sexual abuse of a woman actor in Kochi. According to officials, the interrogation was held at the ancestral house of actor Dileep in Aluva.



Kavya Madhavan

mand period ended on Tuesday.

While considering the remand application, the court asked Dileep whether he had any complaints against the jail authorities. The actor replied in the negative.

The court also considered the bail application moved by Sunil Kumar, aka 'Pulsar' Suni, key accused in the case. Counsel for the accused requested the court to provide the statement by the victim for the purpose of verification.

The prosecution strongly objected to this and argued that no confidential documents should be given to the accused. If needed, the defendant could be allowed to browse through the statement on the court premises, it argued.

The argument of Sunil Kumar's counsel will continue on Wednesday.

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## राजनीति विज्ञान

(वैकल्पिक विषय)

31 JULY 2017  
3:00PM-5:30PM

By वी.के. त्रिपाठी

303, TOP FLOOR, SATIHA HOUSE, MUKHERJEE NAGAR, DELHI

9999421659-58

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IAS (LAW) 30 July 5:30PM

JUDICIAL CPC 21 Aug. 5PM

IAS LAW MAINS TEST SERIES 30 JULY 10 PM

8800662140, 011- 49841810

17 Aug. 9:30 AM

JUDICIAL (FOUNDATION) at Mukherjee Nagar 8800660301, 011- 47532639

JUDICIAL (WEEKEND) 30 JULY 9:30 AM

CLAT (FOUNDATION) 26 JULY 4 PM

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Meeting Time: Strictly Between 3-6 PM in the Office only by Appointment.

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### ETHICS NEW BATCH SOON

### CASE STUDY WORKSHOP

31<sup>st</sup> July, 1 pm

GaMa IAS Classes

# MeT warns of more rain in flood-hit Gujarat

PM conducts aerial survey even as hundreds of villages in the State remain cut off; around 2,500 stranded people rescued

MAHESH LANGA  
AHMEDABAD

With the flood situation in Gujarat remaining grim with incessant rain, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday rushed here to review the situation and conduct an aerial survey of the flood-hit districts in north Gujarat.

More than 30,000 people have been relocated from low-lying areas while around 2,500 people stranded in flood waters were rescued by various agencies such as the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Air Force, Army, BSF and the SDRF while thousands of people still remain stranded in the region.

The meteorological department has issued warning of extremely heavy rains in pockets in North Gujarat, which would hamper the rescue operations if rains continue.

#### All schools closed

The district administrations in Gandhinagar, Banaskantha, Patan, Sabarkantha and Aravali have directed all schools and educational institutes to remain closed on Wednesday in view of the weather department's warning for more rain.

After conducting an aerial survey, Mr Modi announced a ₹500 crore relief package for immediate assistance to the state and added that central government teams would visit the state to assess the damage in rural and urban areas.

The PM also announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each to those who died in rain-related incidents.

#### Roads washed away

Hundreds of villages in Patan, Banaskantha and Sabarkantha continue to be cut off, making rescue operations possible only through boats or air lifting through choppers.



**Great escape:** A man being evacuated by Indian Air Force personnel in flooded Sabarkatha district of Gujarat on Tuesday. ■

Most of the roads, including national and state highways passing through the region, have been washed away and are inundated while rail tracks have also been damaged, forcing the Railways authorities to cancel several trains, including the Ahmedabad-Delhi Rajdhani Express.

#### Food packets

The Army rescued over 200 people from various locations using Indian Air Force (IAF) Mi-17 choppers. Besides rescuing people stranded in flood waters, the choppers also distributed food packets.

According to Principal Secretary (Revenue) Pankaj Kumar, more than 2 lakh food packets have been sent to Banaskantha, the worst hit district, for distribution.

## 3 Rajasthan districts badly hit

Mount Abu again gets 730 mm of rain, two dams overflowing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Heavy rain continued to lash south-western Rajasthan on Tuesday, creating flood-like situation in Jalore, Sirohi and Pali districts, where rescue operations were being conducted to save people from inundated areas.

Villages and towns in the three districts battling incessant rain have been cut off from other parts of the State.

Mount Abu, the State's lone hill station, once again received 730 mm of rainfall and its two dams and the famous Nakki Lake were



Rescue operation in Rajasthan's Pali district on Tuesday. ■ PTI

overflowing.

The low-lying areas in the three districts were submerged and the people stranded on rooftops of buildings and on trees were

being evacuated.

State Disaster Relief Minister Gulab Chand Kataria said Jalore district was the "worst affected" in the current spell of rain.

## 5 die as rain lashes Bengal

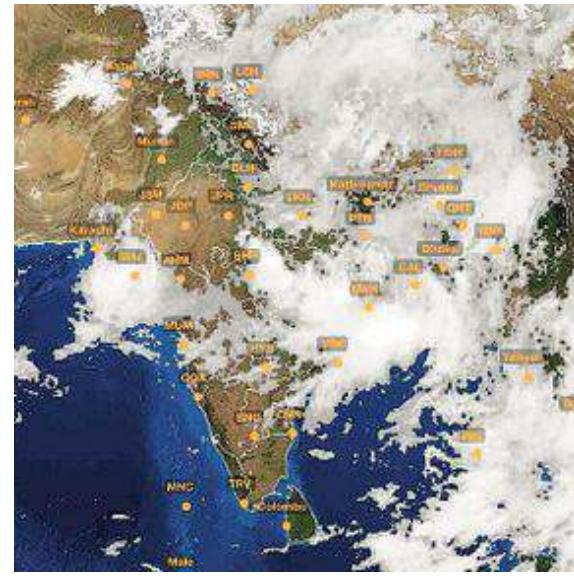
STAFF REPORTER  
KOLKATA

Incessant rain and subsequent floods claimed five lives in Kolkata and its adjoining districts on Tuesday. While two persons died when an old dilapidated two-storey building collapsed at Taltala in central Kolkata, three others died in south Bengal.

According to the Kolkata police, parts of the old building collapsed around 12.25 p.m. "Around 4.25 p.m., the bodies of two persons, Himadri Pahar (38) and Hansa Shaw (20), were extricated from the debris," a statement by the Kolkata police 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 Wednesday:** Heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places likely over Gujarat, east Rajasthan, Saurashtra & Kutch, east Uttar Pradesh, west Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	30.9...	29.0...	24.5	Kozhikode	13.4...	32.0...	24.8
Ahmedabad	40...	28.0...	23.7	Kurnool	0.3...	36.1...	25.5
Aizawl	15...	26.2...	10.8	Lucknow	13.5...	31.5...	25.5
Allahabad	28...	31.3...	25.4	Madurai	—...	41.8...	27.8
Bengaluru	—...	30.5...	20.5	Mangaluru	1...	31.2...	24.5
Bhopal	3.5...	26.9...	23.0	Mumbai	5...	30.4...	24.8
Bhubaneswar	0.1...	32.3...	26.9	Myssuru	—...	30.0...	19.6
Chandigarh	—...	32.0...	27.9	New Delhi	3.3...	26.6...	26.6
Chennai	—...	37.7...	29.4	Patna	7.2...	29.6...	25.6
Coimbatore	—...	33.6...	23.4	Port Blair	8.3...	30.6...	25.8
Dehradun	28.3...	30.0...	24.7	Puducherry	—...	39.3...	27.2
Gangtok	21.8...	19.3...	18.2	Pune	4.6...	28.2...	21.5
Goa	5.9...	31.4...	26.0	Raipur	—...	31.0...	24.6
Guwahati	0.7...	33.6...	25.6	Ranchi	70.8...	24.4...	20.5
Hubballi	—...	27.0...	22.0	Shillong	8.1...	22.3...	15.7
Hyderabad	—...	33.6...	23.3	Shimla	4.2...	22.3...	16.6
Imphal	—...	30.3...	21.6	Srinagar	—...	30.9...	19.9
Jaipur	3...	29.0...	21.9	Trivandrum	—...	33.6...	25.2
Kochi	2...	33.7...	24.2	Tiruchirappalli	—...	40.6...	28.0
Kohima	2...	29.4...	18.4	Vijayawada	2.2...	35.4...	27.0
Kolkata	28.3...	29.7...	25.1	Visakhapatnam	—...	33.0...	27.8

**Particulate matter in the air you are breathing Yesterday**

CITIES	SO2 NO2 CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	—...	—...
Bengaluru	0...	48...
Chennai	6...	16...
Delhi	13...	24...
Hyderabad	40...	26...
Kolkata	18...	49...
Lucknow	9...	44...
Mumbai	7...	20...
Pune	15...	28...
Vishakhapatnam	22...	12...

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Amritsar, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 186, indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Joropokhara, Jharkhand recorded a healthy AQI score of 18.

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.

**NO2:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

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

<b>NORTHERN RAILWAY</b>	
<b>TENDER NOTICE</b>	
<p>SRDEN/C/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tender Notice closing date <b>29.08.17 at 16:00</b>. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on iREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.</p>	
Tender No. 126-DRM-MB-17-1B dt. 21.07.17	127A-DRM-MB-17-1B dt. 21.07.17
Name Miscellaneous works in connection with Manual deep screening of turnout/plain track under SSE/P/Way/MB under ADEN/HQ/CMB.	
Tender Closing Date	29.08.17
Tender Closing Time	16:00 hrs.
Advertised Value (Rs.)	9082306.98
Earnest Money (Rs.)	181850.00
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	5000.00
Period of Completion	09 Months
Bidding Start Date	15.08.17
Tender No.: 75W/2/3/WA/DEN/HQ/T. Notice Dt. 21.07.17 2252/17	
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THE HINDU	

<b>Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd</b>													
(CIN:U40108JH2013SGC001702)													
Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004													
Fax: 0651-2400799													
TENDER NOTICE													
<p>Online tenders in prescribed tender form for engagement of an Agency for execution NON IT Infra work of SCADA Control Centre for Ranchi, Dhanbad &amp; Jamshedpur town of following are invited from prospective bidders by the dates indicated below. The Bid Seals (Hashes) will be received online on the portal <a href="http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> till date &amp; time as indicated in the key date table below. The Tenders will be opened online. If desired, the authorized signatory of the bidder or his duly authorized representative may remain present at the time of opening of tender.</p>													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>NIT No.</th> <th>Particulars</th> <th>Tender fee (In Rs.)</th> <th>Date of Pre-Bid Conference</th> <th>Last date of online purchase of tender</th> <th>Date of opening of tender</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>124/TPR/IBVN/17-18</td> <td>Design, Site preparation, Supply, Installation, Maintenance and Operations of Physical Infrastructure and Systems for the SCADA Master Control Facilities including AMC under SCADA Part-A for three towns Ranchi, Dhanbad &amp; Jamshedpur</td> <td>Rs. 10,000/-</td> <td>Date at Time Hrs. 31-07-17</td> <td>Date at Time Hrs. 15-08-17</td> <td>Date at Time Hrs. 18-08-07</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		NIT No.	Particulars	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Last date of online purchase of tender	Date of opening of tender	124/TPR/IBVN/17-18	Design, Site preparation, Supply, Installation, Maintenance and Operations of Physical Infrastructure and Systems for the SCADA Master Control Facilities including AMC under SCADA Part-A for three towns Ranchi, Dhanbad & Jamshedpur	Rs. 10,000/-	Date at Time Hrs. 31-07-17	Date at Time Hrs. 15-08-17	Date at Time Hrs. 18-08-07
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The complete tender would be available on website stated above from [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in). Tender documents can be downloaded only online from <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Tender documents can be purchased online from Hrs. 01-08-2017 and download only online from <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> upto 15-08-2017 till 17 Hrs. For purpose of the single Hard Copy submission and going into the details of Tender only, the tender may be downloaded from this website. For further information, contractors are requested to contact NIC. Following may be contacted in case of difficulty: Shri Arvind Kumar Mob. No.: 9431338312.

संसदीय बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड

प्राक्षिपिंग विभाग, राजधानी, झारखण्ड

प्राक्षिपिंग विभाग, राजधानी, झारखण्ड</

IN BRIEF



Heli-tourism comes to Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA  
The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department has signed an MoU with Mak Aero Space and Aviation Pvt. Ltd, Delhi, to promote heli-tourism. The initial services will be introduced in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati. The helicopter transport services will include joy rides, packages, heli-taxi services, packaging with wedding plans in Tirupati, aerial reconnaissance and disaster management. Initially, a six-seater helicopter (Bell 206 L4 / Bell 407) will be introduced.

Air India plane flies with landing gear out

MUMBAI  
Air India has de-sterred two women pilots as they forgot to retract the landing gear of a city-bound flight after take-off from Kolkata last week, according to airline officials. Faced with low fuel for the onward journey, the flight was diverted to Nagpur, where it made a safe landing. The incident involving the Kolkata-Mumbai flight that was carrying nearly 100 passengers happened on July 22. As the landing gear of the aircraft was not retracted, it resulted in increased fuel consumption. PTI

NCP MP arrested in extortion case

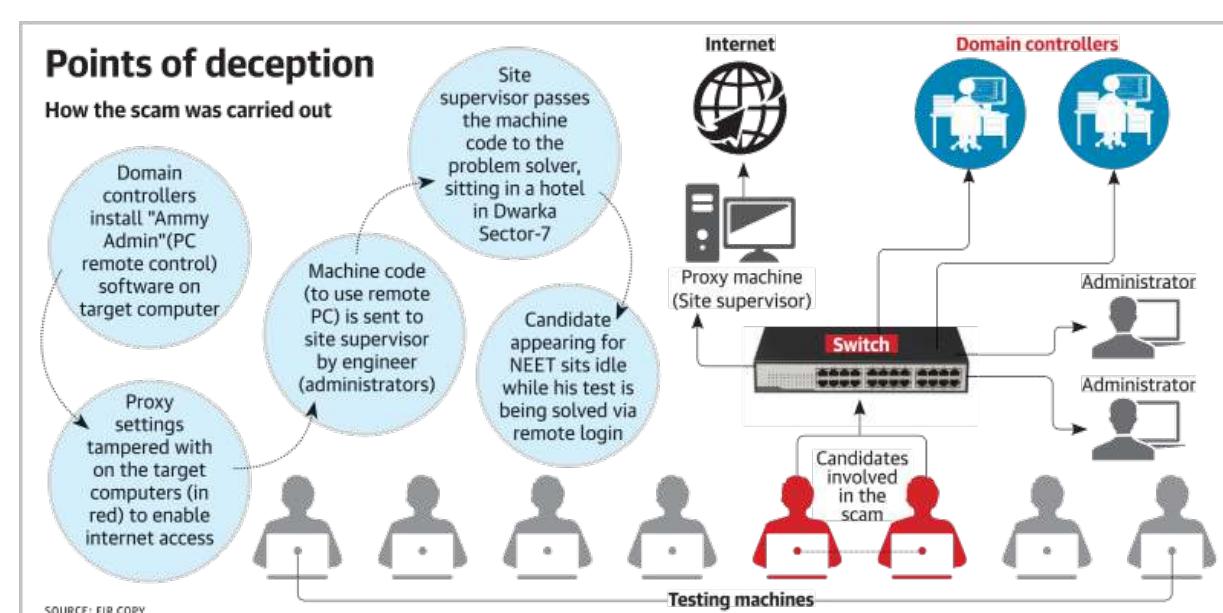
PUNE  
Amid high drama, Nationalist Congress Party MP from Satara Udayanraje Bhosale was arrested in Satara and remanded in 15-day judicial custody on Tuesday. The MP is embroiled in a case of extortion and assault, which occurred in February in Satara's Lonand Industrial Area situated in Khandala Taluk. He is a direct descendant of the Maratha warrior king Shivaji.

# Tampered computers gave NEET applicants a lifeline

Charge sheet against testing firm says candidates paid to get access to Internet, outside help

## Points of deception

How the scam was carried out



SOURCE: FIR COPY

VIDYA KRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI

The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police has filed a charge sheet in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Satish Kumar Arora here against officials of Prometric Testing Pvt Ltd, hired by the National Board of Examinations (NBE), to conduct the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) in November 2016 for admissions to post graduate medical courses.

Nearly one lakh students appeared for the PG entrance examination, competing for 35,117 post graduate seats across the country.

**Remote access given**

According to the charge sheet, accessed by *The Hindu*, computers at the examination centres managed by Prometric were compromised. In some cases, select computers were installed with a remote, screen sharing software, Ammy, allowing 'solvers' outside to select the

correct answers for the students.

In other instances, site supervisors, engineers and officials deployed by Prometric tampered with the security system and ensured that select candidates got access to the Internet by connecting

**Selection of staff for the exam seems to be compromised and security and sincerity of the exam was breached.**

remotely to another computer outside the examination hall, the police said.

The Crime Branch is investigating officials of Prometric and the National Board of Examinations (NBE). The charge sheet states that the involvement of "officials at the National Board of Examinations and Prometrics" cannot be ruled out.

Sources in the Crime Branch said a list of 500 stu-

dents has been prepared in a supplementary charge sheet.

Investigations revealed that the NBE contracted Prometric, which then sub-contracted the conducting of the tests to yet another company, CMS IT Services Pvt Ltd for engineering and support staff. CMS IT Services further contracted out the hiring of local vendors for staff at various examination centres.

"In this way, the selection of suitable staff for the exam seems to be compromised and the security and sincerity of the exam was breached," the charge sheet says.

According to the charge sheet, the aspirants paid between ₹2.5 to 3 lakh to access the Internet during the exam. In one centre in Chandigarh, the site supervisor, one Ankur Mishra (named in the charge sheet) and hired by CMS IT Services, left slips with answers for select candidates.

The NBE is also under investigation for hiring Prom-

teric, an American company, without inviting tenders from other companies. The Crime Branch says Prometric's staff reformatted the computers and destroyed evidence after the exam.

**Echoes of Vyapam**

Dr Anand Rai, whistle blower in the Madhya Pradesh medical entrance examination, better known as the Vyapam scam, and a complainant in the present case said, "The NBE handed over the contract to Prometric without inviting tenders. Prometric has admitted to formatting evidence on the computers [after the NEET], which should have been maintained for a minimum of five years. This is a gross violation of the Indian Evidence Act."

Soumitra Roy, Country Manager, Prometric India said the company was "not aware of any such development" adding, "We proactively continue to support the authorities in their investigation."

# GJM wants Tamang murder case shifted out of Kolkata

CBI plea for Gurung, others to be present in court rejected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

A city court on Tuesday turned down a plea from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking a non-bailable warrant against Gorkha Janmukti Morcha president Bimal Gurung and 21 others who did not appear in court for a hearing on framing of charges in the Madan Tamang murder case.

Chief Judge of City Session Court K.K. Kumai rejected the CBI petition and allowed the accused to record their statement under Section 317 of CrPC where the presence of the accused is not required.

From Bimal Gurung, senior GJM leaders Asha Gurung, Roshan Giri, Binay Tamang and Devendra



Madan Tamang

Sharma were among those absent. All India Gorkha League leader Madan Tamang was killed in Darjeeling in May 2010. Of the 54 accused in the case, four have died while two are absconding.

Of the 48 remaining accused, 26 were present in the court on Monday for framing of charges as per directions of the Calcutta High Court.

Pointing out that the charges in the case cannot be framed unless all accused are

present in the Court, CBI counsel Arun Bhagat had on Monday asked the Court to issue non-bailable warrants against Mr. Gurung and others.

Meanwhile, in another development, the GJM leadership has approached the Supreme Court seeking that the trial be shifted out of Kolkata. GJM general secretary Roshan Giri said the GJM leadership was unwilling to present itself at a court in Kolkata apprehending a threat to life.

The counsel for the GJM leaders said the police had followed the 26 accused to Gorkha Bhawan in Salt Lake where the police questioned some of them. The Judge sought a report from the Bidhannagar City Police.

# Edappadi meets PM over NEET

Part of efforts by T.N. to reach out to Centre on the issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

In continuation of his government's efforts to obtain an exemption for Tamil Nadu from the purview of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical admissions, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday.



**Pushing his case:** Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday.

from AIADMK Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, led by former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, called on the Prime Minister, seeking exemption for Tamil Nadu from NEET.

Amid pressure from opposition parties, State Ministers have been persistent in their efforts to reach out to Union Ministers over the issue. On Sunday, a delegation

and AIADMK MPs, called on AIADMK leader and vice-presidential candidate M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Both the Chief Minister and the Union Minister said they were delighted that the AIADMK would be extending its support to Mr. Naidu in the vice-presidential election.

**Calls on Venkaiah**

Later in the day, Mr. Palaniswami, along with Ministers

# Karnan's petition sent to new President

The plea, mailed to Rashtrapati Bhavan, seeks remission of his 6-month prison sentence

STAFF REPORTER  
KOLKATA

Former Calcutta High Court judge C.S. Karnan's petition to the new President, Ram Nath Kovind, seeking remission of his six-month prison sentence has been both e-mailed and sent by post to the Rashtrapati Bhavan by his legal team on Tuesday.

Justice Karnan is currently serving the prison sentence

awarded to him by the Supreme Court for contempt of court at the Presidency Jail in Kolkata. Earlier, Justice Karnan's legal team had said that so far they have not received any response. "We have also sent the petition by post today (Tuesday) to the President," said Mr. Philip.

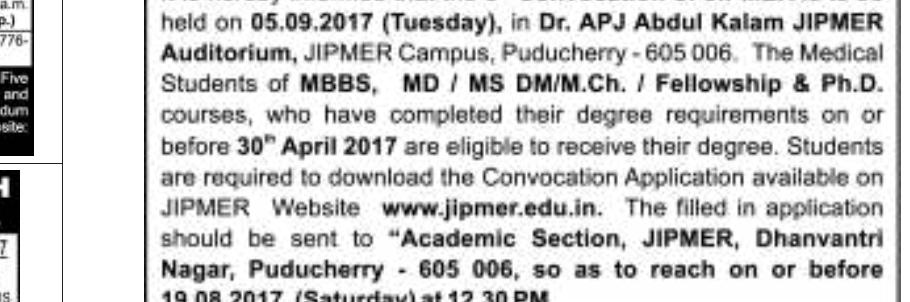
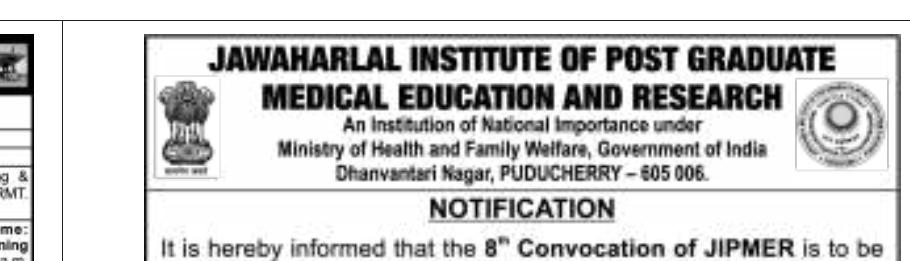
"We have e-mailed Justice Karnan's petition to the new President, to his Secretary, Additional Secretary and

Private Secretary at 11 a.m. today (Tuesday)," Justice Karnan's lawyer A.C. Philip told *The Hindu*. He also said that so far they have not received any response. "We will not be possible due to the swearing-in ceremony," said Mr. Philip.

However, Justice Karnan's lawyers were not able to meet the new President and submit the petition in person

on Tuesday due to the swearing-in ceremony. "We tried to get an appointment today (Tuesday) either with the President or with his secretary but were told by the Rashtrapati Bhavan that it will not be possible due to the swearing-in ceremony," said Mr. Philip.

However, Justice Karnan's lawyers were not able to get an appointment with Mr. Kovind soon.

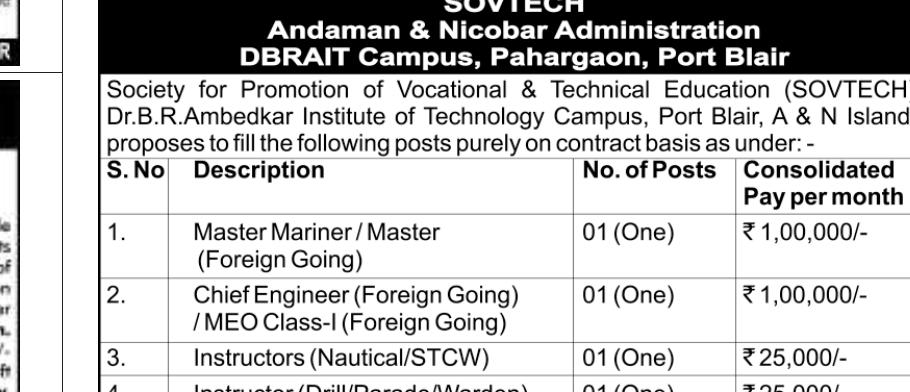


**NOTIFICATION**

It is hereby informed that the 8th Convocation of JIPMER is to be held on 05.09.2017 (Tuesday), in Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam JIPMER Auditorium, JIPMER Campus, Puducherry - 605 006. The Medical Students of MBBS, MD / MS DM/M.Ch. / Fellowship & Ph.D. courses, who have completed their degree requirements on or before 30th April 2017 are eligible to receive their degree. Students are required to download the Convocation Application available on JIPMER Website www.jipmer.edu.in. The filled in application should be sent to "Academic Section, JIPMER, Dhanvantri Nagar, Puducherry - 605 006, so as to reach on or before 19.08.2017 (Saturday) at 12.30 PM".

Place : Puducherry  
Date : 25.07.2017

**DEAN (Academic)**



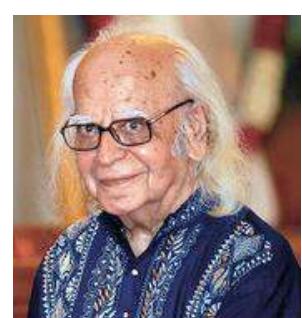
The above engagement is purely on contract basis on a consolidated pay (inclusive of all Taxes which will be TDS) respectively for the courses offered at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Paharagan, Port Blair. The details, eligibility criteria and application format can be downloaded from the website: https://andaman.gov.in and https://sovtech.andaman.gov.in. The interested eligible candidate may submit their application forms in the prescribed proforma to the Member Secretary, SOVTECH, BRAIT Campus, Paharagan, Port Blair-744103 so as to reach latest by 28/08/2017 at 4.00 PM. The application received after the due dates shall not be entertained / considered.

**Member Secretary**

**SOVTECH**

# Scientist, educationist Yash Pal dead

He became a household figure with the television programme "Turning Point"



Yash Pal

Pal, born in Jhang (in erstwhile undivided Punjab), had earned a doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Multiple portfolios**  
He began his career as a professor at the TIFR. He went on to hold several senior positions in government as Chief Consultant with the Planning Commission from 1983, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology from 1984 to 1986) and as chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for five years from 1986 to 1991.

A scientist of international repute, Pal was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1976 and India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan, in 2013.

He made significant contributions in the field of science and to the study of cosmic rays, high-energy physics, astrophysics.

**Reforms in education**  
In 1993 he led the MHRD panel on the issue of overburdening school children. The report of the committee, entitled *Learning without Burden*, remains a seminal document on Indian education.

He also chaired the NCERT's steering committee for the the National Curriculum Framework in 2005. As chairman of the UGC he chaired a committee to suggest reforms to higher education in India in 2009.

A well known science communicator, Pal brought galaxies and cosmic rays to living rooms across India via 'Turning Point', an extremely popular science show on Doordarshan.

from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai to develop remote-sensing technologies, disregarding suggestions that scientists be sent to the U.S. for training.

"Where did the Americans, who had launched their remote sensing satellite only a year back, send their people for training?" was his classic retort.

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**Reforms in education**  
In 1993 he led the MHRD panel on the issue of overburdening school children. The report of the committee, entitled *Learning without Burden*, remains a seminal document on Indian education.

He also chaired the NCERT's steering committee for the the National Curriculum Framework in 2005. As chairman of the UGC he chaired a committee to suggest reforms to higher education in India in 2009.

A well known science communicator, Pal brought galaxies and cosmic rays to living rooms across India via 'Turning Point', an extremely popular science show on Doordarshan.

whether such a sphere (diving 6,000 metres) needs to be made abroad.

Once it is lowered into the sea, the personnel in the sphere are guaranteed a challenging assignment of at least 8-10 hours. The pressurised sphere will have a diameter not exceeding 3.2 metres and "the crew of three"—the vehicle's pilot and the others making observations—will have to be prostrate, unable to sit or stand. The glass windows will allow them to observe and collect samples using robotic arms.

**ISRO helps out**

The submersible could cost around ₹450 crore, comparable to the Mars Orbiter Mission's cost. "We've had discussions with ISRO also because many aspects of the design are common to space missions. Like oxygen filtration," explained Mr. Shenoi.

Satheesh Shenoi, Director of the National Institute of Ocean Technology—the co-ordinating scientific body—said talks were on with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Tiruchi, to fabricate the submersible vehicle. "They are quite confident that they will be able to make a titanium sphere capable of a 500-metre dive," he said. "We hope to get clearance from the Union Cabinet by March and then another

CM YK



## A regional rejoinder

Too much emphasis on a Hindi-Hindi narrative puts the BJP at risk in Karnataka

**F**or the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party, new threats are opening old weaknesses. While the ruling Congress remains its principal opposition, the Hindu nationalist party is becoming the target of regional, linguistic and casteist groups that are resisting any assimilation into a wider, homogenous Hindu religious identity. Whether the issue is the adoption of a Karnataka State flag, the resistance to use of Hindi in public spaces, or the assertion of the Lingayat caste identity in opposition to a Hindu religious identity, it is the BJP that is feeling the heat more than the Congress. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah worked the flag issue to his own advantage, fanning regional sentiments, and painting the BJP as an overbearing nationalist party that gives no room for regional variations. Indeed, the Congress, which is desperate to reinvent itself to stay politically relevant, appears bent on occupying the political space of a regional party in Karnataka. The growing resentment against the use of Hindi in public spaces such as metro rail stations is now directed at the BJP-ruled Centre. The BJP's vote bank could now be torn asunder by the demand among sections of the Lingayat community for being considered a separate religious grouping. Its chief ministerial candidate, B.S. Yeddyurappa, relies heavily on the Lingayat vote bank, and any dent will tell on the winnability of the party. The Hindi-Hindi combination might work well for the BJP in the northern States, but in the south there is a risk of it turning out to be a big drag.

Of course, Mr. Siddaramaiah, under some pressure from the national leadership of his party, did not go the full distance on the flag issue, and instead referred it to a panel to decide on its legal sanctity. As a national party the Congress has its limitations in taking on the BJP in this manner, but at this point of time Mr. Siddaramaiah seems prepared to use any weapon in his battle to best the BJP. As a result, the Congress government has taken hold of the debate, pushing the BJP on the defensive. Viewing it as does all strains of subnationalism with suspicion as variants of anti-nationalism, the BJP seems to have conceded some ground on this issue. At the same time, the Congress cannot press the advantage beyond a point. The language issue is tied up with several other subjects relating to Karnataka's rights and its disputes with neighbouring States. Indeed, it is a mask for all sorts of socio-economic grievances and a ready mode of political mobilisation. As Karnataka prepares for an Assembly election next year, the BJP can only hope that struggles on the basis of regional, linguistic and caste identities do not coalesce into a movement that subverts its Hindu-Hindi platform. And with it the party's political fortunes.

## For a hygienic track

The CAG report on the railways should compel a quick upgrade of passenger services

**A**mong the most affordable transport systems in the world, India's railway network carries millions of people every day, linking the remotest destinations. Yet, in a fast-growing country with rising ambitions, the system is caught in a time warp, unable to scale up its services to global standards and hobbled by inefficient management. Although the rot in passenger services has been repeatedly identified, it has only grown worse. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on catering services for the year ended March 2016 provides further evidence that little has changed in the system: food unsuitable for human consumption, contaminated and recycled items, packaged articles past their use-by date, and unauthorised items are sold on trains, all endangering the health of passengers. Such gross violations are all the more glaring because the administration has instituted a mechanism to penalise agencies such as the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and invites passengers to file complaints. Evidently, instances such as a Rs.1 lakh fine levied on the IRCTC for the presence of a cockroach in food supplied on the Kolkata Rajdhani Express three years ago have not resulted in any significant reform. Nor has private sector participation in food supply provided a panacea for the problems linked to departmental catering. It is unlikely, therefore, that the recently unveiled catering policy will make a big difference unless the process of identifying caterers, fixing prices, and ensuring quality control is transparent and is monitored by external auditors. Independent oversight can potentially improve other aspects of service as well, such as the quality and maintenance of linen, which the CAG has found to be shockingly substandard.

The NDA government began its tenure with a focus on modernising India's creaking railways, and several major announcements have been made, including the setting up of a long-pending Rail Development Authority to recommend tariffs and set standards. In the area of passenger services, any reform has to contend with the 'open access' character of rail travel in the country, since coaches are open to unlicensed vendors who sell food, water and other goods. Given the need for employment, it would be pragmatic to broaden the network and enrol more local distributors of certified articles, while implementing the core idea of the IRCTC running modern base kitchens. Audit findings of contractors on railway premises overcharging users and selling packaged food items at prices inflated over the open market are serious, and require immediate resolution. The experience with different models of service on trains in India merits a comparison with France, where unhappy passengers on the popular, high-speed TGV trains wanted public sector catering back a few years ago. Now that the CAG has given an exhaustive critique, it is imperative that the Railway Ministry brings about a visible change through its proposed reforms.

# The crossroads at the Doklam plateau

India must calibrate both its message and military moves to keep Bhutan on track with the special bilateral ties



SUHASINI HAIDER

**T**here are many strings that tie Bhutan to India in a special and unique relationship, but none are as strong as the ones laid down on the ground: 1,500 km, to be precise, of roads that have been built by India across the Himalayan kingdom's most difficult mountain passes.

Since 1960, when Bhutan's King Jigme Wangchuk (the present King's grandfather) entrusted the then Prime Minister, Jigme Dorji, with modernising the country, that had previously stayed closed to the world, those roads built and maintained by the Indian Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Project Dantak have brought the countries together for more than one reason.

### A one-way street?

"All the new roads [they] proposed to construct were being aligned to run southwards towards India from the main centres of Bhutan. Not a single road was planned to be constructed to the Tibetan (Chinese) border," recounted one of independent India's pioneers in forging ties with Bhutan, Nari Rustomji, a bureaucrat who also served as the Dewan, or Prime Minister, of Sikkim from 1954 to 1959, in his book *Dragon Kingdom in Crisis*. When the Chinese presented a fork in the road, Rustomji said, "with feelings to bring Bhutan within the orbit of their influence", Bhutan stood firm in "maintaining an independent stand".

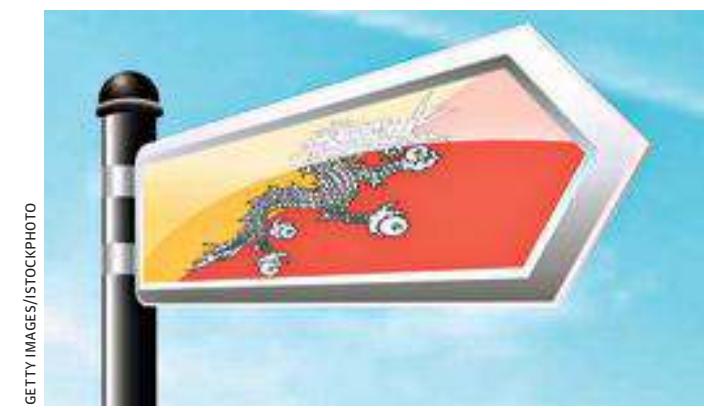
Just a few years later, during the India-China war of 1962, Bhutan showed its sympathies definitely lay with India, but it still wouldn't bargain on that independent stand: when Indian soldiers retreated from battle lines in Ar-

unachal Pradesh, they were given safe passage through eastern Bhutan, but on the condition that soldiers would deposit their rifles at the Trashigang Dzong armoury, and travel through Bhutan to India unarmed. (The rifles lie there till today.)

As India seeks to understand the Chinese government's intentions in the Doklam stand-off, it would be obvious and natural to see them in the context of deteriorating relations between New Delhi and Beijing for the past three years, or in terms of China's own global ambitions, and its need to show its Asian neighbours its muscular might. But any explanation that does not consider China's desire to draw space between India and Bhutan in the ongoing stand-off will be inadequate, and simplistic at best.

The first and most important clue to this is the area involved in the stand-off itself: the Doklam plateau is an area that China and Bhutan have long discussed, over 24 rounds of negotiations that began in 1984. In the early 1990s China is understood to have made Bhutan an offer that seemed attractive to the government in Thimphu: a "package deal" under which the Chinese agreed to renounce their claim over the 495-sq-km disputed land in the Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys to the north, in exchange for a smaller tract of disputed land measuring 269 sq. km, the Doklam plateau.

Several interlocutors have confirmed that the offer was repeated by China at every round, something Bhutan's King and government would relay to India as well. While India was able to convince Bhutan to defer a decision, things did change after India and Bhutan renegotiated their friendship treaty in 2007, and post-2008, when Bhutan's first elected Prime Minister Jigme Thinley began to look for a more independent foreign policy stance. Some time during this period, the PLA is under-



stood to have built the dirt track at Doklam that is at the centre of the current stand-off, including the "turning point", and the Bhutanese army appears not to have objected to it then.

During the next five years of his tenure, Mr. Thinley conducted more rounds of talks, including on the 'Doklam package', and even held a controversial meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (in Rio de Janeiro, 2012), suggesting that Bhutan was thinking of establishing consular relations with China, much to India's chagrin. During this time, Bhutan also increased the number of countries with which it had diplomatic relations from 22 to 53, and even ran an unsuccessful campaign for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

By 2013, India took matters in hand, and the Manmohan Singh government's decision to withdraw energy subsidies to Bhutan on the eve of its general elections that summer contributed to Jigme Thinley's shock defeat. When the new Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's government prepared his first round of boundary talks with Beijing a few months later, New Delhi took no chances. It dispatched both National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon and Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh to Thimphu to brief him. China, it would seem, realised it could no longer press the Doklam point, and

a year later even offered India the Nathu La pass route through Sikkim for Kailash Mansarovar yatra.

With the latest stand-off, that includes the cancellation of the Nathu La route, China appears to be back in the eastern great game that Bhutan has become, or an "egg between two rocks", as a senior Bhutanese commentator described it. India must also consider that the PLA road construction that brought Indian troops to Bhutanese territory may be what is known as a "forcing move" in chess. By triggering a situation where Indian soldiers occupy land that isn't India's for a prolonged period, Beijing may have actually planned to show up India's intentions in an unfavourable light to the people of Bhutan.

The government must see that Bhutan's sovereignty is no trivial matter, and avoid flippant comments as the one made by the Ministry of External Affairs last week, likening the question of whether Bhutan had sought the help of Indian troops at the tri-junction to "whether the ball came first... or the batsman had taken a stand before the ball was bowled". The question does matter to Bhutanese people, and although their government has put out a gag request to newspapers on the Doklam stand-off for now, blog posts and social media write-ups by respected commentators indicate there is much

disquiet over the idea that Indian and Chinese troops may occupy the plateau in a tense stalemate for months. It cannot have escaped South Block's notice that the only statement issued by the Bhutanese Foreign Ministry during this time makes no mention of a "distress call" to India, only of its demarche to China. Finally, New Delhi would do well to refrain from differentiating between political factions inside Bhutan, unlike what it has done in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and recognise that there is no "anti-India" faction in Bhutan, even if some are calling for the establishment of ties with China.

### In full view of neighbours

India must also be aware that other neighbours are watching the Doklam stand-off closely. It would be short-sighted not to recognise that Bhutan is at one tri-junction with India and China, but Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan too have tri-junctions (at least on the map) with both countries, and China's reference to "third country" presence in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is putting a spotlight on all of these. Bhutan is also the only country in the region that joined India in its boycott of Chinese President Xi Jinping's marquee project, the Belt and Road Initiative. In China's thinking, any reconsideration of Bhutan's unique ties with India, forged all those decades ago in asphalt and concrete, would be not only a prize, but possible payback.

While Indian commentary has focused on the Narendra Modi government's bilateral problems with Beijing, and India's larger problems with China's aggressive stance on the international stage, the truth is, this crisis is as much about the crossroads Bhutan finds itself at. India must calibrate both its message and its military moves in order to keep Bhutan on track with the special ties they share.

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## RESPONSE

# Context of the contest

The role of the President or the Vice President does not extend to articulating a national philosophy of India



SWAPNA DASGUPTA

**I**ndian democracy is both tumultuous and fractious. Yet there are moments when contested democracy gives way to broad agreement and the camaraderie of the political class. The election to the posts of President and Vice President is one such occasion.

On July 25, the newly elected President of India Ram Nath Kovind was sworn in at the Central Hall of Parliament. The function was attended by Members of Parliament cutting across party lines and Chief Ministers who represented different political persuasions. Earlier, last Sunday, a cross-section of MPs attended a touching farewell to outgoing President Pranab Mukherjee, a man associated with Indian parliamentary democracy since 1969.

Not all those who attended both functions had voted for either President Kovind or President Mukherjee. Apart from one occasion, no choice of President has been unanimous. Though the election of 1969

involving V.V. Giri and Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy was by far the most bitterly contested, most other contests have been symbolic. Unsuccessful candidates have included C.D. Deshmukh, H.R. Khanna, K. Subba Rao, Tridib Chaudhuri, Bhairon Singh Shekhwat and P.A. Sangma – all distinguished individuals who would have made copybook occupants of Rashtrapati Bhavan. However, the mere fact that the presidency was contested didn't either diminish the office or ensure unending controversy over the person of the Head of State. Regardless of the pre-history of the person who becomes the Rashtrapati, the respect and dignity of that office has always been maintained by all shades of political opinion. Apart from Giani Zail Singh, no President has ever been caught in the cross-currents of partisan politics.

The reason is obvious. The holder of a constitutional office such as the President or Vice President is not expected to be another battering ram on behalf of the Prime Minister and the ruling dispensation. The Head of State is, above all, expected to adhere to the letter of the Constitution. The only occasion the President can somewhat exercise his discretion is in selecting the Prime Minister in



the event of a fractured election verdict.

As for Vice President, his principal role is that of Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and, by implication, overseeing the function of Rajya Sabha TV. His discretionary powers are limited to showing a little extra indulgence towards some of the more volatile MPs and, perhaps, giving the Treasury benches a little elbow room.

**A misplaced debate**

In view of the defined roles for the President and Vice President, Peter Ronald deSouza's spirited in-

tervention ('The Vice President's Mien', The Hindu, July 24) comes as a surprise. He argues that the forthcoming election for Vice President is, in effect, a "battle between two ideas of what India aspired to be during its struggle for freedom and what India should be." He backs this up with the assertion that the values imbibed by individuals in a shakha of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are totally at variance with the tradition of ethics and dharma that underpinned the Gandhian traditions of the national movement, and projects the contest as a rerun of the contest between Mahatma Gandhi and V.D. Savarkar, between an individual nurtured in the shakha that "debilitate(s) the mind" and the "grandson of both Rajaji and Gandhiji."

Prof. deSouza's projection is a more erudite elaboration of former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar's claim of her contest with Mr. Kovind being a battle of ideologies. No doubt, he has grave misgivings of the larger political orientation of the Narendra Modi government. However, regardless of our individual characterisation of the government, I am baffled by Prof. deSouza's claim that this has a bearing on who the MPs choose as the Vice President of India.

The role of the President and Vice President has been rigidly defined by the Constitution. Fortunately, this role does not extend to articulating a national philosophy of India. If it did, the implications would be quite fearful. If, as Prof. deSouza contends, the battle is between noble and ignoble visions of what India stands for, does it imply that the latter would get short shrift under the Vice President of his choice? Given that the Modi government has a popular mandate until 2019, would the (unlikely) election of a Vice President blessed with both pedigree and dharma be the signal for a breakdown in relations between the Rajya Sabha Chairman and the government?

The debate that Prof. deSouza has sought to trigger has a place. However, that place is at the hustings of a general election. By injecting this debate into the election of a constitutional post, he is advocating a complete subversion of the democratic political system. A President or Vice President with an agenda of waging a righteous civil war against an elected government belongs in the realms of putschist politics, not democracy.

*The writer is a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### A man of many portfolios

Words are not enough to describe Pranab Mukherjee's rich contribution to the nation as a disciplined parliamentarian and an outstanding President ("And now for the memoirs," July 25). Through his tenure, bookended by the impassioned farewell speech, he stressed on protecting the secular fabric, the pluralism and tolerance of India. Mr. Mukherjee became the Finance Minister for the first time at a young age (he was 47) under Indira Gandhi and later handled various portfolios with dexterity. His tenure as Finance Minister in UPA will be particularly remembered. He was also an able crisis manager and guided the Congress party in times of difficulty.

JAYANT MUKHERJEE,  
Kolkata

■ As he walks out of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Mr. Mukherjee is likely to be remembered as a copybook President who followed the Constitution in letter and spirit while carrying out duties of the office. His term saw the country's dangerous flirtation with vigilantism and mob justice. Mr. Mukherjee, true to his political lineage and years of dealing with world leaders, rose to the occasion and spoke his mind, calling on Indians to safeguard the basic tenets of our democracy. He was a quintessential Congress politician who proudly called Indira Gandhi his mentor. Yet, during these last three years, he was able to maintain a reasonably good relationship with the Narendra Modi government. However, from time to time, he asserted the moral authority of his office. He spoke up, in a measured

tone when things seemed to be getting out of hand.

J.S. ACHARYA,  
Hyderabad

**Belligerence on Doklam**

The Indian government has shown rare prudence in choosing a diplomatic approach instead of giving in to China's aggression ("Don't harbour unrealistic illusions, China tells India," July 25). Statements like those made by China's Defence Ministry where the spokesperson asked India to "correct its mistake" clearly intend to push India to take an aggressive stance.

REMUS NORONHA,  
Bangalore

### Care for science

It is saddening to hear about the demise of U.R. Rao, a great technologist ("U.R. Rao, genial genius of ISRO," July 26). A great tribute to Rao and others who have enabled India's march ahead in science and technology (S&T) will be to communicate the importance of S&T in nation-building to the general public. Just like Dr. Rao throughout his career engaged in promoting S&T to high-school students and encouraged them to pursue careers in the field, efforts are needed in spreading the significance of science in national development. Technology will have a major role to play in 'Make in India' initiatives and the country needs a skilled S&T workforce for that. Media, government and industry should join hands in boosting enthusiasm in science among the younger generation. This will be a

good way to honour scientists like Rao.

SESHADRI RAMKUMAR,  
Lubbock, Texas

### Gender equality in cricket

It was not lack of talent but an inability to cope with pressure in the decisive moments of the Women's World Cup final that led to India's loss. However, there is much that the team can be proud of. It beat all the three ex-Champions – six-time winner Australia, three-time winner England and one-time winner New Zealand – en route to the final. Mithali Raj, the second-highest run-getter in the championship who also broke the record for most runs in ODIs, led by example. The team's greatest contribution is that it has raised the status of the women's cricket team to a level on par with the men's. If women cricketers get more opportunities to play Test cricket and have their own premium league, it will give a big momentum to the game.

Y.G. CHOUKSE,  
Pune

**MORE LETTERS ONLINE:**  
[www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/](http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/)

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:** >>A sentence in the last paragraph of a lead article, "Taming inflationary expectations" (Editorial page, July 24, 2017) said: "A low and stable inflation rate is a *prerequisite* for sustained high economic growth". It should have been

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: [readerseditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in); Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on [www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com).

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FROM PAGE ONE

## Diversity key to India's success, says Kovind

Making a special mention of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the new President said freedom for these leaders was not simply political freedom but economic and social freedom for millions of Indians.

The new President said a farmer toiling in the blazing sun to feed fellow citizens is a nation builder as is a scientist concentrating tirelessly to send an Indian space mission to Mars, or invent a vaccine. "A young person who founds a start-up and becomes a job creator is a nation builder." According to him, "India of the 21st century will be one that is in conformity with our ancient values as well as compliant with the Fourth Industrial Revolution".

Each citizen of India was

## Mumbai building collapse kills 12

NDRF personnel said that from their inquiries, they suspect that around 24 people are still trapped under the rubble. They expected operations to continue for several hours. Two firemen were also injured during rescue efforts.

The infant Renuka Thak was among the first to be pulled out of the debris. "I pulled the little girl out of the rubble. It was the saddest thing to carry a dead baby in my hands and take her to the hospital," said Bhavik Purohit, a resident of

## India admitted to transgression'

Chinese and Indian troops have been locked in a face-off in the tri-junction for more than a month since Indian troops stopped the Chinese Army from building a road in the area.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj told Parliament last week that both sides should first pull back their troops for talks to take place, favouring a peaceful resolution of the standoff.

Ms. Swaraj said the "unilateral" Chinese action to change the status quo near the tri-junction posed a challenge to India's security. The issue is expected to be discussed during the visit of Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to Beijing for a meeting of the NSAs of the BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – on July 27 and 28.

## In a first, Nifty crosses the 10,000-mark

In its latest note, the UBS has said that the "risk-reward fundamentally is clearly unfavourable but we acknowledge that the local retail flow can keep markets elevated despite the absence of a near-term growth recovery." The global financial major has an end-2017 base case Nifty target of 9,000, with the downside and upside targets at 7,500 and 10,000 respectively.

Similarly, Motilal Oswal, chairman and managing director, Motilal Oswal Finan-

a "nation builder", he said, making special mention of women and the many roles they undertook. "Women who despite responsibilities at home and work raise children to be ideal citizens are nation builders."

An NIA official told *The Hindu* that many properties were purchased by separatists when most of them remained under "house arrest" and such acquisitions were under a "cloud of suspicion".

### Accumulated wealth

"Since many of the separatist leaders have remained under house arrest for prolonged periods, how have they acquired such palatial properties in Delhi, Srinagar and other places. The wealth accumulated by them does not match their income. We have sent notices to them and asked them to explain the source of funds with which they were procured," said the official.

On Monday, seven second-rung separatist leaders – Parooq Ahmed Dar alias Bitta Karate, Nayem Khan, Raja Mehrajuddin Kalwal, Peer Saifullah, Aftab Hilali



**Caught in the web:** Kashmiri separatists being brought to the Patiala House courts in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

Shah alias Shahid-ul-Islam and Aiyaz Akbar Khanay and Altaf Ahmed Shah alias Fatoosh Geelani, the son-in-law of separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani – were arrested from Srinagar and Delhi for their alleged role in "creating unrest" in the Valley in connivance with terrorist organisations such as Hizbul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

On Tuesday, a special NIA court sent them to 10-day custody of the NIA even though the agency pressed for 18-day custody.

### Under the scanner

The official said that over 40 traders who were involved in cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade were continuously being examined and over 200 others in the Valley were also

under scanner.

An NIA official said that carpet traders, those who provide humanitarian aid during floods and natural calamities, and businessmen were being closely scrutinised for being part of the entire conspiracy.

"There were many incidents of stone-throwing at security forces when an encounter was on. We are

## NIA collects property details of separatists

Widening scope of probe, investigative agency asks them to explain about acquisitions made during 'house arrest'

## NIA arrests separatist leader Shabir Shah

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

An NIA team on Tuesday arrested another senior separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah here. Mr. Shah, who heads the Democratic Freedom Party, was arrested from his Sanatnagar residence. Earlier in the day, Mr. Shah was placed under house arrest.

Mr. Shah, who was taken to a police post at Humhama, is the eighth separatist leader to be arrested by the NIA in the past 36 hours. Sources said

more arrests were in the offing as the agency probes the terror funding network in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, a shutdown call of the Hurriyat against the arrest of separatist leaders evoked a mixed response on Tuesday, even as the authorities imposed curfew-like restrictions in the city. The response also reflected how the Hurriyat was losing ground in the Valley. The BJP hailed the people "for defying the strike call" and showing "they have no interest" in the "dirty" Hurriyat politics.

examining if these were spontaneous protests or an organised one. We are close to cracking this aspect. The arrests will not be limited to separatists alone," said the official.

### 35 raids so far

The official said the agency had conducted around 35 raids so far and had recovered huge number of

"handwritten receipts" detailing the funds received from various Pakistan-based organisations.

"Our probe can take us back to even the 1990s when terror picked up in the Valley. Creating unrest in the Valley through terror financing is an industry in Kashmir and we are widening our probe to include these aspects," said the official.

## India well-defended in tri-junction: officials

Remarks come ahead of NSA meet

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

A day after the People's Liberation Army (PLA) said it would "safeguard China's sovereignty whatever the cost", official sources said on Tuesday that India was well-defended in the tri-junction and China's latest rhetoric was part of the build-up ahead of the meeting of the National Security Advisers of then BRICS nations in Beijing later this week.

Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will be in Beijing on Thursday and Friday to attend the meeting.

### At a disadvantage

"China's build-up is essentially in the backdrop of the meeting of the NSAs. They cannot take any action in the Chumbi Valley as they are at a disadvantage. If they do anything in any other area, it will be seen as expansionist," a senior official

said. On Monday, Wu Qian, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defence, said: "The Chinese border troops have taken initial counter measures at the site and will step up targeted deployment and training." Warning India not to have any "impractical illusions," Col. Wu said it would be easier to shake a mountain than the PLA.

China has maintained an aggressive diplomatic posture since the stand-off began on June 16. Indian troops prevented Chinese troops from building a road through the disputed Doklam plateau.

Some officials have said China has upped the ante so much that it is now looking for a way-out. "It is not an area where the Chinese would want to resort to any military adventure. Logistically and geographically, we are far better placed," said a former Brigadier.

## China remains a threat: Army

It is expanding its influence in the region, says Vice-Chief of Staff Sarath Chand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

China, with its growing influence in the region, will remain a threat for India in the future, said Lt. Gen. Sarath Chand, Vice-Chief of Army Staff, on Tuesday even as he defended the comment of the Army Chief, General Bipin Rawat, on a "two-and-a-half-front war".

His comments come in the backdrop of the continuing stand-off between the two armies at Doklam which began on June 16 after Chinese troops tried to build a road in the disputed territory.

"China is expanding its influence across the Himalayas into our neighbourhood. Despite having the Himalayas between us, it is bound to be a threat for us in the years ahead," Lt. Gen. Chand said, addressing a joint seminar organised by the Army's Master General Ordnance and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).



**Deceptive calm:** A view of the iconic Yamdrok Tso lake on the Lhasa-Yadong route to Nathu La. • ATUL ANEJA

Last month, Gen. Rawat had said that the Army was "fully ready for a two and a half front war" – facing China, Pakistan and dealing with militancy simultaneously.

Referring to the comments, Lt. Gen. Chand said, "He never meant to whip up

war hysteria. He was merely stating a fact that we need to take care and we need to pay more attention to our security."

**Military modernisation**  
Talking of China's rapid military modernisation, he said a large portion of their de-

fence spending remains undisclosed.

In line with its modernisation, this year China has hiked defence spending to \$152 billion, about three times that of India, but the real spend is estimated to be much higher.

### On Pakistan

On Pakistan, Lt. Gen. Chand said being a smaller country with smaller economy, it resorts to a "low-intensity conflict" with India rather than engage in a full-fledged war and said, "That suits its all-weather friend China."

He said Pakistan "stooped so low" by targeting schools and inflicting casualties on civilians along the Line of Control, and stated, "This is not something that we would do."

Stating that South Asia continues to be one of the most "volatile areas" in the world, he added, "India being at the centre of it is the security provider for this region."

## Modi asks party MPs to hold 'sankalp yatra'

Urge them to work towards better future

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Ananth Kumar

to Independence). "He asked party leaders to organise programmes on August 9 to mark the 75th anniversary of Quit India," said Mr. Kumar.

**Condemns Cong. leaders**  
Mr. Kumar said the parliamentary party also condemned those Congress members who had thrown papers towards the Chair in the Lok Sabha yesterday. Six Congress MPs were suspended for five working days of Parliament on Monday by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley also briefed MPs on the progress of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) saying that there were many rumours about the tax regime and that it was important therefore to understand the matter. He also said that officials of the revenue department will be present in the Parliament library building between 3-6 p.m. for the entire monsoon session to dispel any doubts of MPs about the GST regime.

## In Rajya Sabha, contesting claims over farm crisis

BJP lists 'pro-farmer' steps; Digvijaya calls govt. insensitive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha sought to corner the Centre on the issue of agrarian crisis on Tuesday, accusing it of floating policies that were detrimental to farmers' interests.

However, defending the Narendra Modi government, members from the BJP and its allies hailed the "pro-farmer" initiatives taken under his leadership.

Prabhat Jha, Parshtottam Rupala, Ram Narain Dudi, Sanjay Raut and La. Ganeshan praised the government's efforts in various areas including crop insurance, minimum support price, irrigation facilities, while attributing the present condition of farmers to the policies of previous governments.

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh accused the government of being insensitive towards the problems of the distressed farmers.

Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Verma said successive governments had failed to address the issues plaguing the sector.

D. Raja of the Communist Party of India sought quick settlement of river water disputes and interlinking of rivers.

He said he would quit the Lok Sabha if the allegations were true, and so should



**Loud and firm:** Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. • PTI

## Uproar in LS over charge against Scindia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Uproar over remarks against Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia and demands for revoking the suspension of six Congress leaders finally led to the Lok Sabha being adjourned for the day on Tuesday afternoon, without any substantial business being transacted.

Mr. Scindia said BJP members Virrendra Kumar and Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan had, in his absence, made some false allegations about his treatment of Dalits.

He said he would quit the Lok Sabha if the allegations were true, and so should

the BJP members if their claims were found to be untrue.

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge accused Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar of adding fuel to the fire.

Opposition, he said, also wanted the House to function and key Bills would not have been passed if the Opposition had not cooperated.

Mr. Ananth Kumar asked Mr. Kharge whether tearing papers in the well of the House and tossing them was Parliamentary procedure.

As the din continued, Ms. Mahajan adjourned the House for the day.

## Decision soon on Yechury's RS term

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Communist Party of India (Marxist) is set to decide whether party general secretary Sitaram Yechury should seek a third Rajya Sabha term, party sources said.

Mr. Yechury – seen as an articulate Rajya Sabha member – has completed two terms in the Upper House.

As per party tradition, the general secretary is not expected to go beyond two terms, and Mr. Yechury had months back said he would not seek a third term.

However, the party was to take a call on the matter – something he said in a previous media interaction – as the Congress in West Bengal had extended support for him, saying it would field its own candidate if he did not contest.

Without the support of the Congress – which has 44 MLAs in the Assembly there – the CPI(M) cannot win a seat.

Party sources said that while the Bengal unit has been backing a third term for him, the Kerala group is not in support of it.

This may mean that Mr. Yechury may not seek a third term, they claim.

However, the party's ongoing central committee is expected to make a statement on the matter.

Mr. Yechury could not be reached for a formal comment.

India Express.

"Acquiring all of the airline operations of AI brings with it a lot of other issues and many more challenges. We would evaluate that option and assess if it is economically feasible for us to go down that path," IndiGo's co-founder Rahul Bhatia told analysts in a conference call on July 6. He had, however, added that if the government decided to sell AI's entire operations to a single entity "and not carve out the international operations, we would still be interested."

CMK



Welcome and goodbye: Ram Nath Kovind and his wife, Savita, with Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Family ties: Elder brother Pyarelal and other family members of President Ram Nath Kovind arrive to attend his swearing-in at Parliament. ■ PTI



Wheels of history: President Ram Nath Kovind on his maiden buggy ride during the swearing-in ceremony. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

# Game of thrones: how the who's who were seated

■ Mamata Banerjee and party MPs take the last row at President's swearing-in

■ Kejriwal sits through the event with Trinamool Congress contingent

■ Judges of the Supreme Court were among those in attendance

## It's going to be a different presidency

SMITA GUPTA  
NEW DELHI

The who's who of Indian public life had assembled in the Central Hall of Parliament for the swearing in of the new President and, as in every such event, the seating and location was important to everyone.

The exception was West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who stuck to her no-fuss approach and occupied the last row with Trinamool Congress MPs.

Not only did she watch the entire ceremony with the backbenchers, she even offered a seat to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal beside her – a political and situational proximity that he accepted with alacrity. Sources in the Trinamool

**New alignments**  
Congress told *The Hindu* that Mr. Kejriwal's allotted seat was in the fourth row, next to other Chief Ministers like Vasundhara Raje of Rajasthan and Shivraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh.

But spotting him making his way there, Ms. Banerjee despatched party MP Derek O'Brien to offer him a place next to her.

Mr. Kejriwal then sat through the ceremony with the Trinamool contingent. His deputy, Manish Sisodia, however, sat with the three Service chiefs in the middle rows.

A Chief Minister who did find place in the first row was N. Chandrababu Naidu of

Andhra Pradesh.  
He was seen exchanging greetings with Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

**Nitish's place**  
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar found himself seated next to former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar, the Opposition's presidential

**Bring money by Sept. 7, SC tells Subrata**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked embattled Sahara group chief Subrata Roy to deposit ₹1,500 crore in the SEBI-Sahara refund account by September 7 and said it may then deliberate upon his plea seeking 18 more months for complete re-payment.

A bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra rejected the plea by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Mr. Roy, to put off the proceedings to auction the ₹34,000 crore Aamby Valley property by the official liquidator of the Bombay High Court till September 7.

Mr. Roy had earlier given an undertaking before the court that he would deposit ₹552.21 crore by July 15. However, Mr. Sibal at the outset, informed the bench, also comprising justices Ranjan Gogoi and A.K. Sikri, that Mr. Roy had deposited ₹247 crore and the remaining ₹305.21 crore would be deposited by August 12.

"It is directed that the respondent-contemnor (Roy) shall deposit ₹1,500 crore, which would include the balance amount of today, by September 7. After due consideration, we have granted time till September 7..." the bench said.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on Tuesday told the Rajya Sabha that the Armed Forces were "reasonably and sufficiently equipped" to defend the "sovereignty of the country", amid concerns raised by parliamentarians regarding a CAG report that the Army had critical shortage of ammunition.

Mr. Jaitley's response came after Opposition members raised the issue of defence preparedness in the wake of a CAG report tabled in the Parliament recently and called the previous Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar a "non-performer".

The CAG stated that the Army faces a shortfall of 40% ammunition and only 61 out of 152 types of am-

munition were available. The Army is supposed to hold stocks of ammunition for 40 days of an intense war.

Mr. Jaitley clarified that the CAG report had reference to the shortage of ammunition in relation to a point of time.

The Opposition, however, was not satisfied with the reply and posed tough questions.

## Jaitley says military reasonably equipped

CAG flagged shortage of ammunition

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

India rejects OIC move on vigilantism

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

India on Tuesday strongly rejected the resolutions of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that had expressed concern about the recent attacks on people by cow-vigilante groups. An official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs stated that the resolutions adopted at the Organisation's latest foreign ministers' meeting were "factually incorrect".

India notes with utmost regret that the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation, during its 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, has again adopted certain resolutions which contain factually incorrect and misleading references to matters internal to India, including the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. India outrightly rejects all such references," said the statement.

The MEA added, "the OIC has no locus standi on India's internal affairs. We strongly advise the OIC to refrain from making such references in future."

The OIC noted that incidents of violence against the Muslim community were being committed by extremist Hindu groups and said it viewed such incidents "with grave concern".

Gujarat. The government has forwarded the names following a background check by the Intelligence Bureau.

It is learnt that most candidates are from the subordinate judiciary. The five HCs had a vacancy of 97 judges as on July 1.

## Centre gives 35 names for High Court judges

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

The Law Ministry has forwarded the names of 35 candidates to the SC collegium for appointment as judges in five High Courts, as recommended by the HC collegiums of Madras, Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand and

CM YK

## India rejects OIC move on vigilantism

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Tender notification no. 1480 dt.22/07/2017

Sub:- Tender for supply of Vermi compost, De-Oiled Neem cake, City compost, Bio- NPk Proteino-lacto-glucanone based NPK(Liquid), Bio-Pesticides Entomopathogenicnematode), Polymulch during 2017-18.

An Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) per product. Tender must be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit in shape of demand draft on any nationalized Bank payable at Dhenkanal in favour of Project Director, watersheds, Dhenkanal. The Tender paper can be obtained from the office of the Project Director, watersheds, Dhenkanal account section on payment of Rs.1000/- (Rupees One thousand only) non-refundable in shape of Demand Draft on any nationalized Bank payable at Dhenkanal made in favour of Project Director, Watersheds, Dhenkanal towards cost of tender paper on any working day from the date of publication of this notice till 08.08.2017 during office hour or the same can be downloaded from the district website at [www.Dhenkanal.nic.in](http://www.Dhenkanal.nic.in) and in such case a demand draft of Rs.1000/- (Rupees One thousand only) non-refundable is to be attached towards cost of tender paper.

Tender paper complete in all respect along with all required documents should reach at Office of the Project Director, Watersheds, Dhenkanal on or before dt. 09.08.2017 up to 5 PM.

Date of closing of Sale of tender paper:- Dt.08.08.2017 at 5 PM.

Date of closing of submission of Technical bid & Financial Bid :- Dt.09.08.2017 at 5 PM.

Date of Opening of Technical bid:- Dt.10.08.2017 at 11 AM.

Date of Opening of Financial Bid:- Dt.11.08.2017 at 11 AM.

Project Director  
Watersheds, Dhenkanal

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK  
No-Tender Online RWC 05-17, Date : 21.07.2017  
106-0: e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told a gathering of the BJP's Parliamentary Party that President Ram Nath Kovind's assumption of office was a "significant milestone" in the journey started by Jan Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Mookerjee, has reached a significant milestone today as the new President takes oath," he is reported to have said according to those present at the meeting.

Mr. Modi's comments assume significance as President Kovind is the first BJP leader to occupy the highest constitutional position since Independence.

The Jan Sangh founded in 1951 was the precursor to the BJP.

"The journey, which was started by Syama Prasad

Abdul Kalam, who was a scientist and was apolitical.

Breaking perceptions

The party has also underlined President Kovind's Dalit identity and humble origins, a conscious move to break past perceptions that the BJP was a party for the upper castes.

In his speech, President Kovind had acknowledged the ideals of another founding member of the Jan Sangh, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, as well.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

No-Tender Online RWC 05-17, Date : 21.07.2017  
106-0: e - Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the Work

Sealed and Superscribed Two - Part Tenders are invited from well reputed sources for (I) Supply of HPLC, (II) 5 Glove Port Dual Box Modular System.

Due Date: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 [4 PM].

Details are available at website [www.iisertvm.ac.in](http://www.iisertvm.ac.in).

<https://egovernance.gov.in/cppp>.

Adv. No. IISER/PUR/PT/06/17  
14/07/2017

REGISTRAR

2. Class of Contractor

Estimated cost more than Rs.10,000 Crores.

Estimated cost more than Rs.4,000 Crores up to Rs.10,000 Crores.

Estimated cost more than Rs.1,500 Crore up to Rs.4,000 Crore.

B Class & Super Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.

A Class & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.

3. Time for Completion

: As per Annexure of NIT.

4. Detail Project as per annexure attached

Procurement Officer Identification No.: Bid Identification No.: Availability of Tender online for bidding From To Last Date & Time of seeing tender documentclarification

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack Tender Online RWC 05-17 28.07.2017 18.08.2017 17.08.2017 18.08.2017 30.08.2017

11 A.M. up to 11 A.M. 2:00 P.M. 11:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.pmgsytenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in).

Sdr. G.Sar., Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.

25097/11/03/14/17/16

KIDWAI CANCER INSTITUTE  
(Govt. of Karnataka Autonomous Institution)

Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru-560 029

Ph: 91-80-26560733

No. KMIO/SMSE/1/Tender/M. Equip/67 Co-60 Glb/2017-18 Dated: 25.07.2017

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION - CALL 2

Tenders are invited in TWO Bid System for the supply of following to PCC, Gulbarga.

SI.No. Name of the Equipment Quantity

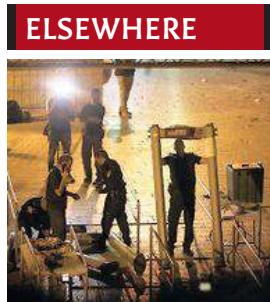
01 Cobalt 60 High Dose Rate Remote Controlled Brachytherapy System to PCC, Gulbarga. 1 No.

The Bid Document will be available online from 27.07.2017 to 28.08.2017. Bidders can view and download the Bid Document from the Website <https://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in>. Bids have to be submitted through e-Procurement Portal and Rs. 500/- as e-procurement portal fees. The last date and time of Receipt of Bid through e-Procurement Portal is 28.08.2017 upto 3:00 P.M. Tender accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DPR/CD/2535/Fast/2017-18

Sdr/ DIRECTOR

AN-NDE

**ELSEWHERE****Israel removes metal detectors from holy site**

ISRAEL  
JERUSALEM  
Israel removed metal detectors from a highly sensitive Jerusalem holy site on Tuesday, but Muslim officials said worshippers should continue a boycott for now. The move came after intensive international diplomacy seeking to prevent a wider Palestinian unrest. AFP

**At least 17 dead in sea accidents in Indonesia**

JAKARTA  
At least 17 people have been killed and 12 others are missing in two sea accidents in eastern and central Indonesia since the weekend. The most recent accident happened on Tuesday when a speedboat carrying more than 40 people capsized off the town of Tarakan. Seven people died. AP

**3 dead of swine flu in Myanmar, officials say**

YANGON  
Health officials in Myanmar say swine flu has killed three people out of 13 confirmed cases this month. A Yangon General Hospital doctor, Khin Theingyi Myint, said on Tuesday that two infected patients died after being admitted to his hospital and one died earlier this month in the State of Chin. AP

**Libyan rivals voice support for ceasefire**

PARIS  
The two main rivals in conflict-ridden Libya – UN-backed Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj and military commander Khalifa Haftar – made a joint commitment on Tuesday to call a ceasefire and hold elections that France said would take place in spring 2018. AP

# Trump tears into Jeff Sessions again

White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci says President may sack A-G

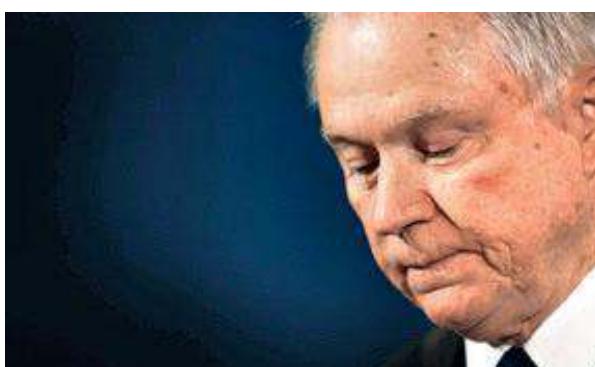
VARGHESE K. GEORGE  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump publicly targeted Jeff Sessions, his hand-picked Attorney General, on Tuesday for the second time in two days in a clear signal that the latter's days in the office are numbered.

Mr. Trump is unhappy with Mr. Sessions for recusing himself from overseeing the ongoing investigation into alleged Russian meddling in last year's presidential election.

Mr. Trump's tirade against his own official comes against the backdrop of multiple probes into the Russian interference tagging his family members and former advisers for interactions with Russian interlocutors. The President's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, appeared before a Congressional committee on Tuesday to explain his contacts with Russian nationals.

Meanwhile, the chaos in the administration is spreading as Mr. Trump is reportedly unhappy with National Security Adviser (NSA) H.R. McMaster, who is apparently struggling to fit his strategic plans with the former's worldview. White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer resigned last week.



**Public humiliation:** Donald Trump resumed his attacks on Jeff Sessions for failing to go after former Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton over the e-mail server issue. ■ AFP

**Targets of President's ire**

Mr. Sessions, Hillary Clinton, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) acting director Andrew McCabe and the European Union were the targets of the President's Twitter ire on Tuesday morning.

"Attorney General Jeff Sessions has taken a VERY weak position on Hillary Clinton crimes (where are E-mails &

DNC server) & Intel leakers!" he said in one post. "Problem is that the acting head of the FBI & the person in charge of the Hillary investigation, Andrew McCabe, got \$700,000 from H for wife!" he said in another.

"Ukrainian efforts to sabotage Trump campaign - 'quietly working to boost Clinton.' So where is the investigation A.G.," tweeted the President.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham termed the President's remarks inappropriate. In a statement, Mr.

Graham said: "President Trump's tweet today suggesting Attorney General Sessions pursue prosecution of a former political rival is highly inappropriate... Prosecutorial decisions should be based on applying facts to the law without hint of political motivation... to do otherwise is to run away from the long-standing American tradition of separating the law from politics regardless of party."

On Monday, Mr. Trump had described Mr. Sessions as the "beleaguered" A-G. White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci told a TV show on Tuesday morning that the President could sack the A-G. "I do know the President very well, and if there's this level of tension in the relationship, that's public, then you're probably right," he told the interviewer on speculation that the President is preparing the ground for the A-G's dismissal.

In an interview to *The New York Times* last week, Mr. Trump had said he would not have appointed Mr. Sessions had he known he

would recuse himself from the Russia probe.

Mr. Trump had questioned Mr. McCabe's integrity during last year's campaign too.

Mr. McCabe's wife Dr. Jill McCabe is a former Democratic State senate candidate in Virginia. She had received campaign contributions of nearly \$500,000 from Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe's political action committee. Mr. McAuliffe is a friend of the Clintons.

The reference to Ukrainian efforts in Mr. Trump's tweet is about a January report in the Politico website that said a Ukrainian-American consultant who worked for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) collected information from the Ukrainian embassy in Washington, D.C., on links between Mr. Trump's campaign manager Paul Manafort and the Russian government.

Over the last few days, Mr. Trump has drawn a battle line with his own Republican Party by accusing it of not defending him in the face of mounting pressure from the Russia probe.

# China fires back at U.S. accusations over aerial encounter

Slams surveillance runs by U.S. planes

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING

China on Tuesday denied its fighter jet pilots operated dangerously during an encounter with a U.S. surveillance plane in international airspace in which the American pilot took evasive action to avoid a possible collision.



Beijing is committed to building mutual trust, said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang.

China Sea and the Yellow Sea, in an area he described as west of the Korean Peninsula. China in 2013 declared an air defence identification zone over a partly contested portion of the East China Sea, demanding foreign aircraft declare their presence and follow Chinese orders.

The U.S. and others swiftly dismissed the zone as invalid and have largely ignored it. It wasn't clear if Sunday's encounter took place inside the zone.

**Agreement in place**  
Such incidents continue to occur despite an agreement between the two sides to prevent them from sparking an international crisis, as happened in April 2001 when a Chinese jet fighter collided with a U.S. EP-3. That led to the death of the Chinese pilot and China's detention of the U.S. air crew for 10 days after their crippled plane landed at a PLA air base in Hainan.

At least a dozen GOP Senators have openly said they oppose or criticised Mr. McConnell's legislation, which he has revised as he's hunted Republican support.

While it had long seemed headed toward defeat, Republicans Monday began showing glimmers of optimism.

## Crisis in Maldives worsens

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
MALE

Maldivian troops blocked Parliament and clashed with Opposition leaders for a second day, witnesses said on Tuesday.

The latest turbulence came as the U.K. urged its citizens to take caution in the capital Male after soldiers tear gassed protesting politicians there.

Soldiers barred the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) from entering the heavily guarded Parliament complex again on Tuesday, with witnesses reporting shoving as MPs were forced back from the barricade.

"Even when Parliament is not in session, MPs are free to go to the building and attend to their work, but it is not allowed now," MDP spokesman Hamid Abdul Ghafoor told AFP. "This is ridiculous."

# McCain return sets stage for health bill vote

Trump urges GOP to 'step up to the plate' and end Obama's signature legislative achievement

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump urged Republicans to "step up to the plate" for Tuesday's crucial Senate vote on their bill eviscerating much of the Obama healthcare law. The stage was set for high drama, with Sen. John McCain returning to the Capitol to cast his first vote since being diagnosed with brain cancer.

No stranger to heroic episodes, the Navy pilot who persevered through five years of captivity during the Vietnam War announced through his office that he would be back in Washington for the critical roll call on beginning debate on the legislation.

The 80-year-old has been at home in Arizona since he revealed last week that he's undergoing treatment for brain cancer, but a statement said he "looks forward" to returning for work on health care and other legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell scheduled the initial health care vote for Tuesday. The Republican leadership expects Mr. McCain to support taking up the bill, and his mere presence could make it harder for wavering Republicans to cast a vote against even considering the bill.

Democrats uniformly oppose the effort to tear down Mr. Obama's signature legislative achievement. Republicans control the chamber

52-48, meaning they can afford to lose just two Republicans with Mr. McCain around and only one in his absence. Vice President Mike Pence would cast a tie-breaking vote.

**Trump tweets**

Mr. Trump kept up the pressure on GOP lawmakers, tweeting that "After 7 years of talking, we will soon see whether or not Republicans are willing to step up to the plate!" He added: "Obama-

# + Sri Lanka clears revised deal for Hambantota port

It addresses concerns raised by some countries: Minister

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Cabinet on Tuesday cleared a revised deal for the Chinese-built port in Hambantota, the government said. The modified agreement, the government added, was more profitable to Sri Lanka and also addressed security concerns raised by other countries.

Speaking to reporters here, Ports Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said the Cabinet gave final approval to sell 70% stake in the southern port to the state-run China Merchants Port Holdings for \$1.12 billion. "Some [diplomatic] missions here were worried that the port would be used as a military naval base. As per the revised agreement Sri Lanka will manage the port security," he said.

While the Chinese would manage port operations, "no naval ship, including Chinese ones, can call at Hambantota without our permission", Mr. Samarasinghe added.

**Wary of the Chinese**  
India's apprehensions about the apparently growing Chinese presence in the island nation are well known, given the two countries' competing strategic interests here. The Hambantota port is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Beijing's stake in the port and its plan to acquire 15,000 acres of adjoining land to help Colombo set up an industrial zone have strengthened the fears of those wary of China's growth in the region. "Our foreign policy today is reaching

out to everyone and not giving special treatment to anyone," Mr. Samarasinghe said, responding to accusations that the current government is as close to Beijing as Mahinda Rajapaksa's administration was.

The Hambantota port was built with Chinese loans in 2010 during Mr. Rajapaksa's term. Deeming the project a "white elephant", the Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe government decided in late 2016 to sell 80% stake in the port to the Chinese company in order to tackle the \$8 billion debt Sri Lanka owes China. Under the agreement, Colombo will receive \$1.12 billion for a 99-year lease. The deal would be tabled in Parliament on Friday, and is likely to be signed on Saturday, the Ports Minister said.

*Water in the sky*

**Hell fighter:** A fire-fighting Canadair aircraft drops water over fire near Carros in southeastern France on Monday. Firefighters battled wind-whipped infernos along the French Riviera coast on Tuesday as the flames torched vegetation on hills overlooking glitzy Mediterranean resorts thronged by summer holidaymakers. Local authorities said several firefighters were injured. ■ AFP

# For China's global ambitions, Iran is at the centre of everything'

The west Asian country, historically a crossroads, is strategically crucial to Beijing's plans to increase its footprint across the world using the 'One Belt, One Road' project

THOMAS ERDBRINK  
NEYSHABUR

When Zuo Ru Lin, a Beijing entrepreneur, first heard about business opportunities in eastern Iran, he was sceptical. But then he bought a map and began to envision the region without any borders, as one enormous market. "Many countries are close by, even Europe," Mr. Lin, 49, said while driving his white BMW over the highway connecting Tehran to the eastern Iranian city of Mashhad recently. "Iran is at the centre of everything."

For millennia, as Iran prospered as a trading hub linking East and West. Now, that role is set to expand in coming years as China unspools its 'One Belt, One Road' project, which promises more than \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment – bridges, rails, ports and energy – in over 60 countries

across Europe, Asia and Africa.

Iran, historically a crossroads, is strategically at the centre of those plans.

Like pieces of a sprawling geopolitical puzzle, components of China's infrastructure network are being put in place. In eastern Iran, Chinese workers are busily modernising one of the country's major rail routes, standardising gauge sizes, improving the track bed and rebuilding bridges, with the ultimate goal of connecting Tehran to Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

Much the same is happening in western Iran, where railroad crews are working to link the capital to Turkey and, eventually, to Europe. Other rail projects will connect Tehran and Mashhad with deepwater ports in the country's south.

Once dependent on Beijing during the years of in-

ternational isolation imposed by the West for its nuclear program, Iran is now critical to China's ability to realise its grandiose ambitions. Other routes to Western markets are longer and lead through Russia, potentially a competitor of China.

"It is not as if their project is cancelled if we don't participate," said Asghar Fakhrieh-Kashan, Iranian deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development. "But if they want to save time and money, they will choose the shortest route."

He added with a smile: "There are also political advantages to Iran, compared to Russia. They are highly interested in working with us."

**Bigest trading partner**  
Others worry that with the large-scale Chinese investment and China's growing presence in the Iranian economy, Tehran will become

ahead." It is not just roads and rail lines that Iran is getting from China. Iran is also becoming an increasingly popular destination for Chinese entrepreneurs like Mr. Lin.

**A visionary businessman**

With a few words of Persian, as well as low-interest loans and tax breaks from the Chinese and Iranian governments, he has built a small empire since moving to Iran in 2002. His eight factories make a wide variety of goods that find markets in Iran and neighbouring countries.

"You can say that I am even more visionary than some of our politicians," Mr. Lin said with a laugh. Since 2013, when the 'One Belt, One Road' plan was started, he has had dozens of visitors from China and multiple meetings with the Chinese ambassador in Tehran. "Together, we are moving

to hear my experiences," he said. Mr. Lin established his factories along what will be a key part of the trade route – a 575-mile electrified rail line linking Tehran and Mashhad, financed with a \$1.6 billion loan from China.

When completed and attached to the wider network, the new line will enable Mr. Lin to export his goods as far as northern Europe, Poland and Russia, at much less cost than today.

When finished, the proposed rail link will stretch nearly 2,000 miles, from Urumqi, the capital of China's western region of Xinjiang, to Tehran. If all goes according to plan, it will connect Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, China's state-owned paper, China Daily, wrote. Track sizes need to be adjusted and new connections made, as well as upgrades to the newest trains.

In a 2016 test, China and Iran drove a train from the port of Shanghai in eastern China to Tehran in just 12 days, a journey that takes 30 days by sea. In Iran, they used the existing track between Tehran and Mashhad, powered by a slower diesel-powered train. When the new line is opened in 2021, it is expected to accommodate electric trains at speeds up to 125 mph.

Mr. Fakhrieh-Kashan, an English speaker who oversees negotiation of most of the larger international state business deals, said the Chinese initiative would do much more than just provide a channel for transporting goods. "Think infrastructure, city planning, cultural exchanges, commercial agreements, investments and tourism," he said. "You can pick any project, they are all under this umbrella."



**Drivers of change:** Chinese entrepreneur Zuo Ru Lin, centre, at one of his plants, which recycles paper, in Neyshabur, Iran. ■ NYT

## MARKET WATCH

	25-07-2017	% CHANGE
Sensex	32,228	-0.05
US Dollar	64.38	-0.06
Gold	29,400	0.30
Brent oil	49.96	2.71

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
ACC	1726.10	-1.25
Adani Ports	390.75	2.30
Ambuja Cements	267.80	-0.30
Asian Paints	1150.10	-5.65
Aurobindo Pharma	750.25	5.00
Axis Bank	544.95	10.15
Bajaj Auto	2847.70	20.95
Bank of Baroda	165.00	0.80
Bharti Airtel	427.80	7.75
Bosch	24246.85	205.15
BPCL	466.90	0.70
Cipla	564.40	-5.35
Coal India	258.30	-3.25
Dr Reddys Lab	2692.15	-4.30
Eicher Motors	28047.45	-436.30
GAIL (India)	373.35	-3.65
HCL Tech.	895.05	-12.35
HDFC	1632.05	-0.20
HDFC Bank	1739.65	4.55
Hero MotoCorp	3709.05	16.75
Hindalco	220.20	5.80
Hind Unilever	1149.60	-9.75
Indiabulls HFL	1197.85	40.60
ICICI Bank	304.15	1.10
IndusInd Bank	1542.50	-12.00
Bharti Infratel	415.65	6.75
Infosys	993.85	3.30
Indian Oil Corp	374.80	-3.35
ITC	291.40	-1.85
Kotak Bank	987.95	-5.00
L&T	1170.85	-7.15
Lupin	1120.45	-21.05
M&M	1389.80	0.85
Maurti Suzuki	7504.85	-49.70
NTPC	163.90	-0.15
ONGC	163.30	0.05
PowerGrid Corp	217.00	0.25
Reliance Ind	1602.15	-13.10
State Bank	296.10	1.55
Sun Pharma	565.90	-4.90
Tata Motors	456.10	-7.90
Tata Motors DVR	268.85	-4.50
Tata Power	83.00	-0.25
Tata Steel	552.95	4.45
TCS	2571.50	40.80
Tech Mahindra	391.10	-7.95
UltraTech Cement	4105.70	-91.80
Vedanta	274.25	9.65
Wipro	289.55	-2.00
YES Bank	1617.85	24.60
Zee Entertainment	538.70	-13.20

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	64.18	64.50
Euro	74.81	75.19
British Pound	83.71	84.14
Japanese Yen (100)	57.59	57.88
Chinese Yuan	9.51	9.56
Swiss Franc	67.69	68.04
Singapore Dollar	47.15	47.41
Canadian Dollar	51.30	51.56
Malaysian Ringgit	14.99	15.07

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

July 25 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	40.70	(41.00)
22 ct gold (1g)	2,721	(2,728)

for these accounts.

The bank's net interest income grew by 2% on year to ₹4,616 crore in the quarter under review while net interest margin stood at 3.63% as compared with 3.79%.

The lender has also rubbed off rumours on media reports that its MD &amp; CEO Shikha Sharma was joining the Tata Group to lead the firm's financial services vertical.

The banking regulator had asked banks to make 50% provision for the accounts that are secured and 100% for unsecured accounts that are referred for bankruptcy proceedings.

Axis Bank has said it had ₹5,000 crore exposure on these accounts while 80% of its lending is secured. The bank has already made ₹2,500 crore provisioning

# Bharti net slumps 75% amid 'disruptive pricing' by Jio

Revenue from mobile services declines 14.1% to ₹12,914.7 cr. in April-June quarter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel on Tuesday reported a 75% slump in first-quarter net profit to ₹367 crore as the telecom market remained "turbulent due to disruptive pricing" by latest entrant Reliance Jio.

India's largest mobile-phone operator, which had registered a net income of ₹1,462 crore in April-June 2016 quarter, posted a 14% decline in consolidated revenue to ₹21,958 crore from ₹25,546 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue growth was also impacted by a currency devaluation in Nigeria.

"The pricing disruption in the Indian telecom market caused by the entry of a new operator continued with industry revenues declining over 15% year on year, creat-



**Stressful times:** Industry revenues fell over 15%, creating further stress on profitability, says MD India Vittal. ■REUTERS

ing further stress on sector profitability, cash flows and leverage," Gopal Vittal, MD and CEO (India & South Asia), said in a statement.

India revenue for the three months ended June 30 fell 10% to ₹17,244 crore

primarily due to a 14.1% drop in mobile services business. Revenue from mobile services decreased to ₹12,914.7 crore from ₹15,042 crore a year earlier. The number of mobile customers in India grew almost 10% to 280.6

million. "The churn has increased to 3.8% for the quarter ended June 30" from 3.6% in the corresponding quarter last year on account of competitive pressures, the company said. It pointed out that bundled offers with unlimited voice resulted in minutes traffic growth of 34%. Consequently, voice realisation per minute dropped by 11.51 paise to 21.98 paise.

## Data usage surges

Mobile data usage per customer in India surged 188.8% to 2,611 MBs. However, data ARPU fell 22.7% to ₹156 from ₹202. Net interest costs rose to ₹1,789 crore largely due to increased spectrum related interest costs. Forex and derivative loss was ₹39 crore compared to loss of ₹309 crore a year earlier.

# Hero Moto profit rises 3.5%

Two-wheeler major records highest-ever quarterly sales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Hero MotoCorp, country's largest two-wheeler maker, posted 3.5% increase in profit after tax to ₹914 crore for the quarter ended June 30, driven by the highest ever quarterly sales.

The company had registered profit after tax of ₹883.09 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal.

Total income rose 7.5% to ₹8,744.61 crore, from ₹8,131.03 crore in the year-earlier period.

## Sentiment improves

The New Delhi-headquartered firm registered the highest-ever quarterly sales volumes at 18.54 lakh units, increasing 6.2% from 17.45 lakh units in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

"The new financial year promises to be an exciting one for the industry," Pawan Munjal, chairman, man-



**Running smooth:** Customer-engagement initiatives in many Latin American markets had yielded results, says Mr. Munjal.

aging director and chief executive officer, Hero MotoCorp said in a statement. "In the first three months of this fiscal, we further consolidated our domestic motorcycle market share by clocking all-time high sales in the quarter," he added.

Mr. Munjal said the company's brand-building and customer-engagement initiatives had resulted in many Latin American and Asian markets reporting encouraging growth in the quarter.

## Paytm Mall delists six logistics partners

Deliveries to 9,000 pincodes stopped

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Paytm Mall, owned by Paytm Ecommerce Pvt. Ltd., has delisted 50% of its logistics partners, stopping deliveries to more than 9,000 pincodes where guaranteed assistance for return or replacement of goods purchased on the platform was not assured.

**Sellers delisted**  
Paytm Mall had recently delisted as many as 85,000 sellers to ensure quality control. The company routinely evaluates existing logistics partners and ag-

## Centre plans ₹7 lakh crore for highways

Lender dismisses speculation on Shikha Sharma joining Tata group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Centre will invest about ₹7 lakh crore in developing national highways in the next five years, the Road Transport and Highways Ministry said in a statement.

The Ministry said it had "estimated a fund requirement of about ₹6.92 lakh crore for the development of National Highways in the country during the next five years," said the statement issued on Tuesday. It added that funds would be sourced through gross budgetary support, central road fund and toll remittances, among others.

The move will limit deliveries from the platform to 17,000 pincodes from 26,000 earlier. "We believe working with fewer retailers and pincodes that leads to a superior customer experience is more important than rapid expansion," said Amit Sinha, COO, Paytm Mall.

## Axis Bank net falls 16%, net NPAs rise

Lender dismisses speculation on Shikha Sharma joining Tata group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Private sector lender Axis Bank reported a 16% decline in net profit to ₹1,306 crore for the quarter ended June 30, as provisioning for non-performing assets stayed elevated though fresh slips.

**Higher provisioning**

This is because the bank has made higher standard asset provisioning of 1% – as compared with 0.4% in the year-earlier period – for sectors like power, iron and steel, infrastructure and construction, and telecom, as advised by the banking regulator.

The additional provision in these sectors was ₹184 crore, year

immediately previous quarter. Gross NPA of the bank remained stable at 5.03% sequentially while net NPA rose to 2.3% from 2.11% in the Jan-March period.

"Gross NPAs are near peak... on the net NPA side you may see a little bit more," Mr. Sridharan said.

The banking regulator had asked banks to make 50% provision for the accounts that are secured and 100% for unsecured accounts that are referred for bankruptcy proceedings.

Gross slippages of the bank in the period were ₹3,519 crore as compared with ₹3,638 crore in the same period of the previous year and ₹4,811 crore in the

## Vedanta profit doubles on higher zinc prices

Short supply spurred earnings: CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Billionaire Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Limited's first quarter net profit doubled to ₹1,525 crore on the back of a 27% growth in revenue to ₹18,203 crore aided by higher zinc volume and prices.

Vedanta's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation in the quarter grew 40% to ₹4,865 crore on a robust margin of 36%.

"Our zinc and oil & gas businesses have delivered a strong quarter," said Tom Albanese, chief executive officer, Vedanta Ltd.

"Zinc prices have strengthened... on continued global supply deficits. Our continued ramp up in the aluminium business has helped us exit the quarter on a strong production run rate of 1.4 mtpa," he said.

"We are realising the true

benefits of Vedanta's diversified portfolio," Mr. Albanese added. The firm had cash and liquid investments of ₹48,318 crore, said a company statement, adding that Vedanta had "un-drawn committed facilities of \$1.1 billion as on June 30."

Vedanta's gross debt stood at ₹67,342 crore and net debt was at ₹19,024 crore. The company's shares rose 3.7% to close at ₹274.4 on the BSE.

Aluminium business ramping up has helped, says CEO Tom Albanese.

"The direction from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has come in the backdrop of the amendment made in April to the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund Rules. The amendment expanded the purview beyond the unclaimed amounts in small savings

and other saving schemes of the Centre, PPF and EPF.

It brought in unclaimed

## IN BRIEF



## TDSAT to hear Jio 'free offer' case on Aug. 18

**NEW DELHI** The telecom tribunal will hear on August 18 the petition of Bharti Airtel and Idea Cellular challenging the decision of TRAI to allow free offers of Reliance Jio to continue beyond the stipulated 90 days. The two offers in reference are the 'Jio Welcome Offer' and the 'Happy New Year offer'. At the hearing on Tuesday, Bharti Airtel and Idea Cellular sought time to file their response to Reliance Jio's reply. PTI

## Centre fines pharma firms ₹238.84 crore

**NEW DELHI** The government has so far recovered ₹238.84 crore as fine from pharmaceutical companies for overcharging. The Parliament was informed. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh L. Mandaviya said that as of June 30, ₹238.84 crore had been recovered from drug firms for non-compliance with the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. PTI

## Lakshmi Vilas Bank Q1 net profit rises 8.95%

**CHENNAI** Lakshmi Vilas Bank has reported an 8.95% increase in its standalone net profit to ₹66.12 crore in the first quarter ended June 30. The bank's total income rose to ₹927 crore from ₹775 crore in the year-earlier period, according to a regulatory filing. Its gross non-performing assets rose to 3.78% from 2.14%, while net NPAs rose to 2.84% from 1.3%. The bank's provision coverage ratio stood at 51.32%.

# India's concerns slowing RCEP talks'

Reservations over impact of duty elimination on local firms a key issue, according to Thai trade official

**ARUN S  
HYDERABAD**

India's reservations regarding the potential adverse impact of eliminating duties on its local manufacturing and job creation is understood to be slowing down the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.

The RCEP is a proposed mega Free Trade Agreement (FTA) involving 16 Asia Pacific nations including India and China, and aims, among other things, to liberalise investment norms in the region, besides boosting trade by dismantling most tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The "slow pace" of negotiations was worrying, Phairush Burapachaisri, vice chairman, Board of Trade of Thailand and Thai Chamber



**Balancing act:** The 'Make in India' plan to boost job creation, manufacturing could be hit by a hurried pact, say local firms.

of Commerce, told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday. "We hear that while most RCEP countries have agreed to quickly eliminate barriers affecting goods trade, India is seeking more time to do so, and that is delaying the negotiations," said Mr. Burapachaisri, who attended stakeholder meetings held with the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee on the sidelines of the RCEP negotiations. "The talks have already missed many deadlines and

it looks like the negotiators won't be able to conclude it this year. Asia Pacific is a fast growing region, but trade between countries in the region is affected by several barriers. If RCEP talks are not concluded quickly and these barriers are not eliminated, the region will miss out on many opportunities."

Meanwhile, Indian companies and industry bodies, including CII, flagged their concerns. The Centre's 'Make In India' initiative to boost manufacturing and job creation could be hit by a hurried pact, they opined.

**Widening trade gap** Siddhartha Roy, economic advisor, Tata Group, said: "India's trade deficit [annual] with RCEP nations is about \$100 billion, and half

of this is with China alone even without an FTA with China."

"Post India's FTA with ASEAN, Japan and Korea [who are all RCEP members], our trade deficit with them have increased, and the government needs to take this into account during RCEP negotiations," he said.

"Eliminating duties under the RCEP will impact many sectors including steel, aluminium, auto-components, many engineering items and readymade garments."

CII Trade Policy Committee chairman Deep Kapuria said while many countries were urging greater focus on duty elimination, India ought to highlight the need for removal of non-tariff barriers including those in China.



**Matter of livelihood:** Farmers' organisations have warned of protests if the dairy sector is opened up under the RCEP.

## Zero duty to hit Indian dairy industry: Amul

'15 cr. farmers will be impacted by FTA'

**ARUN S  
HYDERABAD**

The Indian dairy sector, providing livelihood to 15 crore farmers, would be severely hit if import duties on milk and milk products were eliminated under any Free Trade Agreement (FTA) including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), according to the local dairy cooperative Amul.

Separately, farmers' organisations have threatened to hold nationwide protests if the dairy sector is opened up under the RCEP – the proposed mega-regional FTA involving 16 Asia Pacific nations including India – or any other FTA including those proposed separately with Australia and New Zealand.

### Risk of cheaper imports

Jayen Mehta, senior general manager, GCMMF Ltd. (Amul), who participated in a stakeholders meeting with officials negotiating the RCEP agreement here, told *The Hindu* that it was important for India to ensure that duties on all Indian dairy products were not eliminated or reduced under the FTA, as cheaper im-

ports risked threatening local farmers' incomes from dairy.

Significantly, Mr. Mehta pointed out that as against 15 crore dairy farmers in India, there were only 12,000 of them in New Zealand and 6,300 in Australia.

### Duty offers protection

Currently, the duty on milk and milk products ranges from 40% to 60%, which gives the local industry enough protection to build its competitiveness. However, if the duty is drastically reduced or eliminated under any FTA, the local industry would find it difficult to compete against producers, particularly from RCEP members like Australia and New Zealand – which control more than 35% of the global dairy trade and in excess of 50% of the intra-RCEP trade, Mr. Mehta said.

Yogendra Yadav of Swaraj Abhiyan and All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, said, "Any attempt to open up our milk market to international trade under an FTA shall be resisted by all farmers' organisations, and we will hold nationwide protests."

## Union Bank plans to raise ₹3,500 crore

Funds to aid credit growth, says MD

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI**

Union Bank of India, the fifth-largest nationalised bank by asset size, plans to raise ₹3,500 crore this year to meet its credit growth target of 10%, from 6% last year, said a top official.

"It will be a combination of government's support and Qualified Institutional Placement issue," said G. Rajkiran Rai, MD & CEO. "We have asked for 50% support from the government."

"We need the funds to meet our 10% credit growth targets and provisioning norms. We hope to raise the funds by the year end."

On NPAs, he said the bank had a total exposure of ₹7,400 crore in 12 accounts and the bank had to make a provision of ₹2,700 crore. Out of the 12 accounts, UBI



Rajkiran Rai  
was the lead bank in one account, he said.

"NPA slippage has not slowed to the expected level. We have identified five large accounts to initiate action. We have also formed recovery teams to bring down NPA by going in for e-auction and taking possession of property. We hope to maintain gross NPAs at the March 2017 level."

## China's Tencent backs Byju's

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU**

Online education provider Byju's said that it had raised a new round of funding from Tencent, the Chinese Internet company.

In a statement, Byju's said the undisclosed amount would help accelerate product development for new markets and enable growth through acquisitions.

The company said nine million students were currently learning through its app, which was unveiled in 2015. It had more than 4,50,000 annual paid subscribers, it added. The firm had seen more than 100% growth, with revenue growing from ₹115 crore in FY16 to ₹260 crore in FY17, according to the statement. The firm said it also turned profitable last quarter.

## Cochin Shipyard firms up public issue plans

Eyes ₹978 crore to part-fund capex

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI**

Public sector undertaking Cochin Shipyard Ltd. is entering the capital market with an initial public offering (IPO) to raise resources to part fund its expansion.

The issue will open on August 1 with a price band of ₹424-₹432 per equity share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 30 equity shares. The issue will close on August 3. Retail investors and employees are entitled for a 5% discount.

The IPO will raise ₹1,440 crore at the lower end of the price band and about ₹1,468 crore at the upper end.

The issue includes fresh issue of 2,26,56,000 equity shares by the company and offer for sale of 1,13,28,000 equity shares by the

government.

While a third of the proceeds, estimated at ₹489 crore at the upper end of the band, will go to the Centre, ₹978 crore would be deployed to meet capital expansion targets.

"Work on the expansion projects will start towards the end of this calendar year," said Madhu S. Nair, CMD, Cochin Shipyard.

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## TV PICKS

**Sri Lanka vs India:** 1st Test, Sony Six, Sony Six HD, Sony TEN 3 & Sony TEN 3 HD, 10 a.m.  
**FINA swimming World Championships:** SS Select 1 & 1 HD, 12.50 p.m.  
**Ultimate Table Tennis:** SS Select 2 & 2 HD, 7.40 p.m.

## IN BRIEF

Rabada raring to go:  
Langeveldt

**LONDON** South African strike bowler Kagiso Rabada is eager to return to action for this week's third Test against England at The Oval after serving a one-match suspension for disciplinary reasons, bowling coach Charl Langeveldt said on Monday. "He is a youngster with a lot of energy. I have no doubt he will step up... he will be raring to go," Langeveldt told reporters.



Bolt headlines Jamaican team for Worlds

**KINGSTON** Sprint superstar Usain Bolt is one of three Rio Olympic gold medallists leading a 59-strong Jamaican team named on Monday for next month's World athletics championships in London. He's one of two reigning World champions, along with sprint hurdler Danielle Williams, who will be defending titles they won in China two years ago.

**SORT OUT PAY DISPUTE** quickly: McGrath  
**MUMBAI** Glenn McGrath says the pay dispute between Cricket Australia and Australian Cricketers Association should be resolved quickly. "It's bit of a shame where it is headed at the moment. Hopefully, they can sort things out quickly so that the boys can get back to playing. Hopefully, they get it sorted out quickly," he said.

## Crucial BCCI SGM today

**VIJAY LOKAPALLY**  
**NEW DELHI** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will hold its Special General Meeting (SGM) here on Wednesday with some crucial issues to be discussed by the affiliated State units.

Among the items listed in the agenda is a formal adoption of the new Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of the BCCI.

The Lodha reforms had stressed that the Board's constitution should be binding on affiliated units. "I hope it happens soon because many State associations have treated their constitution as classified information," said a veteran cricket official.

"There are some State associations that have kept their membership list a secret. It is time the Supreme Court makes it mandatory for every association to display its membership list on its website. Some associations are run in an autocratic manner and have become the domain of a few who have been in power for decades," continued the official.

As former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi pointed out, "For the first time in the last 15 years, a Special General Meeting of the Board will be without officials like N. Srinivasan, Niranjan Shah and Rajeev Shukla. This is a direct fallout of Supreme Court's special bench putting an end to disqualified State office-bearers from attending the SGM. The three BCCI officials cannot attend the meeting even as a nominee of the States."

The appointment of an Ombudsman and the Conflict of Interest rules are also part of the agenda.

## No. 1 India presents a formidable test for Sri Lanka

Kohli's men get back to the classical format even as the hosts cope with transitional blues

## INDIA IN LANKA

**K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR**  
GALLE

Fringed by a fort with a history of over 400 years, topped with a stately clock tower and the Indian Ocean just a few yards away, the Galle International Stadium is a picture-postcard venue. The setting, a medley of hoary past, rugged aesthetics and pastoral air, is ideal for both holidaying and the most ancient of cricketing formats – Tests.

Beneath its staggering beauty, the ground also suffered a tale of despair that eventually gave rise to hope. The 2004 tsunami nearly destroyed the turf before a revival was shaped. That there is always a way forward is a lesson which will not be lost on India and Sri Lanka as the teams gear up for the first Test of a three-match series commencing here on Wednesday.

India, the numero uno, is slowly attempting a closure to the unsavoury manner in which the head coach's position was dealt with over the past month. Sri Lanka is coping with transition and, to make it worse, its recent skipper Angelo Mathews relinquished the position and his replacement in the hot seat Dinesh Chandimal, re-



What's in store? Virat Kohli will fancy his chances of success against an inexperienced Sri Lankan team led by a third-choice captain. ■ AFP

covering from pneumonia, will miss this Test.

After a summer dedicated to limited-over cricket, the visitor needs to start its comeback to Tests on a promising note and the laurels of the last season can be relegated to nostalgia.

The host, ranked seventh, and under the leadership of Rangana Herath, has to rediscover the mettle it displayed in the days of Muttiah Muralitharan, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara and Lasith Malinga.

If India needs to show that there are no remnants of bad blood in the change room, Sri Lanka has to stir awake its dormant potential. This is the beguiling context for the series. Following K.L. Rahul's indisposition with viral fever, India is likely to field Shikhar

Dhawan and Abhinav Mukund as openers.

At least, that's the impression Kohli gave in his pre-match press conference. If indeed the southpaws strike a tandem, Cheteshwar Pujara, Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane will step in the sub-

sequent slots and that begs the question – will the Indian skipper field Rohit Sharma and abandon his five-batsmen theory?

Kohli dropped a hint about that too, stating that in the last Test that the two rivals played at Galle in 2015, India was a batsman short.

Incidentally, it was a match in which India messed up a 176-run-chase and were bowled out for 112 with Herath's left-arm spin producing a seven for 48.

The motto will be to do one better.

at training on Tuesday. India fielded only its batsmen at nets while the bowlers rested.

The odd spell of rain has been forecast. The teams, though, cannot afford to be as fickle as the weather.

Sri Lanka has a 3-1 record against India at this venue but for Kohli's men, what followed after its loss here in 2015 offers a positive clue. India won that series 2-1.

The motto will be to do one better.

## The teams (from):

**Sri Lanka:** Rangana Herath (capt), Upul Tharanga, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kusal Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Asela Gunaratne, Niroshan Dickwella (wk), Dhananjaya de Silva, Danushka Gunathilaka, Dilruwan Perera, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando, Malinda Pushpakumara and Nuwan Pradeep.

**India:** Virat Kohli (capt), Shikhar Dhawan, Abhinav Mukund, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Hardik Pandya, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Kuldeep Yadav and K.L. Rahul.

**Umpires:** Bruce Oxenford and Richard Illingworth; **Third umpire:** Rod Tucker; **Match referee:** Richie Richardson.

Match starts at 10 a.m.

## It will be a challenging series: Herath

Sri Lanka skipper says he still enjoys playing Tests



Think-tank: Captain Rangana Herath, left, and chief selector Sanath Jayasuriya are aware of India's strengths. ■ AP

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**GALLE** At 39, Rangana Herath, has found supreme joy in belated achievements. Be it wickets or now the Test captaincy, being thrust upon him due to Dinesh Chandimal's unavailability, Herath has relished the challenges that have come his way.

In Tuesday's press-conference, ahead of the first Test, the Sri Lankan skipper stressed that the series will be a challenging one and serenely held all his cards close to his chest.

Herath pointed out that the successful run-chase in the recent Test against Zimbabwe will hold the team in

good stead. "We were chasing like 380-plus. It was not an easy task. So that confidence will help the boys as we get into this Indian series," he said.

When asked about mystery spinners in his team's ranks, with dry-humour, he quipped: "There are no secret spinners. If you see the squad, you can see the spinners."

And about the surface, he added: "This looks a good pitch. Now I cannot say whether it's going to turn or not."

"But I can say, on the fourth and fifth days, there will be some assistance for the spinners."

The effective, but ageing Herath, had to square-up to two inevitable questions pertaining to his eventual retirement and his probable successor. "I am still enjoying playing Test cricket. I haven't decided anything so far."

"I am taking it series by series and match by match," he said and about the successor, he explained: "If you take Malinda Pushpakumara's First Class career, he has taken more than 500 wickets."

"That statistic says that he is very good at his bowling. Whether I am retired or not, I am sure he is the second option as a left-arm spinner."

The 2015 series: It's pretty different sitting here two years after that particular series which was very important in us coming together as a team and believing that we can win series and not just matches.

So it was the beginning of that mindset and we were able to build on that in the last couple of years, training a certain way, thinking about the game a certain way, playing together as a team a cer-

tain way, I think we have built a really good base. We are pretty humble in our preparations and do the hard yards every game that we play.

**Countering Herath:** He is a quality bowler. Last time he really dented us in that small chase (at Galle).

We worked on those things in the next two games and we were able to win the series.

He played both the games and the ball was still doing a

bit. So we understand what he brings to the table and what needs to be done.

**Hardik Pandya's value:** Last time we felt in the first Test that we probably were a batsman short and the fifth bowler didn't do much in the game.

We have those options open as well. We have great balance in the side. We've got a guy like Hardik Pandya who is a wicket-taking bowler. Every game that he

plays, on any surface, he has a knack of picking wickets. He has a great chance of playing as well.

**Happy unit:** The bond within the team is outstanding and that is something that makes me really proud.

Even in the most difficult of situations all the guys believe that we can do it together and we have been able to overturn situations more often than not just because of that belief.

## Mithali's team has changed the language of the discourse

Women players will have to be discussed in the manner the men are, despite the fact they are paid less and play fewer internationals



## BETWEEN WICKETS

**SURESH MENON**

Mithali Raj's team has made it easier for the Board of Control for Cricket in India to do its job. The players have brought focus on the sport, attracted millions of viewers, drawn the interest of sponsors, and converted a niche activity into a national fascination. All the BCCI has to do is to strike while the iron remains hot. Women's cricket is at the take-off stage: one that will involve more fans, more attention, more money, more professionalism.

Harmanpreet Kaur single-handedly changed the image of the Indian cricketer with her 171 against Australia.

For the statistics-obsessed Indian fan, there are the world record aggregates of Mithali Raj herself and medium pacer Jhulan Goswami. Everything seems to be in place.

Do you praise a team for performing

above itself and making it to the final or criticise it for the manner in which it lost? For the most part, critics, fans, former players have all chosen the former route. It is politically correct.

The players deserve sympathy rather than censure, yet, imagine the outcry had Virat Kohli's boys lost a final after being 191 for three, chasing just 228.

India who looked the winner for much of Sunday's final, fell tantalisingly short. The combination of limited experience, pressure,

England's ability to simply hang on till they were able to get an opening, end-of-chase panic and the lack of a late-order batter who placed efficiency above theatrics told in the end.

This team can be criticised. The right to be criticised places it above earlier teams which were mainly condescended to.

The valid comparison with Kapil Dev is not his batting in the 1983 Cup, but the manner in which he silenced the establishment which told him when he was young that he should not ask for extra rations because "India does not produce fast bowlers."

It is a story most of the women have grown up with – "India does not produce

women cricketers" – and it is this story that has now been rendered obsolete.

## One of the greatest innings

Harmanpreet's innings stands comparison with one day-innings played by an Indian cricketer regardless of gender. There is about her something of the young Dilip Vengsarkar, the man who announced himself as a 19-year old with a spate of sixes against the greats Bedi and Prasanna in the Irani Trophy.

Not many women like comparisons with their male counterparts. They expect to be judged on their own and against their own. But the awe is genuine.

After Harmanpreet's innings, many said she would make a great addition to the men's late middle order which has lacked a big hitter.

Indian women have earned the right to be treated as potential winners of a final, not just winners of kind hearts. We don't have to walk gingerly around performances and reputations.

The tears (from the players) and the disappointments (among Indian fans) will soon give way to hard-headed assessments.

In other words, the women players will

have to be discussed in the manner the men are. And this, despite the fact that they are paid less, are less experienced and play fewer internationals.

This might sound harsh now, so soon after a wonderful World Cup final, and given the difficult path many players have taken to international stardom, but it is important that neither the good nor the bad is swept away.

There is an element of condescension in a pat on the head and "take it on the chin and carry on".

The problem with a prolonged sympathy is that weaknesses get covered up, and the tough questions are never asked. It also encourages a too-easily satisfied attitude.

## Question the Board

Questions have to be asked of the cricket board. How is it going to take it from here? What are the plans to attract young players to the game? When is the under-16 championship across the nation being played? How much of the enormous amount of money given to the State associations is being earmarked for women's cricket?

Mithali Raj has suggested that a wo-

man's IPL is a logical step. There is some merit here, and perhaps, crucially, a ready-made television audience.

There is too the enhancement of daily allowances for those who play national tournaments.

There is call for raising the contract fees too. Marketing managers react more quickly than the BCCI, and they know that in a team which captured the nation's imagination, there are enough individuals who will attract sponsorship.

The Lodha Committee visualised greater participation for women in the BCCI. The Apex Council, when it is finally in place, will have a woman representative.

Mithali Raj's team has made a country proud, but to sustain that effort the action should shift to the board rooms of the BCCI. The much-touted "processes" that run men's cricket will have to be adapted for women's too. The arbitrariness that seems to cling to women's cricket has to go. If the World Cup performance is to be come the game-changer everybody hopes it will, the BCCI will have to build on that achievement. A brilliant team deserves professional management.

CM YK

## IN BRIEF



## Ronaldo to stay at Real Madrid

MADRID Ending weeks of speculation about his future, Cristiano Ronaldo has told a Spanish newspaper he is staying put at Real Madrid to plunder more silverware. "To win important trophies with my club and the personal honours last season was brilliant, to do it again would be nice," Ronaldo told the sports daily *Marca* on Tuesday in an interview from Shanghai. AFP

## Greg Rutherford ruled out of Worlds

LONDON Britain's Greg Rutherford, who won the 2012 Olympic gold, has been ruled out of next month's World championships as the defending long jump champion has failed to recover from an ankle injury sustained competing in Italy last month. AFP

## Mixed day for India

TAURANGA (NEW ZEALAND) India began with a 3-0 win over South Africa but went down 3-0 to England on the opening day of the girls' team event competition in the WSF-World junior squash championship here on Tuesday. After the end of two matches, India is placed second in the group with a match against France to go. **The results:** Pool-C: India bt South Africa 3-0 (Akanksha Salunkhe bt Faith Panache Sithole 11-6, 15-13, 11-4; Aishwarya Bhattacharya bt Helena Coetze 11-7, 11-5, 11-7; Sunanya Kuruvilla bt Jenifer Preece 11-5, 11-5, 11-5). India lost to England 0-3 (Akanksha lost to Lucy Turmel 11-1, 5-1, 5-1; Aishwarya lost to Jasmine Hutton 4-11, 5-11, 4-11; Sunanya lost to Elise Lazarus 9-11, 8-11, 12-10, 8-11).

**Prithvi & Jafreen lose** Prithvi Sekhar and Jafreen Shaik were beaten 6-2, 7-5 by Vincent Novelli & Aurelie Coudon in the mixed doubles semifinals in the tennis event of the Deaflympics on Tuesday. In the women's doubles semifinals, Marine Beney and Coudon defeated Parul Gupta and Madhu Jaiswal 6-1, 6-1. Both Indian pairs will now compete for bronze in their respective sections.

**Shaheen nets a hat-trick** Shaheen John struck a hat-trick as Hindustan FC registered a 5-0 victory over newly-promoted Uttarakhand FC in the opening game of the DSA Senior Division football league at the Dr. Ambedkar Stadium here on Tuesday. **The results:** Hindustan FC 5 (Shaheen John 3, Kisley Sajwan, Khushwant Chairman) bt Uttarakhand 0; IAF 1 (Kamaluddin) bt Delhi United FC 0.

# Hosszu delights the locals

Peaty and Sjostrom narrowly miss out on World records

REUTERS  
BUDAPEST

Katinka Hosszu, roared on by her home crowd, held on to secure Hungary's first gold medal at the 2017 World swimming championships after a thrilling women's 200m individual medley final on Monday.

Starting from lane four, where the 28-year-old self-titled 'Iron Lady' has been training in the build-up to the championships, Hosszu clocked 2:07.00 seconds amid deafening noise at a packed Duna Arena.

The Olympic champion's biggest threat after two easy qualification races came from lane one where Japan's Yui Ohashi took a well-earned silver.

Ohashi, who looked to reel in the local favourite on the final freestyle leg, finished 0.91 seconds behind Hosszu, with Madisyn Cox of the United States taking bronze.

Britain's Adam Peaty and Sarah Sjostrom of Sweden narrowly missed out on world record times as the pair defended their respective titles.

Peaty powered his way to the turn in the men's 100m



**Hungary's pride:** Katinka Hosszu of Hungary celebrates in her own inimitable style after she claimed the 200m IM gold at the Duna Arena in Budapest on Monday. ■AP

breaststroke under the pace he set at last summer's Rio Olympics.

His would-be challengers were then left trailing in his wake as the 22-year-old clocked a championship record time of 57.47 seconds, 0.34 seconds outside of his personal best.

Sjostrom went even closer in the women's 100m butterfly final as she overtook Therese Alshammar as

Sweden's most decorated swimmer at a World championships. The 23-year-old touched just 0.05 seconds shy of her own World record time of 55.48 seconds.

In the men's 50m butterfly, Nicholas Santos of Brazil was denied a fairytale gold at the age of 37 by the tenacious 22-year-old Ben Proud of Britain.

**The results:** Men: 100m butterfly: 1. Sarah Sjostrom (Swe) 55.53s, 2. Emma McKeon (Aus) 56.18, 3. Kelsi Worrel (USA) 56.37; 200m IM: 1. Katinka Hosszu (Hun) 2:07.00, 2. Yui Ohashi (Jpn) 2:07.91, 3. Madisyn Cox (USA) 2:09.71.

(GBR) 57.47s, 2. Kevin Cordes (USA) 58.79, 3. Kirill Prigoda (Rus) 59.05; 50m butterfly: 1. Ben Proud (GBR) 22.75, 2. Nicholas Santos (Bra) 22.79, 3. Andrew Gyorov (Ukr) 22.84.

**Women: 100m butterfly:** 1. Sarah Sjostrom (Swe) 55.53s, 2. Emma McKeon (Aus) 56.18, 3. Kelsi Worrel (USA) 56.37; 200m IM: 1. Katinka Hosszu (Hun) 2:07.00, 2. Yui Ohashi (Jpn) 2:07.91, 3. Madisyn Cox (USA) 2:09.71.

Playing with black pieces on the top board, top seed Soumya was held to a draw by WGM Kiran Manisha Mohanty (LIC) in 27 moves. Second seed Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) was involved in a 39-move draw with Bhakti Kulkarni (AI).

Meenakshi Subbaraman (AAI) are tied with 5.5 points and are placed from third to seven in the rankings.

Five players – WGM Kiran Manisha Mohanty (LIC), WGM Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB), WGM Bhakti Kulkarni (AI), IM Nisha Mohota (PSPB) and WGM Meenakshi Subbaraman (AAI) are tied with 5.5 points and are placed from third to seven in the rankings.

Playing with black pieces on the top board, top seed Soumya was held to a draw by WGM Kiran Manisha Mohanty (LIC) in 27 moves. Second seed Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) was involved in a 39-move draw with Bhakti Kulkarni (AI).

Lakshmi continued her fine form by registering a well-earned win over Statemate WIM M. Mahalakshmi in 45 moves. WFM G. Lasya (PSPB) playing with white, held Commonwealth champion and third seed WGM

Swati Ghate (LIC) to a creditable draw in 88 moves.

Nisha came back strongly to record a victory over Tamil Nadu's K. Priyanka (4.5 points) in 38 moves. Meenakshi scored a convincing win against Makhiya Aashna (Mah) in 79 moves.

**Important results (seventh round):** Kiran Manisha Mohanty (5.5) drew with Soumya Swaminathan (6), Mary Ann Gomes (5.5) drew with Bhakti Kulkarni (5.5), C. Lakshmi (6) bt M. Mahalakshmi (5), G. Lasya (5) drew with Swati Ghate (5), Nisha Mohota (5.5) bt K. Priyanka (4.5), Meenakshi Subbaraman (5.5) bt Makhiya Aashna (4.5), L. Jyotsna (5) drew with Harshita G (5), R. Divya Lakshmi (4) lost P.V. Nandhidhaa (5), Srija Seshadri (5) bt Isha Sharma (4), P. Michelle Catherine P (4.5) drew with Meenu Rajendran (4.5), A.G. Nimmy (4.5) drew with Y. Saranya Y (4.5), Ghost Samridhidaa (4) lost to Pranali S. Dharia (5), Chitlange Sakshi (4.5) drew with G. Sandhya (4.5), Bommidi Monika Akshaya (4) lost to Arpitha Mukharjee (5), Ramaswamy Arathie (5) bt Rathi Dhanashree (4), P. Bala Kanannama (5) bt P. Tulsi (4), Andria L. D'souza (4.5) drew with Chandreyee Hajra (4).

## Mumbai gets a WTA event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association will host a WTA 125k series tournament at the Cricket Club of India from November 20 to 26.

The MSLTA applied for this tournament and the WTA confirmed it by putting it on its website on Tuesday.

## Chithra moves court

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
KOZHIKODE

P.U. Chithra filed a petition in the Kerala High Court on Tuesday challenging her exclusion from the Indian athletics team for the World championship in London.

She contended that she had qualified for the meet by winning gold in the 1,500m at the Asian championship in Bhubaneswar earlier this month.

"By winning the gold, she should have won a place in the team and her timing or form should not have mattered at all," Chithra's coach N.S. Sijin told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

"Chithra, Sudha Singh (women's 3000m steeple chase) and Ajoy Kumar Singh (men's 1500m) have all been treated the same way by the AFI despite winning the gold at Bhubaneswar. How can the AFI omit only three athletes saying their timings are not good enough?" he said.

"We decided to move the court because we felt there was gross injustice and athletes like her should not suffer in future."

"The AFI should actually be encouraging athletes like Chithra; she comes from a very humble background and both her parents are daily-wage labourers. She is not the product of a famous coach; she trains under me, a mere PE teacher at a rural school."

## India to host World boxing championships

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

India has won the hosting rights for the 2018 women's World boxing championship and the 2021 men's World championship. Both the events will be held in Delhi.

While the men's championship will be the first such event to be hosted in the country, India had held the women's event in 2006.

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) made the announcement following the unanimous decision of its Executive Committee in Moscow on Monday.

"We are excited to announce New Delhi as host city in 2021 as the Boxing Federation of India continues to show its commitment

to developing the sport," said AIBA President Dr. Ching-Kuo Wu.

The 2019 edition of men's Worlds has been given to the Russian city of Sochi and the women's World championship has been awarded to Trabzon, Turkey.

World Cup medal-winning boxer V. Devarajan welcomed the development.

"After 2006, we will see a World championship in our country. The women's event will feature some of the finest boxers aspiring to do well in the Tokyo Olympics, while the men's event will inspire the younger lot to make their mark after the 2020 Games," said Devarajan.

## Goyat to defend title on August 5

Meets the Philippines' Allan Tanada

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Super Middle (double title fight, 10 rounds): Vijender Singh vs Zulpikar Maimaitiali (Chn). **Welter (10 rounds):** Neeraj Goyat vs Allan Tanada (Phi); **Cruiser (six rounds):** Dharmender Grewal vs Issac Slade (Aus).

**Welter (six rounds):** Pradeep Kharera vs Wanphichit Siriphana (Tha); **Junior Welter (four rounds):** Akhil Kumar vs Ty Gilchrist (Aus); **Light (four rounds):** Jitender Kumar vs Likhitkamporn (Tha), Kuldeep Dhabra vs Sachin Bhot.

Goyat will try to defend his title in a 10-round fight against Allan Tanada of the Philippines.

## ISL gets AFC approval

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on Tuesday approved the Indian Super League to be played alongside the I-League in 2017 and 2018, terming it a temporary short-term bridging solution.

Following a recommendation from AIFF, the sport's Asian governing body gave the green light. The recommendation was that the ISL will replace the Federation Cup, whose winner is currently allocated an AFC Cup preliminary stage place.

The results (all first round): \$75,000 Challenger, Binghamton, USA: Denis Kudla & Daniel Nguyen (USA) bt Dekel Bar (Isr) & Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-6(5), 7-6(9).

**Futures:** Purav Raja and Divij Sharan defeated Treat Huey and Robert Lindstedt 7-6(2), 6-7(2), [10-4] in the first round of the ATP Atlanta Open on Monday.

In the Challenger in Binghamton, R. Ramkumar and Dekel Bar were beaten in two tie-break sets by Denis Kudla and Daniel Nguyen.

**The results (all first round):** \$25,000 Futures, Tianjin, China: Karunuday Singh bt Lyu Chengze (Chn) 6-4, 6-2.

**Futures:** Purav Raja and Divij Sharan defeated Treat Huey and Robert Lindstedt 7-6(2), 6-4, 6-3; Aryan Goveas vs Axel Vilas Antuna (Esp) 6-7(7), 6-4, 6-3; Aryan Goveas bt Lluis Dolz (Esp) 7-6(3), 6-1.

**Doubles:** Fred Gil (Por) & Marc Giner (Esp) bt Anurag Newani & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-3, 6-0; Aryan Goveas & Dhruv Sunish w/o Andrew Cheapev (Rus) & Samy Grace (Egy).

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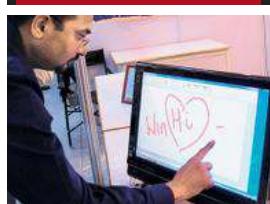
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**Futures:</b**



## IN BRIEF



## MS Paint to go to a new home: Microsoft

SAN FRANCISCO

After the massive support that poured in for MS Paint after it was reported that Microsoft was 'killing' the 32-year-old app, the company has clarified that Paint will have a new home in the Windows Store, where it will be available for free. The newer Paint 3D will get feature updates. IANS



## Rolling Stones to soon record new album

LOS ANGELES

Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards has said the band will soon start recording their new album. During a segment of "Ask Keith Richards" on the YouTube page of the legendary group's guitarist, Richards said the band was "cutting some new stuff and considering where to take it next." PTI



## Simpsons mastermind to create Netflix series

NEW YORK

Netflix says it has ordered an animated comedy from *The Simpsons* mastermind Matt Groening. *Disenchantment* will take place in the crumbling medieval kingdom of Dreamland, which is populated by hard-drinking princess Bean, her elf companion Elfo and her personal demon Luci. AP

## Daniel Craig to play 007 one more time

The next instalment of *James Bond* will release in North America on November 8, 2019



Brooding hero: Daniel Craig in a still from Spectre. • AP

BROOKS BARNES

Daniel Craig will play James Bond in at least one more film, which will be released in November 2019.

Eon Productions, the London-based company that oversees all things 007, and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, which holds rights to the franchise, have said that the next instalment would arrive in theatres in North America on November 8, 2019.

Eon and MGM also said that the script would be written by Neal Purvis and

Robert Wade, who have teamed up on the screenplays for the last six Bond instalments, starting with *The World Is Not Enough* in 1999.

## Director not known yet

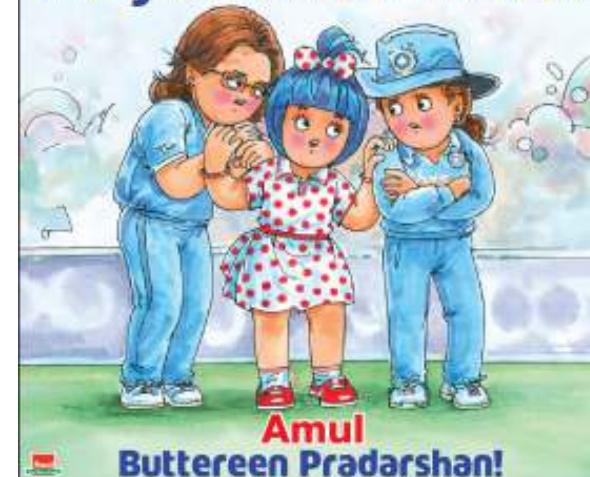
The next Bond movie will be produced by Eon's Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli. The companies said in a statement that details about a distribution partner, international release dates and the film's cast and director would be announced "at a later date".

But Craig's return is a

done deal, according to two people briefed on the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid conflicts with Eon and MGM.

After a gruelling shoot for the last Bond movie, *Spectre*, Craig expressed a strong desire to move on from the role, which he took over in 2006 with *Casino Royale*. "I'd rather break this glass and slash my wrists," he told a British magazine in October. He later said that he had been overtired during that interview and that he would consider returning. NYT

## They blue our minds!



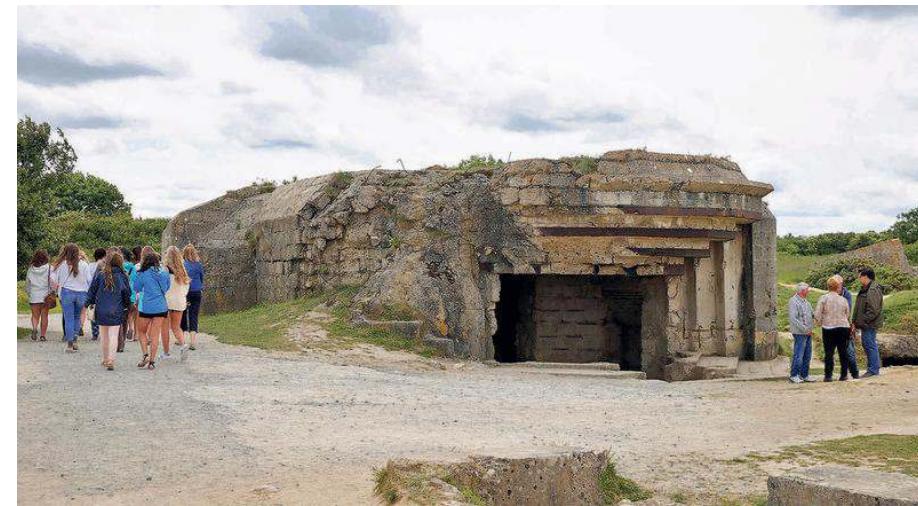
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daCunha/AB/559

## Dutch dust off 'painful' Nazi bunkers for tourism

Visitors can take a step back in time to experience the damp and claustrophobic atmosphere in what was once Hitler's 'Atlantikwall'



History remembered: Tourists at a German bunker on Omaha Beach in France. The fortification was part of an extensive system of coastal defense built by Nazi Germany along continental Europe. • CHESNOT/GETTY IMAGES

the seaside suburb of Scheveningen.

"Some have been opened to the public, others are used as a shelter for bats during wintertime," Mr. Hogendoorn said. "Some bunkers are still being discovered," added Guido Blaauw, a businessman who has bought a bunker at the Clingendael estate where Austrian Nazi boss Arthur Seyss-Inquart – later executed for war crimes – once had his own massive underground shelter.

## Careful restoration

Since 2008, Mr. Hogendoorn and his foundation, with the agreement of local authorities, have carefully restored one 10-room bunker complex in the Scheveningen woods.

Here visitors can experience the damp, cool claustrophobic atmosphere where generators constantly ran in the past to ventilate the underground maze. It is a step back in time with vestiges of an old telephone system and signs that say in German: 'Beware, the enemy is listening'.

But the bunkers are a dark reminder of the bitter German occupation of The Netherlands between 1940–1945, said Deirdre Schoemaker, spokeswoman of the European Atlantikwall Heritage Foundation.

More than 1,00,000 Hague residents were forcibly removed to make space for the Atlantikwall, which saw thousands of homes,

seven schools, three churches and two hospitals flattened.

The bunkers were often built using Dutch slave labour and with the collaboration of Dutch companies hoping to profit from the war.

No wonder that when The Hague was finally liberated in early May 1945, its resid-

ents buried the bunkers under sand and rubble to put the war behind them.

## Dark reminder

"We have a Dutch expression... which literally means 'buried it under the ground,'" Ms. Schoemaker said. "That was really the case after the war and for

many years, for decades you

saw that. It was a painful history," she said. "People just did not talk about it."

For decades the bunkers mostly lay dormant, an intriguing playground for local children, while others were used by the Dutch government as high-security command posts during the Cold War.

Slowly however in the last decade people's views have changed, Ms. Schoemaker said.

"There's more and more openness. People are becoming more comfortable about talking about them, even with German tourists," she said.

Growing curiosity combined with an understanding of their historic significance led to The Hague's first official "Bunker Day" in 2014.

"It's German history, not the best history, but history you have to see in order for it not to happen again," said German tourist Sebastian Frank, 31, a geriatric nurse from Dresden.

The annual June event has now grown to incorporate bunker visits along the entire Dutch coast as well as Bel-

gium for the first time this year, Ms. Schoemaker said.

"There is huge interest. At our latest Bunker Day we had more than 10,000 visitors and each of them visited at least three to four bunkers," she said, at an entrance price of €6 for adults and €3 for children.

## A healing touch

For many Dutch people who lived through the war, a visit to the bunkers may be the first time they can confront the first time they can confront the memories," said Ms. Schoemaker. "I think it can be very therapeutic ... It's often a part of their history that's been hidden inside them. In this way they can let it out and put it behind them."

Bunker owner Blaauw added that "elderly people who witnessed the war and had problems with the bunkers right after the war are now more interested in them."

But still many hesitate to be reminded of that time as the "war has defined their whole lives up until today", he said.

## + Tom of Finland director lands Tolkien biopic

Dome Karukoski's film will explore the formative years of the orphaned author

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HELSINKI  
Finnish filmmaker Dome Karukoski is set to direct a Hollywood biopic about J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Casting is under way.

Online entertainment magazine *Deadline* broke the news on Monday and said that casting was under way.

"Dome can confirm the information in the *Deadline* article but he can't confirm or comment on anything else," said Helsinki Filmi CEO Annika Sucksdorff.

The story tells of Tolkien's



J.R.R. Tolkien. • AP

journey into the First World War, which "threatens to tear the 'fellowship' apart," *Deadline* added.

Tolkien's experience in the war is said to have inspired him in his books. He had initially refrained from enlisting in the British army after the war broke out in 1914 and completed his studies at the University of Oxford in 1915 instead.

## Bestselling tales

He eventually joined the army and was summoned to France in 1916. Tolkien taught at Oxford for nearly 20 years while writing *The Hobbit* and the two first volumes of *The Lord of the*

*Rings*. *The Hobbit* was published in 1937.

Tolkien then wrote *The Lord of the Rings* between 1937 and 1949 as what was initially intended to be a sequel, but the story became much larger – and one of the bestselling novels of all time with more than 150 million copies sold.

Fox Searchlight and Chernin Entertainment have been working on the Tolkien biopic since 2013. U.S. entertainment magazine *Variety* reported.

(With inputs from PTI)

## Family of Indian Olympian puts up medal for auction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI  
The family of Khashaba Jadhav, who won India's first individual Olympic medal, has put up the medal for auction.

They seek to use the funds to build a wrestling academy in the Olympic champion's honour.

"The decision to auction the bronze medal is a painful one but we are left with few options as the State government has reneged on its promise to build the academy," Ranjit Jadhav, son



of the famous wrestler, told PTI over phone from Satara district in western Maharashtra.

"In 2009, at a wrestling event in Jalgao, then State sports minister Dilip Deshmukh had announced that the government would set up a national-level wrestling academy, named after my late father, in Satara," Mr. Jadhav said.

"After eight years, nothing has materialised. In December 2013, ₹1.58 crore were sanctioned for the project. But the project has failed to take shape," he said.

A 27-year-old Jadhav won a bronze medal in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

## Iran's tech sector blooms under shield of sanctions

Domestic start-ups adapt and recreate global models

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

TEHRAN  
The names may be unfamiliar but the services are immediately recognisable: Snapp is Iran's answer to Uber, Digikala is its Amazon, and Pintapin is its Booking.com.

U.S. sanctions have protected the Islamic republic's tech sector, barring Silicon Valley from profiting from one of the world's most promising emerging markets, and giving a free run to domestic start-ups to recreate their services.

Even some Californian mumb-jumbo has been imported: one booth at the Elec-comp tech fair in Tehran this week claimed it was "Creating Artificial Mindfulness".

But don't dare call them copycats – transplanting a foreign business model to Iran is never straightforward. "It's not a matter of copying code line-by-line," said Amirali Mohajer, the 32-year-old chief operating officer of Pintapin. "You need local expertise that has to be built from the ground up, and it might need an entirely different business model to make it successful."

His office sits alongside

to Iran because it felt like a place where tech could have "an impact that actually matters". Across town, the huge hangars, strip-lighting and shiny booths of the Elec-comp tech fair could be anywhere.

It is growing rapidly: its start-up section had 80 hopefuls three years ago, now there are more than 400 – the usual mix of delivery apps, online shopping and games. But global brands are almost entirely absent, the result of severe U.S. sanctions that remain in place despite other countries lifting restrictions under a 2015 nuclear deal.

Some Iranians have found ways to profit from sanctions: one company at Elec-comp buys Amazon products from the U.S. and ships them to Iranians for a small surcharge.

But isolation has been a very mixed blessing. "There are two sides to the coin. When you are under sanctions, you have an opportunity to do many things yourself," said the fair's organiser, Naserali Saadat. "But generally, it's not a good thing... you can't live like an island in this world."

But generally, it [sanctions] is not a good thing... you can't live like an island in this world.

NASERALI SAADAT

Tech fair organiser

several other fast-growing start-ups in the offices of the Iran Internet Group (IIG), a haven of north Tehran hipsterdom where the jeans are skinny, the headscarves loose, and 20-somethings sip espressos in glass meeting rooms.

Pintapin's staff are not just building a website, they are transforming Iran's entire hotel industry. "Up until very recently, a lot of travel arrangements were done completely offline through phone calls and faxes and traditional models that really belong in the last century," said Mr. Mohajer.

Push for automation Half the company's time is spent convincing hotels to give up pen-and-paper reservations and start automating their business.

Mr. Mohajer, who spent 16 years abroad in Britain and Canada, says he came back

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# DELHI METRO



## 'Delhi women must feel safe'

As she completes two years in the Delhi Commission for Women, Swati Maliwal talks about countering patriarchy [Page 2](#)



## Get this party started

Wedding planner to the stars, Colin Cowie spills his secrets about what makes a celebration perfect [Page 4](#)



## Of food and faith

My Hanuman Chalisa author Devdutt Pattanaik talks about the culinary choices of divine forces [Page 5](#)



## Electric dreams

The road ahead for India's vision of electric transportation and a cleaner way of life [Page 6](#)

### IN BRIEF



#### Four 'cops' held for multiple robberies

NEW DELHI  
Four men have been arrested for allegedly impersonating police officers and robbing unsuspecting individuals. The accused even bought a wireless set to pass themselves off as cops. So far, they have admitted to involvement in at least 40 robberies.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)

#### Gurugram-Faridabad toll road gets speed camera

GURUGRAM  
Speeding on the Gurugram-Faridabad Road may not go unchecked any more, thanks to the Faridabad police installing a camera on the stretch on Tuesday to catch vehicles driving above the speed limit of 80 kmph.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 2](#)

#### DU to release seventh cut-off list tomorrow

NEW DELHI  
Delhi University (DU) announced on Tuesday that it will be releasing a seventh cut-off list for admission into merit-based undergraduate programmes on July 27. Students will be permitted to take admission on July 27-28. There are still seats up for grabs in popular courses like B.A. (Hons.) Economics in some colleges. STAFF REPORTER

## Govt to help set up Hindi book clubs

Aims to promote literary discussions and seminars

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

In an attempt to boost debate through literature, the Delhi government will help people set up Hindi language book clubs by offering them financial aid to buy books and providing space to hold meetings.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the Art, Culture and Language Department portfolio, has asked the Hindi Academy to reach out to people interested in Hindi book clubs, an official in the Deputy CM's office said on Tuesday.

Aimed at bringing the enlightening literary discussions from academic institutions into the public domain, the government also wishes

## 4-yr-old falls on tea vessel, dies of burns

Girl lost balance while playing with kin

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR  
NEW DELHI

In a tragic incident, a four-year-old girl died of burn injuries after she fell onto a vessel full of tea and was scalded by the hot liquid, at her house in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar.

The freak accident occurred on Saturday when the girl, Aayat, was playing with her siblings.

The girl's body was handed over to her family after a post mortem on Monday. While the report of the post mortem is awaited, police have *prima facie* ruled out any foul play in the case.

#### Cramped space

The house where the accident took place is a tiny one-room accommodation where Aayat and her eight family members lived.

The victim was the youngest of her parents' seven children. The room is close to one of the by-lanes near the Old Seelampur police post.

On the day of the accident, the entire family had gathered for their morning cup of tea.

A police team then took the injured girl to the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital. After battling for life for over two days, Aayat succumbed to her injuries on Monday.

Police said that the girl was frail and malnourished, which worsened the impact of the burns.

"We have not registered a case so far, but a probe is on," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Nupur Prasad.

people will be able to ask the Hindi Academy for financial help to buy books as well as space for holding regular meetings to discuss the books.

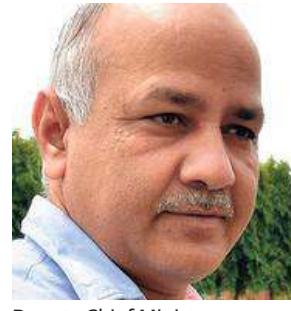
The official said proposals would be invited by the academy for help in setting up the book clubs.

#### Regional languages

The official added that as there were many private book clubs started by literature enthusiasts, the government wanted to make reading and discussion more accessible to all.

Starting with Hindi, the government will set up similar clubs for other languages, including Punjabi, Urdu and Bhojpuri, said the official.

Groups of interested



to promote literary seminars, symposiums with enhanced local participation across the city, said the official. The government also wants to take culture to all parts of the city, not just the hubs that are in Lutyens' Delhi, he added.

Groups of interested

## Capital problem



A very long wait: Traffic crawls on Vikas Marg during Ram Nath Kovind's visit to Rajghat, before being sworn in as India's 14th President, on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## JNU students protest fines for 'showing dissent'

University is blocking 30 students from registering in new academic session till they pay the fine

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

"Dancing to the tunes of power and punishing voices of dissent is your privilege. Defending the Right to Education and fighting for justice is our duty." It was with these words that the Jawaharlal Nehru Students' Union (JNUSU) called for a protest on Tuesday against the administration of the university that they allege is trying to silence dissent.

Students, who had marched from Ganga Dhaba to the Administration Block late on Monday, held a protest in front of the block on Tuesday.

The university administration, via the Proctor's Office, has levied fines against 30 students for taking part in protests in the last academic year and has blocked their registration for the coming term till they pay the fine.

#### Fund collection drive

The administration has imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on all four JNUSU office-bearers and two other student activists, and a fine of ₹10,000 on 24 other students.

The JNUSU has launched a fund collection drive asking all students to contribute in

## Unrest on campus

JNU students have launched several massive protests over the last one year

30

Total number of students fined by the JNU administration

₹20,000

Fine imposed on all four JNUSU office-bearers and two other students

₹10,000

Fine imposed on 24 other students

#### NEW SESSION, OLD ISSUES

##### October 2016: Najeeb protests

The JNUSU led a protest at the Administration Block. Students confined Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar and other senior officials overnight in their office. They were demanding action against ABVP members for assaulting Najeeb Ahmed the night before his disappearance. Najeeb is yet to be traced.

##### December 2016: Seat cut in research courses

Students protested against the implementation of the UGC Gazette Notification that led to an 83% seat-cut in research and M.Phil programmes. They agitated outside the Academic Council meeting when the matter came up for discussion, disrupting the meeting.

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## IN BRIEF



## Alert PCR staff reunite 5-year-old with family

NEW DELHI  
A 5-year-old girl, who went missing near Kanjhawala Chowk on Tuesday, was reunited with her father within two hours, thanks to the alertness of PCR staff. The girl was traced by ASI Devender and Constable Vinod. STAFF REPORTER

## AAP govt not entitled to lodge FIR: RIL to HC

NEW DELHI  
Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that an FIR against it on the alleged irregularities in raising the price of gas from KG 6 basin, be quashed as the AAP government was "never entitled" to lodge the FIR. PTI

## Municipality's slow pace of work upsets HC

NEW DELHI  
The slow pace of construction of a bridge here, which began in 2008, prompted the Delhi High Court to retort that even a child admitted in nursery that year would finish schooling before the structure could be built. The bridge is being built at Nangloi. PTI

## Gurugram-Faridabad toll road gets speed camera

Device installed near Pali police post on trial basis

ASHOK KUMAR  
FARIDABAD  
Speeding on Gurugram-Faridabad Road may not go unchecked any more, thanks to the Faridabad police installing a camera on the road on Tuesday to record details of vehicles driving above the limit of 80 km per hour. The speed limit has been fixed at 80 km per hour as most vehicles plying on this road are cars.

The camera will capture the image of a speeding vehicle, its registration number and other relevant details, and send them automatically to the challan branch for issuance of challans through post.

**Reducing manpower**  
Stating that the camera was installed near Pali police post on trial basis for two days, Faridabad Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Virender Vij said more cameras may be installed if the experiment is successful.

"After the registration

## INTERVIEW | SWATI MALIWAL

## I want all women in Delhi to feel safe'

Women panel chairperson says everybody should work together to combat crime in the Capital

**SHINJINI GHOSH**  
As she completes two years as the chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on July 27, Swati Maliwal talks to The Hindu about countering patriarchy in the government administration and the urgent need for an anti-misogyny cyber cell within the DCW, which has allegedly been held up by bureaucrats.

## What are the changes that you brought about in the Commission?

■ When I took over the panel, the situation was pretty bad. There was no suitable work environment—telephones were not working, internet was missing, and there were no proper staff. It was more like a kitty party that was going on here. I was also shocked to learn that the previous chief had handled only one case in the past eight years.

On the other hand, there was a long line of women trying to approach the Commission. It would take us six months just to tell some of the complainants that we would not be able to



DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

handle their cases and that they needed to visit higher authorities.

Now, we take action on each complaint within 72 hours, because of which we can handle nearly 12,000 cases in a year.

## What are the challenges that you have faced in the last two years?

■ The challenges are two-fold. First, the moment we raise our voice and go to GB Road to break the multi-millionaire nexus that exists there, the system attacks us by registering cases against

us. The other challenge is to fight the patriarchy that exists in the system. The fact that a young woman is calling the shots is not acceptable to many. I have heard senior Delhi government officials saying "kal ki yeh chhokri bataygi ki humey kya kaam karma hain [this newly appointed girl is going to tell us how to do our job?]" Here, gender and age become more important than the kind of work that is being done.

## How are you planning to tackle misogyny on

For the ones advocating for the legalisation of prostitution, I simply want to know if they are fine with their daughters taking up the profession

SWATI MALIWAL  
DCW chief

## social media?

■ We are trying to set up a cyber cell that will have linkages with the police to take immediate action. Rape threats over social media cannot be taken lightly.

Also, families cannot pressure victims to back out from registering complaints because of the threats they get. Unfortunately, however, the formation of the panel has been held up by bureaucrats in the Delhi government.

## What is the primary vision that you have as the DCW chief?

■ I want every woman in the city to feel safe. Despite being the DCW chief, I do not feel safe. This is something that I want to end.

## How are you planning to put an end to the GB

Road business?  
■ The only reason why GB Road is being allowed to operate is because the system is complacent. However, we are trying to completely close down the red-light area.

As for the ones advocating for the legalisation of prostitution, I simply want to know if they are fine with their daughters taking up the profession.

## What is next on your agenda?

■ We want to set up a high-level committee with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Delhi Police Commissioner Anup Singh, Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal as the members. Until these decision-makers meet at least once a month and resolve issues, nothing much will change.

Also, the society needs to collectively work towards removing the tag of Delhi being the "rape capital". My only request is to let the Commission function properly.

All we are trying to do is to help people. Every child is a Nirbhaya, and we cannot let them die.

## Govt to launch disease prevention campaign

Drive to focus on public participation

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government would soon be launching a large-scale awareness campaign that would involve residents in combating the spread of vector-borne diseases during and after monsoon, Health Minister Satyendar Jain said on Tuesday.

Mr. Jain said though the government and the municipal corporations had already worked together for an ongoing awareness campaign, a "big campaign involving the people" would be launched soon.



Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the campaign would be launched soon. ■ FILE PHOTO

been reported. A total of 127 cases of chikungunya had been reported in the same period.

## Some respite

Speaking about the spread of swine flu in other States, Mr. Jain said Delhi had not seen as many cases or deaths caused by it. The city had recorded 320 cases and two deaths till July 16, while other States not only had more cases, but also a higher fatality rate, he said. For instance, Gujarat had 339 cases and 81 deaths; Rajasthan had 412 cases and 59 deaths; Maharashtra had 2,738 cases and 303 deaths; and Kerala had 1,197 cases and 67 deaths.

"We have adequate stock of drugs for the next two months," added Mr. Jain.

## MCG polls likely to be delayed further

STAFF REPORTER  
GURUGRAM

In what could further delay the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) elections, the Punjab and Haryana High Court, hearing a petition challenging the final notification on delimitation of wards, has directed the Haryana government to constitute a high-level committee for its scrutiny. The next hearing has been fixed for August 1.

The petitioners, including Bhoop Singh, a resident of Tigrav village, had moved the court seeking to set aside the final notification on the grounds that all settled norms and principles in seeking to re-fix the wards were ignored and a haphazard manner of bordering and shifting of the boundary of the wards appeared to be done to help a particular political party.

## Notification issued

The Haryana government had issued a notification on February 4, 2016, reducing the number of wards from 35 to 32.

However, on January 13, 2017, another notification was issued proposing a fresh demarcation of 35 wards.

The petitioners have argued that if the number of wards was to remain 35, there was no need for issuing a fresh notification demarcating the earlier wards.

The petitioners in this case have also been arguing that remapping of the wards would result in a completely haphazard geographical area.

## What the law says

The petition argued that as per the law, "the wards may be readjusted as and when the limitations of the corporation are altered or when there is an increase in population or there is an abnormal variation in population or voting figures of some of the wards. Despite only adding four villages with a population of 7,796, the ad hoc committee has chosen to remap more than 80% of the wards". The petition also raised a question over the ad hoc committee, saying it was not constituted in accordance with rules.

"All members of the ad hoc committee are members of the ruling party in the State. One of the members is current MLA of the ruling party and three other members are ex-municipal councillors belonging to the ruling party," read the petition.

## Now, panel to decide on renaming of roads, parks

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

New names of roads, parks and other government facilities will now be approved by the State Naming Authority (SNA), with the Delhi government reviving the panel that had been defunct for over a year.

Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain said on Tuesday the file pertaining to the constitution of the SNA, which had been pending with former Lieutenant-Governor Naresh Kumar, had been cleared by the current L-G, Anil Baijal.

**34-member body**  
Mr. Jain said the 34-member panel would be chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, while he would be the vice-chairperson. Seven MLAs—Rakesh Gupta, Nitin Tyagi, Vishesh Ravi, Sanjeev Jha, Rakhi Birla, Bhavna Gaur and Adarsh Shastri—will be members, along with officials of the Delhi government, Centre, municipal corporations and Delhi Police. Due to the delay in constituting the SNA, several proposals have been pending.

**Commissioner appointed**  
The Bench also appointed a lawyer as a local commissioner and asked her to visit the site and file a status report.

## Civic bodies get 3 days to clean Kushak drain

HC takes note of 'dismal' condition of nullah in south Delhi, seeks report within a week



Taking stock: The Delhi High Court has passed orders from time to time to the PWD to clear rubble from the nullah. ■ FILE PHOTO: V.V.KRISHNAN

came on a PIL initiated by it in 2012 on the issue of waterlogging in South Extension-II and in which it has passed orders from time to time to the PWD to clear rubble from the nullah.

On Tuesday, the court also took objection to the authorities blaming each other and said, "Don't come with excuses. Whether one or the other agency is responsible is not the matter of dispute here. It is the primary responsibility of the GNCTD to comply with the order."

The Bench posted the matter for hearing on August

9 while directing the civic bodies to file an affidavit within a week, indicating who is responsible for the work and disclosing the amount of money spent so far in this regard.

During the hearing, petitioner Ankush Vohra showed the photographs of the nullah to the court and sought that the authorities be penalised for "failing" to work.

**Substantial work left**  
Earlier, the High Court was informed that although the PWD had begun cleaning up the drain, substantial work

remained to be done.

The PWD had submitted the report pursuant to the court's warning on June 16 that the department's officials would be sent to jail for claiming to have cleaned the drain when no such work had been done on the ground.

It had asked the department to show it was working to clear the drain of construction rubble and carry out desilting.

Manjeet Singh Chugh, a resident of the area, had contended that hardly any work had been done by the civic agency.

## Delhi bureaucrats under threat: BJP

Party slams circular issued by AAP govt

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday condemned the Delhi government for what it termed "veiled threats" to the Capital's bureaucracy to follow the "dictats" of its Ministers.

BJP president Manoj Tiwari said the party condemned the Delhi government for issuing a letter to administrative officials and termed "shameful" the Kejriwal government's attempts at "trying to create a controversy over administrative work" by officials despite the fact that both the High Court and the Centre had directed it to work by "constitutional provisions" upholding the primacy of the Lieutenant-Governor.

**Violation of rules'**  
The circular issued to Delhi government officials instructing them to report all matters to the Ministers concerned is in violation of constitutional provisions, Mr. Tiwari alleged.

Before raking up a fresh controversy on the administrative decision-making process, Mr. Tiwari further said, the Delhi government need not forget the earlier direct



Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari said the CM was trying to create a controversy over administrative work.

■ FILE PHOTO

ives of High Court in the matter.

The AAP government should stop creating a ruckus over administrative provisions and instead concentrate on public welfare work," Mr. Tiwari added.

## Lack of faith'

Meanwhile, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Vijender Gupta, said the order of the Delhi government to its bureaucracy directing it not to take any decision without the approval of the Minister concerned is in violation of constitutional provisions, Mr. Tiwari alleged.

All members of the ad hoc committee are members of the ruling party in the State. One of the members is current MLA of the ruling party and three other members are ex-municipal councillors belonging to the ruling party," read the petition.

**IN BRIEF**



\* V. V KRISHNAN

**Rain keeps Delhi cool**

NEW DELHI

The mercury plunged to 32.5 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, in the city on Tuesday following rain in some parts. The minimum temperature was 26.6, one degree below the normal. The weatherman has forecast overcast skies along with light rain on Wednesday. PTI

**Cab robbed at gunpoint**

NOIDA

An Ola cab was allegedly robbed at gunpoint by unidentified men from sector 37 here on July 17 and its driver pushed out of the vehicle in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. An FIR was registered by cab driver Dhamar Singh at sector 39 police station. PTI

**Chinese man held at IGIA**

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A Chinese national has been arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here for allegedly trying to smuggle out over 86 kg of red sanders worth about ₹8.6 lakh, customs officials said on Tuesday.

According to a senior official, the 48-year-old accused was intercepted while departing to Kunming in China on Sunday.

"A thorough search of the passenger's baggage resulted in the recovery of the red sanders," a customs official said on Tuesday.

**Prohibited item**

Red sanders, a prohibited item for export, is banned under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). However, it is traded illegally in the international market for use in medicinal products and aphrodisiacs. The wood costs about ₹10,000 per kg in India and is in high demand at a higher price in China and other east Asian countries.

**DELHI TODAY**

**Talk:** Dr. Shashi Tharoor in conversation with discussants of his book "An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India". Discussants: Prof. Syed Irfan Habib, Historian of Science & Science Education, National University of Educational Planning and Administration; and Ashok Malik, senior analyst and commentator, at IIC, 6.30 p.m.

**Talk:** Seminar on "Cuento Chino" in the Land of Magical Realism" by R. Viswanathan, former Ambassador, at ICWA, Sapru House, Barakhamba Road, 3 p.m.

**Dance:** "Just Like That" - Contempor-

# 4 conmen held for robbery

Accused would pose as cops to lure victims; admit involvement in 40 cases

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Four men have been arrested for allegedly impersonating police officers and robbing people.

Rohit (22), Pawan (30), Suraj (23) and Deepak (27) would lure victims by offering them a lift in luxury cars and rob them, said the police. They even bought a wireless set to pass off as policemen and have admitted to involvement in at least 40 robberies.

**Tip-off**  
Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Vijay Kumar said they were arrested on July 23 following a tip-off.

The incident was reported on the intervening night of July 10 and 11. Dinesh Kumar was looking for a way to reach Anand Vihar railway station from Pankha Road,



**Nabbed:** Rohit, Pawan, Suraj and Deepak even bought a wireless set (right) to pass off as cops. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

when a fellow traveller struck a conversation with him.

"Soon after he shared his travel plan with the stranger, a car stopped near them and the occupants offered to drop them at the station. The driver introduced himself as Sub-Inspector Satbir and his co-passenger as Sub-

Inspector Rajbir, who was handling the wireless set," said the officer.

The 'officers' flashed a message on the wireless about a driver speeding in a red car after being asked to stop for checking. They asked the victim to take out his belongings for verification. Convinced they were



bona fide police officers, the victim handed over his cell phone, cash and ATM card along with the PIN to them.

The 'officers' soon abandoned him on a lonely stretch and fled with his belongings. They used his card to withdraw ₹80,000 and shop at a mall.

Probe revealed that Rohit and Deepak were accomplices as well as cousins. The accused would split the booty equally and spend money the money on wine, women and clothes.

# Motorcyclist shot at

Victim changing statement: police

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old motorcyclist was shot at by an unidentified biker in east Delhi's Farsh Bazaar on Monday night.

The bullet grazed Rabbar Khan's abdomen and he is currently out of danger, said the police. Among the various angles being probed is road rage, even as the victim has been changing his statement constantly.

**Around midnight**

Mr. Khan lives in Khureji with his parents, who run a local business. He was returning home around midnight from a birthday party when the attack happened.

A senior officer said around a dozen youths had gone for the party, and Mr. Khan and another friend left early to get his bike refuelled. Mr. Khan then

dropped the friend home.

On the way back to his residence, he got into an argument with a biker. Mr. Khan claimed the man pulled out a pistol and opened fire at him before fleeing the spot.

**Evasive replies**

So far, Mr. Khan has maintained that the attacker man was unknown. However, he has been giving evasive replies about the provocation.

Based on his statement, a case of attempt to murder has been registered at Farsh Bazaar police station. The officer quoted Mr. Khan as stating that the attack was a result of a quarrel over road space after the two vehicles brushed against each other.

Given the inconsistencies in his statement, said the officer, he continues to be questioned.

# FIR against teacher

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A first information report was registered against a teacher on Tuesday for beating a 13-year-old boy late last week in south-east Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin. The FIR was registered following a complaint by the teenager's father.

**Petty issue**

The parents were puzzled when the boy refused to go to school on Monday and Tuesday. He eventually revealed that he was beaten by the teacher with a stick after he got a fight with two other students over a petty issue. When the teacher was informed, he allegedly thrashed the boy on the school premises. His parents approached the police on Tuesday.

# Bail for ITO hit-and-run accused

He was allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol



**Unique number:** A broken piece of the mudguard with a unique number helped the police zero in on the accused. ■ FILE PHOTO

repairs. As part of procedure, the car's details, including the missing number on the bumper, were uploaded on the service centre's system. These details led the police to Mr. Malhotra's car.

The investigators said CCTV footage recovered from the spot showed that the car was white but other details were unclear. The investigators took the broken mudguard to workshops to identify the car.

"The broken mudguard had a unique ID on it. The

number was traced at a service station and found belonging to a luxury car. After the car was identified, other details, including its ownership, were also found," the police added.

It was further discovered that the owner had sold the car to Mr. Malhotra, a property dealer based in Old Delhi. He was detained from his house on Greater Kailash-I and the car was recovered from a local service station in Noida, where he had given it for repair.

# Woman found dead, father held for murder

Death due to smothering: autopsy

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 29-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her father at their residence in south-west Delhi's Dwarka on Friday night. The father was arrested on Tuesday.

According to the police, Shweta, an MBA, lived with her parents at Kamakhy Apartments. Her family rushed her to a hospital on Friday night. She was declared brought dead.

The hospital authorities informed the police, after which the body was sent for post-mortem. Marks caused due to smothering were found on her face, which led the police to register a

case under Section 302 (punishment for murder). Autopsy confirmed death due to smothering.

During investigation, the police discovered that only her parents were at home at the time of her death and there was no sign of forced entry, said a police officer.

**DCP (south-west)**

Surender Kumar said her father was apprehended for questioning. "He agreed there was an argument and he used physical force on Friday night, but has not admitted to killing her," he said. The police said Shweta was upset over being unemployed and had allegedly turned violent recently.

# Police aim to train 12 lakh students

For annual road safety programme

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police aim to target 12 lakh students for their annual road safety programme this year, bringing two lakh more children into the fold compared to last year.

Approximately 10 lakh students from 924 public and government schools participated in last year's programme and competitions. "We aim to reach out to 15 lakh students and at least 1,200 schools in Delhi in future. Like last year, various competitions based on road safety will be conducted at various levels and a final competition will be held to adjudicate overall winners," said the officer.

## H.P.P.W.D. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited/re-invited on form No 6 & 8 by the Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Barsar on behalf of Governor of H.P for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in H.P.P.W.D. in the appropriate class so as to reach in this office on or before 23-08-2017 to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representative. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment [Non Refundable] on 22-08-2017 up to 4.00 PM. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

**Name of work No. 1:-** C/O Sub Tehsil Building at Bijahri (Sh:- P/F interlocking concrete block pavement front side compound) Deposit work. **Estimated Cost:-** 2,92,901/- **Ernest Money :-** 5900/- **Time :-** One Month, **Cost of form:-** 350/-

**Name of work No. 2:-** Improvement of black spot on Jalari Salouni road km. 0/0 to 17/0 (Sh:- C/O R.C.C. counter fort retaining wall at rd. 16/940 to 16/955 L.H.S.) Under SCSP Head. **Estimated Cost:-** 2,93,156/-, **Ernest Money :-** 5900/-, **Time :-** Two Month, **Cost of form:-** 350/-

**Name of work No. 3:-** A/R & M/O link road Chakmoh Loharli Bhater Nalwar road ( Sh:- P/I Tarring in km. 5/0 to 5/576) Head. **Estimated Cost:-** 3,85,462/-, **Ernest Money :-** 7700/-, **Time :-** Two Month, **Cost of form:-** 350/-

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**No.1:-** The Ernest Money in the shape of National saving certificates /Time deposit Accounts/Saving Account/ FDRs in any of the post office/ Nationalized Bank in duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Barsar must be accompanied with the application.

**No.2:-** Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will not be accepted.

**No.3:-** The contractor shall accompany his enlistment/ renewal order with his application for obtaining the tender documents.

**No.4:-** Executive Engineer Reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason.

**No.5:-** The work will be completed by the contractor within the stipulated period

**No.6:-** Tender forms will not be issued to those contractors who are not registered under HPGST Act-1988 & photo copy of individual PAN No. allotted to them attached with their application at the time of applying for tender documents. Application will not be entertained without aforesaid documents.

**No.7:-** The contractor /firms are required to insert the rate of each item in words as well as in figures failing which Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/ rejects any overall tender.

**No.8:-** The tender shall be issued to only those contractors/firms who are found eligible suitable and competent.

**No.9:-** The tender forms shall be issued to eligible contractor depending upon their past performance and work experience which shall be duly evaluated by the technical evaluation committee.

**No.10:-** The tender forms of soling, wearing and tarring shall be issued only to those contractors who will produce proper documents of ownership of required machinery and completion certificate of similar work issued by the concerned Executive Engineer also required.

**No. 11:-** Contractor /firm having necessary documents past adequate experience shall be preferred.

**No. 12:-** Contractor who have failed to start /complete the work in hand with in reasonable time shall not be issued tender forms.

**No.13:-** One contractor should not have more than two major works in hand at a time.

**No.14:-** If 23-08-2017 happens to be holiday the tender shall be opened on next working day at 11.00 A.M.

Executive Engineer,  
Barsar Divn. H.PPWD,  
Barsar.

**QUICK FIXES**

- The Tipsy:** Guests will swarm around the bar. Avoid early intoxication by serving lots of food during cocktail hour. If one still gets too tipsy to handle, call Uber or a car service.
- The Disruptive Kids:** Separate the kids from adults. Hire a babysitter. Keep the kids entertained with movies, games and activities.
- The Rain:** Always have a Plan B for the unexpected, unwelcome guest named Rain. Keep an indoor option handy.



**Make a mark** Highlight a special number or name with flowers, like at Oprah's 25th TV show party. (above) Have translucent tables and chairs for added effect

## A starry affair

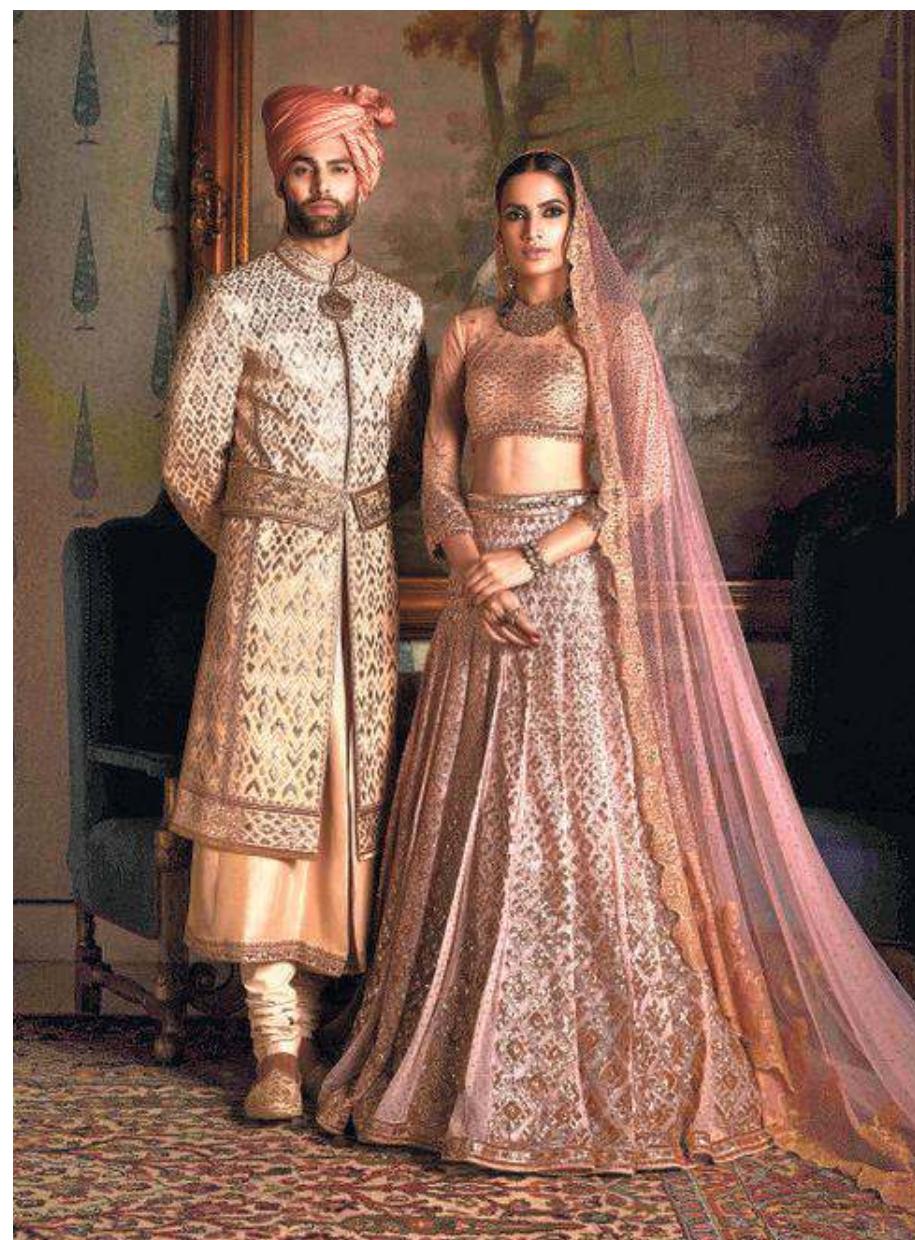
Tarun Tahiliani delineates how inspiration from celestial bodies has been translated onto clothes for his new collection

## MADHUR TANKHA

Ace couturier Tarun Tahiliani's passion for layering and lightweight clothes will now be reflected in his latest collection, which he has aptly titled "Tarakanna", that would be showcased with style and panache at Hotel Taj Palace this Wednesday.

The designer, while he studied at The Doon School in Dehradun, had a passion to watch the night sky with dazzling stars. "When one looks into the night sky, it reveals itself a layered universe, of twinkling celestial bodies, in suspended animation. My couture collection draws inspiration from the frothiness and romance of celestial bodies like stars and constellations," says Tarun, who has a knack for aesthetically combining Indian craftsmanship and European tailored silhouette.

On how he has translated them into lehangas, shararas and sari, he says: "Fabrics like tulle and georgette add lightness and enhance movement, while the carefully hand embroidered Swarovski crystals add the twinkle to the clothing. The way light reflects off these more imperceptible things



**Shimmering stars:** Models draped in outfits of Tarun Tahiliani • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

when you look at the sky, translates into the illusion created by 3D embroidery that is intricate yet light. The collection has a confluence of Indian and Western techniques with sunrise colours like oranges and reds married to the shades of the in-between light of lilac and soft pinks."

Pointing out that couture

across the globe is known as much for feathery lightness as well as the gravity defining construction, the master couturier says: "I wanted lightness in my garments so that Indian brides can enjoy and dance in their weddings. This is how we have evolved - by creating a new vocabulary of design. Our clothes need to embody the spirit of

our cultural legacy, which has to be updated for global customers."

**Make in India**

On how will fashion lovers and merchandising experts will see Make in India on his shimmering garments, the seasoned couturier says it would translate not only into his Banarasi brocades and

silks but also in the exquisite Parsi gara and zardosi embroidery that adorns the garments. "As Indian couture grows by leaps and bounds in the global market, we take immense pride in our traditional embroideries and fine craftsmanship. It is easy to lose your roots and heritage if you focus too much on the contemporary. A harmonious marriage of the two is of utmost importance, more so ever today."

While each couture collection may be connected to the previous, says Tarun, they also bring with them a refinement that hasn't been seen before.

"In contrast to our previous collection, the pieces have a more vibrant colour palette. We have also experimented with silhouettes by adding more jackets and capes that create a mystical harmony of the modern and the traditional. A finer workmanship adorns panelled kurtas that beautifully contour the body of the wearer. Another thing that we have kept in mind is that these pieces could be sold as separates. Adding to the mix and match of traditional Indian silhouettes are jackets, capes and gilets, adorned with tassels to break the monotony. These garments create a more global appeal for our customers from around the world. For menswear, the simple tailored shape of the kurta is enhanced with an attached drape, creating a balance of modernity and tradition," explains Tarun, as he is all geared up for holding his show at the venue designed by the FDCI.

Fashionists would get to see a fairytale setting as grandeur and opulence will be the hallmark of his collection. On the third day of the fashion week, models will walk on the ramp in an assortment of panelled kurtas, coats as well as lehangas, shararas and sari.

**C** It is easy to lose your roots and heritage if you focus too much on the contemporary

CM  
YK

## Get this party started

Wedding planner to the stars, Colin Cowie spills his secrets about the little things that make the perfect celebration



PREETI VERMA LAL

"Nobody in the world throws a party like Colin Cowie." As I walked in to meet one of the most famous wedding planners on the planet, Oprah Winfrey's words resonated in my head. She was raving about the man mentioned in *Vogue's* Master Wedding Planner List, the go-to man for every celebrity. His client list reads like a who's who of Hollywood – Jennifer Aniston, Tom Cruise, Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Seacrest, Kim Kardashian, Hugh Hefner and more. The celebs imagine a ritzy party, and Cowie crafts it for them.

Having worked in 100 countries across five continents, the US-based planner has mastered the art of a perfect party. After nearly three decades in the business of making dream weddings come true, he knows the devil is in the details. In India recently, with his signature designs, Cowie talked to us about the ingredients that went into a party to remember.

**Theme:** Never lose sight of the fact that a wedding is about love and not

about a perfect party. My clients come to me with Pinterest boards filled with how they imagine their wedding to be. I start by asking them about who they are as a couple. I take their unique DNA and add to that the five senses (sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing) and tell their story. This way, no celebration I design ever looks or feels the same. For Lil Wayne's party, I went with a skate park theme. Everything from the graffiti on the walls to the cake to the lighting reflected the theme, and it was truly Wayne.

**Surprise:** During the summer, people attend five or six weddings, so standing out is difficult. Shed the clichés and do something different. For Kim Kardashian's party, we had a silk ribbon performer from Cirque du Soleil working with us.

With the high-flying entertainment and the pink hues of the uplighting, there wasn't a pair of eyes not transfixed on the sky. However, the element of surprise doesn't need to come solely from entertainers. For the wedding of music industry titan, Jimmy Iovine and actress Liberty Ross,

we transitioned the very romantic navy, black palette ceremony into a red, neon sexy nightclub for the dance party right after.

**Wow moment:** There has to be a jaw-dropping "wow" moment – you want guests to walk in and say "Wow, I can't believe they've done this!" I love making a huge statement at the bar, whether it's with a massive floral installment or a well-curated double-height back bar. For Oprah Winfrey's 25th anniversary of her TV show, we created a massive '25' in purple flowers. You can try this with a number or name for the wedding. For South African businessman, Sol Kerzner, we designed a massive sphere of roses that measured 12 feet in diameter at the centre of the bar.

**Personalisation:** I love the idea of personalising and one of my favourite ways is to have a printed menu with the guest's name calligraphed at the top. We did just this for entrepreneur and philanthropist Eli Broad. Tables, chairs and menus were translucent to allow the lit centres of the tables to re-



flect the light changing colours.

**Volume control:** Shun the idea of loud noise and high energy all night long. That never works. I like good energy from lively music and a slightly elevated volume when I walk into the room. When we sit down for dinner, the sound needs to come down so that we can all have a good, meaningful conversation. When it comes to the dance part of the night, turn up the volume, turn down the lights and let it roll. Instead of two or four large speakers blasting, have several smaller speakers around the room. This way you can distribute the sound evenly.

**After-wedding thoughts:** When guests return to their room, surprise them with a turn-down note and a hangover remedy, a chocolate or a wish from the bride and groom.

A framed picture of them from the wedding is a lovely way to keep the memories forever.

**WHAT'S HOT**

- Hanging décor is incredibly hot right now. Whether it's for a photo backdrop or a centrepiece, opt for hanging florals
- Greenery is the décor element of the year. It's fabulous, naturally elegant and far more inexpensive than the flowers
- Say goodbye to the traditional tiered wedding cake. Try full dessert table, doughnut installations. Even fondue
- Get the DJ and Band to do live mash-ups
- Move to molecular mixology. Serve martinis with images of the guests floating on the top
- Everyone loves a photo booth. Keep one
- Social Media-free events. Banning cellphones at parties/weddings are a thing these days



## The art of living

Urban living is now all about less cluttered homes and stress free environment

## DEEPA GUPTA

With apartment culture having seeped into our daily lives, space has definitely shrunk. Urban living today is all about styled spaces with designer furniture, lighting, furnishings and decorations. To make the best of space available, the Design Week 2017 currently on in Delhi (till July 30) is highlighting interesting design concepts for urban homes. It is being held by BoConcept, in association with DAG Modern, Klove Studio and Bang & Olufsen.

"Urban living is all about making the most of your space. Today, apartments require comfort along with functionality. The new age furniture designers need to incorporate both these aspects while creating a great design. The urban individuals are well travelled, discerning and exposed to international trends. We often see a mélange of different styles in a home making them unique to the home dweller, each reflecting his individuality," explains Navin Khanna, director, BoConcept.

With increased cost of living, high salaried jobs, highly advanced technology and paucity of time, a manageable home with complete amenities that has comforts of modern day living are the requirement of the urban homemaker today. So the products that go on to



**A fine balance:** A peek into interiors

design a home need to fulfil more requirement than one. And they need to be functional. "Our product range can be customised", states Khanna, "We have dining tables that convert from six to ten seaters, coffee tables that become occasional dining tables, Ottomans that convert into single beds when required. All these are useful for a small apartment setting." And alongside functionality comes the chic and class in designing as just for aesthetics; not just for furniture but also various other add-ons in the room that complete a home.

**Stylised lighting**

Lighting is one such room essential that enhances the beauty of the interiors. Stylised lighting is all about creating illusions, playing with colour and experimenting with the mood that can change from the sombre to chirpy to delightful and loud. Sound systems have a role to play here. What is the role of stylish sound systems when designing a home? "It definitely is a part of living," says Gaganmeet Singh, CEO, Bang & Olufsen, India. "The design of sound systems enhances the look of the living space. Televisions, music systems, loudspeakers, telephones, and multimedia products all combine technological excellence with

emotional appeal." Also, they blend so smoothly into the décor that they seem more like part of decoration rather than music or sound systems. Ditto with art. "Art has always been a part of human life. The greatest civilisations of the past are known by their art and architecture. Even today, the best homes are designed around art collections. A great work of art adds value not just to your living space but also allows you to surround yourself with beauty," states Kishore Singh, director, DAG Modern. Featuring art works from Sunil Das, Nemai Ghosh, Gogi Saroj, Gogi Das and many other artists, the art pieces aim at lending spaciousness to the whole décor as also adding to the special touch of elegance to the interiors.

While there is no dearth of options in designing homes, there are specifics that an Indian consumer typically looks at. "The Indian customer looks for comfort, fusion and space saving solutions," agrees Khanna, "They want designs that are in vogue and compliment their personal style." And these could range from the minimalist, simple, sleek straight lines to the ornate - those that showcase opulence and an excessive look.



IN BRIEF



Royal Mughals

With his collection Khush Posh, Rohit Bal kick started the India Couture Week extravaganza at the restored Bikaner House in Delhi. The designer made an effort to revive heritage pieces from the costume collections of royal Mughals which have been immortalised in museums.

Actor Arjun Rampal was the star attraction when he walked on the ramp. Even FDCI president Sunil Sethi accompanied the duo. The collection highlighted a mix of traditional craft with modern sensibilities. Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Bal said: "The collection is an ode to lost craft and tradition. A journey from the past to the present with a gentle nudge of contemporary influences."

Celebrating culture

Delhiites got a taste of cultural heritage of Rajasthan at a four day Teej Festival that concluded at Dilli Haat, Janakpuri, in Delhi recently. Women visitors were captivated by stalls offering a range of products suitable for them like bangles, designer bindis, traditional dresses and exclusive lehariya from Jaipur. Delhiites were spellbound by Rajasthani folk dance and music presented. Festive delicacies like dal baati, choorma, ghevar and raj kachadi were available.

Excellence in fitness

Anytime Fitness, a US-based gym chain, was accredited by FEA 2017 (Fitness Excellence Awards) with "Excellent Franchise" & "Futuristic Gym Model" at JW Marriot, Aerocity in Delhi. Receiving the two distinctive categories of awards, Vikas Jain, MD, Anytime Fitness India says: "We always strive to provide best services in the fitness industry."

TABLE FOR TWO

# Of food and faith

As "My Hanuman Chalisa" hits the stands, Devdutt Pattanaik talks about exploring the mythological space with the monkey god and the culinary choices of deities

ANUJ KUMAR

In the post truth world, does mythology matter? Always keen to explain myths, Devdutt Pattanaik is eager to take that. "Mythology was there before truth existed. In fact, truth is western religious concept coming from Judeo-Christian tradition. It seems static while knowledge is expanding all the time. The binary way of thinking is a western model. We are a land of metaphors," counters the prolific author, adding that he never justifies mythology. "Justifying is like selling and that is the space of evangelism." The danger is, he continues, that now we are becoming binary. In shastarth, he reminds, one doesn't have to win the argument because such a thought feeds ego. "For example, why do you disagree when I say it is sweet," he points towards his glass of fresh lime soda. "Has your tongue been designed differently? That's interesting, because new knowledge will come out of it," Pattanaik casually brings his love for symbolism to the table at Varq, the popular restaurant of the Taj Mahal Hotel.

Known for its innovative Indian dishes, we have a trio of fish, chicken and lamb galouti to start with. "We are trying to make Hinduism singular," he underlines. It seems some are in competition with monotheistic traditions. "Yes, when you have inferiority complex, you compete. When you have

**Q** What is the world without a god – it is a world where Buddha becomes an icon for a spa...



Keeping it simple: Devdutt Pattanaik enjoying his meal at Varq in New Delhi's Taj Mahal Hotel • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

now.... "This is a leap from words to a larger idea. The doha begins with char phal. Does it literally mean four fruits? Of course not! The char phal are four goals of human existence: dharma, artha, kama, moksha. Or why does Ram is called tapasvi raja. How can a raja be ascetic? It is not a random collection of words, it has a beautiful melodic arc that takes you to the idea of moksha."

Pattanaik is fascinated by the simplicity of the Hanuman story and the plurality that he symbolises. "The whole idea that a servant – Ram dasa – can become god is something. It reflects that god is in everybody. There are temples where he is a dasa and then there are temples where he stands alone. Pehle hanuman phir bhagwan, it is almost like that."

Pattanaik says Hanuman's appeal lies in the fact that there is nothing complex

about him. "He is popular among Shavities, Vasisnavites and he is followed in Vedic as well as Tantric tradition. He provides an easy way to explore the mythological space." We tend to forget that Hanuman is Janeu-wearing warrior, a poet and a musician as well. "His father is not a Brahmin. It makes us contemplate on the value of effort and aptitude. The monkey creature of forest has Vedic gyan. When Ram meets him for the first time, he speaks Sanskrit. Later when the situation demands he speaks to Sita in Prakrit. So he is adaptable – both in form and thought."

**Teaching metaphors**  
The biggest problem in life, says Pattanaik, is to teach people metaphors. "We live in the world of engineering while our scriptures are about symbols. We talk through gestures. Even gods play dumb charades." Isn't it getting too imaginative? "No,

there is a very famous Hanuman image called tamacha Hanuman where the hand of the deity is not in the form of blessing but more like a slap. "It is popular in Karnataka. We don't know whether it is deliberate or an artist's mistake but it provokes conversion."

Like how over the years mythology has become an archaic thought.... Pattanaik smiles at the provocation. "The British used the word religion for monotheistic traditions and they used mythology for mocking at polytheist traditions. They didn't realise there is mythology of one god and there is mythology of no god as well. What is the world without a god – it is a world where Buddha becomes an icon for a spa. Now we have a Buddha bar. This is what the world of no god does to Buddha. And we are not supposed to get offended or cry. Which one is better – mythology of more gods is at least plural," he

muses.

As the main course – murg sirka pyaz, paneer arandana – arrives, the discussion shifts to how food is an important part of faith. "When Shiva says he doesn't want food, the Goddess disappears. Food doesn't differentiate between Brahmin and Shudra; humans do. Philosophy of food is big in India," says Pattanaik, who writes about food in metaphorical terms. Every god is offered some specific items. Pattanaik says he doesn't know the reason but there is a pattern to it. "Hanuman is offered til oil, urad dal – high protein diet. He is also offered leaves of arka plant which are poisonous. Shiva is offered bel fruit and dhatura.

Many of these fruits grow in the wild which match their personality. Shiva is a mendicant, Hanuman is monkey god so he is found in the forest of bananas, which is metaphorically the land of

women where only a brahmachari (celibate) like Hanuman could enter."

Pattanaik has written extensively about bhog, the offering to gods. "All gods are foodies. Ganesha likes sugar-cane, Krishna has ghee, butter and other processed food and Goddess wants blood. In Delhi, at Kal Bhairav Mandir, you have to offer liquor." As one pokes him that some find this ritual atavistic, Pattanaik says that they are missing the symbolism behind it. "Indians are not foolish people. They know stones can't eat. These are ritualistic performances which are meant to give you atma gyan. In a birthday cake you blow out a candle and spit on it. Is it logical? But we do it because we feel loved and happy. Rituals are like that. They are not designed to be logical. I can eat without this cutlery as well but this performance enhances the experience of the palate."

## Madhubala, once more!



The wax figure of the actress of Hindi cinema's golden era will be a star attraction at Madame Tussauds Delhi

For all Madhubala fans here is a good piece of news. Life-like figure of the popular yesteryears actress will now be on display at Madame Tussauds Delhi. In fact, hers would be the first figure from the classical world of Indian cinema to be displayed.

Interestingly, the figure will be styled from her most admired Anarkali character from the classic movie *Mughal-e-Azam*. Guests can also interact with the figure in a fun exercise at the Bollywood zone, which will bring to life the classic age of Indian cinema.

A leading actress of her time, Madhubala has been highly regarded among the most influential personalities of Hindi cinema. Her mesmerising beauty was recognized globally when she was featured in one of the

popular American Magazine's - *Theatre Arts* in 1952.

In her short lifetime, the famous actress attained huge success, which only a few have achieved.

To honour her, a commemorative postage stamp featuring Madhubala was issued by the Indian Post in 2008.

Making this announcement, Anshul Jain, General Manager and Director Merlin Entertainments India Pvt Ltd, says: "Madhubala still continues to rule the hearts of billions of fans in the nation... We are sure that her magnetic beauty will attract her fans to click a selfie and relive a special moment with her and be transported back to the golden era of cinema."



Competence speaks: Narayani Shastri • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## + Game for new challenges

Narayani Shastri plays a villainous character in *Rishiton Ka Chakravyuh*

HARSHITA GOEL

She became a household name with *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi* and *Kkusum*. And now Narayani Shastri is seeking to push the envelope with a serial *Rishiton Ka Chakravyuh* in which she would be playing Satarupa, a villainous character.

This upcoming serial on Star Plus promises to bring to the small screen a unique dimension to the usual mother-daughter relationship. Mahima Makwana, who plays Narayani's daughter Anami, will be showcased at odds with her mother Satarupa.

Excerpts from an interview.

**On Rishiton ka Chakravyuh**

Before the show was offered to me I was playing the role of Bhanvari Singh Devi in *Piya Rangrez*. The character required me to play the role of a Lady Don without any boundaries – crass, loud and violent. Satarupa is complete opposite of Bhanvari. She is an ambitious royal woman with a certain elegance about her.

Mahima Makwana, who plays my daughter, pleasantly surprised me as she is smart, respectful and a

quick learner. I admire her for her professionalism.

**On the portrayal of women on TV**

Women in Indian television have always been portrayed as strong and never meek and docile. While they might be portrayed differently as housewives or working women, in saris or work-wear, as an underlying theme, women have always been showcased as characters of strength.

It is not that this change has come about recently, since in the beginning women were portrayed like this on the small screen. Actresses have played both powerful protagonists as well as antagonists; the role of Komolika is a case in point. So women have definitely shined on Indian television from the beginning itself.

**On shows that attempt to break stereotypes**

Whether a show breaks or unfortunately promotes stereotypes, completely depends on the audience. With show that showcases certain evils with the aim of shattering them, the success or failure of the same depends on the way audience

takes it.

Be it films or television – everything will be portrayed with the expectation that the audience will pick up something good. If however, the negatives get picked up, it just goes on to show the person's character. A show or film portraying just the good doesn't necessarily promise the better outcome, similar is the case with a show portraying the bad.

**On the changing priorities of actors**

There has been a lot of change. The real golden era of television with class actors was with shows like *Swabhimaan*, *Junoon* and *Nukkad*. What we entered into was the golden era. We were still figuring out our place in the industry that gave us so much attention. Even then, we wanted to be actors first and then, stars. All of us back then wanted to good work and excel in acting.

Stardom to us came as a by-product of that. Most of today's generation, however, only want to be stars. This prioritisation of stardom over quality work then becomes problematic.

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# Electric dreams

The road ahead for India's vision of electric transportation and a cleaner way of life



HARSHINI VAKKALANKA

Elon Musk dreams to see America bring down its carbon footprint while on the move, even as US leadership has looked away from the Paris Climate Agreement. In India, with a supportive government vision and a strong start-up culture, we look towards electric vehicles (EVs) going mainstream.

#### The reasons why...

The government announced last month that by 2030 India will be an EV-only nation. The GST is at 12% on EVs and there are incentives for both manufacturers and consumers, under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles scheme. A recent report by NITI Aayog, in association with the Rocky Mountain Institute, on Transformational Mobility in India, observes that every day, nearly 50,000 new motor vehicles, including two-, three- and four-wheelers are registered. In 2015, India imported more than 80% of its oil, costing us ₹4.2 lakh crore. A report by market research firm RedSeer Management Consulting, claimed Ola and Uber collectively clocked in over 500 million rides in 2016, nearly four times up from 2015. Meanwhile, by 2040, the share of passenger cars is expected to account for 54% of road fuel demand for personal transport, with car ownership reaching 175 vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants, as stated in a study by the International Energy Agency in December 2015. Traffic congestion and pollution hazards (a 2016 World Health Organization study found India is home to 10 of the world's 20 most polluted cities) are also part of the picture.

#### The plan is...

The International Energy Agency report states that India has the sixth-largest fleet of natural gas vehicles in the world, largely comprising taxis and buses. We are not new to the concept of green public transport therefore, and don't equate eco-friendly with ex-



**For an emission-free world** More companies are taking the electric route to public transport

pensive (though the government has taxed hybrids at 28% with a 15% cess). The NITI Aayog report that detailed a three-phase plan for the shift, has also said that the adoption of electric and shared vehicles could save \$60 billion in diesel and petrol cost, and cut our carbon emission by as much as 1 gigatonne (GT) by 2030.

Taxi cabs, Ola and Lithium, have made pioneering efforts in this direction. "We started with a small fleet of about 10 cars and now have more than 400 electric vehicles operating as cabs in Delhi and Bengaluru. The demand is robust and more people are giving it a try," says Sanjay Krishnan, founder of Lithium. Ola's contribution was part of the Maharashtra Government's efforts to spearhead the electric revolution in India, by collaborating with them on making Nagpur the first city with a fleet of 200 electric

vehicles, including taxis, buses, e-rickshaws and autos. All the electric cars in the fleet are sourced from Mahindra, currently the only car player in the market.

#### There are challenges...

Ather Energy is in the process of launching an electric scooter for urban use. But they know there are several challenges ahead.

**GROWING ADOPTION**  
A report in *The Telegraph* UK states that in 2016, there were more than two million electric cars on the roads globally, a 1,500% growth since 2005.

"First, we have to examine whether we have enough electricity. The second challenge is to ensure the availability of charging stations. There are very few private players in the market focusing on developing these stations," says Tarun Mehta, CEO and co-founder. For New Delhi, power supply is not the main concern, observes Polash Mukerjee, Senior Research Associate, part of the Clean Air and Sustainable Mobility team at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

"We have studied this extensively in the case of Delhi, and the city is under-utilising its power sources to a large extent," he says. "The real problem arises during the peak loads in grids. Unless there is a charging infrastructure, the norm would be to charge vehicles at home, even in case of taxi owners. But this would pose a challenge in summer when air

conditioners are in use. There needs to be a dedicated charging infrastructure that vehicles can utilise during non-peak hours. For most of the urban population, it would need to be centred around the workplace, and this would require a lot of planning around the electrical grids." Vinit Bansal, Founder and Managing Director at EV Motors, which provides e-mobility solutions (including EVs and the charging infrastructure), agrees. "The setting up of charging points at particular locations for fleets, requires a certain level of efficiency in the management and the quality of energy supply without disrupting the grid. For private organisations to do that, there has to be a business model that allows them to sell the services. The current policy on electric vehicles in India doesn't allow that and the tariff structure of the government is prohibitive," he explains. Issues around the tariffs, the selling points and the usage of the charging points are being addressed by the government.

#### For starters...

Bansal and Mehta recommend that India begin by introducing EVs into the public transport system, mostly through buses. Mehta says, "The focus in this case would be on swappable battery technologies, great for public vehicles because of the time constraint involved. It is easier for them to keep moving, especially if they have quick stations to swap batteries. It also works well for trucks and cabs."

Mukerjee says there are electric public transportation models across the world, including Sweden and San Francisco, that need to be looked at. "It is easier to optimise infrastructure when the routes are fixed. But for electric cars, the market in India needs to mature. The associated ecosystem, including the manufacture of vehicles, needs to be looked at."

(With inputs from Nikhil Varma)

## LAUNCHPAD



### Maruti Baleno Alpha automatic

at ₹8.34 lakh

Maruti has introduced the option of an automatic gearbox on the fully loaded petrol Alpha trim of its Baleno premium hatchback. The top variant with the CVT automatic gearbox is priced at ₹8.34 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi). Initially, the option of an automatic gearbox was available on only the lower Delta trim. Later, in April 2016, Maruti introduced the CVT gearbox on the higher Zeta variant. Currently, only the base Sigma trim misses out on the CVT option. The Alpha variant of the Baleno comes equipped with projector headlamps, reverse camera and SmartPlay infotainment system, which is compatible with Apple CarPlay and MirrorLink. Other features include a leather-wrapped steering wheel and gear knob, automatic headlamps, alloy wheels, keyless entry and push-button start.



### Ducati Scrambler Desert Sled

at ₹9.32 lakh

The 2017 Ducati Scrambler can now be had in an off-road-friendly variant, called the Desert Sled. This version of the bike gets a strengthened chassis, long-travel suspension and an accompanying jump in ground clearance. It is powered by a Euro 4-compliant 803cc air-cooled engine that puts out 73hp and 67Nm.

The Desert Sled gets a strengthened frame, and a reinforced swingarm. Wheelbase is longer too. The new suspension offers proper adjustability and a comprehensive 200mm of travel, up from 150mm. Where the regular Scrambler gets an 18-inch front and 17-inch rear wheel set-up, the Desert Sled gets a more off-road-friendly 19/17 arrangement, wrapped in Pirelli Scorpion Rally STR tyres. Along with the Desert Sled launch, Ducati has also reintroduced the Scrambler Icon and Scrambler Classic in Euro 4/BS4 guise. They are priced at ₹7.23 lakh and ₹8.48 lakh (ex-showroom), respectively.



### Mercedes-AMG GLC 43 Coupe

at ₹74.8 lakh

The latest AMG-badged performance car to arrive from Mercedes-Benz is the GLC 43 Coupe; it's priced at ₹74.8 lakh (ex-showroom). It comes with a 367hp 3.0-litre twin-turbo petrol V6 engine that's paired with a 9-speed automatic transmission. The GLC 43 Coupe is a sportier version of the GLC SUV, and differentiates itself from its regular sibling via sporty air intakes, quad tailpipes, 19-inch alloy wheels (21-inches are optional), and most importantly, its swooping, coupe-like roofline. The interiors continue the exterior's sporty theme, with contrasting black leather upholstery, and a multifunction sports steering wheel. The GLC 43 Coupe gets five drive modes – Eco, Comfort, Sport, Sport Plus and Individual. Each mode adjusts the engine, gearbox, speed-sensitive steering.



## MY FIRST WHEELS

# Trainers on

Gaurav Gill, winner of the 2016 Asia Pacific Rally Championship title, on what his first wheels felt like

From the time I was born, I have been surrounded by rally cars and bikes, watching uncles and older cousins drive and ride. My mum, who is an experienced driver (she learnt at 16) loved her Chevy Impala and Ford Mustang when she was abroad, and had driven all over the world. Back in the mid-80s, she had a white Maruti 800. She'd drop me at tennis class, and even when I was just eight or nine years old, would ask me to change the gear, which I'd do, with my right hand! In fact, she, along with a school friend and neighbour, taught me how to drive in my teens.

So the first chance I got, when I was about 14 or 15, I was behind the wheel of our grey Maruti van. I remember there was a wedding at home and all the adults had left to go shopping. This friend was over three years older than me, suggested that we go driving in the yard behind our house – it was a large field. I readily agreed, imagining that we'd be doing doughnuts and drifts all over.

Instead, we got a lot of mud on the car. We realised we needed to clean up and washed down the whole car. Then the driveway got muddy, so we washed that down

too! Naturally, when the adults took one look at it, they knew the car had been somewhere it was not supposed to be. So in the end, we did get caught! We were lectured about underage driving and about the whole thing being dangerous. My mum confessed that she'd been teaching me. Anyway, after that, the keys were locked up. While that wasn't quite my first car, it was definitely the first car experience that I remember.

*As told to Sunalini Mathew*

## Jeep Compass launched

The Jeep Compass is expected to be launched by the end of the month and will be priced between ₹18 lakh and ₹25 lakh and rival the Hyundai Tucson, Ford Endeavour and Toyota Fortuner. It will be the American manufacturer's first made-in-India model and will be available in five variants with two engine options. The 172hp, 2.0-litre diesel engine will come mated exclusively to a six-speed manual transmission, while the 162hp, 1.4-litre turbo-petrol motor comes with the option of a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic.

